



# School Psychology Newsletter: Back to School Edition

Fall 2010  
Volume 6, Issue 1

### Inside this issue:

SPLASH & The Windy City!	2
Protecting Sexual Minority Youth in Our Schools	3
SPLASH Welcomes Pearson!	3
SPLASH & Good News	4
Lincoln Tunnel 5k Challenge: More SPLASH Success!	4
Directors Corner: Dr. Massarelli	5
NASP Student Leader: Passing the Torch	5
Advocacy: NASP & Communiqué	6
NJASP Spring 2010	6
SPLASH Sponsors a Workshop You Don't Want to Miss!	7
Newsletter Committee	8

## SPLASH Members Get Their Feet Wet for a Good Cause!

The 2010 Polar Bear Plunge took place on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Seaside Heights, New Jersey. This was the fourth consecutive year that SPLASH members pledged a minimum of \$100 to jump into the icy waters of the Atlantic in the heart of winter.

At this point, you may be questioning our association's sanity, but rest assured that these efforts were made to support a great cause. All proceeds from the Polar Bear Plunge help advance the goal of Special Olympics New Jersey to provide free training and competition to more than 18,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

This year, over 4,500 participants raised more than \$1.2 million to help fund the creation and expansion of Special Olympic programs in New Jersey. The SPLASH team single-handedly contributed an astounding \$1,483 to the cause.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Massarelli, Michael Applegren, Shannon Burke, Antonella Caruso, Megan Francis, Brad Harris, and Marloody Noda for helping make this event the most successful plunge to date!

By Shannon Burke



Michael Applegren & Shannon Burke



## School Avoidance Workshop

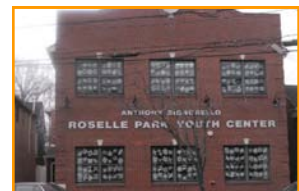
On February 1, 2010, The Academy at Roselle Park hosted a workshop to allow other professionals to learn about school avoidance behaviors.

Dr. Andrew R. Eisen of Fairleigh Dickinson University gave a presentation called,

"Nature and Treatment of School Refusal Behavior." During his presentation he gave case study examples, definitions of avoidant behaviors, and possible treatment plans.

For any information regarding contacting Dr. Eisen,

the presentation, or about The Academy, please contact Lauren Schaeffer at [laschae@gmail.com](mailto:laschae@gmail.com).





## SPLASH & The Windy City!

The NASP 2010 Annual Convention was held March 2-6 at the Hyatt Regency in the windy city this year! The convention attracted its second largest attendance with just over 6,000 school psychologists and graduate students. NASP's 2010 theme, *Promoting Competence, Creating Capacity, and Expanding Opportunities*, encompassed an array of professional excellence to strengthen the role of school psychologists on children's learning and mental health in schools.

SPLASH students took advantage of all opportunities at NASP: workshops, poster sessions, convention assistants, the student mentoring program, and networking with colleagues and friends. Some attended session topics include:

- School Wide Positive Behavior Supports (SWPBS) & Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Data-based Decision Making
- Various Mental Health Topics
- Best Practices / Evidence-based Research
- Suicide Prevention & Intervention
- Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Multicultural Competency Topics

And after a full day of productive professional development, the excitement did not stop there! As the third largest city in America, students were able to enjoy the windy city's culture, dining and history.

SPLASH students Jackie Karlsson, Ashley Pagan and Brad Harris presented *A Program to Counteract the Effects of Violent Video Games* in a Participant Information Exchange (PIE) format. The presentation was interactive and participants engaged in a structured discussion of the program and its design. The convention indicated the program as a diversity session, NASP's strategic goal to address racial, linguistic, cultural, and sexual orientation issues (NASP, 2010). For more information on this presentation, please visit <http://counteractvideogameviolence.weebly.com/>.

Of the many professional experiences available at the NASP convention, the student mentoring program is a unique pairing of graduate students with school psychologists from across the United States. Students can choose to pair with mentors based on a variety of different criteria, including employment setting, number of years in school psychology, research interests, and geographic location. Students have the opportunity to spend time with the school psychologist, ask questions and gain insight into real-world experiences. This year, mentees Ashley Pagan, Jackie Karlsson, and Brad Harris met with mentor Heather Jones from Kentucky, "the mentoring program for me was a valuable learning experience in a variety of ways," said Ashley. If you attend next years convention, don't miss out!

Next years convention will be held in San Francisco, CA February 22-26, 2011.

