University of Florida

School Psychology Times
2012-2013
Editor: Kaitlyn Tiplady

“My fellow students are the main reason I love it here. I am surrounded by brilliant minds who challenge me to think differently.”

- Chelsea Thorne
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Recent Publications:


Conference Presentations:


Dr. Diana Joyce’s research interests include social-emotional assessment and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) services for behavioral and mental health disorders. Her focus is on school-based applications of direct service.

Current Grants:

Waldron, N. & Joyce, D. Co-Principal Investigators. Transforming Inquiry and Educational Practice Through Response-to-Intervention (Project TIER) is designed to provide a doctoral specialization for school psychology in response-to-intervention (RtI) implementation. $800,000. August 2009-August 2013. US DOE

Recent Publications:


Conference Presentations:

Joyce, D., Calueng, C., Castillo, M., & Ettinger, R. (June, 2012). Bullying behavior prevention within a response to intervention model for fourth graders. Presented at the International Association of School Psychologists Conference, Montreal, Canada.


Dr. Elayne Colón

Dr. Colón serves as the Director of Assessment and Accreditation for the University of Florida’s College of Education. Her research interests include individual and systems-level assessment, program evaluation, and the accreditation and regulation of educator preparation programs.

Recent honors:
- Accepted into UF Academy for emerging leaders (2012)
- Florida Department of Education, Electronic Institutional Program Evaluation Plan (eIPEP) Advisory Board (2012)
- Invited Subject Matter Expert, Florida Teacher Certification Examinations, Professional Education, Test Item Development (January, 2012)

Recent Publications:

Conference Presentations:


Colvin, S., & Colón, E. (2011, October). Lessons Learned from Looking at K-5 Student Performance Data of Program Graduates. Presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Association of Teacher Educators, St. Petersburg, FL.
Dr. Tina Smith-Bonahue is an associate professor in the School of Special Education, School Psychology and Early Childhood Studies. She teaches courses in direct interventions in school psychology and assessment and evaluation in the Unified PROTEACH Early Childhood program. Her primary research interests include aggression and challenging behaviors in early childhood, intervention for challenging behaviors, and teacher beliefs regarding children with special needs. She is interested in improving classroom quality in pre-kindergarten and providing professional development for early childhood educators.

Recent Publications:


Conference Presentations:


Diaz, R., Smith-Bonahue, T., Smith, S., & Elias-Miranda, Marisel. Developmentally Appropriate Professional Development for Early Childhood Educators: Florida Master Teacher Initiative, Presented at the Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Atlanta, GA.


Dr. Nancy Waldron teaches courses in consultation, academic assessment/intervention, and cultural diversity. Her research interests include the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education, contextual factors effecting implementation of multi-tiered systems of support, school improvement and systems change, and school psychology accreditation.

Recent Appointments:
Promoted to Professor beginning in August 2012.

Associate Director and Graduate Coordinator for the School of Special Education, School Psychology and Early Childhood Studies (SESPECS)

Recent Publications:


Conference Presentations:


Meet the First Year Cohort!

(Botton to Top, Left to Right) Jeisha Matos-Torres, Teresa Molina, Christopher Poltevien, Kristofer Kraul, Lauren Palma, Kaitlyn Tiplady, Olivia Soutullo, Nichol Inman, Adrienne Sloan, Jillian McFarlan, Christopher Wilson
This year, the first year cohort has only has three men... and they are all named Christopher/Kristofer. So we asked them, “Who is the best Chris?”

Kristofer Kraul: I may not be the best Chris, but I am the best Kris. Just like Tigger, I’m the only one.

Christopher Poitevien: I am the best Chris. It is because I just have a way with the ladies. That's right. Inside this deceiving exterior is a gentle soul who is smooth like the voice of Jeremy Irons, debonair as Bond, James Bond, and charming as Austin powers (plus a little of the chest hair).

