Dr. Anne Shaffer’s Family Relationships, Emotions, Stress, and Health (FRESH) Lab examines the causes and outcomes of family stress and maltreatment utilizing a developmental psychopathology perspective. Her lab employs a multimethodological approach including questionnaires, observational research, and physiological measures. Dr. Shaffer’s lab has many ongoing projects pertaining to child and family relationships as well as young adult relationships. Currently, they are investigating the impact of emotional processes in the family on child mental health and physical health outcomes, as well as specific risk and protective factors implicated. Most recently, this has included a pilot study of AFFECT, an emotion communication skills training for parents and caregivers that the FRESH Lab is testing as a group-based intervention. The eventual goal of this intervention is to address the prevention of emotional maltreatment. They are also collaborating with Dr. Cynthia Suveg’s lab on a project funded by the Institute of Behavioral Research. This project investigates the role of genetics, stress, and arousal in the relationship between the way parents and young children react to emotionally arousing situations and other aspects of psychosocial functioning. Dr. Shaffer’s lab is also studying aspects of young adults’ development and adaptation, including maltreatment history that may relate to their functioning in romantic relationships. In addition to her research activities, Dr. Shaffer will be acting as the Psychology Clinic Director for 2012-2013.

Dr. Shaffer’s graduate students have been productive in their own research stemming from these projects. She mentors two doctoral students in the clinical program (Emily Baggett and Laura Bradbury), and three doctoral students in the BBS program (Courtney McCullough, Melissa Bright, and Rachel Han). She also enjoys collaborations with other clinical graduate students including Diana Morelen, Kristel Thomassim, and Hilary Harding. The FRESH Lab actively produces research with substantial student involvement, including several papers in press or under review with students as lead authors. Laura Bradbury, a fourth year graduate student in the clinical program, is preparing the submission of a paper based on her master’s thesis examining the role of parenting stress in the relation between maternal intimate partner violence victimization and engagement in emotionally maltreating parenting behavior. Emily Baggett, a second year graduate student in the clinical program, is conducting her master’s thesis examining how childhood emotional maltreatment is associated with young adult communication patterns in romantic relationships, using Actor-Partner Interdependence Models to assess dyadic effects. Courtney McCullough, a second-year BBS student, has taken the lead on papers examining the moderating effects of emotionally maltreating parenting behaviors on the relation between maternal depression and child externalizing disorders, and the role of parents’ own emotional maltreatment history in predicting their own observed parenting behaviors. Additionally, Courtney and Emily recently received a grant from Psi Chi to look at the moderating effects of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis stress reactivity on the relation between childhood maltreatment and current conflict communication styles in romantic relationships.

Dr. Shaffer’s students describe her as a supportive and dedicated mentor who genuinely cares about her students. Dr. Shaffer’s leadership role is comprised of patience, hard work and enjoyment of the opportunity to teach others. She fosters an environment of honesty and genuineness that supports her students’ professional and personal growth. Dr. Shaffer establishes a collaborative and productive lab environment where she and students alike present their work hard and enjoy moments of laughter.
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL TRAINING

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2012 Edition of Dawg Tracks! Our editorial team, headed by Jennifer Lee, has put together the highlights of what has been a year of much hard work and important transitions in the program. One of our feature stories is on Dr. Amos Zeichner, who retires in August. Amos has had a highly productive career, all of it spent at UGA, and as Director of the Psychology Clinic has played a unique role in the training of students. We will certainly miss him when he retires. He promises, however, that between jaunts around the globe, he’ll be in his lab continuing to do research. Dr. Anne Shaffer is stepping up to fill the Clinic Director position on an interim basis while we search for a permanent director next year. We also say goodbye this year to Drs. Rheeda Walker and Sarah Fischer, who are leaving UGA for faculty positions elsewhere. Though they were here for only a few years, both Rheeda and Sarah left their mark on the program and will be greatly missed. We wish them well in their new positions!

This year marked an important milestone in the history of the program—The hiring of the first Sperduto Professor of Clinical Psychology. Dr. Lawrence H. Sweet is joining us in August after nine years on the faculty at Brown University Medical School. Dr. Sweet applies his expertise in neuroimaging to a number of clinical disorders, and he is known as an outstanding research mentor. We are excited to have him join us and look forward to introducing him to you in our next Dawg Tracks.

Amidst all the transitions, the research and clinical training for which our program is known continued at a high level this year. The newsletter details some of the many accomplishments of our students and faculty. We continued to be highly successful in placing students in top-ranked internships, and our graduates have secured excellent postdoctoral fellowships and jobs. We hosted a very successful APA site visit and have been re-accredited for the next seven years. We were once again highly ranked (#32) in the US News and World Report’s survey of clinical psychology programs.

