

Welcome to the 2016-2017 School Year!

To all of our new students, we are thrilled to have you as a part of the National Louis University School Psychology family! We look forward to a year full of excitement and accomplishments. As you progress through the program here, keep in mind that there are program Big Ideas that are integrated into all of the courses that link and build upon each other. This helps provide a continuous and unified educational experience.

On behalf of the entire National Louis University family, we welcome you to our campus for the upcoming academic year! We are thankful that you have chosen our program to continue your education. Our ultimate goal is to shape you into future leaders in the field of education. During your time here at National Louis University, be confident that you will receive a quality education and experiences that will shape you as a professional.

To start the new students with some advice to surviving the program, we have a couple of quotes for you from students.

“Have fun, go to conferences, eat that cupcake and pizza, sleep, do yoga, find some good coping mechanisms and a great support system because people, parents, students, assignments, life will frustrate and irritate you, remember to be an open book and absorb all the knowledge that your classmates, supervisors, professors, etc are willing to give you, and don't be afraid to speak up about your own experiences/ knowledge and/or ask questions. Life is about the journey, not the destination.” – Current Intern

“My advice to surviving the program, is to not survive it, but evolve from it. Your program experience will be whatever you make it to be and your growth as a professional will be dependent on how you take advantage of the plethora of opportunities that are provided to you by the program. Whether it is faculty, your peers, or other professionals you meet through your practicum/internship experiences; you will be presented with a lot of opportunities for professional growth. Use them. Another piece of advice: Communication. If you are struggling with the coursework, or with life, communication will be difference maker between failure and success. Reach out to faculty and let them know. They are here because they want to help you succeed and will do whatever they can to make that a possibility. They will not be able to help you if they are not aware of your circumstances. And finally, your peers. Look around your classes. For most of you, these are the people you will be spending a lot of time with over the next 3 years. Get to know them, form bonds, and help each other out. Teamwork is definitely a key to succeeding in the program and almost as important, these relationships are one's that will last past the program and continue on in the professional world.” – Recent Graduate

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday,
September 9**
Intern
Supervision
Workshop @
Normal, Illinois

**Monday,
September 12**
NASP Proposal
Acceptance
Notification of
Presentations

**Monday,
September 12**
First day of the
Fall Quarter

**Tuesday,
September 13**
First Internship
Seminar Meeting

**Friday,
September 25**
SPO Nomination
Deadline

**Thursday
October 6-7**
ISPA Annual Fall
Conference @
Schaumburg,
Illinois

Meet the Incoming Students

Get to know our new students through their pictures and biographies below! Special thanks to all who were able to contribute and share with us a little bit about themselves.



Silky Ansari

Hi my name is Silky Ansari and I have been a teacher and Reading Specialist for the past ten years. I have taught in Chicago Public Schools and currently working in a suburban school district on the Northwest side. I went to Loyola University as an undergraduate with a Degree in Education and completed my Masters at UIC in Literacy, Language and Culture. During my free time, I enjoy gardening, walking in different trails and spending time with my family.

I believe it is time for me to face a fresh challenge and help students in a new way and role. The opportunity to become a School Psychologist is exciting and challenging to me. I am looking forward to learning all the fundamental and valuable skills necessary to be a School Psychologist, as well as meet all the individuals who are passionate about the same field I am in!



Patrick James

My name is Patrick J. James and I am just starting at National Louis University in the school psychology program. I earned my bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. My previous experience has served as a guide for me when choosing my career path. While working on my undergraduate degree, I began to work in a group home setting as a Life-skills Instructor. Upon graduation, I was given the opportunity to become a Wellness and Recovery Specialist, working in a variety of settings in the mental health field. Now that I have moved back to the Chicago-land area from Southern Illinois, I have just begun a home-based position with Clearbrook, working with people with a developmental disability. My first year practicum site is at Orland School District 135. I am looking forward to applying my obtained skills in a school setting!



Teriauna Bland

Hello! My name is Teriauna Bland! This is my first year at National Louis University and I feel greatly honored to be part of this university and the School Psychology Ed.S. Program. I am truly enthusiastic to meet and learn from everyone part of the program! My Practicum I Placement site is the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education. The exposure to an active School Psychologist, in addition to our professors and peers is an invaluable experience and a journey I am very happy to be currently pursuing. I hope to learn much and learn more about you, as well!



