

PGSA NEWSLETTER

October 8th, 2012 Volume 2



Mid-Semester PGSA Summary

We hope everyone is having a great semester! In effort to keep everyone better updated and informed, we want to provide a summary of events and updates from meetings. First, we had a very successful field day and we would like to thank everyone who came out to watch and participate (See results to the right). Second, we had our first clinical training workshop on PTSD. The feedback from those who attended has been very positive and most students found it informative and helpful that the presenter, Dr. Norton was a past graduate of the program. The next workshop will be presented by Dr. Stan Brodsky (see below for details). Third, we are helping Dr. Crowther compile the materials needed for the renewal of our APA accreditation. During which,

we found that the current EPPP passrate for U of A clinical students over the past 6 years is 97.9%. Fourth, Ernest is currently working on updating the departmental committees with graduate student representatives. This year, we are asking that all graduate students who serve on a committee provide updates to the PGSA so we can update all students on the workings of each committee. Lastly, Megan Crisler sent out an email asking students to quickly fill out an online survey. The graduate curriculum committee and Megan plan to meet to discuss possible changes to the curriculum across both programs and we would like to have your opinions. Please remember to feel free to email Ernest if you have any questions or concerns.

FIELD DAY RESULTS:



1ST PLACE- CRIMSON



2ND PLACE- WHITE



3RD PLACE- HOUNDSTOOTH

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ANNA SMITHERMAN & JESSE MCPHERRON FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT!

Therapy with Coerced & Reluctant Clients Workshop

Confined and coerced individuals in need of psychotherapeutic treatment often present with considerable ambivalence. Many of them are disordered and they need treatment. At the same time, they are resistant to genuinely entering treatment. This workshop is designed to provide a conceptual and practical foundation for treating coerced and reluctant prisoners, with a special

emphasis on the early points of beginning therapy. This workshop

WHO: Psychology graduate students and practitioners at all levels of their professional career.

WHEN: DEC. 7TH, 1PM-4PM

WHERE: GORDON PALMER 351

will draw particularly on the Brodsky 2011 book *Therapy with Coerced and Reluctant Clients*.

Presenter

Stanley L. Brodsky, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist and Professor of Psychology at UA. He is author of 14 books in psychology applied to law and offenders, and recipient of the Distinguished Achievement awards from the American Psychology-Law Society and the American Association of Correctional Psychology.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand specific treatment challenges shown by clients who feel coerced to enter treatment to attain some instrumental goal.
2. Learn the therapeutic techniques to address silence, avoidance, and denial at the beginning of therapy.
3. Master the use of *objective self-awareness* approaches in therapy.
4. Understand uses of the method of *Constructionalism* in therapy, in which treatment seeks to build on existing functional constructs rather than aiming at the more difficult task of replacing behavioral constructs.
5. Practice and master situations in therapy in which clients show resistance through hostility, passivity, and ingratiation.

Safe Zone Training for Psychology Department

The UA Safe Zone is a program sponsored by Capstone Alliance and Dean of Students. The program works to provide a visible network of trained faculty, staff, and student allies for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, queer, and ally individuals on campus. One facet of this program is Safe Zone trainings. During our trainings we discuss basic information

WHO: ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS, FACULTY, & STAFF

WHEN: NOV. 30TH, 9AM-12PM

WHERE: GORDON PALMER 351

regarding the LGBTQ+ community, issues individuals may face, campus

resources, how to create a more inclusive classroom and campus environment, and how to report harassment and/or discrimination. At

the end of each training attendees are offered the opportunity to sign up as a Safe Zone Ally. Allies generally display the rainbow elephant stickers on their office doors to signal that they are a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ individuals.



Updates from Past Graduates

BRAD OKDIE

Brad is currently an assistant professor at The Ohio State University at Newark. He finally has his own lab setup at OSU and is currently working with 10 great undergraduates on studies investigating the role new technology has on impression formation and self-disclosure. Additionally, his lab is running several studies investigating how attitudes change when one is presented with multiple influence techniques. Brad's son (Wyatt) is now almost 2 years old. Amanda and Brad could not be happier watching him grow and experience the world.



ANNA YAROS

Anna is living in Richmond, VA and is in the second year of her postdoc at Virginia Commonwealth University at Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development. She is primarily doing research on school-based intervention and parenting interventions. She is still collaborating with John Lochman at UA on some publications!

