



STUDENT NEWS

International Society for Traumatic Stress studies

Student Section Award Opportunities

Student Registration Award is available to offset the cost of the annual meeting. Apply today and spread the word about this new opportunity!

The ISTSS Outstanding Student Achievement Award recognizes a graduate student member of ISTSS who has made a significant contribution to the field of traumatic stress through research, clinical activity or advocacy.

The ISTSS Outstanding Student Advocacy & Service Award recognizes a student member of ISTSS who has made significant contributions in the field of public advocacy, clinical work, and traumatic stress at a local, national, and/or international level.

The ISTSS Distinguished Mentorship Award honors and promotes the efforts and accomplishments of an individual who consistently serves as an effective mentor for students in the field of traumatic stress. The award recognizes one who effectively guides students throughout their professional training in a multi-faceted partnership sustained by mutual respect and concern.

News, Updates, and Events

A warm welcome to everyone in the ISTSS Student Section. ISTSS leaders are currently finalizing plans for our virtual meeting this year, as we continue to find new patterns of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The [annual meeting](#) will certainly have a unique set of opportunities and challenges as we test out a virtual platform this year. **As a student section, we are working to transform our annual student events for a virtual environment and are working through creative ideas to make these events accessible to student members across our many different time zones.** One area that we are very excited about is our current Student Section **award opportunities!** Materials for the [Student Registration Award](#) are due to [Kristin Miodonski](#) by **September 4, 2020**. Materials for the [ISTSS Outstanding Student Achievement Award](#), [ISTSS Outstanding Student Advocacy & Service Award](#), and the [ISTSS Distinguished Mentorship Award](#) are due to [Lia J. Smith](#) by **September 30, 2020**. Be on the lookout for further details on these student section opportunities!

With continued events involving traumatic racial violence in our communities, we encourage members of the student section to utilize our social media platforms to connect and to utilize the resources provided by the ISTSS community, such as those that have been compiled for [Discrimination, Bias crimes, and hate-based violence](#). We are here with you during these difficult times and greatly appreciate the ideas and feedback from student section members. If you have any further ideas for how we could be supportive during this time, please reach out to Lia (ljsmith6@central.uh.edu) or Anne (a.m.de.graaff@vu.nl).

In this edition of *Student News*, check out opportunities for ISTSS involvement. We also highlight current student award opportunities and a member of our student section.

COVID-19 Resources

ISTSS is actively compiling COVID-19 resources. Check them out here: <https://istss.org/public-resources/covid-19-resources>



Faith Nomamiukor, BS

Student Opportunities

The **ISTSS website** editor is looking for an associate to help with the monthly tasks of maintaining and upgrading the ISTSS website. If interested, please send your CV and a paragraph describing why you're interested in the position to Carrie Yeager @ cyeager@uccs.edu.

The **Travel Awards Committee** is looking for a new student member for the committee. Reach out to Lia (ljsmith6@central.uh.edu) if you might be interested in this opportunity!

Contact Us

The ISTSS Student Newsletter is an initiative organized by the student section. Newsletters are bi-monthly. Have an announcement that you would like to share? Contact ljsmith6@central.uh.edu.

Follow the ISTSS Student Section on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) for news, job postings, and more!

Meet ISTSS Student Member Faith Nomamiukor!

Faith is a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the United States. Faith is a member of the Cognitive, Psychopathology, and Emotion (CoPE) lab, directed by Dr. Blair Wisco.

Why did you decide on the Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program at UNC Greensboro?

I decided to come here because I had an excellent research match with my current mentor, Dr. Blair Wisco, and also because I felt extremely welcome at my interview with UNCG. I am very passionate about studying victim blaming, sexual trauma, and PTSD associations. Given that my current mentor is a trauma researcher, I knew that we would be a great fit together. I actually had the pleasure of meeting Blair once before at an ISTSS conference and I felt that our personalities meshed really well. I also decided to come to UNCG because I noticed at the interview that the students seemed genuinely happy and the faculty members went out of their way to make sure that the applicants felt comfortable and supported. My experiences at the interview and my prior meeting with Blair at ISTSS gave me comfort in knowing that even though it's scary to move away from home, I could gain a lot by coming here. After the interview, I was able to see Greensboro as a potential new home for me.

What are your research interests?

Currently for my master's thesis, I am researching the impact of the MeToo movement on rape culture and distress. We are also examining whether these effects differ depending on whether an individual is a survivor of sexual assault or not. Outside of my thesis, I am also interested in researching PTSD and sexual assault relations.

What have you found the most rewarding about your graduate school experiences thus far?

I really enjoy working on my thesis because it was my first time designing an experiment from scratch. It was a lot of work at first because we designed Facebook exposures to mimic #MeToo, neutral, and #HimToo posts. It was really nice to use my creativity in that area and made my passion for research grow even more!

You grew up in Texas and attended The University of Houston for your undergraduate studies. What do you miss the most about your home state?

I miss my family the most! That's been the hardest part about moving from home to do my program. I also miss my old research lab. I learned so much from them and I'm so grateful for being able to work with Dr. Anka Vujanovic and her graduate students because they really exposed me to the world of trauma research and gave me the courage that I needed to seriously consider pursuing my PhD.

Recently we've seen a renewed cry for racial justice both here in the United States and across the globe. Do you have any reflections on racial justice that you'd like to share with your fellow ISTSS student members?

The realities that some people from underserved communities face can be baffling to others from different walks of life. For these reasons, it is important for an ally to have the skill of listening with open, sympathetic ears to the oppressed. In addition to listening it's also important to not put all of the burden on the underprivileged to educate you about what they go through and why it matters. Rather, it is valuable to also learn to educate yourself about your own privilege and ways that you can work to equalize opportunities for others.

Click here to check out the lab I'm currently working in: <http://www.uncg.edu/~wiscolab/>

