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## Direct from the DCT Diana Rancourt, Ph.D.

Hello USF Clinical Alumni, Students, and Friends! I can't believe we are almost at the end of the year! It has been a busy fall and will be a busy spring.

Despite the August heat, we had an excellent turnout at our fall Clinical Psychology Picnic at Rowlett Park where we reconnected and welcomed our three first year students. Faculty, students, children, and dogs were in attendance. There were multiple rounds of intense cornhole, and Marc Karver recruited students to play soccer – and no one developed heat stroke! A big thank you to Alex Rivera for his excellent party planning skills. I look forward to our next area gathering!

Our faculty and students continue to conduct excellent work that reflects our clinical science values. As examples, many of our students are conducting DBT with inmates as part of Dr. Edelyn Verona's work in the Center for Justice Research & Policy or providing substance use treatment as part of Dr. Rob Schlauch's NIAAA-funded alcohol recovery project. Fourth year student Allie Schuch is a recipient of funding as part of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program, which is funded by the US Department of Health. Allie will receive specialized training in integrated behavioral health and develop a research project as part of this award. Importantly, this program integrates training and service by specifically focusing on increasing service to underserved populations in the Tampa Bay area. I couldn't be prouder of the work that our faculty and students do that has such far-reaching impacts.

We are excited about some coming program changes. First, we have revised the comprehensive exam process to better align our training with clinical science values. We eliminated the research-focused comprehensive exam and students instead will complete only one activity to demonstrate integrated knowledge across different core areas of psychology (e.g., social, affective, cognitive). In addition to an exam and major area paper options to meet this requirement, students will have the option to write a grant. Second, we received approval to hire a Visiting Assistant Professor who will be housed in the Psychological Services Center to help with therapy and assessment supervision, and other PSC-related teaching and tasks. If you know of anyone who would be a great fit, send them our way! Third, we have an active search for a tenure track Assistant Professor for the Clinical Area. I look forward to sharing more about these changes in the next newsletter!

I always welcome conversations about how we can continue to achieve more in all senses of our program's mission and values, so please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of our program.

--Diana



## Updates From the Clinic

By Jack Darkes, Ph.D., Clinic Director;  
USF Psychological Services Center and USF Alum

Welcome to the PSC Update for Fall 2023. As always, there is never a dull moment.

I want to begin by acknowledging our outstanding students and tremendous Clinic staff. Our Assistant Directors this year are Ruba Rum and Meaghan Brown. Glad to have you both here! As anyone who has worked in the PSC is aware, our CAs are really the heart of the operation. In addition to that, of course, I want to recognize our Administrative Assistant, Tasnim Mamun, whose support is also critical. As Spring Term ended, we bid farewell to Dan Faraci, who left for internship in California. Then, when Fall 23 term began, we said goodbye and thanks to Gabriella Silva – who, I am glad to say, still spends a bit of time hanging out with us in the PSC. As everyone who has been here knows, the PSC could not function without the dedicated work of our Clinic staff and students.

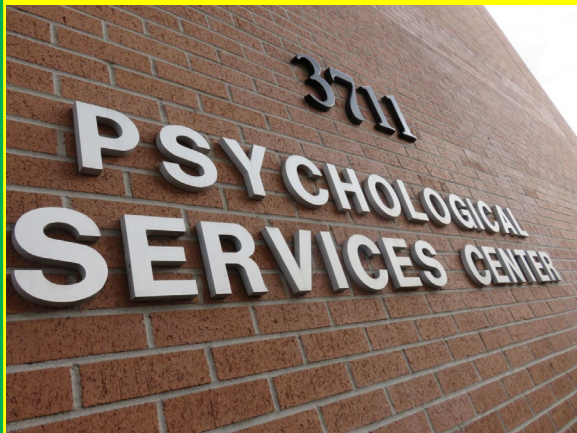
As the Fall term begins, we also welcome our new group of clinicians (our second-year students) into the clinic. Glad to have all of you joining us here and look forward to another great year! Your work is much appreciated, and I hope you will let us know if there is anything we can do to assist with your training needs.

Our work with the USF Athletics Department, providing achievement and psychosocial screenings of incoming student athletes, kept things busy during the Summer and into the Fall. This is beneficial for us in several ways; it provides opportunities for students to get assessment hours and practice, through both screenings and doing any subsequent psychoeducational assessments. It also offers us an opportunity to raise our profile in support of USF. We have also been coordinating with the USF Counseling Center as a referral source for some of their overload, which also helps us put the PSC on the campus map.

New this year is our collaboration with Dr. Rob Schlauch on his grant studying recovery from alcohol use disorder. His multi-year grant, funded by NIAAA, involves recruiting participants into treatment that is being provided by student clinicians in the PSC, with his participants being treated as PSC clients. It is great to have this opportunity to support research in the program, while it has also made the PSC a busy place. Some days space is at a premium.

Of course, the clinic has always been a busy place. Our wait lists for all services are often long and we do our best to ensure that none of our prospective clients spend too long on the list. We continue to offer a broad range of services and training opportunities, from child to general adult therapy, substance use-related services, and our Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) group. Across the board, demand remains high in all areas.

Speaking of our clinical training, we were fortunate to recruit some excellent adjunct supervisors this year to supplement our cadre of Clinical Faculty supervisors (me, Dr. Schlauch, and Dr. Verona). We are glad to welcome Dr. Kristi Weiner, an alumnus of the program, back to the PSC after taking some time away. In addition to Kristi, we welcomed back Dr. Karan Lamb, who continued with us this year. Lastly, welcome to Dr. Kirsten Ellingsen, who is in private practice in the local area, and Dr. Omar Rachman, who is on staff at Rothman Center for Neuropsychiatry. We appreciate everyone bringing your perspective to our clinic and sharing your time and skills with us!



Even though we have been back in the clinic for a couple of years now, I think it is accurate to say that we are still working through the effects of COVID on our training program. I am not sure that task will ever be completed. Given that we were fully remote as a training program and clinic, for about 18 months, much of our feeling of community, camaraderie, and program culture is taking time and continuing effort to rebuild. As we all know, successful accomplishment of our training mission is a team effort, with students at all levels, staff, faculty and even alumni working together to make the program and clinic successful. We continue to work toward those goals.

### Updates From the Clinic--Continued

COVID not only affected our training and services in the short term, but also changed some of our training going forward. As most in the field know, telehealth has rather rapidly impacted us. In recognition of this, we decided to incorporate some level of teletherapy into our clinical training plan for third year and beyond students. This also required some changes in our environment and we were able to upgrade our in-room technology so that all telehealth sessions are held within the PSC. Those same technical improvements facilitate the recording of both remote and in-person sessions. Of course, some degree of telesupervision has also been blended into our training. It's a new world (note I did not say "better" or "worse").

Anyway, if that sounds like things are hectic here, then I have accurately portrayed clinic world. Would we really want it any other way? But for everything going on, we would still be more than happy to see any of our friends from years past. For instance, Dr. Mark Goldman dropped by this morning and Dr. Paul Jacobsen stopped by at lunchtime. So when or if you are in the neighborhood, please let us know and do stop by. Would love to show you around and catch up!



Act as if what you do makes a difference.  
It does. —William James

**News From the Newsletter Editor—Vicky Phares, Ph.D.**

Hello to our awesome clinical/community alumni! Last year, the newsletter had to re-cap four years of our program but we are trying to stay on track for an annual newsletter again—so here goes an update of the past year via the newsletter.

You'll see a bunch of the “usual suspects” in this newsletter (e.g., students at conferences, alumni gathering around the globe, the USF Psychology Expo, the Warm Welcome donation project to benefit local families in the refugee community—formerly known as the Giving Tree, Clinical Alumni Award for Citizenship, alumni updates, and faculty updates). But I want to highlight a few new features that may be of interest.

Earlier this year, the Psychology Student Diversity Committee and the Department Diversity Committee joined together for our inaugural reception to celebrate diversity. You'll get to check out those photos and although our next joint event will occur a couple of weeks after this newsletter is done, you will get to see those photos next year.

We are also pleased to share with you an article that USF Clinical Psychology alumni Dr. Sylvia Herbozo and Dr. Yasmin Asvat wrote about their terrific program: PLANS - Psicologos Latinos Avanzando Nuestros Servicios. This mentoring program was developed to try and address the underrepresentation of Latinos and Latinas in Clinical and Counseling Psychology doctoral programs. They are always looking for good mentors—so please keep an eye out for that article.

And also make sure to check out information about the 20th anniversary of the USFSP Family Study Center. They already held a terrific talk by Dr. Carla Stover in October and there are at least two more programs scheduled for next year. Free CEUs and free food!

As for me, when I'm not busy with the newsletter, I often travel for family events and try to develop clinical alumni gatherings in adjacent areas. The biggest family events this year were celebrating the engagement of Kelly and Anita (large family photo) and traveling to San Francisco to celebrate their elopement (photo at their SF Airbnb and a very proud Mom). They don't want the official wedding photos shared on-line, but if you can imagine the two smartest and most beautiful brides on the grand steps of the SF courthouse—then you get the picture. Nikki, Greg, and “The Gaggle” are as busy as ever. Carson is adulting nicely in St. Pete but he did put up with a family vacation to Glacier National Park. Chuck and I still enjoy seeing that little drummer boy at local gigs. You can follow Carson's band on Instagram at: NotYetNation. Life is sweet.

