



UAB Counselor Education Newsletter

Fall Term 2007

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Dr. Linda Foster Hired as New Faculty

Hello! I am excited to be officially joining the faculty in the Counselor Education program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I will be teaching in the Community Counseling track along with coordinating the field placements for practicum and internship experience for community, school and rehabilitation students.



So, that you will have a little background information on me... here goes. I am a graduate of UAB. I completed a masters' degree and education specialist here at UAB and therefore have a very special fondness for our program. Upon completion of a masters' degree, I started working in public education as a school counselor and began the state licensure process becoming a Licensed Professional Counselor in 1999. Five years later, I added the Supervising Counselor license as well. National certification also is very important to me so I received the National Certified Counselor credential and the National Certified School Counselor credential from the National Board for Certified Counselors.

While working on my Ed.S. degree, I was inspired to pursue a doctorate degree... so I headed to Mississippi State University and completed a Ph.D. in 2003. My dissertation research combined my keen interest in professional credentialing and my practice as a school counselor. And as a result of my line of inquiry my involvement with NBCC began. I had the opportunity to work on the development of the updated National Certified School Counselor exam and updating the standards for this credential. Several years later I was fortunate enough to be elected to the Board of Directors of NBCC and currently am the Chair of the Board and am very enthusiastic about the work of NBCC both nationally and internationally. NBCC has been instrumental in helping all states achieve licensure (well, 49 states, only one more to go). NBCC has also been very active internationally in promoting the counseling profession and providing information to developing countries regarding mental health needs and ways to help underserved populations.

My work at UAB is also going to be exciting! I am looking forward to working with students to provide optimal learning experiences and to provide our community with well-trained and needed counseling professionals. I have already been out in the community visiting with some of our site supervisors and we have some great professional counselors here in Birmingham! I will be soliciting your ideas about needs for our community – as students and professionals – as well as your ideas to strengthen our program. So, please let me hear from you (lfoster@uab.edu).

Challenge Course Education Specialty Area Featured in UAB Magazine

The Counselor Education Challenge Course Specialty Area was featured in the Winter/Spring, 2007 issue of the *UAB Magazine*. The article entitled, "Course of Action: Adventures in Counseling Education," explored the concepts and philosophy behind challenge course education and how these are integrated into the four courses offered through the UAB Counselor Education Program.

Dr. Stephens to leave UAB**An Open Letter from Dr. Barry Stephens**

Greetings UAB Counselor Education Students ...

First, I would like to thank Dr. Tyson for inviting me to express a few thoughts in the UAB Counselor Education Program Newsletter. As some of you know, this summer (2007) I made a career transition. Following the Spring Semester I received, as they say, "an offer I couldn't refuse". Although I regret having to leave Birmingham my new opportunity at Lindsey Wilson College in Kentucky is both a promotion and an opportunity to live closer to my son, Chad. I am teaching in the School of Professional Counseling, which is the largest counseling program in Kentucky and one of only 17 CACREP accredited mental health counseling programs in the US. I am pleased to be able to leave the UAB program on a high note, having extended the CORE accreditation for the rehabilitation concentration through year 2013, and at a time when CACREP accreditation is soon to be a reality. I wish you all well as you complete your program at UAB and launch into your career. It was a pleasure for me to participate in class with many of you and I have many fond memories of our interactions together. I wish you all the best as you pursue your professional and personal goals!

Be Well,

Barry Stephens, Ph.D., CRC

President of the American Association for Multicultural Counseling Visits UAB's Counselor Education Program.

On October 16th, at the request of Dr. Michael Brooks, President Cirecie West-Olatunji, Ph.D., President of the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA) visited with CEP students and faculty.

At the request of the faculty, Dr. West-Olatunji offered two lectures on Global Disaster and Mental Health; and Social Advocacy. Because of her timeliness, Dr. "WO" also provided some comments and direction regarding the noose incidents in the United States and in particular Columbia University. Students, faculty members and School Administrators were all please her lectures and comments. Here at UAB, we are still talking about the impact of her visit and what we can do to increase our efforts in raising consciousness.



Drs. Brooks and West-Olatunji

UAB Counselor Education Program to Institute Live Text for Counselor Education Students

Beginning with the Spring Semester, students beginning their studies in the CEP will be required to purchase and be trained in using Live Text. Livetext is an online document management system that incorporates templates for creating electronic portfolios and projects. Livetext also incorporates an assessment system that allows individual institutions to build assessments to track student progress by any number of categories (i.e. college, program major, individual milestone or artifact, individual standard or outcome, etc.). Livetext allows for sharing of portfolios, projects, etc. at different levels of interaction, from basic viewing, to assessment, to editing. Documents may also be made public, allowing them to be shared by providing a URL, or more privately, through a visitor's pass.

