



**UNC CHARLOTTE**

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

**PSYCHOLOGY  
STUDENTS OF  
DISTINCTION**



**MAY 3, 2018**



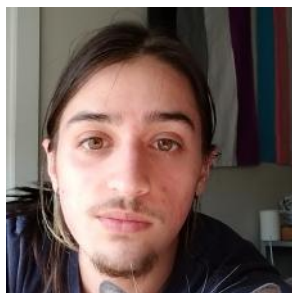
**ISABELLA  
BARKER**

I CHOSE TO PURSUE A CAREER IN PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST SUBJECT THAT EVER “CLICKED” FOR ME. I FEEL AS THOUGH I BETTER UNDERSTAND MYSELF, THOSE AROUND ME, AND EVEN ASPECTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE BECAUSE OF WHAT I’VE LEARNED THROUGH MY STUDIES. I AM ATTENDING RADFORD UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL TO PURSUE MY MASTERS IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, WITH HOPES OF WORKING WITHIN THE FIELD OF MANAGEMENT CONSULTING AFTER THAT. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY AS PART OF MY CAREER, AS THAT IS MY PASSION.

I CHOSE TO STUDY PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE I’VE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY WHAT MOTIVATES PEOPLE TO ACT THE WAY THEY DO. THE COURSES I’VE TAKEN HAVE HELPED ME GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE MOTIVATIONS AND REASONS BEHIND HUMAN BEHAVIOR. ADDITIONALLY, COURSES FOR MY WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES MINOR HAVE HELPED ME COMBINE THIS INTEREST WITH MY PASSIONS. THIS COMBINATION OF INTEREST AND PASSION CAN BE SEEN IN MY THESIS PROJECT WHERE I EXAMINED GENDER BIAS IN THE PERCEPTION AND EVALUATION OF FEMALE LEADERS. AFTER GRADUATION, I PLAN TO PURSUE A MASTER’S DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY HERE AT UNC CHARLOTTE.



**KARLI  
BAUMANN**



**STEVEN  
BOYER**

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND HOW AND WHY THINGS WORK THE WAY THEY DO AT A DEEP, FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL. THIS CURIOSITY HAS MANIFESTED AS A LOVE OF PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, AND PSYCHOLOGY. I PLAN TO PURSUE MY PH.D. IN PSYCHOLOGY AND GO INTO ACADEMIC RESEARCH. MY AREA OF INTEREST IS GENDER AND SEXUALITY.

I STARTED UNCC AS AN ENGLISH MAJOR, AND AFTER TRIAL AND ERROR PSYCHOLOGY WAS MY FOURTH AND FINAL MAJOR CHANGE. MY LOVE FOR WORKING FOR CHILDREN AND BEING INVOLVED IN EDUCATION HELPED SET UP MY CAREER PATH. BEING INVOLVED IN RESEARCH WITH DR. COOK AND DR. KILMER, STUDYING ABROAD WITH DR. CHIARELLA AS WELL AS BEING A TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR DR. O REILLY HELPED ME PREPARE FOR BECOMING A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT IN AUGUST I WILL BE STARTING A NEW CHAPTER BY WORKING TOWARD MY MASTERS AND ED.S FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY AT JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY.



**BAILEY  
BROOKS**



**AURA  
DAVIS**

I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE THAT NEED SOMEONE TO HEAR THEM SPEAK. I LOVE TO LISTEN AND ASSISTING OTHERS WITH A SOLUTION FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME. I WANT TO BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND HOPEFULLY I WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A DIVERSE POPULATION. I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY MASTERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY PROGRAM AND BEGIN IN AUGUST 2018. I INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH THE BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD SUPPORT AND HELP ONE ANOTHER.

MY INTEREST IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY MY STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY. THE MAJOR HAS OFFERED ME A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH PEOPLE. I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES AND PLAN TO PURSUE GRADUATE RESEARCH FOCUSED IN THAT AREA.



**SARAH  
DAVIS**



**ASHLEY  
FOOTE**

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS SO THE PSYCHOLOGY FIELD WAS A NATURAL CHOICE FOR ME. THIS FIELD HAS HELPED ME GROW NOT ONLY IN MY KNOWLEDGE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO IN MY LOVE FOR THE WORK. I PLAN TO CONTINUE EXPANDING MY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN THE FIELD BY PURSUING MY CERTIFICATION IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE LIKE ANY OTHER FRESHMEN, EXPLORATION OF THE BRAIN AND THE FACULTIES OF THE MIND WAS VERY INTRIGUING TO ME. OVERTIME MY INTEREST GREW TO BECOME A PASSION TO UNDERSTAND THE LINK BETWEEN MIND AND BRAIN, THOUGHT AND NEURON. AFTER GRADUATING I HOPE TO WORK IN A POSITION THAT WILL PREPARE ME FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL, AND AFTER TWO YEARS, APPLY TO A GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY/NEUROSCIENCE.



