

Rebecca Flake Aldea, Ph.D. *

B.A., Child Development, Tufts University, 1999

B.A., Psychology, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2002

M.S., Clinical Psychology, University of Kentucky, 2005

Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, University of Kentucky, 2013

Dr. Aldea is a staff psychologist for the Adolescent Services at Arkansas State Hospital. She provides individual, group, and milieu therapy; conducts psychological evaluations; and develops and implements behavior management plans for adolescents with wide a range of mental health illnesses. Dr. Aldea is a graduate of the DBHS psychology internship program, training during the 2009-2010 year. In addition to her passion for working with children and adolescents, Dr. Aldea also has interests in assessment and family therapy. Outside of work, Dr. Aldea enjoys spending time with her family and friends and travelling.

J. Scott Bethay, Ph.D., BCBA *

B.A., University of Mississippi, 1996

M.S., Mississippi State University, 1999

Ph.D., University of Mississippi, 2009

Dr. Bethay is a psychologist on the Forensic Services Unit. His professional interests include Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), behavior analysis, and contemporary behavioral psychotherapy. He dabbles in a variety of interests and pursuits to include (but not limited to): golf, reading, music, swimming, running, hunting, fishing, movies, whitewater kayaking, cooking, martial arts, various sports, and watching "Dancing with the Stars."

Brittani Baldwin Gracey, Psy.D. *

B.A., Washington University in St. Louis, 2004

M.S., Loyola College in Maryland, 2007

Psy.D., Loyola University Maryland, 2010

Dr. Baldwin Gracey is currently a consulting psychologist to multiple units on the hospital, though she has worked as an internship supervisor on both Adult Inpatient and Forensic treatment units. Dr. Baldwin graduated from Loyola University in Maryland in 2010. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Arkansas State Hospital/Division of Behavioral Health Services in 2010. Dr. Baldwin also completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology with a minor rotation in Health Psychology at the Arkansas Children's Hospital in 2012. Her therapy groups focus largely on CBT and DBT, but her therapy interests also include behavioral and interpersonal-process approaches. Her assessment interests include neuropsychology, performance validity, and personality assessment. Dr. Baldwin is also involved in various other projects including staff training, testing data collection, and patient wellness initiatives. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, son, and dog as well as group exercise classes and reading.

April Coe Hout, Ph.D. *

B.A., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1991

M.A., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1994

Ph.D., University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1997

Dr. Coe Hout is the Clinical Director of the Arkansas State Hospital, with oversight for all therapy and clinical patient activities. This includes supervision of the following departments: Clinical Programming, Clinical Services Quality Assurance, Pastoral Care, Patient Education, Peer Specialists, Psychology, Social Work, Substance Abuse, and Support Therapy Services (Allied Health Services, DD Day Treatment, Recreation). Within the Pre-doctoral Psychology Internship Program she serves as a secondary supervisor. Dr. Coe-Hout is a graduate of the DBHS Psychology Internship Program, training during the 1995-1996 year. Her professional interests include adolescent inpatient treatment, diagnosis and treatment for developmentally disabled patients, application of behavioral and cognitive behavioral interventions, and psychosocial rehabilitation. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys cooking, reading, hiking, and traveling.

Melissa Dannacher, Psy.D. *

B.A., Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2008

M.S., Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2010

Psy.D., Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2013

Dr. Dannacher is a clinical psychologist and forensic examiner at the Arkansas State Hospital. She conducts fitness-to-proceed and criminal responsibility evaluations for defendants in the state of Arkansas and provides expert testimony in the circuit courts. Dr. Dannacher completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital. She also supervises current psychology interns and fellows. Outside of work, Dr. Dannacher enjoys traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

