Program Name: Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Program Coordinator: Heather Robertson, Ph.D. (Interim)
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Sullivan Hall, Room 414
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Clinical Mental Health Counseling Enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Spring 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION
The Advanced Certificate in Mental Health Counseling has been approved by the State. This is a 24 credit certificate that will be registered with the State. It will allow students with a master’s degree in school counseling obtain the educational requirements for mental health counseling licensure. Currently, we are waiting for approval from financial aid for the certificate.

Efforts are underway with the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to approve St. John’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling program to meet the education requirements for the Certified Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor in Training (CASAC-T) certification. This approval, if granted, would allow St. John’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling Students to sit for the CASAC exam with no additional education requirements, which would in turn, expand CMHC alumni employment opportunities. We are currently awaiting the results of the state’s review.

St. John’s Counseling programs were approved for the Graduate Student Option with the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), which allows students to sit for the National Counseling Exam (NCE) before their graduation. The NCE is a national counseling exam which can be used for professional counseling licensing in New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Students who elect to take the NCE and pass the exam, earn the title of Nationally Certified Counselor upon graduation, and may possibly expand their employment options in neighboring states.

CACREP
The CACREP Accreditation Board granted St. John’s University a two-year accreditation after their visit in 2012. Currently St. John’s is implementing several CACREP recommendations, such as supervisor training, posting information on our website, and faculty ratios in order to receive a full
accreditation in the summer of 2014. These items are currently being given priority in order to secure full accreditation.

**INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

The faculty in the Mental Health Counseling program continues to spend significant time establishing partnerships for internship opportunities for students in the program. During the 2013-2014 year, students enjoyed placement at a variety of settings including inpatient settings (e.g. Holliswood, Zucker-Hillside, Queens Hospital Center, New York Presbyterian, Richmond University Medical Center, and South Oaks), community agencies (e.g. Calvary Hospital, PAC program, PSCH PROS, Create Inc., Gateway Counseling Center, YMCA, Narco Freedom, and Coalition Against Domestic Violence), as well as counseling clinics and private practice (e.g. Freedom from Fear, Peninsula Counseling Center, and New York Psychotherapy & Counseling Center). We plan to survey all site supervisors in the summer of 2014 regarding their preferences for selecting interns, internship timelines, and preferred placement processes. We hope to develop a more seamless process for internship placement for mental health counseling students.

**RECRUITMENT FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM**

Enrollment in all counseling programs has declined over the past few years, particularly in the School Counseling program and at the Staten Island campus. The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program has continued to receive a large number of applications for admission, although final enrollment numbers are dependent both on the candidate’s qualifications and their financial status. The GRE requirement for Counseling programs was removed as a result of sharp drop in applications following its implementation. Prospective students who attend Open Houses have been invited to sit in on graduate classes, and at least two students observed classes as prospective students, ultimately resulting in their application, admission, and registration.

**FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS (In alphabetical order):**

**Dr. James Bethea**

1. **Sponsored/Non-Sponsored Projects or Programs**

   In October 2014, awarded a $960,000 PEAK grant ($480,000 per year for 2 years) with the option of 2 one-year renewals for a potential total of $1,920,000.

   PEAK (Pathways to Excellence, Achievement, and Knowledge) is part of former New York City Mayor, Michael Bloomberg’s Young Men’s Initiative (YMI). YMI consists of a comprehensive effort to help Black and Latino young men achieve their professional, educational, and personal goals. PEAK combines elements of educational enrichment, behavior modification, and therapeutic services, and is provided in conjunction with on-going probation supervision provided by The New York City Department of Probation (DOP). PEAK engages youth who are in grades 8 through 12 and are between the ages of 14 and 18, year round, during school hours as well as after-school. The aim of PEAK is to increase positive outcomes for adolescents who are on and in jeopardy of being placed due to a probation revocation as well as youth whose risk and offense severity levels at adjudication suggest they need rigorous programming in order to thrive in the community without the need for residential placement. PEAK combines educational enrichment, behavior modification and therapeutic services, and probation supervision. Utilizing an intervention strategy that provides extended-day, integrated educational and treatment services, the program seeks to provide participants with the structure and guidance needed for success by creating experiential learning opportunities with appropriate behavior modification and treatment services integrated into the
program. Ultimately, students will improve education and behavioral outcomes as well as self-efficacy. The grant is sponsored by the New York City Department of Probation in collaboration with the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO), and the Department of Education (DOE).

