

The Chairperson's Message

The words "back to school" hold special meaning to alumni and students of the Counselor Education program. For some students this is the last semester to complete their degree requirements; for others it is the first semester of enrolling in the Counseling program; and for the Summer 2012 graduates, the beginning of a professional career!

As you read the Fall 2012 issue of the Department newsletter you will see that there are many wonderful and exciting accomplishments. Whether it is research, department initiatives, faculty achievements, and recognition of our students, we have much to be proud of and to celebrate.

Currently, the faculty members and I are anticipating the CACREP re-accreditation visit. During the Spring 2013 semester a review team will visit the department to determine how well we are complying to the CACREP 2009 Standards. We have been preparing for this visit and we are extending a special request for you to assist us when necessary. You may have experienced some of the changes in the programs which were necessary to demonstrate compliance with the standards. More information will be shared with you before the visit.

I wish all of you a productive semester and wonderful holidays with your friends and family. ●

Go Owls!

Irene H. Johnson,
Department Chair/ Professor

Mastering the Art of Webinar Presenting

By Michael Kane

Early in my professional career I found that I had a knack for presenting. Colleagues, mentors, and supervisors said I had a way of presenting complicated and, at times, unattractive content in an engaging and accessible manner. Over the years I learned a lot as a co-presenter and then lead presenter. I watched more experienced colleagues. I saw how they used language free of jargon, group sharing activities, and humor to connect with the audience. They developed effective presentations that had a "just right" balance of technology, researched best practice, and participant interaction. As I matured as a school counselor, I honed my skill as a presenter. From parent workshops, to staff meetings, to convention sessions and a keynote address, I was comfortable training no matter the size or the make up of the room. That is, until I was asked to do a webinar for the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). I darn near panicked. *Continued on page 4.*

Spring Sabbatical in the FAU Department of Counselor Education

By Dr. Gerrard

It was my pleasure to spend my 2012 Spring sabbatical with the Department of Counselor Education at Florida Atlantic University.

When I learned from my dean, in the School of Education at the University of San Francisco, that my sabbatical for 2012 had been approved, he encouraged me to spend part of it in residence at another university as a professional enrichment experience. He shared with me the benefits he had experience when he had been on sabbatical at the University of Australia. It was my pleasure to spend my 2012 Spring sabbatical with the Department of Counselor Education at Florida Atlantic University.



During Spring 2011 semester I made a search of a number of prospective universities and decided to apply to the Department of Counselor Education at FAU on the basis of the department's distinguished faculty and the close similarity in counseling orientation between our two departments (particularly the CBT Family Systems emphasis). While I was hosting the 9th International Conference in School-Based Family Counseling held in Hong Kong in August 2011 I was delighted to have a phone conversation with Dr. Irene Johnson and learned of the department's interest in providing me with a courtesy appointment for Spring 2012. I gladly accepted.

During my semester with the department I taught two courses on a complimentary basis: MHS 6701 Issues in Mental Health Counseling and MHS 6430 Family Counseling. I was very impressed with the students in both courses. I required all students to give a seminar presentation. I was surprised at the high level of teaching ability demonstrated by all students who lectured without relying on reading from notes. I thought this quite remarkable and above the skill level of my California students. During my semester I was invited to attend the classes of four professors in the department. Professors often do not like having other professors attend their lectures because fellow professors can be a critical audience. I was touched by the warmth with which I was received by both professors and students and I actively participated in several of these classes. In addition, I had meetings over coffee, lunch, and dinner, with several members of the school counseling and mental health counseling faculty. At the meetings, I learned valuable information about ongoing research projects in the department and had an opportunity to share my own interests in school-based family counseling.

My stay with the department was made smooth because of the facilitating efforts of Dr. Johnson, Darlene Epperson, and Layven Reguero who made me feel welcome and who came to my rescue with challenges like locked classroom doors, printers not working, etc. In May, when my time at FAU came to an end, it was with mixed feelings that I left. The Adlerian orientation of the department was evident in the value of social interest and how this extended to visiting faculty like myself. It was an honor to be affiliated with the Department and I have maintained contact with several faculty members and students who are all welcome to visit my department in San Francisco any time! ●

Travel to United Kingdom

By Irene Johnson

This past summer I was invited to the Tenth Annual Oxford Symposium (2003-2012) on School-Based-Family Counseling as a Keynote Speaker. The Symposium was held at the Brasenose College, Oxford, United Kingdom from August 5 - 10, 2012. I have previously traveled to several international destinations; however, this was my first visit to the United Kingdom. I flew to London and traveled to Oxford by bus. Oxford is the location of Oxford University and Brasenose College is one of the University of Oxford Colleges.



