Summer 2014 Newsletter Highlights

It's been a great year, and there are so many things to share with you! From conferences to special campus events, our students, faculty, and alumni remain quite busy. Inside, there are several program and student announcements. Recent publications and presentations are also highlighted. Congratulations as well to several summer graduates and to the incoming cohort of 2014-2015! Last, a summary of CASPER’s second year of services is provided. Have a great summer!

Program Alumnus Elected President of NASP

Todd Savage, a doctoral graduate of the School Psychology program at the University of Kentucky, was recently elected the President-elect of NASP! The announcement below was taken from NASP's official website:

“Todd Savage has worked professionally in Kentucky, New Mexico, and Wisconsin, where he is currently a graduate educator at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He teaches courses in diversity and inclusion, consultation, assessment, advocacy and public policy, research, and crisis prevention and intervention. He has coauthored numerous publications related to culturally responsive practice; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender student issues; and school crisis prevention and intervention matters. He is a PREP4RE trainer and has cofacilitated numerous PREP4RE workshops.

Todd has served NASP in a variety of roles, including state delegate, regional representative, workgroup chair and cochair, and program manager. His biographical statement notes that “through these positions, he has garnered much insight into the operations of NASP as well as a deepened purview of the field.” In his first election response to the membership, Todd stated, “The NASP president should be connected to school psychologists at all levels, from students to early career professionals, from seasoned practitioners to retirees.” His professional experience would indicate that he has a wide range of experience that will help him stay connected to the membership. Todd is excited to continue serving on the Executive Council but this time with the new title of president-elect of NASP.”
APA Self-study

The APA self-study was sent to the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) and received by the May 1st deadline. The final document weighed in at 731 pages, including course syllabi, program handbook, 2-page faculty vitae, among other documents. The CoA confirmed receipt of the self-study and will conduct an initial review. The initial review may result in a request for clarification or additional information. If favorably reviewed, the CoA will approve a site visit that will occur sometime in the Fall 2014 semester. Faculty will keep students updated on the progress of the self-study. A big thank you to April Sigler who helped with the self-study!

NASP Program Review

The NASP program review was submitted electronically on March 15th. We should receive a response from NCATE/CAEP by August 1, 2014 regarding the EdS program’s standing with NASP. Faculty will share news as soon as it is received. Again, a big thank you to April Sigler who helped with the NASP self-study!

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS & HONORS

The School Psych program will have a new addition in November with Baby Fedewa #2! Congratulations, Dr. Alicia Fedewa!

Dr. Rachel Hammond was selected as a Teacher Who Made a Difference and honored on April 26, 2014!

Congratulations, Dr. Hammond!
SASP Elects New Officers, Finishes a Great Year

SASP recently elected officers for the next academic year! SASP also participated in several events this past semester, including: a presentation on youth gang activity in Lexington, a parent presentation about having a child in special education, and Light It Up Blue. SASP officers and members also enjoyed the annual Keeneland Spring meet (pictured below)!

SASP Officers for 2014-2015

- PhD President: Alexis Rodgers
- EdS President: Cailin Collins
- Vice President: Katie Hastings
- Treasurer: Kyle Widdison
- Secretary: Katherine Terrell
- NASP Liaisons: Kirsten Scheil and Jenna Sketch
- Council of Student Leaders Rep: Kirsten Scheil
- Historian: Jenna Sketch
- Intramural Chair: Cody Davis

Pictured above are first and second year students at Keeneland's Spring meet.
SASP and program faculty attended the 2nd annual Light it up Blue event sponsored by the UK Special Education Department’s Student Council for Exceptional Children. Various parts of Taylor Education Building were “lit up” with blue lighting in honor of autism awareness day on April 2nd. Students also prepared a poster describing services provided by the CASPER Clinic.
Students, faculty, and many alumni attended and presented at the annual NASP conference this past February! This year, the conference was in Washington, DC, which provided unique opportunities for NASP members to visit Capitol Hill and even advocate for public policies related to school psychology! Next year, the conference is in Orlando, Florida. Submit your presentation proposals by June 11th at nasponline.org!

Martha Hinchey, Jennifer Hoffman, and April Sigler presented findings from two social skills intervention groups with students with ASD who received services from our training clinic. April also presented findings from a survey on the relationship between school practitioners’ self-efficacy in counseling transgender youth and school climate factors.

The POTUS and FLOTUS even made an appearance! Well, sort of...
CONGRATS, SUMMER GRADUATES!

Congratulations, Dr. Ashley Alumbaugh, Dr. Melissa Murphy, and Dr. Rebecca Goodney! Ashley and Melissa both graduated with a PhD this May (pictured at left). Ashley is also pictured below with Dr. Fedewa. Rebecca Goodney (not pictured) also defended her dissertation on May 1st and will graduate this summer!

PROGRAM WELCOMES NEW COHORT

The School Psychology program is pleased to welcome the incoming 2014-2015 cohort of 10 EdS students and 3 PhD students, who will introduce themselves in the Fall 2014 newsletter! Welcome to the program!!!
Students, faculty, and alumni recently attended and presented at the annual IMFAR (International Meeting for Autism Research) conference, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Several first and second year doctoral students collaborated with faculty to present their research!

Pictured above: Kirsten Scheil and Alexis Rodgers at the conference.

Pictured left: Dr. Campbell presents on knowledge of Autism for parents with low literacy.

Pictured below left: Dr. Ruble, Alexis Rodgers and Venus Wong present on the effects of COMPASS on the self-efficacy of teachers of students with autism.

Pictured below right: Dr. Ruble and Dr. Aiel-lo present on the influence of child and teacher characteristics on the educational placements of students with autism.
Selected Faculty and Student Publications


Recent Grant Submissions

In March, Dr. Campbell and his research group submitted a grant proposal entitled "LTSAE in Early Child Care: Acceptability, Feasibility, and Effectiveness with Providers serving Families of low SES" to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Selected Faculty and Student Presentations


CASPER finishes its 2nd year in providing services to the community

The clinic opened its doors in Fall 2012 to provide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder, as well as their families. Today, the clinic provides social skills interventions, family therapy, individual therapy, diagnostic evaluations, and family education, training, and support. During the 2013-2014 academic year, the clinic staffed one full-time pre-doctoral intern, three part-time advanced graduate student clinicians from the department of school psychology at the University of Kentucky, and one part-time advanced graduate student from the department of clinical psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. Along with the graduate students, the clinic staffed four part-time undergraduate students from the psychology department who earned course credit for an undergraduate internship placement. Graduate doctoral students provided a total of 121 services during the Fall 2013 semester. The most common service provided in the Fall was group social skills instruction. Graduate doctoral students provided a total of 88 services during the Spring semester as of April 15, 2014. The most common service provided in the Spring was diagnostic evaluation. We look forward to continuing to serve our community throughout the summer and next academic year!

CASPER practicum students, interns, and undergraduate interns celebrated the end of a successful Spring 2014 semester in the clinic. Pictured from left: Dr. Campbell, Venus Wong, April Sigler, Katie Pyne, Katibeth Lybrand, Betsy Caldwell, Ashley Alumbaugh, Maureen Hayat, and Sarah Hoarston.

Dr. Campbell welcomed doctoral student Betsy Caldwell’s son, John, to his weekly research lab meetings!