I am truly proud of the professional and expert acumen that comprises our affiliate network. The contributions of each of you have been invaluable to our work of creating an evidenced-based and effective child welfare system. It is my hope that you will remain engaged, mobilized and committed to the mission and vision of the Institute. I know that we all have a desire to use our knowledge and skills to make a difference in the lives of children, and I am committed to creating opportunities for you to utilize your skills. I hope this directory is used to familiarize yourselves with other affiliates throughout the state, and contact them for potential collaborations. Our child welfare system benefits from strong partnerships that lead to innovation and I know our affiliate network has the capacity to move the needle towards reform. The Institute staff join me in offering our gratitude to you and your commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families.

I want to join Dr. Jessica Pryce in welcoming you to review and utilize this Affiliate Directory for the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. Important advancements in research are usually traced to effective “team science,” conducted by successful teams composed of participants from different academic institutions who hold varied expertise. Child welfare research also has progressed when this kind of team science operates. We hope that this Directory can promote enhanced communication and collaboration, as we all work to advance the Institute's mission. Your role as affiliate researchers is a crucial element in radically improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of Florida’s most vulnerable children. Thanks for all you are doing!
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| RESEARCH INTERESTS                      | 4 |
| FACULTY AFFILIATES                      | 5 |
| BOEL-STUDT, SHAMRA                      | 6 |
| BOYNTON, SYLVIA                         | 7 |
| CAMPBELL, MICHAEL                       | 8 |
| COLVIN, MARIANNA                        | 9 |
| COOLEY, MORGAN                          | 10 |
| CRISS, PAM                              | 11 |
| FAVA, NICOLE                            | 12 |
| FELIX-JÄGER, JESSICA                    | 13 |
| FELKE, THOMAS                           | 14 |
| GROEBER, CHRIS                          | 15 |
| HUANG, HUI                              | 16 |
| JANI, NAIRRUTI                          | 17 |
| KILLIAN, MICHAEL                        | 18 |
| KING, ERIN                              | 19 |
| LACASSE, JEFFREY                        | 20 |
| LOUIS-CAINES, KHALILAH                  | 21 |
| LUNA, NAElys                            | 22 |
| MACDILL, PAM                            | 23 |
| MARSHALL, JENNIFER                      | 24 |
| MCGREGOR, MAXINE                        | 25 |
| MILNER, MARLEEN                         | 26 |
| NOWAKOWSKI-SIMS, EVA                    | 27 |
| PERRY, ROBIN                            | 28 |
| RADEY, MELISSA                          | 29 |
| RANDOLPH, KAREN                         | 30 |
| RAPP-MCCALL, LISA                       | 31 |
| ROSENWALD, MITCH                        | 32 |
| SALLOUM, ALISON                         | 33 |
| SCHELBE, LISA                           | 34 |
| SCOTT, DIANE                            | 35 |
| SPAULDING-GIVENS, JENNIFER              | 36 |
| STEEN, JULIE                            | 37 |
| THOMPSON, HEATHER                       | 38 |
| VAN ZYL, RIAAN                          | 39 |
| WHITTAKER, WINNIFRED                    | 40 |
| WILKE, DINA                             | 41 |

| RESEARCH AFFILIATES                     | 42 |
| AGAZZI, HEATHER                         | 43 |
| FALCONER, MARY KAY                      | 44 |
| GILLEN, MARTIE                          | 45 |
| LEDFORD, RENE’                          | 46 |
| McGRATH, KIMBERLY                       | 47 |
| OEHME, KAREN                            | 48 |
| OMAR, GIHAN                             | 49 |
| RENK, KIMBERLY                          | 50 |
| RHODES, TERRY                           | 51 |
| SAUNDERS, TERI                          | 52 |
| SWEAT DARNELL, KELLIE                   | 53 |

<p>| INSTITUTE STAFF                         | 54 |
| BACHMANN, ALINA                         | 55 |
| BROWN, DONNA                            | 56 |
| CLARK, JAMES                            | 57 |
| JOYCE, EMILY                            | 58 |
| MAGRUDER, LISA                          | 59 |
| MCCLURE, JON’TAE                         | 60 |
| PRYCE, JESSICA                          | 61 |
| TUTWILER, MARIANNA                      | 62 |
| YELICK, ANNA                            | 63 |
| ZHANG, YING                             | 64 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESEARCH INTERESTS</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD ABUSE / MALTREATMENT</strong></td>
<td>28, 31, 34, 39, 40, 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>7, 8, 12, 16, 18, 24, 25, 26, 31, 43, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISPARITIES &amp; INTERSECTIONALITY</strong></td>
<td>39, 45, 46, 49, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAMILIES &amp; SERVICES</strong></td>
<td>8, 18, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 32, 35, 43, 50, 45, 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOSTER CARE / YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>6, 10, 13, 15, 21, 26, 32, 34, 38, 45, 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>18, 23, 39, 48, 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MENTAL HEALTH</strong></td>
<td>8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 33, 35, 40, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLICY</strong></td>
<td>9, 10, 36, 37, 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PREVENTION &amp; INTERVENTION</strong></td>
<td>6, 12, 13, 16, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 33, 40, 43, 44, 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH METHODS</strong></td>
<td>6, 9, 14, 18, 24, 30, 34, 39, 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIOLENCE &amp; TRAFFICKING</strong></td>
<td>17, 25, 28, 41, 47, 48, 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKFORCE ISSUES</strong></td>
<td>9, 10, 11, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, 52, 53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Florida Institute for Child Welfare consists of a consortium of the 14 public and private universities offering Council on Social Work Education accredited degrees in social work. The Institute assembled a cadre of social work researchers from these universities who are dedicated to improving the safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for the children in Florida’s child welfare system. This directory serves as a resource to increase collaborations between faculty affiliates and researchers across the state and nationwide, as well as state agencies and national organizations.
SHAMRA BOEL-STUDT
Florida State University

EMAIL
sboelstudt@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.9712

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Residential group care; Engagement; Intervention research; Program evaluation

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Hui Huang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Florida International University; Neil Abell, Ph.D., Professor, Florida State University College of Social Work; Heather Flynn, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Vice Chair for Research, Florida State University College of Medicine; Jon Huefner, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Boys Town National Research Institute

SHORT BIO
Shamra Boel-Studt, Ph.D., MSW is an Assistant Professor at the Florida State University College of Social Work and a faculty affiliate of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. Dr. Boel-Studt received her MSW and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She has over fourteen years of experience in child welfare practice, training/technical assistance, research, and program evaluation. Her research in the area of child welfare practice focuses on examining the effectiveness/efficacy of child welfare interventions, especially those that seek to enhance engagement, family-centered practice, and trauma-informed approaches and expanding the evidence-base and quality of research and practice in residential group care. Dr. Boel-Studt, as Principal Investigator, is currently collaborating with the Florida Department of Children and Families and a team of stakeholders from across the state to develop and validate an assessment designed to measure group home’s performance on a recently established set of core quality standards in the state. Additionally, she is a Co-Investigator on a project with the Florida State University College of Medicine aimed at developing a training and policy recommendations to support the integration of behavioral health services for parents who are involved in the child welfare system.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
The common goal of my work is to try to help vulnerable children and families live better lives. That is what inspires me.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Paris, France
Sylvia Boynton. Ph.D., MSW, BS, has over 44 years of experience across the full developmental spectrum in Behavioral Health: Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Child Welfare; Dr. Boynton is the court commission for evaluating mentally retarded (developmentally compromised) citizens and currently serves as Director of the Healthy Lifestyle Choices Project.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
The students’ success.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Italy
MICHAEL CAMPBELL
Saint Leo University

EMAIL
michael.campbell03@saintleo.edu

PHONE
352.588.5795

DEGREE
Ph.D., LCSW

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Children/family health & wellness; Child/adolescent mental health social work pedagogy

CURRENT PROJECTS
Early Childhood Courts case study; Pediatric social workers utilization of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) for outcomes success; Pediatric hospital volunteers motivation to serve children through their participation in a pet visitation program; Student engagement through the use of technology; Collaboration with other university faculty or research entities; Volunteering study and the social work EMR study with the Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, FL; Proposing a study with Eileen Abel, Ph.D. at the University of Southern California on the impact of online modalities in advanced practice classes

SHORT BIO
Michael attained his Ph.D. from the Public Affairs program at the University of Central Florida and his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Social Work from the Florida State University with an emphasis on children and family issues. Dr. Campbell currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Masters in Social Work program at Saint Leo University. He has more than two decades of clinical and administrative experience in social work practice in specialty areas ranging from child welfare, child and adolescent mental health to pediatric wellness and pediatric healthcare. His research interests focus on issues of family engagement, child and adolescent mental health, pediatric wellness and child welfare/public policy.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Watching students mature and grow into the profession of Social Work. When the “light bulb” goes on its both inspiring and humbling.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Dive the Great Barrier Reef
MARIANNA COLVIN
Florida Atlantic University

