

School Psychology Newsletter

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Summer 2015



SPLASH AT NASP 2015

The School & Community Psychology Program at Seton Hall was represented by several members at the Annual NASP convention in Orlando, FL. The convention took place on February 17 through February 20th. The keynote address, by the Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy, was titled, *My Journey: Making Mental Health Essential Health*, was both stimulating and thought provoking.

SPLASH student presentations included a poster on by Jillian McManus and Tia LaBruno on *Using Positive Behavioral Support Systems to End the School to Prison Pipeline*, and a poster by Ashley L. Kellett on *The Use of Non-Erotic Touch in the School*.

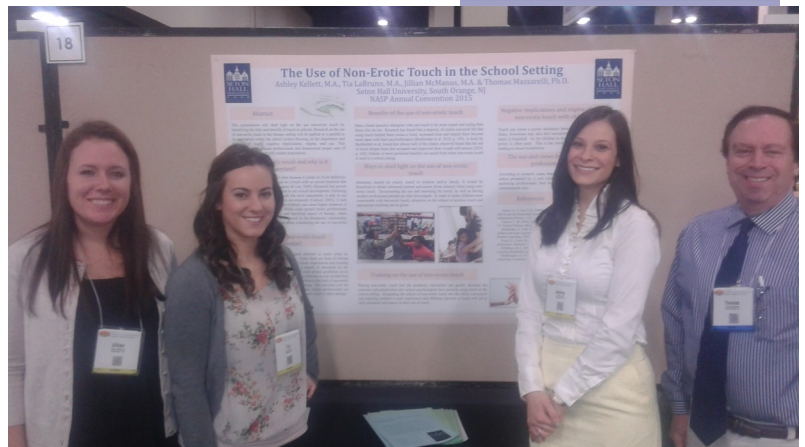
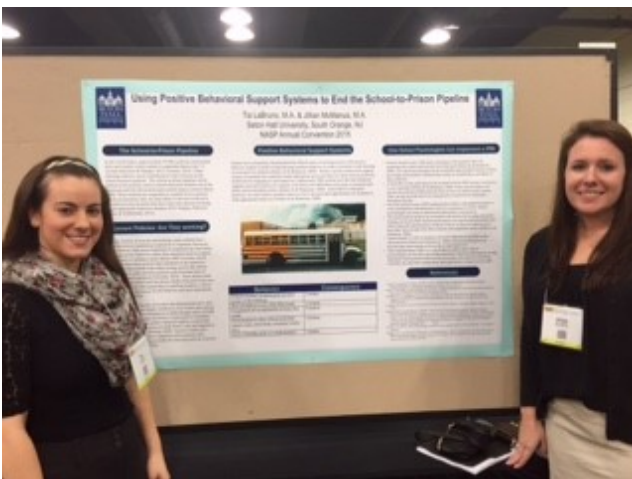
SPLASH Faculty were represented as well. Dr. Massarelli and Brian Yankouski presented on *School-Based Applications of Restraint and Seclusion: Implications for Practice* and Dr. O'Halloran and Dr. Massarelli presented on *Traditional and Technological Techniques for Tackling Autism Spectrum Disorder*.

Congratulations to all of the presenters at this year's NASP convention!

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The 2nd Annual Nassan 5K Walk for Autism

By: Steve O'Brien



This past April, several SPLASH members were given the opportunity to volunteer and participate in a 5k walk for Autism hosted by an organization named Nassan's Place. The 5K took place in Elmwood Park in East Orange on a beautiful Saturday morning and provided all attendees with a few hours to have some fun and to raise money for a great cause.

The host organization, Nassan's Place, is very unique in that it's goal is to provide educational and recreational activities for children and families that live with Autism. Nadine Wright-Arbubakrr, the president of Nassan's Place, began the organization after her son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Since then, Nadine has made it her mission to "to provide support services and resources for children and families affected by Autism."

The 2nd Annual Nassan 5K walk for Autism was a total success. There was a great turnout of participants and volunteers who wanted to show their support for such a worthy cause. SPLASH was also able to raise a significant donation for Nassan's Place through a bake sale that was led by several SPLASH members.

On behalf of SPLASH, I would like to thank Nadine and all of the Nassan's Place staff for allowing us to help in any way that we could. We hope to be involved in many projects moving forward and to form a relationship that can truly help families that are affected by autism.



