



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

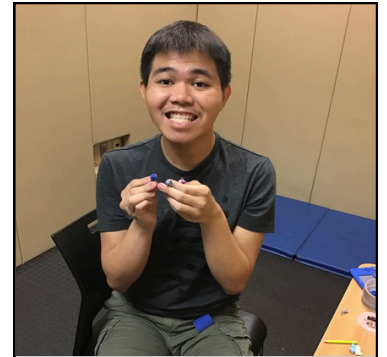
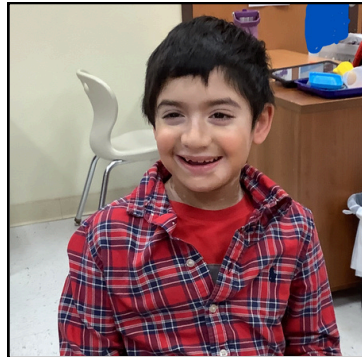
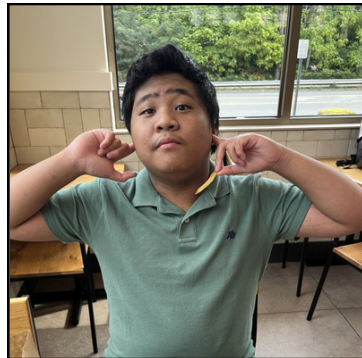
**Douglass Developmental
Disabilities Center**

Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Annual Report 2024-2025



Service • Training • Research
TO SUPPORT THE AUTISM COMMUNITY





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Message from the Dean's Cabinet

DR. LARA DELMOLINO GATLEY

Associate Dean for Administration and Strategic Operations
Director of Applied and Academic Autism Services



Each year, the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC) serves as a vibrant model of comprehensive service, rigorous training, and scholarly engagement in higher education, reflecting the core principles and values of Rutgers University. Each DDDC team member is truly remarkable, filled with deep compassion, limitless energy, and steadfast commitment to delivering high-quality services and training to the autism community. This past June, the DDDC celebrated its largest graduating class of students with autism transitioning into adulthood – with each student and family leaving an indelible impact on the DDDC community.

Similarly, every trainee and staff member who embarked on the next stages of their career departed the DDDC equipped with valuable expertise and the skills to succeed, while simultaneously leaving a lasting imprint on the lives they touched. As we begin the 2025-2026 academic year, we eagerly welcome new students, families, staff, and trainees to the DDDC and Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) family. The GSAPP Dean's Cabinet extends its warmest congratulations to the DDDC on another exceptional year marked by unwavering dedication and meaningful achievements, upholding GSAPP's mission and tradition.



GSAPP Dean's Cabinet, 2024-2025 (l to r): Dr. Linda Reddy, Daniel Rice, Dr. Lara Delmolino Gatley, Dr. Ryan Kettler, Dr. Daniel Hart. Not pictured: Bernadette Cariaga

Message from the Director

CATRIONA FRANCIS

Dear DDDC Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another impactful year, I am filled with gratitude and pride in the work we do, and in the generous community that makes it possible. Since 1972, our Center has been a vital resource for school-aged children with autism and their families. As a university-based program, we remain steadfast in our three-fold mission of service, training, and research. Each aspect of our work reinforces our mission to improve lives today and shape a more inclusive tomorrow.



We exist in an evolving landscape where access to autism support services can be uncertain and challenging; the DDDC is proud to be leading the charge in identifying critical service gaps across our state and creating innovative, specialized programs to fill them. Our work is grounded in evidence, driven by compassion, and made possible by a deep understanding of what children and families need to thrive.

This year, we have deepened our commitment to broadening our impact beyond the walls of our Center. In partnership with large urban school districts, we are extending our expertise directly into the community, supporting educators, empowering families, and ultimately reaching more children where they are.