EMAIL
mcolvin@fau.edu

PHONE
205.616.8940

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Network analysis in human service delivery systems; Interorganizational collaboration child welfare workforce, leadership, and administration; Realist program; Policy evaluation

CURRENT PROJECTS
Mapping the interorganizational landscape of county-based child maltreatment prevention and service delivery; Building a needs-based-curriculum for child welfare therapists; Coalition development among statewide child welfare affiliates

SHORT BIO
Marianna Colvin received her Ph.D. in Social Work at the University of Georgia and MSW from the University of Alabama. As a mixed-methods researcher, Marianna combines network analysis and qualitative methods to examine interorganizational human service delivery systems related to vulnerable children and families. She approaches child welfare from a community-wide orientation, inclusive of multiple disciplines, and concentrates on interactions across organizations, theories of systems and complexity, and implications for policy and network development. Her academic pursuits are guided by experiences as a social work practitioner in international, national, and local child welfare roles, including community development for street children and impoverished populations in India and U.S. based capacities in child protective services, family preservation, resource development, and supervision. She is passionate about social work education and through both teaching and research aims to enhance the ways communities and organizations are knitted together in support of vulnerable children and families.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I rode mules to school growing up.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
The vision that we are collectively greater than the sum of our parts.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
I’m stuck in a revisiting kick...New Zealand and Brazil are at the top of my list. If new, I’d go to the south of France.
MORGAN COOLEY
Florida Atlantic University

EMAIL
cooleym@fau.edu

PHONE
941.735.8310

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Foster family well-being; Systemic risk and protective factors of foster parents and foster youth; Foster parent and caseworker training; Interprofessional relationships among child welfare stakeholders (foster parents, GALs, case workers); Child welfare policy

CURRENT PROJECTS
Coparenting among foster parent couples; foster parent personality and coping; Secondary data analyses of NSCAW II data set examining risk and protective factors of foster youth/parents; Qualitative study of FL GALs (motivation, experiences, training)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dr. Heather Thompson and Dr. Marianna Colvin at FAU; Dr. Armeda Wojciak at Iowa and Dr. Bethany Womack at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; interdisciplinary projects with Dr. Raymond Petren at University of Pennsylvania Scranton and Dr. Kate Rogers at University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

SHORT BIO
Morgan Cooley earned her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2014 and MSW in Social Work in 2009 from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. She taught as an Assistant Professor between 2014-2018 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dr. Cooley obtained Licensed Clinical Social Worker status in Florida in 2013 and has multiple years of experience working as therapist for individuals, couples, and families. She has had the opportunity to work with multiple and diverse populations in a primary care clinic for low income adults, a university clinic that served the community, and an LGBTQ+ affirming private practice. Her primary areas of clinical practice include trauma, mental illness, family conflict, relational conflict, child welfare and foster care involved families, and parenting. Dr. Cooley’s area of research expertise focuses on better understanding risk and protective factors of those involved in the child welfare system. Specifically, her research aims to develop and hone best practices and evidence-informed practice for supporting foster parents and foster families.
PAM CRISS
Southeastern University

EMAIL
pcriss@seu.edu

PHONE
863.667.5153

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Safety for social workers (addressing possible client violence in agencies); Child welfare

SHORT BIO
Dr. Pam Criss has more than 35 years of experience as a social worker, predominantly in the field of child welfare. She has worked in adoption, foster care, residential group child care and developmental disabilities. She is a licensed clinical social worker and has been a psychotherapist since 1995, both in local mental health agencies and in private practice. Dr. Criss has been a professor at Southeastern University Social Work Program for the past 16 years. Dr. Criss is active in National Association of Social Workers and chaired the local unit of NASW from 2009 - 2011. She was named NASW Heartland Unit Social Worker of the Year in 2003.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN _______ ABOUT YOU?
I am a Stage 4 Cancer survivor!

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I am inspired by the passion that my students have for learning about and doing social work. I am particularly impressed with their willingness to go to many places in the world to positively affect people's lives. We have a former student in Turkey now, doing some phenomenal work. She is incredibly brave! It is humbling to know that I had a small part in preparing her to be there.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Hawaii; Spain; Italy; Greece; Canadian Rockies; all over the United States
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Childhood trauma and adversity (special focus on child maltreatment) and adolescent development (specific focus on adolescent sexuality and sexual health); Trauma-informed capacity building and service implementation

CURRENT PROJECTS
Implementation project for TF-CBT in Miami-Dade with community partner funded through The Children’s Trust; Mixed-method evaluation of individual’s self-report definitions of sexual health and how this may differ based on history of trauma; Mediation study of brain functioning as pathway between childhood adversity and adolescent substance use and externalizing behavior

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Other faculty in the Psychology Department at FIU and various community partners (service implementation/evaluation). Also interested in developing more collaborative relationships.

SHORT BIO
Dr. Nicole Fava’s program of research bridges the child maltreatment and sexuality fields from a developmental, trauma-informed, resilience-based framework to highlight the importance of protective factors across various environmental contexts to support well-being and sexual health among those who have experienced trauma and/or childhood maltreatment. This is in opposition to the more traditional risk-framework that has dominated both fields, and serves to inform others of the strength and personal agency of vulnerable populations. Dr. Fava is especially interested in conducting participant-centered, community-based research examining individual, peer/romantic partner, family and community level factors impacting healthy development in order to inform effective and holistic interventions for youth and families.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Watching meaningful experiences unfold—whether that be through the research process and participation, through service utilization, or in the classroom.
JESSICA FELIX-JÄGER
Southeastern University

EMAIL    PHONE
jfelixjager@seu.edu    321.501.9970

DEGREE    TITLE
MSW    Field Coordinator
        Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Trauma informed prevention interventions and foster care child placement retention

SHORT BIO
Jessica Felix-Jäger has more than nine years of experience as a social worker, predominantly in the field of child welfare. She has worked in adoption, foster care, foster care licensing and with traumatic brain injury survivors. She is a Certified Child Welfare Licensing Counselor and was a M.A.P.P. and pre-service trainer for prospective foster parents both in North Carolina and Florida. In addition, she works PRN as a Therapeutic Behavioral On-Site Therapist providing intensive in-home therapeutic/clinical interventions for children ages birth to 17. At the University of Central Florida, Jessica Felix Jäger was a Title IV-E recipient for her undergraduate and graduate studies. She is passionate about equipping the future generation of child welfare workers preparing them to live out their calling and positively impact lives. Jessica Felix-Jäger began her service to Southeastern University as a field educator in academic year 2014-15 while still working at Heartland for Children as a foster care licensing specialist/training facilitator. She became an adjunct in the fall of 2015 teaching Understanding Human Diversity and became a full time assistant professor in the spring of 2016. Jessica stepped into the role of assistant professor and field coordinator in the fall of 2017. She has taught the following courses: Child Maltreatment and Child Welfare, Child Welfare Practice, Introduction to Social Work, Social Welfare Policy, Understanding Human Diversity, Human Behavior in the Macro Social Environment,, Writing for Social Work Practice, and Preparation for Field.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Getting to train up new social workers that will make a difference in people’s lives in various practice settings.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Ireland
THOMAS FELKE
Florida Gulf Coast University

EMAIL
tfelke@fgcu.edu

PHONE
239.590.7841

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Interim Chair

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Visualizing populations and social issues using geographic information systems technologies

CURRENT PROJECTS
Child Welfare Services inventory for Lee County Human & Veteran Services

SHORT BIO
Dr. Thomas Felke is the Interim Chair, BSW Program Coordinator, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work within the Marieb College of Health & Human Services at Florida Gulf Coast University. He received his Bachelors of Arts degree in Elementary and Special Education from Providence College. He went on to earn his MSW from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, where he focused on administration, policy practice, and international social work issues. He also earned his Ph.D. in social work from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work after completing his dissertation research in Armenia on the situation of ethnic Armenian refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. Dr. Felke currently focuses his teaching and research on macro social work, the application of technology to social work practice and evaluation, and international social work issues. A major focus of this work is the use of geographic information systems (GIS) for program evaluation and research efforts. He is active as a member of several boards and committees in Southwest Florida, as well as on national social work organizations.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Training new social workers who will lead our profession.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
New Zealand
Chris Groeber has over 32 years of child welfare experience. He is currently a faculty member in Social Work at the University of South Florida. He also manages a small human service consulting company called “Gro and Co.” and works with several other consulting companies. Previous to this, Mr. Groeber was the U.S. CEO for Key Assets part of an international child welfare organization. He has been fortunate enough to develop many programs for child welfare, both in his home state of Kentucky and nationally. Chris Groeber has served as author and principle investigator on federal projects while on faculty at the University of Kentucky and has implemented numerous statewide training programs for foster and adoptive parents. He has written and published in the areas of supervision and child welfare programming. Mr. Groeber has led accreditation efforts and has developed national standards and competencies. He has learned many aspects of child welfare funding and has worked with organizations to develop innovative funding models that focus on the “whole” child. Mr. Groeber speaks nationally on issues surrounding organizational values, administration, management and child welfare specific issues. He has worked in many aspects of child welfare both in the public and private sectors over the past 32 years, but considers developing innovative, values-based programming for high-need children and youth one of his greatest professional accomplishments. Chris Groeber and his wife have been foster parents and currently reside in the Tampa area and continue their work on behalf of vulnerable populations.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
South Pacific
HUI HUANG

Florida International University

EMAIL
huanhu@fiu.edu

PHONE
305.348.4599

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare; Juvenile justice; Substance use treatment

CURRENT PROJECTS
A Pilot Test and Initial Validation of a Quality Rating Scale for Florida’s Residential Group Homes (CO-PI for an on-going project funded by FICW); The Effectiveness of Service Integration: Studying the Crossover Youth Practice Model (PI for a closed project funded by FICW); An Evidence-Based Parent-Child Relational Intervention for Young Children At-Risk for Abuse and Neglect (CO-I for a closed project funded by FICW); Bridging the FPP Mentors and Former Foster Youth: A Mixed-Method Approach (PI for a closed project funded by FIU).