It has been a great honor for me, as both a program alumna (1973-77) and faculty member, to once again serve the program as DCT. My predecessor, Dr. Steve Miller, has been gracious in making my transition into this role a smooth one. Though he is now devoting more time to his role as Director of the Bio-Imaging Research Center and to his own lab, Steve continues to serve the program and also to serve clinical psychology at the national level as a member of the APA Commission on Accreditation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve for his generous service to our program and to the profession.

I also want to thank all of our alums and friends who have contributed in various ways to the program over the past year. Many of you have kept in touch with news of your careers and families. A number of you have made monetary contributions to the various funds that support student awards in the program (Adams, Boardman-Forehand-Jackson, Turner, and Young Awards) as well as the Clinical Psychology Support Fund, which we greatly appreciate. Several area alums have given generously of their time to help supervise students or to come to campus to speak to us about their work. The current students and faculty benefit tremendously from the support and example of those of you who represent us in the world of professional psychology. One of my goals for the coming year is to bring more of you into this newsletter by including features by and about program alums. If you are interested in writing an article or suggesting an idea for a feature or regular column, please let me hear from you. You can reach me by e-mail at jojackso@uga.edu or by phone at 706-542-1173. And, please keep us up-to-date on your contact information by sending any changes to Marilyn Steffe at msteffe@uga.edu.

With all best wishes,

Joan Jackson
ALUMNI FOCUS: DR. SARAH MOODY-THOMAS (CLASS OF 1978)

Dr. Sarah Moody-Thomas

As a former University of Georgia Clinical Psychology student, Dr. Moody-Thomas has applied her training in multiple settings. Although primarily academic, Dr. Moody-Thomas’ career includes clinical practice, community development, and organizational behavior change in addition to program evaluation. The breadth of her career activities is united by a common emphasis—addressing the needs of minority and medically underserved populations by examining organizational structures that contribute to health disparities.

Dr. Moody-Thomas’ career is an exemplar of clinical psychology’s emphasis on the synthesis of research and practice. When asked to describe the overarching goals of her career she explained, “I see the community as my laboratory and work to provide a bridge between the community and the research conducted in academic environments.” Dr. Moody-Thomas’ earlier work with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) aptly demonstrates these values. For example, she has served as regional president for the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer (NBLIC), an organization established to increase awareness of health disparities in cancer and to learn more about the reasons for late stage diagnosis and issues related to culture, socioeconomic status and access of healthcare. She also served on the executive committee of the LSU Minority Based Clinical Community Oncology Program. Dr. Moody-Thomas noted, “these programs were started to make clinical trials available to at-risk and underserved populations and to increase minority participation in biomedical research.”

In the academic arena, Dr. Moody Thomas sees “championing efforts to promote diversity and expand multiculturalism through recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented groups,” as her primary objective. As the current Director of two large-scale multidisciplinary programs, Dr. Moody-Thomas has been optimally positioned for the realization of these objectives. For the past 8-years she has served as the director of the Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS) program in the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Public Health where she initiated several cancer control and prevention projects, including “Partners in Wellness.” Through this project, she said, “indigenous lay health educators from specific zip codes in New Orleans are trained to share messages about screening and early detection of cancer and help community members navigate the health care delivery system to access care.”

Dr. Moody Thomas also directs the Tobacco Control Initiative (TCI) in the network of public hospitals in Louisiana. “The TCI, a standardized systems approach to integrating evidence-based tobacco cessation services into a healthcare delivery system, is my 10 year project,” she says. “The goal of the TCI is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among patients of the public hospitals through comprehensive implementation of the US Public Health Service Clinical Practice Guideline. This project also bridges the divide between the academe and the community,” Moody-Thomas says, “by translating the wealth of research on the treatment of tobacco use and dependence into practice in real world settings.”

In both her academic efforts and community research activities Dr. Moody-Thomas continues to blaze new trails. “Throughout my professional career,” she observes, “I have been among the first, and in some instances the first and only African American or female.” As one of the first women of color admitted to UGA’s Clinical Psychology program, Dr. Moody-Thomas not only developed the competencies of a clinician and researcher, but also the consciousness of an agent of social change. “My training at UGA thrust me into an environment where racial/ethnic diversity was limited and social support had to be cultivated,” noted Moody-Thomas. “This experience taught me to ask questions, look beneath the surface, and build alliances, but more importantly,” she points out, “I left UGA committed to making institutions of higher education available to all.” Dr. Moody-Thomas’ commitment is reflected in her exemplary career and serves as a model to which current students might aspire.

NEW ALUMNI: 2012 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

Erin Burns accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship focusing on PTSD in the VA Health Care System in Palo Alto, CA.
Marni Jacob accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of South Florida Rothman Center for Neuropsychiatry in Tampa, FL.
Hilary Harding accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in women’s mental health and trauma at VA Medical Center in Hampton, VA.
Colleen Sloan accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship with Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC.
Alana Seibert-Hatalsky accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Military Sexual Trauma with the Department of Veteran Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System in Honolulu, HI.

