School of Psychology Highlights

2011-2012
PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY (Program Directors)

Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology (Dr. McGrath):

- For the Fall 2012, the Ph.D. program has accepted 14 students. Of those, one is Hispanic, one is Asian-American, and two are male. Converting new GRE scores to the old scale, the mean Verbal + Quantitative GRE score is 1304, which is one of the highest means in the history of the program.
- Many Ph.D. students have had the opportunity to publish and present, usually under the mentorship of the faculty (see below).

Psy.D. Program in School Psychology (Dr. Kaufman):

- Our incoming Psy.D. class for the Fall 2012 consists of 16 students chosen from one of the largest application pools to date with 4 students of minority background and one student bilingual and certified in American Sign language with extensive experience assessing children with hearing impairments. Although nationally there is a trend toward few male applicants to school psychology graduate programs, our entering class is 33% male. Our applicant pool, when compared to national norms, was overly representative of qualified minority candidates.
- One student admitted to the doctoral class of 2012 earned the MA/certificate degree from FDU.
- Through our partnership with several schools, School Psychology graduate students have served as consultants and program evaluators to the Dumont TLC After-School Program for at-risk 3rd and 4th grade students. Students have also had the opportunity to provide services at St. Benedict’s School for Boys in Newark, NJ.

M.A./Certificate Program in School Psychology (Dr. Kaufman)

- The MA/Certification program has obtained NASP accreditation. We officially received that accreditation (conditional) in February, 2012.
- Continue to maintain almost 100% employment for our MA/certificate graduates.
• For the Fall 2012 class, we have made offers to 14 students, 6 of whom are of minority background and 5 are males.

M.A. Program in Forensic Psychology (Dr. Prentky)

• The program continues to explore the possibility of adding an Licensed Practical Counselor (LPC) option (2nd track).
• A new BA/MA in Forensic Psychology has been approved.

M.S. Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology (Dr. McGrath)

• The program was designated as meeting American Psychological Associations standards for preparing psychologists in psychopharmacology, one of only two in the country to receive this honor.

Certificate Program in Integrated Primary Care (Dr. McGrath):

• The Certificate Program in Integrated Primary Care (CPIPC), offered by Fairleigh Dickinson University, was developed specifically to help busy healthcare professionals interested in preparing themselves for the healthcare system of the future. The program is multidisciplinary in focus and appropriate to a wide variety of professionals: physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists. The CPIPC enhances licensed professionals' ability to function effectively in a multidisciplinary, collaborative primary care setting through a didactic program that uses a combination of distributed and online teaching methods, emphasizing applied learning via case formulation.

B.A. in Psychology (Dr. Armeli)

• The program developed the Behavioral Research Scholars Track (BRST) for highly qualified students who are interested in careers in social science research. Students can use this program as a springboard for further graduate training or as a terminal degree for research careers in the private sector. The program allows MA students to substitute three existing statistics and research methods courses
from our Clinical Ph.D. program for the two courses in the existing MA program. The other major difference between the existing MA and the BRST will be the requirement of the MA thesis and the computer applications course (PSYC6128; which is an optional course in the current program).

- The School of Psychology has created a new “Psychology Research Lab” specifically to foster faculty and student research collaboration. This laboratory opened in September 2011 and has been in continual and constant use since then. The research lab is equipped with computer cubicles, specialized hardware and software for conducting cognitive and behavioral research, and a sophisticated physiological data collection system. The space is ideal for conducting research on a range of psychological topics, including memory, attention, face perception, and social behaviors in interpersonal interactions, and has been equipped with sophisticated technology to allow for physiologic and neurophysiologic measures. Moreover, research conducted in the lab is already being presented by undergraduate and graduate students at departmental, regional, and national conferences and will likely result in peer-reviewed publications.

**Undergraduate Research Day**

On March 30, 2012 we held our first annual *Undergraduate Research Day* in which six undergraduate students presented research posters summarizing their ongoing or completed research projects.

