



**THE DR. JESS SPIRER
DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP
IN
HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGY
2025-2026**

**Counseling Center
University of Miami
Coral Gables, Florida**

Accredited by the American Psychological Association

The University of Miami

The University of Miami, a privately supported, non-sectarian institution, was established in 1926. The main campus of the University of Miami is located in suburban Coral Gables and the School of Medicine is situated in mid-town Miami's medical center complex. The University enrolls 12,570 degree seeking undergraduate students and 6,710 graduate students in approximately 148 undergraduate and 215 graduate/professional areas of study. The University of Miami's students represent 50 states and over 119 nations. Approximately, 36% of the undergraduate students live on campus and 79% are from outside the Greater Miami area. Among the undergraduate student body, nearly 50% declared themselves to be members of a minority group and 8% were classified as international students. The University employs 2,856 full-time teaching faculty members. U.S. News & World Report's 2023 "America's Best Colleges" rankings placed UM at number 67 in the National University Survey. As one of the most comprehensive private research universities in the Southeast, the University ranked 75th of all universities in expenditures for federal support for research and development programs. More information about the University of Miami can be obtained from our website: <http://www.miami.edu>.

The University of Miami Counseling Center

The Counseling Center is the sole provider of psychological services to the University of Miami student body. Individual and group psychotherapy, which are provided at no cost, are the primary modes of intervention available for personal and developmental problems. However, the Counseling Center also offers a full array of clinical services including psychiatric consultation, diagnostic testing and career counseling. Clients seek treatment at the Counseling Center for a broad spectrum of psychopathology as well as for the typical adjustment issues that college students experience. The treatment approach at the Counseling Center follows a brief therapy model. In addition to these clinical activities, the Counseling Center offers consultation services and outreach programming for the entire University community. The Counseling Center is housed within the Division of Student Affairs which enhances the ability of the staff to interface closely with other areas of the University in providing psychological services in a timely and effective fashion. The Counseling Center has a diverse, multi-disciplinary staff which includes highly experienced licensed clinical psychologists with a variety of specialty interests. The Counseling Center has demonstrated a long standing commitment to the clinical training of graduate students by being a key practicum placement for doctoral students from the Clinical Psychology Training Program and the Counseling Psychology Program which are both accredited by the American Psychological Association.

The Dr. Jess Spirer Doctoral Internship Program

The Dr. Jess Spirer Doctoral Internship Program began in 1993, and is supported by a generous bequest from Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Flipse, as well as generous gifts from Ruth Spirer Perfido and Leonard Perfido. Additional funding has been provided by the University of Miami. This program honors the outstanding professional contributions of Jess Spirer, the founder and first Director of the University of Miami Counseling Center. He served in that capacity for thirty-three years. In addition, he was a Professor of both Psychology and Sociology at the University. His professional training included a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and an LL.B. from Duquesne University. Dr. Spirer was a member of the first group of psychologists accepted for Diplomate status by the American Board of Professional Psychology. After retiring from the University in 1977, he engaged in private practice in Coral Gables, Florida. Dr. Spirer died on June 21, 1993. He will be remembered at the Counseling Center as one who stood for excellence in the clinical training of graduate students as well as for the highest level of professionalism in the delivery of counseling and clinical services to students at the University.

Fred C. Flipse died on June 1, 1997 at the age of 85 and Helen Donn Flipse passed away on October 2, 2006 at the age of 89. Their generosity and thoughtfulness provided the inspiration for the initiation and development of the internship program. They are remembered as wise, caring, patient and humble individuals whose involvement has closely touched the lives of our staff, interns, and the many students who have benefited from the activities of the internship program.

Internship Training Model, Aim and Competencies

The Dr. Jess Spirer Doctoral Internship Program utilizes a General Practitioner Training Model in providing a closely supervised, sequenced, high quality training experience in intervention, assessment, and consultation for interns. It is our aim that interns who successfully complete the program will have developed the fundamental skills and knowledge to launch professional careers as health service psychologists in a wide array of clinical settings, not limited to a university counseling center. Interns gain experience in the areas of intervention, assessment and outreach consultation within the context of working with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. This is accomplished by a commitment of the Counseling Center to excellence in supervision through a broad range of training activities. Efforts are made with interns to individualize their training experience in view of their specialty areas and past training. Interns are encouraged in their development as practitioners to value the role of science as the basis for their clinical work.

The Counseling Center is aware that professional growth and personal development are intertwined, and consequently is supportive of opportunities for the intern's own personal growth. In adherence to the profession wide competencies for doctoral interns in health service psychology established by the American Psychological Association, our internship program facilitates achievement of [competencies](#) in the following domains: intervention, assessment, individual and cultural diversity, supervision, consultation and interprofessional / interdisciplinary skills, ethical and legal standards, professional values and attitudes, communication and interpersonal skills, and research.

Professional Activities

Following an orientation to the Counseling Center and the University, the interns' initial level of clinical development is determined through discussions between the staff and the interns. An effort is made to individualize the interns' professional assignments and supervisory sessions based upon their needs and stated interests. Interns meet on a regular basis with the training director to process any concerns or issues that pertain to their internship experiences. The Counseling Center currently provides professional services in person and virtually.

