

DAWG TRACKS

SPRING 2007

WELCOME TO THE 4TH ANNUAL UGA CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER!INSIDE THE 2007
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Dawg Tracks is dedicated to continuing to highlight the many remarkable achievements of the students, faculty, and alumni associated with the UGA Clinical Psychology program. With this goal in mind, we invite any notable contributions with regards to accomplishments, suggestions for next year's issue, or general feedback.

(To contribute, contact: Lauren Pryor at lrpryor@uga.edu).



Opened in March 2006, the 140,000 sq. ft. Coverdell Building houses a mix of disciplines including the Bio-Imaging Research Center (BIRC).

FEATURED LAB: DR. JOSH MILLER & TEAM

Recently the breadth of training in the Clinical program at the University of Georgia has expanded to include the work of Dr. Joshua Miller, a researcher in the Five Factor Model of personality (FFM). Dr. Miller uses the FFM, a dimensional model of personality, to examine DSM personality disorders (PDs) and other problematic trait configurations. Dr. Miller also uses the FFM in experimental studies. For instance, in one lab study, participants and run through an experiment designed to explore the interface between personality, negative mood, and impulsive behavior. As part of the experiment, Dr. Miller elicits a negative mood state in participants by asking them to listen to sad music while writing about an emotionally distressing life experience. They are then presented with a number of tasks designed to measure impulsive behavior, some of which involve

gaining and losing amounts of money. By using this paradigm, in combination with administration of an interview of PDs Dr. Miller is exploring the connections between personality traits, PD symptoms, and impulsive behaviors that occur with and without negative affect.

Dr. Miller's current research program also includes a number of studies related to Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Conducted in tandem with Dr. Keith Campbell, also in the UGA Psychology Department, this line of research is comparing clinical and social-personality conceptions of narcissism. Students in Dr. Miller's lab have also collected a number of data sets related to the construct of psychopathy and antisocial personality disorder. In these studies, methodological issues in the assessment and diagnosis of psychopathy are explored using undergraduate and community samples. Finally, Dr. Miller is using normative data from several coun-

tries to examine whether the NEO PI-R can be used as a screening measure for DSM-IV-TR PDs.

Dr. Miller joined the faculty at UGA in 2005. His lab therefore is relatively young, currently including two graduate students entering their second year and 5-6 undergraduates. Lauren Pryor, a student in Dr. Miller's lab, described Dr. Miller as "very productive" and "supportive," and stated that Dr. Miller always encourages his students to include questionnaires of interest in his ongoing studies, as well as to propose new study ideas. He also takes time out of his own research schedule to advise and mentor students from across the clinical psychology program, and has proven an enormous asset to the environment of the program as a whole.



Josh Miller, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor

ALUMNI FOCUS: DR. GARY SPERDUTO

Dr. Gary Spurduto is Chief Executive Officer of Spurduto & Associates, Inc., based in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Spurduto's firm specializes in 'corporate psychology' and offers psychological and management consultation, psychological assessment, and planning expertise to a wide variety of corporations throughout the U.S. and abroad. In the last year, the firm worked with clients in forty states, the Americas, and Europe.

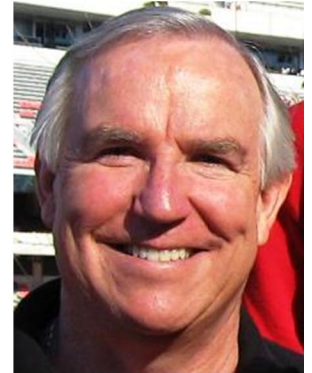
While at the University of Georgia, Dr. Spurduto studied under Dr. Karen Calhoun and co-majored in UGA's management school. Having graduated in 1978 from UGA's clinical psychology program, Dr. Spurduto's consulting career now spans four

decades. Dr. Spurduto stated that the most rewarding aspects of his profession include "the complexity of the puzzles we get to solve" and how his "work comes together at the nexus of strategy, organizational structure, and people."

