St. John’s University
The School of Education
Department of Human Services and Counseling
Coordinator’s Annual Report for Academic Year 2013-2014

Department Chair: Dr. Francine Guastello
Department Director: Dr. Robert Eschenauer
Program Coordinator: Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi

FULL-TIME FACULTY
Dr. James Bethea
Dr. Gina Cicco
Dr. Robert Eschenauer
Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi
Dr. Ming-hui Li
Dr. Heather Robinson

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION
The School Counseling Program is a fully accredited 48 credit program fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Counseling Related Programs (CACREP). The program is currently being reviewed for accreditation. All documents have been submitted as per accreditation guidelines. The School Counseling program is fully accredited through and is currently undergoing accreditation evaluation.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (CE) RESULTS

Spring 2014
Twelve school counseling students (7 in Queens and 5 in Staten Island) sat for the comprehensive examination in March 2014. All twelve students passed.

Fall 2013
Four school counseling students (all from Queens) sat for the comprehensive examination. All four students passed.
FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. James Bethea

Sponsored/Non-Sponsored Projects or Programs
Examples: Grants, patents, etc.. If you are reporting a grant, include both funded and unfunded applications within the reportable time frame. If funded, include the date of the grant and the amount of the award.

In October 2014, I was 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 ongoing 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 me is the resilient behavior of minority youth and I’m optimistic as a result of this award I will be able to obtain significant data that will support this part of my research agenda as well as allow me to produce other related scholarly manuscripts.
SECTION III: SERVICE
1. Service to SJU (College/divisional/departmental/committee service, administrative activities that are professionally related).
Indicate if these positions were elected, appointed or voluntary. Examples: Service on the P&B, committee or task force activity, mentoring junior faculty, dissertation mentor, reader or committee member.

Departmental P & B Member- Elected

University Athletics Advisory Board Member- Appointed

Campus Safety Advisory Board Member-Appointed

3. Other service activities
Examples: Attendance at student events, participation at open houses, any other activities where there is opportunity to interact with students.

Participated in Fall Open House representing the Counseling Dept.

Keynote Speaker for HARAYA Graduation Ceremony (May 2013)

Dr. Gina Cicco

Publications:
Dr. Cicco will officially be awarded tenure in September 2014.

Publications:


Presentations:


Service:
I currently 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, I also serve on its Bylaws Committee. I am currently the chair of the DASA committee (2013-2014). I am also serving on a doctoral dissertation committee for a study entitled “Preparing All Students for College and Career in the 21st Century: A Theory-Based Evaluation of the WISE Program” (2014).

Other Accomplishments/Awards:

As a 2013 recipient of the Grants Mentoring Program Award, offered through the university’s Office of Grants and Sponsored Research, I participated in several intensive grant writing workshops (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2013). I 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, I was 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). I 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. I 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. I 
am 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**

approach increasing high school graduation rates and college enrollment of urban 
economically disadvantaged youth. *Education and Urban Society*.

approach for academic vocabulary acquisition. *Journal of Education and Training 
Studies, 2*(1), 117 – 126.

relationship between English language arts teachers’ use of instructional strategies 
and young adolescents’ reading motivation, engagement, and preference. *Journal 
of Education and Learning, 3*(2).

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, I have 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
I am currently the President-elect of the New York Mental Health Counselor Association and serve on the Association’s Executive Board. I will take over as president in July, 2014.

I was 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. I 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
I became a senior Vincentian Research Fellow in July, 2013.
Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi

Service

Member of the Vincentian Mission Institute.


Ferdinandi, A., Continued to coordinate the SAFE program. The program expanded the number of mentors to 60 and the number of first-year students to 168. In addition to coordinating the program I conducted three training workshops during the summer of 2013 for new mentors, co-led four field trips, led two Hot Topic programs, led monthly meetings with mentors, and individual meetings/interviews with students.

Ferdinandi, A. (2013-2014). *Conducted “Win the Day” program in Our lady of the Snows School in Glen Oaks, New York*. Program ran on Thursday and Friday mornings and involved three current graduate students in mental health and school counseling. Individual, small group and family counseling was conducted by the mental health counseling student and a Win the Day project was conducted by two school counseling students.

**Committee:**

School of Education Personnel & Budget Committee (elected)

**Presentations**

March 27, 2014 St. John’s University School of Education for New York State Department of Education. Presenter of DASA (Dignity for All Students Act)

Dr. Ming hui-Li

SECTION II: RESEARCH and SCHOLARSHIP

(1) Publications

Journal articles:


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

(3) Presentations/Programs

I. Research based presentations

International Level


National Level


University Level

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.

(4) 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.

Nature of the research

Although stress-coping has been intensively studied, few researchers have explored coping styles across cultures. Among cross-cultural studies on coping styles, very few of them focused on the active coping style, which is related to adaptation and mental health. The purpose of this study was to address this issue by exploring factors that influence the active coping style in three samples from the U.S., Taiwan, and China. Findings can contribute to multicultural counseling.

Major findings

In Taiwanese sample, trait resilience and secure attachment were effective predictors of active coping. Trait resilience was more effective than secure attachment in predicting. The results showed that trait resilience could predict active coping in all three samples, implying that trait resilience can influence active coping across cultures.