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt (PI) at FSU on A Pilot Test and Initial Validation of a Quality Rating Scale for Florida’s Residential Group Homes; Dr. Miguel Villodas at FIU on An Evidence-Based Parent-Child Relational Intervention for Young Children At-Risk for Abuse and Neglect.

SHORT BIO
Dr. Hui Huang’s research focuses primarily on developing and evaluating macro-level interventions for children and families involved in child welfare and justice systems, as well as other public services. Dr. Huang received extensive training in applied research methods and obtained a master degree in applied statistics at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since joining the faculty at FIU in 2013, she has had four funded projects. Dr. Huang has maintained a productive record of disseminating research findings through publications and conference presentations.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I like being able to test hypotheses with empirical data and share my findings with stakeholders to inform their policy. As a college professor, I also enjoy sharing my findings with my students who are currently involved in social services and legislature or plan to be in the future.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Italy, Africa, India
Dr. Nairruti Jani is an Assistant Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. She has worked on issues related to women and children's rights for over fifteen years. She teaches Research, Practice and Policy courses at FGCU. Dr. Jani has developed undergraduate and graduate level curriculum for courses on Human Trafficking and Law and social work practice which she teaches at FGCU. Her research interests include working with international, domestic minor and foreign-domestic victims of human trafficking. Dr. Jani has also produced two documentary films on the subject which are freely distributed to faculty and practitioners for educational purposes. Her current research focuses on the impact of values and history of abuse as a child as factors leading to vulnerability to trafficking and assess evidence based clinical responses in serving victims of trafficking.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Learning every day and sharing my learning

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Hawaii
MICHAEL KILLIAN
Florida State University

EMAIL
mkillian@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.7094

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare and protection services; Psychometrics and assessment in psychiatric care and research; Depression and integrated care among diverse populations; Statistical prediction of health outcomes

CURRENT PROJECTS
Pediatric Organ Transplant Social Work and Chronic Illness in Childhood (OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium, Children’s Medical Center of Dallas); Advanced quantitative and statistical analytics and support to research projects at the FSU College of Social Work, and to other national and international institutions; Health Disparities Research in Integrated Mental Health Services (University of Texas at Arlington, School of Social Work); Psychometrics and Measurement Research (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry, Center for Depression Studies)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
FSU College of Communication and Information; FSU College of Medicine; FSU College of Human Sciences; Center for Applied Health Research, Baylor Scott & White Health Research Institute; Quantitative Methodology & Innovation Division, FSU Florida Center for Reading Research; School of Nursing, Johns Hopkins University; Children’s Social Care Research and Development Centre, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom

SHORT BIO
Dr. Killian’s research focuses on chronic health issues in pediatrics and advanced quantitative and statistical methods in social work research. Dr. Killian’s primary research is with pediatric organ transplant recipients and their families, adherence to medication regimens, and posttransplant health-related quality of life and health outcomes. He serves as Research Faculty at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas and their Solid Organ Transplant Program. In addition to serving as an Assistant Professor for the FSU College of Social Work, he also is a Research Scientist for the Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families and Children where he assists with coordination of research and resources across each of the four affiliated institutes and centers. Previously he worked in partnership with the pediatric heart and lung transplant team at Shands Children’s Hospital at the University of Florida, and as a Leverhulme Visiting Fellow at the Tilda Goldberg Centre for Social Work and Social Care at the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom.
ERIN KING
University of West Florida

EMAIL
eking1@uwf.edu

PHONE
850.288.9218

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW, LCSW

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Intersection of trauma and mental health in vulnerable populations; Mental health and its influence and instrumental/interpersonal functioning; Mental health intervention evaluation

CURRENT PROJECTS
Influences of Primary and Secondary Trauma on Child Welfare Worker Mental Health and Commitment to the Field; Assessing Suicidal Ideation in Frontline Child Welfare Workers; Violent Families? Violent Work? Examining Newly Hired Child Welfare Workers Experience with Client Perpetrated Violence; Trauma at Work and its Influence on Child Welfare Worker Mental Health; Initial Validation of the Inadequate Supervision Scale; Piloting a Community Survey at CICLOVI.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families Study (FSPSF); Dr. Dina Wilke, Professor, College of Social Work, Florida State University; Dr. Philip Osteen, Associate Professor, College of Social Work, University of Utah; Dr. Joseph Herzog, Professor and Chair, Department of Social Work, University of West Florida

SHORT BIO
Erin King received her doctorate from the College of Social Work at Florida State University in August 2019 and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of West Florida. Her research interests relate to mental health issues in vulnerable populations and child welfare workforce issues. She has been involved in the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families, a 5-year longitudinal study of the child welfare workforce since 2015. She holds an active license in clinical social work and has experience working with children, adolescents, adults, and families in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. She also has experience working in the areas of intimate partner violence, school social work, and hospital social work.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I love teaching research methods to BSW/MSW students. They come into the class highly anxious and leave feeling much more confident in their abilities and have an appreciation for the role of research in social work practice.
EMAIL
jlacasse@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.9750

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Psychotropic medication use in vulnerable populations (e.g., foster children), evidence-informed mental health treatment

CURRENT PROJECTS
CriticalThinkRX, an educational course for non-medical helping professionals on psychotropic medication; utilization of psychotropic medication in child welfare; analysis of evidence base for pediatric antidepressant use

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Ongoing collaborations with Dr. Lisa Schelbe and Dr. Shamra Boel-Studt, FSU

SHORT BIO
Dr. Jeffrey Lacasse is an Associate Professor at FSU College of Social Work. His research agenda focuses on knowledge dissemination regarding psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. He has published research in PLoS Medicine, Families in Society, and Child and Adolescent Social Work.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Working with students (both in teaching and on research projects) who are passionate about helping children.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
KHALILAH LOUIS-CAINES
Saint Leo University

EMAIL
khalilah.louis-cai@saintleo.edu

DEGREE
MSW

TITLE
Director of Field Education
Instructor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Foster care adoption; Independent living; Child welfare training and development

CURRENT PROJECTS
Child Welfare Specialty Program; Interdisciplinary Course development for Child Protective Investigators; Service Provider Training for Pasco County Early Childhood Court

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Course development with criminal justice faculty

SHORT BIO
Khalilah Louis-Caines earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a MSW Degree from Saint Leo University. She currently teaches full time as an Instructor and Director of Field Education for Saint Leo University’s MSW Program. Khalilah teaches various practice and child welfare courses in social work and previously served as the Title IV-E Program Coordinator. Her professional interests include child welfare and adoption. She has more than fourteen years’ experience in child welfare, with an emphasis on foster care adoption. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a specialty in providing trauma-focused care to children, youth, and families involved in the child welfare system. She is also certified as an Adoption Competent Professional through Rutgers University. She has served on various child welfare committees and provides training for foster and adoptive parents of children with special needs and consulting services for child welfare agencies.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Being able to help develop future child welfare professionals

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Italy and France
NAELYS LUNA

EMAIL
ndiaz10@fau.edu

PHONE
561.297.3245

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Director and Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Substance use disorders; Mood disorders; Attachment; Spirituality; Mindfulness

CURRENT PROJECTS
National Social Work Students Survey

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Multiple universities in the country are involved in the aforementioned project that is led by George Washington University.

