

**THE NINTH ANNUAL  
GRADUATE STUDIES  
SYMPOSIUM**



**ASSUMPTION COLLEGE**

**APRIL 12, 2018**

**Hagan Campus Center Hall**

## Program Schedule

**4:00 P.M.      Welcome**

**Dr. Nanho Vander Hart**  
**Director of Special Education**

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

**4:15 P.M.      POSTERS**

### **Teacher Perceptions of School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports**

*Rachel Fenstermaker and Sharleen Ramos*  
CAGS in Special Education Program

### **Building Resiliency Skills in Stressed Teens**

*Tara Kelly and Sophia Widmeyer*  
School Counseling Program

### **Disenfranchised Grief in Adolescence**

*Kaitlin McArdle*  
School Counseling Program

### **Supports, Tips, and Techniques for Servicing Individuals with Severe Disabilities to Prepare for the World of Work**

*Brianna Norton and Leanna Avery*  
Transition Specialist Program

### **Influences on Cooperation**

*Anthea Oikonomou and Joshua Jennes*  
Applied Behavior Analysis Program

## Poster

### **Postpartum Depression and Violations of Parents' Childcare Expectations in Co-parenting across the Transition to Parenthood**

*Allison Shea*

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

**4:45 P.M.      BREAK**

**5:00 P.M.      PRESENTATIONS**

### **Health Advocacy Concerns Associated with Homeless Young Parents**

*Meggan Cantlin*

Health Advocacy Program

### **The History and the Future of the Euro as a Currency**

*Jeff Maxwell*

MBA Program

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

*Jason Prior, William Nall, Matthew Collin, Lisa Mazzola, and Alexander Cerbo*

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

### **Counseling Individuals Living in Poverty**

*Ann Reynolds*

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

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

**Reginal Kuersten-Hogan  
Nanho Vander Hart**

**POSTER**

**Teacher Perceptions of School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports**

*Rachel Fenstermaker and Sharleen Ramos*

CAGS in Special Education Program

Positive behavior support (PBS) is a framework used to proactively teach appropriate behavior and prevent challenging behaviors across school contexts. In this implementation project, graduate students surveyed teachers from two elementary schools that use school-wide PBS to evaluate teachers' (a) understanding of PBS concepts, (b) implementation of PBS, and (c) training needs. Action plans with measurable outcomes were identified based on survey results.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Samantha Goldman

## **POSTER**

### **Building Resiliency Skills in Stressed Teens**

*Tara Kelly and Sophia Widmeyer*

School Counseling Program

Students participated in a six-session psycho-educational program to learn basic information about stress and stressors. They developed skills in how to rethink stress and make more positive choices and develop stronger coping strategies. At the end of the program, students presented a final project on stress/coping strategies to show their understanding of a specific topic on stress/resiliency. Students were evaluated at the beginning and end of the program to measure their perception of stress and the results were remarkable. The co-presenter is a student who participated in the study. Her experience and an overview of her final presentation will be shared.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mary Ann Mariani

## **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. For school-aged children, 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 unrecognized grief. School counselors can play a crucial role in validating the losses for developing adolescents, which can minimize the occurrence of disenfranchised grief. Through intentional interventions, school counselors can address the range of different death and non-death losses that students experience.

Faculty Advisor: Lorette McWilliams, Ph.D.

## POSTER

### **Supports, Tips, and Techniques for Servicing Individuals with Severe Disabilities to Prepare for the World of Work**

*Brianna Norton and Leanna Avery*

Transition Specialist Program

Are you tired of students not being adequately prepared for work due to the lack of resources? Do you struggle with creating innovative and engaging lessons related to job skills? Do you want to make sure all students feel included and have an equal opportunity to leave school and become active members of their community? Then we have some answers for you! Our goal is to explore gaps in work opportunities for students with severe disabilities.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sabrina Singleton

## POSTER

### Influences on Cooperation

*Anthea Oikonomou and Joshua Jennes*

Applied Behavior Analysis Program

We examined the role of a previous experience (a helpful or unhelpful partner) on altruistic behavior in a cooperative task. Participants played a game with two phases. In Phase 1, the participant could win more points based on another player's behavior. In Phase 2, the participant had the opportunity to let the other player win. We hypothesized that willingness to let the other player win would be influenced by how often the other player let the participant win during Phase 1. The results will contribute to a better understanding of people's willingness to cooperate in situations where doing so incurs a cost to themselves.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Lionello-Denolf



## POSTER

### **Postpartum Depression and Violations of Parents' Childcare Expectations in Co-parenting across the Transition to Parenthood**

*Allison Shea*

Clinical Counseling Psychology Program

This study explored whether parental Postpartum Depression (PPD) and childcare expectations during pregnancy predict co-parenting dynamics observed at 3 months postpartum. Parents' depression, childcare expectations, and co-parenting behaviors were assessed in 26 nonclinical couples during pregnancy and at 3 months postpartum. Findings indicated that mothers with greater prenatal PPD and greater violations of prenatal childcare expectations experienced less harmonious co-parenting observed at 3 months. Greater prenatal PPD was also associated with mothers' and fathers' perceptions of greater violations of childcare preferences at 3 months. In conclusion, prenatal PPD and violations of parental childcare expectations represent risk factors for postpartum co-parenting.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Regina Kuersten-Hogan

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Health Advocacy Concerns Associated with Homeless Young Parents**

*Meggan Cantlin*

#### Health Advocacy Program

This project addresses health advocacy concerns associated with homeless young parents who are either pregnant or parenting. I developed a comprehensive and educational resource tool-kit in the form of a smartphone application. This application is designed to support and boost the confidence of young parents by enhancing their health care advocacy skills and by providing solutions and resources to help dissolve any fears and or obstacles that stand in the way of accessing health care.

Faculty Advisor: Christine Sawicki, RPh, MBA

## **PRESENTATION**

### **The History and the Future of the Euro as a Currency**

*Jeff Maxwell*

Master of Business Administration Program

This presentation will review the long history of the Euro, its prominence as a currency in use in Europe and the world, and its future challenges.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Eric Drouart

## PRESENTATION

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

*Jason Prior, William Nall, Matthew Collin,  
Lisa Mazzola, and Alexander Cerbo*

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 internalizing and externalizing disorders in the DSM-5. 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: Leonard Doerfler, Ph.D.

# **PRESENTATION**

## **Counseling Individuals Living in Poverty**

*Ann Reynolds*

Rehabilitation Counseling Program

The purpose of this presentation is to assist current and future practitioners to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of poverty. There is much stigma and shame associated with living in poverty and individuals with disabilities experience an exponentially greater effect of shame and stigma based on their status of multiple identities. A counselor representing the middle-class may struggle to understand the worldview of individuals who are poor and this creates barriers to developing and solidifying the therapeutic alliance. This interactive presentation will encourage participants to explore their implicit biases and stereotypes related to people who live in poverty.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Cioe

## *Graduate Symposium Planning Committee*

Dr. Regina Kuersten-Hogan  
Interim Director, Clinical 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

Resiliency in the Helping Professions

School Counseling

Special Education

Transition Specialist