2012 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

Courtney Brown: VA Medical Center, Memphis, TN
Lauren Few: University of California-San Diego Consortium/VA Medical Center, San Diego, CA
Bonney Reed-Knight: Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI
Kristel Thomassin: New York University—Bellvue Hospital Center, New York, NY.
Scott Campion is from Knoxville, TN, and attended the University of Tennessee where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in psychology. As an undergraduate, he studied maternal Borderline Personality Disorder and its possible effects on child development in preschool and adolescent-aged children with Dr. Jenny Macfie. After graduation, he studied sibling aggression and possible risk factors in a youth sample recruited from a Boys and Girls Club with Dr. Paula Fite. Additionally, he worked at a therapeutic preschool for children with developmental delays and behavioral problems. At UGA, Scott is a member of the Development and Psychopathology Lab, which is currently comparing two types of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in a population of anxious youths. Scott is also a member of the Family Development Lab, which is studying maternal/child mutual physiological reactivity, and how it might relate to child outcome variables and emotion regulation. Scott is interested in childhood emotion regulation and how it relates to the development of later disorders. (Dr. Cynthia Suveg).

Cyd Eaton is from Coral Gables, FL and graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Psychology and minor in English. As an undergraduate, she worked in a research lab examining adherence, health-related quality of life, and coping in pediatric patients with asthma or cystic fibrosis. After graduation, Cyd worked at the University of Miami on research projects related to early child development and primary-care-based prevention programs for infants and toddlers. Additionally, she was involved in research examining adherence and health outcomes in adolescents with cystic fibrosis. Currently, Cyd is a member of Dr. Ronald Blount’s Pediatric Psychology research lab where she has focused on medication adherence promotion in adolescents with end-stage renal disease. Additionally, she is interested in the process of transitioning healthcare responsibility from parent to adolescent and identifying factors predicting psychological and physical health outcomes in pediatric patients with solid-organ transplants. (Dr. Ron Blount)

Josh Gray is from Ellicott City, Maryland and attended the University of Maryland, where he earned a B.A. in Psychology. As an undergraduate, Josh worked in a lab researching the relapse profiles of teen smokers. After graduation, Josh worked at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County conducting his own project examining relationships between expectancies, frequency of substance use, and substance use initiation pathways. Currently, Josh is involved in running participants and preprocessing data for an fMRI study that examines neurological correlates to alcohol cue exposure and performance on an Alcohol Purchase Task (APT). In his independent research project, Josh has analyzed survey data for relationships between personality variables such as impulsivity, quantity and frequency of drinking, problematic drinking, and overvaluation of alcohol. (Dr. James MacKillop)

Ana Gutierrez-Colina grew up in Granada, Spain. She graduated with a Bachelor’s in Psychology and a minor in Cognitive Science from the University of Pennsylvania. During her time at Penn, Ana worked in the Department of Psychiatry researching barriers and facilitators to the implementation and dissemination of evidence-based practices in community mental health settings. After graduation, she joined the Division of Neurology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where she studied the impact of EEG monitoring on the medical management of critically ill pediatric patients. Ana is currently a member in the Pediatric Psychology Lab at UGA. Her current research interests include (I) health related quality of life and psychosocial functioning in pediatric patients with internal cardiac devices, (II) compliance with medical regimen and the use of technology to improve medication adherence in chronically ill children, and (III) physician-patient communication. (Dr. Ron Blount)

Monica Karsai is from Indianapolis, Indiana. She earned her B.S. degree in Psychology and Mathematics from Wittenberg University (Springfield, Ohio). She also earned her M.A. in Clinical Psychology at Eastern Illinois University (Charleston, Illinois). While attending EIU, Monica examined factors that may link parent anxiety to child anxiety. She also studied how emotion regulation relates to child social anxiety. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Cynthia Suveg’s lab where she is helping facilitate a treatment-outcome study for children with anxiety disorders. She is assisting on a study examining how mothers and their preschool-aged children react to stress. She is also interested in the measurement of emotion regulation and ways to improve the understanding of this construct. (Dr. Cynthia Suveg).
SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2011-2012


INCOMING STUDENTS 2012-2013

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<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Faculty Mentor</th>
<th>Undergraduate Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Davis</td>
<td>Cindy Suveg</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<td>Bryant Duda</td>
<td>Steve Miller</td>
<td>Fairfield University</td>
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<td>Anna Jones</td>
<td>Cindy Suveg</td>
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<td>Cutter Lindbergh</td>
<td>Steve Miller</td>
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WELCOME, BABY DAWGS!

