

# Northern Illinois University

## SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

### NEWSLETTER

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#### A NOTE FROM OUR SCHOOL PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Welcome to the first edition of the NIU School Psychology Program Newsletter. I was hoping to start an annual newsletter for alumni, current students, advisory board members, and other individuals affiliated with the School Psychology Program. I thought it might be a great way to keep everyone connected with the program.

Thanks to those of you who have provided your home and e-mail addresses to us. We hope to provide this annual newsletter and an e-mail listserv (information will be coming on this) to keep alumni connected with the program.

**A few program highlights:** We are thrilled to have a new faculty member, Dr. Corey Ray-Subramanian. She is a great addition to our program; see the section highlighting her below. Dr. Greg Waas will be our new Psychology Department Chair next year—congrats to him on that position! Our program also hosted a very successful, “Academic Intervention Showcase” under the guidance of Dr. Christine Malecki. There is a column and some photos in the newsletter on this very successful event. We also have a wonderful group of current students; you can read about many of them in this letter. Lastly, we are still on our journey to obtain APA-accreditation and hope to be turning in our self-study by the end of this summer. Please feel free to contact me at [mkdemaray@niu.edu](mailto:mkdemaray@niu.edu) with any comments or suggestions for the program or future newsletters.

Enjoy the newsletter!

#### INTRODUCING:



Dr. Corey Ray-Subramanian

Corey joined the School Psychology faculty in August 2007 as an assistant professor. She recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her pre-doctoral internship through the Wisconsin Internship Consortium in Professional Psychology. Corey's primary research interests are in the areas of (a) assessment and instruction for English language learners and (b) examining the relationship between students' social competence and academic achievement. This year she is teaching PSYC 540 (Theory and Assessment of Intellectual Functioning) and PSYC 225 (Lifespan Development). Outside of work, she loves to travel and spend time relaxing with her husband, Arun, and their two adorable gray kitties, Nemo and Wander.



Dr. Michelle Demaray

## FACULTY FACTS:



**Dr. Christine Malecki** is the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Psychology. Her research interests include: social support perceived by children and adolescents; curriculum-based measurement; innovative school psychology delivery services. Christine has been working diligently on obtaining clinical licensure. Having one of the school faculty licensed will help in our pursuit of APA-accreditation. Christine looks forward to hearing from any alumni who want to say hello, and of course she will be happy to share her latest funny kid story!



**Dr. Elise Frank Masur** continues to do research involving Developmental and School Psychology. Dr. Masur's research focuses on the abilities young children possess and kinds of experiences they have that contribute to their development and prepare them to be successful when they reach school age. Crucial abilities during the infancy and preschool periods include imitative and language skills. And critical experiences include individual and dyadic play and book-reading with responsive caregivers.



**Dr. Gregory A. Waas** continues to do research in the area of children's social cognition and peer relationships. With Kelly Murray, a school psychology doctoral student, he co-authored "Child and teacher reports of teacher-student relationships: Concordance of perspectives and associations with school adjustment in urban kindergarten classrooms," which was published in the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*. He also recently presented a poster with Dr. Corrie Goldberg, a school psychology graduate, at the 2007 conference of the American Psychological Association. Greg is preparing to assume new responsibilities beginning this summer as chair of the Department of Psychology.



**Dr. Michelle K. Demaray** is the current School Psychology Program Director. Her research interests include: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), measurement of perceived social support, the relationship between social support and children's adjustment, and bullying and victimization in schools. Michelle will be on sabbatical next year and is planning to focus on her research. Christine will be taking over the school program coordinator responsibilities.

The other School Psychology faculty member is Dr. Corey Ray-Subramanian, featured on Page 1.

## CURRENT 2007-2008 INTERNS:



Callie Dixon

Callie has just celebrated her third wedding anniversary and enjoyed having some time to get in some reading over the summer. She began her internship in the fall for Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative, with Linda McLarty as her primary supervisor. She is looking forward to put into practice everything that she has learned in class and at practicum. She has enjoyed her experience at NIU and thanks everyone who has helped prepare her for an internship in a career that she loves.



Matthew Swanson

Matthew began his summer by getting married and going on a fabulous honeymoon to Mexico. (Congrats Matt!) He really enjoys married life. Matthew began his internship in the fall at Geneva School District, with Nancy Beal as his primary supervisor. He is looking forward to an experience with greater responsibilities. He feels prepared for the changing role of the school psychologist, due to NIU's training in the RtI service delivery model.



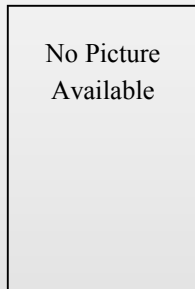
Lisa Davidson

Lisa (aka Queen of All Things) spent her summer frantically trying to finish many projects, one of which was her dissertation. She spent one week in Wisconsin making moonshine. Her internship is at Indian Prairie District 204 in Naperville. Her primary supervisor is Dr. Kip Fontana. She is really looking forward to the meetings but will be very busy with the long drive to and from the site and completing her dissertation.



Audrie Laird

Audrie visited Las Vegas to help celebrate her brother's 21st birthday in the summer. Her internship site is Winfield District 34, and Jessica Peters is her supervisor. She is most looking forward to getting experience at all grade levels. Her main site is a K-8 building; she is working at an early childhood school once a week and doing a rotation at Addison Trail High School.



Kelly Murray

Kelly began her internship in the fall at The Child Center located in Springfield, Oregon. Her primary supervisor is Rick Chamberlain.



Adam Larson

Adam enjoyed his summer by taking backpacking trips, running, and not having to study for comps! He began his internship at Central CUSD 301 in Burlington, IL. Anne King will be his primary supervisor. He is most looking forward to the practical experience he will gain during the internship process, especially in implementing the problem-solving process.