1. Individual Psychotherapy -- The largest portion of the interns' time involves working in therapy on a one-to-one basis with students in both short and long term models. The Counseling Center attempts to be flexible in providing the most appropriate treatment alternatives available, and thus sessions also involving couples are encouraged.
2. Group Psychotherapy -- The Counseling Center offers a number of counseling groups to University of Miami students each semester. The groups tend to be topic oriented such as mindfulness meditation, social anxiety, understanding self and others (process), stress reduction and GLBTQ. Interns participate in these groups as co-therapists for the first semester, and depending upon their experience, they may also conduct groups on their own.
3. Diagnostic Interviews -- Interns conduct intake sessions (initial sessions) on a regular basis through which they can develop skills in clarifying presenting problems and considering treatment alternatives.
4. Psychological Assessment -- The interns are also given opportunities to administer and interpret test battery assignments for the purpose of making refined judgments in diagnosis and aiding in treatment planning. The nature and extent of the testing assignments are determined in part by the particular intern's past training and experience with specific assessment instruments. The minimum expectation is that an intern will complete two full-battery and two partial-battery assessment assignments.
5. Career Counseling and Testing -- The use of psychological tests for helping to clarify students' decisions in regard to choosing academic majors and careers is an important function of the Counseling Center. Interns are encouraged to interact with the Career Planning and Placement Office when helping students in this area.
6. Triage Interviews -- Interns conduct brief assessment with students, some of whom might be in an emotional crisis, to determine the student's need for treatment and to provide a plan for dealing with their concern. Interns are typically assigned up to three hours of triage coverage per week.
7. Crisis Intervention -- The Counseling Center staff is available on a 24-hour basis by means of a cell phone for psychological crises that may occur after hours. Interns can be included in the handling of these emergencies, providing them first hand

experience in assessing such important clinical issues as suicidal potential and need for hospitalization. For two weeks during the Spring Semester it is expected that interns will accompany the on-call psychologist when paged for campus emergencies. In addition, during the summer, interns are assigned the emergency cell phone for several weeks. Also, it's not unusual for interns to handle clients in crisis during triage sessions or in association with their ongoing case load.

8. **Campus Consultation/Outreach Programming** -- Interns are often called upon to provide talks and workshops to the University community on numerous relevant topics such as stress management, date rape, and eating issues. The residence halls at the University of Miami function within an innovative Residential College system providing a useful context for developing outreach programs. In addition, there are opportunities for consultation involving the inter-collegiate athletic programs and various departments in the Division of Student Affairs. Interns have been involved in ongoing consultation programs at the Student Health Center, the Athletic Department, Multi-Cultural Student Affairs, the Career Counseling and Placement Center, the Wellness Center, the Panhellenic Association, the University Chaplains' Association and a peer-counseling program at the Law School. Also each intern works with a professional staff member and helps coordinate one of the ongoing Counseling Center outreach programs or areas of outreach emphasis: The Sexual Assault Resource Team (SART), eating disorders programming, suicide prevention programming and the Counseling Outreach and Peer Education Program (COPE), a peer driven outreach program. Another outreach feature is the media psychology aspect of the internship in which interns have the opportunity to be interviewed on psychoeducational topics for the campus television and radio stations as well as the student newspaper. Interns are expected to participate in a minimum of five outreach programs, coordinate at least one major comprehensive outreach event, and create a self-help leaflet or video.
9. **Conducting Supervision** -- The Counseling Center is a practicum site for the APA accredited University of Miami Clinical and Counseling Psychology Doctoral Programs. Interns are expected to supervise a practicum student on at least one psychotherapy case over two semesters.
10. **Research** -- The Counseling Center recognizes the importance of research in the development of the professional psychologist, and the interns are given time and encouragement to pursue their research interests. This might include analysis and writing for doctoral dissertations. The actual time available for research can vary from a minimum of one hour during peak periods of clinical demand, to considerably more time during winter break and the summer when the clinical demands are lessened. Special arrangements were made for an intern who expressed an interest in women's health issues, to participate in a research project at the University of Miami School of Medicine involving behavioral intervention for women with AIDS. Furthermore, the program has instituted a monthly research discussion group which meets during the spring semester. Furthermore, a psychologist on the staff serves as a research coordinator and is available for consultation with interns related to dissertation research.

Supervision and Training

1. Individual Supervision -- Each intern is assigned a primary supervisor, taking into account the intern's preference, who provides two hours of individual supervision each week. In order to permit the intern to experience a broad range of theoretical approaches, an effort is made to assign a different primary supervisor for the fall, spring and summer semesters of the internship year. Furthermore, interns are given an additional hour of individual supervision each week from a psychologist who is considered the secondary supervisor. This secondary supervision includes supervision of the interns' practicum students as well as an opportunity to be supervised in depth on a smaller number of clients. Interns are consequently given the opportunity to be supervised by a variety of psychologists on the staff. Video recording is an important aspect of supervision at the Counseling Center.
2. Clinical Training Seminar -- This weekly one-hour meeting is conducted by a psychologist at the Counseling Center for the interns and practicum students. While the format of the seminar varies, it usually entails discussion of ongoing cases and related clinical issues. Staff members also rotate as co-leaders of this seminar to augment diversity related perspectives.
3. Case Conference -- The interns along with the entire staff meet two times a week for one hour to discuss treatment plans and diagnostic issues involving our clients. One of the Counseling Center's consulting psychiatrists attends this meeting in order to provide input on medication and medical issues. Interns are expected to present cases on a regular basis. While there are several other supervision activities interns engage in, Case Conference along with primary and secondary supervision constitute the four hours of required supervision.
4. Assessment Seminar -- A Counseling Center psychologist typically meets with the interns on a weekly basis for one hour to present, discuss and interpret the data from their assessment assignments. This meeting is supplemented by didactic presentations on assessment instruments and assessment consultation sessions with staff and interns.
5. Group Supervision Seminar -- Interns meet together on a monthly basis with a Counseling Center psychologist for supervisory discussions of the groups they lead / co-lead as well as for group therapy related didactic sessions.
6. [Clinical and Professional Topics Seminar](#) -- This is a weekly one-hour didactic seminar in which Counseling Center psychologists, Affiliate Training Staff, and professionals in the community discuss specific professional and clinical issues. At the beginning of the internship year, the meeting is typically conducted by the staff of the Counseling Center and involves providing basic knowledge concerning areas such as conducting intake interviews, ethics, campus and community resources, crisis management, psychopharmacology, eating disorders, career assessment, supervision, self care and implementation of outreach/consultation. In addition to these basic sessions, examples of topics included in recent years were: The IMAGO Approach to Couple Counseling; Integrated Care and Telehealth; Ethical Dilemmas in the Use of Social Media; Sport Psychology and Psychological Performance Enhancement; Strategies for Finding Post-Doctoral Position and Employment in Psychology; and Preparing for the Licensing Exam in Psychology. An expanded training module involving multicultural issues is also featured in this seminar. Recent topics that highlighted multi-cultural issues included:

Cultural Factors and Issues in the Treatment of Substance Abuse: Latino Mental Health, It's in the (Chanel) Bag: Fashion as a Barometer of Change; Counseling Individuals and Families - Gender and Orientation Issues; and The How and Why of Evidenced Based, Manualized and Culturally Informed Treatment. Interns are active in selecting topics and present at one meeting as well. This meeting is conducted in the Counseling Center conference room and the informal atmosphere encourages an open exchange of ideas.

7. Psychotherapy Process Seminar -- A member of the Affiliate Training Staff meets with the interns for one hour on a bi-weekly basis to examine psychotherapy issues involving their clients in an in-depth and interactive fashion during the Fall and Spring Semesters, with an emphasis on a multicultural perspective.
8. Supervision of Supervision Seminar -- In addition to interns receiving individual supervision for their supervision of practicum students, an Affiliate Staff member meets with the interns for an hour each week to discuss their experiences as supervisors in a group format which includes the use of video tape recordings.
9. Research Discussion Group --This one-hour monthly meeting, conducted by a Counseling Center psychologist, is offered to discuss matters related to research in psychology during the spring semester. This may involve review of ongoing intern dissertations or research articles related to relevant mental health topics.
10. Racial and Cultural Dialogues Seminar -- Interns participate in an informal bi-weekly meeting during the Fall and Spring Semesters facilitated by a staff psychologist where they will have an opportunity to engage in active self-exploration of their various sociocultural identities, cultural biases and cultural worldview including how they may impact their clinical and professional work.
11. Non-Verbal Processing Seminar – During the Summer Semester, an art therapist leads a bi-weekly seminar which is primarily experiential with didactic features, designed to increase awareness, knowledge and implementation of non-verbal processing in therapeutic work.
12. Working with Latino Populations in Therapy Seminar – This Summer Semester seminar focuses on enhancing clinicians' knowledge of Latino populations and exploring how Latino core values may impact psychotherapy. Emphasis is placed on identifying Latino demographics, discussing culturally informed modifications in therapeutic technique, and reviewing clinical case material in English and/or Spanish.
14. Training in Clinical Hypnosis – Interns have an option to receive supervision by a staff psychologist in the use of clinical hypnosis provided they attend an American Society of Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH)-approved basic workshop. (Conference funds are available for this and other training opportunities.)

There are a number of other training opportunities available to interns:

- a. The Counseling Center administers the Sexual Assault Resource Team (S.A.R.T.), a group of peer advocates who respond to sexual assaults. Interns are given the opportunity to attend the training and processing sessions for S.A.R.T.
- b. Grand Rounds -- Interns have some opportunity to attend the Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds held at the Medical Campus. Each meeting typically involves a presentation of relevant professional and clinical issues in mental health.
- c. The Counseling Center has close ties to the Psychology Department at the University of Miami, and interns have the opportunity to attend colloquia offered in that department.
- d. South Florida often has nationally known figures offering workshops and some funds are provided for interns to attend workshops of special interest to them.
- e. The Counseling Center's Training Affiliates are available for individual consultations and discussions in their areas of expertise on an as needed basis.
- f. The Counseling Center staff has instituted a [Distinguished Speaker Series](#) in which nationally regarded experts in specific domains of mental health offer day long workshops which the interns attend.
- g. The Counseling Center staff is aware that often the most significant professional and personal growth occurs through the exchange of ideas with one's peers. Interns are encouraged to interact among themselves.

ESTIMATED WEEKLY HOURS

Activity	Hours
Primary Individual Supervision	2
Secondary Individual Supervision	1
Clinical Training Seminar	1
Case Conference	2
Assessment Seminar	1
Psychotherapy Process/Racial and Cultural Diversity Seminars	1
Professional and Clinical Topics Seminar	1
Supervision of Supervision Seminar	1
Meeting with Training Director	1
Individual Psychotherapy	10
Group Therapy	2
Intakes	2
Triage (Brief Assessments)	2
Assessment	1
Supervision of Practicum Student(s)	1-2
Outreach Activities	1
Record Keeping	5
Professional Development/Research	1

The above chart is included as a general estimate of the activity hours per week. Please note that actual activity hours may vary depending upon the time of the academic year and the nature of the intern's assignments. For example, extra intakes might be added to an intern's schedule if his or her caseload was considerably lower than expected. Furthermore, time available for research expands significantly during periods of low clinical demands such as winter break and the summer.

Diversity and Training

Training and experience in working with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and lifestyles is a critical feature of the General Practitioner Training Model, and one that is greatly valued at the University of Miami Counseling Center. Cultural and lifestyle diversity is quite apparent among the clients seeking treatment at the Counseling Center. In fact, The Princeton Review in 2014 praised the University of Miami for being ranked by the guidebook as No. 3 in Race/Class Interaction. Recently, Campus Pride gave health and counseling at the University of Miami its highest rating in a national assessment program. The University of Miami prides itself upon being a "global university" with 8% of the undergraduates being classified as international students. Furthermore, nearly 50% described themselves to be members of a minority group (Hispanic students - 26%; Black students - 9%; Asian students - 7%; Multiracial - 4%). There is also an Office of Disability Services on the UM Campus that frequently refers students to the Counseling Center for clinical services. These disabilities range from extreme physical limitations to Adult Attention Deficit Disorder. In addition, the University of Miami has an active LGBTQ community on campus, and consequently interns are exposed to the special conflicts experienced by LGBTQ individuals. Finally, it may be noted that in addition to a diverse training staff, the Psychotherapy Process Seminar having a multicultural focus, the Working with Latino Populations in Therapy Seminar and the multicultural/diversity features of the Clinical and Professional Topics Seminar, all provide a systemic context for exploring diversity. Supervision is available in Spanish, Portuguese and Creole.

