

**School Psychology
Leadership
Association of
Seton Hall
(SPLASH)**



SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Volume 4, Issue 2

Summer 2009

School psychology students strive to become competent, socially conscious and reflective professionals.



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Good News! By Ashley Pagan

During the Spring semester students in the M.A. and Ed.S program were able to demonstrate their passion, dedication and brilliant work ethic. This was evidenced in the numerous accomplishments that students have made. Furthermore, I wish to highlight the most positive moments, milestones and achievements of this semester.

On behalf of the good news committee I would like to acknowledge all of the May 2009 Ed.S graduates. All of your hard work, time and commitment to the program serve as an inspiration to both M.A. and Ed.S students at Seton Hall University. Best of luck in your future endeavors as School Psychologists! I know that your careers will bring you much joy and satisfaction. In addition, I would like to recognize and congratulate Antonella Carusso, Sarah Goldman, Nilda Linger, Ashley Pagan and Diana Santos for

successfully passing the March 2009 competency exams and to all of the M.A. students that were accepted into the Ed.S program at Seton Hall University!

In addition to all of the success the M.A. and Ed.S students have accomplished this semester, I would like to recognize Jamie Koransky for being emergency certified by

Kinnelon School District for the remainder of the year. We are so proud of you!

Congratulations! Enjoy your summer and keep the good news coming! If you have good news to share please email paganashley@gmail.com at anytime throughout the course of the semester.



Another SPLASH Bake Sale Success! By Shannon Burke

The School Psychology Leadership Association of Seton Hall held a bake sale on Thursday, May 19, 2009. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and the individuals who supported the association, the fundraiser was a great success. Earnings from the sale will be used to support both charitable and professional events, such as the Spe-

cial Olympics of New Jersey's annual Polar Bear Plunge and the National Association of School Psychologists' annual convention.



In addition to raising funds, the SPLASH bake sale provided the opportunity to raise awareness about the profession of school psychology and advocate for issues relevant to the field. Thank you to all the SPLASH members who donated their time and efforts to make the fundraiser possible!

The NASP 2009 Annual Convention

The NASP 2009 Annual Convention was held February 24-28 in Boston, Massachusetts. More than 4,500 of our colleagues came together to enhance their skills and knowledge, and to interact with one another. This year's convention theme *Take Strides to Make a Difference*, reflects the efforts of early Bostonians to make changes in our country and on the belief that school psychologists can and should make a difference in the lives of children. Dr. Donald Meichenbaum gave the Keynote Address on *The Nature and Development of Angry and Aggressive Behaviors: Implications for School Psychologists*. He explored how aggressive and angry behavior(s) develop from a life span perspective and considered the implications for assessment and school-based interventions. Specific cognitive-behavioral interventions were highlighted with attention placed on treatment maintenance.



Attendees are able to attend a variety of workshops as well as free poster and paper presentations. Many representatives from Seton Hall were in attendance at the convention. Alyssa Dretchen gave a poster presentation, Nilda Linger gave a paper presentation, recent graduate Deb Buzinkai gave a poster presentation, and Dr. Massarelli gave a presentation. Shannon Burke, Bettyann Monteleone, and I gave a poster presentation on a school based program to combat the sexualization of girls. Many aspiring and current school psy-



chologists showed a strong interest in our poster presentation. I encourage everyone in our program to submit research they are working on to present at a future convention. Next year's Annual Convention is in Chicago and the proposal submission deadline is June 17, 2009. Conventions are a great place to reconnect with friends and colleagues. A student outing was organized at a local restaurant for many of the students in our program. This was a great opportunity to get together outside of school to share our experiences from the convention.

For more information on becoming a NASP member visit nasponline.org.

By Jamie Koransky
NASP Student Leader



SAVE THE DATES:

N A S P S u m m e r C o n f e r e n c e s

July 13-15 in Washington D.C.

July 20-23 in Albuquerque, NM

N A S P A n n u a l C o n v e n t i o n

March 2-6, 2010 in Chicago, IL

APA's Proposed Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists

What is the Model Licensure Act (MLA)?

The model act is a policy document that serves as guidance to state legislatures for how they should set up their psychology licensing laws. The MLA states that individuals who want to use the title of "psychologist" or render "psychological services" must have a doctorate. In the 1987 version of MLA, there was an exemption to the doctorate-only standard given to school psychologists. School psychologists were allowed to use this title as long as they were practicing in public schools.

APA's proposed revisions of the 1987 APA Model Act

APA's 2009 proposed MLA removes the exemption and restricts school psychological services to "psychoeducational services." The model act also changes school psychology from a "specialty" to a "foundation of psychology." Any individual that was trained in a particular field of psychology (experimental, clinical, and counseling) would be expected only to practice in their field of training and if they decided to practice in another field of psychology, they would not do so without proper retraining. With the APA making school psychology a "foundation of psychology" a doctoral student would only have to take one or more classes in school psychology and if they felt competent enough they would be able to call themselves "school psy-

chologists" without meeting standards or requirements in school psychology.

