Congratulations Initiates & Award Recipients!

Shortly after the Wellness workshop, Drs. Myers and Sweeney joined a crowd of 150 students, family, friends, faculty, and staff as we honored and welcomed 87 new initiates to Rho Kappa Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota. Our evening concluded with an awards ceremony in which the following community members were honored:

- Ms. Yulia Pronchenko
  2010-2011 CSI Leadership Fellow
- Ms. Dalena Dillman
  Outstanding Entry-Level Student
- Ms. Kathleen Bell
  Outstanding Doctoral Student
- Ms. Deborah Ojiambo
  Outstanding Doctoral Student
- Ms. Jenny Streit-Horn
  Outstanding Supervisor
- Mr. Mario De La Garza
  Outstanding Practitioner
- Dr. Pedro “PJ” Blanco
  Outstanding Research
- Dr. Dee Ray
  Outstanding Faculty

Rho Kappa Chapter Celebration of Excellence & Wellness Workshop took place on April 9.

Creating a Wellness Lifestyle

We are graduate students! Who has time for personal wellness? Our minds, hearts, and bodies are consumed with attending classes, completing coursework, planning for the next day, week, semester, and year. Beyond these tasks we have been given the charge of personal growth through our counseling program. Outside of school we have obligations to our family, jobs to do, schedules to keep, and bills to pay. Need I say more? With the last second of our time already accounted for, how are we supposed to find a spare afternoon for personal wellness?

On April 9, Rho Kappa, our local chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), sponsored a wellness workshop presented by renowned contributors to professional counseling and the IS-WEL developers, Dr. Jane Myers and Dr. Thomas Sweeney. Attendance was strongly encouraged by Rho Kappa leaders and our counseling professors. (Ah, how graduate students can be persuaded to attend extracurricular activities when they are “encouraged” by professors?) With over 80 attendees, including faculty, staff, alumni, and students, our program was well represented.

The workshop focused on five factors of wellness: Creative Self, Coping Self, Social Self, Essential Self, and Physical Self. As described by Drs. Myers and Sweeney, each factor plays an important role in holistic wellness of individuals. Professional counselors are encouraged to take care of themselves in area—so that we can help our clients do the same. The speakers looked well-rested, physically healthy, energetic, engaged, and enthusiastic about wellness. Could this be? Drs. Myers and Sweeney have been in the counseling profession for decades. They are recognized leaders and have made significant contributions to the counseling profession. Dr. Sweeney is founder of CSI, and Drs. Sweeney and Myers each served as CSI president, American Counseling Association (ACA) president, and presidents of ACA divisions. Dr. Sweeney also helped to establish the Counsel for Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Together they have published hundreds of manuscripts, including articles, chapters, and books. How can two people who are so productive, busy, and established find time to practice personal wellness? Drs. Myers and Sweeney did not say personal wellness was easy. However, they did say it was worth it. What an astonishing model of living what you lecture!

Taking the time to take care of ourselves may be a difficult task. This workshop highlighted the importance of wellness as we continue on our journey as professional counselors and personal development. May we each make the effort to work toward personal wellness.
Congratulations to Dr. Casey Barrio Minton, Chi Sigma Iota President-Elect
by Sheila Soslow

The UNT Counseling Program is proud to announce that Dr. Casey Barrio Minton, has been chosen as Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) President Elect. Over the next year, Dr. Barrio Minton will be learning about the duties and tasks of the position so that she can assume the office as president on May 1, 2011. This is a 3 year commitment of service to CSI. I was privileged to interview Dr. Barrio Minton.

Dr. Barrio, Could you give us the history of how you began in CSI? I started as a master’s student CSI member in 2001. As a student, I chaired the awards committee and was later elected president of my chapter. I was privileged to serve as a CSI Leadership Fellow in 2003.