Our 2024-2025 Annual Report highlights the progress we made and the ongoing dedication of our incomparable team. To each of you who has supported our mission, thank you. Your belief in our work, and more importantly, in the incredible potential of the individuals in our care, fuels everything we do. Together, we are not only changing lives, but helping build a future where specialized, high-quality autism services are within reach for all who need – and deserve them.

With sincere appreciation,

Catriona Francis

Director, Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center



Our Impact

Service



40

Students from **23** districts served in the Douglass School Program



56

Students impacted by our **6** school-based Outreach contracts

Training

- **47 Undergraduate Psychology Students**
- **27 Psychiatry Fellows**
- **22 International Visitors**
- **22 Masters-level ABA Students**
- **17 Nursing Students**

people Trained

158

- **7 Family Practice Residents**
- **5 Graduate Speech Students**
- **2 Social Work Students**
- **2 Doctoral-level Students**
- **7 Other Psychology Students**

Research



22

Conference Papers

18

Research Posters

9

Workshops

2

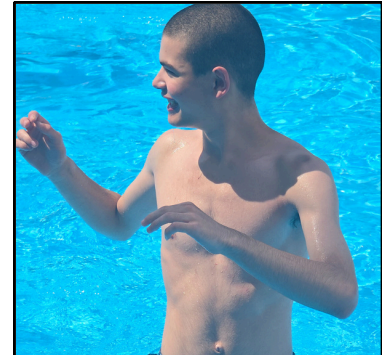
Guest Lectures

1

Publication in a Peer-Reviewed Journal



Our students' success is at the center of all we do!





Serving School-Aged Children

Center-Based Program

The Douglass School Program serves children ages 3-21 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. We utilize the evidence-based principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to develop an individualized educational program that effectively addresses the complex support needs of our students.

— “

This is the first school I felt could actually meet my son's complex needs being a child on the severe end of the spectrum with challenging behaviors.

- DDDC Parent

” —



Community-Based Program



The Douglass Outreach Program ensures the availability of high-quality ABA services to school-aged children in the community through integrated home-based therapy, parent training, and consultation to underserved New Jersey schools.



Serving and SHARE-ing Our Expertise with Underserved Communities

In September 2023, with strategic funds awarded by Rutgers-New Brunswick's Chancellor's Office, the DDDC launched **Scarlet Hope for Autism: The Road to Excellence in Education (SHARE)**. This innovative program exemplifies GSAPP's staunch commitment to community engagement by partnering with urban, underserved school districts in New Jersey to offer high-quality services for children with autism. SHARE also provides GSAPP and other Rutgers students with invaluable practical experience and helps address a statewide staffing shortage in the educational system. SHARE demonstrates how GSAPP's work can have truly meaningful impact on our local community, ensuring delivery of high-quality services to children with autism in districts typically facing barriers to that access.



Debra Paone
Director of Training and
Consultation; Co-Director
of SHARE



Marlene Brown
Associate Director of
Consultation; Co-Director
of SHARE

Recognized for “Meeting the Moment”

Part of GSAPP's 50 Years of Impact Anniversary Celebration



Training in Autism and ABA

A key part of our mission is to train the next generation of professionals pursuing in-demand careers that support individuals on the autism spectrum. The DDDC provides intensive training in applied behavior analysis (ABA) to Rutgers master's and doctoral level students. Each year, the DDDC also offers training to practitioners in other disciplines, such as nursing and undergraduate fieldwork students, psychiatry fellows, and family practice residents. Additionally, DDDC trainees often have the opportunity to participate in groundbreaking research projects and industry events. This year, we had the honor of hosting and training international professionals from South Korea.

“

This was a great experience overall and helped me understand the importance of non-verbal cues and the relevance of the patient's treatment and overall well-being.

- Nursing Student

”



“

My colleagues are often surprised to learn that I've only been a BCBA for a few months—they're always curious where I trained, and I never hesitate to tell them about the DDDC. I've found that many other practicum sites didn't offer the same depth of training or mentorship.

