Dear Alumni:

These past six months have marked much progress for the UC Genetic Counseling Program. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some highlights and offer a sincere thank you. Whether you did something big or small, we are grateful for your support, generosity and involvement. It takes a village and what a village it is!

As many of you know, our reaccreditation site visit with the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC) was this past February. Thankfully we were able to furnish them with impressive data collected from the classes of 2006-2012 regarding clinical and research training, academic achievement and mentorship. In addition, many students, alumni, and clinical supervisors met with the reviewers in person or by phone. Others filled out surveys, helped compile a 750 page report and offered support in other ways. The result was full accreditation until 2021! The maximum amount allowed.

We also successfully completed our first year on the semester system. I am pleased and extremely grateful that all went smoothly. We are now enjoying our first summer on semesters. It definitely feels different with graduation in April and summer break now starting in May, but I think students and faculty have all adjusted well.

Alumni and students were also instrumental in helping us with another successful interview season. You can meet the incoming class of 2015 on pgs. 4-7. Several alumni met with prospective students in conjunction with our Meet-a-Grad program and offered feedback. Thank you to the classes of 2013 and 2014 who helped with interview logistics, including hosting, airport pick-up, tours and meals.

We are fortunate to have a strong alumni network. In the past year, alumni have alerted us about job openings, helped research venues for our reunion at the NSGC educational conference, flew from Florida and Kansas to attend the graduation of the Co2013, served on numerous GCP committees, and contributed to the Huether endowment to support student travel to the NSGC Annual Education Conference. As we get ready for next year, I want to encourage those who are not currently involved to reconnect with the program. There are many ways you can be involved, no matter where you live or what job you hold. Please see pg. 8 for information about a new Alumni Relations Committee and how you can get involved!

Melanie Myers, MS, PhD, CGC
Congratulations Class of 2013!

After two years of dedication to coursework, clinic, and research, the University of Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Program Class of 2013 held their graduation commencement ceremony on April 26th, 2013. The ceremony was a special opportunity for family, friends, program faculty, and the CCHMC Division of Human Genetics to celebrate the many accomplishments of the Class of 2013. Dr. Howard Saal, Kathleen Collins, Carrie Atzinger, and Dr. Melanie Myers highlighted the many achievements of the graduating class throughout their time in the program. We wish the Class of 2013 the best of luck as they embark on their new professional careers as genetic counselors. We are extremely proud of you and will sincerely miss your glowing presence.

Courtney Lewis  
First Year Genetic Counseling Student
Class of 2014 – Summer Internships

Beverly Blosser is excited to be spending her summer rotation at the Children’s Medical Center of Dayton, OH in the Department of Medical Genetics and Birth Defects.

India Bradley was selected for a Genetic Counseling Summer Internship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. India will develop a genetic counseling skill set through comprehensive experience in Cedars Sinai’s five medical genetics clinics and by attending weekly genetics seminars.

Jule Diaz will spend her summer doing prenatal, pediatric, and cancer genetic counseling at the Weisskopf Center in Louisville, KY.

Sarah Fernandes will be rotating at Central Baptist in Lexington, KY doing both cancer and prenatal genetic counseling.

Kate Heraty will spend her summer in Chicago, IL at Cadence Health. She will be doing pediatric, prenatal, cancer and cardiovascular genetic counseling. She is looking forward to further developing her skills in these counseling areas.

A Rang Kim will be in Cincinnati, OH this summer rotating through the Seton Center at Good Samaritan Hospital and the Perinatal Center at Bethesda North Hospital. She will be doing prenatal counseling.

Courtney Lewis was awarded a funded Genetic Counseling Fellowship at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in Washington, D.C. This summer, Courtney will be doing cancer genetic counseling, attend an intensive bioethics course, and receive hands-on learning opportunities in the oncology field.

Katelyn Petersen is working as a prenatal genetic counselor at Swedish Maternal and Fetal Specialty Center at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, WA.

Brian Reys is working as a generalized counselor at the Genetics Center and Children’s Hospital of Orange County in Orange, CA.

Brandon Smith is working as a cancer genetic counselor at Ohio Health in Columbus Ohio.

Ally Somers will be attending medical school at the University of Cincinnati. Ally plans to specialize in pediatric neurology.

Rebecca Tannenbaum is working as a prenatal genetic counselor at the University of California, Los Angeles in Los Angeles, CA.

Class of 2013 – Next Steps...

Ashley Brazil is working as a genetic counselor specializing in mitochondrial disorders at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH.