How has Rho Kappa Chapter of CSI changed since you began here at UNT? When I first came to UNT in 2005, Rho Kappa Chapter was nearly inactive. We had some dedicated leaders who were working to establish an identity and get reorganized. Now, we have dozens of dedicated student leaders who bring excellent opportunities to our community. As we move forward, I hope we continue to draw upon our traditions and strengths while finding new ways to serve our chapter members and community.

How has CSI been helpful to you? Throughout the last ten years, CSI has provided me with leadership opportunities, mentors, and support; a sense of pride in our profession; and inspiration to continue seeking opportunities for growth. In short, CSI has been instrumental in my personal and professional development, and I am both honored and humbled to serve this organization.

What are your future goals for CSI? I am privileged to be working with such a well-established and focused organization. I hope to continue to support our mission—promoting scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, and excellence in counseling in a way that fosters wellness and human dignity and promotes a healthy society. In particular, I would like to see expanded efforts at grassroots empowerment of chapters, chapter leaders, and chapter faculty advisors.

Such empowerment may assist chapters to develop and sustain chapter-level leadership trainings, to connect their social justice and advocacy activities with the mission of CSI, and to build collaborative relationships between student members and the willing (yet often under recognized) professional members in their communities.

What would you like to say to students? The leadership development process is lifelong. Begin developing yourself as a leader now. Take advantage of local leadership opportunities. Attend conferences and workshops. Meet professional leaders. If you have an idea, speak up. If you don’t like how something works, take initiative to suggest something new. In so doing, you will be serving your community, developing yourself personally, and setting yourself up for success professionally. I know our chapter leaders have many exciting events planned for the 2010-2011 year. I hope to see you there!

Welcome back to the Counseling Program News! This fall marks several meaningful and important transitions for our Counseling Program.

After nearly 70 years of combined service to UNT, Drs. Dennis Engels and Garry Landreth have announced they will be retiring over the next year. We hope you will join us as we celebrate their contributions and wish them well as they continue on their journeys.

We are pleased to welcome two new permanent faculty members to our faculty. In particular, we welcome home Dr. Leslie Jones (Lecturer & Director, CHDC) who is returning after years of successful counselor education and professional counseling experience. We are also very pleased to welcome Dr. Jonathan Ohrt as an Assistant Professor of Counseling. Dr. Ohrt is a school counseling specialist and a graduate of the highly-regarded counselor education program at University of Central Florida.

As UNT-Dallas continues the process of becoming a stand-alone university, we were quite lucky to learn that Drs. Steve Farmer, Tanisha Guy, and Mike Smith will be serving as Lecturers in Denton for the upcoming year. I am grateful for their service and expertise.

Finally, this Fall marks the official start of our new 60-hour emphasis in Clinical Mental health Counseling. The new track requires dedicated coursework in ethical & professional issues, drug & addiction counseling, and crisis intervention. We are confident these changes will help our graduates continue to serve their communities well.

We enjoyed hearing from you after we launched our first issue. We hope you will keep in touch.
The field of near death studies opened in 1975 with Raymond Moody’s book *Life After Life*. In the following 30 years, at least 55 research teams in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia published at least 65 research studies involving nearly 3,500 near-death experiencers (NDErs) addressing the experience, its aftereffects, or both. This *Handbook* is a comprehensive critical review of all published research on NDEs – an attempt to answer the question of what is known about NDEs and what still remains to be learned. We editors intended the book for healthcare providers – medical, psychological, social, and spiritual – and for educators, researchers, and interested members of the public, including NDErs and their intimates and associates.

An estimated 5% of people have had an NDE or NDE-like experience. NDEs occur during a close brush with death or some other physically or emotionally very threatening circumstance. An NDE is a profound psychological experience in which the person experiences one’s consciousness to be functioning outside of one’s body and perceiving the material world and/or a non-material domain of environments and/or beings. Most people who have an NDE are profoundly transformed by the experience. It is important for counselors to know about NDEs and other transpersonal experiences – those that transcend the usual personal limits of space and/or time -- in case they have one or more clients who have had such experiences. This knowledge can help counselors in the development of their guiding theory of counseling because NDEs suggest a broader or expanded view of human consciousness, of existence, and of the cosmos.

