

DSW STUDENT BIOS FOR WEBSITE



Jenni Bearden, LCSW, LSSW, RPT, TF-CBT®, PCIT

Jenni Bearden is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed School Social Worker (LSSW), and Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT™). She earned her Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Samford University, followed by a Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Alabama. In addition to her formal education, she holds graduate certificates in Play Therapy and School Social Work. Currently, she is pursuing a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree. Jenni is a Registered Play Therapist™, certified in Autplay Therapy, nationally certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT®) and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT). She is also a WATers (Within Agency Trainer) for PCIT. Jenni currently is a children and youth consultant for local agencies and is in private practice with Germantown Behavioral Solutions.

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Malachi 6:8



De'Anna Benson, MSW, LMSW, NSW-C

Ms. Benson obtained her BSW from the University of Louisville, and her MSW from The Ohio State University. She serves as Social Services Manager at Monogram Health. Ms. Benson has nearly 10 years of experience in working with Chronic Kidney Disease, Polychronic illness management and Oncology. She is currently a DSW student at the University of Memphis, where she focuses her research on inequities in early prevention and intervention for chronic illnesses (i.e. HIV and CKD) among POC in Tennessee.

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." - John Bunyan



Victoria Bulthuis, MSW, LCSW, LADAC II, CFSW

Mrs. Bulthuis received her Bachelor of Arts in Human Services from Southern New Hampshire University and her Master of Social Work from the University of Memphis. She currently serves as a Graduate Assistant at the University of Memphis. Mrs. Bulthuis has six years of professional service working with survivors of domestic violence, in medical social work settings, and in substance use treatment. She is currently employed at Behavioral Health Group, where she supports clients throughout their recovery journey. In addition to her clinical and academic work, Mrs. Bulthuis is a military veteran having served five years in the United States Navy as a Hospital Corpsman. She is currently a Doctor of Social Work student at the University of Memphis, with a research focus on financial literacy among undergraduate populations.

“Equipping undergraduate students with financial literacy skills supports not only economic stability, but overall well-being and continued success in higher education.”



Tiffany Burks-Sanders, LMSW

Ms. Burks-Sanders earned her Bachelor of Professional Studies in Health Services Administration and her Master of Social Work from the University of Memphis. She currently serves as the Wellness and Engagement Counselor for the UofM's Student Health and Counseling Services, where she leads campus-wide health education, prevention initiatives, and student wellbeing programming. She brings over 10 years of experience in public health, integrated behavioral health, and community wellness, with a passion for guiding individuals and communities through meaningful life transitions. She is currently a Doctor of Social Work student at the University of Memphis, focusing her research on the intersection of diabetes and mental health and the development of culturally responsive self-management approaches for African American communities.

"My purpose is to support individuals as they navigate the mental and emotional layers of chronic illness with clarity, resilience, and hope."



Tandra S. Carter-Williams, LCSW, ACM-SW

Mrs. Carter-Williams obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Memphis and her Master of Social Work from Union University in Jackson, TN. She currently works as a Behavioral Health Counselor with Ascension St. Thomas' Community Connections Team. She also owns and operates a small private practice, Carter Counseling Center, LLC. Mrs. Carter-Williams has nearly 19 years of experience in

working with children, families, and adults in various settings to include Child Welfare, Medical Social Work, Community Mental Health, Corrections, and Private Practice. She is currently a DSW student at the University of Memphis, where she focuses her research on intimate partner violence and the development of long-term, holistic wellness programs for survivors.

"Survival is not the end of healing—sustained care is where restoration begins."



Herbert Dickens, MSW

Mr. Herbert Dickens earned both his BSW and MSW from the University of Memphis and currently serves as a Juvenile Service Worker III with the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS). Since 2013, he has volunteered at Lester Community Center in the Binghampton neighborhood, demonstrating a decade-long commitment

to empowering youth and families across education, social services, and juvenile justice. Mr. Dickens is a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) student at the University of Memphis, where his research centers on African American youth impacted by the juvenile justice system and their exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). His work seeks to identify which ACEs may serve as early indicators of justice system involvement and to advocate for trauma-informed policies and prevention programs that address early adversity. His goal is to help disrupt the intergenerational cycle of trauma and incarceration through evidence-based, equity-driven reform.

