Director's Column
By Nancy Waldron, PhD, NCSP

This annual edition of the UF School Psychology Times highlights the vibrancy of our program as a community of learners that has established a bond based on common goals, the interchange of ideas, and collaborations between individuals and groups. For all of us, university life is filled with a series of beginnings and endings—from the changes in semesters, to welcoming an entering class each year, to students leaving to complete internship. For faculty a benefit is that we experience all the enthusiasm and anticipation of each event, and do so each year with a new group of developing professionals.

The awards and recognitions highlighted in this newsletter also mirror the cycle of beginnings and endings, as well as recognition of the professional journey we have all undertaken. Individuals at the beginning of their professional careers have been recognized through various national student scholarships. This past year students in our program were the recipients of the NASP Education and Research Trust Minority Scholarship and the Irwin Hyman Memorial Scholarship from the American Academy of School Psychology. Additionally, Dr. Marcia Leary, a practicing psychologist who has contributed to our program as a practicum supervisor and adjunct instructor, was selected by the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) as the School Psychologist of the Year. We are all inspired by Marcia’s commitment to children and families, improving educational and life options for students, and training future professionals. Finally, FASP selected Dr. Thomas Oakland as the recipient of the Paul Henkes Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes Tom’s extraordinary career of accomplished service and scholarship in school psychology.

It seems very appropriate that one of UF’s current ad campaigns notes that “The University of Florida is in Gainesville. The Gator Nation is Everywhere.” We can readily apply this comment to our own program. We all come together in Gainesville for a number of years, and each year some students leave to establish their professional careers and become leaders in school psychology in various parts of Florida, and across the country. So, as one way to celebrate our time together, our connectedness, and our joint accomplishments, read this annual newsletter with enjoyment .... and pride in being a “Gator school psychologist!”
Alternative Practicum Experience

While many students complete practicum experiences in school systems, there are also alternative sites that can provide valuable learning opportunities. Two of these locations are highlighted here: Shands Vista and Shands Pediatric Obesity Clinic.

Shands Vista

by Linda Radbill

My current practicum placement is at Shands Vista, a psychiatric hospital unit for children and adolescents. At Vista, an interdisciplinary team of health professionals, including psychiatrists, licensed behavioral health counselors, and psychologists, provide inpatient services. The patients range in age from five to seventeen-years-old. Services are available for individuals affected by bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, substance abuse disorders, and other psychiatric problems. The therapeutic goals of the child/adolescent program are to provide crisis stabilization, behavioral education, medication management, and family therapy within a structured environment. The theoretical orientation for services utilizes a cognitive-behavioral approach including behavioral modification techniques and individual/group counseling. In addition, to inpatient services, the program collaborates with other agencies, such as the Florida Department of Children and Families and Meridian Interface Youth Shelter to ensure long-term support services for families as needed. My responsibilities at this site include individual therapy, group therapy, psychoeducational assessment, attendance at team rounds, and facilitating a substance abuse group. Working at the center has been an extremely beneficial educational experience. I have gained insight on the Baker Act process, knowledge about the types of medications used to treat various disorders, and a greater understanding of the roles of other mental health providers. In addition, I have learned how to acquire mental health services for clients from other agencies. If you would like further information on this site, their web address is: http://shands.org/hospitals/Vista/

Shands Pediatric Obesity Clinic

by Anne Larmore & Glenn Sloman

Our practicum experience at Shands Pediatric Obesity Clinic has provided a variety of learning experiences. This clinic offers the opportunity for us to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team including medical professionals ranging from clinical psychologists to a pediatric endocrinologist, each of whom allows us to gain knowledge both didactically and experientially. Psychological services are provided for children, adolescents, and young adults who are suffering from obesity or have high cholesterol. We perform clinical interviews assessing psychological, social, and medical history information for clients ranging in age from 6 to 19-years-old. The interview’s purpose is to determine diet and exercise habits and design intervention recommendations based on the individual and family’s unique needs. One of the goals of the interview is to form a conceptualization of what environments/behaviors/events might be surrounding the weight problems and to assist the children and their families in developing realistic, attainable goals to improve their health. Another important aspect of the intake clinical interview is screening for psychological difficulties as there is a high co-morbidity rate among these patients. The clinic uses a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) approach to change behaviors that effect weight and cholesterol issues. Therapy includes counseling and behavioral techniques including arranging various contingencies to assist clients in maintaining exercise and eating goals; for example, watching a favorite television program might be contingent upon exercising for 30 minutes at least 3 days each week. This practicum opportunity challenges us to gain and apply clinical skills of assessment and problem-solving, not only to understand cases, but also to provide educational and behavioral management guidance to individuals in making positive health changes in the face of obstacles.
Dear 2nd Years,  
by Kelly Winkles