Janice E Dean, Ph.D. *

B.A., Wayne State University, 1985

M.A., University of Memphis, 1990

Ph.D., University of Memphis, 2000

Dr. Dean is a psychologist for Forensic Services at the Arkansas State Hospital working with adult forensic patients. Dr. Dean earned her doctorate from University of Memphis. She completed her internship at the Little Rock VA Medical Center with an emphasis on behavioral medicine and a postdoctoral year at Arkansas Children's Hospital with the Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorder programs. Dr. Dean has interests in mind/body medicine, mindfulness, yoga, and has been studying Acceptance and Commitment Theory for several years and is in an ongoing ACT consultation group. She loves to continue to learn and is actively involved in the internship training program facilitating the internship supervision group. Dr. Dean leads an active life-style practicing and teaching yoga, hiking, and doing anything outdoors. She enjoys reading, writing, traveling, and playing with her two cats.

Tiffany Atkins Howell, Ph.D. *

B.S. Mississippi State University, 2004

M.S. Mississippi State University, 2008

Ph.D. The University of Georgia, 2012

Dr. Howell is the Internship Training Director at Arkansas State Hospital and licensed psychologist. She conducts psychological assessments to assist with diagnostic clarification and conducts individual and group therapy for men and women on the adult forensic unit. She utilizes various evidenced-based therapeutic interventions (i.e. DBT, CBT, ACT) aimed at negative symptom reduction and increased positive emotions, behavior, and affect. She is actively working on an IRB-approved research project investigating Arkansas' only mental health probation program (Act 911). In addition to her interests in research and recidivism, her professional interests also include family therapy. In her spare time, Dr. Howell enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, camping, hiking, and listening to live music.

Hillary R. Hunt, Ph.D. *

B.A., Auburn University, 1999

M.A., University of Mississippi, 2003

Ph.D., University of Mississippi, 2006

Dr. Hunt is the current Director of Psychology at ASH and the immediate past Training Director for the Pre-doctoral Psychology Internship Program. She is also a psychologist for Adolescent Services at the Arkansas State Hospital, with primary placement on the Adolescent Sexual Offenders Treatment unit. Dr. Hunt is a graduate of the DBHS psychology internship program, training during the 2005-2006 year. In addition to her interests in the area of sexual victimization (working with both survivors and offenders), Dr. Hunt's professional interests include Behavioral Medicine and part-time private practice in a local clinic. A former competitive swimmer and Ironman Florida finisher, she enjoys training for endurance athletic events when life with young children allows. She also enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Taisha Jones, Ph.D. *

B.A., Psychology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2002

B.A. Sociology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 2002

M.S., Saint Louis University, 2006

Ph.D., Saint Louis University, 2010

Dr. Jones is a staff psychologist for the Adolescent Services at Arkansas State Hospital (ASH). She provides individual and group therapy as well as psychological evaluations for children with wide a range of mental health illnesses and behavioral regulation difficulties. Additionally, Dr. Jones develops and implements behavior management plans and participates on the ASH Research Committee. Dr. Jones is a graduate of the DBHS psychology internship program, training during the 2008-2009 year. Professionally, Dr. Jones has interests in the areas of positive individual coping resources (i.e. faith, emotional intelligence, ego-resiliency) as well as in conducting research and test construction. Dr. Jones is passionate about discussing research trends and recent developments within the mental health field. With regards to leisure time, Dr. Jones enjoys traveling, writing poems, journaling, and spending time with her family. She also enjoys taunting rival sports team fans and is an avid Missouri Tiger football fan.

Lacey Willett Matthews, Psy.D. *

B.S., Northwestern State University, 2005

M.A., Florida School of Professional Psychology, 2009

Psy.D., Florida School of Professional Psychology, 2012

Dr. Matthews is a forensic psychologist at the Arkansas State Hospital and conducts competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and risk assessment evaluations for criminal defendants from across the state of Arkansas. She also teaches psychology courses at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Dr. Matthews is a graduate of the Arkansas State Hospital psychology internship program, as well as the Arkansas State Hospital postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology. Her professional interests include forensic assessment, juvenile forensic assessment, and the neuropsychological correlates of violent and aberrant behaviors. When she's not traversing the state to testify in court, she enjoys camping, hiking, canoeing the Buffalo River, and live music. An avid supporter of the arts and football fanatic, Dr. Matthews also enjoys spoiling her miniature black Pomeranian, Heaven, and ensuring that she is the best-dressed canine in Little Rock.

