

Toniqua Lawrence

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EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, *The State University of New York*

Ph.D., Combined Program in Counseling Psychology and School Psychology, Counseling Psychology Concentration, Anticipated May 2026

Program Accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA)

Faculty Advisor: **Amy Reynolds, Ph.D.**

Dissertation Title: *Religious Salience as a Predicting Factor for Mental Health Outcomes, Mental Health Service Utilization and Resilience for Black College Students*

University at Buffalo, *The State University of New York*

Master's of Education, June 2024

University at Buffalo, *The State University of New York*

Bachelors of Arts in Psychology, February 2021

Summa Cum Laude

Psychology with High Distinction

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Psychology Advanced Practicum Student Intern, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) Rehab Psychology, July 2024-Present

Clinical Supervisor: **Lisa Keenan-USchold, Ph.D.**

Direct hours: Pending

- Provide 6-10 hours of individual and 1 hour of group psychotherapy weekly at a trauma hospital for a diverse clientele in both inpatient and outpatient settings, with 14 hours onsite per week.
- Leading one support group weekly with acute rehab patients.
- Presenting issues include rehabilitation, adjustment, trauma and stressor-related disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, personality disorders, grief disorders, traumatic brain injuries, and somatic disorders.
- Assessments: Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS), Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI), cont...

Psychology Advanced Practicum Student Intern, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute
October, 2023-May, 2024

Clinical Supervisors: **Victoria Carhart, Ph.D., Kathleen Shanahan, Ph.D.**

Direct Hours: 110

- Provided 6-8 hours of weekly supportive individual psychotherapy at a comprehensive cancer hospital in inpatient and outpatient settings to young adult cancer patients (20-40 years) and older adults (65-80 years) with 14 hours onsite weekly.
- Presenting issues included rehabilitation, adjustment, trauma and stressor-related disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, personality disorders, somatic disorders.
- Assessments: Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA).

Advanced Practicum Student Intern, Villa Maria College
January 2022-May 2023

Clinical Supervisor: Karen Zgoda, LMSW

Direct Hours: 155

- Utilized a brief therapy model to support an average of 4-5 students in individual psychotherapy, serving a diverse undergraduate student body including international, minority, and students with learning differences for 14 hours weekly.
- Extensively supported student outreach efforts by contributing to the coordination and presentation of wellness workshops and events.
- Facilitated a skills-based eight-week support group focused on stress management, emotion regulation, and interpersonal effectiveness for the Women's basketball team.
- Presenting issues included academic and career concerns, bereavement, mental health crises, social services, relationships, substance abuse, mood and anxiety disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests include multicultural competency in counseling, spirituality and religiosity within therapeutic interventions, and racial minority mental health. Current research projects include the impact of spirituality/religiosity on the mental health experiences of Black college students and diversity-related burnout, self-compassion, and hope among diversity professionals in higher education.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE- *University at Buffalo, The State University of New York***Graduate Research Assistant***Fall 2021-Present*

Department of Counseling, School, and Educational Psychology

Primary Investigators: **Amy Reynolds, Ph.D., Raechele Pope, Ph.D.**

- Research aims include exploring feelings of hope, burnout, and racial battle fatigue among higher education professionals doing equity, diversity, justice and inclusion work.
- Active in all aspects of the study including Institutional Review Board (IRB), survey creation, data collection and analysis, literature searches, and writing.
- Increasing research competencies in lab synthesis, data collection, and analysis.

Doctoral Research Thesis - Qualifying Paper*December 2023*

- Designed a qualitative study examining mental health experiences of six African American college students in collaboration with a primary advisor
- Recruited six participants, created surveys utilizing Qualtrics, conducted interviews, and analyzed data using a thematic analysis to demonstrate themes and connections.
 - Lawrence, T., & Reynolds, A. (2024). The impact of religiosity and spirituality on the mental health experiences of Black college students: A qualitative examination. (Revise and Resubmit)

Undergraduate Research Assistant*Spring, Fall 2020*

Department of Psychology, and Research Institute on Addictions

Faculty Mentor: **Jennifer Fillo, Ph.D.**

- Research aims included exploring social control actions of individuals looking to influence the drinking behavior of their partners.
- Compiled and analyzed literature according to developing lab measures.

- Completed one independent research project on social control and college student academics that was presented at the 2020 UCLA McNair conference.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Spring 2019

Department of School Psychology

Faculty Mentor: **Bridget O'Hier, Ph.D.**

- Lab goals included developing a measure to assess the quality of elementary schoolers writing.
- Assessed approximately 25 pieces of 1st to 3rd graders writing weekly according to measure.
- Contributed to the development of a new writing measure for the target age group.

