Program Updates

The CCP Program’s APA Accreditation has been approved and renewed!!

Thank you to Dr. Smith for all the work he put into the accreditation process and for guiding our program through the process!

Thank you to all the students and faculty who participated in the site visit!
Meet the new faculty!
Dr. Meredith Tittler

Something interesting about myself is...
I lived in the Dominican Republic for several years and brought my dog, “Chachi” home with me when I moved back to the states. She is still my “fur child” and trusty companion.

Most excited to be in CCP for...
Teaching/mentoring the awesome CCP students in topics that I am passionate about. I am also very excited to grow my research and collaborate with students and colleagues on new projects.

If I could have a superpower...
I think I’d really enjoy an invisibility cloak...

Advice for CCP students...
Be kind to yourself and reach out for help and support. You will get to where you’re supposed to be – trust the process (which is easier said than done at times – so reference back to advice #1).
Meet the new faculty!
Dr. Jordan Albright

Something interesting about myself is…
I am a big soccer fan. I played competitively all my life. I love watching the NWSL, the EPL, and I watch every USWNT game that I can find on streaming.

Most excited to be in CCP for…
I am most excited to be in the CCP for the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with the community, students, and faculty.

If I could have a superpower…
It would be super-speed so that I can sleep in later and still get to meetings on time.

Advice for CCP students…
When I was in graduate school, I burned myself out trying to take advantage of every opportunity, meet every deadline, and turn in the highest quality work. I wish I would have learned earlier how to say no, how to prioritize what required my limited time and attention, and how to feel okay with the reality that I might let other people down sometimes. With that, one of the most important lessons I have learned is to find people you feel comfortable going to for help and who you feel safe admitting mistakes to. Graduate school is for learning. Trial and error are to be expected. It is so important that you find people who make you feel safe in the vulnerability of the learning process and who push you to grow as a clinician, researcher, and human being.
Lab Updates:
Lab Updates:

- Callie was offered a position for the 2024-2025 academic year with Yale Teen POWER at Yale School of Medicine to complete a predoctoral clinical training experience in Eating and Weight Disorders.
- Callie won the CCP "Outstanding Master's Student" Award.
- Callie won the "Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Scholar of the Year" Award for service and commitment to ensuring the health and equity of the community.
- Callie presented 2 posters at APA in Washington D.C.
- Kellen, Emilio, Amy, and Dr. McDermott attended the 30th Institute of Teaching and Learning Conference as SREB Scholars on October 26th-29th.
- Emilio and Amy were both accepted into the Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Program.
- Emilio is working on his thesis focused on utilizing a multiple-hierarchical regression to observe the relationship between Discrimination, Depression, and Belongingness on the outcome of Flourishing and how the aforementioned relationships are moderated by ADHD in a collegiate sample of ethnic and racial minority men.
Citations:


Lab Updates:
- Sarah successfully proposed her dissertation titled, “Addressing the dark side of spirituality in mental health: A longitudinal investigation of methods and outcomes of attending to spiritual struggles in psychotherapy.”
- Paola successfully proposed her dissertation titled, "Exploring the role of social factors in a veteran service organization to improve mental health outcomes."
- Sarah and Paola applied for internship.
- Derek and Esther joined the team.
- The TRAIL Lab is in the final year of the Spiritual and Religious Competencies Project and launched data collection on the Divine Forgiveness Project.
Presentations:

Currier, J. M. (2023, November). *Why is teaching spiritual and religious competencies important?* M. Pearce (Chair), *Teaching spiritual and religious competencies in graduate education?* Paper presentation at 57th Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Seattle, WA.


Citations:


Suicide Prevention Lab
Dr. Smith

Presentations:


Suicide Prevention Lab
Dr. Smith

Citations:


Eating Behaviors & Health Lab
Dr. Ahlich

Lab Updates:

- Emma Tonsberg and Sam Oyler presented at the USA undergraduate research symposium.
- Sam Oyler presented at the National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Chicago.
- Urvashi and Erica traveled to Seattle for the Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies Conference and were able to catch up with Anna Atchison who is now enrolled in SUNY Albany’s PhD program.
- The EBH Lab completed a 3-week EMA data collection with ~60 participants, supported by a USA Research and Scholarly Development Grant.
- The EBH Lab began a new data collection, led by Urvashi, involving an experimental study of food consumption in the lab.
- As part of a multidisciplinary research team, Erica worked on a NAS/Gulf Research Program grant submitted this fall.
- Urvashi successfully completed her dissertation proposal.
- Urvashi’s poster was one of few selected to represent the Eating Disorders and Eating Behaviors Special Interest Group at ABCT.
- We are all excited to welcome Rachel Henderson to the lab in the spring.
Citations:


Lab Updates:

- **Katey** and **Haley** both successfully proposed their dissertations!
- **Haley** got engaged!
- **Haley** was awarded the CCP Excellence in Clinical Services Award and a position on the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Grant.
- **Haley** created a pilot one-session behavioral consultation clinic at the USA Developmental Pediatric medicine subspecialty clinic and is collecting quality improvement data following each visit to assess its usefulness and feasibility within the community.
- **Katey** was awarded the CCP Excellence in Research Award and a position on the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Grant.
- **Katey** became certified in Parent-Child CARE (PC-CARE).
- **Katey** participated in the Research Scholars Symposium, at the Society of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Annual Meeting, a two-day program dedicated to fostering high quality research through feedback from interprofessional SDBP leaders.
- **Jasmeka** was accepted to the AHEC Scholars Program 2023-2025.
Lab Updates:

- **Jasmeka** submitted a letter of intent (currently under review) for her first-year project, "Healthcare Transition Planning in Pediatric Blood Disorders: Impact of Provider Communication and Psychosocial Problems" to the Journal of Clinical Practice in Pediatric Psychology for their Special Issue: Highlighting Students and Trainees in Pediatric Psychology.

- **Mackenzie** is working on a PEERS-Campus Qualitative Study where qualitative research is currently underway to assess the acceptability of a social skills program for college students.

- **Mackenzie** is working on a PEERS-Campus Intervention Study, recruiting to assess the implementation of an adaptation of the PEERS social skills group for college students at South, using peer mentors.

- **Mackenzie** is prepping two manuscripts which involve a systematic review of interventions to improve medication adherence for individuals with ADHD and a rapid analysis of perceptions regarding PEERS in college students and their parents.

- **Tory** and **Mackenzie** are working on a meta-analysis for utilizing PCIT for children with ASD.

- **Tory** joined the HYF lab and is collaborating on the PEERS projects, interviewing autistic college students and their parents on their perception of PEERS.

- **Tory** has been actively engaging in community outreach while completing her first year in the CCP program.
Health Youth & Families Research Team

Dr. Zlomke

Citations (*denotes student author):


Health Youth & Families Research Team
Dr. Zlomke
Lab Updates:
- Dr. Hill finished his term on the NAA Presidential Brain Health Task Force.
- Jasmin won the Thirteenth Annual Edith Kaplan Scholarship Award; October 2023
  - Scholarship established to fund 3-4 students each year to attend activities sponsored by the Women in Leadership (WIL) Committee at the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN) Annual Conference.
  - Students in NAN are invited by WIL to write an essay which involves reflecting upon the nature of leadership. The essays are judged by a subcommittee, and winners are selected.
- Nanako attended the Advanced Psychometrics Methods in Cognitive Aging Conference.
- Nanako & Katherine were involved in starting up cognitive testing for the Diverse Vascular Contributions to Cognitive Impairment and Dementia (DVCID) a nationwide study with a new site at USA Health.
- Vasilios won the Michael F. Serafino Award for "Best Student Poster" at the 2023 Society for Police and Criminal Psychology (SPCP) Conference.
Lab Updates:

- Bailey was approved to be a member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology Clinical Research Grant Committee.
- Bailey is collaborating with USA’s Neurosurgery Department to conduct pre-and-post neurosurgical evaluations for patients with Parkinson’s Disease and seizure disorders.
- Ivan won the National Academy of Neuropsychology Trainee Diversity Poster Award.
- Ivan won the Alabama Academy of Science Student Research Grant Award.
- Ivan completed the Marquette University 2023 Neuroanatomical Dissection Course & the Advanced Computational Neuroscience Network Big Data Neuroscience South Workshop.
- Ivan is currently working with Dr. Virendra Mishra at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Radiology Department using diffusion tensor imaging derived white matter tract measures to predict neurocognitive and clinical changes associated with neurological conditions.
- Katherine organized a CCP team for the Alzheimer’s Disease walk.
Invited Presentations:


Podium Presentations:


Pizer, J.H., Hawley, N.A., Ikonomou, V.C., Campbell, I., & Wagaman, B. (2023, June 28) Neuropsychological strategies to maintain and improve brain health. Community presentation at Alabama Head Injury Foundation Bright Ideas TBI Camp, Mobile, AL.
Neuropsychology Lab
Dr. Hill

Presentations:


Ikonomou, V.C., Aita, S.L., Borgogna, N., Musso, M., & Hill, B.D. (2023, September). Officers who are terminated for cause or asked to resign differ minimally on the MMPI-2 from good hires. Poster presented at the 2023 Society for Police and Criminal Psychology (SPCP) Conference, Arlington, TX, USA.
Neuropsychology Lab
Dr. Hill

Citations:


Mobile Juvenile Court Collaborative
Dr. Stefurak

Lab Updates:

- Kimberly Pusey: Kim is expected to graduate in December 2023. She has had a successful internship experience at the Arkansas State Hospital and postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt’s Center of Excellence.

