UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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DAWG TRACKS

SUMMER 2008

WELCOME TO THE 5TH ANNUAL UGA CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER!

FEATURED LAB: DR. CINDY SUVEG & TEAM

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From left: Kristel Thomassin, Dr. Cindy Suveg, & Marni Jacob

Dr. Suveg is currently in the data analysis stage of her current study, Emotional Development in Children: Socialization Effects and Links to Psychopathology, which was funded by the University of Georgia Research Foundation. The study aimed to address 3 primary methodological limitations in the literature: (a) the reliance on self- and other-reports of emotional functioning generally at one point in time, (b) the use of simple behavioral observation paradigms and coding systems to capture and analyze parent-child interactions and (c) the focus on mothers. Thus, the study pilot tested the use of electronic diaries that allow researchers to capture fluctuating emotion experiences at several time points and a state-of-the-art behavioral observation coding system that allows for the examination of the *process* of emotion socialization. Finally, the research included both mothers and fathers to examine their unique contributions to youth emotional development. Youth and their parents filled out forms related to both child and parent emotional and psychological functioning and participated in several behavioral observation tasks.

In collaboration with graduate students, Dr. Suveg is currently analyzing the data to examine several different questions, some of which extend beyond the primary goals of the research. For example, Mary Payne (4th-year student) is assisting with the project that examines whether or not electronic diaries are an efficient and reliable method of emotion assessment. Marni Jacob and Kristel Thomassin, 1st-year students, are examining emotion-related predictors of youth social functioning and unique parental contributions to youth emotional development, respectively. Jordan Gilleland (3rd-year student) is assessing the relationships between emotional functioning and somatization in youth.

Dr. Suveg and her lab are excited about starting a new study this fall, which will examine the mutually influential roles of child temperament and maladaptive emotion parenting on child anxiety. The lab is also planning to further pilot-test an emotion-focused cognitive-behavioral treatment program for anxious youth. The lab is looking forward to having a new member, Diana Morelen, this fall.

Marni Jacob and Kristel Thomassin, current students in Dr. Suveg's lab, described her as a genuine professor who is "extremely motivated" and passionate about her work. Not only does she take time out of her own research to advise and mentor students from across the clinical psychology program (as well as undergraduate students), Dr. Suveg has also contributed significantly to the spirit of the program.

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ALUMNI FOCUS: DR. JULIA WHEALIN

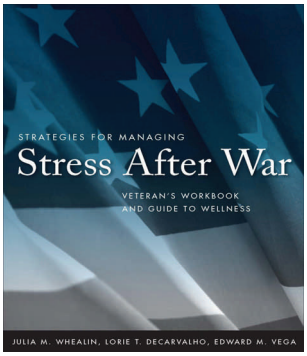
Dr. Julia M. Whealin is currently a Clinical Psychologist at the Pacific Islands Division of the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Her work focuses on the development of national education initiatives for clinicians and consultation with various federal and community organizations regarding multi-modal assessment, prevention, and intervention methods for PTSD and other stress-related disorders.

While at the University of Georgia, Dr. Whealin studied under Dr. Joan Jackson and focused primarily on child abuse, specifically considering factors such as victim-perpetrator relationships and unwanted sexual attention. After working with veterans who suffered from PTSD on her internship and graduating from UGA in 1998, Dr. Whealin pursued a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Center for PTSD in Honolulu, Hawaii. Here is where she feels that she developed her "niche" working in early intervention and prevention of PTSD.

Her most recent efforts in this area have led to the 2008 publication of the *Clinician's Guide to Treating Stress After War: Education and Coping Interventions for Veterans* and an accompanying workbook, *Strategies for Managing Stress After War: Veteran's Workbook and Guide to Wellness* (pictured at right). The manual and workbook are intended to be used in conjunction with other PTSD treatment interventions and include topics such as understanding stress reactions, developing healthy coping habits, sleep hygiene, anger and conflict management.

