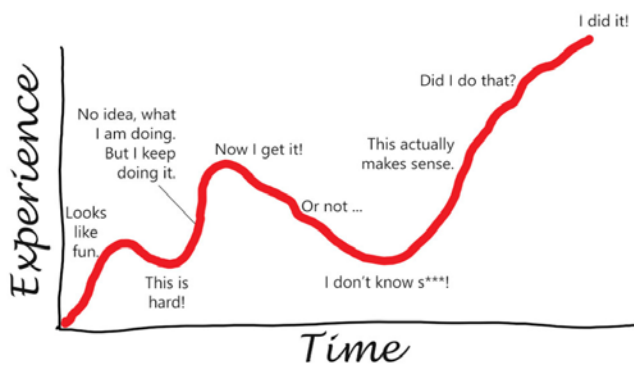


USA Psychology Newsletter

Spring 2019

Letter from The Department Chair 2018-2019

Dr. Shelley-Tremblay (ST) is now Chair of the Department of Psychology! He is happy and humbled to serve his students and faculty in this role and is hoping to learn *as fast as possible!*



In Loving Memory

*Of Dr. Charles
Brown*

We remember the 30 years of incredible service to our Department! We were so honored to be able help Dr. Brown celebrate his retirement in the Spring of 2018, and then celebrate his life with his family and friends in August of 2018. He will never be forgotten!

If positive psychology teaches us anything, it is that all of us are mixture of strengths and weaknesses. No one has it all, and no one lacks it all.
– Christopher Peterson

Meet The Faculty

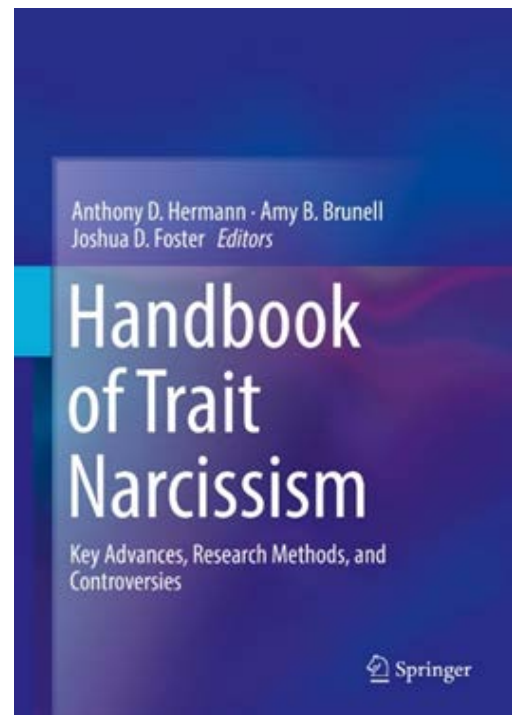
Dr. Joshua Foster

Dr. Foster's research program continues to focus primarily on narcissistic personality. With the election of Donald J. Trump—arguably the world's most famous narcissist—as 45th President of the United States, he believes that his research has never been more relevant. Dr. Foster's lab is currently finishing up a study that is part of a multisite research collaboration on narcissism and persuasion. Specifically, they are putting to the test whether narcissists are as good as they say they are at persuading others. The results are still preliminary, but it looks like they are going to be able to tell a pretty interesting story in the final paper that emerges from the project.

In more general research news, Dr. Foster co-edited a new book, *The Handbook of Trait Narcissism* (Springer), that was recently published. It contains 51 chapters written by 89 authors from nine different countries on, you guessed it, narcissism. His co-editors are Tony Hermann (Bradley University) and Amy Brunell (Ohio State). Dr. Foster noted that he is thrilled with the final product. Furthermore, he is pleasantly surprised by how well such a large group of narcissism researchers were able to work together.

Personal Life

Dr. Foster's spouse, Dr. Hope Jackson, continues to do phenomenal work treating anxiety, mood, and eating disorders at her new office location on Spring Hill Avenue (bayareaclinical.com). They have two boys, Mathew (10) and Colin (6), who are growing up quickly and fast becoming incredible Fortnite players (and dancers). Dr. Foster and family recently welcomed a new dog to their humble abode. Her name is Dixie and she is a Dachsund- Terrier a bunch of other stuff mix, and a very sweet girl.



