# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

# SAMANTHA L. SALDANA, M.S.

3925 N. Elm St. Apt 2304 Denton, TX 76207 samanthasaldana@my.unt.edu 956-456-8377

#### **EDUCATION**

2017-present **Doctoral Candidate**, Clinical Psychology (expected degree, 2023)

University of North Texas (APA Accredited)

<u>Dissertation</u>: The Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology: An Examination of Convergent and Discriminant Validity. (Advisor: Jennifer Callahan, Ph.D., ABPP)

Master's Thesis: Comparing Cognitive Functioning in non-Hispanic Whites and White Mexican/Mexican Americans with/without Type 2 Diabetes. (Advisor: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D., retired)

2013-2017 **Bachelors of Science**, Psychology

The University of Texas at Austin

Departmental honors, McNair Scholar, Presidential Achievement Scholar Minor in Biology

<u>Undergraduate thesis</u>: Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients using Magnetoencephalography. (Advisor: Mark McManis, Ph.D.)

#### ACADEMIC HONORS/SCHOLARSHIPS

2017	Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society University of Texas at Austin
2016	<b>Departmental Honors in Psychology</b> University of Texas at Austin
2015	Travel Scholarship recipient Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Washington D.C.
2014-2017	McNair Scholar University of Texas at Austin
2014-2017	Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society University of Texas at Austin
2014-2017	Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society University of Texas at Austin
2014-2017	University Honors (spring 2014, fall 2015, spring 2016, spring 2017) University of Texas at Austin
2013-2017	Presidential Achievement Scholarship recipient University of Texas at Austin
2013-2017	Hutchinson International Scholar

### **National Society for Collegiate Scholars**

University of Texas at Austin

#### SUPERVISED CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

# Neuropsychology Practicum Trainee 20 hours per week

Aug. 2021-Present

North Texas Counseling Associates

Supervisor: Jennie Fincher, Ph.D., LPC-S

- Conducted outpatient individual therapy using cognitive-behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and play therapy for primarily children and adolescent clients, ages 5-18 with mood, anxiety, and neurodevelopmental disorders
- Completed comprehensive psychodiagnostic and neuropsychological assessments for children and adults
- Wrote integrated reports for clients utilizing assessment data as well as collateral information to aid in treatment planning, recommendations, and accommodations

# Neuropsychology Practicum Trainee 20 hours per week

Aug. 2020- Aug. 2021

Neuropsychology Consultants

Supervisors: Karen Falla Ph.D. & Daisy Blagg, Psy.D.

- Administered neuropsychology assessment batteries across the lifespan (ages 4 to 65) to patients with neurocognitive, neurodevelopmental, and neurological concerns, primarily attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), emotion dysregulation, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), dementia, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and stroke; completed hand-scoring and computer- scoring for each case
- Integrated assessment results with information from medical records and interview into a comprehensive report for approximately two-three clients per week
- Participated in clinical interviews and feedback sessions with individuals and families

# Assessment/Psychotherapy Practicum Trainee 20 hours per week

Jan. 2020 -March 2020

Mental Health Gold Team, North Texas VA, Dallas Supervisor: Michael Dolan, Ph.D.

- Conducted weekly psychotherapy Cognitive Behavioral Therapy skills workshops with inpatients to aid in substance use recovery (~13 patients/session)
- Conducted weekly trauma processing group therapy utilizing cognitivebehavioral principles along with elements of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and motivational interviewing
- Conducted weekly case management session with inpatients (1-2/week) to aid in substance use recovery and planning for life following inpatient stay

# 20 hours per week

UNT Psychology Training Clinic, University of North Texas Supervisors: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D., David Cicero, Ph.D., & Jared Kilmer, Ph.D.

- Conducted intake interviews for each client
- Conducted outpatient individual therapy using cognitive-behavioral therapy, psychodynamic, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and motivational interviewing for clients with psychosis, mood, and anxiety disorders
- Composed intake reports, treatment plans, treatment summaries, and termination reports
- Supervised junior graduate students to aid in their development as assessors and therapists as part of a vertical practicum team

# **Assessment Practicum Trainee**

Aug. 2017-May 2019

# 20 hours per week

UNT Psychology Training Clinic, University of North Texas Supervisors: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D., Craig Neumann, Ph.D., & Randall J. Cox, Ph.D.