**MELCHIZEDEK  
GHANDOUR**



**ABRIANA  
GRESHAM**

ABRIANA CHOSE TO MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY TO ACCOMPANY HER MAJOR IN BIOLOGY TO FURTHER HER KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIOCULTURAL, AND PHYSIOLOGICAL FACTORS AND THEIR EFFECT ON HEALTH AND OVERALL WELL-BEING. AFTER GRADUATION, ABRIANA WILL BE WORKING AS A PATIENT EDUCATION RESEARCH INTERN AT LEVINE CANCER INSTITUTE. SHE ALSO PLANS TO CONTINUE RESEARCH WITH DR. BENNETT ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND STRESS-RELATED HEALTH INDICATORS, IN ADDITION TO APPLYING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL THIS SUMMER.

I BEGAN MY UNDERGRADUATE CAREER AT UNC CHARLOTTE AS AN UNDECIDED MAJOR, BUT WHEN I TOOK MY FIRST PSYCHOLOGY COURSE I KNEW I HAD FOUND THE AREA OF STUDY I WANTED TO PURSUE. I WAS CONFIDENT THAT OBTAINING THIS MAJOR WOULD HELP ME TO DEVELOP SKILLS THAT WOULD BE APPLICABLE TO A VARIETY OF CAREER FIELDS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, I LOVED AND WAS INTERESTED IN THE COURSE MATERIAL. THROUGH THIS MAJOR, I HAVE BEEN SO FORTUNATE TO FORM CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY PEERS AND PROFESSORS. AFTER GRADUATION, I WILL BE FURTHERING MY EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHERE I WILL BE A STUDENT IN THE MASTER'S OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY PROGRAM.



**ALYSSA  
INGRAM**



**ZARA  
JILLANI**

I INITIALLY BECAME INTERESTED IN STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY AFTER READING MAN AND HIS SYMBOLS BY CARL JUNG AND DECIDED TO MAJOR IN PSYCHOLOGY AFTER TAKING DR. WILLIAM SIEGFRIED'S INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY COURSE HERE AT UNC-CHARLOTTE. I HOPE TO GAIN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE OVER THE NEXT YEAR AND EVENTUALLY GO ON TO OBTAIN MY PHD IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY SO THAT I MAY TEACH AND CONTINUE TO DO RESEARCH IN THE FIELD.

I DECIDED TO BECOME A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR BECAUSE I FOUND IT INTERESTING TO LEARN ABOUT WHY WE AS HUMANS DO WHAT WE DO. MY GOAL IS TO APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE IN THE WORKPLACE AS A COMPANY CONSULTANT OR SOMEONE THAT WORKS IN HUMAN RESOURCES. AFTER UNDERGRAD I PLAN ON GOING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF IO PSYCHOLOGY.



**CHANNING  
JONES**



**MELISSA  
MARTIN**

MELISSA MARTIN DECIDED TO PURSUE PSYCHOLOGY AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A MISSION TRIP IN GUATEMALA. THERE, SHE SAW THE IMPACT ONE PSYCHOLOGIST HAD ON THE LIVES OF DOZENS OF STREET BOYS AND FELT PSYCHOLOGY OFFERED HER AN IMPORTANT AVENUE THROUGH WHICH SHE COULD HELP OTHERS. SINCE BEING AT UNC CHARLOTTE, SHE HAS LEARNED THE VERSATILITY OF A PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE AND WANTS TO BECOME A RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGIST FOCUSING ON PSYCHOLINGUISTICS FOLLOWING GRADUATE SCHOOL.

I CHOSE TO PURSUE PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE OF MY FASCINATION WITH DISORDERED THINKING, MOOD DISORDERS, AND PERSONALITY DISORDERS. I WORK AT A PRIVATE PRACTICE ADMINISTERING PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS AND AM TRAINING TO BECOME THE PRACTICE MANAGER. I HOPE TO OBTAIN MY PH.D. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, START MY OWN PRACTICE, AND CONTINUE TO DO PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS



**KENDALL  
MAURER**



**JORDAN  
MCGEE**

I LOVE PEOPLE. I LOVE GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE; HOW THEY FEEL, WHAT THEY THINK, AND WHY THEY BEHAVE THE WAY THEY DO. SO, CHOOSING TO BE A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR WAS A NO-BRAINER FOR ME; I GET TO LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE! AND I DID, I LEARNED NOT ONLY ABOUT BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL PROCESSES (AND MANY OTHER PSYCHOLOGICAL ELEMENTS!), BUT I ALSO GAINED PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH SKILLS THROUGH BEING A RESEARCH ASSISTANT. ALL OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE I ACQUIRED AS A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR HAS GOTTEN ME LEAPS CLOSER TO MY DREAM OF BECOMING AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST. AFTER I GRADUATE IN MAY, I'M SEEKING TO GET INTO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT BELMONT UNIVERSITY.