UAB CEP Hosts Dr. James Benshoff for ALACES Presentation

UAB was the host site for a state-wide video conference workshop Featuring Dr. James Benshoff from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Benshoff conducted a workshop entitled, "Introduction to Counseling Supervision." UAB was able to broadcast Dr. Benshoff's workshop to eight sites throughout Alabama.

Scholarship

Drs. Tyson, Culbreath, and Harrington have collaborated to edit a new book which is "in press" through the American Counseling Association. "*Critical Incidents in Clinical Supervision*," will be available in the Spring of 2008.



Dr. James Benshoff

Jessie Latten to Complete Doctoral Internship at UAB's Counselor Education Program.

We are pleased to announce that Jessie Latten will be doing his doctoral teaching internship with the CEP for the Spring, 2008 term. Jessie completed his Master's degree from our counseling program and is currently a doctoral student at the University of Alabama. Welcome back Jessie!

UAB's Counselor Education Program Offers New Specialty Area in Challenge Course Education

UAB's Counselor Education Program has developed course work in challenge course education. Challenge courses are commonly referred to as "ropes courses." The four sequenced courses will provide experiences for individuals to be trained in facilitating groups on low and high challenge courses, advanced facilitation skills, and challenge course organization and management.

This specialty area, offered through the UAB Counselor Education Program is the only course of study of it's kind offered through a counselor education program in Alabama. Individuals who complete the four courses will be taught standards and competencies required for "certification" recently developed by the Association for Challenge Course Technology.

Currently, the following sequenced courses are offered during the summer and fall terms: Challenge Course Fundamentals I and II in the summer, and Advanced Facilitation and Challenge Course Organization and Management during the fall term. All four courses are offered as graduate credit. Individuals may take the courses as non-degree seeking students.

The course descriptions for the four courses are:

ECG 663 - Challenge Course Fundamentals I

The purpose of this course is to present a history of adventure-based counseling, specifically utilizing challenge courses. Students will learn how to lead individuals and groups through "low ropes challenge course elements." Additionally, students will learn appropriate sequencing of activities, be introduced to appropriate debriefing and processing skills, and learn how to introduce and lead participants through challenge course games/initiatives. Specific attention will be given to addressing learners of different ages as well as participants of differing abilities (i.e., children, adolescents, and adults). Additionally, an overview of how counseling and ropes courses experiences can be integrated. Classes will be held on the challenge course.

ECG 664 - Challenge Course Fundamentals II

This course continues introducing students to the background, philosophy, ethical issues, and risk management required of "high ropes facilitation." Introduces students a variety of high challenge course initiatives used for learning and problem solving, trust, team building, and self-confidence and communication skills. How to present high challenge course initiatives to diverse groups will be emphasized. Specific attention will be given to addressing learners of different ages and varying abilities. Additionally, an overview will be given of how counseling and ropes courses experiences can be integrated. Classes will be held on the challenge course.

ECG 665 - Adventure Processing and Facilitation

This course provides the skills necessary for facilitating a variety of client groups - educational, recreational, corporate, and therapeutic - in door experience programs. The curriculum includes The Experiential Learning Cycle, stages of group development, leading group discussion, active listening, frontloading, de-briefing, and use of metaphors and transfer of learning. Activities are used to facilitate leadership, teamwork, problem solving, decision-making, and conflict resolution. This knowledge will enhance students' ability to adapt their program to various groups. How to facilitate and lead group discussions with diverse groups will be emphasized.

ECG 666 - Organization and Administration of Adventure Education

Students will synthesis their experience in adventure leadership instruction and programming to explore the details of managing challenge course program. Topics include risk management for the administrator, operations and file management, legal issues, accreditation standards, staff recruitment, hiring and training, marketing, and fiscal management. Special attention will be given to managing a universally designed challenge course.

Interested individuals should contact Dr. Lawrence E. Tyson via email at ltyson@uab.edu or call 205 975-2491. Individuals can also obtain information by accessing the UAB Counselor Education website at www.ed.uab.edu/counseloreducation.

