My name is Dr. Eric Owens and in May, I assumed the role of Chairperson of the department from Dr. Matt Snyder. I’d like to begin my first entry in our department newsletter with a thank you to Dr. Snyder for the tireless efforts and significant sacrifices he made over the last three years. Our department is certainly better for it and I’m absolutely beginning my tenure as chair with the benefits his hard work has brought. Thank you Dr. Snyder, and welcome back to the classroom!

As autumn arrives (or eventually arrives), our thoughts in the Department of Counselor Education turn to another new academic year. While autumn may mark the end of summer, it has always evoked the feeling of a new beginning for me. While beginnings can bring anxiety, they also bring promise, excitement, and hope. Our new beginning in 2017 brings with it our second cohort of Clinical Mental Health candidates as well as a new member of our faculty. Dr. Bridget Asempapa comes to us from Ohio University where she recently finished her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision. She brings a wealth of experience, new perspectives, and an energy that reminds me of why we are all here. Welcome Dr. Asempapa!

This academic year also will bring our CACREP re-accreditation site visit. Our self study report was accepted and while we received some valuable feedback, we feel we’re on track to be successful in the process. While the CACREP team won’t be here until February, we’re busy getting ready for their arrival already. In addition to the CACREP visit, we will have a number of new and exciting initiatives coming soon (selecting another new faculty member, for example), and we’re excited to bring you more news as things develop.

I look forward to the semester ahead and to sharing the experience with all of you. As always, if I can ever be of any help or if there’s ever any feedback you’d like to bring, please don’t hesitate to be in touch. Here’s to another new year filled with possibilities!

-Dr. Owens
Changes to the Department

With the 2017-2018 academic year off to a start, some new departmental changes have come with it. Here’s a quick guide to long-term changes that could affect you!

All Counselor Education students are now able to utilize the 3rd floor lounge (previously for MBA students only)! The third floor has more computers, a printer, and a small kitchenette for your convenience!

Schedule Changes: Practicum and Internship

*Beginning for the Spring 2018 semester, ALL field courses (practicum/internship) will be offered on Thursday nights ONLY*

4:00 - 6:45 p.m.
School Internship (601/602)
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
ALL practicum sections (580/590/592)
7:00 - 9:45 p.m.
Higher Ed./CMHC Internship (600/605)

(This schedule change will be re-evaluated at the end of the Spring 2018 semester to determine effectiveness)

What happened to ‘The Wall?’

Returning students may have noticed that ‘The Wall’ at the back of Suite 102 has been dismantled - all relevant documents for Counselor Education departments can now be accessed at your convenience through either the ‘Student Handbook’ or ‘Field Experience Manual’ on D2L!

Any questions? Check with one of the department’s Graduate Assistants!

Comprehensive Exams

For students graduating in Spring 2018 or later, comprehensive exams (“Comps”) have been converted into a new, multiple-choice format. With a few exceptions, all students taking the Comps in the spring (or later) will be required to utilize this new version on campus. This has been changed from the case-based, open-ended take-home version from semesters prior.

Publications and Presentations

Dr. Bridget Asempapa is the newest addition to our department! Dr. Asempapa received her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision from the Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. She earned a B.Sc.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, and M.S.Ed. in Counseling from Youngstown State University. She is a licensed professional school counselor and a licensed professional counselor in the State of Ohio. Originally from Ghana, West Africa, Dr. Asempapa’s career in education started in Ghana where she taught middle school English and Cultural Studies. Having been in the United States for over 12 years, she has had the privilege of working in the school systems with students from diverse backgrounds at the elementary, middle school, high school, and at the college level.

Her work experiences as an educator and a counselor have inspired her research interest in integrated care. Dr. Asempapa’s Dissertation “Exploring Counseling Students’ Perceived Competencies about Integrated Care” was the winner of the 2017 AMHCA Foundation Dissertation Research Award. She has created a scale to measure integrated care competencies in behavioral health disciplines that is grounded in the competencies for integrated care developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Asempapa has several presentations at international, national, state, and local counseling conferences. Her other research interests include supervision models in school counseling, adjustment challenges among international students in counselor education programs, ethical issues in counseling, and ambiguous loss in children.

Outside of the academic pursuits, Dr. Asempapa is a proud member of the American Counseling Association and Chi Sigma Iota (CSI). She enjoys community engagements that promote the counseling profession. She is the past president of the Alpha Chapter of CSI, and under her leadership, the Alpha Chapter promoted several events in Athens Ohio, to advocate for mental health issues in the community. She enjoys travelling, spending time with family, watching sports, and cheering on any “underdog teams” just for the fun of it!

Welcome to our Department!
Counselor Education
Students Take On Italy!