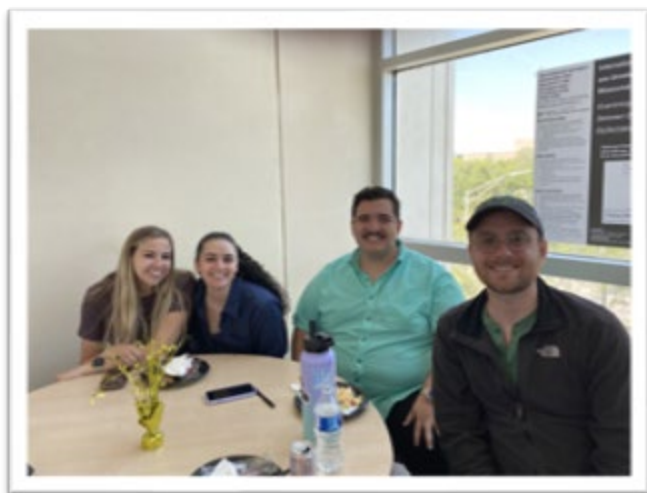
Thank you to everyone who shared updates and photos for this newsletter. It has been such a joy to hear from you. Enjoy the newsletter and as always, I wish you peace.

--Vicky





## First Year Poster Session Spring 2023



## Triple Bulls: USF Clinical Alumni Who Have a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. From USF (In order of program entry)

Jack Leggett, Ph.D.: I got my BA from New College, when it was still private in 1975, completing my baccalaureate thesis in July just before the transition. USF added a Sarasota branch there. Now New College is part of the public system, with the New College I knew lost to the culture wars of DeSantis and company. MA and PhD from USF (1985).

Madeline Altabe, Ph.D.: I am an odd triple. I graduated with my BA in Social Psychology from New College when it was under the umbrella of USF (how I long for those days!), I have my MA in Clinical and Community Psychology and PhD in Clinical from USF. It was one of the last years that the program existed as a Clinical/Community Psychology program.



Julie (Pidala) Reich, Ph.D.: I am one of those persons who received undergraduate and graduate degrees from USF :-)

Masters degree

Doctoral degree along with Dr. Richie Reich and baby-on-board





## Introducing the Baby Bulls (Entry Year of 2023)



My name is Pedepo Emmanuel (He/Him) and I am a first-year PhD student at the University of South Florida, under the guidance of Dr. Marina Bornovalova. Hailing from Lagos, Nigeria, I completed my undergraduate studies at Lagos State University. I also served as a dedicated lab technologist and worked in different research labs, balancing the roles of teaching and research assistantship. My research interests lie at the intersection of substance addiction and externalizing psychopathology. Beyond academia, I interned in the Psychiatry department at the University of Lagos Teaching Hospital, specifically focusing on substance addiction. This experience deepened my insights into substance-related research. In my spare time, I find solace in singing and meditation, enriching my holistic approach to life and academia. With my diverse background and commitment to research, I am poised to make a significant impact in the field of psychology and substance addiction studies.

My name is Agata Pietrzak, and I'm originally from Poland. Before coming to USF, I worked as a clinical research coordinator at Massachusetts General Hospital, where I examined psychophysiological correlates of stress reactivity in addiction to inform just-in-time interventions for relapse prevention. Currently, I'm working under the mentorship of Dr. Rob Schlauch, and I'm broadly interested in the mechanisms of behavior change implicated in alcohol use disorder. I'm particularly interested in examining different indices of cognitive control and how they relate to treatment outcomes in AUD. In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors, playing piano, and practicing yoga.



My name is Kendall Smith and I'm originally from Melbourne, Florida. I earned my bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminology from USF and am excited to continue my graduate studies here as well! I'm working under the mentorship of Dr. Edelyn Verona and I'm broadly interested in psychological intersections within the criminal legal system and antisocial behavior. I hope to do research that addresses inequities within the criminal legal system through understanding pathways to incarceration and intervening on issues with diversity and bias. I'm currently particularly interested in work that improves accessibility of treatment and tailored interventions for externalizing behaviors in system-involved populations. In my free time, I love to read, run and spend time with my two cats and dog.





## First Year Luncheon July 2023



Gratitude helps you fall in love with the life you already have. —Kristen Hewitt

Dr. Ernest Boger is a USF Distinguished Undergraduate Psychology Alumni Award winner and also the first Black graduate of USF in any major (and it was Psychology!). The photo is from the USF Alumni Association Green and Gold Gala, with another USF Distinguished Undergraduate Psychology Alumni Award winner (Nikki Stokes, M.A.), Dr. Vicky Phares, and Dr. Judy Bryant. Go Bulls!





First Year Welcome Picnic  
August 2023



## Advice From Clinical Alumni to Their Graduate School Self

Once you graduate and start working, it'll be very hard to find time (and energy) to get together with your friends. Enjoy each and every weekend. Go out, chat, and eat with friends, because, in a few years, you'll start saying "Weekend? What is it?" —Anonymous

The doctoral degree in psychology is very versatile - there will be many chapters in your career. Don't get too stressed out at any one roadblock. —Madeline Altabe, Ph.D.

Try out new experiences, even if you are not sure if you'll like it! I am not doing what I thought I'd be doing professionally when I started grad school, but now I can't really imagine myself in another setting. —Lindsey (Steding) Breznik, Ph.D.

And as for advice to my graduate student self, just know that dreams can come true with hard work, faith, and perseverance! —Laurie (Ehrbar) LaMonde, Ph.D.

My favorite professional article is, "The Impact of Chance Events on Life Course," published in the American Psychologist in 1981 by Albert Bandura. Set goals, but do not become so focused on them you miss unexpected opportunities for work, travel or to meet and get to know interesting people. Maintain personal and professional relationships, most of my jobs and career steps were assisted by friends and colleagues along the way. And pay it forward; I tried to help others find their path as well. —Jack Leggett, Ph.D.

My best piece of advice for my graduate school self would have been to slow down and enjoy the ride a bit more. We often find ourselves so fixated on finishing the next milestone (e.g., thesis, comps, internship, dissertation) that 5 years truly fly by! In the spirit of mindfulness, stop and smell the roses every once in a while. —Sean McKinley, Ph.D.

I would tell my grad school self to be patient and mindful and to be open to new experiences that you don't expect. I think careers are super fluid and sometimes what we think we want turns out not to be the best fit. If you're not willing to be open and flexible, and to notice opportunities you weren't expecting, you might struggle a bit to be happy in your career. I've been lucky to have had a really interesting career that I've enjoyed but there were twists and turns in the beginning and I'm sure there were things I missed because I wasn't paying attention. Also, I'd say find someone you trust and respect and see if they are willing to mentor you. I still keep in touch with two of my internship supervisors from 30 years ago and they have both had a profound influence on me both personally and professionally. —Kevin Richards, Ph.D.

### USF Psychology Alumni Society

Since 2014, we have had a successful Undergraduate Psychology Alumni Society (UPAS), but we are thinking that we could improve our outreach by combining our alumni connections to develop the USF Psychology Alumni Society, which would include both undergraduate psychology alumni and graduate psychology alumni. Membership is free and all ideas are welcome. Graduate alumni will still remain connected with their area of expertise (Clinical, CNS, I-O) through the listserv and other outreach activities, but this opportunity would be another way to connect with the broader group of USF Psychology Alumni at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Please contact Vicky if you are interested in helping to lead this new adventure into the future: [phares@usf.edu](mailto:phares@usf.edu)





## Diversity Committees' Reception



**CELEBRATE  
DIVERSITY**

## Research Groups

Clockwise:

Dr. Diana Rancourt

Dr. Jon Rottenberg

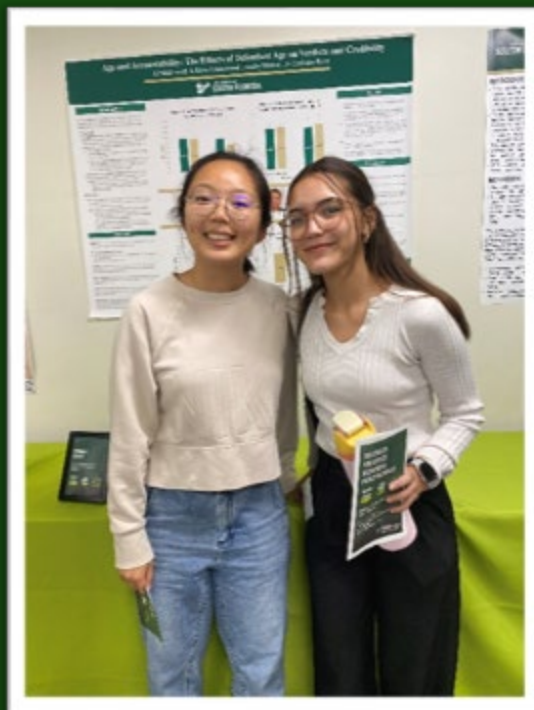
Dr. Edelyn Verona



There is always light. If only we're  
brave enough to see it. If only we're  
brave enough to be it.  
—Amanda Gorman



