

Clinical Psychology 2009 Incoming Class

Introducing

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Clinical class. As always, I am impressed with the credentials of this year's incoming class, and very excited about having them join us on campus. We were able to accept five new students this year, who came to our program from all over the nation. Overall, they had an average undergraduate GPA of 3.43, an average GPA in Psychology of 3.60, a GRE Verbal score of 560, GRE Quantitative score of 668, a GRE Written score of 4.5, and a total GRE score of 1228. (NEED TO REVISE THIS) Four of the students have made at least one professional presentation, and two have a publication. Three of the students have applied clinical experience, ranging from working with adults who have chronic psychological disorders to working in an adolescent residential program. This year, two of the students is home-grown, having graduated from Western Kentucky University. Three more hail from the state of Kentucky, two matriculating from the University of Kentucky and one from Centre College. The other three students are nationally recruited: one from St. Joseph's University in Minnesota, one from Syracuse University, and one from the University of Utah. We are very excited to have such a diverse group of quality students begin the program and look forward to working with them over the next two years.

envy. She states that her current research interests revolve around mental illness. Sarah worked at the UK Psychological Services Center as a CA, where she scheduled appointments, scored assessments, and observed some sessions. Sarah's future goals include obtaining her doctoral degree in clinical psychology and opening a private practice. One little known fact about Sarah is that she participated in color guard for 10 years.



Rebekah Holder. Rebekah matriculated from Centre College, where her advisor was Dr. Jan Wertz. She has research experience working with both Dr. Wertz and Dr. Brian Cusato. With Dr. Wertz, she examined decision-making processes and with Dr. Cusato she examined classical conditioning in quail. Rebekah's current research interests are in personality factors and eating disorders. She would like to end up in private practice when all is said and done, but she is not yet sure what group of people she would like to work with. Sarah is a world traveler; she went to India with Centre College in 2008.

2009 Entering Clinical Class



Sarah Absten. Sarah graduated from the University of Kentucky. She has research experience with Dr. Richard Smith examining politics, jealousy, and



Sam Husted. Sam comes to us from St. John's University in Minnesota, where his advisor was Dr. Rodger Narloch. Sam is interested in working with a geriatric population in a rural setting when he graduates. While Sam says there is nothing interesting about him, I know that he is a big Minnesota sports fan, and avidly follows the Vikings, Twins, and Wild.



Brian Lee. Brian is a WKU graduate. His advisor here was Dr. Jackie Pope. Brian has research experience with Dr. Andrew Mienaltowski studying facial expression intensity and how it affects emotional discrimination. He says that he would like to continue this research, especially examining how people with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder discriminate facial expressions. Brian would like to work in the medical setting when he completes his education. He is also interested in teaching, which means that he will need to consider returning to school at some point to complete a doctoral degree. Brian's hobby is music; he likes all kinds from bluegrass to rock and roll to classical music. He also says he plays several instruments, but refused to divulge which ones. So, you will have to ask him

yourself.



John Manning. John matriculated from Utah State University where he worked with Dr. Kathy Wickersham on diabetes research and Dr. Tamara Ferguson on bystander apathy research. John says his current research interests center around PTSD and juvenile delinquency. He has clinical experience as a youth mentor for the Catalyst Residential Treatment Center. John's career goals include being commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army as a clinical psychologist, teaching in a university setting, or doing private practice. John is a very bright individual, and enjoys studying quantum physics in his spare time.



Joe Tanner. Joe is another WKU graduate. His advisor here was Dr. Lekeshia Meyer. Joe is interested in working as a counselor when he completes the clinical MA program at WKU. His research interests are in the area of abnormal psychology and delinquent behavior. And, he says he cannot chew gum because he broke his jaw.



Shana Wilson. Shana comes to us from Syracuse University, where her advisor was Dr. Bruce Carter. She also worked with Dr. Barbara Fiese on a study that examined family factors and dynamics that promoted adherence to treatment for children with asthma. She also examined family factors that impact anxiety levels in treatment. While at Syracuse, Shana volunteered at the Brighton Family Center working with preschool-aged children in a classroom setting, and, in the summers, she was a counselor for the Camp Kids program run through the Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission. Shana also worked for a year as a case manager for a family-based therapist at the Community Counseling Center in Pennsylvania. Shana would eventually like to obtain her doctoral degree and work in a school system, private practice, or at a facility that serves children. She says she is from Pittsburgh, the “City of Champions,” and, unfortunately, roots for the Steelers (NFL football) and Penguins (NHL hockey).



John Young. John graduated from the University of Kentucky, by way of Owensboro Community and Technical College. He worked on a number of research studies in the area of animal cognition while

at UK, and got the chance to work with rats and pigeons (the classic psychology lab animals). John has clinical experience working as a mental health technician at River Valley Hospital in Owensboro. His career goals include working as a therapist, either at the doctoral or master’s level. John is a well-rounded student, with a strong background in Biology, Physics, and Chemistry, in addition to Psychology.

Please join me in welcoming our new to Western Kentucky University. I am sure that they are as excited to be here as we are to have them join us.

Rick Grieve, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Clinical Psychology Master’s Program