

University of Central Arkansas



# SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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*Introducing the School Psychology family...*





Words of Wisdom from  
**Dr. Ron Bramlett,**  
Interim Department Chair

I heard some very encouraging words recently. It came from our APA site visitors. As part of their visit, they interviewed our doctoral students across all years of the program. They also interviewed our practicum and internship supervisors from schools and mental health facilities. The APA visitors were extremely impressed with YOU! One reviewer said he wished his program (at a very large, prestigious university) had our students. He said we were the most diverse he had ever seen and he had done site visits at 12 universities. He waxed poetic about your knowledge, your ability to articulate our program, and the positive manner in which you represent us. While our faculty try to provide you with the skills you will need to be successful, it is ultimately up to you to represent our program in a professional manner. I have no doubt that if our Masters' program was being reviewed, we would have heard the same types of things. We should never lose sight of the fact that our program (NASP and APA) is as good as any in the country and that you can be as well prepared as ANYONE!!

# Welcome New Students!

## Masters

Terri Benner, Brianna Boyce, Paula Burr, Megan Effinger, Patrick Galucki, Anna McKnight, Kayla Nichols, Alex Parker

## Doctoral

Shelby Dunlap, David Young

## First Semester Experiences.

*Shelby Dunlap* - "Although taking 15 hours my first semester was extremely challenging, I really enjoyed getting to know my cohort."

*David Young* - "Nothing would have prepared me for my first year in graduate school. Even though there were less social distractions I found myself constantly busy with school work."

*Patrick Galucki* - "It was busy and hectic! However, not only did I learn so much about the field of psychology, I began to realize what I can contribute to this field."





## “State of the Program”

**Dr. John Murphy,**

**Director of Training**

My friend Barry Duncan wrote a book called *What's Right with You?*, in which he encourages people to notice and build on what is working in their lives instead of focusing only on what is wrong. This column applies Barry's advice to the school psychology master's and doctoral programs at UCA. Don't; get me wrong—we aren't perfect and there are always things that we can do differently to strengthen our programs. But in the midst of fixing and improving things, we can take the time to “stop and smell the roses” by acknowledging what we do well and what we want to continue to do in the future. Here are four things that immediately come to mind:

- ✚ Graduates of our master's and doctoral programs have performed consistently well on internship sites, so much so that many sites have created specific positions in order to hire people following their internship.
- ✚ Both programs have a steady tradition of excellence and success, a tradition that is bolstered by the NASP-approved status of the masters program since 1994 and APA-approved status of the doctoral program since 2005.
- ✚ Our faculty and students have been actively involved in state and national school psychology organizations in a variety of ways over the years including executive committee officers.
- ✚ In a recent APA site visit of our doctoral program, the site visit team commented favorably on many aspects of the program, not the least of which was the high quality of our students, student-faculty communications and relationships, and the overall effectiveness of the doctoral training program.



## Information about “The Clinic”

### Dr. Heather Martens

The purpose of the Clinic is to provide training opportunities for graduate students in the Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic. Future plans include partnering undergraduate and graduate students in service learning settings. Funds collected by the Clinic are intended to support the facility as well as supplies, materials, and training.

#### **History of the Psychology and Counseling Training Clinic**

Our Clinic began approximately 5 years ago. Prior to Fall 2013, clinic activities included assessment of UCA students conducted by UCA graduate students. In Spring 2013, Dr. Martens supervised students while they worked in Mayflower School District conducting evaluations for K-12 students. During the Summer 2013, the Clinic was moved to 2290 Dave Ward Drive. The new facility is an important milestone in that it will allow service expansion as well as more learning experiences for students.

Currently, the Clinic is staffed by a doctoral student for 20 hours per week. Dr. Martens is also on site at least 3 days per week. In Fall 2013 we began and will complete the first policies and procedures manual to promote staff and client safety as well as adequate infrastructure. Clinic staff and graduate students have continued serving UCA students and community members by providing affordable assessment services. Additionally, doctoral students in school psychology have piloted an assessment/intervention service line for K-12 and UCA students. This service will be provided to the community based on a sliding scale beginning in the next calendar year. Finally, this semester, clinic staff and doctoral students are working with Dr. Bihm and the Faulkner County Day School to complete a service learning project.

Future activities include joining with the UCA Speech Language Department to conduct assessments for suspected Autism spectrum disorders. Additionally, we hope to develop a Community Resource-Intervention Manual. This manual will compile highly structured, detailed, research based interventions into convenient resource. The Clinic Committee is also investigating other possible needs which remain unmet in our community.

At the beginning of Spring 2014 eight dedicated students joined Drs. Martens and Simon for 2-1/2 day training on the ADOS-II. This was the first such training offered through the clinic and more trainings on Autism assessment are expected in the future.

# Counseling and Psychology Students (CAPS)

CAPS—the official organization of graduate students in our department—serves a valuable role in our programs and department, and many of our school psychology students have served key leadership positions in CAPS over the years.

**President:** De'Von Patterson

**Vice President:** Marne Eggleston

**Secretary:** Kayla Gowin

**Treasurer:** Michael Dillon

**School Psychology Ph.D. Representative:** George Hopps (APA Rep)

**School Psychology M.S. Representative:** Priya Goyal (NASP Rep)

# *School Psychology Organizations*

## **National Association of School Psychology (NASP)**

There are many benefits of joining NASP including : professional representation, networking with other school psychologists, professional resources and discounts on materials. The mission of NASP is to represent school psychology and support school psychologists to enhance the learning and mental health of all children and youth.

[www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)

## **Arkansas School Psychology Association (ASPA)**

Through ASPA you can connect with local professionals across Arkansas, attend professional conferences, access helpful school psychology resources and materials, and apply for scholarships and grants. ASPA is interested in serving the mental health and educational needs of all children and youth through advancing the standards for delivery of psychological services in Arkansas schools and promoting the professional identity of persons delivering those services.

[www.aspaonline.net](http://www.aspaonline.net)

To learn more about these organizations and/or become a member, visit the NASP and ASPA websites.

# *Important Events*

- **NASP Convention:** February 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 (Washington, D.C.)
- **Portfolio due to advisor:** March 19<sup>th</sup> 2014
- **Spring break:** March 22<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2014
- **Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students:** April 19<sup>th</sup> (UCA)
- **Department Award Banquet:** April 24<sup>th</sup> (UCA)
- **APA Convention:** August 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Washington, D.C.)
- **ASPA Conference:** September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Little Rock)

Dr. Eric Hartwig



# CAPS Halloween Party 10/26/2013



CAPS is thankful to Dr. Martens and her family for organizing and hosting the Halloween party at their house. Many faculty and students attended and had a great time!