2011-2012 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:

John Kenneth Cypra, son of Mary Payne
Joseph Nicholas Elias, son of Courtney Beard and Jason Elias
Walter Langdon Giardi, son of Laura Simons
Naama Kaufman, daughter of Yfat Kessel
Asher William Martinez and Coen James Martinez, twin sons of Marc Martinez
Annabelle Elizabeth MacKillop, daughter of James and Emily MacKillop

Carissa Mari McCreary, daughter of Renee Schneider
Andrew Stanley Niehaus, son of Ashley Furr Niehaus
Jacob Hunter Parrott and Joshua Dylan Parrott, twin sons of Dominic Parrott
Porter Marcelo Recuay, son of Katie Devine
Kamdyn Nia’Grace Sheats, daughter of Cameron Franklin Sheats
2011-2012 CLINICAL PROGRAM NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

DR. AMOS ZEICHNER RETIRING

After 32 years of service to the UGA Clinical Psychology program, 15 of which he spent as the Clinic Director, Dr. Amos Zeichner has decided to retire. We want to take a moment to acknowledge his contributions to the program and his dedication to the development of future clinical scientists. Below is a note from Dr. Zeichner:

At this point of transition, I am mindful of how lucky I have been to work in our Clinical Training program. My desire to be involved in teaching, research, and clinical training came entirely to fruition. While I wish that I have contributed, at least minimally, to my areas of research, I hope that I have had a lasting positive impact on all students with whom I had the privilege to work; they certainly had such an impact on me and, of all, I shall miss them. My hope is that our students, despite the challenges they encounter here, would be mindful of the amazing opportunity they have to mature and to explore their professional proclivities and goals, while being “lovingly” sheltered, before it’s Showtime in the real world. So, on my academic headstone I would engrave a parting message to our students reading, “learn to know your passion – then, follow it.” A reception was held in Dr. Zeichner’s honor on June 25th and was attended by a number of alumni, faculty and students.

STUDENTS RECEIVE FUNDING AWARDS

Second year graduate student Doug Terry was named a Paul D. Coverdell Neuroimaging Fellow for the 2012-2013 academic year. Doug also received an Honorable Mention from the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program for a grant that he submitted.

Diana Morelen and Kelci Flowers were awarded Dissertation Completion Awards, which will fund dissertation research for the 2012-2013 year.

Jennifer Lee received a Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) grant to fund her research in pediatric oncology at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta from the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

Monika Stojek and Josh Gray received Early Career Poster travel awards to the 2012 APA Convention in Orlando, sponsored by NIAAA and NIDA.

2012 AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Many UGA faculty, students, and alumni attended the 2012 APA convention in Orlando, FL. Conference activities included special events at Epcot and Universal Studios. The conference was well-attended, with many students receiving funding to present posters and symposiums during the conference. We hope to see you next August at the 2013 APA Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Our sincere thanks to those of you who have contributed over the past year to the Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund. Although the Clinical Program continues to enjoy good support from UGA in terms of faculty, staff, and facilities, the CPPS fund allows us to enrich the experience of students and reach out to alums in ways that otherwise would not be possible.

The CPPS Fund makes it possible for us to bring in guest speakers, hold our Georgia Party at ABCT, offer workshops on cutting edge techniques, and assist students in a variety of ways, including travel and research support. Contributions to the fund may be made at http://psychology.uga.edu/ by clicking on the “Donate Now” button and designating your gift to the Clinical Psychology Program. Again, we appreciate your support!

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRY E. ADAMS MEMORIAL RESEARCH AWARD

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the award given each year in memory of Dr. Henry E. Adams, a member of the clinical program faculty for 36 years, who died in 2000. Dr. Adams was internationally known as one of the pioneers of behavior therapy. He was a prolific researcher and took great pride in the research accomplishments of his many students. It therefore seemed fitting to honor him by creating an award for student research. The Adams Award provides a small research fund for a student whose research proposal is deemed the best of those submitted each year. Program alums serve as external evaluators of the proposals.

The award fund is currently in danger of being depleted to the point at which we may be unable to give further monetary awards. Enhancing the fund to the level at which it can become self-sustaining will require approximately $9000 in contributions. We ask therefore that you consider a contribution to the Adams Award Fund as part of your annual giving to UGA. Donations made via the Psychology Department webpage <http://psychology.uga.edu/> should be made to the “Psychology Fund” and earmarked for the Adams Award Fund. Donations may also be made by check to the UGA Foundation and sent to Jennifer Messer, Director of Development, 234 Psychology Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. Questions about the Fund or contributions to UGA may also be addressed to Jennifer at 706-542-0068.

IN MEMORIAM

We received word this year of the passing of two program graduates:

Thomas Mercer Brittain (Ph.D., 1977)


Barbara J. McMullen (Ph.D., 1977)


We offer our condolences to their families and those of you who knew Tom and Barbara as friends and colleagues in the program.

CONTACT DAWGTRACKS AND UGA CLINICAL PROGRAM

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

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