Message from the Faculty

We hope that the Spring 2017 semester is going well as we head into the final weeks! In this newsletter you will find important dates, information about faculty and their research activities, spotlights on our faculty and current students, and an invitation to make your own contributions to the newsletter. If you are new to our programs, make sure that you check our D2L counselor education site for important dates, job announcements, certification requirements, and internship or graduate assistantship opportunities. The more you get involved in, the more experience you can acquire and the better your resume will look! Finally, we want to congratulate all of our May graduates. We are sure you will do great things!

This will be my last newsletter as Department Chair - Dr. Eric Owens will be assuming the position beginning this summer. Thank you for a great three years!

-Dr. Snyder

Higher Education Highlights

- Many department representatives attended the Delaware Valley Student Affairs Conference (DVSAC) on February 10th. In attendance were session presenters (Jahmai Fisher, Natacha Reyes, and Maureen Dillon), students (Mary Clark, Emily Sheehan, Kaila Hamdani, and Jeanine Snow), faculty (Dr. Hodes), and alumni (Amanda Machonis, Aneesah Smith, Giancarlo Brugnolo, Michelle Phillips, Julie Raezer, Allison Yacovett, Marcie Cohen, Corissa Riley, Darren Lipscomb, Sara Leader, Nate Diehl, and Alicia Hahn).

- Current graduate students attended the 30th Annual WCU State Farm Leadership Experience. In attendance were session presenters (Bryan Pointer, Sarah Tansits, Tyler Goldstein, Terell Bennett, Caroline Bush, Tatiana Baker, Caitlin Silver, Justin (cont. on pg. 2)
Everyone has a unique story to tell—now’s your chance!

Dr. McCoy and graduate assistant Sara Brewer are looking to develop potential essays for *Voices from the Intersection: Diverse Case Study Narratives for Counselor Training*. If you’re interested in submitting a piece, there are many ways to go about it! Write it, record it, or just come have a conversation!

Contact Sara at SB781282@wcupa.edu for more information!

Higher Education Highlights (cont.)

Gambone, Emma Israel, Ann Mitchell, Natacha Reyes, and Helena DeBald) and students (Lisa Drusedum, Eric Frans, Jen Zoga, Sarah Garner, and Brittany Shaw). Dr. Hodes and graduate assistant Allison Register also presented a workshop.

- Six students attended the Annual National ACPA Convention in Columbus, OH. Attendees were Kaila Hamdani, Maegan Cruz, Helena DeBald, Caroline Bush, Jahmai Fisher, and Sasha Aronzon. Students participated in the Next Gen Conference and helped staff the graduate program fair!
- Congratulations to the graduate students who will be participating in summer NODA and ACUHO-I internships! - Lora Bonamy (Valdosta State), Maureen Dillon (Cedar Crest College), Sarah Tansits (University of Texas, Dallas), Sasha Aronzon (St. Mary’s College of California, San Francisco), Maegan Cruz (University of North Carolina, Greensboro), Emma Israel (Hofstra University), and Tatiana Baker (Rutgers University).
April is Counseling Awareness Month!

Here are some great updates from the American Counseling Association to help you spread the word about Counseling Awareness Month - check out https://www.counseling.org/about-us/counseling-awareness-month-2017 for more!

Volunteer Week

During the week of April 17-21, ACA has arranged a unique volunteer opportunity with Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). ACA members will be helping to empower their local club’s staff and volunteers with information and insights they need to navigate many important issues affecting today’s youth, including anxiety, depression, bullying, LGBTQ inclusion, trauma, education concerns, and more. As BGCA continues to embrace a new organizational focus on emotional health, ACA members will help in structuring safe, thoughtful learning environments.

Why Counseling?

“I have the privilege of participating in the healing process. By leading people down the path of acceptance and forgiveness, they find meaning in their pain.” — Jennifer Bradley

“Being an effective counselor is about more than listening and providing unconditional positive regard. It’s a willingness to put everything on the line as an advocate and a champion for those who haven’t yet found their voice.” — Jeff Hensley

“Everyone has a source of inner freedom. Counseling can help you find it.” — Margaryta Johnson

(excerpt from 25 Reasons to Have a Counselor in Your Life, via The Mighty)

Social Media Challenge

During the month of April, share practical “train your brain” tips on social media around the weekly topics listed below. Make sure to use hashtag #trainyourbrain in your posts and tag us: @CounselingViews on Twitter or American Counseling Association on Facebook.

(IMPORTANT: Your tips should be written for members of the public, not for other counselors.)

Week 1, April 1-9: Stress Management

Week 2, April 10-16: Relationships

Week 3, April 17-23: Anxiety

Week 4, April 24-30: Depression

Each week, we’ll choose a winning entry and bring it to life as a custom meme for ACA’s social media channels (attributed to you). At the end of April, the writer of the most popular meme will win an ACA 2018 Conference & Expo registration (Atlanta, April 26–29).
Publications and Presentations

- Dr. Owens presented at the ACA conference in San Francisco with his colleague, Debra Hyatt-Burkhart from Duquesne University. Their presentation was entitled *Using the Expectancy Effect: Promoting Counselor Well-Being and Vicarious Growth*.

- Dr. Hodes presented two educational programs at the ACPA convention in Columbus, OH. The programs were titled *Bridging the Great Divide: Creating Partnerships with Faculty* and *Embracing and Reclaiming the Scholar in Scholar-Practitioner*.

- Dr. Zubernis co-presented at the Southwest Popular Culture Association Conference. Her presentation was titled *Personal Space and Paid Access: Conventions and the Fan as Consumer/Customer*. She also co-presented *Squee and the Challenges of Being a Fangirl* at the Emerald City Comic Con.

