

Greetings from GSPP's Ammi Hyde Building where we are settling comfortably in our 41st year of existence! Celebrating the 40th anniversary with so many of you over the past year was thrilling – hearing how you've used your GSPP degree to impact the communities you serve has been a humbling and rewarding experience. As you visited the School, read our newsletters, and attended events, you shared reoccurring feelings of pride and gratitude for how GSPP impacted your lives; both professionally and personally. As I reflect on our past, present, and future, I understand that GSPP has always been creative and socially responsive in the way we train students and in the many ways we serve the public. Connecting with our founders, Drs. Nelson Jones and Joe Dodds has reinforced this realization. We've managed to stay true to our values while also growing and remaining current with community needs, expanding into new ways to use psychology and impact the people and places we serve. This makes me proud – I hope you are, too!

We're entering our third year in implementing growth in four strategic areas at GSPP:

Sustainability and Accessibility

We feel the immense need to find scholarship aid to prospective and current students so that the alumni loan debt is lessened. Our alumni giving participation rate is the highest on campus among graduate alumni (7.83%) and for the third year in a row 99% of GSPP's faculty and staff have shown their support of the school through donations. We believe in the work that we're doing here!

Quality, Relevance, and Reach

Our excellent quality continues to improve. This year we had over 500 applicants for the 35 PsyD student openings and out of our cohort of PsyD students applying to internships, 100% of the students matched with APA accredited internships, compared to a 79.3% national average.

Visibility and Impact

Through a strategic social media presence, relevant and community minded events, and faculty presence in local and national media outlets, GSPP is striving to be the hub for mental health in the communities we serve.

Community

We are dedicated to the public good and this dedication is visible in all that we do – over

96,000 volunteer student field placement hours per year, partnerships with over 250 community agencies, sliding scale clinic fees, diverse clinical offerings, and so much more.

As we look ahead to the next 40 years, we're proud of who we are and we want to move forward in the communities we serve with an even greater impact. We're striving to be relevant in solving the bigger problems in our communities and in the world. Because of our ambitious goals, we know it's important to look inward as well as outward. GSPP is preparing to go through our reaccreditation cycle with APA and will enter the self-study phase of the process at the end of this year. We're excited about this opportunity and approach it with optimism, seriousness, and willingness to reflect. As we're evaluating ourselves, we want you to be a part of the process. We welcome your feedback and good ideas as we strive to be even better than what we are now. We can only do that together. Can we be engaging you as an alum in a more meaningful way? Are you missing something from us? Do you want more? Do you want less? Please share your ideas with us through whatever means you prefer. Email, call, post on social media, or stop by in person to share your input. It's meaningful to us and will aid in our growth.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Smith-Acuña". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Shelly Smith-Acuña, Ph.D., Dean

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