<http://www.nasponline.org/conventions/index.aspx>

Hope to see you there!

By Jackie Karlsson  
NASP Student Leader



Left: Jackie Karlsson, Brad Harris, Ashley Pagan, Dr. Massarelli, Kathleen Cash, Tara Wisiak, Tiffany Sloan



Left: Jackie Karlsson, Ashley Pagan, Brad Harris



Left: Ashley Pagan, Tiffany Sloan, Tara Wisiak, Jackie Karlsson, Kathleen Cash, Brad Harris

### Protecting Sexual Minority Youth in Our Schools

On Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the School & Community Psychology Program and SPLASH sponsored a bullying workshop on *Protecting Sexual Minority Youth in Our Schools* presented by Dr. Silvia Pastor and Dr. Joseph Petrino.

The free workshop attracted many students from school psychology, counseling, education, and marriage & family therapy, along with outside school faculty and professors.

The workshop was extremely interactive and participants engaged in a collaborative discussion on bullying and the LGBT population. In this educational session, participants explored facts on bullying, shed light on recent bullying/cyberbullying cases, and gained resources for educational-based strategies and interventions to decrease verbal and physical harassment and increase school safety for sexual minority youth.

The College of Education and Human Services is a New Jersey Professional Development Provider and participants were provided with documentation of two hours continuing education credit (CEC's).

Thanks to this great evening, attendee's are equipped with basic knowledge on what bullying is, how it directly effects sexual minority youth, and some tips on what to do about it. Most importantly, all who attended have been made aware and therefore have a responsibility to try and put an end to it!

By Ashley Stys



### SPLASH Welcomes Pearson!

On March 31, 2010, SPLASH members had the opportunity to attend the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT-III) workshop presented by Jim Simone.

The assessment is a norm referenced tool and is used for individuals in preschool through age 16. On the WIAT-III are 5 new subtests that have been added for grades kindergarten to third grade, which include oral reading fluency, math fluency addition, math fluency subtraction, math fluency multiplication and early reading skills. The assessment measures skills in each of the 5 domains: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and math with standard revisions.

In a collaborative discussion, participants (1) gained information about the WIAT-III and its application to identify the academic strengths and weaknesses of a student, (2) learned how the WIAT-III can be used to inform decisions regarding eligibility for educational services and placement, and (3) were introduced to the hand scoring and Scoring Assistant software (Pearson,2009).

The College of Education and Human Services is a New Jersey Professional Development Provider and participants were provided with documentation of three hours continuing education credit (CEC's).

By Aimee Schwartz



Jim Simone, Pearson Representative





## SPLASH & Good News!

Congratulations to all of the M.A. and Ed.S. school psychology graduate students for the successful completion of the Spring 2010 semester! These past few months have been filled with many important milestones and achievements that are worthy of being recognized. Bravo to the individuals who passed the comprehensive examination in March, 2010!

Congratulations to all of the December 2009 M.A. and Ed.S. graduates! Your hard work, dedication and commitment to school psychology has contributed to your success in triumphantly completing your degree. On behalf of all the school psychology graduate students and faculty at Seton Hall University, we wish you luck and continued success in your future endeavors.

During early March, several school psychology students and faculty traveled to Chicago, IL to attend and present at NASP's national convention. Jackie Karlsson, Brad Harris, and Ashley Pagan presented their curriculum, "A Program to Counteract the Effects of Video Game Violence" as a Participant Information Exchange (PIE) session, and found the experience to be gratifying, enlightening and enriching. The presenters were asked, and humbly honored to present their program as an in-service training to the school psychologists in the Elizabeth Public School District, and at Middlesex County Vocational-Technical School's production on Video Game Violence.

Several SPLASH members proudly participated in various fundraising initiatives this semester. A brave group of individuals ventured into the wintery ocean for the Polar Plunge to help support and fundraise for the Special Olympics. Several SPLASH members journeyed in the pouring rain to participate in the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge, in which donations and proceeds go towards supporting the Special Olympics in New Jersey. A big thank you goes out to everyone for their participation and donations.

During the month of April, several of our school psychology students were recognized and proudly inducted into Seton Hall University's Kappa Delta Pi, Xi Gamma Chapter for maintaining excellence in scholarship and maintaining a 3.8 GPA or higher! Way to go!

