Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention

Annual Report

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014
ALBERTI CENTER MISSION

The mission of the Alberti Center is to reduce bullying abuse in schools and in the community by contributing knowledge and providing evidence-based tools to effectively change the language, attitudes, and behaviors of educators, parents, students, and society. The center will be a national resource on the prevention of bullying and other antisocial behaviors among school children, as well as provide research and information that address these behaviors.

HISTORY OF THE CENTER

A generous gift from Graduate School of Education alumna Jean M. Alberti (Ph.D. ’70, Educational Psychology) established the Dr. Jean M. Alberti Center for the Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence (Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention) at the University at Buffalo. The center was introduced to the public on April 27, 2010, through its symposium, "Prevention of Bullying Abuse and School Violence," and was officially launched in July of 2011, when Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D., became the inaugural director.

ALBERTI CENTER TEAM

Dr. Jean M. Alberti, Benefactor
Dr. Amanda B. Nickerson, Director
Brie Kishel, Program and Operations Manager
Dr. Kathleen Allen, Training and Evaluation Specialist
Jilynn Werth, Graduate Assistant
Toni Torchia, Graduate Assistant
Michele Wiszowaty, Research Assistant
Joseph Prior, Research Assistant
STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND IMPACT

This year has been filled with many celebrations and accomplishments as we work to fulfill our important mission. Situated within the University at Buffalo’s UB 2020 plan for achieving enduring prominence, the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention is an important contributor to the Graduate School of Education’s pillars of distinction. This report highlights our activities as they relate to the mission and vision of the center, the GSE, and the university. Our partners, including faculty affiliates, advisory council members, research collaborators, funders, sponsors, award winners, and community members are showcased throughout this report. We gratefully acknowledge their support and collaboration, which greatly enhances our work.

The research that Alberti Center affiliated faculty have published and presented as it relates to our mission is detailed in this report. Faculty members have published their work in highly regarded peer refereed journal in various fields (e.g., clinical child psychology, developmental psychology, educational psychology, managerial psychology, school psychology), in addition to presenting at numerous professional conferences. Faculty members have been very active in pursuing and securing external funding for research and evaluation projects and have received honors and appointments in recognition of their scholarship. Finally, the Alberti Center has supported the contributions of exceptional early career scholars in the field of bullying abuse prevention through its annual award.

Engagement – through interprofessional collaboration and providing evidence-based tools to our schools and communities for a better quality of life – is central to the mission of the Alberti Center, the GSE, and UB. In this report, we recognize our advisory council, consisting of internationally renowned scholars, and pillars of the Western New York community representing the fields of law, education, psychiatry, and human services. This year, we have engaged in multiple presentations in schools and communities, and have sponsored numerous events, including our annual conference, colloquium series, BAND Against Bullying performing arts competition for area high schools, and many others, as highlighted in this report.

Finally, the Center’s activities that support the GSE’s pedagogy of inquiry, engagement, and impact, are highlighted. Our contributions in this area have benefitted both UB students as well as practitioners through the Center for Continuing and Professional Education and as New York Stated Education Department approved provider of the Dignity for All Students Act training. It is an honor to be able to collaborate with such talented and generous partners in working to reduce bullying abuse in our schools and communities.
CONTRIBUTING KNOWLEDGE

Peer Refereed Journal Articles

**Allen, K. P.** (in press). ‘*We don’t have bullying, but we have drama.*’ Understandings of bullying in a high school setting. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment.*


**Books**


**Book Chapters**


**Articles for Practitioners (Peer Refereed)**


**Professional Presentations**


**Orrange-Torchia, T.** (2014, April). *Bullying and victimization: prevalence and the relationship with social skills among 6th graders.* Poster presentation at the annual Graduate School of Education Student Research Symposium, Buffalo, NY.


**Invited Lectures and Colloquia:**

**Allen, K. P.** (2014, January). *Bullying and adolescent social drama...Same, different, or overlapping constructs?* Workshop presented at the Southern Tier Multi-Disciplinary Trauma Summit, Allegany, NY.

**Nickerson, A. B.** (2014, March). *Bullying: Preventing, spotting, and stopping it.* Invited Psi Chi Distinguished Lecture at Southeastern Psychological Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.


