

## Student Website Profiles

### **Fourth year +**

#### [baylward@ku.edu](mailto:baylward@ku.edu)

Brandon's current research advisors include Michael Roberts, Ric Steele, and John Colombo. His research interests encompass a range of health-related issues for children and adolescents within the context of pediatric psychology. Broadly, his research is designed to examine developmental, psychosocial, and treatment related issues with pediatric chronic illness. To this end, his work has focused on three main areas: (1) predictors and correlates of children's psychosocial, developmental, and physical functioning in various illness populations (e.g., pediatric obesity, solid organ transplant recipients, infants born prematurely); (2) program evaluation and professional issues in clinical child and pediatric psychology, and (3) use of advanced statistical methodology (e.g., cluster analysis, structural equation modeling, growth curve analysis) to examine predictors/correlates and trends in chronic health issues. To date, Brandon's practicum placements have included the KU Child and Family Services Clinic, Positively Fit, and Children's Mercy Hospital. In July 2009, Brandon will be starting the O'Grady Residency in Psychology (Behavioral Medicine Track) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

#### [jabender@ku.edu](mailto:jabender@ku.edu)

Jade's primary research advisor is Michael Roberts. She is also collaborating Christina Adams (University of Florida) on projects relating to asthma medication adherence. Her research interests include areas of pediatric and positive psychology (e.g., benefit finding and coping with chronic illnesses). Jade's practicum placement is in the KU Child and Family Services Clinic.

#### [hhunter@ku.edu](mailto:hhunter@ku.edu)

Heather's primary research advisor is Ric Steele but she also collaborates with Michael Roberts, Jennifer Schurman (Children's Mercy Hospital), and numerous additional faculty members at the University of Kansas, the Children's Mercy Hospital, and the University of Kansas Medical Center. Her research interests are broadly related to pediatric psychology, including health promotion and intervention across a variety of chronic illnesses (e.g., overweight/obesity, recurrent abdominal pain, diabetes, HIV, sickle cell disease) and other risk factors (e.g., dating violence, mental health). Specifically, her aim is to understand the impact of family and cultural systems on children's risk for, management of, and coping with chronic illness. To date, Heather's practicum placements have included the KU Child and Family Services Clinic, Positively Fit, the KU Medical Center- Pediatric Psychology Section, the KU Medical Center's Developmental Disabilities Center, the North Star Group Home on the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation, the Early Childhood Education Center (Ben no tteh Wigwam) on the Prairie Band Potawatomi reservation, and Children's Mercy Hospital.

#### [rljames@ku.edu](mailto:rljames@ku.edu)

Rochelle's research advisor is Michael Roberts. She has also collaborated with Julie Boydston (Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center) and Ann McGrath Davis (KU Medical Center) on several projects. Her research interests include program evaluation and intervention outcomes, particular with ethnically and cultural diverse populations, as

well as the role of family conflict and parent-child relationships in child and adolescent psychopathology. Rochelle's practicum placements have included the KU Child and Family Services Clinic, the KU Medical Center's Healthy Hawks Pediatric Obesity Program, the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, and the KU Medical Center's Childhood Autism Referral and Evaluation Clinic. Her pre-doctoral internship will be at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL.

[kkim10@ku.edu](mailto:kkim10@ku.edu)

Kerri's primary research advisor is Yo Jackson. She is currently also collaborating with Barbara Kerr (Psychology & Research in Education) on a project that seeks to investigate the relation between adolescent behavioral health, risk behaviors, and relationship quality with peers, family, and significant others. Kerri's research interests include family violence (e.g., childhood exposure to domestic violence), resilient outcomes of children who have been maltreated, and the role of risk and protective factors. Kerri's practicum placements have included the KU Child & Family Services Clinic and the Intensive Mental Health Program.

[Legerski@ku.edu](mailto:Legerski@ku.edu)

J.P.'s primary research advisor is Eric Vernberg. He also collaborates with Andrea Greenhoot (Cognitive and Developmental Psychology) who co-chaired his master's thesis. His research interests include youth reactions to traumatic stress (PTSD, traumatic grief), bereavement, and the interplay between stressful life events and the development of autobiographical memory. He is also interested in issues facing Hurricane Katrina evacuees and their families. J.P.'s practicum placements have included the Intensive Mental Health Program (Lawrence Public Schools) and the KU Child and Family Services Clinic.

[jmize@ku.edu](mailto:jmize@ku.edu)

Jennifer's primary research advisor is Eric Vernberg. She has also collaborated with Todd Little (Developmental and Quantitative Psychology) in the pursuit of a quantitative minor and with Patricia Hawley (Developmental Psychology) and Ric Steele. Jennifer's research interests include peer aggression and victimization and the development of adolescent health risk behaviors in the context of peer relationships, as well as the evaluation of school-based bullying intervention programs and the application of advanced quantitative methods. Her practicum placements have included the KU Child and Family Services Clinic and the Behavioral and Emotional Support Team (BEST) and its predecessor, the Intensive Mental Health Program, both in the Lawrence Public Schools.

