

JFK School of Psychology & Social Sciences

Administration

McLean, Alvin	Dean
Shapira, Bettina	Associate Dean of Academic Affairs PSY
Sutton, Asha	Associate Dean of Academic Affairs SBS
Bradley, Peter	Associate Dean of Students
Ford, Tim	Associate Dean of Professional Training & Academic Ops
Lyons, Brandon	Director of Academic Operations
Willerton, Elaine	Director of Assessment & Accreditation
Lettenberger-Klein, Cassandra	Senior Director of Clinical Training
Watters, Yulia	Director of Curriculum
Bickler, Aurelia	Director of the Whole Person Center
Crunclenton, Tiffany	Senior Project Manager
DuBach, Janine	Manager of Dean Support

Psychology Department

Mull, Mindi	Department Chair Psychology
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Full-Time Faculty & Staff | PSY

Ackerman, Michelle	Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology
Barba, Doug	BA in Sport Psych MA in Sport & Performance Psych
Blackwell, Mary	Psychology
Burack, Charles	MA in Consciousness, Psychology, and Transformation
Carroll, Sarah	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Chalquist, Craig	MA in Consciousness, Psychology, and Transformation
Christensen, Sharon	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Franco, Jamie	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Gerson, Michael	MA in Sport & Performance Psych
Goodin, Joel	Psychology
Greer, Kalana	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Guevara, Javier	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Haldeman, Doug	Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Full-Time Faculty & Staff | PSY

Hayden, Julie	MA in Sport & Performance Psych
Kimball, Grayson	MS in Sport Psychology
Levin, Madia	Psychology
MacDonald, Pamelyn	MS in Child and Adolescent Development Psychology
McNamara, Patrick	Psychology
Mock, Matthew	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Rasbury, Robbin	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Rieder, Sherry	MS in Health Psychology
Rodriguez, Maria	Associate Director of Faculty Support and Development
Smith, Donna	Psychology
Streit, Mary	MA in Psychology
Teeter, Lisa	MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Tomlinson, Victoria	MA in Sport & Performance Psychology
Trevathan-Minnis, Melissa	Psychology
Peter Van Oot	Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Verace, Daimon	Psychology
Wernsman, Jamie	Psychology
Wright, Lindsay	MS in Forensic Psychology

Social & Behavioral Sciences

White, Mark	Department Chair Marriage & Family Therapy
Tilley, Brian	Department Chair Counseling Psychology & Social Work

Full-Time Faculty & Staff | SBS

Adamson, Darren	Marriage & Family Therapy
Archer-Jones, Sally	Master of Social Work
Arias Shah, Melissa	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Banks, Elizabeth	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Barden, Jane	Bachelor of Social Work
Bellin, Zvi	MA in Counseling Psychology
Cannon, Judith	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Costello, Julie	Marriage & Family Therapy
Crooms, Tia	Marriage & Family Therapy
Fix, Lauren	Marriage & Family Therapy
Garner, Darron	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Glass, Valerie	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Gold, Joshua	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Hoerber, Gary	MA in Counseling Psychology

Full-Time Faculty | SBS

Holt, Debora	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Hudson, Robyn	MSW
Jenkins, Paul	MA in Counseling Psychology
Kaminker, Jacob	MA in Counseling Psychology
Kelledy-Jamieson, Lisa	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Klock-Powell, Kathryn	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Knerr, Michael	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Kraus, Vanieca	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Oliver, Tracy	MA Marriage & Family Therapy
Parker, Jan	MA in Counseling Psychology
Perera, Siva	Associate Director of Faculty Support and Development
Perry, Ron	MA in Counseling Psychology
Posson, Donald	MA in Counseling Psychology
Postanowicz, Patricia	MAMFT Foundations
Purcell, Mark	MA in Counseling Psychology
Radu, Valerie	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Schmittel-Seagrave, Emily	MFT Doctoral Programs Clinical Training
Servino, David	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Signs, Tara	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Smith, Craig	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Smith-Marek, Erika	Marriage & Family Therapy
Speicher, Krista	MFT Doctoral Programs
Todd, Jennifer	MSW
Tsuji-Lyons, Anney	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Veldorale-Griffin, Amanda	Social & Behavioral Sciences
Washinton, Demaris	MA in Counseling Psychology
Williams, Susan	MA in Counseling Psychology
Wilson, Jenna	MFT Clinical Training
Wilson, Monica	MA in Counseling Psychology

JFKSOPSS

Administration



Dr. Alvin McLean

Dean of the JFK School of Psychology & Social Sciences
amclean@nu.edu

"The best way to serve yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

Education

- Post Doctoral Fellowship-
Neuropsychology
University of Washington
School of Medicine
- PhD
University of Wisconsin
- BA
University of Kansas

Biography

Alvin McLean, Jr., Ph.D. received his doctorate in Psychophysiology and Clinical Psychology the University of Wisconsin and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. McLean was on the faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine for 7 years where he conducted research in the neuropsychological and psychosocial recovery of persons with brain and spinal cord injury. He also conducted neuropharmacological research on the use of cholinergic agonists to treat memory problems after brain injury. His interest in the treatment of catastrophic injury and disease led him to leave academia and help develop the company Paradigm Health Corporation, where he served as Senior Vice President for Product Development for 20 years. After retiring from corporate healthcare, he joined the faculty of National University System where he now serves as Dean of the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences.



Dr. Asha Barber Sutton

Department Chair | Professor
asutton@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

Marriage & Family Therapy

“Trust the process.”

Education

- PhD
2011 – Human Development and Family Studies: Specialization in Couple and Family Therapy, Michigan State University
- MA
2007 – Marriage and Family Therapy, Michigan State University
- BA
2005 – Sociology, Hampton University

Biography

Asha B. Sutton, PhD, LMFT, is an experienced professor specializing in distance-based teaching and training of MFT students and graduates. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist in the states of Illinois and Michigan, as well as an American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Approved Supervisor. In her role as the Program Director of the Masters of Arts Program in Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT), Dr. Sutton oversaw the education of over 1,500 marriage and family therapists worldwide. As the current Chair of the Department of Marriage and Family Sciences, she provides administrative support to program administrators, staff, and students enrolled in masters and doctoral marriage and family therapy programs. Dr. Sutton has served on the Elections Council for AAMFT and currently serves on AAMFT’s Ethics Committee. She approaches her work using a cultural informed framework and has developed an educational cultural framework model for matriculation through the COAMFTE-accredited MAMFT Program at National University. It is through her work that Dr. Sutton seeks to conceptualize and analyze contemporary challenges in a manner that acknowledges, advances, and incorporates concepts of diversity, social justice, racial equity, and belonging.



Dr. Bettina Shapira

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
bshapira@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- Ph.D. Professional Counseling
- MS Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling
- MA in Early Childhood Education

Biography

Dr. Bettina Shapira is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences. Prior to being named Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Shapira was the Chair of the Department of Psychology.

Dr. Shapira has over seventeen years of teaching and research experience. Her main scholarly interests relate to diagnosing and to treating elimination disorders and best practices in teaching psychology. The focus of her research in teaching in psychology, focuses on two areas: creating a sense of presence teaching in an online environment and best practices in supporting dissertating students.

She has authored or co-authored several peer-reviewed articles or book chapters and she has more than 25 presentations and invited lectures and several entries in The Sage Encyclopedia of Abnormal and Clinical Psychology. In her free time, she plays pickle ball, enjoys traveling, and skiing.

Dr. Shapira earned her Ph.D. in Professional Counseling from Capella University. In addition, Dr. Shapira earned a Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education, from Northern Arizona University, a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling from Capella University, and her Undergraduate Degree is from the Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel in Germany.



Dr. Peter Bradley

Dean of Students
pbradley@nu.edu



Mr. Tim Ford

Associate Dean of Professional Training & Academic
Operations
tford@nu.edu

Education

- MA in Counseling Psychology
- BA in Counseling Psychology

Biography

Timothy Ford is Associate Dean of Professional Training and Academic Operations of the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences. Mr. Ford received both his bachelor's degree and master's in counseling psychology at National University and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT). He has over 25 years of experience in managerial and executive leadership roles in the private sector at companies including FedEx and Yahoo, as well as within the mental health field. Mr. Ford joined John F. Kennedy University (JFKU) as Director of Clinical Operations for JFKU's Community Counseling Centers in 2017 and was the Director of Clinical Training for the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program from 2018-2020. With the closure of JFKU at the end of 2020, Mr. Ford transitioned to National University, serving as Executive Director of the JFK School of Psychology until assuming the role of Associate Dean for the expanded JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences in 2022. Prior to joining the university, Mr. Ford was the clinical program director for residential treatment centers and Medi-Cal funded school-based mental health programs in the Bay Area, as well as a therapist in private practice since 2009. As a clinical supervisor for over a decade, Mr. Ford is passionate about training and developing new therapists to meet the demands of the continuously changing mental health profession, especially for historically underserved populations.



Dr. Brandon Lyons

Director of Academic Operations
blyons@nu.edu

“The best growth comes from being uncomfortable.”

Education

- BS in Psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan University
- MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Northcentral University

Biography

Brandon Lyons is the Director of Academic Operations in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences at National University as well as a part-time faculty member. Brandon earned his doctoral degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Northcentral University. He has over a decade of experience in higher education through traditional and distance-based learning environments holding various roles in operations and teaching. In applying his educational background to his work in higher education, he works with each student, situation, and project through a holistic lens that is inclusive of internal and external contextual factors. He enjoys spending his free time with his family, playing and watching soccer, and traveling whenever he gets a chance.



Dr. Elaine Willerton

Director of Assessment and Accreditation | Professor
ewillerton@nu.edu

Education

- PhD, LMFT
- PhD, Purdue University
- MS, Texas Tech University
- BS, Abilene Christian University

Biography

Elaine Willerton is a systemic thinker and a collaborative problem solver. Her day to day work involves program assessment and tending to the accreditation needs of the school. She finds passion in discovering creative solutions to enhance student learning experiences and innovations in online teaching to improve outcomes. Dr. Willerton is a Full Professor in the doctoral Marriage and Family Therapy programs, serving as a chair and committee member on numerous dissertation committees.

Dr. Willerton studied Medical Family Therapy and completed her doctoral fellowship in Collaborative Family Healthcare at the Chicago Center for Family Health. She would go on to study Primary Care Behavioral Health with the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Her clinical specialties involve families and health and play therapy. She spent 10 years working on various research studies at the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University and collected data from service members, veterans and their families by traveling to military bases around the world as well as meeting with participants in their homes all over the state of Indiana. Dr. Willerton enjoys thrifting, traveling with her family and spending time with close friends.



Dr. Cassandra Lettenberger-Klein

Senior Director of Clinical Training

clettenbergerklein@nu.edu

Education

- PhD - Florida State University
- MS - Purdue University
- BS - Baldwin Wallace University

Biography

Dr. Cassandra Lettenberger-Klein (Dr. LK) is the Senior Director of Clinical Training in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences and oversees the Office of Professional Training. Dr. LK received her master's degree in marriage and family therapy (MFT) from Purdue University and her doctorate degree in MFT from Florida State University. Prior to working as the Senior Director of Clinical Training, Dr. LK was the Director of MFT Clinical Training at Northcentral University. Dr. LK has held various roles in academia since 2010, including faculty, supervisor, and director. She currently works with dissertation students within the MFT doctoral programs. She is passionate about empowering students to understand and direct their educational experience so that they have the skills needed to achieve their professional goals.



