Dear Alumni and Friends,

It has been a record-setting year in many regards. The number of applications we received for admittance to the Program increased by 25% over the previous year to 210! Demand for genetic counselors is high and the number and types of jobs available to our graduates continue to expand. At the same time, we are experiencing increased interest in and awareness of the field of genetic counseling. In fact, we are receiving so many requests for information and shadowing that we can’t keep up with demand. In addition to our Annual DNA Day in August and Open House in November, we are now making plans to host regular information sessions for anyone interested in learning more about the field of genetic counseling. Several candidates this year said they applied to our Program because they were impressed with Cincinnati alumni they talked to or shadowed. Thank you for all the guidance you provide to potential applicants! With your help, we remain committed to training the best and the brightest genetic counselors.

Last month, we said goodbye to the Class of 2016. While we were sad to see them leave, we know they will be successful in their careers and look forward to learning about their many successes and accomplishments (see p.3). In the same week that the Class of 2016 graduated, we also welcomed the Class of 2018. You can learn more about the incoming class in this newsletter and on our website at http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org/about/students.html.

Finally, as you have probably heard, we are in the final month of our campaign to grow the Huether Endowment to $100,000 and to receive the 3 to 1 match offered by Dr. and Mrs. Carl Huether. Thank you to the many alumni and students who have already donated to this worthwhile cause and who reached out to me to let me know you made a donation. Although the demand for genetic counselors is high, so is the cost of a graduate education. Students graduate from our program with an average debt of $45,000. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. No amount is too small. Click here to give.

We want to hear from you! Keep us appraised of your job changes and accomplishments and let us know if you are ever in Cincinnati. We’d love to see you. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you this Fall in Seattle at the AEC.

Warmly,

Melanie
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!

After two years of coursework, clinical rotations, and research, the Class of 2016 received their diplomas and became genetic counselors! We wish the Class of 2016 the best of luck as they begin the next chapter of their lives. They will be sorely missed!
**Big Plans for the Class of 2016!**

**Alyssa Ritter:** Cardiovascular and general genetic counseling at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA.

**Hayley Grandine:** Prenatal genetic counseling at Swedish Hospital, Seattle, WA.

**Kait Miller:** Lysosomal storage fellowship at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

**Lauren Maynard:** Pediatric, adult, and cardiovascular genetic counseling at the University of Arizona, Tuscon, AZ.

**Rania Sheikh:** Adult and pediatric counseling at O&O Alpan, Fairfax, VA.

**Leandra Tolusso:** Fetal care center and cytogenetics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Cincinnati, OH.

**Meghann Reardon:** Adult genetic counseling at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, ND.

**Randa Newman:** Cancer genetic counseling at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Cincinnati, OH.

**Hannah Balka:** Prenatal genetic counseling at University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

**Kanchi Barfiwala:** Prenatal genetic counseling at Valley Children’s Hospital, Fresno, CA.

**Kelly Warsinske:** Cancer genetic counseling at the Levine Cancer Institute, Charlotte, NC.
CLASS OF 2017
FAVORITE FIRST YEAR MEMORIES

Sarah Chadwell: Face-swapping!

Hallie Andrew: The lecture by Dr. Hopkin where he brought in his daughter’s toy dolls and had students point out different congenital anomalies. Also, traveling as a group of 1st years to CPR training!

Lexi Giordullo: Going to Land of Illusion for Halloween and starting a dance party at Japp’s!

Jess Shank: Watching the Big Ten championship and having a Thanksgiving potluck at Alyssa’s house!

Meghan Tipsword: The end of the year King’s Island trip!

Ayaka Suzuki: All the game nights and Land of Illusion for Halloween!

Meg Matias: Making the parks and recreation video for the second years and the dance party at Japp’s!
LEND IN NICARAGUA

Randa Newman, Class of 2016, was the first genetic counseling LEND trainee to travel with the LEND program as part of an international team to provide services, education, and support for children with disabilities and their families. Read about her experiences this past year in Managua, Nicaragua with the LEND team on the GCP blog.

Typhon: A New Online Case Summary Database

This year, the GCP transitioned to a new, online, case summary database called Typhon. Typhon is used by several genetic counseling programs across the country. One of the benefits of Typhon is that supervisors can view and approve case summaries electronically which means we use less paper! Some of us may remember inputting our summer cases into our old Access database after returning from our summer rotations; however, with Typhon, students have access to their case summary database anywhere they have an internet connection. Typhon is also able to track core (logbook) cases more easily than our previous database and helps the students easily put together their final logbook.