Students Presenting at Conferences

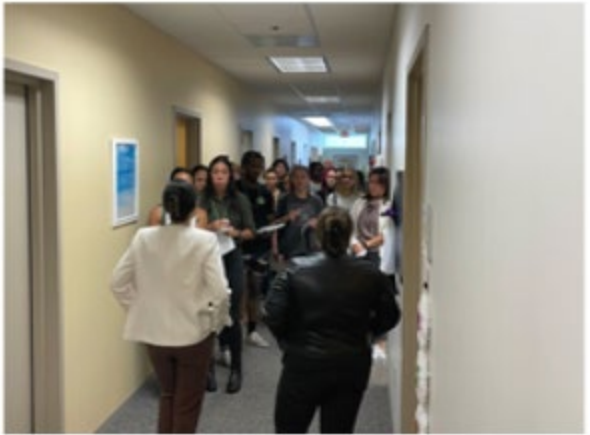


## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual USF Psychology Expo





## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual USF Psychology Expo

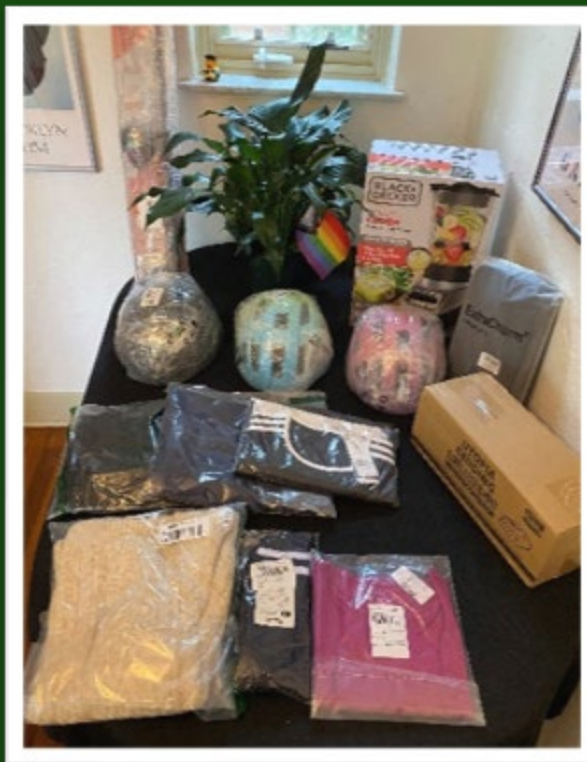


## Warm Welcome

For 22 years, the USF Department of Psychology, the USF Psychology Student Diversity Committee, and the USF Psychology Department Diversity Committee have held a Giving Tree donation project (now known as Warm Welcome), which is now in conjunction with the Florida Department of Children and Families–Refugee Services Program. We collect wishlists from local refugee families and add the items to an Amazon Wishlist and folks can choose to donate gifts or money for gift cards and bicycles.

With the generous support of the entire USF Psychology Department, we are currently in the midst of filling the wishlists of 4 families (27 individuals). The photo is a sneak peak of what we have so far (after a week of announcing the drive). Because the drive will likely be closed by the time this newsletter goes out, you will probably have to wait for next year's newsletter to see the final glorious photo of the completed project. But please know that there is a lot of joy with this project.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Giving Tree all those years ago and thank you to those who took part in the Warm Welcome project in more recent years. We are doing good!







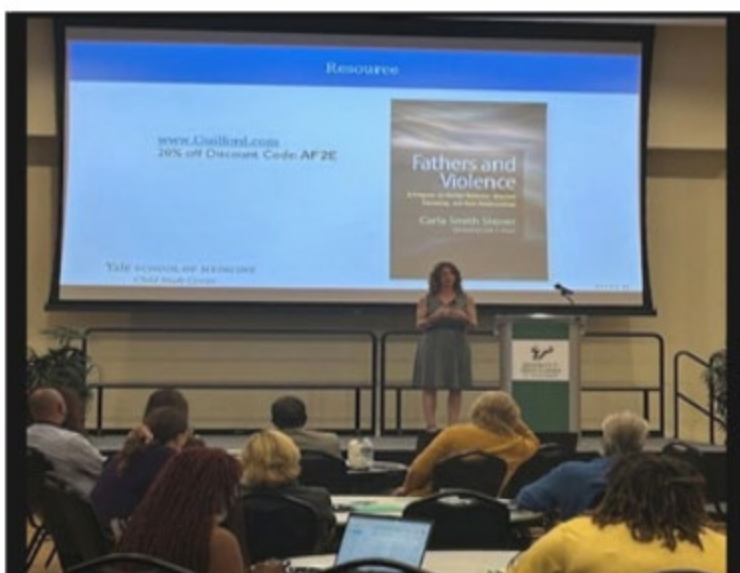
Psychology Professor James McHale and his colleagues at the USFSP Family Study Center are hosting the Center's 20th anniversary with events of special interest to clinical practitioners and professionals, featuring world leaders in the field of infant-family mental health, throughout the 2023-24 academic year. The kickoff event with Dr. Carla Stover from Yale University addressing triaging for Interpersonal Violence in couples and co-parenting work on October 6 was well-received by both a live and online audience. Two other major events, each offering CEUs, are upcoming on January 26 (The Infant in Family Therapy) and April 12 (the 20th anniversary conference).

Additional virtual training and educational opportunities, including openings to join the 20th anniversary Infant-Family Mental Health graduate certificate cohort (application deadline: December 1, 2023, beginning January 8, 2024) are also available to clinically oriented professionals.

A full list of training and events can be found at the FSC website, 20th Anniversary | About | Family Study Center | USF St. Petersburg. You may also contact 20th anniversary planning staff at the Center via [familystudycenter20@usf.edu](mailto:familystudycenter20@usf.edu) with questions or call 727-873-4848.

— James McHale, Ph.D.

[jmchale@usf.edu](mailto:jmchale@usf.edu)



Dr. Carla Stover



## Upcoming 20th Anniversary Conference Events

<b>January 26, 2024</b> <b>University Student Center</b> 9:00AM - 12:00PM	<b>The Infant in Family Therapy</b> <b>Dr. Miri Keren, Tel-Aviv University</b> <b>Dr. Diane Philipp, University of Toronto</b> 3 Approved CEs/CEUs (pending)
<b>April 12, 2024</b> <b>University Student Center</b> 8:30AM - 4:00PM	<b>20th Anniversary Professional Training Conference</b> <b>"Thinking Three"</b> <b>Keynote by Dr. Chandra Ghosh-Ippen, UC San Francisco</b> 6 CEs/CEUs (Pending)

## Virtual Courses:

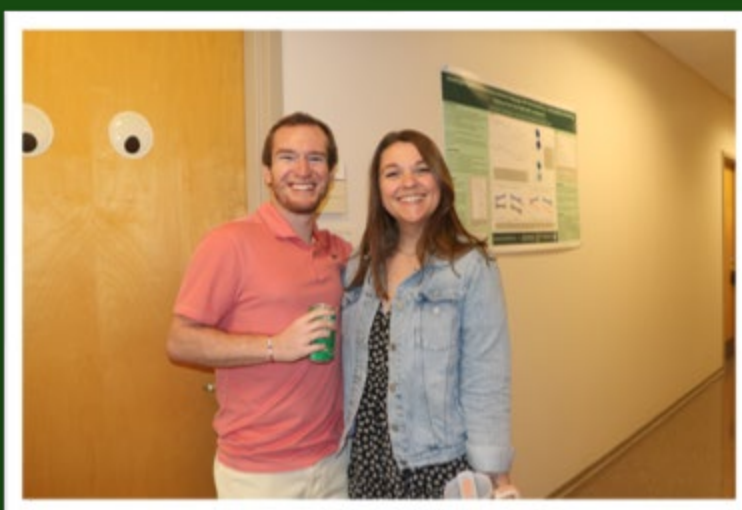
<b>November 9 - 10, 2023</b>	<b>Through the Eyes of the Child:</b> <b>Advanced Parenting Coordination</b> <b>Drs. Debra Carter and James McHale</b> Registration Fee: \$535 (30 days prior to class start date; \$595 thereafter); APA CEUs available.
<b>January 8, 2024</b> (Full Year Program) ebonymiller@usf.edu	<b>Infant-Family Mental Health Graduate Certificate</b> <b>January 8, 2024</b> 4-course graduate program, fully online Taught by expert faculty and world renowned lecturers Application Deadline: December 1, 2023



For more information:  
 727-873-4848  
[Familystudycenter20@usf.edu](mailto:Familystudycenter20@usf.edu)



**Scenes From Around the PCD Building**





**Clinical Area Meetings (formerly known as Brown Bags)****Free CEUs**

Please consider joining us on Fridays from noon-1:00 either via Teams or in PCD 1134 for our Clinical Area Meetings (CAM; formerly the clinical brown bag series). Free CEUs and free updates on clinical science and practice! Plus free food when we're in person.

Please check out the schedule of events at <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/index.aspx>



Clinical Students Enjoying Each Other and their Surroundings



## Clinical Alumni Award for Citizenship

Congratulations to Allie Choate for winning the 2022 USF Clinical Alumni Award for Citizenship. We are so grateful for your incredible energy and efforts to improve the area.

And now a quick history about the award. In 2004, a group of USF clinical alumni helped to establish the USF Clinical Alumni Award for Citizenship. The award helps to celebrate graduate students who have shown superior "citizenship" behaviors during the previous year (e.g., going above and beyond the call of duty to help benefit others in the program).

