

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
GRADUATE STUDIES
PROJECT SYMPOSIUM



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE

APRIL 6, 2017

Hagan Campus Center Hall

Program Schedule

4:00 P.M. **Welcome**

Dr. Leonard Doerfler, Director of the
Counseling Psychology Program

Dr. Louise Carroll-Keeley, Provost and
Academic Vice-President

4:15 P.M. **POSTERS**

The Association of Anxiety, Depression, Anger, and Alcohol Misuse in Young Adults

*Jason Prior, Taylor Schiff, Alexander Cerbo,
and Salomé Wilfred*

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

Fictional Transportation: Associations among Reading, Interest in Emotion, and Genre Preferences

Rachael Hickey

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

How Have Rehabilitation Counseling Programs Been Preparing Students to Work with Veterans

Catherine Trapani

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

Disenfranchised Grief in Adolescence

Kaitlin McArdle

School Counseling Program

Use of Remote Monitoring Technology to Improve Case Management Outcomes for a Frail, Elderly Population

Ellen Briggs RN, CCM

Health Advocacy Program

4:45 P.M. BREAK

5:00 P.M. PRESENTATIONS

**Using Positive Behavior Supports in
Worcester Public Schools**

*Kelly McNamara, Stephanie Montecalvo,
Jessica Michalowski, and Jennifer Ruderman*

Special Education CAGS Program

**The Association of Anxiety Sensitivity,
Substance Use, Problems, Posttraumatic
Stress Disorder, Depression and Anger in
Latino Males**

Salomé Wilfred

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

State of the Union

Klotilda Habilaj

Master of Business Administration

**Rehabilitation Counseling and LGBTQ+
Clients with Disabilities: Best Methods for
Effective Practice**

Patricia Malone and Katherine Bakhuizen

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

**6:00 P.M. Presentation of Certificates of
Recognition**

**Leonard Doerfler and
Nanho Vander Hart**

POSTER

The Association of Anxiety, Depression, Anger, and Alcohol Misuse in Young Adults

*Jason Prior, Taylor Schiff, Alexander Cerbo, and
Salomé Wilfred*

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

There is no “anger disorder” in the DSM-5. Because there is no diagnosis, anger is rarely addressed in treatment. Anger and related constructs are typically viewed as symptoms or characteristics of other disorders in the DSM-5, with internalizing and externalizing disorders. In order to better understand how anger relates to other disorders, this study will examine the association of anger with anxiety, depression, and problematic substance use in a non-clinical sample of 250 college students. It is hypothesized that the severity of self-reported anger will be positively correlated with self-reported anxiety, depression, and substance abuse problems among young adults.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Leonard Doerfler

POSTER

Fictional Transportation: Associations among Reading, Interest in Emotion, and Genre Preferences

Rachael Hickey

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

Beloved fantasy author Terry Pratchett named human beings Pan narrans, the storytelling ape. We crave fiction, but motivation for fiction exposure is relatively unexplored. Narratives are often emotional, which raises two compelling possibilities: people may seek fiction to expose themselves to emotion (exposure) or to distract from the emotions of their daily lives (escapism). We investigated the associations between reading fiction and interest in emotional stimuli. Fifty participants from Amazon MTurk viewed 60 negative, neutral, and positive and rated how interesting they found each. How long they viewed each image and self-reported fiction experiences were also recorded. Regression analyses revealed that controlling for how long participants viewed neutral images, spending less time processing emotional images was predicted by how transported one feels while reading fiction ($p = .027$), perhaps consistent with the escapism hypothesis. Genre preferences were related to task performance: frequently choosing popular or literary fiction was associated with lower levels of interest in all pictures (highest $p = .011$), whereas frequently choosing speculative fiction was only associated with lower ratings of interest for positive pictures ($p = .04$). Future research should explore motivations for reading and longitudinal effects of fiction exposure.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sarah Cavanagh

POSTER

How Have Rehabilitation Counseling Programs Been Preparing Students to Work with Veterans

Catherine Trapani

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

This presentation will compare survey data from 3 separate time points (2009, 2011, 2017) to determine how Rehabilitation Counseling programs have responded to individuals returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A link to a simple 10-question survey was emailed to Rehabilitation Counseling program Directors or Coordinators listed on the Council on Rehabilitation Education's 2016-2017 list of Accredited Master Programs. The data collected from the survey will examine how well students and rehabilitation professionals are prepared to work with OEF/OIF veterans. We will also be using the data collected from the previous studies to compare the Rehabilitation Counseling program's student's readiness from 2009 to now.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Cioe