A research interest area for Dr. Bethea is the resilient behavior of minority youth and he is optimistic as a result of this award he will be able to obtain significant data that will support this part of his research agenda as well as allow him to produce other related scholarly manuscripts.

2. Service to SJU

Departmental

- P & B Member- Elected

University

- Athletics Advisory Board Member- Appointed
- Campus Safety Advisory Board Member-Appointed

3. Other service activities

- Participated in Fall Open House representing the Counseling Dept.
- Keynote Speaker for HARAYA Graduation Ceremony (May 2013)

Dr. Gina Cicco

1. Publications:


2. Presentations:


3. **Service:**
   - Serve on the university’s Graduate Council and have been elected for multiple terms on this Council (2011-2014). As a member of Graduate Council, serve on its Bylaws Committee.
   - Chair of the DASA committee (2013-2014)

4. **Other Accomplishments/Awards:**
As a 2013 recipient of the Grants Mentoring Program Award, offered through the university’s Office of Grants and Sponsored Research, participated in several intensive grant writing workshops (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2013). Dr. Cicco also submitted a proposal to the New York Life Foundation entitled “Enhancing the Post-Secondary Opportunities of New York City Youth: Small-Group Counseling Experiences in College and Career Development” (Fall 2013) and another to the Spencer Foundation entitled “The Acquisition and Development of Counseling Skills and Techniques in Online Courses” (Spring 2014).

During the Summer of 2013, invited by Dean Richard Sinatra and Dr. Francine Guastello to lead the school and university in fulfilling the New York State mandate to provide training for our students on the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). Dr. Cicco was part of the initial planning committee and eventually became chair of the DASA Committee, charged with developing a plan to apply to New York State as a DASA training provider for all individuals seeking to obtain state certification to work in schools. Our application was accepted and St. John’s University is recognized and listed as a DASA provider for the New York State Department of Education. She authored the syllabi, lesson plan modules, and Power Point presentations to deliver the trainings, and collaborated with other committee members in modifying and improving each of these documents, training DASA instructors, announcing the trainings for the university community, and coordinating, delivering, and administering DASA training sessions as a co-instructor. She is also responsible for setting up the schedule of DASA sessions, locations, and co-instructors for each session throughout the academic year. (Summer 2013 to Spring 2014 and 3-year commitment as DASA certifying officer)

**Dr. Robert Eschenauer**

1. **Publications**


2. **Grants**
   New York City Department of Education Bilingual Scholarship Program. Grant submitted for approximately $300,000 to pay for up to five bilingual school counseling students to complete the
counseling program.

3. Presentations/Programs
Vincentian Center for Church and Society, International Priest Acculturation Program – co-presenter with Father Edward Doran delivering a presentation entitled “Priest as Counselor.” June, 2013.

Eighth Biennial Vincentian Social Justice Conference: Educational Justice: Opportunity, Inclusion and Social Equity for All. Served as roundtable reporter to Dr. Mary Ellen Freeley’s presentation on the effects of poverty on the education of children. As the reporter, I presented the results of our roundtable discussion to the larger body of participants.

In order to give clinical mental health counseling students additional experiences relevant to their professional training, Dr. Eschenauer brought several students with me to train psychologists-in-training (PITs) of the New York City Department of Education. In these presentations, the students have prepared and conducted the workshops. For example, Vanessa Persaud presented on the topic of the WIAT III; Caitlin Winkler presented on the WJIII; Raman Randhawa presented on brief counseling. The feedback from these presentations has been overwhelmingly positive and in one case Raman was asked by the audience to return to present material on grief counseling.

