

Melissa A. Bright

EDUCATION

University of Georgia

Ph.D., Psychology *anticipated*

M.S., Psychology *anticipated*

Advisor: Janet Frick

University of North Florida

B.S., Psychology, *summa cum laude* 2007

Honors in the Major, thesis: "When are adult-child sexual encounters acceptable? Stereotyping and need for cognitive closure."

Advisors: Christopher Leone and LouAnne Hawkins

AWARDS/HONORS

Outstanding Undergraduate Psychology Student Award recipient

Outstanding Senior Service Award recipient

Women's History Month Leadership Award recipient

University Scholars Honor Society *Woman of the Year* Award recipient

Outstanding Student Poster Award recipient: Society for Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference 2006

Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Research Grant recipient

Honors Conference Travel Scholarship recipient

University Honors Scholarship recipient

Ling Leadership Scholarship recipient

Florida Bright Futures Medallion Scholarship recipient

UNF Student Government Association Conference Travel Grant recipient

Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society member

Golden Key: International Honor Society member

Psi Chi: National Honor Society in Psychology member

University Scholars Honor Society member

Dean's List - University of North Florida 2005-07

CURRENT CERTIFICATION/MEMBERSHIPS

CITI: Collaborative Institution Training Initiative in Protection of Human Participants certified

Social and Behavioral Sciences course in the Responsible Conduct of Research certified

National Institutes of Health- Human Participant Protection certified

Society of Pediatric Psychology (SPP) student member

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) undergraduate affiliate

Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) student affiliate

Collegiate Leadership Experience Jacksonville selected member Class of 2006

SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENTATIONS

Bright, M.A., & Hawkins, L.B. (2008, March). Limbic system damage due to child abuse: A new measure. Poster session presented at the annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association. Charlotte, NC.

Bright, M.A. (2008, March). Child abuse: Repercussions for society and the individual. Invited presentation for the University of North Florida's Board of Trustees meeting. Jacksonville, FL.

Leone, C., Hawkins, L.B., & **Bright, M.A.** (2008, March). Today's students, tomorrow's scholars: Creating and fostering a successful mentoring relationship. Invited keynote address at the University of North Florida's annual research symposium. Jacksonville, FL.

Bright, M.A., & Glen, E.T. (2007, March). I have to read that?! Disparities in health literacy among a low-income clinical population. Poster session presented at the University of North Florida's annual research symposium. Jacksonville, FL.

Bright, M.A., O'Connor, D.P. & Smallwood, R. (2007, March). Qualitative data: A traditional versus computerized analysis. Poster session presented at the University of North Florida's annual research symposium. Jacksonville, FL.

O'Connor, D.P., **Bright, M.A., Sitarik, S., Hawkins, L.B., & Smallwood, R.** (2007, March). College wasn't what I expected! Freshman expectations and experiences. Poster session presented at the University of North Florida's annual research symposium. Jacksonville, FL.

Bright, M.A., Hawkins L. B., & Leone, C. (2007, January). Sex stereotyping and attitudes about sexual abuse of children. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychologists. Memphis, TN.

Bright, M. A., Hawkins, L. B., & Leone, C (2006, November). Blame it on the kid! Attributions and need for cognitive closure. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists. Knoxville, TN.

Bright, M. A., Leone, C., & Hawkins, L. B. (2006, April). Child sexual abuse: Who needs closure? Perceptions of adult child sexual encounters. Poster session presented at the University of North Florida's annual research symposium. Jacksonville, FL.

PUBLICATIONS

Bright, M.A., & Hawkins, L.B. Child abuse and the brain: A new measure of limbic system changes. *Manuscript in preparation.*

Leone, C., Hawkins, L.B., **Bright, M.A.**, & O'Connor, D.P. Individual differences in perceptions of child sexual abuse. *Manuscript in preparation*.

Bright, M.A. (2008). One important checkmark. *The Lead Story*, 3, p. 3. (editorial)

Bright, M.A. (2007). When are adult-child sexual encounters acceptable? Stereotyping and need for cognitive closure. *Osprey Journal of Ideas and Inquiry*, 6, p. 170-193.

Bright, M. A., O'Connor, D. P., & Smallwood, R. (2007). Qualitative data analysis: Comparison between traditional and computerized text analysis. *Osprey Journal of Ideas and Inquiry*, 6, 356-367.

Bright, M. A. (2006). When are adult-child sexual encounters acceptable? Stereotyping and need for cognitive closure. Honors Thesis, University of North Florida, Jacksonville.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant 2005 -08

Christopher Leone, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology
University of North Florida

- Successfully completed Undergraduate Honors Thesis
- Responsible for all monies generated and used by P x S Interaction Research team
- Responsible for data security and management during lab transition
- Responsible for locating local, regional, and national grants

Neuropsychology Internship 2006-07

E. Tannahill Glen, Psy.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist
Neuroscience Institute at Shands Hospital of Jacksonville

- Observed clinical assessments followed by discussion of testing protocol
- Completed weekly papers on various topics including but not limited to Brain Aneurysms, Parkinson's disease, Dementia, Radiation Necrosis, and Conversion Disorder
- Coordinated volunteer effort for caregivers of patients with neurological disorders

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kumon Tutoring Center Assistant math/reading instructor 2007-08

- Worked with children diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, ADHD/ADD, and giftedness
- Provided individual and group instruction for students with specific math needs
- Worked with students to develop goal-setting skills

UNF Honors Program Teaching assistant 2006- 08

- Provided editorial assistance and peer mentoring as students search for a thesis advisor
- Taught lessons on technology (e.g., search engines, refWorks, writeNcite), ethics in research (e.g., IRB certification), and time maintenance
- Taught effective presentation styles, professional etiquette, and how to obtain University grants and funding
- Coordinated schedule and program for over 100 students in Annual Symposium

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY

Hate Hurts Peace Project program manager/committee chair 2007- 2008

- Organized university-wide, year-long project examining stereotyping and prejudice
- Successfully increased public knowledge about the power of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination through lectures on: the Holocaust, genocide, cultural diversity, the war in Sudan, and mobbing in academia
- Assisted in bringing in national and international speakers
- Successfully gained cooperation by having faculty integrate major projects into their syllabi
- Co-authored several grant/funding applications

UNF Annual Research Symposium Program coordinator

- Assisted in creating event program and scheduling over 100 student presenters
- Assisted in set-up and maintenance of symposium

PROFFESIONAL

Stereotype Research Group coordinator

- Mentored research students studying stereotypes
- Organized a reference library and taught writing skills according to APA standards
- Assisted with supervising honors students' theses
- Taught ethics and responsibility according to CITI certification standards

Person by Situation Interaction Research Team peer editor

- Provided editorial assistance for both undergraduate and graduate students
- Created reference notebooks for writing techniques and strategies

Site Management Committee member for the 2005 Annual Conference for the Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists. Atlantic Beach, FL

- Assisted with registration for conference as well as managed poster room

COMMUNITY

Give Kids the World annual volunteer

- Assist with numerous activities for terminally-ill children and their families
- Work patiently with children with severe physical disabilities and illnesses

Volunteers of Jacksonville member 2000-2008

- Actively volunteered in numerous activities around the city of Jacksonville including clothing and canned food drives

Youth Leadership Experience Jacksonville invited facilitator Class of 2006

- Facilitated discussion with local high school students about crime and victimization in the Jacksonville community