

Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Kehle, one of UCONN School Psychology's own core faculty members, as he has been recognized in a recent study as one of the 20 most prolific school psychology research authors between 1907 and 2014! According to a new study from **School Psychology Quarterly**, he is ranked 18th and has published 19 articles on various topics, an incredible feat, especially considering the expanding field and the overwhelmingly large span of authors and years examined by the study. We could not be more proud to have such an accomplished and inspirational professor and mentor as a part of our program.

*We would also like to recognize that the same article cites **UCONN** as the **7th most published university** with 56 total school psychology publications!*

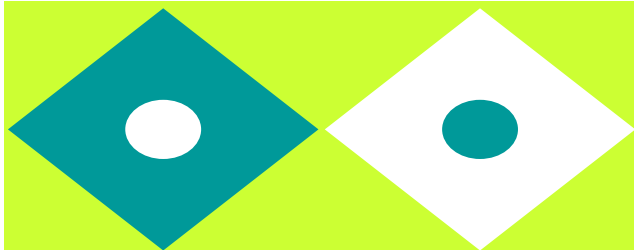
Congratulations to Dr. Kehle and our faculty for these incredible accomplishments! The article is attached for further reading.

Liu & Oakland, 2016

School Psychology Newsletter

March 30, 2016—April 5, 2016

Student Housekeeping Upcoming Dates



- **Students taking their Master's Comp exam in May should come prepared with all relevant paperwork to be signed. The exam will take place on Wednesday, 5/4 between 11 AM and 1 PM in GENT 203.**
 - All PhD students anticipating Spring degree conferral should be aware that dissertation defense announcements should be made by April 8th, dissertations should be defended by April 22nd, and a completed dissertation should be submitted by May 6th.
 - **We are currently looking for a missing WJ-IV Achievement. If you have borrowed it, please contact me so it can be returned to the test cabinets as soon as possible.**
 - Please keep in mind the timeline for the program. Students should be sure they are submitting necessary paperwork on time.
- **Class registration** time is upon us! Please check your cohort year's program handbook for your courses to enroll in and complete any relevant plan of study paperwork.
 - **4/7**—Please see last week's newsletter for more information about the **Neag Career Fair!**
 - **5/12—9 AM to 1:30 PM** will be the CBER Research Symposium. Please contact Ashley Boyle or see previous newsletters for more information. Please click for [registration information](#).
 - **6/1 at 6 PM— Save the date!** UCONN will be hosting the CASP Annual Awards dinner.

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

Margaret Mead

GA Opportunities

The School Psychology Program is seeking multiple half-time (10 hour) Graduate Assistants for the upcoming academic year. The responsibilities of the Program GAs include but are not limited to organizing admissions, managing assessment materials, maintaining multiple databases, assisting with practicum and portfolio evaluations, creating and distributing a weekly newsletter, and communicating with current and prospective students. The faculty also expects the Program GAs to be exemplary representatives of the school psychology program, within the Neag community and beyond.

UPDATE: If you would like to be considered for a Program GA position, please email the following materials to Kate Williamson (kathleen.williamson@uconn.edu) by the **extended deadline of April 22nd**: a cover letter outlining your interests and qualifications for the position; a current cv; an unofficial transcript of graduate work; and a letter of recommendation, which must be written by a UConn professor who is not a member of the school psychology core faculty (i.e., Drs. Kehle, Bray, Chafouleas, Sanetti, and La Salle). The faculty will review all completed applications after April 8th and make decisions by the end of the month.

Dr. Nick Gelbar is looking to fill a GA position this coming academic year at the UCONN Health Center/UCEDD. If you are interested in applying for this position or would like more information, please contact Dr. Gelbar directly with a CV or resume at gelbar@uchc.edu.

PART-TIME WORK OPPORTUNITY:

Melissa M. Root, PhD, is looking for someone for work part time for one afternoon a week. The position has potential for expanding into more frequent work and will involve working with an adult with Autism and Down Syndrome in the West Hartford Area. He needs mental stimulation in order to help prevent development of Alzheimer's. Please contact Dr. Root (meroot@uchc.edu) if you have any interest.

April NASP Student Update

NASP Membership

NASP's membership season kicked off on April 1, and now is a fantastic time to join or renew your membership. If you're not currently a NASP member, join today and you'll receive membership benefits through June 30, 2017—3 extra months of benefits—at the 12-month rate. [Join or renew here!](#)

National Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Awareness Month. In recognition of this important month, check out the [Autism & Pervasive Developmental Disorders](#) Interest Group—a forum for school psychologists and graduate students to share information and ask questions related to autism within NASP's member-only Communities.