- Master's Trainee &
Former Staff Member





“ It was an amazing experience getting to see kids with autism and knowing the ways to interact with them. I loved how I got to see each class with different needs. I loved the experience overall and would love to have more sessions like this.

- Family Practice Resident

Spotlight on Supporters

We are very grateful for the donors who supported our work at the DDDC this year!

Ms. Katie E. Accordino
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T.
Arnold

Ms. Nia V. Baird
Ms. Meredith J. Bamond
Ms. Tanya Beauchamp
Ms. Shelley Bertino

Ms. Kimberly R. Boley
Ms. Angela Booth
Ms. Marlene P. Brown and
Mr. George Escoffery

Mr. and Mrs. Scott D. Brown
Ms. Margaret M. Burns
Ms. Christine Carducci
Mr. and Mrs. Jovencio
Cariaga

Mr. and Mrs. Michael V.
Cavaliere
Cultural & Charitable Club
of Somerset Run

Mr. and Mrs. Reuvain Davis
Ms. Loris T. Decker

Mr. Fabio Dos Prazeres
Findnflip

Ms. Kate E. Fiske
Ms. Termerra T. Flournoy

Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Fogarty

Mrs. Catriona B Francis
Mr. Thomas A. Francis

Mr. Gerard M. Franz and Dr.
Naomi Lawrence

Fund Raising Products, Inc.
Dr. Lara Delmolino Gatley

Dr. Peter F. Gerhardt
Gillette Dental Care

Mr. Joseph Gironda
Ms. Arbana Frasheri Gjoca

Ms. Michelle Glater
Greenwich Autism Alliance

Ms. Ileana M. Guerrero
Mr and Mrs. John Guido

Ms. Monique Hain
Mr. Ken Healy

Ms. Madeline Hettrick
Mr. Daniel Higgins

Honeygrow, LLC
Ms. Lisa Isenhower

Dr. Robert W. Isenhower
Ms. Kathryn M. Jones

Mr. Navjot Kaur
Ms. Chai L. Kim

Mr. Vsevolod Korogod
Mr. Dave Lawrence

Mrs. Bobbi LeVine
Ms. Sarah K. LeVine

Ms. Junfang Li

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin A. Lyons
Mr. Denis Massey

Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Patrick McCarthy

Ms. Bonnell Messeroll
Mr. Matthew Mester

Mr. and Dr. Joshua Milstein
Mr. Brian Mislavsky

Ms. Roma Mitra

Ms. Jacqueline Molnar
OTB Acquisition LLC

Ms. Tina Palmer

Ms. Danielle Paoello

Ms. Debra Paone

Mrs. Mitzi E. Paschkes

The Pasta Shoppe LLC

Ms. Mary Ann Policastro
Profit Monsters LLC

Mr. Dominick Ritorto

Ms. Ingrid G. Rodriguez

Ms. Corinne H. Schulman

Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Jay
Shatz

Ms. Lisa Singer

Ms. Donna L. Sloan

Ms. Kimberly N. Sloman

Mr. Jake Steiner

Mr. Hua Tan

Mrs. Donna Simpson
Usiskin

Ms. Alexis Zimmerlink



Spotlight on Supporters

Thank you to the donors who supported the SHARE Program this year!

Mrs. Bonnie Bertino

Mr. Joseph Bertino

Ms. Shelley Bertino

Ms. Marlene P. Brown

Mr. George Escoffery

Ms. Catriona B. Francis

Mr. Thomas A. Francis

Ms. Lisa Isenhower

Dr. Robert W. Isenhower

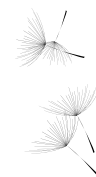
Mr. Craig Last

Dr. Debra Paone

Ms. Bharti Sangoi

Ms. Donna L. Sloan

Mr. Hua Tan



Community Partnership Award

The **DDDC Community Partnership Award**, established in 2018, seeks to recognize community partnerships that have allowed us to provide the individuals at the DDDC with valuable opportunities to help them achieve their goals. The recipient of this year's DDDC Community Partnership Award is *Federico's Pizza & Restaurant*, located in Belmar, NJ, and their owner, Bryan Morin. Bryan was nominated by Todd Frischmann, a Behavior Analyst at the DDDC, who shared about the positive impact of Bryan and his business's support.

