Fall 2008

Counselors Corner: A Newsletter of the Department of Counselor Education

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Dear Students,

Welcome to the middle of the fall semester. It is my hope that each of you is enjoying your classes and is being challenged to grow. As I look out the window in my office, I see a bright, blue, sunny sky and some beautiful colors still left on the trees. Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the crisp weather and the intensity of colors that occur. I have to remind myself to stop and "smell the roses" or more apropos "take in the beauty of fall." I can get so busy in my role as chair and instructor that I can miss the beauty of each day. So today, I make sure that when I am outside I take in this glorious day. It is my hope that each of you takes time to stop and appreciate the beauty around you.

The focus of the department’s work this fall so far has been preparing for CACREP’s Site Team visit. We have been in preparation for this site visit for about two years. Seeking and maintaining CACREP accreditation is an arduous process but one that ensures that the programs we offer are up to date in terms of the knowledge, skills and clinical experience the counseling profession deems as necessary for the training of professional counselors. We consistently review our assessments of the program in order to make curriculum decisions. For example, our assessments indicated that our students were not doing as well in research and program evaluation as they were doing in the other 7 CACREP core curricular areas. Additionally, feedback from students and site supervisors indicated that we needed to provide students with more information about school counseling. This led us to offer two new courses: EDC 606: Research and Program Evaluation and EDC 619: Counseling in School Settings. As soon as we are done with this CACREP site visit, we will begin to review our curriculum in light of the new 2009 CACREP standards. Accreditation ensures that programs consistently review their offerings and conduct assessments to guide their curriculum planning.

The first formal step in the accreditation process is the submission of the department’s self-study. The self study is written responses along with documentation of how the department meets CACREP standards. The department submitted its CACREP self-study to the CACREP office in April 2008. The initial review of the self-study done by a CACREP board member is the second step. As a result of this review, the department received a letter with a few questions for us to address. These questions were very easy to answer.

The department hosted the CACREP Site Team 10/5 – 10/8. The CACREP site Team consisted of three members: Dr. Marty Jencius, Chair from Kent State University, Dr. Wanda Lee from San Francisco State University and Dr. Mercedes ter Meulen from NOVA Southern University. During their time on campus, the CACREP Site Team met with faculty, students, alumni, site supervisors, college administrators and visit an internship site in a school, at a college and in a mental health agency. The purpose of the site visit was for the CACREP Site Team to ensure that the department is doing what it says it does in its self-study. I want to thank each and every one of you who participated in the Site Team visit for your commitment and support of the department.

After the site team visit is completed, the site team writes a document indicating whether or not standards are met. I just receive this CACREP Site Team Report. The department did exceedingly well. There is only one area to which we need to respond. I will be mailing the department’s response to the CACREP office shortly. The CACREP Board will make an accreditation decision on our department programs during its January 2009 board meeting and will subsequently notify the department of its decision. Part of the CACREP Site Team Report highlighted strengths of the program. I share them with you.

Strengths
- Unique, collaborative relationship with the Counseling Center
- Syllabi clearly state a unified and consistent set of policies and instructor expectations
- Do an admirable job of building in specific experiential learning activities related to cultural diversity as well as cultural self-awareness
- Strong reputation for excellence among students, alumni, site supervisors and in the counseling community. Clinical supervisors speak highly of the unique emphasis on the development of the student as a person and as a counselor, leading to well qualified and prepared students-in-training. Anecdotal reports suggest that the program does a better job than others in the region in preparing students

Counseling labs are well-equipped and provide an excellent forum for learning
- Strong commitment from faculty to provide excellence in the personal and professional development of future counselors. This was reflected in these stellar preparation that internship students seem to possess as they embark on a clinical internship work and in the additional 1:1 supervision provided during internship work
- Site supervisors, alumni, and students reported high levels of faculty support and availability. Examples cited included faculty who voluntarily critique students work over the summer, engaging in independent study, etc.
- Does an excellent job of selecting qualified students. In addition to the written application, the program utilizes applicant responses to audio taped vignettes and a group interview to assess potential to form interpersonal relationships and openness to personal and professional development. While these additional selection procedures are labor intensive, they provide relevant data for making selection decisions
- The College develops an extensive review of program data with their Department Assessment Committee Report. The data from those reports are of great value in future program planning.