Dr. Benjamin Hill

Dr. Hill and the Neuropsychology Lab are staying busy the last year. Current doctoral students in the lab include Jameson Beach, Sarah Taylor, Murphy Harrell, and Stephen Aita. Sarah won an award at the recent National Academy of Neuropsychology meeting for her poster “Base Rates of Failed Performance Validity Tests in a Chronic Pain Sample.” This is part of an ongoing collaboration with Dr. Jake Epker studying chronic pain patients and ways to improve pre-surgical evaluations for back pain. Dr. Hill and Stephen Aita also published a paper on positive effort or factors that improve test performance such as personality traits like Need for Cognition and grit. The lab is doing other studies looking at how personality factors impact cognitive abilities on neuropsychological tests. Ben is also continuing his collaboration with Dr. Diego Alvarez in the College of Medicine examining cognitive effects of metabolic inflammation associated with factors such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

The Neuropsychology Lab is involved providing clinical services at a number of different sites in the area. Lab members work with a local traumatic brain injury support group affiliated with the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and have also provided services to Veterans at both the Pensacola VA and Biloxi VA the past year. Sarah and Murphy have given talks about dementia to community groups as part of an educational outreach and Ben also gave a recent talk about how to recognize different types of dementia at a local workshop for Volunteers of America. Lab members also offer neuropsychological evaluations at a very reduced rate to the community through the USA Psychological Clinic.

Dr. Hill was recently elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Neuropsychology and is also on boards for APA Division 40 Society for Clinical Neuropsychology. These positions provide exciting opportunities to collaborate with leaders in the field on issues relevant to clinical neuropsychology and extend the South Alabama brand. He was also made a Fellow of the National Academy of Neuropsychology this year which is a significant honor. Closer to home, Ben continues to serve on the Executive Committee for the Alabama Psychological Association and has enjoyed getting to know psychologists around the state in this role.

Overall, the Neuropsychology Lab continues to roll along and had another excellent year.

Dr. Joshua Isen

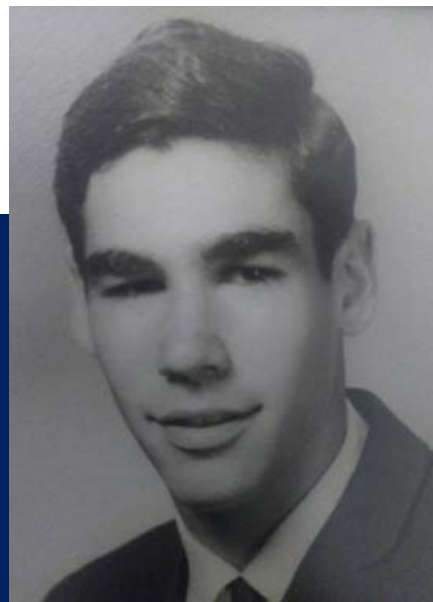
Like father, like son?

It is not often that a principal investigator serves as a participant in his own research study. But Dr. Isen did just that. He submitted his high-school senior yearbook photo as well as that of his father. The goal of the “Family Yearbook Study” is to examine familial resemblance for facial attractiveness. It seems almost axiomatic that “beauty” runs in families, but the evidence for this is sparse. A previous study looked at parent-offspring resemblance by comparing photos of college students to their currently middle-aged parents. This tremendous age difference likely underestimates the true parent-offspring correlation in attractiveness. To rectify this methodological problem, all photo materials in the Family Yearbook Study derive from participants’ senior year in high school.

Dr. Isen was collected 732 yearbook photos from USA undergraduates and their family members (in addition to 3 yearbook pictures from the Isen family). When obtaining data, it was necessary to keep the motive of the study somewhat vague. Bluntly telling students that their picture will be evaluated for attractiveness is not the best way to encourage participation. Dr. Isen was helped by his two research assistants – Meghan Dean, who was bestowed the Outstanding Undergraduate Student award by the Psychology department in 2018 and Kristen Mechanic, who received the top award for a master’s student in Behavioral & Brain Sciences in 2019.

The results are largely in and are rather surprising. After procuring evaluations from 200 anonymous raters, the average attractiveness ratings of parents were only modestly correlated with those of their offspring. This is perhaps because additive genetic effects have little influence on facial attractiveness. [Additivity occurs when the alleles inherited from parents have independent effects on a trait and simply “add up” in a linear fashion.] Rather, Dr. Isen believes that non-additive genetic effects (e.g., dominance, recessiveness, and epistasis) which, by definition, are unshared between parents and offspring, loom larger. Additionally, prenatal and other early environmental factors probably influence facial attractiveness to a significant degree.