"Bryan was immediately supportive of providing a work-based learning opportunity for Alex, and he was committed to helping us make it a positive experience. Bryan insisted on putting Alex on the payroll from the start, and he worked directly with Alex to initially demonstrate the tasks he would perform. Other employees were also very supportive, always greeting Alex and putting away the stacks of pizza boxes that he folded. Many people contributed to Alex's success, but Bryan Morin and Federico's Pizza & Restaurant provided an incredibly supportive workplace environment that was crucially important to Alex's successful employment."



700 Main St
Belmar, NJ 07719

(732) 681-6936
(732) 681-7066



Media Recognition of Our Reach and Impact

Highlighted in Rutgers Today

The DDDC's work was recognized as a key factor in Rutgers University-New Brunswick being awarded the *Innovation and Economic Prosperity* designation.

Article Excerpt: "The Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center at the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology trains special education professionals for working with individuals with autism. In 2023, the center partnered with school districts in underserved communities, training 77 health professionals and 300 community participants as well as serving 30 school districts."

Rutgers-New Brunswick Is Awarded "Innovation and Economic Prosperity" Designation | Rutgers University



The DDDC's Scarlet Hope for Autism: the Road to Excellence in Education (SHARE) Program

Spotlighted in Rutgers Today!

"SHARE's mission is two-fold: provide support services now and, at the same time, prepare district staff and teachers for the future with 'train-the-trainer' sessions so the program will continue and grow even after Rutgers experts leave.

The program provides an opportunity for Rutgers students to gain experience in the classroom, while also training existing teachers and staff."

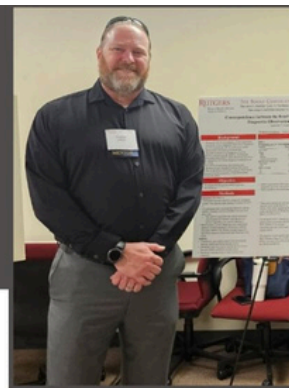


Co-Directors of SHARE,
Marlene Brown, M.S., BCBA, LBA (NY)
& Debra Paone, PhD, BCBA-D

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RUTGERS TODAY
Your daily source for news and information

Book Authored by DDDC Faculty Translated into Japanese



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**CONGRATS
DR. BOB LARUE!!**

"Functional Behavior Assessment for People with Autism," co-authored with Dr. Beth Glasberg, has been published and is available for purchase in **Japan!**



DDDC Leadership



Daniel Hart

INTERIM DEAN AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR,
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF APPLIED AND PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
Ed. D.



Lara Delmolino Gatley

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION AND STRATEGIC OPERATIONS, GSAPP
DIRECTOR OF APPLIED AND ACADEMIC AUTISM SERVICES, GSAPP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DDDC
Ph.D.



Catriona Francis

DIRECTOR OF THE DDDC
Ed. M, BCBA



Debra Paone

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND CONSULTATION
CO-DIRECTOR OF SHARE
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Robert LaRue

CLINICAL PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Robert Isenhower

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR,
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDENT TRAINING
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Rachel Davis

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL PRACTICE
Ed.M., LDT-C, BCBA



Marlene Brown

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONSULTATION
CO-DIRECTOR OF SHARE
M.S., BCBA, LBA (NY)



Sarah LeVine

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL
M.A, M.Ed, CCC-SLP, BCBA



Donna L. Sloan

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DOUGLASS SCHOOL
M.A., BCBA

Congratulations

to Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology for 50 years of continued success!



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