4. Service
Within the University

- Institutional Review Board
- School Personnel and Budget Committee
- Academic Fairness Committee
- University Disabilities Committee

Professional Community

- President-elect of the New York Mental Health Counselor Association and serve on the Association’s Executive Board; will take over as president in July, 2014.
- Nominated by Dr. Dorothy Habben and Dean Ross to participate in the Professional Assistance Program of the Office of Professions of the New York State Education Department; was interviewed and accepted as a member of the committee to begin active service in October, 2014.

Doctoral Dissertation Committees:
Within the University

- Rochelle Harary (defended)
- Michelle Varuzza (defended)
- Elham Yahia
- Jennifer Peccorella
- Jennifer Dardzinski (defended)
- Kruti Patel
- Sofia Halikias

Outside the University

- Kelly Switzer at Hofstra University
5. **Honors**
   - Vincentian Research Fellow in July, 2013.

**Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi**

**Service**

**University/Campus**
- Coordinator of an on-campus freshman retention program titled **Student and Faculty Engagement (SAFE)**. This program currently has 55 mentors including professors, administrators, and other staff from across the university spectrum. The mentors work with 168 incoming freshman, helping them to make a successful adjustment to college life. My responsibility requires no less than 10 hours of work each week. Tasks involve recruiting and training new mentors during July and August, involvement in Move-In Day, meetings with students and mentors (on-going), four field trips each semester, Hot Topic presentations, documentation, and supervision of two individuals who assist me with this program. For the academic year 2012-2013 the SAFE program retention rate was 11 percentage points better than the control group.
- Member of the **SOE Personnel and Budget Committee**.

**Community**
- Implemented a pro-bono school counseling and mental health counseling program at the **Our Lady of Snows School** in Glen Oaks, New York. Since the fall of 2013 this program provides the OLS school with a weekly counseling on both Thursday and Friday mornings. Three students currently enrolled in the counseling program are involved as well. The program works with K-8 students using individual counseling, small group counseling, parent and child counseling, in-class room program, and service programs such as a clothing drive for St. John’s Midnight Run.

**Dr. Ming-hui Li**


*Note: Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development is a national peer-viewed journal. It is a SSCI journal. According to Cabell’s Directories, this journal has an acceptance rate of 13%.*


*Note: VISTAS is an American Counseling Association Publication.*

2. **Presentations/Programs**

   1. **Research based presentations**
      
      **International Level**
      

National Level

University Level
Li, M. H. (April 3, 2014). Verification of a Measurement and Test of Its Measurement Invariance: The Case of Active Coping. Research poster presented at the 19th Faculty Research Forum, St. John’s University, Queens, NY.

II. Non-Research Based Presentations

2. Li, M. H. (June 1, 2013). How to foster resilience in your children in your own home environment? Presented at Tzu-Chi Academy New York, Queens, NY.

3. Other ongoing significant research not resulting in publication or presentation this year
(i) Li, M. H. (invited revision). Stress Coping, Secure Attachment, and Trait Resilience among College Students in the U.S., China, and Taiwan.

(ii) Li, M. H. & Pratt-Johnson, Yvonne (application for IRB approval). An Investigation of Factors Influencing Active Coping in Dominican and Jamaican College Students in the U.S.