The faculty and I are proud of the fact that our programs in school, college and community counseling (which will be phased out at the end of spring 09 semester) have been accredited by CACREP since 1987, the first department to receive such distinction in the state of New York. While I cannot guarantee it, I feel very positive about the Department’s meeting of the CACREP standards and therefore obtaining continuing accreditation for its MS Ed: Counseling, school and college counselor emphases and first time accreditation for the MS- Mental Health Counseling program.

Another exciting event for the department is the presence of Dr. Kitty Fallon among the faculty. We are so pleased to have Kitty with us. She brings a wealth of energy and commitment to the counseling profession, to the department and to our students.

In conclusion, I want to express my appreciation to you for being a student in our department, for working as hard as you do as a student and for being committed to being the best counselor you can be. You and your fellow students make us proud.

Peace,

Susan
EDC 692: Spirituality in the Counseling Process, is scheduled to be offered in the Winter Session, January 5-16, 2009. The course will assist counselors and other helping professionals to understand one's own spirituality so as to recognize and intervene in issues of spirituality requested by the client. Wellness, meaning, hope, faith, forgiveness, and other dimensions of spirituality will be addressed through discussion, experiential activities, reading, guest speakers, and other learning modalities. Dr. Bob Dobmeier will be the course instructor.

**Did you know......**

- Prior to the start of each semester students should check the Angel Course site for each of their courses...Need some help doing this? Call IT at (595) 395-5151.

- All students are required to provide written documentation of completing 6 counseling sessions prior to starting EDC 720: Integration and Application of Basic Concepts (Practicum).

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING AND SAVE TRAINING**

Online LIVE internet training for Child Abuse Reporting can be used to meet the child abuse reporting requirement for both school and mental health counselors. It is FREE and offered the first Thursday of every month from 1:30-3:30. Students should go to the following website to register for the online training: [http://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/register/](http://www.nysmandatedreporter.org/register/). After completion the state will send the student a Certificate of Attendance, which should be submitted to your advisor.

Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) training will be provided in EDC 619 Counseling in School Settings. This training is required for students in the School Counselor emphasis.

**Got Papers to Write? Help is Available!**

SUNY Brockport has Writing Tutoring Available. For more information visit [http://www.brockport.edu/~slc/writing.html](http://www.brockport.edu/~slc/writing.html).

**Precision Writing Services**

Debbie Fister has offered assistance to students with technical writing. Debbie is a graduate of our program and a published author. She can be contacted at [Debbie@precisionwritingsvc.com](mailto:Debbie@precisionwritingsvc.com). None of us is born an accomplished technical writer. It takes practice, openness to feedback, and a measure of humility to succeed at this professional task!
**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

WNY School Counselor Consortium Announcement

- Did you research something school counselors would want to know more about this semester?
- Are you looking for more professional presentation experience?
- Want to add to your resume?

WNY School Counselor Consortium is seeking student poster presentations for the conference in February 2009. For more information, email Dr. Hernandez at thermand@brockport.edu.

**INVITATION FROM NANCY HARRIS, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS OF GREATER ROCHESTER**

We exist:

- to support mental health counselors in the Greater Rochester area. We provide collegiality, networking opportunities, professional development workshops, and the latest information on legislative policies and issues.
- to support graduate students who are training to be mental health counselors. Our goal is to assist students with internship placements, mentoring, and support through the licensure process.
- to educate consumers, collaborating professionals, and insurance companies about the profession of Mental Health Counseling.

- The second Saturday of most months we meet at the Metro Center (55 St. Paul Street) from 10-12:00 for a chapter business meeting, followed by a one hour professional development presentation. Quarterly, we host networking events (January, April, July and October) at various times and venues.
- Students are welcome to visit our meetings and if they decide to join us they must first join NYMHCA, our state organization. Once they have joined at the state level, dues for our Greater Rochester chapter are $15. The website for the state is www.nymhca.org and our chapter website is mentalhealthcounselors.org.
- We are very proud to have received the Outstanding Chapter Award both times it has been presented at the state convention! We have a wonderful group of counselors who represent the diversity of this great profession. We welcome and encourage visitors to our meetings.