Leadership Opportunity

Interested in a national leadership opportunity? Join the Graduate Student Committee! We are currently looking for both EdS- and PhD-track school psychology graduate students to join our team. As a member, you will be involved with providing communications to Student Leaders, helping to organize convention events, and serving as a liaison between graduate students and NASP. Applications are available on the [NASP Graduate Students Community](#) and are due **May 1, 2016**. For more information, please contact [Rachel Stein](#).

Job Opportunities

Seeking a position after graduation? Find your next opportunity using the [NASP Career Center](#)! Positions posted in the NASP Career Center are visible only to members for the first 7 days, so this is a great way to use your NASP membership to see the hottest jobs first. Getting ready for life after graduation? Check out the NASP member-only student fact sheet, "Bringing Your Vita to Life: Preparing for Internship & Early Career Positions." It's available on [the Student Fact Sheet page](#).

Nationally Certified School Psychologist Designation

If you're approaching graduation, now's also the time to begin thinking about [becoming an NCSP](#). The easiest time to apply for the credential is immediately after graduation. NCSPs demonstrate their commitment to the field by holding the highest national school psychology credential. Thirty-one states accept the NCSP as a route to school-based credential, simplifying your move between states. Additionally, some school districts provide a stipend for the NCSP or may require that their school psychologists hold the NCSP.

Sincerely,

Ashley Boyle & Dan Clark

NASP Student Leaders, UConn

Please read below for interesting information regarding suspension of children from school from the CT Office of the Child Advocate:

Q. My 5 year old was suspended from school for 5 days “for being aggressive” in class and hitting a staff person with his note pad. He has been struggling in kindergarten all year, and during this most recent incident he was also secluded for almost an hour and then walked out of the school by police into a waiting ambulance. I don’t know what to do. He was diagnosed as having anxiety when he was only 3 years old and he has an IEP, but these incidents are continuing, and now he is suspended for a week!

A. First, parents should know that the state laws changed in 2015 banning the use of out-of-school suspension for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, unless in the limited circumstance where during a hearing held to review the suspension, the school finds that the student’s behavior was of a “violent or sexual nature.” The intent of this new law is to dramatically limit (if not eliminate) the use of exclusionary discipline for young children consistent with educational best practices and guidance from the federal government. Unfortunately, young children who act out may frequently try to hit, kick or bite, and an administrator may identify such conduct as “violent” within the meaning of the statute. Please know that OCA does not condone that interpretation or the use of punitive discipline to protect a child from harming himself or others.

Temporary therapeutic removals from the classroom may address the immediate issues, and along with appropriate therapeutic interventions and prevention strategies, keep such incidents from recurring. Secondly, the use of seclusion and restraint in Connecticut is not permitted unless a youth is a danger to himself or others, and in the case of seclusion, where all less restrictive alternatives have been availed. Best practices suggests that any removal from the classroom should be brief and therapeutic, such as a temporary removal from positive reinforcement or “time out.” Seclusion and restraint should be avoided at all costs. By law, parents must be immediately notified of the use of any emergency intervention, the events that led to such intervention, and the impact on the child of the use of restraint or seclusion. Additionally, for children who are repeatedly subject to restraint or seclusion, recent state law provides that a Planning and Placement Team meeting should be held at the school to determine whether the child’s education plan should be amended, whether additional assessments should be done and new interventions put into place. For any child whose behavior impacts his or her ability to make progress in school, it is imperative that the child be evaluated in all areas of suspected disability, and that a Functional Behavior Assessment and Behavior Intervention Plan be completed by the team and professionals who are knowledgeable about the creation of such plans. Third, when a child is so dysregulated that available therapeutic resources within the school setting cannot de-escalate the child, the school should contact Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS) who can come to the school and assist with the crisis.

For more resources please see: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/policy-statement-ece-expulsions-suspensions.pdf>

1. State Bureau of Special Education Resources: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?Q=320730&>
2. OCA and OPA (Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities) Disability Rights Advisory on Restraint and Seclusion <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?Q=320730&>
3. Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) <http://www.cpacinc.org/>
4. Office of the Child Advocate, 860 566 2106 or <http://www.ct.gov/oca/site/default.asp>

Sincerely,

Sarah Healy Eagan, JD

Child Advocate for the State of Connecticut Office of the Child Advocate