To underscore the lack of similarity in facial attractiveness between parents and offspring, take a look at the two photos below. The first one is of Josh Isen and the second image is of his father. They received vastly different attractiveness ratings, with the clear edge going to the black-and-white image! (Note: All other participants’ data have been, and will continue to be, kept confidential)



Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling (Dr. L-R)

This year, Dr. L-R and her Gulf Coast Behavioral Health and Resiliency Center (GCBHRC) team, Candice Selwyn, Cory Wornell, John Friend, and Daphnee Cherisol were hard at it! As Executive Director of the GCBHRC, Dr. L-R and her staff enacted her center's mission through a variety of service delivery (> 7,000 patients received care), education (over 30 presentations), and scholarship activities (15 papers published in 2018 or in press). Numerous USA faculty and community professionals were also involved in center activities including: on-site professional workshops in Vicarious Trauma, Generational Resiliency, Trauma-Informed School Systems; year-long training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Children; suicide prevention activities and policies; USA Disaster and Trauma Alliance activities; obtaining a Certificate in Trauma Education from the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, and helping form a city-wide safety and wellness initiative called Project THRIVE. As an acknowledgement of this work, Dr. L-R was honored to receive the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Service Award!

Dr. L-R's lab team has also been extremely active. In 2018, Selena Jackson successfully completed her internship and defended her dissertation. Caitlin Anderson is on internship at her 1st choice APA accredited internship site. Mallory Schneider won a dissertation funding grant this fall and is studying pediatric patient's parent's preferences for integrated health care screening processes. Emma Lathan Powell and Jessica Duncan have been immersed in an action research project centered on testing unsubmitted sexual assault kits located within the Mobile Alabama police department. Jose Gonzalez has been supported on a grant with Lifelines Family Counseling Center which has led him to educate community members in suicide prevention programming. This fall, two new graduate students joined the lab. Quickly getting up to speed, Megan Blanton and Fallon Richie have already joined the push to disseminate the data we have accumulated across the past few years! Finally, the lab has enjoyed the contributions of a number of top-notch USA undergraduates including, Malaya Richards (honors thesis completion), Ben McPeak, and Tyler Bell (former student).

Across 2018-19, GCBHRC's main accomplishments included:

- Our providers (to include our full-time and student BHPs, MCPSS BHP, Family Medicine BHP, and USA Psychiatry Residents) had over 7,000 individual patient encounters this year. Our direct service provision ends November 2018; however, our providers have been hired by MCHD, MCPSS, BCE, Biloxi and Mobile VA, USAFM, USA Psychiatry, USA Counseling Center and others!
- Provided training to over 370 individuals in topics to include:
 - Chronic Disease Management, A 3-hour training in Vicarious Trauma, Trauma-Focused CBT, An online module on Trauma-Informed Primary Care was created to be incorporated in the curriculum for all incoming Family Medicine Residents at USA, Trauma: Beyond the Physical Injuries was presented to medical students, residents, and attendings at the USA Trauma Center.

- Creating a Safe and Trauma-Free Classroom was delivered to Pensacola public school teachers designated as highly effective, A Primer in Trauma-Informed Care was delivered to the Family Intervention Team, an initiative of the Mobile Police Department, the Gulf States Health Policy Center, & at South Alabama Mental Wellness Conference., Mental Health First Aid – Public Safety, Crisis Intervention Team Training, Mental Health First Aid, 6th Annual Generational Resiliency Conference, Trauma-Informed Behavior Management was delivered Boys & Girls Club staff members. The goal of this training was to teach all Boys & Girls Club staff trauma-informed behavior management strategies for child and adolescent members., “Putting SBIRT into practice” on the SBIRT model of intervention for substance use in primary care was presented to family medicine residents.

As an extension of the work being done by the APPLE team, GCBHRC worked with the Mobile County Public School System to begin implementing a model to promote a Trauma-Sensitive School System.

USADATA was active this year (working toward faculty/staff obtaining trauma informed certificates from ISTSS; establishing a Trauma Focused CBT clinic for traumatized children). The mission of the alliance is to create a community of trauma-informed educators, clinicians, and scientists of various backgrounds and expertise. Alliance members will be supported to advance their trauma knowledge. They will be encouraged to take their new training and infuse it into their own teaching, research, or community action projects.

In partnership with the GCBHRC, a number of trauma informed initiatives are in the works at the university, hospital, and city levels. Specifically, we are inaugural members of a city-wide initiative - Project THRIVE and have created a logic model and partner schematic for this group. Project THRIVE is a multidisciplinary coalition led by the Mobile Police Department Office of Strategic Initiatives to promote safety and wellness while also addressing the effects of trauma on the citizens of the City of Mobile. The mission of Project THRIVE is to make Mobile a trauma-informed community – so that helpers in every agency and every part of our system are cared for and know how to care for others. As Project THRIVE, we are committed to weaving our community closer together and making strong community partnerships. We are dedicated to Trauma Healing and Resiliency In the wake of Violent Events. Our vision is to create an enduring culture of safety, trust, and hope where all individuals and families in Mobile, Alabama are empowered to achieve optimal health and well-being. This year THRIVE was formally recognized and supported by a proclamation from the Mayor and the Mobile City Council.

