Research Clerkship Day: Celebrating Scholarship

On July 23rd, the Child and Adolescent Track will have the opportunity to present, discuss, and share the scholarship that they have conducted and engaged in over the course of the initial year of the research clerkship. The goal of Research Clerkship Day is to showcase the work of the C&A students and inform the mental health community of possible clinical implications. In addition, Research Clerkship Day will also help prepare students for future professional conferences through the creation of academic posters, symposiums, and group presentations. In an effort to prepare students for the scholarship day, the RC day student committee members will be facilitating a discussion on “Best Practices for Presenting” and providing comprehensive guidelines for the creation of the student posters. In addition, the mentors will allow time for students to work on their presentations and posters during their required clerkship hours. Based on the responses from multiple surveys, the RC day committee grouped students as much as was possible according to their research topics and interests. Consequently, there will be a comprehensive range of topics pertinent to clinical psychology presented at the conference. Subject matter under discussion at the various symposia and presentations will include evidence-based practice, working with children in underserved communities, the use of expressive arts therapy, and many other exciting topics relevant to child and adolescent research. Moderators will include our own Drs. Abdul-Adil and Rubenstein, who are sure to facilitate plenty of stimulating conversation throughout the day. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, and the first symposium will begin at 8:30 am. After lunch, students will have the opportunity to present their individual work and view the work of others.

As this is the first clerkship day we are learning and shaping the day as we go along. Please feel free to reach out to any members of the RC day committee with any questions or concerns. We are all very much looking forward to this showcase of the C&A clerkship scholarship!

Here Comes Practicum...

We’re happy to announce that all 25 students enrolled in the Child and Adolescent Track received practicum placements for the 2008-2009 academic year. Below is a list of the sites in which students will be working.

Crystal Bauer—United Stand
Crystal Balfour—Community Mental Health Council
Rebecca Becker—Ada S. McKinley Community Services
Shani Bensman—Kennedy King College
Elyssa Bristol—Lakeshore Hospital
Christine Brooks—United Stand
Krishna Chari—HALP Clinic at UIC
Rachel Chase—Maryville Academy/Scott Nolan Center
Laura Chesslo—Community Mental Health Council
Olena Drozd—Lakeshore Hospital
Stephanie Evans—Hartgrove Hospital
Lauren Feiden—United Stand
Jenny French—Lakeshore Hospital
Stacy Glabach—Hartgrove Hospital
Brianne Henry—Streamwood Behavioral Health Hospital
Ivan Irie—Counseling Center of Lakeview CASP program
Saira Kahn—Riveredge Hospital
Elaine Kandalepas—Interfaith Samaritan Counseling Center
Annie Mettler—Erie Neighborhood House
Meade Pirkey—Francis Xavier Ward School
Lexi Silas—HALP Clinic at UIC
Fyeqa Sheikh—Erie Neighborhood House
Ann Srodulski—United Stand
Amrita Uttamchandani—Ada S. McKinley Community Services
Alex Zousmer—United Stand
2007-2008 Speaker Series

The 2007-2008 academic year marked The Chicago School’s Child and Adolescent Track’s first Speaker Series. We were honored to welcome distinguished professionals in the field to speak on a range of topics to help further the knowledge and awareness of issues that affect children, their families, and the community.

Dr. Robert Goerge from the University of Chicago’s Chapin Hall presented on the demographic shifts of Chicagoland children in the kickoff series, Leaping Forward: Meeting the Needs of Children in the 21st Century. Dr. Goerge also offered a Master’s class with C&A track students emphasizing program development to meet the expanding and unique needs of these children. Partnering with the School Psychology Program, the C&A track brought Dr. Jack Naglieri from George Mason University to headline the three part series Special Topics in Assessment: Meeting the Needs of Children and Their Families. His presentation on PASS theory and the CAS assessment tool provided expert knowledge and a new approach towards intelligence testing for children.

The Chicago School’s own Dr. Richard Niolon was the second presenter in the Special Topics in Assessment series. Dr. Niolon introduced C&A students to innovative and practical ways to assess parent’s styles and capacities in caring for their children.

Dr. Karen Trevithick was the final speaker in the Assessment series. As the coordinator of Eating Disorder Programs at Alexian Brother’s Hospital, she offered invaluable real world experience and familiarity with assessment of eating disorders in children and adolescents.

This summer the C&A track along with the School Psychology program invited Dr. Cynthia Brouillard to present to students. As head of diagnosticians for the Little Friends Center for Autism, she reviewed issues related to the assessment of autism and provided information about the ADI (Autism Diagnostic Interview) and the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule).

Stay Involved!