Problems and Issues with proposed revisions to MLA

APA does not cite any research or any arguments that warrant the changes to the MLA. The APA Model Licensure Task Force cites a "public opinion survey" that they have not published or put up for review and public scrutiny. There is no scholarly research or evidence to suggest that students, parents, and administrators are better served by an individual with a doctorate versus an individual with a specialist degree.

What are the impacts of the revised MLA?

There is already a shortage of school psychologists in this country. Students interested in the field of school psychology would be forced to get a doctorate. Individuals that do not have the money or resources to get a doctorate in school psychology may turn away from this profession. Public schools would be forced to pay more money in salary as there is a difference between paying a specialist versus a doctorate. Mental health services in schools would be disrupted and students, parents, and administrators would be affected. Mental health services that a specialist was allowed to render in the school would no longer be allowed. It has taken

years for school psychology to become a recognized profession and it would bring confusion for everyone if the new revisions of the MLA were adopted. It would also take months or even years for state legislatures to sort licensing laws for school psychologists, which have already been well established.

Call to Action

There will be far overreaching consequences if the new revisions are adopted by APA and by state legislatures. As a future school psychologist, it is in your best interest and others that these revisions are not accepted. I am asking every person in Seton Hall's school psychology program to get involved and send a letter to APA asking for the school psychology exemption to be reinstated. You can send your own letter expressing your opinion or click on the following link: http://www.nasponline.org/standards/apaleters/oneclick_apa.aspx.

By Michael Appelgren

Reference:

Skalski, A. K. (2009). Advocating for School Psychologists in Response to the APA's Proposed Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists. *Communique*, 37(7), 1, 28.

Polar Bear Plunge Success! By Brad Harris

People are already flocking to the beach for some surf and sun, but it's hard to believe that only a few months ago four SPLASH members took the big plunge. It was a cold day in February when Dr. Massarelli, Michael Appelgren, Alison Burton, and Brad Harris, along with over 3000 others, plunged for to raise money for the New Jersey Special Olympics. Overall plungers raised more than half of a million dollars. This year's past plunge has been the most successful plunge to date. If you're interested, there will be plenty of room for support for the 2010 Polar Bear Plunge!





What are School Psychology Students Doing this Summer?

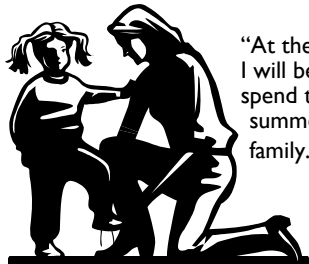
By Jackie Karlsson



Students at Seton Hall University are well integrated in the field of school psychology throughout the summer. So we asked, "What are School Psychology Students Doing this Summer?" The survey responses demonstrate the passion and dedication of working with children as well as the commitment to the program as many students continue coursework through the summer sessions. The article also keeps students connected throughout the program on both the M.A. and Ed.S levels. Check it out!



"This summer I will be working as a one-to-one aide with a 4 year old boy with Asperger's as well as being a nanny to an 8 year old girl with autism. Any free time I can find in between will hopefully be spent relaxing outside." Tiffany Sloan

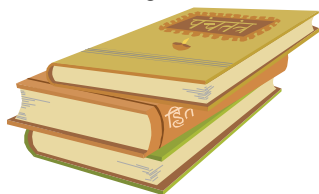
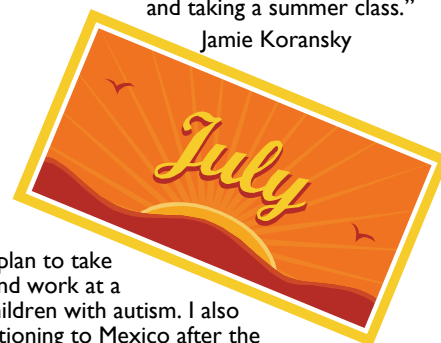


"At the beginning of the summer I will be taking two classes. I will spend the remainder of the summer enjoying time with my family." Michele Casse-Ippolito

"I will be a supervisor at Harbor Haven Day Camp and taking a summer class." Jamie Koransky

"I will be taking a class in June. I am also going to be doing behavioral therapy and managing a swim club. I am going to spend a week down the shore relaxing before Practicum starts." Meghan Foster

"I am going to be taking classes, lots of classes." Brad Harris



"I will be taking only one class in May. Then I will plan on continuing to work, go on vacation to Oregon and Washington and spend time with my family and friends." Kristen Rudiger



