



# THE GRASP GAZETTE

Nova Southeastern University

Fall 2022



## *In this issue...*

Pages 2-3

Meet the Board

Page 4

GrASP Impact

Page 5

Thankful For

Pages 6-9

Student Spotlight

Pages 10-11

Faculty Spotlight

Page 12

Fall Socials

Page 13

Explore Davie

Page 14

Upcoming Events

Page 15

Thank You




## *Dear readers,*

Happy Fall! The Graduate Association of School Psychology (GrASP) is dedicated to educating students on the educational processes and mental health needs of children and adolescents. The board members of Nova Southeastern University's GrASP are excited to present the Fall 2022 edition of the GrASP Gazette!

Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. We would like to take a moment to congratulate you on doing a great job this semester!

As the Fall semester is coming to a close, we hope that you have had a fulfilling semester! Please enjoy this new issue of the GrASP Gazette!



Best,  
Kate Karunathilake  
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# MEET THE BOARD

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MELISSA GROBLER



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ASIA FLAGG



RICARDO MOGO



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## DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

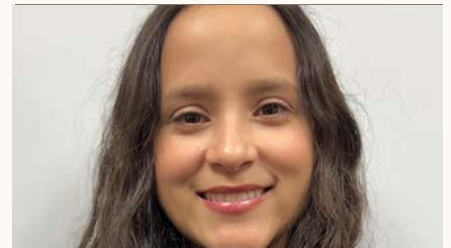
GABY RANGEL



DIYA ARUN



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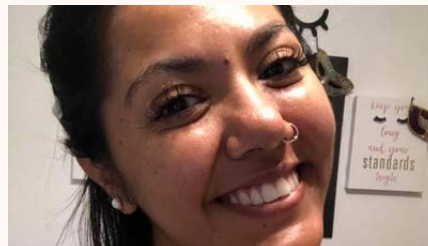


## FIRST-YEAR REPS

BRIANNA BORGE



DANIELA WEBBER-TORRES



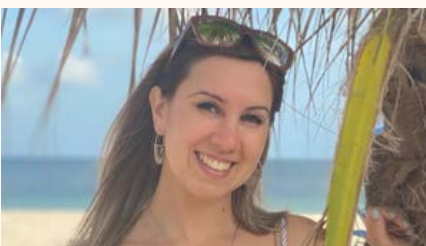
## TAMPA REP

MELISSA LALLOTIS

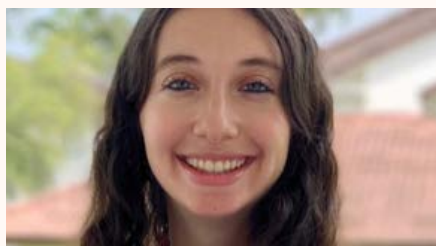


## SOCIAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ANDREA CONNELL



HANNAH LEHMAN



LAUREN BRIGHTWELL






# GRASP IMPACT

This semester GrASP engaged in many wonderful events throughout the campus.


The semester was kicked off with the Mentor-Mentee pairings to better support the incoming school psychology cohorts. They got to meet, mingle, and swim at the first social of the semester, which took place at the beach.

GrASP and Dr. Feldman presented a workshop on Working with ASL Interpreters in School Settings to help future school psychologists understand the challenges of advocating for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

We also collected numerous cash and tangible donations to support children and families impacted by Hurricane Ian. Worked along with the Florida Association of School Psychologists to support the Children's Services fund by creating a variety of amazing baskets for the silent auction.



Hosted the blossoming 8-year-old author Anabelle Wallick, who read the book "My Feelings are a Hurricane" and her mother Krystal Wallick, who works in the mental health field, shared her experiences working within the hospital setting.



GrASP at NSU Tampa regional campus also hosted the first inaugural cookie exchange with current cohorts and staff. Where we were joined by numerous faculty members and students. we had a great time mingling, getting to know each other, and tasting various cookies. This occasion was a kick-off event to get students involved with GrASP at the Tampa Bay campus. It was put together by Nicole Diaz (Tampa's NASP representative) and Melissa Laliotis (Tampa's GrASP representative).



## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways to be involved in GrASP at NSU! We encourage all our students (Specialist and Doctoral) to attend our meetings, participate in professional development activities, attend social events, and volunteer for our fundraisers. Getting involved in GrASP is a great way to learn more about the field of school psychology, meet others in the program, and contribute to the NSU community.





# THIS YEAR, WE'RE THANKFUL FOR:

I'M THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY, MY FAITH, MY FRIENDS AND GOOD FOOD.  
(ALSO DR. POLAND'S BRILLIANT BLAZERS)

I AM THANKFUL FOR MY SUPPORTIVE COHORT. WE HAVE GROWN SO MUCH WITHIN THE  
LAST YEAR AND I AM BEYOND GRATEFUL THAT WE GET TO GO THROUGH THIS JOURNEY  
WE CALL "GRAD SCHOOL" TOGETHER.

I AM THANKFUL FOR THE PEOPLE I HAVE MET THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. THEIR  
CONSTANT GUIDANCE AND UPLIFTING ENERGY HAS HELPED ME THROUGH TOUGH TIMES!

PROFESSORS AND SUPERVISORS WHOM I CAN CRY IN FRONT OF AND FEEL VALIDATED  
/SUPPORTED RATHER THAN JUDGED.

THE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS I'VE FORMED.

I'M THANKFUL FOR MY INCREDIBLE FRIENDS I'VE MADE THROUGHOUT MY GRADUATE  
CAREER. I'M SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE THEM IN MY LIFE. I'M ALSO THANKFUL FOR OUR  
PROFESSORS WHO MAKE THIS JOURNEY POSSIBLE.

KITTY CUDDLES!

THANKFUL FOR THE GIFT OF HEALTH AND BEING STRONG ENOUGH TO HELP OTHERS AS  
THEY NAVIGATE THEIR LIFE CHALLENGES.

THE 22-23 GRASP BOARD! THE ENERGY, COMMITMENT, AND LOVE THIS TEAM HAS  
BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT IS UNMATCHED. WE ARE TRULY  
GRATEFUL FOR EVERY MEMBER'S HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN BRINGING BACK  
COMMUNITY AFTER THESE LONG COVID YEARS. FROM: THE GRASP HEADS

FOR THE GIFT OF WAKING UP EVERY MORNING AND DOING WHAT I ENJOY, HUGGING MY  
SONS, AND FOLLOWING MY DREAMS.







# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Interviewed by: Bilsy Thomas

With : **RILEY CHRISTOPH**

**1. What is your name, year in school, and what track are you?**

My name is Riley Christoph, 3rd year in the Psy. D. program!

**2. What drew you to the field of school psychology?**

I've always wanted to work with children and adolescents. School can be the best way to see them as it has a lot of impact on their lives and a lot of opportunities to help them.

**3. What do you like most about the program?**

All the practicum experience we get and the faculty are influential in our growth. The program provides a lot of opportunities.

**4. What is your best memory from the program?**

My best memory is going to NASP! It really embodied what school psychology has to offer. Presenting has also always been a big fear of mine but going to NASP with everyone's support built my confidence and showed me that I can do it.

**5. How do you practice self-care?**

I like to read a lot, take long walks and I love hanging out with my cat, Puma, and with my partner.

**6. If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?**

If I could have any superpower, I'd want to control the weather so it's always an enjoyable climate suited to my tastes.





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Interviewed by: Michaela Michener

With : **JACQUELINE ISLER**

**1. What is your name, year in school, and what track are you?**

My name is Jacqueline Isler. I'm a second year school psychology specialist student on the four year track

**2. What drew you to the field of school psychology?**

I love the academic setting and school is so important in children's everyday life. To be able to help them achieve in school, which is such a big part of their life, is an amazing thing.

**3. What is your best memory from the program?**

A fun memory was our first weekend class as a cohort. Everyone was nervous and didn't know what to expect, but during the break we all went out to lunch which was awesome. I got to know these cool people outside of the classroom.

**4. What areas within the field of school psychology interest you/future plans?**

Currently learning more about multiculturalism and diversity within the field is my special interest. I don't really know any future plans, everything is so new and exciting but I love talking about the effect of culture & the importance of awareness as there is so much inequality in education and systems that affect a student's performance.

**5. What advice would you give to those entering the program?**

It sounds cliché but you really get out of this program what you put into it. If you put in the time for reading, then you'll understand the material better and you'll enjoy the classes more.