Committee News: We have officially launched a Research Clerkship Development Committee (dubbed RCDC), so please contact Amrita if you would like to get involved or share your ideas! Dr. Hardin has begun to contact interested students about being involved with the Faculty Search Committee, and Alex, Brie, and Krishna will be contacting everyone soon about a Welcome Committee for incoming 1st year students. Please contact the delegates if you have any questions or concerns or would like to become more involved. There’s always something to do! Stay tuned to your email for more info...

Student Spotlight: Crystal Balfour

I must say that I’ve had a great 1st year so far! It’s been a pleasure working with the C&A track students and faculty. The knowledge I’ve gained through working with Dr. Keller for the research clerkship has been invaluable. As part of the clerkship I had an opportunity to facilitate a 10-week, school-based intervention program for 7th grade girls called StronGirls. The program educates girls on issues related to building healthy relationships, prejudice/stereotypes, relational aggression and self-esteem. Throughout the program the girls are led by graduate students and given tools and strategies to overcome such issues with the use of workbooks and role-playing activities. I was very impressed with the response from the group of girls we worked with. Our hope was that by the end of the program the girls were better informed of how to resolve personal and peer conflicts. Though challenging, it was incredibly rewarding to see many of them engaged and eager to participate in the project.

I just recently I began orientation to my practicum site, the Community Mental Health Council. In addition to diagnostic training, the site also offers students an opportunity to work with their Parenting Assessment Team (PAT). PAT assists Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Court in evaluating parenting capabilities and by performing comprehensive assessments. I’ve only heard great things about the site and I’m looking forward to the experiences they have to offer.
WHAT WE’RE WORKING ON...
Delegate tasks for the summer and upcoming fall include
- Buddy system with incoming first year students.
- Individual Interviews with current C&A track students.
- Open forum meetings to discuss C&A Track activities held after Statistics and Assessment classes.
- Committee formation and duties.
- C&A social events. Stay tuned for BBQs and Bowling!

“...the last day feeling more passionate about the field of psychology...”  - Dr. Julie Leonard

C & A TIMES

Faculty News

C&A Track Welcomes New Faculty Members

The Child and Adolescent Track is proud to welcome three new faculty members: Drs. Tiffany Keller, Julie Leonard, and Trey Buchanan. We welcome them to the Track and look forward to the start of the 2008-2009 academic year.

DR. TIFFANY KELLER

Dr. Keller joined The Chicago School program faculty in 2006. She has taken a special interest in girl-on-girl bullying and in-school intervention for adolescent youth. She has given presentations on the subject and runs a nonprofit organization, StronGirls, that addresses peer bullying between girls. StronGirls has a brother program called The Boy Project, which also addresses emotional literacy and management and interpersonal skills for middle school boys. Dr Keller also has a vested interest in personality assessment, child and adolescent assessment, neuropsychological assessment, feminist psychology, and adolescent peer relations. Dr. Keller received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. She is a member of APA, National Academy of Neuropsychologists (NAN), Association of Educational Therapists (AET), and The International Neuropsychological Society (INS) and obtains ongoing education through these affiliations. Dr. Keller’s clinical work consists of an eclectic approach to child, adolescent, adult, and couples therapy as well as psychological and neuropsychological assessment with children, adolescents, and adults.

DR. JULIE LEONARD

Dr. Leonard received her MA in Counseling Psychology from Saint Xavier University in 1996. In 2003 she graduated from Roosevelt University with her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including community mental health, juvenile detention, schools, and residential settings with a diverse population, but primarily with children and adolescents. Dr. Leonard has been an Adjunct Faculty member at Saint Xavier University, Roosevelt University, and the Chicago School. She has taught classes in Clinical Psychology, Life Span Development, Psychopathology – Adult and Child/Adolescent, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Objective Personality Assessment, and Clinical Interviewing. Her interests include the link between early childhood neglect/abuse/trauma and the development of reactive attachment disorder, and how this portrays itself in antisocial/criminal activity in later adolescence. She also has an interest in the development of eating disorders and other addictive behaviors in children as well as contributing family dynamics. “I hope that students walk out of class the last day feeling more passionate about the field of psychology and saying that they want to learn more!”

DR. TREY BUCHANAN

Dr. Buchanan received his Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of New Hampshire in 1992. He also holds an M.A. in History and Theology of Psychology from the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Buchanan’s research interests focus on psychological development in childhood as well as understanding the historical engagement of psychology and religion. Dr. Buchanan has been a faculty member of Wheaton College since 1992 serving as assistant professor of psychology and Undergraduate Coordinator of the Department of Psychology. He is currently involved with research investigating social reciprocity in children with autistic spectrum disorders.