Michelle Messer, MA, LPE-I

B.A., University of Arkansas, 1998

M.A., Clinical Psychology, Argosy University, Atlanta 2002

Ms. Messer is the Psychological Examiner for Forensics, 6 Lower, at the Arkansas State Hospital. Ms. Messer is licensed as an Independent Psychological Examiner by the Arkansas Psychology Board. In addition to her interests in the area of intellectual and developmental disabilities, Ms. Messer's professional interests include Behavioral Management and treatment for individuals with Dual Diagnosis, as well as, Parapsychology. A world traveler, gypsy, and 'prepper' for the upcoming Zombie apocalypse, she maintains a home base while spending time with her partner of 13 years, cat, Ms. Bayou, and two dogs, Auggie and Comet. She also enjoys reading, creating, people watching, and music listening and development.

Benjamin Silber, Ph.D.

B.S., Pacific Union College, 2008

M.A., Loma Linda University, 2010

Ph.D., Loma Linda University, 2014

Dr. Silber is a forensic psychologist at the Arkansas State Hospital. His work focuses on conducting forensic evaluations such as criminal responsibility (insanity), fitness to proceed (competence to stand trial), restorability, culpable mental state (diminished capacity), pre-employment evaluations for police officers, and violence risk. He completed an internship at the Federal Correctional Complex at Butner, NC and the forensic fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital. He has a special interest in the assessment of malingering, the phenomenology of hallucinations, and issues related to the credibility of expert witnesses. In his free time he enjoys working out at the gym, hiking, travelling, and working at his private practice in Little Rock.

Michael J. Simon, Ph.D. *

B.A., Emory University, 1976

Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 1982

Dr. Simon is a psychologist on the Forensic Services Unit. He also teaches Abnormal Psychology at UALR and consults for two agencies that work with the developmentally disabled. Professional interests include diagnosis and treatment of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Dr. Simon's primary outside interest is UALR basketball. He is currently President of the Trojan Legion Club, a booster club for UALR athletics.

Rebecca Spohn, Ph.D. *

B.A., Rhodes College, 1989

M.A., University of Kansas, 1991

Ph.D., University of Memphis, 1995

After 8 years of service as a staff psychologist, Dr. Spohn accepted the position of Clinical Program Director in April 2013, a newly created position overseeing the Programming Department here at ASH. Dr. Spohn is a graduate of the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center internship in Memphis, Tennessee, and completed her post-doctoral training/supervision and several years of employment with this VAMC before moving back to her home town of Little Rock. Dr. Spohn's clinical interests include psychological trauma and grief/loss issues as well as personality assessment. More recently she has taken an interest in the application of cognitive-behavioral interventions with SMI populations, particularly those with psychotic illness. Becky and her family enjoy all the Arkansas outdoors has to offer, including boating on Greer's Ferry Lake and canoeing on the Buffalo River. Also, co-workers here at ASH are well-familiar with the fact that the Spohns are dedicated New York Giants fans, making an annual trek either to Dallas or New York to cheer them on to victory. Go Big Blue!!!!

Monica Parkins, Ph.D. *

Ph.D., Palo Alto University, 2013

Dr. Parkins is a psychologist on the Adult Unit B. Her professional interests include evidenced-based practices for serious mental illness, CBT, crisis assessment, suicidal prevention, behavior management, and psychological evaluation. She completed her post-doctoral training at ASH in forensic psychology where she completed assessments addressing issues such as competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility. Personally, Dr. Parkins is an avid rock-climber who enjoys traveling abroad.

* indicates currently available for supervision