It is unbelievable that our two years are almost through! Two years ago, we arrived to the interviews with hope and determination, and we were all ecstatic to find that we were one of 16 to make up the new cohort of UF school psychology students. We came from different backgrounds and experiences, we had varying interests and personalities, but we all shared the goal of becoming a school psychologist.

We spent our first semester settling into the role of a graduate student; learning about academic assessment, behavioral assessment, and issues related to the field. We anxiously received our practicum assignments, ready to jump in and start gaining some on-the-job training! It’s humorous to look back at that first semester and realize how much growth has taken place within our entire group. So many of us trembled at the thought of presenting to the class; a task that is now routine.

The second semester was much smoother. We fell into the groove and we were moving through the program with ease. Our friendships developed further as we became more comfortable with ourselves and each other. Summertime was filled with many attempts at a beach outing but we had to settle for the poolside and summer class projects as our mode of interaction.

We all reunited for our second year, feeling a matured sense of confidence and expertise as a graduate student- now WE were peer supervisors! This was the year that was described by earlier cohorts as "demanding but interesting" and it was. Social-emotional assessment, counseling, and law and ethics; who could ask for anything more?

This brings us to our last semester together as the entering cohort of 2004. This is the semester when “everything comes together,” all the pieces fall into place as we complete our consultation and learning disability cases, as well as develop our system-level intervention. The Ed.S. students are in “internship application” mode and the Ph.D. students are preparing to jump full force into their specialization and lets not forget about PQERS!

These past two years have been intense. We have all grown considerably, both emotionally and professionally. We have grown closer to each other and have served as each other’s support system because of our shared experience. Each person has contributed a unique flavor to our group that has made for interesting discussions and incredible memories. These two years have brought us new relationships, engagements, a marriage, new pets, new cars, new roommates, and new houses, but most importantly, new friendships. As our group of Ed.S. students heads off to their internship, know that this experience cannot be matched and will forever be thought of fondly.

It is my hope that we keep in touch and often encounter each other in our profession as leaders in the field. I want to thank each of you, along with our knowledgeable and inspiring professors, for an outstanding graduate experience.

You know you’re a school psychology graduate student when ….

by Jack Dempsey, Allison Dempsey, & Kelly Winkles

1. You wish textbooks came on tape to listen to in the car.
2. You know what “Club NASP” is.
3. The test library is your favorite hangout.
4. You know your temperament style.
5. Your non-school psychology friends give you the catch phrase, “It’s not guidance counseling.”
6. You don’t fear bouts of amnesia because you know you can reconstruct the previous few years from your practicum log.
7. Your close friends and family limit their contact with you for fear of having another test practiced on them.
8. The words “I really like how hard you are trying!” have slowly crept into your everyday vocabulary.
9. You own more stickers now than when you were a child.
10. The copy center staff knows you by name.
11. Your favorite accessory is your USB drive (Flash drive).
12. Your shoulders are the strongest part of your body from all the test kits you’ve been carrying.
13. You begin each semester with a stash of twenty ink cartridges-just to be prepared.
14. You sign off on e-mails to your friends and family with your name, followed by “UF school psychology graduate student”-out of habit.
Recent Graduates
Congratulations!

Masters
- Rashida Williams Brown
- Myungsuk “Ellie” Kang
- Danielle Madera
- Linda Radbill
- Katrina Raia
- Tiffany Sanders

Specialist
- Shana Axelberd
- Donna Eaves
- Jonielle Figliuolo
- Andrea Zale Gelske
- Sarah Graman
- Brooke McDermott
- Lee Ray
- Deborah Metts Williamson

Doctorate
Nicholas Benson
Dissertation Chair: Thomas Oakland
Title: Examining the Cross National Construct Equivalence of School-Age Children’s Temperament Types as Measured by the Student Styles Questionnaire