Christopher Wilson: While Chris and Kristofer may claim they are the best Chris (or Kristofer), only one of us has been the mysterious neighbor on Tim Allen’s TV Show “Home Improvement,” or starred in a major motion picture as Tom Hank’s volleyball.
International Work  By: Angelina Nortey

This summer, Kaycee Reese, Natasha Parekh and I, participated in a month-long study abroad program, specifically designed for school and clinical psychology students, in Quito, Ecuador. With different site assignments at a school, health clinic and community outreach center, we were not really sure what to expect. While everyday was different, at the health clinic, typically days consisted of giving “charlas” or small information talks to those in the waiting room about stress, anxiety, depression, nutrition, etc., yoga groups for stress and counseling sessions with children, adolescents and families. Some presenting concerns we encountered were child behavior, family stressors (e.g., domestic violence, drug abuse), family transition periods (e.g., pregnancy and birth) and parent-child relationships (e.g., discipline). Throughout all of our work permeated the importance of culture and making sure that any recommendation we provided was relevant and feasible within the context of Ecuadorian culture. Many of the approaches we employed were strengths-based oriented to highlight the resiliency factors of the population we were working with. For example, Ecuador is a predominantly Catholic-faith based country. As a result, issues of religion, faith and prayer were often mentioned within sessions by our clients. In being responsive, we often built upon this because it seemed important to our clients, in addition to the counseling techniques we brought in our “toolbox”.

Outside of work, there was much to do and learn about Ecuador. The other participants in the group came from all over the United States and from varying universities. All 11 students and 3 staff were amazing in their experiences, perspectives and character. On weekends, we took trips to different parts of the country to experience the natural hot springs, mountains, volcanoes, waterfalls, beaches and the like. Moreover, the trip would not have been complete without the experience of living with a host family. Also we took 10 hours of one on one Spanish class. Being in a Spanish-speaking country, this was important for communication as participants in the program had varying levels of Spanish-language proficiency. As for myself, I originally thought my Spanish-skills were at least basic, but quickly found out I had a lot to learn. However, during the trip, my comprehension skills significantly increased and my speaking... I am still working on it. If you want the experience of cultural immersion in a Spanish-speaking country, I strongly recommend you check out the Ecuador Professional Preparation Program for summer 2013!
I’m currently a first-year student in the school psychology program. I graduated from UF in 2010 with a BS in Psychology and minor in Teaching English as a Second Language. After graduation, I decided to try something new. I packed my bags, said goodbye to all my family and friends, and went to teach English in Korea. I taught at an all girls’ high school for two years. It was the best decision I could have made. Not only was it a great opportunity for me to live in another country and learn about its culture, but a chance to grow on a personal and professional level.

Before moving to Korea, I had a pretty good idea that school psychology was the career path I wanted to pursue but I wasn’t completely sure. Then after working in a school setting and being required to work with co-teachers, it became clear that this was something I truly enjoyed. As part of my job, I had to work very closely with teachers on a regular basis which meant I had to adjust to their styles of teaching and instruction while still remaining true to my own methods. On many occasions I would have to sit down with another teacher to discuss a student and try to develop ways to help them in the classroom. We continuously worked as a team for our students.

Teaching in Korea has even prepared me for the possible role of “the outsider” as a school psychologist. I was the only foreign teacher at my school, making me quite the outsider, but I think this experience has prepped me to face this possible role. I learned that as an outsider, I had to make myself known, likable, and respected as a professional.

It has been less than three months since I moved back from Korea to start grad school, and I can already see the lessons I’ve learned translate into training I will later use in the field. I think that’s one of the greatest benefits from my experience abroad. But the most rewarding is the experience teaching, feeling the joys and pangs of being a teacher, and of course making a difference in the lives of my students. I’m happy knowing that my students will now move on in their education feeling confident in the skills and in their abilities to grow and that they are aware that the world is a large place filled with possibilities for them. That’s a feeling I’d like to continue experiencing as I proceed in my journey to become a school psychologist and then later working in schools.
Boys Town

By: Rob Wingfield

I am currently completing my predoctoral internship through the Nebraska Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology (NICPP), which comprises eight cooperating agencies that together offer a broad range of professional experiences for qualified doctoral students in psychology. Within NICPP, I am receiving training at Boys Town (BT) Center for Behavioral Health (CBH) in Omaha. Every month, interns from all eight NICPP agencies participate in professional development activities that are coordinated by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At Boys Town specifically, I receive training twice per week during two-hour long didactics. The topics covered include motivational interviewing, trauma treatment techniques, cognitive behavioral therapy, behavioral activation, acceptance commitment therapy, family therapy, bipolar disorder, and multicultural issues.