The topic of my presentation was “Promoting Retention of Minorities in Higher Education - Lessons Learned”. Previous research and service in the area of Retention of Minority students was the primary reason for my invitation to the Symposium. Twenty-six presenters from seven countries attended the Symposium; some of the countries included South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and China.

All of the presenters are School-Based-Family Counseling professionals and researchers. The Oxford Symposium is sponsored by the Institute for School-Based-Family Counseling and Co-sponsored by the University of San Francisco Center for Child and Family Development. ●

Recently Defended Dissertations

Summer 2012

ATTACHMENT, LOCUS OF CONTROL, AND ROMANTIC INTIMACY IN ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: A CORRELATIONAL INVESTIGATION

By Rafaela Peter
Dissertation Chair - Dr. Paul Peluso
Committee Members - Drs. M. Frain and E. Villares

MOBBING, BURNOUT AND RELIGIOUS COPING STYLES AMONG PROTESTANT CLERGY: A STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODEL AND IT'S IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELORS

By Steven R. Vensel
Dissertation Chair - Dr. Paul Peluso
Committee Members - Drs. L. Sperry and M. Frain

THE EFFECT OF A CLASSROOM INTERVENTION ON ADOLESCENT WELLNESS, SUCCESS SKILLS, AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

By Jacqueline Lee-Russell Wirth
Dissertation Chair - Dr. Elizabeth Villares
Committee Members - Drs. G. Brigman and L. Webb

Fall 2012

THE EFFECTS OF THE PROACTIVE PERSONALITY ON THE LEVELS OF JOB SATISFACTION AND BURNOUT AMONG LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS

By Pamela Spina
Dissertation Chair - Dr. Paul Peluso
Committee Members - Drs. M. Frain and J. Morris

Mastering the Art of Webinar Presenting *continued from page 1*



Providing a webinar, hosted by ASCA, was brand new territory with different procedures and expectations. Worst of all, it limited the element of training that I was most comfortable with, participant - trainer interaction.

After my initial discomfort, I realized the strength of webinars. They are an efficient and effective way to share information with large number of people. With that in mind, I set out to learn the mechanics of providing a webinar and to identify the elements of a successful webinar presentation.

Here are a few tips based on what I found:

Content

DOs

- Know your content. This is a simple truth for all training presentations. This is not a time to “fake it ‘till you make it.
- Prepare and Practice your webinar. Have speaker notes ready. Time your slides. If co-presenting assign slides and practice how you will transition from one speaker to another.

DON'Ts

- Don't try to wing it. You might be an engaging presenter face-to-face, but you lose that edge in a webinar. Thin content will become apparent.
- Don't make your presentation slide show too complicated. Keep slides uncluttered and easy to read. Avoid overusing bells, whistles, sounds, and distracting transitions.

Technology Platform

DOs

- Gather current technology for your presentation. Webinars typically require a computer with a good Internet connection, a good quality (USB) microphone or speakerphone, and your presentation software.
- Make sure that you work with the host of the webinar to test everything at least a week in advance. In my case, we could not get around the school district's firewall. I ended up running the webinar from home. If we had not checked everything out in advance there would have been big problems on the day of the webinar.

DON'Ts

- Don't assume that the technology will work as planned. Plan for the worse case scenario. Be a Webinar prepper, with Plan B and Plan C options for technology issues.

The Presentation

DOs

- Clean up your desktop. The hosting service from my webinar, Citrix Go to Webinar, shared by desktop with the webinar audience. They could see my computer desktop and PowerPoint show.
- Be sure to present from a quiet location. Post a Do Not Disturb sign and make sure your colleagues know that you are presenting.
- Presume competence as a webinar presenter. Focus on what you know and your content. You are the expert during the webinar.
- Engage your audience with webinar polls. Webinar pools pose a multiple choice style question requiring participants to submit their answer. Polls include real-time reporting of their responses. A few strategically placed poll questions will keep the audience engaged.

DON'Ts

- Don't leave embarrassing, inappropriate or private files or photos on your desktop. They could be seen by your audience.
- Don't allow for background distractions. Since I was presenting my webinar from home, I made sure to turn off the ringer on my phone and tell my kids to stay quiet for an hour. I forgot about the dog. Some quick action from the co-presenter was required to get Lela to stop barking at the UPS driver.