"Rebellion follows rejection." -Dr. Haim G. Ginott



Kaylee Fisher, MSW, LCSW

Kaylee Fisher obtained her MSW from Simmons University and holds a clinical social work license in the state of Georgia. She serves as a Psychology Services Program Manager at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Kaylee has nearly 10 years of experience working with children, youth, and families through a combination of direct clinical care and indirect project management. Her clinical background is primarily with youth and families who have experienced trauma across a variety of settings including residential mental health, juvenile detention centers, child welfare, and community mental health. She is currently a DSW student at the University of Memphis where she focuses her research on enhancing the lived experiences of children and youth who are at increased risk of adverse outcomes, especially among those who have experienced or are at risk of traumatic exposure, with an emphasis on generating applied knowledge that will lead to the implementation of context-specific trauma-informed care that positions young people as the experts of their own lives.

"What we know matters, but who we are matters more" – Brené Brown



Dena Gill-Desbiens, LSSW, LCSW

AUT Play Therapy Provider

Dena Gill-Desbiens is currently a DSW student focusing her research on the therapeutic benefits of humor in mental health treatment for adolescent clients. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and her master’s degree in social work from the University of Memphis. Mrs. Gill-Desbiens has over 10 years of experience as a School Social Worker, working with underserved children, adolescents, and their families in both urban and rural school districts. She has served general and special education students K-12, including those who are considered most at risk. She also provides supervision to graduate students and those seeking clinical licensure by integrating research with practice-oriented instruction through guidance, support, and evaluation.

“Progress, not perfection.” -adapted from Equalizer



Caroline Gosselin, LMSW

Mrs. Gosselin obtained her Bachelor’s in Social Work from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee and her Master’s in Social Work from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She previously worked as a foster care case manager for the Department of Children’s Services and as a school-based therapist for middle school and high school students through a community based mental health center. Currently, Mrs.

Gosselin works with a group of psychologists and psychiatrists at the Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody in Knoxville to provide consultation and recommendations for complex child welfare cases. She is currently a DSW student at the University of Memphis with particular interest in understanding mental health disparities among the child welfare population.

“No society can long sustain itself unless its members have learned the sensitivities, motivations, and skills involved in assisting and caring for other human beings” -Urie Bronfenbrenner



Lauren Guetschow, LMSW

Ms. Guetschow obtained her BSW from the University of Memphis, and her MSW from Capella University. She serves as a pediatric medical social worker on the respiratory unit at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital. Ms. Guetschow has nearly 10 years of experience across the field of social work with her experience including domestic violence survivor advocacy, counseling women experiencing addiction and human trafficking, and advocating for patients and families in

pediatric medical social work She is currently a DSW student at the University of Memphis, where she focuses her research on burnout within the helping profession, and the prevention and development of clinical strategies and coping skills to combat burnout.

“Stay afraid but do it anyway. What’s important is the action. You don’t have to wait to be confident. Just do it and eventually the confidence will follow” Carrie Fisher



Mary M. Hazelwood, LMSW

Ms. Hazelwood obtained both her BSW and MSW from Middle Tennessee State University. She serves as a Forensic Social Worker at the Fourteenth Judicial District Public Defender’s Office. She first joined the office in 2020 during her BSW internship and transitioned to a full-time employee in 2022. Ms. Hazelwood has played a key role in expanding the office’s social work department and leads the agency’s Social Work Practicum, supervising interns from MTSU, UTK, and LSU. She holds certifications in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and SBIRT. Currently, she is a DSW student at the University of Memphis, where she focuses on program evaluation of social work involvement in public defense. Additionally, she is also pursuing an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Substance Abuse.

“I am dedicated to ensuring that justice includes a holistic understanding of the human experience.”



Maggie Landry, LCSW, LSSW

Margaret “Maggie” Landry is currently a DSW student focusing her research on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected field education. She previously received her bachelor’s degree in psychology and her master’s degree in social work, both from the University of Memphis. Maggie has been a faculty member with the University of Memphis School of Social Work since 2018 and has been the Specialization MSW Field Director since 2020. Maggie’s clinical background is in both early childhood behavior modification as well as DV/IPV intervention with offenders. Maggie holds both a clinical social work license and a school social work license in the state of Tennessee, holds several certificates in forensic social work, is working toward financial social work certification, and recently became a notary public.