Such knowledge also can help counselors fulfill their ethical obligation to do no harm and foster client benefit. I know of cases where NDErs went to counselors not knowledgeable about NDEs and were diagnosed with a mental disorder on the basis of the NDE alone, which is completely unwarranted. Many of these clients were advised poorly about how to manage the integration of the experience and its aftereffects. For a counselor not knowledgeable about NDEs and other transpersonal experiences, the potential harm is great. This potential exists not only for adult clients but also for teens and children. Children as young as 3 years old have described NDEs. In this *Handbook*, an entire chapter is devoted to children and teens who have had this experience.

It is important in our profession that we give the best care possible to each of our clients. This handbook is invaluable to counselors in preparation for the inevitability that they will have a client who has had this experience.

---

**Official Naming of the Dr. Garry Landreth Endowed Play Therapy Research Library**

by Sheila Soslow

In 2004 the Center for Play Therapy began the dream of endowing and naming the CPT library after Dr. Garry Landreth. Thanks to the generous donations from play therapy supporters, this dream has now become a reality. The Center for Play Therapy (CPT) at UNT is excited to announce that over $51,000 has been received to endow and officially name the Garry Landreth Play Therapy Research Library at UNT!

The library has grown from 400 articles/DVDs/videos/books in 1989 to currently over 4,000 including UNT research studies and dissertations on play therapy. It is the largest play therapy library in the world. The library is used by students and faculty, visiting professors, and research scholars from around the world. An open house for the dedication and official naming of the library took place during the 19th annual Center for Play Therapy International Summer Institute Conference on Thursday, July 8th, 2010.

For more information visit: www.centerforplaytherapy.com or email COE-cpt@unt.edu
MISSION...
“The UNT Counseling Program promotes human development through education, research, and service that advance the profession of, and scholarship in, counseling.”

UNT faculty and students have received numerous awards & grants.

Honors
- Dr. Casey A. Barrio Minton, 2010 UNT College of Education’s Junior Faculty Research Award
- Dr. Sue Bratton & Dr. Garry Landreth, 2010 UNT Citation for Distinguished Service to International Education
- Dr. Dennis Engels, 2010 UNT Faculty Mentor Award
- Dr. Delini Fernando, 2010 Association for Specialists in Group Work’s Group Work Practice Award
- Dr. Kerrie Fineran, 2010 Southern Association for Counselor Education & Supervision Emerging Leader Award
- Dr. Dee Ray, 2010 UNT College of Education’s Faculty Research Excellence Award
- Ms. Cathie McFarland, 2010 UNT College of Education’s Outstanding Staff Contribution Award
- Ms Kathleen Bell, 2010 Southern Association for Counselor Education & Supervision Emerging Leader

Grants
- Drs. Sue Bratton, Kara Carnes Holt & Kristin Meany-Walen-Texas Association for Play Therapy Dan E. Homeyer Research Award
- Drs. Dee Ray & Sue Bratton Flow Foundation Grant Mental Health Services for Low Income and High Need Denton County Adults and Children

Books

Book Chapters

Journal Articles

Faculty & Student Accomplishments
Spring & Summer 2010

COUNSELING PROGRAM NEWS
Presentations

ACA 2010

Barrio Minton, C., & Gibson, D. M. Continuous, systematic program evaluation: Strategies for meeting the new CACREP standards.

Barrio Minton, C.A., & Wachter Morris, C. A. Crisis competencies check in.


Fariss, Y. O., Finch, F., Kang, H., & Lin, Y. Facilitating cultural competence in working with Asian children and their families in play therapy.

Fineran, K. R. Response distortion in normal personality assessment: Investigating proposed validity scales for the NEO-PI-R.

Kern, C. Creating a college and career readiness culture in schools: Strategies for how counselors take a key role.


Meany-Walen, K., Barrio Minton, C., Pronchenko, Y., Purswell, K., & Barnes-Holt, K. Leading the way: Factors prompting counselors to assume leadership roles in professional organizations.