**Nickerson, A. B.,** & Dillon, J. (2013, October). *Family and community relationships with a focus on bullying during the school-age years.* Rockefeller College Professional Development Program Teleconference Series, Albany, NY.


**Funded Research**


**Grant Proposals Submitted**


**Nickerson, A. B.** (PI), **Aloe, A.,** & **Allen, K.** (co-Is). "The role of middle school climate and peer context in the bullying group process" Spencer Foundation. ($457,686.00).

Honors and Appointments

Kishel, B. Community Advisory Committee, Center for Disabilities Studies at UB
Executive Board, Disability Education and Advocacy Network (DEAN) of WNY

Nickerson, A. B. Fellow, American Psychological Association (Division 16)
Associate Editor, *Journal of School Violence*
Executive Board, New York Association of School Psychologists
Co-Chair, PREPaRE Crisis Prevention and Intervention Curriculum Workgroup, NASP

Ostrov, J. M. Expert Panel Member, CDC Bullying Definition Panel
Associate Editor, *Early Childhood Quarterly*

Treadway, D. C. Founding Fellow, U.S. Academy on Workplace Bullying, Mobbing, and Abuse

Alberti Center Early Career Award (2013)

Recipient - V. Paul Poteat, Ph.D., Associate Professor | Counseling, Development, and Educational Psychology | Boston College

**EXPERTISE/INTERESTS:** Homophobic and other forms of bias-based bullying; mental health and resilience of LGBT youth; peer group social networks and socialization processes; developmental trajectories of diversity attitudes and behaviors; social norms and ideology beliefs connected to homophobic attitudes and behaviors.

**RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS**


ENGAGING: INTERPROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND EVENTS

Advisory Council

Helen R. Aronoff, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry | UB School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Lana D. Benatovich, President | National Federation for Just Communities of WNY

Vito Borrello, President | Every Person Influences Children, Inc.

Anna R. Cieri, Ph.D., Assist. Superintendent for Exceptional Education and Student Services | Williamsville Central School District

Dewey G. Cornell, Ph.D., Professor of Education and Endowed Chair | University of Virginia

Janice L. DeLucia-Waack, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D., Professor, Education Psychology | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bruce Goldstein, Senior Partner | Goldstein, Ackerhalt & Pletcher, LLP

Mary H. Gresham, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Educational Collaboration and Engagement | UB

Jane Ogilvie, Division Director of Community Youth Development | Erie 1 BOCES

Jamie M. Ostrov, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology | University at Buffalo

Debra Pepler, Ph.D., Distinguished Research Professor | York University

Amy L. Reynolds, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | UB

Reed Stewart, LCSW-R, Program Director, Beacon Health Strategies

Susan M. Swearer, Ph.D., Professor of School Psychology | University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Kevin Penberthy, LCSW, Deputy Director, Regional Office | New York State OPWDD

Faculty Affiliates

Ariel Aloe, Ph.D., Research Scientist in Graduate School of Education | University at Buffalo & Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology and Foundations | University of Northern Iowa

Laura Anderson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in School of Nursing | University at Buffalo

Catherine P. Cook-Cottone, PhD., Associate Professor in Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

Janice L. DeLucia-Waack, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology & Program Director of School Counseling | University at Buffalo
Jennifer Livingston, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Research Institute on Addictions | University at Buffalo

Jamie M. Ostrov, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology | University at Buffalo

Amy L. Reynolds, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology | University at Buffalo

Darren Treadway, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Organization and HR | University at Buffalo

Presentations in the Community

UB Newman Center (Ostrov; July, 2013)

UB Upward Bound (Ligman; July, 2014)

National Federation for Just Communities WNY Youth Leadership Conference (Torchia; November, 2013)

Williamsville Central School (Nickerson; December, 2013)

Western Suffolk BOCES (Nickerson; December, 2013)

Guilderland School District (Allen; December, 2013)

Ellicottville Central School (Nickerson; January, 2014)

Nichols School (Nickerson; February, 2014)

Stamford Public School (Nickerson; February, 2014)

Saints Peter and Paul (Werth & Torchia; February, 2014)

Medina School District (Allen; February, 2014)

WNY Inclusion Committee Speaker Series (Ostrov; February, 2014)

Lancaster Central School District (Nickerson; March, 2014)