### **Third year**

[cdjensen@ku.edu](mailto:cdjensen@ku.edu)

Chad's primary research advisor is Ric Steele. His research interests include developing pediatric weight management intervention and prevention programs, examining the psychosocial functioning of overweight youth, and exploring the effects of pediatric obesity on social relationships. Chad's practicum placements have included the KU Child

and Family Services Clinic, the KU Medical Center - Behavioral Pediatrics Department, and Positively Fit - Pediatric Weight Management Program.

[kalani@ku.edu](mailto:kalani@ku.edu)

Kalani is currently a 3rd year student. He works with both Yo Jackson and Bridget Biggs. His research interests involve children and trauma, with most recent projects looking at both cognitive and contextual factors buffering against negative mental health outcomes in children at-risk for psychopathology (i.e., children in foster care). He also works in the Peers and Emotional Health Research Lab on the University of Kansas Friendship Study.

[Sangeeta@ku.edu](mailto:Sangeeta@ku.edu)

Sangeeta's research advisor is Yo Jackson. She has also collaborated with Michael Roberts, Matt Reese (Center for Child Health and Development), and Larke Huang (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) on several projects. Her research interests include child abuse and neglect, protective factors in children, parenting across cultures, and cultural differences in psychological development. She is currently the graduate student representative for the APA Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice. Sangeeta's practicum placements have included the KU child and Family Services Clinic and the KU Medical Center.

[yelenawu@ku.edu](mailto:yelenawu@ku.edu)

Yelena's research advisors are Michael Roberts and Ric Steele. Her research interests include medication adherence, the role of social support for chronically ill children, mobilizing systems of care to address pediatric health problems such as obesity, the identification of psychosocial problems in primary care settings, and the benefits of pediatric summer camps for chronically ill children and their siblings. Her practicum experiences have taken place in the KU Child and Family Services Clinic and Children's Mercy Hospital.

## **Second year**

[ldrerup@ku.edu](mailto:ldrerup@ku.edu)

Lauren's primary research advisor is Yo Jackson. She also collaborates with Michael Roberts on a program evaluation for a summer dance camp for at-risk youth. Her research interests include resiliency in children exposed to various types of trauma (e.g., child maltreatment, exposure to community violence), the measurement of childhood stress, and the role of emotional-social intelligence in psychological adjustment. Lauren's practicum placements have included KU Medical Center and KU Child and Family Services Clinic.

Megan

[msampilo@ku.edu](mailto:msampilo@ku.edu)

Marilyn completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Miami and entered the clinical child doctoral program at KU in Fall 2007. She has a variety of interests in the areas of pediatric and clinical child psychology. She is particularly interested in the influence of peer relations and friendships on adjustment in youth with chronic illness and the effects illness can have on social development. She is also interested in

psychosocial factors that predict non-adherence to treatment and prevention efforts targeting these factors.

[jasonmvanallen@gmail.com](mailto:jasonmvanallen@gmail.com)

Jason's primary research advisor is Ric Steele. Jason has a broad interest in pediatric psychology and peer relationships, with a focus on the role of positive psychology in response to interventions. His past research projects have involved the study of the construct Hope in both adult and child populations. His current research work includes children's responses to a pediatric weight management program, and the role of Hope in overweight children. Also, he is currently working on a project examining the relationship between friendship jealousy and social anxiety among adolescents. Jason's current practicum placement is the KU Child and Family Services Clinic.

### **First year**

[bealsies@ku.edu](mailto:bealsies@ku.edu)

Sarah's research advisor is Yo Jackson. Her research interests include child maltreatment, cognitive and social factors that may lead to resilient outcomes in children experiencing stress and trauma, and parental and family influences on children's mental health. She has also collaborated with Michael Roberts on a project examining state mental health plans.

[christophercushing@ku.edu](mailto:christophercushing@ku.edu)

Christopher's interests in pediatric psychology fall under the broad umbrella of health promotion and health behavior. Christopher's primary advisor is Ric Steele. Under Dr. Steele's supervision Christopher has gained research experience in children's coping styles and treatment of pediatric obesity. He has also participated in grant writing efforts to secure research funding related to weight management paradigms. Christopher has also collaborated with Dr. Jennifer Schurman on issues related to adherence to IBD medication regimen and the practice of psychology and medicine with pediatric chronic illness populations.

[Allison.r.harris@gmail.com](mailto:Allison.r.harris@gmail.com)

Allison conducts research with Bridget Biggs and Ric Steele. Her research interests include examining the relation between children's physical appearance, peer relationships, self-perceptions, and peer victimization, as well as examining risk and resilience factors associated with poor body image and eating disorders.