Tish Dunn

My name is Tish Dunn and I am from Homewood, IL. In 2011 I attended Northern Illinois University, where I majored in Psychology and minored in Family, Consumer & Nutrition Sciences. At NIU I became interested in trauma research and became an undergraduate research assistant in a trauma lab. My research interests include social and cognitive adversity due to traumatic experiences, and the impact of abuse and parenting styles on the educational development and mental health issues associated with school-aged children. For this school year, my Practicum I site will be in District #427 at Sycamore High School and South Prairie Elementary.



Emilee Frost

Hi everyone! My name is Emilee (Frost) Huntley and I couldn't be more excited to join the ranks at NLU! Before deciding to go back to graduate school, I spent my days training exotic animals such as bottlenose dolphins, warthogs, sloths, porcupines, sea lions, otters, and more. I have worked as a daycare teacher and a youth leader for many years. I recently married my husband Christopher and at home we have 3 cats and a dog. I enjoy being active and helping others. My current practicum site is Siple Elementary in Woodridge.



Angelica Kordecki

Hello! My name is Angelica Kordecki and I am currently enrolled as a first year School Psychology student in NLU's program. I possess my Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a concentration on Human Development from DePaul University. At DePaul, I was a part of the university's Honors Program as well as the Psi Chi National Honor Society. For the upcoming school year, my practicum 1 site is at Dwight D Eisenhower Junior High School in Hoffman Estates, IL. I look forward to an exciting start within NLU's program that will prepare me to aid our youth in mental health, learning, and succeeding in all facets of life and education.



Peter Lenz

My name is Peter Lenz and I'm looking forward to begin my first year in the School Psychology Program at NLU this fall. I have been a teacher for nearly ten years and it's my ambition to switch the focus of my career in education from teaching to school psychology. My career in education began with six years of teaching a variety of grade levels at an English immersion school in Taipei, Taiwan. Upon returning to the U.S., I obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching from NLU and have been teaching middle school science for the last three years.



Evan Pavlik

After graduating in 2012 from North Central College with a BA in Psychology, I went on to work in Indian Prairie School District 204 as a special education teaching assistant in a self-contained classroom for two years prior to getting accepted into the National Louis University School Psychology program. I bring to the program extensive experience working alongside education professionals and children with special needs. My research interests include school based interventions for students with anxiety and improving RTI implementation in secondary school environments. Practicum Site: Des Plaines District 62, Iroquois Community School.



Flora Rivera

My name is Flora Rivera and I am 25 years old from Cary, Illinois. I will soon be Flora Gorman, as I am getting married right before school begins on September 9! I attended Luther College in Decorah, IA where I studied psychology and communication studies. Since graduation, I've learned that the corporate world is not for me and I found my passion in working with students. I love to cook, fish, listen to music, and try new restaurants in my free time. I cannot wait to begin school and work towards becoming a school psychologist with you all! My proposed practicum site is at Crystal Lake District 47 with Micki Carl, the School Psychologist for Bernotas and Hannah Beardsley Middle Schools.



Gloria Rodriguez

Hi I'm Gloria Rodriguez and I'm 22 years old. I was born in Chicago and grew up in a little suburb called Summit. I have two younger brothers, which makes me the oldest and the only girl. I wish I had dogs but I do have pet fish. I'm also happily engaged and planning a big wedding!

I started my college career at Moraine Valley and I finished my undergrad degree in clinical psychology at Saint Xavier University. My current practicum site is at Forest Road Elementary in LaGrange Park.



Nicole Taylor

My name is Nicole Taylor. I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University a few years ago with a degree in Psychology in infant, child, and adolescent development. I am very passionate about overall health. I currently work as a personal trainer/manager at a private training studio. Fortunately, I happened upon school psychology and it seemed like the perfect blend of psychology and my love for the academic environment. I am doing my practicum hours at Crow Island elementary school in Winnetka, IL. Crow Island is known for their progressive views and methods in education. I am looking forward to gaining knowledge and experience from my practicum site.



Mariya Todorova

Hi everyone, my name is Mariya Todorova and this is my first year in the School Psychology program at NLU. I have been teaching for 16 years now. I began as a preschool teacher, working with all ages from two to five years old. Currently, I still work part – time at State of Illinois Child Development Center as a preschool teacher. I also substitute for CPS as a special education teacher assistant. On personal level, I am the mother of twin boys that keep me on my toes all the time. My practicum site for the year will be Algonquin Middle School in Des Plaines.