Michele Baric is working as a prenatal genetic counselor at TriHealth in Cincinnati, OH.

Amy Gladstone is working as a genetic counselor in Telegenetics and Pediatrics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

Jennifer Hopper is working as a cancer genetic counselor in the Division of Human Genetics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH.

Sarah Hrabik is working as a prenatal genetic counselor at ProMedica Toledo Hospital in Toledo, OH. Sarah also performs educational outreach to residents and area OB/GYN offices.

Brooke McLaughlin was selected for a Genetic Counseling Internship at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ. Brooke will spend the summer developing her cancer genetic counseling skills.

Sarah Ossler will be at Vanderbilt University Medical Center doing prenatal Genetic Counseling.

Krista Qualmann will be interning at the University of Michigan’s Comprehensive Cancer Center in Ann Arbor, MI this summer, where she will practice cancer genetic counseling and participate in research activities through their cancer genetics clinic.

Sarah Stueber will spend her summer rotation doing prenatal genetic counseling at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, OH.

Grace Tran will spend her summer doing pediatric genetic counseling at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She will be working with a group of pediatric genetic counselors and is excited for the opportunities available through UT’s Genetic Counseling Program.

Sarah Walterman will be in Columbus, OH this summer spending her rotation doing prenatal genetic counseling at Riverside Methodist Hospital.
Welcome Class of 2015

Sarah Adelsperger
I grew up in Upper Sandusky, OH which is actually 50 miles south of Sandusky where Cedar Point is located. After high school I attended The Ohio State University and received my BS in Microbiology and minor in Human Development and Family Science. During my time at Ohio State, I worked as an intern within the OSU Division of Human Genetics. Through this internship I enrolled and recruited heart failure patients onto the Coriell Personalized Medicine Collaborative. While at OSU, I volunteered my time organizing and working at Camp Kesem – a free summer camp for children who have had a parent affected by cancer. I also volunteered as the advocacy director for the Colleges Against Cancer group on campus as well as a hotline volunteer for the Ohio AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline. In my spare time I love dancing, going to musicals, and watching Buckeye football.

Katlin Allsbrook
I am originally from the Outer Banks of North Carolina. I graduated from North Carolina State University in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in Genetics. During my undergraduate career I was a member of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity and the Genetics Club President. To prepare for graduate school I held a year-long internship at Laboratory Corporation of America where I completed a research project on the CYP450 metabolism pathway. While at LabCorp I also shadowed genetic counselors on a daily basis and was able to learn in-depth about the role of the genetic counselor in a laboratory setting. I also completed an internship with Duke University Pediatric Medical Genetics where I helped several genetic counselors prepare for clinics that saw patients with Pompe Disease, Glycogen Storage Disorders and several other genetic conditions. I have also volunteered with a domestic violence and sexual assault hotline, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Planned Parenthood. I shadowed a variety of genetic counselors at locations including Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest Baptist Health. In my free time I enjoy running, spending time with friends and family and cooking.

Cassie Bac
I grew up in Saratoga, California, which is a suburb of San Jose. In 2011 I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S. in Genetics. During my college career I volunteered with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, working to help fund type I diabetes research. I was also able to travel throughout the Mediterranean as part of my education while studying abroad on Semester at Sea. After graduation I had the opportunity to volunteer with the genetic counselors in the Metabolic Genetics Clinic at the University of California, San Francisco. Additionally, I have shadowed genetic counselors at Navigenics, a personal genomics company using genetic testing to help individuals determine their risk level for various health conditions. This past year I have worked as a telephone counselor on a suicide prevention hotline and also as a full-time Histology Assistant at Genomic Health Inc. In my free time I enjoy baking (gluten-free!), running and kickboxing, and watching NHL Hockey-Go-Sharks!
**Samantha Barton**

I was born in Columbus, Ohio but grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana and am excited to be returning to my “home” state. I graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington where I received my B.S. in Biology. While at IU, I worked in a research lab at the Indiana University College of Optometry which focused on the development of portable, deep-retinal imaging devices that would provide necessary screenings for macular degeneration and other ocular diseases to rural, urban, and low income populations. Since graduation I have worked as the Medical Outreach Coordinator for Down Syndrome Indiana to provide support resources to both physicians and families, and to educate health care providers on how to deliver a thoughtful and thorough pre-natal diagnosis of Down Syndrome. While taking a few graduate courses in public health, a professor suggested I look into genetic counseling. After shadowing multiple counselors in a variety of settings, I knew this was the career path for me. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends and family, my fiancé, Ben, and our two dogs, Stella and Sasha. I am a Mexican food enthusiast, novice kayaker and love to travel any chance I get. Even though I am so excited to become a Cincinnati Bearcat, the IU basketball team will always be my first love. Go Hoosiers!