(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.

The proposed study will explore the relationship among stress, personality traits, and people’s tendency to actively cope with stress (i.e., active coping) in Dominican and Jamaican college students in the U.S. The purpose of the study is to explore factors that influence Dominican and Jamaican college students to cope with stress actively. The rationale for concentrating on these two groups of students is that they are two major ethnical minority groups in the U.S.

Personality traits that will be included in the study are trait resilience, self-compassion, secure attachment, and sense of coherence. Data will be collected by using a questionnaire that contains the Student-Life Stress Inventory (SSI: Gadzella, 1991), the Resilience Scale (Wagnild & Young, 1993), the Self-Compassion Scale (Neff, 2003), the Generalized Self-Efficacy Scale (Schwarzer & Jerusalem, 1995), the Revised Adult
Attachment Scale (Collins, 1996), the Coping Strategies Indicator (Amirkhan, 1990), and the Orientation to Life Questionnaire (OLQ: Antonovsky, 1987).

SECTION III: SERVICE

1. Service to SJU (College/divisional/departmental/committee service, administrative activities that are professionally related).

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

2. 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. (See Section II, 2) (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).

Publications:


Presentations
Li, M. H. (April 8, 2013). The relationship among sense of coherence, coping, strategies, and interpersonal patterns in a non-clinical population. Research poster presented at the 18th Faculty Research Forum, St. John’s University.

Li. M. H. (March 2, 2013). The power of repentance. Presented at the meeting of the 2nd and 3rd divisions of Tzu-Chi Foundation in Queens, NY.


Dr. Heather Robertson

1. Publications
   
   Peer-Reviewed Journals
   Robertson, H.C. and Brott, P.E. (2014). Military veterans’ midlife career transition and
   life satisfaction. The Professional Counselor, 4(2), 47-57. doi:10.15241/hcr.4.2.47
   
   Robertson, H. and Brott, P. (2013). Male veterans’ perceptions of career transition and
   
   of the National Association for Alternative Certification. Manuscript accepted for
   publication

   Robertson, H., Miles, R., and Malen, M. (2014). Career transition and military veterans:
   an overview of literature from 2000 to 2013. Career Planning and Adult Development
   Journal. Invited manuscript, submitted for publication.

   Web-based Publications
   Buzetta, M., Miles, R., Robertson, H., Schomaker, S. (2013). NCDA Veteran's Task
   Force – Research Committee: Bibliography of military career transition research, 2000 –
   present.
   National Career Development Association (internet publication). Retrieved from
   http://www.ncda.org/aws/NCDA/asset_manager/get_file/65078

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
National
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.
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
  - 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

**ADJUNCT FACULTY**

Ms. Susan Chilingarian  
Dr. Carol DeMeo  
Dr. Debra Giammata  
Prof. John Kukor

**FACULTY CHANGES**

No changes in full-time faculty

**UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL COMMITTEES**

Dr. James Bethea  
HS&C Personnel and Budget

Dr. Gina Cicco  
School Policy Committee  
Bylaws Committee  
Graduate Council

Dr. Robert Eschenauer  
School Personnel Committee  
Academic Fairness  
University IRB Committee

Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi  
HS&C Personnel and Budget  
Graduate Education Policy

Dr. Ming-hui Li  
University Senate  
HS&C Personnel and Budget
STUDENT RECRUITMENT

The counseling program continues the group interview process. Numerous positive comments by the candidates themselves affirm the group interview is an effective recruitment strategy. A number of candidates commented that one of the main reasons for selecting St. John’s is the sense of belonging and engagement they experienced in the group interview.

The interview includes questioning of the candidates, group discussion, a group exercise, and an introduction of each faculty member along with their academic and service oriented accomplishments.

Faculty attended the Open Houses on both the Queens and Staten Island campuses sponsored by St. John’s University Admissions Office held in the fall 2013 and spring 2014.

Below are the numbers of students enrolled in the Queens and Staten Island programs combined.

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<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2013</strong></td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2014</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
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Changes in Requirements

Applicants are no longer required to sit for the GRE exam.

Course Additions or Deletions

There were no course additions.

Student Advisement

Students continue to receive personal advisement each semester. They meet with their faculty adviser for program enrollment and personal development. Feedback from students indicated they value this experience. Students strongly encouraged to meet with faculty to discuss their academic plans. Faculty advisors, area of advisement, and campus are listed below.
Queens campus advisors

Dr. James Bethea  Mental Health Program
Dr. Robert Eschenauer  School Counseling, Advanced Certificate
Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi  School Counseling
Dr. Ming hui-Li  Bi-lingual School Counseling

Staten Island campus

Dr. Gina Cicco  School Counseling Program
Dr. Robert Eschenauer  Advanced Certificate, Mental Health, and School Counseling

Other Accomplishments

The School Counseling program has provided a number of field experiences for students in addition to the Practicum and Internship I and II. Students are gaining valuable A-SL experience at the Our Lady of the Snows School, Glen Oaks New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Andrew Ferdinandi, CRC, LMHC
Coordinator, School Counseling Program