The GCP faculty like Typhon because it can run many different types of reports such as: the number of cases seen by all students over the past year, the number of cases seen with a particular supervisor or site, or the number of cases seen by a particular student for a certain time period. As to be expected with the implementation of any changes to our documentation, we’ve experienced a few glitches with Typhon over the past year. However, we expect as the students, supervisors, and faculty become more familiar with the database that it will eventually make everyone’s lives much easier. –Katie Wusik
WELCOME, class of 2018!

Michaela Idleburg
From: St. Louis, Missouri
Bachelor’s Degree: Truman State University 2016; Biology with minors in Spanish for the Medical Professions and Psychology
Experiences: Volunteered with Students Supporting the Exceptional Community, operated a crisis hotline with Victim Support Services, conducted literary research on Prader-Willi syndrome
Hobbies: Movies, hanging out with friends and family, crafting, baking, hiking, listening to great music

Farah Mahan
From: Lexington, Kentucky
Bachelor’s Degree: Huntingdon College 2016; Psychology with minors in Biology and Chemistry
Experiences: Served as a Resident Assistant at University of Kentucky’s Area Health Education Center and as a Mental Health Aide at Eastern State Hospital, volunteered with the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless
Hobbies: Traveling, programming lighting shows, watching college sports, playing computer games

Tyler Meyer
From: Batesville, Indiana
Bachelor’s Degree: Indiana University 2016; Biology with a minor in Psychology
Experiences: Volunteered at Bell Trace Health and Living Center, mentored local middle school boy’s group allowing them to discuss and cope with difficult developmental adjustments
Hobbies: Outdoors, fitness, sports, music, spending time with friends and family

Elizabeth Owens-Thomas
From: Grundy, Virginia
Bachelor’s Degree: King University 2015; Biology with minors in Psychology and English
Experiences: Volunteered with the Bristol Crisis Center, worked with King’s Human Subject Research Review Committee, tutored and assisted in the laboratory for general chemistry, served as secretary in the Student Government Association, interned with the Northwestern University Genetic Counseling Summer Internship program
Hobbies: Reading, hiking, traveling, trying new foods, and binge watching Netflix with her husband
WELCOME, CLASS OF 2018!

Stacey Aldrich
From: St. Louis, Missouri
Bachelor’s Degree: University of Colorado at Boulder 2006; Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
Experiences: Worked for 10 years covering health care news, volunteered at a suicide hotline and a chemotherapy infusion room
Hobbies: Urban gardening, cooking, learning Spanish, travel, scuba diving, yoga, hiking

Fatima Amir
From: Pakistan, born in the United States
Bachelor’s Degree: Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar 2016; Biological sciences with a minor in Psychology.
Experiences: Conducted research with the Genomics research project, volunteered with the Survivor Support Network (SSN) and as a Peer Health Advocate
Hobbies: Directing, producing and acting in original comedy plays on campus, anything Harry Potter or Disney

Diana Brightman
From: Cincinnati, Ohio
Bachelor’s Degree: University of Michigan, 2007; Biology
Doctoral Degree: Washington University 2015; Molecular Cell Biology
Experiences: Conducted doctoral research on the role of epigenetic regulation in retinal development, volunteered with the Young Scientist Program
Hobbies: Reading, practicing yoga, biking, spending time with friends and family

Kristen Fishler
From: Bel Air, Maryland
Bachelor’s Degree: University of Maryland, College Park, 2014; Biology
Experiences: Helped to found Beta Psi Omega, worked with under-served populations in Washington, DC through Health Leads, volunteered at the Genome exhibit at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, worked at the NIH for two years as a genetic counseling research assistant
Hobbies: Hiking and trying new fitness classes, going to hip-hop concerts, watching football (go Ravens!), and spending time with friends and family
Welcome, class of 2018!

