

# AU MFT Newsletter

Fall 2021



Marriage &  
Family Therapy

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

*Without context words and actions have no meaning at all.*  
-Gregory Bateson

## News

Congratulations to the cohort of 2021 for graduating!

With the graduation of the previous cohort, we are also excited to welcome the new cohort class 2023!

We appreciated and will miss Whitney Smith and Hannah Box who both served as our Office Administrator.

Thank you for Laurinda Ketring for serving as the Office Administrator while Hannah Box was on maternity leave. She will continue to serve while we search for a new Office Administrator.

Congratulations to our Minority Fellow:  
[Takoma Lindsay](#)



## Program Updates

- Thank you to the students and Dr. Ketring for complete the translation of the assessments into Spanish. Native-speaking alumni have reviewed the assessments and are ready to be uploaded.
- The students provided feedback about the combined Theory of Change (TOC) and Thesis and the faculty paired down the Theory of Change and connected it to the Portfolio Rubric.
- A review of the Leave Policy for student time off has been completed and updated based on student feedback. Students will receive additional time off from AU MFT clinic work and coursework during breaks. Students from the MFT Center will be entitled to a total of four weeks off per calendar year. This change does not impact placement scheduling, so you will still need the placement supervisor signatures for leave.
- Faculty have agreed to extend the case note deadline to 48 hours.
- With the continuation of Teletherapy, the program will pay for HIPAA Zoom so that students can continue to be trained in serving clients through telehealth.



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## Programmatic Updates

- The Multicultural Alumni Advisory Board (MAAB) provided strong suggests that faculty have agreed to implement within the program.
- The Genogram transitioned to the Multicultural Genogram, focusing on Dr. Ken Hardy's work on accentuating the importance of multicultural awareness for the therapist. The MAAB recognized that the therapist has power and privilege in the therapy room. They can disregard fiduciary responsibilities, abuse their power, collude, press agendas, ignore client needs, or react emotionally within the session. The value of the MGA is most apparent during supervision. The therapy room is an incubator of strong emotions, which can influence the therapist's responses during the session.
- The marketing plan was revised to become a multicultural marketing plan. The MAAB reviewed the programmatic materials and discussed the marketing strategies they use to reach underrepresented populations. Board members expressed positive feelings when the AU MFT Program provided community outreach for disadvantaged and traumatized groups. The suggestion was made that these efforts could be more systematically organized into the annual marketing efforts, ensuring that community outreach is secured for underrepresented populations and those who are disadvantaged.