"In the summer I plan to take Ed.S courses and work at a school for children with autism. I also plan on vacationing to Mexico after the summer sessions have ended." Antonella Caruso

"This summer I will be working as a social skills group counselor at Harbor Haven Summer Camp in Marlboro, N.J. (a camp for children with mild to moderate disabilities)." Lauren Campanile



"I will be a nanny over the summer and taking 2 summer classes." Shannon Burke

"I will be taking a summer class. I will be working as a teacher's assistant at the Developmental Learning Center helping adolescents with autism." Kristin Scully

"I will be working at Maxim Healthcare Services and taking one summer course. I will also be babysitting on the side." Joseph Duster

"Aside from summer classes, I spend my summer babysitting full time for a family of 3 in Princeton, NJ. This will be my 4th summer working with this family." Ashley Pagan



"I am taking two classes, going on a church missionary trip to Germany, England, and spending a lot of time in the San Francisco area of California." Ashley Stys

**Fall Conferences
SAVE THE DATES**

**SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES**

FALL CONFERENCES

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI)

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 30, 2009
8:00 TO 3:30**

Program Topics:

- RTI and the Law
- RTI and Math
- RTI and Reading
- RTI and ELL
- RTI and the Urban Districts
- RTI and Behavior
- RTI and the Speech Pathologist

COST: EDUCATORS : 75.00 STUDENTS: 45.00

AUTISM: PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2009 — 8:00 TO 4:30

ACQUIRE 6 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS FOR THE DAY

Keynote:

Legislative Mandates and Law Updates Regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders

Mini Sessions:

- Critical Components: Autism Programs
- Literacy & Autism
- Asperger's & Bullying
- Technology/Program
- Parent Perspective: A Different Journey

Workshops:

- Challenging Behaviors and Strategies
- Communication Strategies
- Assessment of Children with Autism
- Socialization

COST: EDUCATORS : 75.00 STUDENTS: 45.00

For reservations or information about either conference, please contact:

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Director's Corner

Summer Edition



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and faculty for the outstanding year we had as a program. During the 2008-2009 academic year the School & Community Psychology Program has grown and continues to develop into a quality program that is being recognized by others throughout the state.

Our SPLASH student organization has worked very hard this past year in the areas of advocacy and fund raising to help our profession. Students wrote letters and spoke out against the Model Licensure Act and worked hard to promote School Psychology as a worthy profession dedicated to helping all children and families. Fund raisers, lecture events, workshops, and of course, the Polar Plunge, were among the many activities the students took part in this past year. Thank you Dr. Lombardy for taking over the SPLASH organization and being their advisor.

Next year, with the NCATE visit to our college, the students will be gearing up to promote the School Psychology program linking our goals and objectives to our college vision statement of developing competent, socially conscious, and reflective professionals.

I am very proud of the work the different student committees are involved in such as representing our program at various events including: New Jersey Association of School Psychologists (NJASP) fall and spring conventions, National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) annual convention, and New Jersey Psychology Association (Psychology in the Schools - PINS) meetings. Students have submitted posters and papers to these organizations for presentation. Keep up the good work!

A special congratulations goes out to the largest graduating class in the past 12 years. Our program graduated 15 students in December 2008 and May of 2009. The graduates are:

December 2008 Graduates: Ashley Black, Tara Marie Burleigh, Shannon Marie Cooper, Cindy M. Del Tufo, Jaclyn Ann DiBrienza, Dania M. Diaz, Sharonda Aminah Hilyard, Kerry McNeill, Maritza Navarro, Virginia Nebbia, Kari Ann Ring, and Kristin V. Teel. **May 2009 Graduates:** Debora Buzinkai, Jennifer McKenny, and Marie Lynn Wurtemberg. Many of our students had secured jobs before they graduated through the emergency certification route. Some of our students are teaching at the college level, and others are going on to further their education. Congratulations to Cindy Del Tufo for being accepted into the doctoral program at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Upcoming Events:

- 1) Our interns are preparing for the Praxis Exam this coming July. Wish them luck!
- 2) Our Practicum students are going out in the field this fall. We have thirteen students that have secured contracts with various public school districts throughout north-central New Jersey.
- 3) And lastly, we are entering 13 new students into our MA program this fall. A special welcome to all new students!

To everyone, enjoy the summer break and recharge your batteries. The summer goes fast!



Sincerely,

Dr. Massarelli— Program Director

NASP Student Leader: Passing the Torch

By Jackie Karlsson

On behalf of the entire SPLASH organization, I would like to extend much appreciation to Jamie Koransky for her commitment, support and service as our NASP Student Leader. Your work has been an inspiration and resource to us all!

Thank You Jamie Koransky!



SPLASH would like to pass the torch and announce the new

NASP Student Leader for 2009-2010:

Antonella Caruso

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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.

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