**Caitlin Campbell**

I was born and raised in Carlsbad, California, which is just north of San Diego. I attended the University of California Davis and graduated in December 2012 with a B.S. in Genetics and a minor in Psychology. As an undergraduate I enjoyed advising incoming students as an orientation leader, supervising high school students as a resident advisor for a summer math and science program, and working in a genetics lab where I contributed to a publication on the characterization of a novel IncRNA. While at Davis I also interned at the MIND Institute, a center for neurodevelopmental disorders, and volunteered at a cerebral palsy organization while studying abroad in Spain. As I became interested in genetic counseling, I shadowed genetic counselors in pediatric and metabolic clinics at the UCD Medical Center and now look forward to becoming a genetic counselor myself! In my free time I like to bake, crochet, travel, and see plays.

**Rachel Fisher**

I am originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan and have been living and working in Boston for the past several years. I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2009 with a BS from the School of Management. I then moved to Boston where I worked for a financial firm managing life and disability insurance, as well as long term care. In 2012, I obtained my Life, Accident and Health insurance license, which allowed me to advise clients on decisions regarding their insurance a. In addition, I volunteered at AIDS Action Committee in Boston which, provided me with the opportunity to work with clients who were HIV positive. From this experience, I obtained a better understanding of the challenges of living with this disease, as well as the medical aspects of the virus. In my free time I enjoy playing with my dog, running, biking, tennis, movies, and travel.
Andrea Murad

I grew up in Highland, Michigan, a small town about 45 miles northwest of Detroit. I received my B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and later earned a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Pre-Medical Science from New York University. After college I had many volunteer experiences including providing community outreach, education and testing for HIV & AIDS with a non-profit organization in Michigan. Over the last four years I have been working as a clinical research coordinator at Northwestern University in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology. From 2009 -2011 I worked as the study coordinator on the Prenatal Cytogenetic Diagnosis by Array-Based Copy Number Analysis study funded by the National Institute of Health. The results of this study were published in the New England Journal of Medicine on December 6, 2012. In my spare time I enjoy reading, attending live concerts, trying out new restaurants, travelling and spending time with my friends and family.

Joseph Jacher

I grew up in Westmont, Illinois, which is a suburb just west of Chicago. I graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with my BA in Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology and minors in Business and Biology. While at Drake I was a member of the Alpha Phi Omega Service, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, and Sigma Chi where I served as president my senior year. I worked as a lab assistant where we verified host-virus protein-protein interactions between Influenza A nucleoprotein and human proteins using a yeast two-hybrid system. I spent a large amount of time volunteering at the local Boys and Girls Club and worked part time at a company called ChildServe counseling children with special needs to become more independent. I am a die-hard Chicago Blackhawks fan and in my free time I enjoy spending time with friends, listening to music, reading, cooking, and taking advantage of my Netflix account.

Alexander Paulchell

I was born and raised in Avon, OH, which is on the west side of Cleveland. I attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH before graduating with a B.S. in Molecular Genetics. During my time at OSU, I loved my role as President of the Beta Iota Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi, National Honor Fraternity. During college, I spent an entire summer shadowing prenatal and cancer genetic counselors as well as a clinical geneticist at Metro Health Medical Center. I graduated from OSU in June 2012 and elected to take a year off. During my year off, I worked as a Mathematics tutor at Lorain County Community College. I also had an internship with The Arc of Greater Cleveland, an advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During my time with The Arc, I evaluated and assisted the Partners in Policymaking program, which aims to develop the leadership and advocacy skills of parents and self-advocates alike. I also took the year to develop myself personally by becoming a vegetarian, joining a kickball team, and discovering a love for community. After Cleveland and Columbus, I’m excited to continue my Tour de Ohio in Cincinnati. I’ll miss Lake Erie, but I hope to make memories along the Ohio River.
Janel Phetteplace

I was born and raised in Delevan, New York, which is about 50 miles south of Buffalo. I graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Sciences from the Honors College at the University of South Florida. While attending USF, I volunteered with Facing our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)—an organization that provides support to those affected by hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Additionally, I volunteered as a crisis counselor at the Tampa Bay Crisis Center. I was also employed as a research assistant at Moffitt Cancer Center in two different labs—one focused on genetic and environmental causes of brain tumors and the other on patient reported outcomes. Moreover, at the end of my undergraduate career I completed an internship with a cancer genetic counselor at Moffitt Cancer Center. During this time, I had the opportunity to shadow several genetic counselors as well as draw out patients’ pedigrees prior to their appointments. In my spare time I like to be outside, preferably on the water. I also enjoy reading, listening to country music, and spending time with my friends and family.

