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## Research Profile: David Ferrier, Ph.D.

Dr. David Ferrier joined the UTC faculty in Fall 2016. Dr. Ferrier received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Elmira College. He then completed both his masters in school psychology and his PhD in applied developmental psychology at George Mason University. Growing up in northern Maine, Dr. Ferrier felt like he needed a change in scenery and a place with more opportunities to grow and learn. UTC's wonderful faculty, optimal student-teacher ratios, and overall beautiful scenery is what drew Dr. Ferrier to join the UTC family.



DR. DAVID FERRIER

Dr. Ferrier's research focuses on examining relationships among social-emotional development and self-regulation abilities in preschool-aged children. His doctoral advisor initially sparked his interest in working with this age group, but Dr. Ferrier's background in school psychology - where there is a heavy focus on clinical assessment - inspired him to unite these research areas. Dr. Ferrier is interested in how individuals, mainly children, learn social, emotional, and self-regulatory skills in the context of interactions, like working with a parent or teacher. The applied aspect of Dr. Ferrier's work involves not only testing these abilities in a research lab, but also in the classroom environment. Specifically, he and his team measure how teachers act and behave in the classroom and how that can influence children's behaviors in the classroom as well. This is particularly informative because the relationships that a child has with their teacher are qualitatively different than the relationships that they have with their parents.

While there is a lot of literature available in the field regarding parent-child relationships, there is a lot less about the relationship between teachers and children. This is despite the fact that many children

spend as much time with their teachers (or in nonparental care) as they do with their parents. According to Dr. Ferrier, "the best problem is the one that doesn't happen, so that is why I focus primarily on preschool, so kids aren't starting out behind."

Dr. Ferrier is currently collecting data from local Head Start preschool programs on social-emotional and self-regulatory development with his graduate students and undergraduate research assistants. In the coming year, Dr. Ferrier is hoping to expand to more Head Start centers around Chattanooga and also non-Head Start programs in the area.

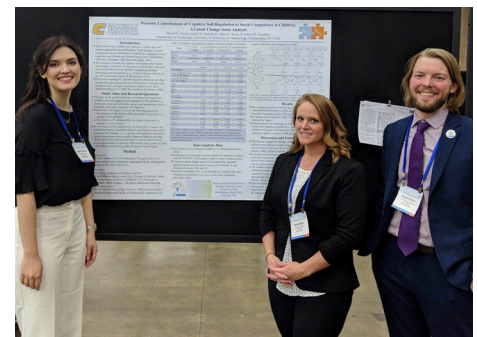
**"As nice as it is to figure stuff out, I like that there are a lot of unknowns. Research is driven by curiosity and not knowing answers, that drives scientific progress."**

Dr. Ferrier strives to see his research being used for pre- and in-service training for teachers. "Knowledge is good, but it's even better if we can use it to shape best practice. Once we better understand how teachers influence social-emotional and self-regulatory development in kids, we

can then focus on ways to further improve this because regardless of the training that teachers have, children are still learning from them."

**"Knowledge is good, but it's even better if we can use it to shape best practice."**

Dr. Ferrier describes himself as a curious person, and that is why psychology and research is so interesting to him. "As nice as it is to figure stuff out, I like that there are a lot of unknowns," he says. "Research is driven by curiosity and not knowing answers; that drives scientific progress."



Above: Graduate students Leslie Robertson and Molly Sloan present with Dr. Ferrier at the Society for Research in Child Development's Biennial Conference in Baltimore, MD in March 2019

# MEET THE NEW PSYCH Mocs!

## Dr. Ashley Howell

Dr. Howell is from Columbus, GA and she earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Georgia. She also worked at the University of Vermont for her post-baccalaureate training. During this year, she applied to graduate school and then attended Ohio University for her Masters and Doctoral degrees in Clinical Psychology. Her predoctoral clinical internship was completed at the Charleston Consortium where she worked for a year with Veterans and completed a rotation at the Sleep and Anxiety Treatment and Research Program at MUSC. Dr. Howell completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, providing treatment for PTSD and other trauma-related concerns and conducting traumatic stress research.

