

School Psychology Program Newsletter



*Educational, School and
Counseling Psychology*

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Program Events and News

Annual Ugly Sweater Bowling Party

The annual bowling party was a success! Thank you to all those who attended. The highest scoring bowlers were Madison Yee and Dr. Fedewa. They rocked it! The competitive "Ugly (or most likeable) Holiday Sweater Contest" went to Dr. Hammond and Brooke Messer. Congratulations to all of our

Bowling Winners



**Madison Yee and
Dr. Fedewa**

Sweater Winners



**Dr. Hammond
and Brooke
Messer**



Program Events and News (continued...)

Kentucky Association for Psychologists in the Schools (KAPS)

Current 2nd and 3rd year school psychology students attended the annual KAPS conference in November at the Lexington Convention Center.



Great job participating Josh!



SPAW Week

School Psychology students set up a table in Dickey Hall for School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW). This year's theme was "Find Your Focus".



Welcome New Faculty!



Dr. Aspiranti received her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She completed her pre-doctoral training through the Tennessee Internship Consortium with a focus on assessment and intervention for children with autism. She worked as a school psychologist in a rural public school district and holds her professional license in psychology. Her primary research interests include the development and validation of academic and behavioral interventions in a school-based setting, particularly using single-case design. Dr. Aspiranti teaches Parent-Child Counseling, Psycho-educational Interventions and Legal-Ethical Issues.

Dr. Woods received his PhD from The University of Memphis, completed his pre-doctoral training in School Psychology at Dallas Independent School District, and his post-doctoral training at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Broadly, his research focuses on the assessment of Black students and non-discriminatory assessment; social justice in consultation/collaboration and program evaluation; and community-based research with youth-focused organizations to build behavioral health capacity for local communities and marginalized communities across the globe. Dr. Woods was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to Vietnam and Singapore from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Dr. Woods currently teaches the following courses: Cognitive Assessment, Personality Assessment, and School-Level Services.



Dr. Fedewa's Finland Adventure!

In January, Dr. Fedewa arrived in Jyväskylä, Finland to study the implementation of “Finnish Schools on the Move” a national program designed to put more physical activity into school days. As the Finnish data has suggested since the start of the program in 2010, there is a powerful link between student health and academic achievement. Working at several schools within the city and with the **LIKES** research lab, Dr. Fedewa explored the various means through which Finnish schools integrated activity for K-12 youth and measured the effectiveness of these approaches, particularly for youth with disabilities. Although Dr. Fedewa had to return early given the COVID-19 pandemic, she hopes to return to Finland to finish her project and experience more of Finnish schools! Below is a picture of Dr. Fedewa with her two children, Vada (9 years) and Eric (5 years).



Publications

- McCleary, D. F., & **Aspiranti, K. B.** (accepted for publication). *Development and reliability of the Comprehensive Crisis Plan Checklist, 2nd Edition. Psychology in the Schools.*
- Hulac, D. M., **Aspiranti, K. B.**, Kriescher, S., Briesch, A. M., & Athanasiou, M. (accepted for publication). A multisite study of the effect of fidget spinners on academic performance. *Contemporary School Psychology.*
- **Ruble, L. A.**, Love, A. M., Wong, V. W., Grisham-Brown, J. L., & McGrew, J. H. (2020). Implementation fidelity and common elements of high quality teaching sequences for students with autism spectrum disorder in COMPASS. *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders, 71*, 101493.
- Scarpa, A., Jensen, L., Gracanin, D. Ramey, S., Dahiya-Singh, A., Ingram, L., Albright, J., Gatto, A., Scott, J., & **Ruble, L.** (2020). Access to Autism Spectrum Disorder Services for Rural Citizens. *Journal of Appalachian Health.2(1)*, 25-40.
- Snell-Rood, C., **Ruble, L.**, Kleinert, H., McGrew, J., Adams, M., Rodgers, A., Yu, Y. Wong, W. & Odom, J. (2020). Stakeholder Perspectives on Transition Planning, Implementation, and Outcomes for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Autism. 1362361319894827.*
- Wong, W.H., McGrew, J., & **Ruble, L.** (2020). Predicting the Outcomes of Parents of Transition-Age Youth or Young Adults with ASD. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. 1-17*