**New NYMHCA Chapter**

The Buffalo Niagara Mental Health Counseling Association is forming this fall. Members have met with the Greater Rochester Chapter of NYMHCA about development ideas. For further information, go to http://buffalonymhca.homestead.com/ or contact Dr. Victoria Palmisano at BfloNiagMHC@hotmail.com. Congratulations, Buffalo Niagara!
**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**NYMHCA Student Scholarships: Award and Criteria**

**Statement**

The goals of the Scholarship Award Committee are to support the NYMHCA (New York Mental Health Counseling Association) mission advocating and promoting excellence in the profession as well as giving financial support and recognition to promising student(s) working towards a degree in a NYS-licensed clinical mental health profession or related clinical helping profession. Licensed clinical professions include, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapy, psychoanalysis, creative arts therapy, psychology, rehabilitation counseling, et. al.

**Scholarship Award**

NYMHCA will annually Award a Scholarship of $750 to a student(s) in a graduate counseling program contingent upon funds available and NYMHCA Executive Board approval. In addition, the recipient will receive NYMHCA professional membership for one year upon graduation. A future objective is to grow the Scholarship Fund and to increase the number of recipients. Counselor Educators in graduate school programs can help by encouraging students to learn more about NYMHCA, the Scholarship Award, and supporting motivated students to apply.

**Criteria for Applicants**
- NYMHCA Membership in good standing.
- Completion of a minimum of 33% of graduate credits towards a degree leading to a licensed clinical profession.
- 3.85 minimum grade point average.
- Copy of transcript mailed to Scholarship Chair c/o NYMHCA.
- Application must be submitted and post marked on or before November, 30, 2008.

**Scholarship Award Presentation**

1. Announcement made to Recipient by Committee through phone call and in writing by December 20.
2. Announcement made on Website, and in NYMHCA Quarterly and Counselor Educator Newsletters.
3. Monetary Award (check for $750) payable to Awardees before end of calendar year.
4. Recipient receives a NYMHCA Professional Membership for 1 year following graduation.

For more information and for the application form go to: [http://www.nymhca.org/StudentScholarships.html](http://www.nymhca.org/StudentScholarships.html)

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**IRENE RIVERA DE ROYSTON SCHOLARSHIP**

The Department of Counselor Education is pleased to announce the Irene Rivera de Royston Scholarship in Counselor Education. Irene Royston, a 1974 graduate of the Counselor Education program, currently serves as an adjunct professor at the Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. Established by Mr. and Mrs. Royston, the award was created to recognize an outstanding student in our program who has demonstrated a commitment to and a potential for excellence in the counseling field.

The award is in the form of an educational expense grant ($500.00) annually, paid in each of the two semesters ($250.00 per semester) following selection as a recipient. The award must be used by the recipient for educational expenses during the semesters following the receipt. The recipient must use this award for educational expenses at The College at Brockport and may not receive the award in cash. To be eligible for this award, the student must:

- Be accepted in the Masters of Education program in Counselor Education
- Demonstrate academic excellence as judged by the department
- Have completed EDC 501 or 502 or 503 Self in Society and hold a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of the application
- Demonstrate a commitment to the counseling profession as judged by the department
- First preference will be given to students of Hispanic or African-American descent. Secondary preference will be given to any other student who meets the criteria in #1-4 above.

If you are interested in applying for this award you must send a one page letter to Dr. Fallon addressing why the department should grant you this award. The deadline is April 30, 2009. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 395-5954 or via email at kfallon@brockport.edu.
Welcome to the new school year! This fall, I am beginning my new position as President of Nu Chapter. For those of you who are not aware of Nu Chapter, we are the local chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for students, professional counselors, and counselor educators. Nu Chapter was one of the first chapters to be established. Currently, there are over 250 chapters in the United States and abroad.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month during the academic year at the Metro Center. All counselor education students are welcome to attend the first hour of our monthly meetings from 9:45 to 10:45 for our “Coffee Talks,” which are opportunities for connecting with professionals and discussing counseling-related issues.

