



The GrASP Gazette

Nova Southeastern University's School Psychology Program Newsletter January 2016

Dear Readers,

The board members of Nova Southeastern University's Graduate Association of School Psychology are excited to release the first edition of The GrASP Gazette. This newsletter is filled with the happenings of our program and includes program specific events, trips, and highlights. Please enjoy this publication and look for its next release early next semester.

Mylissa Fraser
GrASP Chair



In this Issue...

FASP Conference Highlights	2-5
Holiday Party	6
Faculty Spotlight	7-10
Student Spotlight	11-13
Advocacy Trip	14
Special Mentions	14
Upcoming Events	15-17

Fun at FASP!



FASP's 42nd Annual Conference was held October 28-31, 2015 at the Omni Orlando Resort at ChampionsGate in Orlando, FL.

Pictured above are first, second, third, and fourth year school psychology specialist and doctoral students during the poster presentation session.

Back Row (left to right): Monica Mourad, Jessica James, Sully Colon, Angela Garcia, Melissa Koniver, Mylissa Fraser, Alyssa Catuogno, Letacia Barbosa, Davisha Scudder, Marjorie Sanchez

Front Row: Elysse Demestichas, Tiara Bland, Kelli Dari, Aerial Sheltry, Christina Kamien, Leandra Irving, Lauren Zakaib, Stephanie Wietzychowski

FASP Highlights

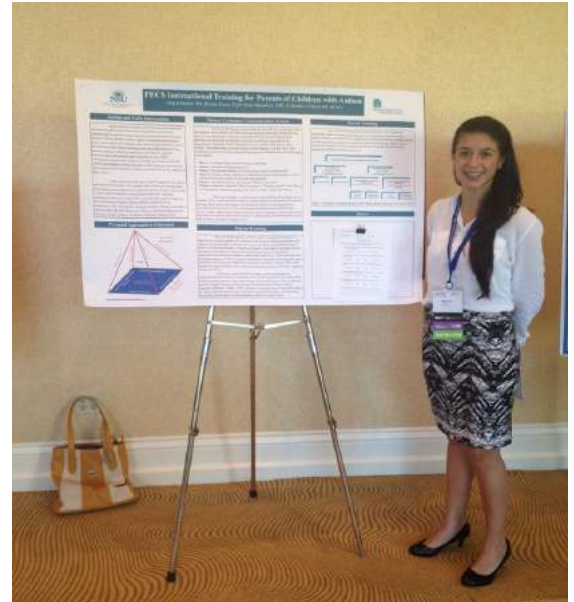
Many of our students and faculty presented at this year's conference. Pictured below from left to right: Mylissa Fraser, Alexandra Alfonso, and Melissa Koniver at their presentation "Class-wide Socioemotional Curriculum in Early Childhood: Need, Availability, and Barriers."

John Cerra, Dr. Cash, Katie Marsh, Dana Weiss, and Stephanie Wietrzychowski at their presentation "FASP Legislative Update: State and National Issues 2015-16"

Kelli Dari and Alexandra Alfonso at their presentation "The Home Literacy Environment: Importance, Barriers, and Programs for Reading Achievement."

Ariel Newman, Dana Weiss, Dr. Valley-Gray, and Dr. Cash "Adding "SPICES" to School Psychology Training Programs."





Left: Melissa Koniver, Kelli Dari and Mylissa Fraser at their poster "Measuring Executive Functioning and Behavioral Self-Regulation as Indicators of Academic Achievement in Early Elementary Children."

Right: Angela Garcia at her poster "PECS Instructional Training for Parents of Children with Autism."

Other FASP Presentations:

Standardized Patients: An Innovative Tool for Assessing Student Outcomes. D. Weiss, A. Newman, A. Sheltry, S. Worton, S. Valley-Gray & G. Cash

Belonging and Achievement among Culturally Diverse Students. J. James, M. Mourad, and P. Caproni

Early to Rise, Late to Shine: Implications of Perinatal Complications on Learning and Behavioral Difficulties upon School Entry. A. Sheltry, S. Valley-Gray & W. Burns

Facilitating Family-School Partnerships for Ethnic Minority Families. T. Bland, E. Demestichas, M. Mattioli-Sanchez & A. Waguespack