Presentations

- **Aspiranti, K. B.,** Hilton-Prillhart, A., Dula, M., ***Ebner, S.,** & Bell, S. (2020, February). *Increasing sight phrase reading skills using tablet-based interventions*. Symposium, National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), Baltimore, MA.
- **Aspiranti, K. B.** (2020, February). *Increasing on-task behavior in inclusionary classrooms*. Paper session, National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), Baltimore, MA.
- Bolourian, Y., Dababnah, S., Azad, G., L Kosh, A., **Ruble, L.** (Panel Chair), Boyd, B. Parents and teachers: Collateral benefits for children with ASD. n International Society for Autism Research Conference, Seattle, WA, United States. <https://www.autism-insar.org/> (Conference canceled)
- Dahiya, A.V., **Ruble, L.,** Kuravackel, G., Scarpa, A. (2019, November). *Efficacy of a Telehealth-Based Parent Training for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): Rural versus Urban Areas*. Poster presented at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA.
- **Findley, J. A., Ruble, L. A.,** & McGrew, J. H. (2020, May 6–9). *Empirical investigation of structural and process treatment fidelity in an autism-specific consultation intervention*[Conference poster]. International Society for Autism Research Conference, Seattle, WA, United States. <https://www.autism-insar.org/> (Conference canceled)
- McCleary, D., & **Aspiranti, K. B.** (2020, February). *Crisis: Evaluating and improving district crisis plans*. Practitioner conversation session, National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), Baltimore, MA.
- **Ogle, L., Ruble, L. A.,** McGrew, J. H., **Mitchell-Chavez, A. & Pinkman, K.** (2020, May 6–9). *Utilizing COMPASS Supervision to Improve Intervention Plan Quality for Students with Autism* [Conference poster]. International Society for Autism Research Conference, Seattle, WA, United States. <https://www.autism-insar.org/> (Conference canceled)
- **Ogle, L., Ruble, L. A.,** McGrew, J. H., & **Pinkman, K.** (2020, May 6-9). *A Randomized Controlled Study of Compass: How Much and What Type of Coaching Is Needed to See Teacher Adherence to Intervention Plans and Student Goal Attainment Progress?* [Conference poster]. International Society for Autism Research Conference, Seattle, WA, United States. <https://www.autism-insar.org/> (Conference canceled)
- **Ruble, L.,** & McGrew, J. (2020, Jan). *Special Educator Burnout is Stable and Predicted by Role Clarity and Excessive Demands*. Poster presented at the Annual Project Director’s Meeting, Institute of Education Sciences, Washington, DC.
- **Woods, I. L.,** Vu V. H., & Nguyen, P. L. (2019, October). *Building collaborative partnerships to support students*. Paper presentation at the 5th International Conference on Child Mental Health: Mental Health Literacy in the School and the Community, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Tran, V.C., **Woods, I. L.,** & Sareth, K. (2019, October). *Mental health literacy regarding developmental disorders: A cross-cultural perspective*. Roundtable presentation at the 5th International Conference on Child Mental Health: Mental Health Literacy in the School and the Community, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- **Yee, M., Ruble, L. A.,** McGrew, J. H. (2020, May 6-9). *Examining idiographic approaches for monitoring IEP goal progress in children with ASD across ages* [Conference poster]. International Society for Autism Research Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.

Grants

- **Aspiranti, K. B.** (PI). (Funded, April 2020). *Developing an evidence-based math fluency app: The Taped Problems Intervention—Summer Research Support*. University of Kentucky (\$7,500).

Alumni Spotlight



★★★★★★★★

Each newsletter features a different UK School Psychology alumnus to highlight the variety of experiences in the field!

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Brooke Browning

When did you graduate from UK with your PhD degree?

2013

Since you graduated from UK, where have you worked? Describe your roles.

I moved to Knoxville, TN in 2012 to complete my APPIC internship with the Tennessee Internship Consortium in School Psychology. My placement was at Cherokee Health Systems, and I have worked at Cherokee full time since 2013. Cherokee is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides integrated care to all people regardless of ability to pay for services. I currently work in a pediatric primary care clinic. I complete screening and diagnostic assessments for autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities, provide Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and work as a Behavioral Health Consultant as part of the pediatric primary care team.

In your current position describe a typical day

One of the many things I love about my job is that each day is different. My schedule can include administering cognitive and ASD assessments, interpreting results and consulting with parents, providing therapy to kids, or consulting and intervening about a variety of concerns such as ADHD, depression, sleep problems, disruptive behaviors, ASD, developmental delays, obesity, feeding problems, school refusal, anxiety, or trauma.

Tell us about your life outside of School Psychology?

I love spending time with my husband and 2-year-old daughter. I participate in adult tennis leagues and enjoy traveling, visiting family and friends, going to concerts, watching sports, and exploring the beautiful city of Knoxville.

What have been some of the most important lessons you have learned while in the field?

Challenges?

I continue to learn new lessons all the time. My internship led me to the unique role of a school psychologist working in pediatric primary care. I have learned the importance of the integrated care model and psychologists being involved in prevention and health promotion, early intervention, and treatment of children and their families. One of the challenges has been learning about behavioral medicine, but thankfully I have had excellent primary care providers to



Spotlight with Brooke Browning Continued

work with along the way.

What advice would you give to current graduate students?

Discover what you are passionate about and be prepared to adapt to changing roles.

If you were in a position to hire, what would you look for in a school psychologist?

In addition to strong clinical skills, I would look for someone who is flexible, reliable, respectful, and exhibits good listening and communication skills.

How has the field changed since you graduated?

The biggest changes have certainly been over the past month with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are learning to serve through telehealth assessments and therapy to support a population of patients who are stressed and scared.

What's your favorite part of your job?

Helping inspire hope and promote change in families...and playing with kids.

What's your favorite memory from the University of Kentucky?

I smile as I remember my years at UK. I have wonderful memories about socializing and studying with friends, going to football and basketball games, Ugly Christmas sweater parties, Keeneland, weddings, working with the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky, learning from excellent school psychologists during practicum placements, and working with Dr. Prout and the other supportive faculty.

What's your favorite quote?

Be the change you wish to see in the world -Gandhi

What's the last movie you saw?

La La Land

For even more information about the School Psychology program, visit our website:

<https://2b.education.uky.edu/edp/school-psychology-overview/>

And like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Kentucky-School-Psychology/1500205603560497?fref=ts>