Corning-Painted Post School District (Allen; March, 2014)

Starpoint Central School District (Allen; March, 2014)

Temple Beth Tdezek (Nickerson; March, 2014)

NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (Allen; April, 2014)

Salamanca City School District (Nickerson; April, 2014)

WNY Children’s Psychiatric Center (Torchia & Werth, May, 2014)

West Valley Central School (Nickerson; May, 2014)
2013-2014 Colloquium Series

**September, 2013 - Patricia Logan-Greene, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor in School of Social Work | University at Buffalo

*Diversity of Childhood Adverse Experiences and Treatment Needs Among Court-Involved Youth*

41 attendees

**November, 2013 - Maria Ttofi, Ph.D.,** Institute of Criminology | University of Cambridge

*Interrupting the Continuity from School Bullying to Adverse Outcomes in Adult Life: Informing Intervention Research and Practice*

43 Attendees

**February, 2014 - Steven R. Sugarman, Esq.,** Attorney and Mediator | Pusatier, Sherman, Abbott & Sugarman | Adjunct Professor | SUNY at Buffalo Law School

*Mediation: Resolving Conflict Wisely in a Conflict-Filled World*

30 Attendees

**April, 2014 - Dr. Debra Pepler, Ph.D.,** Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology | York University and the Hospital for Sick Children

*Creating Healthy Relationships – The Essential Foundation for Healthy Development*

59 Attendees
Alberti Center Annual Conference - October 10, 2013

Keynote Presentation:

*Student Threat Assessment and the Prevention of School Violence*

Dewey Cornell, Ph.D., Professor of Education | Curry School of Education, University of Virginia

Breakout Sessions

*Avoiding Courtrooms and Headlines: Strategies to Protect Your District from Legal Challenges Regarding Bullying and DASA*

Tracie L. Lopardi, Esq., Partner | Harris Beach PLLC
Marnie E. Smith, Esq., Attorney | Harris Beach PLLC

*Bullying and Students with Disabilities*

Elizabeth Assad-Penner, Educational Advocate | People Inc

*Creating an Anti-Bullying Climate and Culture*

Stanley Simmons, M.S.Ed. Dean of Students | Enterprise Charter School

J.A. “Tony” Olivo, LPI, Partner-Director of Investigative Services | Corporate Screening and Consulting Group LLC

*Bullying and LGBTQ Youth*

Amy L. Reynolds, Ph.D., Associate Professor | Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology, University at Buffalo

*Weight-Based Victimization: Are you Fueling the Fire?*

Laura M. Anderson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor & Licensed Psychologist | School of Nursing | University at Buffalo
Alberti Center Annual Conference - October 10, 2013 (continued)

Gold Sponsors
embraceWNY
The Western New York Foundation

Silver Sponsors
Buffalo Teachers Federation
Community Action Organization of Erie County, Inc.
Harris Beach PLLC
New York Association of School Psychologists
Pearson

2013 Conference Attendees
Fields of Profession

- School-based mental health professionals (14%)
- School Administrators (4%)
- Community or agency-based professionals (7%)
- Students (7%)
- Others (5%)
- Law Enforcement agents (2%)
- Teachers (5%)
- University Faculty (5%)
Co-Sponsored Events

A variety of schools participate by hosting auditions and/or competitions that incorporate the arts within their own school, related to the theme of Dignity. The acts are encouraged to combine multiple forms of art to create the most dynamic illustration of dignity awareness. Each final act performs at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts. It is an eventful evening, including valuable information on bullying awareness, exceptional talent and collaboration among students, and an opportunity to raise money for the prevention of bullying in schools. Proceeds benefit each participating school, and the continued development of the BAND Against Bullying Program.