Congratulations to Jackie Karlsson, Ashley Pagan, Brad Harris and Dr. Massarelli for the proud accomplishment of their Video Game Violence article published in "The School Psychologist" over the summer. You can access the article by following the link, [http://www.indiana.edu/~div16/publications/school\\_psychologist\\_summer2010.pdf](http://www.indiana.edu/~div16/publications/school_psychologist_summer2010.pdf), and in addition will find other excellent articles from APA Division 16.

Keep the good news rolling!

By Ashley Pagan

## Lincoln Tunnel 5k Challenge: More SPLASH Success!

On Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 many of our own SPLASH members signed up to run in the Lincoln Tunnel Challenge 5k Run/Walk Race presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey to support the Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ).

The SONJ mission is to "provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community," is very near and dear to our hearts.

We are proud to say that our very own "TEAM SPLASH" raised \$970.00 and will helping to benefit more than 21,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities that train and compete throughout New Jersey in 24 sports, participating in more than 160 competitive events.

Thank you to: Ashley Stys, Jackie Karlsson, Ashley Alvernes, Shannon Burke, Antonella Caruso, Ashley Pagan, Christina Puzio, and Lauren Schaeffer for making this possible!

By Ashley Stys



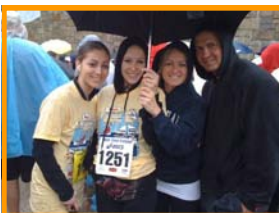
Left: Rachel Wander, Michelle Stanbro, Jamie Koransky, Michael Vargas, Alison Burton, Maureen Carlin, Bettyann Monteione



Left: Renee Colangelo, Aimee Schwartz, Megan Francis, Komal Patel, Brian Yankouski



May 2010 M.A. graduates pictured with Dr. Massarelli



Left: Antonella Caruso, Ashley Pagan, & Jackie Karlsson



## Directors Corner: Dr. Massarelli



Dear Students,

Welcome to a new academic year!

This year we took in 9 new students. These students are part of the 2010 cohort group. Please welcome them. They are: Melissa Citron, Abena Douglas, Caitlin Driscoll, Jenee Douras, Kristina Kanaropoulos, Angela Larmony, Nicole Matano, Paris Norwood, and Jason Schermond.

Our interns have finished taking the Praxis Exam. They have four months before they graduate. All are doing excellent work at their respective school districts. Also, our fourth year students will be starting their practicum this fall. Wish them the very best!

This year we will be having an early conference scheduled for Monday evening, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8PM. The conference is titled, *School Based Mental Health Model - CBT with Children and Adolescents*. Dr. Rosemary Mennuti, professor and director of the School Psychology Program at the Philadelphia School of Osteopathic Medicine, will be our guest speaker. For more information about this event, please see the brochure.

This year we hope to have several students attend and present at the NASP convention in San Francisco. Many of you submitted posters and papers. We should be well represented at NASP in 2011!

The Comprehensive Exam for MA students that are not part of a cohort group or who need to retake any section of the exam will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2010. Students that are part of the Cohort 2009 group will take their exam on Saturday, March 19, 2011. Study guides are available by contacting Lucy Vazquez or myself.

SPLASH will start up again in the fall. Our first meeting will be held on Thursday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Support your student organization!

Have a wonderful and productive year!

Dr. Massarelli  
Program Director

## NASP Student Leader Passing the Torch

Antonella Caruso  
2009–2010



Jackie Karlsson  
2010–2011

NASP SL Mission Statement:

NASP recruits a Student Leader (SL) from school psychology training programs across the country in order to increase communication between graduate students and NASP. The SL program provides a leadership opportunity to select graduate students, helps to expand NASP student resources, supports existing local student organizations, and helps programs create local student organizations if they wish. This initiative also provides an avenue for future involvement as a leader in the Association. NASP Student Leaders are nominated by Faculty Sponsors from their training programs, and are invited to attend the Student Leader Annual Meeting at the NASP Convention. For more information, please visit [http://www.nasponline.org/students/studentleader\\_overview.aspx](http://www.nasponline.org/students/studentleader_overview.aspx).

## Advocacy: NASP & Communiqué Reflection

After reading the three articles in the advocacy section of the latest edition of *Communiqué* and the Advocacy page on NASP's website, there are several current items of which we should be aware.



