Anyone that has walked around campus lately can tell that it is ever changing. There are many ongoing construction projects including the University Center, Light Rail Construction, and the Football Stadium. We can expect to enjoy those new facilities and services in 2014.

I've enjoyed learning about the system of education in the States and contrasting it with practices around the world. I've loved sharing knowledge, assignments, laughs and memories with my 2012 cohort!

-Eliza Alexander, First Year Student

One of my favorite moments came when I was in the midst of the internship interview process and feeling a bit worn down by all the things associated with it, such as travel and the like. I was told by a very respected training director "you represent well." Those few words gave me the encouragement I needed to remain positive in the process. It's worth hanging in there and believing in yourself, because others outside the small bubble we build around ourselves very often have the most clear, objective view of our true assets.

-Ronda Reyna, Fifth Year Student

My most rewarding experience this year has been serving as a TA in the HDFS department. It has furthered my passion for teaching and helped me to realize that teaching is definitely a part of my long-term career goals!

-Whitney Gealy, First Year Student

One of the best and most rewarding experiences from this past year was attending NASP in Seattle, where I was able to hear about exciting research and connect with different school psychology trainees from different regions of the country.

-Anita Payan, Third Year Student

My favorite quote is from a seventh grader with High Functioning Autism, whom I conduct individual counseling with weekly. He told me "Sometimes, adults are like butterflies; they forget what it was like to be a caterpillar." This seventh grader reminded me how important it is for us adults who help kids, to remember what it is like to be a kid, and to really listen to what they are telling us. Although our training in school psychology is important and is invaluable when it comes to helping children and families, its also extremely important for us to never forget how to get present with our client and listen to their personal story so we can truly help them!

-Sonia Dutt, Student on Internship

After a year of endless worrying and sleepless nights, I received THE EMAIL that I matched to my top choice. I will never forget that moment on the plane to NYC at the time.

-Kennetha Frye, Fourth Year Student

The Changing Face of Campus
Recent & Future Publications

In Press Publications:


2013 Publications:


2012 Publications:


Future Poster & Paper Presentations


Llorens, A.V. & Graves, S. (July, 2013). Educational Experiences of Students with Autism: A Look at Ethnicity. Poster to be presented at the 121st Annual American Psychological Association Convention, Honolulu, HI.


Recent Posters & Presentations


**Comeaux, N.** (2012, November). Pre-Service Teachers’ Perceptions of Severity of Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder Compared to Pediatric Bipolar Disorder and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. Poster to be presented at the Texas Psychological Association Annual Convention. Austin, TX.


Boyce, A. (2012, November). *Motivational Interviewing: Evidence-based intervention for preparing to change*. Continuing education seminar presented at the Mental Health Mental Retardation Agency (MHMRA) of Harris County to psychologists who work for the agency, Houston, TX.

Boyce, A. (2012, November). *Online schooling for K-12: Are we playing to student strengths?* Seminar presented at the University of Houston to undergraduate students as part of School Psychology awareness week, Houston, TX.

Kubiszyn, T. (2013, April). *Pediatric psychopharmacology and psychosocial treatments: Comparative safety and efficacy*. Keynote presentation at the 23rd University of Houston at Clear Lake Research Symposium, Current Issues in Mental Health, Clear Lake, TX.


Milestones & Awards

Catherine Abrahamson
* Successfully defended her candidacy project
* Welcomed her new baby, Jacob!
* Awarded a 2013 APA Student Travel Award

Sonia Dutt
* Successfully defended her dissertation in February
* Accepted an APA accredited post-doc at Dallas Children’s Hospital in the Eating Disorders Unit
* Her degree will be conferred in August!

Kennetha Frye
* Successfully completed her dissertation proposal in October 2012
* Matched to an APA accredited internship with Dallas ISD
* Re-elected as the SASP Diversity Affairs Chair for Division 16
* Appointed as a Student Representative- Social Justice and Child Rights Workgroup, 2013
* Named the Student Chair of our Program’s Diversity committee
* Convention Proposal Reviewer for the National Multicultural Summit

Whitney Gealy
* Received the Certificate of University Teaching from the University of Houston Center for Teaching Excellence

Ruth Hoffman-Lach
* Will walk in graduation in May!
* Her dissertation was nominated to APA Division 16 for the Outstanding Dissertation Award

Thomas Kubiszyn
* Elected to be a commissioner from 2013-2015 with the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP), American Psychological Association, Washington, DC

Ashlie Llorens
* In January 2013 became a founding board member of Lillie B. Girls, a local non-profit organization that aims to empower girls by promoting self-esteem, body image, and education
* Awarded a 2013 APA Student Travel Award
* Passed the Praxis Exam

Evelyn Perez
* Passed her comprehensive exams this Spring!
* Reappointed to the board of the Texas Association of School Psychologists

Ronda Reyna
* Matched to an APA accredited internship with Cy-Fair ISD
* Ronda and her husband are also fulfilling a lifelong dream of travelling to Israel this summer for a spiritual/historical adventure!

Allyson Tagliarina
* Successfully proposed and defended her candidacy!
Meet the 2013 Cohort!

**Michael Johnson**
I received my Bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a major in Psychology and a minor in Ethnic Studies. After I graduated, I moved to Houston and began working for the Houston Independent School District as a Math Interventionist for English Language Learners. I also teach music after school and adult ESL at night. My research interests are very broad, but tend to focus around early intervention for English Language Learners and students with disabilities. In my spare time, I love travelling, listening to music, and relaxing with friends and family. I am very excited to enter the UH School Psychology Program this fall!

**Madeline Racine**
I am originally from Houston and will graduate from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. I have spent the last two years working as an undergraduate research assistant in a Health Behavior Research Lab where we explored cognitive functioning and risk taking behavior, primarily smoking and obesity, in adolescents. I became very interested in school psychology after I spent a summer working with Head Start and a community Asperger's group. While my research interests are broad, I am currently interested in the promotion of physical activity and academic engagement in low-income and at risk children. I am also interested in the detection and intervention of autism spectrum disorders. In my free time I enjoy running, competing in triathlons and cooking. I am very excited to attend University of Houston and start the program this fall!

**Hannah LeBlanc**
Hi everyone! I am originally from Houma, Louisiana, but I have spent the past 4 years in Baton Rouge studying at Louisiana State University. While working on my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology, I worked on clinical and school psychology research projects. I also gained experience at local elementary schools working under LSU school psychology graduate students. My interests are broad, but I have especially enjoyed working with children with autism spectrum disorders. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, working out, and traveling. I also enjoy outdoor activities such as jet-skiing and wake-boarding. I am thrilled to move to Houston and start the program this fall!
Meet the 2013 Cohort!

Lena Twitchell-Heyne
I was born and have lived most of my life in Houston, Texas. I recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston where I received my B.S. in psychology. My research interests include intervention and effective treatment for children who have or are at risk for emotional and learning disorders as well as pediatric psychopharmacology. After graduation I hope to work in a medical or academic setting where I can pursue a career in research. I enjoy spending my free time traveling, practicing hot yoga, and reading science fiction novels. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at Lena.TH@gmail.com

Karrie Hilliard
I’m an Arizona native with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Government from Claremont McKenna College in Southern California, but got to Texas as soon as I could! Teach For America brought me to Houston in 2006, and since that time I have held various roles in education: bilingual kindergarten teacher, non-profit program manager, and Human Resources Generalist for HISD schools. I’m excited to return to my original interest in helping prepare children with developmental disorders for success in school and life, and continuing to be an advocate for student achievement with a sharpened skillset through the School Psychology PhD program.

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 at UH, one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse research institutions in the nation.