Each year, nominations are solicited from clinical faculty, supervisors, staff, and students, and then the clinical faculty select the winner. The winning recipient receives a \$100 honorarium and our everlasting gratitude. Allie joins the list of awesome clinical alumni and current students who improved the program and who were honored with the USF Clinical Alumni Award for Citizenship:

2005: Demy Kamboukos and Elena Lopez

2006: Qutayba "Q" Abdullatif

2007: Susan Himes

2008: London Butterfield, Ty Brumback, and John Ray

2009: Lindsay Brauer

2010: Christa Labouliere and Ariz Rojas

2011: Jason Chen

2012: Yasmin Asvat and Kristi White

2013: John Correa

2014: Renee Brown, Natasha Burke, Brittany (Speisman) Kugler, and Danni Ung

2015: Brittany Jordan-Arthur, Megan McMurray, and Michelle Kovacs

2016: Robin Tan and Emily Choquette

2017: Alex De Nadai and Maureen Monahan

2018: Ena Begovic

2019: Rose Miller, Madeline Palermo

2020: Elisa Carsten

2021: Erica Ahlich, Christina Verzijl

2022: Allie Choate

Congratulations to all of our winners throughout the years! And thank you to all of you—near and far—who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make the program (and the world!) a better place. We are so very grateful.



Follow us!



USF Department of Psychology



@usfpsychology



**Departmental Dress-Up Fun**



## Kudos and Congratulations to Our Clinical Students!!

Congratulations to **Laura Boyajian**, who was awarded the Dr. Miles and Patricia Hardy Memorial Scholarship for the 2023 Summer semester.

The Valerie Reed Award recognizes a fourth year clinical student who most embodies the values of our clinical scientist training program. This year's Valerie Reed Award went to **Brad Brown**. Nicely done, Brad!

Congratulations to **Meaghan Brown**, who received a micro-grant from the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center for her project, "From Guns to Intimate Partner Violence: The Impact of Power and Control." Dr. Edelyn Verona is her major professor.

**Jared Davis** received the Eve Levine Teaching Award. Congratulations, Jared!

Congratulations to **Andrew Devendorf** who was featured as a Boundless Bull:

<https://www.usf.edu/news/boundless-bulls/students/andrew-devendorf.aspx>

Andrew also was interviewed for the podcast called "Under the Cortex" from the Association for Psychological Science. The interview, titled "Lived experiences can be a strength. So why the bias against 'me search'?" was noted as a "greatest hit" of the first 100 interviews in this series. You can read about this interview and listen to the podcast at these links. Nicely done, Andrew.

<https://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/utc-mar-23-me-search.html>

<https://psychologicalscience.podbean.com/e/lived-experiences-can-be-a-strength-so-why-the-bias-against-me-search/>



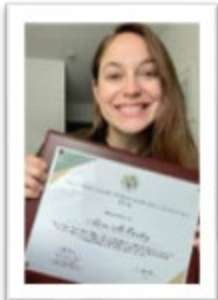
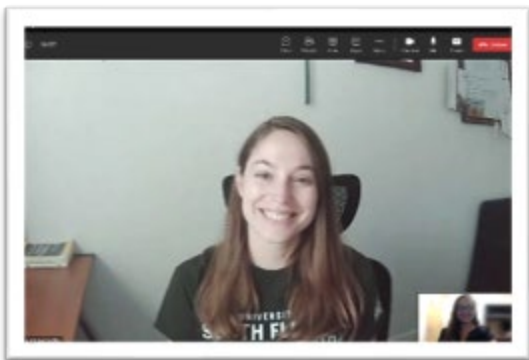
Congratulations to **Amanda Holbrook** who won the Dr. and Mrs. Charles Spielberger Endowed Fund in Psychology Award for the 2023 Summer semester.



## Kudos and Congratulations to Our Clinical Students!! (continued...)

Congratulations to **Emanuel Pedepo** who was awarded the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship, which provides five years of funding.

We are grateful to Dr. Sylvia Carra for providing the Clinical Psychology Graduate Fellowships—one focused on clinical work and one focused on research. Congratulations to **Allie Schuck** (Clinical) and **Alora McCarthy** (Research) for being awarded these fellowships in the Summer of 2023.



**Alora McCarthy** also won the 2023 USF Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research Award. Congratulations, Alora!

**Allie Schuck** also received funding from the U.S. Department of Health: Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program. Nicely done, Allie.

**Serena Wasilewski** just earned her M.A. from the USFSP Psychological Science program and she was awarded the 2023 Ethics Graduate Student Writing Competition. The name of the paper was "Ethical considerations for requesting waivers of parental consent for research with minor adolescents who identify as LGBTQ." Her research mentor was Dr. Kemesha Gabbidon and the winning paper was submitted after she completed a class assignment in Dr. Tiffany Chenneville's graduate ethics course. Great job Serena!

## Kudos and Congratulations to Our Clinical Alumni!!

**Bryan Benitez, Ph.D.** (with Dr. Mark Goldman; 2021 now an Associate Research Scientist at Yale University School Medicine) was awarded a K99 from NIAAA to test a mobile CBT treatment targeting high risk drinking days for Spanish-speaking patients. Here is the link to the project summary: <https://reporter.nih.gov/search/S5hzSOMHNEOzHLrgV6L6Qg/project-details/10722095>

**Lauren Bylsma, Ph.D.** was elected as a Fellow of the Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR). "The SPR Fellows program honors SPR members who have made substantial, sustained contributions both to the field of psychophysiology and to SRP."

**Emily Choquette, Ph.D.** just received a K23 Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. She will be funded for her project titled "Interoceptive mechanisms of body image disturbance in anorexia nervosa."

**Erica Coates, Ph.D.** was elected as a Promising Scholar by the Foundation for Child Development. The Promising Scholars program provides this award for young scholars "who demonstrated strong potential to conduct rigorous high-quality implementation research focused on the early care and education workforce."

**Laura (Starr) Edwards, Ph.D.** was awarded the Founders Award from the St. George's Episcopal School, where she is the College Counseling Director. The announcement stated that "Dr. Edwards gives considerable care and individual attention to each high school student as they pursue their college dreams."



## Kudos and Congratulations to Our Clinical Faculty!!

**Dr. Tiffany Chenneville** received two APA fellowship award offers this spring and she accepted the APA Congressional Fellowship (formally called the APA Franklyn Springfield LGBTQIA+ Policy Congressional Fellowship). This is a highly competitive fellowship program that provides an opportunity to work on Capitol Hill with a congress member on policies to advance the civil rights and/or health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ populations as well as any additional policy portfolios that may be assigned.

**Dr. Peter Clayson** received the Award for Distinguished Early Career Contributions to Psychophysiology from the Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR). SPR is an international scientific society aimed at promoting research on the relationship between physiological and psychological aspects of behavior. He was also selected by USF Research & Innovation to receive a Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award this year.

**Dr. Robert Schlauch** received funding from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for a 5-year project entitled: Clinical Course of Alcohol Use Disorder Recovery.

**Dr. Edelyn Verona**, in collaboration with Dr. Bryanna Fox, has obtained tremendous funding for the Center for Justice Research & Policy, including an ongoing \$1.2 million National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant with the Pasco jail, a \$1.4 million NIJ grant in partnership with the Tampa Police Department, United States Attorney's Office, and Safe & Sound Hillsborough, a \$1.5 million BJA grant to the City of Tampa, a \$650,000 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant to Johns Hopkins, and contracts with the ACLU (\$15,000) and Foundation for Healthy St. Pete (\$46,000).



### CJRP

Dr. Edelyn Verona and Dr. Bryanna Fox were interviewed by the USF College of Public Health's Activist Lab podcast run by Dr. Karen Liller about the work of the USF Center for Justice Research and Policy (CJRP).

### Mental Health Awareness

The USF Undergraduate Psychology Alumni Society held a Mental Health Awareness event in May. Speakers, from left to right, were Dr. Vicky Phares, Chloe Pain (undergraduate student), Rachel Gilmore, LMHC (USF Counseling Center counselor), Andrew Devendorf, M.A. (clinical graduate student), and Dr. David Doan, RN, MS, MBA, Ph.D. (Management Consulting Senior Manager, Accenture). Lots of good information and lots of cake.





## PLANS

--Article by Dr. Sylvia Herbozo and Dr. Yasmin Asvat

USF Clinical Psychology alumni Dr. Sylvia Herbozo and Dr. Yasmin Asvat founded PLANS - Psicólogos Latinos Avanzando Nuestros Servicios - in 2020 to help address the underrepresentation of Latinos in Clinical and Counseling Psychology doctoral programs.

Only 6% of U.S. health service psychologists identify as Hispanic/Latino and only 5.5% are able to provide mental health services in Spanish. However, the demand for bilingual and culturally competent psychologists continues to increase. Data from the American Psychological Association makes it clear that the underrepresentation of Latino psychologists starts at the doctoral level, with only 15% of doctoral degrees in health service psychology awarded to those identifying as Hispanic/Latino. Diversifying the training to workforce pipeline is critical to increasing representation of Latino health service psychologists. This pipeline starts during the formative undergraduate training years.

PLANS' mission is to support the growth and success of Latino undergraduate students interested in becoming counseling or clinical psychologists. Students members of PLANS benefit from culturally relevant mentorship, networking, and resources designed to help them achieve their professional goals. PLANS is a grassroots organization that relies on the generosity of its volunteer mentors, all of whom are Latino clinical or counseling psychologists working in a variety of settings including psychology departments, academic medicine, and private practice. We believe that representation matters, and PLANS student members draw significant inspiration and encouragement from their mentor role models. We are proud to note that two of our current mentors are fellow USF grads - Dr. Brian Gonzalez and Dr. Ariz Rojas - thank you!