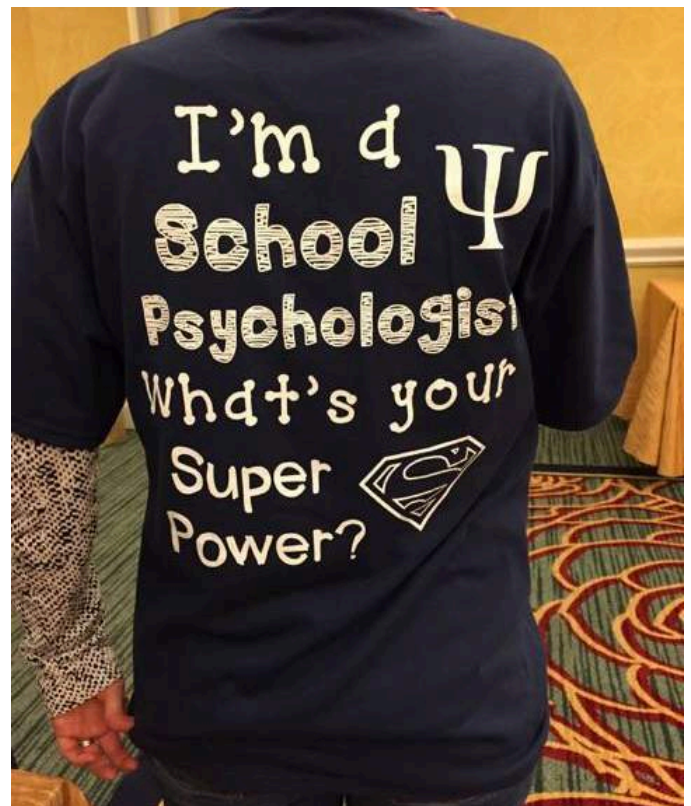
Mindful Eating: How to Fall Back in Love with Food and Yourself. A.B. Catuogno & P. Caproni

Fun at FASP!



Pictured above: **Left:** Tiara Bland and Elysse Demestichas pose for a picture during the conference's poster session. **Middle:** Letacia Barbosa, Christina Kamien, Davisha Scudder, Stephanie Wietzychowski attend the FASP President's Party which featured a 90's theme. **Right:** Christina Kamien, Leandra Irving, and Letacia Barbosa pose for a picture in between attending conference sessions.

This year, GrASP members designed and sold a school psychology t-shirt (see right). Half of the proceeds benefited FASP's Children's Services Fund Inc., a non-profit organization that provides direct and indirect services that promote the educational and psychological well-being of Florida's needy children and families. The remaining half benefited the GrASP student organization.



Holiday Highlights



Pictured left are several doctoral students (left to right): Kelli Dari, Riley Higgins, Melissa Koniver, Mylissa Fraser, and Alyssa Catuogno

The annual GrASP Holiday Party was held Saturday, December 5th at Dr. Cash's house. This year's fest included a white elephant gift exchange, a tacky sweater contest, and a homemade dessert contest.



Pictured left are several more doctoral students (left to right): Stephanie Wietrzychowski, Alyssa Catuogno, and Davisha Scudder

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Sarah Valley-Gray

Why did you choose School Psychology?

A: While my doctoral degree is not in school psychology, my research as a graduate student involved investigating early school progress among children who had sustained significant perinatal complications. We investigated the effectiveness of teachers in identifying school readiness when compared with a comprehensive neuropsychological assessment battery. Shortly thereafter, I completed all of the requirements for state of Florida certification in school psychology allowing me to work in the schools as a consultant in the areas of traumatic brain injury and autism. At the time my goal was to become a pediatric neuropsychologist, and it was crucial to understand school psychology in order to be most effective. However, I fell in love with school psychology along the way and have pursued this path for the last 17 years. Earning my diplomate in school psychology allowed me to hold a credential consistent with my professional identity.

What are some of your main interests in the field?

A: My primary interests in school psychology involve best practices in preparing graduate students.

What do you like most about the School Psychology here at NSU?

A: The best part of the school psychology program at NSU are the people! We have the best students and the faculty!

What are some of your future goals? / What would you like to add to your career/ professional experience?

A: I look forward to greater opportunities for leadership in professional association activities, particularly those involving graduate education. I am also passionately committed to advocacy efforts that affect students within the specialty area of school psychology.

What would you be doing if you weren't in the school psychology field?

A: There is no venue that transforms individuals across the lifespan more than schools. So, while I might be teaching something different, I would probably be doing so in a university setting.

What is one interesting fact that people may not know about you?

A: That I am an avid yogini and love going to the gym.

If you could have dinner with one celebrity/ famous person who would it be?

