

Two former Alfred University students honored at school psychologists conference

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Joseph Januzzi '17

WHITE PLAINS, NY Two former Alfred University students recently received awards sponsored by the New York State Association of School Psychologists.

Dr. Cara Felski Smith and Joseph Januzzi were honored during the NYSASP Conference, held Oct. 19-21 in White Plains. In addition, a research team led by Dr. Rachel Roth, assistant professor of school psychology, made two presentations at the conference.

Smith won the NYSASP Chapter E School Psychologist of the Year Award, which recognizes excellence in providing school psychological services. To be eligible, school psychologists must spend the majority of their time (75 percent or more) providing direct services to children and their families. Chapter E covers the Central New York region, including Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego counties. Smith earned a doctorate degree in school psychology from Alfred University in 2010. She works in the Cortland Enlarged City School District.

Januzzi received a Ted Bernstein Award, which is given to a recent graduate who shows outstanding professional promise in school psychology. Each school psychology program nominates a student they believe exemplifies the best qualities of a school psychologist and is committed to improving the lives of children and their families. Januzzi earned a master's degree in school psychology from Alfred University in 2016. He is a school psychologist for Sandusky (Ohio) City Schools.

Roth's research team included current second-year doctoral and specialist school psychology students Damon Bouge, Ashley Chermak, Allyson Church, Nicole Clark, Sarah Kichman, Brianna Nelson, Kati Winterburn, and Alicia Zielenski.

The team presented to a crowded room full of school psychologists about strategies for developing trauma-informed schools. The talk described the types of traumas that children may experience and their effects on the children both in school and in general. They also discussed crisis intervention and school-wide interventions, as well as longer-term interventions targeted to specific students. The research team also presented a poster titled, Adolescent's Social Media Use: A School Psychologist's Role.

The New York State conference is one of the most prestigious school psychology conferences in the country and includes speakers from within New York, as well as nationally-known presenters.