By Nancy Waldron, PhD

Our annual program newsletter provides the opportunity to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of students and faculty in the UF School Psychology Program (SPP). As is reflected in the following pages, people are involved in an amazing array of professional, community, and personal activities. It is evident that in so many ways we have a vibrant program community that reflects common interests and collaborations, as well as our individual interests and passions.

In the current era of educational reform, it is important to consider how school psychology practice is changing and how our preparation program aligns with these changes. To this end, the SPP faculty engaged in a series of program development activities over the course of the last year to consider future directions for professional preparation and the collective perspectives of faculty, students, and field supervisors involved in our program. Some key ideas that we considered: the changing nature of and demand for assessment, the rising importance of behavioral intervention and counseling skills to address mental health needs, the opportunities emerging with RtI for psychologists to provide a broader range of professional services, data based problem-solving and data management skills as a cornerstone to effective practice, and the importance of collaborative skills for our work with educators and families. While in many ways we could say that school practice is finally catching up to school psychology preparation ... we also acknowledged the need to better prepare our graduates for new and expanding roles. As a result of our discussions and analyses we have made a number of curricular changes in existing courses, as well as more substantial course changes in the program. These changes were implemented this year for our entering student cohort and included: development of new courses to address foundational concepts in psychological assessment and measurement, cultural diversity and families in psychological service delivery, and advanced clinical assessment for doctoral students; offering some core courses every other year (Law & Ethics, Cultural Diversity), and thus combining the 1st and 2nd year cohorts in a single course section for these courses; and reordering some core courses to create a more graduated sequence of experiences for students in the areas of assessment, intervention, and consultation.
School Psychology Faculty  Research Interests

**Dr. Nancy Waldron** is an Associate Professor in the School Psychology program and the Program Director. Currently, she teaches graduate courses in academic assessment / intervention and school consultation. Her research interests include the following areas: inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms, academic and behavioral supports for students at risk for school failure, and teacher/school variables related to the adoption of a response-to-intervention (RtI) model.

**Dr. Tina Smith-Bonahue** teaches courses in direct interventions in school psychology and assessment and evaluation in early childhood. Her primary research interests include the role of culture in the expression of aggression in young children and the interpretation of aggression among adults; challenging behaviors in early childhood and interventions for those behaviors; and teacher beliefs regarding children with special needs.

**Dr. John Kranzler** is a professor and Associate Dean of Research who joined the faculty at UF in 1990 after receiving his Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught classes in school psychology, learning and cognition, the theory of intelligence, psycho-educational assessment, statistics, and individual differences. His major area of scholarly interest concerns the nature, development, and assessment of human cognitive abilities.

**Dr. Diana Joyce's** areas of research include social-emotional assessment and intervention issues, behavioral disorders and temperament as related to behavior. She holds credentials as a licensed Psychologist and School Psychologist in the State of Florida. She teaches practicum seminar, social-emotional assessment, developmental psychopathology, and supervises practicum across four county school systems and nine clinical sites.
Spotlight on Affiliate and Adjunct Faculty

Dr. Chris Raye is currently an Adjunct Lecturer in the school psychology program and teaches the first year practicum seminar. Chris graduated with his doctorate in school psychology from UF in the spring of 2010 with a specialization in sport psychology/student-athlete issues. His dissertation investigated the academic, social, and emotional adjustment of former student-athletes to college. Currently, Chris is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) and conducts the psychoeducational evaluations at UF for students referred by the Disability Resource Center and University Athletic Association. He also is an Assistant Professor in psychology at Santa Fe College located in Gainesville. In addition to his professional roles, Chris competes in long-distance running races and triathlons and coaches soccer.

Dr. Elayne Colón is an Assistant Scholar, Licensed Psychologist, and Director of Assessment and Accreditation. Her areas of scholarly interest include individual and systems-level assessment, issues surrounding program approval and accreditation, and P-12 reading instruction and interventions. She won the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from the University of Florida College of Education in May 2009.