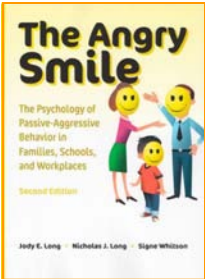
First, the 5th anniversary of the National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is on May 6, 2010. The aim of the day is to raise "awareness of effective programs for children's mental health needs; demonstrate how children's mental health initiatives promote positive youth development, recovery and resilience; and show how children with mental health needs thrive in their communities." Check out the three activities that are leading up to the Awareness Day ("*The Post Now E-Viral Campaign*", "*My Feelings Are a Work of Art-Art Action*", and "*When I Grow Up-Youth Action*") and help shed a positive light on issues related to children's mental health!

Another important upcoming event to explore further is the Public Policy Institute (PPI) in Washington D.C. that is co-hosted by NASP and George Washington University Graduate School in Education and Human Development. School psychology students can attend this conference to further develop competencies that will focus on *Safe & Healthy Environments for Educating the Whole Child* and discussions will include policy and legislative goals in promoting psychological practices. You can choose from a 3-day basic training from July 7-9, 2010 or a 5-day advanced training from July 7-9 & July 12-13.

In addition, it is important that school psychology graduate students join as a student affiliate in APA's Division 16 as the goals and objectives resonate with the domains of school psychology. Here is a steal incentive: first-time members join free for 2010; for more information, visit the Division 16 website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~div16/membership.html>.

By Megan Francis

## NJASP Spring 2010 Conference



The New Jersey Association of School Psychologists, Annual Spring Conference was held on Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Jamesburg, NJ. There were about 7 students in attendance representing Seton Hall and SPLASH as well as Program Director, Dr. Massarelli.

School psychologists as well as future school psychologists gathered for breakfast at about 8:30am. The speaker of the day was Signe Whitson, coauthor of the book "The Angry Smile" and the lecture focused on passive aggressive behavior. The morning portion of the presentation centered on the different types of passive aggressive behaviors and how to recognize the behaviors in everyone from to students, to co-workers, to parents, to yourself.

The lunch break included an awards ceremony, which honored New Jersey School Psychologist of the Year Mary Duffy (school psychologist at Mainland Regional High School), various other educators throughout the state, and the NJASP minority scholarship recipient.

After lunch and awards, Signe continued her presentation with the afternoon focusing on the "Benign Confrontation" a method that can be used to combat passive aggressive behaviors. All in all, as a student the conference was a great experience in that it was great to see the amount of pride that school psychologists have in their field as well as their endless dedication to students.

I recommend attending an NJASP conference even if just once throughout you graduate course-work, as it is a worthwhile and unique experience. Have a great summer!

By Kristen Rudiger



## SPLASH Sponsors a Workshop You Don't Want to Miss!



### Promoting Professional Practice

The College of Education and Human Services is a New Jersey Professional Development Provider. Documentation of three hours of continuing education credit will be provided pending completion of evaluation.



Seton Hall University  
400 South Orange Avenue  
South Orange, NJ 07079

### School-Based Mental Health Model - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Children and Adolescents

*This workshop provides school-based practitioners and mental health clinicians with a comprehensive and comparative guide to the strategic interventions, therapeutic modalities, and treatment approaches that are most commonly and effectively used in educational and clinical settings. The workshop will focus on case examples and the comparative structure of providing a level of hands-on and practical learning that is helpful for both students and mental health practitioners working in mental health settings as beginners, and for more seasoned professionals who need to expand the tools at their disposal.*



Seton Hall University  
College of Education and Human Services

Department of Professional Psychology & Family Therapy

School & Community Psychology Program

### School-Based Mental Health Model - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Children and Adolescents

Presenter  
**Rosemary B. Mennuti, Ed.D.**

This workshop is sponsored by the School & Community Psychology Program and the student organization SPLASH (School Psychology Leadership Association of Seton Hall).

Thomas Massarelli, Ph.D.  
Program Director  
Marc Lombardy, Psy.D.  
Assistant Professor

Contact Luey Vazquez for additional information regarding this presentation - 973-761-9450/9451

Admission is \$30.00 for Guests and \$15.00 for Students  
Room—TBA

We hope to see you there!

On behalf of the Newsletter Committee, thank you for taking the time to check it out. If you have any questions or comments for us, or if you are interested in contributing, contact us.

### Newsletter Committee

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Advocacy Chair	Megan Francis	Megan.Francis@student.shu.edu

# Many Thanks To

Shannon Burke

Lauren Schaeffer

Jackie Karlsson

Ashley Stys

Ashley Pagan

Aimee Schwartz

Megan Francis

Kristen Rudiger