PRESENTATIONS

Lawrence, T. (2020, July 29-31) *Parental Social Control on College Students Regarding Academics*. [Conference presentation]. UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) Virtual National McNair Conference, Zoom, Buffalo NY, United States

Lawrence T. (2024, March 26) *The Mental Health Experiences of Religious or Spiritual Black College Students: A Qualitative Examination*. [Poster presentation]. University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Student Research Symposium, Buffalo NY, United States

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Buffalo Global Shapers, Founding Member

January 2025-Present

- The Global Shapers Hub exists to empower young leaders to drive meaningful change in our community through innovation, social impact, and global connectivity. Served as founding member of the Buffalo chapter.

Vice President, CSEP Graduate Student Association

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- Responsibilities included faculty communications, planning events centered on graduate student well-being, coordinating student funding opportunities, and assisting in presidential duties.

Student Ambassador, Graduate School of Education

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- Shared graduate experience, and answered inquiries with prospective and recently accepted students contributing to recruitment and retention through online platforming, and admission campaigns.

Student Council, Dean of Students Advisory Council

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- Provided feedback and ideas regarding student life on campus to Dean's office, and gave input on student issues, protocols, and upcoming university projects.

Co-Chair, The Committee for Social Justice and Inclusion

Fall 2022- Spring 2023

- Organized, planned, and executed 7+ events, centering on diversity, equity, and inclusion for the Graduate Department of Education student body.

Writing Consultant- Center for Excellence in Writing

Spring 2022- Fall 2022

- Dedicated 4 hours weekly to graduate student writing assistance at the University's writing center. Assisted with research articles, research papers, and dissertation/thesis materials.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, RLL 199SEM- Global Perspectives *Fall 2018 - Fall 2020*

- Role responsibilities included facilitation of course presentations, exam administration, grading papers and assignments, assisting first year students with acclimation to university life, and being a point of contact between students and faculty in first semester Freshman seminar.
- Met with students individually over the course of the semester to assess academic development, course progression, and provide peer support concerning college adjustment.
- Class sizes averaged 25-29 students. Renewed for 3 Fall semesters.

Academic Tutor/Coach- Tutoring and Academic Support Services *Spring 2020*

- Assisted students with developing academic skills and understanding Psychology and Sociology.
- Met with faculty recommended students to provide academic coaching and focus on individual areas of development.

Peer Mentor- Cora P. Maloney College *Spring 2019*

- Empowered seven students in rebounding from academic probation by assisting with study skills, organization, and implementation of empirically based methods of improving a student's Grade Point Average.
- Assisted in lesson and assignment planning, as well as teaching and leading 1 class session.

Honors Peer Mentor- Honors College *Fall 2019*

- Closely monitored 2 freshman students in the honors college with college adjustment and academic planning.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE**Clinical Operations Intern, Bettermynd** *Buffalo, NY (Remote)
Summer 2023*

- Researched and created company's first telehealth best practices resource for counselors to be incorporated into company learning management system.
- Researched target audience and delivered a product proposal providing five inclusive options within the counselor-student matching algorithm to improve student chances of matching with a preferred counselor and a satisfactory counseling experience.

HONORS AND AWARDS**Western New York Prosperity Fellowship** *2021- Present*

- A scholarship and fellowship program dedicated to cultivating leaders focused on the social and economic prosperity of the Western New York Area. Renewed yearly for 4 years.
- Included a 2023 summer internship at Bettermynd, an online therapy platform for college students.
- Granted enrichment fund to be used for academic experiences. *2023, 2024*

Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship *2021-Present*

- The Arthur A. Schomburg fellowship supports high achieving doctoral students who demonstrate an ability to diversify the graduate population at the University at Buffalo. Renewed yearly for 4 years.

Three Minute Thesis Competition *2025*

- Selected as alternate to compete in the Ninth Annual Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition at the University at Buffalo.
- The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition celebrates the exciting research conducted by PhD students, in which participants are judged to effectively convey their research to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes, with one PowerPoint slide.

Psychological Association of Western New York (PAWNY) Annual Scholarship Award for Racial/Ethnic Minority Doctoral Candidates in Counseling Psychology in WNY 2023-2024

- A scholarship awarded to outstanding Racial/Ethnic Minority doctoral students to increase diversity among practicing psychologists of the local community of WNY.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence – Nominee 2021

- This award acknowledges exemplary graduating students and is the highest honor bestowed upon a SUNY student.

Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program Fall 2019- Spring 2021

- A faculty nominated national post-baccalaureate achievement program designed to prepare undergraduate scholars for graduate and doctoral studies.

University Honors Scholar Fall 2019 - Spring 2021

- The Advanced Honors Program at the University at Buffalo invites and challenges high achieving students with a rigorous and engaging curriculum.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Psychological Association of Western New York (PAWNY)	2023 - Present
American Psychological Association,	2021 - Present
Society of Counseling Psychology (Division 17)	2021 –
Present	

**References available upon request*