- Completed comprehensive psychodiagnostic and neuropsychological assessments for children/adolescents and adults from the community at a university-based clinic
- Intake interviews, Cognitive & Achievement, personality, structured interviews, projective, Autism Spectrum, and ADHD testing
- Delivered tailored feedback and composed integrative reports
- Supervised junior graduate students to aid in their development as assessors and therapists as part of a vertical practicum team

# Prevention/Intervention Specialist

June-Aug. 2018

# 20 hours per week

Harlingen Juvenile Detention Center, Harlingen, Texas

Supervisor: David Sanchez

 Provided an intervention model for young female/male juveniles and implemented community-based programs that include education, counseling, vocational trade and recreational activities in an effort to empower and motivate them to become successful and productive citizens

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of North Texas

Advisor: Jennifer Callahan, Ph.D., ABPP

August 2020-Present

Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program

Training, Competency, & Neuropsychology

Graduate student

- development of dissertation
- dissertation project focus on examining the validation of the Examination of Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)
- neurocognitive, emotional intelligence, and competency data collected from graduate student trainees and alumni

University of North Texas Advisor: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D. August 2017-August 2020 Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program Health Psychology & Neuropsychology Graduate student

- completion of thesis Cognitive Functioning in non-Hispanic Whites and Mexican/Mexican Americans with Type 2 Diabetes
- thesis focus on examining the cognitive functioning of Mexican/Mexican Americans compared to whites with type 2 diabetes
- data collected from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS)
- thesis project involved both aspects of my training with Dr. Guarnaccia (Health Psychology and Neuropsychology)

Dell Children's Hospital Advisor: Mark McManis, Ph.D. December 2014-May 2017 Clinical Magnetoencephalography Lab Epilepsy and Neuroimaging Principal Investigator

- development of individual research project Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients using Magnetoencephalography
- assisting with MEG scans; training in brain mapping using MEG, TMS, fMRI
- observing brain surgery
- analysis of data
- composing literature reviews and writing drafts of journal articles

University of Texas at Austin Advisor: Raymond Hawkins August-December 2014 Department of Psychology Personality and Addictive Behaviors Undergraduate Research Assistant

- data collection
- data analysis

#### **PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Saldana, S. & Guarnaccia, C. A. (in press). Comparing Cognitive Functioning in White Mexican & non-Hispanic White Americans with/without Diabetes. *Journal of Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders*.
- Saldana, S., Guarnaccia, C. A. (2020, August). Comparing Cognitive Functioning in White Mexican & non-Hispanic White Americans with/without Diabetes. Poster presentation at the American Psychological Association Conference. Virtual.
- Saldana, S., Guarnaccia, C. A. (2019, January). Comparing Cognitive Functioning of Black and White Adults with and without Type 2 Diabetes. Poster Presentation at the Dallas Age and Cognition Conference. Dallas, Texas.
- Saldana, S., McManis, M., Freedom, F. (2016, October). Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients Using Magentoencephalography. Poster Presentation at Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science. Long Beach, CA.
- Saldana, S., McManis, M., Freedom, F. (2016, May). Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients Using Magentoencephalography. Poster Presentation at UT Austin Annual McNair Symposium. Austin, TX.
- Saldana, S., McManis, M., Freedom, F. (2016, May). Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients Using Magentoencephalography. Poster Presentation at UT Austin College of Liberal Arts Honors Day. Austin, TX.

• Saldana, S., McManis, M., Freedom, F. (2016, February). Functional Brain Mapping in Pediatric Patients Using Magentoencephalography. Poster Presentation at 18th annual Texas National McNair Conference. Denton, TX.

#### **GRANT SUPPORT**

North Texas Evidence-based Psychologist Placement Initiative.

8/1/2020 - 7/31/2021

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)

Practicum Trainee Fellowship: Awarded \$15,000

- Provide clinical services (e.g., psychotherapy, assessment, crisis intervention, consultation) in mental health professional shortage areas with medically underserved populations
- Develop functional competences in interprofessional communication under close supervision, to include implementing field-based interdisciplinary coordination with other disciplines
- Gather outcome and demographic data from clients served through practicum site and assist with data collection regarding health disparities at practicum site
- Attend seminars and case conferences focused on interprofessional communication and treatment planning

The North Texas-20: Expanding Doctoral Psychology Opiate/. Substance Use Disorder (OUD/SUD) and Tele-behavioral Health Training in 20 High Need and High Demand Areas of North Texas

8/1/2019 - 7/31/2020

US Department of Health and Human Services; Health

Research Services Administration (HRSA)

Practicum Trainee Fellowship: Awarded \$25,000

- Provide clinical services (e.g., psychotherapy, assessment, crisis intervention, consultation) to Veteran populations in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area
- Provide targeted telehealth services to individuals residing in rural areas
- Gather outcome and demographic data from clients served through practicum site
- Assist with data collection regarding health disparities and substance use at practicum site
- Attend seminars and didactics regarding treatment, substance use, and multicultural issues

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

# **Undergraduate Teaching Fellow**

January-May 2022

UNT, Department of Psychology

Instructor of record for Psychophysiology (PSYC 4640)

University of North Texas

Supervisor: Donald Dougherty, Ph.D, Department Chair

- Facilitate discussion and lectures for a large group of undergraduate students, 80 students/course
- Created weekly lecture and Powerpoint notes for students
- Created weekly homework assignments and tests

#### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**August-December 2021** 

UNT, Department of Psychology

Supervisor: Rose Dunn, Ph.D.