Caitlin Reinert

I was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas. I attended the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and graduated in 2013 with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Biology. While at TU, I volunteered for two and a half years at a residential crisis pregnancy center where I built many wonderful relationships with the women I met. During the summers I provided respite care for a family who has several children with Fragile X Syndrome. Both of these experiences were challenging, but incredibly joyful and rewarding. In addition, I studied abroad for a semester in Scotland, served as a University Ambassador giving campus tours, as well as held leadership roles at the Catholic campus center. I am passionate about music, reading, the outdoors, baking, and spending time with my family and friends.

Janet Schibler

I currently call myself a Cincinnatian, but have moved around a bit. I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, moved to Cincinnati (where I have family ties) for high school, attended Elon University in North Carolina, spent a semester in Copenhagen, Denmark, and returned to Cincinnati after graduating in 2010. Needless to say, I really enjoy traveling and new experiences! I graduated with my B.S. in Biology with a minor in Psychology. While in college, I was able to fuel my science interest through research on cardiovascular development of zebrafish when exposed to a water pollutant, PBDE 47. I also volunteered for a crisis hotline at a rape crisis center, where my desire grew to advocate for those who are in emotionally traumatic circumstances. Upon graduating, I started working in an acute myeloid leukemia research lab as a research assistant studying hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells and how specific genetic mutations in these cells affect leukemogenesis. In addition to working, I have spent the past few years exploring genetic counseling through shadowing experiences at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital and speaking with genetic counselors, and in doing so became even more excited about this field! In my free time I enjoy doing anything outdoors (running, camping, rafting, skiing), exploring new places (last year I went on a mission trip to South Sudan and tried zip-lining in Costa Rica with my family), game nights, reading, cooking, and spending time with friends/family. I’m excited to be joining the Bearcat family!
2013 DNA Sample Day

On May 3rd, 2013, the University of Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Program hosted its 2nd Annual DNA Sample Day: An Introduction to the Field of Genetic Counseling event. The day-long program was held in the CCHMC Sabin Auditorium and provided attendees with insight into the multifaceted nature of the genetic counseling profession. This year, attendance more than doubled, with over 50 enthusiastic participants traveling from various states to learn more about the field. Attendees ranged from high school students to those in established careers who were interested in learning more about the profession and considering a career change.

The day opened with a panel discussion of genetic counselors representing a variety of specialties in the field. The panel provided an overview of their experiences in the field of genetic counseling and attendees were encouraged to ask questions to the panelists. During the lunch break, current students and program faculty interacted with attendees and continued to field questions. Next, a videotaped role play of a cancer genetic counseling session was shown to the group followed by two thought-provoking case studies. The first case study presented by Christine Spaeth, involved a family’s diagnostic odyssey which started with a very sick child and ended with a healthy child being born. The second study presented by Martha Walker, explored issues related to Duchenne muscular dystrophy and its impact on a family. The event concluded with attendees breaking into smaller groups for a more intimate and targeted look into three genetic counseling areas that were most interesting to them. Attendees selected from a variety of 30-minute speed sessions focusing on specialty clinics, genetic counseling education, clinical trials and genetic counseling in the cancer, pediatric, and prenatal settings.

The event provided a unique way for attendees to interact with genetic counselors and learn about the expanding field of genetic counseling. The day was a great success, evidenced by the increased number of eager participants and the positive feedback received after the event.

Kathleen Collins, MS, CGC

Alumni Relations Committee

The Alumni Relations Committee (ARC) works to build and foster relations between the GCP and all alumni. We will have a presence at the reception planned for the NSGC conference in Anaheim this fall and look forward to seeing you there! At any time, we welcome ideas and input from alums and current students. If you are an alumnus and would like to present a lecture to students/staff/faculty in the CCHMC Division of Human Genetics, please contact Martha Walker (martha.walker@cchmc.org) This is a great way for current students to envision their career possibilities and breadth of the field of genetic counseling.
UC Genetic Counseling Training Program
Supervisor Awards

We began presenting Supervisor Awards at the end of the Academic Year in 2012. I am very excited to announce the awardees for the 2nd Annual Supervisor Awards for the University of Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Program:

Winner of the 2012-2013 Student Choice Award is...