Some of the events we’ve sponsored or co-sponsored in the past year include the winter and spring graduate receptions held in the Albert W. Brown Office Building for the department graduates and their families. We have also sponsored our annual honors and recognition event in June, “Just Desserts.” At this event, awards are presented to accomplished students and professionals. Our annual initiation ceremony is conducted at this meeting to formally welcome and accept the new initiates.

In the past, we have presented numerous workshops and professional development opportunities, such as: “The Undecided Client: Career Counseling,” which was designed to benefit professionals from all counseling focus areas, members and non-members.

We are in the process of making some changes. In an effort to provide quality programming and benefits, we will be sending out a survey to solicit information as to how we can best serve students, members, and alumni. Please take a few moments to answer the few brief questions and provide us with your suggestions. Members of Nu Chapter will be making classroom visits this fall to inform students about the honor society, upcoming events, and the steps necessary to apply.

If you are interested in joining Nu Chapter, please contact Dr. Susan Seem or Ms. Anne Nenni for application materials. We are an evolving chapter and we welcome interested students who are looking to learn more about us.

Sincerely,
Mindy Chamberlin
President
Nu Chapter-Chi Sigma Iota

Western NY School Counselor Consortium

The Western New York School Counselor Consortium is an organization whose sole purpose is the facilitation of professional development opportunities and the creation of a sharing network for school counselors across the region, from Syracuse to Buffalo and from Lake Ontario through the Southern Tier.

The Consortium is made up of educational and professional organizations that support professional development activities for school counselors here in Western New York. Currently, the Consortium is made up of:

- New York State School Counselor Association
- The College at Brockport, State University of New York
- University of Rochester
- Rochester City School District

This year the Western New York School Counselor Consortium will celebrate its Eighteenth Annual Renewal and Reflection for Counseling Professionals Conference. The conference theme will be “Counseling Connections.” For more information, visit [http://www.wnyscc.org](http://www.wnyscc.org).

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A number of The College at Brockport Counselor Education students have begun to network with colleagues at counseling conferences:

- Kassy Gallup, Nicole King, Mike Sykes, Tamekia Howard, Yama Hernandez, Gretchen Worden, and Megan Lentner attended the New York Mental Health Conference Association in the Spring 2008.
- Congratulations to Ashley Ellis who was nominated by the Department of Counselor Education for the Self-Award.
- In April 2008 Courtney Cannan and Nalisa Rowe participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans.
- Courtney Cannan and Nalisa Rowe underwent a Marine Corps training at the base in Paris Island, South Carolina. The training provided them with first hand experience of Marine training, and what school counselors should educate high school students regarding the Marines.

Student Internship Placements....Want know more about the internship experience...Ask one of these folks who are interning this Fall!

**School Counseling Track:**
- Megan Barrell Caledonia Mumford Middle/High School
- Eileen Myers Caledonia Mumford Middle/High School
- Courtney Cannan Webster Schroeder High School
- Nalisa Rowe East Irondequoit Middle School
- Kelly Tobin East Irondequoit Middle School
- Stephanie Bliss Wilson Foundation Academy
- Melissa Sakofsky Webster Spyr Middle School
- Keisha Manning Dr. Freddie Thomas High School

**Mental Health Counseling Track:**
- Elena Pilato Unity Mental Health
- Clay Nafisah Rochester Rehabilitation Center
- Kate Stanford Alternatives For Battered Women
- Latoya Taylor Evelyn Brandon Health Center
- Tsou Yao-Szu Catholic Family Center
- Joshua Maldonado Strong Memorial Child and Adolescent Clinic

**College Counseling Track:**
- Sandra Vazquez
Donelle began the program with an emphasis in School Counseling, but recently switched to the Mental Health Counseling Track. She currently works for Wegmans, where she interacts frequently with young adults throughout her day. From her conversations with them, she realized that they are in need of direction and for someone to listen to them. After graduating, she hopes to provide a safe environment for them to talk out their stresses.

Donelle returned to school after six years and would like to continue to work for Wegmans, but in their EAP program, specializing in in-store counsel. She’ll be busy this fall watching football, as she is a huge football fan. Go Philadelphia Eagles!

Kassy became interested in the field of school counseling when she began substitute teaching after working on her undergraduate degree. As a result of this experience, she recognized that she enjoyed being in a school and interacting with students, but not necessarily in the role of a teacher. This lead her to apply to the Counselor Education program in School Counseling.

After finishing her degree, she hopes to obtain a position with the Rochester City School District as a School Counselor where she attended schools.

As a student in the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) Dan recognized early on the importance of support for students while in college. In his experience in EOP, he witnessed many students leave school without graduating, which motivated him to pursue a graduate degree in the College Counseling Track. Upon graduation, Dan hopes to work in a diverse setting in which he will support students entering higher education.

If you’ve been on campus and visited the Union you may have seen Dan there. He currently works with BASC at the Union, while finishing his graduate degree. Dan will be entering Integration next semester.

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Vilma Morrow,
Assistant Director of Student Services at Monroe Community College Damon City Campus

Vilma is presently the Assistant Director of Student Services at Monroe Community College Damon City Campus. She is a 1990 graduate of the Counselor Education Graduate program, with an emphasis in College Counseling. Since graduation, Vilma has worked in the setting which she has always enjoyed, higher education. Upon graduation from the program, she assumed the role of Resident Director at SUNY Brockport, then later went to Monroe Community College Brighton Campus as an EOP counselor.

Prior to her current position as Assistant Director of Student Services, she was a counselor at Monroe Community College Damon City Campus. Vilma describes her role at Damon as very diverse. Her duties included both personal and admissions counseling along with administrative tasks. The diversity of her responsibilities made her transition in August 2007 from college counselor to Assistant Director of Student Services a smooth one. In this capacity, Vilma oversees Registration and Records, Bursar’s Office, Financial Aid, and the Work Experience Program.
PATRICIA GOODSPEED GRANT, EDD, NCC, LMHC.

In 2008, Pat has two book chapters that have been published. The first is Food for the soul: Emotional and social comfort eating in the morbidly obese in Buckroyd, J. & S. Rother (Eds.), Psychological responses to obesity, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. The second chapter is Social Class/SES, in Culturally alert counseling: A comprehensive introduction, G. McAuliffe, (Ed.). Thousand Oaks: Sage. Pat presented with former student, Janelle Atwood, M.S., at the New York Mental Health Counseling Association (NYMHCA) Conference in April 2008. Pat conducted a poster session with Dr. Karen Mackie: Heuristic Inquiry for Counseling Practitioner-Researchers at the Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors (ACES) Conference in Columbus, Ohio, October, 2007. Pat continues to serve as Secretary, Greater Rochester Chapter of NYMHCA and as Strategic Planning Chair, NYMHCA.

SUSAN SEEM, PHD, NCC, LMHC, ACS.

In April 2008, Susan attended the Institute for Disaster Mental Health’s conference on Healing the Scars of War. Most recently, in September 2008, Susan and Dr. Hernandez co-presented at the North Atlantic Regional Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, on The New Millennium Student in Counselor Education. She continues to work on a book on feminist therapy with two friends from her doctoral program, Kathy Evans and Beth Kincade. Susan serves as editorial board member of the Journal for Specialists in Group Work, and as a Board member for the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling.

