



# School Psychology Bulletin

## Spring 2017

### Greeting from the Editors

Happy Spring, Towson School Psychology Students and Alumni!

We would like to send big congratulations to the second years on securing their internship placements for next year! We would also like to extend best wishes to the interns as they prepare for graduation!

This spring's edition of the newsletter includes a section on NASP 2017, featuring some of our students who attended the conference in San Antonio this February. Don't miss the informative practicum and internship Q&A (especially if you are a first year student!), and be sure to stay up to date with fellow students and alumni by viewing our "Congratulations" section.

We hope you have a wonderful spring and summer. See you in the fall!

-Jess and Brooke

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### Important Dates

- April 7:** Comprehensive Exams
- April 21:** MSPA Spring Conference
- May 16:** Last day of classes
- May 17-23:** Final exam period
- May 18-20:** Graduation
- June 20-21:** MSPA Summer Institute
- May 30– July 19:** Summer Session
- August 28:** Fall classes begin

### Questions or Concerns?

Stop by the GA office (LA 1101) or contact the School Psychology GAs:

Jessica Smolarz: [jsmola1@students.towson.edu](mailto:jsmola1@students.towson.edu)

Brooke Sanchez: [bsanch5@students.towson.edu](mailto:bsanch5@students.towson.edu)

### Spring 2017 Office hours

#### Test Library

- Monday: 12:00 PM-3:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM-3:30 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM-7:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM-12:00PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM– 2:00 PM

#### School Psychology GA Office

- Monday: 10:00 AM– 3:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM– 4:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM– 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM-4:00 PM



## School Psychology Awareness Week

Thank you to everyone for helped make School Psychology Awareness Week a success by helping with tabling and wearing your shirt! Special thanks to our NASP representative, Michelle Wolanski, who organized the tabling efforts, ordered the shirts, and came up with creative ways to promote the field!



(From left to right) Brooke Sanchez, Michelle Wolanski, and Caroline Pellerin encourage undergraduates to learn more about school psychology by tabling in the student union and asking students to write one small step that they will take to improve the world around them.

First and second year students show off their SPAW week shirts in the photo to the right!





## First Year Students' Shadowing Experiences

Every year our first year students shadow and interview a school psychologist to learn more about the typical day to day activities that a school psychologist completes. Thank you to all of the wonderful school psychologists, many of whom are Towson alumni, who were willing to let our students shadow them!

"I really enjoyed my shadowing experience! I got to observe multiple classrooms with varying levels of special education support, see some testing, and watch a counseling session. In the midst of the theoretical learning during the first semester, it was a really fun hands on experience and such a great reminder of why I want to pursue this career!"

Rachel Potter '19

"I had the opportunity to observe students in several classrooms, sit in on multiple parent/teacher meetings, and even contribute part of my own budding theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. I was blown away by the school psychologist's expertise, diligence for student and parent advocacy, and all-around positive impact/influence within the school community. After my shadowing experience, I'm more eager and excited than ever to become a school psychologist!"

Kayleigh McGrattan '19

## *School Psychologists Inspire*

My shadowing experience was an amazing learning opportunity.

Observing in classrooms, attending meetings, and experiencing the daily routine of a school psychologist was a great way to integrate the information we were learning in class. The school psychologist I shadowed seemed incredibly qualified and it was really reassuring to know that she was a Towson alumni and that I will be receiving the same training that she had.

Kaylee Weitz '19

On my shadow day in the fall, I was amazed by all I observed and learned in just 7 hours, confirming the fluid and active role of a school psych. What I took away from the day is the need to be creative! I admired my school psych's ability to work with what she was given and what she had time for in ways that were enjoyable for her and beneficial for all the students and teachers she worked with.

Clare Bailey, '19



## Practicum Experience: Michelle's Experience in Baltimore County

Wondering what your practicum experience will be like? Now you can look at Michelle's answers below to get some guidance about what to expect during your practicum

### **Q: How do you balance practicum with your other courses?**

**A:** The most important thing for me has been learning how to schedule my days effectively. I make sure to start my days with clear priorities set, whether I am at practicum all day or getting work done for classes. Of course, flexibility is key, especially at practicum-- students go home sick, teachers have things come up, last minute team meetings get scheduled, etc. I also schedule time for self-care, which is so important!

### **Q: What is your favorite part of your practicum? What is your least favorite part?**

**A:** My favorite part of practicum is actually being able to work directly with students! It has been awesome getting to know students in my schools through counseling, interventions, assessments, and working in classrooms. My least favorite part is probably not being able to spend as much time at my schools as I would like to. We are learning so much valuable information through classes and from our supervisors, but we are limited in implementing all of these ideas with time constraints.

### **Q: How much are you doing on your own versus being supervised?**

**A:** In the beginning I relied on my supervisor much more than I do now. When I started, I spent a lot of time shadowing; now, I communicate independently with teachers and parents, schedule my days based on what I need to get done and which teams I would like to go to, then spend the rest of my time helping my supervisor with her cases. I still consult with her throughout the day to ask questions, ask for help, get feedback, hear about her cases, etc.

### **Q: How are you spending most of your time at practicum (e.g., testing, counseling, in IEP meetings, etc.)?**

**A:** I spend lots of time going to teams, even if I am not involved in the case. It has been helpful to learn about team dynamics, processes, and outcomes for SST and IEP meetings. My supervisor has a high testing caseload this year, so I either work on my own cases or help with hers. The rest of the time is usually spent counseling (mostly students with IEPs), doing classroom observations for FBAs and evaluations, and consulting (informal and formal).



