

Psych Perspectives will now be delivered electronically on a quarterly basis.

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Psych Perspectives



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Marshall University Welcomes Dr. Lucas

Marshall University's School Psychology Program would like to welcome Dr. Conrae Lucas as an Assistant Professor in the College of Education and Professional Development. She returns to her Alma mater after working in Lincoln County Schools as a school psychologist for 14 years. Dr. Lucas attended Marshall University, where she graduated with her Bachelor's degree (BA) in psychology and Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology (MA). During her time as an undergraduate, Dr. Lucas viewed school psychology as a possibility, but knew little about the program or what the job entailed. After graduating with her MA, she worked for the Prester Center as a School-Based Therapist where she met, and learned about, school psychologists and their roles.

Dr. Lucas became interested in cognition and learning disabilities, however, her evaluations as a contractor were not always accepted by the teachers or utilized in schools. This is what ultimately led her to return to Marshall University for her Education Specialist (EdS) and Doctorate of Psychology (PsyD). For her post graduate study, Dr. Lucas chose to obtain a PsyD at Marshall University due to the proximity of the program to her home. As such, Dr. Lucas has spent her entire academic career at Marshall, "I owe my heart to Marshall, so I definitely believe in the university and the training of the university. I am honored to be able to come to the place where I began and give back. I feel like being able to come back to a university after being a practitioner helps with my growth as an individual. You learn something when you practice and then you really learn when you teach it. I wanted to enhance my own learning to become a better school psychologist."

After several years in the field, Dr. Lucas' perception of school psychology has evolved from the test-and-place model to a broader role in which school psychologists collaborate with school staff, assess systems-level issues, and deliver individual and group therapy to help improve student outcomes. In this role, Dr. Lucas feels her skills are appreciated and utilized more by the school staff than when she provides only testing. As with any career there are both challenging and rewarding experiences. Dr. Lucas explained that her most

rewarding experience as a school psychologist was, “Being a member of a team that was able to intervene early with a preschool child transitioning from West Virginia Birth-to-Three services and evaluate and provide support for that child.” On the other hand, a more difficult aspect of the job is to witness a student who goes through the system and is then later identified as student who needs support. Never doubting her decision to become a school psychologist, the university professor has had the opportunity to work with a variety of students of different backgrounds and age groups (Pre-K to high school) in Lincoln County, West Virginia. She has enjoyed working throughout the county as an itinerant instead of just being placed in an individual school.

Although Dr. Lucas has taught the Summer Practicum course in prior years as an adjunct faculty, she began teaching at Marshall University full-time in August 2016. She is teaching SPSY 616 Typical and Atypical Child Development, SPSY 621 Data-Based Decision Making 1, and EDF 580 Advanced Studies in Human Development during the fall semester. Dr. Lucas’ research interests include the effects of prenatal drug exposure on children and neurodevelopmental disabilities. She stated she is “particularly interested in children with learning disabilities and how school psychologists are using the patterns of strengths and weaknesses approach to identify them. I would like to see if school psychologists are using the computer program or conceptually understanding the PSW models for use in schools.” In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Lucas will be participating in service projects at Marshall University. She is presently serving on the United Way planning committee and the WVSPA Executive Board as the Marshall University School Psychology program representative.

As an educator of school psychology, Dr. Lucas hopes, that she is able to influence students to become the best school psychologists that they can be, and encourage student learning. Dr. Lucas noted that before she became a faculty member, she had connections at Marshall, mentors who provided advice and support to help become a successful practitioner.

Overall, she hopes to make students more excited about the field of psychology. To the aspiring school psychologists, she would say, “Continue in your pursuit, it’s a fantastic and rewarding field of study. Be committed to learning and open to new ideas, seek supervision from senior school psychologists, and put the needs of students at the forefront.”

Aside from her career, Dr. Lucas is a committed wife and mother of two. She and her husband, Randy, of 21 years reside in Lincoln County with their two children: Randyn and Blade. Dr. Lucas believes being a parent has helped her to become more sensitive to the parent’s needs and struggles. Outside of teaching, Dr. Lucas currently spends her free time with her children’s activities,

reading, and enjoying television shows, particularly ones like Law and Order SVU and Chicago Med.

