We had a great turnout at our fall meeting, despite the rain! In case you were not able to make it, here is what you missed...

We welcomed Dr. Smith and Dr. Mire and learned about their current research projects and ideas for the program. Dr. Kubiszyn spoke about the recently submitted self-study for APA accreditation and went over APPIC match statistics. Dr. Smith presented his ideas for several new program initiatives, such as representing the program at national conferences and sponsoring a school psychology conference for the program. We also elected two new student-faculty representatives for the 2013-2014 year. Congratulations to Sarah Ochs and Kerri Nowell; we know you will both represent us well! Thank you to everyone for contributing to the delicious potluck meal and to Dr. Kubiszyn and his wife for hosting us in their beautiful home!

Sonia checking out a very impressive dessert spread!
Recent & Future Publications

(Current students and faculty indicated by boldface type)

In Press:


Terry, J. Strait, G., McQuillin, S., & Smith B. (in press). Dosage effects on motivational interviewing on middle-school students’ academic performance: Randomized evaluation of one versus two sessions. Advances in School Mental Health Promotion.


Recent & Future Publications cont.

2013 Publications:


Future Presentations


Olenchak, R., McQuillin, S., Keller-Margulis, M. A. (2013, December). From whence have we come and where are we going? The marriage of psychology, education, and talent development. Paper accepted for presentation at the 2013 Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented Convention. Houston, TX.

Recent Presentations


Recent Presentations cont.


School Psychology Students in Action!

Catherine, Ashlie, Tasha, Dr. Mekel Harris (’09 program graduate), & Dr. Kubiszyn enjoying Hawaii during the APA conference.

Allison and Whitney participating in a flash mob during the APS conference in Washington, D.C.!

Christie and Natalie posing with some superheroes at the Houston Walk for Autism!

Brittany, Natalie, Erika, Allison and Sarah, excited about finishing the Diva Dash in Austin, TX.
Meet Our New Faculty Members!

Dr. Bradley Smith

Dr. Smith is the co-director of the School Psychology Ph.D. Program, and is very interested in helping students prepare for careers in academia. For the past 30 years, Dr. Smith has been involved in providing evidence-based interventions for youth provided primarily by college students. He is a co-developer of the Challenging Horizons after-school and summer programs, and is interested in helping implement this award-winning, evidence-based service-learning program throughout the Houston area. Other projects of interest include seeking best practices in school-based mentoring and motivational interviewing, and studying school-based yoga.

His research interests include: Mentoring and talent development programs, Motivational Interviewing, Service-learning, After-school and summer programs, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Yoga and interventions that promote subjective well-being.

Dr. Sarah Mire

Dr. Mire joined the faculty of the UH School Psychology PhD program in Fall 2013. Her research focuses on treatment and family issues for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), particularly when compounded by comorbid DSM diagnoses and/or school-related difficulties. She is interested in individual, family, and regional factors contributing to various ASD treatment choices (e.g., school-based, psychosocial, psychotropic, etc.); the role of parent/caregivers and teachers in managing treatment and service-delivery; and issues in treatment of ASD and comorbid diagnoses during early childhood through adolescence. Dr. Mire is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP), is licensed by Texas as a specialist in school psychology (LSSP) and as a Provisionally Licensed Psychologist (PLP). She completed an APA-accredited predoctoral clinical internship and subsequent post-doctoral fellowship at Western Youth Services in Orange County, California.
Students Currently on Internship

- **Kennetha Frye**, Dallas ISD, APA-Accredited
- **Ronda Reyna**, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, APA-Accredited
- **Evelyn Perez**, Sheldon ISD

Scholarships

**Sonia Babu**
- Awarded the Velma Glass Chambers Scholarship Endowment by the University of Houston College of Education for the 2013-2014 school year.

**Rachel Halpern**
- Awarded the Helen and Melvin Wimpelberg Memorial Scholarship- $1200 by the College of Education for the 2013-2014 school year.
- Awarded Weinstein Fund Scholarship- $1300 by the College of Education for the 2013-2014 school year.

Honors & Awards

**Kennetha Frye**
- Accepted a secondary rotation with Henry Wade Juvenile Detention Center
- Became a member of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) of Division 16 for APA- Early Career Psychologists

**Ronda Reyna**
- Received the Student Award for Excellence in Knowledge, Support or Empowerment by the Texas chapter of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) in July 2013 at the annual conference in Houston.