To date, PLANS has:

- Recruited 38 volunteer Latino mentors
- Received 195 student applications, including students at USF
- Matched 74 student members with mentors, including students at USF
- 8 student members have been accepted to PhD or PsyD programs
- An additional 3 student members have been accepted to Masters programs

We are excited for PLANS to continue to grow and help increase representation of Latinos in clinical and counseling psychology.

To learn more, please visit us at: <https://www.plans4psych.org> or follow @plans4psych on Instagram and Facebook

If you would like to join PLANS as a mentor, please reach out to us at [sylvia@plans4psych.org](mailto:sylvia@plans4psych.org) or [yasmin@plans4psych.org](mailto:yasmin@plans4psych.org)

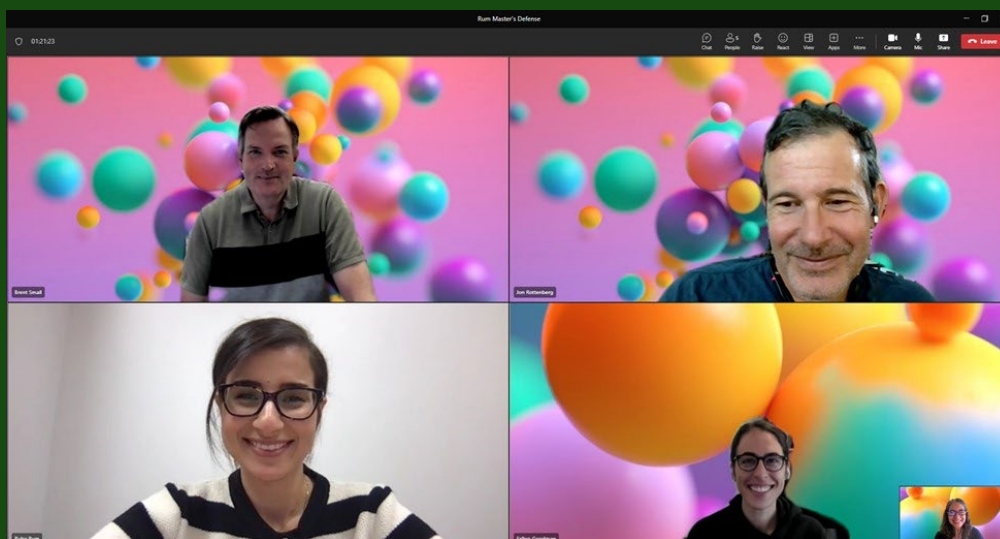
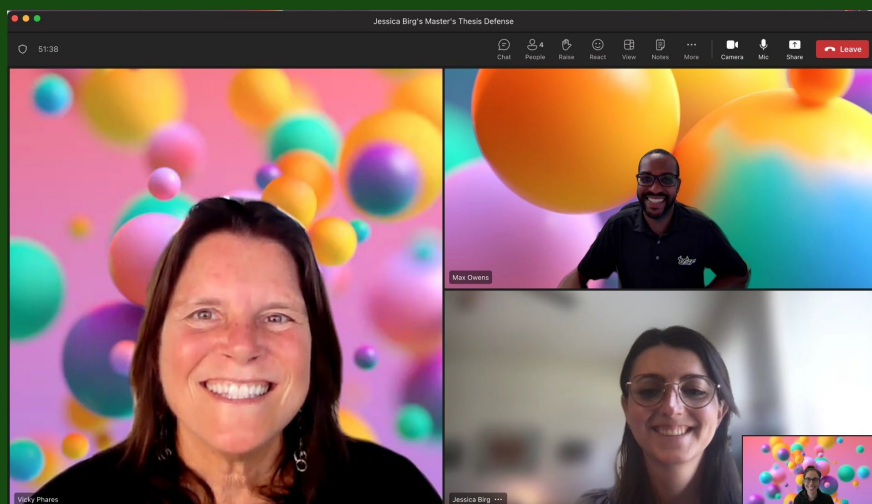
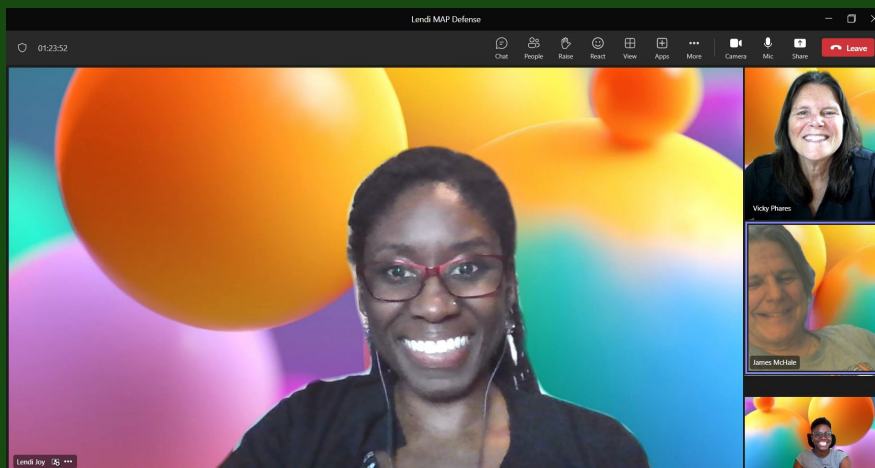
If you would like to support PLANS, please visit us at <https://www.plans4psych.org/support>



Dr. Sylvia Herbozo and  
Dr. Yasmin Asvat in Chicago.



Masters Thesis and Major Area Paper Defenses



## Congratulations Interns!!



Pre-internship celebrations

Julia and Andrew  
enjoying internship in  
Seattle

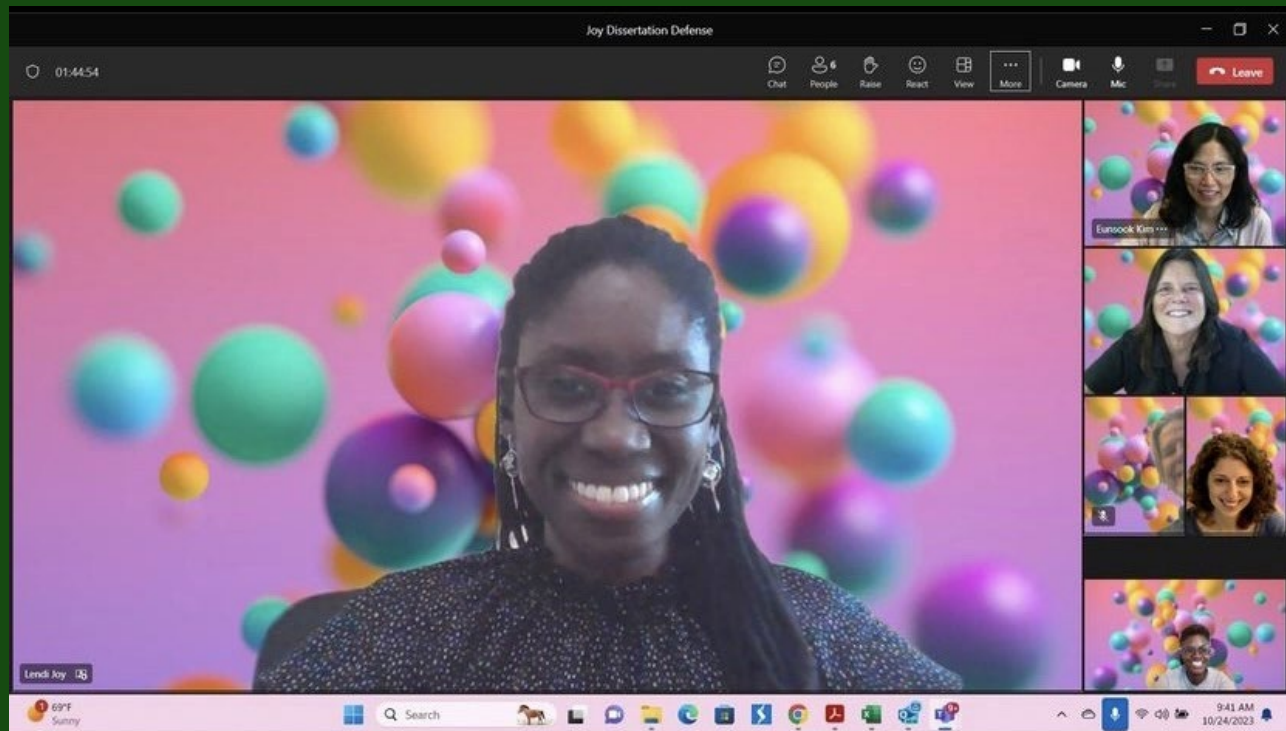
### 2023/2024

Allie Choate – Fulton State Hospital (Fulton, MO)  
Andrew Devendorf – VA Puget Sound (Seattle, WA)  
Dan Faraci – Kaiser Permanente (Santa Rosa, CA)  
Haya Fatimah – Harvard/McLean (Boston, MA)  
Lauren Fournier – Denver Health (Denver, CO)  
Stephanie Hruza – Mental Health Center of Florida  
(St. Petersburg, FL)  
Julia McDonald – VA Puget Sound (Seattle, WA)  
Maddy Palermo – UCSD/San Diego VA Consortium  
(San Diego, CA)





Doctoral Dissertation Defenses



**Congratulations Graduates!!**



(From Left to Right)  
Ansley Bender, Ph.D.  
Becky Gius, Ph.D.  
Patty Calixte-Civil, Ph.D.

