

Center for Youth Development and Intervention (CYDI)

FALL 2019



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Sara McDaniel

Dr. Sara McDaniel is an associate professor in the Special Education and Abilities department of the College of Education and an affiliated faculty member of the CYDI.

What do you study? I study systems and interventions that improve outcomes for all students, particularly in improving behavioral, social, and emotional outcomes. The intervention work I engage in centers in schools and applies to classroom teachers and administrators (and sometimes bus drivers and school resource officers), as well as students and their caregivers.

What do you like best about Alabama? I love being a few hours from the mountains and a few hours from the beach. I grew up in a landlocked, flat state so the proximity to outdoor activities is great.

What do you like to do in your free time? We have three children, Holden (8), Isla (6), and Silas (3) so most of my free time is spent in adventures with them. We like the outdoors and traveling the most.



CYDI News

Since last spring, we...

- Wrapped up another Tacking Teenage group with a delicious pizza party!
- Cheered on another SENSE cast (see left) as they performed “The Year of the Ladybug”.
- Welcomed faculty member **Dr. Caitlin Hudac**, post-doctoral fellow **Dr. Eric Goodcase**, and graduate students **Brandon McCormick**, **Josh Golt**, and **Rebecca Revilla** to the CYDI family!
- Said goodbye to **Drs. Allie Nancarrow** and **Leah Efferson** who graduated from UA and continued on to exciting new adventures!



We're actively recruiting for these CYDI studies:

Teens & Social Anxiety

We are studying how teens with social anxiety respond to social stimuli using a variety of eye tracking tasks, computerized task, and questionnaires and interviews.

At least one parent must participate in the study with their child. Parents will receive a payment of \$35 after completion of the study.

Criteria for inclusion:

- Ages 12-16 years old
- Concerns about social relationships (social anxiety)
- Free of learning disorders

SENSE Theatre

We are studying the effects of two group interventions developed for youth with ASD. Participants will be randomly assigned to 1 of 2 treatments:

- An intervention targeting social skills using musical theatre techniques
- An education program teaching psychological, social, and sexual development

Criteria for inclusion:

- Ages 10-16 years old
- Suspected or confirmed ASD diagnosis

EASE Intervention

We are studying the effects of an intervention developed to help individuals with ASD manage difficult emotions. Participants will be randomly assigned to either:

- A mindfulness-based intervention
- A supportive therapy intervention

Criteria for inclusion:

- Ages 12-21 years old
- Suspected or confirmed ASD diagnosis
- Difficulty managing emotions

For more information any of the CYDI studies, please contact Dr. Nicole Powell by email (npowell@ua.edu) or by phone (205-348-3535)!

Community Corner

Like us on Facebook (@uacydi) to hear about all our events!

Alabama Symphony Orchestra Sensory Friendly Concert

9/22 @ 3:00PM | UAB's Alys Stephen Center

For info: www.alabamasymphony.org/event/stars

UA Regional Autism Network Education Workshop

11/14 at 10am | Tuscaloosa Public Library Main Branch

For info: Email UA-RAN at ua-ran@ua.edu

Parents' Night Out

Date TBA | CYDI

For info: Email Shane Jones at jones178@ua.edu

Contact Us!



Website: <http://cydi.ua.edu>

Facebook: @uacydi

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In the spirit of promoting strong relationships between UA and the community and improving healthcare for children in Tuscaloosa, the students and faculty of CYDI are providing professional development workshops in the local schools on a variety of topics including Down Syndrome, ADHD, and Autism this fall.

If you would like in-services or workshops for your agency or community, just contact us!