SHORT BIO
Naelys Luna earned her MSW and Ph.D. in Social Work from Fordham University in New York and her BA from Seton Hall University in New Jersey. She is a Licensed Social Worker (NY and NJ). She helped develop ADHD and PTSD programs in a child and adolescent outpatient psychiatric hospital. Dr. Luna has provided clinical social work services to children, adolescents, and their families in outpatient units, partial care programs, and private practice. She has worked in several research projects at the New York Psychiatric Institute and Lehman College. Dr. Luna’s multiple publications are in the areas of substance use disorders, mood disorders, spirituality, parental roles, mental health outcomes in minorities (especially Hispanics), and psychosocial functioning.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Empowering others

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Europe
PAM MACDILL

EMAIL
pam.macdill@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.9738

DEGREE
MSW

TITLE
Director of the BSW & Professional Development Programs

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Loss and bereavement; Health care; Child welfare

CURRENT PROJECTS
DCF Re-professionalization Projects - NE Region and NW Region

SHORT BIO
Pam Graham MacDill, LCSW, DCSW is the Jeanene M. Janes Child Welfare Fellow. She currently serves as the Director of the BSW and Professional Development Programs at Florida State University’s College of Social Work where she is a Teaching Professor. She has served in several other administrative roles at the College, including Director of Field Education; Director of the MSW Program; and the Assistant Dean. She has extensive practice experience in the areas of children, adolescent and family therapy; loss and bereavement; and healthcare social work. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Florida and a certified Bereavement Counselor. She was named the 2013 “Educator of the Year” by the NASW Big Bend Chapter and was the recipient of a University Advising Award for 2003-2004. She has several nominations for a University Teaching Award and was the first recipient of the National Youth Law Center “Unsung Hero” Award in 1993 for her work in child welfare advocacy. She was appointed by the Surgeon General to serve on a statewide Florida Department of Health’s Child Abuse Death Review Committee for seven years. She has numerous publications; federal and state-funded grant projects totaling over 4 million dollars; and has presented at conferences locally, statewide, and nationally. She is a Founding Member and serves on the Board of The Oasis Center for Women and Girls in Tallahassee and began the FSU Unconquered Scholars Program, supporting current students who have grown up in foster care.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Working with students every day who have overcome so many obstacles and yet they persevere and become successful in their lives.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
EMAIL
jmarshal@health.usf.edu

PHONE
813.396.2672

DEGREE
Ph.D., MPH, CPH

TITLE
Assistant Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Community-based research assessing infant mortality prevention programs; Family-centered care and access to services for families and children; Hillsborough County’s Infant Mental Health Initiative; and Florida’s Early Childhood Courts

CURRENT PROJECTS
Lead for community-based research examining systems of care and family supports for children with birth defects (Florida Birth Defects Registry and USF Birth Defects Surveillance Program)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
University of South Florida, University of Miami, and Florida State University

SHORT BIO
Dr. Marshall is an Assistant Professor at the USF College of Public Health, Lead Evaluator for Florida’s Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact Project, and the Director of Planning & Evaluation for the Sunshine Education and Research Center.

She also conducts community-based research assessing infant mortality prevention programs; safe infant sleep practices and interventions; family-centered care and access to services for families of children with birth defects; and infant mental health. Her research interests stem from over 25 years of experience working with community-based programs that support teachers, home visitors, care coordinators, and parents of young children with developmental and behavioral challenges, special health care needs, and birth defects. Dr. Marshall holds a BA in psychology and child development from the University of Washington, MPH and Ph.D. from the University of South Florida, and completed her postdoctoral fellowship conducting early intervention outcomes research in the Department of Teaching and Learning at the University of Miami. Her areas of expertise include mixed-methods research, community-based participatory research, program evaluation, and cross-cultural research.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Working with students who are obtaining their masters or doctorate degrees to prepare for a lifetime of work in public health. I also love working with community agencies and staff, and parents and children.
Maxine McGregor is an Instructor at University of Central Florida in Orlando. Before her academic career, Maxine worked with Department of Children and Families where she received advanced training specific to domestic violence. As a former Title IV-E Coordinator, Maxine was able to teach and mentor students interested in child welfare, by incorporating the pre-service curriculum in her courses. Educating students on the importance of using critical thinking skills and the Child Welfare Practice Model goal of achieving safety, permanence and well-being by using a safety-focused, family-centered, trauma-informed approach is key to working with families.

Maxine received her MSW from University of Central Florida and is honored to be able to give back to students that have the same passion for child welfare. As a Combat Veteran, Maxine hopes to one day work with deployed soldiers and their families suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I was a member of the United States Army for 10.5 years.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Seeing the students gain social work practice, and the importance of working with families

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Panama, because that is my mother's origin and I have never visited the country.
Email
mmilner@seu.edu

Phone
863.670.6619

Degree
Ph.D., MSSW

Title
BSW Program Director & Professor of Social Work

Research Interests
Preventing teen pregnancy among youth in foster care; Improving outcomes among parenting youth in foster care; Gratitude as an antidote to compassion fatigue and burnout among social workers; Improving critical thinking and decision-making skills

Current Projects
Research project regarding the impact of the practice of gratitude on social work students' life satisfaction, gratitude, and pro-social behaviors.

Short Bio
Dr. Milner received her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of South Florida in 2009, and earned an MSSW from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1981. She has 20 years of experience in a variety of fields of social work practice, including child welfare, child sexual abuse treatment, adoption, substance abuse treatment and community mental health prior to becoming the Director of the BSW Program at Southeastern University in 2001. In 2014, she published an article entitled The Use of Decision Cases to Foster Critical Thinking in Social Work Students in the Journal of Teaching in Social Work, and an article entitled Adding Virtue to Faith: Strategies for Developing Character in Christian Social Work Students in The Journal of Social Work & Christianity. The article was republished in 2015 as a chapter in an edited book entitled Virtues and Character in Social Work Practice. In 2015-2016, Dr. Milner was the lead researcher for a grant awarded to Heartland for Children entitled Protecting Teens...Protecting Futures, which evaluated a teen pregnancy program that was implemented among teens in residential care in Polk County.

What is Most Inspiring about Your Job?
Seeing students' fresh passion for changing lives inspires me to keep on keeping on!

Where in the World Would You Most Like to Visit?
Australia and Portugal
EVA NOWAKOWSKI-SIMS

Barry University

EMAIL
enowakowski-sims@barry.edu

PHONE
561.622.2732

DEGREE
Ph.D., LCSW, MPH

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Trauma and the integrative treatment options that reduce the negative symptoms of trauma

CURRENT PROJECTS
Movement as a regulation strategy with families impacted by trauma in the child welfare system; Family preservation program teaching staff how to use yoga for mood management strategies with kids and/or parents. Conducting a study that explores how breath work and movement strategies help kids in care regulate emotions and/or help parents manage stress as an abuse prevention strategy.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Trauma-informed expressive therapies certificate program with Dr. Heidi LaPorte

SHORT BIO
Dr. Eva Nowakowski-Sims is an Associate Professor at the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast site in the School of Social Work at Barry University. She has more than 20 years of training and clinical experience working with individuals, families, and groups impacted by trauma. Her professional and research interests include youth violence, program evaluation, and integrative body, mind, spirit interventions.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
My go to stress reliever is group exercise activities such as tennis, boot camp, and yoga. There is something magical about experiencing those feel good endorphins among a group of people. The group holds each other accountable, builds community, and brings joy to your soul.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Rishikesh, India
ROBIN PERRY
Florida A&M University

EMAIL    PHONE
robin.perry@famu.edu    850.561.2253

DEGREE    TITLE
Ph.D.    Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare performance measures; Child maltreatment fatalities & child abuse prevention; Child/family well-being; Funding models for child welfare systems; Domestic & sexual violence; Profession training & workforce issues; Family group decision making.

SHORT BIO
Dr. Perry is a Professor in Social Work at Florida A&M University and currently serves as the Chairperson of the Child Abuse Death Review (CADR) Committee. He additionally serves on the Statewide Critical Incident Rapid Response Team (CIRRT) Advisory Committee. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Perry worked for eight years in child welfare and domestic violence settings (casework and clinical), including serving as a child protective investigator and service worker for four years. Dr. Perry's research has received national and international attention. He has published and presented extensively (over 140 conference papers, research reports, monographs, book chapters, and refereed journal articles) on topics including: program and outcome evaluation, child well-being, funding models for child welfare systems, domestic and sexual violence, task analyses and workforce issues, professional training and education of child welfare workers, child welfare performance measures, family group decision making, child maltreatment fatalities and child abuse prevention.
 EMAIL  
mradey@fsu.edu

PHONE  
850.644.9226

DEGREE  
Ph.D., MSSW, MA

TITLE  
Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Social support among low-income families; Social support among child welfare populations; Child welfare worker retention

CURRENT PROJECTS
Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dina Wilke and Lisa Schelbe at the FSU College of Social Work

SHORT BIO
Dr. Melissa Radey is a Professor in the College of Social Work at Florida State University and is a scholar, particularly using both multilevel modeling and qualitative research to inform child welfare policies and practices. Dr. Radey is the co-Principal Investigator for the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families. In addition to examining the challenges faced by parenting youth in and aging out of the foster care system, her current work examines social support among vulnerable populations, including low-income families as well as stakeholders across the child welfare system.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Expanding the knowledge base

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Fremantle, Australia
KAREN RANDOLPH
Florida State University

EMAIL
krandolph@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.9745

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW, BSW

TITLE
Agnes Flaherty Stoops
Professor in Child Welfare

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare; Evaluation research methods

