Alaysia Brown
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EDUCATION

Doctorate, University of Missouri   **In Progress**
Human Development and Family Science

Bachelor of Arts, University of San Diego   Fall 2015
Major: Psychology Minor: English   GPA: 3.77

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Colorism within the Black community and its impact on self-esteem, belongingness, and romantic relationships
- Formation, maintenance, and dissolution of romantic and close relationships over time
- Police brutality and its impact on community relations, family processes, parenting, and policing standards
- Parent-child interactions in minority families and its influence on development
- Family structure and parenting roles within African-American families
- Cultural identity formation and adolescent group identification within the Black community
- Impact of single-parent households on youth development
- Race, gender, socioeconomic status, and other variables impacting martial and intimate relationship quality

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Leadership Alliance   **June - July 2015**
University of Virginia   **Charlottesville, VA**
I Am Not My Hair: Experiences of Appearance-Related Harassment Within the Black Community
Mentors: Joanna Lee Williams, Ph.D. & Patrick Tolan, Ph.D.

- Initiated an exploratory study, that examined the form, function, and consequences of appearance-related harassment within the Black community based on hair and skin-tone
- Developed research questions from responses to an open-ended question on within-group discrimination, as part of a larger survey on racism and life experiences
- Conducted a review of existing literature on skin-tone and hair related discrimination
- Performed qualitative thematic analysis utilizing a self-generated code-book based on existing background literature

- Synthesized results in poster-format and presented findings at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium

McNair Scholar   **May 2013 - August 2014**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique
Mentor: Nadav Goldschmied, Ph.D.
- Developed a research project, which built upon existing literature by measuring and comparing the connotative meaning of the underdog and top-dog utilizing the semantic differential questionnaire
- Constructed a relevant set of descriptors (adjectives) pertinent to the underdog top-dog rivalry
- Designed the questionnaire and recruited participants from the athletic department and various psychology classrooms
- Analyzed data using a series of T-tests via SPSS
- Prepared an APA research paper consisting of a literature review, description of methodological processes, and research findings
- Awarded travel scholarship to present findings orally and in poster format at professional and internal conferences

Advanced Research Methods in Sports Psychology   **Summer 2014**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
Debunking the Underdog Myth: Effects on Optimism and Favorability
- Demonstrated proficient knowledge of research methodology
- Collaboratively developed a research project idea, examining whether manipulating the results of a competition and core components of the underdog and top-dog identity would have an effect on favorability and general optimism ratings
- Developed four introductory scenarios (vignettes), a questionnaire, and selected a validated general optimism scale
- Analyzed data utilizing a factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) via SPSS
- Composed an APA research paper consisting of a literature review, description of methodological processes, and research findings
- Presented results orally amongst classmates

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Brown, A. (July 2015) I Am Not My Hair: Examining Experiences of Appearance-Related Harassment Within the Black Community. Leadership Alliance National Symposium. Stamford, Connecticut.

Brown, A. (April 2015) Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique. Poster presented at the Creative Collaborations Conference, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Brown, A. (February 2015) Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique. Poster presented at the 16th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention, Long Beach, CA

Brown, A. (February 2015) Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique. Poster presented at National Association of African American Studies, Baton Rouge, LA

Brown, A. (February 2015) Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique. Paper presented at the Annual UCSD Summer Research Conference, San Diego, CA

Brown, A. (February 2015) Underdog vs. Top-dog: Testing the Concepts utilizing the Semantic Differential Technique. Paper presented at the Annual McNair Research Colloquium, San Diego, CA

AWARDS, HONORS, AND PROFESSIONAL MEMEBERSHIPS

- Ronald E. McNair Graduate Fellowship Recipient (March 2016)
- Vernon W. Piper Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship (March 2016)
- Human Development and Family Studies – Supplemental Graduate Fellowship (March 2016)
- Who's Who Among Students in American Universities; and publication in the Annual Honors Convocation Program (April 2016, 2015, 2014)
- Alcala 100 inductee (April 2016, 2015)
- Leadership Alliance Recipient (Awarded an 8-week summer internship through Leadership Alliance (LA) to conduct research at the University of Virginia alongside a graduate professor and to present findings at the LA national conference, March 2015)
- Accepted to present at the National Association of African-American Scholars Conference (January 2015)
- Professional Membership: Society for Personality and Social Psychology (December 2014-2015)
- Accepted to present at the 16th Annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology Convention (October 2014)
- Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Scholar (June 1st 2014 - Present)
- African Pride Scholarship Recipient (March 2014)
- Awarded SURE Scholarship to conduct 10-weeks of research under the mentorship of a faculty member (March 2014)
- Dean's List First Honors (2014-2011)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Student Writer   **Fall 2015 – 2016**
Center for Health and Wellness Promotion, University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**

- Writing wellness-related blogs and drafting nutrition and body image content for the University of San Diego website
- Engaging, empowering, and advocating for the growth potential of USD students to be active, responsible members of the USD community through a series of wellness initiatives and events (Ole Weekend, Changemaker Fest, National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, etc.)
- Managing front office communications with patients and staff

- Administering patient questionnaires, collecting data, completing survey analysis and statistics
- Designing, publicizing, and marketing events using informational panels for students, parents, and staff
- Collaborating with student groups to develop curriculum and provide health awareness for the student community
- Creating an environment that supports the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development of students