Boys Town is a co-ed residential setting where youth live in family homes. Many of the youth are court ordered to Boys Town while others are privately placed. The Boys Town campus in Omaha has its own research hospital, police department, post office, and psychology clinic (i.e. the CBH). Within the CBH, there are seven interns including myself and we are referred to as outpatient therapists.

Our clinic has about 12 licensed psychologists and three post docs. I spend most of my time providing both individual and family therapy throughout the week to youth referred for various issues including adjustment disorder, mood disorder, aggression, oppositional behaviors, anxiety, depression, problems coping with loss, and trauma. I also lead a therapy group once per week through the Chemical Use Program (CUP), which is based in the CBH. The goal of the CUP therapy group is to equip clients with skills to overcome substance abuse issues. In addition, I lead two social skills groups weekly for adolescents with social skill deficits. Since BT has its own schools, I sometimes provide consultation to school personnel who work at BT’s Day School (for EBD students) as well as the High School. Occasionally, I also complete court ordered psychological assessments at Boys Town’s Assessment Clinic (AC). Last month, I provided a workshop to BT staff on healthy lifestyle behavioral interventions for weight management to help prevent obesity amongst residential youth. Overall, my internship at Boys Town is providing me with excellent training and experiences that will help me become a more effective therapist and consultant for children, adolescents, and families. I believe the training at BT will help me fulfill one of my long-term goals of becoming a licensed psychologist that specializes in the treatment of childhood behavioral problems and family dysfunction within a mental health setting.
## Assistantships and Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Project/Grant</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gillian Escalada</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>University Alumni Fellowship Research Assistant</td>
<td>Project TIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sally Grapin</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Alumni Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Welsh</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship with Autism Sensory Motor Study</td>
<td>Project LIBERATE and Autism Sensory Motor Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Portell</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Research Assistant on EDF 3110 Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>Project TIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Salama</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Research Assistant at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaycee Reese</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Conroy on BEST in CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Thorne</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship with Project LIBERATE and Graduate Assistant at University Athletics, Strategy and Remedial Tutor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brittany Werch</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship on Dr. Conroy’s BEST in CLASS Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jana Wallace</td>
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<td>Graduate Assistantship with Project TIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Parekh</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Alumni Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anushka Joseph</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship at Dr. Snyder’s Research Lab for Pyramid Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myshea Reynolds</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Teaching Assistantship for Human Growth and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jorrel Brinkley</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Graduate Assistant for Assessment, Reitz Union Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Trimble</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lindsey Troph</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Graduate Assistant with I Control Grant</td>
<td>Project LIBERATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Jones</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Assistantship with Project LIBERATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Daley</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Assistantship with Shands Hospital working with individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome and early morbid obesity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Gaddis</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Assistantship with Project LIBERATE and Instructor for EDF 3110 Human Growth and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Salama</td>
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<td>Research Assistant at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School</td>
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<td>Kimberly Trimble</td>
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<td>Research Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecelia Ribuffo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shanee Toledano</td>
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<td>Teaching Assistantship with EDF 3110 Human Growth and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reynolds Wilson</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Graduate Research Assistantship with Dr. Conroy on BEST in CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angelina Nortey</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janise Coleman</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship with Project TIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen Butcher</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Teaching Assistant for DIAL Center for Written and Oral Communication. Teaches Introduction to Public Speaking. Research Assistant work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Poitevien</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Graduate Alumni Fellowship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adrienne Sloan</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship as a Student Advisor in the College of Liberal Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeisha Matos-Torres</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Research Assistant with Project SELF through the Special Education department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaitlyn Tiplady</td>
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<td>Graduate Assistant as the Test Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivia Soutullo</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Grinter Fellowship and Assistantship in the Office of Educational Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristofer Kraul</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Graduate Assistantship for EEX 3093</td>
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Advanced Practicum and Internship

