



The GrASP Gazette

Nova Southeastern University's School Psychology Program Newsletter

May 2016

Dear Readers,

The board members of Nova Southeastern University's Graduate Association of School Psychology are excited to release the second edition of The GrASP Gazette. Our winter semester was filled with a number of exciting events that we are eager to share with our readers. I am also happy to share the new GrASP board, especially the new co-chairs, Angela Garcia and Stephanie Wietrzychowski. Happy Summer Everyone!

Mylissa Fraser
GrASP Chair



In this Issue...

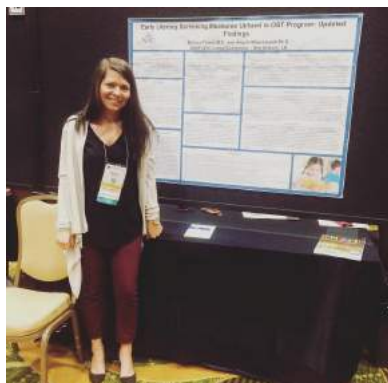
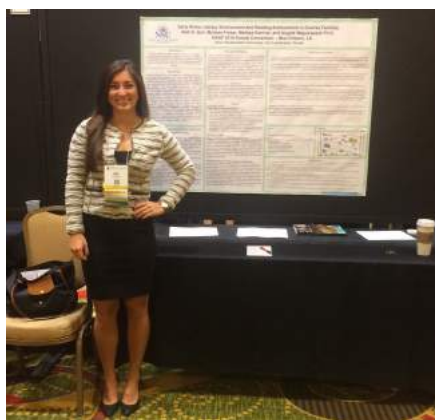
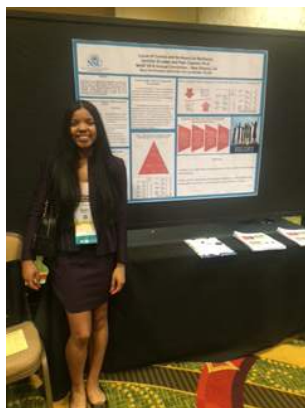
NASP Conference Highlights	2-4
Winter Socials	5-6
Philanthropic Events	7
Faculty Spotlight	8-10
Alumni Spotlight	11
Student Spotlight	12-15
Special Mentions	16
Upcoming Events	17-18

NASP in NOLA



Top Left: First year doctoral student Leandra Irving snapped a shot of the Mardi Gras display at the Hyatt Hotel. **Top Right:** Doctoral students Christina Kamien and Kelli Dari pose next to the NASP Welcome sign in the lobby of the Marriott Hotel. **Bottom Left:** Doctoral students Stephanie Wietzychowski, Davisha Scudder, Leandra Irving, and Leticia Barbosa take a photo in the elevator in between attending conference sessions. **Center:** Students all took several trips to the infamous Café Du Monde to enjoy beignets. **Bottom Right:** The streets of New Orleans were filled with Mardi Gras décor and excitement.

NASP Highlights



Many of our students and faculty presented at this year's conference.

Pictured left (top to bottom):

Alexandra Alfonso, at her presentation "Multitiered System of Supports and Program Evaluation During the Summer."

Davisha Scudder at her poster presentation "Locus of Control and Its Impact on Resiliency"

Kelli Dari at her poster presentation "Early Home Literacy Environment and Reading Achievement in Diverse Families."

Mylissa Fraser at her poster presentation "Early Literacy Screening Measures Used in OST Program: Updated Findings"

Additional presentations not pictured:
Positive Psychology in Schools: Toward the Benefits of Positive Environments by Jamie Stormer, Sharon Pedrosa, Angela Waguespack

Adding SPICES to Competency Assessment
Dana E. Weiss, Alyssa Newman, Aerial Sheltry, Sarah Valley-Gray

Standardized Patients: An Innovative Tool for Assessing Graduate Student Outcomes
Aerial Sheltry,; Dana E. Weiss, Shannon Worton, Gene R. Cash



