



COUNSELOR EDUCATION UPDATE

Official Newsletter of the Counselor Education Program at WCSU

This Fall...

WELCOME STUDENTS!

I hope the fall semester is going well for all students. It is hard to believe, but we've been meeting virtually for eight months now! While the pandemic hasn't been easy for any of us, most students are reporting that online classes are going well. In my years of teaching, I was concerned about the shift to online teaching. Thanks to technology, we have been able to meet regularly with relative ease. Kudos to all students who have been amazingly flexible with our new learning challenges. Like our clients, we must all be hopeful, looking forward to a future when COVID-19 will no longer be a serious threat.

We have several silver linings I want to point out to all. First, we have historically admitted about 30 students per year. The new admissions are typically equally split, 15 students each, between the clinical and school programs. At any given time, we have about 90 students spread out over the three cohorts. Due to our 2016-2021 HRSA grant, we aimed to increase our admission and were successful. The 2020 cohort has over 40 total students in the program! If we continue at this pace, we will have 120 students in our program. The HRSA grant has allowed us to hire a fourth faculty member, which we hope will become permanent after the grant comes to an end. The HRSA grant has been wonderful for the program, both for faculty and students. Although the grant is supposed to end in 2021, there were some student stipend funds that were unspent. I am planning to request an extension for the grant which will result in stipends for students who go into field placement in the 2021-2022 academic year. Again, I am requesting the extension, so these funds are not guaranteed. Once I have approval, I will announce it to students. Additionally, I will be applying for a new grant in 2021. These grants are very competitive, but I am hopeful we will be selected once again. Finally, students should be aware that we take new applications in the winter. If you know someone who you think would be a good fit for our program, please encourage them to apply as soon as possible. It is always great to have a large pool of applicants so our cohorts stay strong. I am always heartened when students refer their friends to the program.

I encourage all to stay positive and emotionally strong during these uncertain times. Please practice self-care and make sure to check on others. As fall turns to winter, I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Lomas, Ph.D.
CMCH Program Coordinator

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1 mask, 2 clean hands and 6 feet apart

I protect you. You protect me.



CHI SIGMA IOTA

CHAPTER NEWS!

This Fall...

We are excited to announce that we are starting up our chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honor Society again!

Those eligible to join received an invite from Hannah Sanchez in your school email on Friday, November 6, and we hope you will all consider getting involved! Please complete the application process by November 20, 2020, by 5pm.

We will be holding elections soon to fill the rest of the positions on the board including: President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. This is a great opportunity to network with people outside of your cohort and to help shape this organization into something that is meaningful for you. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Christine Walker at walker072@wcsu.edu or Dr. Marriotti at mariottid@wcsu.edu.

To learn more about the professional honor society, visit the CSI Website link [here](#).



hello

Dr. Lorrie-Anne Monte

Hello! I am Dr. Lorrie-Anne Monte and I am so excited to be an Assistant Professor and the Counselor Education Fieldwork Coordinator at Western Connecticut State University.

Prior to becoming a professor, I was a high school counselor for over 18 years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Connecticut. I also have a Master of Science degree in Counseling and a Master of Public Health degree from Southern Connecticut State University. I completed my 092 Educational Leadership coursework at Sacred Heart University. I also have a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology from UCONN.

I love to learn and am extremely passionate about personal and professional development. I am in the process of becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Board Certified-TeleMental Health Provider (BC-TMH). I am also a Certified Health Education Specialist and a Certified Health and Wellness Coach. I strongly believe in being of service to others and I am a Past President and the Counselor Educator Vice President for the Connecticut School Counselor Association and the President of the Connecticut Association for the Gifted. In my spare time, I like to exercise, read, and watch HGTV.

I am always happy to speak with students about the practicum and internship process. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

PLAY THERAPY COURSES ARE BACK!