- The contracts for two GRHOP Langhinrichsen-Rohling Health Capacity Scholarships (Graduate and Undergraduate) were executed this year.
- Over 35 posters/presentations were presented at various conferences and venues this year.
- Over 15 Manuscripts/Book Chapters/Assessment Measures were Published in 2018 or “In Press”.

Dr. Wyndolyn (Wyndi) M. A. Ludwikowski

Dr. Ludwikowski has been serving as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Psychology for the 2018-2019 school year. After graduating with her PhD in counseling psychology and with a certificate in quantitative psychology from Iowa State University in 2013, she joined the Department of Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana as a tenure-track professor. Moving with her family to Mobile, Alabama, in 2018, she had the opportunity to join the Department of Psychology at USA, where she teaches a number of undergraduate courses, including Introduction to Psychology, Research Design and Analysis II, Abnormal Psychology, and Psychology of Gender. Dr. Ludwikowski conducts research on explaining career decision-making, on help-seeking stigma, and on the teaching of psychology. Since starting her appointment at USA, Dr. Ludwikowski has secured two publications, one in the Journal of Career Assessment and another in The Counseling Psychologist. Since moving to Mobile, Dr. Ludwikowski enjoys volunteering for the Mardi Gras Eco-Team as well as the USA Archeological Museum.

Dr. Lisa A. Turner

This has been an exciting year in the Brain and Behavior Science (BBS) program. The program welcomed the first Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's (ABM) students. These students will complete their undergraduate and master's degrees in five years. Dr. Turner, as interim chair of the Psychology Department this past year has been heavily involved in shepherding the program's development and integration into the Department.

Dr. Turner's lab is focusing on the development of emerging adults. Newly added to her lab team is Katey Hayes, who joined the BBS program from the University of Tennessee – Chattanooga. They are investigating the relation of Helicopter Parenting to Empathy and Prosocial Behavior.

Dr. Heidi Lyn

This is Dr. Lyn's first year here at USA, accepting the position of Associate Professor and Joan M. Sinnott Chair of Psychology Comparative Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology. She hasn't had trouble keeping busy. In August, Dr. Lyn moved her office from the University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Coast campus to USA. With that move came new challenges, including setting up her new lab, finding her way around a new campus, and learning the administration and rules for doing research in a new university. Dr. Lyn continues to work with her 5 graduate students from USM, to complete their degrees. Helping Dr. Lyn in this difficult task are her research assistants (and USA adjunct), Jen Christopher and student, Tabatha Lewis. They have brought 6 undergraduates into the lab to begin work on new projects (one that will survey how human interaction affects squirrel food preferences).

Dr. Lyn's students have been particularly successful this year, with 2 different students winning awards to present their work at international conferences. Throughout the lab, they have presented 5 different projects (ranging from dolphin and otter vocalizations to aggressive grooming in bushbabies) at various conferences, including the OceanNoise conference in Japan, the International Otter Congress in China (upcoming), and the Acoustical Society of America conference (in Victoria, Canada). The main conference for members of the lab team is the Comparative Cognition Conference, which each year is in Florida. This year, Dr. Lyn and students will have 3 talks at the conference with 4 graduate students and herself attending. They hope to also bring a few undergraduates along, so they can see the breadth of work that is presented. Also, Dr. Lyn hopes the lab team gets an opportunity to enjoy time with one another, as the conference takes place on the beach and talks don't begin until noon.

When it comes to more standard measurements of academic success, Dr. Lyn has team have been doing well. So far this year, they have had two students complete their master's theses, with one other scheduled to defend and 2 doctoral dissertation students ready to defend within the next 6 months. Dr. Lyn has also had a peer-reviewed paper accepted for publication, as well as a book review, and three encyclopedia entries published. In addition, she branched out a bit with a chapter that discussed the literary use and treatment of animals in the podcast "Welcome to NightVale". Her work was recognized with a Diverse Intelligences Synthesis Prize, to support her work on a white paper exploring the expression of positive emotions in nonhuman animals, and with a featured article in Scientific American, which highlighted three researchers who work on the question of language evolution.

Overall, Dr. Lyn has had a very hectic, but productive, six months, and is looking forward to great things ahead at USA.

Dr. Krista Mehari

Dr. Mehari's lab has a several ongoing projects. This semester, she is piloting a violence prevention program in the 8th grade at a local school, with collaborators in the College of Education (Dr. Benterah Morton), Spring Hill College (Dr. Chelsea Greer), and the Mobile Police Department Office of Strategic Initiatives. They will be testing whether the intervention impacts levels of victimization and aggression, as well as related social-cognitive factors (e.g., empathy, self-efficacy for nonviolence). Based on results of the evaluation, they will extend the program to the 9th grade, and the program will be implemented by Mobile police officers in six 9th grade classrooms.

