

TOCCOA MFT MATTERS

The Toccoa Falls College Marriage & Family Therapy Newsletter



MEN OF MAMFT: ANSWERING THE CALL TO CARE

Dear MAMFT Family,

While we proudly recognize that this month is National Women's Month, we also acknowledge that the field of Marriage and Family Therapy is predominantly made up of women practitioners. In that spirit, we felt it was both meaningful and important to take a moment to highlight and celebrate the men within our MAMFT community—students, alumni, and faculty—who are contributing their voices, insight, and leadership to the field.

According to a 2022 report from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, just 19% of surveyed MFT practitioners self-identify as male. While our profession has long benefited from the compassion and dedication of many talented women, the presence of men in this work is also deeply important. Their engagement broadens the perspectives available to couples and families seeking care and helps create spaces where male clients may feel more seen, understood, and willing to engage in the therapeutic process.

Men who enter the field of MFT bring valuable relational insight, lived experience, and a commitment to supporting healthier marriages and families. They often serve as important role models, demonstrating that emotional awareness, vulnerability, and relational growth are strengths worth pursuing.

As we highlight the Men of MAMFT this month, we celebrate the contributions they make to our learning community and the impact they have in the lives of the clients and families they serve. We remain committed to cultivating a program where diverse voices strengthen our shared mission of equipping ethical, compassionate clinicians who bring hope and healing to marriages and families.

Thank you for being part of this meaningful work and for continuing to invest in the future of the MAMFT community at Toccoa Falls College.

Warmly,
Dr. Jamie Brodarick
Program Director
Mastor of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
Toccoa Falls College



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IMPORTANT DATES REMINDER

FULL SEMESTER COURSES:

JANUARY 21ST, 2026 – MAY 13TH, 2026

SESSION A:

JANUARY 21ST, 2026 – MARCH 13TH, 2026

SESSION B:

MARCH 23RD, 2026 – MAY 13TH, 2026

SPRING RESIDENCY:

APRIL 17TH - APRIL 19TH FOR PREMARITAL AND MARITAL AND TREATMENT PLANNING STUDENTS

ADVISING UPDATE



DR. ARIELLE BLUM

CORE FACULTY, MASTER OF ARTS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

To better support our growing community, Dr. Arielle Blum will now serve as the advisor for our part-time MAMFT students. Her commitment to student development and academic mentorship will be a valuable resource for those navigating the program on a part-time schedule. We appreciate Dr. Blum stepping into this role and supporting the continued success of our students.

INTRODUCING OUR MEN OF MAMFT



RANDY ALLEN



JARRETT CLARK



JEREMIAH DAVIS



MAXWELL MOSELY



SAM TATUM



PETER YANG

KEEPING IN TOUCH: ALUMNI VOICES

TERRANCE JAMES



Tell us about the work you are doing since graduating with your MAMFT degree?

Immediately after graduating, I began working as a therapist at Paraclete Counseling, a private Christian Counseling Agency in Suwanee, GA. In more recent months, I began contracting with Niche Counseling in Lawrenceville, GA and I work as a Mental Health Professional in a correctional facility. I am also working towards my Doctorate of Marriage and Family Therapy.

What advice would you offer current students that you wish someone would have given you?

Know that it may take some time to discover your path. There are many different roles available as an MFT. Take time to look for the right fit and leave room for your continued growth.



What is your favorite memory from your time at TFC?

Absolutely it would be residency (every one of them). While it was so nerve-racking, it was something about being with my fellow students and professors, learning, observing, presenting, and practicing the counseling skills together in real-time. Residency was a chance to be with the people of the program.

What is the hardest and best part about being a MFT?

One of the hardest parts has been the balancing act of working outside of private practice while nurturing the process of building a caseload.

The best part about being an MFT is the impact - having the opportunity to be with my clients and provide space during some of their most difficult times.

What do you hope to be doing in 5 years?

In 5 years, I hope to have completed my doctoral studies and to have developed a program that contributes to the MFT field (providing support to single-parent households and justice-involved families).

I hope to still be on my journey to helping the next generation of MFT's.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SAM TATUM



What led you to pursue a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy at TFC?

The short answer is God. The long answer is, also, God! Since I was little, my desire to help others has been incredibly strong. I wanted to see others come to grips with the problems they face and overcome them. As my mother often shares, I would come to her every once in a while and say, “Mom, I don’t mean to criticize your parenting...but,” and then proceed to give her advice on how to better parent my siblings and me. I can safely say it was not good advice! When I was 17, I surrendered to a call to full-time vocational ministry and began pursuing it relentlessly.

After graduating from Samford University with a degree in human development and family science, I began to serve as a children’s pastor at a church in northeast Georgia. It was an incredible experience. The Lord spoke to me very clearly, nearly a year into my tenure, that His plan was for me to pursue counseling. I knew counseling was in my future, but I did not realize how soon He would place it on my heart! So, with encouragement from my pastoral staff and my family, I began to look around and found TFC. They had everything that I desired in a program – theoretical and practical training with a Christlike perspective. Since enrolling, I have enjoyed my experience greatly!

Tell us about your experience in the program thus far. What has surprised you the most about the training you are receiving?

This program has informed the way I think about ministry and, by extension, suffering. Within a ministerial context, counseling is a given. I have counseled countless children, teens, and adults of all ages since I surrendered to my call to ministry, but learning that there is both an art and a science to working with others through complex and deeply personal issues was startling. There is a way to confront people in a way that is life-giving. There is a way of phrasing empathy to communicate better so that the families in front of us feel seen. The most surprising aspect of my time at TFC was the revelation that I still have so much to learn about people and how they operate. It is both humbling and awe-inspiring.

How do you think your studies have affected your personal relationships and your spiritual walk?

I am a better friend, son, brother, and follower of Christ because of the things I have learned. One of the major aspects of this program is to encourage us to look at people through God’s eyes. I often warn those I teach at church to be careful what they pray for, because they very well may get it. I vividly remember the first time I prayed to see people through His eyes, not mine. I also remember, in the moments after, the tear stains that now marked the spot where I had been kneeling. Through my studies, I have gained insight, understanding, and empathy for those who suffering, and for how I can be like Jesus on the water and reach out a hand to someone who is drowning.

What are you hoping to do when you graduate? What impact are you hoping to make?

I often compare counseling with physical therapy. Once an individual has a stroke, a heart attack, or some other condition that impacts their physical functioning, they must learn how to live life and push through their disabilities. In many ways, that is how I see therapy and counseling. The goal of therapy is to help individuals relearn how to live after experiencing trauma and pain—and, in many ways, to discover for the first time that suffering is part of the human experience. If they are human, then they are created in the image of God; and if they are created in the image of God, I hope to encourage them to walk as a reflection of the Almighty, for that is who they are. I don’t know whether private practice awaits me or whether I will end up working for a nonprofit or church organization, but I pray that my impact will carry eternal weight and that those who seek my services will walk away refreshed, restored, and renewed.

FACULTY IN FOCUS

DR. KEN ROBINSON, LMFT



What courses do you teach for us at TFC?

As an adjunct faculty member for TFC in the MAMFT program I teach:

MFT 523 Biopsychosocial & Spiritual Development

In the MACM program I teach:

CSG 593 Crisis & Disaster Response

CSG 553 Relationship Counseling

CSG 623 Brief & Solution-Focused Counseling

CSG 503 Care & Counseling Ministry.

Tell us about your career as a MFT.

I first became interested in advanced training in MFT following September 11, 2001. As an Air Force Chaplain, I saw first-hand the negative impact that deployments were having on military families. I enrolled in the DMin MFT program at Denver Seminary to be better equipped to serve our Air Force Families. My area of research in the program culminated in the dissertation, *Intimate Allies: Exploring the Effect of a Marital Intervention to Increase Marital Intimacy for Military Couples Facing Ongoing Deployments*. My clinical supervisor was Dr. Fred Gingrich who later became the developer of the TFC MAMFT Program. In 2003 I submitted an article titled, *Meeting Marriage and Family Therapy Needs in Today's USAF* which was published in the July edition of Family Therapy Magazine, an AAMFT publication.

Since retirement from the Air Force, I have served as a federal employee at three different military installations in Colorado Springs utilizing my MFT skills broadly in providing therapy, interpersonal violence and suicide prevention programming, and research. In my last position I served as the Integrated Prevention and Resilience Chief for the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) serving 4000 cadets and 3500 active duty and civilian personnel. Besides program management in this role, I developed new MFT influenced courses for cadets including Relationship Attachment and Secure Bond Leadership incorporating systems theory, attachment and social baseline science. I also developed and oversaw the national USAFA Pathways to Prevention: The Power of Connection Summit which featured leading researchers and therapists in the field of attachment science and positive psychology. A major highlight at USAFA was using my MFT knowledge and skills in multiple research projects concerning prevention and relational health with colleagues from other universities. Two of these projects have been published in professional journals. In my career I found that the strength of having MFT training is it prepares you for not only working successfully as a therapist but is applicable in many areas of vocation that the Lord may lead you into.

What populations and settings have you worked in?

The majority of my MFT focus has been serving Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines and their families in various military settings.



What unique perspective do you think males bring to the MFT profession?

First, male MFT's are underrepresented in this career field. In the various social and behavioral science settings I have worked in, there have hardly been any males employed as therapists or in other related professions.

At the Air Force Leadership level for my career field there were around 105 females and only 5 males. Lastly, from a MFT perspective and as a former military chaplain, many men may feel more comfortable speaking with a male therapist who they believe understands their male identity and the struggles they face individually or in relationships.