

Toni Stepter Harris, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Virginia # 0810005132
Alabama #1960

Psychology Department • Virginia State University • P.O. Box 9079 • Virginia State University • VA
•23806
(804) 937 – 4582
tsharris@vsu.edu and tstepterh@outlook.com

EDUCATION

2002 Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, **Ph.D.**, Counseling Psychology

1998 Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, **M. S.**, Counseling Psychology

1995 University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, **B. A.**, Psychology

HONORS AND AWARDS

Staff Appreciation Award, Virginia State University's Athletics Department, 2012

Community Service Award, Virginia State University's Graduate Student Association, 2010

Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Race Relations, Virginia State University, 2009

Woman in History, Radio One, 2008

Minority Research Fellow, National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education, University of Virginia, 2008

Black History in the Making, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1999

Fellow, Handbook of Multicultural Counseling Minority Scholarships, 1997

Fellow, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), Virginia Commonwealth University, 1996-2000

University Achievement Scholarship, University of Virginia, 1991-1995

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA

- *Tenured Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, 8/06 to present.*
Teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Psychology. Provide academic advising to students. Advise graduate students on thesis research. Prepare doctoral students to become instructors for undergraduate Psychology courses. Oversee graduate student teaching assistants. Supervise Developmental Research Lab overseeing graduate and undergraduate preparing undergraduate students for graduate school and overseeing student research. Train and supervise students as they create research poster and paper conference presentations. Supervise grant funding. Serve as Faculty Senate Secretary engaging university administrators, faculty senate officers, and peers on university executive and standing committees. Participate in departmental (e.g., Selection Committee; Promotion and Tenure Committee) and university committees (e.g., Curriculum and Academic Issues

Committee). Supervise partnerships with community organizations to provide service learning opportunities for students (e.g., VCU Palliative Care Unit, Richmond Social Services, Mt. Gilead Ministries, Peter Paul Community Center).

Vanguard Consulting, North Chesterfield, VA

- *Owner, Private Clinical Practice, 1/15 to present*
Provides clinical services and conducts assessments.

Evangel Christian School, Colonial Heights, VA

- *Member, Curriculum Revision Committee, 12/12 to 5/13*
Assisted elementary school with revising educational curriculum to incorporate additional mathematics, science, and critical thinking components. Obtained input from instructors and administration regarding concerns and changes.

Department of Juvenile Justice, Richmond, VA

- *Psychologist Senior, Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center & Oak Ridge Juvenile Correctional Center, 11/03-8/06*
Provided individual, group, and family psychotherapy to adolescent males in two correctional facilities (e.g., one for youth classified as having low cognitive functioning and the second for youth without cognitive delays). Conducted cognitive and personality psychological assessments. Participated in IEP reviews and interdisciplinary treatment teams. Developed treatment plans. Conducted trainings with staff. Participated in institutional review committee whereby issues such as behavior management, treatment progress, and readiness for release are addressed. Acted as consultant for psychiatrist regarding treatment planning for youth. Consulted closely with security staff and administration about treatment planning for youth. Participated in committee meetings to improve quality of care. Attended staff faculty meetings to provide appropriate feedback about youth. Provided on-call crisis services. Trained casework supervisors and counselors to facilitate the anger management program "Cage Your Rage for Juveniles." Provided therapeutic oversight for specialized administration segregation unit (ASU). Duties on ASU included daily monitoring of youth; participating in weekly interdisciplinary treatment team; individual and group psychotherapy; consulting with security staff, institutional administrators, and educators; and developing treatment plans. Provided statistical consultation to fatherhood program.

Dominion Behavioral Healthcare, Richmond, VA

- *Psychometrician, 8/02 – 5/03*
Upon request of area colleges and universities, learning disability evaluations were conducted. Typical batteries included the WAIS and Woodcock-Johnson. Upon request of parents, learning disability evaluations were conducted typically using the WISC and Woodcock-Johnson.

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

- *Project Coordinator, Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute, 8/02-10/03*
Provided oversight of leadership program serving women in higher education and faith organizations. Fostered collaborative relationships between participants from different races and religions. Marketed program and recruited participants from regional colleges, universities, churches, temples, and mosques. Developed curriculum based on four principles of Leadership Institute with a strong focus on strengthening participants' emotional intelligence competencies. Identified community

partners for group projects and supervised progress of projects. Searched for grant funding and assisted director in acquiring additional funding. Revised, distributed, and analyzed program evaluations. Presented updates to advisory board twice a year.

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

- *Clinical Psychology Intern, University Counseling Services, 8/01 – 8/02*
Provided individual, couples, and group psychotherapy to university students. Clients presented with range of concerns (e.g., anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, substance abuse, adjustment, etc.) Supervised two master's level practicum students. Conducted assessments and intakes interviews. Created treatment plans. Attended staffings of case assignments. Provided outreach services by teaching academic success seminars and consulting with residence hall directors. Provided on-call coverage and crisis intervention. A variety of training opportunities were provided via case conference, psychiatry conferences, and intern training seminars. Topics of trainings included multicultural competency, eating disorders, depression, and group therapy.

Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA

- *Therapist, University Counseling Center, 9/00 – 5/01*
Provided individual psychotherapy to university students. Clients presented with adjustment disorders, anxiety, and depression. Conducted social histories. Developed treatment plans.

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

- *Curriculum Specialist and Intervention Coordinator, Project IMPACT, 8/97 – 5/01*
Created psychoeducational workshops designed to increase problem-solving skills and reduce substance abuse and violence in children of substance abusing mothers. Created social competency workshops designed to improve social skills. Developed and supervised curriculum for multimillion dollar federal grant. Provided on-sight supervision of staff during program. Provided trainings for staff. Coordinated with local church to provide food for families.
- *Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, 8/97 – 12/00*
Taught lab component of graduate level multicultural training course in counseling psychology department. Course addressed knowledge, skills, and awareness of multicultural competence. Reviewed client characteristics that influence counseling relationships (e.g., race, age, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status). Studied theories related to culture and racial identity. Addressed students' worldviews and how worldview influences the counseling relationship. Course format largely based on discussion and experiential activities.

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

- *Research Assistant, I CAN DO Primary Prevention Program, 8/95 – 5/96*
Facilitated psychoeducational workshops designed to improve the stress and coping skills of fourth graders. Focus of workshops included topics on moving, divorce, death, and cultural differences.

EXTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED

Talley, C., Fife, J., Gambrell-Boone, L., **Harris, T.**, & Hill, O. (2016). Targeted Infusion Grant: Using evidence-based programming to inform a living-learning community. *Role:* Co-PI. **NSF Project #** HRD-1238757. *Funding Amount:* \$363,349.00

Harris, T. (2012). National Historically Black College and University Research Network for Health Services and Health Disparities Award. *Role:* P.I. *Funding Amount:* \$1,500.

Harris, T. (2012). CJW. Healthy Beginnings. *Role:* P. I. *Funding Amount:* \$2,000.

Harris, T., Johnson, K. L., & Talley, C. (2011). American Psychological Association (APA) Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs (OEMA) Promoting Psychological Research and Training on Health Disparities Issues at Ethnic Minority Serving Institutions (PRODIGs). Predictors of Obesity in a Cross Section of African Americans: A Multifaceted and Longitudinal Approach. *Role:* P.I. *Funding Amount:* \$9,000.

Harris, T. (2008). National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education, University of Virginia. *Role:* Fellow. *Funding Amount:* \$12,000.

INTERNAL GRANTS AWARDED

Harris, T.; Keen, L; & Jones, D. (2017). Using SMS as a Means to Enhance the Effectiveness of Sugar Sweetened Beverage Interventions for Urban African American Children Human Health And Nutrition. *Role:* PI. *Funding Amount:* \$85,335

Harris, T. (2011). Early Childhood Development Research Program. Research and Innovation, Virginia State University. *Role:* P. I. *Funding Amount:* \$7,000

Harris, T. (2009). African American Research Program. Institute for the Study of Race Relations, Virginia State University. Understanding Contributions of Parental Involvement on Educational Attainment in African American Students. *Role:* P.I. *Funding Amount:* \$1,000.

PUBLICATIONS

Harris, T. & Ramsey, M. (2015). Paternal modeling, household availability, and paternal intake as predictors of fruit, vegetable, and sweetened beverage consumption among African American children. *Appetite*. 85, 171-176.

Talley, C., Fife, J., **Harris, T.**, & Hill, O. (2015). Increasing achievement by strengthening resilience: An ecologically-based intervention for African American students. *The Race Controversy in American Education*.

Harris, T., Sideris, J, Serpell, Z., Burchinal, P., & Pickett, C. (2014). Domain specific cognitive stimulation and maternal sensitivity as predictors of early academic outcomes among low-income African American preschoolers. *Journal of Negro Education*, 83 (1), 15-28.

Clark, V., Greenberg, B, **Harris, T.**, & Carson, B. (2012). Body mass index and waist circumference predictors of cardiovascular risk in African American college students. *Health and Ethnicity*, 22, 162-167.

Harris, T., Graves, S., Serpell, Z., & Pearson, B. (2012). Promoting culturally competent assessment in schools. In Clauss-Ehlers, Serpell & Weist. *Handbook of Culturally Responsive School Mental Health: Advancing Research, Training, Practice, and Policy*. New York, NY: Springer Publishers.

Harris, T. & Graves, S. (2010). The influence of cultural capital transmission on reading achievement in African American fifth grade boys. *Journal of Negro Education*, 79, 447-457.

McCreary, M., Maffuid, J., and **Stepter, T.** (1996). Mobilizing family kinship networks. In R. L. Hampton, V. Senstore, and T. P. Gullota (Series Eds.), Bridging the Fields of Child Welfare and Substance Abuse: Vol. 6, Issues in Children's and Families' Lives. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES

Williams, A. & **Harris, T.** (2016). Relational and physical aggression as predictors of GPA: A study of college students. Poster presentation at the Black Psychology Conference.

Owusu, E., Davis, V., Howard, S. & **Harris, T.** (2016). *The association between family eating behaviors and African American Fruit and Vegetable Consumption*. Poster presentation at the Black Psychology Conference.

Davis, R., Long, A., Chapman, K., & **Harris, T.** (2014). *How do African American Fathers' BMIs Influence Their Feeding Practices?* Poster presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Davis, R., Taylor, T., & **Harris, T.** (2014). *Do fathers' perceptions of family mealtime predict positive feeding practices?* Poster presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Ramsey, M., Green, A., Minott, R., & **Harris, T.** (2014). *Does father sweetened beverage consumption and family encouragement predict child sweetened beverage consumption?* Poster presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Ramsey, M. & **Harris, T.** (2014). *African American fathers' feeding practices as predictors of children's consumption*. Presentation at the American Psychological Association's Annual Convention.

Harris, T. & Johnson, J. (2013). *The Relationship Between African American Fathers' Feeding Practices, Children's Adiposity, and Children's Consumption*. Presentation at the 14th Annual HBCU and HSI Health Services Research Conference.

Johnson, J. & **Harris, T.** (2013). *The Relationship Between Paternal BMI and Paternal Concern for Their Child's Weight*. Presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Davis, R., Willis, T., Johnson, J., & **Harris, T.** (2013). *Family Fruit and Vegetable Consumption*. Poster presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Johnson, J. & **Harris, T.** (2013). *The Relationship Between Paternal BMI and Paternal Concern for Their Child's Weight*. Paper presentation at the Virginia Psychological Association.

Harris, T., Johns, S., Willis, T., Rodriguez, & Davis, R. (2013). *How Do Fathers' Perceived Responsibility for Healthy Child Feeding Relate to Other Feeding Practices?* Poster presentation at the Annual Urban Child Symposium.

Harris, T., Johns, S., Green, A., Harvey, I., & Coleman, K. (2013). *Relationships between the*

Variety of Healthy Foods Offered, Paternal Modeling, and Children's Healthy Consumption. Poster presentation at the Annual Urban Child Symposium.

Harris, T., Johnson, J., Davis, R., Green, A., & Scott, D. (2013). *The Relationship between Fathers' Discussion of the Nutritional Values of Food and Children's Food Consumption.* Poster presentation at the Annual Urban Child Symposium.

Harris, T., Johns, S., Johnson, J. & Davis, R. (2013). *African American Fathers' Feeding Practices.* Paper presentation at the Annual Urban Child Symposium

Harris, T., Williams, T., Skeeter, P. & Nester, K. (2012). *How active are fifth graders after school?* Poster presentation at SRCD 2012 Themed Meeting: Positive Development of Minority Children.

Burgess, N., King, E., Nester, K., & **Harris, T.** (2011). *Do factors predict BMI differently for adolescent girls based on ethnicity?* Paper presentation at the Women and Gender Studies Conference.

Williams, T., Skeeter, P., Nester, K. & **Harris, T.** (2011). *Do after school activities predict BMI and Heart Rate differently between African American and European American boys.* Poster presentation at the Virginia Commonwealth University/Virginia State University Black Psychology Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

Brunson, B., Kanneh, M., **Harris, T.,** & Joseph, E. (2011). *The Relationship between Lifestyle Choices and BMI in African American and European American 9th Graders.* Poster presented at the Virginia Psychological Association's (VPA) Spring Conference.

Nester, K. & **Harris, T.** (2011). *Can BMI be predicted by television vision viewing time and activity levels in third, fifth, and sixth graders?* Paper presented at the Virginia Psychological Association's (VPA) Spring Conference.

Joseph, E. & **Harris, T.** (2011). *More than credentials: Exploring connections between work conditions, teacher self-efficacy, instructional practices, and student achievement.* Paper presented at the Virginia Psychological Association's Spring Conference.

Graves, S. & **Harris, T.** (2011). *Ethnic differences in social-emotional development in preschool: The impact of teacher child relationships and classroom quality.* Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting.

Harris, T. (2010). *Parenting quality's association with literacy and mathematics in lower income African American pre-school children.* Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting.

Brunson, B., Burgess, N., Joseph, E., & **Harris, T.** (2010). *The black female: Effects of classroom resources on academic achievement of 5th grade girls.* Poster presentation at the Virginia Commonwealth University/Virginia State University Black Psychology Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

Harris, T. (2010). *Building mastery oriented students through high expectations and course structure.* Workshop at the Southeastern Conference for the Teaching of Psychology.

Harris, T. & Graves, S. (2010). *The influence of cultural capital transmission on reading achievement in African American fifth grade boys.* Poster presentation at the American Psychological Association (APA).

Slaughter, G., **Harris, T.**, Ngandu, K., Williamson, K., & Adom, K. (2009). *Undergraduate research experience: A tool for students pursuing a graduate degree in engineering.* Paper presentation at the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference and Exposition.

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, & COLLOQUIA

Harris, T. (2013). *Learning is About More Than Just Going to School: Creating Lifelong Learners.* WOW Education Expo. Mt. Gilead Full Gospel International Ministry.

Harris, T. (2011). *The Psychology of Eating.* Panel Discussion entitled Superfoods: Myth or Reality? A Fun Food Debate at Virginia State University.

Harris, T. (2011). Moderator. Panel discussion at the Virginia Commonwealth University/Virginia State University Black Psychology Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

Harris, T. (2011). Roundtable Moderator. Women and Gender Studies Conference at University of Richmond.

Harris, T. (2010). *Obtaining Letters of Recommendation for Graduate School.* Workshop at Virginia Commonwealth University/Virginia State University Black Psychology Undergraduate Student Research Conference.

Harris, T. (2008). *Research Can Be Fun,* Marguerite Christian Elementary School, Colonial Heights, VA.

Harris, T. (2008). *Managing Externalizing Behaviors Through Firm & Caring Discipline Techniques,* Omega I Group Home, Petersburg, VA.

Harris, T. (2007). *Establishing Organizational Vision,* Continental Society of Richmond, Richmond, VA.

MASTERS THESES

2017	Masters Thesis Chair Victoria Davis	<i>Teacher Expectations and Practices: Do They Really Predict African American STEM Student Academic Expectancy, Value, Self-Handicapping and Course Grades?</i>
2016	Masters Thesis Chair Margaret White	<i>Supermarket Availability, Fast Food Restaurant Proximity, & Black Television Viewing as Predictors of Unhealthy Food Consumption Among African American College Students</i>
2014	Masters Thesis Chair Jennifer Johnson	<i>Paternal Predictors of African American Youths' Fruit and Vegetable Consumption</i>

2013	Masters Thesis Chair	Chloe Pickett	<i>The Relationship between BMI and Relational Aggression in African American Female Fifth Graders</i>
2012	Masters Thesis Chair	Katherine Nester	<i>Does Television Exposure Increase Preschoolers' Susceptibility to Advertising Tactics?</i>
2011	Masters Thesis Chair	Emilie Joseph	<i>More Than Credentials: Exploring Connections Between Work Conditions, Teacher Self-efficacy, Instructional Practices, and Student Achievement</i>
2010	Masters Thesis Chair	Ashley Card	<i>Does Relationship Quality and Parental Substance Use Affect Adolescent Substance Use: An Examination within the Substance Use Initiation Period</i>
2010	Masters Thesis Chair	Erin Lawrence	<i>The Ability of Neighborhood Characteristics and Parental Involvement to Predict Academic Achievement Among Adolescents</i>
2009	Masters Thesis Chair	Mechelle Owens	<i>The Effects of Parental Marital Status and Gender on Offsprings' Attitudes Toward Marriage and Cohabitation</i>

COURSES

Human Growth and Development

Obesity in Childhood

Developmental Psychology

Introduction to Psychology

Teaching of Psychology

Psychotherapy I: Counseling Theories

Psychopathology of Childhood

Experimental Psychology Lab