PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!

Rakhshanda Saleem, PhD

Rakhshanda moved from the far-away land of Cambridge, MA where she has been a faculty in Lesley University’s graduate Counseling Psychology program. Her teaching and scholarship interest in issues of structural/systemic violence, transnational indigenous perspectives, and feminism emerge from her belief in the transformative role of education from the tradition of critical/liberatory pedagogy. She specialized in neuropsychology and supervises postdoctoral trainees in neuropsychology with Harvard Medical teaching hospitals. She moved to the Boston area over a decade ago from Boulder, Colorado where she emigrated from Pakistan. This shows a clear trajectory of moving to progressively colder places. While it has not happened yet, she hopes, any minute now, she will start enjoying the extremely cold winters of Boston or alternatively move to Antarctica so coming back to Boston winters will feel like a Caribbean vacation. She enjoys the diversity of events, people and foods that living in Boston offers and is excited about joining the program.

Lindsay Fallon, PhD

Lindsay joins the faculty most recently from the Department of Special Education at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, MA. Previously, she worked as a behavioral consultant at the May Institute in Randolph, MA as she finished her PhD in school psychology from UConn. Her research interests in the implementation of culturally and contextually relevant school- and home-based behavioral supports with fidelity were inspired by her work as a consultant and years as a high school special education teacher in NYC. She has been a loyal Red Sox and Patriots fan since she met her husband in 2005 and has taught (brainwashed?) her two kids to cheer on her Wisconsin Badgers.

Tyra Lopes Mendes

Tyra is the new Director of Assessment, Accreditation and Licensure in the CEHD Dean’s office. Most recently, among many other duties at UMass Dartmouth, she developed, piloted, and launched the School of Education’s Taskstream ePortfolio management system. Here at UMass Boston she is excited to be working with students, faculty, and staff to fully implement Taskstream across all programs in CEHD. Experienced in program evaluation, she also supports all accreditation activities across the college. The daughter of two educators, Tyra naturally gravitated toward studying secondary science education and school administration. While currently a resident of the upper Cape Cod region, she considers herself bi-coastal, as she was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and worked as a teacher and administrator in several K-12 school districts in southern California before returning home to Massachusetts in 2003.

“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones that do.”
-Steve Jobs

“All great changes are preceded by chaos.”
-Deepak Chopra
Counseling and School Psychology PhD Program Student News

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY AND STAFF!

Robin Risso, PhD

Robin has been teaching in the Family Therapy program since 2011 as an adjunct faculty member and is thrilled to be a full time part of the department. Robin is a Massachusetts native and has been practicing as a licensed marriage and family therapist since 2002. She has worked in community mental health for much of her career. One of her passions is equine assisted psychotherapy so her free time is spent in the paddock.

Transitions to the PhD program

We are happy to welcome Drs. Cook and Poynton as faculty members to the doctoral programs. Both have been teaching in the Counseling and School Psychology Department as part of the School Counseling Program. Dr. Cook has joined the School Psychology Doctoral Program and Dr. Poynton has joined the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program.

Dr. Poynton’s research interests are largely in the realm of career development, particularly the postsecondary transition of high school students. His research team is currently working on a content analysis of several counseling-related journals to understand the variety of ways data collection occurs via the internet to describe current practices and make recommendations about best practices.

Dr. Cook’s research interests focus on inclusion, social justice, educational equity, and school-family-community partnerships as they pertain to counseling practice, educational programming, and postsecondary transition. She is committed to using scholarly research in a manner that advances democratic collaboration and educational equity. Projects employ participatory action research methods and include collaboration with two Boston Public Schools, the YWCA Boston, and Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Freeman-Coppadge has been elected to the APAGS Subcommittee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity!

Madeline Brodt is an APA Society for the Psychology of Women Division 35 campus representative. This semester she is holding a film event about campus sexual assault.

Madeline is also the counseling psychology representative of the APA Advocacy Coordinating Team. The team raises awareness of issues relevant to psychology to the legislature and other systems.

Whitney Kleinert and Meghan Ray-Silva both successfully defended their dissertation proposals, joining the ranks of Emily Wheeler, Aleksandra Plocha, Elena Kosterina, Selda Celen-Demirtas, Melanie Cadet, Sheila Desai, Erik Maki, and Ryan Martin.

Selda has scheduled her dissertation defense for November 23rd, our first in the program!
Greetings students and faculty!

We (Adam and Sharon) want to welcome you to the 2015 – 2016 school year. It is likely our most exciting and eventful year yet in the Counseling and School Psychology Department at UMass Boston. We have so many reasons to be proud of and thankful for this year. First of all it should come as no surprise that we are most proud of you, our students, and we are very excited to have all of these great new students join our family this year. In addition, we would like to welcome two new faculty members to our family, Lindsay Fallon is joining us in school psychology, and Rahkshanda Saleem is joining us in counseling psychology. We are a much stronger department because of their contributions!