Dr. Tanya Kort
Psychologist

Dr. Gary Geffken
Psychologist, Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Dr. Marcia Leary
School Psychologist

Dr. Connie Sorice
School Psychologist
Dr. Thomas Oakland: Another significant change for the program this past year was the retirement of Dr. Tom Oakland in May 2010. He will continue to serve as an Emeritus Professor with the program, and will work with advanced doctoral students on dissertations and research topics of mutual interest. While we all wish Dr. Oakland well in his future professional and personal endeavors, his contributions to the program, students, and the university community cannot be replaced. For those of us who have lived vicariously through his exciting international travels and diverse professional experiences, we’ll just have to adjust to less frequent updates and conversations about these many adventures. On the other hand, we’re certain that the passion that Dr. Oakland possesses for his work and profession will not change, nor will his voluminous productivity. Case in point, this year Dr. Oakland serves as the President of the International Association of Applied Psychology’s Division of Psychological Assessment and Evaluation. Additionally, for this spring semester he is in the Peoples’ Republic of China, serving as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Macau. We all wish him health, happiness, and continuing opportunities to enlighten others on the importance of temperament in all of our lives!

Best wishes, Tom!

Linda Parsons is retiring from the University of Florida following 21 years of service. She joined the College of Education in 2002 and has been instrumental, through her role as senior secretary, in providing support services to numerous faculty and students. Her retirement plans include traveling throughout the U.S. to visit her family. In addition, she hopes to resume competitive trail riding and attending equestrian exhibitions. Linda raised Arabians for years and plans to work with Percherons in the future. We will miss her and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

“It has been a pleasure working with each of you over the years. The graduate students keep me young at heart with all their energy and exuberance. They are a great group and I will miss them. If you wish to stay in contact, my email is linda.elizabeth.parsons@gmail.com.”
The School Psychology Graduate Student Association (SPGSA) is a student-run organization designed to represent and serve the interests of students in our program. There are six elected SPGSA officers: Angela Dobbins (President), Justin Gaddis (Vice President), Jill Welsh (Treasurer), Shauna Miller (Secretary), and Michelle Judkins and Nicole Porter (Ambassadors). The officers have worked to organize service and social events to enhance the presence of the School Psychology program on UF’s campus and within the community. Additionally, SPGSA officers represent the student body at program and departmental faculty meetings, as well as the campus Graduate Student Council (GSC) meetings. The SPGSA participation in GSC has led to our students being eligible to apply for travel funds to professional conferences.

Social Events

SPGSA hosted the beginning of the year orientation luncheon, which was followed by a pool party and cookout for students. Those in attendance enjoyed the time to catch up with friends and meet the first year cohort. In an effort to increase collaboration between student organizations within the department, SPGSA supported two socials hosted by the Special Education/Early Childhood student organization. These events provided an opportunity to build professional networks.

We have begun to organize social events for the spring semester, starting with the admissions interview social. This event is scheduled to conclude the admissions interview days. SPGSA hosts this social to provide prospective students with an opportunity to learn more about our program and life in Gainesville through interacting with current students. Following interviews, SPGSA will be working to organize a networking social during the annual National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) conference in San Francisco.
Service Events

In October, SPGSA treasurer Jill Welsh organized a day of service at the local Ronald McDonald House, which provides temporary housing for families of children with severe medical needs. Students from our program, as well as from the Special Education program cooked and served breakfast for the families staying at the house. The families were appreciative of the smiling faces and Saturday morning pancakes!

SPGSA also participated in a school supplies drive in conjunction with the Florida Association of School Psychologists (FASP) Children’s Service Fund. Students from the program and throughout the College of Education donated supplies that were taken to the FASP conference in November. These items were combined with those collected from other universities and school districts in the state and donated to a school in Miami Dade County.

For the spring semester SPGSA is working to organize additional service events for our students. Some possible opportunities include working with the Salvation Army, tutoring local students, and working with individuals diagnosed as being on the Autism Spectrum. We welcome any additional ideas for service events so that we can diversify the opportunities available.
Awards and Honors

Susan Craft  J.W. Martin and A. M. Martin Phillips Scholarship Fund
Justin Gaddis  Phi Delta Theta Academic Scholarship
Jennifer Morris & Angelina Nortey  University Alumni Fellowship
Michael Sulkowski  Research Travel Award, UF Graduate School (2011),
Shanee Toledano  Grinter Fellowship