Her lab is also conducting observational coding of videotaped interactions of parents and at-risk adolescents discussing what the adolescents should do in response to specific conflict situations. The content (parental messages) and quality of interactions (e.g., humor, lecturing) will be linked to longitudinal data to explore whether these parent-child interactions predict beliefs about fighting, self-efficacy for nonviolence, and actual aggressive behavior and victimization. This research can inform parent and family components of violence prevention programs.

Dr. Mehari's lab is collaborating with the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) to identify longitudinal predictors of drop-out. MCPSS is sharing 13-year data of a cohort of over 2000 students beginning in kindergarten. Most research on predictors of school drop-out start with middle school at the earliest. Along with Dr. Powell and Dr. McDermott, Dr. Mehari will explore whether there are "red flags" that occur in elementary school, which would allow for earlier, and perhaps more effective, prevention programming.

Her lab is wrapping up the first wave of data collection for a study exploring the relation between contextual risk factors (e.g., food insecurity, exposure to community violence) predicts maternal mental and physical health as well as pregnancy outcomes. Although there is extensive research indicating that maternal mental health during pregnancy predicts poor fetal health outcomes (e.g., premature delivery), there is minimal research exploring what predicts poor maternal mental health. So far, they have found that contextual stressors (e.g., exposure to community violence, intimate partner violence, food insecurity, & housing instability) predict poor maternal mental health. They will follow up with participants after the anticipated delivery date. By identifying malleable risk factors for poor mental health during pregnancy, it will be possible to design intervention programs that provide tangible support to women experiencing stressors during pregnancy.

Dr. Mehari's lab is collaborating with the Mobile Police Department to conduct a program evaluation of the SCORE program, a jail diversion program for people who have been arrested for minor drug offenses. Her student, Kimberly Pusey, will use the data for her thesis.

Dr. Phillip N. Smith

Dr. Smith directs the Suicide Prevention Research (SPR) lab. He is currently mentoring six doctoral students (Shane Kuhlman and Shannon Boone - 5th years; Laura Marie - 3rd year; Nicholas Fadoir - 2nd year; and Kaitlyn Schuler and Natasha Basu - 1st years).

Dr. Smith is also the Project Director for the JagConnect Program, USA's campus suicide prevention program. JagConnect is funded by Garret Lee Smith, a \$306,000, three-year grant awarded for the implementation of campus suicide prevention initiatives and outreach efforts. These efforts have included the ongoing development and delivery of gatekeeper, risk assessment, and crisis intervention trainings (including trainings for undergraduates, faculty and staff, Counseling and Testing Services, USA Campus Police and the Mobile and Baldwin County Policy Departments). Efforts have also included partnership with campus organizations, such as Student Government Association and Active Minds, to plan and execute campus events related to mental health and suicide prevention; the campus-wide distribution of a poster campaign promoting help-seeking for mental health; the provision of information and resources through the JagConnect website (www.southalabama.edu/jaconnect); and development of a crisis policy for responding to suicide attempts on campus. The grant is currently in its final funding year, and the SPR lab are now working to develop plans for the program's sustainability and continued suicide prevention efforts on our campus.

The SPR lab have developed several community partnerships to promote awareness of suicide prevention and facilitate access to training and services and support for community events in the Mobile and surrounding areas. Examples include:

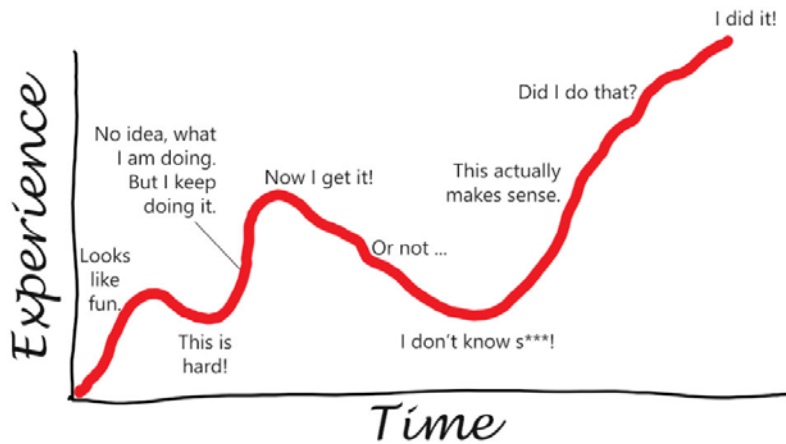
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: Planning and co-sponsorship of the Annual South Alabama Out of the Darkness walk in Daphne, AL raising almost \$60,000 for research, education, advocacy, and support for suicide prevention!
- Lifelines: Provision of training and supervision of crisis counselors for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI): Tabling at the Annual NAMI Walk at Medal of Honor Park in Mobile, AL and co-sponsorship of a screening of Suicide: The Ripple Effect at the Jubilee Square 12 Theatre in Daphne, AL
- Survivors of Mental Illness (SOMI): Provision of training in risk assessment and suicide prevention to staff and service users