In addition to her educational initiatives, Dr. Whealin also participates in ongoing research. Currently, she is a co-investigator on a research study evaluating the provision of the *Stress After War* coping skills intervention via the telephone. She is also leading a research study in Hawaii to evaluate treatment needs, beliefs about mental health care, and barriers to getting care for new veterans. Dr. Whealin also manages to devote her time as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine.

When asked her advice for current graduate students, Dr. Whealin suggested that during graduate school and internship, students keep their "interests open to different experiences so that they have the breadth to adapt their training to a variety of career areas." Given Dr. Whealin's diversity of interests and activities, it is evident that she has followed her own advice. She invites students who are interested in an internship or fellowship at the Pacific Islands Division of the National Center for PTSD to email her at Julia.whealin@va.gov.



FIRST-YEAR STUDENT FOCUS

Bonney Reed-Knight is from Habersham County, GA. She attended UGA for her undergrad education, where she studied psychology and Spanish. Currently, she is a member of Dr. Ronald Blount's Pediatric Psychology Lab where she studies pediatric pain management, disease coping, and adherence to medical regimens. She is currently working on her first year project examining the effects of a psychosocial questionnaire on parent-pediatrician communication about psychosocial issues.

Kristel Thomassin. Although French Canadian at heart, Kristel graduated high school in Georgia and attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee where she studied psychology and Spanish literature. At Vanderbilt, Kristel worked with Dr. Cole investigating mood-congruent memorial biases in children, volunteered at a home for children in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and co-facilitated a middle school therapy group at the Associated Psychiatrists of Nashville. She graduated in 2007 and joined Dr. Suveg's lab the following fall. She is currently investigating the unique contributions of mothers and fathers to emotion socialization in youth.

Hilary Harding is originally from Downingtown, PA. Hilary obtained her B.A. in Psychology from Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA) in 2006. Prior to coming to UGA, she worked for the National Science Foundation as a Science Assistant in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. Hilary joined Dr. Joan Jackson's lab and has research interests in childhood trauma, intimate partner violence, and risk perception. Her master's project investigates risk factors and proximal correlates among subtypes of dating violence perpetrators.

Marni Jacob is from Boca Raton, Florida. She attended the University of Florida for college, obtaining a B.S. in Psychology in 2006. After college, Marni worked as a clinical research assistant at the UF Department of Psychiatry. There, she was involved with research and treatment studies for OCD and other anxiety disorders, as well as pediatric chronic illnesses. She is primarily interested in treatment outcome research for anxiety disorders. Marni works in Cindy Suveg's lab at UGA, where she is interested in studying emotion socialization in children and links to psychopathology.

Courtney Brown is originally from Allentown, PA. She attended Tufts University in Massachusetts for undergraduate studies. After graduation, she worked in various Boston area research labs that focused on EEG/MRI studies of schizophrenia and/or language processing, and one that studied family-based expressed emotion and schizophrenia. She currently works in Dr. Steve Miller's lab and is the recipient of the 2008 John and Mary Franklin Neuroimaging Fellowship. Her research interests involve using neuroimaging to examine language processing and schizophrenia, and her thesis plans to examine fMRI activation for components of verbal memory.

Clinical Program Fundraising: Gary R. Sperduto Professorship in Clinical Psychology is a reality!

We are extremely proud and appreciative of the extraordinarily generous contribution of Dr. Gary R. Sperduto. Gary is the Chief Executive Officer of Sperduto & Associates, Inc., based in Atlanta, Georgia and a 1978 graduate of UGA's Clinical Psychology Program. His firm specializes in corporate psychology and offers psychological and management consultation, psychological assessment, and planning expertise to corporations throughout the U.S. and abroad (check out their website for more details at www.sperduto.com). Through a $250,000 commitment to the University of Georgia, Gary is endowing the Gary R. Sperduto Professorship in Clinical Psychology. This Professorship will be at the Full Professor level and will be used to recruit a world recognized Clinical Research Professor to the Program. A big part of Gary's interest in establishing the professorship came from his high esteem for his major professor, Dr. Karen Calhoun, other psychology professors, and his first-hand knowledge of what a difference stellar faculty members make. Gary is also very proud of the clinical program's accomplishments and wanted his gift to further strengthen the program. We are delighted Gary has invested himself in this process and is supporting our Clinical Program in such a way. Our heartfelt thanks go to Gary.

