

## Clinical Psychology Update

### 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 eleven new students this year, who came to our program from all over the nation. Overall, they had an average undergraduate GPA of 3.38, an average GPA in Psychology of 3.54, a GRE Verbal score of 456, GRE Quantitative score of 565, a GRE Written score of 4.2, and a total GRE score of 1020. Two of the students have made at least one professional presentation. Eight of the students have applied clinical experience, ranging from working with a geriatric population to administering suicide prevention programs to working at an adolescent inpatient facility. This year six of the students are home-grown, having graduated from Western Kentucky University. The other six students are nationally recruited: one comes from the State University of New York—Utica, one comes from the University of Iowa, one comes from the University of Dayton, one comes from the Campbellsville University, and one attended the University of Tennessee. 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.

### 2007 Entering Clinical Class



Cheryl Blaine. Cheryl matriculated from Western Kentucky University. In her spare time, Cheryl works for the city of Bowling Green. Her career goals include having her own private practice where

she can do therapy and consultation. Her research interests include examining parental alienation syndrome, examining Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, and strategies for effective stress management.



Monica Houchens. Monica is the another home-grown student, as she matriculated from Western Kentucky University, where her advisor was Dr. John Bruni. Her research interests include drug and alcohol addiction, and child and adolescent psychopathology. When she graduates, she would like to work in a children's hospital with terminally ill children. She also is entertaining the thought of doing addictions counseling.

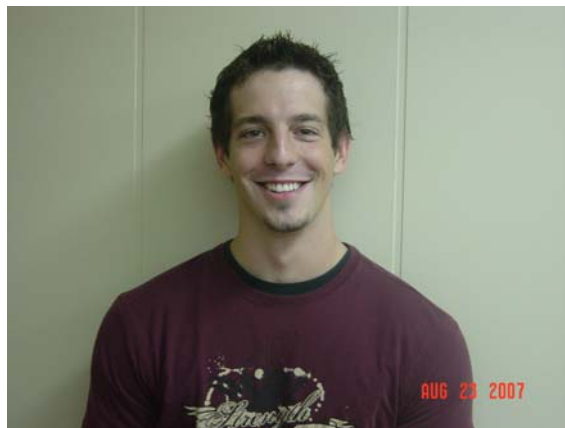


Richard Kirchmeyer. Richard comes to WKU from SUNY—Utica, where his advisor was Dr. V.K. Kool. Richard has extensive research experience, including doing some neuropsychology work looking at vascular dementia and examining facets of

positive psychology. Richard is returning to school after spending a few years working for a living, most notably in the armed forces and the New York State Police. He had a number of clinical experiences with the NYSP, including providing domestic violence training and administering a suicide prevention program. He also taught a Criminal Justice class through the NYSP. Currently, Richard is interested in neuropsychology and wants to continue on to a neuropsych Ph.D. program. He would like to eventually obtain a faculty position. Richard says that, while he is a nice guy, he does not like long walks in the rain (but, I'm betting he will vote yes for pina coladas).



Lauren Menees. Lauren also graduated from WKU; her advisor there was Ginny Pfohl. Lauren has some clinical experience, including working as an intern at the Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit as part of her Field Experience class. She is considering continuing her education at the doctoral level, and would like to work with adults or adolescent girls (no adolescent boys for Lauren) professionally. Her current research interests include alcoholism, drug addiction, and schizophrenia.



Frank Reding. Frank matriculated from the University of Iowa, where his advisor was Dr. Daniel Watson. Frank has extensive research experience, including working on the creation of a new measure of depression and interviewing participants in a study that examined personality and perception. His current research interests encompass sport psychology and severe mental disorders. Frank is still unsure what he really wants to do when he graduates; he constantly fluctuates between continuing on for his doctoral degree or starting to work in the community and make money.



Katie Reynolds. Katie is another WKU grad. She graduated with a biology degree with Dr. Crawford as her advisor. Her current research interests include health psychology, addiction, and family relations. In Life After WKU, she would like to obtain her doctoral degree and work as a private practitioner.



Julie Vespie. Julie attended Campbellsville University. Her advisor was Dr. Jeannette Parker. Julie has clinical experience at the Family Advocacy Center in Hopkins (Kentucky) County. She taught parenting classes and anger management classes here. Her current research interests revolve around children and families. Professionally, Julie would like to either continue on for her doctoral degree or take a slight change in tactics and obtain a psychiatric nurse practitioner degree/license.



Tiffany White. Tiffany is also a WKU graduate. Her advisor was Dr. Steve Wininger. Tiffany worked with Dr. Wininger on a research project examining the perceptions of athletes in regards to the “dumb jock” stereotype. She presented this research at the WKU Sigma Xi Research Competition and was an author on the poster that was presented at the 2007 American Psychological Association convention. She is considering following up on this project for her master’s thesis. Her professional goals include working with a geriatric population, as she is currently employed as a social worker in a nursing home and finds it very stimulating and rewarding.



Matt Webb. Matt also matriculated from WKU. In fact, he spent some time in the Experimental MA program here before he saw the Light and joined us in the Clinical program. Matt has extensive research and clinical experience. He has worked with Dr. Sam McFarland examining altruism and Dr. Kelly Madole examining face and race recognition. He has worked at Rivendell as a Mental Health Associate, at Boy’s Haven as a cottage therapist, and at CARITAS as a recreational therapist. His current research interests include defense mechanisms of personality disorders. Career-wise, he would like to teach and work at a counseling center at a university.



Samantha Wilson. Samantha hails from the University of Tennessee by way of Purdue University. Her advisor at UT was Dr. Saudargas. Samantha has worked on a number of research projects, including projects in the areas of social psychology, developmental psychology, and cognitive psychology. Her career goals include obtaining a doctoral degree and getting a university job.



Rachel Wolf. Rachel is an alumnus of the University of Dayton, where her advisor was Dr. William Moroney. She also attended Chaminade University. Her past research experience includes working on a study of helmet use in adolescent skateboarders. She presented the results of this study at the Stander Symposium at UD. Her current research interests include developmental problems in children (like Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, and ADHD), parent-child interactions, and family interactions. She has clinical experience working with a child with Asperger's Syndrome. She taught him social skills and helped with his homework assignments. Professionally, she would like to obtain a doctoral degree and work as a pediatric psychologist at a hospital. Rachel is very excited to begin grad school here at WKU.

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