- Dr. Zubernis, Dr. Snyder, and Dr. Neale-McFall have an article being published this year in the Journal of Mental Health Counseling, entitled *Case conceptualization: Improving understanding and treatment with the Temporal/Contextual Model*.

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What Are You Leaving With?

**Written By: Kiran Singh, School Counseling**

I knew when I became a student of the Department of Counselor Education 2 years ago that I would be learning countless skills about something I was passionate about. What I didn’t realize was the amount of personal growth I would experience in those short two years and the sense of community I would feel from being a part of this amazing department. One of the most beautiful things about our department, and our professors, is that they challenge us to embrace things we are unsure of, learn from experience and embrace change. In doing so I have seen so many of us grow into the counselors we were meant to be. For that, I am forever grateful.

To those who are just getting started or have a couple of classes under their belt – get to know your classmates. They’re the only ones who will understand the mix of happiness/stress/excitement that this program has to offer. Take opportunities as they present themselves, get involved and, most of all, learn as much as you can! I’m sending you lots of luck and I hope to see you out in the field one day!

To all of the professors- Thank you for laughing with us, pushing us to be our best and providing us with the knowledge we need to get out there and be a positive effect in someone’s life. I know I would not be half the counselor I am if I didn’t have you all pushing me to be my best.

Graduating this May will start the next chapter of my journey but I look forward to using the skills and knowledge that I gained while here to be the best counselor I can be!
New to the Department

Nicole Sayre is the newest addition to our team as an Adjunct professor. Professor Sayre attended Muhlenberg College where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, and the University of Delaware where she received her Master of Education in School Counseling. She is currently in her 15th overall year as school counselor and her 13th year as a middle school counselor at Northley Middle School in Aston, PA. Aside from being a counselor at Northley, she is also very involved with the school community. Professor Sayre coaches girls volleyball, she is the PBIS Committee leader, and she can often be seen dressing up as the Northley school mascot—the Viking. Outside of school, Professor Sayre has presented at some conferences, including the PA Middle School Conference, Pennsylvania School Counselor Association Conferences, and PBIS Implementer’s Forum. She is a member of the PA Reach Higher Committee and Member of the Pennsylvania School Counselor Association’s governing board. Professor Sayre was also awarded the 2016-2017 School Counselor of the Year award. For fun, Professor Sayre enjoys visiting her family vacation home on the gulf coast of Florida, playing with her 6 year old Labrador Retriever who is going to make her film debut this May in an HBO made-for-TV movie called, “Wizard of Lies,” about the Bernie Madoff Story. She also enjoys arts and crafts and spending time with family and friends.

Welcome to the Department!

The following students were selected to receive a 2017 Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges recognition:

Abigail Heller
Alexandra Bebee
Courtney Wilson
Molly Topp
Patrick Robinson
Allison Register
Dylan Metz

Congratulations!
Chi Sigma Alpha

The Omega Chapter of Chi Sigma Alpha has been hitting the ground running with programs since the organization was started this past fall. Some of their spring programs have included a drive for the Food & Resource Pantry on West Chester’s campus and a higher education job search workshop. As they wrap up the semester, they have initiated a new Resume Booklet project. The booklet will be a listing of all graduating students from the M.S. in Higher Education Counseling/Student Affairs program. It will contain student resumes, their preferred student affairs functional area(s) for employment, and preferred geographic location(s) for their job search. In addition to the many projects and programs Chi Sigma Alpha has held this spring, they will also induct the second class of the Omega Chapter on April 6th. Please help us congratulate the following staff and student inductees for Spring 2017:

Staff
Michelle Stark
Alyssa Trytek
Shelley Siedzikowski
Kim Chestnut
Skip Hutson
Becky Ross
NaQuan Redd
Margie Toolan
Lance Collier
Takeyda Williams
Justin Brown
Emily Bolick
Leah Paulson

Students
Maegan Cruz
Caitlin Silver
Maureen Dillon
Sarah Tansits
Brianna Quade
Ariel Jones
Lorae Bonamy
Ariel Armstrong
Greg Templeton
Sarah Garner
Patrick Pike
Chi Sigma Iota

Please help us in recognizing the newly elected Officers for 2017-2018!
President - Allison Gatta
Secretary - Brittany Buchanan
Treasurer - Jane Goodrich

Congratulations to the Spring 2017 CSI Inductees!

Nicole Benz  Amy Staas  Sarah Tansits  Stacey Alvanitakis  Ryan Strathy
Brianna Quade  Leslie Naylor  Clara Morgan  Olivia White  Michelle Mackey
Maureen Dillon  Caroline Gregory  James Murphy  Timothy Hoepfer  Nicole Geraci
Brittany Buchanan  Allison Gatta  Katherine Eyerly  Delaney Bowes  Anamika Anand
Caitlin Silver  Sara Brewer  Sydney Ciarrocchi  Bethany DeWitt  Lora Bonamy
Stephanie Agin

Program Reminders

- If you have any news or announcements that you would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please e-mail GA Sara Brewer at SB781282@wcupa.edu
- We are on Linkedin! Join the “West Chester Counselor Education Group” on LinkedIn.
- Please check your D2L daily for department announcements and updates.
- Make sure your Degree Candidacy is filed before the start of internship. Follow the instructions on the Degree Candidacy Checklist found on The Wall. Without the Degree Candidacy form, your internship class will be dropped.
- Finals begin Monday May 8th and end Friday May 12th.
- Clearances have to be valid throughout the semester—don’t forget to renew them!
- Apply for graduation the semester before you plan to graduate on myWCU!