

# Student Affiliates in School Psychology

## Welcome First-Years!

On behalf of the Student Affiliates in School Psychology (SASP), welcome to the Kent State University's School Psychology program. Congratulations on your acceptance to this



amazing program! We know it took a great deal of hard work and commitment to get you to this point. Now, you are at the beginning of a fantastic, but nevertheless challenging, journey. We are excited to have you join us! Be prepared to take part in numerous group projects, compile many papers and powerpoints, and become an avid consumer of school psychology literature (reading textbooks and journal articles will now fill all the free gaps of time in your day!) You will also spend a lot of time visiting various educational settings to gain field experience hours! Our professors set the bar high so we can be the absolute best school psychologists we can be— but, keep in mind they want to see us succeed! Although it can be a rough road, just know YOU CAN



DO IT. Not only that, WE ARE HERE TO HELP! At first, you may feel overwhelmed and underprepared— you are not alone. Most of us felt that way at some point last year! Do not be afraid to ask for help! We are happy to offer any guidance we can along the way. So, no matter how silly you may think the question is, we've been there, so speak up! Welcome to SASP and we look forward to working with you over the next few years!

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*Mark your calendars! The SASP Summer Social will be the afternoon of July 7th following classes! More news to come via the listserv!*

## What is SASP?

The Student Affiliates in School Psychology (SASP) is a graduate student organization. All KSU school psychology students are automatically considered members of the local KSU chapter, and are encouraged to participate in monthly meetings and events. SASP works under the guidance of the American Psychological Association (APA), Division 16; however, SASP at KSU also recognizes allegiance with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) as well. The primary purpose of SASP is to provide a forum for current school psychology students to discuss relevant professional and academic issues and concerns. It also encourages the development of leadership and professionalism, and acts as a vehicle for communication within the department, university, and local community. In addition, SASP promotes professional development activities through the sponsorship of speakers and extra-curricular training. It also provides an opportunity to network with others in school psychology and professional organizations in the community.

## 2011-2012 SASP Goals

1. Facilitate meaningful activities for student involvement including:
  - ◆ Coordinating one or more community outreach activities
  - ◆ Participating in the Kent State University Homecoming Parade
  - ◆ Volunteering with the Kent State University Depression Screening
  - ◆ Hosting a speaker from the local community
2. Provide a framework of support for current graduate students by:
  - ◆ Encouraging communication with first-year students by providing regular opportunities to discuss questions and concerns related to graduate training and the KSU program
  - ◆ Promoting student mentorship program
  - ◆ Organizing a system to assist students in locating participants for assessment purposes
  - ◆ Facilitating regular social events



## Words of Wisdom from Current Students:



*Get here early to park! After 4 PM, people with any KSU parking pass can park in R16!*

*Get organized! Binders to accommodate Powerpoints and journal articles are a must!*

*Start planning and coordinating field visits early. Having a list of desired schools and contacts organized prior to the fall semester starting is helpful.*

*Keep up on reading— falling behind is VERY easy and it can be difficult to bounce back!*

*Recruit and schedule children early to practice testing from your family, friends and neighbors. You will need at least three for the fall semester, and more in the spring!*

*Keep files accessible on your computer by saving them to folders designated by class and by the NASP standards, to jump start your portfolio. Also, make sure to correct your papers as soon as you receive them.*

*Get a time management system in place from the beginning! Organization and planning are key!*

*Buy a video camera if you can afford it, because we film a lot of testing sessions and it is difficult to rent them out from the IRC at the same time!*

*As a cohort, break into groups of three students with which you can regularly share test kits. Make sure to discuss planned days of testing with each other in advance!*

*You aren't competing against anyone in your cohort to be the best in the class, whereas that may have been the case during your undergraduate years. You are all in this together! You are all great students or else you wouldn't be here in this program. Collaborate with one another, help each other out if someone doesn't understand something, ask each other questions, lean on one another for support. You will all need one another at some point in time. No one understands what you are going through like your cohort members!*

## Executive Committee Position Descriptions and Contacts:

**Chair: Caitlin Sabo** csabo2@kent.edu

- Assume responsibility for preparing SASP meeting agendas
- Facilitate meetings and events
- Facilitate the development of annual goals for the organization
- Serve as the general spokesperson for SASP as necessary
- Register SASP with the Office of Campus Life as a recognized student organization
- Review the GSS Charter and ensure compliance to retain funding eligibility
- Facilitate the planning and implementation of all elections and voting procedures
- Ensure the integrity of all SASP elections and voting procedures
- Assume primary responsibility for maintaining and updating the SASP webpage

**Vice Chair: Janel Calderone** jcalder3@kent.edu

- Advocate for the membership as its representative by serving as the student liaison at school psychology faculty/program meetings
- Create the SASP welcome newsletter
- Plan and coordinate the SASP Speaker Series, in conjunction with faculty input
- Coordinate community involvement events

