Dr. Walker and her team are currently analyzing several data sets that present risk and protective factors associated with suicide in 300 college students. Recently, they presented results from a vignette study about lay persons’ classification of suicide at the American Association of Suicidology’s national meeting in San Francisco, CA. The results demonstrated that, given ambiguous circumstances, black people were less likely than white people to attribute a fictitious character’s death to suicide. Such findings are important for the development of relevant suicide prevention efforts. The lab is using another data set to evaluate how neighborhood conditions might relate to hopelessness, a precipitating factor in suicide, during emerging adulthood.

Dr. Walker is primarily interested in suicide risk and protective factors for adults. However, she plans to conduct secondary analyses for a longitudinal adolescent sample to examine how suicide vulnerability might begin earlier in the life course. Dr. Walker will use data from this study to investigate how contextual challenges and diminished sociocultural buffers for adults who have a history of suicide crisis.

Dr. Walker and her collaborators have several exciting projects in various stages of preparation that will investigate suicide vulnerability in college, community, and clinical samples. Dr. Walker is planning a project that will explore how culture, spirituality, and coping style influence self-harm behaviors in undergraduate students. Dr. Walker also has a strong interest in how genetics influence vulnerability to depression and will incorporate this area into her research. Dr. Walker is also preparing to submit a small grant to fund preliminary suicide research in the north Georgia area. This project will evaluate models of coping style and also brain chemistry among suicide attempters and non-attempters to determine if genetic and sociocultural risk factors differ between these two groups.

Dr. Walker collaborates with two graduate students, Kelci Flowers and Temilola Salami, as well as approximately four undergraduates. Kelci Flowers describes Dr. Walker as a diligent professor who works hard to research under-investigated and marginalized populations. Dr. Walker is not only enthusiastic about furthering her research, but also about aiding her graduate and undergraduate students in their professional development, by offering her spare time for meetings and encouraging discussions.
Dr. Dean Kilpatrick currently serves as a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Kilpatrick’s responsibilities include serving as Director of the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Director of the Charleston Consortium Clinical Psychology Internship Program, and Vice Chair for Education. Dr. Kilpatrick also maintains an active research agenda and serves on local, state, and national nonprofit boards (e.g., People Against Rape, the S.C. Victims Assistance Network, and the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies).

Dr Kilpatrick notes that his work days involve numerous and diverse responsibilities: “My days are busy but never routine. A typical day may involve attending committee meetings, conducting research, meeting with one or more of the 13 faculty members I supervise, meeting with psychology interns or postdoctoral fellows, attending a professional conference, or responding to requests for information from congressional committees.” Dr. Kilpatrick enjoys the variety inherent in his work, explaining that he is able to “apply my skills as a clinical psychologist in so many different ways.” Dr. Kilpatrick finds satisfaction in his role as mentor. He also takes pride in working in a position where he is able to raise public awareness and change public policy to better help individuals exposed to child maltreatment, violent crime, disasters, and other traumatic events.

When asked how his time at the University of Georgia influenced his career path, Dr. Kilpatrick emphasized the foundation of skills he developed in graduate school and the relationships he formed with mentors, teachers, and classmates. He explained, “The program was demanding and challenging, but, when I completed it, I realized that I had received a first rate education that prepared me well to function as a clinical psychologist. I had many good teachers (e.g., Drs. Lelon J. Peacock, and William James), mentors (Drs. Henry Adams and John Roitzeich), and classmates (e.g., Nelson Cauthen, Pat Sutker, and Larry Quattlebaum) who enriched my educational experiences at the University of Georgia.”

Dr. Kilpatrick went on to note that he was able to find time to enjoy the Athens community in between classes and research: “I also participated with John Roitzeich in a few productions at the Town and Gown Theater, which prepared me well for the amateur theatrics that characterizes much of my life!”

