Dr. Sarah Fischer’s lab examines how emotion, stable temperamental traits (e.g., negative urgency), and learning experiences influence eating behaviors and co-occurring appetitive behavior patterns, such as alcohol use and abuse. Her lab applies learning theory to the study of eating behavior, and examines how learned eating behaviors are influenced by impulsivity and emotion. Currently, her lab is examining the influence of impulsivity and stress in limbic system response to appetitive cues. One of these projects is funded by a grant from the UGA Research Foundation, and utilizes fMRI to examine neurological reward system responses to palatable food cues pre and post-stress induction in samples of individuals with obesity and bulimia nervosa. Dr. Fischer’s lab has successfully collected large community-based samples for studies of binge eating and purging behavior. Dr. Fischer’s lab will also be starting a study utilizing both fMRI and ecological momentary assessment of stressful events and eating-related behaviors and cognitions, in order to examine the relationship of data gathered from day-to-day cravings and behaviors. Dr. Fischer’s lab recently concluded a pilot treatment study investigating the effectiveness of Dialectical Behavior Therapy in adolescents with non-suicidal self-injury, symptoms of bulimia, and symptoms of depression. Their work has been presented at the Annual International Conference on Eating Disorders in Salzburg, Austria and at the annual Eating Disorder Research Society meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Fischer’s graduate students are also directing their own projects. She is a mentor to four clinical psychology students: Monika Stojek, Claire Peterson, Brittany Collins, and Kendra Davis, as well as five undergraduate research assistants. Monika Stojek, a third year graduate student, will examine the reinforcing value of various snack foods in individuals with binge eating disorder under different conditions of stress and neutral mood. Claire Peterson, a second year graduate student, has established a collaborative relationship with a diabetes and eating disorder research group directed by Dr. Deborah Young-Hyman at the Medical College of Georgia, and has submitted a pre-doctoral National Research Service Award grant to NIMH utilizing data from this collaboration with Dr. Young-Hyman as a co-mentor. Kendra Davis, a first year graduate student, will examine the interaction between various mood states, attentional biases, and urgency in relationship to bulimic symptoms for her Master’s thesis project, and was recently awarded a summer research fellowship in the Eating Disorders Research program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Finally, Brittany Collins, a second year graduate student, was recently awarded a Franklin Foundation Fellowship for the study of neuroscience, and will continue to pursue research utilizing fMRI as a tool to examine eating disordered behavior.

In addition to her engagement with her graduate students, four of her undergraduate research assistants presented independent research projects at the annual Psi Chi Conference at UGA. Dr. Fischer’s students describe her as a mentor with an “open door policy” who promotes independent ideas while providing guidance and support throughout the research process. The environment of the Fischer lab is one of collaboration, support, and ingenuity. Dr. Fischer facilitates this environment by supporting her students with her time and dedication. She encourages all of her students to pursue opportunities related to their personal research interests, and takes an interest in assisting her students to excel professionally.
Hello again to our alumni and friends of the UGA Clinical Psychology Program. We are delighted to present you with this latest copy of DawgTracks 2011. I hope you find it as fun and informative as always, and that it reminds you of the strong bond we all have through this program. This past year, as always, has seen some changes, but has also been a great success. As usual, this is the result of the hard work and dedication of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as the support of our many alumni. Thank you all for that support.

Our energetic students and faculty continue to make the program an incredibly vibrant place to be and as always I’m amazed at the quality of both training and research that seems to routinely get done. As you read through this latest edition of DawgTracks, I hope that you enjoy getting to hear about some of the many exciting activities happening in “your” UGA Clinical Psychology Program. Through the efforts of an excellent editing staff, you will get to know our new incoming students, see what the current students are up to, see where our advanced students are going for internship and even hear a bit about those that are graduating and off to their postdocs/first jobs. There is a wonderful spotlight on one of our alumni, Dr. Shannon Dorsey and, as is becoming a regular event in DawgTracks, a great list of students and alums’ “newbies”. The lab “special focus” this year is on Dr. Sarah Fischer’s group. The editors have also added some new twists to this year’s DawgTracks and I hope you enjoy them. Also note the examples of the great new research coming from students and faculty, and the recognitions they are receiving.

