

## Workshop Participants 2021 (alphabetical order by last name)



Salman S. Ahmad. Salman is a third-year clinical psychology Ph.D. student at the University of Miami. He is half Indian, half Pakistani, was born in Boston, and grew up in Saudi Arabia. Under the mentorship of Dr. Amy Weisman de Mamani, Salman has been providing spiritually integrated, culturally informed therapy (CIT) at a local church and on campus, and he aims to assess the delivery of CIT among Muslims in South Florida. He is also working with Dr. Gail Ironson. With his mentors, Salman intends to study how religious/spiritual beliefs and practices may help individuals cope with mental health difficulties, and conversely, how they may facilitate harm. Salman hopes to address low global mental health literacy and care by bridging the gap between psychology and religion/spirituality. His website is [www.ssa.one](http://www.ssa.one).



Chaplain Constance G. Arthur, M.Div. Constance earned her BS from Temple University. Studied through the Boston Theological Institute. Received Masters of Divinity from Boston

University School of Theology. Completed the National Capital Semester for Seminarians through Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. She studied with Harvard Divinity School's Executive Education Program, "Religious Recourses for Living Through Crisis", 2020. She is a Board Certified Chaplain at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Dublin Georgia. She is a certified member of the first cohort of the VA and DOD Mental Health Integration with Chaplain Service program. In Dublin she has established the Chaplain Service Mental Health Outpatient Clinic which provides pastoral care and counseling to Veterans with PTSD and Moral Injury. She has accepted the medical center's director appointment as LGBT Veteran Care Coordinator. Serves on Programming Committee for the first National virtual Veterans Administration LGBT Pride for June 2021.



Adeel Ahmed Baloch, Ph.D. I am Assistant Professor at Department of Management Sciences, University of Turbat, Pakistan. I earned my doctorate in the field of Organizational Behavior and Development from School of Management, Universiti Sains Malaysia. In my previous researches, I studied spiritual values, Islamic work ethic, organizational behavior and human resource practices. However, in recent times my scholarly interest is developed in spirituality, religion and its relationship with health outcomes. This interest is more established during the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, I am interested to study frontline healthcare workers roles, perceptions and behaviors in the response to the pandemic crisis. In this connection would like to further explore the area of spirituality, religion and health and know its significance in a cross-cultural context.



Saúl Barceló, Ph.D. Saul is the Director of the Center for Whole Person Care and an assistant professor of the School of Religion at Loma Linda University. Previously he worked as a Chaplain in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Saúl learned the significance of spirituality in healthcare during his ten years caring for patients, families and staff. He is hoping to do research in the intersection of spirituality and culture in healthcare. At the same time, he wants to train and empower healthcare professionals to incorporate spirituality in their practice. His education consists of an M.A. in Clinical Ministries from Loma Linda University, an M.A. and a PhD in Ethics from Claremont School of Theology.



Augustine Cassis Obeng Boateng, BS, MPH. Cassis is a Hillman Scholar in Nursing Innovation at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. He is interested in the intersection between mental health, addiction, trauma, and spirituality across the lifespan. Specifically, he wants to

know the role of spirituality in building resilience among African American families traumatized by community violence in West Philadelphia, and the neural correlates by which spirituality is expressed. To that end, his work aims at informing nursing education and training the next generation of nurses to become culturally competent in offering spiritual care. He uses geospatial analysis to understand people and places, and how specific neighborhood factors might contribute to mental health and spirituality.



Katharine C. Britt, Ph.D. candidate. Kat is currently a 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student at The University of Texas at Austin in the School of Nursing and concurrently finishing her MSN in Informatics, Quality, and Safety from the University of Texas at Tyler. A Psychology/Mental Health Jonas Scholar 2021-2023, Kat has worked as a graduate research assistant conducting interdisciplinary research with older adults for several UT professors over the last two years. Prior to graduate school, Kat accrued eight years of nursing experience in Dell Children's PICU, Dell Children's Medical Group Pediatric Rheumatology and Nephrology clinics, and in care management with older adults. Her dissertation focuses on religious coping on mental and physical health amongst adults at high risk for and with dementia.



Jonathan Butler, Ph.D. Jonathan is a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He earned his Master's of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He pursued his postdoctoral work in the Center for the Study of Adversity and Cardiovascular Disease (NURTURE Center) in the Department of Medicine, Cardiology Division at UCSF. He is social epidemiologist, and a minister with interests in the role of religion, childhood experiences and adversity (psychological stress) on cardiovascular health. His research focuses on the study of adversity, which remains a relatively untapped domain of research that interweaves molecular/genetic biomarker science, and the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) with the evaluation of various types of adversity to address evidentiary gaps in CVD onset, progression and outcome.



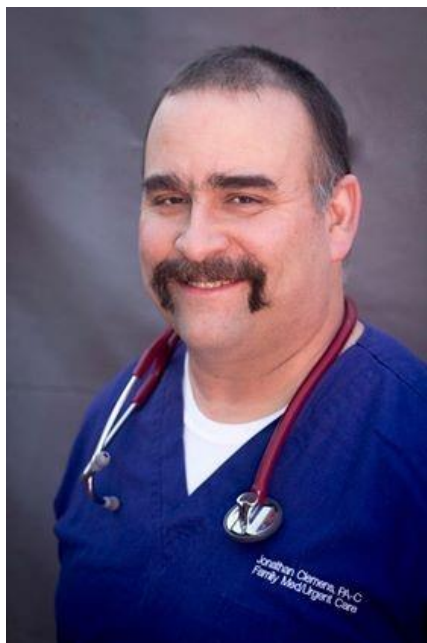
Fides del Castillo, Ph.D. Fides is the chairperson and a research fellow of the Theology and Religious Education Department at De La Salle University-Manila. She finished her doctorate at the same university and currently taking the Adult Faith Formation program at Fordham



University. Fides is an author of several religious and values education books. She received Emerging Scholar Award from Common Ground Research Network at Washington, DC, and the Global Minds Visiting Expert Grant from KU Leuven. She recently published research articles on Health, Spirituality, Covid-19: Themes and Insights at the Journal of Public Health, and Validation of the Interreligious Forms of the Centrality of Religiosity Scale at Religions Journal. Her research interest is Christianity, empirical theology, religion, and spirituality.

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Master Sergeant Christopher Chamberlain serves as the Superintendent of Religious Affairs at an Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) unit at Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. Sergeant Chamberlain ensures resource management in support of spiritual care and religious observances. He provides crisis intervention counseling and aligns with Chaplains and mental health providers during crisis response, managing spiritual care and support to victims during emergencies and major accidents. Master Sergeant Chamberlain is a native of Canton, Ohio and enlisted into the Air Force in January 2010, as an Aviation Resource Manager. He cross-trained into the Religious Affairs career field in November of 2015 and has deployed in support of three military operations. Prior to his current position he served at Hanscom Air Force Base (AFB), Massachusetts.



Jonathan Clemens MS, ThM, PA-C. Jonathan is a Physician Assistant practicing in the Olympia, Washington area since 2012. Originally from Alaska, he moved to Seattle for seminary studies in 1993, then resumed his IT career until admission into PA school at Pacific University in Oregon. After completing his MDiv in 1996 from Pepperdine, Jonathan worked in lay ministry and fire service chaplaincy. Since PA School, he has worked in family, occupational, sleep, pain, and eating disorders medicine over the past 9 years. Jonathan recently finished his ThM from Western Seminary and is beginning a Doctorate of Medical Sciences from A.T. Still University, intending to research the relationship of spirituality to eating disorders treatment.



Stephen Cloer, D.Min. Commander Stephen L. Cloer enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1994, served six years and then transferred to church ministry. He attended Columbia International University completing his bachelor's degree in Bible (2001) and his Masters of Divinity in Educational Ministries (2005). He was commissioned in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps in 2006. He completed his Doctor of Ministry Degree (2021) at Erskine Theological Seminary in religion in culture. He currently serves as the Resiliency Branch Head for the Human Performance Branch at Quantico, Va. He is responsible for leading efforts to develop evidence based, integrated means for building and maintaining resiliency through focus on the development of the mental, social, and spiritual components of Marine fitness. Research interest: Resiliency best practices required for a successful first term Marine.



Sterling H. Courtney. I graduated from UCF in 1985 with a B.S. in Clinical Science. I've been with Orlando Health and Advent Health for more than thirty years and have worked 'per diem' in thirteen or so other facilities. Immediately following graduation in 1985, I continued to study

exercise physiology and wellness. Without completing the master's program, I began a family. With the children grown, I reentered the University, with luck, much wiser. With an interest in Ethics, I'm completing a Certificate in Theoretical & Applied Ethics, with hopes to find a full degree opportunity. With the confluence of epistemology and several philosophical theories I have been drawn to a path of justification of faith. Depending on William James & pragmatism, as well as decision theory with "Pascal's Wager", I have been pursuing "*The BIG Question*" before empirical evidence of health benefits from faith... The process of *Faith and Spirituality*. As an employee of Advent Health, I would like to find a niche in Mission Integration, possibly to help nurture the culture of faith-based healthcare.



Khalid Elzamzamy, M.D., M.A. Khalid is a child and adolescent psychiatry fellow at the Institute of Living, Connecticut, USA. He completed his psychiatry residency training at Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar. He holds a master's degree in Islamic Studies with a concentration in applied Islamic ethics from Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar. Dr. Elzamzamy serves as a researcher with the Family and Youth Institute and Khalil Center, USA. He also serves as a Trainee Editor with the British Journal of Psychiatry International. His research interests lie at the intersection between mental health, Islam, spirituality, and ethics.





Fayron Epps, Ph.D., R.N. Dr. Epps is an Assistant Professor at Emory University, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Dr. Epps has been a nurse for over 20 years and served in many clinical and leadership roles in the hospital setting. She received her BSN from Tuskegee University, MSN from Loyola University New Orleans, and a PhD in Nursing from Southern University and A & M College. Dr. Epps works closely with an interdisciplinary team to promote quality of life for African American families facing dementia through self-care and meaningful activities. Dr. Epps is the founder of Alter, the only nurse-led dementia-friendly initiative to support African American congregations. Dr. Epps oversees several faith-based research related projects and is an active member in several local, regional, and national organizations.



(on the R with Al Gore in the middle)

Vivian Fulk. My thesis for completion of a Master of Arts in Wisdom Studies with Ubiquity University is researching the existential threat of climate change and its impact on children. My day job is as a subject matter expert software process engineer currently under contract with NIH/National Cancer Institute/Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics as a Clarity

project financial management expert. I am an inaugural member of NIH's Religion, Spirituality, and Health Scientific Interest Group where I discovered this program. I have a BS in Computer Information Systems from High Point College, studied Industrial Engineering at NCA&T, and completed classes in 1992 enrolled in Duke's Master of Liberal Studies. I am a Climate Sacred Activist engaged in Interfaith Ministries.

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Chaplain (CPT) Damien Gipson, USAF AFSOC 352 SOW/HC. Chaplain Gipson is assigned to the 352d Special Operations Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom. He is responsible for advising leadership, ensuring the free exercise of religion, and planning, organizing, and implementing human performance for the more than 1,200 active-duty and civilian Airmen performing missions on MC-130J Commando II and CV-22B Osprey aircraft for U.S. Air Force Special Operations in the U.S. European Command. Chaplain Gipson began his career as an Air Force Satellite communications journeyman. His assignments have included Keesler Air Force Base, Incirlik Air Base, Kester Air Station, Flobecq, Belgium and Warner Robins Air Force Base. He separated from the Air Force to attend Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary to fulfill a commitment to pastoral ministry. During this time he studied Clinical Pastoral Education and later completed a fifteen month residency at a Level II Trauma Center utilizing his experience as a trained trauma advisor to offer practical and spiritual support. In addition he served as a hospice chaplain and associate pastor in Atlanta, GA. His area of research interest is moral injury and spiritual health in the military community.



Erik Gjesfjeld, Ph.D. I currently serve as a Program Officer in Human Sciences at the John Templeton Foundation. In this role, I help lead a global portfolio of philanthropic initiatives within the social, behavioral, cognitive, and health sciences. More specifically, I help develop and manage projects within the Dynamics of Religious Change and the Health, Religion, &

Spirituality strategic priorities. I began at the John Templeton Foundation after serving as a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge. Prior to this, I was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Institute for Society and Genetics at UCLA and received my PhD from the University of Washington in Anthropology. Broadly speaking, my academic research focuses on the resilience of communities, the application of quantitative methods, and the patterns and processes of cultural evolution.



Chaplain Maj Mathew M. (Matt) Hamrick. I served for seven years in the local church and have been an active-duty Army Chaplain for the past fifteen years. I currently serve on the Army Chief of Chaplains staff in the area of strategic initiatives. I have served in many different types of units in the Army: basic combat training, armored cavalry, military intelligence, combat aviation, field artillery, and garrison family life. I am currently working on a Doctor of Ministry degree in Military Chaplaincy through Wesley Theological Seminary. I have a BA (Religious Studies) and MDiv from Gardner-Webb University, and a MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from Texas A&M University-Central Texas. I have been married for 22 years and have five children.



Eboni E. Haynes, Ph.D., MBA. Dr. Haynes is an assistant professor of public health at Georgia College & State University. She is also the CEO of The Mahogany Group, a public health consulting firm in the Atlanta metropolitan area. She holds a BS in Biology, MS in Public Health, MBA, and PhD in Health Services Policy & Management. Dr. Haynes has managed programs funded by the CDC and NIH, coordinated research efforts with university partners, and provided technical assistance to community organizations; federal and state agencies; and municipal, business, and K-12 school leaders. Her published research includes studies on adverse childhood experiences, social networking for community health, and rural healthcare provider education. She is interested in exploring religion as a social determinant of health and how faith communities assess and help address members' health needs.



Katherine K. Henderson, MRP, M.Div. Ms. Henderson originated the role of Chaplain at the Duke Outpatient Clinic, a hospital-based clinic in Durham, NC that provides adult primary care to underserved patient populations. She attended seminary mid-career after studying biology (NYU) and urban planning (UNC-Chapel Hill) and working for a decade as a consultant on sustainable development and transit projects. Ms. Henderson completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education at Duke University Hospital and the Durham VA while earning her Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary with a concentration in Chaplaincy Studies. At the Duke Outpatient Clinic, Ms. Henderson is part of an interdisciplinary team that is researching patient, family and staff knowledge about chaplains' training and roles in relation to their desire for spiritual care services.





Regina D. Jemison, J.D., M.Div., B.B.A. is a bi-vocational Christian minister and attorney. She has researched, practiced and taught legal instruction and personal transformation development since 1993. She currently serves as an Associate Minister at Third New Hope Baptist Church and Dir. of Admin. & Academic Affairs at Heritage Center for Religious Studies. Having served people in crisis for 28 years as a lawyer and 17 years as a certified life coach, her research interest is the impact of sacred connections that assist people in recovering from trauma. She obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan, Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School, and Master of Divinity from Ecumenical Theological Seminary.

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Nicole H. McConico, Ph.D. student. Nicole is currently a second-year doctoral candidate in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University within the Mental Health division. Nicole received a B.A. in Sociology from Howard University, a J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law, and a M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in Prevention Science and Practice. She has spent her career advocating for children and families in various roles in direct services, legal services, public administration, and research. Nicole's current research interests concern the intersection of religion/spirituality and mental health.



Minal Mosca, R.Ph. Minal is a Registered Pharmacist in the state of New Jersey. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Rutgers University in 1998. She began her career as a medical researcher and writer in oncology supportive care. She has worked as a pharmacist for the past 23 years and enjoys interacting with patients and providing them invaluable information on the risks vs. benefits of medications. She converted to Catholicism as an adult and is interested in the role of spirituality in healing. She would like to explore career pathways in this evolving field. Minal is married to Patrick, her husband of 20 years, and they have four children together. She is also attending the workshop to support her son Luke's growing interest in medicine and psychiatry.



Luke P. Mosca. Luke is a rising junior and Aquinas Scholar at Paramus Catholic High School in New Jersey. He has been passionate about both medicine and theology since he was a young child. He has participated in multiple activities to support his interests in these two fields. Most recently, he took a neuroscience course at Columbia University and became intrigued by the

complexity of the brain. He hopes to attend medical school and pursue a career as a psychiatrist. He is interested in neuroscience research and recently completed an analysis of candidate genes for multiple sclerosis using an integrative genomics approach. By attending the workshop, he seeks to learn more about the crucial link between spirituality and mental wellness, and explore potential areas that can be examined through a research project.



Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, MS, MSW, BCC, LMSW. I am a chaplain and doctoral student in Social Work at Capella University. My background is that I'm a retired U.S. Army Lt. Col., and currently am president and sole proprietor of Universal Counseling and Training Services, LLC. My research involves testing the efficacy of spirituality as a prominent resource in improving health outcomes at a major hospital in San Diego, CA. This research will involve an appreciative inquiry approach implemented through an action research qualitative study. I will be studying hospital social workers and hospital chaplains in their use of spirituality to improve health outcomes. The data source will come from information acquired from these two professional groups at the hospital's mental health/substance and palliative/hospice units.



Akivah Dixon Northern, DSci., M.Div. Akivah is a Chaplain who has cared for patients and their families in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and hospices. Currently, Akivah is a doctoral candidate completing her final year at Loma Linda University. Akivah's doctoral concentration is in Clinical Ministries. Her dissertation is a phenomenological exploration of the lived experiences of medical students during COVID-19 at Stanford University School of Medicine. Akivah holds a Masters of Divinity from Yale University and is also an alumnus of Howard University School of Medicine, where she completed two years of medical education. Akivah's heart was overjoyed in 2018 when she received the Wil Alexander Award from the Loma Linda School of Religion to exemplify the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ. Akivah was ordained an elder at Grace Community in Santa Barbara, California, where she lives. Her late husband, Babatunde Folayemi, was the first African American elected to the Santa Barbara City Council in 250 years. Akivah is also the mother of Cinque Northern, an awarding-winning documentary filmmaker.



Annemarie E. Oberholzer, RN, DCur. After completing a master's degree in Intensive Nursing Science, Annemarie worked for several years in a Paediatric ICU before being appointed as Child Support Coordinator, focusing on the psycho-social support of children in hospital. She developed a model for the facilitation of support in order to empower children in healthcare as

part of her doctorate in Professional Nursing Science, and was then awarded a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in the discipline Christian Spirituality, where her research focussed on the spiritual care and support of children in healthcare. She is currently a research fellow at UNISA in the interdisciplinary field of Spirituality and Health, and an advocate for the psychosocial- and spiritual support of children in healthcare through the PEProgram. Her current interests include exploring the link between physical, emotional, and spiritual pain in children.

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Hayoung Oh. I am currently a 2nd-year MPH candidate at the University of Michigan. This past summer, I have had the opportunity to intern as a fellow at the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University. I have also spent the last year working as a research assistant at the Center for the Assessment of Tobacco Research, analyzing how different tobacco marketing strategies affect cessation/initiation of tobacco use. Overall, I'm interested in how religion interacts with a variety of different factors such as community resilience, substance abuse, and adverse childhood experiences. In terms of study methods, I am particularly interested in mixed methods along with ethnographic studies.



Sofia Pauca. Sofia is a recent graduate from Princeton University, majoring in Religion as a pre-medical student. Currently, she is taking a gap year while applying to medical school and is living in Winston-Salem, NC, helping to care for her younger brother with developmental disabilities. This year, she is aiming to publish a portion of her senior thesis, advised by Professor Elaine Pagels, in which she interviewed families of children previously hospitalized in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, as well as physicians, nurses, and chaplains. In the thesis, she argues that families' religious perspectives on God's will and miracles should not be dismissed as a misunderstanding of the medical situation but rather seen as a framework that profoundly impacts how they perceive their child's illness. She hopes to continue research in the field of religion and medicine in medical school and beyond.





Rev. Amy Petré-Hill, J.D. Amy has served people living with mental illness and neurodiversity for over twenty years. She pursued a career as a disability rights attorney after graduating from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law, interning in the San Francisco Public Defenders Mental Health Unit, and then serving as the first Learning Disabilities Association Fellow at Disabilities Rights Advocates. She answered a call to ministry later in life, graduating from Iliff School of Theology with an M.Div. in 2016, becoming ordained by the United Church of Christ as its first congregation-based mental health minister. After completing two units of Clinical Pastoral Education in Colorado psychiatric hospitals, Amy was selected as the 2020-21 LEND Spiritual Care Fellow at the University of Colorado Medical School's JFK Partners Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). She recently launched Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries: an interfaith community chaplaincy focused on ensuring people living with mental health challenges and neurodevelopmental differences experience radical belonging in faith communities of their choice. Amy serves as the UCC Mental Health Network's board chair, offers interfaith spiritual support groups at the Aurora Mental Health Center, and volunteers with NAMI Colorado and the Voices for Veterans Mental Health Council of Eastern Colorado. Amy hopes to build upon her LEND Fellowship research assessing and addressing the spiritual needs of adults living with significant mental illness and/or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within community settings.