Christine Spaeth

Christine was noted by the students to provide constructive feedback while still providing positive reinforcement and encouragement which helped them to build their confidence. They felt she provided them with independence while also collaborating with them when needed. In addition, students felt Christine was approachable and actively engaged in their learning process.

Student Choice Award Description: Each student was given the opportunity to nominate one supervisor who they felt should be acknowledged for their role as supervisor over the past Academic Year. Votes were tallied and student comments were taken into account to select this year’s awardee.

Winners of the Off-Site 2012-2013 Program Choice Award are...

The Children’s Medical Center of Dayton
Heather Workman and Faith Califf-Daley

A new affiliation agreement with the Children’s Medical Center of Dayton was recently executed. In addition to the mountain of paperwork associated with the contract, Heather and Faith also helped multiple students complete cancer cases for their logbooks, in addition to supervising students in pediatric clinics. We truly appreciate Heather and Faith’s dedication to the GCP.

Off-Site Program Choice Award Description: GCP faculty members were given the opportunity to nominate a supervisor/rotation at a non-CCHMC site who they felt had gone above and beyond their supervisory duties during the Academic Year. Votes were tallied and faculty comments were taking into account to select this year’s awardees.

Winners of the On-site 2012-2013 Program Choice Award are...

The Cytogenetic and Molecular Laboratory Counselors
Jessica Connor, Jennifer Glass, Jennifer Holle, Judy Johnson, Emily King, Shelly Rudnick, & Kristen Sund

This year, the laboratory counselors organized and executed the Laboratory Genetic Counseling course. Previously, only half of all 2nd year students were able to complete a laboratory rotation. Due to the creativity and dedication of the laboratory counselors, for the first time in GCP history, ALL 2nd year students gained a thorough understanding of the skills needed to become a laboratory genetic counselor. Future classes of UC GCP students will also gain this knowledge as the course will be available online.

On-Site Program Choice Award Description: GCP faculty members were given the opportunity to nominate a supervisor/rotation at CCHMC who they felt had gone above and beyond their supervisory duties during the Academic Year. Votes were tallied and faculty comments were taking into account to select this year’s awardees.

Katie Wusik, MS, CGC
Clinical Coordinator
**Recent Student Awards**

The Leadership Education in Neuro-developmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center selected genetic counseling students *Jule Diaz* and *Kate Heraty* as LEND program trainees.

Three students from the Class of 2014 were awarded competitive summer internships across the country:

- **India Bradley** – Genetic Counseling Internship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Courtney Lewis** – Genetic Counseling Fellowship at the Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center in Washington, D.C.
- **Brooke McLaughlin** — Genetic Counseling Internship at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, AZ. Brooke was also selected for an all-expenses paid Genetic Counseling internship with Myriad Genetics, Inc. in Salt Lake City, UT.

The Genetic Counseling Program (GCP) at the University of Cincinnati is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). The program was founded in 1982. The GCP is a dual institution program that has affiliations with the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The program trains students to be professional, patient-centered, and empathetic counselors who can fulfill the ever-expanding roles of our field.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about genetic counseling our program, please visit:

- **Website:** [www.geneticcounseling4u.org](http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org)
- **Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/UCgeneticcounseling](http://www.facebook.com/UCgeneticcounseling)
- **Student Blog:** [ucgeneticcounseling.blogspot.com](http://ucgeneticcounseling.blogspot.com)

*The Genetic Counseling Connection - Spring/Summer 2013 Edition, Edited by: Courtney Lewis*

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**Dr. and Mrs. Carl A. Huether Endowment Fund Update**

The Carl A. Huether Endowment Fund was established in 2007 by Dr. and Mrs. Carl A. Huether to help defray direct student costs for expenses related to pursuing their research projects and attending regional and national professional meetings. Dr. Huether, the founding Director of the UC Genetic Counseling Graduate Program, initiated the endowment fund upon his retirement after 41 years of service to the UC Department of Biology.

In hopes that you will be willing to help grow the Endowment Fund, Carol and Bert Huether have offered to match each dollar raised two for one, so your $25 becomes $75. To find out more about the endowment fund or to donate online, visit the University of Cincinnati Genetic Counseling Graduate Program Website at [www.geneticcounseling4u.org/noteworthy_activities/news.html](http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org/noteworthy_activities/news.html). Additionally, you can contact Bette Young (Bette.Young@cchmc.org) to learn more.