Dr. Howell plans to be a very active researcher at UTC in the areas of social fear and trauma, so reach out to her to learn more!

## Dr. Julie Madden

Dr. Madden completed her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Her undergraduate research focused on nonverbal communication and metaphor. This sparked her interest to learn more about how our ability to process language is impacted by our personal experiences and the primary motor cortex in the brain.

Dr. Madden taught Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Psychology at FSU, and is adding to her repertoire this semester with a few new classes! In addition, she is currently working on a book chapter on best practices for replication science and has plans for further research and data collection here at UTC in the spring!



*Dr. Ashley Howell  
Room 369; PSY 3080, 3140*



*Dr. Danielle Graham  
Room 361; PSY 1010, 4480*



*Dr. Julie Madden  
Room 370; PSY 2020, 3350*



*Dr. Hannah Osborn  
Room 366; PSY 2020, 2410*

## Dr. Danielle Graham

Dr. Graham is from Ohio, right outside of Cleveland. She completed her Bachelor's degree at Penn State University and her Master's degree in I-O at the University of Akron. She earned her Ph.D. from UTK in the area of Counseling Psychology, where her studies centered around a scientist/advocate/practitioner model. Most recently, she completed her clinical internship at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte where she further honed her consultation and advocacy practices.

Dr. Graham worked for four years in university counseling centers while also teaching, and she has collaborated with campus organizations in the past for various social justice issues such as reproductive justice and bystander intervention. She looks forward to working in these areas at UTC as well!

## Dr. Hannah Osborn

Dr. Osborn is from Iowa City, Iowa. She completed her undergraduate degree in Rock Island, Illinois, and will graduate this fall with a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Ohio University. Dr. Osborn has a strong passion for teaching and mentorship. At OU, she taught several courses for the undergraduate major, and has added two more courses to her list this semester! Dr. Osborn also served as a career and graduate school advisor, and she hopes to use this experience to help students at UTC find their passion and a career they will love.

Dr. Osborn is also active in research on outgroup perceptions with a focus on threat, stereotyping, and identity. She is collecting data this fall and encourages students to reach out if they are interested in research - she loves collaborating with students!



# Meet Our Psychology Majors



**Angela Kruck** is from Mount Juliet, Tennessee. She has loved being a psychology major from the beginning of her time at UTC, especially because it has provided her with the opportunity to work alongside Dr. Shelton as a teaching assistant. After all, her favorite aspect of the department is the professors. She says, "Each one of the professors has their own wisdom and knowledge to offer." Her decision to study psychology

was influenced directly by family members struggling with mental health. Before this most recent summer break, Angela planned to pursue clinical psychology; however, after three months of working with kids at a summer camp, she has decided to pursue school counseling. She hopes to obtain a master's degree through the education program at UTC with a goal to work in an elementary or high school as an in-house counselor.

**Adeola Ijiyode** is from Nashville, Tennessee. Beginning in high school, she discovered a passion for mental health, a curiosity about the workings of the mind, and a desire to understand how and why things go wrong in it. When it came time for college, there was no doubt that psychology was for her. Her favorite part about the department at UTC is the professors. "They are all ready to speak to students who have concerns and questions. They are very personable and actually care about students," she says. Adeola is very involved at UTC. She has had a fascinating opportunity to conduct research with Dr. Warren on racial and ethnic socialization for her honor's thesis. She has been involved in Psi Chi, the honor's college council, URaCE, and just joined a sorority! Following graduation in May 2020, she plans to take a gap year and then pursue a master's degree in clinical psychology.



## Angela's Best Advice?

Knowing how to study is really important, as is knowing that once you're done with general education classes, you'll really get into some interesting stuff. As long as you're passionate, it'll be great.