Dr. Ansley Bender with Dr. Marc Karver



Dr. Becky Gius with  
Dr. Rob Schlauch



And congratulations on the next steps  
of your career! So proud of you!

Ansley Bender, Ph.D.  
Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow  
VA New York Harbor—Manhattan  
Campus; PTSD track

Patty Calixte-Civil, Ph.D.  
Postdoctoral Resident  
Wellness Psychological Services of the  
Tampa Bay Area

Becky Gius, Ph.D.  
Clinical Neuropsychology Fellow  
University of New Mexico Health  
System





Alumni Gatherings at Conferences and Other Fun Outings



From Dr. Christa Laboulier-Edwards: This is my team, the Suicide Prevention — Training, Implementation, & Evaluation (SP-TIE) Program at Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute, attending the International Academy of Suicide Research (IASR) Summit in Barcelona, Spain. Our team is 40% USF Bulls! (Maureen Monahan, far left & Christa Labouliere-Edwards, far right).



From Dr. Christa Laboulier-Edwards: Maureen and I were not the only USF Bulls at IASR. Lauren Bylsma also attended - here we are, enjoying amazing views overlooking Barcelona from Park Güell. 😊



(L to R) Dr. Natasha Burke, Dr. Jessie Menzel, Dr. Helene Kerry, and Dr. Lauren Schaefer at the International Conference on Eating Disorders in Washington DC in June of 2023.



(L to R) Dr. Helene Kerry, Dr. Lauren Schaefer, Dr. Emily Choquette, Dr. Sylvia Herbozo, and Dr. Natasha Burke at the International Conference on Eating Disorders in Washington DC in June of 2023.



In Milwaukee: Dr. Jack Leggett (L) and Dr. Larry Koszewski (both USF alumni who started in 1977) with Larry's wife, Louise Gorenc, who is a nurse midwife.



Dr. Amanda Palmer (class of 2020) and Dr. Leah Boepple (class of 2018) with their baby boys (Simon, 15 months, and Zane, 6 months) at the park.



Dr. Maureen Monahan and Dr. Sean McKinley in NYC.



Dr. Sean McKinley, Dr. Ansley Bender, and Dr. Maureen Monahan in NYC.

Dr. Christa Laboulier-Edwards and Dr. Natasha Burke at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.





**Alumni Reunions and Alumni in Tampa**



USF –San Diego



USF –New York City



USF –New York City



USF –Pittsburgh



USF –Tampa



USF –Tampa



USF –Los Angeles

1976

Ted Ines, Ph.D. year of entry 1976

[Tedines@icloud.com](mailto:Tedines@icloud.com)

[Theodore.ines@va.gov](mailto:Theodore.ines@va.gov)

I am still working full time at the Albany, NY VA as a psychologist. I have been there for 15 years, after having worked in various roles in the private sector prior to this. My rai-son d'être is still my family, 2 sons, a daughter, and my wife Kristin who is also a psychologist and is on staff at Brown Medical School. My oldest son is 25 and working full time in Boston in finance. My middle son just graduated from Brown University and is on a Fulbright scholarship in Austria. My youngest is a daughter who is a sophomore at Johns Hopkins University. As this shows I am very proud of them and I love bragging about them, although had them later in life which makes it hard to retire

1977

Larry Koszewski, Ph.D.

[lkoszewski@att.net](mailto:lkoszewski@att.net)

Jack Leggett, Ph.D.

[Jack@leggettonline.com](mailto:Jack@leggettonline.com) or [jrlmbm@cox.net](mailto:jrlmbm@cox.net)

After internship, I first worked in hospitals, considered a neuropsychology practice but in response to an unexpected opportunity, began a career in managed behavioral healthcare. I started with Biodyne, the company founded by Nick Cummings, former APA President. My USF minor in Organizational Psych and Program Evaluation helped as I began as a staff clinician but spent the bulk of my time in management for several companies, first of clinics and later as VP Clinical Services managing larger behavioral healthcare organizations. Space doesn't permit a more detailed discussion of how the field evolved first to improve access to OP services and reduce costs (by avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations that had become epidemic in 1980s after DRGs), then regressed with corporate consolidation and the devaluation of clinical skills. Another time, perhaps a seminar. Or a wake.

Post internship (1983) I have lived/worked in California, Arizona, Maryland, Missouri, Texas and New Zealand. We returned to California and have now lived for 27 years in the California Republic.

I married Mary Beth, a Family Nurse Practitioner, in 92. We met at a professional conference in 1990, when I lived in Maryland, and she lived in Texas. First date was a walk across the Golden Gate bridge. We now have a son (Jack III, 31, a Park Ranger and working on Masters Environmental Science/Biology) and a daughter (Grace, 27, working as Dining Room supervisor with older adults and

planning on a Masters in Nutrition). I retired to write and travel in 2020, just as the pandemic arrived...travel was put off awhile but we are making up for it now. Photos attached. Up to 66 countries with more planned. And actually writing daily, having long ago written a newspaper column and wanting to do some nonfiction while also working on a novel. Took awhile to overcome the writing style required in grad school...



Rick Weinberg, Ph.D.

[weinberg@usf.edu](mailto:weinberg@usf.edu)

Rick Weinberg here. Entering class of 1977. Happy to say I am currently still professor-ing at USF 3 days a week and in clinical practice 2 days. Am also hard at work on a book, and have a contract with Palgrave Macmillan to publish it. Yaaayyy!! The book describes a model of couple and family therapy that integrates Positive Psychology, recent research in Relational Neuroscience, Expectancy Theory, and of course, Systems Theory. Warm wishes to the entire USF Psychology family!!

## 1978

Bob Brubaker, Ph.D.

[rbrubaker113@gmail.com](mailto:rbrubaker113@gmail.com)

I retired in 2020 after 37 years in the Psychology Department at Eastern Kentucky University, the last 17 as department chair. I've become a full-time artist and spend my time painting and traveling. I just returned from a month-long stay in Scotland that included a 100-mile, 8-day hike across the rocky Scottish Highlands in daily, record-setting rain and flooding. I'm not sure why I thought that was a good idea, but it turned out to be a great experience.

## 1983

Anthony Greene, Ph.D.

[afgreene@fielding.edu](mailto:afgreene@fielding.edu)

I'm Anthony Greene, entering class of 1983, graduated in 1988. This past year I retired from the University of Florida where I was faculty with the Counseling Psychology Department and Assessment Coordinator at the Counseling and Wellness Center. I moved back to NC where I am happy traveling, spending time at the beach and enjoying my grandkids. I'm still teaching doctoral students at Fielding Graduate University and my contact information is [afgreene@fielding.edu](mailto:afgreene@fielding.edu).

## 1986

Madeline Altabe, Ph.D.

[madelinealtabe@mac.com](mailto:madelinealtabe@mac.com)

I am in my first semester as PsyD Coordinator at Brenau. I am enjoying learning about the North Georgia area and excising some of my community psychology to help define the role of this new program.

Kevin J. Richards, Ph.D., ABPP

Board Certified in Forensic Psychology

[drrichards@forensicspecialty.com](mailto:drrichards@forensicspecialty.com)

[www.forensicspecialty.com](http://www.forensicspecialty.com)

I'm living in NC now but still operate my practice, Forensic Specialty Group, which is located in metro Atlanta. Though I still do occasional Forensic evaluations of different types, I spend most of my time working as a Court Martial consultant/expert witness with the military, which means I literally get to travel all over the world for work. It also means I have a lot of flexibility so I get to spend a lot of time with family. I guess other professional stuff would include being appointed to the editorial board of Professional Psychology: Research



and Practice a couple of years back, which is significant because it's something I would never have imagined when I was a grad student. I've also been on the Georgia Psychological Association Ethics Committee for several years.

Finally, I am actually going to be in Tampa for several days in February. I'm teaching a full day workshop on consultation in child victim cases for the American Academy of Forensic Psychology (not a plug, I don't benefit financially in any way related to the number of people who attend). I hope to have a chance to stop by the department (even though I don't know if I will know a soul who is there) when I'm in town because I've literally never been back since I graduated.

### 1988

Leslie J. Heinberg, Ph.D.

[heinbel@ccf.org](mailto:heinbel@ccf.org)

I am Director of Enterprise Weight Management at the Cleveland Clinic which oversees the obesity treatment programs at the Cleveland Clinic and help ensure that patients can easily get the care they deserve in an environment that eliminates stigmatizing experiences. Additionally, I am Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology where I oversee the 50+ health psychologists at the Cleveland Clinic. I am a Professor of Medicine in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University and Fellow of the Obesity Society and the Academy for Eating Disorders. I conduct a lot of research on reducing or preventing obesity and most recently my NIH-funded work has been on the impact of the microbiome and eating behavior on predicting weight loss trajectories following metabolic and bariatric surgery. However, I'm most proud to be married for 31+ years to my best friend and be Mom to 2 amazing men. Since I have an empty nest, I focus my attention on the world's two most spoiled Labradoodles.



### 1993

Laurie (Ehrbar) LaMonde, Ph.D.