4. Service to SJU
University Level:
• Oct. 2010 – Present- Member of President’s Multicultural Advisory Committee (appointed)
• 2011 – Present- University Senate

Departmental level:
• March 22, 2014 – Proctor of COMPS on Staten Island campus
• Sept. 2012 – Present - Member of P & B committee (elected)
• Sept. 2004 - Present - Coordinator of Bilingual School Counseling Program (appointed)
• September 1, 2004 - Present - Advise graduate students in counseling programs

5. Participation in Mission-related activities
• May 23, 2014 – Scheduled to participate in a Voluntary Service Project through the Archdiocese of Montego Bay, Jamaica.
• August 2009 – Feb. 2014 - Participated in community-based research project—The Ozanam Scholars’ Services at the Bread and Life Project Identity + Benefit (voluntary)
2011 - 2016: Facilitating a cooperation between St. John’s University’s Counseling Program and NTNU’s Dept of Educational Psychology and Counseling. (voluntary)

August 2006 – Present: Doing volunteer work at the Tzu-Chi Academy New York, working as a volunteer counseling consultant. The Tzu-Chi Academy New York is a non-profit Saturday school for children recently immigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and China. Many of the children in this academy are from poor families. I go to this academy every Saturday morning to provide counseling consultation for teachers, students, and Parents (voluntary).

Dr. Heather Robertson

1. Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journals


Web-based Publications

2. Sponsored/Non-Sponsored Projects or Programs
Institute for Leadership Training Travel Grant (Grant received May 1, 2013), $900 (one time dispersion), American Counseling Association, July 2013

3. Presentations/Programs

University
Spring 2014, St. John’s University School of Education for the New York State Department of Education.: Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Training; delivered on Oakdale campus (4.5.14) and Queens campus (3.14.14 and 4.27.14)

State
May 2014, New York State Career Development Association Conference (Buffalo, NY), Education Session Presenter: Comparing Career Transitions of Midlife and College Student Veterans

April 2014, New York Mental Health Counseling Association Conference (Albany, NY), Education Session Presenter: Narrative Techniques in Counseling Military and Veterans
March 2014, American Counseling Association (ACA) National Conference (Honolulu, HI), Education Session Co-Presenter: Creating Supportive Communities as a Means of Treatment for Military Members and Veterans

June 2013, Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC) National Conference (New York, New York), Educational Session Presenter: Narrative Techniques in Counseling Military and Veterans

June 2013, Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC) National Conference (New York, New York), Panelist: Specializing in Counseling and Navigating Career Opportunities

4. Other ongoing significant research not resulting in publication or presentation this year

1. Life Satisfaction and Career Transition of Student Veterans: data from nearly 200 student veterans has been gathered and analyses are scheduled to begin in spring/summer 2014.

2. Counselor Educator and Counseling Practitioner Perceptions of Military Populations as a Culture: In collaboration with colleagues from Florida State University, a research study was launched this winter to measure counselor educators’ and counseling practitioners’ perceptions of military populations as a distinct culture. Responses are still being gathered for this project. Data from nearly 50 respondents has already been collected.

5. Service to SJU

• Interim Program Coordinator, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program
• Faculty liaison for National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), Nationally Certified Counselor Exam/Graduate Student Option
• Chapter Advisor, Chi Sigma Iota, Sigma Tau Upsilon Chapter, St. John’s Chapter
• Committee Member, Admissions and Academic Standing Committee, Department of Human Services and Counseling

6. Academic Awards and Honors

• New York State Career Development Association’s (NYSCDA) “Early Career Professional Award.” (to be awarded May 30, 2014)

7. Other Significant Recognition of academic nature

• Reviewer for the Journal of Career Development (acceptance rate 25%). Reviewed three manuscripts during 2013-2014 year.
• Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) credential, earned October 2013

8. Significant participation in professional societies/associations

American Counseling Association of New York (ACA-NY)

• President, 2013-2014

National Career Development Association (NCDA)

• Veterans Committee member, 2011 – present
  o Veterans Committee, Research Subcommittee, 2013 - present

New York Career Development Association (NYCDA)

• Newsletter Editorial Support Team, 2012 - present
American Counseling Association (ACA)
  • Veterans Interest Network (VIN), 2013 – present

Respectfully submitted,
Heather C. Robertson, Ph.D.