

# South Dakota Association of School Psychologists



Winter 2013

## SDASP UPDATE



### FOSTERING ACADEMIC, BEHAVIORAL, AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONING IN STUDENTS WITH HIGHER FUNCTIONING AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Video modeling is a strategy that involves watching a video of a model (or self) engaging in a target behavior. This strategy has been shown to be more effective than live modeling with quicker acquisition and increased generalization for children with autism spectrum disorders. What's more, it is cost and time efficient. This was just one of the topics introduced by Dr. Frank Sansosti, Ph. D., at the fall conference held September 20 and 21 in Chamberlain, South Dakota.



Dr. Sansosti (at left), who is Associate  
(continued on page 2)

*"This strategy has been shown to be more effective than live modeling with quicker acquisition and increased generalization for children with autism spectrum disorders."*

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#### Special points of interest

- Differentiating Asperger's and High Functioning Autism, page 6.
- Conference photos, pages 6 & 9

#### Dates to Remember:

**FEBRUARY 5 -**  
CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL  
**FEBRUARY 11-15 -**  
NASP CONVENTION IN SEATTLE

*The **DSM, 5th Edition**,  
is coming and is  
anticipated to be here  
by this summer!  
Dr. Sansosti covered  
the changes for the  
PDD category  
as follows:*

"...the [proposed] revised criteria include only two symptom domains (social-communication and fixated, repetitive interests), eliminate subtypes of ASD, and describe individual differences in terms of dimensions of severity in the two domains, relative to developmental levels and chronological age. Thus, an individual with an ASD diagnosis would be described in terms of severity of social communication symptoms and severity of fixated or restricted behaviors or interests..."

The DSM-V will now include a Social Communication Disorder for individuals who have difficulty with social communication both verbal and nonverbal communication. Implications include: limited social ability; difficulty engaging with peers; difficulty maintaining conversation; and lack of perspective taking.

IDEA will have the option to make changes to autism eligibility standards or maintain current criteria.

Stay tuned.

\*See [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org)  
for more information

## FOSTERING ACADEMIC, BEHAVIORAL, AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONING (continued from page 1)

Professor and Coordinator of the School Psychology Program at Kent State University, stated that a meta-analysis synthesized findings from 23 studies on the use of video modeling. Overall, results indicate video modeling is an EFFECTIVE intervention for social skills, behavior, language, functional skills, and academic skills. Results were EFFECTIVE across all levels of the spectrum. The most effective video models are less than three minutes and depict positive behaviors. This intervention has resulted in a large effect size in studies and has met the criteria for designation as an evidence-based practice.

During Dr. Pansosti's day long presentation, conference attendees were given information on the following topics: characteristics; impact on education; assessment considerations; how students with HFA/AS facilitate knowledge; promoting school success; fostering academic development; effective behavioral support; and multi-tiered systemic social skills support. A recommended resource is *High-Functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome in Schools: Assessment and Intervention* by Frank Sansosti, Kelly Powell-Smith, and Richard Cowan.

## ASPERGER'S AND COMORBID DISORDERS

On Friday of the conference, Dr. Scott Schneider spoke about Asperger's and comorbid disorders. Dr. Schneider, MD, from Avera



Medical Group, Midwest Psychiatric Medicine, provided information about Asperger's from a historical and medical perspective. He shared statistics that indicate some genetic mechanisms and changes in gene expressions. Advanced paternal and maternal age is associated with relative increased risk. Secondary causes of autism spectrum symptoms such

as Fragile-X, Neurocutaneous Disorders, and Rett's Syndrome, are rare (6% in a recent study). Children with ASDs have a difference in brain growth and development which is likely to have begun prenatally. Brains start out average to below average in size, but become macrocephalic in the first year. In most people, "side roads die off and the interstate gets bigger, but in children with

(Continued on page 7)



*Stephanie Nesselhuf,  
SDASP President*

Stephanie is a school psychologist for the Rapid City Area Schools. She serves Stevens High School and South Middle School. Before coming to Rapid City, she worked as a school psychologist in Eagle Butte.