POSTER

Disenfranchised Grief in Adolescence

Kaitlin McArdle

School Counseling Program

When grief is unrecognized by the bereaved, social groups or society, that grief can become disenfranchised. Experiencing a significant unrecognized loss is associated with academic difficulties, lower self-esteem, withdrawal from loved ones, and decreased school attendance. A loss may also interfere with developmental and social tasks. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to abnormal grief. School counselors can play a crucial role in validating the losses of developing adolescents, which can minimize the occurrence of disenfranchised grief. Through intentional interventions, school counselors can be cognizant of the range of different death and non-death losses that students experience.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Susan Scully-Hill

POSTER

Use of Remote Monitoring Technology to Improve Case Management Outcomes for a Frail, Elderly Population

Ellen Briggs RN, CCM

Health Advocacy Program

Passive remote monitoring improved case management outcomes for our Fallon Community Health Plan members as demonstrated through a yearlong pilot project between FCHP and Healthsense that began in 2013. The remote monitoring system was provided to 74 frail, elderly members living alone. Data was compared with 2 control groups, one historical and the other concurrent with the pilot. Results showed a decrease in overall medical expense of \$687 per member per month. Specific health cost savings were noted in acute inpatient admissions and ER utilization. Probably most significant was a decrease in transition to long term care placement.

Faculty Advisor: Professor Lea Christo, MSW

PRESENTATION

Using Positive Behavior Supports in Worcester Public Schools

*Kelly McNamara, Stephanie Montecalvo,
Jessica Michalowski, and Jennifer Ruderman*

Special Education CAGS Program

Positive behavior support (PBS) is a school-wide intervention used to proactively teach appropriate behaviors and prevent challenging behaviors across school contexts. In this implementation project, graduate students evaluated the use of PBS at a public elementary school in Worcester. Using surveys, information was collected on the perceptions of students, teachers, administrators, and parents on the use of PBS at school and home. Results were used to identify areas of need and implement action plans for each group with corresponding measurable outcomes.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Samantha Goldman

PRESENTATION

The Association of Anxiety Sensitivity, Substance Use, Problems, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Depression and Anger in Latino Males

Salomé Wilfred

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between anxiety sensitivity, posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance use as a coping style in a residential clinic population of Latino men in Worcester, MA. These disorders have been studied by themselves and the relationship between them also has been examined. To date, research has not examined all these disorders together to understand the relationship between them. Specifically, one or more of these may predict severity of substance use as a way of coping with unpleasant somatic sensations. Additionally, the data gathered for this study are intended to contribute to a local residential substance abuse treatment program.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Leonard Doerfler

PRESENTATION

State of the Union

Klotilda Habilaj

Master of Business Administration Program

The “State of the Union” presentation will discuss the Economic and Political unity of European countries, the reason for the unity, the history of the union, as well as the expansion throughout the years. European countries make up one of the oldest continents in the world. Before the creation of The European Coal and Steel Community in 1950, these countries had been at war with one another for many years. Special attention will be given to the rise of nationalism demonstrated by Brexit, election of President Trump, and the referendums taking place around the EU countries.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Stephen Willand

PRESENTATION

Rehabilitation Counseling and LGBTQ+ Clients with Disabilities: Best Methods for Effective Practice

Patricia Malone and Katherine Bakhuizen

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

Vocational rehabilitation for those who identify as LGBTQ+ and have a disability can be challenging. Disability can create barriers to employment, and this can also be compounded by identifying as LGBTQ+. Utilizing current research, this presentation aims to inform students and educators on best practices for working with clients who identify as LGBTQ+ and have a disability. Topics include information regarding a variety of LGBTQ+ identities, disclosure, comorbid disorders, ethical obligations of the counselor, and how to advocate for clients who do not identify with the name or gender that is listed on their government-issued identification.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Cioe

Graduate Symposium Planning Committee

Dr. Leonard Doerfler
Director, Counseling Psychology Program

Dr. Nanho Vander Hart
Director, Special Education Program

Assumption College
Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Master of Arts degrees (MA)
Certificate of Graduate Studies (CGS)
Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS)

Applied Behavior Analysis

Clinical Counseling Psychology

Health Advocacy

Rehabilitation Counseling

School Counseling

Special Education