Greg Wilhelm

My name is Greg Wilhelm. I am a first year school psychology student. I graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor degree in Psychology. During the day I work at Glenbrook North High School as an instructional assistant in the Special Education Department. On the side I coach boys gymnastic and cheerleading. My practicum site will also be at Glenbrook North High School. Prior to my position as an IA, I worked with a variety of schools coaching tumbling, gymnastics, and cheerleading. Upon completion of the National Louis School Psychology program, I intend to work in a high school setting.



Aleta Wurfel

I am a recent graduate of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where I majored in psychology with a social work minor. My hometown is Algonquin, IL. I have worked at Circle Academy in Urbana as an intern in a classroom last school year. I also spent two years working as a research assistant in the University of Illinois Cognitive Development Lab where I was an experimenter with child participants. I look forward to starting my first year at National Louis University this fall in the school psychology graduate program. Practicum Site: Lincoln Prairie Elementary in Lake in the Hills.

Additional Students Not Featured:

Jonathan Boyd
Lisa David
Erica Harrison
Rachel Katznelson
Damon Lewers
Camiah McNeal
Jenelle Story
Hilario Vega

Recent Graduates' New Employment

Our recent graduates have begun their exciting journey as School Psychologists after years of hard work. If you are fortunate enough to get to meet them, please congratulate them on their achievement! We wish you the best!

Mariela Aguilera	<i>Hillsborough County Public Schools; Tampa, FL</i>
Eric Cotter	<i>West Chicago Elementary School District 33, Leman Middle School; West Chicago, IL</i>
Serena Concha	<i>Wauconda Community Unit School District 118, Wauconda High School; Wauconda, IL</i>
Richard Daniels	<i>LaGrange Area Department of Special Education, Lyons Township High School District 204, Lyons Township High School; Lyons, IL</i>
Bill Gerbode	<i>Auburndale School District; Auburndale, WI</i>
Deanna Hinckley	<i>Anchorage School District; Anchorage, AK</i>
Kevin Kahler	<i>Des Plaines School District 62, North Elementary School; Des Plaines, IL</i>
Jeneen Kateeb	<i>Indian Springs School District 109, Wilkins Elementary School and Wilkins Junior High School; Justice, IL</i>
Katie Majko	<i>Waukegan Public Schools; Waukegan, IL</i>
Benjamin Marcial	<i>Denver Public Schools, Mcauliffe International Middle School; Denver, CO</i>
Kate Norman	<i>West Aurora School District 129, Herget Middle School; Aurora, IL</i>
Jennifer Orrico	<i>Proviso Area for Exceptional Children, Berkley School District 87, Sunnyside Elementary School; Berkley, IL</i>
Jennifer Praveen	<i>West Aurora School District 129, Washington Middle School and Jewel Middle School Aurora, IL</i>
Angelo Rivera	<i>Proviso Area for Exceptional Children, Berkley School District 87, Northlake Middle School; Northlake, IL</i>
Heather Simon	<i>Carmel Catholic High School; Mundelein, IL</i>
Amy Tyree	<i>Milne-Kelvin Grove District 91, Kelvin Grove Middle School and Milne Grove Elementary School; Lockport, IL</i>

NLU Internships

The interns have started working at their sites! The internship year is a school year long, five days-a-week, experience and typically the last stage of student's journey through the program. Internship sites represent a diverse range of settings, with some out of state!

Sarah Adams	<i>Kinnikinnick Community Consolidated School District 131; Roscoe, IL</i>
Justyna Bartolik	<i>Palatine Community Consolidated School District 15; Palatine, IL</i>
Ana Giese	<i>Waukegan Public Schools; Waukegan, IL</i>
Kenny Gilroy	<i>Clark County School District; Las Vegas, NV</i>
Nicki Giannelli	<i>Lake Forest School District 67, Everett Elementary School; Lake Forest, IL</i>
Monica Guio	<i>Palatine Community Consolidated School District 15; Palatine, IL</i>
Nicole Joseph	<i>Anchorage School District; Anchorage, AK</i>
Freddy Lares	<i>Township High School District 113, Highland Park High School; Highland Park, IL</i>
Breanna McGuire	<i>Arlington Heights School District 25, Ivy Hill Elementary; Arlington Heights, IL</i>
Jessie Neal	<i>Community High School District 218, Richards High School; Oak Lawn, IL</i>
Kristina Oprishchenko	<i>Kinnikinnick Community Consolidated School District 131; Roscoe, IL</i>
Lianne Patterson	<i>Township High School District 214, Prospect High School; Mount Prospect, IL</i>
Lawrence Rieger	<i>Township High School District 86, Hinsdale Central High School, Hinsdale, IL</i>
Sanita Saengvilay	<i>NTDSE, Molloy Education Center; Morton Grove, IL</i>
Christian Selagea	<i>Anchorage School District; Anchorage, AK</i>
Veronica Spiratos	<i>Niles Township High School District 219, Niles West High School; Skokie, IL</i>
LaTeena Smith	<i>Kankakee School District 111, Kankakee Junior High; Kankakee, IL</i>