[7lamondes@gmail.com](mailto:7lamondes@gmail.com)

Hi all and congrats to the new graduates! As an update, for the past few years I have been working in VA's Central Office within Suicide Prevention where I am surrounded by amazing leaders focused on national strategic goals for preventing Veteran suicide. Thrilled to be joined in this critical mission by another USF alum, Dr. Nicole Bekman, who recently joined our national team. Outside of the challenges of work, happy to report that Jacques and I will celebrate 25 years of marriage in 2024 and our five sons continue to bless us with their love as they embark on their own paths as adults. Four are in college and one is running the family business after completing a degree last year. Ironically enough, three of our sons are attending my alma mater, USF, where I obtained my Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees. Needless to say, USF – including the impact of amazing professors and didactic experiences - led to a fantastic career for me – and I only hope the same for future generations. Apologies for no pictures – my graduations were a long time ago and I have yet to unpack all my boxes after the move back to FL from MI in 2021. All the best and Go Bulls!

### 1994

Staci Martin Peron, PhD

[martins@mail.nih.gov](mailto:martins@mail.nih.gov)

I'm living in Rockville, Maryland, still working as the Clinical Director of the Health Psychology & Neurobehavioral Research group at the National Cancer Institute. I see therapy patients and conduct research, mostly on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. I also am involved in the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science and do a lot of in-person and virtual ACT trainings with mental health professionals. My husband Lee and our two kids (Jack 16 and Flixx 13) and I like to watch movies and play with our two cats. I was so happy that I got to see two of my USF classmates this past year, Kerri (Schneider) Flaum and Marc Steinberg (along with his wife Laura). It was a lot of fun reminiscing and getting updates about what they are doing now!



**1995**

Ray Santa Lucia, Ph.D.

[raysantalucia@gmail.com](mailto:raysantalucia@gmail.com)

Dr. Ray Santa Lucia mentioned that Charlie the goat is quite the Bulls fan.



**2002**

Yuko Yamamiya, Ph.D.

[manapua@tuj.temple.edu](mailto:manapua@tuj.temple.edu)

I've been working at Temple University, Japan Campus, since 2008. I teach undergraduate psychology courses and conduct body-image research.

**2003**

Idia (Binitie) Thurston, Ph.D.

[i.thurston@northeastern.edu](mailto:i.thurston@northeastern.edu)

I recently left Texas A&M for an amazing new appointment as the Associate Director of the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research and promotion to Full Professor with a dual appointment in the Department of Health Sciences and the Department of Applied Psychology at Northeastern University in Boston. The family and I are settling in nicely back in the northeast.



**2005**

Erika Litvin Bloom, Ph.D.

[erika.litvin@gmail.com](mailto:erika.litvin@gmail.com)

Twitter: @ErikaLBloom

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/erikabloom/>

I live in Providence, RI with my husband and our two kids. My advice to current students is to be open to a variety of career options because I could never have predicted ending up in the job I have now! The past 4 years have been quite the career adventure for me. After 9 years at Brown University, in 2019 I started a new position as a Behavioral/Social Scientist at RAND, a non-profit research institute. In 2021, I left academia for a position as a scientist at Click Therapeutics, a digital therapeutics company. In the summer of 2022, I left Click for a position as Lead Scientist at WayBetter, a digital health company focused on sustainable behavior change. During my years at Brown and RAND, I had collaborated with WayBetter on developing a smoking cessation app, for which we received an NIH SBIR grant in 2019. My current role at WayBetter has three main components: 1) directing a clinical trial for the smoking cessation app (funded by the SBIR grant), 2) working with the product team on product development for the WayBetter app, and 3) managing WayBetter's partnerships with academic researchers. I also retain an Adjunct appointment at Brown University. I enjoy connecting with USF alums and anyone who is interested in working in the digital health industry!

Lauren M. Bylsma, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology  
University of Pittsburgh.

[BylsmaL@pitt.edu](mailto:BylsmaL@pitt.edu)

Twitter: @LaurenBylsma

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauren-bylsma/> <https://www.psychiatry.pitt.edu/about-us/our-people/faculty/lauren-m-bylsma-phd>.

My research is currently focusing on examining transdiagnostic emotional processes across development, with a focus on leveraging ecological momentary assessment and ambulatory psychophysiology (passive sensing) to characterize emotional reactivity and regulation in depression, anxiety, autism spectrum disorders, and psychosis risk. In 2023, I was honored to be elected as a Society for Psychophysiological Research (SPR)

Fellow: <https://sprweb.org/news/647654/Congratulations-to-the-newly-announced-SPR-fellows.htm>. I also continue to

engage in clinical work and clinical training/supervision at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine where I co-direct a psychotherapy training clinic as well as a SAMHSA-funded clinic serving youth at clinical high risk for psychosis (Hope Team: [hopeteam.pitt.edu](http://hopeteam.pitt.edu)).

**2006**

Christa Labouliere-Edwards, Ph.D.

[Christa.Labouliere@nyspi.columbia.edu](mailto:Christa.Labouliere@nyspi.columbia.edu)

**2009**

Natasha L. Burke, Ph.D.

[Natasha.Burke@fordham.edu](mailto:Natasha.Burke@fordham.edu)

I am in my 6th year (!!!) at Fordham University in NYC and am going up for tenure this year. I am an Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department and the director of the [Burke Health & Wellness lab](#) with 5 clinical psychology doctoral students under my mentorship and a host of undergrads (about 9 at the moment). I recently stepped down as the Associate Editor of the International Journal of Eating Disorders, after my mom passed in September and my aunt passed in October. (I have had 5 family members pass in less than a year's time...it's been a tough year.) I am working on taking care of myself, and my mom's passing (she was my "person") really has me stepping back and wanting to make sure I'm living my life focusing on what really matters to me. I thought I had been doing that all along, but losing someone so special has me reevaluating everything. I know I'm looking forward to engaging in more community-based work post-tenure and taking a lot more vacations right now. :)



Alex DeNadai, Ph.D.

[adenadai@mclean.harvard.edu](mailto:adenadai@mclean.harvard.edu)

Things are going well at McLean Hospital and in Boston. I'll be back for a visit to Tampa in December and I'm super excited to return to our old stomping grounds. Hope everyone is doing well.

**2011**

Lindsey (Steding) Breznik, Ph.D.

[LindseyBreznik.cbi@gmail.com](mailto:LindseyBreznik.cbi@gmail.com)

(407) 619-7481

I am a licensed psychologist in group practice in a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA. The practice I joined out of post-doc was a bit of a leap of faith for me, but I'm happy to report that it was worth it! I have been fortunate to provide therapy, testing, and group therapy to children, adolescents, and families. I also supervise doctoral psychology students in their practicum experiences at our practice. Just this year, I began serving in a leadership role to develop the practice's programming related to youth and parenting, as well as coordinate our relationships with other child-focused organizations in the community. I love the variety in my day-to-day work and truly appreciate the flexibility of private practice.

Morgan Lee, Ph.D., MPH

Email: [msophialeephd@gmail.com](mailto:msophialeephd@gmail.com)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/morganlee-phd/>

I'm still living in (and loving!) Colorado, and I'm coming up on two years in my role as Senior Director of Research and Strategy at Pharmaceutical Strategies Group.

**2012**

Troy Webber, Ph.D.

[webbertr@gmail.com](mailto:webbertr@gmail.com)

I'm working as a clinical neuropsychologist at the Houston VA and recently bought a home here in the city, so I can officially call myself a Houstonian. Along with my regular clinical assessment duties, I've been actively publishing and



and collecting experimental data for a neuropsychological feedback study that is funded by the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

Monica Wu, Ph.D.

[MonicaWu@mail.usf.edu](mailto:MonicaWu@mail.usf.edu)

Professionally, I'm still a Senior Clinical Product Manager at Lyra Health, where I develop clinical programs and digital clinical content for our blended care services, as well as conduct program evaluation research. It's been an exciting endeavor to lead the clinical development of a couple of youth/family program offerings over the past year. Personally, our little bundle of joy arrived at the end of July, and we couldn't be more thrilled (or sleep deprived)! World, meet baby Julian. :)



## 2014

Maureen Monahan, Ph.D.

[maureen.monahan@nyspi.columbia.edu](mailto:maureen.monahan@nyspi.columbia.edu)

I am an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry) at the New State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI), Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and a Project Administrator at the Suicide Prevention Training, Implementation, and Evaluation program at NYSPI where I provide training, implementation assistance, and evaluation for suicide prevention programming across New York State. I also started a small virtual private practice where I work with clients with internalizing disorders in the NYC/ northern NJ area.

## 2016

Sean McKinley, Ph.D.

[smckin91@gmail.com](mailto:smckin91@gmail.com)

My name is Sean McKinley and I am a 2021 graduate of the USF clinical psychology program. I am currently a staff psychologist at the Orlando VA Healthcare System, where I work in the SUD outpatient clinic. I can be reached by email at [smckin91@gmail.com](mailto:smckin91@gmail.com).



## Mentoring Program

- Student paired with USF Alumni.
- Matched based on similar career interests & experience.
- Meet in-person or virtually.
- Build your career connections.
- Sync with your LinkedIn profile.

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QR CODE  
To Join!



 USF Alumni Association

Become a Mentor for USF students!

All dreams are within reach. All you have to do is keep moving towards them. —Viola Davis

**Clinical Faculty Updates**



MarinaBornovalova,Ph.D.