Last May I had the privilege to teach EDC 596: International Higher Education Workshop to Counselor Education students with Angela Howard, Senior Associate Director of the Center for International Programs. Students in the course learned about the experiences of international students in the United States and those of students who study abroad through a one-week cultural immersion in Italy. Though the immersion was brief, students were able to learn about what it is like to adapt to a new culture while navigating language barriers and learning course content. It was very gratifying to watch students’ cultural competence grow through their immersion experience while broadening their views of the world as they learned about the history of Italy and Italians’ contributions to modern civilization. We will be offering this course again in 2018. This time students will register for their 3-credit course in the spring semester to allow students who have assistantships to use them to pay the tuition and for graduating students to benefit. The course will meet five times in Feb./March and the travel will occur May 19-27, 2018. Included here are personal accounts from two of our participants. We hope you will join us on the next journey!

~Dr. Alessandria

(Enclosed photos courtesy of Allison Gatta)
Counselor Education Students Take On Italy! (cont.)

As a 23-year-old graduate student who has never been outside of the country, the study abroad opportunity presented me with a unique experience to not only learn more about international students and counseling, but also to experience a culture that is different than my own. I have always been one to stay within my comfort zone – attending undergraduate and graduate school within 15 miles of my home; however, I challenged myself to take the leap (4000 miles away) into a country in which I did not know the culture or speak the language. There is no way I could have ever anticipated the amount of cultural awareness that I would gain from this experience, but I am beyond grateful for the experience that I had. Being offered a course at the graduate level that included cultural immersion gave me something that a course about culture could have never given me – perspective of the world, my own culture, and the increased desire to continue to immerse myself in other parts of the world. After returning from Italy, I have been overcome by a feeling that I had never felt before, and that is to continue to travel, see the world, and learn about people from all around the world. As a future counselor, I know this experience and the continued drive to learn more about culture will make me more effective with a variety of different populations.

~Allison Gatta

I fell in love with Florence! It was such a beautiful city and it was fascinating to learn that Florence was the birthplace of the Renaissance! I will always remember the moment inside the Pantheon in Rome, when I realized that I was standing in a building that was built in 100 B.C. and stepping on the same marble floor that existed in the first century! I felt the grandeur of the Italian culture in the history that was reflected everywhere I looked, from the cobblestone streets to the running water fountains that flowed from the wells and aqueducts that the Romans built! This trip has certainly affirmed my love for travel and learning about the diversity found in world cultures, as well as peaked my interest in pursuing working with international students in some capacity in my future higher-education career.

~Johny Tadros
Chi Sigma Iota

Happy Fall Semester, everyone! And welcome to those new to the program! There are lots of exciting things happening this school year within West Chester’s Delta Tau Kappa Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international counseling honor society.

We are proud to be hosting the 8th Annual CSI PA Statewide Conference on Saturday, April 21st. Proposals for conference posters and presentations are due February 11th. The proposal application, as well as directions on how to submit it, can be found on D2L. You do not need to be a member of CSI to present at or attend the conference. More information about how to register for the conference will be communicated soon, so keep an eye out!

The chapter is also excited to welcome our department’s newest faculty member, Dr. Bridget Asempapa! We’re looking forward to her contributions to the chapter.

If you’re a member who’s interested in getting involved, below are some of our upcoming events. If you’re not yet a member, please consider joining! Once you have completed 9 credits of the program and achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher, you’re eligible! Simply go to www.csi-net.org to register; you’ll then be prompted to pay the $50 Annual National Dues and the $15 one-time local chapter dues. We hope you decide to get involved; we’d love to have you!

Upcoming Events

Chester County Color 5K

Saturday, November 4th  8:00 a.m.
Everhart Park, West Chester, PA
Dedicated to fighting opioid and heroin addiction in Chester County.
Registration: 8:00 a.m. ; Race: 9:00 a.m.
Register here: https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/WestChester/Color5k
Registration is $35. Discount code “WCU” gets you $10 off. Registration includes a long-sleeve t-shirt.

Chipotle Dine & Donate Fundraiser

Monday, December 4th  4:00-8:00 p.m.
101 Turner Lane, West Chester, PA 19380
Present the flyer that will be sent out via D2L at checkout in person, on your phone, or simply mention CSI, and the chapter will get 50% of the proceeds!
Chi Sigma Alpha

Fall 2017 Inductions
Thursday, November 9th
2:30 - 3:45 p.m. GBC Rm. 325

Requirements for Membership:
♦ Must be a part of the Higher Education Counseling/Student Affairs degree program
♦ Must have completed one semester of classes
♦ Must have a 3.7 GPA or higher

Field experience contracts are due Tuesday, November 28th!
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 Tuesday December 12th and end Friday December 16th
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!

Omega Chapter Officers:

President:
Maureen Dillon
MD866378@wcupa.edu

Vice President:
Caitlin Silver
CS768113@wcupa.edu

Treasurer/Secretary:
Maegan Cruz
MC879352@gmail.com

Chi Sigma Alpha Food Pantry

We are accepting donations through November for the Resource Pantry on campus that provides students in financial hardship supplies and food they need to live! Our bin is located under the table in the counseling suite!

Program Reminders

Don't forget:

- 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
- Field experience contracts are due Tuesday, November 28th!
- 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.
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