A: Jon Stewart

What is your all-time, favorite movie?

A: While not a movie, my favorite play is Wicked.

What is your favorite snack?

A: It ranges from sweet (dark chocolate) to salty (Pirate's Booty or Smartfood white cheddar popcorn).

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Angela Waguespack

Why did you choose School Psychology?

A: I came into school psychology, like many others, after believing that I wanted to be a clinical psychologist and then learning about school psychology. Once I learned that the greatest numbers of children with academic, behavioral, and social emotional needs are served within the schools, the choice was an easy one.

What are some of your main interests in the field?

A: My main interests involve service delivery models that allow for the provision of mental health and school psychological services in a manner that effectively impacts the greatest number of children, families, schools and communities. Long before Rtl was in place, as we know it today, my training and interests were focused on system-wide services that include prevention, consultation, assessment linked to intervention, and the provision of services matching student level of need.

What do you like most about the School Psychology here at NSU?

A: I love the diversity of our students and the wide range of interests, experience, and skills they bring to the program. Equally important to me is the commitment of our faculty to training students to become leaders in the field of school psychology. I am particularly excited about adjunct faculty from both our Tampa and Fort Lauderdale campuses, who work as school psychologists, and are able to bring current application of content and challenges in the profession to our students to better prepare them for their future roles. Our alumni go out to become strong advocates for children and to make a difference and our faculty love mentoring our students to do so!

What are some of your future goals? / What would you like to add to your career/ professional experience?

A: My goals include increasing my engagement in meaningful applied research through obtaining additional grant funding in order to fully mentor students in the research process and to provide financial support to offset tuition costs. With regard to adding to my professional experience, I hope to begin publishing outcomes from our Summer Reading Explorers Program and to build upon the research base in closing the achievement gap through the strengthening of Out of School Time programs. I plan to devote greater effort to the prevention of academic and social emotional problems and to increasing system capacity for the provision of effective services matched to child, family, school, and community needs.

What would you be doing if you weren't in the school psychology field?

A: If you had asked that long ago, I would have said I would be an interior designer, but with my current skill set and passion for working to create optimal learning environments in which children can grow and develop, I think that I would be a school administrator.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Angela Waguespack

(continued)

What is one interesting fact that people may not know about you?

A: That's a tough one because I tend to be pretty open. Maybe that I am the daughter of a long-time high school football coach and a sister of two master level teachers, a pharmacist, and an administrator who runs state homes for adults with disabilities. All of my family reside in Louisiana and share my passion and work in striving to improve the lives of those around us through education and other needed services.

If you could have dinner with one celebrity/ famous person who would it be?

A: I don't tend to be interested in celebrities so this one is difficult. If she were alive, I would probably say Mother Theresa, but rather than have dinner with her, I would just want to follow her around as she completed her ministry to try to see the world through her eyes.

What is your all-time, favorite movie?

A: I am not really a movie watcher and I really don't have a favorite movie. My favorite book in the past couple of years was *Gone Girl*. In a very twisted way, it was enjoyable and unexpected :)

What is your favorite snack?

A: I would have to say cheese and crackers. I love ALL kinds of cheeses and enjoy trying ones that I haven't had previously.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Peter Caproni

Why did you choose School Psychology?

A: School Psychology really chose me! My doctoral program in clinical psychology at Adelphi enabled me to be certified as a NYS School Psychologist after 2 years. I think the hook was set after working several School Psychology jobs in the NYC area. When I came to Miami and began working with Dade County Public Schools, I intended to stay only for a year or two. Twenty-three years later, I took early retirement and began working full-time with NSU. ***What are some of your main interests in the field?***

A: I am very interested in collaborative/therapeutic assessment, personality assessment, innovative approaches to psychotherapy, public policy advocacy, school psychology training issues, and mindfulness.

What do you like most about the School Psychology here at NSU?

A: Our home in the College of Psychology is very advantageous as it offers tremendous opportunity to interact with professors and students from the clinical and counseling programs. The greatest pull for me however, is to be a part of our own school psychology faculty! In addition, I feel that the breadth and depth of our practicum experiences are hard to beat. ***What are some of your future goals? / What would you like to add to your career/ professional experience?***

A: I hope to earn the A.B.P.P in School Psychology within the next two years, as well as continuing to develop practicum and internship experiences for our students. ***What would you be doing if you weren't in the school psychology field?***

A: Probably working full time as a clinical psychologist, specializing in treating young adults as well as collaborative/therapeutic assessment, which I have continued to do on a part time basis for the past 25 years.

