Charlotte Rhyne: First Graduate of UH School Psychology

**Internship News**

It's that time of the year! The annual quest to find an internship is upon us. On September 26th, Dr. Schanding conducted an Internship Overview Seminar to all students planning on applying for the pre-doctoral internship this year. An upcoming seminar on interviewing tips will be held in conjunction with Dr. Schwartz and the Counseling Psychology program applicants sometime in October or early November.

*As of now, 5 out of 6 applicants have landed APA accredited internships!!!*

Remember, it's never too early to get a head start on thinking about your internship! A Pre-doctoral Internship Binder, highlighting potential sites you may want to consider, has been created and is available in Dr. Schanding's office. Stop by and check it out!

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The University of Houston has its first graduate from the School Psychology Ph.D. program! We would like to congratulate Dr. Charlotte Rhyne. Charlotte completed her pre-doctoral internship at Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (APA accredited). Currently, she is completing her post-doctoral year at Galena Park Independent School District here in Houston. Charlotte plans to pursue a career as an independent consultant and teaching as an adjunct at University of Texas-Tyler after completing her post-doc year. Best wishes to Charlotte!
Policy Corner

The Policy Committee is pleased to announce we will have a regular column in the School Psychology Newsletter. Check us out for policy information, updates and initiatives. If you have information pertaining to policies and/or initiatives affecting school psychology at the department, college or university levels or policies at the local, state, or national levels we encourage and invite you to share them with your colleagues in the newsletter.

Please contact Katina Papathopoulos (katinap84@aol.com) or any other member of our committee: Rose Ann King, Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer, or Dena Buchalter. We also would like to have a name for our column. There are a number of suggestions and we would like our students to vote on their choice or submit a name if they prefer.

Suggestions so far: Policy News You Need To Know, Policy Points To Ponder, Policy Pursuits, Policy Pointers, Initiative Inquiry, Policy Corner, Initiative Intersection, Psychology Policy, Pertinent Policy, Interesting Initiatives, Policy Timeout, or Policy Ponderings

Please take a moment to send your vote to Katina katinap84@aol.com. Thanks from the Policy Committee!

-Dr. Pat Ellis

Diversity Committee Report

The Diversity Committee of the school psychology program looks forward to a productive academic year. The goals of the Diversity Committee include increasing student and faculty awareness of the diversity issues that impact research and practice as well as assessing the degree to which diversity training is addressed in program courses and activities. Through these endeavors the hope is to develop policy statements for the school psychology program that address diversity. We are actively looking for new members so please consider joining us! Contact Dr. Keller-Margulis (mak3@lehigh.edu).

-Dr. Milena Keller-Margulis

Recent Presentations by Students and Faculty


Recent Student and Faculty Publications


Fehlis, J., Gerondale, T. (2008, Nov). Does RTI have a place in a clinical setting? Poster to be presented.


**Program Development Committee News**

The Program Development Committee contributed to the realignment of the Program’s relationship with UHCL, completed the APA revised self-study (along with the faculty and several students, especially Tiffany Gerondale). This committee also revised the Student Handbook and continued IPP Rotation and AP site development.

- Dr. Kubiszyn
Current Research Projects

Here's a sampling of just some of the current projects being conducted by students and faculty in the School Psychology Program.

Ruth Hoffman is beginning data collection for her candidacy project. She will be examining the psychometric properties of progress monitoring probes for algebra skills (created by researchers at the University of Iowa through Project AAIMS).

Dena Buchalter completed her candidacy project designed to examine the development of social skills with children and adolescent diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis 1.

Dr. Schanding is developing an intervention called Peer Coaching – utilizing peers in the classroom to help deliver behavioral interventions. Research assistants on this project include Tiffany Gerondale and Evelyn Perez. A second project involves examining the use of teacher-delivered reading intervention (Reading Recovery) versus that of a computer-based reading intervention (Earobics). Sarah Mire and Sonia Dutt are assisting with the data collection for this project. Natashia Comeaux (undergrad) is also working on a project with Dr. Schanding investigating sexual orientation and gender expression as it may impact psychosocial and academic functioning with college students.

Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer completed her candidacy project examining teachers self-perceived and actual knowledge of ADHD.


Graciela Reyes is beginning data collection for her candidacy project that will examine the developmental trajectory of reading rates using curriculum-based measurements for children receiving a bilingual education program and those in an English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

Mekel Harris is nearing completion of her dissertation investigating the reintegration of children with pediatric cancer into schools.
Calendar of Events
August 2008

September 2008
ABA Education Conference – Reston, VA (Sept 5-7)
Internship Application Orientation (Sept 11)

October 2008
Tx Assoc. of School Psych – San Antonio, TX (Oct 9-11)
Internship Mock Interviews

November 2008
Deadline for Dissertation Proposal for Internship Applicants (Nov 1)
Tx Psych Assoc. Annual Conference – Austin, TX (Nov 20-22)

December 2008
APA proposal deadline - Toronto, Canada (Dec 1)

The U of H 2008-2009 School Psychology Students
Katina Papathopoulos,
Sol-Angel Garcia, Sonia Dutt,
Ronda Reyna, and Sarah Mire
(left to right)

Please Welcome the Newest School Psychology Doctoral Students!!!