Last year was a busy year for us, and with everyone’s support we accomplished a great deal. First and foremost both the Counseling and School Psychology programs submitted their self-study materials to APA. We couldn’t be more excited (to have this behind us, really) to be able to show off what amazing programs we have and be able to highlight all the great work each and every one of you do everyday. We are looking forward to our site visitors coming this Fall (and hopefully also the Spring, fingers crossed). We thank you in advance for your help in making this a successful site visit!

We are very excited to announce that we have had many successful dissertation proposals. Congrats to all of you, and we look forward to more successful student proposals this year in 2015-2016. We continue to be impressed with the quality of research amongst our faculty and students, and this year was no exception with many presentations at this years APA conference in Toronto (see list of presentations in this newsletter!). Congratulations! I hope everyone who attended was able to engage with our larger community as well as broaden their knowledge while at the conference. This has also been our first year cohort student’s internship year, and we are happy to announce that all of our students were placed in internships.

This will be another busy and eventful year for us in CSP. There are so many things to look forward to, not the least of which will be our first class of graduates :)

Keep up the great work everyone!

Adam and Sharon
Counseling and School Psychology PhD Program Student News

MEET THE NEW CSP COHORT

Madeline Brodt, M.S.

Madeline recently received her Masters of Science in Mental Health Counseling from University of Massachusetts Boston. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from DePaul University with minors in Italian and History. She is originally from Chicago, IL. She collaborates with Dr. Steven Vannoy on a variety of projects related to suicide including validating a new assessment for suicidality, identifying the impact of different creativity tasks on suicidality, identifying clinician factors that influence decisions to involuntarily hospitalize clients, and exploring the relationship between traumatic events and suicide. She also collaborates with Dr. Sharon Lamb on issues of gender and sexuality. The projects she is currently working on include identifying moral reasoning of bystanders to sexual assault situations and describing the benefits of volunteering with sexual assault survivors. Her personal research interests are all related to sexual assault survivors. Madeline also collaborates with Dr. Lisa Cosgrove on projects related to conflicts of interest, institutional corruption, and the drug narrative in psychotropic medications. In her free time, she enjoys playing with her corgi, baking, cooking, and reading non psychology books in her hammock.

Kathryn Doherty Kurtz, Ed.S.

Kathryn grew up in Beverly, MA but spent the last five years working in the Minneapolis Public Schools as a School Psychologist. She received her Educational Specialist degree from Tufts in 2010. Before Tufts, Kathryn went to Bates College where she received her B.S. in Psychology. She is interested in systems that support students impacted by trauma in urban schools. Kathryn is excited to be working on projects with Dr. Melissa Pearrow related to safe and supportive learning environments and with Dr. Lindsay Fallon on projects related to intervention treatment integrity. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, running, and trying new restaurants. She tells herself that she also enjoys cooking.

Laura Morizio, B.S.

Originally from New York, Laura has recently relocated to Boston and is delighted to begin her doctoral expedition. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Fordham University in 2013. Since graduation, she has worked with children as both a movement instructor and English language educator. She has also spent a significant amount of time in the past three years working on various research projects investigating technology interventions and outcomes with adults on the psychotic spectrum. Laura is thrilled to be working with both Tim Poynton on his research regarding web-based data collection methods, and Mel Collier-Meek on her work with intervention implementation and fidelity. Additionally, Laura is very excited to be working with Amy Cook on her investigation of socio-emotional development through literacy at the Boys and Girls’ Club in Dorchester. Laura enjoys eating ice cream in her free time. She also has not figured out how to stop dancing since childhood and has recently found that she no longer cares to find a solution.

Meredith Maroney, M.S.

Meredith received her BA in Psychology from Loyola University Maryland, and recently completed her Masters of Science in Mental Health Counseling at UMass Boston. She is originally from Mansfield, MA. She currently works with Dr. Sharon Horne on LGBTQ issues, specifically related to international activism, body image, and parenting and Dr. Steven Vannoy, on creativity tasks and suicidality, as well as factors related to suicidality among college students. In her free time, Meredith enjoys playing basketball, reading (for pleasure), trying new restaurants with her girlfriend, and playing with her kitten.

Marlana Mueller, M.Ed

Marlana grew up outside of Boston and studied psychology and sociology at Simmons College. After working at the Manville School for four years, she went on to become a research coordinator for UMass Medical School’s Shriver Center. Over three years, she was fortunate to work on a team that explored learning problems in children with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Marlana entered UMass Boston’s School Psychology EdS program in the fall of 2013 and graduated this past May with her M.Ed. Inspired by her positive EdS program experience, it comes as no surprise that Marlana decided to stay at UMass Boston to pursue her doctoral degree. She is excited to be working with Dr. Melissa Pearrow and Dr. Lindsay Fallon this year. When she is not studying, you can find her somewhere in Boston searching for the perfect café or spending time with loved ones.
Marta Pagán, M.S.

Marta received her Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology from Northeastern University, and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Puerto Rico. Prior to attending UMass Boston, she worked as a research fellow at the Institute on Urban Health Research and Practice at Northeastern University, and as a mental health clinician at Arbour Hospital. She is currently working with Dr. Gonzalo Bacigalupe on topics related to eHealth for populations with chronic illnesses. In addition, she is currently working with Dr. Laura Hayden on issues regarding physical activity, mindfulness, and positive youth development. Further, she also takes part in Dr. Sharon Lamb's research team on issues of gender and sexuality. When she is not in school, or thinking about school, she is reading and writing fiction, and trying new restaurants with her husband.

