

# AU MFT Newsletter

Fall 2022



Marriage &  
Family Therapy

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

*Love has an immense ability to help heal the devastating wounds that life sometimes deals us. Love also enhances our sense of connection to the larger world. Loving responsiveness is the foundation of a truly compassionate, civilized society. -Sue Johnson*

## News

Congratulations to all six members of cohort 2022 for graduating!

With the graduation of the previous cohort, we are also excited to welcome the new cohort class 2024!

We appreciate Dr. Rulhmann's time in the program and wish her the best!

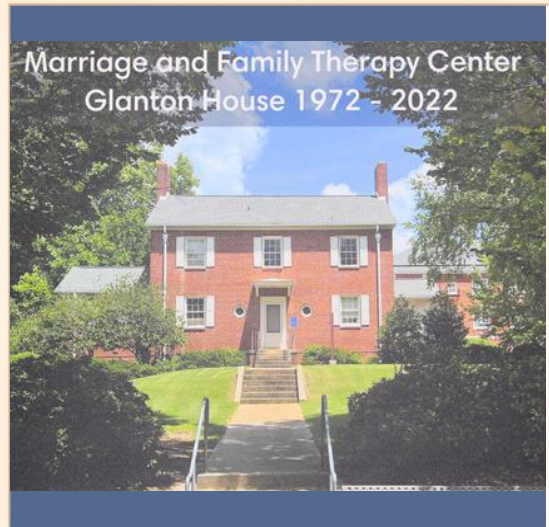
We are excited to have Gino Martinez to our MFT Program as the Office Administrator!

Congratulations to our Minority Fellow: Kalyn Warren

Special thanks to all those who helped with the move to the new building, in particular Gino Martinez!

Thank you to Laura Long for teaching the MFT Entrepreneurial Practice class for the first time Summer 2022

Marriage and Family Therapy Center  
Glanton House 1972 - 2022



We are happy to have had 50 years at Glanton House! You will be missed and we were also excited to move into Research Park on July 11, 2022!

## Program Updates

- The new building came with new equipment and training on the Valt video/audio system with remote recording options (BEAM). With the new building came new furniture, six computers in the graduate student lab and four computers in the undergraduate student lab, and non-hassle client parking without issuing parking permits!
- The program has officially switched to a thesis-optional program. Students can choose between completing a thesis or a non-thesis/theory of change option. Students will continue to complete a portfolio.
- We are excited that the ABEMFT now allows students from accredited programs to apply for the National Exam in the last three months of the program and take the National Exam in the last month of the program or the month following graduation. With this update, faculty and students had agreed to implement this in the program. Cohort 2022 was the first to apply for associate license and take the exam shortly after graduating!



## Programmatic Updates

- Transitioning from Keeping Family Connections to Lee County Youth Development Center for assistantship placement. We appreciate Tommy Smith who continues to offer supervision and the support of the program.
- The Program and HDFS Leadership requested that students be provided remote access similar to therapists at Student Support Services.
- Rhees Johnson an alum of the program suggested the creation of the two-page clinical efficacy. The faculty met and voted to create the two-page clinical efficacy within the Portfolio (SLO-4). Students will complete the Clinical Efficacy instead of the Profile Analysis their final semester, which will decrease the workload.
- The MAAB agreed that feedback on the Sociocultural Attunement (SCA) write-up in HDFS 7620 be passed on to Dr. Adrienne Duke-Marks, who would work with the students to revise and adjust their papers, allowing them to expand their conceptualization. The MAAB was unanimous in voicing its support for Dr. Duke-Marks to complete the final grading for the SCA as an external reviewer to the program and the most significant advocate for Sociocultural awareness. Dr. Duke-Marks has graciously agreed to grade this paper for our students.
- The faculty voted to accept a two stages process for establishing clinical readiness. The new phase two requirements are:
  - The Program Director (PD) meets with the faculty teaching HDFS 7621, 7630, and 7631 and verifies that the student meets the minimal requirements to begin the internship:
  - Pass with 70% the Sociocultural Attuned Practice paper, graded by Dr. Adrienne Duke (HDFS 7630)
  - Demonstrate ethical and professional behavior across five months with solid Case File Audits (mean of 3.0) and no "Underperforming" scores (7621 and 7631).
  - If a score is underperforming, the student must demonstrate that the lapse in professionalism has been corrected and that other audits demonstrate "Skilled" or "Masterful" scoring.
  - The Office Administrator reports that the student receives feedback regarding case file errors, corrects the mistakes, and establishes a behavior pattern that shows a non-repetition of the error.
  - The students do not score "underperforming" for any of the eleven Spring Portfolio rubric subscales and average a 3.0 for the Portfolio Rubric in the Spring semester.
  - If a score is underperforming, the student must demonstrate that the lapse in professionalism has been corrected and will be monitored by the Fall HDFS 7920 Clinical Supervisor to ensure "Skilled" or "Masterful" scoring.