Dr. Yulia Watters

Director of Curriculum

ywatters@nu.edu

"There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. This is how civilizations heal. I know the world is bruised and bleeding, and though it's important to not ignore its pain, it's also crucial to refuse to succumb to its malevolence. Like failure, chaos contains information that can lead to knowledge - even wisdom. Like art." - Toni Morrison

Education

- 2021 MS in Instructional Design, Northcentral University;
- 2011 PhD, Nova Southeastern University; Marriage and Family Therapy
- 2011 Graduate Certificate, Nova Southeastern University; Family Systems Healthcare
- 2007 MS, Nova Southeastern University; Marriage and Family Therapy
- 2003 BS, Geneva State University (Switzerland); Psychology
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, (MT 2414), State of Florida (2010) & State of Delaware (2010)
- Clinical Member (115227), American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor (115227),

Biography

In the past 10 years and presently, Dr. Yulia Watters serves as a Director of Curriculum Development first at Northcentral University and now at the JFK School of Psychology and Social and Behavioral Sciences at National University. Dr. Watters holds a master's and a doctoral degree in Family Therapy from Nova Southeastern University with a specialization in Medical Family Therapy and master's degree In Instructional Design from Northcentral University. Dr. Watters is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Delaware and Florida and has a private practice providing therapy in English, French, and Russian to first generation immigrants and multicultural couples.

Dr. Watters published extensively in the Journal of Family Psychotherapy, SAGE Research Methods Cases, Annals of Behavioral Science and Medical Education, and International Journal of Transgenderism. Her first book, Hypnobirth: Theories and practices for healthcare providers was published by Rowman and Littlefield. Her co-edited volume with Dr. Darren Adamson, Foundational concepts and models of Family Therapy: An Introduction for online learning was published by Routledge in 2023. Dr. Watters is also a

- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Board Certified TeleMental Health Provider (1048), Center for Credentialing and Education (NC)

renowned speaker, and presented at the AAMFT Systemic Conference, AAMFT Leadership Institute, as well International Family Therapy Congress in Portugal and Thailand.

Dr. Watters is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor and actively engaged in training the new generation of MFTs by teaching clinical courses at National University in the Department of Marriage and Family Therapy. She is an AAMFT Clinical Member and served as a COAMFTE Commissionaire during the pandemic of COVID-19.

Dr. Watters is also actively engaged in research. Her last contribution was on the AAMFT awarded grant aimed to explore the impact of telehealth on family therapy. Dr. Watters also served as a Research Coordinator at the Duke Cancer Patient Support program at Duke Health Care Systems and investigated faculty efficiency in a one-to-one online teaching model applied to MFT training.



Dr. Aurelia Bickler

Director of the Whole Person Center
abickler@nu.edu

**"You can be both a masterpiece and a work in progress at the same time." -
Sophia Bush**

Education

- PhD,
- LMFT
- AAMFT & FL State
Approved Supervisor

Biography

Dr. Aurélia Bickler is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an AAMFT and State Approved Supervisor. Being born and raised in Paris, France, Aurélia is fluent in French, English and conversational in Spanish and Hebrew. She received her Master (2007) and Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy (2013) from Nova Southeastern University and has been a certified hypnotherapist since 2005.

Aurélia began her career as an intern for S.U.P.E.R.B. (Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve Bullying) where she eventually became the organization's Executive Director. Bickler taught and supervised as an adjunct Professor for Nova Southeastern University and as a Full Time Professor for National University. In 2011, Aurélia established her private practice, Changing Forward, LLC and ultimately expanded to a multidisciplinary Family Center where clinicians, attorneys, yoga teachers and nutrition coaches have worked collaboratively to help their clients reach their desired outcomes. In November 2021, Aurélia began her role as the Inaugural Director for the Whole Person Center and is looking forward to bringing exciting opportunities, services and adventures to the community.

In her free time, Aurélia plays the piano and sings. She enjoys traveling, puzzles, and art; especially made by her talented husband, Marcus. Together, they have 3 children, a dog named Toulouse and a bird named Gatsby.



Ms. Tiffany Cruncleton

Senior Project Manager
tcruncleton@nu.edu

“In this world in which we live simplicity and kindness are the only magic wands that work wonders” — L. Frank Baum, The Emerald City of Oz

Education

- MEd (Specialization: Leadership in Higher Education)
National University
– In progress
- Master of Information Science
San Jose State University
- Bachelor of Business Administration
University of Oklahoma
- CAPM

Biography

My first career goal was to be the Royal Historian of Oz. I did eventually publish a novel about a girl on a journey, but my personal yellow brick road took me from Oklahoma to New York City. When I attended my first meetings in a skyscraper on Park Avenue, I thought to myself, "Wow, this is just like the movies!" Then the rest of the meetings followed, and I realized that no matter where they are people really are just people, facing the same kinds of challenges, decisions, and opportunities. Turns out, I'm really good at helping people navigate those things.

My unique background and decades in programming, business/data analysis, project management, marketing, writing, and volunteer work, not to mention raising kids and navigating the school system and programs in San Francisco, had given me a mix of technical proficiency, deep research skills, expressive and informative writing and communication, and a love of managing - if I may be a bit playful - ALL THE THINGS. Chaos control is my superpower.



Ms. Janine DuBach

Manager of Dean Support
jdubach@nu.edu

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'" – Audrey Hepburn

Education

- MBA - Northcentral University
- BBA - Northcentral University

Biography

Janine DuBach MBA graduated from Northcentral University with her MBA and bachelor's degrees with specializations in Homeland Security. Her extensive experience includes working in both aerospace and educational industries for over 30 years. Janine has deep experience with providing administrative support to all levels of an organization, and has unparalleled skills with working in databases, electronic forms, and process improvement. She currently works as the Manager of Dean Support for JFKSOPSS. Janine is an experienced and professional department manager with strong organization, software, and customer-service focused skills. She is a strategic and process-oriented problem-solver who skillfully implements solutions to ensure customer satisfaction. Janine is comfortable communicating with various departments and with all levels across the organization.

In her spare time, Janine enjoys trips with her husband, decorating, long walks, classical movies (especially with her favorite actress, Audrey Hepburn), and playing with her dog.

Psychology

Department



Dr. Michelle Ackerman

Academic Program Director | Professor
mackerman@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (PhD-PSY)

“The secret in education lies in respecting the student.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Education

- PhD in lifespan developmental psychology
- Graduate certificate in gerontology
- MA in lifespan developmental psychology
- BA psychology

Biography

Michelle L. Ackerman, Ph.D., received her doctorate in lifespan developmental psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She completed a graduate certificate in Gerontology from UAB to support her focus in adult development and aging. She also received her Dr. Ackerman has over fifteen years of teaching and research experience and is Professor and Program Director for the Psychology Doctoral program at National University. Her main scholarly interests relate to the psychology of aging, including cognitive functioning, higher education, and applied everyday outcomes, such as mobility and driving. She has authored or co-authored 17 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters and more than 30 presentations and invited lectures. Dr. Ackerman is a strong advocate for widespread accessibility and inclusivity of higher education. In her free time, she loves to read, and (according to her kindle) currently owns over 4,000 electronic texts.



Dr. Doug Barba

Academic Program Director | Professor
dbarba@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
BA & MA in Sport and Performance Psychology

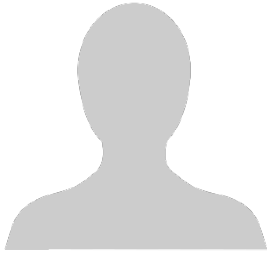
Education

- Ph.D. University of Florida
- MA United States International University
- BA United States International University

Biography

Doug Barba, Ph.D., CMPC, is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences at National University. Dr. Barba serves as the Co-director of the MA in Sport and Performance Psychology program and the Director of the BA in Sport Psychology program at National University. Dr. Barba is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC) through the Association of Applied Sport Psychology (AASP) and has been working with individuals and teams in a variety of different sports for over 20 years. He holds a doctoral degree in sport and exercise psychology from the University of Florida and a master's from the School of Human Behavior at the United States International University.

Previously, Dr. Barba served 12 years as an adjunct faculty member at San Diego State University, lecturing in the School of Exercise & Nutritional Sciences and as a sport psychology consultant for several of the university's intercollegiate athletic teams. Dr. Barba has consulted with a wide range of athletes from both the amateur and professional ranks. Before his collegiate academic career, he played professional baseball. He has coached at several levels of competition, including college baseball and golf. While at the University of Florida, Dr. Barba served as a sport psychology consultant for the Gators' athletic department. Dr. Barba's academic interests include motivation, mediating factors affecting performance, and youth sport participation and health.



Dr. Mary Blackwell

Professor
mblackwell@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY



Dr. Charles Burack

Professor
cburack@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
**MA in Consciousness, Psychology, and
Transformation**

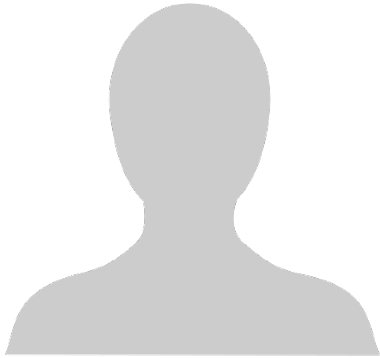
Education

- PhD, University of California, Berkeley
- MA, Northwestern University
- MA, University of Chicago
- BA, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Biography

Charles Burack, Ph.D., is an award-winning teacher, scholar, poet, and essayist as well as a spiritual counselor, life/work coach, and organization consultant. A professor of consciousness and transformative studies at National University, he specializes in integrative approaches to spirituality, psychology, professional development, and the creative and contemplative arts. He is author of four books and numerous articles, stories, poems, prayers, and meditations. His most recent book is *Matthew Fox: Essential Writings on Creation Spirituality* (Orbis, 2022), which won a 2023 Nautilus Book Award for social and environmental justice. A former rabbinical student, Burack is a pioneer in interreligious education, counseling, and arts.

Prior to joining NU, Burack taught at John F. Kenney University, UC Berkeley, St. Mary's College, Naropa U., Cal State Hayward, and Chabot College. He also worked as a human resource specialist, strategic planner, and communications consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and as a research assistant at the University of Chicago Medical Center and at the University of Illinois Center for Research in Criminal Justice. His website is www.charlesburack.com.



Dr. Sarah Carroll

Associate Academic Program Director | Professor
scarroll2@nu.edu

Department

PSYCHOLOGY

Program

Doctor of Clinical Psychology

"Play is the highest form of research." ~ Albert Einstein

Education

- PhD - The Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA
- MA - The Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA
- BS - Duke University, Durham, NC

Biography

Sarah Carroll, PhD, is the Associate Program Director and Research Co-Director for the PsyD Program. She currently teaches clinical case conferences and a course on clinical supervision, and has previously taught psychometrics, quantitative research methods, and statistics. Prior to becoming a psychologist, she worked as a computer programmer and data analyst.

Dr. Carroll has a small private psychotherapy practice in Oakland, and has supervised practicum students in community mental health settings. Her research interests include gender identity, supervision, and how the internet shapes our online and offline lives. She loves psychodynamic theory and stans the Oxford comma.



Dr. Craig Chalquist

Academic Program Director | Associate Professor
cchalquist@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
**MA in Consciousness, Psychology, and
Transformation**

“In dreaming together, we change reality.”

