



WELCOME TO OUR

2025 Communities of Interest Newsletter

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Colleagues & Friends of HDFS/CFT at UGA

It is my pleasure to write to you with updates and information about our COAMFTE accredited Doctoral Program in Couple and Family Therapy. I will outline below some of the highlights of the last two academic years:

- We will welcome a new CFT faculty member next academic year!
- Our program received reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) from 2023-2030 and the International Accreditation Commission for Systemic Therapy Education (IACSTE).
- The Marriage and Family Therapy Institute welcomed Drs. Charles Figley and Maxine Notice as guest speakers in its visitor series. Dr. Figley presented "Practitioner Self-Care: Theory, Research, and Practice," while Dr. Notice explored "The Proficient Practitioner: Building Competencies in Teletherapy."
- Congratulations to six graduates for successfully completing their doctoral degrees—one in 2023 and five in 2024! All have secured positions in academic roles and community health agencies.





- The CFT program was thrilled to host Dani Donovan, a purpose-driven creator, author, and ADHD advocate as part of our guest speaker series, for a talk on the evolving landscape of ADHD care. Dani explored how online communities, compassionate healthcare providers, and patient education are transforming treatment, empowering patients with ADHD to take an active role in their healthcare journey.
- Dr. Elizabeth Wieling was awarded the 2024 Karen Wampler Outstanding Research Mentor Award, American Association of Marital and Family Therapy, Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy.
- We are excited to announce the rebranding of our clinic to the Love and Money Center for Relational and Financial Well-Being! For more details and photos, turn to page 3.
- We have received record numbers of applications and had the privilege of interviewing an impressive group of candidates for the CFT doctoral program. We look forward to welcoming a strong cohort in 2025.
- Samantha Lancaster, 2nd year CFT doctoral student, was invited to be a part of the JMFT Doctoral Apprentice Reviewer Program.

As a valuable stakeholder in the success of our CFT program, I thank you for your ongoing support and engaged partnership.

Elizabeth Wieling

Elizabeth Wieling, PhD, LMFT
Professor and Director

Program Mission

The mission of the Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) Doctoral Program at the University of Georgia is to train scientist-practitioners to become innovative leaders in addressing contemporary challenges in global mental health. Faculty and students will engage in scholarship that advances ethical solutions to complex issues affecting diverse individuals, families, and communities using a systemic relational orientation. Scholars will demonstrate excellence in teaching, clinical research, and engagement focused on promoting a social justice agenda.



Graduate Achievement Data

Check out our latest graduate achievement data to see how our students are excelling!

www.fcs.uga.edu/hdfs/graduate-cft

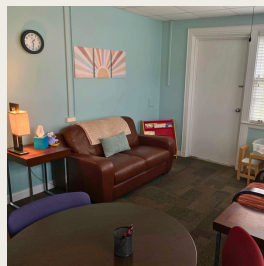
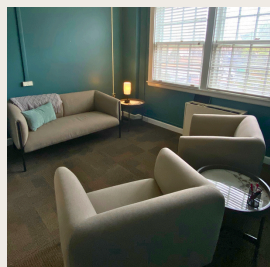
Announcements

INTRODUCING THE LOVE AND MONEY CENTER FOR RELATIONAL AND FINANCIAL WELL-BEING!

We officially launched the Love and Money Center (LMC) on Friday, October 18, 2024, with our Launch on the Lawn event! Formerly known as the ASPIRE Clinic, the LMC continues its mission to support and facilitate innovative clinical training, client services, and outreach programs that enhance the relational and financial health of individuals, couples, and families. We are grateful for our partnership with the LMC and excited to support the clinic in furthering its mission of providing care to the community!



A FRESH LOOK AT OUR REBRANDED CLINIC!





2025 Communities of Interest Survey

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 Communities of Interest Survey! Your feedback has helped shape exciting program improvements. We look forward to hearing your thoughts in the 2025 survey!

We are proud to say that we have continued our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts over the last two years. These have included bringing the UGA Pride Center to conduct a Safe Space training for all faculty, students, and staff so we can better support our LGBTQ+ students, staff, and clients.

We have made a few changes to our curriculum and to Outcome-Based Education Framework, which you can see on the next page of this newsletter.

Again, we are grateful for your feedback over the years and hope that you will support us again by completing this year's Communities of Interest Survey. Please reach out to christinalynnes@uga.edu with any questions or issues you might encounter.

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes Matrix

UGA Mission Statement

The University of Georgia shares with the other research universities of the University System of Georgia the following core characteristics:

- a statewide responsibility and commitment to excellence and academic achievements having national and international recognition;
- a commitment to excellence in a teaching/learning environment dedicated to **serving a diverse and well-prepared student body**, to promoting high levels of student achievement, and to providing appropriate academic support services;
- a commitment to excellence in **research, scholarship**, and creative endeavors that are focused on organized programs to create, maintain, and **apply new knowledge and theories**; that promote **instructional quality and effectiveness**; and that enhance institutionally relevant faculty qualifications;
- a commitment to excellence in **public service, economic development, and technical assistance activities** designed to address the strategic needs of the state of Georgia along with a comprehensive offering of continuing education designed to meet the needs of Georgia's citizens in life-long learning and professional education;
- a wide range of academic and professional programming at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.