NJASP Reflection

By: Jordan Marcus

On Friday, May 8th, NJASP held its annual Spring Conference in East Windsor, NJ. The keynote address was presented by Susan Martz, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Student Services and Career Readiness. The keynote was followed by a presentation by Dr. Steven Feifer, a renowned member of the School Psychology field, being previously named School Psychologist of the Year in Maryland as well as Nationally.

Susan Martz's State-of-the-State keynote address described comprehensive and integrative services to help all children. She described services that are currently being used, as well as proposed services that will be made available in the future.

Dr. Feifer's presentation was titled "The Neuropsychology of Reading Disorders: Diagnosis and Intervention", during which he presented on the current state of assessments used to determine reading levels in students. Topics discussed by Dr. Feifer during his presentation were: current literacy rates, the effectiveness of No Child Left Behind

(NCLB), the pitfalls of using a single model as a basis for identifying reading disorders, and the introduction of the Feifer Assessment of Reading (FAR), a new assessment tool designed by Dr. Feifer and his colleagues using a brain-biased educational model. The FAR assessment, as described by Dr. Feifer, is able to explain why a student may have reading difficulties. The assessment does not just give information on what level the student is reading at, it also provides information on intervention decision making.

The next NJASP Winter Conference will be held on December 4th. The location of the conference, as well as the presenters and topics being presented have not been announced as of yet. To receive updates on NJASP and the upcoming conference go to: website (www.njasp.org), on Facebook, as well as Twitter.



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

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Director's Corner

This past year we accepted six new students into the program and graduated five. Overall, the school psychology program had a very successful year! All students passed the master's comprehensive exam and our success rate on the Praxis Exam in the summer of 2014 was at 80%. We had two important fund raisers and four students traveled to Orlando, Florida to present at the NASP convention. We also hosted Christina Biloh from Pearson who gave a workshop on the new WISC-V.

Two of our graduating interns just gave birth, Caitlin Anderson and Stephanie Cioppa. Congratulations on the new additions to their families!

Next year the program will be undergoing a few changes in curriculum and sequence of courses (starting with the incoming class of 2015). More to follow.

Have a pleasant and relaxing summer. The fall semester begins on August 31st.

Sincerely,

Dr. Massarelli
Program Director

Congratulations to our own, Brian Yankouski!

By: Ashley L. Kellett

Brian graduated from the School Psychology program at Seton Hall University with his Masters in Psychological Studies in 2011 and his Education Specialist Degree in December of 2014. During this time, Brian also completed his post-MA certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in special education as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall. Despite Brian's demanding schedule, he found the time to develop his own company, Behavioral and Educational Solutions and Training of New Jersey (BEST NJ, LLC). His agency provides behavioral consultation services to both public and private schools as well as in-home therapy and was created to fill the void in high-quality and ethical behavioral treatment for individuals with special needs in the state of New Jersey.

In 2014, Brian became a full time faculty member in Seton Hall's College of Education and Human Services and the developer/director of the new post Masters certificate program in applied behavior analysis (ABA). Future hopes and directions for the program include a standalone Masters program in ABA and a five year program in ABA which will be a combination between Seton Hall's Bachelors in Elementary, Early Childhood, and Special Education programs along with the Masters in applied behavioral analysis.

By pursuing a post-Masters ABA certificate, one could work as a behaviorist within a public or private school, as well as hospitals, group home settings or even private practice. Professionals can utilize applied behavior analysis in many professional areas, so, the opportunities of this degree are endless. Furthermore, school psychologists and other mental health professionals can benefit from this certificate as it provides you with advanced training in behavior, which increases your marketability when pursuing employment!

On the behalf of SPLASH, I would like to congratulate Brian on his new position as the director of the ABA program at Seton Hall as well as all of his outstanding achievements!



Congratulations Class of 2015!



Congrats to Nicole Matano, Brian Yankouski and Melissa Bertuccio (as well as Stephanie Cioppa and Caitlin Anderson- not pictured) as they celebrate their graduation from the Ed.S. Program on May 16, 2015 !



Congrats to Sherilyn Ferrari, Jordan Marcus, Jamie Schleifer and Steven O'Brian (as well as Jessica Puzio- not pictured) as they graduate from the MA program on May 16, 2015!

Upcoming Events:

APA 2015

August 6-9, 2015

NJASP Winter Conf.

December 4, 2015

NASP 2015

February 10-13, 2016

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

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