Cathy Pasia (6th Year, Ph.D.) APPIC Internship at Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District.
Katrina Moore (6th Year, Ph.D.) Internship in Hillsborough County.
Carmelo Callueng (Doctoral Candidate, Ph.D.) Internship at Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit.
Justin Gaddis (5th Year, Ph.D.) Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit, Diabetes Clinic.
Matt Daley (5th Year, Ph.D.) Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit.
Rob Wingfield (5th Year, Ph.D.) Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health in Omaha, NE.
Angela Dobbins (5th Year, Ph.D.) Cypress Fairbanks ISD: APPIC site Cy-Fair ISD
Gillian Escalada (4th Year Ph.D.) Columbia County Counseling and Behavioral Intervention Services with Dr. Garret Evans, Psy.D.
Akiko Goen (4th Year, Ph.D.) Shands Hospital, Psychology Clinic with Dr. Ranonovich.
Michelle Portell M.S., NCSP (4th Year, Ph.D.) National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the Memory Clinic at The Neurological Associates.
Nicole Jean-Paul (4th Year, Ph.D.) Practicum in Columbia County with Project Catch.
Jill Welsh (4th Year, Ph.D.) Shands Psychology Clinic.

Shanee Toledano (3rd Year, Ph.D.) Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit.
Cecelia Ribuffo (3rd Year, Ph.D.) Private Practice with Lisa Schiavoni, Ed.S.
Colleen Butcher (3rd Year, Ph.D.) UF Psychology Clinic with Dr. Krestin Radonovich.
Angelina Nortey (3rd Year, Ph.D.) Private Clinical Counseling in Columbia County School District with Dr. Garret Evans, Ph.D.
Stacy Rice (3rd Year, Ed.S.) Internship in Baltimore City Public Schools.
Adrian J. Solis (3rd Year, Ed.S.) Internship in Hillsborough County, Tampa FL.
Jennifer Morris (3rd year, Ed,S,) Internship with San Ysidro School District in San Diego, CA.
Janise Coleman (3rd Year, Ph.D.) PK Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph. D.
Cassondra Griffith (3rd Year, Ed.S.) Internship in Colusia County, FL.
Jamie Runyons (3rd Year, Ed.S.) Internship in Alachua County, Florida.
Reynolds Wilson (3rd Year, Ph.D.) Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Therapist, Assessor and Consultant.
Katherine Sills (3rd Year, Ed.S.) Internship in San Diego County, California at the Grossmont Union High School District.
Practicum Placements

Christine Salama (2nd Year, Ed.S.) P.K. Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph.D.

Myshea Reynolds (2nd Year, Ed.S.) P.K. Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph.D.

Natasha Parekh (2nd Year, Ph.D.) P.K. Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph.D.

Jorrel Brinkley (2nd Year, Ed.S.) P.K. Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph.D.

Kaycee Reese (2nd Year, Ph.D.) Littleewood Elementary in Alachua County with Dr. Marsha Leary, Ph.D.

William McCloud (2nd Year, Ed.S.) P.K Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldrom, Ph.D.

Brittany Werch (2nd Year, Ed.S.) P.K Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldrom, Ph.D.

Jana Wallace (2nd Year, Ph.D.) P.K Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldrom, Ph.D.

Kimberly Trimble (2nd Year, Ph.D.) Marion County

Chelsea Thorne (2nd Year, EdS.) Marion County with Dr. Ergle, Ph.D.

Anushka Joseph (2nd year, Ed.S.) Sunshine Elementary in Marion County with Dr. Yvette del Nodel, Psy.D.

Christopher Poitevien (1st Year Ph.D.) P.K. Yonge with Dr. Diana Joyce, Ph.D. and Dr. Nancy Waldron, Ph.D.

Jeisha Matos-Torres (1st Year, Ed.S.) Williams Elementary School in Alachua County with Phylis Hilliard, Ed.S.

Kaitlyn Tiplady (1st Year, Ph.D.) Romeo Elementary School in Marion County with Dr. Krista Garner, Ph.D.

Olivia Soutullo (1st Year, Ph.D.) Maplewood Elementary in Marion County with Dr. Kelly Vanauker-Ergle, Ph.D.