CFT Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Couple and Family Therapy (CFT) Program at the University of Georgia is to train **scientist-practitioners** to become innovative leaders in addressing contemporary challenges in **global mental health**. Faculty and students will engage in scholarship that advances solutions to complex issues affecting **diverse individuals, families and communities** using a systemic relational orientation. Scholars will demonstrate excellence in **teaching, clinical research** and engagement focused on promoting a **social justice agenda**.

Program Outcomes

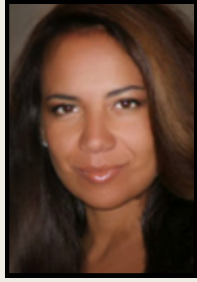
Developing advanced culturally responsive and ethical clinical knowledge and skills in family therapy practice and supervision	Gaining multi-method research skills that focus on individuals, couples, and families	Building foundational pedagogical grounding and effective teaching skills	Becoming engaged in ecologically relevant translational science, prevention, and clinical intervention scholarship focused on social justice
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Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome 1.1: Students will gain advanced, culturally responsive, ethical and relationally oriented clinical practice skills throughout the program and demonstrate clinical competency .	Student Learning Outcome 2.1: Students will be prepared to conduct independent, rigorous ecologically relevant and relationally oriented systemic research with opportunities to address mental health across diverse populations .	Student Learning Outcome 3.1: Students will be prepared to independently teach at the university level to a diverse group of students .	Student Learning Outcome 4.1: Students will demonstrate engagement in systemic clinical research that addresses social change – individual, relational, community – across diverse populations .
Student Learning Outcome 1.2: Students will demonstrate that they have gained skills as	Student Learning Outcome 2.2: Students will be mentored to	Student Learning Outcome 3.2: Students will demonstrate ethical professionalism through their active involvement in professional organizations and be prepared to conduct	Student Learning Outcome 4.2: Students will demonstrate that they have gained advanced clinical

<p>a relational and systemic supervisor in accordance with CFT principles and are prepared to supervise CFTs in training.</p> <p>Student learning outcome 1.3: Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge of a clinical area and specialty in relationally oriented clinical work.</p>	<p>collaborate with peers and supervisors on rigorous relationally oriented clinical research.</p> <p>Student Learning Outcome 2.3: Students will have demonstrated that they are prepared to conduct ethical research and apply collaboratively or independently for grants.</p> <p>Student Learning Outcome 2.4: Students will obtain training in multiple research methodologies for application in culturally-responsive clinical research with individuals, couples and families and demonstrate specific competency in either quantitative or qualitative methods.</p>	<p>professional training workshops and consultations in community settings.</p>	<p>knowledge and practice skills in an area related to the emotional and relational health of diverse or marginalized populations.</p> <p>Student Learning Outcome 4.3: Students will demonstrate an understanding of how to address issues of social justice pedagogically and professionally.</p>
Faculty Outcomes			
<p>1.Be engaged in research relevant to CFT – as evidenced by publications, presenting at national/international conferences, and securing external funding</p> <p>2.Be clinically engaged and licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist and an AAMFT Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor. Faculty must also meet state licensing and credentialing standards appropriate to their supervisory obligations.</p> <p>3.Demonstrate effective teaching abilities with specific attention to addressing health disparities and promoting social justice;</p> <p>4.Provide service in the department, university, field, and other interested and diverse communities.</p> <p>5.Address diversity, equity and inclusion throughout their scholarship</p>			
Key: Clinical, teaching/outreach, research, diversity/social justice			

Couple and Family Therapy Core Faculty



Elizabeth Wieling

Professor and CFT Doctoral Program Director

Ph.D. Human Development and Family Studies, Marriage and Family Therapy

- Evidence-based treatments for families affected by traumatic stress
Parenting interventions/Child mental health
- Immigrant and refugee mental health
- Prevention, implementation, and dissemination science
- Global mental health

www.fcs.uga.edu/people/bio/elizabeth-wieling



J. Maria Bermudez

Associate Professor

Ph.D. Human Development and Family Studies, Marriage and Family Therapy

- Latino family resilience
- Intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality among Latinxs
- Narrative family therapy
- Feminist-informed therapy and research

www.fcs.uga.edu/people/bio/maria-bermudez



Jennifer L. Gonyea

Clinical Professor

Ph.D. Child and Family Development, Marriage and Family Therapy

- Family functioning & couple interactions
- Strengthening couple relationships
- Improving mental health and overall wellness
- Training C/MFT service providers
- Evaluation research on community-based intervention programs

www.fcs.uga.edu/people/bio/jennifer-gonyea



Jerry Gale

Professor Emeritus

Ph.D. Marriage and Family Therapy

- Meditation as a relational practice for personal and social justice
- Financial therapy
- Interdisciplinary approaches to treating financial and relational stress
- Attachment in families with adopted children

www.fcs.uga.edu/people/bio/jerry-gale