Top Left: Doctoral students Leticia Barbosa, Kelli Dari, Mylissa Fraser, Christina Kamien, Leandra Irving, and Davisha Scudder attended the NSU Alumni Cocktail Reception on February 11th. **Top Right:** Doctoral graduate Jane Adams and professor Dr. Cash pose for a picture during the Alumni Reception. **Middle Right:** First year doctoral student Mekdes Damenu takes a quick picture as she chats with alumni Priscilla Jones. **Bottom Left:** Current doctoral interns Jamie Stormer and Kim Trainer, along with Jamie's husband, chat with professor Dr. Poland while attending the reception. **Bottom Right:** Doctoral graduates Monica Munoz and Caroline Spearman pose for a picture with professor Dr. Waguespack.

Yachting Around



Our School Psychology students enjoyed the College of Psychology's 2016 Formal in Ft. Lauderdale. This year's formal was held on a yacht that cruised down the intercoastal. **Top (left to right):** Leandra Irving, Davisha Scudder, Shemika Cooper, Kelli Dari, Christina Kamien, Stephanie Wietrzykowski, and Mylissa Fraser. **Bottom left:** Mylissa Fraser, Christina Kamien, and Kelli Dari. **Middle:** Leandra Irving and Shemika Cooper. **Right:** Kelli Dari and Davisha Scudder.

Gatherings Galore



Students enjoyed dinner and drinks at Duffy's Grill in Plantation.

Left to right: Melissa Koniver, Riley Higgins, Alyssa Catuogno, Christina Kamien, Leandra Irving, Mylissa Fraser, Davisha Scudder, and Stephanie Wietrzychowski



Left: Doctoral and Specialist Students. (left to right, back to front): Rachel Kosar, Amy Saravia, Stephanie Wietrzychowski, Mylissa Fraser, Christina Kamien, Riley Higgins, Elysse Demestichas, Tiara Bland, Marjorie Mattioli-Sanchez, Linnette Bonilla, Leandra Irving, Davisha Scudder, Leticia Barbosa, Isabella Correa, Lauren Zakiab



Right: Dr. Cash enjoying his bouquet of Peeps.

Philanthropic Fun



In March, school and neuropsychology students alongside Dr. Waguespack participated in the Walk About Brain Injury in Sunrise, FL for the Brain Injury Association of Florida (BIAF). The purpose of this walk was to raise money and advocate for the organization. NSU's College of Psychology team raised the most money for this event!



School psychology students joined forces with the College of Psychology's Student Government Association as they participated in the NSU's Relay for Life. The event was held to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against cancer. The College of Psychology team was the leading fundraiser at the event.

Faculty Spotlight



Jane Lazarus

I chose school psychology for personal reasons. When I witnessed some of my family members struggle in school, I often wished there was someone who could help. School had always been a positive and important part of my life, and I knew I wanted a career in education. I was teaching exceptional student education in a high school in 1975 when PL 94-142 was passed. As you know, this law guaranteed a free public education for students with disabilities and established procedures for schools and families to follow when a disability was suspected. At that time, I had 12th graders in my class whose parents had never been told they were in special education (as it was called then). Some of these students had been in special classes since elementary school without comprehensive evaluations. Their parents had not been aware of their school difficulties and had not participated in the special education identification and placement process. Students were just finding out in 12th grade that they were not going to receive a standard diploma at graduation. That was about the time when school psychologists started coming into my classroom and providing services to students, families, and teachers.

When I heard about school psychology, I knew it was what I wanted to do. My training was much less extensive than yours. In fact, the only field experience I had was a two-week practicum in the schools; internships were not even offered or required at my university at that time. I had to learn lots on the job. You are much better prepared. Also, the role of the school psychologist, depending on where you practice across the country, is more diverse than ever.

I worked as a school psychologist in the Broward schools for over 30 years where I enjoyed the process of evaluating and problem-solving, helping to determine the nature of student difficulties and making a plan for students to be more successful in school. I found meaning and professional satisfaction in my role. I learned early in my career that the more people providing support in a child's life, the better will be the outcome. Moreover, I learned that establishing trusting relationships in schools with parents, teachers, staff, administrators, and students is essential for success in the job.

