

Clinical Psychology 2008 Incoming Class

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 five new students this year, who came to our program from all over the nation. Overall, they had an average undergraduate GPA of 3.41, an average GPA in Psychology of 3.51, a GRE Verbal score of 422, GRE Quantitative score of 528, a GRE Written score of 4.12, and a total GRE score of 950. Four of the students have made at least one professional presentation, and two have a publication. Three of the students have applied clinical experience, ranging from working with adults who have chronic psychological disorders to working in an adolescent residential program. This year only one of the students is home-grown, having graduated from Western Kentucky University. The other four students are nationally recruited: one from Western Illinois University, one from the University of Kentucky, one from Middle Tennessee State University, and one from Grand Valley State University. 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.

2008 Entering Clinical Class



Courtney Clippert. Courtney comes to us from Western Illinois University, where her major professor was Dr. Kitty Miller. She has research experience with Dr. Intrieri and Dr. Goodwin at WIU and at the Research Experience for

Undergraduates program through the University of Minnesota. Courtney's current research interests focus on interpersonal relationships, domestic violence, and depression. She has three presentations and one publication to her credit. Courtney says that her future goals include being accepted into a Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program and working with children and adolescents—and perhaps college-age kids—in her own private practice. Courtney is also a huge Dallas Cowboys fan, for which we forgive her.



Rodney Martin. Rodney graduated from the University of Kentucky. He has spent the last year employed at Bluegrass Personal Care Home, where he worked with folks who have chronic psychological disorders. While he has no formal research experience, Rodney says he is interested in looking at depression and anxiety among African American men. Rodney's future goals include continuing his education at a doctoral program, either as a Ph.D. or a Psy.D. Rodney is usually an optimistic person, who goes around with a smile on his face and a laugh on his lips.



Amanda McClure. Amanda attended Middle Tennessee State University for her undergraduate degree. She was advised by Dr. Kim Ucjich-Ward. Amanda gained a great deal of research experience at MTSU; she participated in studies on body dysmorphia, self-report techniques among parents of children with autism, and the effect of mere presence on social support, among others. Amanda presented findings from the social presence at the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association annual meeting. She indicated that, currently, her research interests fall in the area of how mood disorders develop in children and adolescents. Amanda also has a great deal of clinical experience. She has worked at the Parthenon Pavillion in Nashville, where she was able to see firsthand what “in the trenches” psychotherapy looks like. Amanda’s long-term goals include obtaining a doctoral degree and pursuing a career in group practice or at a facility working with children. However, she also is interested in forensic psychology, especially working with juvenile delinquents, so her career may go down that path, too. Amanda is a huge Tennessee Titans fan.



Natalie Truba. Natalie comes to us from God’s Country—western Michigan and Grand Valley State University (home of the three-time NCAA Division II football champions), where her advisor was Dr. Donna Hendrickson-King. Natalie is very interested in obtaining a doctoral degree, and has pursued a great deal of research opportunities in order to do so. She has worked on studies examining dating violence in the past, and is currently interested in examining anxiety in a medical environment, particularly in an oncology setting. Natalie was employed at an adolescent psychiatric facility as an undergraduate, and recalls not-so-fondly the days of being punched in the face. She looks forward to the time when she is not floor staff, but therapeutic staff. Natalie enjoys sports, and is willing to give any sport a try; she has played organized soccer, rugby, and volleyball in the past (and I understand she was pretty darn good at these, too).



Mary Wilde. Mary is the only WKU graduate we have this year. Her advisor here on the Hill was Patty Randolph. Mary gained great research experience here at WKU working with Dr. Phil Pegg on a study

examining medical anxiety. She presented a study looking at anxiety, marijuana use, and alcohol consumption at the annual meeting of the Middle Tennessee Psychological Association. Her present research interests fall more along the lines of clinical disorders: ADHD, Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Eating Disorders, and PTSD. Mary's long-term goals include private practice performing individual counseling. In her spare time, Mary enjoys playing tennis.

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.
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