

2020 Spring Poem

This wild ride of a year is coming to a close,
There have been many great memories, but sadly clouded by pandemic woes
Our world is struggling with a virus and we are struggling with isolation,
Yet, in these moments, I have found so many reasons for inspiration
Each of you - faculty, students, and staff - has risen to this call,
Teaching, studying, modifying your research, with flexibility and compassion, through it all

As graduation nears, it is important to give our most recent doctorates a shout,
They are a big part of this department's considerable clout
Ben Doty's dissertation considered LMIC trauma and suicide,
And Dan Lakin tackled men's Engagement with Mental Health Treatment with pride

Calliope Hologue defended her work on autism and gut last year,
And we were able to give Jocelyn Owusu's work on sleep, race, and brain health a strong cheer
Noa Krawczyk worked to shed light on the intersection of criminal justice, and opioid treatment needs,
And Kristin Schneider addressed challenges of rural people who use drugs, planting new research seeds.

Post-doc Wendy Ingram has left her mark on us all,
Creating a sustainable mental health grad network was her call
TT Le's post doctoral fellowship focused on global mental health task sharing tools,
While Stephanie Moore working on evidence-based mental health practices in schools

It is important to not forget our MHS group,
With wide-varying interests, you are quite a disciplinary soup!
In the fall I mentioned you each by your name,
I am sorry that this time, I cannot do the same
You were each impressive, interesting, and engaged in public health
Of talent and passion and resilience, your class truly excelled.

This year brings some exciting new additions to our faculty and staff
Can't wait until we are all back together to meet for a laugh!
Laura Clary is now on the scientist track
In addition to her analytic skills, she bakes a great snack!
Tiara Willie is bringing her expertise and passion for women experiencing violence,
And Leslie Adams is working to help black men who often suffer depression in silence
Becca Fix is integrating criminal justice, violence, mental health, and psychology,
And Sachini Bandara is pushing forward mental health and criminal justice policy

Our current faculty continue to work with ferocity,
This year, in particular, I am grateful for their expertise and generosity
Adam Spira is helping us improve every grant we write,
And the wellbeing and success of our students are never out of Judy Bass's sights
Liz Stuart has contributed to National Academies panels,
Yet she prioritizes time to get school education needs handled

Sarah Murray continues to research mental health that is global,
And Laura Murray's tenacity to provide resources in this current crisis has been noble
Michelle Carlson, George Rebok and Jeanine Parisi renewed work on experience corps,

while Kelly Benke and Jill Rabinowitz worked hard on genetic risk scores

Andy Feinberg continues to collaborate on mental health epigenetics,
As does Andrew Jaffe genomic work; he is undoubtedly energetic
Elise Pas now has a windfall of grants to get going,
And the number of Nick Lalongo's PiRC papers keep growing

Brion Maher and Renee Johnson continue to serve DDET with passion,
And Sabriya Linton is studying responses when housing is rationed
Johannes Thrul is making strides in mhealth technology,
While Bill Eaton continues to emphasize mental health and sociology

Phil Leaf works hard to help Baltimore's trauma response,
And Joe Gallo is leading integration of quantitative data with qualitative nuance
Luke Kalb and Heather Volk have teamed up to help the FDA,
And regarding Adolescent Health, Tamar Mendelson is leading the way

Many faculty are now working on mental health data harmonization,
In this, Ryoko Susikida, Reshmi Nair, Hollow Wilcox and Rashelle Musci are leading the nation
Elizabeth Letourneau's work on prevention of child sexual abuse is an urgent current need,
Her work with Luciana Meytin and others at the Moore Center is impactful indeed

Ramin Mojtabai continues to evaluate mental health services and policy,
While integration of school and health data continues to be one of Shep Kellam's pleas
Trang Nguyen continues to push causal inference methodology,
While Jura Augustinavicius now examines climate change effects on psychology

To our PhD and MHS graduates, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the sadness we feel,
Missing in-person graduation and family celebrations is truly a raw deal
You deserve festivities and parties and feelings of pride,
And we were looking forward to being right at your side
But please remember this crisis, although painful and memorable, will pass,
While your new knowledge, new colleagues, and dear friendships forever last

And finally, we cannot end a year without a heart-felt shout out to all our staff
Particularly Michelle and Patty who handle academics and these party logistics with warmth and class
Yes my friends, we have shared a memorable time
But now I must end, because I am out all of rhymes