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”
-Frederick Douglass

Peter Simons, M.A.

Peter comes from a background in numerous areas of the humanities. Before studying psychology, he earned degrees in English, philosophy, and art. He worked in a photo studio for several years in his home state of Rhode Island, then earned his M.A. in Counseling Psychology from William James College (MSPP). Peter's clinical background includes experience in Bryant University's counseling center and 2 years as a counselor at the OCD Institute at McLean Hospital. As a first-year Ph.D. student in the Counseling Psychology program at UMass Boston, Peter is excited to be working with Dr. Sharon Horne, Dr. Lisa Cosgrove, and Dr. Takuya Minami. His research interests are in two areas. First, he studies how the LGBTQ community uses avatar-based virtual world experiences to increase resiliency; second, he studies the drug narrative and conflicts of interest in psychopharmaceutical industry research. In his spare time, Peter enjoys photography, creative writing, and acting.

“When you talk, you are only repeating what you know; but when you listen, you learn something new.”
-The Dalai Lama

Akansha Vaswani, M.S.

Akansha was born and raised in Bombay, India and is a relatively recent export to the United States. She received her BA in Psychology at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai and most recently a MS in Marriage and Family Therapy at San Diego State University. Her counseling experience includes working in Bombay at Ummeed, a community based NGO for children with developmental disabilities and their families, and in San Diego at the Center for Community Counseling & Engagement, a university-based clinic and ReSpectrum Community, a non-profit for persons impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is excited about working on research teams with Dr. Saleem on issues related to structural violence, Dr. Cosgrove on biases and ethical conflicts in psychiatric research and Dr. Bacigalupe on developing interventions in the area of health psychology. In her free time she loves traveling, practicing yoga, cooking, trying new cuisines, listening to live music and reading novels. Having grown up in a warm and humid city she (wishfully) hopes she will take to the Boston winter like a polar bear this year.

Brianna Wadler, M.S.

Brianna grew up in North Carolina, however, she considers herself a Bostonian after living here for many years. She earned a B.A. in Psychology and Women’s Studies from Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) and her Masters of Science from Harvard School of Public Health with a focus in Health Disparities and a certificate in Women, Gender, and Health. Before coming to UMass Boston, Brianna worked at the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and in local community-based intervention research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She currently has the pleasure of working on Dr. Boaz Levy’s memory research team, and on Dr. Sharon Horne’s research teams on LGBTQ and college student populations. In her free time Brianna enjoys nature photography, gardening, playing with her two cats, and trying new restaurants with her wife.
First-year counseling PhD student **Peter Simons** is the creator of the Facebook page **Humans of UMass Boston.** The page’s mission is to tell the stories of people at UMB, share success, raise awareness of challenges, and celebrate diversity.

“I need your help to build this page to become a platform that I can use to advocate for systemic changes to help students in need at UMB. Everyone please like and/or share the page!”

-Peter Simons

[www.facebook.com/humansofumb](http://www.facebook.com/humansofumb)
Congratulations, Beacons! The Beacons of Social Justice recently won an award for the Best Graduate Student Organization for its commitment and support to U-ACCESS!

PUBLICATIONS


Robert Whitaker and Dr. Lisa Cosgrove’s latest book Psychiatry Under the Influence: Institutional Corruption, Social Injury, and Prescriptions for Reform was published in Spring 2015. It investigates how the influence of pharmaceutical money and guild interests has corrupted the behavior of the American Psychiatric Association and academic psychiatry during the past 35 years. Moreover, it argues that reforming psychiatry will require the neutralization of these two corrupting influences—pharmaceutical money and guild interests—and the establishment of multidisciplinary authority over the field of mental health.
Counseling and School Psychology PhD Program Student News

PUBLICATIONS


PUBLICATIONS


BOOKS AND CHAPTERS


PRESENTATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Cook, A. L., Toney, B., & Coverdale, D. (April, 2015). Sharing updates and information on how to better work with ELLs (English Language Learners) in urban and other schools. Presentation and discussion at the 2015 annual conference of the Massachusetts School Counselors Association, Boxborough, MA.


PRESENTATIONS


PRESENTATIONS


Kleinert, W., Codd, R. S., Minami, T., & Gould, K. (2016, February) Meta-analysis of the taped problems and taped words interventions. Paper to be presented at the Annual Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists, New Orleans, LA.


Martin, R., Codd, R. S., Gould, K., & DeFouw, E. (2016, February) Improving the procedural fidelity of home-based academic interventions. Paper to be presented at the Annual Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists, New Orleans, LA.


PRESENTATIONS


**Phillips, T., Kleinert, W., & Mendez, S.** (2016, February). Diversity: A focus on school psychology graduate students. Poster to be presented at the Annual Convention of the National Association of School Psychologists, New Orleans, LA.