External Rotation

The Counseling Center may arrange for the interns to spend up to 200 hours, usually during the summer semester, at a clinical placement outside the Counseling Center. The external rotation can provide the interns with a broader training experience by exposing them to clinical populations and settings not available at the Counseling Center. The specific placement is made on the basis of the intern's interests and training needs. Although this feature is viewed as an elective and supplemental experience, interns are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. While there is no guarantee that a particular site will be available for placement, through the years, interns have been placed at the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital, The Oliver-Pyatt Center for Treatment of Eating Disorders and El Centro Center for Health Disparities Research. Galen Hope, a partial hospitalization program, is also available as a summer external rotation.

Training Affiliates

The Counseling Center has invited a number of clinical practitioners in South Florida who have a high level of expertise in specialty areas to participate on a voluntary basis in the Internship Program as Training Affiliates. They have indicated their willingness to be available to the interns for consultations and seminars in their area of expertise. This enriches the interns' experience by providing them with knowledge and perspectives from outside the academic community.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Eligibility and Stipend

Successful completion of all required course work, practicum experiences and qualifying examinations in a doctoral level clinical/counseling psychology program accredited by the American Psychological Association is required by the beginning of the internship year. The internship year begins on August 10, 2025, and applications are due by November 1, 2024. The stipend for the 12-month internship is \$43,888. Benefits include two weeks of vacation, all University holidays, two floating holidays and ten sick days. Interns have the option of purchasing group health insurance at a cost of \$300 per year.

Since the program adheres to a General Practitioner Training Model, it is not necessary to have counseling center practicum experience to apply. Students from either clinical or counseling programs are eligible. Interns are strongly encouraged to live within twenty miles from campus. A background check and drug screening are required post-match.

Application Procedures

The Counseling Center participates in the APPIC Internship Matching Program (Match No. 120111). Candidates for the internship program should provide the Counseling Center with the following materials by November 1, 2024:

- a. A completed application form - The Counseling Center uses the APPIC Application for Psychology Internship (AAPI) form which may be accessed at <http://appic.org/> and clicking on "AAPI Online."
- b. Curriculum vitae
- c. Cover letter
- d. Official transcript of all graduate work
- e. At least three letters of recommendation (APPIC Standardized Reference Form)

Questions about the internship program should be directed to:

Dr. Edward Rappaport, ABPP
Training Director
Counseling Center
University of Miami
1307 Stanford Drive, 3rd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 284-5511
erappaport@miami.edu

Interview Process

Our interview notification deadline is December 13, 2024. Applicants selected for interviews are typically notified by phone. Those not offered an interview are informed by e-mail. All interviews will be conducted via Zoom. The interviews usually include half-hour individual, unstructured, separate meetings with the Training Director, one or two professional staff members and an intern. Interviews are typically scheduled from late December through mid January.

The Counseling Center is a member of the American Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). This internship site agrees to abide by the APPIC policy that no person at this training facility will solicit, accept or use any rank-related information from any intern applicant.

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American Psychological Association

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

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Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers

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Internship Admissions, Support and Initial Placement Data

Date Program Tables Updated – September 15, 2024

Program Disclosures

As articulated in Standard I.B.2, programs may have "admission and employment policies that directly relate to affiliation or purpose" that may be faith-based or secular in nature. However, such policies and practices must be disclosed to the public. Therefore, programs are asked to respond to the following question.

Does the program or institution require students, trainees, and/or staff (faculty) to comply with specific policies or practices related to the institution's affiliation or purpose? Such policies or practices may include, but are not limited to, admissions, hiring, retention policies, and/or requirements for completion that express mission and values. – No

If yes, provide website link (or content from brochure) where this specific information is presented – NA

Internship Program Admissions

Briefly describe in narrative form important information to assist potential applicants in assessing their likely fit with your program. This description must be consistent with the program's policies on intern selection and practicum and academic preparation requirements:

The Dr. Jess Spirer Doctoral Internship Program utilizes a General Practitioner Training Model in providing a closely supervised, sequenced, high quality training experience in intervention, assessment, and consultation for interns. It is our aim that interns who successfully complete the program will have developed the fundamental skills and knowledge to launch professional careers as health service psychologists in a wide array of clinical settings, not limited to a university counseling center. Interns gain experience in the areas of intervention, assessment and outreach consultation within the context of working with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds and lifestyles. This is accomplished by a commitment of the Counseling Center to excellence in supervision through a broad range of training activities. Efforts are made with interns to individualize their training experience in view of their specialty areas and past training. Interns are encouraged in their development as practitioners to value the role of science as the basis for their clinical work. The Counseling Center is aware that professional growth and personal development are intertwined, and consequently is supportive of opportunities for the intern's own personal growth. In adherence to the profession wide competencies for doctoral interns in health service psychology established by the American Psychological Association, our internship program facilitates achievement of competencies in the following domains: intervention, assessment, individual and cultural diversity, supervision, consultation and interprofessional / interdisciplinary skills, ethical and legal standards, professional values and attitudes, communication and interpersonal skills, and research.

Does the program require that applicants have received a minimum number of hours of the following at time of application? If Yes, indicate how many:

Total Direct Contact Intervention Hours - No

No specific hours required

Total Direct Contact Assessment Hours - No

No specific hours required

Describe any other required minimum criteria used to screen applicants:

- Current enrollment in an APA-accredited (or CPA-accredited) doctoral program in counseling or clinical psychology.
- Successful completion of doctoral comprehensive exams.
- Approval by the academic training program verifying readiness for internship.
- Completion of all required coursework and practica prior to the starting date of the internship.
- Post-match drug and background check passed.

