

Psychology

Gary Bruss

Program Dean

American School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, Southern California

Education Background:

B.A. in Political Science, Ohio State University
M.A. in Clinical Psychology, Illinois State University
Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Ohio University

Current Job Tasks:

As Program Dean, I am responsible for the management and administration of our APA (American Psychological Association) accredited Doctor of Psychology Program (Psy.D.) and our M.A. program as well. I supervise a core faculty of 11 individuals, and I also teach courses in the programs. In my private practice, I conduct psychotherapy and do psychological evaluations.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:

As an academic administrator, I enjoy the collaboration with other talented academicians who are dedicated to mentoring and developing young professionals to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to function as professional psychologists. As an independent practitioner, I enjoy the challenge of working at the individual, couple or family levels to assist others in living better quality lives emotionally.

Piece of Advice:

It takes considerable dedication, time and effort to attend graduate school and to obtain a higher degree. It is important to compartmentalize each step in the process rather than getting overwhelmed by the seeming immense challenge at the front end. Graduate education is graded and sequential in nature, and taken one step at a time, is manageable. The professional and personal rewards of hard work and persistence in the long view should be lifelong.



Psychology

Theodore Burnes

Assistant Director/Director for Research and Quality Assurance
UC Irvine Counseling Center

Education Background:

I received by BA as a double major in Psychology and Spanish at Bucknell University. I received my master's in Community Psychology from UPenn, my master's from UC-Santa Barbara in Counseling Psychology, and my Ph.D. in Counseling/Clinical/School (combined) applied psychology at UCSB.

Current Job Tasks:

I am the Assistant Director and the Director of Research and Quality Assurance at the Counseling Center. As the R&QA Director, I help to provide information about who in and how our center serves the UCI campus community through data collection, gaining information about experiences of the center through our forthcoming Student Advisory Board, and collecting information on how mental health issues impact the campus community. As the Assistant Director, I provide administrative oversight for several of the psychologists on staff, assist with budget, and general functions of the center. As a licensed psychologist, I also have the exciting opportunity to provide mental health treatment to the students of this campus.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:

Working with UCI students!

Piece of Advice:

Really take the time to explore your options and do informational interviews with different people in the mental health profession with different degrees and licenses. Recognize that a background in mental health can lead to transferrable skills in lots of different careers and disciplines!



Psychology

Constantina Pappas

Sr. Behavior Analyst
Coyne & Associates

Education Background:

I have a masters in Education from the University of Nevada , Las Vegas. I added my BCBA (board certification as a behavior analyst) later on in my career.

Current Job Tasks:

I currently supervise a caseload of clients aged 10 months to 12 years of age who have developmental delays related to autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. I also provide parent consultation to families, train therapists and mentor junior level supervisors. Additionally, I serve as a consultant for Laguna Beach Unified School District.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:

The best thing about my job is that I directly impact the lives of families via my programming. I have concrete evidence to support that daily. Therefore, everyday I feel rewarded.

Piece of Advice:

Please talk to me and call me anytime because it is such a growing field and so dynamic. There is so much opportunity. Pick a mentor so you can really fast track your career. Stick to it the first year as an entry level therapist and the payoff later is great!



Psychology

Lynell Weiss

MFT Intern

Center for Individual and Family Counseling

Education Background:

I received my B.A. in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and I received my M.A. in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy and Art Therapy from Phillips Graduate University.

Current Job Tasks:

I am currently working as an intern at The Center for Individual and Family Counseling. Our counseling center focuses on providing mental health services for individuals and families from lower and middle income homes. I am currently working with adolescents and adults who are struggling with issues that range from anxiety and depression to issues with personal identity and self-esteem. I am also involved with a school based program where I facilitate group therapy for children who struggle with maintaining attention in class, impulsivity, self-concept, anxiety, and anger.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:

My favorite thing about my job is connecting to my clients and having the honor of being trusted with their most vulnerable and intimate feelings. Being able to give my clients a safe place to come and merely share their experiences and explore themselves more fully is something I truly cherish about my job.

Piece of Advice:

The best advice I was given when entering the field was to trust the process and that is the same advice I would like to pass on. Trust yourself in the room, trust your intuition, and let things unfold organically.