After the Presentation

DOs

- Provide contact information to your webinar audience. They may have follow up questions or comments on the presentation.
- Get the webinar archive link. Many webinars are recorded and made available by the host.
- Save a copy of the webinar presentation and recording for your portfolio.

Webinars are a great way to share information with large groups of people in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Even though professional development webinars have many things in common with traditional face-to-face trainings. I encourage you to explore and develop your expertise in webinar presentations along with your existing educational program. ●



BETA RHO CHI

A Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota

Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International

Message from the Beta Rho Chi Chapter President

Dear Beta Rho Chi family:

Over a year has passed since I agreed to become the president of our Chi Sigma Iota chapter. It has been an amazing journey so far, and I am happy I have the opportunity to be a part of Beta Rho Chi for one more year.

Recently, I attended the Florida Counseling Association (FCA) convention in Tampa, FL. I volunteered to help, and I was a presenter. I had the pleasure of meeting many people and I learned something from each and every person I met. One of the things I learned was that there is no limit to our development and growth. I met professionals from all areas of counseling and made many connections. I learned about what is trending in the field right now and what I should be sensitive to and look out for in the future. If you have not already, I sincerely recommend each and every one of you attend professional conferences and experience these types of events first hand.

A large piece of professional development includes networking, and I am happy to report that our chapter has made many connections within the community this past year. Some of our great accomplishments and community involvement, that you will read about in more detail in this newsletter, are: Volunteering for the Women in Distress' Safe Walk, members presenting at state, regional, national, and international conferences, hosting the semester professional panels, conducting a community-based CEU workshop, and new member induction ceremonies. Currently, we have 40 active members and continuing to grow.

Our Fall initiation ceremony is scheduled for November 27, 2012 at 8 PM. We are pleased to be hosting Candy Hertsch the 2010-2012 FCA past President, as our guest speaker. We will be initiating more students and we hope to be even more active in the coming semesters. The 2012-2013 academic year will bring our chapter elections, and I truly recommend that each member, seeking a leadership position within our wonderful profession, consider running for office.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our future events. ◆

Luna Medina
Beta Rho Chi President



Beta Rho Chi, Chapter Newsletter Editor's Notes

By Layven Reguero



In the last issue of this Newsletter I began the column by stating, “what an amazing semester this has been”; but this semester has been even more amazing. It is such a privilege to be a Graduate Student at Florida Atlantic University. With the privilege comes great responsibility.

I hope that all of us students pause now and again, amidst the myriad activities that undoubtedly keep us occupied, to reflect upon what it means to be a part of the Department of Counselor Education.

Every semester the Department receives numerous applications for admittance into the program, and a great deal more applicants are denied than accepted. In the midst of the daily grind it may be helpful to our service related dispositions to pause every now and again, and remember that we are the chosen few.

There are so many opportunities available to us as part of the Department of Counselor Education. First and foremost, we have access to our esteemed faculty. Without exception, every conversation I have ever had with the faculty has helped me become a better professional. I am so thankful for time I have left in the program, because of the opportunities for more of these inspiring talks. I encourage you to ask more questions and really listen to the answers. Take advantage of office hours. Stop in the department to say hello to Dr. Johnson, our Department Chair. She is extremely welcoming and kind, and will surely help you maintain accountability to this path that you have chosen for yourself.

After nine (9) credits of at least a 3.5 G.P.A, all Counselor Education students become eligible for membership in the Beta Rho Chi chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. Dr. Sperry has said, “Membership in this organization can be indispensable in your career pursuits.” The picture of me at the beginning of this column was taken from the balcony of the Dalai Lama’s temple in Dharamsala, India. I mention it because Dr. Sperry’s statement reminds me of something the Dalai Lama said, “The robe does not make the monk.” Likewise, membership alone in CSI might not be sufficient to impact your career pursuits: but it can be! Be involved!

What are we doing with the opportunities that are provided to us? Are we making the most of these life-changing moments? If not for our own sake, then for our loved ones and families, for the Department and University, for the sake of our peers, for the betterment of society, and for the many clients we will encounter in our careers. Let’s become better helpers.

I will recycle a bit of last issue’s Editor’s Note and close by saying, “This is truly a unique time to be a graduate student at Florida Atlantic University and a member of Chi Sigma Iota’s Beta Rho Chi. I am thankful for the many opportunities that our faculty and student leaders have created; opportunities whose aim is to aid us along in the development of a professional identity.”