Financial and Other Benefit Support for Upcoming Training Year

Annual Stipend/Salary for Full-time Interns: \$ 43,888

Annual Stipend/Salary for Half-time Interns: Not applicable

Program provides access to medical insurance for intern? Yes

If access to medical insurance is provided

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Trainee contribution to cost required? | Yes |
| • Coverage of family member(s) available? | No |
| • Coverage of legally married partner available? | No |
| • Coverage of domestic partner available? | No |

Hours of Annual Paid Personal Time Off (PTO and/or Vacation)	96 hours
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Hours of Annual Paid Sick Leave	80 hours
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In the event of medical conditions and/or family needs that require extended leave, does the program allow reasonable unpaid leave to interns/residents in excess of personal time off and sick leave? Yes

Other Benefits*

- Professional Development Leave (e.g. conferences, workshops, graduation, job interviews, dissertation consultation and defense)
- Funds for Workshops/Conferences - \$500
- Each intern has their own office equipped with computer, internet access, digital recording and voicemail
- Each intern receives personalized business cards
- Interns have access to library resources
- Eligibility for wellness and recreation center facilities

*Note. Programs are not required by the Commission on Accreditation to provide all benefits listed in this table

Initial Post-Internship Positions

Aggregated Tally for 3 Preceding Cohorts

2021 - 2024

Total # of interns who were in the 3 cohorts: 9

Total # of interns who remain in training in the internship program: 0

	PD	EP
Academic teaching	0	1
Community mental health center	0	0
Consortium	0	0
University Counseling Center	2	1
Hospital/Medical Center	0	0
Veterans Affairs Health Care System	0	0
Psychiatric facility	0	0
Correctional facility	0	0
Health maintenance organization	0	0
School district/system	0	0
Independent practice setting	5	0
Other	0	0

Note: "PD" = Post-doctoral residency position; "EP" = Employed Position. Each individual represented in this table is counted only one time. For former trainees working in more than one setting, select the setting that represents their primary position.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Patricia Arena, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
University of Miami

Dr. Patricia Arena is originally from Brazil and completed her undergraduate training at the University of Miami. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Miami Adult Clinical Psychology doctoral program in 2002 and completed her internship at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. Dr. Arena also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in neuropsychology at the University of Miami Department of Neurology. She worked for nine years at Cherokee Health Systems, a community health center in Tennessee with a focus on integrated care and provision of care for the underserved, where she developed her interest in mood disorders, substance abuse, and severe psychopathology. Dr. Arena is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and also has an interest in working with cultural diversity.

Kisha Bazelais, Ph.D.
Counseling Psychologist
Boston College

Dr. Bazelais completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at Franklin and Marshall College, and later earned her Ed.M. and MA in Psychological Counseling at Teachers College, Columbia University. She received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Boston College in 2011. After completing her internship at the University of Miami Counseling Center, Dr. Bazelais completed a two-year research postdoctoral fellowship at the Weill Cornell Medical College Institute of Geriatric Psychiatry where she conducted research on bio-psychosocial factors contributing to service inequities in mental health care among older adults. She also has experience in delivering community-based psychosocial interventions, and the implementation of evidence-based interventions with non-traditional populations. Her areas of interests include racial and ethnic identity development, examining risk and resilience factors, trauma histories, bereavement issues, psychological assessment, and working with individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds. Dr. Bazelais is fluent in French Creole. She is currently the Research Coordinator for the Counseling Center.

Elvin Blanco, LMHC
Triage Therapist
Nova Southeastern University

Mr. Blanco obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Bethune Cookman University and his Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University. He has worked with an array of diverse populations experiencing Severe Mental Illness in various clinical settings (Private Practice, Homeless Shelter and Community Mental Health Center. Mr. Blanco has also worked with the State of Florida to support the quality of Public Mental Health services. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and has provided Individual/Group Therapy to a diverse group of individuals in Miami Dade County. Through his training, Mr. Blanco has found passion in working with individuals experiencing Severe Psychopathology, Mood Disorders and substance use. His goal with the University of Miami is to serve as a catalyst for student Wellness and individual success.

Audrey Cleary, Ph.D., ABPP
Clinical Psychologist
University of Arizona

Dr. Cleary earned her B.A. from the University of Virginia, her M.S. in Psychology from Villanova University, and her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona. After completing her predoctoral internship at the University of Miami Counseling Center, she continued her training at the Counseling Center as a postdoctoral fellow. While at the University of Arizona, Dr. Cleary's research focused on observed self-regulation among adolescent substance users. Her prior clinical experience included intervention and assessment of students at Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of Arizona. Dr. Cleary's clinical interests include interpersonal and romantic relationship issues, family of origin concerns, mood management, identity development, and clinical hypnosis. She currently coordinates the Sexual Assault Resource Team.

Caroline Gomez, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist
Nova Southeastern University

Dr. Caroline Gomez earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Miami, and later earned both her M.S. and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship and post-doctoral fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital in affiliation with the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine. Her clinical interests include mood and anxiety disorders, adjustment to new environments, relationship stress, family conflict, as well as identity development. Dr. Gomez's therapeutic purpose is to increase levels of well-being using a strengths-based approach in therapy, as well as prevent burnout by achieving a well-balanced life. Dr. Gomez is both bilingual (English/Spanish) and bicultural.