Education

- PhD in Depth Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute
- MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from CalLutheran University
- BA in Psychology from CalLutheran University
- Sustainable Landscaping Certificate from University of California
- Permaculture Design Certificate from Common Circle
- Certificate in Hindu Scriptures from Harvard U
- Certificate in Greek Mythology from Oxford U

Biography

Craig Chalquist, PhD, is Academic Program Director of the MA in Consciousness, Psychology, and Transformation at National University. A former associate provost and department chair, he is a corporate consultant, presenter, and author of books at the intersection of psyche, place, story, and myth. He designed and launched the first certificate in ecotherapy anywhere and co-edited with Linda Buzzell the volume *Ecotherapy: Healing with Earth in Mind*. His book *Terrapsychological Inquiry* (2nd ed.) has been translated into Mandarin. Visit his website at Chalquist.com.



Dr. Sharon Christensen

Director of Clinical Training
schristensen@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Education

- PhD

Biography

Dr. Sharon Christensen is Director of Clinical Training for the PsyD Program and the lead faculty for the Correctional/Forensic Concentration. She teaches the Integrated Professional Seminar course focused on developing students' clinical proficiency and professional development skills. She brings 20 years of experience as a clinician working with diverse, underserved populations. Her culturally informed clinical style helps her provide effective psychological services across populations in order to meet the diverse needs of the community. As Director of Clinical Training, Dr. Christensen actively mentors students from a developmental trajectory perspective meeting with students one-on-one to provide individualized support throughout the student's clinical development as they matriculate through the program. Dr. Christensen is focused on meeting students where they are and providing them the support and clinical experience needed to reach their career goals in the field of Health Psychology.



Dr. Jamie Franco

Associate Professor
jfrancozamudio@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology

"Collaboration, creativity, and respect build life-long connections that matter and make a difference, propelling us to work together across all boundaries." - Diane Luna

Education

- PhD, Social Psychology (2009) University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)
- MS, Social Psychology (2003) University of California, Santa Cruz
- BA, Psychology (2001) The Ohio State University

Biography

Dr. Franco earned her Bachelor's from The Ohio State University and her Master's and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She is an Associate Professor in the JFKSOPSS PsyD program and Co-Chair of the JFKSOPSS Research and Grant Committee. Dr. Franco is dedicated to teaching for social justice, developing course content intended to nurture students' sense of responsibility and encourage advocacy.

She has received awards for her teaching and service, including the Innovative Teaching Award from APA Division 9, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), and the Excellence in Teaching Award from National University. Dr. Franco is currently the Council Member Representative to the Executive Committee for SPSSI and is a Senior Ford Fellow and SPSSI Fellow.



Dr. Michael Gerson

Associate Professor
mgerson@nu.edu

Department

PSYCHOLOGY

Program

MA in Sport & Performance Psychology



Dr. Joel B. Goodin

Associate Professor
jgoodin@nu.edu

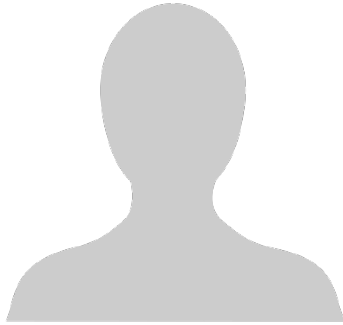
Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD, Educational Psychology in Assessment and Cognition
Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL 05/2013
- MED, Counseling and Human Systems (EdS)
Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL 05/2006
- MS, Counseling and Human Systems
Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL 05/2006
- BA, Psychology
University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville, 05/2001

Biography

I grew up around rural health providers and later gained degrees and training in psychology, social psychology, mental health counseling, research methodology, program evaluation, statistics, instruction, organizational leadership and educational psychology. I have specialized in cognition, emotion, stress, and performance, and have expertise in the study of elite performers and learners (expertise), at-risk populations, and doctoral training and excellence.



Dr. Kalana Greer

Associate Professor
kgreer@nu.edu

Department

PSYCHOLOGY

Program

Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Education

- PsyD (Doctor of Clinical Psychology); John F. Kennedy University
- BA, African American Studies, Psychology; University of California, Berkeley



Dr. Javier Guevara

Assistant Professor
jguevara@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Education

- PhD Degree Industrial Engineering and Management, 09/2011 Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- MS Degree, Industrial Engineering and Management, 03/2008 Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan
- BS Degree, Industrial Engineering and Management, 03/2004 San Francisco University, Ecuador

Biography

Dr. Javier Guevara serves as a professor and the Associate Research Director for the Doctor of Clinical Psychology - PsyD Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Psychology and Social Sciences at National University. Dr. Guevara earned his PhD and MS in Industrial Engineering and Management from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan, and his BS in Industrial Engineering from the San Francisco de Quito University in Ecuador. In his 10+ year career, Dr. Guevara's experience spans the Human-Factors field along with product and tool development, client-facing partnership management and negotiation, analytics and reporting, and extensive collaborations across academic, public, and private institutions.

His multicultural background brings contextually relevant insight to his role at National University. Teaching in the PsyD Program's research sequence and conducting the LatinX Support Circle, FamiliaFuerte, strengthens his commitment to culturally responsive mentorship, and intersects with his passion to inspire students to become agents of change within their communities. Dr. Guevara enjoys living, traveling, and learning in the transnational space in and between his three homes: Ecuador, Japan, and the United States.



Dr. Doug Haldeman

Academic Program Director | Professor
dhaldeman@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Education

- PhD
University of
Washington,
1984
- MA
Stanford
University,
1975
- BA
University of
Washington,
1973

Biography

Doug Haldeman is a licensed psychologist and Academic Program Director of the doctoral program in clinical psychology (PsyD) in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences at National University, with a campus in Pleasant Hill, CA. He has a background of 30 years in private practice, during which time he served as an adjunct professor at the University of Washington and a regional evaluator for the Federal Aviation Administration. Haldeman has served a variety of capacities in the American Psychological Association for the past 25 years, including a term on the APA Board of Directors, numerous APA Boards and Committees, and on APA's Council Leadership Team. An APA Fellow of 12 divisions, his lengthy record of scholarly publication encompasses the competent and ethical treatment of LGBT and other marginalized groups, the relationship between politics, culture, mental health, and linguistic diversities.

He has lectured on these and other topics all over the world, as well as several guest appearances on the "Today" show and "Good Morning America." Haldeman is a past president of the California Psychological Association and worked extensively with other mental health organizations and the California legislature on the passage of the nation's first law banning the use of conversion therapy with minors. He was a member of the APA Insurance Trust's Board of Trustees from 2009 to 2019, and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the board of Rainbow Street, an international LGBT relief organization, and is a member of the Board of the American Psychological Foundation. He speaks four languages and annually engages in humanitarian relief work with refugees in Sweden. Haldeman's book, *The Case Against Conversion Therapy*, was published by APA in January 2022.



Ms. Julie Hayden

Director of Applied Training | Professor
jhayden@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
MA in Sport & Performance Psychology

Education

- MA Sport Psychology
John F. Kennedy University
- BS Psychology
Michigan State University

Biography

Julie Hayden, MA, CMPC is the Director of Applied Training for the MA in Sport & Performance Psychology program. Ms. Hayden earned her MA in sport psychology from formerly JFKU in 2017 and her BS in psychology from Michigan State University. Ms. Hayden is driven to provide a rewarding and challenging mentored applied training experience for student-interns within this program, offering an unparalleled supportive and immersive experience. She is extremely proud to be part of this fun and hard-working team. Ms. Hayden also teaches for the MA in Sport & Performance Psychology program, specializing in applied training preparation and execution of mental performance techniques. Ms. Hayden's passion in the sport and performance psychology field lies within enhancing sport and performance culture to promote healthy and safe motivational climates where athletes and performers are empowered to become the best versions of themselves, with a particular focus in gymnastics as well as support for underrepresented populations as a centerpiece of her private practice.



Dr. Grayson Kimball

Program Coordinator | Associate Professor
gkimball@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
MS in Sport Psychology

Education

- Doctorate of Physical Education (Sport Psychology concentration) - Springfield College
- Masters of Science in Physical Education (Sport Psychology concentration) - Springfield College
- Bachelor of Arts in Communication - University of Hartford

Biography

Dr. Grayson Kimball is a Mental Performance Coach in Boston, MA, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for the Masters in Science Sport Psychology program at National University, and is an experienced practitioner/non-certified mentor with the Association of Applied Sport Psychology. For over 20 years, he has been providing mental performance training sessions for athletes and high-performance business executives.

An avid runner, Grayson has completed 8 marathons, 17 half-marathons, coached for and provided mental conditioning workshops for numerous charity running groups and is the author of the book Grateful Running: Mental Training for the Long Distance Runner.



Dr. Madia Levin

Associate Professor
mackerman@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandela

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Psychology 2009 - University of Pretoria
- Master of Commerce in Industrial/Organizational Psychology 2002 - University of Stellenbosch

Biography

Madia Levin, PhD, MCom, graduated from the University of Pretoria with a post-graduate degree in Organizational Psychology and conducted her doctoral research into the organizational psychodynamics that influence the strategic management of World Heritage sites. Dr. Levin has experience teaching and consulting in Organizational Behavior, Systems Thinking, I/O and General Psychology, and International Psychology. She currently works as a professor of psychology in the JFK School of Social Sciences at National University. Dr. Levin’s core research interests remain in organizational psychology and her current focus includes understanding how organization members construct or make sense of their reality as a social defense against anxiety, and how organizational psychology dynamics interact with behaviors. In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling, and puzzles.



Dr. Pamelyn MacDonald

Academic Program Director | Professor
pmacdonald@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
**MS in Child and Adolescent Developmental
Psychology**

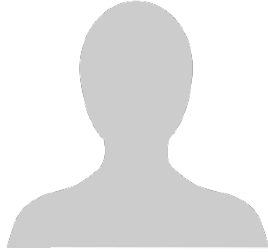
Education

- PhD 1998, University of Houston, Developmental Psychology.
- MA 1992, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Experimental Psychology
- BA 1991, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Psychology

Biography

Dr. Pam MacDonald joined National University (previously Northcentral University) as a full-time faculty member in 2017 after teaching face-to-face and online for over 20 years. Dr. MacDonald is the Academic Program Director for the Child and Adolescent Developmental (CAD) psychology MS program and also the CAD Psych Internship coordinator. Just prior to the merger, Dr. MacDonald served as a Faculty Laureate, co-chair of the SSBS diversity committee and a member of NCU's University wide diversity committee and Inclusive Excellence Council.

Dr. MacDonald has served as the assistant director of curriculum development for psychology, as interim program director for the BA Psychology program, and as a reviewer for the IRB (and as Chair of the IRB at another University). She is currently a member of several committees at NU. Dr. MacDonald specializes in program evaluation research for at-risk children and adolescents, including animal-assisted learning and therapy programs. Dr. MacDonald lives in California and enjoys cycling, hiking, and watching her daughters play soccer.

**Dr. Patrick McNamara**

Professor

pmcnamara@nu.edu

Department

PSYCHOLOGY**Education**

- PhD Human Neuropsychology
- Masters Pastoral Theology
- BA Psychology

Biography

Dr. McNamara is Professor of Psychology at National University, and has for the past 20 years been appointed Research Associate Professor of Neurology at Boston University. He is the author of "The Neuroscience of Religious Cognition" (Cambridge University Press, 2022; and "The Neuroscience of sleep and dreams" (Cambridge U Press 2022) as well as numerous publications on the neurology and psychology of religion and numerous publications on sleep and dreams. He is a founding editor of Religion Brain and Behavior the flagship journal for the emerging field of neuroscience of religion. He is a co-founder (along with Professor Wesley Wildman) of the Institute for the Biocultural Study of Religion –a non-profit research institute dedicated to the study of the neurologic and evolutionary correlates of religious beliefs, behaviors and practices. He is a past recipient of grant awards on the "Neurology of religious cognition" and awardee for 3 separate NIH grants in the last 15 years (NIDCD: Pragmatic Language Skills in Patients with Parkinson's Disease, Grant Number: 1R01DC007956-01A3; REM/NREM Processing Specializations, Grant Number: 1R21MH076916-01A2; NIMH: Phylogeny of Sleep, Grant Number: 5R01MH070415-01) in three different fields. All three projects involved several domestic and international research groups thus requiring multiple complex, subaward arrangements and agreements and ongoing complex administrative tasks over several years. He has also been a merit Review Award Recipient in the VA Medical System for the large project: "Catecholaminergic contributions to cognitive and affective function in Parkinson's Disease".

**Dr. Matthew Mock**

Professor
mmock@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD)

Education

- PhD - California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP), Berkeley, CA
- MA - California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP), Berkeley, CA
- BA - Brown University, Providence, RI

Biography

Dr. Matthew R. Mock is Professor of Psychology with the JFK School of Psychology of National University in Pleasant Hill, California. He has had a longstanding private clinical and consulting practice with a specialty in diversity, cultural competence and social justice. Dr Mock received his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Brown University and his Doctorate and Master's degrees in clinical and consulting psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP). He served as the statewide Director of the Center for Multicultural Development with the California Institute for Mental Health in Sacramento, California. Just prior to this, he was Director of the Family, Youth, Children's and Multicultural Services for the City of Berkeley Mental Health Division where he was practicing for over 20 years. He was also Director and lead faculty of the Cross Cultural Program at John F. Kennedy University focusing on diverse children and families.

As an Adjunct Faculty with the California School of Professional Psychology, he taught an award-winning course teaching on socio-cultural and psychotherapeutic perspectives with Asian-Pacific Americans. He has published and presented extensively in the areas of multiculturalism, diverse families, trauma, diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. (continued on next page)

Dr. Mock has worked with numerous universities and colleges extensively providing psychotherapy, consultation and training on multiculturalism, clinical interventions with diverse families and children, immigration, treatment of trauma, interracial relationships and biracial identity. He has given dynamic, invited presentations locally, nationally and internationally to community groups, universities, at conferences and on multimedia. His workshops and trainings consistently received the highest ratings by participants.

Dr. Mock is the recipient of numerous awards including the 1994 Cultural and Economic Diversity Award by the American Family Therapy Academy; the 2000 DMH Cultural Competence Leader Award (California); and 2011 CAMFT Distinguished Clinical Member Award. In 2019, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Contributions Award from the national Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA). He is third generation Chinese American and highly committed to diversity, social justice, equity, cultural competence and community issues.



Dr. Mindi Mull

Department Chair | Professor
mmull@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD 1998, University of Houston, Developmental Psychology.
- MA 1992, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Experimental Psychology
- BA 1991, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Psychology



Dr. Robbin Rasbury

Professor | PsyD Admission Chair
rrasbury@nu.edu

Department

Program

PSYCHOLOGY | Doctor of Clinical Psychology

Education

PsyD in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in Multi-Cultural Community Psychology

Biography

Dr. Robbin Rasbury is a Professor and PsyD Admission Chair, at JFK School of Psychology PsyD Program at National University. Dr. Rasbury earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with an emphasis in Multi-cultural Community Psychology, from the California School of Professional Psychology. Her undergraduate degree is in Child Development, from California State University, Los Angeles. Dr. Rasbury has over thirteen years of teaching experience and was the MFT Chair of John F. Kennedy University for three years. Dr. Rasbury serves on University governance, as Co-Chair of the School Advisory Council at National University, and Social Justice and Allyship Committee member. Additionally, Dr. Rasbury was chosen to serve on the Inaugural National University S-JEDI council for two years. In addition, Dr. Rasbury has a passion for mentoring students. She also created a monthly support and empowerment group for students of color.

Dr. Rasbury has experience working in a variety of settings that have included outpatient and in-patient hospitals, and community mental health clinics that served youth, families, and women with trauma-related histories. She supervised the Multidimensional Foster Care program for high-risk youth, in the Bay Area. Additionally, Dr. Rasbury has experience at Benioff Children's Hospital with children, 0-5 years old who were in foster care. Dr. Rasbury conducted qualitative research on An Evaluation of a Transracial Adoption Workshop for White Adults planning to adopt African American or Hispanic Children.

Currently, Dr. Rasbury serves as a council member on the APA Division 35, Society of Women in Psychology, Racial Justice, and Social Policy committee. In 2020, Dr. Rasbury was a graduate of the APA Leaders in Women of Psychology program. Dr. Rasbury also presents at local and national conferences and conducts training at local organizations on diversity issues affected underserved populations. In her spare time, Dr. Rasbury enjoys traveling domestically and internationally, playing pickleball, hiking, and cooking.



Dr. Sherry Rieder

Academic Program Director | Associate Professor
srieder@nu.edu

Department Program

PSYCHOLOGY

Program
MS in Health Psychology

Education

- PhD University of Illinois at Chicago
- MS University of Illinois at Chicago
- BS University of Wisconsin-Madison

Biography

Dr. Rieder earned a BS in Psychology with Honors and Distinction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She went on to earn a MS and a PhD, both in Clinical Psychology with Health Psychology specialization, from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Rieder completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Medical University of South Carolina and has been licensed as a Clinical Psychologist in South Carolina from 2004 to the present. Dr. Rieder's clinical work has specialized in health psychology treatments, including the management of chronic illness, bariatric surgery, and weight management. She also specializes in psychological assessment and has conducted psychological evaluations for the South Carolina Disability Determination Services.



Dr. Maria Antonia Rodriguez

Associate Director of Faculty Support and
Development
mrodriguez3@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

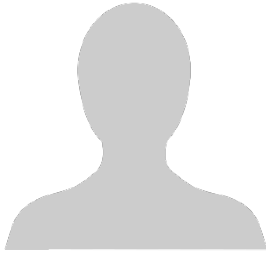
“Live every day like it's your last, be your best self, and avoid mediocrity.”

Education

- PhD in Clinical Health Psychology from Yeshiva University;
- MA in Clinical Psychology from Yeshiva University;
- BA in Psychology from Pace University

Biography

Dr. Maria Antonia Rodriguez is Associate Director of Faculty Support and Development in the department of Psychology at National University. She began working at Northcentral University in 2017 as a program lead for the MS in Health Psychology. She also co-leads the Hispanic/ Latinx and Women’s Leadership employment resource groups at NU. She is associate professor at the Catholic University in Peru and is licensed to practice as a psychologist in New York and Peru. She earned her PhD in Clinical Health Psychology from Yeshiva University and worked as a Health Science Specialist at the Department of Veterans Affairs for over eight years. She has published more than 15 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters. In 2020, she was awarded the APA Early Career Achievement Award and the NCU award for Outstanding Student Engagement Teaching Excellence in Full-time Faculty. Her research interests include designing and evaluating interventions to improve psychosocial outcomes in persons living with a chronic illness, cross cultural psychology, and women’s psychology. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, exercise, reading, and going on adventures with her family.

**Dr. Donna Smith**

Professor
dsmith5@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD - Nova Southeastern University
- MA - Centenary University
- BA - Hope College

Biography

Dr. Smith began teaching at NCU in the Ombuds Program in 2016 and transitioned to a full-time faculty role in 2021. She earned her PhD from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL and has served as a faculty member and graduate program administrator at various higher education institutions. At NU, she teaches research courses and those related to trauma.

She has worked with local first responders to educate them on the importance of understanding that trauma and disaster survivors exhibit a myriad of “normal” responses to these abnormal circumstances and that while addressing physical needs is important, mental health needs also need to be recognized.

Her research and conference presentations span many topics, such as, gender bias in combat roles, experiences of transgender individuals who transition in traditional organizations, the needs of LGBTQ adult learners, cultural conflict in the criminal justice system, challenges of re-entry for offenders with special needs, leading virtual teams, leading and socializing Millennials in multi-generational organizations, examining career trajectories of Black male educators in P-12 education, and bridging the gap between higher education and communities of practice.



Dr. Mary Streit

Academic Program Director | Professor
mstreit@nu.edu

Department

Program

PSYCHOLOGY | MA in Psychology

“Wisdom...comes not from age, but from education and learning.” — Anton Chekhov

Education

- PhD in Applied Research, Hofstra University December 1995
- Licensed NYS psychologist October 1998

Biography

Mary Streit, PhD earned her doctorate in Applied Psychology from Hofstra University, and her undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Stony Brook University. Currently, she is a full-time faculty member in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences where she serves as the Academic Program Director for the General Psychology degree. She also co-chairs the Research and Grants Committee and works with students as the faculty liaison for the Department of Psychology Student Advisory Council. Professor Streit has extensive expertise as a researcher, conducting program evaluation research, focus group and survey research, and numerous quantitative studies in varied settings. She has published and presented articles on subjects such as auditory integration training, facilitated communication, time-management, goal setting, social loafing/facilitation, using videos in online asynchronous classes, work-life balance, and most recently, boundary setting and the sustainability of remote employment over time. Professor Streit states that she is a teacher at heart, passionate about creating lively and engaging curriculum to stimulate learning and critical thinking. Dr. Streit is also a licensed psychologist in the state of NY where she conducts psychological evaluations, provides career counseling, and offers life coaching for individuals who struggle with work life balance, parenting, and other related issues. She is an active member of the American Psychological Association.



Dr. Lisa Teeter

Academic Program Director | Professor
lteeter@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
MS in Industrial/Organizational Psychology

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Purdue University, IN
- Master of Science, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Purdue University, IN

Biography

Dr. Teeter began teaching at NCU in 2015 as an adjunct professor and transitioned to full-time faculty in 2017. She earned her PhD and MS in Industrial/Organizational (I/O) Psychology from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Upon completing her PhD, she worked for several years in human resources consulting in the US and abroad where she focused on the assessment, selection, and development of employees across job types and industries. As a Research Consultant she focused on conducting and applying research to develop and validate pre-employment assessments. She also focused on employing technology in innovative ways to enhance selection and development programs as well as helping to diagnose and resolve performance issues, measure and enhance employee engagement, and study and promote effective networking practices.

Dr. Teeter teaches a wide range of courses in the Department of Psychology, and her favorites are Foundations in I/O Psychology, Tests and Measurements, Applied Statistics, Multivariate Statistics, and Work Motivation and Attitudes. In addition, Dr. Teeter is the internship coordinator for the I/O program, and she loves supporting students as they gain experience applying I/O principles and research in an organizational setting. Dr. Teeter's research interests span both Industrial and Organizational psychology content areas, including: job applicant reactions and candidate job choice decisions, recruitment, person-environment fit, organizational stress, work/family balance, emotions in the workplace, and employee well-being.



Dr. Victoria Tomlinson

Academic Program Director | Professor
vwengrzynek@nu.edu

Department

PSYCHOLOGY

Program

MA in Sport and Performance Psychology



Dr. Melissa Trevathan-Minnis

Professor

mtrevathanminnis@nu.edu

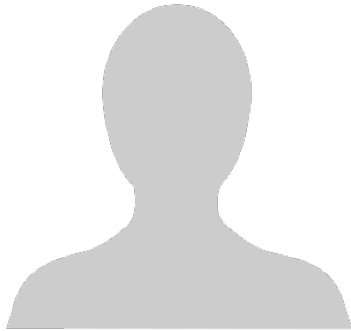
Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD Counseling Psychology
- Licensed Psychologist
- Certified Animal Assisted Therapist
- Certified Ketamine Assisted Therapist
- Gottman Level 2 Certified

Biography

Dr. Melissa Trevathan-Minnis is a licensed Psychologist in Austin, TX in addition to her work at National University where she chairs dissertation projects and is the lead faculty for the Gender and Sexual Fluidity specialization. Dr. Trevathan-Minnis holds specialization in cancer survivorship, human-animal interactions, gender and sexual orientation, trauma-informed care, and couples therapy. Dr. Trevathan-Minnis has published articles related to human-animal interactions and animal ethics and welfare and co-authored a book for young adult survivors of cancer in 2022. When not working, she spends time with her family and two kids, three rescue dogs, and rescue tortoise. Dr. Trevathan-Minnis also enjoys volunteering in animal rescue and foster programs, traveling, and spending time in nature.



Dr. Peter Van Oot

Professor
pvanoot@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD)

"It's not enough to know stuff, one has to understand it."

Education

- PhD Clinical Psychology, Penn State University, 1998
- MA Biopsychology, University of British Columbia, 1976
- BA Psychology, University of Delaware, 1973

Biography

Ph.D. in clinical psychology evolved into internship and post-doctoral training in Neuropsychology. Group practice for eight years followed by teaching for the past 30 years. Have been an active member of the National Academy of Neuropsychology for past 25 years serving on the Diversity committee, and a member of the International Neuropsychological Society and the Society for Behavioral Medicine. Close to retirement now with primary focus on teaching and maintaining the Psychological Assessment Clinic for the JFKSOPSS.



Dr. Daimon Verace

Professor
dverace@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD - Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center
- MA - George Fox University
- BA - Bushnell University

Biography

Daimon Verace, Ph.D., embodies a fusion of scholarly rigor, personal passions, and an unwavering dedication to advancing academic excellence in others. His esteemed trajectory in psychology and research spans the intricate domains of existential and humanistic psychology, art, mythology, and personal transformation, fortified by his roles in community initiatives, showcasing his multifaceted approach to the discipline. Central to his professional ethos, however, is an unyielding commitment to education and mentorship.

Deeply vested in the growth of emerging researchers, Dr. Verace teaches varied doctoral-level courses within the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences, and frequently chairs dissertations, guiding nascent scholars towards academic milestones. These endeavors serve to enrich and unlock profound insights into the variegated learning pathways of his students. Through continuous engagement with each student and their unique research pursuits, Dr. Verace hones a nuanced appreciation for the intricate tapestry of the educational journey, ensuring his pedagogical techniques remain both contemporary and adaptive.

Outside the realm of academia, Dr. Verace's pursuits are eclectic. From immersive travel experiences that explore the tapestries of global cultures to a diverse portfolio of written works, his personal narrative is expansive. A penchant for business development, nature expeditions, tattoo artistry, holistic wellness, and physical discipline further enrich his profile, encapsulating the essence of a scholar fervently engaged with the world.

Throughout his myriad endeavors, Dr. Verace's integrative methodology remains evident. Seamlessly blending a wealth of experiences with scholarly endeavors, he remains dedicated to fostering the growth and success of the ensuing academic generations with both precision and passion.



Dr. Jamie Wernsman

Associate Professor
jwernsman@nu.edu

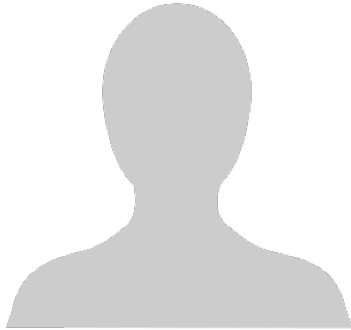
Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Education

- PhD DePaul University
- MA DePaul University
- BA University of Illinois at Chicago

Biography

Jamie Wernsman, PhD is a graduate of DePaul University's Clinical Psychology PhD program. She has a specialization in forensic psychology and completed her internship at Bellevue Hospital -New York University and her postdoctoral fellowship at the Cook County Jail. Upon completion of her fellowship, Dr. Wernsman became Director of the Male Psychiatric Acute Care Unit within the Cook County Jail. In her various professional roles, Dr. Wernsman has conducted forensic evaluations (competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, aid in sentencing, civil commitment/risk assessments), provided expert testimony in cases for individuals with mental illness and risk for violence, and developed and oversaw mental health treatment for inmates with serious psychiatric symptoms, including psychosis, suicidal ideation, and mania. Her primary research interests are the criminalization of mental illness, disproportionate minority contact, and LGBTQ+ individuals involved in the criminal justice system.



Dr. Lindsay Wright

Academic Program Director | Professor
lwright@nu.edu

Department
PSYCHOLOGY

Program
MS in Forensic Psychology

Education

- PsyD Clinical Psychology at Antioch University New England
- MS Clinical Psychology at Antioch University New England
- BA Psychology at State University of New York at Cortland

Biography

Dr. Wright is a clinical forensic psychologist, with experience in prisons, forensic hospitals, and in outpatient settings. While working in various prison systems, she completed psychological, neuropsychological, and forensic risk assessments, was a hostage negotiator, a crisis treatment program manager, and worked with long term high security committed inmates in different treatment modalities. Most recently, Dr. Wright has worked in an outpatient setting, completing diagnostic and risk assessments for adult and youth, focusing on sexual violence, violence, and threat assessment alongside her work at National University as the Academic Program Director and Internship Coordinator, where she has served in a leading capacity since 2016. In adjunct to this work, Dr. Wright is a member of ATAP and regularly attends trainings relative to threat, violence, and sexual violence, which are her areas of expertise. Outside of work, Dr. Wright is a long distance backpacker, ultra trail runner, and enjoys regular travel to less adventured places around with the world.

Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department



Dr. Darren Adamson

Professor
dadamson@nu.edu

Department
Social & Behavioral Sciences

"The more I know, the more I know I don't know." - Margaret Hoopes

Education

- PhD, Marriage and Family Therapy
Brigham Young University
- Master of Science, Marriage and Family Therapy
Brigham Young University
- Bachelor of Arts, Family Relations and Political Science
Weber State University

Biography

Dr. Adamson joined the Northcentral University in early 2010 as an part-time faculty member. While consistently teaching, Dr. Adamson has served as the Chair of the Department of Marriage and Family Sciences and as the Associate Dean for Social and Behavioral Sciences. This opportunity to impact the field of Marriage and Family Therapy through assisting with preparation of future MFT professionals is very exciting as our graduates make a difference in the lives of so many people. Dr. Adamson's clinical experience includes: serving as the Clinical Director for and outpatient mental health clinic and for a residential addictions treatment center and as an Employee Assistance professional. Dr. Adamson has maintained a private MFT practice since 1987. Other professional experience includes: Director of Academic Affairs, VP Campus Director, Campus President, CEO and co-owner of an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and health promotion company. Dr. Adamson has been a university professor since 1990, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in family relations, psychology and marriage and family therapy. These opportunities have lead to adventures in five western states (Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Montana and California). Of all these great professional experiences, teaching as a professor and working as a clinician are the most satisfying.



Dr. Sally Archer-Jones

Professor
sarcherjones@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program
MSW

“She thinks I’m too critical. That’s another fault of hers.” - Lucille Bluth

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA,
- Masters in Social Work, Department of Social Work, California State University Sacramento
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Indiana #34009603A

Biography

Sally M. Archer-Jones received her PhD in Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University in December 2005 and has been with National University since the inception of the Master of Social Work Program (MSW). Over the course of her academic career, she has had the opportunity to teach a variety of social work courses. Previously, Dr. Archer-Jones has worked as a researcher in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention examining the prevalence of developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders. Her clinical work includes counseling for children who have experienced trauma, crisis response, and psychiatric evaluations in an emergency room. She has a number of publications and presentations on health research and social work values and education.



Dr. Melissa Arias Shah

Professor
mariasshaw@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.
- Ph.D. in Family Therapy from Nova Southeastern University, Graduate School of Humanity and Social Sciences- Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy from Nova Southeastern University, Graduate School of Humanity and Social Sciences- Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Florida State University, College of Arts and Science- Tallahassee, FL.

Biography

Melissa Arias Shah, Ph.D., LMFT, completed her doctorate in Family Therapy and her graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) at Nova Southeastern University. She completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at Florida State University. Dr. Shah's professional experiences include providing mental health therapy to diverse populations and presenting problems, clinical supervision to academic clinical interns and registered licensed interns, publisher of some children's books, and faculty to graduate and doctoral level students in the Marriage and Family Sciences department. Dr. Shah is passionate about all her roles; as someone who loves to learn and holds a postmodern lens, she enjoys collaborating with her clients, students, and interns in reaching their goals.

In her spare time, Dr. Shah enjoys spending time with her family in nature and doing any type of art (music, drawing, crafting, etc.).



Dr. Elizabeth Banks

Professor
ebanks@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Marriage & Family Therapy

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." - from the Talmud

Education

- PhD
- LMFT

Biography

Dr. Elizabeth Banks is a professor of Marriage and Family Sciences at National University. She earned her MS from East Carolina University, and her PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Syracuse University. In addition to teaching and mentoring, she is particularly passionate about equity, justice, inclusion, and reducing health disparities among historically marginalized groups. She is committed to promoting systems and connections that enhance our ability to be authentic, congruent, and just relationship with self, others and context.



Dr. Jane Barden

Academic Program Director | Professor
jbarden@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

BA of Social Work

Education

- LSW- Licensed social worker
- PhD- University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Social Service Administration)
- MA- University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Social Service Administration)
- MA- University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (Social Sciences)
- BA- Lawrence University, Appleton, WI (Anthropology and Music)

Biography

Jane Barden earned both her Ph.D. and master's degrees at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. She received her bachelor's degree in anthropology and music from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. Dr. Barden also completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Barden began her teaching career as a graduate teaching assistant and has taught at every level of social work education. She currently teaches across the social work curriculum in the NU MSW program and is the Academic Program Director of the BSW program. Dr. Barden's practice and research focus on forensic social work and the implicit curriculum in social work education.



Dr. Zvi Bellin

Professor
zbellin@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program
MA in Counseling Psychology

Education

- Ph.D. in Counselor Education / Pastoral Counseling from Loyola University in Maryland (2010)
-
- M.A. in Counseling (Colleges and Community Agencies) from New York University (2004)

Biography

Dr. Zvi Bellin is a Professor of Counseling at National University. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a private psychotherapy practice based in Oakland, CA. Zvi has published research about the intersection of meaning-in-life and mindfulness in peer-reviewed journals and has broadened his research interests to include the decolonization of research methodology and advocacy. He has completed the first cohort of the East Bay Meditation Center's leadership program and coordinated the Mindfulness Training Collective at NU through the Whole Person Center. Zvi leads therapeutically oriented mindfulness trainings and retreats where he integrates spiritual and psychological practices.



Dr. Judith Cannon

Professor

Jcannon4@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do With your one wild and precious life?”

1. Mary Oliver

Education

- PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas Woman's University
- MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas Woman's University
- BA in Psychology from University of California, Riverside

Biography

Judith Cannon, PhD, LMFT-S, graduated from Texas Woman's University and has worked in the field of mental health for 45 years, the last 35 as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Dr. Cannon is an LGBTQIA+ affirming therapist who specializes in couple work. She has worked primarily in private practice and teaching but has also done business consulting and advised boards and community organizations. Dr. Cannon currently works as an Associate Professor in the JFK School of Psychology and Social Sciences, serving primarily as a clinical supervisor. She loves her family, her work, nature, and reading.



Dr. Julie Costello

Assistant Professor
jcostello@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD MFT with specialization in Military Family Therapy- National University
- MS Counseling Psychology - Tarleton State University
- BS Human Services Counseling - Old Dominion University
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor
- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Certified First Responder Counselor

Biography

Julie Costello holds a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy, specializing in Military Family Therapy, from Northcentral University, a MS in Counseling Psychology from Tarleton State University, and a BS in Human Services Counseling from Old Dominion University. As an AAMFT Approved Supervisor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and Certified First Responder Counselor, Dr. Costello is committed to providing exceptional support to military families and first responders. She is the founder of Got Your Six Counseling, an organization dedicated to offering military members, first responders, and their families the care they need and deserve. Her unique blend of academic and clinical expertise equips her to address the distinct challenges faced by these communities. Dr. Costello's research primarily focuses on the professional development and careers of military spouses in the mental health field. In her spare time, Dr. Costello enjoys traveling, spending time with her family, and attending musicals.



Dr. Tia Crooms

Assistant Professor
tcrooms@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

"When one door closes, open a window." - unknown

Education

- PhD
- LMFT

Biography

Tia Crooms, PhD, LMFT earned her Doctorate degree from North Carolina State University, completed her Master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Mercer University School of Medicine, and completed her Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Crooms is presently an Assistant Professor in the Marriage and Family Sciences program at National University; teaching courses, leading a clinical group, and serving as a faculty mentor. Dr. Crooms is also the newly elected Elections Councils member for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), as well as the supervisor course instructor for AAMFT. Additionally, Dr. Crooms serves as an AAMFT supervisor for clinicians seeking licensure as well as a supervisor mentor for clinicians desiring to become an AAMFT supervisor. Although Dr. Crooms enjoys providing therapy for various clinical needs, her specialty area of clinical practice is couples therapy using the Gottman Method for Couples Therapy. Dr. Crooms enjoys reading, traveling around the globe, and fun family adventures.



Dr. Lauren Fix

Professor
lfix@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- 2014-Doctor of Philosophy in Marriage and Family Therapy; University of Louisiana at Monroe
- 2011-Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy; University of Louisiana at Monroe
- 2009-Bachelor of Arts in English; University of Louisiana at Monroe

Biography

Lauren Fix, PhD, graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with her Bachelor of Arts in English in 2009, her Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2011, and her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2014. Dr. Fix is a Louisiana Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor and Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor as well as an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Dr. Fix has experience working in a variety of clinical and academic settings, including private practices and community agencies. Dr. Fix currently works as a Professor in the Department of Marriage and Family Sciences, teaching primarily in the MAMFT program in addition to her work with doctoral level students in supervision courses. Her areas of special interest include ethics and supervision. Dr. Fix considers her work in clinical training a great privilege and values her relationships with students and supervisees. When not working with students, Dr. Fix enjoys spending time with her husband and children. She also enjoys playing tennis, a good cup of coffee, and reading for leisure.



Dr. Darron Garner

Associate Professor

dgarner@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



Dr. Valerie Glass

Professor

vglass@nu.edu

Department

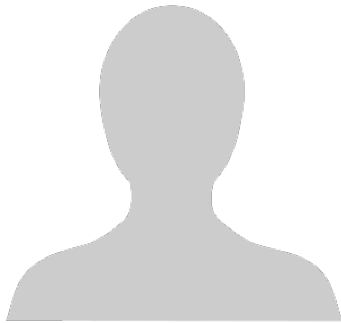
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD, Virginia Tech
- MS, East Carolina University
- BS, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Biography

Valerie Glass, PhD, LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor has worked full-time at National University for over 10 years. She received her doctorate in marriage and family therapy from Virginia Tech. She has held a variety of academic positions: a Visiting Professor and Instructor at Virginia Tech, an Instructor at Radford University, and an Instructor at East Carolina University. In addition to academic positions, Dr. Glass has worked clinically in a variety of settings: outpatient therapy (both private practice and community service), in-home therapy, therapist for domestic violence shelter, and therapist at a women's health clinic. Dr. Glass focuses her research on diverse family structures (particularly LGBTQIA+ families), building a therapeutic alliance, and has contributed to MFT academic textbooks. In her free time, Dr. Glass spends time with her teenager, cares for dogs, travels, writes, and enjoys walking and hiking.



Dr. Joshua Gold

Academic Program Director | Professor
jgold@nu.edu

Department

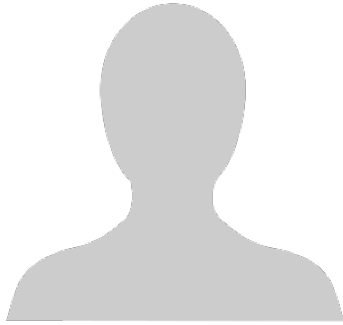
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Education

- PhD: 1991: Kent State University



Dr. Gary Hoeber

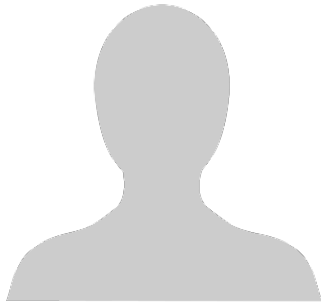
Professor
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Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

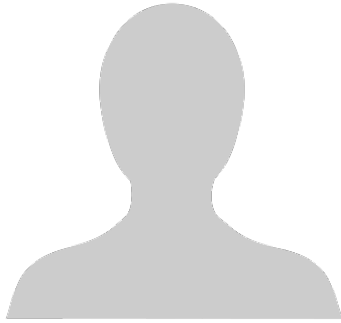
MA in Counseling Psychology



Dr. Debora Holt

Professor
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Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



Dr. Robyn Hudson

Field Education Director | Professor
rhudson@nu.edu

Department

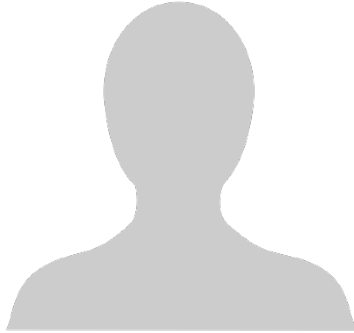
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD, Virginia Tech
- MSW, Radford University

Biography

Dr. Hudson is the MSW Field Education Director in the CSWE Master of Social Work program. Dr. Hudson earned her master's degree in social work from Radford University and her doctorate degree in education and curriculum at Virginia Tech. She has served as a social worker in the field and held various academic positions. Her areas of expertise include child and family social work, community disaster response, behavioral health, medical social work, and supervision.



Dr. Paul Jenkins

Professor

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Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Counseling Psychology



Dr. Jacob Kaminker

Professor
jkaminker@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program
MA in Counseling Psychology

Education

- Licensed Clinical Psychologist CA PSY 26445
- PhD, Clinical Psychology
- MA, Depth Psychology
- BA, double major in Psychology and Philosophy, Religion minor

Biography

Jacob Kaminker, PhD is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the State of California (PSY 26445) with a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, an MA in Depth Psychology from Sonoma State University, and a BA from Rutgers College in Psychology and Philosophy, with a minor in Religion.

In addition to seeing clients in a private practice setting, Jacob is a Professor and former Chair of the Master's in Counseling Psychology at the John F Kennedy College of Psychology at National University. Formerly, he was Chair of Counseling Psychology and Holistic Counseling Psychology at John F. Kennedy University (JFKU), Founding Director of the Depth Psychotherapy Program and Director of the Expressive Arts Therapy Program at JFKU. He has sat on the Board of Directors for the Association of Transpersonal Psychology and the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association, and is a Past President of the San Francisco Psychological Association. His research and publications have been in the areas of mindfulness, self-compassion, spiritual diversity in clinical practice, dreams, and imagination. He has presented internationally on Jungian psychology, dreams, imagination, and spiritual diversity.



Dr. Lisa Kelledy-Jamieson

Professor
lkelledy@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

"Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tiptoe if you must, but take the step." – Naeem Callaway

Education

- PhD in Family Therapy
- Specialization in Medical Family Therapy
- LMFT in Alabama
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor

Biography

Dr. Kelledy is a graduate of Nova Southeastern University. Her specialization is in Medical Family Therapy and works with client's managing chronic illness and bereavement. She was raised in Upstate New York, lived in Ft. Lauderdale, FL for 20+ years and now currently resides in Alabama. Dr. Kelledy is married to an MFT (which makes for an interesting household - lol) and has 5 children between them. Her hobbies include kayaking, yoga and enjoying the outdoors. She is passionate about creating a healthy lifestyle and areas of self-care.



Dr. Kathryn Klock-Powell

Professor

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Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

“All humans make mistakes. What determines a person's character aren't the mistakes we make. It's how we take those mistakes and turn them into lessons rather than excuses.” - Colleen Hoover in It Ends With Us

Education

- Kathryn Klock-Powell, PhD, LMFT, RPT-S, completed her doctoral studies at the University of Georgia and her Master's Degree at Hofstra University in New York, both in Marriage and Family Therapy. Her undergraduate was in Psychology and Social Sciences from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Georgia and a Registered Play Therapist and Supervisor. Dr. KP is also an AAMFT Approved Supervisor.

Biography

Dr. KP is a full-time professor teaching Marriage and Family Therapy starting with Northcentral University in 2018. Dr. KP also has a group practice in Pooler, Georgia, Building Blocks Family Counseling. Her clinical interests include high-conflict divorce, autism, trauma, and childhood sexual abuse. She has over 25 years of clinical experience.

Dr. KP has served as the Chair for the Georgia Composite Board for Licensed Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers. She currently serves on the board for the Teal House which provides rape crisis and children's advocacy services in her local community. She provides clinical training and play therapy supervision groups. She is passionate about providing experiential learning opportunities for students and sharing her clinical experience.



Dr. Michael Knerr

Professor
mknerr@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

**"Nothing worth having comes without some kind of fight
Got to kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight"**

**-- Bruce Cockburn
Lovers in a Dangerous Time**

Education

- Ph.D. - Ohio State University
- M.S. - University of Rhode Island
- M. Div. - Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- B.S. - James Madison University

Biography

Michael Knerr completed his doctoral degree at Ohio State University, focusing his research on couples in therapy, power dynamics and application of Bowen theory. He and his wife live in Columbus Ohio and are co-owners of a private practice - www.ICFTcolumbus.com. They have been practicing since 2006, providing therapy for couples and families as well as supervision to MFTs entering the field.

Dr. Knerr is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor and works with National University MFT students during their clinical field training. Over the past 10 years Dr. Knerr has worked with more than 400 MFT students as they take their first steps into providing therapy for clients on the way to becoming MFTs.

Outside of work, Dr. Knerr and his wife enjoy gardening, playing with their dog - Gracie - and hanging out with their adult children and their partners!



Dr. Vanieca Kraus

Professor

vkraus@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Vanieca Kraus, PhD, LMFT is a licensed marriage and family therapist. She graduated from Virginia Tech with her PhD in Human Development, emphasis in marriage and family therapy. She received her Master's degree in MFT from George Fox University and her undergrad from the University of Oregon.

Biography

My favorite thing about teaching is mentoring. Thus, I most enjoy working with students in their clinical classes or as they work on their dissertation/doctoral projects. I also teach a variety of masters and doctoral classes in the MFS program. Additionally, I have a small private practice where I supervise master level clinicians and see a few clients. I live in Portland, OR with my two kids and enjoy being outside watching them play soccer, hiking, or spending time at the beach.



Dr. Tracy Oliver

Academic Program Director | Professor
toliver@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Marriage and Family Therapy

Education

- Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University
- M.S., Nova Southeastern University
- B.S., Florida State University

Biography

Dr. Oliver is a state of Florida Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and provides therapy for individuals, couples, and families. Dr. Oliver also serves as a local supervisor. She joined the university in early 2016 as an adjunct faculty member teaching the Foundations and doctoral specialization courses. Dr. Oliver's dissertation involved research around the functions of multigenerational family secrets and her research interests include the exploration of family patterns and family curses, as well as the online supervision experience.

Dr. Oliver also facilitates university supervision for clinical groups and was awarded the AAMFT Minority Supervision Stipend Award in 2016. Dr. Oliver enjoys spending time with her family and friends and encourages supervisees to identify and implement self-care in a way that will benefit the personal and clinical systems we are all a part of.



Dr. Jan Parker

Professor
jparker@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

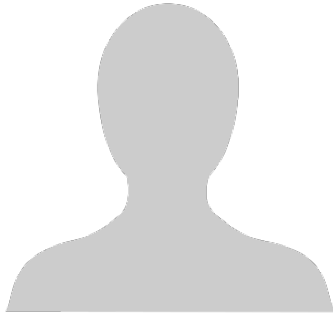
Program
MA in Counseling Psychology

Education

- PhD in Psychology earned in 1990
- LMFT, licensed since 1987

Biography

Dr. Parker has been a full-time faculty member since 1994, and taught as a part-time faculty member from 1988 to 1994. She has been a LMFT since 1987, specializing in addictions, trauma-based therapy, couples therapy, long-term characterological change therapy, and bioenergetic analysis, which is a relational somatic approach to such change. She is a Certified Bioenergetic Therapist and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Southern California Institute for Bioenergetic Analysis. Her research interests include somatic-based therapeutic approaches, addictive disorders, and the application of client involvement in 12-step programs and other support groups. She is the co-author of the book "The clinician's guide to 12-step programs: Who, why, and how to refer a client" which is currently under revision.



Dr. Siva Perera

Associate Director of Faculty Support and Development
sperera@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Ph.D., Nova Southeastern University
- M.S., Nova Southeastern University
- B. S., Florida Atlantic University

Biography

Siva Perera is the Associate Director of Faculty Support and Development for the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She holds a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For her dissertation, she utilized autoethnographic and ethnographic methodologies and conducted a qualitative study, exploring in depth the transformative experiences of Asian women international students living in a state of cultural transition. Her clinical and research interests include multicultural and international family therapy, acculturation, ethnicity, and qualitative methodologies. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist in the state of Florida and a certified clinical hypnotherapist. Siva and her husband, Nimal are both from Sri Lanka and now live in South Florida. They love traveling and exploring local cultures and cuisines, a hobby they share with their children Rishi and Teja.



Dr. Ron Perry

Associate Professor
rperry@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Counseling Psychology

Education

- Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- 2/2007; Doctor of Psychology (PsyD)
California Southern University, Costa Mesa, California
- 3/2003; Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology
Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas
- 5/1994; Double Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology
Houston Baptist University, Houston, Texas

Biography

Dr. Ron Perry is a licensed clinical psychologist with over 20 years of experience working in mental health and has spent much of his career teaching and training students and beginning therapists. In addition to serving on full-time faculty at NU, he also has a private practice, where he specializes in the treatment of addictions and co-occurring disorders. Dr. Perry previously served as Chair for the Masters of Arts in Counseling Psychology program at JFK University, and prior to joining the university, he was the Mental Health Director at BAART (Bay Area Addiction & Research Treatment), where he ran a training program for both masters and doctoral level trainees and interns. In addition, he has provided clinical services at multiple residential and outpatient treatment facilities across the Bay Area. Dr. Perry also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin, West Africa from 1998 to 2000 and has a great passion for cross-cultural exchange and awareness, which extends into much of his clinical and academic work.



Dr. Donald Posson

Professor
dposson@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program
MA in Counseling Psychology

"Train Your Brain ... Change Your Life"

Education

- BA, Business Admin, Columbia College, 1986.
- MA, Counseling, Troy State University, 1996
- Ph.D., Psychology, Northcentral University, 2012

Biography

I started my pathway into the mental health field midway through my Navy career. An adult learner, I bootstrapped my way through a Bachelor's in Business Admin, and a Master's in Mental Health Counseling towards my twilight assignment as a Navy Substance Abuse Program Manager in Sicily, Italy. I retired from the Navy in 2001

My post-navy career has included extensive experience in children's mental health, addictions therapy, and higher academia. I am currently a full-time professor here at National University, based loosely at the Henderson, Nevada campus.

During my doctoral studies, I became fascinated with the study of Positive Psychology, the study of Happiness. My dissertation, Alcoholics Anonymous: Testing a 12-Step Stage-of Change Meaning-Making Model confirmed my hypothesis that 12-step recovery facilitates both the search for and the presence of meaning and purpose in life, a positive psychology construct of spirituality.

My post-doctoral work has led me deeply into the field of psychophysiology. Deeper than I'd ever imagine myself being, and it is an ever-so-exciting field to be in. I have developed particular expertise in restoring good brain health, which nearly always reduces most mental health symptoms. Our primary tool is a science called EEG Biofeedback, aka Neurofeedback. I practice at our clinic, The Las Vegas Neurofeedback Center, Southern Nevada's only stand-alone neurofeedback treatment center. I am a particularly avid advocate and

treatment provider for vets providing neurofeedback to alleviate PTSD, addictions, and other brain-wave related mental health issues

I founded Brain Health Warriors several years ago, a non-profit that provides direct brain-training for veterans, as well as expands the network of neurofeedback providers through our Train-the-Trainer program. We operate a large mountain residence and offer Health Brain Retreats for veterans and others who are recovering from addiction, TBI, and PTSD issues with my unique biological, psychological, and spiritual approach to brain-recovery.

Most recently, my wife and I have established a migratory pattern between our Healthy Brain Resort in Mt. Charleston, and our Healthy Brain Resort, Baja Sur. We came down for a vacation just post-covid, and fell in love with the place. We've bought a couple of homes here, a duplex on the river, and a duplex on the beach. Of course we're staying at the beach house, but have created another location where individuals can train their brains, and change their lives.

With my feet in both academia and the clinical application of Neurofeedback, I've been blessed to have had a broad breadth and depth of experience in working with individuals across a broad spectrum of mental health imbalances. Since I began work in EEG Neurofeedback, I've successfully brain-trained individuals with just about every common mental health imbalance. My work, as is the work of many in this field, is ground-breaking in its promising impact on how we care for our wounded warriors, and other's with mental health imbalances.

In 2019, I published three articles on the topic of Automated Neurofeedback Brain-Training as a Primary Intervention for ADHD, PTSD, and Addictions. I've presented those papers at a conferences in New Orleans and San Diego, and Rome.

Lastly, have been stepping up my game again in the Neurofeedback world, offering a Train-the-Trainer program for those aspiring to do neurofeedback in their clinical and non-clinical settings. I believe it to be a rich field for both research and practical application. The coolest thing I've got going on right now, like as we are in this class, is that NU has approved to re-develop our Alcohol and Drug Counseling certificate program with a strong neuro-centric emphasis, and included curriculum to certify as a neurofeedback technician/therapist, as well as an SUD counselor certification. We launched in September and have many students engaged in this cutting edge science/technology.



Dr. Patricia Postanowicz

Academic Program Director | Professor
ppostanowicz@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

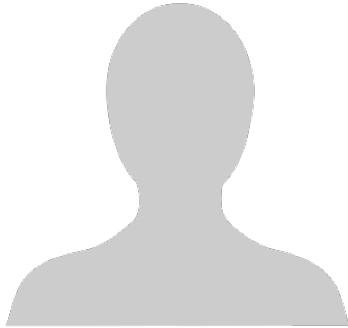
MAMFT Foundations

Education

- PhD Florida State University
- MS Northeastern University
- BA Clark University

Biography

Dr. Postanowicz graduated from Florida State University with her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy. Dr. Postanowicz has clinical interests in addictions and couples therapy, and research interest in student persistence and retention. Dr. Postanowicz has taught in higher education for over a decade and has been a practicing therapist for the last 20 years. Dr. Postanowicz currently is working with the students in the early part of their master's program and supporting their transition to graduate work. In her spare time, Dr. Postanowicz enjoys traveling with her family and cooking various types of cuisine.



Dr. Mark Purcell

Professor
mpurcell@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Counseling Psychology



Dr. Valerie Radu

Professor
vradu@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are. — Joseph Campbell

Education

- PhD
- LCSW

Biography

Valerie Radu, PhD, LCSW completed her doctoral work at Case Western Reserve University in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. She holds an MSW degree from Walla Walla University and a BSW degree from Southern Adventist University. She has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in Tennessee since 1996. She has also completed the Level II certification through EarthBody Institute to be recognized as a Certified Ecotherapist. She is an avid hiker and manages a women's outdoor therapeutic group in SE TN. Dr. Radu has over 20 years of experience as a practitioner, community leader, faculty member and academic administrator in higher education settings. She uses collaboration, experiential learning, and other innovative techniques to both teach and lead. She has a special interest and commitment to the principles of social justice, peace, and reconciliation on personal, community, and global levels. Her clinical practice focuses on trauma-informed individual and small group work with women and integrating nature-based healing practices into clinical experiences. Since 1996 she has been a frequent presenter on aging issues, diversity/cultural competence, and leadership development in the southeastern United States for a variety of professional organizations and groups. She is a passionate advocate for the Green Social Work movement focusing on the impact of the climate crisis on the intersection of the natural world and vulnerable groups.



Dr. Emily Schmittel-Seagrave

Associate Director of Doctoral Marriage and Family
Therapy Clinical Training | Professor
eschmittel@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD, Michigan State University
- LMFT

Biography

Dr. Emily Schmittel is the Associate Director of Doctoral Marriage and Family Therapy Clinical Training. Emily received her PhD in Human Development and Family Studies- with a specialization in Couple and Family Therapy from Michigan State University. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Dr. Schmittel practiced couple and family therapy in private practice for nearly 10 years before transitioning to full-time faculty with Northcentral University. Dr. Schmittel's main clinical and research experience is on therapy with child welfare involved families. She has published in the areas of criminal justice, child welfare, and telesupervision. She continues to supervise and mentor local clinicians in Springfield, MO. In her role at NU, Dr. Schmittel assists doctoral MFT students in planning their clinical courses. She is passionate about assisting doctoral students in designing experiences that align with their personal passions, professional goals, and local community needs.



Dr. David Servino

Professor
dservino@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD Texas Tech University
- MA University of Connecticut
- BS Brigham Young University

Biography

David Servino, PhD, LMFT-S, earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Brigham Young University. He went on to earn a master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) from the University of Connecticut and a doctoral degree in MFT from Texas Tech University. His clinical training and experience have included time spent working in medical family therapy, with incarcerated youth, with federal probationers transitioning back into society after prison, and in a residential substance abuse treatment facility. He also worked for the Veteran's Administration counseling with combat veterans and their family members and had a private practice from 2014 until 2019. At NU Dr. Servino teaches courses in the MFT master's and doctoral programs. Clinically, he has a particular interest in LGBTQ+, addiction, faith transitions, and couples' intimacy issues. Personally, Dr. Servino enjoys watching college football, reading great books, listening to hard rock/metal music, golfing, and spending time with his wife and their four children.



Dr. Tara Signs

Associate Professor
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Department

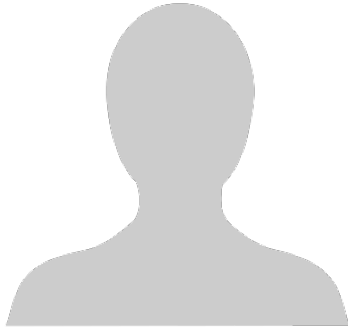
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, Family Therapy
Texas Woman's University
- Master of Science, Family Therapy
Texas Woman's University
- Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Texas Woman's University

Biography

Tara Signs, Ph.D., LMFT, is an Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Sciences and teaches graduate students in the master's and doctoral programs. Dr. Signs is a licensed marriage and family therapist, AAMFT Approved Supervisor, and researcher who explores relational processes that contribute to individual experiences of health and illness and medical family therapy interventions for use with unique medical populations. Dr. Signs brings a wealth of experience from diverse settings, encompassing acute inpatient hospitals, outpatient clinics, as well as providing counseling to individuals, couples, and families dealing with a wide range of concerns. Dr. Signs has contributed to leading academic publications and showcased her research at conferences on regional, state, and national levels. Dr. Signs is passionate about teaching and supervising developing therapists in experiential and meaningful ways to enhance their clinical competencies. Her approach emphasizes interprofessional collaboration and evidence-based, biopsychosocial care.



Dr. Craig Smith

Professor
csmith5@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Ph.D. Brigham Young University
- M.S. University of Arizona
- B.S. Utah State University

Biography

Dr. Smith is a Professor Emeritus of Family and Community Medicine at Saint Louis University, where he was Director of the Division of Behavioral Medicine. He founded the COAMFTE-accredited doctoral medical family therapy and masters MFT programs at SLU. Prior to that, he founded the accredited MFT program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and co-founded its certificate program in MedFT. He started his academic career at Auburn University's MFT program in 1984 and has enjoyed all his years of training new marriage and family therapists. His scholarship has ranged from rural families to training and supervision to chronic illness. He now lives near all his children and grandchildren and is loving every moment.



Dr. Erika Smith-Marek

Professor

esmithmarek@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

"It's never too late to heal."

Education

- PhD, Marriage and Family Therapy, Kansas State University
- M.S., Exercise Science, University of West Florida
- M.S., Marriage and Family Therapy, Auburn University
- B.S., Family and Child Development, Virginia Tech

Biography

Dr. Erika Smith-Marek, PhD is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Florida with twenty years of experience specializing in the treatment of trauma and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. She is an American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor. She is also a Certified Trauma Treatment Specialist through the Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists and an EMDRIA Approved Consultant and Certified Therapist in EMDR Therapy. She teaches a variety of graduate courses, including clinical and trauma courses. Her clinical and research interests converge around the treatment of trauma. For self-care, she especially enjoys long-distance trail running and spending time at the beach with her family.



Dr. Krista Speicher

Associate Professor
kspeicher@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- DMFT
- LMFT
- LSW
- CAS
- AAMFT Approved Supervisor

Biography

Krista Speicher, DMFT, LMFT, LSW completed her graduate degree with Columbia University's School of Social Work and her doctorate degree at Argosy University as well as became a certified addictions counselor. Dr. Speicher has experience in several areas including international adoption, working with undocumented populations, at-risk adolescents, and families and addictions. Dr. Speicher currently works as an associate professor in the social work and marriage and family therapy programs. She has always loved working in the professions of MFT and Social Work and helping professionals enhance their skills to be able to serve their communities. In her spare time, Dr. Speicher loves to spend time with her family, travel, surf, and complete triathlons.



Dr. Brian Tilley

Department Chair | Professor
btalley@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Counseling Psychology, Social Work

Education

- PhD in Counseling Psychology
Iowa State University
- BA in Psychology,
University of Notre Dame

Biography

Brian Tilley is a Professor of Psychology who graduated from Iowa State University with a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and completed his undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Tilley has been at National University since 2005, most of this time as faculty in the MA in Counseling (MAC) program. He originally served as director of a regional campus, then as Academic Program Director for eight years. His teaching interests include history of psychology, group therapy, and introductory counseling skills.

Currently, Dr. Tilley serves as Department Chair of Counseling Psychology and Social Work. His research interests are in political psychology and moral psychology, specifically the moral aspects of racism, racial identity, and power differentials in American society. His latest work is the book, *Higher Ground: Morality and Humanity in the Evolving Politics of Race*. He is a San Diego native who lives there with his family of six.



Dr. Jennifer Todd

Academic Program Director | Assistant Professor
Jtodd2@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

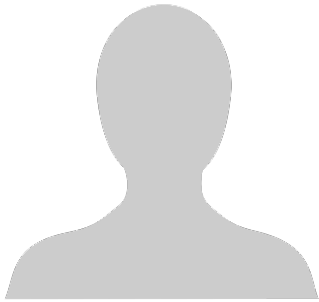
Master of Social Work

Education

- Doctorate of Health Sciences from Indiana State University in 2020;
- Master of Social Work from the University of Cincinnati in 1997
- Bachelor in Social Work from Indiana State University in 1996

Biography

Dr. Todd is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who received a Bachelor in Social Work from Indiana State University in 1996; a Master of Social Work from the University of Cincinnati in 1997; and a Doctorate of Health Sciences from Indiana State University in 2020. She has worked in academia since 2000 and is currently the MSW Program Director for National University. Jennifer's community service involves facilitation of the Vigo County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) for which she conducts CIT training evaluation and state-based research. Research focus includes teaching SBIRT as a screening and brief intervention technique to various professionals and CIT related training.



Dr. Anney Tsuji-Lyons

Assistant Professor
atsujilyons@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Minnesota
- Board Approved Supervisor
MN Board of MFT
- Supervisor Candidate
AAMFT
- Certified Sex Therapist and Sex Therapist
Supervisor-in-Training
AASECT
- PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy
Northcentral University
- MA in Counseling and Psychological Services
Saint Mary's University
- BFA in Print, Paper, Books
Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Biography

Anney Tsuji-Lyons (she/her and they/they pronouns) is an assistant professor in the Marriage and Family Therapy department at National University. They also work at a small group practice where they specialize in working with sexuality and trauma. Dr. Tsuji-Lyons primarily has completed trainings in several therapy modalities including EMDR, IFS, Sensorimotor Psychotherapy, and Brainspotting. She lives in Minneapolis, MN with her wife, two dogs, and cat. In their free time Anney enjoys engaging their creative side, speed puzzling, and movement activities like hiking and roller skating.



Dr. Amanda Veldorale-Griffin

Professor

aveldoralegriffin@nu.edu

Department

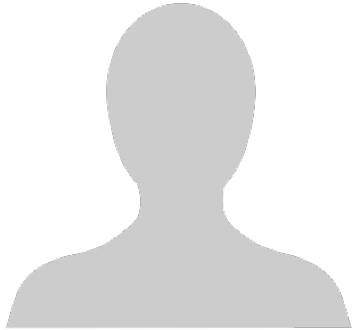
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD
- LMFT-S

Biography

Dr. Amanda Veldorale-Griffin (she/they) holds a PhD in Family and Child Sciences from the Florida State University and a MS in Family Studies with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Kentucky. She has a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and AAMFT approved supervisor. Her clinical and research focus is working with LGBTQ+ populations, especially transgender individuals and their families.



Dr. Demaris Washington

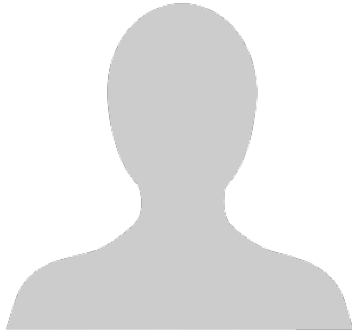
Assistant Professor
dWASHINGTON@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MA in Counseling Psychology



Dr. Mark White

Department Chair | Professor
mwhite2@nu.edu

Department

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program

MFT Doctoral Programs

"Many things have gone wrong with this world that God made and God insists and insists very loudly on our putting them right again." - C. S. Lewis

Education

- PhD
Kansas State University
- MS
Brigham Young University
- BA
Brigham Young University

Biography

Mark White was raised in Auburn, Washington and currently lives in Vernal, Utah. Prior to National, he taught in the MFT programs at Auburn University, Kansas State University, and East Carolina University. Until the pandemic hit, he operated a private practice-- the Vernal Center for Couples & Families. His present research addresses the well-being of LGBTQ+ current and former members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He enjoys hiking with his wife, spending time with his children and grandchildren, cooking, reading, music, and receiving healthy doses of biophilia on his hobby farm.



Dr. Susan Williams

Professor
swilliams@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.” —The 14th Dalai Lama.

Education

- Ph.D. in clinical Psychology, University of Rhode Island
- M.S. in clinical psychology, San Jose State University
- B.A. in psychology, Sonoma State University
- Licensed psychologist in CA #15915

Biography

Susan Williams, Ph.D. has worked at National since 2005, teaching primarily in the MAC Program. She graduated with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rhode Island. Before joining the faculty at National University, she served for seven years as the Counseling Center Director at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, and 9 years as the Counseling Center Director and Assistant Professor in Psychology at the University of Scranton. She completed a two-year clinical internship at Massachusetts General in Boston, where she served as a clinical fellow in psychology, at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Williams has extensive clinical experience in a variety of inpatient, outpatient, and community clinic settings. She is very interested in cultural and social justice issues in counseling and believes it is critically important that as counselors, we both practice self-care and have a solid understanding of how our worldview and personal upbringing/heritage/cultural background impact the counseling relationship. Her interests outside of her professional life include spending time with family (including three grandkids), friends, and her rescue doggies, cooking, reading, being in nature, traveling, and attending concerts.



Dr. Jenna Wilson

Director of MFT Clinical Training | Professor
Jwilson3@nu.edu

Department

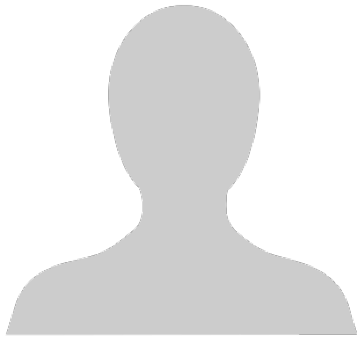
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Education

- PhD - Nova Southeastern University
- MS - Nova Southeastern University
- BS - Nova Southeastern University

Biography

Dr. Jenna Wilson is the Director of Academic Clinical Training for the MAMFT, PhD, and DMFT Programs. She earned a Bachelors in psychology with a minor in sociology, a Masters and PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy. As a professor since 2015, she has taught numerous MFT courses in masters and doctoral programs and has clinical experience in several settings supporting various populations as a clinical director of behavioral health and substance use treatment centers, a therapist in non-profit and for-profit organizations, and currently in private practice. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, an AAMFT-Approved Supervisor and Qualified Supervisor, as well as a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional. Dr. Wilson is passionate about supporting masters and doctoral students and MFT interns throughout the MFT clinical training programs and beyond.



Dr. Monica Wilson

Professor
mwilson2@nu.edu

Department
SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Program
MA in Counseling Psychology

Education

- PhD-Psychology
- MA