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Welcome First Year Clinical/Community Graduate Students!

Chelsea Birchmier

Hi! My name is Chelsea Birchmier, and I’m excited to be joining the Clinical/Community division as a first year! I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and received my B.A. in psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. I will be working with Mark Aber and using participatory action research and ethnographic methodologies to promote community collaboration and improve community mental health care. In my own research I’m also interested in the psychological effects of everyday surveillance on communities targeted by the carceral state. I enjoy exploring new places and foods, being around friends, reading, and watching TV and movies.

Julianne Griffith

Hi there! My name is Julianne Griffith, and I’m very excited to be joining the Clinical/Community Program at UIUC. I grew up in the greater Boston area before moving to Pittsburgh where I completed my B.S. in Psychology and Sociology at Pitt. Upon graduation, I continued conducting research at the University of Pittsburgh, assisting with studies investigating adolescent mood disorders and emotion regulation. I am particularly interested in studying how positive emotions emerge in function in the context of close interpersonal relationships. In my free time, I enjoy running (slowly), attending community arts events, and exploring the local public library.
Markera Jones
Hi everyone! My name is Markera Jones, and I'm a first year student in the Clinical/Community division. I'm from Coatesville, PA, and received my B.A. in psychology at Franklin and Marshall College, where I researched stress, emotion regulation strategies, and wellbeing. After graduating, I taught high school in Memphis, TN with Teach For America. My experience as a Special Education Inclusion Teacher only solidified my passion for promoting self-efficacy, resilience, and emotional wellbeing in youth of marginalized backgrounds and identities. I'm thrilled to be working with Mark Aber, and continuing to develop my research interests in the context of community development. Outside of academics, I enjoy painting and graphic art, writing, jamming to good music, and tech.

Dahyeon Kang
Hello! My name is Dani Kang, and I’m excited to be joining the Clinical/Community division. I was born and raised in Korea (so I have my Korean name, Dahyeon, and anyone who can pronounce it is welcome to call me by my Korean name:)). When I turned 20, I moved to Illinois for college. During my undergraduate years here, I assisted Catharine’s various research projects in the alcohol research lab, and I’m excited to continue working with her as her graduate student! I’m broadly interested in identifying socio-contextual factors that might contribute to understanding how alcohol and substance use might become a problem for some people. When I am not in the lab, I enjoy being outdoors, swimming, traveling, and baking!

Kathryn Kemp
Hi! My name is Katie Kemp, and I am so excited to now be a part of the Clinical/Community program. I grew up in the Metro Detroit area and later attended the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, where I received my B.A. degrees in Psychology and Women’s Studies. Following graduation, I was eager to get out of the Midwest temporarily by moving to Dallas to work as a full-time research assistant in a Schizophrenia and Social Cognition Lab at the University of Texas at Dallas. I am looking forward to applying what I learned in Dallas to the research I will be pursuing here with Tom Kwapiel. I am primarily interested in understanding comorbidity, particularly anxiety and depression, in the context of the schizophrenia spectrum. My favorite things to do in my free time are painting, playing board games, going out to eat/drink with friends, and dancing with my cat in my apartment!
Brenda Lee

Hello all! My name is Brenda Lee and I'm a freshly-minted first year in the Clinical/Community division. I was born in West Philadelphia but my schoolyards spanned Delaware and Shanghai (where I spent most of my days)! I received my B.S. in Clinical Psychology from Tufts University and then worked at Mass General for a few years in Child Psychiatry researching genetics and cognition. My research interests encompass emotional regulation in underserved youth as well as how caregiver-child interactions may impact mental health outcomes. In my spare time, I enjoy napping, portraiture photography, dance, and asking folks if I can pet their dogs.

Shiesha McNeil

Hello! My name is Shiesha McNeil and I'm excited be joining the Clinical/Community Psychology division. I'm originally from Washington DC but I'm coming to you all from Durham, NC. I received my B.A. in Psychology and Management & Society from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am looking forward to working with Joe Cohen and the rest of my incoming lab mates!

My research interests include understanding what mechanisms predict the psychopathological outcomes of youth who experience an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). I also have an interest in evaluating resources that seek to aid children in this population. In my free time I enjoy reading, writing poetry, cooking, and hanging out with friends!

Haley Skymba

Hello! My name is Haley Skymba and I'm originally from Lansford, Pennsylvania. I received my undergraduate degree in Neuroscience from Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA. Following graduation, I spent a year working locally as a mental health technician in a residential center for children before moving to Sacramento, California to work as a research assistant in the Translational, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience Lab at UC Davis. These roles have shaped my research interests to focus on understanding the impact of early life experiences on cognitive and emotional development from a neural perspective. I’m specifically interested in how these relate to risk for the experience of psychopathology (mainly affective and anxiety disorders). I’m incredibly excited to work with Wendy Heller in studying the interplay of these areas. In my downtime, I seize any opportunity to go camping, hiking, or explore new places in search of delicious food. I’m looking forward to experiencing everything the Midwest has to offer and honored to pursue my graduate work here in the Clinical/community program at UIUC!
Hena Thakur

Hi everyone! My name is Hena Thakur and I’m a first year in the Clinical/Community division. I grew up in Maryland, and am excited to be living in the Midwest for the first time. I received my undergraduate degree from Boston University with a major in Medical Sciences and a minor in Public Health. After my undergraduate years, I completed a fellowship at the National Institutes of Health and focused on the influence of social networks on various interpersonal and health outcomes. During my time at UIUC, I hope to apply my understanding of social networks and interpersonal effects to investigations of the development and assessment of various mental health outcomes within pediatric populations. In my free time, I enjoy volunteering within the community, learning new languages and hanging out with friends!