Deborah Birke Caron
Dissertation Chair: Nancy Waldron
Title: The Effect of Utilizing American Sign Language as Part of a Supplementary Vocabulary Instruction Program With Hearing Kindergarten Children

Elayne Proesel Colon
Dissertation Chair: Nancy Waldron
Title: Utility of the Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing Program (LIPS) for Classroom-Based Reading Instruction

Christina Hayes
Dissertation Chair: Nancy Waldron
Title: Predictors of Grade Retention and Special Education Placement Implications for Improving Educational Outcomes in the State of Florida

Plan Ahead

NASP Convention
March 28 - April 1, 2006
Hilton Anaheim & Anaheim Marriott Hotels
Anaheim, California

Association for Applied Behavior Analysis Convention
May 26-30, 2006
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

International School Psychology Association Colloquium
July 15-20, 2006
Hangzhou, China

FASP Summer Institute
July 19-22, 2006
Wyndham Casa Marina Resort
Key West, Florida

APA Convention
August 10-13, 2006
New Orleans, Louisiana

FASP Annual Convention
October 25-28, 2006
Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
Orlando, Florida

Important Websites
National Association of School Psychologists
www.nasponline.org

Florida Association of School Psychologists
www.fasp.org

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org

Council for Exceptional Children
www.cec.sped.org

The Division for Early Childhood
www.dec-sped.org

Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
www.ccbd.net
Important Dates

**Deadlines for Spring 2006**

3/13-17/06 SPRING BREAK
3/6 1st submission - Dissertation
4/3 Signed defended Thesis submission
4/24 Final submission of Dissertation & Thesis
4/26 CLASSES END
4/27-4/28 Reading days- No classes
4/29-5/5 FINAL EXAMS
5/5-7 Commencement
5/8 Final Grades available

**Deadlines for Summer 2006**

5/12 Registration Term A&C
5/15 Classes begin Term A&C
5/29 Memorial Day-NO CLASSES
6/23 Term A ends
6/30 Registration Term B
7/3 Classes Begin Term B
7/4 Independence Day-NO CLASSES
8/11 Classes End Terms B&C
8/12 Summer Commencement
8/14 Final Grades available

**Deadlines for Fall 2006**

8/21 Fall registration
8/23 Fall classes begin

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**Exciting News!**

Jack & Allison Dempsey were married on August 13, 2005. They have since adopted a puppy named Baxter.

Rashida Williams Brown was married on April 23, 2005 to Barrington Brown.

Graham Taylor became engaged to fellow UF school psychology student Gina Jackson. The wedding is set for April 8, 2006.

Kari Reeck is getting married July 8, 2006.

Nicole Nasewicz became engaged in February 2005 and will wed Warren Pies in December 2006.


Jillian Szczepanski became engaged and will be married on November 10th, 2006.

Catherine Pecle became engaged in December 2005.

Julie Cotter is currently building a house and is engaged to be married.

Deirdre Shearer’s second daughter, Zoe Kerrin Shearer, was born on March 5th, 2005.

Eric Rossen recently obtained an internship with Prince George’s County, Maryland. He will also be an uncle this May.

Kelly Winkles recently obtained an internship with Gwinnett County, GA. She also got a new puppy!

Erin Anderson moved from Los Angeles, CA to Chapel Hill, NC.

Heather Christian moved to Houston, TX, and will be looking for a job starting in the fall.

Jen Harman got a beautiful, playful puppy. He is a Shih Tzu named Rocky!

Liz McKenney adopted a dog in September. Her name is Nola (named after New Orleans, LA). She’s slowly becoming friends with their kitty, Chanel.
School Psychology Interns

**Doctoral Interns** *APA accredited site*

Heather Christian
Houston Independent School District*
Houston, TX

Amy Loomis Roux
Multidisciplinary & Diagnostic
Training Program (MDTP)
Gainesville, FL

Deirdra Shearer
Multidisciplinary & Diagnostic
Training Program (MDTP)
Gainesville, FL

**Specialist Interns**

Mark Crespap
Pinellas County Schools
Largo, FL

David Gribbins
Hillsborough County Schools
Tampa, FL

Catherine Peele
Pasco County Schools
Land O'Lakes, FL

Kari Reeck
Fairfax County Public School District
Fairfax, VA

Melissa Strock
Fulton County School District
Atlanta, GA

Jillian Szczepanski
Birmingham Public School District
Birmingham, MI

**Assistantships**

Allison Dempsey, Anne Larmore, Eileen Rodriguez, Jeff Ditterline, & Nicole Nasewicz- EDF 3110-Human Growth and Development

Katherine Matzen, Maria Arzola & Tiffany Sanders- EDG 2701- Teaching Diverse Populations

Traci Wagner- EEX 3312- Exceptional People

Desiree Hood- EDF 3135- The Adolescent

Jack Dempsey- Testing and Measurement and Early Childhood Development

Eric Rossen, Julie Cotter, Tiffany Sanders, & Tanya Kort- Doctoral clinicians at P.K. Yonge

Eric Rossen- UF Office of Disabilities- LD evaluations for undergraduate students

Christopher Raye- Test Librarian- school psychology

Jason Gallant- Office of Educational Research

Kelly Winkles- Graduate Assistant- Dept. Special Ed.

Marni Finberg- COPSSSE (Center on Personnel Studies in Special Education)

Glenn Sloman, Jennifer Sellers, Kristen Petters, & Liz McKenney- Project GATORSS- working to improve social skills deficits in children with autism spectrum disorder

Linda Radbill, Jen Harman & Julie Bell- Research Assistants- Project KIDS (Kids in Development study)

John Baker- Research Assistant- Holmes Scholar (UF Center for School Improvement)

Krista Schwenk- Research Assistant- Genetics/Endocrinology lab

Sara Heidenescher- Research Assistant- Department of Special Education.

Jackie Eckman- Research Assistant- RTI Grant

Melissa Castillo- Research Assistant- MDTP

Emily Kuch- Research Assistant- Educational Psych.

Cynthia Speights- Office of Grad. Minority Programs
SPGSA Highlights
By: Anne Larmore

SPGSA has had another great year!
We kicked off the fall semester with a welcome luncheon for the incoming first-year students and a student social at Gator’s Dockside. (We had a great turnout, but if you were unable to make it sure to stay tuned for upcoming plans this spring!) Although the hurricane(s) in South Florida may have slightly reduced the attendance at the annual FASP conference for some graduate students, SPGSA still had the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the Children’s Fund by donating a basket full of Gator Gear and various UF items that was auctioned off to raise funds. In addition, we were able to purchase several teddy bears to go to children affected by the hurricanes. An extra special thanks to the faculty and students who were able to contribute to this important cause.

So far it has been a busy spring semester.
Another successful student social was held at Gator’s Dockside in January, and several students have been busy being involved in some of the planning and preparing for the interview days. Thank you to those who have so graciously volunteered to help! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Friday evening social events following each day of interviews.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that the Practicum Supervisor’s Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 19th. Although the details of the lunch are still being finalized, we are hoping to extend much appreciation to the professionals who donate their time and expertise to provide us with the practicum experiences that make our program so successful.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, would like to become more involved [or would like to volunteer to bring cookies to any event], please don’t hesitate to contact your SPGSA representatives (Jennifer Harman, Anne Larmore, Kelly Winkles, & Eileen Rodriguez).
We look forward to working with you during the rest of the academic year… thanks again for all of your help!

Faculty Research Interests

Dr. Diana Joyce
School-wide review of SED program data to measure intervention outcomes for reading, attendance/absenteeism, discipline referral rates, suspension rates, and GPA; Teachers/school psychologists’ perceptions of developmentally appropriate observed classroom behaviors as related to social-emotional assessment.

Dr. John Kranzler
The nature, development, and assessment of human cognitive abilities.

Dr. Tom Oakland
Adaptive behavior among children, youth, and adults with various disabilities (e.g., developmental delays, ADHD, language, learning disabilities, mental retardation); temperament qualities displayed by children in 14 countries; motor development of children ages 3-21; academic and language abilities of Spanish dominant children, youth, and adults.

Dr. Nancy Waldron
Academic progress of students with disabilities in inclusive educational settings; involvement of middle school students in intervention planning; school psychology accreditation and credentialing issues.

