Hello everyone and welcome to the end of another "spring" semester. It certainly doesn't feel much like spring as I draft this, but hopefully sunshine and warmer weather is just around the corner.

As we close on this academic year, I find myself thinking about time. As anyone who has ever had me for Group Dynamics or Fundamentals knows, everything has a beginning, a middle, and an end. For some of you, this is an ending...GRADUATION! Watching our students get ready to leave us and enter the profession is always exciting for me. I can reflect back to your orientations and think about how much you've learned, how much you can do, and all of the good you're capable of as you go out to help others. To those of you graduating, we wish you the absolute best and please keep in touch and let us know about your successes and challenges.

For some of you, this is the middle. You've had a semester, or two, or more, to learn the art and science of our profession. There's more to do, but you're well on your way. Sometimes the middle of a journey can be the most challenging. You've come a long way, but the path may still be long. That can be daunting, but as you look to those who are finishing their journeys, you can hopefully find encouragement and know that you can do it too.

And for those new students who are not yet here, there will be a beginning. The faculty is just about done with the admissions process and we will welcome new cohorts of clinical and school counseling students in the fall. We'll begin anew with orientations and new faces around the Graduate Center. Know that those of you who have come before help to make our department what it is, and our newest students will benefit from the culture you've helped to create.

And to all of you, I wish you the best as summer comes. Here's hoping you can take a break and reflect on another academic year.

-Dr. Owens
CACREP Update

As many of you know, this past February brought a visit from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP). While here, CACREP representatives spent time on campus to evaluate our program for re-accreditation and develop recommendations for coming years. In early March, we received an informal report from representatives that was, overall, very positive. We are happy to report that our program is meeting all of the CACREP standards, and that only two minor recommendations were made.

That said, the formal vote for our re-accreditation will not happen until this coming July. During that vote, CACREP can either deny accreditation, accredit our programs for two years, or accredit our programs for eight years. Two-year accreditation typically occurs when one or more standards are not met, so department faculty are hopeful that an eight-year accreditation may be granted for WCU. Dr. Owens will update us when the formal vote occurs over the summer.

Presentations/Awards

Alli Gatta, Amy Staas, and Dr. Alessandria presented “Times of Transition: Counseling International and DACA Students on Today’s Campus” at the ACCA Conference this past February.

Alli Gatta and Dr. Neale-McFall will present “Moms Need a Time Out, Too” at the ACA Conference (April 26th-29th) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Alessandria, recipient of the 2018 Professional Leadership Award from the American College Counseling Association (pictured here with Alli Gatta and Amy Staas).
Publications

- Bell, K. (2016). Transformational leadership, Dr. Leslie Pinckney Hill, and the creation of a sense of community among Black supporters of the West Chester Community Center. Scholar-Practitioner Quarterly, 10(3-4), 137-149.

- Dr. Alessandria has served as a technical writer on College Counseling from a Distance: Deciding Whether and When to Engage in Telemental Health Services, to be released later this month by the Higher Education Mental Health Alliance (HEMHA).

New to the Department

Please welcome Dr. Peter Boccone to our department! Dr. Boccone received his Ph.D in Counselor Education from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. He earned a B.A. in Psychology, a M.A. in Community Counseling, and a Ed.S. in Counseling Services from Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ. He is a licensed professional counselor in both PA and NJ, as well as an Approved Clinical Supervisor and a Nationally Certified Counselor.

Dr. Boccone found his passion for counseling and counselor education through his interest in people. He says that people are very diverse yet very much the same and describes the experience of working with people, “like reading the newest book in your favorite series. The themes are familiar but how you experience it, what sticks out, and how you relate to it changes.”

Dr. Boccone has been active in our field since 2006, and comes to us from Lynchburg College in Virginia. He has experience in residential facilities, psychiatric hospitals, outpatient facilities, day programs, college clinical centers, and more. His primary experience has been with adults, and he has worked with transitioning transgender clients, individuals with chronic mental illness (i.e. schizophrenia), substance abuse issues, families, etc. Currently, his research interests involve legal and ethical issues in counseling, as well as various LGBT+ related issues. He strives to craft research that can have immediate utility for his students and counselors in the field.

In his free time, Dr. Boccone enjoys playing the guitar and drums, cooking, hiking, and reading comic books. He also enjoys learning about and maintaining bonsai trees!

Dr. Boccone is looking forward to growing roots in Pennsylvania as this is where his journey toward becoming a counselor began. “I am very much looking forward to being able to take that experience and help students on their own professional journey.”

Welcome to our Department!
Reflecting on the 2017-2018 School Year in the Delta Tau Kappa Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the International Counseling Honor Society

I’d like to take a moment, as we come to the end of the spring semester, to acknowledge the hard work of every member of the Delta Tau Kappa Chapter of CSI to make this a successful and jam-packed school year! We were able to accomplish so much, and that is all due to the tireless effort of our members, our chairpersons, my fellow Executive Board members, and the unending support of the Department of Counselor Education students and faculty. You’re all amazing!