As part of our continued efforts to support the Clinical Psychology Program, we are asking all of our alum to consider contributing financial resources/donations to improve the Program. The easiest way to do this is through a donation to the Clinical Psychology Program Support Fund.

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 at706-583-0825 or 888-268-5442 for information. Or you can contact our program chair Steve Miller (lsmiller@uga.edu) or Karen Calhoun (kcalhoun@uga.edu).

Your support is greatly appreciated!

A NOTE FROM THE DCT

It's been a great year here at your UGA Clinical Psychology Program and I want to give everyone greetings for the year! As we finish up this year, again we have a litany of extraordinary accomplishments from students, faculty, alum, and the entire program. As always, the year has passed quickly and productively. As you will see as you read through Dawgtracks, we have had some exciting new developments and, as always, I hope that you will enjoy reading about the many activities occurring in "your" UGA Clinical Psychology Program. Please see all of the "Updates" sections, such as recent student publications and a list of our newest graduate students entering in the Fall of 2008. Also see where our latest batch of interns will be spending the next year and what wonderful career directions to which our newest clinical graduates are heading out!

We've had a great faculty recruiting year, and please see the introduction and welcome to our newest faculty members, Drs. James MacKillop, Ann Shaffer, and Rheeda Walker. This brings the clinical program faculty up to 12 members, a number in which we are very proud. As a refresher for all of you, we've included a short list of the entire clinical faculty and their areas of interest. Also included in this year's Dawgtracks are a couple of our regular information pieces – a spotlight on one of our many fine alum, and a description of one of the program's research laboratories. Also, it wouldn't be a newsletter without a description and plug for how you can give to the growth and stability of the program! Finally, please note the gracious and incredibly generous Endowed Professorship to be provided by Dr. Gary Sperduto!

As you read this issue of Dawgtracks, I am sure that you will be as pleased as I am of the many accomplishments coming out of the Program. I believe we continue to improve an already great program, one in which you can be proud to be a representative. I want to encourage you to keep in contact with the program. As I have said in each previous newsletter, we want to hear from you. We are so very proud of each and every one of you and the successes you have. Through your letters and emails it has been extremely gratifying for me, for the faculty, and for the current graduate students to hear about the great careers and accomplishments of our alumni. Please take a moment to drop us a note and let us know where you are and what you are doing. 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, don't forget the Departmental website, which can help keep you up-to-date with what is happening at your alma mater: http://www.uga.edu/psychology/index.htm.

Finally, I want to thank the students involved in the development, the management, and the writing of this year's Dawgtracks newsletter -- Lauren Pryor, Kristel Thomassin, and Marni Jacob. As you can see, 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.

WORKSHOP AND RECEPTION HONORS THE LATE WILLIAM BOARDMAN

Clinical faculty, students, alum, and past recipients of the William K. Boardman Award and the Boardman-Forehand-Jackson Award commemorated the 30th anniversary of the award on April 4 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education on the UGA campus. Conceived and organized by Kathy Boardman, daughter of the late Dr. Bill Boardman, and alumna Christiane O'Hara Seifring, the day's events included a continuing education workshop followed by a buffet reception and the presentation of the 2008 award to fifth-year graduate student Katie Devine. Alumni past award recipients honored at the event were: Lisa Armistead, Vicki Beggs, David Coleman, Monica Fitzgerald,

Beth Kotchick, Henry Majestic, Karla Klein Murdock, Christiane O'Hara Seifring, Alma Dell Smith, Amanda McCombs Thomas, David Wachtel, Michelle Wierson, and Anna Williams.

The Boardman Award honors the life and work of Dr. Bill Boardman, who was a member of the clinical faculty and served as DCT. After Dr. Boardman's untimely death in 1978, his family endowed the award to recognize each year a post-intern student who embodies the professional and personal characteristics of Bill Boardman. The award honors a post-intern who has demonstrated active involvement in the well-being and personal growth of his/her fellow students, who has been outstanding in the demonstration of integrity, concern for others, and sense of ethics, and who has shown exceptional personal and professional growth during the years of training.