[bornovalova@usf.edu](mailto:bornovalova@usf.edu)

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/people/mbornovalova.aspx>

TiffanyChenneville,Ph.D.

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<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/people/tchenneville.aspx>

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<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/people/kgabbidon.aspx>

Marc Karver, Ph.D.

[mkarver@usf.edu](mailto:mkarver@usf.edu)

<https://sites.google.com/mail.usf.edu/aspl/welcome>

I have continued on my quest to work my poor graduate students into the ground (JK!)... We currently have 4 funded suicide prevention grants and yes... I have applied/looking at others (including therapeutic alliance grant proposal)... Other than that, I frequently sneak on to the USF track at 6am and try to run with people much younger and faster (trying to make up for not having my son around now that he is running in college... Reading this should make some of you feel very old!).

James McHale, Ph.D.

[jmchale@usf.edu](mailto:jmchale@usf.edu)

<https://www.stpetersburg.usf.edu/resources/family-study-center/index.aspx>

Vicky Phares, Ph.D.

[phares@usf.edu](mailto:phares@usf.edu)

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/people/vphares.aspx>

Greetings to all of our Clinical/Community alumni! My latest passion is placing undergraduate psychology students in internships in local community agencies. If you are local or can use virtual undergraduate psychology interns or research assistants, please let me know! The photo is of me, Dr. Maria (dePerczel) Goodwin, and Dr. Judy (Becker) Bryant at a country-western themed fundraiser for Shriners Hospital for Children last month. Good times. All the best to all of our awesome alumni.



Diana Rancourt, Ph.D.; Director of Clinical Training

[drancourt@usf.edu](mailto:drancourt@usf.edu)

<https://sites.google.com/view/depthlabusf/home>

Jonathan Rottenberg, Ph.D.

[rottenberg@usf.edu](mailto:rottenberg@usf.edu)

<https://sites.google.com/mail.usf.edu/moodandemotionlab/home>

Robert Schlauch, Ph.D.

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<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/psychology/people/rschlauch.aspx>

Vani Nath Simmons, Ph.D.

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<https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/vani-simmons/>

Edelyn Verona, Ph.D.

[everona@usf.edu](mailto:everona@usf.edu)

<https://sites.google.com/mail.usf.edu/usfdarclab/home>

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/centers/cjrp/>

Professionally, I have expanded my research and am finally on track to pursue my passion in policy research, particularly around gun violence prevention and crisis response models. Family-wise, my husband, Ken, and I are shocked that we have a son in middle school this year. He seems to be doing well there, although who knows what to expect with upcoming adolescence? Our little family continues to spend summers traveling to new places, and the rest of the time we drive down to Miami to visit family. More personally, I have become a crossword puzzle fiend and recently took up tennis, which has been quite a gift for myself despite my terrible performance so far.



Jennifer Vidrine, Ph.D.

[jennifer.vidrine@moffitt.org](mailto:jennifer.vidrine@moffitt.org)

<https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/jenny-vidrine/>



**Previous USF Clinical Faculty Members**

Thomas Brandon, Ph.D.

[thomas.brandon@moffitt.org](mailto:thomas.brandon@moffitt.org)

<https://moffitt.org/research-science/researchers/thomas-brandon/>

After 26 years at USF and Moffitt Cancer Center, I retired from my tenured faculty position this past spring. I received emeritus status at Moffitt and continue to work 10% on a cool grant that utilizes augmented reality to help maintain smoking abstinence. I also remain involved with state and local tobacco boards. Most importantly, though, I am continuing to mentor my remaining clinical psychology graduate students. I had the honor of hooding Dr. Patty Calixte-Civil at summer graduation and I'm delighted to work with Leslie Sawyer as she wraps up her dissertation study and applies for internship.

Karen and I kicked off our retirement with a month in Spain. Our daughter, Clara (who was born a month before I interviewed at USF), recently earned a masters from Imperial College London, and has now entered the University of Michigan doctoral program in biological anthropology (primatology). Despite the different fields, I find it interesting to compare her graduate program to ours. For example, there are features of her program that I wish ours had (a student lounge with free food, more opportunities to interact with local and visiting faculty), and others that I'm glad we don't (mean completion time of 8 years, truly hellish comps).



Best wishes to all our students, alumni, and faculty. See you around town and campus! Here is a photo of Karen and me in Granada, with the Alhambra in the background.

Cindy Cimino, Ph.D. Rest in Peace

Dr. Cindy Cimino passed away in November of 2021. Her husband, Dr. Patrick Cimino, and son Anthony created an endowed fund to support clinical graduate students in her memory: The Dr. Cynthia Cimino Memorial Fund in Psychology (Fund #42-0228).

Dr. Patrick Cimino can be contacted at: [pciminotbay@gmail.com](mailto:pciminotbay@gmail.com)



If you want to lift yourself up,  
lift up someone else.  
—Booker T. Washington



Fallon Goodman, Ph.D.

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After a brief hiatus on parental leave last semester, I'm full steam ahead in Year 2 at George Washington University. My lab is now 6 grad students strong and continuing our work on social anxiety and resilience. My daughter Maya is nearing her first birthday. (My appreciation for working parents has grown in unquantifiable orders of magnitude.) She is on the move, babbling away, and loving the crisp Fall weather. She is as sassy as they come (#karma), and she is the best part of my days.



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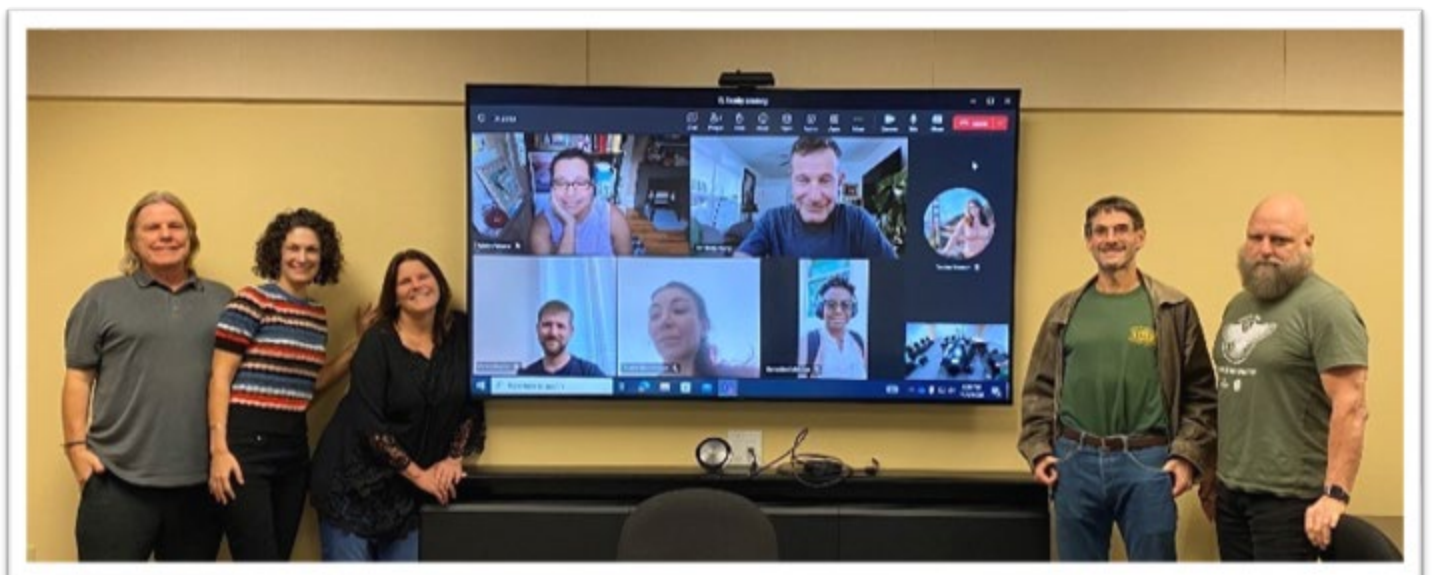
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I continue to enjoy life at Baylor College of Medicine where I am professor and head of the psychology division. One of my exciting projects – Latin American Trans-Ancestry Initiative in OCD Genomics ([www.latinostudy.org](http://www.latinostudy.org)) – is allowing me to work with global partners (and local ones like Dr. Rancourt!!) to further psychiatric genetics research as well as treatment dissemination work in OCD. Outside of work, somehow Jill and I find ourselves parents of two teenagers (in addition to our sweet 8yo daughter).



Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.

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Thank you to all of  
our clinical and  
community alumni for  
all of your support.  
We are so very  
grateful.

## Giving Back

We know that there are many worthy causes around the world and we hope that you will consider giving back to the USF Clinical Psychology Doctoral Training Program when you are able to do so. You can make a tax-deductible donation at the link below for the Clinical Psychology Program Fund (#42-1210).

<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/421210/>

Or you can send a check made out to the **USF Foundation** to:

Vicky Phares, Ph.D.  
University of South Florida  
Department of Psychology  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, PCD 4118G  
Tampa, FL 33620

Even small amounts help, but if you wish to create a named endowed fund that will live in perpetuity or if you wish to consider planned giving (i.e., listing the clinical program in your will), please contact Ms. Kelly Addington, Senior Director of Development for the USF College of Arts and Sciences:

[kaddington@usf.edu](mailto:kaddington@usf.edu) 813-974-5764

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this program and thank you for all that you are doing to help improve the field and the world. You do us proud.