Currently, Dr. Kilpatrick is collaborating on several noteworthy projects, ranging from basic research on risk and resiliency for the development of psychopathology to efforts to broadly disseminate empirically supported treatments. Specifically, Dr. Kilpatrick and colleagues are conducting research to understand whether polymorphisms of certain candidate genes modify risk of developing PTSD and other phenotypes given exposure to potentially traumatic events (for example, child maltreatment or exposure to national disasters). He is also collaborating with colleagues to develop a web-based educational program for the Navy to train therapists how to do Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) with active-duty military and veterans with PTSD (CPT was developed by Dr. Patricia Resick, a graduate of the University of Georgia who did her internship in Charleston). The training course will eventually be available online to therapists throughout the world.

When asked what advice he has for current graduate students at UGA, Dr. Kilpatrick responded “Take advantage of the fantastic learning opportunities you have at the University of Georgia. Learn everything you can because you never know when it will come in handy. Pick the brains of the outstanding faculty at the University of Georgia. Find something that you really are passionate about and apply your psychological skills to it. If you work hard at something you are good at and like, you are highly likely to succeed, and it won’t even feel like work!”

“Although times are tough and it is easy to be pessimistic about the future, this is precisely the time that good psychological knowledge is needed. A Ph.D. in psychology is the best preparation you can have for any number of jobs. What I am doing now is very different from what I thought I would be doing when I was in graduate school, but what I learned there was great preparation. Becoming an expert in psychology will stand you in good stead whatever you wind up doing.”

### NEW ALUMNI: 2009 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Postdoctoral fellowship</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meghan Mitchell</td>
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<td>Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial</td>
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<td>Charlie Kamen</td>
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<td>Mary Payne</td>
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<td>Russell Shearer</td>
<td>Postdoctoral fellowship</td>
<td>Athens Neuropsychology and Counseling</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, AR</td>
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<td>Ashley Niehaus</td>
<td>Postdoctoral fellowship</td>
<td>Boston VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Crawford</td>
<td>Postdoctoral fellowship</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Burns</td>
<td>Postdoctoral fellowship</td>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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First-Year Student Focus: Meet our new students!

Kelci Flowers is from Atlanta, GA. She pursued her undergraduate degree at Elon University in North Carolina, obtaining a B.A. in Psychology. Kelci completed an honors thesis investigating the relationship between body image dissatisfaction and ethnic identity among African American women. After college, she worked as a research assistant for Dr. Nadine Kaslow on the Grady Nia Project in Atlanta GA. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Rheeda Walker’s lab where she is interested in studying self harm behaviors and ethnic identity in African Americans. (Dr. Rheeda Walker)

Kristin Loiselle is from eastern Connecticut. She attended Drexel University for college, obtaining her degree in psychology in 2006. Prior to graduate school, she was involved with research investigating family functioning of adolescents with sickle cell disease, as well as functional outcomes in children with sickle cell disease-related pain. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Ronald Blount's Pediatric Psychology Lab where she studies methods to promote adherence in transplant recipients and evaluates posttraumatic growth outcomes in survivors of childhood illness. (Dr. Ron Blount)

Diana Morelen is from Yorktown, VA. She completed her undergraduate work at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, VA, earning a B.A. in Psychology. While there, Diana worked in a research lab examining children’s and adolescents' emotional expressivity and psychosocial functioning and completed an honors thesis on cross-cultural differences in children's emotion regulation. At UGA, Diana is in Dr. Suveg’s Child and Family Emotions Lab. Diana's current research interests include the role of emotion regulation in children's adaptive and maladaptive development as well as the impact socio-cultural factors (e.g., ethnicity, low socio-economic status) on the effectiveness of preventative treatment and intervention for at-risk youth. In the future, Diana hopes to expand her involvement in treatment outcome research to include diverse populations of youth with emotion-related disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety). (Dr. Cindy Suveg)

