

PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY

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 and Dr. Jones are the Training Directors for the Doctoral Internship program.

Dr. Aldea is also a staff psychologist for Adolescent Services at the Arkansas State Hospital. She assists in supervision for the internship training program on the adolescent rotation, as well as provides supervision for the SMI fellow on the adolescent rotation. Dr. Aldea provides individual, group, family, 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 DAABHS 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.

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 is the Training Director for the SMI Fellowship program. She also provides supervision for the internship training program on the Unit A rotation. Dr. Baldwin graduated from Loyola University in Maryland in 2010. She completed her doctoral 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 wellness, 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, sons, and dog as well as exercising, completing home improvement projects, 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, Volunteer Services, and Support Therapy Services (Allied Health Services, DD Day Treatment, Recreation). 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 Wright, 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 Wright 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 Wright completed her internship and postdoctoral fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital. She also supervises interns and forensic fellows throughout their training year. Outside of work, Dr. Dannacher Wright enjoys traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

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 a past Training Director for the 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 assists in supervision for the internship training program on the adolescent rotation. She is a graduate of the DAABHS 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 and Dr. Aldea are the Training Directors for the Doctoral Internship program.

Dr. Jones is also a staff psychologist for the Adolescent Services at Arkansas State Hospital (ASH). She assists in supervision for the internship training program on the adolescent rotation, as well as provides supervision for the SMI fellow on the adolescent rotation. Dr. Jones 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 DAABHS 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.

Sandra Michel, Psy.D. *

B.A., California State University, Northridge, 2012

M.A., California State University, Northridge, 2015

Psy.D., Pepperdine University, 2019

Dr. Sandra Michel is a forensic psychologist at the Arkansas State Hospital. She conducts forensic, court-ordered evaluations regarding competency to stand trial, opinion on the capacity to be restored to fitness, criminal responsibility, and risk assessment. Specifically, she evaluates demographically diverse court-ordered defendants who present with a multifaceted intersection between serious mental illness, criminality, developmental disabilities, substance use, and personality disorders. Dr. Michel completed her internship, as well as her forensic fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital. Her professional interests involve the intersection of clinical neuropsychology in forensic contexts, assessment of malingering, and precursors to violence. Furthermore, her interdisciplinary research interests have focused on

examining the effects of support person use on child maltreatment victims' stress, accuracy, and perceived credibility when testifying in court. Outside of work, Dr. Michel enjoys camping, playing video games, attending Orange Theory classes, and spending time with her hairless cat, Schmiegel, and furry cat, Lucius.

Jon Nolan, Ph.D.

B.A., University of Central Arkansas, 2013

M.S., University of Central Arkansas, 2016

Ph.D., University of Central Arkansas, 2019

Dr. Nolan is a newly licensed psychologist on one of the all-male units. He completed his internship at the Syracuse Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Primary Care Behavioral Health Research Track in 2019. He then completed the SMI Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital in 2021. His clinical interests include trauma focused therapy with SMI patients, mindfulness and meditation, anxiety, and measurement-based care. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching sports, and exercise.

Monica Parkins, Ph.D. *

B.A., University of California at Davis, 2007

M.S., Palo Alto University, 2010

Ph.D., Palo Alto University, 2013

Dr. Parkins provides supervision for the internship training program as a year-long individual supervisor. She also serves as a major supervisor for the SMI Fellowship program. 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, forensics, 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.

Kelcey Puskiewicz, Ph.D. *

B.S., Loyola University Chicago, 2012

M.A., Ball State University, 2014

Ph.D., East Tennessee State University, 2019

Dr. Puskiewicz is a psychologist on one of the Forensic Treatment Units. She completed the DAABHS/Arkansas State Hospital Doctoral Psychology Internship Program during the 2018-2019 training year. She also completed the SMI Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Arkansas State Hospital in 2020. Her clinical interests include DBT, particularly with patients with personality disorders and SMI, and evidence-based

treatment for individuals who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior. Her other professional interests include conducting research related to sexual offending as well as on the impact of trauma and adversity on mental health and behavioral outcomes in high-risk, forensic populations. Outside of work, she likes spending time with her husband and sons and enjoys all outdoor activities, such as hiking, swimming, and camping.