12/16/2020-1/11/2021

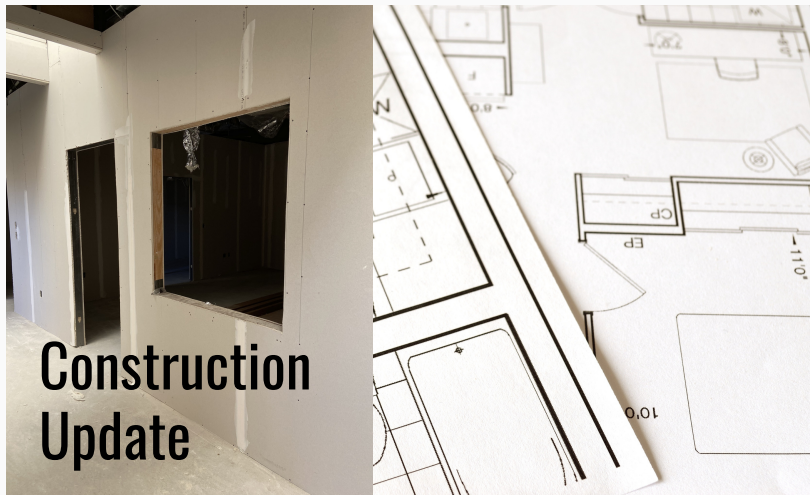
3 credit course
Asynchronous
No text book required

EPY 698 - Play Therapy: Theory, Skills, Relationship
with Dr. Laura Langston
Tuesdays - 4:30 - 8:30 pm, online + synchronous, (2 credits)

EPY 698 - Play Therapy Supervision
with Kerri Anderson
Online + asynchronous, (1 credit)

Winter Intercession Course Offerings

Elective courses are available in the intercession and the summer of 2021. Please see Open/Close for the intercession, as those classes are already posted and are filling quickly. Next summer, we plan to have play therapy and an elective in marriage counseling. The elective is different from the required course in marriage counseling. Of course, we have a partnership with the graduate program in addiction studies. They run courses every semester that can count as electives in addition. If you have questions, please contact your advisor.



Construction Update

This Fall we learned the move to Midtown Campus was delayed due to some back ordered parts for the HVAC system. The new expected move date is January of 2021. The suite will be modern, with child, adolescent, adult, and family therapy rooms. It will have a large central hall with chairs for waiting, a reception area, and storage areas for materials.



GA Positions Available in the Spring.

DUST OFF THOSE RESUMES!

This Spring there will be two Graduate Assistant opportunities. The role of these positions will be research based and require working closely with Faculty.

Details:

15 hrs/wk for 15 weeks

Stipend: \$2400

For full-time students, university fees are waved outside of tuition.

Deadline to apply:

Monday, November 30, 2020.

Please send resumes, and a cover letter to Lomasg@wcsu.edu with the subject line "Spring GA Applicant."

A yellow spotlight beam emanates from a grey projector head at the top left, illuminating the text below.

Alumni Spotlight Stories

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

A yellow four-pointed starburst graphic.

Class of 2018: Sydney Trezza, LMHC, LPCA, M.S., NCC (She/Her)

At the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, Sydney Trezza Class of 2018, is the Director of Campus Counseling & Advocacy and work at the satellite office on campus at WCSU. In this role, Sydney provides individual counseling to students who have experienced or are experiencing dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Sydney also oversees support groups on campus and facilitate significant advocacy services for survivors as well. She works to connect students to Title IX, Judicial Affairs, Police, and several other campus and community agencies when they are looking to report interpersonal violence or just get connected to more resources.

This year, Sydney has helped the Women's Center do significant advocacy around Title IX as well since the Department of Education released new rules that are significantly harmful to student survivors across the country. In September, Sydney officially received her license and is now a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of NY!

To find out more about the Women's Center follow this link: www.wcogd.org to learn more about the Women's Center on campus look here: <http://wcsu.edu/womenscenter/>

A yellow four-pointed starburst graphic.

Class of 2018: Denise Santangelo

Denise Santangelo, Co-Leader of the Western Chapter of the CCA, will help lead the incredibly informative and useful December 2020 Workshops Series, on many topics that are relevant to counseling! The workshops will be held virtually and so people all over CT will join via zoom! CCA will be offering CEs for CCA members.

Denise is also running a successful private practice on Main Street in Ridgefield. CT. The practice caters to children, adolescents, teens and adults. Denise remarked that she felt since graduating in 2019, "I've been very fortunate and it has been a truly amazing experience."



Local CCA Workshops

STAY CONNECTED TO RELEVANT INFORMATION IN THE FIELD AND EARN CES!

This Spring, the local Western CCA chapter, will be hosting several virtual workshops that will happen quarterly now via Zoom and will offer the essential CEs that are needed for licenses. The first one will be on Ethics that we will offer in February 2021, To register and see the lineup of content, see the link below.

To register and find out more info find them on Facebook at : Facebook page - CCA Western Chapter!

<https://www.facebook.com/Connecticut-Counseling-Association-CCA-190978350936898/>