Daphne Hill

Daphne enjoyed an amazing adventure in Scotland over the summer. Daphne is interested in working with middle school or high school populations in an urban setting. She began her internship with CPS this year. Her primary supervisor is Eboney Lofton.



Ashley Payne

Ashley would like to work in elementary/middle school, and she is also interested in autism. Her internship is with Pekin Public Schools District 108, and her supervisor is Lindsay Franklin.

## Congrats to...

### CHRISTY'S CORNER

●Vinita Menon on her *Communique* publication on pediatric overweight:

Menon, V., & Demaray, M. K. (2007, October). Pediatric Overweight. *Communique*, 36(2), 38.

●Lisa Davidson on her thesis being published in *School Psychology Review*:

Davidson, L. M., & Demaray, M. K. (2007, September). Social Support as a Moderator Between Victimization and Internalizing – Externalizing Distress from Bullying. *School Psychology Review*, 36(3), 383-405.

Christy Cunningham is the School Psychology Program Assistant, and she works in the Malecki/Demaray Lab. She is in her junior year and studies psychology, chemistry and biology. Her ultimate goal is to attend medical school in Chicago and work as a pediatrician or child psychiatrist. Her favorite hobby is to watch *The Office* Thursday evenings.



# Academic Intervention Showcase

During Spring 2007 and Fall 2007, the NIU school psychology graduate students hosted a brand new event: The Academic Intervention Showcase. The showcase was held in part as a fundraiser, but also to increase awareness about evidence-based interventions to a variety of educators. The Academic Intervention Showcase was an huge success! A total of over 350 teachers, psychologists, and administrators were in attendance in the morning and afternoon sessions. Graduate students gave 10-15 minute presentations about a variety of academic interventions, both reading and math, and spanning kindergarten through 12th grade. Proceeds from the event may be used to pay for ISPA and/or NASP fees for SPSO members, purchase hotel rooms at ISPA to promote attendance at the conference, sponsor social events such as a welcome party for incoming first year students, and purchase additional academic interventions that would be available to students in the program.



From the top left: Lyndsay Jenkins, Adam Larson, Travis Flewelling, Al Gonzalez, Molly Quigley, Christine Malecki, Jim Goodwin, Brandy Doyle, Lisa Davidson, Audrie Laird, Anicka Garcia, Matthew Swanson, Callie Dixon, Daphne Hill, Ashley Payne.

Great Job Everyone!





## Presentations:

- “Academic Intervention Showcase; Mini-Skills” by Audrie Laird, Matt Swanson, Callie Dixon, Daphne Hill & Christine Malecki (also Lyndsay Jenkins, Nicki Garcia & Brandy Doyle)
- “The Assessment of Bystander Participant Roles in Bullying” by Kelly Summers & Michelle Demaray
- “The Role of General Reading Resources and Discourse Strategies in Reading Comprehension” by P.J. Perry
- “A Comparison of Four Reading Fluency Interventions” by Brandy Doyle & Lisa Davidson
- “What is an Academic Intervention? Measuring Educators' Knowledge” by Adam Larson & Christine Malecki
- “Academic Enablers, Social Support, and Academic Achievement Related to ADHD” by Lyndsay Jenkins & Michelle Demaray
- “A Longitudinal Analysis of Social Support, Victimization, and Distress” by Lisa Davidson & Michelle Demaray
- “Coping with Relational Bullying in the School” by Lisa Davidson & Michelle Demaray
- “Best Practices for Serving English Language Learners with Disabilities” by Corey Ray-Subramanian
- “After School Program Effectiveness and the Role of Social Support” by Lyndsay Jenkins, Nicki Garcia & Christine Malecki

## Some of our Current Graduate Students:

(Beginning at top left: Ryan Woodward, Travis Flewelling, Jim Goodwin, Al Gonzalez, Christina Brown, Nicki Garcia, Aundrea Jamison, Erin Bedford, Molly Quigley, Kristina Dauber, Brandy Doyle, Lyndsay Jenkins, Karen Enockson, Molly Hopkins.)



## SPSO

The School Psychology Student Organization (SPSO) is a group of graduate students who provide opportunities to gain support, knowledge, and advice from other students. It allows its members to get to know other school psychology students and promote awareness of the field to others in the university. Specifically, SPSO provides support to incoming cohorts through a mentor program and hosts activities for School Psychology Awareness week. The majority of students in the school psychology program participate in SPSO, and all members must serve on a committee or hold an office. The officers and committee members for the current year are: Lyndsay Jenkins as President, Anicka Garcia as Vice-President, Jim Goodwin as Treasurer, Molly Quigley as Secretary and Service Project Committee Chair, Brandy Doyle as Social Events Committee Chair, and Travis Flewelling and Al Gonzolas as Events Committee Co-Chairs.

## Upcoming

- All alumni will be contacted to become members of an NIU School Psychology alumni e-mail listserv to share information among colleagues, faculty, alumni, and current students.
- We plan to host other training events similar to The Academic Intervention Showcase; please let us know what topics may be useful.
- Hopefully, future newsletters will include updates on where alumni are and what they are doing.
- A special thanks to our NIU Advisory Board members who are: Diane Kleckler (School Psychologist), Don Sibley (School Psychologist), Todd Gorges (School Psychologist), Terry Schuster (School Psychologist), Vicki Collins (NIU Assistant Professor), Jennifer Nolten (Adjunct Faculty), Lisa Davidson (Student Rep) and Lauren Westermann (Recent PhD Graduate).
- Keep in touch!