Nichol Inman (1st Year, Ed.S.) Glen Springs Elementary in Alachua County with Patty Andress, Ed.S.

Jillian McFarlan (1st Year, Ed.S.) Ochwilla Elementary School in Putnam County with Kristen Kennedy, Ed.S.

Adrienne Sloan (1st Year, Ed.S.) Ochwilla Elementary School in Putnam County with Kristen Kennedy, Ed.S.

Kristofer Kraul (1st Year, Ed.S.) Marion County

Lauren Palma (1st Year, Ed.S.) Metcalf Elementary in Alachua County with Tracy Bryant, Ed.S.

Christopher Wilson (1st Year, Ed.S.) Marion County

Teresa Molina (1st Year, Ed.S.) Mosley Elementary in Putnam County with Julie Sloan, Ed.S.
Congratulations!

- Gillian Escalada not only earned her Master of Education last December, but she got married to the love of her life, Nick Lipari, on October 6th, 2012.
- Jeisha Matos-Torres received top honors for her senior thesis and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Florida. She was engaged in March of 2012, and will be married in December!
- Michelle Portell was engaged on February 17th, 2012 and is planning her wedding for April 20, 2013. She is thrilled and awe struck at the chance to spend the rest of her life with the best man she has ever met.
- Katherine Sills was married on June 30th, 2012 to Jordam Abruzzo in Stuart, Florida. She is loving married life.
- Jamie Runyons was engaged on September 1st, 2012.
- Cassondra Griffith was engaged in August and will be getting married in May of 2013.
- Shanee Toledano was engaged on June 20, 2012. She also received the Everett G. and Marian L. Holden Memorial Scholarship and the Grinter Fellowship.
- Lindsey Troph is making progress on her educational gaming startup, Immersed Games.
- Justin Gaddis was awarded the Fien Dissertation Award Alumni Endowmen, SESPECS Research Travel Grant and COE Research Travel Grant.
- Reynolds Wilson was awarded the Sara Lavinia de Keni Scholarship in Fall of 2012.
- Kaycee Reese was awarded the College of Education Alumni Scholarship.
- Carmelo Callueng was awarded the Student Excellence Award American Psychological Association Division 33 and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities 2012 Graduate Research Recognition Award, APA Division 42. She was also awarded with the Psychologists in Independent Practice 2012 Student Poster Award.
- Katrina Moore was awarded the J.W. Martin and A.M. Martin Phillips Scholarship Fund from the College of Education.
- Rob Wingfield was awarded the Delores Auzenne Dissertation Award from the Office of Graduate Minority Programs at UF.
- Sally Grapin was nominated for the FASP Graduate Studies Award.
- Nicole Jean-Paul won the Faye Henderson Exemplary Leadership Award for Minority Students.
- Dr. Jason Gallant, a recent graduate of the program, accepted his dream job as the Chief Psychologist at Boys Town Central Florida’s Behavioral Health Clinic.
Thank You Peer Mentor!

“I would like to thank you for helping me when I need it, even answering questions that do not pertain to school. You are there when I need help with anything and I appreciate it. Thanks Jorrel!” - Christopher Poitevien

“Cecelia Ribuffo has been my mentor since my first year at UF. We share similar interests, and she has been very helpful as my guide throughout my graduate student career. She’s always available if I have a question or if I need advice. I’m very lucky to have her as my mentor!” - Myshea Reynolds

“Natasha has been an amazing resource to me in my first year. She not only advises me on school related matters, but on real life as well. I never hesitate to call, text or email her when I have questions. I have enjoyed our dinner dates and informal meetings to catch-up. Thank you Natasha!” - Kaitlyn Tiplady

“Jana, thank you for always being available to help and talk with me!” - Olivia Soutillo

“Adrian, thanks for being willing to talk to me whenever I had questions and sharing your experiences.” - Jorrel Brinkley

“Mellissa ... turned into a close friend and has influenced my life. She reminds me to keep an open mind, to relinquish any hidden agendas or judgments before evaluating a situation and continue to love people for exactly the humans they are. She is a true professional who will impact the students and educators with whom she will work and a true and dynamic person who knows how to be a good friend.” - Michelle Portell