Dr. Smith is also working with researchers and community partners from the University of Alabama and America's Warrior Partnership on Operation Deep Dive, a community base participatory research project examining the social and contextual causes of suicide in Veterans. Operation Deep Dive is funded by a 4-year, \$2.9 million grant from the Bristol Meyers Squibb Foundation and is being conducted across 14 communities, including Mobile, AL. The SPR has been active in the development and distribution of training and research. The SPR is currently conducting a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the Alliance Project Gatekeeper Training, which is designed to teach laypersons how to identify, intervene, and refer for services individuals who may be in distress or suicidal.

Dr. Smith and his team also developed a learning module on suicide risk assessment and management in military populations for a Veteran peer-support specialist training manual for Dryhootch, a Veteran support non-profit organization. Lab members will be presenting original research at the 52nd Annual Conference for the American Association of Suicidology in Denver, CO in April 2019. The SPR saw five peer-reviewed articles published in 2018. Additionally, Dr. Smith and his graduate students have four papers in-press awaiting publication and a number of others in development and under review focusing on a variety of suicide related topics, including masculine gender-norms, firearm ownership and storage practices, the protective function of grit, typologies of suicide-related distress in cancer patients, suicide communication, and the moderating role of meaning-making.

Dr. Jack Shelley-Tremblay

Dr. Shelley-Tremblay (ST) was recently promoted to Chair of the Psychology Department. He is happy and humbled to serve his students and faculty in this role and is hoping to learn as fast as possible.



Dr. Shelley-Tremblay's Human Event-Related Potentials (HERP) Laboratory had a busy year. We have several exciting projects ongoing and are thrilled to be collaborating with Dr. Harvey Joanning, Clinical Psychologist and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist on "The Brain in Love: The Neurological Basis of Intimate Relationships." This is an ongoing project using neuroscience methods to examine how couples communicate, and the physiological and behavioral correlates of relationship satisfaction and distress.

Check out Dr. S-T at <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/artsandsci/psychology/faculty/shelley-tremblay.html>.

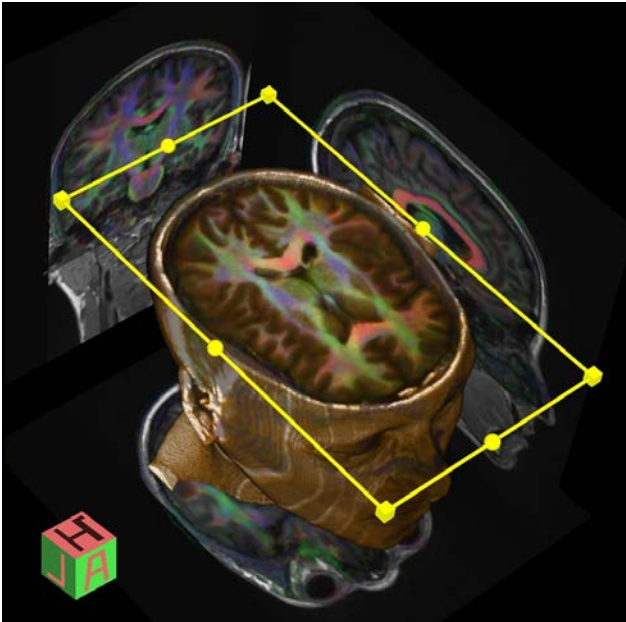
What's up with the HERP LAB?

With Dr. Shelley-Tremblay's help, the Psychology Department was proud to be co-hosts the [Girls Exploring Math and Science](#) event at USA. GEMS is a fun and exciting way for girls in grades 6-8 to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Students pick their favorite subjects, and then get their hands dirty in workshops designed to showcase how much fun it is to work in associated fields. Workshops are conducted by professors and local professionals and include making jewelry with DNA, conducting forensic investigations, hunting for gems and minerals, designing webpages... and many more. The session was entitled, "Is your friend telling the truth: The psychophysiology of lie detection."