**Writing Initiative to Improve the Writing Skills of Undergraduate Students.**

During Summer 2010, Dr. Jamie Zibulsky began a collaborative inquiry process with Dr. Ellen Spaldo (Director of Writing on the Metropolitan Campus) and instructors for General Psychology I for the purpose of developing strategies that psychology instructors can use to support writing development in introductory level Psychology courses. After piloting these strategies in a section of General Psychology I in Fall 2010, and testing their effectiveness by comparing writing outcomes in a class that utilized them and a class that conducted “business as usual,” we
continued to infuse effective strategies into General Psychology II in Spring 2011. Pilot-testing phase was completed during Fall 2011, when we utilized these strategies in both General Psychology I and II classrooms.

In each class, students were administered brief pre- and post-tests (i.e., three paragraph written responses to a specific prompt based on course readings). These tests were then scored anonymously by four readers, who utilized a scoring rubric based on ENGL 1101 and ENGL 1102’s Learning Outcomes Assessment rubric. Ongoing data collection efforts will cease during Winter 2012, and the data that we have gathered from these four course sections (pre- and post-tests from each class) will be shared with the School of Psychology and the broader university community. Data analysis will be completed in Summer 2012.

Preliminary results from Fall 2010 indicate that these strategies do have an effect on student writing outcomes in many areas, although the same strong effects were not found when data from Spring 2011 were analyzed. Results across semesters will be synthesized to ensure that the most effective strategies are implemented throughout the School of Psychology in future years.

- Seven students, Rosie Larrea, Amanda Fierro, Danira Mata, Masha Russo, Vanessa Velez, Shamyra Shaw, Ran Xia, and Alexa Wooley, presented their research at the FDU University Honors Program’s Annual Research Day.
- The FDU Psychology Club remained very active. This club has had up to 35 members attending its weekly meetings. The club has sponsored several events (raising money for cancer awareness with the “Be Bold, be Bald” campaign), and continues to have a regular column, PSYCH CORNER, in the FDU newspaper, the Equinox.
Center for Psychological Services (Dr. Ulrich)

- For the second year in a row, the center received a $25,000 grant from the Johnson and Johnson Family of Companies to enhance our Clinical Services for Veterans and Families program. Funding used to provide training for faculty, staff, and students, financial support for 7 doctoral candidates, service development and delivery, center marketing, and national and regional conference presentation/attendance for faculty and doctoral candidates.

- For the second year in a row, the center received a $25,000 grant from Horizon of New Jersey to enhance our Clinical Services for Veterans and Families program, with a focus on depression screening, education, and intervention. Funding used to provide training for faculty, staff, and students, financial support for 7 doctoral candidates, service development and delivery, center marketing, student and faculty research, and national and regional conference presentation/attendance for faculty and doctoral candidates.

- For the fourth year in a row, the center received a $6,000 Community Service grant from New Jersey Psychological Association Foundation for a clinic-based project completed under the direction of Dr. Ulrich that addresses the needs of the underserved. All $6,000 goes to support a doctoral candidate. This year’s project is geared toward the needs of young adults with Asperger’s beyond college graduation as our first COMPASS cohort is preparing to graduate this year.

- The Bergen Record, the Star Ledger, and other papers (3/2012) highlighted the COMPASS program (and the Center for Psychological Services) and one of the COMPASS undergraduates in a piece on programs that aid college students with Asperger’s.

- Four grant funded poster presentations were made at regional or national professional conferences on clinic-based programs.

- The COMPASS team (faculty, doctoral students, doctoral graduates) developed and hosted a workshop for the community on supporting the successful transition from High School to College for students with Asperger’s. The workshop was
attended by more than 35 parents, secondary school personnel, and adolescents/young adults with Asperger’s.

- The center completed a survey (funded by Ace-Walmart Success for Vets grant on which Dr. Ulrich was co-PI) on FDU Student Attitudes Towards Combat Veterans and Potential Peers. Results indicated that FDU students are overwhelmingly welcoming and respectful of combat veterans as potential colleagues. The University of Texas, Fordham University, and the University of Arizona are currently considering use of our survey to assess the degree to which their institutions are “Veteran-Friendly”. No other such survey is known to be available and psychometrically tested.