I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP OTHERS, SPECIFICALLY UNDER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN, AND I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY AS MY MAJOR BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD GIVE ME THE MOST WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH. I ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT HOW PSYCHOLOGISTS, AS CLINICIANS AND RESEARCHERS, CONTRIBUTE TO WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY AND I HOPE TO FOLLOW THAT PATH AFTER GRADUATION. AFTER GRADUATION, I PLAN TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL TO FOCUS ON FINDING THE RIGHT GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR MYSELF BUT I HOPE TO OBTAIN A MASTERS LEVEL DEGREE IN A PSYCHOLOGY RELATED FIELD AND WORK WITH CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS TO IMPLEMENT THERAPEUTIC SUMMER CAMPS FOR THEIR CLIENTS.



**ALLISON  
MEHTA**

I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY BECAUSE THE COMPLEXITIES OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR HAVE ALWAYS INTRIGUED ME. AS I PROGRESSED THROUGH UNDERGRAD, I BEGAN ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN OUR MENTAL HEALTH RELATE TO HEALTH OUTCOMES- SPURRING MY INTERESTS IN MINDFULNESS, EMOTION REGULATION, AND HEALTH BEHAVIORS. I WILL BE STARTING UNCC'S HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY- CLINICAL CONCENTRATION PH.D. PROGRAM THIS FALL TO ACHIEVE MY CAREER GOAL OF WORKING AS A HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST, DESIGNING AND TESTING INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS. IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO STUDY THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN SELF-REGULATORY STRATEGIES AND HEALTH BEHAVIORS, IN RELATION TO DISEASE AND ILLNESS. I'M EXCITED TO BEGIN MY DOCTORAL TRAINING AND LOOK FORWARD TO PURSUING A CAREER IN HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY, HOPEFULLY WORKING ALONGSIDE PHYSICIANS AT AN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER.



**ALEXIS  
MITCHELL**

I CHOSE TO PURSUE A BACHELORS DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY IN ORDER TO LEARN HOW TO STUDY THE COMPLEXITIES OF OUR WORLD. AS A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR I HAVE DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR INVESTIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING THROUGH A SOCIAL JUSTICE LENS. UPON GRADUATION I PLAN TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL IN ORDER TO JOIN MY RESEARCH INTERESTS WITH A LICENSE TO PRACTICE COUNSELING. I HOPE TO WORK ALONGSIDE INDIVIDUALS WITH MARGINALIZED IDENTITIES TO BETTER UNDERSTAND STRATEGIES FOR COPING AND MAINTAINING WELLNESS IN THE FACE OF NUMEROUS STRESSORS.



**JESSICA  
PRINCE**



**ASHLEY  
RANKIN**

I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY AS A MAJOR BECAUSE I WAS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN A HELPING FIELD. AS I CONTINUE TO REFINE MY INTERESTS TO FIT WITHIN A CERTAIN CAREER PATH, I HOPE TO WORK IN HUMAN RESOURCES AND ULTIMATELY BECOME A CONSULTANT.

THE REASON I DECIDED TO STUDY PSYCHOLOGY WAS TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW HUMANS THINK AND BEHAVE. LEARNING ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES OR DRIVES HUMAN BEINGS WILL BENEFIT ME AS A FUTURE ARMY OFFICER. THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS WILL NOT ONLY HELP ME AS A LEADER, BUT ALSO AS A TEAM MEMBER IN BETTER SERVING MY COUNTRY.



**MIA  
SIEBERT**



**ANNA  
THORPE**

I CHOSE PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIFICALLY COMMUNITY HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY, BECAUSE I WANT TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO HELPING MYSELF AND MY FELLOW COLLEAGUES OVERCOME THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC STRESS EXPOSURE. AFTER GRADUATING UNCC I PLAN TO APPLY TO THE HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY PHD PROGRAM AT UNCC AND CONTINUE MY WORK IN RESEARCHING THE EFFECT OF TRAUMA ON THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF FIRST RESPONDERS. I ALSO PLAN TO RESEARCH WITH AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE OVERALL HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT I HAVE COME TO NOTICE ARE VERY PROMINENT IN THE US HEALTH CARE SYSTEM