Sonia Dutt is originally from Chicago, Illinois. She has an M.A. in general psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She has lived in the Houston area for two years and also enjoys training for marathons. Sol-Angel Garcia is a native of McAllen, Texas. She has a M.A. in Behavioral Sciences from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a M.S. from Our Lady of the Lake University. Sol-Angel is also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). Sarah Mire is originally from Washington, D.C., and has an M.A. in School Psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She also has certification from NASP as an NCSP. She and her husband, Jason, have two children, Zachary, age 6, and Kate, age 4. Katina Papathopoulos is a native of the Dallas area. She has a B.A. from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee where she studied religious studies and psychology. Ronda Reyna is originally from Nacogdoches, Texas, but has lived in Houston for almost 20 years. She has an M.A. in School Psychology from the University of Houston Clear Lake and certification from NASP as an NCSP. Prior to coming to UH, Ronda worked in Galena Park ISD.

New Assistant Adjunct Professor to School Psychology Program

Dr. Milena Keller-Margulis has joined the School Psychology department as an adjunct assistant professor for the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Keller-Margulis graduated from Lehigh University in 2007 and is currently working as a school psychologist in the Galena Park Independent School District in Houston.

Her primary research interests include school-based prevention programs, linking academic skills assessment to school-based intervention, progress monitoring, and the implementation of Response to Intervention. As an Associated Faculty member, Dr. Keller-Margulis is available to serve on student committees and is chairing the Diversity Committee.
Candidacy/Dissertation

Defended Candidacy
Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer – successfully defended candidacy project

Passed Doctoral Comps
Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer

Currently on Internship
Mekel Harris – University of Southern California Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (APA accredited)

Dana Kelly and Rose Ann King – Cypress-Fairbanks ISD (APA Accredited)

Student Milestones
Congratulations to the following students!

Announcements, Awards, and Honors

Rose Ann King and Sarah Mire attended the Texas Association of School Psychologists (TASP) through a mini grant. Way to go!

Katina Papathoupoulos was elected as the new Secretary for the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) in the Department of Educational Psychology (EPSY).

Ronda Reyna was elected as the student representative from the School Psychology program to GSO.

Dr. Keller-Margulis was awarded the APA Division 16 Outstanding Dissertation Award at the 2008 APA Convention.

The School Psychology program will be interviewing three very strong applicants within the next few months for the open faculty line. Please be sure to come meet the applicants and attend the Colloquium!

Sarah Mire was elected as the student representative to the School Psychology program faculty. Any student issues involving the program should be submitted to Sarah who will bring them to the faculty.

If you know of any award, honor, or announcement, please let the Newsletter Committee know! E-mail rondareyna@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Deadlines

Paul H. Henkin Memorial Scholarship (NASP)
Provides up to $2000 for convention costs for a newly credentialed (or licensed in the case of Texas) school psychologist. May be NCSP or LSSP. More information available on at http://nasponline.org

APA 2009 Call for Papers
Head to Toronto to present your research!!! Deadline December 1, 2008. http://www.apa.org/convention09/

Outstanding Dissertation Award (APA Div 16)
Available to student members of the APA Div 16. See http://www.indiana.edu/~div16/awards_dissertation.html

Calendar of Events

January 2009

February 2009
NASP Conference – Boston, MA (Feb 24-28)

March 2009
Spring Break (Mar 16-21)

April 2009
Coun. for Exceptional Children Conf. – Seattle, WA (Apr 1 – 4)

Houston Symposium for Research in Education – Houston, TX (TBA)

May 2008
Assoc. for Beh. Analysis 35th Annual Conference – Phoenix, AZ (May 22-26)
What I Did on Summer Vacation...

Students share pictures and stories about their summer vacations!

Dyanna Martinez-Villesca spent time in the Florida Keys with her husband.

Kristin Hassett spent part of spring and all summer with Lincoln Wallace Hassett, born March 3, 2008. Congratulations to Kristin, who will complete her internship this fall in Spring Branch ISD.

Stephanie Bieltz is now Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer! Stephanie and her husband Dan went on their honeymoon over the summer, a Mediterranean cruise, to Spain, France, and Italy. Here they're at the Colosseum.

Mekel Harris (3rd from left, below) moved to Los Angeles and is pictured here with some of the other interns at USC/LA Children’s Hospital.

Taieka Derrick took a child-free, all expenses paid mental health vacation to Paradise Island in the Bahamas for 7 days! Taieka's girls went to Disneyland in Orlando to meet all the princesses.

Graciela Reyes married Nathaniel McDonald during an evening ceremony on August 24th. After the wedding, they spent their honeymoon in Belize relaxing -- with a couple of jungle adventures thrown in for fun!

Pictured (right): Stephanie Bieltz-Hofer, Dyanna Martinez-Villesca, Graciela Reyes, and Dana Kelly.