



Contents

1. Research Profile
2. Meet the New Research Masters Grad Students
3. Great Things are Happening in the Dept. of Psychology!
4. The View from Room 382

Research Profile:

Dr. Amye Warren

Dr. Warren joined the UTC faculty 34 years ago after earning a PhD in Experimental Psychology with a specialty in Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Psychology from Georgia Tech. While her research has always examined language and literacy development, her research focus shifted several years ago to investigate how children remember and describe events, how children are questioned about their memories, and how children *should* be questioned to obtain accurate and complete reports. She also studies the factors that influence whether children report accurately or fall prey to suggestion or misinformation from adults, and what factors influence whether children's reports will be viewed as believable.



Dr. Amye Warren

Dr. Warren's interest in Psychology and the Law was partially born out of an experience teaching an advanced developmental psychology course in which students developed their own research projects and collected preliminary data. A group of students was curious about what children knew about the legal system and they developed a questionnaire to give to fellow undergraduate students. Dr. Warren found the results so interesting, she expanded the project to include younger and older children. One of her favorite responses to the questions in this study actually became the title to one of their published papers, "Jury is something you wear around your neck." She realized that her extensive knowledge of language development could be put to good use in developing guidelines for how adults should question children about crimes they witness or experience.

More recently, Dr. Warren and her students have turned their attention to studying how children and juveniles suspected of committing crimes should be questioned, and the factors (characteristics of the crime, the suspect,

the jurors, and the interrogation) that determine whether jurors believe a confession. Her graduate students, Morgan Andrews, and Leanza Greenlee, as well as undergraduate Georgia Sroka, are working on a project currently available on SONA, titled *Questioning Juvenile Suspects* in which they are hoping to learn what factors judges (in juvenile court) or jurors (when juveniles are tried as adults) consider when they are presented with evidence in cases where a juvenile is interrogated and confesses to a crime.

"Confessions are the most powerful form of evidence."

"If judges, jurors, and police officers who question children, have inaccurate knowledge of children's cognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral limits, it can lead to situations in which children are improperly questioned and possibly led to falsely confess to crimes they did not commit," said Dr. Warren. "Confessions are the most powerful form of evidence."

There are many ways in which Dr. Warren's research could lead to fewer wrongful convictions. One would be through education of judges and attorneys, another is through influencing guidelines for police officers when questioning children or adolescents. Finally, her research could be used to educate jurors through expert testimony or by providing judicial instructions.

Dr. Warren has a busy road ahead this year! She plans to complete two research projects this semester, and hopes to launch another one or two during Spring and Summer 2019. She and her graduate students Morgan and Leanza are also planning to attend the American Psychology - Law Society conference in Portland, Oregon in March 2019 to present the results of their current study.

"I love everything about research — from developing the case materials and questions to finding out the answers through statistical analysis," Dr. Warren says. She loves working with students who are passionate about these real world topics. The only part she doesn't love is trying to find funding to get it done!

The new Research Masters Graduate Students!



Jesse Leslie chose to come to UTC to work alongside Dr. Hood in the Psychology of Religion lab. He is interested in studying religious fundamentalism and how it correlates to the polarizing political ideologies in America. Jesse says “there isn’t much civil discourse going on these days” and he hopes to shed some light on why.



Aishani Eggenberger chose UTC for graduate school because she had worked with Dr. Warren and Dr. Ross during her undergraduate study at Stevenson University. She also thinks UTC is a great fit for her interest in studying the criminal justice system, specifically psychology and how it relates to law and theory.



Leanza Greenlee chose UTC because she wanted to be a part of the research being done in the Psych and Law lab and because she felt she would be “in good hands” here. Her research interests are with children and the criminal justice system, specifically regarding children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or involvement in sexual abuse cases.



Alexandra Theis felt a connection with some of the second year graduate students and other individuals in the department before she even applied. She says she was welcomed as a volunteer to help out in the Psychology of Religion lab and thought it was really cool that they would entertain her desire to get involved!



Molly Sloan chose UTC because it is close to home and her family. She read about Dr. Ferrier’s research and it clearly aligned with her own goals for future research into cognitive and emotional self-regulation and socialization in children with ASDs and ADHD.



Leslie Robertson chose UTC for its emphasis on research methodology and teaching. She was also excited about the program’s mentorship model and how it allows students to gain first-hand experience while learning from the faculty. Leslie plans to pursue a PhD in the area of social psychology and the socialization of prejudice.



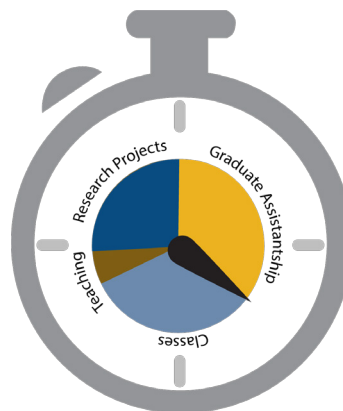
Taylor Hutson is an undergraduate alum of UTC and chose to stay at UTC for her Masters training so that she could work in the Assessing Cognition Lab with Dr. Clark. Neuropsychology is her favorite topic and she hopes to work with various assessments of the everyday life impacts of executive dysfunction.