Dr. Shelley-Tremblay is proud to be on the steering committee of the Alabama Advanced Imaging Consortium(<https://www.alabamaadvancedimaging.org/>) Students interested in cognitive neuroscience are encouraged to speak with him to learn about training opportunities at USA and around the state.

Dr. S-T's lab had a great trip to Southeastern Psychological Association this March! It was in beautiful Jacksonville, where we presented 3 posters and a talk!



-Lee Knapp presented: **Neurophysiological Effects of Phonology on ERPs in Visual Word Recognition.** Donald Knapp, Hannah Oswald, Mark Yates, & John Shelley-Tremblay

-Claire Demming presented: **Complex Associations Among Heart Rate Variability, Anxiety, and Cognitive IntraIndividual Variability.** Claire Demming, Melissa Myers, Benjamin Hill, & John Shelley-Tremblay

-Reagan Thomas presented: **The Brain in Love: Differentiation in Association with Relationship Satisfaction.**

Reagan Thomas, John Shelley-Tremblay, & Harvey Joanning.

-Lindsey Clark presented: **Numerical Reasoning in Preschool Aged Children.** Lindsey Clark, John Shelley-Tremblay, University of South Alabama, & Julie Cwikla, University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. Mark Yates

Dr. Yates is broadly interested in language processing. For most of his career, he has studied how we read and recognize words. More recently, he has become interested in how individual differences in skilled readers influence their word recognition and reading. Much of this research has been done in collaboration with Tim Slattery, who is at Bournemouth University. Their most recent research has shown that spelling ability influences how we use sound-based information (phonology) when recognizing words. Most surprisingly, the influence spelling ability has on word recognition depends on how you measure spelling ability. There are opposite effects for spelling production (e.g., having participants spell words like conciliatory) versus gauging whether participants can recognize if a particular word is spelled correctly. They have also shown that individual differences in spelling and reading ability influence eye movement during reading. The results of this research have been presented at the conferences for the Psychonomic Society and the Association for Psychological Science. Research from this project has been published in the Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology and is currently in press in Cognition.

When not teaching or doing research, Dr. Yates enjoys spending time with his wife Wendy, an occupational therapist, and his two children Chloë and Quinn. He enjoys reading just about any type of fiction, listening to music, and watching baseball. If he is not in the office, classroom, or lab you will likely find him on a ballfield somewhere where his kids play softball and baseball.

Dr. Kimberly Zlomke

Healthy Youth & Families Lab

Dr. Zlomke's lab focuses on family interactions and improving child and family functioning of children with developmental disabilities and chronic illnesses. Over the past year, we have had many accomplishments and lots of community impact. Dr. Zlomke has provided multiple presentations to the USA Community, including Autism Grand Rounds and Pediatric Resident Conferences through the College of Medicine. Dr. Zlomke was also accepted to the Health Disparities Research Training Program through the University of Alabama-Birmingham and will spend the next year collaborating with other scholars in the area and advancing her knowledge in health disparities, epidemiology, and bioethics. Along with students, the HYF Lab has presented to a number of community organizations including the Mobile County Public School System, United Cerebral Palsy, and Goodwill/EasterSeals. Jessica VanOrmer, a 4th year graduate student, recently completed the Research Scholars Program through the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and also successfully proposed her dissertation. Her work will focus on family resilience and activities of family connection within families of a child with autism spectrum disorder. The team is looking forward to where she matches for her clinical internship this spring. Jessica has also been involved in providing consultation to multiple pediatric specialty clinics through USA Women's and Children's Hospital.

Dawn Greathouse, current 3rd year graduate student, has probably had a busy past year. Dawn welcomed her baby boy Gavin on May 11th. The lab is excited to have a little one hanging around. Dawn is currently working at The Little Tree Preschool providing ABA services to young children and accumulating hours for her certification as a Behavior Analyst. Dawn is also developing her dissertation, which will focus on the effectiveness of Parent-Child Interaction Therapy for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Kristina Rossetti, current 2nd year graduate student, has served as the coordinator for the Parent-Child Interaction Therapy study and will be proposing her master's thesis project in the fall. Kristina is interested in the role of resourcefulness in buffering stress and promoting health in parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. Kristina was recently awarded the Graduate Research Enhancement Award from the Graduate School to support her access of the Interactive Autism Network participant recruitment service.

Angelia Davis joined the lab in the fall of 2018 from Vanderbilt University. Her work will focus on predictors and outcomes of pediatric obesity. She has a specific interest in the relationship between childhood obesity, caregiver stress, lifestyle factors, and exposure to traumatic stress. Angelia is part of an interdisciplinary research group (psychology, nursing, computing) working on a project aimed to develop and test a mobile health technology app to prevent obesity in pre-school children.