The focus of his professional efforts has been on identifying and developing executive talent; consulting regarding organizational structure, mergers, and acquisitions; the professional development of CEOs; CEO/Board relations; mapping appropriate organizational strategy; and leadership/culture enhancement and change. He has authored articles and presented professional papers in the areas of self-development, parameters

of adjustment, behavior modification, learning disabilities, corporate succession planning, and the roles of corporate psychologists and Chief Executive Officers. Additionally, he has served as a faculty member at the Director's College presented by the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business and the National Association of Corporate Directors.

When asked about the success of his firm, Dr. Spurduto stated that "being the highest quality" firm in his field has always been his "true north," and the success he has experienced is a product of the excellent associates and clients with whom he has worked.



Dr. Gary Spurduto, Ph.D.

"When one goes into a 'helping profession' such as psychology, measures of success come in unique forms."

- G. Spurduto, Ph.D.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT FOCUS

Colleen Sloan is native Floridian. She was born in Jacksonville and moved to Georgia in 1997. She attended UGA as an undergraduate where she joined Dr. Amos Zeichner's research team, and she continues to work in his lab. Her research interests include anti-gay and anti-lesbian aggression as well as life assessment of transgender/transsexual individuals, particularly related to the process of transitioning.

Lauren Pryor is originally from Cincinnati, OH. She lived in Hendersonville, NC for six years before attending Furman University in Greenville, SC on a basketball scholarship. She received her B.S. in psychology in June of 2002 and began her first semester at UGA in August of the same year. As a member of Dr. Joshua Miller's research lab, Lauren's broad research interests involve general personality and personality disorders. Although the lab is supremely productive, Lauren does manage to find time to travel with her husband, as well as watch her puppy on doggie daycare webcam.

Erin Hartzell was born in Baltimore, MD and attended James Madison University as an undergraduate. After graduating, Erin worked as a mental health worker on the Trauma Disorders Unit at Sheppard Pratt Hospital. Erin's clinical experience working with adults with extensive trauma histories, particularly child sexual abuse, has influenced her research area of interest. As a member of Dr. Jackson's lab, Erin is currently interested in the effects of child maltreatment and emotion regulation on adult mental health.

Megan McCormick originally hails from Fayetteville, GA. She attended Mercer University, obtaining a B.A. in psychology in 2005. At UGA, she joined Dr. Ron Blount and investigated pediatric pain management and disease coping. Her master's project is clinical trial testing an intervention designed to reduce pain and increase functioning in adolescent girls with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Megan's interests outside of professional activities include running, mountain biking, fly fishing, and airplanes.

Alana Seibert is from the Daytona Beach area in Florida. She headed to North Carolina to attend Wake Forest University for her undergraduate studies. Before joining Amos Zeichner's lab at UGA, she worked with youth at a substance abuse rehabilitation center and spent six months volunteering in La Paz, Bolivia. She is interested in studying emotion regulation and aggression, and her thesis plans to investigate the effects of negative mood on emotion dysregulation and aggression in individuals with borderline personality disorder symptomatology.

Eric Gaughan is a Missouri native. Eric was born and raised in Kansas City and attended the University of Missouri-Columbia for undergrad. He returned to Kansas City and worked in community mental health before coming to UGA to join Josh Miller's lab. His research interests center on the study of personality and psychopathy. He is currently working on a first-year project examining psychopathy from the perspective of different structural models of personality.

CLINICAL PROGRAM FUNDRAISING: PLEASE HELP

The UGA Clinical Psychology Program needs contributions to meet a \$100,000 challenge grant contributed by a generous graduate, who wishes to remain anonymous. The purpose is to establish an endowed professorship, which will become the centerpiece of our efforts to gain recognition as a center of excellence in clinical psychology. When we raise the matching \$100,000, the same anonymous graduate has pledged an additional \$50,000, which will allow us to recruit a faculty member with an outstanding national reputation for scholarly work and visionary leadership in the application of psychological innovations.

