

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY CONNECTIONS

Quarterly Publication of the Alabama Association of School Psychologists



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May is Mental Health Awareness Month and it is becoming increasingly clear that mental health in schools is an important topic the nation cannot afford to ignore. According to Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one in seven U.S. children aged 2 to 8 years have a diagnosed mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder and one in five youths ages 13–18 experiences a serious mental health condition.

Ways to Engage in Mental Health Awareness Month

- Host a book club:** Coordinate a book selection about mental health such as “Turtles All the Way Down” by Jon Green; “On Edge: A Journey Through Anxiety” by Andrea Petersen; “Crazy Is My Superpower” by AJ Mendez Brooks; “Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine: A Novel” by Gail Honeyman; “The Lonely Century” by Noreena Hertz
- Host a watch party** to view a film about mental health (such as “Paper Spiders,” “Many Sides of Jane” and “Touch with Fire”)
- Craft ideas:** Make slime (find your slime type at the SlooMoo Institute); or decorate rocks and write inspirational wellness messages on the bottom to place in spots for others to find.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities:



*In March we introduced a new PD series of Virtual Lunch n' Learns called *Connections Café*. We will be taking a break for the summer but will resume our lunches together in September.

*Please participate in the AASP Member Survey - we would love your ideas for future PD, speakers, topics, etc

https://uab.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tcVkNoiAsH0bM

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethics Committee

AASP is fully committed to conducting all activities in strict conformance with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Standards. In May we provided some Ethics PD with Dr Dana Boccio. Please take advantage of AASP's new *Ethics Support & Grievance System*. Click [here](#) to seek support or consultation from the AASP Ethics Committee, or if you are needing to file an Ethics Grievance.

Digital/Social Media Committee

The Digital/Social Media Committee recently completed a months-long project to spotlight the various members of the AASP board. We loved helping our members learn more about the hard-working folks who serve the organization. Currently, we are working on member spotlights. If you know an AASP member who would agree to be highlighted on our FB page, please send their name and email to Scott at jsmichelfelder@gmail.com. We are also soliciting photos from our members that showcase our beautiful state. Please send those to Scott as well. If

WE NEED YOU!

THE **GPR COMMITTEE** IS CURRENTLY VACANT AS AMEET BOSMIA HAS STEPPED DOWN TO FOCUS ON HIS DOCTORATE. PLEASE EMAIL CORCORAN@UAB.EDU IF INTERESTED IN HEADING UP THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER- WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT SCOTT MICHELFELDER AT SJMICHELFELDER@GMAIL.COM

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE - WE PLAN TO PUT OUT THIS NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY AND WE NEED HELP. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE CORCORAN AT CORCORAN@UAB.EDU.

ETHICS COMMITTEE - HELP SERVE AS AN ADVISOR AND RESOURCE FOR ETHICAL ISSUES. IF INTERESTED, CONTACT ALISTAFFORD1@GMAIL.COM

REGION 7 REP - CURRENTLY VACANT - IF INTERESTED CONTACT CORCORAN@UAB.EDU

AASP BOARD 2022 GOALS:

•**Professional Competency**-

Set up an intern mentoring network, establish an Ethics Committee, and establish an Ethics Support & Grievance System

•**Advocacy**-Increase awareness of school psychology-educate the decision makers (principals, legislators), NCSP parity, recruit more GPR committee members

•**Diversity**-Conduct a member survey, Use SAFE-R tool with Board and members,

•**Member Services**- conduct a member survey, Increase rookie academy efforts, establish scholarships, post minutes & announce meetings on website, Develop a quarterly newsletter

•**Operational Excellence**-Build awareness of Board activities- Meet your Board Members on Social media, spotlight members

•**External Rel &**

Communication - participate in SPAW week & National Children's Mental Health Day activities, Bring Regional Meetings back & provide more funding for them

COMMITTEE REPORTS-CON'T

Finances from Flippo

Happy End of School Year! While teachers and students are counting down the last days of school, school psychs are counting the number of meetings they need to hold before summer break! Hopefully, you are going into summer with a sense of accomplishment of all you have done, especially students you have helped.

This spring both the finance committee (treasurer, president, past president, and president-elect) and the AASP board met to approve the budget for the coming year. I am probably most excited about the one day conference we budgeted for this year. This will be offered to AASP members only and will have no registration fee! Our board is committed to pouring as much as we can into our membership and this is just one example of that commitment.

Membership runs from July 1 to June 30 so renew this summer...and get a colleague who is not a member to join!

- Regular Membership \$75
- Retired Membership \$50
- Student Membership \$35

If you have questions for me, please email me at alasp.treasurer@gmail.com. Have a great summer!

Julie Flippo
Treasurer

The AASP Board invites you to join us for our Summer Board meeting on July 16, 2022 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Corcoran, S., Deni, J. & Dearman, F. (2022) Raising Our SCORE: Exploratory Study of Practitioner Error and Bias in Psychoeducational Assessments.(click below for full article)

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:ac438074-db48-3fac-ac78-ae6a7d5c14d0>

Abstract: The results of cognitive assessments are commonly used to make high-stakes decisions such as special education eligibility. Previous research has demonstrated that administration and scoring errors on cognitive assessments are made frequently, especially with experienced practicing school psychologists. This manuscript describes a research study that surveyed 164 practicing school psychologists to determine whether they were aware of the examiner error rates on cognitive assessments, to explore the strategies and systems that they have in place to mitigate those errors, and explore perceptions of bias.

How to Prepare Students for Psychoeducational Assessment

The way students approach psychoeducational assessment is critical for success. Therefore, parents need language and resources to introduce the idea of assessment to students and to set the context for the assessment as a discovery process. If the student comes into the assessment process with a negative context, it will sabotage it before the assessment process even begins. Approaching the assessment process as a means to discover and understand how the student learns, how the parents can better help them in school, and identify the problem(s) the student wants to solve can be beneficial. There are tools available to assist with this discovery process. Resources such as *The Brain Detective: Investigating Learning* (Corcoran, 2021), *The Brain Building Book* (Angoff, 2020) and *Brain Building 101* (Angoff, 2022) are interactive books that help students understand their learning differences from a strengths-based and growth mindset perspective.