“Dearest Gillian, Thank you for all of your support and guidance through the last two years (and many more before that).” - Katherine Sills

“Anushka, I have only known you a short time, but you have already helped me so much and given me such great advice. The first time we met, I had no idea what to expect. But we sat there for over two hours while you offered stories from your first year and tidbits of advice you wish you had know. Thank you for making my transition into graduate school a much more comfortable experience!” - Nichol Inman
“Chelsea, You have been great to me! From the start of our correspondence as summer buddies, to now as my mentor, I feel extremely lucky to have been guided and led by you! Not only do I look up to you and see you as someone I can go to for advice about school, but also as a new friendship.” - Jillian McFarlan

“Reynolds, you have always been there to provide support and guidance. Thank you!” - Brittany Werch

“Nicole helped me to keep calm and carry on. She gave good advice and helped me navigate tricky situations.” - Colleen Butcher

“Myshea is a warm and generous person who offers to help me with anything. I know she is very busy and I appreciate her being so generous with her time.” - Adrienne Sloan

“Janise has been a great support during my journey here at UF. She is always there to lend a hand and I not only consider her my mentory, but a great friend. I couldn’t have made it through my first year without her!” - Kimberly Trimble

“It was nice to have someone who told you, “Don’t worry it will be okay.” I appreciate her willingness to share her perspective on the assignments. Thanks Sandy!” - Anushka Joseph

“Susan helped make the transition from undergrad seamless. She also was a wonderful mentor throughout my two years in Gainesville, and more importantly she is a wonderful person.” - Justin Gaddis

“Rennie McRenseters, thank you for always being two feet away from me to answer my hundreds of questions. You exemplified how helpful a peer mentor can be and provided a great leadership example. You’re the best!” - Kaycee Reese

“Will has been great. He’s a smart student and wonderful friend. His sense of humor is one-of-a-kind and I always come out of our meetings happier and more confident.” - Kristopher Kraul

“My relationship with Cathy Pasia has developed into a mutual support and friendship that I am very thankful for. I have to say that it was a perfect mentor-mentee match and I view her as a life-long resource and friend.” - Angela Dobbins

“Nicole, when I grow up I want to be just like you. Thanks for all your help.” - Shanee Toledano
What Our Students Say...

"Prospective students should choose the University of Florida School Psychology program because the faculty look out for your best interest. You can’t beat the training that you receive here. They make sure you are ready for your personal career goals." - Gillian Escalada

"Because of the opportunities and balanced curriculum, there are a lot of opportunities through the College of Education. You can join organizations, find jobs, and even do research. The best thing about graduate school is how you are treated, with respect." - Christopher Poitevien

"The best thing about graduate school is the people. Everyone is so friendly and helpful. There is a sense of camaraderie that makes me feel like if I have a problem I can get help." - Adrienne Sloan

"This program and it’s faculty are so focused on their students and their educational and professional development. I have never had any problems getting a question answered (and I ALWAYS have questions). Also, starting practicum right away is so great. Seeing what we learn in class actually occurring in the field is really beneficial and reinforcing." Jeisha Matos-Torres

"Prospective students should choose UF because they will have the opportunity to work with a school psychologist through practicum. Most schools only have practicum for one year while UF has it for two." - Myshea Reynolds

"The faculty members are very supportive and are willing to sit down and talk with you. Also, I think a great aspect of this program is that the students look out for each other, not just within your cohort, but also across cohorts." - Jorrel Brinkley

"Since I have attended two graduate schools I can say that one of the best parts about the University of Florida program is the dynamic experiences that you are offered. The UF program has contacts with professionals in the area who can expose you to whatever you seek experience in. Also, the P.K. Yonge school is a unique and highly beneficial part of the UF program as graduate students are exposed to a very real experience of working in a school under the very direct and close supervision of program faculty. In my opinion that is a rare and special opportunity that is not offered in many graduate programs." - Michelle Portell

"I have really appreciated how flexible our program is in letting you design you own specialization and develop areas of expertise. I have been granted so much freedom here, and even been encouraged in my non-traditional career goals." - Lindsey Troph