Thanks to our Fundraising Chair, we were able to raise money for chapter events (primarily the conference) through our Chipotle Dine and Donate and our extremely successful Department of Counselor Education t-shirt sale. It’s so exciting to see so many people walking around the GBC with their “Counselor” swag on! Our Philanthropy Chair Amy Staas inspired us to contribute to worthy causes by organizing the Hurricane Harvey Bake Sale and encouraging members to participate in local events such as the Color Run 5K to fight addiction in Chester County and the West Chester March for Our Lives Sister Rally. Our Social Chair Caroline Gregory got us all to mingle at events like the Halloween Happy Hour and the Post-Comps Happy Hour. She also wished our Comps-takers good luck with her much-appreciated Goodie Bags. We’re well on our way to becoming expert counselors and job candidates thanks to our Professional Development Chair Tim Hoepfer’s organization of events like the LGBTQ+ Ally Training and the Resume Workshop, as well as his writing and distributing of the CSI Newsletter.

I hope all members of the department are planning on attending the CSI PA Statewide Conference on April 21st. Conference Co-Chairs Stephanie Foote and Sarah Tansits have been working around the clock, with the help of the Conference Committee, to put on a successful and informative day for counselors from all over Pennsylvania. If you have yet to purchase a ticket, does so ASAP at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/PACSI2018.

I’d like to congratulate our new initiates for this year, and our newly elected Executive Board for the 2018-2019 school year. (Their names are listed below). As someone who’s about to graduate, I look forward to remaining a member of CSI and seeing what wonderful contributions you have in store for the chapter. Best of luck!!

Finally, I’d like to express my gratitude, on behalf of the entire chapter, to our Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. Alessandria. She contributes so much of her personal time to the success of the Delta Tau Kappa Chapter and to making sure that members are aware of all of the benefits CSI has to offer. Without her support and guidance, nothing would get done. If you see her in the halls of the GBC, please take the time to express your thanks to her for all she does for this chapter and the department as a whole. Thank you, Dr. A!!

-Brittany Buchanan, Chapter Secretary
Chi Sigma Iota (cont.)

Congratulations to the newest CSI Initiates!

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<th>Matthew Anderson</th>
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<td>Melissa L. Babitz</td>
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Join us for a CSI Alumni Panel on Thursday, April 26th from 6-8 p.m. in GBC Room 305!

Program alumni will discuss post-graduation experiences, with an emphasis on networking and interviewing for jobs! Questions? Contact Tim Hoepfer, Professional Development Chair!

Congratulations to the new Delta Tau Kappa Chapter Officers!

**President:**
Shalyn Boyer
SB768190@wcupa.edu

**Secretary:**
Casey Cerullo
CC790987@wcupa.edu

**Treasurer:**
Sarah Becker
SB800122@wcupa.edu
What Are You Leaving With?

As I reflect upon my time in the Counselor Education program, I can honestly say that I am leaving with much more than when I began. Okay, except for more money! Anyway, back on track… what I’m getting at is that I have truly gleaned much from these two full years. The first thing that comes to mind is the content. I have a thorough knowledge of best-practice strategies and how to find resources to help clients when I need further assistance. I am leaving with the confidence of completing a CACREP program and the rigorous preparation it entails. Not to mention leaving with a year and half of hands-on field experience, which has prepared me to work in various settings and with diverse clients. That’s what really helped to solidify the knowledge and understanding of counseling for me. I also think about the awesome professional network, of both professors and friends, who I can turn to when I am working in the field to seek understanding and insight.

Yet, in all of these things and concepts, my biggest take-away is how I have changed as a person, and I think that is the best gift we can give to our future clients. I am not the same as I was when I begin this program. I am more self-aware and conscientious. I am more mindful of macroaggressions, systemic racism, inequality, and injustice. I am more open-minded— that’s a big one. I’ve learned that I don’t have all the answers and that is okay. I’ve learned that we don’t need to fix clients, but rather have a part to play in their story. I’ve learned how to listen well. I’ve learned how to stand up for what is right and make difficult ethical decisions. I’ve learned to be more gracious to myself and to others. In all of this, I have learned to be a more whole person, with a deep passion to serve others well in the helping profession. I am leaving extremely grateful and thankful for all I am taking with me, for all I have learned, and for who I am still becoming.

-Clara Morgan (School Counseling)

Program Reminders

- If you have any news or announcements that you would like to be featured in the next newsletter, please e-mail GA Casey Cerullo at CC790987@wcupa.edu
- Field experience contracts are due Monday, April 23rd!
- 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 7th and end Friday May 11th
- Clearances have to be valid throughout the semester— don’t forget to renew them! (Practicum students: don’t forget about liability insurance!)
- Apply for graduation the semester before you plan to graduate on myWCU!