What is one interesting fact that people may not know about you?

A: I regularly beat my daughters' boyfriends playing ping-pong!

If you could have dinner with one celebrity/ famous person who would it be?

A: Thich Nhat Hahn and Pope Francis

What is your all-time, favorite movie?

A: The Magnificent Seven

What is your favorite snack?

A: Peanut butter and strawberry jam on 5-grain Italian bread.

Student Spotlight



Riley Higgins
Second Year PsyD Student

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

I love the diverse practicum experience we receive starting in our first semester.

Why did you choose School Psychology?

I have always wanted to work with children. In undergrad I gained experience in both Clinical and IO psychology and one of my graduate student advisors recommended I check out school psychology. It felt like the perfect fit of all the areas I enjoyed in psychology.

What are some of your future goals?

Ultimately I would like to go into private practice. In private practice I hope to do assessment and brief therapy.

What would you be doing if you weren't in the school psychology field?

Probably event planning.

One interesting fact that people may not know about you

I interned at NASA for four summers aligned with my different majors in college.

What are some of your involvements? (Clubs, research, presentations, conferences, etc.)

I am the co-chair of social and professional development for GrASP

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song

My dog: chewy.

Song: Dan and Shay- Nothin' like you

Student Spotlight



Leticia Barbosa
First Year PsyD Student

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

What I like most about Nova's School Psychology Program is the fact that we start Practicum during our 1st semester. It is so interesting to see what we learn during our class lectures being manifested through real life experiences during our Practicum hours. Also, the School Psychology Program faculty members are extremely supportive and informative; they are willing to guide and assist us in whatever we need to enhance our journey as graduate students and future school psychologists.

What are some of your future goals?

One of my future goals is to help the Brazilian community in our public schools. Many Brazilians come to the USA in search of better education and life quality for their children, especially families with children with disabilities. I would like to provide services and interventions so students may achieve their fullest potential even if English is their second language.

One interesting fact that people may not know about you

When in high school, I loved being part of the Drama club and doing musicals. My favorite one was "Fiddler on the Roof".



Stephanie Wietrzychowski
Second Year PsyD Student

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

I love the close-knit feel of the program and the opportunities to create relationships with professors and students alike. I also like the diversity of interests and backgrounds in both the students and faculty members. Everyone is very welcoming and passionate about the field, which makes it fun and rewarding to be part of the program. There are also many opportunities to grow and learn new skills through trainings, workshops, conferences, and practicum experiences.

Student Spotlight



Stephanie Wietrzychowski Second Year PsyD Student (continued)

Why did you choose School Psychology?

I originally was interested in the Clinical program, but I decided to give school psychology a try when I heard about the program at Open House. I knew I wanted to be a child psychologist since the 10th grade. I was heavily involved in peer counseling. I had the opportunity to mediate conflicts and sit in on a crisis intervention meeting after the death of 3 students from my high school. I also loved helping my friends with their problems and knew that I was a good listener, compassionate, and helpful in stressful situations. I decided to pursue school psychology specifically because I loved the school dynamic and the collaboration between faculty members. I also knew that I would be able to help a larger scope of children who may not have access to a mental health professional otherwise.

What are some of your future goals?

My #1 goal is to become a school psychologist of course! I want to receive my license as a psychologist and become employed in a middle school, high school, or university setting. I also want to open a summer camp for kids with social-emotional difficulties to help them gain the skills and confidence they need to be successful in school. I would love to live abroad for a year in England, Ireland, or Spain, studying creative writing or Spanish. In my lifetime, I hope to write and publish a novel, as well as travel to every single continent—even Antarctica!

What would you be doing if you weren't in the school psychology field?

I would probably be an English/Social Studies teacher or an editor for a publishing company. I love to read and I have a lot of experience with grammar and writing. I also love kids so I would need to have a job that allows me to work with them.

What are some of your involvements? (Clubs, research, presentations, conferences, etc.)

I am currently working on researching elements of suicide prevention programs for my directed study. I will identify the best and worst elements of prevention programs in order to create an ideal prevention program. I am presenting my research at the American Psychological Association convention in Denver this summer. I am also researching parent involvement and its relationship to eating disorder recovery. I hope to create an ideal parent involvement program for children and adolescents with eating disorders and present my research at the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) conference in the fall. I am also one of the Public Policy chairs for GRASP and am helping to coordinate the Miami NEDA Walk in March.

