

Doctoral Program Earns CACREP Accreditation

By Elizabeth Villares

In the fall of 2005, the department began admitting the first doctoral students and the faculty embarked on gaining accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Under the leadership of Dr. Paul Peluso this important department goal was reached in January of 2010. CACREP provides recognition that the program and content meets the highest standards set by the counseling profession and includes a process of self-assessment and external peer evaluation.

The self-assessment began with the program developing a mission, vision, and core values and articulating the means to accomplish said mission through specific goals and objectives. The program is then held accountable for its educational activities and outcomes. Results are made public to students, employers, and other educators. The department self-evaluation includes an assessment of program resources, objectives, strengths, and limitations.

A CACREP approved program must provide specific knowledge and information that addresses core curriculum areas and bridges the gap between theory and practice through educational experiences, students must receive a minimum of 700 hours of supervised clinical experience, and there must be at least three full-time faculty members who hold Ph.D.s and are activity involved in scholarship activities (i.e. research, publications, and conference presentations).

Students enrolled in the FAU Counselor Education CACREP program can expect to receive a quality education that meets and exceeds state standards, demonstrate specific skills and competencies through core curriculum and clinical experiences needed to excel in the counseling profession, develop a strong counseling identity, and have a competitive edge over non-CACREP approved program graduates as they seek future employment.

The Department of Counselor education is proud to be amongst the recognized CACREP Ph.D. programs, in addition to our masters of education programs, and that our students and consumers will be entering the profession with the skills and talents necessary to make an impact on day one. ●

FAU Counselor Education National Ranking

The Counselor Education department learned this Spring that it was ranked 6th in the nation amongst Counselor Education programs on the Faculty Scholarly Production Index (FSP) conducted by Academic Analytics. The FSP Index is compiled over a three year period, looking at faculty productivity (i.e. journal publications, grants awarded, books published), and then compares a department's productivity against the median index score for the particular discipline. This metric is featured on the Chronicle of Higher Education website.

The national ranking of the Counselor Education program meets one of the department's 2003 strategic goals of earning recognition as a premier program in the state of Florida and nationally by 2013. According to the FSP Index, the FAU Counselor Education program was the only program in the state of Florida ranked in the top ten this year. This national ranking is a direct correlation of effort and scholarly production of the department's faculty members and highlights the innovative research happening within the department. The faculty are encouraged by this ranking and will continue to aim high in order to eventually earn top ranking. ●

Department of Counselor Education Program News

LIVE TEXT

By Elizabeth Villares

The College of Education has begun requiring students to purchase the LiveText electronic student performance assessment software. LiveText allows students and faculty to assess program standards and provide evidence of your mastery of competencies as you progress through your program of study, track your performance, and comply with program approval and accreditation. Each student is provided with an electronic storage space to manage your external files in one location. Students can easily prepare multiple, customized electronic portfolio to share with their peers, faculty, and prospective employers.

Students may purchase an account directly through www.livetext.com, at any FAU campus bookstore, or for those students using financial aid funds to purchase textbooks can log onto www.shopfau.com. Additional information regarding the College of Education LiveText requirement go to <http://coe.fau.edu/livetext/>. Account subscriptions are valid for a five year period and transferable to other instructions. Training and support is available through the LiveText customer support online at www.livetext.com and by phone 866-548-3839. ●



The Group Interview: A Change in Perspective

By Deena Beth Karch

Each year, prospective Counselor Education doctoral students undergo a rigorous application process that culminates with a group interview. The interview, or rather introduction to the faculty, program of study, and campus, spans an entire day and acts as a final opportunity for hopeful students to articulate their intent for the upcoming year.

In addition to the professors in the Counselor Education department, current doctoral students in varying phases of their Ph.D. endeavors are asked to sit in on the interview process. As a current first year student, I found the experience from the other side of the spectrum to be quite interesting. I would be amiss to say that the process still was not nerve wrecking, as you can feel the excitement and nervous energy in the room, yet, it reminded me of the importance and gravity of the process.

The faculty and students sit in a large circle and questions are posed with regard to personal interests, theoretical perspectives, and research goals. Each applicant addressed their questions with thoughtful, purposeful clarity and I felt honored to be a part of their experience. Even though the anxiety level was high, their confidence and interest in counseling remained constant and proved that their dedication to the field had led them to this point in their educational career. Among this year's candidates were two Guinness Book of World Record Holders and a former National Top Ten School Counselor of the Year Finalist.

Being on the other side of the interview process this year reminded me how much can change in such a short amount of time. No longer a hopeful candidate looking in, I am now collaborating with the faculty and my fellow classmates in pursuit of the skills and training needed to impact others in the field of counselor education. I wish each candidate good luck in whichever path they pursue and know that the department would be fortunate to have their contributions to the program. ●

Faculty Awards

The department of Counselor Education is pleased to announce the following awards received by the faculty this academic year.

The 2010 Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Irene Johnson from by the Mississippi Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development. Dr. Johnson was an active member from 1999 until 2006 when she left Mississippi to join the FAU Counseling Department. Additionally, Dr. Johnson served as President of the organization from 1999 - 2001. She currently serves as the department Chair and Professor in the Mental Health and Ph.D. programs.

The 2010 College of Education Researcher of the Year was awarded to Dr. Paul Peluso and the College of Education Scholar of the Year was awarded to Dr. Michael Frain. The College of Education Research committee selection was based on Drs. Peluso's and Frain's research and scholarly activities over the past five years.

Congratulations to Drs. Johnson, Peluso, and Frain for their well deserved recognitions and accomplishments! ●

Student Success Skills Summer Institute 2010

June 11, 2010 9:00 am - 4 pm

REGISTRATION FORM

Learn to facilitate evidence based programs aimed at improving student achievement and behavior.

Two concurrent full-day trainings will be presented by the SSS program creators Drs. Greg Brigman and Linda Webb. The cost for either full day training includes the program manual, and a CD with Power Point presentations for each lesson, a Power Point presentation for teachers and administrators, and printable posters.

Student Success Skills: Classroom Program (Grades 4 - 10) **Presenter: Dr. Greg Brigman**

Take away everything you need to implement the "Student Success Skills Classroom" program. This program, designed for Grades 4-12, has produced gains in math equal to one additional year of learning and 1/2 additional year of learning in reading. In addition improvement in student school success behavior has been found. This is a practical hands-on workshop and will prepare you to deliver the SSS Classroom program through demonstrations, practice and discussion.

For an overview of the SSS model and links to research go to <http://www.studentsuccessskills.com>

Ready for Success: Classroom Program (Grades 2 and 3) **Presenter: Dr. Linda Webb**

This full day session prepares participants to lead the Ready for Success (RFS) program, aimed at improving the academic and social skills of students in grades two and three. It is one of a series of Student Success Skills (SSS) programs based on decades of research regarding what helps students be successful in school. RFS was developed in response to an overwhelming demand for a program that would meet the needs of younger students given the NCLB benchmarks set at grade three. Participants will receive experiential training and the RFS manual that introduces students to developmentally appropriate activities targeting academic and life skills. The RFS program incorporates goal setting, anxiety management, and other skills through the use of story telling and related strategies. Participants will leave with the experience and materials necessary to implement the RFS intervention and track student outcomes. ●



Name of Event: SSS Summer Institute
Location: FAU, Boca Raton Campus,
Live Oak Center, University Center,
777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

Participant Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

School District: _____

Phone/Work: _____ Cell: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

PROGRAM AREA: Check One

Student Success Skills Classroom Program (Grades 4-10)

Ready for Success Program (Grades 2-3)

Registration deadlines and costs:

\$100.00 if payment received by April 21st

\$125.00 if payment received by May 21st

\$150.00 if payment received by June 11th

Checks, Money Orders, or Credit Cards are accepted.

To reserve your spot contact Darlene Epperson at frederic@fau.edu or by phone at 561-297-3602

Registration forms may be faxed to 561-297-2309 or mailed to: Darlene Epperson
Department of Counselor Education
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, 33431

Graduate Student Research Day

Congratulations to Pamela Spina, a third year doctoral student, who presented her research study on The Effects of the Proactive Personality on the Levels of Job Satisfaction and Burnout among Licensed Mental Health Counselors on Friday, April 9, 2010 on the Boca Raton campus. Studies on the Big Five Model and its relationship to career satisfaction and job satisfaction are more prominent in the literature. Findings from this study could provide useful information regarding the specific construct of the proactive personality and how it relates to the job satisfaction and burnout across work settings for Licensed Mental Health Counselors.