Emily Mouilso is originally from East Troy, WI. She obtained her undergraduate degree in psychology from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007. Throughout her undergraduate career, Emily worked with Dr. Arthur Glenberg in the Laboratory of Embodied Cognition studying the function of emotion. Prior to coming to UGA, she worked at Mendota Mental Health Institute, an inpatient mental health hospital for forensic and civil patients. Emily joined Dr. Karen Calhoun’s lab and is currently working on projects investigating the relationship between sexual assault perpetration and various personality and behavioral characteristics. (Dr. Karen Calhoun)

Nick Puente is from Wilmington North Carolina. He attended Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL where he majored in Psychology and minored in Sociology and Spanish. After graduating Nick conducted research with his dad, Antonio E. Puente, who is a practicing neuropsychologist and professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. His work during this time examined the predictive values of neuropsychological assessment with regards to life expectancy among cardiac bypass surgery patients, as well as WAIS-IV standardization. Nick also volunteered at an Outreach clinic conducting assessments in Spanish and English. His 1st year project at UGA focused on the neural correlates of working memory using the OSPAN. Nick’s overall research interest is using neuroimaging and clinical neuropsychology to better detect neuropsychological impairment. (Dr. L. Stephen Miller)

Monika Stojek was born in Czestochowa, Poland. She graduated from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia in 2006 with a major in psychology. After graduating college, she moved to Quito, Ecuador where she lived for a year. While in Ecuador, she was an ESL teacher at EF language school, a tutor of social sciences for an American school (Academia Cotopaxi) and a volunteer at a local middle school. After coming back from Ecuador, she worked at the Marcus Institute in Atlanta conducting ABA therapy with children with autism and developmental disabilities. Monika is a member of Dr. Sarah Fischer's lab where she conducts research in the area of eating disorders, specifically bulimia nervosa, and the influence of various factors (such as personality traits, affect, ethnic identity) on the symptomatology. Currently, Monika is investigating the mechanism of ethnic identity's influence on bulimic symptoms as mediated by thinness expectancies in a sample of college women. (Dr. Sarah Fischer)

Lauren Wilson is from Covington, Georgia. She attended UGA for her undergraduate education, where she double majored in psychology and history. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Amos Zeichner and Dr. Josh Miller’s labs. She is currently working on projects examining different personality characteristics and constructs, and how they relate to aggression. (Drs. Amos Zeichner and Josh Miller)

### 2008-2009 AWARDS

**STUDENT AWARDS**

- Boardman-Forehand-Jackson Award: **Ashley Niehaus**
- Herbert Zimmer Research Award: **Bonney Reed-Knight**
- Florene M. Young Award: **Colleen Sloan**
- Henry E. Adams Memorial Research Award: **Bonney Reed-Knight**

**FACULTY AWARDS**

- Outstanding Contribution to the Tone of the Program: **Dr. Anne Shaffer**
- Outstanding Mentorship Award: **Dr. Ron Blount**
- Advancement of the Program Award: **Dr. James MacKilop**
Greetings to all of our alumni and friends of the UGA Clinical Psychology Program. Whew! It has been a successful but challenging year for us. As we finish up this year, I am, as always, struck by the incredible dedication, accomplishments, and resiliency of our students and faculty that have once again made it a productive and successful year. This year has seen a number of changes, both in faces and in direction. As many of you know who follow our program closely, the program of study underwent several modifications that were implemented this year. This was done with an eye towards increasing opportunities for all of our students to make the most of their research opportunities and allow them to continue to be some of the most competitive graduating clinical scientists in the country. The largest visible change is in the timing of the Internship experience. Begun this year, graduate students complete their internship as their “capstone” experience and do not return following the internship. Rather, students now complete all of their academic, basic clinical, and research requirements prior to internship. Our hope is to enhance even further their opportunities for the most competitive clinical research careers available.

