In Fall 2017, the Department of Psychology had its inaugural section of the Psychology Majors Living Learning Community (LLC). Incoming freshmen, who expressed interest in psychology as a major, lived together in Carpenter Hall. To increase their campus engagement, the LLC requirements include completing study hours and attending Student Success and Retention (SSR) seminars. To enhance their academic experience, they were enrolled in the First Year Seminar (FYS) entitled, *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Fact vs. Fiction*. The course explored the differences between high school and college as well as encouraged discussion about the misconceptions surrounding individuals with ASDs. In addition, students learned about diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and careers involving individuals with ASDs while building a relationship with not only a faculty member but their faculty advisor, which promoted academic success.

To meet both the FYS and LLC stipulations, Dr. Albee Mendoza prepared several events in and out of the classroom to engage students with the department, the college, and the community. One main event is having workshops where FYS students (*N* = 13) make rock art with students with special needs (*N* = 15) from the John S. Charlton School. Professor Joshua Nobiling hosted the two workshops in the Longwood Hall Art Studio (please see below for pictures). Students interacted with individuals with ASDs and other neurodevelopmental disorders, which promoted building relationships with diverse populations as well as professional development skills.

Another main event was to hear about the experiences of professionals caring for and working with individuals with ASD. On 9/20/17, two Special Education teachers from the Charlton School shared their academic histories (e.g., classes they took, what they majored in, what classes help with their currently job) as well as strategies in managing behaviors of their students (e.g., teaching self-advocacy skills, communicating with parents). On 10/13/17, a speaker who has a brother with ASD spoke to the FY 100 about his experience growing up with a younger sibling with a disability. He discussed the challenges and rewards him and his family face being ethnic minorities in an urban setting and navigating the healthcare system for his brother. On 10/20/17, three upperclassmen students spoke to FY 100 students about their experiences being psychology majors at Wesley College. They talked about why they chose Wesley College over other schools, why they chose psychology as their major, and what opportunities for leadership Wesley College provides them among other topics. On 10/30/17, a Family Services Coordinator from Autism Delaware, who is a Wesley College alumni, talked to the students about her academic background and services available for individuals with ASD in Kent, Sussex, and New Castle counties. On 11/30/17, a Youth Worker from the Greater Dover Boys and Girls Club shared stories about children and adolescents in her care. She discussed how she applied her psychology major into her daily activities (e.g., achieving goals in the youths’ Individualized Education Plan (IEP), talking to parents about difficult issues, and managing youths’ behaviors).

Please see pictures from the Psychology Majors LLC and the rest of the Department of Psychology (e.g., Out of Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk) on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/WesleyCollegePsychology/](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyCollegePsychology/)

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Kindness Rocks Workshop #1

Kindness Rocks Workshop #2
Psychology Upperclassmen from Wesley College

Special Education Teachers from John S. Charlton School
Family Member of Sibling with ASD

Youth Worker from the Boys and Girls Club
Family Services Coordinator from Autism Delaware

Out of Darkness Suicide Awareness Walk