There are a few changes of course. We are sending out our second group of interns since switching the internships to the end of the program’s training, and we again had 100% matching success, a tribute to their many accomplishments while here. We have just finished our self-study in preparation for the Fall 2011 site visit for our Program Re-accreditation through APA, and everyone worked very hard to make this portion of the process a success. Particularly worthy of mention is Ms. Marilyn Steffe, whom most of you know, who put in yeomen’s hours to make sure this was successful. Finally, I am completing my 6th and final year as Director of Clinical Training. It has been an honor to serve the Program in this position and I view it as one of my most engaging and memorable activities these last 20 years on Faculty. I will return to my neglected lab, and Dr. Joan Jackson will begin her term as DCT beginning in August of 2011. Please be sure to wish her well.

I do hope that like I am, you are proud of the many accomplishments and activities coming out of the Program. We continue to work to annually improve our program, and feel that every year it gets just a little bit better. Please remember that each of you remains a lasting part of the totality of the program, and so we want to continue to encourage you to keep in contact with us and let us hear from you.

Please drop up 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 e-mail Marilyn at msteffe@uga.edu. You can also e-mail 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.psychology.uga.edu.

Please know that DawgTracks would not be possible without the hard work of our student volunteers to put it together. This year’s group includes Kristin Loiselle, Alana Seibert-Hatalsky, Bonney Reed-Knight, Jennifer Lee, and Joanna Price.

Finally, 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
As a former University of Georgia Clinical Psychology student, Dr. Shannon Dorsey has applied her training in multiple settings, with an emphasis on evidenced-based treatment for youth. These settings include trauma recovery, behavior disorders, and child welfare systems. Dr. Dorsey’s work has taken her as far as Thailand, Iraq, and Cambodia. She is passionate about the treatment of trauma and other mental health disorders, especially in the context of the mental health gap, both overseas and here in the United States. One of her overarching goals is to increase the availability of evidence-based treatments for youth. When she is not traveling, Dr. Dorsey works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Dr. Dorsey notes that, “I loved my time at UGA and felt that it prepared me really well.” In particular, she acknowledges that UGA’s emphasis on evidence-based treatments inspired her to focus on these treatments in her current research. Specifically, Dr. Dorsey has expertise in Trauma-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, for which she conducts training nationally and internationally. She credits the “good research base” and connections at UGA with providing resources and experience. She continues to maintain friendships and collaborations with her UGA colleagues.

Her ongoing projects include NIMH- and USAID-funded component-based transdiagnostic approaches in low- and middle-resource countries, such as Southern Iraq and Thailand. She is particularly interested in teasing apart the components of different treatments. Her work in these countries is also focused on local capacity building, training, and supervisor ability. She has been involved with translations and collaborations for evidenced-based treatments as well.

It is clear that Dr. Dorsey actively uses her knowledge and resources to help others. She counts as her proudest achievement the overall opportunity to “be a part of dissemination of these interventions.” While she notes that it is sometimes challenging to implement and adapt these programs, she has been able to see not only the scientific impact, but also the personal impact of evidence-based treatment dissemination in her work. Dr. Dorsey can recount numerous stories about the individuals, including Tanzanian orphans and Iraqi counselors, who have benefited from this work. The counselors, for example, had an increased sense of efficacy after receiving training. Remembering these encouraging stories only fuels her desires to continue helping.

In the near future, Dr. Dorsey plans to help train lay health care persons to “close the mental health gap.” Because there are not enough mental health providers, there is a serious need for service. With the training she received at UGA, as well as the connections she has maintained, Dr. Dorsey looks forward to developing solutions for the disparity in mental health services. She also hopes to conduct randomized trials of different supervision strategies in evidenced-based treatments, measuring constructs such as adherence, fidelity, monitoring, and overall implementation.

When asked what advice she would give to current graduate students, Dr. Dorsey indicated that students should “build on connections [they’ve] made at UGA. Use what UGA offers, including a larger network of faculty. Work hard to build strong collaborative relationships. And don’t be afraid to volunteer or do something you are interested in.”

For someone who exemplifies persistence, passion, and purpose, Dr. Dorsey’s advice is well-taken.

NEW ALUMNI: 2011 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

Fayeza Ahmed accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Neuropsychology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.
Eric Gaughan accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensics at the Center for Behavioral Medicine Psychiatric Hospital in Kansas City, MO.
Megan McCormick accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

2011 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

Erin Burns: VA Medical Center, Atlanta, GA
Hilary Harding: VA Medical Center, Washington, D.C.
Marni Jacob: University of Florida Health Sciences Center, Gainesville, FL
Alana Seibert-Hatalsky: Southwest Consortium, Albuquerque, NM
Colleen Sloan: Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC
Emily Baggett grew up in Warner Robbins, Georgia. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in psychology at UGA. As an undergraduate, Emily worked in the Family, Relations, Stress, and Health (FRESH) Laboratory examining developmental processes and young adult outcomes. Her current research projects focus on developmental predictors of young adult communication styles and violent behaviors within intimate relationships. Emily has also been involved in studies of mother and child interactions. She recently presented data from one of these projects at ABCT. She also presented findings from her undergraduate thesis highlighting developmental predictors of romantic relationship satisfaction at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development this spring. (Dr. Anne Shaffer)