Please help keep the program strong by assisting us in this exciting effort. Every gift counts. Checks may be made payable to the "University of Georgia Foundation" with Clinical Psychology Professorship Fund, #40G1850" on the memo line. Please mail to:

Franklin College Office of Development
124 Old College
Athens, GA 30602

Questions may be addressed to Karen Calhoun, or to Valerie Roper, Director of Major Gifts, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, Phone: 706-583-0825, email: vroper@franklin.uga.edu. Contributions are tax-deductible and will earn our deepest gratitude. Thank you for your support.



July 22, 2006, Jeri Breiner hosted a fundraiser for the UGA clinical program at her home in Atlanta. Pictured from left: Ron Blount (UGA faculty), Sandy Blount, and Jeri Breiner (UGA alum '81).



UGA alumnae attending the clinical fundraiser. Pictured from left: Laurie Culp (UGA alum '97), Lindsey Cohen (UGA alum '98), Rachelle Jansevics Cohen (UGA alum '94), and Page Anderson (UGA alum '98).



Pictured from left: Marilyn Hazzard-Lineberger (UGA alum '79) and Karen Calhoun (UGA faculty).



Pictured from left: Steve Hobbs (UGA alum '76) and Joan Jackson (UGA alum '77 & UGA faculty).

A NOTE FROM THE DCT

Once again I want to give a big hello to everyone associated with UGA's Clinical Psychology Program. As I finish my 2nd year as DCT, I am again humbled by the excellence of our students and faculty. It has been a very busy but productive year and, as you can read throughout this newsletter, great things continue to happen on a seemingly regular basis.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about the many activities occurring in "your" program. These include the entry into our family of the newest graduate students, a list of student internships for the coming year, the graduation of our most recent group of wonderful new Clinical Psychologists and their destinations as they embark on new careers, and an introduction to our newest faculty member, Dr. Sarah Fischer. Also in-

cluded is a wonderful spotlight on one of our many fine alums, a description of one of the program's research laboratories, a sampling of recent exciting research publications, and a description of how you can give to the growth and stability of the program. Throughout, it is our hope that you will be excited and pleased in the continued high standards and expectations that we have for the UGA Clinical Psychology program, whose mission remains providing the very best in clinical and research training for our students, and being the kind of clinical program for which all of us can be so proud.

I also want to encourage you to keep in contact with the program. As I have said before, we are so very proud of each and

every one of you and the successes you have had, and we want to hear from you. 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. An easy way to let us know how you're doing is to email Ms. Marilyn Steffe at msteffe@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 writ-



ing of this year's newsletter -- Jordan Gilleland, Charlie Kamen, and Lauren Pryor. I'm sure you'll agree that they have done an excellent job!

Thank you again from all of us, enjoy the newsletter, and keep in touch!

Sincerely,

L. Stephen Miller

UGA-GSU RESEARCH FORUM



2007 UGA-GSU Aggression and Personality Research Forum participants. Back row (from left): Amos Zeichner (UGA faculty), Cameron Miller (GSU), Adam Hudepohl (GSU), Colleen Sloan (UGA), Alana Seibert (UGA), and Amy Cohn (UGA). Front row (from left): Josh Miller (UGA), Dominic Parrott (GSU faculty and UGA alum), Lauren Pryor (UGA), Eric Gughan (UGA), and Dennis Reidy (UGA).

On May 11, 2007 the University of Georgia hosted the first annual Aggression and Personality Research Forum with Georgia State University. The purpose of this inaugural forum was to build personal networks to facilitate exchange of information, collaboration, and multi-site research. Along with their six graduate students, Dr. Amos Zeichner and Dr. Josh Miller played hosts to faculty member, Dr. Dominic Parrott and his team from Georgia State.

The forum participants spent the morning session presenting current research, took a trip downtown for lunch, and used the afternoon session to generate ideas for future collaborations. When asked to comment on the inspiration for the forum, Dr. Zeichner stated, "I think that research is not worth doing if you don't enjoy doing it. You get more creative and productive when you collaborate, so we are bringing people together to share ideas. I find that exciting."