In 1999 the Boardman family added the names of faculty members Rex Forehand and Joan Jackson to the award in recognition of their work in support of the award. Dr. David Wachtel presented a workshop on the topic "Integrating Psychodynamic and Behavioral Approaches to Co-morbidity and Dual-diagnosis Disorders: Conceptual, Diagnostic, Treatment, and Ethical Issues". Dr. Wachtel has a clinical and forensic practice in Houston, Texas, where he is a frequent workshop presenter. **Cont'd on page 7**

SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2007-2008

Amir, N., **Beard, C.** (UGA student)**, Cobb, M.** (UGA student), & Bomyea, J. (in press). Attention modification program in individuals with generalized anxiety disorder. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology.*

Beach, S.R.H., Dreifuss, J.A. (UGA Student), **Franklin, K.** (UGA student), **Kamen, C.** (UGA student), & Gabriel, B. (2007). Couple therapy and the treatment of depression. In A. Gurman (Ed.), Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy. Manuscript in press.

Gunther, M.L. (UGA Student)**,** Morandi, A., & Ely, E.W. (2008). Pathophysiology of delirium in the intensive care unit. *Critical Care Clinics, 24,* 45-65.

Helweg-Larsen, M., **Harding, H.G.** (UGA student), & Kleinman, K. (in press). Risk perceptions of dating violence among college women: The role of experience and depressive symptoms. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology.*

Mitchell, M.B. (UGA Student) & **Miller, L.S.** (in press). Prediction of functional status in older adults: The ecological validity of four Delis-Kaplin Executive Function System Tests. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology.*

Pryor, L.R. (UGA Student), **Miller, J.D.,** & **Gaughan, E.T.** (UGA Student) (in press). Testing two alternative pathological personality measures in the assessment of psychopathy: An examination of the SNAP and DAPP-BQ. *Journal of Personality Disorders.*

Reidy, D.E. (UGA Student), **Zeichner, A.,** Foster, J.D., & **Martinez, M.A.** (UGA Student) (2008). Effects of narcissistic entitlement and exploitativeness on human physical aggression, *Personality and Individual Differences, 44,* 865-875.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS 2008-2009

Fayeza Ahmed	VA Maryland Health Care System, Baltimore, MD VA Neuropsychology
Michelle Cobb	University of Alabama at Birmingham UAB VA
Jessie Dreifuss	Charleston, SC Consortium Internship General Internship
Kameron Franklin	Howard University—Counseling, Washington, DC Psychology Internship
Jordan Gilleland	Medical College of Georgia/VA Med, Augusta, GA Child and Family Track
Charlie Kamen	VA Palo Alto, CA Health Care System General Internship

INCOMING STUDENTS 2008-2009

Kelci Flowers	(Dr. Rheeda Walker)
Kristin Loiselle	(Dr. Ron Blount)
Diana Morelen	(Dr. Cindy Suveg)
Emily Mouilso	(Dr. Karen Calhoun)
Jamie Peisel	(Dr. Sarah Fischer)
Nick Puente	(Dr. Steve Miller)
Temilola Salami	(Dr. Rheeda Walkera)
Monika Stojek	(Dr. Sarah Fischer)
Lauren Wilson	(Dr. Amos Zeichner)

2007-2008 AWARDS

STUDENT AWARDS

Boardman-Forehand-Jackson Award: **Katie Devine**

A.S. Edwards Award: **Charles Kamen**

Herbert Zimmer Research Award: **Katie Devine**

Florene M. Young Award: **Jordan Gilleland**

FACULTY AWARDS

Outstanding Contribution to the Tone of the Program: **Dr. Sarah Fischer**

Outstanding Mentorship Award: **Dr. Amos Zeichner**

Clinical Supervision Award: **Dr. Sarah Fischer**

WELCOME NEW CLINICAL FACULTY!