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song

Pet: My only cat, Simba Snack: Soft pretzels

Song: "The Girl" by City and Colour and "Little Bird" by Ed Sheeran

Advocacy Trip

School psychology students Alyssa Catuogno, Mylissa Fraser, Stephanie Wietrzychowski, Christina Kamien, Shemika Cooper, and Kristen Gouldner accompanied Dr. Cash and Dr. Caproni on this year's advocacy trip to Tallahassee. They toured the Capitol, were trained on public policy and bills relevant to mental health and education, and learned how to speak to government officials about specific issues.



Special Mentions

Thank you to everyone who helped bringing extra holiday happiness to the Grandma and five boys from our adopted family!

If interested on helping with research data entry, please contact Kelli Dari and Melissa Koniver.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, January 27, 12-1pm. Graduate Doctoral Meeting. Maltz Building, Room 2044.
- Friday, January 29, 2-3pm. NASP Live Webinar. Evidence-based Reading Interventions for Students with Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension Problems
- Friday January 29, 12-1 pm. American Association of Suicidology Live Webinar. How Technology Can Help Us Move Toward Large-Scale Suicide Risk Detection and Prevention.
- Friday January 29, 1:30-4:30pm. Continuing Education Workshop. Growing and Sustaining a Private Practice: Opportunities are Where you Find them and Where you Make Them.
- Saturday, January 30, 10am-1pm. *The Speaker Series* by the Autism Society of Broward County.
- Saturday, January 30, 10:30-1pm. Women United to Serve volunteer event at Broward Partnership in Fort Lauderdale. Please contact Tiara Bland for more information.
- February 10-13. NASP 2016 Annual Convention.
 - NASP New Orleans Welcome party on 2/10 at 9pm – 12 am
 - Student Welcome Orientation on 2/10 at 4-6 pm
 - NSU Alumni Cocktail Reception on 2/11 at 5:30-7:30 pm
 - NASP Graduate Student Outing 2/11 9pm -12 am
- Tuesday, February 16, 8am-4pm. Bilingual Learners: Assessment and Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of Miami.
- Saturday, February 20, 7pm. Sixth Annual Marly's Milestones Casino Night Fundraiser. Please contact Melissa Koniver for more information.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 6. APA Scholarship deadline. Melanie Merola O'Donnell Memorial Scholarship.
 - Sunday, March 13, 9am-12pm. University of Miami, National Eating Disorders Association Walk. Please contact Stephanie Wietrzychowski for more information.
 - Saturday, April 2. Free Full-Day Workshop. UM-NSU CARD 2016 Issues in Autism Conference. Social Thinking Across the Home and School Day.
 - Friday, April 8. 9am-12pm. Continuing Education Workshop. Help! I Have an ELL Student to Evaluate and I Am Not Bilingual.
 - Tuesday, April 12, 2:30-3:30pm. Live Webinar. Nurturing Self-Regulation, Mindful Self-Awareness and Resilience in Children, Adolescents and Families.
 - Friday, April 15. 9am-12pm. Continuing Education Workshop. 2016 Update and Review of Current Psychotropic Medications.
 - Friday, April 15. APA scholarship deadline. Financial Aid Scholarship and Stephanie Nicole Ross Foundation Graduate Scholarship.
 - Thursday, April 28. APA Scholarship deadline for specialist students. SASP Diversity Scholarship.
 - Friday, May 6. 9am-12pm. Continuing Education Workshop. Social Influences of Eating Disorders: The Impact of Bullying and Social Media.
 - Friday, May 13. 9am-12pm. Continuing Education Workshop. Evidence-Based Practices for Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Young Children.
 - July 13-15. FASP's Summer Institute in Fort Lauderdale.
-

Published by the Graduate Associate of School Psychology
(GrASP) at Nova Southeastern University

Published: January 25, 2015

Contributors:

Mylissa Fraser

Stephanie Wietrzynowski

Angela Garcia

Kelli Dari

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Sarah Valley-Gray

Jane Lazarus

NASP Events:

February 10-13. NASP 2016 Annual
Convention.

*Congratulations to everyone presenting
and representing NSU at the NASP 2016
Annual Conference.*

- NASP New Orleans Welcome party on 2/10
at 9pm – 12 am
- Student Welcome Orientation on 2/10 at
4-6 pm
- NSU Alumni Cocktail Reception on 2/11 at
5:30-7:30 pm
- NASP Graduate Student Outing 2/11
9pm -12 am