## President's Page

As I contemplate what to write for my first newsletter as President of SDASP, I cannot believe how fast the school year flies by and that it is almost time for semester tests. In November, it felt as if it were March to me...now, as I sit here and ponder what is different this year, I get a gentle nudge by NASP on my Facebook feed that reminds me how fortunate I am to be in the profession of School Psychology. Just when I seem to get frustrated with the paperwork, caseload amount or complexity of cases that seem to be presented to me at work, I am reminded that we are so fortunate to be in a profession that is ranked #14 out of 100 Best Jobs by US News. We were also rated the #1 social services job. The median salary for our field is \$67,880 and our unemployment rate is only 1.4%. Now, I am not that naïve to think that numbers cannot be manipulated or that these stats apply to every job in every state, it just seems that it was the right jolt that I needed to remember how privileged I am in this new year. To my colleagues near and far throughout the state of South Dakota and the SDASP Executive Board, cheers to an exciting and blessed 2013 in celebrating the profession of School Psychology!

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*Thank you, Kristi Kafka, for your leadership skills during the past year as president of SDASP.*

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*Right: Incoming President Stephanie Nesselhuf presents Kristi Kafka with a certificate of appreciation for her hard work and dedication this past year.*



## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS



The **University of South Dakota** interns were well-represented at the conference.

Left-upper:  
**Darla Brandt**,  
South Central Cooperative, Tyndall

Left-lower:  
**Lisa Bannwarth**,  
Children's Care,  
Sioux Falls

Right-upper:  
**Darren Jilek**, Redfield SDDC

Right-lower:  
**Erin Alsum Edzards**, Rapid City



***USD is looking for school psychology internship opportunities for Fall 2013.***

Contact Nicholas Benson at [nicholas.benson@usd.edu](mailto:nicholas.benson@usd.edu)

## Bruce Rens Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Crystal Elliott, a School Psychology PhD student at the University of South Dakota. She was the winner of the Bruce Rens Scholarship this year. She presented her research titled: ***Indicators of School Violence-Aggression and Reading Achievement in 4th Grade Students Around the World.***



Left:  
USD student,  
Crystal Elliott, with  
her poster presentation

### From the USD Student Representative

#### Kali Briggs

The former School Psychology Association executive officers and I are pleased to announce the new officers. We, along with the other members of School Psychology Association, are confident that they will do a great job!

**PRESIDENT:**  
**Kalie Staples**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**Nicole Ulvestad**

**SECRETARY:**  
**Savanna Lokkesmoe**

**TREASURER:**  
**Cody Smith**

**FUNDRAISING AND  
EVENT COORDINATORS:**  
**Amanda Fey &  
Amanda Hofer**

**SDASP REPRESENTATIVE**  
**- Sheila Toering**

### School Psychology Degree Programs at USD

For information, go to:

<http://www.usd.edu/education/counseling-and-psychology-in-education/school-psychology-degree-program.cfm>

for more information.



## Congratulations to Jill Lear! School Psychologist of the Year 2012

Congratulations to Jill Lear from Watertown for being named the 2012 School Psychologist of the Year by the South Dakota Association of School Psychologists. She was presented with a plaque at the fall SDASP conference. Jill is a school psychologist for the Northeast Educational Services Cooperative.



**Above:** Jill Lear with her plaque

**Left:** President Kristi Kafka congratulates Jill Lear

**Far Left:** Jill networks with Roxanna Uttermarck from Aberdeen

## SDASP Early Service Recognition Award



**Above:** Diane Reyelts accepts the first annual Early Service Recognition Award

The Early Service Recognition Award was instituted this year to recognize early career school psychologists for exemplary work. Diane Reyelts from the North Central Area Cooperative is the first recipient of this award. She serves the Hitchcock-Tulare, Ipswich, Leola, Frederick Area, Warner, and Langford Area School Districts. Congratulations, Diane!



**Left:** Jill Lear, Kristi Kafka, and Diane Reyelts pose for a photo after presentation of awards

## ASPERGER'S AND COMORBID DISORDERS

(continued from page 2)

ASD, the die-off doesn't occur." Mirror cells exist in the brain. In layman's terms, mirror cells are when a cell that looks at something is right next to a cell that would do the behavior. In autism, mirror cells over or under fire. The preparatory cells are not working. Based on research, medications prescribed for autism are not causing harm, but provide neuro-protective functioning. Brain deterioration can occur without needed medication.