**6. If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?**

I would want to be invisible. It would be so helpful as a school psychologist. I would be able to do classroom observations without kids knowing and without disrupting the classroom setting.







# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

With :

**GABRIELA PAEZ**

Interviewed by: Michaela Michener

**1. What is your name, year in school, and what track are you?**

My name is Gabriela Paez but most people know me as Gabby. I am a 3rd year specialist student in the 4 year track.

**2. What drew you to the field of school psychology?**

My interest in school psychology began during my time working as an ESE teacher. I delved into research how to be advocate for students with disabilities and stumbled across school psychology.

**3. What do you like most about the program?**

I love that the program provides us with a variety of opportunities to gain hands on experience. I enjoy being able to shadow a school psychologist in Broward County and observe the role in action.

**4. What areas within the field of school psychology interest you/future plans?**

I have many areas of interest such as early intervention, recruitment and retention of diverse school psychologists, and social-emotional learning.

**5. How do you practice self-care?**

Currently, I really enjoy going to hot yoga classes. It helps me release some stress and leaves me feeling more grounded.

**6. What advice would you give to students joining the program?**

Use your resources! It is very likely that the content you learn in one class, you will be able to apply in another. Creating a one drive folder with all my resources has helped me be more organized and have resources easily accessible.







# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Interviewed by: Bilsy Thomas

With :

**ERIKA MEDINA**

**1. What is your name, year in school, and what track are you?**

My name is Erika Medina. I'm a first year school psychology Psy.D. student

**2. What drew you to the field of school psychology?**

I've always been drawn to psychology. I wanted to work within the school system, but I did not know how to integrate psychology into education yet. I was interested in working with children with autism. So school psychology was the perfect happy medium for all my interests.

**3. What is your best memory from the program?**

My best memory from the program is just spending time with my cohort. We always stay after class to talk and we get together for lunch/dinner/homework/studying. They're so supportive and I love getting to know my cohort members.

**4. What areas within the field of school psychology interest you/future plans?**

Currently learning more about multiculturalism and diversity within the field is my special interest. I don't really know any future plans, everything is so new and exciting but I love talking about the effect of culture & the importance of awareness as there is so much inequality in education and systems that affect a student's performance.

**5. How do you practice self-care?**

Walking my dog Bella! I love mindfulness meditations when I'm overwhelmed (I use the Insight Timer). And I like using the Finch app to journal about my day and earn rainbow stones to buy items for my Finch!

**6. If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?**

Naruto's shadow clone Jutsu. There would be multiple clones of myself so I could have one clone at work, one at school, one studying, one relaxing, one cooking, one looking after my dog. I really wanna learn more languages and hobbies so having clones could make life a little easier.





# *Faculty Spotlight*

## *Dr. Pryna Kasi*

Dr. Kasi is the director of the specialist program at Nova Southeastern University. She has been a part of the Shark Family for over two years starting in May of 2020. She holds many responsibilities including, but not limited to interviewing and accepting potential specialist students, ensuring curriculum is being followed and implemented correctly, and ensuring the success of the specialist track students in both the Davie and Tampa campuses. To be stated shortly, if it involves the specialist track students, she has had a hand in it. Dr. Kasi started her Nova career as an Assistant Professor for both clinical and school psychology classes before adding the role of director in the fall of 2022. When asked her favorite part of working at NSU, her answer came quickly, working with her students. She loves to mentor students and watch them progress throughout their program. She has a special soft spot for teaching the IQ assessment class. She loves how the students typically walk into class the first day nervous, and not having a strong, if any, foundation in the material and then watching each student blossom as they learn not only administration, but as they master difficult grading and report writing. It is clear that Dr. Kasi not only loves her teaching environment but has a huge heart for watching her students learn and grow in their career field.



Dr. Kasi came to the United States in 2002 as an exchange student studying in Pennsylvania. She returned to Ukraine to get her Bachelor of Science and subsequently her Masters in Education. She was invited back to the U.S. to get her Doctorate in school psychology at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Kasi explained how as an international student, she was surrounded by other students from all over the world. She spoke about how she was able to learn about different cultures and backgrounds from many wonderful people which taught her that there is not one right way to a solution. Even today, her experiences as an international student gave her the tools to not only help her colleagues and students in the way which is most beneficial for them, but to also explore what drives their thinking. When asked what experiences have been most influential in her career, she responded that all experiences are valuable. Each day prepares you for the next step.