CURRENT PROJECTS
Use of evidence-based knowledge in child welfare practice; Evidence-based parenting interventions; Child welfare workforce recruitment and retention; Youth aging out of care

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dr. Dina Wilke (The Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families); Dr. Mary Kay Falconer, Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (Evidence-based parenting interventions); and Dr. Heather Thompson, Florida Atlantic University and Dr. Lisa Schelbe, Florida State University (Youth aging out of care)

SHORT BIO
Karen A. Randolph is the Agnes Flaherty Stoops Professor at the FSU College of Social Work. Dr. Randolph’s areas of interest are child welfare and evaluation research methods. Her current projects include studies on: 1) the use of evidence-based knowledge in child welfare practice, and 2) child welfare workforce recruitment and retention, The Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families. She is lead author of the book entitled, Basic Statistics in Multivariate Analysis, as a part of the Pocket Guides to Social Work Research Methods, published by Oxford University Press.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Having the privilege of participating in students’ learning processes

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Scandinavian countries and Estonia
LISA RAPP-MCCALL

EMAIL
lisa.rapp-mccall@saintleo.edu

PHONE
352.588.8545

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Professor
Research Associate

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Violence towards children/youth and by children/youth; Prevention

CURRENT PROJECTS
ECC; Evaluation of a human trafficking macro intervention; Evaluation of knowledge and skills gained from human trafficking courses in Africa

SHORT BIO
Dr. Lisa Rapp received her MSW degree in Social Work from the University of Buffalo and worked as a Psychiatric Social Worker in the areas of domestic violence, children and adolescent psychiatric inpatient units and outpatient clinics and in the Juvenile Justice system. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Welfare in 1999 at the University of Buffalo and has taught at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the University of South Florida and currently at Saint Leo University. Dr. Rapp was Co-PI of the Prodigy Cultural Arts Prevention Program. She has conducted numerous program evaluations, focus groups, and written grants and reports for profit and not-for-profit agencies. Her research expertise includes: juvenile crime and violence, childabuse, and prevention, as well as program evaluation. She is a Professor in the Graduate Social Work program and a Research Associate in the Maribeth Durst Applied Research Institute at Saint Leo University.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Educating and motivating people to prevent and stop violence

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Supporting housing and child welfare; LGBT service delivery in child welfare; Youth transitioning from foster care

CURRENT PROJECTS
Children’s Bureau—Co-Evaluator; Partnerships to demonstrate the effectiveness of supportive housing for families in the child welfare system

SHORT BIO
Dr. Rosenwald is originally from Maryland and has taught at Barry University for the past 10 years. He served as the Title IV-E Coordinator as well as currently serve as the Interim Ph.D. Director. His child welfare experience includes conducting investigations, serving as a Guardian ad Litem, and facilitating group work (foster children, adoption children, triad members). Dr. Rosenwald has a book on foster care/kinship care and has published a number of journal articles on child welfare spanning from LGBT-competent child welfare practice to youth transitioning from care, and strengthening research capacity in child welfare agencies.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Mentoring students

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
DEGREE
Ph.D., LCSW, MSW

TITLE
Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Treatment of childhood trauma, loss, and anxiety; Child welfare-worker burnout; Secondary trauma and self-care barriers/access to treatment

CURRENT PROJECTS
2015-2019 National Institute of Mental Health [1R01MH107522-01]

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Principle investigator for Stepped Care for Children after Trauma: Optimizing Treatment. The purpose of the study is to examine how to optimize the efficiency (e.g., via matching children to appropriate treatment dosage at baseline, utilizing second-stage tailoring variables, and identifying mechanisms of change) and cost-effectiveness of Stepped Care TF-CBT.

SHORT BIO
Alison Salloum, Ph.D., LCSW is a Professor at the University of South Florida, School of Social Work in the United States. She received her MSW and Ph.D. from Tulane University School of Social Work. Dr. Salloum's primary research interest is on the treatment of childhood trauma. She is specifically interested in examining psychosocial interventions for young children, children, adolescents, and their families who have been exposed to various types of traumatic events such as violence, disasters, and death. Currently, Dr. Salloum is the principal investigator on a four-year National Institute of Mental Health R01 grant to examine how to optimize the efficiency (e.g., via matching children to appropriate treatment dosage at baseline, utilizing second-stage tailoring variables, and identifying mechanisms of change) and cost-effectiveness of Stepped Care Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).
LISA SCHELBE

EMAIL
lschelbe@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.645.5935

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Youth aging out of the child welfare system; Youth aging out who are parenting; Intergenerational transmission of child maltreatment; Qualitative methods

CURRENT PROJECTS
Youth aging out; Youth aging out who are parenting; Evaluation of a medication therapy management program

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Projects with FICW Affiliates: Drs. Melissa Radey, Shamra Boel-Studt, Jeffrey Lacasse, Karen Randolph & Dina Wilke. Projects with faculty at FSU College of Medicine, College of Human Sciences, and College of Education. Projects with faculty at University of Illinois at Chicago, University of Montana, Wayne State University, and University of Washington

SHORT BIO
Dr. Schelbe serves as a co-Editor-in-Chief of the Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal. Dr. Schelbe received a Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being in 2011-2013. She earned her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013 and her MSW from Washington University in 2001. Dr. Schelbe's primary research interest focuses on youth aging out of the child welfare system. She is interested in the experiences of youth as they transition out of the child welfare system and into adulthood. An additional focus of Dr. Schelbe's research is the intergenerational transmission of child maltreatment.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I love the fact that I get to help create and disseminate knowledge. It is inspiring to teach and write about issues that are important to me.
DIANE SCOTT
University of West Florida

EMAIL
dscott2@uwf.edu

PHONE
850.875.6349

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Associate Dean & Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare; Veterans; Program evaluation

CURRENT PROJECTS
Evaluation of community partnership school; Evaluation of veteran’s court

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dr. Joseph Herzog and Dr. Frank Ferdik (veteran’s court); UCF (community school evaluation and partnership)

SHORT BIO
Dr. Scott conducted research involving Virginia law enforcement and judicial system responses to domestic violence following the passage of legislation requiring mandatory arrest in the state. She also conducted research with the Santa Rosa County and Escambia County Courts for Dependency Court outcomes and a Unified Court responding to domestic violence cases. Dr. Scott has six published journal articles related to court or law enforcement processes and has collaborated with the Department of Criminal Justice on these research projects and subsequent publications. Dr. Scott has co-authored two publications related to child welfare and food insecurity and also has extensive practice experience and research involving military populations. Dr. Scott was Co-PI on a $650,000 grant from the Department of Education entitled *Hometown Heroes* which included development of a training program for paraprofessionals who assist veterans in obtaining mental health, substance abuse, housing, medical, and other benefits for which they are entitled. Dr. Scott is lead author or co-author for three journal articles, one book chapter, and a book *Social Work with Military Populations*. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Scott was a clinical social worker in Department of Defense social service agencies serving military personnel and their families.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Helping students achieve their academic goals

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Person-centered community-based mental health policy and service delivery

CURRENT PROJECTS
Conducting research related to self-directed care for individuals diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Projects with faculty at Florida State University, Colorado State University, as well as UNF

SHORT BIO
Dr. Jennifer Spaulding-Givens earned her Ph.D. in Social Work as well as a MSW with a concentration in Social Policy and Administration from Florida State University. Prior to joining the UNF Faculty in 2006, she served as the Operations Coordinator of Florida Self-Directed Care, a public mental health program for adults diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness.
JULIE STEEN
University of Central Florida

EMAIL
julie.steen@ucf.edu

PHONE
407.823.6452

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare organizations and policies

CURRENT PROJECTS
Evaluation of Florida's Child Abuse Prevention Campaign

SHORT BIO
Dr. Julie Steen is Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida, School of Social Work. Her research focuses on child welfare organizations and policies. She has published in such journals as Child Abuse & Neglect, Children and Youth Services Review, and the Journal of Public Child Welfare. In addition, she has presented her work at the International Congress of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the Joint World Conference for Social Work and Social Development, and the annual conferences of the Council on Social Work Education and the Society for Social Work and Research. Prior to her academic career, she served as a trainer, lobbyist, and crisis counselor in the field of child welfare.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
When I get the chance to learn something new

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Avenue of the Giants, California
HEATHER THOMPSON
Florida Atlantic University

EMAIL
hthompson@fau.edu

PHONE
561.297.3234

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Interim Director
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Relational protective factors for youth in foster care; Ecological perspective of child welfare professionals; Organizational climate in the child welfare system

CURRENT PROJECTS
Examination of organizational factors influencing clients’ experiences in child welfare; Analysis of Guardian ad Litem’s role in the child welfare system; Challenges in the prevention and service delivery sectors in child welfare

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Other faculty within the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University, as well as community members; Florida State University; University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; University of Iowa.