Margaret (Peggy) Rector, Ph.D. *

B.A., University of Mississippi, 1976

M.S. University of Southern Mississippi, 2000

Ph.D. Jackson State University, 2005

Dr. Rector provides supervision for the internship training program as a year-long individual supervisor. She is a staff psychologist at Arkansas State Hospital on the Forensic Units. Prior to coming to ASH, she worked for 7 years as a psychologist for the Arkansas Department of Correction. She also was director of a Forensic Unit associated with the Arkansas 911 program in Helena, Arkansas. She completed a one-year internship at the Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System in Biloxi, MS. She enjoys doing psychotherapy and has worked with persons with a wide range of concerns, from mood disorders to psychosis. She has a particular interest in working with those with a trauma history. She also has worked successfully with persons who are engaging in severe self-harm behaviors. In her free time she loves to garden, read and bake. She loves spending time in nature, pursuing her spiritual interests and, most importantly, spending time with family.

Douglas Michael Sell, Ph.D.

B.S., Psychology, University of Nebraska, 1990

M.A., Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996

M.A., Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary, 1996

Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2000

Dr. Sell is a staff Psychologist assigned to the Unit 5 Lower at the Arkansas State Hospital, an all-male adult forensic unit. Dr. Sell has seventeen years' experience as a Psychologist in corrections (including oversight of sex offender treatment program), and over three decades work with persons having serious mental illness (SMI) and intellectual disabilities. Dr. Sell's interests include philosophy, theology, and social psychology. He assists in long-term individual supervision for the internship training program. Dr. Sell completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and Doctoral Internship at the Southern Mississippi Psychological Internship Consortium. Dr. Sell provides individual and group therapy, conducts psychological evaluations, develops and implements Treatment and Behavior

Management plans. Outside of work, Dr. Sell enjoys cycling, motorsports, and downtime with Calico cat named Izzy.

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.

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 hometown 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!!!!

Abigail Taylor, Psy.D. *

B.A. – Psychology and Criminology, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio (2010)

M.A. – Psychology, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia (2011)

Psy.D. – Clinical Psychology, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (2017)

Dr. Taylor is a forensic psychologist at Arkansas State Hospital, where she provides evaluations to address fitness to proceed and criminal responsibility. Prior to her work at Arkansas State Hospital, she conducted social investigations, parental fitness evaluations, psychosexual evaluations, and competency to stand trial evaluations at a private practice in Orlando, Florida. She completed her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship in Forensic Assessment at Larned State Hospital in Larned, Kansas, and she remained at Larned State Hospital as a Forensic Evaluator following her training. She also served a rotation in the Sexual Predator Treatment Program in Larned, Kansas. Her professional interests include various types of forensic evaluation (criminal and family law), treatment with the correctional population, psychopharmacology, positive psychology, health psychology, and consultation with providers in other disciplines from a behavioral health perspective. Dr. Taylor is a dedicated Ohio State Buckeye fan and enjoys football, cooking, walking, reading, and her two beautiful boxer doggies.

Lacey Willett, 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. Willett is a forensic psychologist at the Arkansas State Hospital and conducts competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, and violence risk assessment evaluations for criminal defendants from across the state of Arkansas. She also conducts and supervises pre-employment evaluations for Arkansas State Hospital law enforcement officers. Dr. Willett is a graduate of the Arkansas State Hospital psychology internship program, as well as the Arkansas State Hospital/University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology. Her professional interests include forensic assessment, juvenile forensic assessment, military psychology, and the neuropsychological correlates of violent and aberrant behaviors. She currently serves as a Captain in the Arkansas Army National Guard and is an avid supporter of veteran and military causes. Dr. Willett enjoys camping, hiking, canoeing the Buffalo River, and all things Peloton. She also enjoys spoiling her miniature black Pomeranian, Heaven, and ensuring that she is the best dressed canine in Central Arkansas.

* indicates currently providing supervision