**BAND Against Bullying** (May 2013) Co-sponsored by: M&T Bank, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the University at Buffalo

**BAND Against Bullying II** (March 2014) Co-sponsored by: M&T Bank, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, and the University at Buffalo

**Screening of Submit the Documentary** (October, 2013)

**Screening of Matt Shephard is a Friend of Mine** (October, 2013) Co-sponsored by: CLaRI, The Institute for Research & Education on Women & Gender and UB Wellness Education Services
Alberti Center Presence at Other Events/ Venues

**Starpoint High School Career Fair** (February, 2014)

**“Spread the Word to End the Word” Event** (March, 2014)

**Safe Schools Initiative Seminar** (March, 2014)

**Character Education Council of WNY** (November, 2013)

**“Finding Kind” Panel Discussion at Orchard Park Central School** (May, 2014)

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day** (May, 2014)

**Western Region Self-Advocacy Conference** (June 2014)

**Ongoing Collaboration with Amherst Central Schools Dignity Act Coordinators - Dr. Nickerson**

Social Media Efforts/ Center Reach

- **207 Followers**
- **72 Members**
- **261 Followers**
- **1099 Contacts**
Media Coverage & Press Releases

High expectations for DASA - Buffalo Business First, 9/23/2013
Caméras dans les écoles: pas un remède miracle - Le Soliel (Quebec), 9/29/2013
Alberti Center to hold annual conference - UB Reporter, 10/3/2013
Two films about bullying will be part of UB conference - The Buffalo News, 10/8/2013
UB’s anti-bullying center presents annual conference during National Bullying Prevention Month - UB Press Release, 10/13/2013
What does ‘bullying’ mean, anyway? - 90.9 WBUR, 11/7/2013
The NFL and adult bullies - National Public Radio, 11/7/2013
Bystanders can make a difference, bullying expert says - UB Reporter, 11/7/2013
Local experts discuss NFL bullying case - Time Warner Cable News, 11/9/2013
Being a bully linked to casual, risky sex - Reuters, 11/12/2013
Bullies at work - Success, 11/20/2013
After Sandy Hook, a new wave of school security - The Buffalo News, 12/12/2013
Is mental health the next focus of the school safety debate? - NEA Today, 12/13/2013
Ellicottville Central School addresses bullying through recent workshop - The Salamanca Press, 2/11/14
The Harsh Dilemma of Preparing Kids for the Worst at School - The Huffington Post, 2/19/14
An all-out anti-bullying focus - APA Monitor on Psychology, March, 2014
School Shooting Drills Can Be More Terrifying Than Helpful - The Daily Beast, 4/16/14
Children Withholding Friendship as a Weapon; Teaching Empathy (Ostrov, J. M.), The Wall Street Journal, 5/27/14
The Development of Relational Aggression: The Role of Media Exposure (Ostrov, J. M.)
Psychological Science Agenda, August, 2013
Pedagogy of Inquiry, Engagement, and Impact

Center for Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE) Courses

**CEP 752 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention (online)**

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**CEP 754 - School Crisis Prevention and Preparedness**
PREPaRE Workshop 1: *Crisis Prevention and Preparedness: Comprehensive School Safety Planning*

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**CEP 756 - School Crisis Intervention and Recovery**
PREPaRE Workshop 2: *Crisis Intervention and Recovery: The Roles of School-Based Mental Health Professionals*

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**Total participants in Fall semester CCPE courses:** 28 students

NYSED Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Training for Certification

![2013-2014 NYSED DASA Training Workshop Participants Graph]

**Total DASA Workshop participants for 2013-2014:** 402 students
Financial Report

REVENUES

Annual Operating Budget: $12,000.00  
Gifts and Donations: $28,500.00  
Event Sponsorships: $4,275.00  
Annual Conference: $9,758.10  
Presentation Fees: $1,414.56  
Teaching (Course Materials) $1,330.20  
DASA Training $22,554.00  
NASP (GA Sponsorship) $12,672.00  
Grants $37,336.86

Total: $ 129,840.72

OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES $64,929.40  
Annual Conference $12,082.01  
Colloquium Series $648.68  
Early Career Award $1,105.00  
Hospitality (Airlines/Hotels) $1,107.75  
DASA Training $11,048.50  
Teaching Materials $1600.60  
Grant Research $37,336.86

FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE $23,562.48  
GUSF & Epay Fees $3,544.40  
Personnel $15,998.30  
Staff Travel & Registrations $4,019.78

OTHER EXPENSES $7,927.94  
Office Supplies $2,696.03  
Equipment/Software $1,142.15  
Resources $547.37  
Sponsorships $1,000.00  
Marketing/Printing $2,542.39

Total: $ 96,419.82

YEAR END BALANCES

State Start-Up Funds (Dean’s Office) - $0.00

UBF account - $69,629.14

IFR (SI RI) - $29,182.27