Catherine Holder, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
Adelphi University

Dr. Holder earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the Gordon F. Derner School of Psychology at Adelphi University. She completed her predoctoral internship with the State University of New York College at Old Westbury Counseling and Wellness Services and her post-doctoral fellowship at the Rosemary Furman Counseling Center at Barnard College. Dr. Holder has prior experience working in HIV/AIDS prevention research with the LGBTQ+ community. She also has experience providing psychotherapy in an acute care adult outpatient psychiatric department within the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Dr. Holder utilizes several treatment models in her clinical practice including CBT, Motivational Interviewing, and psychodynamic techniques. Her clinical interests include mood disorders, adjustment concerns, identity development, acculturative stress, interpersonal relationship concerns, and challenges facing BIPOC communities.

Addys Karunaratne, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
University of Missouri-Columbia

Dr. Karunaratne earned her B.S. from Fordham University in New York, and her M.A and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Karunaratne has a wide breadth of clinical experiences with children, adolescents, and adults and worked for 15 years in a school for adolescents with emotional problems. She has also worked in a variety of other settings including an inpatient psychiatric hospital, residential treatment, intensive outpatient, and community mental health. Dr. Karunaratne has specialized training in the assessment and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Other areas of interest include executive dysfunction, behavior disorders, and anxiety. Originally from Cuba, Dr. Karunaratne is a native Spanish speaker.

Martin Lopez, LCSW
AOD Therapist
Florida International University

Mr. Lopez received a BA in philosophy and MSW in clinical social work from Florida International University. He has worked in diverse clinical settings such as substance use intensive outpatient, mental health outpatient, and community mental health. He also has a passion for social justice and worked as a Mitigation Specialist for the Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office. Mr. Lopez's studies in phenomenology, existentialism, and systems theory influence his therapeutic approach. His professional interests include ADHD, mood disorders, individual therapy, group therapy, substance abuse interventions, mindfulness, and campus outreach. Originally from Uruguay, Mr. Lopez is a fluent Spanish speaker.

Kimberly Martin, M.S.W., LCSW
 Assistant Director of Outreach Services and Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 Indiana University

Ms. Martin has worked with a homeless transitional program for women and children, a community family service agency, a maternity care home for adolescents in the dependency system, and two foster care agencies in South Florida. She has provided individual, group, and family therapeutic services to diverse populations with a primary focus on group therapy dynamics and family mediation. Ms. Martin has conducted trainings in school settings so that they may implement peer mediation programs and has training in conflict resolution. Ms. Martin also has extensive training and experience treating children and adolescents who have been both victims and perpetrators of sexual trauma. Her clinical interests include helping individuals cope with trauma experienced from abuse, bereavement, healthy relationship development, forensic social work and transitional life issues.

Kirt McClellan, M.S.W., LCSW
 Director, Clinical Services and Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 New York University

Mr. McClellan was raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming and received his Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of Wyoming in 1997. After completing his graduate work at the New York University School of Social Work in 1998, he accepted a graduate internship with the Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE) where he provided elderly gay and lesbian's individual, couple and group psychotherapy throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Since obtaining his professional license in both Wyoming and Florida, Mr. McClellan has worked in a variety of clinical settings including an acute psychiatric hospitalization unit, an adolescent residential treatment center, a substance abuse treatment center and private practice. His clinical interests include trauma, sexual abuse, sexual orientation and substance abuse.

René Monteagudo, Ph.D.
 Executive Director
 University of Indiana

Prior to joining the University of Miami Counseling Center, Dr. Monteagudo served as the Senior Associate Director - Director of Clinical Services at Florida Atlantic University's Counseling and Psychological Services. Originally from Miami, René received his Bachelor, Master and Specialist degrees from the University of Florida and his Doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Indiana University. He completed his doctoral internship at the Penn State Counseling Center. René has over 15 years of university counseling center experiences and a wealth of health administration experience. He specializes in student development, crisis intervention, training, supervision, group therapy, LGBT and Latino/a populations. He works from an integrative model that incorporates a diversity sensitive approach. When not at the Counseling Center, you can find René enjoying time with his family and friends.

Edwin Ramirez, MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner
University of Pennsylvania

Mr. Ramirez earned his Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in psychiatric mental health from the University of Pennsylvania. He is board-certified as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. He has a diverse clinical experience working with patients across the lifespan in multiple settings such as hospitals, mental health clinics, residential programs, treatment homes and intensive outpatient programs. His role is providing psychiatric mental health services such as psychiatric assessments, medication management, psychoeducation, crisis intervention and consultation. He has specialized training in assessment and treatment of mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, trauma-related disorders, ADHD and autism spectrum disorder.

Edward Rappaport, Ph.D., ABPP
Training Director and Clinical Psychologist
Florida State University

Dr. Rappaport is the founding Training Director of the Predoctoral Internship Program. His interest in internship training began during his own internship experience at the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute (University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco). He is a tenured Associate Professor who has published in the area of anxiety. Dr. Rappaport is a Past President of the Dade County Psychological Association and has also served as Ethics Committee Chairman for the Association. He is an American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Diplomate in Clinical Psychology. His professional interests include individual psychotherapy, treatment of anxiety disorders, anger management and sociocultural influences on mental health.

Rebecca Schwartz, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist
University of Denver

Dr. Schwartz earned her doctorate at the University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology. She completed her predoctoral internship at the Johns Hopkins University Counseling Center and her post-doctoral fellowship at New College of Florida's Counseling and Wellness Center. Dr. Schwartz served as the Eating Disorder Coordinator at North Carolina State University before coming to the University of Miami. Dr. Schwartz serves as a primary and secondary supervisor. Similar to therapy, she approaches supervision from a multicultural, developmental and relational lens. Additional clinical interests include: working with athletes, mood disorders, relationship concerns, sexual orientation and body positivity.

