

## **Brittany Ash Interview:**

### **How would you describe your area of study to a novice?**

There are numerous facets of counseling. I believe that the constant in the field of counseling is relationships. A counselor works towards establishing a helping relationship that facilitates growth, introspection and the development of emotional wellness for an individual seeking support.

### **What is your primary motivation for persevering through graduate school?**

I am simply seeking to love what I do and feel as though I am contributing to the betterment of my community. I believe that the experience of graduate school, and the degree that comes with it, will provide me the tools that I need to do precisely that.

### **Do you think there is any value in social networking with other graduate students in non-related fields?**

Absolutely. Having a presence in a social network assists in other individuals developing an increased awareness of your field and what it can offer. Social networking provides opportunities for collaboration and the possibilities are endless!

### **What is your favorite stress-reduction technique?**

Humor! I surround myself with funny people. My fiancé, sister and best friend, Jenn are hysterical people and are great to have around during stressful times.

### **What is the last book you read strictly for pleasure and how long ago was it?**

The last time I read a book for pleasure was a year ago and is titled, Why Him, Why Her? by Dr. Helen Fisher. I am a personality theory nerd.

### **Please describe your most meaningful academic relationship.**

It is too difficult to pick just one. The most significant reason why I love Radford University is the number of dedicated and invested professors that teach here. During my experience as an undergraduate student, my relationship with my University Supervisor and Professor, Dr. Talbot was very meaningful to me. I have been fortunate to develop relationships with many extraordinary professors in my graduate program as well. These professors who have had a profound impact on me as an individual and as a student include Dr. Hudgins, Dr. Hartig, and Dr. Gumaer.

### **What surprised you the most about graduate school?**

I was very surprised to discover how invested the professors are. They have been unbelievably caring, supportive, and dedicated.

### **If travel to Mars happens in your lifetime, would you want to be one of the scientists on board? If yes, what would you contribute to the mission?**

I don't think I would make a very good scientist. The only role that I could provide would be the sarcastic mood lightener who contributes through comic relief.

### **What is your favorite comfort food and why? How often do you consume it?**

I have a weakness for Cracker Barrel. My relatives act as enablers by providing me with gift cards. I try to limit myself to Cracker Barrel visits once a month or every two months. The chicken and dumplings are sinful.

### **If you hadn't been admitted to graduate school, what do you think you would be doing right now?**

I would probably be teaching in an elementary school and loving it, but feeling as though something was missing.

**When do you expect to complete your degree?**

July of 2013.