**Asperger's** is comorbid with depression (41%), anxiety (8%), schizophrenia (9%), suicide attempts (7%).

**Autism** is comorbid with phobias (44%), OCD (37%), ADHD (44%), depression (10%).

## See Who Was at the Conference



*Top Left: George Lee, Rapid City, chatting with Maria Meyer, Northeast Rep.*

*Above: Dr. Schneider answering a question for Kari Oyen*



*Above: Kari Oyen and Alyssa Larson, registration assistants*



*2nd row, left: Lance Koenig, James Valley Ed. Coop.  
Above: Dr. Sansosti and Kristi Kafka  
Left: Duane Tumas, Rapid City, and Jill Hibbard, Black Hills Special Services Cooperative*



*Right: Brett Kaye, new psychologist at Milbank, SD; previously from Sauk Center, MN*



### Differences Between Asperger's and High Functioning Autism noted by Dr. Schneider

Individuals with Asperger's improve over time; those with High Functioning Autism not as much. The latter improve until their mid-30s and then may plateau or regress, a result that is directly related to when society pulls away educational and psychiatric services.

"Children with autism carry around the train. Children with Asperger's know the train schedule."

Individuals with Asperger's outperform those with High Functioning Autism on ability tests.

#### European descriptors:

Asperger's: active but odd, clumsy, quirky

High Functioning Autism: aloof and passive





*At the NASP Regional Meeting: Stephanie Nesselhuf, SDASP President; Curtis Middleton, Western Rep.; Amy Smith, NASP President Elect; Anita Winter, NASP Delegate; Sally Baas, NASP President*

#### SDASP Members to Meet at the NASP Convention

Mark your calendar for a South Dakota Get-Together, Thursday, Feb 14th at 5:30 in the bar of the Sheraton Hotel (convention headquarters).

The name of the bar is The Daily Grill Bar & Restaurant.

It should be a fun way to celebrate

Valentine's Day.

Hope you'll join us.  
See you in Seattle.



## From Your NASP Delegate

The NASP Regional Meeting was held Nov 9th & 10th in Omaha, Nebraska. Stephanie Nesselhuf, Curtis Middleton and I were proud to represent South Dakota. Along with state officers from MI, IL, IN, IA, ND, NE, MN, WS, OK and KS, we shared ideas and state issues and reviewed the NASP Strategic Themes and Priorities.

Amy Smith, NASP President, outlined NASP priorities. These include:

1. Enhance leadership, develop and align resources to effectively serve NASP members and the interests of children, families, and schools
2. Equip school psychologists at the state and local levels to protect and promote practice and the title of school psychologist
3. Promote understanding and adoption of the NASP Practice Model to enhance our services to children, schools and families and incorporate the NASP Practice Model into our state and school districts.
4. Other topics that we will be hearing more about this year include advocacy road maps for the Affordable Care Act and legislative templates for Medicaid providers.

I hope you're able to attend the NASP Convention February 11-15, 2013 in Seattle. More people have submitted proposals than ever before with more than 1100 workshops and presentations to choose from. There are also sessions for NCSP and APA approved credit. Richard Gerver, author of *Creating Tomorrow's Schools Today*, is the keynote speaker. Seattle offers many fine restaurants and great places to visit. I just learned you can make advanced reservations online for the Space Needle.

Have a wonderful 2013.

Anita Winter

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** I planned myself right out of an editor's section, so I carved out a spot here. I wanted to note that the information on DSM-V criteria provided by Dr. Sansosti at the conference and printed on page 2 may have been further revised before publication of the DSM-V. Final revisions were made through December 2012.

# Government and Professional Relations Committee (GPR)

## In Memoriam

**T**he Government and Professional Relations Committee (GPR) met on 9/21/2012. Attending were Crystal Elliott, Lisa Bannwarth, Erin Alsum Edzards, Darla Brandt, and Ericka Kotab.