HALEY FORD

Haley is doing a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at STRONG STAR (South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience). During this rotation, she helped write a grant to examine the impact of psychiatric aeromedical evacuations of military psychiatric casualties from a war zone (funded by the Air Force). In addition, she has been trained in two therapies for PTSD, prolonged exposure and cognitive behavioral conjoint therapy. Finally, STRONG STAR is in the process of expanding its focus, and one area that will be more heavily emphasized is that of biomarkers for PTSD. She is particularly excited about this development because it will draw on part of her dissertation. On the non-academic side, she is really enjoying living in San Antonio, which has a history and culture different from any other place she has lived.

MARIE MOORE CHANNELL

Marie is a Postdoctoral Scholar at the M.I.N.D. Institute at the University of California- Davis. Under the supervision of Dr. Len Abbeduto, she is doing research on the development of language, cognitive, and socioemotional skills in individuals with Down syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

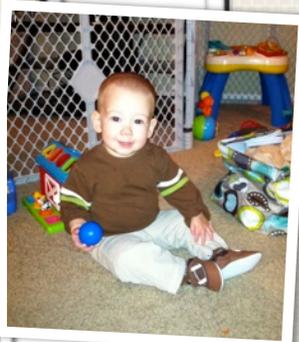


CASSIE ENO

Cassie is living in Omaha, Nebraska. She is working as an Assessment Analyst at Bellevue University. She serves as a resource for faculty working on program-level assessment (including help with shaping program learning outcomes and data analysis) and manage and analyze data for tracking the assessment efforts across the university. More exciting, Blake and Cassie had a son Niles and he's almost nine months old!

TIARNEY RITCHWOOD

Tiarney is doing a Postdoc at the University of Rochester Medical Center. She is interested in predictors of adolescent risky sexual behavior, HIV prevention/intervention, & community-based research.



PHIL HALEY

Phil is currently the Palliative Care Psychology Resident at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio, TX. Within the next year, he hopes to pass the EPPP, become licensed and secure a position as a VA staff psychologist.



COURTNEY WORLEY*

Courtney is a Staff Psychologist on the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Team-West Campus for the Central Alabama VA.

RACHEL BADEN

Rachel just completed her clinical internship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Center (UAB), and she is now starting her post-doctoral fellowship at the UAB Sparks-Civitan Clinics, where she will be focusing on the assessment and treatment of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities (e.g., Autism, ADHD, Learning Disability) and related behavioral and psychosocial problems. She is engaged to Jonathan Sherrill and they are very excited about their upcoming December 2012 wedding in Raleigh, North Carolina. Johnny is a Captain in the US Air Force stationed in Birmingham and flies the Boeing KC-135 Stratotanker, a plane that does mid-air refueling of other military aircraft. They will live in Birmingham following the wedding.

TESS NEAL

Tess Neal is completing a postdoc in forensic psychology services and research at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Her sister just had the first baby in the family - a healthy and beautiful little girl (Brooklynn Rylee).



BRITTANY TRAVERS

Brittany is doing her postdoc at Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is learning diffusion tensor imaging techniques and applying that to a large, longitudinal autism sample. Her co-mentors are Andy Alexander and Richie Davidson.



ABBIE PERELMAN

Abbie relocated from Raleigh, NC (where she did her internship at Federal Correctional Complex-Butner) to Richmond, VA for a job. She is a Staff Psychologist at the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC)-Petersburg (Medium). She is currently working on publishing her dissertation and starting the daunting process of studying for the EPPP. She is keeping busy exploring her new city and surroundings. Richmond has great restaurants and a very cool culture, all visitors are welcome! Finally, she is also hoping the NHL doesn't have a season-long outlook so that she can continue to make it her mission to watch as many live hockey games as possible.



MITCH ZIEMKE

Mitch is a Staff Psychologist at the Federal Correctional Institution in Waseca, Minnesota (a women's prison).