## Adeola's Best Advice?

Get involved with research and clinical observations as soon as possible. It's okay to get hands-on experience while you're still narrowing down what you want to do. Get advice from different sources, but don't forget to try things on your own and see what you're interested in pursuing.

## Angelique's Advice

### Greetings!

It's here! Registration season! As you prepare to sign up for Spring 2020 classes, I wanted to share some important dates, strategies, and advice to make your experience go smoothly and more efficiently.

**# 1** Group advising and individual appointments are happening now. Check your email for prompts to sign up!

**# 2** The Spring 2020 course schedule comes out on Monday, October 14th.

**# 3** The last day to drop with a "W" is Monday, October 21st.

**# 4** Priority registration takes place from Monday, November 4th to Friday, November 15th.

**# 5** Remember the "rule of thumb" on my advising sheets:

- Highlighted = you are eligible to take a category or course
- Checked = You are done! You have fulfilled a category or course requirement
- Not checked / Not highlighted = You are not eligible to take this specific category or course.

**# 6** Remember that you must declare a minor. You do not have to declare a concentration.

**# 7** If you have taken a statistics course other than PSY 2010, you will always need an override for PSY 2020, 2040, 3100, 3110, 3130, 3140, and 3180. Please submit an override form.

**# 8** Every student needs 39 hours of upper level credit. In addition to major courses, the two biggest ways of getting upper level hours is by choosing 3000/4000 level classes for your concentration and free electives. This tip is geared primarily toward junior and seniors.

**# 9** Have your schedule and CRN numbers in front of you on your registration date and time. *You should also have back-up classes just in case your original options don't pan out.*

**#10** Check your advising hold the night before you intend to register to make sure everything has cleared.

**# 11** If you find a class that is closed, you can either waitlist or take it in another semester. UTC faculty and staff are not authorized to do overrides for classes with active waitlists.

**# 12** Remember that waitlisting for a course DOES NOT guarantee you a seat in the course.

**# 13** All PSY 3560 (Practicum) and 3570 (TA) overrides will be processed on *Monday, November 18th.*

**With these tips, I wish everyone a stress-free and productive registration season.**

**P.S. Check your email for my walk-in schedule. I'm being generous with time over the next few weeks!**



# Fall 2019 PSI CHI Officers!

Four Psychology undergraduates will be heading up UTC's PSI CHI Honor Society this year, and they already have a lot in store for this semester! Meetings are every other Monday at 5 o' clock in Room 357; you won't want to miss out!

*pictured from left to right: Braden Sanford (Vice President), Melissa Materia (President), Emme Woodward (Treasurer), and Claudia Divincenzo (Secretary)*



## Grit & Succeeding In School



Have you ever been so stumped on a homework question that you want to just give up and throw your computer at the wall? **Psychology can explain that!** Research has shown that fixed beliefs about your own intelligence can be as important to success as actual IQ scores.

Like any other muscle in your body, your brain can grow stronger and stronger. Some school work won't come as easily to you as you would like. That's okay and does not mean that you're stupid. It just means that you need to persevere to achieve your goal. Having a positive mindset will help with this! Remember, learning takes effort and putting effort into your work is a strength not a weakness.



## Great Things are Happening!

Dr. Jill Shelton and Dr. Amy Dootlittle were awarded a three-year, \$503,803 grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to train staff in implementing "Bingocize" in 40 Tennessee nursing homes! Bingocize is a program that combines exercise and bingo in order to promote health and quality of life. UTC students will also have the opportunity to participate in facilitating the program.

Congratulations, Dr. Shelton!



Dr. Amanda Clark is part of a multidisciplinary team with faculty from Biology and the School of Education who were awarded funds from the National Science Foundation to provide international science training to graduate and undergraduate students. UTC students will be mentored by a team of international researchers with a long-history of collaboration.

Congratulations,  
Dr. Clark!