Rehabilitation Counseling Advisory Committee

The Rehabilitation Counseling Advisory Committee met on Friday, November 9, 2007. The purpose of this committee, comprised of rehabilitation professionals is to provide input to this area in our program. Persons attending included:

Patti Sheets, Program Coordinator

Dr. Pam Mobley, Interim CORE Coordinator

Dr. Linda Foster, Chair of the Rehabilitation Counseling Faculty Search Committee

Jim Carden, Assistant Direct Services to Deaf and Blind, ADRS

Page Hebson, Director, Lakeshore Rehabilitation Facility

Phil Klebine, Assistant Director, Research Services, UAB Dept, of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Eddie Rice, Private Practitioner-Eddie Rice and Associates

Presentations

Drs. Stephens and Tyson's content proposal, "Using a Challenge Course Experience to Enhance a Group Counseling Class" was accepted by the American Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference held in Columbus, Ohio in October.

Dr. Foster was one of the featured speakers at the American Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Conference Luncheon held in Columbus, Ohio in October. Her presentation was entitled: The National Board for Certified Counselors and Affiliates: Professional Counseling Through Certification

Research

Dr. Tyson, AnnaGrace Baker (Homewood City Schools), Patricia Holder (Shelby County Public Schools):

"Perceptions of School Counselors Regarding the Benefits of Licensure," IRB Protocol Number: X070525008

The purpose of this study is to determine what benefits, if any, exist for L.P.C.'s practicing in the school setting. In recent years, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) has made known its desire for more school counselors to be licensed. An investigative inquiry into this trend will be conducted. Our methodology will be to conduct interviews and incorporate our findings with a review of recent literature surrounding this issue.

Dr. Brooks:

"Community and Schools Together: Parental Support, Community Resources, and the Successful Education of Urban Youth," IRB Protocol Number: X050515004

This study seeks to identify strategies that encourage and assist in creating and sustaining positive relationships among teachers, school administrators, and parents/guardians toward the academic and social benefit of urban students. It also intends to identify existing and potential community resources that also might assist in the academic and social success of these students and coordinate these resources with the schools and parents/guardians.

Service

Dr. Tyson: will be presenting a workshop on school violence to visitors from the Republic of Georgia on Monday, November 12, 2007, sponsored by the International Services Council, Huntsville, Alabama.

Dr. Foster: Dr. Foster will be traveling to Washington, DC to meet with ACA and CACREP representatives as part of her responsibilities as Chair-person of NBCC. Additionally, she will also be meeting with several congressional leaders in lobbying efforts for the counseling profession.

Patti Sheets: Continues her appointment by Gov. Riley to serve on the Alabama Licensure Board of Interpreters and Translators

Chi Sigma Iota: Zeta Chapter

The Zeta Chapter board has been very busy planning activities for the upcoming academic year. The board has planned two series of speakers to assist students in their professional development. One series involves mirroring the Chi Sigma Iota President's national theme. This year's president, Dr. June Williams (Southeastern Louisiana University) selected the theme of "Connections: Looking Within, Reaching Out, and Moving Beyond."

Theme Series Speakers:

Dr. Judith Harrington addressed students on the benefits of being a “reflective” practitioner.



Dr. Walter Cox of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling speaks to students about the licensure process in Alabama.



Counselor Education Graduate and Current Students

School counselors Cindy Wiley of Oak Mountain High School and Winnie Davis of Helena Elementary, both of Shelby County were awarded special recognition during the last meeting of the year of the Shelby County school counselors. Located between Ms. Seng and Dr. Tyson, Ms. Wiley was recognized by her peers as “Outstanding High School Counselor,” and Ms. Davis was recognized as “Outstanding New Counselor.” The professors of UAB’s Counselor Education Program are extremely proud of both of them.

UAB Counselor Education graduate, Dr. Nancee Neel was featured in the June, 2007 issue of Portico magazine. The article explained how Ms. Neel became involved in working with women in the country of Guatemala.

Student Presentations at ALCA:

Poster Sessions:

Melba Holloway “The War at School— Counseling Adolescents of Deployed Military Parents”

Merrill Jackson and Jennifer Hill “Implementing Advisory Groups in the High School Setting”

Melissa Scott “Yoga Therapy Techniques as Stress Management”

Laura Swain “The History, Facts, and Effects of Rape.”

Content Sessions:

AnnaGrace Baker, Kathryn Blackwell, and Pat Holder “Counselor Transitions: Exploring the Journey of LPC’s Moving From the Clinical Setting to the School Setting.”



Pictured: Scott Mohon , Susan Seng (Shelby Administrators), Cindy Wiley, Winnie Davis, Dr. Tyson, and Dr. Beane.