Gary Bruss
Program Dean
American School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University of Southern California

Education Background:
B.A. in Political Science, Ohio State University; M.A. in Clinical Psychology, Illinois State University; Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, Ohio University

Current Job Tasks:
As Program Dean, I am responsible for the management and administration of our APA (American Psychological Association) accredited Doctor of Psychology Program (Psy.D.) and our M.A. program as well. I supervise a core faculty of 11 individuals, and I also teach courses in the programs. In my private practice, I conduct psychotherapy and do psychological evaluations.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
As an academic administrator, I enjoy the collaboration with other talented academicians who are dedicated to mentoring and developing young professionals to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to function as professional psychologists. As an independent practitioner, I enjoy the challenge of working at the individual, couple or family levels to assist others in living better quality lives emotionally.

Piece of Advice:
It takes considerable dedication, time and effort to attend graduate school and to obtain a higher degree. It is important to compartmentalize each step in the process rather than getting overwhelmed by the seeming immense challenge at the front end. Graduate education is graded and sequential in nature, and taken one step at a time, is manageable. The professional and personal rewards of hard work and persistence in the long view should be lifelong.

Frances Diaz
Associate Director/Training Director
UC Irvine Counseling Center

Education Background:
I received my BA in Psychology and Social Behavior at UCI. I went on to Pepperdine University for my Masters in Clinical Psychology and then received my doctoral degree from Pepperdine University.

Current Job Tasks:
I am the Associate Director and Training Director at the Counseling Center. As the Training Director, I oversee the APA Accredited Internship Program. I work closely with the supervision and development of our doctoral level psychology interns. As the Associate Director, I provide administrative oversight for several of the psychologists on staff, assist with budget, and general functions of the center. As a licensed psychologist, I also have the exciting opportunity to provide mental health treatment to the students of this campus.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Working with people and getting to see them grow.

Piece of Advice:
Really take the time to explore your options and do your homework on the types of programs that are out there. Stay open to the possibilities that a degree in this discipline can afford you!
Duke Han

Director of Neuropsychology & Associate Professor of Family Medicine, Neurology, & Psychology
USC Keck School of Medicine

Education Background:
1998: Certificate of Neuroscience; Bachelors in Psychology, Duke University
2001: Masters, Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston
2001-2002: Neuropsychology Practicum, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Brigham Behavioral Neurology Group
2003-2004: Clinical Internship, Neuropsychology/Behavioral Medicine, UCSD Medical Center/VASDHS
2004: PhD, Clinical Psychology, University of Massachusetts Boston

Current Job Tasks:
Dr. Han is also a diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology in clinical neuropsychology (ABPP-CN). In addition to seeing patients for clinical neuropsychological assessments, he maintains an active research collaboration with the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center in Chicago. Dr. Han is interested in the study of factors that affect cognition and decision making in aging. Dr. Han is actively involved in peer review of grants for the National Institutes of Health, and has leadership or mentorship roles in the International Neuropsychological Society, the National Academy of Neuropsychology, the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, and the Society of Clinical Neuropsychology of the American Psychological Association.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
The "discovery" aspect. In medical research I love discovering a new finding for the first time and being able to tell the story behind it. In seeing patients, I love helping to figure out what medical conditions may be causing a particular set of symptoms.

Piece of Advice:
Research activity is held in very high regard in my field, even if you only want a clinical career in the end. I would encourage anyone interested in my field to get as much research experience as possible as early as possible.

---

David Harper

Senior Social Services Supervisor
Social Services Agency—Orange County; Children & Family Services

Education Background:
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Master of Arts in Counseling

Current Job Tasks:
I supervise Senior Social Workers (SSW) who manage medical cases involved with the Juvenile Court due to child abuse/neglect. I also supervise SSWs who provide special handling of our medical cases (screening, information, placement, etc.).

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
The satisfaction of knowing we are doing meaningful work.

Piece of Advice:
A Master's degree in a human services field is increasingly a "must." Critical thinking skills are required. Helping others requires endurance.