Josie Pervola
From: Danville, Pennsylvania
Bachelor's Degree: Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania 2015; Health Sciences
Experiences: Interned with the Cancer Genetics Risk Assessment Clinic at Geisinger Health System, Worked as a Research Consenter for MyCode Community Health Initiative and as a Genomic Medicine Assistant at Geisinger Health System
Hobbies: Journaling, listening to podcasts, being outside, browsing Pinterest, and partaking in America's newest pastime: Netflix

Megan Quinlan
From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bachelor's Degree: Case Western Reserve University 2015; Biochemistry
Experiences: Volunteered at ARC of Greater Cleveland and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, served as Dance Marathon Campus Relations Chair, and as Leadership and STEM Facilitator with the Girl Scouts.
Hobbies: Cooking, reading, exploring new places, spending time with friends and family

Rachel Sullivan
From: Plymouth, MI
Bachelor's Degree: Michigan State University 2016; Genomics and Molecular Genetics with a minor in German
Experiences: Conducted research on the coevolution of phage Lambda and their host Escherichia coli, worked as an undergraduate TA, volunteered at the Listening Ear Crisis Intervention Center and at a local soup kitchen.
Hobbies: Working with her church, singing, thrift shopping, camping, playing Nancy Drew computer games, and spending time with the people she

Kayleigh Swaggart
From: Kansas City, Missouri
Bachelor's Degree: Truman State University 2008; Biology with a minor in Psychology
Doctoral Degree: University of Chicago 2013; Human Genetics
Experiences: Conducted research on the role of genetic modifiers in the severity of disease in a mouse model of muscular dystrophy, volunteered at Comer Children's Hospital, conducted post-doctoral research on understanding human birth timing by examining gene expression in the placenta
Each student was given the opportunity to nominate one supervisor who they felt should be acknowledged. This year’s winner of the Student Choice Award is Jennifer Hopper! Jen was noted by students to always be willing to teach and answer questions as well as to promote critical thinking skills and active learning. They felt supported by her while trying out new skills and appreciated her feedback. The students felt that Jen was an incredible supervisor!

GCP faculty members were given the opportunity to nominate a supervisor/rotation at a non-CCHMC site who they felt should be acknowledged. This year’s winner of the Off-Site 2015-2016 Program Choice Award are St. Elizabeth’s Jamie Grund, Dawn Holladay, Maureen Osak, and Justine Snyder! The counselors at St. E’s have supervised many students this year, including hosting a student for her summer rotation. They have worked through challenges with the students’ class schedules and their own clinical schedules to provide enriching experiences in prenatal and cancer genetic counseling.

GCP faculty members were given the opportunity to nominate a supervisor/rotation at CCHMC who they felt should be acknowledged. This year’s winner of the On-site 2015-2016 Program Choice Award are... CCHMC Heart Institute’s Erin Miller, Ashley Parrot, and Amy Shikany! The counselor’s at the Heart Institute have supervised many students this year, including hosting an outside student for their summer rotation and, at times, having a student assigned to all 3 counselors at the same time!
Please consider giving to the Huether Endowment, a worthy effort which exclusively supports graduate students’ needs such as education travel expenses. Below is Kait Miller’s testimonial about receiving funds to attend the 2015 NSGC Annual Conference. Please CLICK HERE to give to the Dr. and Mrs. Carl A. Huether Endowment for the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program or visit http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org/noteworthy_activities/news.html to learn more.

“As graduate students, we have many expenses; the funds we received from the Huether Endowment helped us travel to the 2015 NSGC conference in Pittsburgh. By attending the conference, my classmates and I were able to hear about the latest developments in the field, network with other healthcare professionals, and explore Pittsburgh together. We are so grateful to the Huether Endowment for making these experiences possible!” -Kait Miller, Class of 2016

UC/CCHMC GCP Class of 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA for NSGC’s Annual Conference!

CARRIE’S NEW ADDITION!

Silas Martin Atzinger
Born February 11, 2016
The UC/CCHMC GCP continues to offer online courses for continuing education for genetic counselors. Alumni who have taken these courses for credit in the program can retake them for CEUs after 5 years.

Information on how to sign up for these classes can be found on our website [www.geneticcounseling4u.org](http://www.geneticcounseling4u.org).

Our current offerings are:

- Clinical Embryology (2.55 CEUs)
- Teratology (2.0 CEUs)
- Laboratory Genetic Counseling (1.13 CEUs)
- Neurogenetics (1.1 CEUs)
- Cardiovascular Genetics (1.0 CEU)

The Genetic Counseling Graduate 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 Cincinnati Children's Hospital and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. Our goal is to train students to be professional, patient-centered, and empathetic counselors who can fulfill the expanding roles of our field.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about genetic counseling, 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)

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