What I like about school psychology at NSU is that we are training future practitioners and scholars to function in schools, universities, and allied settings. We know so much more about psychology and education than we did when I first started practicing. We now have a significant number of national and international school psychology journals devoted to our profession. These refereed journals publish articles dealing with all aspects of the field and place an emphasis on evidenced-based practices.

Faculty Spotlight

Jane Lazarus (continued)

Today, our assessment instruments are more technically sound and comprehensive and are specifically tailored to evaluate children with all types of learning, behavioral, and emotional challenges. We are also more cognizant of the challenges faced by culturally and linguistically diverse students, children of color, students living in poverty, LGBTQ youth, homeless students, migrant and immigrant youth, and students who have to deal with other social and economic conditions that impact their learning and emotional well-being. We now can rely on our state and national associations such as FASP, NASP and APA for support, advocacy, and guidance. Although the challenges that confront our nation's youth have expanded, so have our knowledge base and resources. The professors at NSU are leaders in the field and come to our program with a wide variety of experiences in the schools and mental health settings.

If I had it to do all over again, I would not change a thing. I knew I wanted to help students who were struggling in school to get the resources and supports to succeed. My training and education in school psychology was only a starting place; consulting with other clinicians, reading books and journal articles, attending workshops, going back to Florida International University for my Ed.S. degree, and making a committed effort to expand my skills enabled me to make life better for the students and families I served. When you, as our graduates, enter the profession, you will be so much better prepared to start the job on day one, than I ever was. However, one never stops learning in this career.

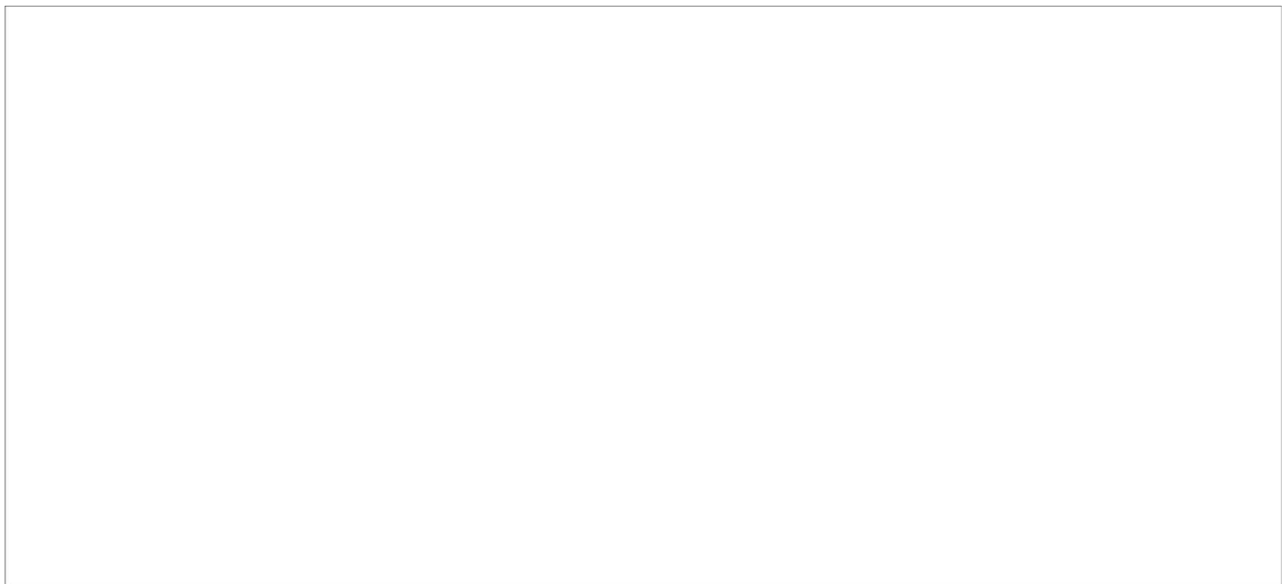
School psychology gave my life a sense of professional purpose. It also made me a better parent. Many of my closest friends are school psychologists. I consider it a wonderful career. But you do not need to take my word for it. *U. S. News and World Report* ranks school psychology as the number two social service job and ranks it 57 in the 100 best jobs. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the profession will grow at a rate of 20 percent between the years 2014 and 2024, which will equate to 30,500 new jobs for school psychologists. Rising school enrollment, as well as a heightened awareness of the disabilities and stressors that students face, are driving up the demand. School psychologists earned a median salary of \$68,900 in 2014. Because the average American works well into their 60's, it is important to find a career that has a purpose and is rewarding. For me, school psychology was a perfect fit.