Members of the lab have had presentations at many national/international conferences over the past year, including Society for Pediatric Psychology, Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, and the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. They have multiple manuscripts under review for publication, and the following are already in print.

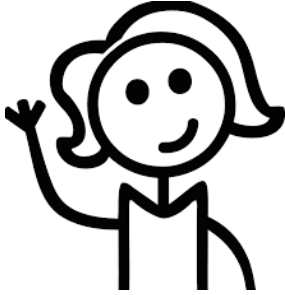
1. Jarasvaraparn, C., Zlomke, K. R., Vann, N., Wang, B., Crissinger, K. D., & Gremse, D. A. (in press). The relationship between sleep disturbance, quality of life, and psychosocial functioning in pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Annals of Gastroenterology & Digestive Disorders*.
2. Zlomke, K. R., Bauman, S., & Edwards, G. E. (2019). Parent-child interactions in children with autism spectrum disorder: Utility of the Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*.
3. Jarasvaraparn, C., Zlomke, K. R., Vann, N., Wang, B., Crissinger, K. D., & Gremse, D. A. (2019). The Relationship between sleep disturbance and disease activity in pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition*, 68(2), 237-243.
4. Graves, R. J., Minchew, L. A., Smith, S., Zlomke, K. R., Caffey, K., Owens, B., Thies, A., Gibert, M., & Fruh, S. (in press). Breaking the cycle: Changing sleep habits to decrease obesity. *International Public Health Journal*.
5. VanOrmer, J. L., Edwards, G. E., Zlomke, K. R., Proctor, K. B., & Brestan-Knight, E. (2018). Examination of parental tolerance among parents of young children with and without autism spectrum disorder. *Advances in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, 2, 169-178.
6. Proctor, K. B., Brestan-Knight, E., Fan, J., & Zlomke, K. R. (2018). Assessing parental readiness to change: A psychometric evaluation of the READI-SF in a community sample. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 27, 1054-1064.
7. Beverly, B., & Zlomke, K. R. (in press). PCIT and Language Facilitation for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. In C. McNeil, L. B. Quesch, and C. M. Anderson (Eds.), *Handbook of Parent Child Interaction Therapy for Children on the Autism Spectrum*. New York, NY: Springer.

Meet The 2018 Graduates



Tyler Overstreet, M.S.

Tyler completed his thesis, entitled, "Experimental Investigation of Hemisphere Asymmetry Within Romantic Relationships During a Communication Task". Tyler is a native of Baldwin county, and has been in the lab for over 4 years. Tyler has been instrumental in the success of the Girls Exploring Math and Science event at USA, allowing dozens of girls each year to receive training in psychophysiology methods. Tyler is currently interviewing for Doctoral Programs in Experimental Psychology.



Melissa Myers, M.S. (Not Pictured)

Melissa completed her thesis, entitled, "An investigation into the relationship between measures of physiological and cognitive intra-individual variability and the influence of anxiety."

Meet The 2019 Graduates



Reagan Thomas

Reagan is working on her thesis, entitled, "The role of differentiation in couple satisfaction," as part of the Brain in Love Project. Reagan plans to continue her studies in applied psychology in a doctoral program.



Jan-Louw Kotze

Jan-Louw is working on his thesis about bystander intervention in regards to sexual assault. Jan-Louw plans to continue his studies in a doctoral program at the University of Minnesota.



Kristen Mechanic

Kristen has successfully defended her thesis looking at trait narcissism. Upon graduating she is moving to Oklahoma.

Meet The Current BBS Students



Donald Lee Knapp

Lee is in his first year in the BBS Program and will be applying to Cognitive Neuroscience Programs next year. Lee is collaborating with Dr. Yates on his thesis, "Effects of Phonological Neighborhood Density on the N400 Event-related Potential."



Tabatha Lewis

Tabatha is in her first year of the BBS program. Tabatha came to us from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her research interests are comparative psychology and primate research.



Claire Demming

Claire is in her first year of the program. She is studying the relationships between heart rate variability, stress, and cognitive functioning in normal and disordered populations. Claire came to us from the University of Florida with many great research experiences under her belt.



Katey Hayes

Katey is in her first year of the program and she is studying the effects of helicopter parenting on children. Katey came to us from The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She will be applying to doctoral programs next year.



Rachel Andrews

Rachel is in her first year of the program and she is studying contextual risk factors for perceived stress and depressive symptoms in pregnant women. Rachel Completed her undergraduate studies here at the University of South Alabama. She plans on applying to doctoral programs next year.



Lindsey Clarke

Lindsey is The newest masters student and first undergraduate to complete the accelerated bachelors to masters program. She is studying fine motor movement in preschoolers in relation to mathematical capabilities. She plans on applying to doctoral programs next year.