School Psychology Students in the Community

Janise Coleman  Mt. Olive AME Children’s and Youth Director
Susan Craft  Group Leader for the Pineridge 4-H After-School Program held at the
              Pineridge Community Center, Middle/High School Sunday School Teacher at
              Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
Angela Dobbins  Bread of Mighty Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, & Goodwill
Justin Gaddis  University of Florida Athletic Association Strategy Skills Tutor, Ad Hoc
              Reviewer Neuroscience Letters, and Chapter Advisory Board Chairman, Phi
              Delta Theta Fraternity
Sally Grapin  Parent Surrogate Program
Cassondra Griffith  Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orlando
Jennifer Morris  Impact Autism, member
Cecelia Ribuffo  March of Dimes Ambassador
Stacey Rice  Guardian Ad Litem volunteer for Alachua County
Jamie Runyons  College Athlete Mentoring Program (CAMP Gator) & Haven Hospice
Jill Welsh  Volunteer Teaching Assistant for American Sign Language undergraduate
              courses at the University of Florida for the past 3 years, IMPACT Autism
              member

Recent Graduate Accomplishments

Dr. Eric Rossen, a 2007 graduate of the UF School
Psychology program, was recently appointed as NASP’s
new Director of Professional Development and
Standards. A preview of his initial goals and priorities for
professional development are available at:
http://www.nasponline.org/publications/cq/mocq393ER
ossenInterview.aspx

Congratulations Eric!
On January 7th, 2011, over 100 students and professionals attended the UF School Psychology Practica Supervisors’ Symposium in Gainesville. The annual event provides an opportunity to recognize all the successful professionals who provide invaluable leadership and experience to our students in diverse practicum placements throughout north Florida. The program also acknowledged Dr. Kelly Ergle for her extensive service.

NASP CEUs were provided for response-to-intervention (RtI) workshops. Dr. Nancy Waldron, the Program Director, Dr. Tanya Kort, an Adjunct Lecturer, and Angela Dobbins, the SPGSA President, presented workshops on math and secondary level RtI.

By Doug Jones
Graduate Assistantships and Employment

Colleen Butcher has a Graduate Teaching Assistantship for the DIAL Center for Written and Oral Communication.

Janise Coleman has a position at P.K. Yonge assisting with CBM/RTI data tracking.

Susan Craft and Angela Dobbins are Graduate Research Assistants with Project TIER.

Justin Gaddis and Lindsey Tropf teach EDF3110 Human Growth & Development.

Sally Grapin is an Alumni Fellow and conducts research with her advisor, Dr. John Kranzler.

Akiko Goen works with Project Liberate.

Doug Jones teaches EEX 3312: Exceptional People for the College of Education.

Katrina Moore is a Research Assistant with Dr. Patricia Snyder. She develops professional development materials for the Head Start Center for Inclusion.

Jennifer Morris works with Dr. Smith-Bonahue on the Early Learning Coalition Professional Development Project investigating classroom verbal climate.

Nicole Porter is a Research Assistant for Dr. Patricia Snyder, working on the Embedded Instruction Grant and participating in various activities providing professional development for preschool teachers in inclusive settings.

Cecelia Ribuffo has an assistantship with Project LIBERATE, with Dr. Gagnon focusing on the effectiveness of a reading intervention in a juvenile correctional facility. She also assists with Project LLC as an Assessment Coordinator for Dr. Brownell.

Stacey Rice works with the National Center to Inform Policy and Practice in Special Education Professional Development (NCIPP) to help improve the induction and mentoring practices for new special education teachers. Currently they are working on using three model districts (Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Olathe, KS) to develop a comprehensive mentoring handbook for schools.

Jamie Runyons has a Graduate Assistantship with Dr. Alyson Adams working in the Lastinger Center and volunteers in Dr. Snyder’s lab.

Shanee Toledano is the School Psychology Test Librarian.

Jill Welsh has a Graduate Assistantship at the J. Wayne Reitz Union working on assessment for departments of the student union. She also has a research position working with the Embedded Instruction for Early Learning team under the supervision of Dr. Patricia Snyder.

Reynolds Wilson is a Graduate Assistant in the College of Education Office of Assessment & Accreditation. She provides technical support to assist with accreditation efforts, compiling data and writing reports, maintaining information on the Educator Assessment System (EAS), and preparing for the annual UF Program Review.
Exciting Announcements!

Cindi Flores is excited about starting an internship program and completing her dissertation so that she can graduate. Woot! Woot!

Erika Jones moved to Tampa for internship and plans to stay if she gets hired!