Walter Venerable

Walter received his B.S. in Psychology from Arizona State University. His research interests are focused on alcohol’s role in human sexual interactions. Specifically, alcohol’s role in the perception of sexual cues or romantic interest that may lead to the initiation of sexual behaviors. Walter is interested in using this research to make informed improvements to sexual assault awareness and prevention efforts. Outside of lab Walter enjoys hiking through nature, watching educational documentaries, and participating in massively multiplayer online video game communities.
Kudos & Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals for being added to the Spring 2017 List of Teachers Ranked Excellent by their students!

Boeh, B.  TA 100
Davis, M.  TA 363
Eckland, N.  TA 379
Huang, A.  TA 379
Khan, F.  TA 341
Thomas, J.  TA 238
Todd, N.  396
Westbrook, J.  238
Williams, C.  TA 238

Mikhail Lyubansky is the recipient of the 2017 Larine Y. Cowan Make a Difference Award for Teaching and Mentoring in Diversity!
Alum Snapshot

David Gilles-Thomas:

- 2005: Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service (*State University of New York - SUNY)*
- 2006: Outstanding Psychologist Contribution to Counseling Center Work (*American Psychological Association (APA), Division 17 Section on College & University Counseling Centers*).
- 2016: CCAPS Lifetime Achievement Award (*American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Commission for Counseling and Psychological Services*).

Kate Hellenga:

In August, I took a new position within the San Francisco Department of Public Health, where I have worked for the last six years. I am now the Staff Psychologist for SF Jail Behavioral Health, and one of four site managers in the county jail. My site houses 72 people and includes a sub-acute psychiatric inpatient unit, women's psychiatric housing, and the medical unit. My clinical-community education is getting a good workout -- individual and systemic complexity, room for improvement, and remarkable, resilient clients.

Keith Humphreys:

*(1993 Ph.D.)* has been awarded the inaugural Esther Ting Memorial Professor at Stanford University. The chair was endowed by Dr. George Ting in honor of his late daughter and supports scholarship in the field of addiction medicine.

Melissa Milanak:

Melissa is a co-investigator on a grant that was funded by the Department of Defense (DOD). Department of Defense, Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Technology/Therapeutic Development Award, W81XWH - 16

PI: Daniel Taylor

Title: Web-Based Provider Training for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy of Insomnia (CBT-I)

Amount Funded: $1,500,000
Presentations


Publications


Publications


Book Publications


E. J. R. David graduated from the Clinical/Community Program Area in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007 and is currently an associate professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Alaska Anchorage.
Brain Teasers

1) Billie was born on December 28th, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?  
(https://www.forbes.com/sites/work-in-progress/2012/05/15/10-brainteasers-to-test-your-mental-sharpness/#37e07048336d)

2) What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands?  

3) Can you find the nine hidden people?  
(http://www.brainbashers.com/showillusion.asp?115)

4) Unscramble the words below and follow the directions in parentheses. Unscramble the new letters to get the name of a U.S. State, Capital, or Major City.

   LAOSNIE (Take the 5th and 7th letters)  
   ESLAWE (Take the 1st and 4th letters)  
   VOLIENWER (Take the 2nd and 7th letters)  
   TNAUCO (Take the 4th and 6th letters)  
   LONAMS (Take the 1st letter)

   Unscramble the letters you collected. What do you get?  
(https://www.braingle.com/brainteasers/teaser.php?op=2&id=32474&comm=0)

5) What is next in this sequence of numbers: 1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, 312211, ______?  
Brain Teasers Answers

1) Billie lives in the southern hemisphere
2) Breathe
3) Large head of a man in the center looking to the left, with white hair and beard.
   Man in the center left carrying a walking stick (whose head is the eye of #1)
   Lady beside #2 holding a baby.
   Baby in #3's arms.
   Profile of woman's head above right hand column.
   Mirror image of #5 above the left column.
   Another face in profile on the opposite side of the #6's bird statue (a mirror of #6).
   Another face in profile directly above #6, the bird forms the nose and forehead.
   A face looking towards you in the extreme left, to the side of #8.
4) You get Wisconsin.
   Sea Lion IN
   Weasel WS
   Wolverine IO
   Toucan CN
   Salmon S
   I, N, W, S, I, O, C, N, S
   Wisconsin
5) 13112221
   Explanation: Each sequence of numbers is a verbal representation of the sequence before it. Thus, starting with 1, the next sequence would be "one one," or "11." That sequence is followed by "two one," or "21," and so on and so forth.
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We’re on the web at:
http://www.psychology.illinois.edu/about/divisions/clinicalcommunity/

The Clinical/Community Psychology Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a Clinical Science program designed to train scholarly and scientifically oriented researchers and professionals with a variety of interests.

Our program is committed to excellence in scientific clinical training and to using clinical science as the foundation for designing, implementing, and evaluating assessment and intervention procedures. Our educational philosophy emphasizes a creative, scholarly, and socially responsible approach to clinical and community psychology. Our mission is to produce graduates who assume leadership roles and contribute to the discipline and to society.

Psychology @ The University of Illinois

The Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a long-standing reputation for excellence. From its inception in 1904, the department has distinguished itself with outstanding faculty, research programs, and the best and brightest graduate students.

Consistently named one of the top five graduate programs in the country, the department nurtures an environment of collaborative and independent research and outstanding scholarship. The organization of our department, the variety of divisions, and the strength of our faculty allow students the opportunity to explore their interests across the discipline and alongside some of the finest minds in the country.

At the University of Illinois we provide the resources, the network, and the experience for mature young scholars to become committed professionals who make unique contributions to the field of psychology.

Whatever your professional interests and goals, you'll find an environment of excellence in which to pursue them and a community of dedicated and experienced collaborators to assist you in the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois.