Denver FIRST
University of Denver
Graduate School of Professional Psychology

Postdoctoral Fellowship

2019-2020
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DENVER FIRST

Founded in 2014 to serve as a regional hub for forensic mental health education, practice, and consultation, Denver Forensic Institute of Research, Service and Training (Denver FIRST) fosters community and university partnerships through a host of service learning opportunities for graduate students working with underserved forensic populations in the local community. Denver FIRST is integrated with the Masters in Forensic Psychology (MAFP) Program and the Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) Program at the University of Denver’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP), supported by core GSPP faculty under the leadership of Director Neil Gowensmith, PhD, and staffed by GSPP students. Primarily, Denver FIRST serves as a go-to setting for forensic evaluation, outpatient competency restoration, research, grants, and consultation in forensic mental health in the Denver metro area and beyond.

We are pleased to announce Denver FIRST’s fourth annual postdoctoral fellowship position at the University of Denver. The fellowship provides opportunities for forensic practice, supervision, research, and teaching. Primarily, the fellowship offers a blend of forensic evaluation practice and academic duties. As of December 2018, we are offering two fellowship positions. While the positions have considerable overlap, the second position will focus more predominantly on competency-related services (e.g., evaluation, restoration, consultation).
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

The University of Denver (DU) is a top ranked university in a thriving city at the base of the Rocky Mountains. The Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) at DU was created in 1976 to house one of the first PsyD programs in the country, under the then-new Vail training model (practitioner-scholar). The PsyD program is the nation’s second-oldest and has been continuously accredited by the American Psychological Association since 1979. GSPP provides four specialized master’s programs: sport coaching, sport and performance psychology, forensic psychology, and international disaster psychology. The School also has an exclusively affiliated, APA-accredited internship consortium and in-house service clinics. All programs provide comprehensive training for applied work within an academic environment of cooperation and collaboration that fosters critical thinking and self-determined functioning; we are committed to providing cultural competence for all our students. We use our knowledge of multiculturalism and individual differences to make our program as welcoming and inclusive as we can to all students, staff, and faculty.

As a professional college, GSPP is focused on high level integration of applied practice, theory, research, and scholarship. Denver FIRST adheres to the practitioner-scholar philosophy and emphasizes real-world learning and applied research endeavors. For more information about GSPP, please consult the website: www.du.edu/gspp

DENVER AREA

Recently named as the best place to live in the United States, Denver is home to a wide range of world-class museums, award-winning restaurants, trendy clubs and shopping areas, several decorated universities, and seven professional sports teams. Add to that one of the nation's largest city park systems, 650 miles of paved bike paths, and surprisingly moderate winters and you realize why Denver is the place to be.

Get enviable access to some of the best recreational activities and destinations in the world. In every season - and for every kind of outdoor enthusiast - the Rocky Mountains offer endless opportunities for fun, adventure and pure relaxation. Colorado offers:

- More than 30 world-class ski resorts
- 15 national parks, monuments and historic sites
- More than 40 state parks and countless open space recreation areas
- 300 days of sunny skies annually
- Exceptional whitewater kayaking, rafting and fly fishing
- Miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, camping, backpacking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and just plain wandering.
FELLOW SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The University of Denver is committed to enhancing the diversity of its faculty and staff and encourages applications from women, minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, and veterans. The University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Minimum Qualifications
Prior to beginning the Denver FIRST Postdoctoral Training Program in Forensic Psychology, all doctoral degree requirements must be completed, and candidates should hold a doctorate (PsyD or PhD) in clinical psychology, forensic psychology, or a closely related discipline. In addition, applicants must have completed or currently be in the process of completing an APA approved predoctoral internship. Due to the forensic nature of this fellowship, candidates must be able to pass a state and/or federal background check.

Preferred Qualifications
Candidates should be able to document a strong history of interest, training, and experience in the forensic arena. Areas of particular interest include assessment, competency evaluation and restoration, correctional psychology, research, teaching, and supervision. Prior teaching experience will be helpful but is not required.

The University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology and Denver FIRST are committed to building a diverse and inclusive educational environment. We encourage knowledge of, respect for, and development of skills to effectively engage with diverse individuals and communities. Applicants are requested to include in their cover letter information about how their knowledge and/or experience will advance this commitment.

To apply, please submit the following four items to the DU online at https://dujobs.silkroad.com/. NOTE: The online system is limited to uploading 5 files. Please combine content if necessary to get all content uploaded. Once within the job description online, please click New Resume/CV at the bottom of the page to begin application.

1) A cover letter describing your fit with this position, including a statement of professional interests, experience, and training. The University is committed to building a diverse and inclusive educational environment. Please include in your cover letter information about how you will advance this commitment through your service, teaching, and research.

2) A curriculum vitae.

3) Unofficial graduate transcript(s).

4) Syllabi of any courses you have taught (optional).

Also, please submit three letters of reference, at least one of which should be from a direct clinical supervisor in a forensic setting and one of which should be from your primary internship supervisor, to: Neil Gowensmith, Ph.D., Neil.Gowensmith@du.edu.
We are offering two fellowship positions for 2019-20. Although the positions will have substantial overlap, one position will have a general track while the other will focus more heavily on competency-related services. Please see a description of each position later in this brochure. Applicants are free to apply for either one or both positions. Your application for one position will not be viewed less favorably if you choose to apply for both positions (or if you choose to only apply for one). If you choose to apply for both positions, you will have to create two separate applications in the DU application portal (https://dujobs.silkroad.com/). However, for your second application, you need only submit your cover letter and CV. We will use your transcripts and letters of recommendation for your other application, unless you elect to have different letters sent. If you apply for both positions, please rank the two positions in your cover letter.

All materials should be received no later than January 7, 2019. If invited for an interview, applicants must supply a psychological evaluation or other assessment report (written by you and de-identified to protect client confidentiality) prior to the interview date.

We are participating in the uniform acceptance date of February 25, 2019 along with several other forensic postdoc programs. This means that we will make an offer to the candidate by February 18, 2019 and require acceptance on February 25, 2019. This uniform acceptance date is designed to allow candidates to consider multiple offers without pressure to accept one offer before another is given. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Neil Gowensmith, Director, Denver FIRST, Neil.Gowensmith@du.edu.

Several fellowships, including Denver FIRST, recognize that the process of obtaining a postdoctoral fellowship is a major undertaking that is stressful for both the programs offering positions and those making applications. In an effort to remove some of the uncertainties for all involved, Denver FIRST has agreed to the following acceptance process, adopted by several other forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowships as well:

1. Denver FIRST will extend offers to selected candidates on or before the Universal Acceptance Date (UAD).
2. Denver FIRST will immediately notify all remaining candidates once we have filled our opening for the coming postdoctoral training year, whether this occurs on or before the UAD.
3. Upon receipt of an offer, a candidate must take one of three actions:
   A. The candidate may choose to Reject the offer, in which case that candidate will be removed from the candidate list of the site that extended the offer.
   B. The candidate may choose to Accept the offer. The candidate must be aware that accepting an offer represents a verbal agreement with the program that extended the offer, and it is expected that the candidate will then immediately notify all other programs to which the candidate has applied that another offer has been accepted.
   C. The candidate may choose to Hold an offer. This option could be exercised if the candidate wishes to determine if she or he will receive an offer from one or more programs that the candidate would prefer to attend.
      1. Candidates are not permitted to hold more than one offer at a time.
2. If a candidate has held an offer and receives an offer from another site, the candidate may hold the second offer, and must immediately notify the first site that the candidate should be removed from that site’s list of candidates.

3. A candidate may hold one offer that is extended prior to the UAD no later than 10am EST on the UAD.

4. A candidate may hold one offer that is extended on the UAD for one hour, at which time the candidate must notify the program extending the offer of his or her intent to either accept or reject the offer.
EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

The 12-month (4-quarter), full-time postdoctoral fellowship position will be conducted under the auspices of Denver FIRST. Each fellow will complete a minimum of 2000 hours of training over the course of the year, with at least 500 hours (25%) of that time spent in the direct provision of professional forensic psychological services such as assessment (e.g., competency to proceed, legal sanity, violence risk, and other types of psycholegal evaluations), treatment, and consultation. Training will be supervised by a licensed psychologist, with a minimum of 2 hours of onsite, in-person supervision per week. All reports submitted to the court will be cosigned by the primary supervisor. The fellow will be formally evaluated on a semi-annual basis pursuant to a written evaluation process that outlines progress over the course of the year, including identification of strengths and limitations of each fellow’s skills as an early career forensic psychologist. The GSPP follows a practitioner/scholar model, and the fellow will be presented with numerous opportunities for both didactic and applied training, clinical work, teaching, and research.

Fellows are considered trainees and may not be paid on a fee-for-service basis. There are two positions available in 2019-20. The fellowship is a 12-month, full-time position with an expected average work week of 40-45 hours. Because the fellowship program is demanding, outside employment is strongly discouraged. Each postdoctoral fellow will be paid an estimated stipend of $48,000.00 for the 2019-2020 training year (exact salary TBA). Additional compensation and benefits in the form of health insurance, paid vacation and sick leave, and liability coverage for program-related on- and off-site activities will be provided. Given the requirement that the fellows attend the annual AP-LS Conference, leave will be provided accordingly. Limited funding may be available for professional development activities, and authorized leave time for these activities may be possible (but is not guaranteed).

The fellows will share an office and will have access to various resources from DU. Each fellow will have a computer with word processing software, access to printers, e-mail, and law and psychology databases through the university library.

Certification. Upon completion of the postdoctoral training, each fellow will receive documentation clearly delineating the year of participation in the training program.
CORE REQUIREMENTS

The goal of the fellowship is to produce psychologists with knowledge of the interaction between the law and psychology, and who are able to assume positions in a variety of settings. The fellowship emphasizes training in forensic evaluation and academia. The training program is therefore designed as an integrated experience in the practice of forensic psychology, incorporating treatment and assessment experiences, as well as research, teaching, supervision, and didactic trainings. Core didactics are provided through a structured, written curriculum with clearly defined training goals and objectives overseen by the training director. These may take the form of formal courses or a regular series of seminars. Content will include case law, ethics, and sociocultural/ethnic factors in the context of forensic assessment and treatment. Didactics will be offered in collaboration with other local postdoctoral fellowships in forensic psychology and forensic psychiatry. The requirements of the fellowship are designed to fulfill the requirements for postdoctoral psychology licensure in the state of Colorado and to satisfy Colorado statutory requirements regarding qualifications to conduct sanity and competency to proceed evaluations.

Forensic psychology encompasses a range of practice areas far broader than any single training program could address. The fellowship program at Denver FIRST emphasizes certain core competencies, while also providing for elective experiences, which are described later. It is our philosophy that a forensic psychologist can expand upon the core competencies in order to maintain a high standard of work in whatever areas are chosen for future forensic practice. For example, the ability to search for and apply case law regarding a clinical issue is broadly applicable across jurisdictions and practice areas.

The fellowship program at Denver FIRST has been formally determined to meet the criteria for the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP) five-year experience waiver (see here).

Competencies
By the end of the fellowship year, we expect our forensic fellows to have mastered the following core competencies, which align with the ABPP/ABFP foundational and functional competencies:

**Foundational Competencies**
- Relationships
- Individual and cultural diversity
- Ethical and Legal Standards
- Professionalism
- Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self Care
- Scientific Knowledge and Methods
- Interdisciplinary Systems
- Evidence-Based Practice
Functional Competencies

• Assessment
• Intervention
• Consultation
• Research and Evaluation
• Supervision
• Teaching
• Management/Administration
• Advocacy
THE TWO FELLOWSHIP POSITIONS

We are pleased to offer two fellowship positions in the 2019-20 training year: a general track position and a competency track position. The fellowship is designed to be collaborative between fellows. There will be substantial overlap between the two positions; however, each position will have different emphases that are important to understand. Applicants are encouraged to think carefully about the differences between the two positions. If an applicant chooses to apply for both positions (which is not discouraged or frowned upon), we ask that the applicant provide a ranking of the two positions in his/her cover letter with some rationale for the ranking.

Information germane to both tracks is provided on the following pages. However, a brief description of each position is provided here.

General track
The general track fellowship position is akin to a junior faculty position in our department. The general track fellow will conduct forensic evaluations across a variety of referral questions and referral sources. The fellow will also teach courses to our masters in forensic psychology students, conduct research, and may supervise masters students in their in-house clinical work. The fellow will also contribute to departmental and program duties, such as admissions committees, academic advising, departmental meetings, and the like.

Competency track
The competency track fellowship position operates as an assistant director of our in-house outpatient competency restoration program (OCRP). The competency track fellow will specialize in competency-related cases and services – overseeing much of the day-to-day operation of our OCRP. This could include supervising several master’s level clinicians in the OCRP, conducting program evaluation and outcome studies of the program, carrying some restoration cases, focusing on competency evaluations, and providing administrative expertise to the program. Essentially the fellow will be the point person for the OCRP. The fellow may also help develop juvenile restoration curriculum, trainings for attorneys and judges, present research, and manage standards for the program. The competency track fellow may also be asked to develop special competencies in specific areas of competency-related services (e.g., traumatic brain injury, cognitive remediation, etc.). The fellow may also be asked to teach courses in the department and some departmental activities.
CORE EXPERIENCES

Duties for both fellows will include a combination of clinical experiences and academic responsibilities. Current clinical service opportunities include conducting forensic mental health evaluations through Denver FIRST. Additional clinical experiences may be obtained in line with the fellow’s stated interests (i.e., work in a local correctional facility, community corrections office, treatment agency, etc.). The fellow will also supervise GSPP students at the doctoral and/or masters level in their provision of forensic services; this supervision will, in turn, be supervised by a licensed psychologist. All activities will run concurrently throughout the training year.

Academic responsibilities include teaching graduate-level forensic psychology courses, participating in research, attending and participating in didactics, and providing trainings and workshops as opportunities arise.

Toward the goal of achieving the core competencies listed above, the fellowship program provides a series of core experiences including supervised practice in forensic evaluation, didactic seminars, teaching and supervision, and research.

Forensic Evaluation
A significant portion of the fellow’s training will be devoted to conducting forensic mental health evaluations with defendants/patients under the expertise of a clinical supervisor. Training experiences will progress in a graduated fashion depending on the fellow’s knowledge of and expertise in forensic psychology. For example, a fellow may initially observe other forensic psychologists as they conduct evaluations. Subsequently, the supervisor will observe the fellow’s initial forensic interviews and offer constructive feedback. As the fellow’s skill level increases, he/she will likely require less intense supervision. In line with Colorado statute, a postdoctoral fellow may in time conduct some evaluations on their own, depending on experience and skill.

The general track fellow will conduct numerous evaluations during the course of the training year. Throughout the training year, the postdoctoral fellow will complete a minimum of 20 forensic assessments. These evaluations will most often address general mental health issues pertinent to trial, criminal responsibility / mental condition, juvenile justice-related matters (e.g., juvenile transfer / waiver evaluations, Miller resentencing evaluations), court-related capacities (e.g., Miranda-related evaluations, etc.), mitigation, immigration / asylum, and animal maltreatment. Evaluations will vary in terms of complexity and intensity; while some routine evaluations may be completed relatively quickly, Miller and juvenile transfer evaluations are likely to be more extensive and take longer to finish. The fellow may also conduct other types of evaluations as requested and assigned, depending on interest, needs, and the fellow’s skill level.

The competency track fellow will also conduct numerous competency-related evaluations during the course of the training year. An estimated number of evaluations is unknown at this time, but a likely range is between 10-20. The fellow may also conduct other types of evaluations as requested and assigned, depending on interest, needs, and the fellow’s skill level. The proportion of time devoted to evaluation is somewhat smaller relative to the general track fellow.
All evaluations include a review of available records and an interview with the defendant. Collateral interviews and psychological testing will be conducted, as needed, on a case by case basis. Each fellow can expect to gain experience with the administration, scoring, and interpretation of numerous psychological assessment instruments, especially instruments geared toward forensic practice. Fellows will integrate behavioral observations, clinical interview results, collateral information, and test interpretations into clear and concise written reports to the court. There is a strong focus during the fellowship year on acquiring the necessary skills to professionally and effectively communicate with the court. A significant amount of time in supervision is focused on the process of writing forensic reports and fine-tuning written and verbal communication skills. Successful fellowship applicants will have a demonstrated writing skills.

Forensic evaluations are available in the following two areas of the fellowship:

**Denver FIRST:** Denver FIRST will serve as the primary, and required, placement for the fellowship. Denver FIRST serves as a repository for forensic mental health expertise in Colorado. Fellows will conduct a plethora of forensic mental health evaluations through Denver FIRST, under the supervision of licensed psychologists with significant forensic evaluation experience. Fellows will conduct some of these evaluations in the Denver metro area; however, some travel will be required to facilities outside of the metro area.

**Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo (CMHI-P):** The CMHI-P is Colorado’s only state-operated inpatient hospital housing a forensic population. The hospital conducts evaluations of competency to proceed and sanity, houses persons found incompetent or legally insane, and employs a large cache of forensic evaluators throughout the state. The Denver FIRST fellow may have an opportunity to conduct inpatient CMHI-P evaluations during their training year. Denver FIRST also maintains a current contract with CMHI-P to conduct competency evaluations in the Denver area.

**Additional clinical experiences**
Although forensic evaluation will be the primary source of clinical opportunity, the fellows will be exposed to other clinical training opportunities. These experiences will round out the training year and serve to help customize the training year for the fellow.

**Outpatient Competency Restoration Program (OCRP):** A subdivision of Denver FIRST, the OCRP serves as the region’s only truly outpatient, community-based competency restoration program. Currently serving approximately 30 participants, restoration services are provided by masters’ and/or doctoral-level students under the supervision of licensed psychologists with significant competency-related experience. The competency track fellow will provide supervision on many of these cases (and will in turn receive supervision), and will also carry a small caseload of these defendants. The competency track fellow will also manage the operations of the program, communicate and coordinate with courtrooms and the state Office of Behavioral Health, conduct program evaluation and outcome-related research on the program, and provide trainings and workshops about outpatient competency restoration. The general track fellow will
have less involvement with the Denver FIRST OCRP, but may supervise some of the
competency restoration clinicians.

**Supplemental rotations:** Fellows may wish to obtain additional clinical experiences
during the fellowship. These could include clinical work (therapy and/or assessment) in
local correctional facilities, providing services in local community corrections agencies,
providing services in local treatment agencies, and the like. These experiences cannot be
guaranteed and are not required. However, we will attempt to facilitate such opportunities
at each fellow’s request.
Seminars and Educational Opportunities
Fellows are provided a host of educational opportunities throughout the training year. Primarily, the core didactic series is provided through a structured, written curriculum with clearly defined training goals and objectives overseen by the training director. Content will include case law, ethics, and sociocultural/ethnic factors in the context of forensic assessment and treatment. In addition, fellows will attend other regularly-scheduled training opportunities as well as intermittent or one-time opportunities as they arise throughout the year.

- **Didactic seminar series:** The weekly didactic seminar series is co-held with two other local forensic mental health fellowships. These include CMHI-P’s forensic psychology fellowship (headed by Dr. Thomas Gray) and the University of Colorado’s forensic psychiatry fellowship (headed by Dr. Richard Martinez). Seminars meet every Friday from 10-1pm and cover a predetermined list of topics.

- **Forensic Journal Club:** Denver FIRST co-directs a quarterly forensic journal club in conjunction with the CMHI-P and CU fellowships. The meeting is open to all forensic professionals in the community and covers a wide range of topics in law and mental health. Topics to date have included cross-cultural issues in forensics, mental capacity, adversarial allegiance, ethics, the role of compassion in forensics, and primers in various legal areas. Fellows may be asked to take the lead on determining topics and leading discussions.

- **Mock Trial:** The fellows will undergo a mock trial on a case during their seminar to assess their ability to provide expert testimony in a clear, articulate manner, consistent with ethical and practice guidelines.

- **Additional trainings:** Fellows will receive several other training opportunities, including mock trial experiences through the DU Law School, invited presentations and workshops, attendance at forensic mental health workshops hosted by Denver FIRST and/or DU, and others. Recent workshops have included an expert witness boot camp, traumatic brain injury in correctional settings, a statewide behavioral health / criminal justice summit, and the annual Colorado forensic evaluator training.

Teaching and Training
Fellows will be expected to teach courses during the fellowship year (most likely winter and spring quarters) through the GSPP. Examples of courses taught by the fellow include Ethics, Scholarly Writing, Practicum, and Forensic Assessment. The general track fellow will teach at least two courses; the competency fellow’s teaching load is unknown at this time but will not exceed the general track’s expectation. Additionally, fellows may offer consultation services and external trainings/workshops through Denver FIRST as requested.

Supervision
Each fellow will also supervise GSPP students at the doctoral and/or masters level in their provision of forensic services; this supervision will, in turn, be supervised by a licensed psychologist. The competency track fellow will supervise a larger number of students and cases.

Research
Submitting a proposal for the annual American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS; APA Division 41) conference is encouraged, and attendance at the conference is required. Participation in
research during the fellowship year is required, either by supplementing existing research agendas in the GSPP or continuing with fellows’ individual research areas.

**Typical work week / month**
In a sample work week, fellows will likely spend three days on clinical services, one day on research and teaching, and one day for didactics and supervision. This will of course vary week to week, depending on pressing duties. We strive to meet fellows’ training interests and can carve out time for additional clinical work in various settings, research, or teaching. A typical month will likely see the general track fellow completing two evaluations under supervision, conducting supervision, working on research, and preparing or actively teaching a weekly course in the GSPP. The competency track fellow will oversee the OCRP, supervise multiple students, carry a caseload of incompetent defendants in restoration, work on program evaluation / research, develop ancillary materials for the OCRP (e.g., juvenile curriculum, cognitive remediation, TBI-related interventions, etc.), and prepare or actively teach a course.

Although two evaluations per month may be a smaller amount than most fellowships average, applicants are reminded that the variety of evaluations at Denver FIRST accounts for much of this difference. The general track fellow will conduct evaluations that are lengthier and more time-intensive than more routine evaluations (juvenile transfer, sanity, *Miller*, risk assessments, *Miranda*, etc.). The general track fellow should exit the fellowship year with solid evaluation skills among these different types of evaluations. This experience is particularly helpful (and marketable) when considering future private or public practice involving forensic evaluation.

The competency track fellow will be well-prepared for positions related to competency evaluation and restoration after completing the fellowship. The fellow will be adept at conducting CST evaluations and will have developed a specialty in different targeted areas of restoration. Denver FIRST created the nation’s first OCRP housed in an academic setting and is the largest OCRP in the state of Colorado. Denver FIRST faculty are at the forefront of OCRP research and policy. As outpatient programs continue to grow, the fellow will be uniquely qualified to manage or develop these programs in other jurisdictions, or to find work as a forensic evaluator focusing on competency evaluations.

Successful fellows will be able to work autonomously. Although supervision is a consistent part of each fellow’s experience, the work of a postdoctoral fellow demands more independence and autonomy than what is found in a pre-doctoral internship program. The Denver FIRST fellowship offers a robust and complex set of training opportunities, with no set schedule or structure aside from the didactic seminar. Instead, it approximates an academic and clinical position. Therefore, time management, initiative, and organization are key.

The fellowship also demands a great deal of communication between the fellows and various professionals. Often this comes in the form of communicating regularly with attorneys. Fellows (under supervision) will set the scope of the evaluation, gather and clarify information, present findings, and potentially testify on any of the cases on which they work.
ELECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Denver FIRST provides an environment of rich clinical opportunities and a wide variety of qualified psychologists, each with areas of interest and expertise. Elective experiences may be drawn from this variety and are arranged in consultation with the Director according to the fellow’s previous experience, goals, and time demands. It should be noted that all elective experiences are subject to the requirement that the fellow be “on track” with acquiring the core competencies described above.

- **In-Service Trainings**: One of the benefits of Denver FIRST’s university setting is the quality and relevance of departmental and university trainings available to psychology staff and trainees, including the fellow. Fellows will be notified of all available opportunities during the fellowship year. Most of these trainings are eligible for psychology CE credits. Recent workshops have included:
  - **Forensic Field Guide Series**: Trainings offered during recent years included: Anatomy of a School Shooting; Gangs 101: Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs; Serial Murder: A Cold Case Review; and Forensic Investigations.
  - **Center for Professional Development**: Recent trainings have included: Innovations in Narrative Therapy; Group Counseling Skills; and Working with Transgender, Transsexual and Gender Nonconforming Clients.
  - **CMHI-P Annual Forensic Evaluator Training**: CMHI-P holds an annual training for forensic evaluators, covering topics relevant to forensic evaluation. Topics have included report writing, adversarial allegiance, reliability of evaluations, outpatient competency restoration, and analyses of ultimate opinion formation and Dusky criteria.

- **Outside Conventions and Workshops**: Fellowship faculty members will keep the fellow apprised of local, regional, national, and international conventions and workshops. These may include the fellows presenting their research projects at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) and/or the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS), in addition to campus research summits and the Colorado Psychological Association’s annual conference.
SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

The fellowship provides each trainee the required supervised experience to meet licensing regulations in most states. The requirements of the fellowship are designed to fulfill the requirements for postdoctoral psychology licensure in the state of Colorado and to satisfy Colorado statutory requirements regarding qualifications to conduct sanity and competency to proceed evaluations. The fellowship is a one-year full-time training experience. The fellowship is designed to meet the experience requirement waiver from ABFP for postdoctoral fellowships.

In order to comply with APA and state standards for supervised experience, each fellow is provided with at least the following core supervision hours:

- One hour per week of individual supervision with their primary supervisor
- At least one hour per week with another qualified supervisor

Fellows are formally evaluated at the beginning, middle, and end of each training year; supervisors are expected to review their evaluations in person with each fellow prior to submission. The evaluations of each supervisor are integrated and summarized by the Fellowship Director and discussed in person with the fellows. Written summaries of the feedback are prepared and signed by the Director and fellows. The six-month evaluation is particularly detailed and takes stock of the accomplishments in the first half of the fellowship year and the goals for the second half.

Fellows are asked to participate in the formal evaluation of the fellowship at the end of the year and are surveyed after graduation from the fellowship as part of the program’s ongoing self-study process.
FELLOWSHIP TRAINING STAFF AND FACULTY

Neil Gowensmith, Director of DENVER FIRST/Associate Professor, Ph.D. Colorado State University
Areas of Interest: Forensic assessment, forensic psychology in public mental health systems, insanity acquittees, risk assessment, stigma of forensic populations, outpatient competency restoration, identification of bias in forensic evaluation
Professional activities include: Member of the American Psychology-Law Society, American Psychological Association, and National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Forensic Division (Academic Liaison); continual consultation on forensic mental health systems
Publication areas: Forensic assessment, field reliability of forensic examiners and examinations

Apryl Alexander, Clinical Assistant Professor, Psy.D., Florida Institute of Technology
Areas of Interest: Forensic assessment, interpersonal violence and childhood maltreatment, assessment and treatment of sex offenders, risk assessment, psychopathy, trauma-informed care in institutional settings
Professional activities include: Member of the American Psychological Association; Member of the American Psychology-Law Society; Teaching, Training, and Careers Committee of the American Psychology-Law Society; Member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers
Publication areas: Childhood maltreatment and poly-victimization, trauma-informed care, adolescents with illegal sexual behavior problems

Lavita Nadkarni, Professor; Associate Dean/Director of Forensic Studies, Ph.D., Adelphi University
Areas of interest: Forensic psychological theory and practice; forensic issues involving children, adolescents, and families; domestic violence in child custody situations; competency issues; psychoanalytic psychotherapy; cross-cultural treatment; identity formation within a cultural context; entitlement; domestic violence; truancy and school violence; child custody and visitation; abuse and neglect; and asylum and refugee mental health.
Professional activities include: APA, American-Psychology Law Society, NCSPP, CPA
Publication areas: Forensic report writing, entitlement, child custody guidelines, truancy, domestic violence, education and training, and multicultural training issues.

Lynett Henderson Metzger, Clinical Associate Professor/Assistant Director of Forensic Studies, Psy.D. University of Denver, and J.D. University of Denver College of Law
Areas of Interest: Forensic Psychology, social justice, domestic violence, attachment, systems theory, student training issues and self-care; developmental differences; integration between law and psychology.
Professional activities include: American Psychological Association; American and Colorado Bar Associations.
Publications areas: Intimate violence and gender; legal publication areas: race and congressional redistricting.

Michael Karson, Professor: PhD, University of Michigan, JD, Western New England College School of Law
Areas of Interest: Forensic, clinical, and industrial assessment; theory integration; child abuse; performance theory.

Professional activities include: Diplomat in Clinical Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology; American Psychological Association; admitted in Massachusetts (inactive).

Publications areas: Personality Assessment: 16PF, early memories, MMPI-2, Rorschach; child abuse; report writing; psychotherapy.

**Kim Gorgens,** Clinical Professor, Ph.D. Southern Illinois University

Areas of Interest: Rehabilitation psychology and clinical neuropsychology, adjustment to illness & injury (both for medical patients and their families/support systems), terminal illnesses and cognitive behavioral therapies/interventions in inpatient settings. Forensic interests include the psychology of criminal behavior, neuropsychological assessment and malingering.

Professional activities include: American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) Board Certification in Rehabilitation Psychology, Board Member, Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund, State of Colorado; Registrant, National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology; Member of American Psychological Association (Division 22, Rehabilitation Psychology and Division 40, Clinical Neuropsychology), Colorado Neuropsychological Society, National Academy of Neuropsychology, CDIP, and American Association of University Women.

**Shelly Smith-Acuña,** Professor/Dean Ph.D., Loyola University of Chicago

Areas of interest: Family systems theory; integration of community, family, and individual interventions; psychotherapy process and outcome research; couples therapy; issues of culture and gender in family therapy.

Professional activities include: APA; Division of Family Psychology; and CPA. In her private practice, she specializes in couples, families, and individuals with relationship issues.

Publication areas: Process of psychotherapy with children; gifted children; training and supervision issues; couples therapy.