Cecilia Ribuffo won 3rd place for individual fundraising in the Gators March for Babies Walk in November 2010.

Meaghan (Keenan) Scheick was married on July 17th, 2010 at the St. Thomas of Villanova Church located on Villanova University’s campus. Meaghan and her husband are both alumni of Villanova University.

Jill Welsh’s boyfriend came home safe from a year-long deployment in Iraq!

Nicole Porter was married on November 24, 2010.

Upcoming Events

January 28 – Applicants On-campus Interviews
February 4 – Applicants On-campus Interviews
February 11 – EdS On-campus Portfolio Defenses
February 14 – Linda Parson’s Retirement Party, Terrace Room 3:00-4:30 p.m.
February 22-25 – National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention, San Francisco
March 7-11 - Spring Break
Janise Coleman has practicum at Metcalfe Elementary conducting Pre-K Evaluations.

Susan Craft and Jill Welsh work in Alachua County Schools with Dr. Marcia Leary completing comprehensive evaluations, designing behavior plans, and collaborating with families of students who have low-incidence disabilities.

Matt Daley, Doug Jones, Robert Wingfield, Stacey Rice, Angela Dobbins, and Jenny Heretick work at Shands Hospital, Behavioral Health Unit, providing individual cognitive behavioral therapy and exposure response prevention treatment. They work with child, adolescent, and adult clients with ADHD, Anxiety Disorders, Depression, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Gillian Escalada, Sally Grapin, Angell Callahan, Alyson Celauro, Michelle Portell, Lindsey Tropf, and Suzie Long are placed at P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School providing academic, cognitive, and social-emotional assessment, progress monitoring, interventions, small group counseling, and teacher consultation within an RTI model.

Cindi Flores works at Shands, under the supervision of psychiatrist Dr. Soo Jeong-Kim with children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Prader-Willi Syndrome. The focus is on assessment using a variety of rating scales and the ADI-R, ADOS, and cognitive ability testing.

The P.K. Yonge School Psychology Team

(from left): Gillian Escalada, Sally Grapin, Angell Callahan, Dr. Nancy Waldron, Dr. Diana Joyce, Alyson Celauro, and Michelle Portell
Practicum Placements

**Justin Gaddis** - Shands Psychology Clinic and Southeastern Health Psychology administering pediatric neuropsychological batteries; consulting with supervisors and other medical professionals to interpret results; assessing cognitive abilities with individuals affected by neurological or neurodegenerative disorders; and participating in intake interviews.

**Akiko Goen** - Multidisciplinary Diagnostic & Training Program (MDTP) working with a team of school psychologists, speech/language pathologists, occupational therapists, learning specialists, nurses, and physicians to conduct comprehensive evaluations and consultation for students who have complex learning, behavioral, medical, and socio-emotional needs.

**Doug Jones** - Haile Market Therapy & Behavioral Medicine, providing individual and family therapy, consultative services and psycho-educational assessments. He also provides small group therapy sessions for the E-FLIP Project at UF providing psycho-education and psychosocial support to underserved children and families in rural settings. Participants have significant health problems (e.g., obesity, eating disorders, diabetes).

**Shauna Miller** - Alachua County Head Start providing consultation services to teachers and parents for children with academic and behavioral concerns. She will also assist in ongoing screening as Head Start moves toward a universal screening process and support the Head Start Disabilities Coordinator and the Alachua County School Board team in the identification, referral, and assessment of students who may need special education.

**Katrina Moore** - Early Steps Florida intervention system that offers services to infants and toddlers (birth to thirty-six months) with significant delays or a condition likely to result in a developmental delay. Early Steps uses a Team Based Primary Service Provider approach that aims to empower each eligible family by providing a comprehensive team of professionals from the beginning of services through transition. Activities include: assessment, intervention, parent education, and support groups.

**Jennifer Morris, Nicole Porter, Reynolds Wilson, Katy Sills, and Adrian Solis** - Marion County schools Response-to-Intervention services model. The practicum students have the opportunity to observe meetings on how to best implement this new model and participate in their schools’ transitions to the new service delivery model. Nicole Porter has implemented Second Step as a Tier II intervention for a small group of students.

**Cecelia Ribuffo** - Newberry Elementary School (Alachua County), an inclusive school that has experienced success with RTI. Her experiences include counseling sessions with children with Autism, conducting FBAs, administering assessments, and learning from case studies.

