Who Are We?

Our current team is composed of 9 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students. All members are actively involved in various projects.

Our current undergraduate students are:
Eric Fulcher, Philip Park, Sarah Corregan, Megan Stone, John Thompson, Sofiat Abdulrazaaq, Nicole Meredith, and Adam Waldrop.

Our current graduate students are:
Jimmy Hadder, Chris Immel, Rachel Moore, Kelly Dugan, and Kathryn Schwartz.

Visit our Website!!!

To find information on Dr. Jones and our team, check out our website!

www.firetrauma.com

Seniors

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our graduating seniors year 2006. We want to thank them for all of their hard work, and congratulate them for their success during the past year. They have all moved on to bigger things, including jobs, internships, and graduate school; 62.5% of our graduated seniors are currently attending graduate school. Our Graduates of 2006 were Kristie Harris, Jen Urbach, Megan Drozda, Anna George, Whitney Moore, Alissa Buoni, Heather Wright, Shawn Braxton, Kimberly Kirby, and Adam Waldrop.
Current Team Projects...

Below is a brief description of the projects Dr. Jones and members of the team are involved in at the current time.

**Recovery Efforts After Child Trauma (R.E.A.C.T.)**

The recently devised Recovery Efforts After Child Trauma program, based on the Child Development-Community Policing Program at the Yale child Study Center at Yale University, is making good progress. We are currently reaching out to families who have recently experienced residential fires and we have sent materials to approximately 30 families. We are also working with the local school systems and a retired educator, Rita Irvin, on devising a school implemented program where children are properly prepared for fires and where information is provided for counselors and parents to aid in recovery after an incident. More on page 3.

**Conducting Research in Diverse, Minority, and Marginalized Communities**


The authors listed above contributed a chapter to the book Research Methods for Studying Mental Health after Disasters and Terrorism: Community and Public Health Approaches edited by Fran Norris, et al. The chapter discusses how minorities in the United States are impacted by disaster and trauma and the problems associated with these minority groups from becoming involved in research. Minorities discussed in the chapter include Asian Americans, African Americans, Native Indians, and Latinos. The goal of this chapter is to provide recommendations for involving these individuals. Dr. Jones believes this chapter has specific application to individuals impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**CONSORT-PI (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials in Psychosocial Interventions)**

Dr. Jones and members of the team are developing a CONSORT-PI which will be used to systematically assess the methodological rigor of psychosocial interventions. It was originally used for the literature review of the CDCP-F but will be applicable to any psychosocial intervention project. The CONSORT-PI entails a checklist for internal and external validity, measuring whether or not certain items are present in a given program methodology. Ultimately, the CONSORT-PI will provide conclusions as to whether or not a certain methodology presents a sound quality of treatment. This will help to distinguish which methods are more effective versus those that are least effective. Portions of this effort have been presented at the 2004-2005 International Society For Traumatic Stress Studies 21st Annual Meeting (ISTSS).

**NIMH Mini Projects**

This semester all undergraduate members of the team are working in groups to run a correlation using variables measured in the NIMH project. Members of the team have been trained in SPSS and are developing hypotheses and methodology to conduct their analyses. The NIMH project is providing the undergraduates with valuable research experience and the hope is that all will present their findings at the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) this year at Virginia Tech.
More Current Team Projects

Fire Safety Training Program
Adam Waldrop, Sarah Corregan, Eric Fulcher, and Megan Stone are developing a training program to implement through schools. Upon completion, the program will contain protocols for children in preschool, elementary school, middle school, and high school. On an age-appropriate basis, the program will include training in fire evacuation, emergency dialing, and stop, drop, and roll. It will also provide statistics on residential fires, home safety information, and resources and information about issues pertinent after a fire. Included in a book format, the training can be done by a teacher, parent, or clinician. By making it accessible to more than one person, we hope that no matter the situation, children will have access to training in these very important areas.

Red Cross Training
Each member of the team will participate in an introductory online Red Cross training session followed by two more steps in the process of becoming certified so that we are able to work with the disaster team.