Benjamin Stocking, Ph.D.
Counseling Psychologist
University of Tennessee

Dr. Benjamin Stocking graduated from The University of Tennessee with a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. Dr. Stocking completed his doctoral internship and post-doctoral residency at the University of Miami Counseling Center. He integrates a variety of theoretical approaches in his work with clients including acceptance and commitment therapy, solution-focused therapy, and gestalt interventions, all grounded within a short-term psychodynamic and feminist framework. Dr. Stocking's clinical interests include working with men of color, group therapy, eating concerns, substance issues, LGBTQ and life transition issues, wellness, mindfulness, parenting, performance issues, and campus outreach coordination.

Jenevieve Treiser, MD
Psychiatrist
Rutgers University Medical School

Dr. Treiser completed her undergraduate degree at Columbia University in New York and her medical degree at Rutgers Medical School - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey. She completed both a General Psychiatry residency and a fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, MA. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology as well as in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Prior to joining University of Miami, she worked in community mental health centers in Maryland and New York in addition to working in a private practice. She provides psychiatric assessments and medication management for children, adolescents and adults.

Vanessa Wabomnor, LMHC
Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Eastern Illinois University

Ms. Wabomnor earned her Masters of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Eastern Illinois University. Vanessa Wabomnor joined the University of Miami Counseling Center in 2018. Prior to joining the University of Miami Counseling Center she has worked in a variety of clinical settings including outpatient community mental health providing integrated care, behavioral health, outpatient substance abuse facility and private practice. She has a range of experience with using an integrative model of care, to help each unique individual improve their overall quality of life. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and a National Certified Counselor. She is passionate about providing a supportive, non-judgmental environment to promote overall wellness.

Chelsie Warman, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist
The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Dr. Warman obtained her undergraduate degree in psychology from The Ohio State University. She received her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, IL and completed her APA accredited pre-doctoral internship at Nova Southeastern University's Trauma Resolution and Integration Program (TRIP) where she gained specialized training working with survivors of trauma and the LGBTQ+ community. Dr. Warman completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Miami's SHINE Research Program where she engaged in research examining the relationships between resilience, trauma, and health outcomes among individuals living with and at risk for HIV. Her clinical interests include individual and group therapy, trauma, sexual orientation, gender and sexuality, identity development, sociocultural influences, and transitional life challenges.

TRAINING AFFILIATES

Edwina Bell, Psy.D.
Nova Southeastern University
Specialty Area: Multicultural Issues

Billie Bivins, M.P.S.
Pratt Institute
Specialty Area: Art Therapy / Non-Verbal Processing

Lori S. Blum, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Women's Issues

Philip C. Boswell, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Ethics/Professional Issues

Amy Boyers, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Health Psychology

Larry Brooks, Ph.D., ABPP
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Neurological Assessment

Julio G. Calderon, M.D.
University of Miami
School of Medicine
Specialty Area: Psychopharmacology

Luly Casares, Ph.D.
George Washington University
Specialty Area: Contemporary Psychoanalysis

Karen Dainer-Best, Ph.D.
University of Rochester
Specialty Area: Eating Disorders

Nichola Chung, Ph.D.
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Specialty Area: Substance Abuse / Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Christina Douyon, Ph.D.
Boston College
Specialty Area: Racial Cultural Identity

Jessica Genet, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Eating Disorders

Barbara L. Goldman, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Abuse/Trauma

Lynne Harkless, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues

Frederick J. Levine, Ph.D., ABPP
University of Michigan
Specialty Area: Psychoanalytic Theory

Claudia Pimentel, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
Specialty Area: Eating Disorders

Stefania Prendes-Alvarez, M.D.
University of Miami School of Medicine
Specialty Area: Psychopharmacology

Justin Puder, Ph.D.
Auburn University
Specialty Area: Social Media

Rosa Maria Rigol, Ph.D.
Michigan State University
Specialty Area: Multicultural issues

Carolyn Rubenstein, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: ACT

Elbert W. Russell, Ph.D.
University of Kansas
Specialty Area: Neuropsychology

Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Family Therapy

Robert Seifer, Ph.D.
Nova Southeastern University
Specialty Area: Sports Psychology

Julissa Senices, Ph.D.
Pennsylvania State University
Specialty Area: Multicultural Issues / Eating Disorders

Tammy Sifre, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Integrative Therapy / Mindfulness

Alexis Sims, Psy.D.
Baylor University
Specialty Area: Cognitive / Behavioral Psychotherapy / Eating Disorders

Roselyn Smith, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Crisis Management

Stephanie Wasserman Askari, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Eating Disorders / Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

Sara Wigderson, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: ACT / Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

Oren Wunderman, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: Child Abuse / Forensic Psychology

Terilee Wunderman, Ph.D.
University of Miami
Specialty Area: GLBT Issues / Spirituality

INTERNS: PAST AND PRESENT**2024- 25**

Sandra Gomez
Teachers College, Columbia University
Counseling Psychology

Grevelin Ulerio
DePaul University
Clinical Psychology

Shirnelle Wilks
Auburn University
Counseling Psychology

2023- 24

Tyler Delaney
University of Massachusetts
Counseling Psychology

Jaclyn Pachicano
Marquette University
Clinical Psychology

Huan Quan
Wichita State University
Clinical Psychology

2022- 23

Marcella May
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

Kelly Terry
University of Denver
Clinical Psychology

Jacqueline Yi
University of Illinois
Clinical Psychology

2021- 22

Laura Curren Adams
Boston University
Clinical Psychology

Carla De Simone Itrace
American University
Clinical Psychology

Laura Gonzalez
Boston College
Counseling Psychology

2020- 21

Juliana Guitelman
University of Florida
Counseling Psychology

Brittany Jaso
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

Christina Martin
University of Albany, SUNY
Counseling Psychology

2019- 20

Andrea Biel
Xavier University
Clinical Psychology

Christina Douyon
Boston College
Counseling Psychology

Sara Wigderson
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

2018- 19

Dorothy Addae
University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

Jordan Coello
University of California, Los Angeles
Clinical Psychology

Krystal Stephen
University of North Texas
Counseling Psychology

2017- 18

Kayla Carrigan
University of North Texas
Counseling Psychology

Christopher Shelton
University of Wyoming
Clinical Psychology

Kseniya Zhuzha
Auburn University
Counseling Psychology

2016- 17

Onyinyechi Anukem
Saint Louis University
Clinical Psychology

Kelsey Ball
Howard University
Clinical Psychology

Carolyn Rubenstein
University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