Faculty Spotlight

Jane Lazarus (continued)

Yet, this demand is tempered by inadequate state and local funding for schools. It is also impacted by decisions made by legislators and school administrators who may not be aware of the vital role that school psychologists have in providing academic assistance and mental health services to students in need. That is why we at NSU emphasize the importance for all school psychologists to become advocates for the provision of comprehensive and sufficient psychological services for all our children and youth.

On a personal note, I grew up in Gastonia, a small southern town in North Carolina, about 30 minutes from Charlotte. I love most everything southern, such as southern manners and southern charm, and especially southern food, which includes low country delights and Carolina barbeque. My family enjoys my southern cooking. When I talk about having grits, I am not talking about perseverance or character, I'm talking shrimp and grits. I am a Tar Heel, which means I graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. This also means I love ACC basketball and watch every game I can. The legendary basketball coach from UNC, Dean Smith, once remarked, "You should never be proud of doing the right thing. You should just do the right thing." This is a good maxim to live by. Going into school psychology was the right thing for this southern girl to do.



Alumni Spotlight



Catherine Samuel-Barrett
School Psychologist,
Palm Beach County School District
Current President of PBASP

What is your favorite part of your job as a School Psychologist?

My favorite part of being a school psychologist is the variety of skills I get to use each day; from direct student assessment, consultation with parents and teachers, student support and intervention, to data collection and analysis - no two days are ever the same! Also, witnessing a student flourish in response to an intervention plan carefully developed by an entire team of professionals working together on behalf of a student is tremendously rewarding.

If you could go back to when you were a student with the School Psychology program, what's the one piece of advice you would give yourself?

If I could go back to being a student in the school psych program, I would tell myself to thoroughly enjoy each step of the journey toward graduation and take more pictures! Although the process was grueling at times, I cherish the time I spent learning and growing in the profession with my classmates.

What would you say has been the most important part of your training in the School Psychology program?

The breadth and depth of the training in the School Psychology program at Nova has been invaluable to my practice in the field as a school psychologist. The clinical knowledge and skill development I received throughout the program was also a particularly important and beneficial aspect of the training.

What skills would you consider to be most valuable in your job as a School Psychologist?

I would say strong consultation and collaboration skills are pretty high on the list, followed closely by excellent organization and time management skills!

What would you like to add to your career/professional experience?

I am looking forward to future opportunities to participate in research projects in the school district that I currently work for. I am particularly interested in examining student outcome data across a variety of academic and behavioral interventions. In addition, I would like to earn the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) credential in School Psychology in the near future.

One interesting fact about yourself

One interesting fact about myself is that I played on the girls' field hockey team in high school in Canada, and we all wore kilts!

Student Spotlight



Melissa Koniver
Second Year PsyD Student

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

The best part of the school psychology program is the faculty. Each professor brings something different to the table and they are all extremely supportive and attentive. They truly care about each and every one of us and want to ensure that we get the best education possible.

Why did you choose School Psychology?

I chose school psychology because I wanted to work with students of all ages with disabilities and provide the necessary resources and support they need to succeed. Many of my past personal experiences inspired me to choose the route of school psychology and I couldn't be more excited to pursue this career.

What are some of your future goals?

I hope to one day have a private practice where I specialize in assessments as well as executive functioning deficits. This is the focus of my directed study and I hope that my research will lead me to having expertise in this area of school psychology.

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

If I were to pick another career I'd probably choose a pediatrician. Regardless of what I do, I want to be helping kids!