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Chaplain, Captain Christopher Pokorny serves as a Unit Chaplain at an Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) unit at Pope Army Airfield, North Carolina. He holds advanced degrees from Nashotah House Theological Seminary and Arizona State University's School of Social Work. Most recently, he interned with ASU's Global Center for Applied Health Research under Flavio Marsiglia, PhD, exploring the efficacy and feasibility of evidence-based spiritual care interventions applied to military service members. Prior to his current position, Chaplain Pokorny served as the Unit Chaplain to the 26th Special Tactics Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico.



Diana Rayes, PhD candidate. Diana is a Syrian-American PhD candidate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Department of International Health) where she is researching the impact of conflict and displacement on refugee and migrant health, including faith-based approaches to improving mental health service access for recently resettled Syrian refugee populations. In addition to completing a Fulbright research fellowship in Germany (2018-19) with the Charite University of Medicine looking at faith-based coping among Arabic-speaking refugee populations seeking mental health services, Diana is a former Non-Resident Fellow with the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy and has previous affiliations with the World Health Organization, the Syrian American Medical Society, the Lancet Commission on Syria working on the humanitarian response in Syria.



Beth K. Schwartz, RN, MSN, PHN, MAT. Beth is a public health nurse, Christian feminist researcher and theologian. She is a nursing professor who teaches public health nursing students

at UCLA, USF and Azusa Pacific University. Beth has a MS in Public Health Nursing Education and a MA in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. She is currently a PhD student at Azusa Pacific University where she is researching the effects of adverse religious experiences on the female body, mind and spirit. She recently stepped of staff as the Women's Pastor at Saddleback Church where she led women globally by teaching trauma informed holistic healthcare. She desires to create a new nursing theoretical framework that is trauma informed and will impact nursing practice around the globe.



Arshiya Siddiqui, MSW, LCSWA. Arshiya is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate practicing in the Raleigh area. She graduated with a Master's in Social Work from North Carolina State University. She enjoys interacting with her clients and strives to understand and overcome any cultural barriers that may exist between the client and therapist. Arshiya is the co-Chair for the Health and Wellness team at the Islamic Association of Raleigh. She helps to connect people who are struggling with mental health issues to professionals and religious leaders so they can receive timely help. She encourages combining spirituality with mental health to promote the holistic wellbeing of a person. On an academic level, Arshiya intends to participate in research opportunities concerning spirituality and mental health, especially in refugee populations. She is currently part of an interfaith group effort to disseminate a handbook as well as to conduct online training for medical professionals, social workers, mental health professionals, and graduate and professional students who are committed to serving the spiritual needs of resettled families in North Carolina.



Isra Siddiqui. Isra is a third-year undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at North Carolina State University. She is an advocate for racial equity and stands against health disparities in marginalized communities. She is currently an intern at Urban Ministries of Wake County, a non-profit organization serving and treating adults without health insurance. She aspires to be a physician in the future to help mimic the work she is currently passionate about. She uses her own spirituality to empathize and connect with people to understand their struggles. Isra hopes to engage in research that highlights the connection between spirituality and psychology.



Andrea St. Hilaire, M.Ed. Andrea is a PhD student at the University of Glasgow, where she researches terminally ill adolescents' self-identity and connectedness in the process of dying, along with pediatric "total pain" in the final chapter of life. After completing undergraduate studies at Mt. Holyoke College, she created Halcyon, a bucolic operation in central North Carolina for equine, animal, and nature immersion. With a focus on military families and civilians processing change, grief, dying, and trauma, Halcyon guides in navigating the human experience.



Sarah Strauss, M.S.W. candidate. Sarah is a second-year Master of Social Work student at the University of Wisconsin aspiring to become a mental health practitioner and researcher whose work focuses on the intersection of spirituality and mental health. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and certificates in Spiritual Competency in Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Sarah has worked with a non-profit assisting women with substance use disorders, Comprehensive Community Services, and Promoting Recovery From Onset of Psychosis (PROPS), a Coordinated Specialty Care recovery-oriented, evidenced based program for teens and young adults who have experienced their first episode psychosis (FEP). Some current areas of research interest are the impacts of religious trauma and faith transitions on mental health, the effect of spiritual beliefs and practices on depression and anxiety in young adults, philosophy of mind, existentialism, and how religious experiences influence mental health diagnoses. She plans to obtain a PhD in Social Work or Social Welfare.