MEGAN RUITER

Megan is in her second year at UAB in a postdoctoral research fellowship. It's an AHRQ funded T32 fellowship on Health Outcomes and Services Research. It is an interdisciplinary fellowship. She is also a scholar in UAB's Health Disparities Research Team Program. Megan is also engaged to married next February! Lastly, Megan's research at UAB received national media exposure back in June. She had interviews with CBS and MSNBC Nightly News Show with Brian Williams. Her research was on the prospective relationship between short sleep (<6 hours) and incident stroke symptoms among normal weight middle-aged to older adults.

GREG VANDERWAL

Greg is staying close to home! He is currently working as a post-doctoral fellow at UA with Dr. Lichstein. His primary focus is on grant writing. That and his family of 5 keeps him pretty busy.



ROSS GRIMES

Ross is in a postdoc at UAB working on the Department of Mental Health Adolescent Commitment Unit. He will be transitioning to an Assistant Professorship by the first of the year at UAB. They have up to 10 beds for kids from all over the state of AL who have been found by a court to be mentally ill, a danger to themselves or others, and in need of psychiatric stabilization. Ross does testing and therapy on the unit, as well as participates in the interdisciplinary treatment team. Research wise, he is focusing on the use of restraint and seclusion in inpatient/residential treatment.



DESIREE GRIFFIN

Desiree is faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill and Psychology Associate at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute (working on the forensic unit). Her husband, Michael, is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Durham VAMC, private practitioner doing forensic work in Chapel Hill, NC, and adjunct faculty for UNC. Michael and Desiree had their first child, Andrew, on 11/30/11. He's been the biggest blessing and quite the eye-opening learning experience.

AVANI SHAH

Avani Shah is an Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Alabama.

JAMIE O'MALLY

Jamie is working as an assistant research professor at The National Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University in Starkville. Their research focuses on improving employment and independent living outcomes for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. One of her contributions to the NRTC has been to develop and launch a national registry to recruit research participants who are blind or visually impaired. In addition to conducting research, she is thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to teach graduate level Research Methods in the College of Education this semester. Jamie also married Mark Martinez, and they are enjoying life "just down the road" from UA.





MICHAEL DILLARD

Michael was awarded a Research Associateship by the National Research Council. He is currently working at the Air Force Research Laboratory located on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. He is researching the effects of perceived time progression on cerebral bloodflow velocity, stress, and task performance during a vigilance task. His mentors include Dr. Greg Funke, Dr. Todd Nelson, and Dr. Joel Warm. Dr. Warm says the department should be proud that Alabama has such a strong "presence" at Wright-Patterson-Air Force Base, with Michael, Jeff Phillips, Joe Chandler and Andrew Presnell.



STEPHANIE EVANS

After Stephanie completed her internship at Federal Medical Center (FMC) Devens, she moved to Tucson, Arizona in order to start work at Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Tucson. She is the Staff Psychologist at the United States Penitentiary (USP) and she also provides crisis intervention coverage for the entire complex. She is looking forward to exploring the hiking trails near Tucson. She is going to be working towards licensure and will take the EPPP next year.

MARTIN MORTHLAND

Martin is a Staff Geropsychologist at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta, ME. He is the psychologist for the Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Service, which includes 3 units (hospice/palliative care, skilled nursing, and dementia). His wife, Carrie, is currently working at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Martin and his family hope to move closer to home and Tuscaloosa, AL.

MARY WOJNAROSKI*

Mary is a post-doctoral fellow at the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH.

GRADUATES*

Chris Klein, Henry McKeen, Yuliya Kolomyts, Erica Jordan, Joanna Mussey & Kelly Pivik.

* Individuals that did not respond to an email request for updates. Therefore, any provided information provided was given by a third-person.

Upcoming UA Research Conference

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your research. Registration for the upcoming UA Graduate Student Association Research Conference is Wednesday, October 10th. Generous donations have been made to the GSA that would allow for monetary awards to students that would assist them in taking their research presentations to the next level at

larger professional meetings. For talk presentations, prizes will be awarded in descending order from \$500, \$300, \$200 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. Poster presentations will be awarded \$150, \$100, and \$50 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively as well. In addition, the PGSA would like to assess the interest of students to have a poster/ presentation conference to be

held within the the department in the spring semester. This event will give all psychology graduate students a chance to highlight their own (or lab) work to other students within the department by presenting new or old posters/ presentations. Please help us by expressing your interest (or disinterest) to your concentration representatives.

FUN SEMESTER PICTURES