One interesting fact that people may not know about you

I am obsessed with cooking and baking. I'm always experimenting with new things in the kitchen!

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

I've presented at FASP and NASP and I was the Social co-chair for GrASP this past term.

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song

My favorite pets are my two dogs of course, Bernie and Penelope!

Student Spotlight



Linnette Bonilla
First Year PsyS Student

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

The professors' experience and knowledge are the most beneficial to me. I enjoy that they all come from different educational backgrounds and are able to provide us with real-world feedback. The professors that have really stood out to me so far are Dr. Poland, Dr. Pickering, and Dr. London. They have been so informative and supportive. I can't wait to meet the rest.

Why did you choose School Psychology?

Well, I fell in love with psychology when I took a positive psychology course in undergrad. I saw the benefits and rewards of focusing on what's good in the study of psychology. I have always loved kids especially the older ones and how they can benefit from social-emotional learning. I feel that schools need to focus more on that part of education because success and happiness doesn't just come from a diploma and a grade but from feeling good about yourself. I want to help children become successful adults.

What are some of your future goals?

I want to be a school psychologist in the state of Florida and I will focus on social and emotional well-being. My focus will be on using positive psychology to help ELLs, sexually abused children, foster/adopted children, bi-polar, and children who have experienced trauma. I eventually want to have my own private practice that will help support my goals since as a school psychologist a lot is focused on assessment.

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

I would have probably been a professor of psychology and maybe positive psychology.

One interesting fact that people may not know about you

I'm a HUGE fan of Game of Thrones. My baby's nursery theme is Game of Thrones lol

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

I have served as the social chair for SOAP I am a FASP member and a member of Division 16 and Division 35 of APA. My mentor is Dr. Kim Perez-Schneider, a bilingual school psychologist in Hillsborough County is helping me become a bilingual school psychologist. It is very important for me to meet the needs of my Spanish speaking community. I'm also working with Dr. Gary Matloff, school psychologist in Broward County who specializes in counseling adopted/fostered kids.

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song

My dogs Dopey (my favorite cartoon character from Snow White) and Dexter (one of my favorite tv shows).

Student Spotlight



Mylissa Fraser
Third Year PsyD Student

Why did you choose School Psychology?

I discovered the field of school psychology while in undergrad. I was immediately hooked as I discovered it blends my desire to work with children and teachers and improve the quality of education as well as my interest in the field of psychology. I love the diversity and wide skillset that the role entails. I knew from the start I'd likely never be bored.

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

The breadth of experiences that we are given are unparalleled. I now feel comfortable working in various roles and with differing populations. Coming into the program I never imagined I would have the opportunities that I have been given these past three years.

What are some of your future goals?

To graduate! And to work in the school setting advocating for students as well as assisting the teachers who teach them. I particularly want to work in the early childhood school setting to improve the quality of early learning programs as well as early identification, prevention and intervention services.

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

Definitely something in the field of education.

What has being in the program taught you about yourself?

Honestly, that I can do almost anything with lots of coffee and chocolate.

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

Current Chair of GrASP, School Psychology Representative for COP SGA
Avid FASP and NASP conference attendee. Presentations on topics including early literacy screening in out-of-school time programs and early childhood socioemotional curriculums.

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song.

My dog, Benny!

Student Spotlight



Christina Kamien
First Year PsyD Student

Why did you choose School Psychology?

When looking at programs, I decided that the best place to work with students and adolescents is in the schools. I have always been interested in the adolescent population, particularly those who may be at-risk or have emotional and behavioral problems.

What do you like most about the School Psych program?

One thing that I like the most is the closeness that is felt between students. Not only am I close to individuals from my cohort, but I am also close to those from the other cohorts as well! After moving from Buffalo, this program enabled me to meet some wonderful people who soon became like family to me. We are all here to help and support each other, which helps make the process a lot more manageable. The faculty is also incredibly supportive and genuinely interested in helping students achieve their goals.

What are some of your future goals?

I would like to move back, closer to family, and work with adolescents who are struggling with emotional or behavioral difficulties, that may be interfering with their educational goals. I am interested in working in a high school or an alternative school placement to help assist teachers, administration, parents, etc. to better understand the needs that these students may need to be successful.

One interesting fact that people may not know about you

I am afraid of Butterflies.

What has being in the program taught you about yourself?

This program has taught me that I can do it! I moved down here, ready to learn and be challenged, but moving down here with no established support has been very difficult. Although the work is demanding and the schedule is busy, the faculty and other members of the program help to keep you moving forward and keep a positive spin on everything. Establishing these new relationships and learning a bit more about myself and my independence level, has really empowered me to believe that I can do this!!

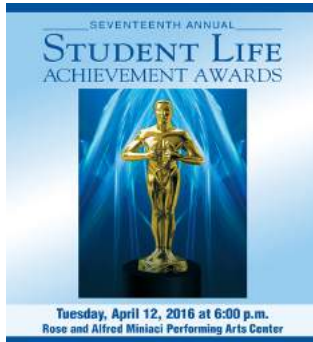
What are some of your involvements? (Clubs, research, presentations, conferences, etc.)

I have attended socials that have been run by GrASP, as well as, SGA. I've also attended the FASP and NASP conferences. Next year I will be on the board for GrASP and have recently been elected as the School Psychology Representative for SGA. I am looking forward to becoming more involved in these clubs and organizations in the future! I also attended both the Brain Injury Awareness Walk and the Relay for Life events. These were both great events that raise awareness for great causes!

Name of favorite pet, snack, or song.

Pet: Lilly (a cockapoo) She is back home in Buffalo with my parents and I miss her more and more every day. **Snack:** cheese balls and popcorn

Special Mentions

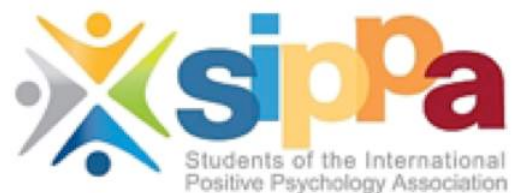


GrASP is happy to announce it was nominated as the Student Organization of the Year by NSU's Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS). Additionally, our very own fourth year doctoral student Alexandra Alfonso was nominated as Student of the Year. Pictured above (from left to right) are Dean Crosby, Dr. Sarah Valley-Gray, Dr. Peter Caproni, and Dr. Gene Cash at the STUEYS award ceremony on April 17th.

Hi School Psychology Classmates,

I am proud to report I have been selected as the Membership and Recruitment Chair of the Student International Positive Psychology Association (SIPPA) for North America 2016-2017. One of my passions is Positive Psychology in Education and Subjective Well-Being; I believe strength based education learning is directly correlated to motivated learning, if we encourage students to continue to develop and express their strengths it is likely that their areas of opportunities will be alleviated by their newfound emotional strength. The mission of SIPPA is to create a community for students of positive psychology by facilitating networking, collaboration, and mentorship. SIPPA is an association which can provide research, research opportunities, interactive webinars and comradery around one of your favorite subjects. Additionally, students are welcomed to participate in the following World Congress, July 13-16, 2017 in Montréal Québec, our monthly Student Speaker Series and more. Why Join IPPA?

1. Reduced fees, student awards, social hours, and mentoring activities at conventions.
2. The option to attend the Positive Psychology Leader Series webinars with eminent researchers in the field.
3. Access to the IPPA Learning Library, with more than 100 archived presentations for viewing and/or download.
4. Help with your research, clinical work, and professional development through the Mentoring Program.
5. Networking, discussion and information via our newsletter and social networks
6. Scholarship opportunities.
7. A voice in the future of positive psychology.



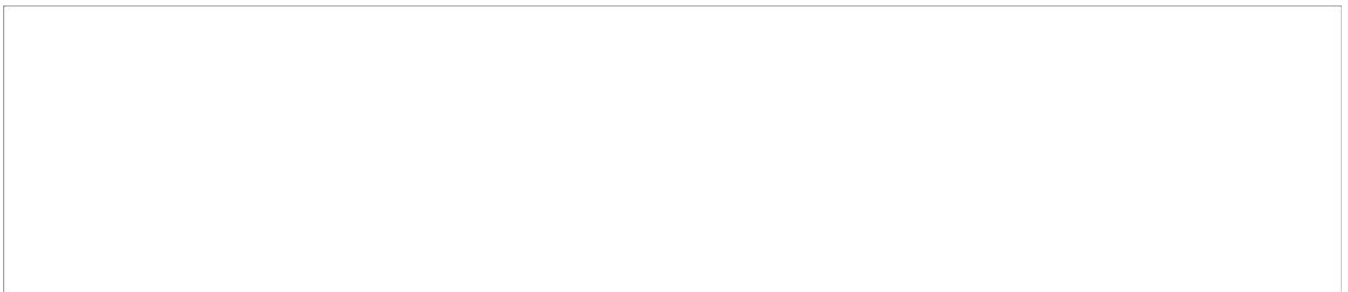
Please contact me if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at sc372@nova.edu. Thanks! Sully Colón, M.S

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, June 1. Deadline to submit proposal for FASP's 43rd Annual Conference and for FASP's Summer Newsletter.
- Wednesday, June 1. FPA workshop. An Introduction to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. University of Miami, Flipse Building, Conference Room 502
- Wednesday, June 1, 2-3pm. Live Webinar. Second Step K–5 Suite: Social-Emotional Skills for Student Success. Visit <http://www.cfchildren.org/second-step/webinars>
- Thursday, June 2, 2-2:45pm. Live Webinar. Second Step K–5 Suite: Social-Emotional Skills for Student Success Visit <http://www.cfchildren.org/second-step/webinars>
- Saturday, June 4. 1 Million Steps 4 OCD Walk Visit <http://www.iocdf.org/walk>
- Thursday, June 9, 1pm. NASP Live Webinar. Preparing for the School Psychology Praxis Exam. Visit <https://nasp.inreachce.com/Details/Information/2860a238-71cd-4938-be53-536914fa43fe?ref=featured>
- Monday, June 13, 2-3pm. SAMHSA Webinar. Addressing the Behavioral Needs of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Patients. Registration is required. Visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/capt/news-announcements/conferences-trainings/addressing-behavioral-health-needs-transgender-gender-non>
- Wednesday, June 15. Deadline to submit proposal for NASP's Annual Convention.

Upcoming Events

- Friday, July 1. Deadline to apply to the APA Travel Grants for US Psychologists to Attend International Conferences. Visit <http://www.apa.org/about/awards/international-conference-grant.aspx>
- July 10-13. FASP's Summer Institute: Navigating the Future of School Psychology
 - Held at Sonesota Fort Lauderdale Beach Hotel
 - Student Member Pre-Registration \$50
 - Visit www.fasp.org/Events/Summer_Institute.html
- Monday, August 1. Deadline to submit manuscripts for *The School Psychologist's* Fall Issue.
- Thursday, August 25, 4-5pm. Council for Exceptional Children Live Webinar. Co-Planning: The Key to Student Success in the Co-Taught Classroom. Visit <https://www.cec.sped.org/Professional-Development/Events-Calendar/2016/08/WEB1607>
- Thursday, September 15. Deadline to apply to the APA Dissertation Research Award.



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

Published: May 31, 2016

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Angela Garcia
Kelli Dari
Davisha Scudder
Christina Kamien

Faculty Advisor:
Dr. Sarah Valley-Gray
Jane Lazarus

New GrASP Officers

Congratulations to our new officers!
Best of luck!

Chair: Angela Garcia and Stephanie Wietrzychowski

Chair Elect: Christina Kamien

Technology Chair: Kelli Dari

Treasurer: Susana Hoy

Alumni Relations and Mentorship Chair: Davisha
Scudder and Leticia Barbosa

Public Policy Chair: Shemika Cooper and
Kristen Gouldner

Fundraising / Philanthropy Chair: Susana Hoy and
Christina Kamien

Social/Professional Development: Gabriela Irizarry
and Linnette Bonilla