THOMAS HERNANDEZ, EDD, LMHC

Tom presented with Dr. Susan Seem on Feminist counseling: A modality for men too at the American Counseling Association Conference in Honolulu, HI in March 2008. Along with Dr. Susan Seem, he presented The new millennium student in counselor education at the North Atlantic Regional Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors Conference, in Portland, Maine in September 2008. He served the Counseling Education Department as Chair throughout the Summer of 2008. Tom also served on the Western New York School Counselors Consortium Steering Committee and was the Co-Chair for the January 2008 Conference. He is continuing as Co-Chair for the February 2009 Conference. Tom is also currently serving as Secretary of the New York Counseling Association, and was one of the two counselor education representatives from New York State invited to serve on the Board of the New York School Counselor Association. Tom presented the School Counselor of the Year Award posthumously to Barbara Findlay, school counselor at Penfield, NY Harris Hill Elementary School and previous site supervisor for the Department of Counselor Education interns. The award was presented on behalf of the Western New York School Counselors Consortium.

PATRICIA GOODSPREAD GRANT, EDD, NCC, LMHC.

SUMMER REINER, PHD, LMHC, NCC


KATHLEEN FALLON, PHD, NCC, IMH

Kitty was a Site Team Member for a CACREP Accreditation Site Team Visit in November 2007 at the University of Florida. Her experience with CACREP was very valuable to the department in its recent CACREP review. Kitty is pursuing research on the topic of restorative justice, and has consulted with faculty in the Criminal Justice Department and members of the Rochester criminal justice community. Kitty is a key faculty member in the writing across the curriculum department initiative.

ROBERT DOBMEIER, PHD, LMHC, CRC

Bob co-presented with Dr. Summer Reiner the results of their study on Spirituality in the Counselor Education Curriculum at the Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling (ASERIVIC) Conference at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina in June 2008. In September 2008 Drs. Dobmeier and Reiner presented Developing skills in counselor education training to recognize and address the spiritual and/or religious domains in client therapeutic issues at the North Atlantic Regional Association for Counselor Education Supervision Annual Conference in Portland, Maine. He was appointed to Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Association for Adult Development and Aging (AADA) in June 2008 and The College at Brockport Faculty Learning Community on Teaching Research in July 2008. He Chaired a breakfast information meeting at The College at Brockport for the directors of mental health and chemical dependency agencies in Monroe County to meet with department faculty and the dean, and to learn about the Mental Health Counselor Program curriculum, the LMHC, and the OMH and OASAS hiring regulations (May 2008). Bob will present to the New York Mental Health Counselors Association, Greater Rochester Chapter in November 2008 on School-based mental health services: Roles of mental health and school counselors. Bob received the Nu Chapter Chi Sigma Iota Outstanding Contributions to Counseling award for his work with the mental health provider community (June, 2008). Bob’s recent publications are Dobmeier, R.A. & Moran, J.M. (2008). Dealing with disruptive behavior of adult learners. New Horizons in Adult Education and Human Resource Development, 22, 2. Dobmeier, R.A. & Reiner, S.M. Spirituality in the counselor education curriculum: A national survey of student perceptions was submitted to Counselor Education and Supervision, September 2008.
Try to attend at least one of these events to strengthen your professional network and development. Check out the student conference rates!

- American Counseling Association Conference
  Charlotte, North Carolina, March 19-23, 2009
- New York State School Counselors Association Conference
- New York Mental Health Counselors Association Conference
  Spring 2009 (April 16-18, 2010)
- New York Counseling Association Conference
  Fall 2008
- Western New York School Counselors Consortium Conference
  February 2009
- New York Mental Health Counselors Association (Rochester Chapter)
  2nd Saturday of every month, Metro Center, 10 am - 12pm
- Chi Sigma Iota (Nu Chapter)
  Coffee Talks take place in the Metro Center (1st Floor Conference Room) from 9:45-11:00 am on the first Saturday of every month. We'll start each monthly gathering with discussion around counseling issues that impact our lives and the joys and concerns that face us each day, on the job, during our internships, and in the learning and growing process. Meetings are scheduled for November 1st and December 6th. The Coffee-Talks will be followed by brief (30-45 minute) planning sessions.