A special thanks to Dr. Villares for her untiring support: she consistently goes above and beyond. ●

Beta Rho Chi Hosts Professional Panel

By Layven Reguero

Every semester the Beta Rho Chi Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota organizes opportunities for students in the Department of Counselor Education to participate in activities that facilitates enhancement of their professional identity. By far the most popular of these events are the Professional Panels.

One such event was held on July 30, 2012. Eleven practicing professionals from the local community were invited to FAU's College of Education. A panel forum was created and for several hours they graciously shared their experiences. There were representatives from the field of Psychology, Mental Health, Rehabilitation, and School counseling, and Social Work. Luna Medina, our Chapter president said, "It was a great pleasure to listen to your stories of success, and learn from experienced people... We truly learned from each and every one of you!" I believe, based on conversations with my peers, that all students in attendance, which comprised one of the biggest turnouts of any Beta Rho Chi event this year.

Michael Kane, a panelist and president of the Palm Beach School Counselor Association said of the experience, "I was reminded of the complexity of the counseling profession. There were students and professionals who represented mental health counselors, addiction professionals, specialist in group work and school counselors - each with their own story." Statements like these illuminate the symbiotic benefits indicative of this profession.

Each of the panelists disclosed a great deal of personal information related to their career paths. Every story was unique, and yet was laced with the common theme of increasing self-awareness and ability to effectively elicit changes as they progressed through education and vocational advancement. Very personal stories of triumphs and tribulations were weaved into the theme of professional identify development.

I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Holly Katz from the Center of Group Counseling about the Professional Panel. We spoke for quite some time, sharing our experiences of the event. Dr. Katz graciously thanked Beta Rho Chi for the opportunity to speak, and felt that she was in very good company. I was interested in the conversation for many reason, but when Dr. Katz asked me what I remembered most from her panel contributions, I shared that it was the emphasis she placed upon personal responsibility. Dr. Katz challenged the audience to honestly examine their own suitability to become a clinician. And if such suitability were validated, she entreated the audience to read more, learn more, and become more knowledgeable about current and historical trends in evidence-based practice. Dr. Katz's reminder of the responsibility inherent in the profession humbled us all.

There definitely was a sense of collaboration amongst the panelists. Messages of individual work and responsibility rounded out the evening's proceedings well. It is my belief that everyone in attend left knowing more about possibilities available in their own career path, and with a sense of empowerment resulting from the humanizing disclosures of the panelists.

We hope you can join us for the next Professional Panel.

Beta Rho Chi - Contact Information

CSI Beta Rho Chi website - <http://beta-rho-chi.csi-chapters.org/>

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Department Announcements

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY?

DEGREE PROGRAM	APPLICATION DEADLINE	CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS	NOTIFICATION BEGINS
M.Ed. & Ed.S.	September 15 - For Spring Applicants	Second week in October	November 1
	March 1 - For Fall Applicants	First week in April	April 5
Ph.D.	January - For Fall Admission Only	February 15	March 1

Only completed applications will be considered. A completed application consists of the FAU Graduate School application, official undergraduate and graduate transcripts, GRE scores (taken within the past five years), a personal goal statement, resume and/or essay including volunteer experience related to counseling, and three letters of reference of a professional native, e.g. former professors, employers, colleagues who have direct insight on your academic abilities and professional goals. Visit <http://www.fau.edu/graduate/apply.php> to get started. ●

Congratulations to our Summer and Fall 2012 Graduates!

Ph.D. in Counseling

Jennifer Bilot
Steven Vensel
Jacqueline Wirth
Raffaella Peter

M.Ed. in Mental Health Counseling

Jeanine Mannweiler
Sade Blackshear
Naomi Feigenbaum
Katherine Yount

M.Ed. in Rehabilitation Counseling

Melissa Bilobran
Michele Fazzari
Kristy Quaka
Kelly Sakala

Ed.S. In Mental Health

Faith Gordon

M.Ed. in School Counseling

Kristen Carney
Meghan Carney
Cara Cusano
Stephen Kaplan
Jennifer Kemp
Samantha Mancuso
Rita Markowitz
Ashley Neer
Kristen Robbins
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The FAU Department of Counselor Education publishes this electronic newsletter. The newsletter is designed to provide information on our degree programs, student and faculty accomplishments, along with scholarship, teaching, and service opportunities.

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