Dr. Waldron & Dr. Joyce are co-principal investigators on a Florida State Improvement Grant, from the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services for Improving Professional Preparation of School Psychologists and School Counselors in a Response to Intervention Model

Welcome New SPP Students!
2005-2006

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<tr>
<th>Melissa Castillo</th>
<th>Jacqueline Eckman</th>
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<td>Sara Heidenescher</td>
<td>Desiree Hood</td>
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<td>Christopher Raye</td>
<td>Amy Rosenthal</td>
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<td>Lauren Sampson</td>
<td>Krista Schwenk</td>
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<td>Cynthia Speights</td>
<td>Kelly Tibbles</td>
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Awards & Recognitions

Dr. Diana Joyce serves on the School Advisory Council for A. Quinn Jones, a school providing services for students identified with severe emotional disturbance. She is appointed as an Affiliated Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and consults on a variety of projects including Florida public safety educational curriculum.

Dr. John Kranzler was reappointed as an Associate Editor for School Psychology Quarterly. He recently finished work on the 4th edition of Statistics for the Terrified (Prentice Hall), an introductory statistics text for students with math anxiety.

Dr. Marcia Leary, a school psychologist with the Alachua County Schools and adjunct faculty with the UF School Psychology Program, was selected as the 2005 School Psychologist of the Year by the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP).

Dr. Tom Oakland was awarded the 2005 Willard Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of achievement in the practice of School Psychology from the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP).

Dr. Tina Smith presently serves as the interim chair for the Department of Educational Psychology and as the Education Director of the Multidisciplinary Diagnostic and Training Program. MDTP provides diagnostic and educational services to pre-k through 6th grade children with special educational, mental health, and medical needs that cannot be met through routine special education services offered by schools.

Dr. Nancy Waldron serves as a member of the NASP/NCATE Program Approval Board for School Psychology Training Programs. She is a Faculty-in-Residence at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School and coordinates school psychological services to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Eileen Rodriguez was a recipient of the 2005-2006 National Association of School Psychologists Education and Research Trust Minority Scholarship.

Eric Rosser received the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students Advocacy Coordinating Team Excellence in Campus Leadership Award in October 2004.

Erin Anderson received the Tom Watson Research Award.

Jason Gallant was awarded a $600 travel grant from the Department and Graduate School to present at the annual conference of the National Association of School Psychologists in Anaheim, California.

Jeff Ditterline was the recipient of the Irwin Hyman Memorial Scholarship from the American Academy of School Psychology, and the Ralph D. Turlington Scholarship and Fellowship Fund from the College of Education, University of Florida in Fall 2005.

Liz McKenney serves as a Student Leader representing the UF School Psychology Program to the newly created NASP Student Leader group.

Cynthia Speights was a UF Board of Education Fellow in summer 2005, a Minority Education Scholar, and secretary for the Black Graduate Student Organization.

Community Activities

Anne Larmore & Katrina Raia: Alachua County Crisis Center volunteers

Emily Kuch: Volunteer at Arbor House-a residential facility for young mothers, and Catholic Worker House-preparing and serving meals for the homeless

Jeff Ditterline: Puppy Hill Farms volunteer- walking dogs that are up for adoption

Katherine Matzen: Volunteer for CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities), and Common Ground Church

Desiree Hood & Melissa Castillo: Sibshop facilitators for CARD (Center for Autism and Related Disabilities)

Tiffany Sanders: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Cynthia Speights: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Presentations


Baker, J., Sanders, T., & Williams, R. (2005). *School psychologists and teachers: Collaborating to meet the needs of a diverse student population*. Presentation at the 9th Annual Recruitment and Retention Conference, Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Orlando, FL.


Joyce, D., Larmore, A., & Gribbins, D. (2005). *School psychology career options: From the probable to the possible*. Presented at the National Association of School Psychologists Convention, Atlanta, GA.


Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists, Atlanta, GA.


Oakland, T. (2005). Learning disabilities internationally and the United States: Implications for Brazil. Invited address to the faculty and students at the Pontifícia Catholic University, Campinas, Brazil.

Oakland, T. (2005). Children’s temperament and its impact on their development and behavior. Invited address to the faculty and students at the Pontifícia Catholic University, Campinas, Brazil.


Oakland T. (2005) Legal issues important to an understanding of children from multicultural settings. Invited address to graduate students and faculty, Iberoamerican University of Costa Rica.


Oakland, T. (2005). Adaptive behavior: Its impact is pervasive and should be understood in all with whom we work. Invited workshop presented to the annual meeting of the Florida Association of School Social Workers. Jacksonville, FL.


Publications


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