Chaplain (CPT) Dawn Taylor, U.S. Army, D.Min. candidate. I was commissioned as a U.S. Army chaplain in 2016. Prior to becoming a chaplain, I served as a full-time minister of music and associate pastor in Virginia for thirteen years. I am currently assigned to Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, NC. My academic training includes M.Div. Liberty Theological Seminary, M.M. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and B.A. Averett College. I am currently enrolled as a D.Min. student at Wesley Theological Seminary. My military training includes four units of CPE (ACPE), suicide prevention, and moral injury medical ministry trauma recovery. My research focuses on the ways in which chronic pain impacts a soldier's spiritual health.

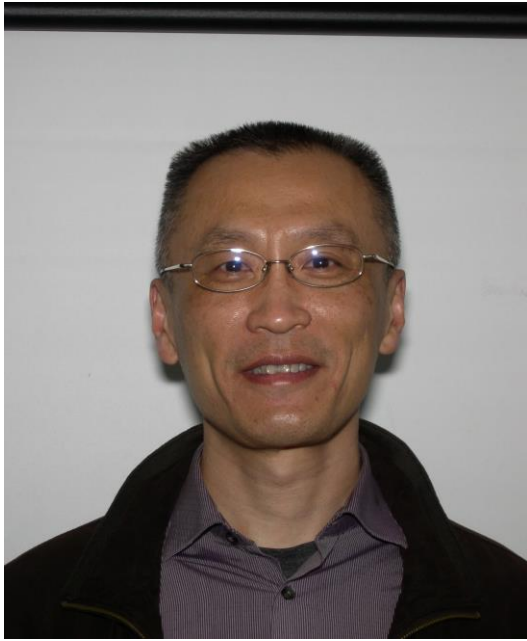


Kenny Thomas. Kenny Thomas is the transition program manager at Camp Hope in Houston, Texas. Camp Hope is a peer-to-peer program for combat veterans with PTSD. Mr. Thomas has been working with combat veterans with post traumatic stress disorder through peer-to-peer

mentoring and discipleship since 2016. In 2017 he created the transitional phase of the program and significantly increased the successful transition of our combat veterans into everyday life. Mr. Thomas served four years in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne 1-187 Infantry from 2000-2004. He deployed to Afghanistan in October of 2001 in combat operations. After a 10 month tour in Afghanistan, Mr. Thomas deployed to Iraq in December of 2003 and spent 12 months in combat operations. After his honorable discharge, Mr. Thomas went to Wallace State University, where he obtained his advanced degree in respiratory therapy, all while struggling with combat PTSD. Kenny was a registered respiratory therapist for 9 years before coming into the program and changing career paths. Mr. Thomas struggled with PTSD and suicidal ideations for 12 years before he finally made it to Camp Hope and found healing through his peers, faith, and comradery.



Sebnem Unlu, PhD is currently an executive board member at the City of Bridges Foundation, a non-profit organization involved in civic engagement and interfaith dialogue. Her research interests lie in determining the cellular and molecular effects of intermittent fasting on immune function and activity, as well as on inflammation-based diseases. Dr. Unlu earned her PhD in Molecular Biology/Pharmacology from Imperial College London, United Kingdom and completed her post-doctoral training in Molecular Biology and Genetics at University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine.



Charlie Xiao, RN, MBA. Charlie is a mid-career changer, and a CPA turned RN in New York. He came to the US from China in his mid-20s and has since accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior and Lord. During nursing school, Charlie looked up religion and health in his research class and came to know about Dr. Koenig and his work. Charlie currently is a staff nurse at Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, a 349-bed New York State psychiatric hospital. In addition to aspiring to be a psychiatric clinician who incorporates spirituality-based interventions, Charlie is interested in doing R/S research, and is seeking opportunities to conduct clinical trials at his workplace and the nearby Zucker Hillside hospital, the flagship psychiatric hospital of the Northwell Health system.