Student News

Congratulations to a few of our students who received National College of Education (NCE) scholarship for this year! We are excited to announce we have a few lucky recipients. Scholarship award and amount are listed below each student.

Justyna Bartolik
John Jeffery Louis III Award
\$2,500

Marissa Fang
Lone Jefferies Scholarship
\$1,000

Jacklen Girgis
Marjorie Lee Memorial
\$1,000

Julia Kane
AAUW-North Shore Memorial Scholarship
\$4,000

Sanita Saengvilay
K. Richard Johnson
\$2,000

Faculty News

Jennifer Cooper, Ph.D., Monika Neale, Ed.D., and Madi Philips, Ph.D., have had their faculty research residency proposal “Applying Adaptive Cycles of Teaching to Enhance School Psychology Students’ Skills to Develop and Implement Evidence-Based Mental Health Services” accepted by National Louis University. This will be piloted by them with school psychology candidates focusing on developing and implementing evidence-based mental health services in schools.

Jennifer Cooper, Ph.D., has recently completed a training with NASP and is now a certified NASP PREPaRE trainer for crises prevention and response. All interns participate in training from certified staff during their internship year.

Jennifer Cooper, Ph.D., recently contributed to NLU “Teachers’ Tips to Prepare Your Child for Back-to-School Success” Great tips to check out as everyone is getting settled into their practicum and internships.
<http://www.nl.edu/mediaresources/backtoschooltips/>

Jennifer Cooper, Ph.D., has had her poster presentation proposal “A Model for Practice: Illinois Social and Emotional Learning Standards” accepted and she will present at the 21st Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health in San Diego, California on Friday, September 30, 2016. She was also invited to attend the School Mental Health Research Summit in San Diego, California on September 28th and 29th.

Mark R. Shinn, Ph.D. was featured in an interview piece within the Summer of 2016 edition of *School Psychology: From Science to Practice to Policy* where he was the featured Luminary in the Field. You can find the article [here](#).

School Psychology Organization (SPO)

Do you want to participate in networking events? Are you interested in professional development opportunities? Want to become a student voice among our faculty? Want to improve our program? Then look no further.

Every year students are given the opportunity to participate in School Psychology Organization (SPO), an organization specifically for students of the School Psychology program at National Louis University.

If you are interested in having a leadership role, be on the lookout for information regarding available positions on the SPO board in the upcoming weeks.

Find us on Social Media!

We are continuing in our efforts in making a professional connection between current students and alumni. One method of attempting to accomplish this is with social media. A **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** page have been created for the program and we are asking all members and alumni to join.

It is a great opportunity to stay connected with what is currently happening within the program and the field, and to have a good model of what life after graduation from the program looks like. Please spread the word and share with any alumni that you may come across!

Like/Follow us on **Facebook** here:

<https://www.facebook.com/NLUschoolpsychology/>

Connect with us on **LinkedIn** here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8448300>

Looking for Alumni

The *National Louis University School Psychology* program is currently building its Alumni Database and we need help getting into contact with many of our alumni! If you are in contact with any alumni from the program, please pass this newsletter to them!

In creating the alumni database, we hope to create a greater community between program alumni, current students, and faculty. This will allow for increased networking amongst alumni, current students, and faculty; and create opportunities for a continued education!

If **YOU** are alumni from the National Louis University School Psychology Program, we encourage you to get in contact with us in order to help us.

You may reach out to us by simply connecting with us through LinkedIn via our new page here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8448300>

-OR-

Email *Kristina Oprishchenko* at KOprishchenko@gmail.com with your preferred contact information, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding this process.