Welcome Dr. Kizzy Albritton!

The Kent State School Psychology Program is proud to announce and welcome our new faculty member.

Dr. Kizzy Albritton joined us in August 2015 as an instructor of Diagnosis of Childhood Disorders in Schools, Instructional Assessment, and Home, School, and Community Collaboration.
Welcome Dr. Albritton! (continued from page 1)

Dr. Kizzy Albritton is an Assistant Professor of School Psychology at Kent State University. She earned her Ph.D. in School Psychology from Georgia State University. Prior to earning her doctoral degree in School Psychology, she worked for several years as a special education teacher at the elementary and middle school levels. She also holds a Master of Education degree in Behavior and Learning Disabilities. As part of her doctoral studies, she completed her pre-doctoral internship at the Atlanta Speech School located in Atlanta, GA. The Atlanta Speech School is the nation’s most comprehensive center for language and literacy and provided Dr. Albritton with a diverse and unique training experience. Her dissertation focused on the development of a comprehensive model for school psychologists to consult with preschool teachers to improve the language and literacy performance for at-risk students from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. She will continue to pursue this area of research as an Assistant Professor. Additional scholarly interests include the effective implementation of Response-to-Intervention models in early childhood settings, teacher professional development, and improving the academic outcomes for students from ethnic minority backgrounds. Dr. Albritton teaches graduate courses on the diagnosis of childhood disorders, instructional assessment procedures, and lifespan development.

Recent Graduates

Ashlee Bonar
Allison Crofford
Amanda Durbin
Marc Frederickson
Aaron Hart
Elizabeth Jeschke
Jamie Jeswald
Brett Marlowe
Angelia Mendak
Angela Slabaugh
Samantha Walker
Shannon Goss

Recent Dissertation Defenses

The Violet “Vi” Bica-Ross Leadership in School Psychology Scholarship

Description of the Vi Bica-Ross Scholarship

In recognition of Vi’s contributions to the state of Ohio and NASP and through her groundbreaking ideas that are still valued today, we are honored to establish a scholarship in her name. The Violet “Vi” Bica-Ross Leadership in School Psychology Scholarship is designed to encourage individuals with leadership potential become future trailblazers in the field of School Psychology. It is awarded each year to one entering graduate student within the School Psychology program who demonstrates strong leadership skills. The student who receives the scholarship is required to attain certain levels of leadership involvement at both a state and national level. These activities include: (a) becoming a student member of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and the Ohio School Psychologists Association (OSPA); (b) participating in School Psychology Awareness Week activities during the Fall semester; (c) participating in School Psychology Advocacy activities during the Fall and Spring semesters; (d) contributing to NASP printed and online student resources (e.g., a Student Connections article to appear in the NASP Communiqué); (e) becoming involved with the NASP Annual Convention (e.g., presenting on student workgroup panels); and (f) attending and contributing to the OSPA Executive Board meeting. Additional leadership opportunities will be fostered in accordance with the awardee’s planned professional trajectory.

Who is Jamie Lautenschleger?

The recipient of the first Vi-Bica Ross Leadership in School Psychology Scholarship is second year Jamie Lautenschleger from Solon, Ohio. Jamie completed her undergraduate degree from The Ohio State University in Human Development and Family Science with a specialization in Early Childhood Education and Development and a minor in Clinical Psychology and Individual Differences. While at Ohio State, Jamie held several leadership positions. Jamie was a member of the Mount Leadership Society Scholars program, a select group that focuses on leadership development, community service, and social justice issues. Through this organization, Jamie planned and advised several service projects related to education and poverty, and also held the Recruitment Chair position. She also held leadership roles in the Delta Zeta Sorority as the Leadership Chair and Philanthropy Round Captain for Formal Recruitment. Two leadership experiences that she stated made her more culturally aware were a study abroad experience in the Czech Republic and volunteering at Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services in Columbus to instruct English to Somali and Nepali refugees. Her relevant experiences include an internship at The Friendship Circle supporting the development of children with special needs as well as working as a counselor at both a day camp and an overnight camp. Jamie was also the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award within Greek life at Ohio State in 2013.

Jamie Goals:

Jamie is interested in school psychology because she has a passion for working with children, diverse populations, and education. As a recipient of the scholarship, Jamie plans to get involved in the school psychology community both at Kent State and in the surrounding community. Jamie has become a member of NASP, OSPA, CASP and KAASP, as well as an active member in Kent State's student organization, Student Affiliate's in School Psychology. Jamie is assisting with School Psychology Awareness Week and participating in events such as a school supply drive and talking with undergraduate students about the field of school psychology. Jamie hopes to assist with recruiting new students to Kent State's School Psychology program.
Technology in Practice

The PAR Assessment Toolkit provides assistance to School Psychologists in their day to day assessment tasks. The app is very intuitive and has a great user interface that offers easy access to specific tools desired for mental health professionals when administering standardized tests. Instead of gathering multiple tools before administering a test, the Par Assessment Toolkit provides users with a selective main menu, in which they can pick and choose their tools directly from their smart phone.