NIMH Grant
We have studied the influence of major technological and natural disasters on children’s functioning for the past 30 years. We completed a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant assessing the impact of residential fire on children and their parents. Two recent grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) enabled our group to study both injured and non-injured children following fire-related trauma. The ascertainment of mediators and moderators of distress, including coping and social support, is also an important target area.
Dr. Jones Meets First Lady Laura Bush

Shortly after the Hurricane Katrina disaster Dr. Jones was called upon by the White House to help prepare First Lady Laura Bush to visit with children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Jones informed First Lady Bush of the children’s mental health needs and conditions and also accompanied her to a national Toys for Tots event.

Jones nominated for Department of Education Committee

In May, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings nominated Russell Jones, PhD, to serve on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Advisory Committee at the U.S. Department of Education. The committee will provide advice to the secretary on federal, state and local programs designed to create safe and drug-free schools, and on issues related to crisis planning.
Dr. Jones was featured in a recent article in the Virginia Tech College of Science Magazine for his role in the REACT project.

TV:
Dr. Jones had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the Recovery Efforts After Child Trauma (R.E.A.C.T.) program on WDBJ7 and WSLS in Roanoke, Virginia! He also spoke on C-SPAN about safe and drug-free schools. Dr. Jones also presented information about our fire clinic on PBS.

Radio:
Dr. Jones shared information about trauma related events (i.e. the Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina) on both local radio stations and on National Public Radio (NPR). He was also a guest on the National Bev Smith Radio Talk show to talk about the anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing and other related traumatic experiences.

Documentary:
The documentary entitled Beyond The Scars is being aired nationally on the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS).

Online:
For more information about Dr. Jones’ most recent accomplishments and the team’s progress, visit our website.
www.firetrauma.com

Virginia Fire Departments

Recovery Effort After Child Trauma
Our R.E.A.C.T. program and team are very excited about our recent developments with various fire departments in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs, the City of Roanoke Fire Department, and Tiffany Bradbury have provided us with great experiences and contacts. Members of the team have been part of Ride Alongs with the Roanoke Fire Department. We have been able to gain first hand experience with families and residential fires, as well as applying all the work we have done behind the scenes. This has also been a great method to test the applicability of our program.
Recent Presentations...


Alexander, A., Harris, K., Braun, C., Jones, R.T., Ollendick, T.H. The Relationship Between Family Cohesiveness and Problem-Focused Support Coping in Children Following A Residential Fire. Presented at the 3rd Annual Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research & Graduate Student Conference. Virginia Tech University. Blacksburg, VA. This poster was awarded 2nd place at: The 22nd Annual Graduate Student Assembly Research Symposium and Exposition


Jones, R. T. (2006). Center for acute recovery efforts (disaster, terrorism, and childhood trauma). Presented at the Circle of Excellence Retreat. Presented at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Psychology, Blacksburg, VA.


Dr. Jones on Capitol Hill

Dr. Jones was one of three speakers chosen to help inform 90 congressional staff members of Hurricane Katrina’s impact on public health. Dr. Jones discussed the significant need for mental health assistance for those still recovering from Katrina’s effects. Dr. Jones also pointed out the need to reconstruct the infrastructure by which mental health services are administered in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Harvard Katrina Community Advisory Group

Dr. Jones was selected to be a member of the Harvard Katrina Community Advisory Group. By randomly surveying 250,000 homes, this research team will locate around 2,000 of the approximately 1 million individuals whom were displaced as a result of the hurricanes. Over a period of 2 years, the team will assess these individuals’ ability to cope with the mental and physical issues and difficulties caused by the hurricanes. The team will also include aspects related to relocation and the ability to return to a normal routine.

Dr. Jones Aids with Recovery Effort After Hurricanes

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Dr. Jones was deployed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to Louisiana and Gulfport, Mississippi. Dr. Jones provided assistance to those suffering loss resulting from these natural disasters. Dr. Jones has made numerous trips to the Gulf Coast to assist in disaster relief efforts since Katrina struck last August. He led the first crisis counseling team of its kind to the hardest hit regions of Mississippi.