“We will prevail”

- Professor Nikki Giovanni
Who Are We?

Our current team is composed of 16 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students. All members are actively involved in various projects.

**Our current undergraduate students are:**
Adam Waldrop, Sarah Corregan, John Thomspn, Eric Fulcher, Sofiat Abdulrazaaq, Megan Stone, Amanda Davis, Bonnie Culpepper, Larita Mason, Mary Leonard, Meredith Grigsby, Regina Wallace, Vy Nguyen, Christie Eickhoff, Katie Usberghi, and Katie Usberghi

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

Visit our Website!!!
https://www.firetrauma.com

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Dr. Russell T. Jones, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology
Virginia Tech
Drug Free Schools/ No Child Left Behind

In May, US 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 has completed their report and provides 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. On the right is a picture of Dr. Jones presenting the report to Secretary Spellings and the Deputy Secretary as well as to Shep Kel- litan on the left.

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.
Dr. Jones is currently spearheading a project in conjunction with the Yale Child Study Center designed to treat children following residential fire. We are always looking for reports on residential fires!! If you hear of a residential fire, email Whitney Moore at whmoore@vt.edu with any information you have!! We are always looking for reports on residential fires!! If you hear of a residential fire, email Sarah Corregan at scorrega@vt.edu with any information you have!!

Where there’s smoke… there’s fire”

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.

The Psychology of Trauma
Dr. Jones has designed a new course entitled “The Psychology of Trauma.” The text used in this course is “Methods for Disaster Mental Health Research” by Fran H. Norris, Sandra Galea, Matthew J. Friedman, and Patricia J. Watson. This has been an excellent opportunity to present the science of trauma to his students.

The Child’s Reaction to Traumatic Events Scale (CRTES)
The Child’s Reaction to Traumatic Events Scale is a revision of the Horowitz Impact of Events Scale and has been modified for children. It is a self-report traumatic stress measure used to target arousal, avoidance, and intrusion symptoms in children who have been exposed to wildfire and residential fires.

LANCE After School Program
This semester a number of the team members volunteered at the LANCE after school program at Life Church in Christiansburg, Va. They helped the children with their homework as well as subjects that they were having trouble in at school. This provided the team members with a great chance to interact with some of the children in their community.
More Current Team Projects

Fire Packet

Dr. Jones and his undergraduate team have been working over the past few months on a source of information for anyone who has been involved in a fire. The book will contain information about the science of fires, fire prevention and safety, what to do when a fire occurs, and information for burn victims among many other topics. The team is very excited about this project, and hopes to have a published copy in the near future.

Disaster Preparedness Campaign

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.
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:**
Dr. Jones was included in the documentary Camp Noah and discussed the importance of disaster preparedness skills for fires, floods, and hurricanes.

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

www.firetrauma.com

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**Seniors**

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our seniors of last year. They helped us get where we are today and they are greatly missed. We want to thank them for all of their hard work, and congratulate them on their successes this year outside of Virginia Tech. 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. They are: Megan Stone, John Thompson, and Adam Waldrop.
Recent Presentations...


Recent Publications...