2015- 16

Angel Faith
Pepperdine University
Clinical Psychology

Justin Puder
Auburn University
Counseling Psychology

Benjamin Stocking
University of Tennessee
Counseling Psychology

2014- 15

Blake Allan
University of Florida
Counseling Psychology

Corry Duffy
University of Minnesota
Counseling Psychology

Laura Scarpone
George Washington University
Clinical Psychology

2013- 14

Darren Bernal
University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

Rachel Bloom
George Washington University
Clinical Psychology

Rafael Hernandez
University of California, Santa Barbara
Counseling Psychology

2012- 13

Alison Aylward
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

Carolyn Cleveland
University of Wyoming
Clinical Psychology

Cody Hobza
University of Texas at Austin
Counseling Psychology

2011-12

Aaron Allred
Brigham Young University
Clinical Psychology

Jessica Genet
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

Vanessa Scaringi
University of Texas at Austin
Counseling Psychology

2010-11

Kisha Bazelaïs
Boston College
Counseling Psychology

Audrey Cleary
University of Arizona
Clinical Psychology

Anke Seidel
Southern Methodist University
Clinical Psychology

2009-10

Allison DeFinis
Texas Tech University
Counseling Psychology

Joshua Hook
Virginia Commonwealth University
Counseling Psychology

Donna LaBarge
Southern Illinois University
Counseling Psychology

2008-09	Analesa Clarke Texas A&M University Clinical Psychology
	Leah Lagos Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Clinical Psychology
2007-08	Casey Augustus-Horvath Ohio State University Counseling Psychology
	Sarah Hood American University Clinical Psychology
	Pamela Krones University of Texas at Austin Clinical Psychology
2006-07	Naila Ali Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
	Tamara Godfrey Ohio State University Counseling Psychology
	Kenya Urcuyo University of Miami Clinical Psychology
2005-06	Sasha Carr Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Clinical Psychology
	Erica Conners University of Rhode Island Clinical Psychology
	Andrea Gonzalez University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Clinical Psychology

2004-05

Lyndon Aguiar
New York University
Counseling Psychology

Danielle Hadeed
University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

Jose Sandoval
University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

2003-04

Andrea Gaynor
American University
Clinical Psychology

Nyaka NiiLampti
Temple University
Counseling Psychology

Julissa Senices
Pennsylvania State University
Counseling Psychology

PREVIOUS INTERNS' HOME PROGRAMS**2002-03**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Clinical Psychology

University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

University of Virginia
Clinical Psychology

2001-02

Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Clinical Psychology

Nova Southeastern University
Clinical Psychology

Baylor University
Clinical Psychology

2000-01

Florida Institute of Technology School of Psychology
Clinical Psychology

Emory University
Clinical Psychology

University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

1999-00

University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

Illinois School of Professional Psychology
Clinical Psychology

Florida Institute of Technology School of Psychology
Clinical Psychology

1998-99	Georgia School of Professional Psychology Clinical Psychology
	University of Miami Clinical Psychology
	Fordham University Counseling Psychology
1997-98	Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
	California School of Professional Psychology Clinical Psychology
	Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
1996-97	Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
	University of Maine Clinical Psychology
	Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
1995-96	Northeastern University Counseling Psychology
	University of Miami Counseling Psychology
	Nova Southeastern University Clinical Psychology
1994-95	University of Toronto Clinical Psychology
	University of Miami Counseling Psychology

1993-94

University of Miami
Clinical Psychology

University of Miami
Counseling Psychology

The Annual Fred and Helen Flipse Award Recipients

The Fred and Helen Flipse Award is presented to individuals and organizations from the South Florida community for extraordinary contributions to internship training. Employees of the Counseling Center are not eligible. This award is named in honor of our donors, Fred and Helen Flipse.

- 1999 -** Frederic Levine, Ph.D., ABPP
- 2000 -** Daniel Santisteban, Ph.D.
- 2001 -** The University of Miami Citizens Board and
The Renfrew Center
- 2002 -** Lori S. Blum, Ph.D.
- 2003 -** Steven N. Clark, M.S.
- 2004 -** Julio G. Calderon, M.D.
- 2005 -** Patricia A. Whitely, Ed.D.
- 2006 -** Sally B. Philips, Ed.D.
Alexis Sims, Psy.D.
- 2007 -** Norman C. Parsons, M.S.
Oren Wunderman, Ph.D.
- 2008 -** Brian Lewis, Ph. D., ABPP
- 2009 -** Leanne M. Rutter, M.D.
- 2010 -** Jason Dahn, Ph.D.
Christopher Hartnett
- 2011-** Oliver-Pyatt Centers
Amy Boyers, Ph.D.

2012-	Luly Casares, Ph.D.
2013-	Nichola Chung, Ph.D. Julissa Senices, Ph.D.
2014-	Claudia Pimentel, Ph.D.
2015-	Rosa Maria Rigol, Ph.D.
2016-	Terilee Wunderman, Ph.D.
2017-	Billie Bivins, LMHC
2018-	Amy Jaffe, M.S., R.D., L.D.
2019-	Lynne Harkless, Ph.D.
2020-	Tammy Sifre, Ph.D.
2021-	Willie Garrett, Ed.D.
2022-	Carolyn Rubenstein, Ph.D.
2023-	Kelsey Ball Fomengia, Ph.D.
2024-	Christina Douyon, Ph.D. Sara Wigderson, Ph.D.