- Kathryn McGill: Kathryn is also expected to graduate in December of 2023. She has completed her internship at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington Kentucky and now serves as a staff psychologist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons at FMC Lexington.

- Victoria Dixon: Victoria continues to provide assessment services through the court as well as complete pre-employment evaluations for USA’s Police Department. She is a member of two ongoing collaborative research teams (SAKI & CIT) with Dr. Sarah-Koon Magnin & Dr. Alexis Rockwell. Both she and Hyun Kim have begun the dissertation process.

- Hyun Kim: Hyun has been focusing on assessments for the juvenile court as well as the pre-employment evaluations. She is a member of the SAKI research team, led by Dr. Sarah-Koon Magnin. Hyun has also been participating in cross-lab research activities such as working on manuscript preparation with Dr. Meredith Tittler and publishing an article on youth exposure violence this semester.

- Rachel Henderson: Rachel continues to take part in team research projects: SAKI & CIT. This semester, she exhibited her research at the ABCT SIG Session. It was titled: “Is spirituality a verb?: Conceptions of spirituality among members of alcoholics anonymous with sustained recovery.”
Mobile Juvenile Court Collaborative
Dr. Stefurak

Current Projects & Grants:

Juvenile Court Collaboration:
- Ongoing assessment of justice-involved youth
- Trainings and consultative work

Funded Projects:
- Department of Justice Grant - Crisis Intervention Team Training: Dr. Stefurak is the Principal Investigator for this grant which involves delivering CIT training to surrounding law enforcement organizations.
- Department of Justice Grant - Justice & Mental Health Collaboration: the team is serving as the research partner for this grant, which involves deploying a co-response intervention model for citizens in a mental health crisis who are chronically involved in the legal and mental health systems.
- Mobile Child Advocacy Center (CAC): The team is in the beginnings of a partnership with the local CAC in an effort to understand and provide assistance in meeting the needs identified in a previous program evaluation.
- Connect and Protect Grant: Dr. Stefurak will serve as the external evaluator for this Department of Justice grant made to the City of Mobile. The grant funds delivering or training to improve law enforcement and mental health responses to citizens in mental health crises.
- Crisis Intervention Team Training Grant: This is a grant from the Department of Justice that is funding training of law enforcement, emergency medical professionals and emergency medical nurses in the Crisis Intervention Team model of de-escalation and promoting mental health care for citizens in mental health crises. Dr. Stefurak is the Principal Investigator.
Citations:


Research in Early Intervention, Academic Achievements, & ADHD in Children Lab
Dr. Spiegel

Lab Updates:
- Luisa had an abstract accepted to Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA)
- Dr. Spiegel submitted a grant for funding Raising Resilient Families: PCIT plus CBT.
- Dr. Spiegel planned and hosted a successful Harry Potter Trivia night with Dr. Ahlich
- Dr. Spiegel welcomed their newest lab member to the world: Baby Chloe Ann

Citation:
Lab Updates:

- Dr. Albright has received invitations to revise and resubmit four manuscript submissions to the Journal of Educational & Psychological Consultation, Journal of Early Intervention, School Mental Health, and Autism in Adulthood. Dr. Albright has three additional manuscripts that are under review at Autism, the Journal of Early Intervention, and School Mental Health.

- With colleagues from Penn, the Baker Center for Children and Families, and UCLA, Dr. Albright chaired a symposium at the Association for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies (ABCT) annual convention, titled, "Engaging stakeholders in treatment development and implementation: Increasing inclusivity and improving access to evidence-based care," and co-presented a poster titled, "Perceptions of teamwork in greater Philadelphia area school-based mental health service teams."

- With colleagues from Penn, Dr. Albright also had a talk accepted for presentation at the National Association of School Psychologists in New Orleans this coming February titled, "Examining school stakeholder perspectives on an adapted team science intervention," and a poster titled, "Implementation of a teamwork intervention for school mental health teams."
Connection and Action Across Identities Lab
(Provisional Lab Name)
Dr. Tittler

Lab Updates:
- Dr. Tittler has spent the semester establishing new projects and getting new research projects up and running.
- Dr. Tittler has had the privilege to work with 3rd year, Hyun Kim, as a GA. They’ve been working on a manuscript using a dataset Dr. Tittler previously collected on racial dialogues.
- Dr. Tittler is looking forward to continuing to grow her lab and research in the coming year.

Dr. Tittler and the talented students of Psych 556 (F-23) celebrating completion of their first practicum experiences as instructor and trainee.
Connection and Action Across Identities Lab  
(Provisional Lab Name)  
Dr. Tittler

Citations:


Harry Potter Trivia

Psychology faculty and graduate students participated in Harry Potter Trivia. Gryffindor House won with 320 points, but a shout out to Hufflepuff for their terrific team spirit!
CCP get-togethers!
Happy Holidays!