SAMPLE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS 2006-2007

Cohn, A. (UGA Student) & Zeichner, A. (2006). Effects of Masculine Identity and Gender Role Stress on Aggression in Men. Psychology of Men and Masculinity, 7, 179-190.

Lewis, M.S. (UGA Alum) & Miller, L.S. Executive control functioning and functional ability in older adults. (2007). The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 21, 274-285. (Selected as an American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology CE credit program paper for 2007).

Miller, J. D., & Pilkonis, P. A. (2006). Neuroticism and affective instability: The same or different? American Journal of Psychiatry, 163, 839-845

Mitchell, M.B. (UGA Student) & Miller, L.S. (in press). Executive functioning and observed versus self-reported measures of functional ability. The Clinical Neuropsychologist.

Parrott, D.J. (UGA Alum) & Zeichner, A. (In press). Determinants of anger and physical aggression based on sexual orientation: An experimental examination of Hypermasculinity and exposure to Male Gender Role Violations. Archives of Sexual Behavior.

Reidy, D.E. (UGA Student), Zeichner, A., Miller, J.D., & Martinez, M.A. (UGA Student) (In press). Psychopathy and Aggression: Examining the Role of Psychopathy Factors in Predicting Laboratory Aggression under Hostile and Instrumental Conditions. Journal of Research in Personality.

Simons L.E. (UGA Alum) , Gilleland J. (UGA Student), Hubbard A., Blount R.L., & Campbell R. (In press). Initial development of the Pediatric Camp Outcome Measure. Children's Health Care.

2007-2008 STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Megan Crawford (Dr. Calhoun)- Medical College of Georgia/VA Medical Center, Augusta, GA

Ashley Furr (Dr. Jackson)- Durham VA Medical Center, Durham, NC

Mary Payne (Dr. Blount)- University of Louisville School of Medicine/Dept of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Louisville, KY

2007-2008 INCOMING STUDENTS

Courtney Brown	Tufts University	(Dr. Steve Miller)
Hilary Harding	Dickinson College	(Dr. Joan Jackson)
Marni Jacob	University of Florida	(Dr. Cindy Suveg)
Bonney Reed	University of Georgia	(Dr. Ron Blount)
Kristel Thomassin	Vanderbilt University	(Dr. Cindy Suveg)

WELCOME SARAH FISCHER, PH.D.!

Dr. Sarah Fischer will join the UGA Clinical faculty in the Fall of 2007. Dr. Fischer completed her both her Bachelor of Arts degree and her Doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Kentucky. For the past year, she has been working as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Chicago Eating Disorders Program.

Dr. Fischer's research interests include the influence of impulsivity and emotion regulation on addictive behaviors, personality and psychosocial learning factors that influence the co-occurrence of eating disorders and substance abuse, and the application of mindfulness based treatments to eating disorders.



2007 GRADUATE PLACEMENTS

Amy Cohn - Post-doctoral fellowship, Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI

Kirsten Gabriel - Dept. Chair of General Education at Everglade University, Boca Raton, FL

Yfat Kessel - Clinical Supervisor, University of Georgia Psychology Clinic, Athens, GA

Megan Ratcliff - Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dept of Psychiatry, Emory University School of Medicine at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), Atlanta, GA

Puja Seth - Postdoctoral fellowship at Emory Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences in HIV/AIDS Clinical Research Training Program, Atlanta, GA

Chandler Sims - Psychological assistantship, Private practice, Pasadena, CA

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

2006-2007 AWARDS

Boardman-Forehand-Jackson Award: **Megan Benoit Ratcliff**

A.S. Edwards Award: **Amy Cohn**

Herbert Zimmer Research Award: **Heidi Zinzow**

Charles L. Darby Award: **Megan Benoit Ratcliff**

Florene M. Young Award: **Michelle Cobb**

Henry E. Adams Memorial Research Award: **Katie Devine**

Outstanding Contribution to the Tone of the Program: **Cindy Suveg**

Outstanding Mentorship Award: **Cindy Suveg**

Outstanding Teaching Award: **Alyssa Clark & Roger Thomas**

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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