The participants in the study will include Licensed Mental Health Counselors selected from a list of licensed clinicians through the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, and Mental Health Counseling. Eligible participants will be contacted via email with an introduction, explanation of the study, and release information. The email will also include the three assessment tools: Proactive Personality Scale (abbreviated version), Maslach Burnout Inventory, and the Minnesota Satisfaction Questionnaire (abbreviated version). The completed assessment tools will be submitted electronically to the researcher who will then individually score each assessment, analyze the data using a multiple regression method, and report statistically significant results in her dissertation. Pamela has successfully defended her dissertation proposal and plans to begin collecting her data by Fall 2010. ●

Professional Counselors Colloquium - FAU Treasure Coast Campus

William G. Nicoll, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Counselor Education
Florida Atlantic University
E-mail: nicoll@fau.edu

Since 2007, FAU's Department of Counselor Education has hosted a monthly colloquium series for counselors and mental health professionals in the Treasure Coast area. The colloquium series is held in cooperation with the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County. Meeting on the Third Thursday of every month from 8:30 – 10:30 am, the professional development sessions are open to all helping professionals. Currently, our attendance ranges from 25 – 60 participants each month and includes mental health counselors, school counselors, social workers, psychologists, child care workers, nurses and occasionally police officers from throughout the four Treasure Coast counties.

The program began when FAU Professor, Dr. William G. Nicoll stepped down from the Department Chair position on the Boca Campus and moved to the TC campus so as to develop the graduate program in counseling for the northern FAU service area. While the department sought to find ways to be more visible in the Treasure Coast area so as to attract students and develop networks for practicum/internship placements, the CSC noted their concern with the lack of networking and CEU opportunities for area mental health professionals. A win/win solution quickly appeared that could benefit all. The "Third Thursday" monthly colloquium series was initiated in March 2007 offering two hours of NBCC CEU's each month via the department's provider status (NBCC credits are accepted for FL. licensure renewal). The morning sessions begin with a continental breakfast of coffee, danish and fruit and time for networking among the participants. Information on the FAU graduate programs is made available and participants are encouraged to bring brochures and business cards from their practice or agency to share among the attendees.

By 8:45am, the colloquium's topic of the month is introduced. Each month a different mental health professional or area educator serves as our speaker on a special topic in which they have particular interest and expertise. Among the topics which have been presented in the colloquium series thus far are: Autism Spectrum Disorders: new views on high functioning autism, Emotional & Psychological Abuse of Children, Children & School Success: What matters? What works? What doesn't!, Sexuality & Adolescents, Issues in the Dx & Tx of childhood disorders, Bullying & social aggression: Why our programs and policies don't work, Principles of effective substance abuse Tx, Prescription Drugs: Use & Misuse, Critical incident stress debriefing, Passport to Peace: A character education program, Identity: A new model for trauma survivorship, and Children & Grief. Following the presentations we have a Q/A session followed by further informal networking time.

To date, several FAU doctoral students have used the colloquium as an opportunity to present their research; an excellent opportunity to "rehearse" for the dissertation defense! Starting in the fall 2010, we are planning to initiate several presentations from mental health professionals around the world via Skype link and video conferencing technology. Counselor Education students are welcomed to attend any of the Third Thursday Professional Counselors Colloquium sessions. Indeed, if you would like to be considered as a future presenter or be placed on our monthly email topic notification list, please contact Dr. Nicoll (nicoll@fau.edu). ●



Department Announcements and Opportunities

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. ●

Best of luck to Ms. Kristen Ender, graduate student in the School Counseling Program. Kristen is a finalist for the College of Education Outstanding Student Award. Kristen has earned a 3.9 GPA, demonstrated excellence in coursework as well as her two semesters in her field experiences, and has excelled in community service.

In addition to being a full time students, Kristen has served as a graduate student in the COE Dean's office for the last 2.5 years. She is also activity involved in her community and works as a mentor to middle and high school students at her church. She has organized a community outreach program with the students who conduct projects such as feeding the homeless, visiting the elderly and visiting children with cancer.

Kristen has not only excelled in her coursework but also has a very positive and encouraging attitude to go along with her outstanding interpersonal skills. Her enthusiasm and demonstration of caring has set her apart. The entire faculty supports Kristen's nomination and wishes her the best as she graduates from FAU this semester and seeks employment as a Professional School Counselor. Congratulations Kristen! ●

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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