

Jennifer Mary Willett, M.A.

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
B.A. with Honors, Psychology and English, May 2006
GPA 3.627; Psychology 3.820; English 3.670

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Master of Arts in Psychology, May 2009
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (in progress)
Commenced August 2007
Research Focus: Coping and resilience in romantic relationships;
intergenerational transmission of relationship patterns

AWARDS/ HONORS

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill:
Graduated with Honors and Distinction
Psychology Honors Thesis Program
Dean's List six semesters
Psi Chi National Honors Psychology Fraternity
Golden Key International Honour Society

University of Tennessee, Knoxville:
Recipient of the 2008 Summer SARIF GRA Internship (\$3,000 grant)
Editorial Consultant for the Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology,
Fall 2008, Spring 2009
Recipient of the 2009 Randy Gerson Memorial Grant (\$6,000)
Accepted into the Summer 2010 SEARCH Program

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant **August 2007-Present**
Department of Psychology, Clinical Program University of Tennessee
Advisor: Kristina Coop Gordon, Ph.D.

- Intergenerational Transmission of Relationship Patterns Study (ITRP)
- Currently beginning a study that will expand upon my master's thesis work that will utilize community recruitment and parents' and their offspring's views of their own relationships in order to better deconstruct the intergenerational transmission of relational discord
 - Focused upon resilience and adaptation in intergenerational influences on relationships

Intergenerational Transmission of Relational Discord and Divorce research study (ITD)

- To add to the pre-existing participant total of 310 participants, collected data from 90 additional participants from January 2008 to May 2008, for a study participant total of 400 participants
- Received the Summer SARIF grant in the summer of 2008 to recruit and train undergraduate research assistants to code audiotaped narratives for coherence and relationship expectations
 - Achieved reliability within 3 months of training
- Master's thesis focused upon the results from structural equation modeling (SEM) examining the relationships between interparental conflict, social cognitions about relationships, and offspring relationship satisfaction
 - Presented results at a nationally recognized conference in 2008
- Presented additional results suggesting that offspring's narrative coherence is protective against the effects of interparental conflict at a nationally recognized conference in 2009

Religion and Forgiveness research study

- Assisted with data collection at local churches investigating how forgiveness beliefs interact with religious beliefs
- Co-author on a resulting publication examining intrinsic and extrinsic religious orientation, forgiveness, and the role of social pressure

Co-author of two book chapters concerning cognitive-behavioral therapy for families and forgiveness as a resolution strategy for marital conflict

CanThrive Study Coordinator

April 2006-July 2007

Department of Psychiatry

Duke University Medical Center

Principal Investigators: Don Baucom, Ph.D. and Laura Porter, Ph.D.

Managed the Duke recruitment site of the CanThrive research study (www.canthrive.org) of marital support for couples dealing with breast cancer

- Recruited couples at breast clinics within the Duke University Health System
- Performed initial assessments with couples, consisting of administering self-report questionnaires, managing and videotaping couple interactions, teaching couples the CanThrive daily diary telephone system, and assigning couples to their treatment condition
- Coordinated and scheduled treatment sessions and follow-up assessments with project staff

- Organized and updated study databases; created weekly recruitment tracking reports and enrollment reports for project meetings

Assisted with recruitment and assessment duties for similar studies centering around lung and gastrointestinal cancer patients and their partners/caregivers

Participated on an interdisciplinary team that provided supervision for study therapists

Honor Student and Research Assistant **August 2005-May 2006**

Department of Psychology (Developmental) **UNC-Chapel Hill**

Advisors: Martha J. Cox, Ph.D. and Andrea Hussong, Ph.D.

Completed an honors thesis examining the relationships between marital support, maternal depressive symptoms, and infant temperament using archival data

- Defense date: April 2006
- Completed program with Honors

Completed transcriptions of marital conflict interactions for two longitudinal studies

Research Assistant **January 2005-May 2006**

Department of Psychology (Clinical) **UNC-Chapel Hill**

Advisor: Donald H. Baucom, Ph.D.

Assessor, CanThrive research study (www.canthrive.org) of marital support for couples in which the wife has been diagnosed with breast cancer

- Conducted assessments with participating couples at the UNC-Chapel Hill recruitment site of the study

Building Our Own Story Together (BOOST) premarital prevention program

- Led data entry and accuracy checking
- Prepared research materials, contacted participants, managed and videotaped couple interactions

Research Assistant **January 2004-May 2006**

Department of Psychology (Social) **UNC-Chapel Hill**

Advisor: Caryl Rusbult, Ph.D.

Paid research assistant for a program of research concerned with interdependence processes in close relationships

Recruited participants and ran laboratory experiments

Coded videotaped couple interactions and completed data entry assignments

Clinical Experience

Clinical Associate **December 2009-Present**

Cherokee Health Systems, Center City

Integrated Healthcare Facility

Knoxville, TN

Chief Clinical Officer and Supervisor: William (Bill) Berez, Ph.D.