A second significant change, at least on the surface, is the Program’s new membership into the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science (APCS). This was pursued so as to represent a more accurate reflection of the kind of training our graduates receive – that of clinical scientists. We of course continue our membership and strong relationship with the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP), and Accreditation through the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA). Other enhancements to the program are streamlining of the course requirements, expanded opportunities for more varied clinical practicum experiences, and additional opportunities for research productivity. We are all extremely excited over the direction of the program and we hope that you will be too. All of this has been done in the economic downturn, and it is through the hard work and dedication of the faculty, students, and your support that we have nevertheless been able to continue to grow and strengthen as a program.

As you will see as you read through this latest edition of Dawgtracks, we continue to enjoy great success. I hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the activities that are taking place in “your” UGA Clinical Psychology Program. You can see the latest new research from our students, find out about our “newbies”, our newest graduate students entering in the Fall of 2009, as well as where this year’s clinical graduates are heading out!

Natural change continues. Our newest faculty members, Drs. James MacKillop, Anne Shaffer, and Rheeda Walker are up and running and working with graduate students. Bittersweet, we have the retirement of one of our most heralded faculty members, Dr. Karen Calhoun. Karen will retire from full time activities this month, following more than 38 years serving our program, department, and University! It is impossible to put in a few short sentences the accomplishments and the impact that Karen has had on this program. Coming to UGA in 1971 after completing her Clinical Ph.D. at LSU, Karen has been one of the primary reasons our program has been so successful, having steered our helm as DCT for 15 of those years. It is amazing to think of the innumerable lives she has touched in those years, not to mention the more than 40 (yes, 40!) Ph.D.s for whom she has been directly responsible for graduating! Luckily, while she will be retired, Karen plans on maintaining her laboratory and research in the area of trauma, and will remain an active member of our “family”. If you would like to congratulate Karen on her retirement, or send a word of thanks for the impact she has had on your career, her email is: kcalhoun@uga.edu.

As you enjoy this latest issue of Dawgtracks, I hope that you are as pleased as I am regarding the many exciting accomplishments coming out of the Program. We continue to work to annually improve our program, and hope you share in our pride over what has been done to date.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage you to keep in contact with us. Let us hear from you. You are the living, breathing products of the program and are in fact what we are all about. Please take a moment to drop us a note and let us know where you are and what you are doing. As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the program, or would like to come and visit, please take a moment or two to maintain or renew your connection with us. One of the easiest ways to let us know how you’re doing is to email Ms. Marilyn Steffe at msteffe@uga.edu. You can also email me directly at lsmiller@uga.edu. Also, the Departmental website can help keep you up-to-date with what is happening at your alma mater: http://www.uga.edu/psychology/index.htm.

I want to thank the students who have given us so much of their time and effort in producing this year’s Dawgtracks newsletter – Megan McCormick, Hilary Harding, Kristin Loiselle, Ashley Niehaus, and Mary Payne. I think you’ll agree that they’ve done another wonderful job! Thank you again from all of us here at UGA. Enjoy this year’s Dawgtracks, and keep in touch!

Very best wishes,
L. Stephen Miller

Steve
SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2008-2009


INCOMING STUDENTS 2009–2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Student</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
<th>Undergraduate Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>John Acker</td>
<td>Dr. James MacKillop</td>
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<td>Laura Bradbury</td>
<td>Dr. Anne Shaffer</td>
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<td>Brittany Collins</td>
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<td>Jennifer Lee</td>
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<td>Jessica Maples</td>
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<td>Cara Murphy</td>
<td>Dr. James MacKillop</td>
<td>Union College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Peterson</td>
<td>Dr. Sarah Fischer</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
</tr>
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</table>

WELCOME, BABY DAWGS!