Soslow, S. G., & Guthrie, C. M. Addressing vicarious traumatization and counselor self-care in supervision.

VanMeter, C., Fineran, K. R., & Piazza, N. Is “clear” the same as “serious”? Is “imminent” the same as “foreseeable”? The legal impact of language in the ACA Code of Ethics.

TAPT 2010


Holt, C. & Meany-Walen, K. K. Prioritizing parents: Communication strategies for parent consultations during the play therapy process.

Landreth, G. L. Touching which is un-touchable in a child’s life in play therapy.

Landreth, G. L. The dynamic inner dimensions of the play therapy relationship: My personal learning.

Ojiambo, D. Playing through the trauma: Helping children heal through a crisis.

Tsai, M., & Ray, D. Children in therapy: Evaluation of University-based play therapy clinical services.

TACES 2010

Blair, S., & Meany-Walen, K. Let’s talk about sex: Enhancing counselor and supervisor comfort and awareness.


Ray, D. C., & Foster, R. D. Who’s one first? Ethical issues in determining authorship credit in faculty-student collaborations.


Ojiambo, D., & Bell, K. Supervising counselors working with traumatized populations.

Sullivan, J. M., & Huffman, D. Supervising suicide interventions in the moment of crisis: How to provide real-time supervision during a crisis session.

Letters to the Editor:

Is Counseling A Field or a Profession?

In our first issue, Dr. Fineran shared her professional passions as noted, “If we want the field of counseling to be recognized as a profession and be able to compete with other more established professions, we need a united front.”

Some readers asked whether we weren’t already a profession. Indeed, we are. The issue is one of perception. Dr. Fineran’s response?

In my opinion, students and counseling professionals need to take an active role in professional organizations in order to foster professional identity. Both the American Psychological Association (APA) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) have approximately 150,000 members. The American Counseling Association has less than 45,000. All of these organizations employ individuals who lobby governmental organizations for support on issues related to mental health, such as Medicare coverage for counselors, school counseling reform, etc. Lobbyists for other professions such as those mentioned above can say that they represent three times the professionals that ACA lobbyists do. It is important that we foster our professional identity as well as our political power by increasing our participation in professional organizations that represent our interests. More info on ACA public policy efforts can be found at http://www.counseling.org/ACAPolicy/
The 2009-2010 academic year is over and Rho Kappa has been very busy! Thanks to the contributing professionals and eager student attendees, we successfully started a new workshop series this spring. We hosted several coffee chat workshops where students and faculty joined to discuss counseling interests and topics related to dream work, early recollections, and theory. We also hosted a Wellness Workshop with over 60 attendees, which was facilitated by renowned speakers, Dr. Jane Myers and Tom Sweeney.

This year, Rho Kappa was especially proud to initiate 68 new CSI members at this year’s Celebration of Excellence, which brings our membership total to 161 active members. At the ceremony, awards for excellence were presented to Masters, Doctoral, Lastly, I would like to thank all those who contributed to Rho Kappa’s successful 2009-2010 year and welcome the 2010-2011 Executive Counsel. I trust we are in good hands, and I am excited to experience what our next year brings!

Kristin Meany-Walen
Rho Kappa Chapter President, 2009-10

The leadership team met this summer to brainstorm and plan for the upcoming year. We will be looking for ways to help counselors network, make friends, share concerns, learn new things, and find encouragement. We welcome and need everyone’s input and help on committees as we work together strengthening an organization to help all of us prepare for a counseling career and provide lifelong support.

Working together, 2010-2011 will be a great year for counselors at UNT!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Bell
Kathleen E. Bell@unt.edu
Rho Kappa Chapter President, 2010-11

For information on Rho Kappa Chapter of CSI, visit
www.coe.unt.edu/CSI-rhokappa

Have news you’d like to share??? Please be sure to contact newsletter editor Sheila.Soslow@unt.edu to be considered for inclusion in the Fall/Winter edition of the Counseling Program News.