## Internship Experience: Kim's Experience in Howard County

Nervous about heading to internship? Kim responded to a variety of questions about her internship experience to help give first year and practicum students an idea of what to expect.

### **Q: How has your role in the school changed from practicum to internship?**

A: In the first few weeks of internship, my role was pretty similar. I did a lot of observing of my supervisors and took the time to orient myself to each of my schools. After about three weeks, my supervisors started giving my cases to work on; however, I was still very reliant on their feedback and support each step of the way. Since December, I have been functioning in the role of the school psychologist fairly independently. There are some days where I only see my supervisor in passing throughout the hallway. Although I feel more confident in my skills as each day passes, I still consult with my supervisors on the regular basis.

Another major difference is the workload. In practicum, I focused on one assessment at a time. Now, in internship, I may have several assessments occurring at once. Last, but certainly not least, as an intern, I have become part of the school community. This has helped me to gain the trust and support of students, teachers and staff members in each of my schools.

### **Q: What about your internship experience has been different from what you expected? Why?**

A: I am placed in an elementary school and high school. I expected to enjoy the elementary level much more than the high school level. To my surprise, I absolutely love working in a high school!

### **Q: What is your favorite part of your internship?**

A: One of my favorite aspects of my internship is counseling students. I also like learning more about crisis intervention and becoming more involved in crisis response.

### **Q: What is your least favorite part of your internship?**

A: Sitting in meetings back to back!





## NASP 2017 Annual Convention: February 21-24 in San Antonio

This February, a number of Towson students traveled to San Antonio for the annual NASP Convention. Here are some of their reactions to attending this year's conference:

"NASP's annual convention is a great time to connect with professionals, learn about the most up-to-date practices, and hone your skills in a variety of ways. Not only are we able to become better School Psychologists and better people, we are able to explore interesting and unique cities as well! The experience was educational and exciting all at once, and also provided a great opportunity for professional networking!

Ryan Stickel '17

I feel truly privileged to have attended the NASP 2017 conference. Besides several informative sessions that helped me grow my knowledge of school psychology, the opportunity to meet professionals and peers from all over the country left me with a wider breadth of experience than I would've been exposed to back home. I am definitely looking forward to future conferences and events!"

Grace Walker, '19



(From left to right) Brooke Sanchez, Kayleigh McGrattan, Kaylee Weitz, Clare Bailey, and Grace Walker at NASP.

"My favorite part about NASP was listening to the keynote speaker in a room with over 3,000 school psychologists and school psychology graduate students. It was so empowering to look around and see a room filled with people who share the same passion."

Brooke Sanchez '19



(From left to right) Dr. Mortenson, Shannon McGrath, Susan Folsom, and Ryan Stickel present a poster at NASP!

"Attending NASP as an intern (as opposed to a first year student), I found it easier to choose sessions because I was more knowledgeable about the various topics offered and could focus on sessions with practical applications to my current schools or interests. Because so many fascinating sessions were offered at the same time, it certainly helped to be a part of a group that could "divide and conquer" the sessions. Presenting a poster was also a wonderful experience because not only do you have the opportunity to explain your research to fellow practitioners, but you can also engage in dialogue that may spark interest in other topics or methods."

Susan Folsom, '17



## Upcoming MSPA Events

Over the next couple of months, there are two opportunities to attend a MSPA conference! To learn more about MSPA and become a member, visit <http://www.mspaonline.org/>

### MSPA Spring Conference

**Topic:** English Language Learners: Assessment and Intervention

**When:** Friday, April 21, 2017, 8:15 AM to 4:00 PM

**Where:** The Hotel at Arundel Preserves,  
7795 Arundel Mills Blvd, Hanover, MD 21076

**Presented by:** Samuel Ortiz, Ph.D.

**To register, visit:** <http://www.mspaonline.org/event-2261295>

### MSPA Summer Institute

**Topic:** Language-Based Literacy Challenges: Assessment and Intervention

**When:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 to Thursday, June 22, 2017

**Where:** Atlantic Sands Hotel & Conference Center,  
101 N. Boardwalk, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware 19971

**Presented by:** Kathleen T. Williams, Ph.D., NCSP

**To register, visit:** <http://www.mspaonline.org/event-2452091>



## Congratulations!

We are excited to congratulate the following Towson students and alumni on their recent news and accomplishments:



- **Amanda (Molden) Wells ('10)** on welcoming her son Owen Richard Wells on February 15, 2017 (see left) .
- **Dave Polsinelli ('10)** on his engagement.
- **Kelsey (Windmuller) Ivy ('11)** on welcoming her son, Elliot Robert Ivy on January 19, 2017 (see below left) .
- **Casey (Knauss) Chappelle ('12)** on welcoming her daughter Abigail on December 23, 2016 (see left corner).
- **Jennifer (Meadows) Moore ('12)** on welcoming her daughter Lucille "Lucy" June Moore on January 13, 2017 (see below) .





## Congratulations! (cont.)



- **Olivia Lewis ('13)** on her engagement (see left).
- **Megan Byer ('17)** on her marriage to Jon Caudle on December 4, 2016 (see below left).
- **Steven Lesko ('18)** on his engagement to Mikaela Wesmiller (see below right).
- **Brooke Sanchez ('19)** on the acceptance of her research to the Eastern Psychological Association.



**Do you have an accomplishment or life event that you  
would like us to highlight in the newsletter?**

E-mail [Jess](#) or [Brooke](#) to have it included in our next issue!