Taught a supplementary lab for graduate course, PSY 6420, Neuropsychological Assessment.

- Demonstrated, taught, and administered general memory (WMS-IV; RBANS), visual memory (Rey Complex Figure Test, Brief Visual Memory Test), visuospatial (Judgement of Line Orientation, Hooper Visual Organization Test), verbal memory (Boston Naming Test, Token Test, California Verbal Learning Test-3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), and higher level cognitive functioning (D-KEFS) neuropsychological assessments for graduate students
- Performed graduate student "check-outs" on each measurement to gauge assessment competency
- Graded and provided feedback on sample neuropsychological reports

## **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

June 2021-July 2021

UNT, Department of Psychology Supervisor: Terry Davis, Ph.D.

Assisted in teaching Social Psychology (PSYC 4520) to undergraduate students

• Responsible for grading weekly assignments and papers focused on various personality discussion prompts to develop critical thinking

## **Undergraduate Teaching Fellow**

**August 2020-May 2021** 

UNT, Department of Psychology

Instructor of record for General Psychology (PSYC 1650)

University of North Texas

Supervisor: Yolanda Flores-Niemann, Ph.D, interim Department Chair

- Facilitating discussion and lectures for a large group of undergraduate students, 100 students/ course
- Graded daily assignments and papers designed to foster critical thinking and group brain storming
- Ran Pearson Revel software for the course

#### **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

January 2020-August 2020

Assisted in teaching social psychology (PSYC 4520) to undergraduate students University of North Texas

Supervisor: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D.

- Assisted in facilitating group critical thinking discussions, presented and lectured PowerPoints on various social psychology topics (history of personality development, Big 5 Personality, personality assessment) during class time
- Graded daily assignments and papers and imputing into canvas
- Ran Cengage Mindtap software for the course

#### **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

August 2017-August 2020

Assisted in teaching general psychology (PSYC 1650) to undergraduate students University of North Texas

Supervisor: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D.

- Graded daily assignments and papers designed to foster critical thinking and group brain storming
- Ran Revel software for the course

## **Graduate Student Assistant**

August 2018-December 2019

Assisted in undergraduate psychology program duties University of North Texas

Supervisor: Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D., Undergraduate Program Director

- Undergraduate psychology newsletter editor for a group of 10 undergraduate students from a variety of majors
- Assisted in starting a peer-mentor program for first-generation college students
  - o Program designed to foster students from under-represented groups in the transition into a large, public university
  - o Responsible for interviewing possible program mentors and facilitating events for mentor and mentee interactions

### **Undergraduate Statistics Tutor**

**August 2017-May 2018** 

Provided individual tutoring in statistic and SPSS knowledge and skill development to UNT undergraduate psychology students for 10 hours/week

University of North Texas

Supervisor: Matt Mikesell, M.S.

# **Texas Prefreshmen Engineering Program** (**TexPrep**) **Program Assistant**

May-July 2017

Academically rigorous mathematics-based summer enrichment program for middle-high school students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

Texas State Technical College

Supervisor: Yvette Mendoza

- Helped prepare 6-8th grade students for college and careers in the STEM field
- Provided support and leadership to students in the program
- Ensured the safety and appropriate behavior of the participants
- Attended classes and labs with students, assisting instructors and students
- Conducted research and study period provided educational activities
- Tutored adolescents in math and science

#### LEADERSHIP/VOLUNTEER SERVICE

#### **Graduate Representative**

**June 2018-July 2020** 

#### **Association of Neuropsychology Students & Trainees (ANST)**

- Management and facilitation of relevant neuropsychology events at UNT
- Communication of webinars, trainings, and courses regarding neuropsychology training

#### Founder

August 2018-December 2019

#### **Undergraduate Psychology Peer Mentor Program**

- Development of a peer mentor program for UNT undergraduates in psychology
- Conducted interviews for possible mentors
- Facilitated events for members participation