2008-09 has been a year of welcome additions to the families of numerous alumni, faculty, and staff of the UGA Clinical program! The staff of the DawgTracks is pleased to share with its readership the following birth announcements:

- Jenna Rose Leiner, daughter of Amy Selvig Leiner
- Dominic Chang, son of Chandler Sims Chang
- Noah Jay Ratcliff, son of Megan Benoit Ratcliff
- Luca August Mastroianni, son of Heidi Zinzow
- Maison Noel, granddaughter of Marilyn Steffe
- Nathan Miller, son of Josh Miller
- Yoav Kaufman, son of Yfat Kessel
- Isabel Helene Willis, daughter of Heather O’Mahen Willis
- Jane Debra and Eleanor Mary Apple, daughters of Charity Hammond
2008-09 CLINICAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

UGA Psychology Clinic Offers Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

The University of Georgia Psychology Clinic now has a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program. The program is supervised by Dr. Sarah Fischer. DBT is currently the only evidence based treatment for Borderline Personality Disorder symptoms, and has also been used to successfully treat Bulimia Nervosa and Binge Eating Disorder. DBT consists of weekly skills group training, weekly individual therapy session, a 24 hour crisis paging system, and a therapist consultation team meeting. UGA doctoral students participating in DBT training have the opportunity to take a Dialectical Behavior Therapy course, see individual clients, lead skills group, manage the paging system, and participate in consultation team. Weekly skills training focuses on mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness skills. Individual therapy targets include suicidal behavior and self harm, eating disorder symptoms, PTSD symptoms, anxiety symptoms, anger management, and other Axis I conditions. Unfortunately, the clinic currently has a wait list for clients interested in the DBT program.

UGA Memory Assessment Clinic Welcomes New Associate Director

The Memory Assessment Clinic at UGA has a new associate director, Dr. Emily MacKillop. Dr. MacKillop is a formally trained clinical neuropsychologist and licensed psychologist. She received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Binghamton University (SUNY) and completed a clinical internship at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. MacKillop also completed a two-year fellowship in clinical neuropsychology through the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. The Memory Assessment Clinic (MAC; Director: Dr. L. Stephen Miller) is a community service dedicated to providing comprehensive neuropsychological assessment of memory problems among adults aged 60 years and older. The MAC provides individuals and families with a comprehensive memory assessment, an integrative report, and individualized feedback regarding the results of testing and future treatment recommendations, when applicable.

The MAC has been recognized for expertise in geriatric memory assessment and it operates within the Clinical Psychology Training Program. Memory assessment evaluations are routinely performed by highly competent clinical psychology doctoral students and are supervised by Dr. Miller and Dr. MacKillop.
Clinical Program Development: Help the UGA Clinical Psychology Program Continue to Grow

A reminder to all of our alumni and program supporters, that, in these economically challenging times, it is more imperative than ever that you consider contributing financial resources/donations to improve the Clinical Psychology Program. The easiest way to do this is through a donation to the Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund.

As many of you know, this fund has been set up as part of our continuing effort to gain recognition as a Center of Excellence in Clinical Psychology. The great advantage of this fund is it can receive gifts of any size. All donations will support the Program, its students, its training efforts, and outreach to alumni. Please help keep the UGA Clinical Program in the top tier of training programs by making a donation today. State funds continue to be reduced in Georgia and many uses are restricted. Your generous gifts make it possible for us to bring in guest speakers, hold alumni receptions, offer workshops on cutting edge techniques, assist students in a variety of ways (like travel, research purchases), and help keep the program one our graduates can be proud to claim. Remember that donations are tax deductible. Checks may be made payable to the “Arch Foundation”, with “Clinical Psychology Support Fund” on the memo line of the check. They can be mailed to:

The Franklin College Development Office
300 New College
Athens, GA 30602

If you are interested in making a Major Gift, and would like to discuss this with the College Development staff, please contact the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Development Office: Joan Roeber-Joans, Director of Major Gifts at 706-583-0825 or 888-268-5442 for information. Or if you prefer, you can contact our program chair Steve Miller directly. (lsmiller@uga.edu).

Your support is greatly appreciated!

CONTACT DAWGTRACKS & UGA CLINICAL PROGRAM:

We would like to hear from you! Please send us updates, achievements, and change of addresses.

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