Current advocacy strategies of SDASP include being a sponsor for and participant in SD Voices for Children, sponsoring LDA, and sending an annual letter to legislators about school psychology. The committee developed a list of new ideas for action:



*Ericka Kotab,  
SPAN/GPR Committee  
Chair*

- Develop a SDASP brochure
- Promote the NASP Practice Model
- Keep the SDASP directory up-dated
- Schedule a SD School Psychologist get together before the NASP conference
- Sponsor a door prize at the symposium
- Make additions to the website, such as contact information for regional representatives, special interests, quick links, and what's new
- Establish a special position on the USD-SPA board for a SDASP student representative to better define this role and strengthen the relationship with SDASP
- Add student emails to SDASP distribution

*Make your voice heard.*

*Contact your senator or representative:*

**Senator John Thune**  
**Washington, D.C. Office:**  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg,  
District of Columbia 20510-4103  
**Phone:** (202) 224-2321  
**Fax:** (202) 228-5429  
[www.thune.senate.gov](http://www.thune.senate.gov)

**Senator Tim Johnson**  
**Washington, D.C. Office:**  
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg,  
District of Columbia 20510-4104  
**Phone:** (202) 224-5842  
**Fax:** (202) 228-5765  
[www.johnson.senate.gov](http://www.johnson.senate.gov)

**Rep. Kristi Noem**  
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District of Columbia 20515-4101  
**Phone:** (202) 225-2801  
**Fax:** (202) 225-5823  
[www.noem.house.gov](http://www.noem.house.gov)



Dr. Sharon White Hawk, Mission, SD, died Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at Sanford Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD.

Dr. White Hawk graduated from high school in Wood, SD. She went on to earn a bachelor of science degree, a master's degree, and her Ed D, specializing in psychology and education. She worked as a teacher and a guidance counselor earlier in her career, and then went on to work as a school psychologist with the Todd County School District. She was devoted to her work and was known for her commitment to children through her 20 years as a school psychologist.

**SDASP expresses their condolences to her family.**



## More Conference Shots



*Left: Mark Hedges and Roxanne Uttermark, both from Aberdeen  
Right: Jennifer Burkett, Aberdeen, looking over resources*



*Left: Keyra Comer, Rapid City, enjoying delicious cheesecake*

*Right: Striking a pose with Dr. Sansosti*



## New Members on the Board



### **WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE**

*Left: Curtis Middleton hands over the job of Western Representative to Renee Arnio. Renee is a school psychologist in Sturgis. Curtis is our new President-elect and works as a school psychologist for the Rapid City Area Schools.*

### **SOUTHEAST REPRESENTATIVE**

*Right: Cara Sommerlot has accepted the board position of Southeast Representative this year. Thanks, Jolene Keckler, for your service! Welcome to the board, Cara!*



### SDASP Executive Board Members

President – Stephanie Nesselhuf  
stephanie.nesselhuf@k12.sd.us

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curtis.middleton@k12.sd.us

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Immediate Past-President –  
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Central Rep – Amanda Wilson  
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Western Rep – Renee Arnio  
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Southeast Rep – Cara Sommerlot  
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Student Rep – Kalie Staples  
kalie.staples@usd.edu

USD Liaison – Nicholas Benson  
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Webmaster – Jennifer Burkett  
jennifer.burkett@k12.sd.us

Newsletter – Cora Lee Alley  
coralee.alley@k12.sd.us

Delegate – Anita Winter  
anitawinter@yahoo.com

### **GPR Committee Chairs :**

Ruth Fodness  
rfodness@mchsi.com

Ericka Kotab (SPAN Contact)  
ericka.kotab@k12.sd.us

The *SDASP Update* invites articles, letters, and other items of interest.

We need submissions from our readership. Please consider this opportunity.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles.

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Rapid City Area Schools

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The **SDASP Update** is emailed to members. Archives can be found on the website at: <http://www.sdasp.k12.sd.us/>

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Fall	September 1	September 15
Winter	January 1	January 15

# SDASP

**An organization that believes that  
all children can learn!**



For a Membership Application visit the  
SDASP Website:  
<http://www.sdasp.k12.sd.us/>