SHORT BIO
Dr. Thompson earned her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy and MSW in Social Work from the Florida State University in Tallahassee. She years of experience in the child welfare system in Florida, working in a range of roles from front line staff to an administrator at the lead child welfare agency of North Florida. Additionally, as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Dr. Thompson has provided counseling services, including individual, couple and family counseling, as well as parenting interventions to at-risk families involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. Her area of research expertise is in child welfare, specifically identifying protective factors for adolescents in long-term foster care. Her secondary area of research focuses on identifying best practices for child welfare professionals.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Working with students who have a new, budding passion for the field of social work. Additionally, it is very inspiring to see students expand the clientele that they would serve and consider working with children or in other areas of child welfare.
RIAAN VAN ZYL
University of South Florida

EMAIL
riaan@usf.edu

PHONE
813.974.1116

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Director, School of Social Work

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Prevention of child abuse and neglect; Child welfare practice models and quality improvement in social service delivery; Chronic disease and health disparities; Advancing measurement in social science research

CURRENT PROJECTS
Microbiome and health disparities, social media interventions for HIV/AIDS, and healthy eating plans and chronic disease treatment/management

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
University of Louisville

SHORT BIO
Dr. van Zyl's academic background and education has provided him with an international perspective of social work education and knowledge building, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom. He played a leading role in the enhancement of educational experiences of students at different institutions. Dr. van Zyl has an established record of research and scholarship over a number of focus areas, influenced by his own interests and the demands of local communities and pressing issues in society. He has conducted several studies on new strategies to improve the identification of persons unaware of their HIV-1 infection and successfully link them to HIV testing, treatment, and prevention interventions. He has also collaborated on studies of STDs, teenage pregnancy prevention, prevention of child abuse and neglect, and other health-risk behaviors. Dr. van Zyl led initiatives to curtail the crises of over-crowding in prisons and collaborated across sectors in advancing implementation science. His work on measurement impacted various fields of practice including corrections, education, prevention of behavioral problems in young children, risk reduction and organizational change.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
My snail collection

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Collaborating on projects to solve problems
**RESEARCH INTERESTS**
Domestic violence; Developmental disability; Mental health; Child welfare

**CURRENT PROJECTS**
ASD and the effects on the family court system

**SHORT BIO**
Dr. Whittaker earned her doctoral degree from Argosy University, a MSW from the University of Central Florida, and a MBA as well as a BSW from Saint Leo University. Dr. Whittaker has been a social work faculty for over 20 years. She has taught courses such as policy, practice, and research. During that time she worked in juvenile justice, mental health, hospital and schools. Dr. Whittaker has also worked for over 20 years as an outpatient therapist doing marriage and family, individual, and group therapy.

**WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?**
I have 12 grandchildren.

**WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?**
Hawaii
**DEGREE**
Ph.D., MSW

**TITLE**
Professor

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**
Professional training and development; Child welfare workforce turnover and retention; Online social work education; Intimate partner violence

**CURRENT PROJECTS**
Principal Investigator—*Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families* (FSPSF)

**COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES**
Projects with other FICW affiliates: Melissa Radey, Karen Randolph, and Lisa Schelbe—all from Florida State University

**SHORT BIO**
Dr. Wilke’s research focuses on professional training/development and intimate partner violence. She is the Principal Investigator for the *Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families*, a 5-year study of newly hired employees into child welfare workforce. This statewide study is designed to explore retention and turnover. Dr. Wilke received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her MSW from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her clinical experience focused on adolescent and young adult substance abuse intervention.

**WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**
Mentoring students

**WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?**
Nepal, or anywhere there are mountains
The Florida Institute for Child Welfare continues to establish new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships with researchers and policymakers to improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for families in the child welfare system. The Institute expanded the faculty affiliate network to include researchers who have expertise in areas related to the vulnerabilities of at-risk families in order to create an interdisciplinary approach to research.
HEATHER AGAZZI

EMAIL
hcurtiss@health.usf.edu

PHONE
813.974.0606

DEGREE
Ph.D., MS, ABPP

TITLE
Associate Professor
Pediatrics and Psychiatry

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Social-emotional interventions for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and trauma exposures; behavioral parent training for young children with disruptive behavior disorders; early identification and treatment for Autism spectrum disorder; Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with diverse populations

SHORT BIO
Dr. Agazzi is a bilingual (English and Spanish) pediatric psychologist, board certified in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. At the University of South Florida Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, she specializes in clinical services for young children with developmental disabilities, disruptive behavior disorders, and trauma exposures requiring child welfare services. Dr. Agazi is a level 1 Parent-Child Interaction Therapy trainer, a program commonly used to meet the needs of children in child welfare. Dr. Agazzi also directs the HOT DOCS parent training program in Hillsborough County, a program which commonly works with caregivers involved in child welfare.
EMAIL  mfalconer@ounce.org
PHONE  850.921.4494 x 211

DEGREE  Ph.D.
TITLE  Senior Evaluator
Research, Evaluation and Systems

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child welfare; Prevention of child abuse and neglect

CURRENT PROJECTS
Measurement Validity (Depression, Mental Health, Social Support, Parenting Efficacy, and Family Functioning)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Dr. Glenn Rohrer at the University of West Florida; Dr. Karen Randolph at FSU

SHORT BIO
Dr. Mary Kay Falconer has been a senior evaluator with the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida since July 1, 2003. In addition to developing proposals for new research initiatives, Dr. Falconer has conducted evaluation research for Healthy Families Florida, Florida’s Circle of Parents, Florida’s campaigns to prevent child abuse and neglect, family centered practice in Florida's child welfare system, implementation of the Safety Methodology, early childhood courts, and community collaborations that promote coordination between early childhood learning and child welfare in order to better serve young children in foster care. She has studied the evolution of several evidence-based continuums and conducted research consistent with the methodological requirements on evidence-based continuums. She has taught program evaluation courses at Florida State University and has been a guest lecturer on program evaluation. In her previous employment, she was a research associate and director at the Institute for Health and Human Services Research in the College of Social Work at Florida State University.
MARTIE GILLEN

University of Florida

EMAIL
mgillen@ufl.edu

PHONE
352.392.0404

DEGREE
Ph.D., MBA

TITLE
Associate Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Behavioral economics; Personality traits; Family finance; Foster care; Trauma; Older adults; Social security; Poverty; Financial social work; Food security

CURRENT PROJECTS
Working with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) data and Health and Retirement Study (HRS) data; Evaluation of the Guardianship Assistance Program

SHORT BIO
Martie Gillen, Ph.D., MBA, is an associate professor in the Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences at the University of Florida. She oversees the Accredited Financial Counselor program and the Certified Financial Planner program. She is a research affiliate of the Florida Institute for Child Welfare. She earned her Ph.D. from the Department of Family Studies at the University of Kentucky. She also earned a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics from the University of Kentucky. Martie earned a MBA from Sullivan University. She is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Practitioner and a Financial Social Work Educator.

Dr. Gillen teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in trauma informed care, human services, financial counseling, and personal and family financial planning. She travels the state and nation educating others on trauma informed care including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), the effects of trauma on brain development, TBRI, and creating trauma informed classrooms. University of Florida.

Martie has been a foster mom for over five years and has welcomed many children in to her home, some for a few days, some for months, some for years, and two for forever through adoption. She is also a Guardian ad Litem volunteer.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Providing education and resources to students and consumers
RENE’ LEDFORD 

Children’s Home Society of Florida

EMAIL
renelledford@chsfl.org

PHONE
321.397.3000

DEGREE
MSW, LCSW, BCBA

TITLE
Director of Quality Improvement and Training

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Professional training and development; Child welfare workforce turnover and retention; Online social work education; Intimate partner violence

CURRENT PROJECTS
Curriculum development; Supervisory development; Training facilitation, E-learning; Non-profit administration; Applied behavior analysis; Clinical social work

SHORT BIO
Ms. Ledford is a results-focused professional with extensive experience developing innovative solutions and training programs. Her experience, as both a provider and administrator, includes residential, child welfare, and mental health services. In addition, she was both a Trainer and Project Manager for Prosync, Inc. (now The Paxen Group), a nationally recognized leader in customized training and performance contracting. Ms. Ledford is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and Council on Accreditation (COA) Peer Reviewer.
KIMBERLY MCGRATH
Citrus Health Network

EMAIL  PHONE
kimberlym@citrushealth.com  305.424.3031

DEGREE  TITLE
PsyD  Director of Programs and Services for Family Care Network

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Human trafficking; Child welfare; Mental health; Substance abuse

SHORT BIO
Dr. Kimberly McGrath is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of Programs and Services for Family Care Network at Citrus Health Network. Citrus Health Network was founded in 1979 as a community mental health center dedicated to serving mentally ill individuals and their families and in 2004 began offering primary care in addition to mental and behavioral health services. Dr. McGrath is the founding clinician for the Citrus Helping Adolescents Negatively affected by Commercial Exploitation (CHANCE) Program, a Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care (STFC) and Community Response Team (CRT) for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. The CHANCE Program addresses the emotional, social and behavioral needs of victims of human trafficking. In addition to founding and developing the CHANCE Program, Dr. McGrath is also the founding psychologist for the Treating Adolescents Coping with Trauma (TACT) program, an outpatient program for sexual offenders, victims of sexual abuse, and their families.
KAREN OEHME
FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies

EMAIL
koehme@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.6303

DEGREE
JD

TITLE
Director

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Intimate partner and family violence; Supervised visitation; Family law policy; Co-parenting; Law enforcement training; Trauma and resilience; LGBTQ equality policy; Sexual violence prevention; Health policy

CURRENT PROJECTS
The Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation and large national trainings including the Law Enforcement Families Partnership, Successful Co-Parenting After Divorce, LGBTQ Family Life Project, Trauma and Resilience in Families (familyvio.csw.fsu.edu)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
FSU Colleges of Law and Medicine, and the Department of Family and Child Sciences. Collaboration with the University of Michigan, Windsor University (Canada), University of Kansas, UF (Trauma One - Jacksonville), University of North Carolina (Charlotte) and others

SHORT BIO
Karen Oehme has been the Director of the FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies (IVS) since 2007, having first served as the Director of the Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation (within the Institute) beginning in 1998. Previous jobs include the Guardian ad Litem Program of the 2nd Judicial Circuit and Legal Services of North Florida Inc. Her goals at the IVS are to conduct rigorous research, build comprehensive national training, and develop and promote sound public policy to support healthy families, and eliminate all forms of family violence.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I’ve been a vegetarian for 40 years

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Building national trainings that will help people gain knowledge, build skills, and improve their lives.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Egypt
EMAIL
gihano@citrushealth.com

PHONE
305.424.3031

DEGREE
Psy.D.

TITLE
Clinical Coordinator of Foster Care

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Commercial exploitation; Adolescent treatment; Foster care; Cultural diversity

CURRENT PROJECTS
Foster Home recruitment and expansion, CHANCE program evaluation, submission of grant related to mentoring

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Current long term collaboration with USF for program evaluation of CHANCE and various related grant projects and presentations

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I have 4 young kids ranging in age 7 years to 7 months; I am first generation Egyptian American and I am relatively comedic.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Asia
Dr. Kimberly Renk joined the faculty at the University of Central Florida in Fall 2000 after completing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. Prior to her doctoral degree, she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, and a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. Throughout the course of her educational endeavors, Dr. Renk gained both general training experiences in Clinical Psychology as well as specialty training experiences in Clinical Child and Pediatric Psychology. Nonetheless, her work has been most heavily influenced by the specialized Infant Mental Health Fellowship training that she received while completing her Predoctoral Internship at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Accordingly, Dr. Renk’s research clinic and laboratory, Understanding Young Children and Families, provides a forum for investigating a variety of Infant Mental Health-related issues, for providing evidence-based and trauma-informed services to families with young children who are 6-years of age and younger (e.g., Circle of Security-Parenting, Child-Parent Psychotherapy), and for building community partnerships meant to better serve high-risk families and their young children in Central Florida. Dr. Renk has built a variety of community partnerships through her work, including connections with the Florida Association of Infant Mental Health, the Florida State University’s Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, Nemours Children's Hospital, Aspire/Center for Drug-Free Living, Community Based Care of Central Florida, and Florida’s Ninth Judicial Circuit.
Dr. Terry J. Rhodes is the Director of the Research, Evaluation, and Systems Unit at The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. Founded in 1989, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida is recognized as a leader in prevention, committed to public/private partnerships, credible research, ongoing evaluation, and fiscal accountability. The Ounce of Prevention Fund partners with foundations, local non-profit organizations and governmental entities to fund and evaluate innovative, community-based programs that serve at-risk children and their families, benefiting Florida's children, families and communities.

As a function of the expanding capacity of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, Dr. Rhodes established the evaluation unit in January 2001. The Research, Evaluation, and Systems Unit conducts research and evaluation and develops information management systems to support program management and evaluation.

Dr. Rhodes has extensive senior management experience in non-profit faith-based and social service organizations. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Religion from Stetson University and his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served 15 years on the Board of Trustees for Stetson University and is a member of both the Southeastern Evaluation Association (SEA), where he served on the SEA Board of Directors and as the Non-Profit Sector Representative, and the American Evaluation Association. He has also presented at numerous Southeastern Evaluation Association events.
TERI SAUNDERS
Heartland for Children

EMAIL
tsaunder@heartlandforchildren.org

PHONE
863.519.8900 x 201

DEGREE
MS

TITLE
CEO

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Application of data analytics in child welfare; Treatment of complex developmental trauma; Utilizing implementation science in child welfare; Personal characteristics associated with outstanding child welfare case management

CURRENT PROJECTS
Developing analytical models to predict timely permanency and re-entry into child welfare; Becoming a trauma-integrated child welfare system

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Participated in the Child Welfare League of America’s research delegation to Cuba in 2015; Worked in partnership with faculty at Southeastern University to implement an evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program; Served on the Warner University Social Work advisory board.

SHORT BIO
Teri Saunders currently serves as the CEO of Heartland for Children and has been in this role for ten years. Previous work experience includes Executive Director of Children's Home Society of Florida’s Gulf Coast Division and nine years as a Faculty in Research at the University of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute (FMHI). While at FMHI, She oversaw a program evaluation and outcome assessment project for state funded mental health and substance abuse programs and a privately funded longitudinal study of individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia. She is passionate about continuing to improve the quality of child welfare services and our local system of care.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I absolutely love scuba diving.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Seeing the successes of parents; Leading the workforce to pursue excellence through innovation; Seeing people moving forward on their healing journey
KELLIE SWEAT DARNELL

Growing Tree Solutions

EMAIL
kellie@growingtreesolutions.com

PHONE
407.760.0984

DEGREE
BS Psychology

TITLE
Consultant

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Organizational change management; Implementation science; Project management; Data analytics; Child welfare and behavioral health integration; Child welfare technology integration with practice; Child welfare program improvement.

CURRENT PROJECTS
Integrating child welfare software instruction into pre-service curriculum; Florida Safe Families Network training delivery; Child welfare and behavioral health integration; Project management for Capacity Building Center for States projects; and Data analyst consultation for PIP development

SHORT BIO
Kellie Sweat Darnell has over 20 years of professional experience performing child welfare direct field work, supervision, program development, managing and directing multiple teams, projects and operations; extensive child welfare experience integrating programs, operations, and technology; expertise implementing major program change within a diverse and expansive stakeholder group.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I played women's professional football.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Leading organizations to realize and operationalize their vision
The Florida Institute for Child Welfare consists of a talented team of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Their expertise is instrumental to achieving the Institute’s mission and its vision.

**MISSION**

The Florida Institute for Child Welfare seeks to promote safety, permanency, and well-being among the children and families of Florida that are involved with the child welfare system. To accomplish this mission, the Institute will sponsor and support interdisciplinary research projects and program evaluation initiatives that will contribute to a dynamic knowledge base relevant for enhancing Florida’s child welfare outcomes. The Institute will collaborate with community agencies across all sectors and other important organizations in order to translate relevant knowledge generated through ecologically-valid research, policy analysis, and program evaluation. This will be best achieved through the design and implementation of developmentally-targeted and trauma-informed strategies for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

**VISION**

To provide nationally acclaimed child welfare research, training services, and policy and practice implementation guidance with our partner organizations in support of the children and families in Florida’s child welfare system.
ALINA BACHMANN

EMAIL
abachmann@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.7201

DEGREE
BFA Studio Art

TITLE
Publication Graphic Artist

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Neuroplasticity; Resiliency; Trauma-informed care; Toxic stress; Cognitive behavioral therapy; Mindfulness; Alternative and complimentary therapies in health and medicine

CURRENT PROJECTS
Design of print and web publications for the Institute.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Design support for the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health. Designs for Institute toolkits produced in partnership with Heartland for Children; Logo designs for Smart Start: Parenting Tools for Children with Developmental Delay, Social-Emotional Concerns, and Trauma as well as HOT DOCS and DOCS for Success with Dr. Heather Agazzi (USF Department of Pediatrics); Design support for Institute for Family Violence Studies.

