New Year, New Faculty

The School Psychology program is proud to announce the arrival of 3 new faculty members, Dr. Matt Burns, Dr. Steve Kilgus, and Dr. Kelly Schieltz. They joined the program this past fall and have made the already nationally respected and award-winning program one of the largest in the country with 8 core faculty. Dr. Matt Burns is the new Associate Dean or Research for the College of Education and specializes in intervention for reading and math, uses assessment data to determine appropriate interventions, and response-to-intervention frameworks. Dr. Steve Kilgus is an Assistant Professor coming from East Carolina University. His interests include emotional and behavioral assessment, function-based behavioral intervention, and statistical methods for the evaluation of diagnostic accuracy. Dr. Kelly Schieltz is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Licensed Psychologist, and Licensed Behavior Analyst coming from the University of Iowa. Assessment and treatment of severe challenging behaviors, assessment of the interaction between academic skill issues and behaviors displayed in school-aged children, and providing applied behavior analytic services via Telehealth are among her interests.

Currently, the program includes 22 doctoral, 10 specialist students, and 8 core faculty. The Ph.D. program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

“Since my arrival... I have enjoyed acclimating myself and my family to Columbia, MO and getting to know my colleagues and the students. I am looking forward to continuing to develop those relationships and begin developing my research line with individuals who engage in severe challenging behavior here at MU.”

- Dr. Kelly Schieltz

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Awards, Publications, Presentations, Oh My!

Awards
Dr. Melissa Maras received a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for the Most Outstanding Advisor.
Wes Sims was nominated for NASP School Psychologist of the Year.
Kristy Warmbold was selected to be part of the Graduate Leadership Development Program.
SASP won a NASP recognition award for School Psychology Awareness Week. The organization will be recognized at the Student Leader meeting at the NASP Convention in Orlando this February.
Sarah Owens won the Raymond White Fellowship award.

Presentations

Publications
Publications Con’td…


New/Course Changes

Summer 2015

- Literacy in SPED with Dr. Lembke (switched from Spring semester)*

- Psychoeducational Assessment will be 12:30-3pm

- Cognitive Neuroscience will be 6 week course (May-June)*

*Time is TBD

VOLUNTEERISM

The ESCP Department participated in Adopt-a-Family for Christmas and SASP went shopping for gifts!

Information Day: Fall 2014

Information Day, or Info Day, is an annual event that SASP organizes for potential students from all over the country to attend and gather more information about our specific program and school psychology in general. This year, Katie Hartenbach took the lead with help from fellow graduate school psychologist students this past October.

ATTENDANCE:
23 potential students attended Info Day which is a huge leap from previous years.

"I enjoyed hearing from the students, staff, and current practitioners. It was very helpful to hear from a variety of voices."

EVALUATION DATA:
1. When students were asked on a scale of 1-5, 1 being not helpful at all and 5 being extremely helpful, students ranked average scores for the following questions related to the components of Info Day:

- Overview of School Psychology: 4.59
- Overview of MU's School Psychology Program: 4.71
- Faculty Research and Teaching Interests: 4.76
- Q&A with Current Practitioners: 4.41
- Q&A with Current MU Students: 4.65
- Application Procedures: 4.65

2. Students were asked the following questions on a scale from 1-5, 1 being extremely unlikely and 5 being extremely likely. The following are the averaged responses:

- Likelihood to pursue graduate studies in school psychology prior to attending Information Day at MU: 3.59
- Likelihood to now pursue graduate study in school psychology in general (at any institution): 4.29
- Likelihood to now pursue graduate study in school psychology at MU: 4.0

"Thanks for having this day! It answered all of the questions I had and more!"

RECRUITMENT TECHNIQUES:
Called MU
MU Psych Undergrad Advising List Serve
ESCP website
Psychology Club Presentation at MU
Recommended by Dr. Katie Jacobs
Other Schools List Serve
School Psychology Awareness Week

School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW) engages students at all levels of learning and development to promote personal achievement, growth, and resilience, as well as a sense of connectedness and wellbeing. The theme for the 2014 School Psychology Awareness was Strive. Grow. THRIVE!

SASP kicked off the week by spending an afternoon volunteering at Coyote Hill in Harrisburg, Missouri. Coyote Hill is a Christian family foster home organization for children and adolescents in mid-Missouri. SASP planned relay races, games, and a dance competition, and other indoor/outdoor activities for the 20 children and adolescents that were there. This volunteer event has been an annual event for the past 2 years and is planned to provide respite for the full-time foster parents as well as to provide awareness about school psychology supports in schools, and give back to the community (Picture on right).

SASP contacted the Missouri Association of School Counselors, and had a blurb about School Psychology Awareness Week sent out on the state-wide listerv to all school counselors and school counseling graduate student members.

SASP also posted several trivia questions about school psychology on our Facebook and Twitter pages throughout the week, in order to engage conversation and discussion about the profession. Subway gift cards were obtained for the selected winners.

To end the week, SASP handed out 200 cups of hot chocolate and cookies for free to students at Speakers Circle, on a perfectly chilly winter day. We advertised the event on the university electronic advertisement screens throughout the week, with a blurb about School Psychology Awareness Week. This was a huge success, with lots of visitors! Along with the free hot chocolate and cookies, we handed out NASP "What is a School Psychologist?" brochures and flyers that had a QR code to NASP's webpage, along with information about School Psychology Awareness Week and our student organization's social media accounts. We answered questions and engaged in many conversations with visitors about school psychology as a profession, our program, and the important role that school psychologists play compared to other mental health professionals and psychologists working both in and outside of schools.

Contact Information:
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Upcoming Events:

1/21 - Student vs. Faculty trivia @ International Tapthouse, 7pm

1/23 - SASP’s first meeting of the semester! Time TBD

1/30 - EdS Interview Day

2/17-2/20 - NASP Convention @ Orlando, FL

4/17-4/19 – SASP Weekender Trip to Pettis County

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