Danielle Berke is from Roswell, Georgia and graduated from UGA with degrees in psychology and history. After graduation, Danielle worked in Dr. Zeichner’s lab on projects looking at the role of psychopathy in unprovoked aggression and role of sexual prejudice in biased motivated aggression. Currently, Danielle is examining the influence of gender conformity and nonconformity in both perpetrators and victims as a risk factor for engagement in aggressive responding. Danielle’s thesis will examine potential avenues through which “myth justifying beliefs” such as benevolent sexism place women at greater risk for the receipt of aggression at the hands of men. (Dr. Amos Zeichner)

Sierra Carter is from Axton, Virginia. She received her B.S. in psychology and minor in Social and Economic Justice from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an undergraduate, she worked in a lab researching differences in African American youths’ responses to racism-related stress experiences and completed an honor’s thesis examining racial and cultural factors and blood pressure in the African American community. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Rheeda Walker’s lab where she is interested in using both psychological and physiological measures within underrepresented populations and families to assess how different racial and cultural factors can affect stress levels and subsequent health outcomes. (Dr. Rheeda Walker)

Kendra Davis grew up in Gainesville, Florida. She received a Bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Neuroscience from Purdue University. After graduation, Kendra worked with at the Oregon Research Institute for the Healthy Weight Project, an obesity prevention program for college women. She was also involved in the Body Project as an assessor for eating and depressive pathology in high school girls and was a co-leader for a dissonance-based eating disorder prevention program. Currently, as a part of the Eating, Drinking, and Personality Lab, Kendra is interested in risk models of eating pathology combining cognitive and personality factors and the predictability of bulimic symptomatology from specific emotions. (Dr. Sarah Fischer)

Lauren Gay is from Athens, Georgia and attended Tulane University, where she earned a B.A. in Psychology and Communication. After graduation, Lauren worked at the Southeastern Louisiana Veterans Administration, researching a preventative intervention for depression and PTSD among soldiers deploying to the Middle East. While at the VA, she worked with the Virtual Reality Medical Center to develop an iPhone application designed to modify attributional bias for use by soldiers. Lauren is currently a member of Dr. Joan Jackson’s research lab where she studies the effects of childhood maltreatment and PTSD on cognitive processing. Lauren’s thesis project investigates differential Stroop Task performance in survivors of emotional maltreatment. In the future, she hopes to apply this research in developing preventive intervention for victims of interpersonal violence. (Dr. Joan Jackson)

Joanna Price is from Allen, Texas. She graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from Baylor University. During her time at Baylor, Joanna interned at Texas A&M HSC College of Medicine under the direction of Dr. Keith Young examining the root cause of PTSD. Additionally, Joanna studied psychophysiological correlates of psychopathy in Dr. Matthew Stanford’s lab at Baylor. Her undergraduate honor’s thesis focused on behavioral residue theory and how personality is reflected in film ownership. Joanna is currently working in the Personality Studies Laboratory at UGA. She is interested in how general personality factors and personality disorders are related, measured, and manifested. Currently she is focusing on narcissism and how it affects social network composition and is measured interpersonally. For her Master’s thesis, she plans to look at the characteristics of partners of narcissists. (Dr. Josh Miller)

Doug Terry is from Brookhaven, New York. He received a B.S. in Biopsychology and Biomedical Engineering at Tufts University. While at Tufts, he worked in a laboratory examining one’s ability to control their emotions through cognitive and physiological processes. After graduation, he joined the Psychiatry Neuroimaging Lab at Brigham & Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School to examine the neural mechanisms that underlie emotional processing in persons with schizophrenia and schizotypal personality disorder. At UGA, Doug is a member of the Neuropsychology & Memory Assessment Lab and the Biimaging Research Center where he is studying the post-acute and long-term effects of multiple concussions on college athletes and older adults. He hopes to integrate traditional neuropsychological batteries with MRI, fMRI, and diffusion tensor MRI modalities to better understand cognitive and neural functioning. (Dr. Steve Miller)
SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2010-2011


INCOMING STUDENTS 2011-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
<th>Undergraduate Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Campion</td>
<td>Cindy Suveg</td>
<td>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyd Eaton</td>
<td>Ron Blount</td>
<td>University of Florida</td>
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<td>Josh Gray</td>
<td>James MacKillop</td>
<td>University of Maryland, College Park</td>
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<td>Ana Gutierrez-Colina</td>
<td>Ron Blount</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monica Karsai</td>
<td>Cindy Suveg</td>
<td>Wittenberg University</td>
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WELCOME, BABY DAWGS!