**Jamie Runyons, Angelina Nortey, and Shanee Toledano** - Putnam County elementary schools observing the county’s third year of RTI implementation.
“I am a current intern at Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Boys Town is an inpatient residential facility for boys and girls with significant emotional and behavioral problems. The Boys Town program utilizes the family teaching model. The boys and girls live in a residential treatment home with a married couple trained in social skills training and applied behavioral principles. As an intern, I conduct approximately 20 hours of individual and family therapy a week. I also participate in weekly consultation with family teachers, clinical staff associated with my clients, and the school system.”

- Jason Gallant

“I provide consultation, individual and group counseling, functional behavior analysis, assessments, and psychoeducational reports. I work for two Hillsborough County schools full time. In addition, I am temporarily working at a middle school to observe the RtI model. I conduct social skills training on an individual and group basis using Second Step. I also provide counseling utilizing Coping Cat for school and test-related anxiety. At the high school, I counsel students with EBD for anger management.”

- Erika Jones

“I am currently an intern in Volusia County, FL. Volusia’s psychological services are embedded within the RtI framework. My daily activities include assessment, counseling, consultation, problem solving team meetings, staffing meetings, behavior leadership team meetings, and report writing.”

- Meaghan (Keenan) Scheick

Additional Placements:

Jeffrey Ditterline - Lemoyne Elementary/Syracuse City School District
Krista Schwenk Garner - MDTP
Cary Jordan - Children’s Hospital of Michigan
Lee Ann Lehman - Children's Institute, Inc.
Michael Sulkowski - Louisiana School Psychology Internship Consortium
Emily Kuch Wray - UNC Center for Development & Learning
Marissa Casamassino - Citrus Park Elementary
Melissa Kummer - Volusia County Schools
Maria Rodriguez Taylor - Palm Beach County Public Schools-Fulton Holland Ed. Ser. Center

HOLIDAY!

HOW A NORMAL PERSON CELEBRATES:

WOO HOO! NO WORK TODAY!

HOW A GRAD STUDENT CELEBRATES:

WOO HOO! FREE PARKING TODAY!

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**Selected Faculty & Student Presentations**


Colón, E., Dana, T., Vernetson, T., & Gaddis, J. (2010, February). *Beyond skill development: Fostering candidate “stance” toward P-12 learning*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Atlanta, GA.


Moore, K., Denney, M., & Snyder (2010, October). Stakeholders’ perspectives about professional development to support inclusion in Head Start. Poster session presented at the International Division for Early Childhood Conference, Kansas City, MO.


Runyons, J., Bluck, S., & Gesselman, A. (2010). In memory of...effects of death experience on young adults’ views of death. Presentation at the Berkeley Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (BerkPURC), Berkeley, CA.

Smith-Bonahue, T., & Kemple, K. (January, 2010). Effective coaching for professional development. Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, Gainesville, FL


In addition to the Florida Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference in Miami, school psychology students also are attending/presenting at other conferences including:

**Colleen Butcher** - Learning Disabilities Association of America (Jacksonville, FL)

Angel Callahan, Angela Dobbins, Gillian Escalada, Cindi Flores, Sally Grapin, Doug Jones, Shauna Miller, Michelle Portell, Stacey Rice, Mike Sulkowski, Yulia Tamayo, Lindsey Tropf, Reynolds Wilson, Jamie Runyons, Robert Wingfield – National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention 2011 (San Francisco, CA)

**Cindi Flores** - Juvenile Justice Conference (Gainesville, FL)

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities 18th Annual Conference (Lake Mary, FL)

**Katrina Moore** - International Division for Early Childhood Conference (National Harbor, MD)

**Stacey Rice** – The Council for Exceptional Children (Nashville, TN)

**Nicole Porter & Jill Welsh** - Division of Early Childhood 2010 Conference (Kansas City, MO)

**Grants**

**Dr. Nancy Waldron**, PI, and **Dr. Diana Joyce**, Co-PI: Transforming Inquiry and Educational Practice Through RtI. $800,000 over four years.

Lastinger Center and **Dr. Tina Smith-Bonahue**, Project Faculty: Florida Master Teachers Initiative. I-3 Grant from the US Department of Education. $5,000,000 over five years.