- The center developed a New Student-Veteran Orientation course that has been adopted by the FDU Veterans Advisory Board to be piloted in the next year. Bergen Community College and other NJ Institutions of Higher Education have expressed interest in utilizing this course with their student-veteran populations.

- The center conducted 2 workshops for faculty and staff at Bergen Community College on recognizing and responding to the needs of Combat Veterans as Students.
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Faculty name in Bold)

Book Chapters

This past year the School of Psychology faculty have written a total of 16 book chapters on a wide range of topics (e.g., “Models of cognitive abilities”, “Assessment of eating disorders”, “The current status of ‘projective tests.’”, “Preparing for the anniversaries of crisis events”).


Highlights from the School of Psychology


Articles


moderates the effect of stressful life events on drinking behavior in college students of African descent. *American Journal of Medical Genetics.*


**Presentations, Workshops, Posters**

Faculty from the School of Psychology have presented at over 80 conferences and workshops regionally, nationally, and internationally. These presentations include both invited sessions and poster presentations.


4. **Dumont, R., Viezel, K.,** & Willis, J. (2012, March) *Testing using non verbal intelligence tests and dealing with cultural biases in testing.* *Bergen County NJ Inter-regional professional development collaboration among Bergen County Regions I, II, III, V, VI and Bergen County Special Services.* Hackensack, NJ.


24. Kaufman, J. (2011, August). Creating a positive classroom environment. Discussion at Faculty for Freshmen, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ.


32. **Lachenmeyer, J.** (January 2012). *Obsessive Compulsive Disorder In School Performance: Beyond Perfection.* Grand Rounds, North Shore University Hospital


   
   Grand Rounds presentation, New York University Child Study Center (May 2011).
   
   Colloquium, City University of New York (March 2012)
   
   Colloquium, Boston University (March 2012)


41. **McGrath, R. E.** (2012, August). *Integrated care and prescriptive authority: Key to the future of the profession*. To be presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Orlando FL.


51. **Prentky, R. A.** (12 April, 2012). Internet Porn: How College Students compare to offenders. 14th Annual Joint Conference of MASOC & MATSA. Marlborough, MA.


53. **Prentky, R. A.** (15 October, 2011). *Interfacing with the legal system as mental health professionals*. Symposium on Forensic Practice in the Mental Health System, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, N.J.

54. **Prentky, R. A.** (21 June, 2011). *Internet child pornography offenders: IO-only vs. CM-only vs. Dual. Given an Internet sex offender, what is the probability that he is a child molester?* Presentation before the United States Sentencing Commission, Washington, D.C.


cognitions. Presented at the 45th Annual Associations for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Toronto, ON.


80. Zibulsky, J. (2011, September). Monitoring progress over time: How to decide if interventions are working. In-service training workshop provided to K-2nd grade teachers in Little Ferry School District, NJ.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Samuel Feinberg
• Martin Luther King, Jr. Faculty Award, Office of Student Life, Fairleigh Dickinson University (2012)

Andrew Eisen
• Obtained a grant from the Todd Ouida Children’s Foundation for use in the Child Anxiety Disorders Program

Judith Kaufman
• Named to the National Planning Committee for Future(s) of School Psychology conference to be held Sept/Oct 2012
• Named Co-chair APA Division 16 Globalization of School Psychology Task Force
• Elected to the Board of Directors of the American Board of School Psychology

Robert McGrath
• 2012 Chair, Council of Postdoctoral Training Programs in Psychopharmacology
• 2011-present Member, American Psychological Association Advisory Group on State Implementation of Health Care Reform Initiatives
• 2011-present Chair, New Jersey Psychological Association Task Force on Health Care Reform
• 2011-present Member, American Psychological Association Board of Educational Affairs Primary Care Training Task Force
• 2011-present Member, American Psychological Association Council of Representatives
• 2011 Recipient, Fairleigh Dickinson University Distinguished Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship
• Quoted in the Family Practice News (November 7, 2011) article “Integrated Family Practice, Psychology Residencies Enhance Primary Care.”