When asked about what she enjoys outside of the classroom, Dr. Kasi gave a huge grin as she spoke about her family. "I enjoy spending time with my family. It's the simple things, like taking my children to music lessons or going for a walk. Any chance to be a mom with my family is my favorite thing." When it comes to self-care, Dr. Kasi loves to squeeze in time to play games on her phone or binge watch Netflix. She makes sure to step away from work during the weekends and spend time with her family or in nature, or preferably both!

### *A MESSAGE TO HER STUDENTS:*

I want to say that our students are amazing. I don't just say that, it's actually true. Every day they amaze me on so many levels. I've partaken in wonderful discussions, and I'm astounded at the level of insightfulness brought by the students. I have learned from the students how to be flexible and adjust to different situations, with a positive attitude. Our students are positive and resilient. Keep up the good work, seek out guidance if you need guidance, ask questions if you have them, because we are all in this journey together.





# Fall 2022 Socials





# Explore Davie

*If you're looking for a study spot, a sweet treat, or an easy place to hang out, look no further than what's below. These places are conveniently located near campus! These can be fun places to try out when meeting with your mentor/mentee or you can grab a togo box to share!*

## Study spots/ Coffee shops

Paris Morning Bakery  
Crema Gourmet Espresso Bar  
Helena's Coffee  
Crumbl Cookie

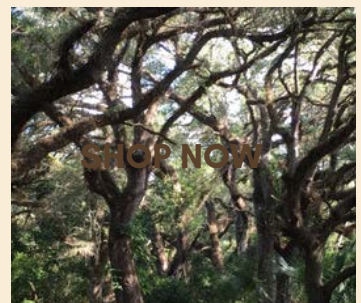


## Grab a quick bite

Fresh Kitchen  
Tap 42  
Quarterdeck  
Flashback Diner  
Flight Deck  
Tijuana Taxi Co

## Parks

Tree Tops Park-Davie  
Wolf Lake Park





# Upcoming Events

Winter 2023

- **January 7, 2023**, from 9:00 am-12:30 pm
  - "Oedipus for everyone: Revitalizing the model for LGBTQI couples and single parent families."
- **January 13, 2023**, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - Florida Laws, Rules, and More: Essentials for Chapter 491 Licensees  
[https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_oOZKRpT0Sg6ZUctI9IQM0A](https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oOZKRpT0Sg6ZUctI9IQM0A)
- **January 27, 2023**, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - Professional Ethics and Boundary Issues: Essentials for Chapter 491 Licensees  
[https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_7HEGLOhbQlCK73\\_RN7ifzg](https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7HEGLOhbQlCK73_RN7ifzg)
- **January 27, 2023**, from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
  - Domestic Violence Update  
[https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_45x8Af6kRnadoXH6H8\\_pXg](https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_45x8Af6kRnadoXH6H8_pXg)
- **January 27, 2023**, from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
  - Preventing Medical Errors with Good Record Keeping  
[https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_aldBAlTaRne5DKpbBU8iNQ](https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aldBAlTaRne5DKpbBU8iNQ)
- **February 6, 2023**
  - Annual Conference of the Trainers of School Psychologists 2023
- **February 7-10, 2023**
  - National Association of School Psychologists 2023 Annual Convention
- **May 5, 2023**, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
  - Ethnic Pride: Conversations with Children of Color and Immigrant Youth  
[https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_h\\_uoRQH0QFOgDvzV9ZxrEQ](https://nova.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h_uoRQH0QFOgDvzV9ZxrEQ)
- **May 27 – June 3, 2023**
  - Provide psychological services, resources, and evaluations for children with autism in Jamaica with Dr. Worton



A decorative header featuring several gold stars of various sizes and strings of gold beads and stars hanging from the top.

# Thank You



A big thank you to everyone who participated in writing for the Gazette! Special thanks to:

Bilsy Thomas  
Michaela Michener  
Kate Karunathilake  
Dr. Iryna Kasi  
Erika Medina  
Gabriela Paez  
Jacqueline Isler  
Riley Christoph

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday break and a happy new year!