The article was written by Laura Anderson, Morgan Clark, Victoria Hatton, Sarah Barnett-Virgin, and Elizabeth “Libby” Nicholson as a course requirement for SPSY 601.

Former WVSPA President Ed Morgret Book Publication

Ed Morgret, former president of WVSPA (2009-10) has authored a book entitled **The Essential Ed Koterba**. Ed Koterba, Morgret’s biological father, was a nationally syndicated columnist eulogized by John F. Kennedy in 1961. The work includes 363 articles written by Ed Koterba as well as insight and recollections by Morgret. The articles feature hard hitting as well as humorous commentary on major newsworthy events from 1950-1961 such as the Cold War, Brown v. Board of Education, and the launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union. Through reading these various articles readers will be transported back to midcentury America, and through the essence of Ed Koterba’s writing style they will also gain a clearer understanding of how our media and culture have evolved since the 1950s.

Ed Koterba was not afraid to investigate and write about topics that which other journalists deemed off limits for being controversial, whether it be civil rights or communism, which made him, as former President John F. Kennedy eulogized, “a most outstanding newspaperman.” His articles ranged from humorous to uncompromising, making each one a unique and intriguing read. The Essential Ed Koterba is the first book ever to examine the life and career of this extraordinary American journalist. More information about the book may be found on the website:
www.TheEssentialEdKoterba.com

Save the Date

- NASP 2017 Annual Convention
[Click on the image for conference details](#)



Upcoming WVSPA Conferences

Spring 2017 Conference

April 27-28, 2017

Charleston, West Virginia

1. **Dr. Ross Greene** will be the keynote full day presenter at the April 2017 meeting.

Changing the Conversation about Behaviorally Challenging Kids
<http://www.livesinthebalance.org/> .

2. **Dr. Steven Feifer** will present on his new assessments.

Upcoming Conference Activities!

During the Fall Conference, WVSPA is pleased to announce a social event on Monday, October

24th starting at 6:30 p.m.!

Please join us at the Purple Fiddle, in Thomas, WV! Events that evening will include a brief introduction to Ed Morgret's latest book entitled *The Essential Ed Koterba*. Following that, we are excited to have the opportunity to listen to the musical talents of Gracie Terzian, with Rotem Sivan! There is a \$7.00 cover to listen to the band. [Please visit their website to check out the dinner menu!](#)

Region D Spotlight



WVSPA Region D members hosted a meeting on September 23, 2016 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the RESA 3 Dunbar conference room. Participants discussed Medicaid Billing specifically aimed to School Psychologists. Areas addressed included the following: Consent to Release Information and Bill Medicaid Form, Review of the WV Medicaid Program School-Based Health Services, Psychological Testing Billing Criteria, Medicaid Psychological Testing Clarification Document, Mental Status Examination, Psychological Evaluation Report Format, Psychological Billing Form Review, Review of Targeted Case Management Services, Billing Procedures, Provider Enrollment Status, and Q & A/ Networking/ Discussion Session.

There were 28 participants, and 3 CPD credits were awarded. Upon discussion and further interest in Targeted Case Management, another Region D meeting has been set for October 7, 2016 with Terry Riley presenting.

The meeting was collaborative and supportive with school psychologists joining forces to help each other. It was a pleasure to spend time with colleagues who understand the profession, its challenges, but yet the rewarding outcomes when advocating for children.

Regional Happenings:

Region A: Miranda Haight, region A representative, created a folder within OneDrive to share important documents, such as templates and resources.

Region B: Region B representative, Susan Miller, proposes a potential fall/winter regional meeting at RESA VII.

Region C: Cheryl Winston reports that a regional meeting occurred April 15, 2016 at Shepherd University, Martinsburg Campus. Dr. Steven Feifer presented on Dyslexia and the Feifer Assessment of Reading.

Region D: Krystal Stollings, Region D represented hosted a meeting on September 23, 2016. A summary of this meeting can be seen above!

Region E: A regional meeting occurred on April 22, 2016 at the Raleigh County Office of Special Programs. Topics included the Community Schools Model and a presentation on Play Child Interaction Therapy.
