Spring 2009 Doctoral Degree Candidates
and their Dissertation Topics

Doctor of Philosophy

Trevelyn Alford-Davidson, Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude, 1977, Lenoir Rhyne College--North Carolina; Master of Education, 1981, University of Florida; Specialist in Education, 1991, University of South Carolina

Major: School Counseling and Guidance
Dissertation Chairperson: E. S. Amatea

Erik Wade Black, Bachelor of Science in Business, 1997, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Master of Arts, 2005, College of New Jersey

Major: Curriculum and Instruction (ISC)
Minor: Research and Evaluation Methodology
Dissertation: An Evaluation of Familial Involvements' Influence on Student Achievement in K-12 Virtual Schooling
Dissertation Chairperson: R. E. Ferdig
Dissertation Cochairperson: K. M. Dawson

Donald Cameron Boyd Jr, Bachelor of Arts, 1995, University of Florida; Master of Science in Social Studies Education, 1998, Nova Southeastern University--Florida

Major: Foundations of Education
Dissertation: The WPA Packhorse Library Project and the Social Utility of Literacy, 1883-1962
Dissertation Chairperson: S. G. Terzian

Allison Gail Dempsey, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 2002, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Master of Science in Psychology, 2004, Towson University--Maryland; Master of Education, 2007, University of Florida

Major: School Psychology
Dissertation: Aggression and Victimization in Middle School: A Mixed Methods Analysis of the Process and Effectiveness of Implementing a Prevention Program
Dissertation Chairperson: N. L. Waldron


Major: Special Education
Dissertation: General Education Pre-Service Teachers' Attitudes toward Inclusion in Egypt
Dissertation Chairperson: J. L. McLerskey

Rachael Donelson Goodman, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 2002, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Master of Education, 2006, Specialist in Education, 2006, University of Florida

Major: Mental Health Counseling
Dissertation: Academic Achievement and Traumatic Stress among Primary School Students
Dissertation Chairperson: P. A. Sherrard
Dissertation Cochairperson: C. West-Olatunji

Jennifer Lynn Harman, Bachelor of Arts, 2002, University of Memphis--Tennessee; Master of
Education, 2004, University of Florida

Major: School Psychology
Dissertation: A Comparison of Relational and Physical Aggression Correlates in Young Children
Dissertation Chairperson: T. M. Smith-Bonahue

Keely Jennifer Hope, Bachelor of Science, 2000, Louisiana State University; Master of Science, 2003, Mississippi State University; Specialist in Education, 2005, University of Florida

Major: Mental Health Counseling
Dissertation: A Reason to Live: The Protective Influence of Close Friendships on College Students
Dissertation Chairperson: S. Smith

David Horton Jr., Bachelor of Science in History, 2001, Master of Liberal Arts, 2003, Dallas Baptist University--Texas; Specialist in Education, 2006, University of Florida

Major: Higher Education Administration
Dissertation: A Comparative Study of the Persistence and Academic Success of Florida Community College Student-Athletes and Non-Athlete Students: 2004 to 2007
Dissertation Chairperson: L. Ponjuan

Susan Elizabeth Jinns, Bachelor of Science in Education, 1997, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; Master of Education, 2000, George Mason University--Virginia

Major: Curriculum and Instruction (ISC)
Dissertation: An Examination of Teaching Presence and the Sense of Community on Perceived Student Learning
Dissertation Chairperson: C. R. Swain

Margaret Lane Kamman, Bachelor of Science in Special Education, 1994, Appalachian State University--North Carolina; Master of Education, 1999, University of Florida

Major: Special Education
Dissertation: Understanding the Role Curriculum Plays in How Test-Only Beginning Special Education Teachers Learn about and Enact Reading Instruction
Dissertation Chairperson: M. T. Brownell


Major: School Counseling and Guidance
Dissertation: Effects of a Training Module on Pre-Service School Counselors' Knowledge and Self-Efficacy Beliefs about Working with Students in Exceptional Student Education
Dissertation Chairperson: E. S. Amatay


Major: Marriage and Family Counseling
Dissertation: Effects of Career and Marriage on Newlywed Individuals' Marital and Career Satisfaction
Dissertation Chairperson: P. A. Sherrard


Major: Mental Health Counseling
Dissertation: Impact of Client Suicide on Practitioner Posttraumatic Growth
Dissertation Chairperson: S. Smith

Matthew Alexander Ohlson, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 1996, Brandeis University--Massachusetts; Master of Education in Instructional Technology, 2002, Bridgewater State College--Massachusetts

Major: Educational Leadership
Minor: *Curriculum and Instruction (ISC)*  
Dissertation: Examining Educational Leadership: A Study of School Culture, Teacher Quality and Student Outcomes via a Performance Framework  
Dissertation Chairperson: D. Quinn

Nicole Nasewicz Pies, Bachelor of Science cum laude, 2004, Master of Education, 2007, University of Florida  
Major: *School Psychology*  
Dissertation: Recognizing, Differentiating, and Referring Students with Absence Seizures: What Factors Affect Preservice Teachers’ Decision Making?  
Dissertation Chairperson: T. M. Smith-Bonahue

James Robert Porter, Bachelor of Arts in Theater, 1993, University of South Florida; Master of Education, 2005, Specialist in Education, 2005, University of Florida  
Major: *Mental Health Counseling*  
Dissertation: Children’s Tendency to Defend Victims of School Bullying: Gender, Social Identity, and Normative Pressure  
Dissertation Chairperson: S. Smith

William Randolph Scott, Bachelor of Arts, 1980, Clemson University—South Carolina; Master of Education, 2003, University of Florida  
Major: *Educational Leadership*  
Dissertation: Teachers' Responsiveness to the Learning Needs of a Select Group of African-American Middle School Students  
Dissertation Chairperson: L. S. Behar-Horenstein

Christopher Davis Sessums, Bachelor of Arts, 1989, Master of Education, 1997, University of Florida  
Major: *Curriculum and Instruction (ISC)*  
Dissertation: The Path from Insight to Action: The Case of an Online Learning Community in Support of Collaborative Teacher Inquiry  
Dissertation Chairperson: T. M. Dana

John Scott Smith, Bachelor of Science, 1991, United States Military Academy—New York; Master of Business Administration, 1996, Oklahoma City University; Master of Science in Counseling and Human Systems, 2000, Florida State University  
Major: *Higher Education Administration*  
Dissertation: Followership Behaviors among Florida Community College Faculty  
Dissertation Chairperson: D. S. Honeyman

Christina Anne Tannen, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, 1974, Eckerd College—Florida; Master of Arts in Community Arts Management, 1980, University of Illinois at Springfield; Master of Education, 2005, Specialist in Education, 2005, University of Florida  
Major: *Mental Health Counseling*  
Dissertation: Choosing to Be Present as Counselors in Training: A Grounded Theory  
Dissertation Chairperson: M. Harry. Daniels

---

**DOCTOR OF EDUCATION**

Michele Lee Seybert Phillips, Bachelor of Arts, 2000, Master of Education, 2002, University of Florida  
Major: *Curriculum and Instruction*  
Dissertation: Beginning Teacher Beliefs and Wise Practices: A Case Study of a High School Social Studies Teacher  
Dissertation Chairperson: E. A. Yeager