SHORT BIO
Alina Bachmann comes from a rigorous background in fine art and has extended her creative talents as a graphic designer to such organizations as the Wildlife Conservation Society, New York Aquarium, and Tallahassee Museum, among many others. She has found purpose in applying her artistic skill to campaigns for education or policy change, with much focus on issues related to child welfare as well as an equal passion for wildlife conservation. Alina operates her own art and design agency, ALINART LLC, and proudly serves as the Graphic Artist for the Institute’s publications.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I designed the National Mammal seal for the United States, under the Obama administration.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I play a small role in presenting research that has the potential to make a difference in the lives of youth and in prevention.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Australia
DONNA BROWN

EMAIL
dmbrown2@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.566.0801

DEGREE
Ph.D. candidate, MSW

TITLE
Research Assistant

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Foster care; Family preservation, Child sexual abuse; Evaluation

CURRENT PROJECTS
Research for Kinship Navigator Programs and CaseAIM

SHORT BIO
Donna Brown has worked most of her professional life in the areas of domestic violence, child abuse and foster care. For the past ten years, she has served as the Research & Prevention Consultant at the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence. In August 2017, she joined the Florida Institute for Child Welfare as a Research Assistant. Donna is currently a doctoral candidate in the Florida State University College of Social Work, and her dissertation focuses on the evaluation of Safer, Smarter Kids, a child sexual abuse curriculum. For the past six years she has enjoyed teaching social policy and community organizing courses to MSW students.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN _______ ABOUT YOU?
People are surprised to learn that I have been a professional social worker for over 25 years.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Supporting and sharing in the Institute's mission to promote safety, permanency, and well-being among the children and families of Florida that are involved with the child welfare system

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
St. Petersburg, Russia
JAMES CLARK

EMAIL
jclark5@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.4752

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW/LCSW, BA Sociology

TITLE
Dean and Professor

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Forensic child behavioral health; Child traumatic stress

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Florida Institute of Child Welfare, Florida State University Institute for Family Violence Studies, Florida State University Multidisciplinary Center, various Florida State University centers, institutes, administrators and faculty

SHORT BIO
Dr. James J. Clark, LCSW is Dean of the Florida State University College of Social Work. From 2012-2015 he served as the Director of the School of Social Work at the University of Cincinnati, and served on the faculty of the University of Kentucky from 1991-2012. During his time at UK, he co-founded the Center on Trauma & Children. He has published in the areas of forensic mental health, child traumatic stress, criminal justice, ethics and accountability, and psychobiography and the study of lives. He is a clinician, educator, and researcher. He graduated from Siena College (BA 1980), the University of Kentucky College of Social Work (MSW 1983) and the University of Chicago (Ph.D. 1997). Dr. Clark is an affiliate of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I think of myself as a Kentuckian, even though I was born in New York!

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Getting to know and work closely with amazingly talented faculty, staff, and students

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Germany and Japan
EMILY JOYCE

EMAIL
ejoyce2@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.7201

DEGREE
MS candidate

TITLE
Editor

CURRENT PROJECTS
Editing research reports, journal article summaries, research briefs, newsletters, and other Institute publications

SHORT BIO
Emily Joyce graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Communications and Writing in 2011. As a writing tutor and honors scholar, Ms. Joyce developed an interest in academic writing and editing. For the last six years she worked as an Academic Program Specialist for the FSU College of Social Work Doctoral Program and International Programs, supporting the administration of both programs and advising students. Ready for change and with a desire to explore her earlier interests, Ms. Joyce joined the Florida Institute for Child Welfare in 2018 as an editor. She is also currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Education Leadership with a focus in higher education and student affairs.
Dr. Lisa Magruder is a jointly appointed Postdoctoral Scholar with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare and the Florida State University College of Social Work. Lisa joined the Institute in July 2018 to conduct a program evaluation of Florida's Early Childhood Courts program. With the College of Social Work, Lisa has managed the Florida Study of Professionals for Safe Families (PI: Dr. Dina Wilke) since October 2015. Her research focuses on systemic collaboration among responders in health and human services roles, particularly those who work with interpersonal violence (e.g., intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking). Lisa holds both a BS in psychology and sociology and an MSW from Florida State University as well as a PhD from the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work.

Lisa’s prior practice experience lies in addressing community issues related to women and girls.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Hearing from frontline workers. They work so hard and often in very challenging contexts. We have so much to gain by capturing their experiences and I am passionate about incorporating their voices into research that shapes both their jobs and the lives of their clients.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?

New Zealand
EMAIL
jmcclure@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.644.7201

DEGREE
BS candidate, AS

TITLE
Administrative Specialist

CURRENT PROJECTS
Working with Institute affiliates and staff to coordinate projects, travel, and research; Process improvements to ensure office efficiency and reduce errors

SHORT BIO
Jon’tae is a native to the Tallahassee Big Bend area. After graduating high school, she completed her initial core classes at Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University before transitioning to Atlanta, GA to complete her Associates degree in Funeral Service at Gupton-Jones College. Presently, Jon’tae is completing her online Bachelor’s degree in Management (Funeral Service) with Mid-America College.

Jontae's FSU career began in November of 2016 with the Office of the Vice President for Research and joined the Institute in March 2019. In her times of relaxation, she enjoys taking spiritual journeys and spending time with her family and friends.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
Africa
RESEARCH INTERESTS
Racial equity and social justice; Child welfare workforce development; Training and education; Professional and organizational commitment

CURRENT PROJECTS
Results Oriented Accountability Evaluation

SHORT BIO
An alumna of the FSU College of Social Work and a Florida native, Pryce completed her MSW in 2009 and worked as a child protective investigator with DCF before transitioning to Washington, D.C. to pursue her doctorate degree from Howard University. She most recently served as the Deputy Director of the New York State Social Work Education consortium, assisting child welfare employees with Title IV-E funding that covered their graduate school tuition. She was also the principal investigator for two projects concerning statewide child welfare training evaluation and racial disparities in foster care placement in New York State.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN ______ ABOUT YOU?
I am 6 ft tall and I’m not a model or an athlete.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
We are able to create evidence to support the great work that is being done in our state. Which means, we are helping children and their families receive the best and most effective services.

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?
The Seychelles
CURRENT PROJECTS

Work with funded researchers to finalize reports for publication and dissemination to Institute stakeholders; Budget management; Oversee ad hoc assignments from DCF or legislature; Facilitate collaborative efforts between researchers and community and state leaders, as well as seek additional funding.

SHORT BIO

Ms. Tutwiler came to the Florida Institute for Child Welfare in early 2016 to be the Program Director. Prior to this position she was with FSU's Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, directing a multi-million dollar project to prepare the Young Parents Project for evaluation and to educate physicians, social workers, nurses, obstetricians, and early care coordinators that serve children and families in the child welfare system about toxic stress and increase their understanding and appreciation for infant and early childhood mental health. While working 12 years for the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center at the University of South Florida, she was the Principal Investigator for over $10 million of contracts and awards that addressed the needs and or evaluated the outcomes of vulnerable families. As a consultant to the Department of Health, she worked with multiple experts and wrote Florida's plan to spend $35 million in federal monies for the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

WHAT SURPRISES PEOPLE THE MOST WHEN THEY LEARN _______ ABOUT YOU?

I scuba and go on adventure vacations

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Facilitating the transfer of research to practice in the field in order to better help our families

WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO VISIT?

Galapagos Islands
ANNA YELICK

EMAIL
ayelick@fsu.edu

PHONE
734.223.2704

DEGREE
Ph.D., MSW

TITLE
Post-doctoral Research Fellow

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Child and family welfare; Child welfare decision-making; Structured decision-making models used within the child welfare system; Florida Practice Model; Family structure; intersectionality of families served by the child welfare system; predictive analytic models; kinship navigator programs; Pharmacological interventions among foster youth; Childhood obesity and the child welfare system

CURRENT PROJECTS
The use of predictive analytics in child welfare; Qualitative study on the utility of a predictive risk model among a sample of Florida CPIs; An inventory of kinship practices throughout Florida; an examination of the Florida Practice Model and child welfare outcomes; Child welfare readiness

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
The Department of Children and Families; Dr. Samantha Goldfarb

SHORT BIO
Dr. Yelick’s primary focus is on decision-making among child welfare professionals. Dr. Yelick will continue to support her decision-making interests examining the Florida Practice Model and child welfare outcomes. Dr. Yelick is involved in other Institute-related activities including finalizing the Inventory for Kinship Care Services and the Child Welfare Readiness study. Finally, working alongside Dr. Pryce, Dr. Yelick is working on a book chapter discussing the current climate in the child welfare system related to the disparate outcomes of Black children and their families.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
The potential to highlight the connection between larger socio-economic factors and the effect on children and families.
EMAIL
yz03@fsu.edu

PHONE
850.717.4618

DEGREE
Ph.D.

TITLE
Data Analyst/Researcher

RESEARCH INTERESTS
Meta-Analysis; Structural equation modeling; Reliability theory; Any general data analysis techniques in the social and behavioral sciences

CURRENT PROJECTS
Result-Oriented-Accountability (ROA)

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNIVERSITY FACULTY OR RESEARCH ENTITIES
Office of Child Welfare, Department of Children and Families

SHORT BIO
Ying Zhang received her doctoral and master degrees from the Measurement and Statistics program at the FSU College of Education. Her past experiences include: serving as a database analyst with the Florida Department of Education for one year; serving as a visiting assistant professor at the Measurement and Statistics program at FSU for two years; and serving as a statistical analyst with Pearson Inc. for three years.

WHAT IS MOST INSPIRING ABOUT YOUR JOB?
Work on reports/research which apply rigorous statistical approaches and analyses to understand real world problems/questions/concerns, plus the opportunity to share with people at different stats levels about research and statistical approaches and help them to understand the applications.