“It always seems impossible until it’s done” -Nelson Mandela



Kim Crane Mallory, MSSW, LAPSW

Kim Crane Mallory is the Director of Field Education and an Clinical Professor of at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work, supporting Field Coordinators and students in online and face to face BSSW and MSSW programs. She began her role as a Field Coordinator in 2013 and became the Director of Field in July 2021. Ms. Mallory completed her MSSW at the University of Tennessee, where she received the Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise. Prior to her work with UTK, Ms. Mallory worked for the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies, the TN Department of Children's Services, and the Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination, where she focused on the implementation of collaborative, evidence-based programming and data driven decision making for systems improvement, particularly in the child welfare system. She is currently a DSW student with the University of Memphis, where her research is focused on eliminating barriers for social work students related to their experiential learning requirements.

“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. We will find a way to make a way out of no way.” -John Lewis



Kimberly Phillips Stovall, LCSW, MSW

Kimberly Phillips Stovall, MSW is a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) candidate and an accomplished public-sector and nonprofit leader with more than 20 years of experience in child welfare, advocacy, employee relations, and community-based services. She holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Memphis and a Bachelor of Social Work from Rust College. Kimberly currently serves as the Director of Advocacy & Community Programs for Community Intervention Memphis, where she leads program development, builds strategic partnerships, and advances initiatives that strengthen families and underserved communities. She also serves as a Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Team Leader with the Tennessee Department of Children’s Services, providing leadership for complex child protection investigations across multiple systems of care. Her work is grounded in the belief that “leadership is service, and service is transformation.” Kimberly’s research and practice focus on organizational leadership, systems change, and community-centered solutions that improve outcomes for vulnerable populations.

“Service is not what I do, it is who I am.”



Stephanie Ranson, LCSW, EMDR, CCTP, CFTP, FST

Stephanie Ranson, LCSW, EDMR, CCTP, CFTP, FST, graduated with her BSW from Boise State University, graduated with her MSW from Arizona State University, and is now attending the University of Memphis, where she is expected to graduate with the DSW in 2028. She has worked in residential treatment centers, acute hospital facilities, in home and school-based counseling, outpatient, as a school social worker and as an advocate for Domestic Violence and Victims’ rights. She has also worked with girls suffering from eating disorders. Currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for TN and NM, she owns a private practice called Healing Journey Counseling and conducts virtual therapy for all age groups as well as virtual school therapy in TN and NM. She also likes to help social workers to pass there LMSW and LCSW exams and become better social workers.

“I love helping people to better their lives and I love learning new ways to be a better social worker and clinician so I can continue to be eclectic in order to help people to improve their lives”.



Tiffany G. Thomas, LSW, LSWAIC

Mrs. Tiffany G. Thomas, LSW, LSWAIC has been working in the field of social work for over 10 years. She has given service to all underserved communities, including psychiatric facilities, jails, and rural area schools. She obtained an associate’s degree majoring in Social Work because she has always wanted to make a change in the community she is from. She quickly noticed that she needed to make a difference in the lives of many. She then obtained a BSW from Mississippi State University. After a short time, she then obtained her MSW from Louisiana State University. She is currently a student at the University of Memphis obtaining her DSW. Her goal is to assist and change as many lives as she can by being the person that listens to and overcomes obstacles together.

“2 minds + 1 purpose = Clarity and Results”



Dominique Winters-Clark, LCSW, LSSW

Mrs. Winters-Clark obtained her Bachelor of Arts from Tougaloo College and her Master of Social Work from the University of Memphis. She currently serves as a Behavioral Health Therapist with Five Horizons Health Services. Mrs. Winters-Clark has over 15 years of experience in behavioral health, working across multiple levels of care. She is currently a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) student at the University of Memphis, where her research focuses on how cumulative trauma increases the risk of incarceration for African American males. Her work is grounded in advocacy, healing, and empowerment. Her favorite quote is, “And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same.”



Takindra Worles, LCSW, LSSW, MBA, aPHR, IPGGC

Ms. Worles earned her BA in Sociology and MSW from the University of Memphis, and her MBA from Union University. She holds an Associate Professional in Human Resources (aPHR) certification and is a certified International Problem Gambling and Gaming Counselor (IPGGC). She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Work (DSW) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) at the University of Memphis. Ms. Worles serves as a Social Worker at a local clinic and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed School Social Worker with over ten years of experience delivering behavioral health services across telehealth, corrections, private practice, school-based programs, inpatient and residential care, outpatient services, and integrated primary-care systems. Known for her trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and evidence-based approach, she is driven by a commitment to developing equitable, impactful, and sustainable solutions that promote whole-person wellness and advance the future of behavioral health.

“I believe in creating systems that foster healing, equity, and whole-person wellness for every individual.”