Conduct supervised individual, child, couple, and family intake evaluations and psychotherapy with children, adolescents, and adults with various mood disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse, physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse history who are seeking behavioral treatment within an integrated healthcare setting

Attend weekly treatment team meetings with healthcare professionals including psychiatrists, primary care physicians, psychologists, social workers, and case managers

Attend weekly individual supervision meetings with Dr. Bill Berez and weekly group supervision meetings with Dr. Francis Palin

Participant in the 2010 Summer SEARCH program, aimed at rising healthcare professionals working in underserved areas

Clinical Intern

August 2009-December 2009

Acadia Village (“The Village”), formerly Peninsula Village

Residential Behavioral Treatment Center for Adolescents Louisville, TN

Clinical Director and Supervisor: Barbara Taylor, Ph.D.

Conduct supervised individual and group psychotherapy with adolescents with various mood disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse, physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse who are participating in a long-term residential treatment program

Complete supervised intake evaluations and reports involving administration and interpretation of various personality tests (MMPI-A, TAT, Rorschach Inkblot Method, Sentence Completion) and Psychoeducational tests (WAIS-III, Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities and Achievement) for use in treatment team meetings and treatment planning for adolescent residents

Graduate Student Therapist/Evaluator

August 2008-Present

University of Tennessee Psychological Clinic

Knoxville, TN

Clinic Director: Lance Laurence, Ph.D.

Supervisors: Derek Hopko, Ph.D.; Cathy Grello, Ph.D.; Jenny Macfie, Ph.D.; Bruce Seidner, Ph.D.; Todd Moore, Ph.D.; Larry Brown, Ph.D.; Kristina Gordon, Ph.D.

Conduct supervised psychotherapy with child, adolescent, and adult clients using supportive, cognitive-behavioral, and insight-oriented techniques

Completed supervised Psychoeducational evaluations, full psychological evaluations, therapeutic assessments, parenting fitness evaluations, and parent custody evaluations with child, adolescent, and adult clients

- Highly skilled in the use and interpretation of a number of Psychoeducational tests (WAIS-III, WISC-IV, Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities and Achievement) as well as a number of personality tests (TAT, Rorschach Inkblot Method, MMPI-II-RF, PAI, etc.)

Volunteer**August 2004-December 2004**

Carol Woods Retirement Community

Chapel Hill, NC

Supervisor: Pamela Kyff

Volunteered at the health center and assisted living facilities
accompanying residents to and from community programs and meals
Provided companionship and conversation to residents
Gained valuable social skills through interactions with residents

Posters

Willett, J. M., Gordon, K. C., Little, K. C., Dixon, L. J., Frousakis, N. N., Gilbert, S. E. (under review). The association between offspring's exposure to interparental conflict and their increased tolerance for their own relationship conflict. Poster submission to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Behavior and Cognitive Therapies, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.

Gilbert, S. E., Gordon, K. C., Christman, J., & Willett, J. M. (under review). Forgiveness as a mediator to help explain the relationship between physical violence and depression. Poster submission to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association of Behavior and Cognitive Therapies, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.

Willett, J. M., Gordon, K. C., Dixon, L. J., & Frousakis, N. N. (November, 2009). "The role of an integrative understanding of relationships in the intergenerational transmission of relational patterns." Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

Gilbert, S. E., Christman, J. A., Hellmuth, J. C., Gordon, K. C., & Willett, J. M. (November, 2009). "Denial of injury toward the self as a mediator of the relationship between commitment and forgiveness for women experiencing IPV." Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY.

Willett, J. M., Gordon, P.J. Fite, K. G., Dixon, L. J., Fite, P., Little, K. C., & Frousakis, N. N. (November, 2008). "Exploring the mechanisms of the connection between children's perceptions of parental conflict and their current relationship functioning." Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, Orlando, FL.

Willett, J. M. (May, 2006). "The moderation of marital support in the relationship between maternal depressive symptoms and difficult infant temperament." Poster presented at the 2006 Psychology Honors Program Poster Session, Chapel Hill, NC.

Presentations

Willett, J.M., Gordon, K. C. (under review). "A multi-disciplinary discussion of intergenerational patterns in relationships." Symposium submission to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, San Francisco, CA.

Willett, J. M. (April, 2003). "The power of fairy tales: How the myth of patriarchy relies on the oppressed in Angela Carter's *The Magic Toyshop*." Paper presented at the Ninth Annual Undergraduate Conference in the Humanities, Raleigh, NC.

Publications

Gilbert, S. E., Willett, J. M., Carmody, P., and Gordon, K. C. (in press). Forgiveness as a resolution strategy for severe marital conflicts. In F. Columbus (Ed.), *Marriage: Roles, Stability, and Conflicts*. Hauppaug, NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Gordon, K. C., Dixon, L. J., Willett, J. M., & Hughes, F. M. (2009). Behavioral and cognitive-behavioral therapies. In J. Bray & M. Stanton (Eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Family Psychology*. Oxford, England: Blackwell Publishing.

Gordon, K.C., Frousakis, N. N., Dixon, L. J., Willett, J. M., Christman, J. A., Furr, R. E., & Hellmuth, J. C. (2008). Intrinsic/extrinsic religious orientation, forgiveness, and the role of social pressure. *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*, 27, 311-319.

**Memberships/
Leadership
Positions**

American Psychological Association (Student Affiliate)	September 2005-Present
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (Student Affiliate)	September 2006-Present
Psychology Graduate Student Association, University of Tennessee (Secretary)	August 2007-Present
Psi Chi National Psychology Honors Fraternity	September 2004-Present
Psychology Club, UNC-Chapel Hill	January 2005-May 2006

References

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