When a user first opens the app, they will be prompted to a main menu which consists of the following tools: normal curve, conversion chart, age calculator, mental age, stopwatch, and a compliancy calculator. Users can choose accordingly to better assist their testing procedures. The normal curve is an illustration included in the app for use in discussion with students, parents, teachers and other professionals. The conversion chart is a simple way to convert between z-scores, t-scores, percentiles, and standard scores. The age calculator provides users with an individual’s accurate age in days, months, and years with a quick input of their birthday. The stopwatch is quickly accessible through this app for school psychologists who need to monitor timed assessments. The stopwatch also offers lap timing for those who need to quickly transition from task to task. The compliancy calculator is a helpful tool for school psychologists to time themselves and calculate how long they have before a referral must be seen.

The creators of the PAR Assessment Toolkit definitely had school psychologists and mental health professionals in mind. This app is designed for professionals in educational settings who administer tests and assessments on a daily basis. The app is free, however, it includes in-app features that are optional to purchase depending on the user. One of the new in-app purchases is the scoring conversion/conversion modules which allow for the conversion of raw scores to T scores. The PAR Assessment Toolkit app is compatible with both iOS and android devices. Although the app is compatible with iOS products, it is optimized for the iPhone 5 creating a barrier for individuals with alternate phones.

It appears that the PAR Assessment Toolkit is an overall helpful device to assist school psychologists throughout their days. The tools provided within the app will help to save time and effort and allow school psychologists to focus their time on more important details, while also continuing the mission of PAR of “Creating Connections and Changing Lives”. 
**COMMUNICATION MATTERS!**

The NASP (2010) theme of *School Psychology Awareness Week 2015* was Connect the Dots and THRIVE. The theme was to recognize that everyone has strengths, skills, and abilities that can bring about positive change and achievement.

The theme also builds on incoming NASP president Todd Savage's presidential theme of *School Climate: #connectthedots*, which will focus on the many components necessary to create a positive school climate in which all students feel welcome, safe, and respected and can thrive.

The School Psychology Awareness Poster incorporates ideas such as: *Work hard, be grateful, be kind, play, listen, think twice, read, try, laugh, practice, and relax.* These words highlight some of the behaviors that lead to a more positive classroom environment and attitudes that bring about success in school-work and relationships with others while forging a sense of well-being and a positive outlook on life. Not only can dots be connected with the individual, but they can also be connected on the classroom, grade, school, and systems levels.

NASP reminds us that as School Psychologists we have many opportunities to help students, teachers, administrators, and colleagues connect their dots in order to thrive personally and as a school community.

The Student Affiliates in School Psychology have had a prosperous and enjoyable year! From participating in campus events to more community-wide activities, we have been busy gaining valuable experiences and taking time out of our somewhat hectic schedules for a little fun! Our service and volunteerism in campus and the community earned us the 2014 Service Excellence Award from the Kent State University Center for Student Involvement. We are honored to receive the award and hope to continue and even expand our service this year!

During the summer semester, we took time to have a meet-and-greet cookout at Fred Fuller Park. The event was a wonderful opportunity for good conversation between first and second year students as well as delicious food and a friendly game of corn hole.

We kicked off the fall semester with another social for mentors and mentees to get to know one another at Ray’s Place in Kent. A night of socializing and relaxation was a perfect start to the new semester! First year representatives were also chosen early fall semester. Congratulations to Morgan Alden and Christine Athey for joining the SASP board as representatives. We wish you the best in your year of fundraising and encouraging involvement. In addition, SASP was involved in multiple community and campus-wide activities throughout fall semester. We participated in the Depression Screening on Kent Campus. This event was open to students and community members and allowed SASP members to use skills gained in coursework to interpret questionnaires that assisted in identifying students at risk for depression, PTSD, or anxiety disorders. The event allowed our organization to assist in supporting these students by recommending resources on and off campus for psychological and counseling services. SASP’s community and campus involvement was focused on spreading awareness of the profession, as well. We participated in activities for School Psychology Awareness Week to increase awareness of the profession on our campus and promote a greater understanding of the role of school psychologists in the community. The theme for the week was “Connect the Dots and Thrive” which recognizes that everyone has strengths, skills, and abilities that can bring about positive change and achievement; therefore, SASP’s efforts were focused on the general theme for both students in schools and us as students. We partnered with Kent State Psychology Department to organize an information session for undergraduate students to learn more about the profession of school psychology and the application process. We also hosted a bake sale to raise money to provide school supplies for a local school to further promote support to students.
Upcoming SASP Events

Several students are planning to attend the NASP conference in New Orleans on February 10th through the 13th. The theme is “#ConnecttheDots to Improve School Climate”. Students will be able to learn from the keynote speaker, information sessions, and presentations. In addition, numerous students and faculty members are planning to present at the conference. We hope that we enjoy our time at the conference as well as in New Orleans!

SASP is looking forward to our third year of fundraising and participating in the American Foundation for Suicide Awareness’s Out of the Darkness Walk in April. In addition, planning for the event is occurring with SASP this year, so we will be in charge of making sure that the event runs smoothly. The walk acknowledges those who have been impacted by suicide, raises funds for prevention, and increases awareness of the prevalence of suicide. It will be incredibly helpful for us as school psychologists in training to understand the resources and screening tools that may be available in schools for those at risk. Last year we were awarded second place for fundraising efforts, and we hope to continue to raise significant funding from our organization for such a noteworthy cause.