"The opportunities to explore your interests as well as the respect and caliber of research that the institution is known for is a great advantage. Also, the programs provides connections with other prominent figures in the field." - Jana Wallace

"This is a rigorous program that will give great experiences. Being in graduate school is hard, but it’s exciting to be learning so much about areas that interest me, every day." - Colleen Butcher

"The support you receive from the other students in your cohort is remarkable, and can get you through any challenge in graduate school with them by your side." - Jill Welsh

"Being on internship now, I am realizing how strong our practicum placements were and how lucky we were to get practicum from the very beginning." - Stacy Rice

"Working with well-known faculty in multiple areas of specializations and across departments is one of the best things about the UF program. It provides students with well-rounded experiences in research and field experience." - Kaycee Reese
Community Activities

Jeisha Matos-Torres volunteers with the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership program as an ambassador. It is a weekly seminar for about 100 high school sophomores focused on community service, personal growth and society leadership. Students can go home from the seminar with a different outlook on the world and develop service projects and implement them. Seeing the change in them in just four short days is truly incredible.

Lindsey Troph runs a small business and is getting involved in the startup community. She helps build educational products and companies in the private sector.

Katherine Sills (3rd Year, Ed.S.) is a volunteer with “It’s the Pits Dog Rescue in San Diego.” The rescue helps homeless pit bulls (and bully mixes) find appropriate, loving, permanent homes. Volunteering at any animal rescue is fun and you get to cuddle with the pups!

Cecelia Ribuffo is an ambassador for March of Dimes. She is extensively involved with the annual event, Gators March for Babies. She speaks about issues related to premature birth and assists with fundraising campaigns for the event.

Akino Goen is involved in the parent surrogate program, Dollys without Borders.

Cassondra Griffith is a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Florida. She has had the same little sister for three years.

Nichol Inman is an after-school assistant for a young adult with disabilities. She helps her with various activities, from homework to speech therapy.

Anushka Joseph volunteers for the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee and the Early Learning Coalition.

Jamie Runyons is a volunteer for Haven Hospice.

Jana Wallace is involved with the Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO) as the community service co-chair. She also fosters small dogs with the Gainesville Pet Rescue. She says it is a great way to have an animal in your life without all of the associated expenses! She also works with Dr. Bowie and the Office of Graduate Minority Programs (OGMP) with recruitment and social activities.

Kimberly Trimble is the MLK event chairperson for BGSO. She is committed to community service and providing quality programming for graduate students.

Sally Grapin is the NASP student leader for our program. She serves as a liaison between NASP and the student body at UF. She also attends leadership events at the annual convention.

Janise Coleman is the Youth Department Leader at Mr. Olive AME Church. She works with children and adolescents to coordinate mission projects to give back to the community.

Angelina Nortey is involved in BGSO and the McNair Scholars program.
Conference Presentations


Deitrich, Hudson, Kraul, Tweed, Rice, Sundaram (2012), Personality, perfectionism, and cheating in adolescents. Poster session presented at APA in Orlando, Florida.


Joyce, D., Nortey, A., Parekh, N., & Poitevien C., The Effectiveness of Behavioral Screening Measures/Data in Predicting Intervention Needs. Presented at the Florida Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference, Orlando FL.


Dissertations

- Carmello Callueng—Cross-National Study of Children’s Temperament Structural Validity of the Students Styles Questionnaire
- Susan Craft—Parents' Experiences with Data and Decision-Making in a Response to Intervention Process
- Jeff Ditterline—The Predictive Validity of Self-Reported Emotional Intelligence in Children
- Cindi Flores—An Examination of Repetitive and Restricted Behavior and Associated Characteristics among Those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Twyla Mancil—Executive Functioning, Language, Visual Abstract Reasoning, and Gender as Predictors of Relational and Physical Aggression among Young Children
- Sally Moore—Relationships between Preschool Teacher Cultural Beliefs and Classroom Practices
- Lacy Skinner—Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers Perspective within the Environment of Increased Educational Accountability
Conferences

FASP's 39th Annual Conference
Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2012
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