**Secretary: Rachel Undercoffer** runderco@kent.edu

- Prepare, distribute, and revise meeting minutes
- Send/transmit any official SASP products to the general membership
- Monitor the SASP e-mail account (SASP@kent.edu) Assist the chair in facilitating, implementing, and tabulating election and/or voting results
- Regularly check the SASP mailbox (in 405 White Hall)
- Assist the chair with the maintenance of the SASP website

### Quick Start Guide to the School Psychology Lingo:

- SLD– Specific Learning Disability
- OHI– Other Health Impairment
- ASD– Autism Spectrum Disorders
- CD– Cognitive Disability
- ED– Emotional Disturbance
- TBI– Traumatic Brain Injury
- LEP– Limited English Proficient
- FBA– Functional Behavioral Assessment
- SLP– Speech & Language Pathologist
- OT/PT– Occupational / Physical Therapist
- SPSY– School Psychology
- ODE– Ohio Department of Education
- OSPA– Ohio School Psychologists Association
- NASP– National Association of School Psychologists
- NCLB– No Child Left Behind
- IDEA– Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- FAPE-- Free and Appropriate Public Education
- IEP– Individualized Education Program
- ETR– Evaluative Team Report (formerly MFE)
- RTI– Response to Intervention

**Treasurer: Meagan Urban** murban6@kent.edu

- Develop and maintain an annual budget of the organization and financial records of all SASP revenue and expenditures
- Review monthly financial statements from the financial institution with which SASP does business to ensure their accuracy
- Balance the financial records each month to ensure the SASP account remains in good standing
- Assume responsibility for making timely payments and reimbursements for all SASP business, including check-writing responsibility, in conjunction with the chair
- Transfer ownership of the SASP checking account, in conjunction with the chair, to the office holder and chair's names (once elected)
- Assist with fundraising efforts

**Doctoral Representative: Brittany Ruiz**

bruiz1@kent.edu

- Solicit feedback from and encourage involvement of other doctoral students in SASP meetings and events,
- Be visible and available to students in the doctoral program for questions and concerns.

## Executive Committee Position Descriptions and Contacts:

### **GSS Representative SASP: Kaitlin Eickemeyer keickeme@kent.edu**

- Advocate for the needs of SASP to the GSS
- Report to SASP any information that is pertinent regarding GSS bylaws
- Review the GSS Charter and By-Laws
- Inform and notify members about GSS sponsored activities
- Process GSS funding requests, as prescribed by the GSS Charter and By-Laws, for the SASP speaker series, in conjunction with the vice chair
- Process GSS funding requests, as prescribed by the GSS Charter and By-Laws, for SASP social events, in conjunction with the social & mentorship coordinator

### **GSS Representative SPSY: Greer Davis gdavis19@kent.edu**

- Advocate for the needs of SPSY students to the GSS
- Report to SASP/SPSY students any information that is pertinent regarding GSS bylaws, SASP duties to the University, etc.
- Review the GSS Charter and By-Laws
- Inform and notify students/members about GSS sponsored activities
- Inform and notify students/members of GSS travel reimbursement procedures and deadlines for professional conference attendance
- Be available to SPSY students to assist students with processing the necessary paperwork for GSS funding for professional travel
- Process GSS funding requests, as prescribed by the GSS Charter and By-Laws, for capital improvements for the SPSY program (if applicable)

### **Local, State, and National Liaison: Caitlin Sjöstrand csjostra@kent.edu**

- Disseminate pertinent information to SASP members from the following organizations:
  - Kent/Akron Association of School Psychologists (KAASP)
  - Cleveland Association of School Psychologists (CASP)
  - Ohio School Psychologists Association (OSPA)
  - Student Affiliates in School Psychology (national chapter)
  - National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
  - American Psychological Association, Division 16 (APA, Div. 16)

### **Social & Mentorship Chair: Elise Minick eminick@kent.edu**

- Recruit potential mentors for incoming students
- Facilitate the matching of new students to mentors at the new student's request
- Coordinate the planning of SASP social events, including food, activities, etc.
- Work with the GSS representative-SASP to secure funding for SASP social events
- Maintain SASP social event traditions

### **Internship Representative: Juleta Newkirk jnewkirl@kent.edu**

- Serve as the primary liaison between SASP, the Executive Committee, and student interns
- Solicit feedback from and encourage involvement of other student interns in SASP meetings and events
- Be visible and available to students completing internship for questions and concerns

### **First Year Cohort Representatives:**

- Solicit feedback from and encourage involvement of other first-year cohort members in SASP meetings and events
- Be visible and available to students in the first-year cohort for questions and concerns
- Assume primary responsibility for coordinating SASP fundraising events

Information for this newsletter was obtained from <http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/studentorgs/SASP/index.cfm>