Matthew Durham says he chose to return to UTC for his Master’s degree because “Dr. Ralph Hood and Dr. Christopher Silver are very persuasive.” His research interests are primarily in conflict resolution/inter-group dialogue as well as experimental theology.

Tick... Tock... How Grad Students Spend Their Time

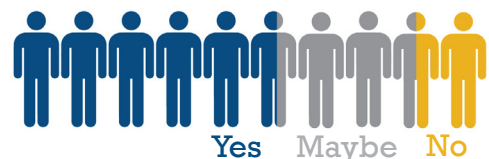
from 2018 Survey of Second Year M.S. Research Students

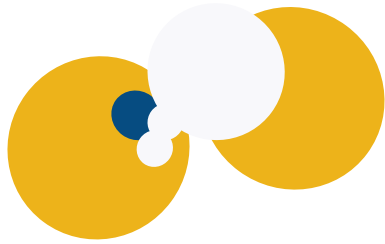


Respondents spent an average of **44 to 50 hrs** per week on UTC graduate school activities. A total of 7 hours more per week than they had expected.

“There is a steep learning curve in the first semester. Once you learn how to manage your time the whole experience is super rewarding.”

Who Plans to Pursue a PhD?





Great things are Happening!

Dr. Kristen Black was awarded a Faculty Research Grant in the amount of \$2,008.26 for her study entitled “College Student Perceptions of Being Stressed.” Dr. Black will use part of the money to get a functioning desktop computer for her research lab.

Congratulations
Dr. Black!



Ms. Angelique Cook recently celebrated her 15 year service anniversary! Ms. Cook is a UTC undergraduate alum, graduate of the MBA program, and began her career at UTC right here in the Psychology department. Since returning home to Psychology Angelique has done an outstanding job as the primary advisor for our 600+ plus undergraduate majors. We don't know what we'd do without you!

Congratulations Ms. Cook!

The View from Room 382

Hello All!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the UTC Department of Psychology Newsletter! First, I want to thank the editorial staff, Chelsea Langley, Judy Gallagher, and Dr. Amanda Clark for their efforts in putting this publication together so that we can better inform our students, alumni and other interested individuals of all the great work that is going on in the UTC Department of Psychology – and there's a bunch of it!



The last few years have also seen many changes in faculty, staff, students, and...location. The department now boasts over 600 undergraduate majors and 50 graduate students in our two outstanding Master of Science programs. You may have noticed that the increase in enrollments over the years had put a significant strain on our facilities, so in December of 2016, we left our longtime home in Holt Hall for the much more spacious (if somewhat more remote) former Tennessee State Office Building, affectionately nicknamed the SOB, at 540 McCallie Ave. The move doubled the amount of office and lab space available to faculty and students which has allowed us to conduct research more efficiently...and comfortably.

This past Spring also saw two faculty members – Dr. Amanda Clark and Dr. Jill Shelton – successfully complete the tenure process. Congratulations Amanda and Jill! On the other end of the spectrum, Dr. Mike Biderman retired after 45 years of dedicated service to UTC, although he will continue to teach our advanced graduate statistics course. In the last few years, we've welcomed several new faculty as well: Dr. Preston Foerder (Comparative), Dr. Kate Rogers (Personality), Dr. Alex Zelin (I-O), Dr. Dave Ferrier (Developmental), and Dr. Kristen Black (I-O). Each of these individuals is an outstanding teacher and researcher who is committed to our students' intellectual growth. They join a group of exceptional faculty who continue to serve UTC and our students with distinction: Dr. Ralph Hood (Religion), Dr. Nicky Ozbek (Clinical), Prof. Ron Morris (Statistics), Dr. Amye Warren (Developmental), Dr. David Ross (Law), Dr. Chris Cunningham (I-O), and Prof. Libby Byers (Experiential). In the coming year, we also hope to add another full-time faculty member to cover additional course demands. Stay tuned!

Of course, the department (and I) could not survive without the valuable contributions of our committed and helpful staff, including our Academic Advisor, Ms. Angelique Cook, our Administrative Assistant, Ms. Allison Stone, and our Office Manager, Ms. Judy Gallagher!

Finally, I want to thank you for being a part of our community of scholars! Our goal, as always, is to provide an outstanding educational experience for our students in the classroom, through research participation, and by providing practical experiential learning opportunities. Please let us know how we can better serve you as a student, alumnus, or friend of the program. Great things happen every day in the UTC Department of Psychology! Come see what we're up to!

Best, *Brian*



Upcoming Events:

- October 9 - Deadline for abstract submission for SEPA
- October 26 & 27 - River Cities I-O Psychology Conference
- October 31 to November 3 - Tennessee Psychological Association Meeting
- November 10 - Chattanooga Autism Awareness Walk