2010-2011 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:

Nolan Max Bernstein, son of Alyssa Clark
Liam Samuel Caskie, son of Sudie Back
Jeffrey Jackson Frey, son of Charlie Frey
Elliott Edwards Guara, son of Anna Edwards
Boaz Yakov Hayutin, son of Lisa Seri Hayutin
Charlotte Rees Kearns, daughter of Megan Kearns
Isabel Marie Mastroianni, daughter of Heidi Zinzow
Claire Ava Miller, daughter of Josh Miller
Luke Robert Miller, son of Jen Cercone
Warren Clifford Miller, son of Scott Miller
Kamau Kwabena Obasi, son of Rheeda Walker
William Donald Shirck, son of Meghan Mitchell
Nathan Jacob Spitalnick, son of Josh Spitalnick
Dr. Josh Miller Wins University Research Award

Dr. Josh Miller was awarded a 2011 Creative Research Medal by the University of Georgia Research Foundation to recognize outstanding research and creative activity. His work over the past five years has focused primarily on two related issues: the use of normative models of personality to a) understand and assess personality disorders, and b) understand and define the variation between narcissism and Narcissistic Personality Disorders.

Students Receive Funding Awards

Second year graduate student Brittany Collins was named a Paul D. Coverdell Neuroimaging Fellow for the 2011-2012 academic year. She plans to use funding from this award to utilize functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) to investigate the effect of mood on craving for food and eating behavior.

Lauren Few, Bonney Reed-Knight, and Kristel Thomassin were awarded Dissertation Completion Awards, which will fund dissertation research for the 2011-2012 year.

Collaborative Research Initiatives between Suveg and Shaffer Labs

Drs. Cindy Suveg and Anne Shaffer have procured funding from the William A. & Barbara R. Owens Institute for Behavioral Research and the Center for Contextual Genetics and Prevention Science for a pilot, collaborative investigation to identify risk and protective factors related to youth development. The project will investigate whether parents’ physiological and behavioral reactivity is synchronous with children’s reactivity during emotionally-arousing events. The project will also examine associations between parents’ and children’s reactivity and child socioemotional outcomes. As an exciting addition to the field, Drs. Suveg and Shaffer also plan to investigate whether synchronous reactivity moderates genetic susceptibility for early socioemotional developmental difficulties in preschool children.

Digital Recording Now Available in the Psychology Clinic

Ruth and Dr. George Koch made a generous donation toward the digital recording system in the Clinic, which allows for digital recording of all therapy sessions. They wish to memorialize their family members, Dr. Leslie Whittington and her family, who were murdered on September 11, 2001 on board American Airlines Flight 77 at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The system is designed to facilitate clinical training and the supervision of our therapists-in-training.

2010 ABCT Convention in San Francisco

Many UGA faculty, students, and alumni attended the 2010 ABCT convention in San Francisco, CA. The Georgia party held on Friday night was well-attended, providing attendees the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new contacts. We hope to see you next November at the 2011 convention in Toronto!
Clinical Program Development:
Help the UGA Clinical Psychology Program Continue to Grow

I want to take a moment to thank all of our alumni and other program supporters for your continued support in what now seems like a never ending economically challenging time. However, as I’m sure you are aware, it is in exactly these times that it is so critical that you consider contributing financial resources/donations to improve the Clinical Psychology Program. As funding continues to be very tight from every level—the program, department, college, and university—your assistance becomes that much more valuable and needed. While there are several ways to help, the easiest way to do this is through a donation directly to the Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund. The CPPS 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. As you know, State funds continue to be reduced in Georgia and many uses are restricted. Your generous gifts to the CPPS Fund 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.

Giving has never been easier and you can do it entirely online if you like. Simply go to https://www.externalaffairs.uga.edu/os/makegift?extacc=30910290&amount=50 select “Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund”, and complete the online information requested. It literally takes less than 2 minutes. You can also access this by going to the Psychology Department website (http://www.psychology.uga.edu) and click on the Red “DONATE NOW” button at the top right of the home page. This will take you to the same site.

If you prefer to write, 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: Jennifer Messer 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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