American Counseling Association Student Membership
Consider joining the American Counseling Association and receive valuable professional information in professional journals and weekly newsletters; reduced conference rates; and, most importantly, the opportunity to contribute to and build professional relationships in the counseling community! The annual student membership fee is $85. [https://www.counseling.org/Counselors/MemberJoin.aspx](https://www.counseling.org/Counselors/MemberJoin.aspx)

New York Mental Health Counseling Association
Students in the Mental Health Counseling Emphasis, consider joining NYMHCA and/or attending the spring conference. Networking is a lifeline for professional excellence! Student membership is $50. [http://atlantis.macusa.net:591/nymhca/FMPro?-DB=nymhca-&-Layout=Member-&-Format=newv3.cfm&view](http://atlantis.macusa.net:591/nymhca/FMPro?-DB=nymhca-&-Layout=Member-&-Format=newv3.cfm&view)

Newsletter Editor: Robert Dobmeier
I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the Newsletter, and, in a special way, Yama Hernandez, our Graduate Assistant, who laid things out and gathered the stories and information. Thank you, Yama! If you have any questions, comments, or submissions, please contact me at: rdobmeie@brockport.edu.
Graduate Placement Employment Study
The employment survey is sent out every three years, so this report covers the 2004-2007 period. Response rates were low, with only 15% responding out of a total of 79 surveys mailed out. Of the responses, 100% are working full time, 92% of those in the counseling field, while 17% reported looking for work in the counseling field. From those graduated from the school counseling emphasis, 92% reported working, with 60% of those working full time in school settings, and 20% looking for work in school settings. There were no responses from the college track, and only two responses from the community counseling emphasis. Both responders reported working full time in the community, and both reported they were also looking for full time work in a community counseling setting.

Graduate/Employer Follow-up Study
Graduates and their employers believe that our alumni are well prepared for the practice of counseling. The grand means for students graduating in 2004-2007 on the Graduate/Employer Follow-up Survey ranged from 3.91-4.73 on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high). There was only one graduate survey from the Mental Health Counseling program at the time of the survey. No surveys from college employers were returned. Beginning with surveys distributed in spring 2008, the Department modified its program area objectives, devising separate questions for the college, mental health, and school counseling emphases, and adding the new questions to the 13 items below. Questions were added that more closely reflected CACREP standards. Revised surveys were mailed out in spring 2008. The 13 items shared by the three emphases are:

1. Issues related to a diverse society
2. Performs effectively as a general counselor
3. Consults effectively with personnel and clients
4. Applies legal and ethical principles
5. Provides effective individual counseling
6. Provides effective group counseling
7. Addresses career development
8. Applies measurement and evaluation
9. Applies an understanding of human growth
10. Conducts needs assessment
11. Is self-aware
12. Understands the role of the professional counselor
13. Communicates in oral and written modalities

Site Supervisor Follow-Up Study
The Site Supervisor Survey uses the same 13 shared items as the Graduate Employer Survey (see above). The site supervisor survey was sent to all site supervisors in spring 2008, utilizing the newly created form that included the new questions in the three program emphasis areas. The number of responses was 17. Of particular note is the mean score of 4.61 for questions 15 and 16, which queries about skills in advocacy and diversity. These exceptional scores indicate that the infusion model has been extremely effective in preparing students to work in a diverse society. The grand mean for the survey was 4.3.

Report Summary
The department uses this assessment data to evaluate the effectiveness of its coverage of CACREP’s eight core curriculum areas, students’ counseling skills, and graduates’ performance as counselors in college, mental health, and school settings. Based on this data, decisions were made for full time faculty to teach the emphasis course, Counseling in School Settings, as well as Research and Program Evaluation. Our Graduate/Employer Follow up Study and our Site Supervisor Follow up Study results suggest that our alumni have the necessary characteristics, knowledge, and skills to perform very effectively in the counseling field. In general, the department is satisfied with the employability of our students. With the new M.S. in Mental Health Counseling, we have revised the follow-up surveys to reflect the specific skills for each emphasis area. These new surveys were completed in the spring of 2008. It is anticipated that the surveys will be placed on line in the near future. By doing this, we anticipate that future reports will reflect a higher response rate with which to assess program and student competencies.

* The full 2005-2008 Assessment Report can be seen at the following website: http://www.brockport.edu/edc/