Grants Funded

- Principal Investigator, **Keller-Margulis, M.A.** (2013). *Advancing the study of written expression curriculum-based measurement.* ($4,000 – Funded). College of Education Faculty Research Grant Award.
Dr. Smith’s Research Lab

Dr. Smith is in the process of starting 3 different research projects within his lab. The first will focus on mentoring research, specifically the effects on mentors and preventing drop out among college students. The second will look at school-based motivational interviewing and the final project will examine school-based yoga for improving academic outcomes. Future interests to address include service-learning and after-school and summer programs. The lab will have weekly meetings at 2 pm on Mondays in 318H and other meetings or retreats TBA. These projects are in the early stages of being developed and welcome any input and ideas students may have. If you are interested in any of these projects please contact Dr. Smith or come to one of the weekly lab meetings.

Dr. Keller-Margulis’ Research Projects

Dr. Keller-Margulis is currently working on several research projects around the practical and technical issues associated with curriculum-based measurement (CBM) as well as the developmental outcomes for children born preterm. A grant from the Society for the Study of School Psychology is currently funding a project, in collaboration with Dr. Allison Dempsey at UTHealth, to follow a cohort of children born preterm to determine when evidence of difficulty in academic, cognitive, and behavioral skills become apparent. Several other projects designed to answer questions about universal screening using CBM are also underway. These studies focus on the conventions of universal screening using written expression CBM, the use of CBM and computer-adaptive tests for screening, and screening for academics and behavior in early childhood. Anyone interested in these research projects is encouraged to contact Dr. Keller-Margulis.

Conference Opportunities

♦ Gatlinburg Conference on Research and Theory in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
  • Proposal Deadline—October 14, 2013
  • Conference—March, 5-7, 2014, Chicago, IL

♦ International Society for Autism Research (INSAR)
  • Proposal Deadline—November 1, 2013
  • Conference—May 14-17, 2014, Atlanta, GA

♦ American Psychological Association (APA)
  • Proposal Deadline—
    ♦ Collaborative proposals (two or more divisions)—November 1, 2013
    ♦ Division proposals—December 2, 2013
  • Conference—August 7-10, 2014, Washington, D.C.

♦ Association for Psychological Science (APS)
  • Proposal Deadline—
    ♦ Symposia—December 1, 2013
    ♦ Posters—January 31, 2014
  • Conference—May 22-24, 2014, San Francisco, CA

♦ Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)
  • Call for proposals has closed for 2013—look out for 2014 call for papers (generally closes at the beginning of March)
  • Conference—
    ♦ 2013—November 21-24, Nashville, TN
    ♦ 2014—November 20-23, Philadelphia, PA
Research Opportunities cont.

**UH Academic Mentoring Program for Educational Development (AMPED)**

Dr. McQuillin, Brittany McLelland, and Brent Smith are rolling out a manualized academic mentoring program at Yes Prep-5th Ward this semester. UH-AMPED is designed to increase academic and personal success of middle school students by using a motivational interviewing inspired approach to conversation, as well as goal setting, and teaching specific skills. The team has been revising a manual that has demonstrated previous success in South Carolina with student math grades, life satisfaction, and behavior referrals. Anybody interested in being a part of this project is encouraged to contact someone on the team. Check out the UH-AMPED website at: [http://mentor.coe.uh.edu/](http://mentor.coe.uh.edu/).

**Dr. Kubiszyn’s Pediatric Psychopharmacology Team**

The pediatric psychopharmacology research team is focused on three primary areas of inquiry. These include the comparative safety and efficacy of psychological and pharmacological treatments, measurement of response to treatment to inform psychological and pharmacological treatment (i.e., which treatment, when, with whom, for how long, at what dose), and the impact of psychotropic side effects on school learning, behavior and standardized testing. The Team will also survey attitudes about, and experience with psychotropics among school psychologists and other professionals.

**Autism Interest Group and Lab**

Dr. Mire’s team is currently working on four projects within the AIGL: 1) parent perceptions in driving ASD treatment decisions; 2) setting-specific perceptions of emotional/behavioral characteristics of children with ASD; 3) school-based services for students with ASD; and 4) ASD and representation in special education placement. The structure of the AIGL includes opportunities for students with a range of research experience to gain increasing competencies in developing and completing projects for presentation at local and national/international conferences, manuscript development, as well as opportunities to collaborate with professionals from the Texas Medical Center and local school districts. Project development is ongoing, and students interested in working within the AIGL should contact Dr. Mire directly.

The School Psychology Program at the University of Houston is accredited by the American Psychological Association. The Program adheres to a scientist-practitioner training model, and is committed to developing professional school psychologists who are competent to engage in applied research and ecologically sensitive evidence-based practice (i.e., students learn to apply critical analysis and inquiry to identify, select, implement, and evaluate evidence-based practices with sensitivity to cultural and linguistic considerations, and in consideration of diverse client preferences). Sensitivity to diversity issues is addressed in specific course work and embedded throughout the training experience. Awareness of diversity issues is ensured because the UH is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse research institutions in the nation.