**Robert Prentky**

• Federal Grant Proposals Submitted:

  Project: Risk and Needs Management of Sexual Misconduct in Youth: A Paradigm Shift  
  Sponsor: Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention  
  Administering Agency: FDU  
  Budget: $500,000 (DMC & IDC)  
  Submission Date: March 3, 2011

  Project: Internet Child Pornography and Risk to Sexually Assault Children  
  Sponsor: Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention  
  Administering Agency: FDU  
  Budget: $458,789 (DMC & IDC)  
  Submission Date: May 10, 2011

**Jamie Zibulsky**

• Summer 2011, was asked to serve as an Advisory Panel Member for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum Historical Exhibit

• Summer 2011, was asked to serve on the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education’s RTI Workgroup

• Received a College Research Grant for 2011-2012 for continued work on _Getting Ready for Response-to-Intervention: An Evaluation of Instructional Practices_ , a research project conducted in the Dumont School District. This project will be expanded to include schools in the River Edge School District in 2012-2013.

• Began collaborating with researchers in Connecticut and Portugal on a research project entitled _Assessing Educators' Readiness for Implementing Reading Interventions: a Cross Cultural Comparison_.

• Was made an Editorial Board Member of _School Psychology Quarterly_ in January 2012

• Became a Nationally Certified School Psychologist in February 2012
• Participated in four presentations at the annual meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists in February 2012 (one talk, one mini-skills session, and two symposia)

• Presented five times within the State of New Jersey to education stakeholders (four to K-12 educators, and one at UMDNJ)

• Collaborated with graduate students on two poster presentations (one for a national conference and one for a regional conference)

• Coordinated university-based supervision for four School Psychology graduate students who served as consultants and program evaluators to the Dumont TLC After-School Program for at-risk 3rd and 4th grade students. FDU’s School of Psychology played an integral role in supporting the TLC program this year by soliciting undergraduate and graduate student involvement, hosting field trips, and providing consultative services to the district.

• Continued to serve as Program Coordinator for the School of Psychology’s ongoing Writing Initiative.

• Has one “in press” book chapter, four various encyclopedia entries, and published an article in NASP Communiqué.

Kathleen Viezel, Jamie Zibulsky, and Ron Dumont

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENT

Students from the School of Psychology have been very productive this past year, publishing (often with faculty mentors) 6 book chapters and 12 peer-reviewed journal articles. Students have also had the experience of presenting posters and papers at regional, national, and international conferences. Several students have also been recognized for awards and or scholarships.

**Book Chapters**


Articles


**Presentations**


2. **Curti, L. M., & Armeli, S.** (October, 2011). *Perceived organizational control over work stressors and its effect on perceived organizational support and negative affect*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Psychological Association, Fairfield, CT.


13. **Abujam, R., & Graber, J. A.** (2012, February). *Who are our college freshmen?* Presentation to Student Success Team, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ.


Awards

Danielle Politi, a Psy.D. graduate, won the award for the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation presented by the New York Association of School Psychologists.

Nick Sosa (Undergraduate)

Out of 170 applicants, Nick was chosen as one of only 15 candidates to participate in the NYU SPAM Lab Summer Internship Program. The program will run from June 4th to July 27th and takes a hands-on approach to the teaching and learning of basic research principles and processes. Within this context, Nick will be:

- Reading an evaluating research articles, developing an independent study, and presenting the findings at an NYU conference.

- Attending weekly lab meetings and graduate workshops designed to better prepare undergraduates for graduate level research.

- Creating stimuli, recruiting and running participants, coding and analyzing data, learning to develop skills needed to be an independent researcher.

FDU students (Pamela Rodríguez Ana Cervantes, Sandy Reyes, and Tiffany Interra) and Faculty (Ben Freer and Janet Sigal) attended Psychology Day at the United Nations.