

Clinical Psychology Update

Introducing

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Clinical class. I am very excited about this year's incoming class. We were able to accept nine new students this year, who came to our program from all over the nation. Overall, they had an average undergraduate GPA of 3.31, an average GPA in Psychology of 3.51, a GRE Verbal score of 481, GRE Quantitative score of 511, a GRE Written score of 4.12, and a total GRE score of 992. Four of the students have made at least one professional presentation. Five of the students have applied clinical experience, ranging from working with hospitalized adolescent girls to working with a geriatric population. This year three of the students are home-grown, having graduated from Western Kentucky University. The other six students are nationally recruited: one comes from two come from Tennessee Tech, one comes from Kentucky Wesleyan College, one comes from Murray State University, one comes from the University of Louisville, and one attended the University of North Dakota. 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.

2006 Entering Clinical Class



Candace Brown. Candace is a graduate of Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, TN, where her mentors were Dr. Matthew Zagumny and Dr. Zac Wilcox. Candace also spent one year at Central Michigan University before transferring to TTU. She has a great deal of research experience. Some of the

topics she has examined include risky sexual behaviors and drunk driving intervention strategies. She has also written papers on various psychological disorders as independent studies. Candace has presented posters at the annual conventions of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the American Psychological Association. Her current research interests include child and family issues, especially parenting strategies for children with externalizing disorders. She also has clinical experience. She worked as a counselor at a group home for adolescent girls where she was a personal advisor for the girls and served as a mediator when problems arose. Her career goals include performing therapy with children and families, either as part of her own private practice or as part of a group effort. Candace is a Green Bay Packers fan, a notion that we Detroit Lions fans will try to disabuse her of over the next two years.



Shakeria Davis. Shakeria is the first of our home-grown students, as she matriculated from Western Kentucky University. She did most of her undergraduate work at the Elizabethtown campus, where her advisor was Dr. Shanna Pack. Shakeria has completed two small research projects examining dating advertisements and advertisement criteria, as well as levels of cognitive processing. She is currently most interested in researching self-injurious behaviors. Shakeria has some clinical experience working at Spectrum Care Academy. She wants to eventually return to school to continue her education and get a Ph.D. She says she thinks she would like to work with adolescents in a private

setting (though we are not sure if she will keep this desire after working with them for a while...) Shakeria enjoys being outdoors, reading (good thing for graduate school), watching scary movies, and being around animals (especially her dog, Sasha).



Caroline Hartz. Caroline graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College, where her advisor was Dr. Bernie Bettinelli. She spent a year in the Western Kentucky University Counseling Master's program before she saw the light and joined us here. Caroline completed a senior research project at KWC and presented it at a mini-conference there. Her current research interests include examining how medication works to relieve symptoms of psychological disorders. Caroline has clinical experience from River Valley, where she worked directly with the hospitalized children and adolescents as a Youth Care Provider. Caroline plans to continue in school after graduating from the Clinical program and get a master's in Nursing. She wants to work in a hospital as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. Caroline is a private person, but she has a very good sense of humor (you should see her **other** picture that we decided not to use for this Newsletter).



Erin Heltsley. Erin comes to us from Murray, Kentucky, where she attended Murray State University. Her advisor there was Dr. Paula Waddill. Erin has some research experience, stemming mostly from undergraduate research classes. She has completed two studies, one that examined the relationship between aggressive behaviors and listening to rap music, and one that examined the correlation between morality and parenting styles. Erin has a number of current research interests, including the relationship between depression and exercise, the relationship between depression and intelligence, eating disorders, and parenting styles. Her career goals include graduating with her master's degree, passing the licensing examination, and eventually having her own practice. In her spare time, Erin likes to exercise, read, and watch movies.



Leigh Ann Mathis. Leigh Ann is another WKU graduate. Her advisors were Dr. John Bruni and Dr. Libby Jones. Leigh Ann has extensive research experience. She worked with Dr. Bruni on a report for the WKU Diversity Committee in which they analyzed African American students' perceptions of the campus climate and the surrounding Bowling

Green area. She presented this work at the annual convention of the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association. Her current research interests include normal and abnormal sexual behaviors within relationships and psychological and emotional abuse. Leigh Ann also has a great deal of clinical experience. She worked at the Child Crisis Stabilization Unit where she worked with children and adolescents exhibiting emotional problems. She also has experience working with a private practitioner who worked with sexual offenders and people referred because of domestic violence. Leigh Ann is considering continuing her education to get a Ph.D. (though her first week of the master's program has put a small bit of doubt into her) and working in either a mental health setting or in her own private practice. Leigh Ann is married, and has two children, a 19-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old son. In her spare time, she likes to go waterskiing, go snow skiing, and spend time reading.



John McConnell. John matriculated from the University of Louisville, where his advisor was Dr. Tamara Newton. He completed research projects while he was there that focused on decision-making processes and aging. His current research interests revolve around psychopathology, social psychology, and cognitive psychology. John has a few clinical experiences, including observing at an adult day center, as well as at a nursing home. His career goals include continuing his education at the doctoral level. John is a die-hard Chicago Bears fan (and we will disabuse him, too, of that while he is here), a Camaro enthusiast (who is now in the land of Corvette...), and a guitar enthusiast.



Ashley Netterlund. Ashley traveled the farthest to join this year's incoming class. She hails from the great state of Minnesota, and attended the University of North Dakota. Her advisor was Dr. James Antes. Ashley completed research as an undergraduate that focused on personality factors, such as extraversion, and binge drinking patterns. She is currently interested in issues surrounding children and would like to continue on at the doctoral level in a Child Clinical program. Ashley has clinical experience working at a psychiatric center as a Mental Health Technician. She is currently living in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, and commuting because her fiancé is a member of the 101st Airborne Division.



Thomas Reece. Thomas is our third WKU grad—and our second man in the class (which doubles last year's numbers). His advisor at Western was Dr. Rick Grieve. Thomas compiled some extensive research experience. He completed two different research studies: one that examined male body image and one that examined religiosity. He presented the religiosity results at the annual convention of the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association. His future goals include not working any more at Kroger,

continuing for a doctoral degree, and balancing research with applied practice.



Shelley Smith. Shelley also hails from Tennessee Technological University, where her advisors were Mrs. Jadwiga Dolzycki and Dr. Linda Giesbrecht-Bettoli. She completed a Senior Thesis that focused on female athletes and non-athletes and their attitudes towards animal/pet ownership and its effects on their views of research with animals. Her current research interests revolve around child and adolescent counseling and childhood conduct disorders. Her future goals include obtaining an academic position while maintaining a private practice dedicated to counseling children and adolescents. Shelley enjoys reading classic literature and watching sports (is there really a difference?). She is a big Vanderbilt Commodores fan, and can often be found cheering on the black and gold—especially during football and basketball season.

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