



Samuel Mathews, Ph.D.

Associate Professor
Department of Psychology, University of West Florida

Education: M.A., University of West Florida, 1976, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980

Areas of Interest: Developmental & Educational Psychology, Research Design, Adaptive Development for Children and Adolescents, Children and Adolescents in Post Conflict Regions, Critical Thinking across the Lifespan

Professional Services:

Local Engagement:

- 1990-Present: Work with local school districts to develop, implement, and evaluate educational programs for students at risk for academic failure;
- 2008-Present: Working with Escambia County Poverty Initiative on three projects:
 - Client-Centered Community Database System: Providing a one-stop shop for those in need of support from local social service agencies to increase clients' access to services, and reduce duplication of services
 - Homelessness Initiative: Working with a local transitional homeless shelter to provide training and other services to residents as they move toward adaptive lifestyles
 - Foster Child/Adolescent Transition: Working with local area non-profit agencies to develop a curriculum for children and adolescents in foster care to transition as they *age out* of foster care at 18 years
- 2008-Present: Member of the Board of Director, PACE Center for Girls, Escambia County

International Engagement:

- 1997-Present: Member of a team of North American, British, and Australian scholars who conducted workshops in the former Soviet Republic (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Albania, Estonia) to reform education through the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking project.
- Summer, 2003: Visiting Faculty member, Prishtina University, Kosovo.
- 2004-Present: Visiting Professor, Tallinn University, Tallinn Estonia
- 2007-Present: Conduct workshops for reform in higher education, Monrovia, Liberia.
- 2008: Conducted workshop for evaluation of literacy and readership projects, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Courses Taught:

- DEP 3103, Child Development
- DEP 4305, Psychology of Adolescence
- DEP 5505, Developmental Psychology
- PSY 6217, Research Design in Psychology

Personal Statement:

My work focuses on optimizing outcomes for children and adolescents, particularly those who are living in challenging situations. These efforts have ranged from developing programs in schools both locally and internationally to develop classroom interventions to increase learning and encourage motivation. In addition, my work has included developing of store-front neighborhood centers for after school programs in neighborhoods with higher than average criminal activity and poverty. Since 1997, I have been interested in strategies for encouraging critical thinking across the lifespan from elementary school through the university years. I'd like to invite students who share interests in any of these areas to contact me and get involved!