#### **Editor**

August 2018-December 2019

#### **Undergraduate Psychology Newsletter**

Determined features of UNT Psychology newsletter publication, set deadlines for writers, final edits to pieces, and oversaw all operations of publication

Volunteer/Activist Denton County Friends of the Family

December 2018

• Adopt-a-Family event

#### Treasurer

# Women In Psychology (WIP)

August 2015-June2016

- Management of UT-Austin WIP bank account
- Taking membership dues and activity money
- Fundraising, scholarship, and sponsorship opportunities

#### **Alumni Relations Chair**

**August 2015-June 2016** 

#### Mu Epsilon Theta National Catholic Sorority

University of Texas at Austin

- Management of alumni list serve and email
- Organization of alumni events

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOMPENT

- Student member, Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy
- Workshop "Resiliency Training," February 2022

Presenter: Amy Murrell, Ph.D.

2.5 day intermediate workshop on provider resiliency

Engage in experiential exercises to foster acceptance, mindfulness, and committed action towards values

• Webinar "Telepresence: Its Role in Treatment of Anxiety Disorders with Telepsychology or Virtual Reality," September 2020

Presenter: Stephane Bouchard, Ph.D.

• Webinar "Telepsychology in the Age of Covid-19," June 2020

Panelists: Shari Wade, Ph.D., Stephanie Bouchard, Ph.D., Camilo Ruggero, Ph.D.

• Webinar "The National Opioid Crisis: Causes and Solutions," April 2020

Presenter: Scott Walters, Ph.D.

 Webinar "Interdisciplinary Case Conference on Treatment of Substance Use Disorders," April 2020

Case conference presenters: Jennifer Okere, Ph.D., Courtney Givens, pharmD, BCPP, Kayla Cox, LMSW

- Webinar "Motivational Interviewing vs Motivational Computer to Improve Treatment Compliance in Probation," April 2020
- Webinar "Motivational Interviewing: Helping People Change," April 2020

Presenter: Scott Walters, Ph.D.

Case Presentation on OCD case conceptualization and treatment, November 2019

Presenters: Arthur Cantos, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Training of UT-RGV Clinical Psychology Program; Cynthia Gonzales, Director UT-RGV Psychology Clinic

• Clinical Talk "Therapeutic Assessment and Mandatory Treatment," April 2019

Presenter: Lionel Chudzik, Ph.D.

- APA Recovery to Practice Workshop, March 2019
  - Focus on rehabilitation assessments and intervention approaches to assist individuals with severe mental health disorders

- Psychotherapy Training Workshop on Deliberate Practice, February 2019
  - Presenter: Tony Rousmaniere, Ph.D.
  - Focus on:

Improving psychotherapy skills

Clinical challenges and reconsider century-old methods of clinical training from the ground up

Step-by-step program to engage students in deliberate practice to improve clinical effectiveness

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) Training, August 2017, 2018, 2019

Training regarding protected health information (PHI), proper uses and disclosures of PHI, how to keep PHI secure, how to report aa PHI breach

Completed and passed a test of HIPPA competency at each workshop

- Psychology Joint Diversity & Inclusion Workshop, February, 8, 2019
- Clinical Talk "Quantifying Trauma Among Immigrant Populations," November 2018

Presenter: Luz Garcini, Ph.D.

Focus on:

Informing innovative approaches, methodology and assessment techniques to the study of health among socially disadvantaged Latinxs

Identifying mechanisms involved in health promotion within culturally and contextually sensitive frameworks

Increasing translational research useful to reduce health disparities

- Guest Lecture, University of North Texas. "Janet Paleo Lived Experience." October 12, 2018 As the co-founder of Prosumers, Janet is an advocate, and a person with lived experience of mental health concerns who uses her recovery to inspire others to live their dreams.
- National Alliance Against Mental Illness Walk, October 2015, 2016, 2017
- Conference Attendee Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, October 2016
- Conference Attendee Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science, October 2015

#### REFERENCES

Jennifer L. Callahan, Ph.D., ABPP

Professor of Psychology University of North Texas Phone: 940-565-2671

Email: Jennifer.Callahan@unt.edu

Jennie Fincher, Ph.D., LSPP-C

Clinical Psychologist **Independent Practice** Phone: 817-281-6822

Email: jennie@ntxcounseling.com

Karen Falla, Ph.D.

Clinical Neuropsychologist **Independent Practice** Phone: 214-585-0584

Email: drfalla@npconsult.net

Daisy Blagg, Psy.D. School Psychologist **Independent Practice** Phone: 903-905-8112

Charles Guarnaccia, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology (retired) University of North Texas Phone: 940-206-6412 Email: <u>Charles.guarnaccia@unt.edu</u>