Dr. James MacKillop will join the UGA clinical faculty in the Fall of 2008. He earned BA, MA, and PhD degrees at the State University of New York at Binghamton, completing a clinical internship at the Brown University Clinical Psychology Consortium. He subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in addiction research at Brown's Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies and joined the faculty in 2006, where he was an assistant professor. Dr. MacKillop's research focuses on using behavioral economics to understand addictive behavior, with particular interests in impulsivity, craving, and clinical applications.

Dr. Anne Shaffer will join the UGA Clinical and Developmental faculty in the Fall of 2008. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Philosophy at the University of Georgia, and earned her doctorate in Developmental Psychopathology and Clinical Science at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Dr. Shaffer's research currently focuses on the sequelae of maltreatment and family stress, including the phenomena of emotional maltreatment and parentification. More broadly, she is interested in the developmental processes of risk and resilience, with a particular emphasis on the role of family functioning and relationships on child and adolescent adaptation.

Dr. Rheeda Walker will join the UGA Clinical faculty in the Fall of 2008. Dr. Walker comes to UGA following previous appointments at the University of South Carolina and Southern Illinois University. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology here at UGA and is very enthusiastic to return to Athens as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Walker earned her M.S. and Ph.D degrees in clinical psychology at Florida State University. Dr. Walker has been particularly interested in advancing models of mental health for African American adults. In doing so, suicide prevention, culturally relevant coping and resilience, and gene x environment vulnerability to suicide are specific areas of interest. As one example, Walker and colleagues (2008) found evidence that African-American college students who reported symptoms of depression were less likely to also report suicidal thoughts given a strong sense of ethnic identity and absence of bicultural distress.

2008 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

Amie Austin - Neuropsychology Post-doctoral fellowship, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Wichita, KS.

Courtney Beard - Post-doctoral fellowship, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University, Providence, RI

Katie Devine - Postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology, Department of Psychology, Loyola University Chicago, Department of Psychology, Chicago, IL

Max Gunther - Post-doctoral fellowship, Vanderbilt Institute of Imaging Sciences, Department of Radiological Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

Marc Martinez—Post-doctoral fellowship, Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

Jenna McCauley - Post-doctoral fellowship, National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Dennis Reidy - Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL

BOARDMAN, CONT'D

As a student, Dr. Wachtel served as the post-intern student on Dr. Bill Boardman's team, and he was a co-recipient of the first Boardman Award. Dr. Rex Forehand was a special guest of honor at the event, serving as discussant for the workshop and sharing his memories of Bill Boardman and the history of the award. Dr. Forehand retired from UGA in 2003 after a distinguished career in the Department of Psychology and as Director of the Institute for Behavioral Research. He is now at the University of Vermont, where he is The Heinz and Rowena Ansbacher Professor of Psychology and Director of Clinical Training. The Boardman family was represented at the event by Kathy Boardman and David Boardman. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them, along with their brother Bill and mother, Dr. Katie Boardman, for creating this special occasion to help us remember the legacy of Bill Boardman and the students who have shared his values and principles over the years. The clinical program is indeed fortunate to have the Boardman family as benefactors and friends.

IN REMEMBERANCE

Toy Caldwell-Colbert, Ph.D.

1951-2008

Toy Caldwell-Colbert, who received her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia Clinical Psychology Program in 1977, passed away on March 12, 2008. A *magna cum laude* graduate of Spelman College, Toy was the clinical program's first female African American graduate, serving her internship at Brown University. She went on to an illustrious career in academia and higher education administration at several universities, including the University of Manitoba, Indiana State University, the University of Illinois, and Howard University, where she served as Provost. Toy was active in professional and educational organizations including the American Council on Education, APA and AABT. She was a Fellow of APA and of the American Council on Education, an ABPP certified clinician, and received numerous honors, including the Stanley Sue Award for Distinguished Service to the Diversity of Clinical Psychology, and Mentor of the Year Award from Division 12's Section VI. She was President of Division 45 of APA and served on many boards and committees of APA. At the time of her death she was Provost of Central State University, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Spelman College and on the University of Georgia Franklin College Advisory Board.

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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