

Interns and Practicum Students Class of 2023

Dawn Shahar Amram



Dawn Shahar Amram, M.S.W. Candidate, received her bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University, Chico, and is currently attending Columbia University's School of Social Work to obtain her Master's in Social Work, with a focus on Advanced Clinical Practice, and concentration in Health, Mental Health, and Disabilities. During her graduate training, she has completed an internship as a School Social Worker at Solomon Schechter Day School in West Hartford, CT. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her daughter, nature photography, and discovering new music.

Adrienne DiGioia (A-dree-n)



Adrienne DiGioia received her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in social work and visual arts at Iona College. She is currently getting her master's degree at Southern Connecticut State University in marriage and family therapy. In her free time, she enjoys going to the beach, spending time with friends, and exercising.

Julia Galuppo



Julia Galuppo is a second-year student in the Master of Social Work program at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). Julia also completed her bachelor's degree at SCSU in Interdisciplinary Studies, concentrating in Psychology, Sociology, and Public Health. Julia's goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and work with children and adults in mental health settings. In her free time, Julia enjoys weightlifting, learning American Sign Language, and playing with her cat!

Joseph Kwaku Gyasi



Kwaku Gyasi (Qway-Ku), MSN(PMHNP), received his bachelor's from CUNY College of Staten Island and is presently training to be a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner at the Yale School of Nursing. He recently completed an internship at the Yale Psychiatric Hospital working with young adult patient's presenting with acute, episodic, or chronic psychiatric disorders in the inpatient setting. He also completed an internship at the Bridgeport Hospital offering psychiatric consults, under supervision, to geriatric patients. Kwaku is interested in specializing in mood, psychotic, personality and trauma related disorders in children, adolescents and young adults. Kwaku currently works as a Psychiatric Registered Nurse at the Institute of Living- Hartford Hospital. In his free time, he enjoys playing soccer and watching standup comedy.

**Child Study Center Clinical Services
Interns and Practicum Students – Class of 2023**



Nikita Joshi

Nikita Joshi, B.A received her bachelor's in psychology at Boston University. In her time during her undergraduate education, she conducted research at the Social Learning Lab, investigating how children learn about the world. She is currently a first-year doctoral student at the University of Hartford, studying to receive her PsyD in Child Clinical Psychology.



Patricia Lucas

Pat Lucas, received her BS in Fine Arts/Elementary Education from Russell Sage College and a MEd from Springfield College in Counseling/Industrial Psychology. Currently, Pat is attending Lesley University obtaining a second master's in clinical Mental Health with a specialized modality in Art Therapy. She will be participating in her internship at the Yale Child Study Center/ Fathers for Change Program in New Haven CT.

In her free time Pat enjoys and has a strong passion for international travel, skiing, hiking, and all aspects of the arts. Pat has lived and worked Internationally in France, Korea, and China.



Frankie McLaurin

Frankie L. McLaurin received his master's in social work at New York University, and he is presently completing his master's in nursing with a specialty in psychiatric/mental health. He recently completed an internship at the Connecticut Mental Health Center focusing on adults presenting with psychosis. Prior to entering the nursing profession, he practiced as a psychotherapist using evidence-based models for children and adults in community-based and private settings. In his free time, Frankie is a plant and aquarium hobbyist who enjoys helping others learn the therapeutic benefits that each can provide.



Uchechi Onyebuchi (OoChayChee OnYayBooChee)

Uchechi Onyebuchi, RN, received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Amherst College in 2015 and spent several years afterwards working as a counselor in a crisis stabilization center for teens in Springfield, pivoting to HR and recruiting serving as a recruiter for a healthcare technology startup in Boston, then moving to oversee all recruiting at MIT's endowment (MITIMCo) before returning to school to pursue my passion of becoming a PMHNP. I currently work as a Psych RN on an inpatient adolescent psych unit. My passion is working with youth in trauma and I hope to eventually work overseas and/or get experience working with indigenous communities in the US. In my free time, I love live music, art, and nature.



Imani Parks-Williams (Ee-mah-nee Parks-Williams)

Imani Parks-Williams received her bachelor's degree in Psychology as well as Biology, with a minor in Family Studies at Erskine College, and she is currently pursuing her master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at University of New Haven. In her graduate training, she is currently acting as an intern with the Yale Child Study Center Outpatient Clinic. She acted as a graduate learning assistant for University of New Haven Accessibility Resource Center where she worked with students presenting with learning disabilities, mental illness diagnoses, and students on the autism spectrum. She has experience in both inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatment. She is in the process of submitting for publication, her research on the Influence of Admission Specifics on Rehabilitated Individuals' Views of Social Interaction as a Component of Recovery. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors and consuming various forms of indie art.



Derrick Roberts

Derrick Roberts (he/him/his) is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology through the University of Hartford's Graduate Institute of Professional Psychology (GIPP). Derrick is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and is licensed in the state of Connecticut. He earned his bachelor's degree in experimental psychology and master's degree in special education.

For the past, several years Derrick has worked in the school setting, clinical setting and in homes providing robust therapeutic treatment to children and families. His current interest is in neuropsychology, assessment, and trauma. Derrick is also a member of GIPP's Multicultural & Diversity Committee where students address issues related to social injustice and racial inequality. Derrick is passionate about breaking barriers and creating access to treatment for underserved communities.

Durell Snow (Dir-elle Snow)

Durell Snow received his bachelor's degree in Sociology/Psychology at Fairfield University and is currently enrolled in the master's in social work program at Southern CT State University. He recently completed an internship at the Taking Initiative Center in New Haven, providing individuals and group therapy to adults with substance use/mental health disorders. He is excited to be joining the YCSC as working with trauma exposed families is his area of interest. When time allows, he enjoys travelling, cooking, and hiking.



Tiffany Turnbull

Tiffany Turnbull, MSW, student, received her BA in psychology and sociology at Southern Connecticut State University, receiving her master's in social work at Southern Connecticut State University. She completed an internship at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, CT. In her free time, she enjoys visiting museums, traveling, and eating new foods.



Thomas Westphal

Thomas Westphal received his BA in Psychology at Columbia University in NY and is currently completing a master's in social work at Fairfield University. After completing his BA Thomas spent 10 years working in Vietnam and Cambodia for Tiffany & Co. performing gemological training and managing overseas diamond grading operations. Thomas completed internships in the past with New York State Psychiatric Hospital, focused on families impacted by the world trade center attack, working under Dr. Christina Hoven and, looking at the impact of maternal depression and anxiety on child development with Dr. Catherine Monk. After completing a placement in drug and mental health treatment in Bridgeport this year Thomas will intern with YCSC. Thomas enjoys riding motorcycles, speaking Vietnamese whenever possible, and engaging in meditation as often as possible.