Psychology Tutor   **Fall 2015-2016**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Specialized in research methods, statistics, and psychology and law
- Adjusted teaching style to match each client's individual learning style
- Remained updated on specific course content and required materials
- Delegated follow-up tasks for clients, (assigned additional problems or chapters to read)
- Managed a full-time academic schedule in addition to managing individual client schedules and keeping track of all upcoming assignments and papers clients should be making progress toward
- Focused on building well-rounded academically sound students by encouraging effective studying techniques, teaching organizational skills, and proper testing habits

Forensic Psychology Intern   **Fall 2015**
Forensic Psychiatry Clinic, Superior Court of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Assigned to observe clients who received court-mandated mental competency or conservatorship evaluations
- Observed mental health court proceedings
- Participated in case consultations and discussions of forensic issues
- Proficient in reviewing assessment reports and legal documentation to identify key indicators regarding mental competency and grave disability
- Gained experience in identifying psychiatric diagnostic criteria in jail inmates and conservatorship patients
- Debriefed after cases, and shared personal assessment of individual client behavior and specifics regarding cases judged

Student Success Coach   **Fall 2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Was selected in a competitive interview process to serve as a Peer Coach, an applied experience opportunity replicating a master's level counselor training program using skills developed from the course Current Approaches to Peer Assistance

- Met with individual undergraduate students to assess academic and personal needs and created a Student Success Plan addressing SMART goals
- Attended weekly supervision to discuss challenging situations and received feedback to improve clinical skills

Current Approaches to Peer Assistance   **Spring 2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
Professors: Melissa Halter Ph.D., Merrick Marino M.Ed.
- Learned basic counseling skills and theories related to the effectiveness of peer-to-peer intervention and the development of educational and wellness prevention programs
- Gained knowledge through textbook, peer-reviewed articles, experiential class activities, class presentations, and role-playing

Life Coach   **Spring 2015**
Excite Steps   **San Diego, CA**
- Mentored individuals with Autism, Asperger's, and other disabilities
- Aided them in living independently by developing social, vocational, and independent living goals to ease their transition into adulthood

Teen Center Volunteer   **Spring 2013**
Boys and Girls Club   **San Diego, CA**
- Interviewed teens about their basic values, beliefs, and ideologies in an attempt to isolate age-related differences in responses
- Observed the factors that contributed to popularity amongst peers and peer influence on achievement
- Observed peer sociability in adolescents through the formation of cliques

CAMPUS OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

Social Chair for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee   **Sept. 2014- May 2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
   Voted Social Chair as a result of exemplary work in SAAC
- Planned and organized (venue location, seating arrangements, presentation orders) the Celebration of Excellence; an end of the year celebration honoring the year's athletic achievements of over 200 athletes
- Maintained open communication with the athletic administration and athletes in order to put on a quality event

Student Athlete Advisory Committee Representative   **Fall 2013- Spring 2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Promoted communication between student athletes and the athletic administration
- Provided feedback and insight on athletic issues
- Organized community efforts through various community service events (TLC Toy Drive, Shop with a Jock, MLK Parade, Light the Night, etc.)

Mentoreros   **Spring 2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Was given one-on-one mentorship on how to choose a career field, get a job, and how to successfully navigate the transition after the end of one's athletic eligibility
- Increased campus involvement and leadership knowledge through discussions with my mentor and by jointly attending several on campus networking events

USD Camps and Clinics   **Summer 2014, 2013, 2012**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Maintained a positive and encouraging learning environment
- Interacted with campers motivating them to improve their skills
- Mentored youth on how to pursue careers in collegiate sports

Note Taker   **Spring 2013**
Disabilities Services, University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Took detailed class notes for students with intellectual disabilities to aid them in better comprehending course material

Telefunder   **Spring 2012, 2013, 2014**
Annual Giving, University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Raised money for scholarships, financial aid, faculty enrichment, new buildings, technological updates, as well as new materials for the library by reaching out to alumni, parents, and friends of the university for donations
- Updated alumni, parents, and friends on events and campus happenings, allowing them to stay connected with what's going on at USD
- Interacted with diverse populations while connecting and responding specifically to each individual need

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- San Diego Chocolate Run   Spring 2015
- San Diego Food Bank   Spring 2015
- Toys for Tots   Fall 2014, 2012
- Torero TLC Toy Drive   Fall 2014 - 2012
- San Diego Half Marathon   Fall 2013
- Girl Scout Mentor   Fall 2011

ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

NCAA Division 1 Volleyball Player   **June 2011-2015**
University of San Diego   **San Diego, CA**
- Excelled in academic coursework by using discipline and organization, while striving to maximize ability in competition and practice

- Worked cooperatively to achieve team goals
- Represented the university continuing its tradition of excellence

Awards

- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient (March 2016)
- Mike Gilleran WCC Scholar-Athlete of the Year (May 2015)
- Female Postgraduate Scholarship Recipient (May 2015)
- President's Luncheon Invitee: Award Banquet for Athletes with a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the school year (May 2015, 2014, 2013)
- Most Valuable Player Recognition (February 2015)
- Four Time Scholar Athlete: Award given to athletes with a 3.0 or above; (February 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012)
- Varsity Captain (August 2015)
- Hall of Champions Athlete of the Month (February 2014, 2013)
- Invitation to the Winter Women's National Team Training Block (January 2014)
- USA Collegiate All-Star Showcase Participant (January 2014)
- West Coast Conference All-Academic First Team: (December 2014, 2013)
- West Coast Conference First Team: (December 2014, 2013)
- Awarded a spot on the Collegiate National Team which competed in China; (June 2014)
- All-Pacific Region Team: (December 2013)
- All-America Honorable Mention: (December 2013)