CACREP Accreditation
by: Dr. Jenene Alexander

Both counseling programs in the Professional Counseling Department in the College of Education have been granted accreditation status by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The clinical mental health counseling and school counseling graduate programs were awarded an eight-year term extending until March 2023.

The CACREP board made the decision to award the program accreditation status following a November 2014 campus evaluation by the organization’s site visit team. The organization examined every aspect of the program including curriculum, faculty, facilities and resources.

“When the news came of the eight-year approval, it was far beyond what we had been told was the probable outcome,” said President Bruce McLarty. “I never felt that Dr. Jenene Alexander and her team deserved anything less than the best possible result, but having our confidence in them and their work affirmed by such a reputable accreditation agency is a tremendous blessing for Harding University.”

Though customary for newly accredited programs to receive a two-year term, both programs were awarded an eight-year accreditation after a three-year process and meeting CACREP’s 292 program standards. Both programs were launched in 2002, and the University began the accreditation process with CACREP in 2010.

“When we began this program, we began it with the idea that we would seek CACREP accreditation, and our first program was written to CACREP standards,” said Dr. Tony Finley, dean of the College of Education. “That way there wouldn’t be major changes.”

Known as one of the most rigorous accrediting bodies for counseling programs, CACREP will provide Harding University students with an easy method for receiving a license in any state. In addition, the programs’ accreditation provides more opportunities to work with the U.S. military and as a graduate of CACREP accredited program, a student applying for certification by the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) will have the two (2) years of post-secondary supervised experience waived. Some states will also waive a portion of the post-graduate supervised experience required for licensure. “It’s really wonderful. It is unbelievable how much time and effort has gone into this,” Finley said.

The University’s Master of Science in Professional School Counseling program provides opportunities in K-12 school counseling. The Master of Science/Educational Specialist in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program provides opportunities in areas such as adult, premarital, couples, self-injurious behaviors, psychotherapy, research, and career counseling. Both programs are directed by Alexander. Programs are offered on the Searcy and Rogers campuses and currently serve approximately 100 students led by four full-time faculty members, two staff members and several adjunct instructors.

“The eight-year accreditation will give students confidence in the quality of this program and free the administration and faculty to devote their full attention to training excellent counselors who are going to help untold numbers of people and make the world a better place,” McLarty said.
Get to Know the Faculty... Dr. Todd Patten

1) Where were you born? Abilene Texas

2) When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Fighter Pilot...all the way into my 20s

3) Siblings: 2 Sisters. Shauna 7 years younger, Amber 10 years younger. We lost my brother Shane when he was a baby he was 6 years younger.

4) Where did you attend college? Abilene Christian for my freshman year. Went to Italy and studied at the Univ of Maryland campus there and then at HUF. That brought me to HU. Masters was at ACU and then my doc was from The University of Memphis.

5) Spouse and how long you have been married: Felicia, 16 years

6) Children: Son, Asher and Two daughters Sienna and Sydney

7) Somewhere you would like to visit and why? To Africa on a safari.

8) If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why? I would say Jesus but I’m going to spend eternity with him so I’ll say George Washington, I’ve been watching the show "TURN" lately and I like history. I would like to know how he makes decisions and what changed his character in the middle of his life.

9) Something not many people know about you: While living on Okinawa as a teenager I studied martial arts from a grandmaster of samurai lineage. Orthodox Matsumura Seito Shorin-Ryu and Kobudo. I hunt ducks too!

10) Favorite color: Blue or Green or both (whatever color that is)

11) Favorite movie: Star Wars, but I also like an obscure movie called "the big blue" about free diving.

12) Favorite sport and/or team: Not too much of a "normal" sports guy but I like college basketball and football. Bisons of course and Texas Tech.

13) Favorite thing about Searcy: I love

14) Favorite book (other than the Bible): The "Sun Also Rises" by Earnest Hemmingway.

15) How long have you been employed at Harding? 11 years.

16) Biggest challenge or obstacle: Focusing my interests, raising my family and living without fear.

17) Proudest moment or accomplishment: Although I can't take the credit for it by myself I think I'm most proud of my children.

18) Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why? Currently my wife has the biggest impact on my life. My late father was a huge impact on me and still is.

19) Favorite scriptures: Duet 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. ALSO John 17:20-21

20) Words of wisdom for our students: Be strong and courageous in all it's many forms.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17:20-21
Student Spotlight—Josh Medley

My name is Josh Medley and I am finishing my 2nd year in the counseling program. My wife and I met at Harding five years ago while we were undergraduate students and had actually planned to move after graduation. After finishing my degree, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do. So I enlisted in the Arkansas National Guard and soon began training. After completing my last training assignment, a friend approached me and talked to me about the program and encouraged me to apply. After more encouragement from my wife, I took a leap of faith and applied to the program. Since entering the program, I have been able to see the community in ways I would never have before. I love the work that I have been able to be a part of; but most importantly, the program helped me to find a career that I am passionate about while also learning in an environment that is Christ-centered. Applying to this program was easily one of the best decisions I have ever made. My wife and I have truly been blessed to meet some of our best friends in the program. I was honored to be the 14/15 president of our honor society, CSI. I also had the opportunity to do an internship at UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute, and I am hoping to have a paper published in a few months.

Student Spotlight—Christina Ankeny

My name is Christina Ankeny. I have been married to my best friend for 13 years. We do not have any children but do have 2 fur babies (cats). I was adopted when I was 3 1/2 by the most amazing people, but I always knew my biological mother. At 15, I decided I wanted to live with her and my parents just wanted me to be happy. So a few months passed and my biological mother re-adopted me. Little did I know this was a bad decision as I experienced things no 15 year old should experience, but through those experiences I was able to meet my husband who helped me finish school and we have been together for 14 years now. I was reunited with my initial adopted family and they are now and forever will be my family. My family and my husband all support me finishing school. I graduated in August with my Master's in Clinical Counseling and am now finishing the EDS program. When I first went back to school I went into the business program, but then began working at DHS in the Children and Family Services Division. Through my work there it led me to changing my degree to psychology, then led to wanting to be a counselor. I would eventually like to have a therapeutic foster home and do work for foster children and teens. I am working on licensure and finishing school, and it is very exciting!

Alumni Spotlight—Stephen Jones

My name is Stephen Jones. I graduated from the Professional Counseling program in December 2008. Since graduation I have had a variety of work experiences. My first experience was in Community Mental Health which was outpatient-school based counseling. I have worked in a Residential Treatment Center with patients who suffer with severe mental illness. I was employed by the Department of Corrections and counseled some 980+ female inmates. Currently, I am employed with JCS Military/Magellan Health working with the military and their families at LR Air Force base. I feel that I am now working with the population that I had hoped to work with when I chose this career path. I have had a variety of experiences that have well prepared me to work with a very diverse population.
Fall 2015 Calendar

Classes Begin: ................................................................. August 24
Fall Break Day (no classes) ................................................... October 2
Homecoming Alumni Breakfast & CE. ................................. October 23
ArCA Conference & Poster Session .................................... November
Final Exams: ........................................................................ December 14 – 18
Commencement: ................................................................. December 19

Keep in Touch
Have You:
☐ Married?
☐ Moved?
☐ Added to your family?
☐ Received an award?
☐ Got an idea for a story?
Tell Us!

Name ______________________
Address ____________________
____________________________
Email ______________________

Bruce McLarty, D.Min.
President, Harding University

Donny Lee, Ed.D.
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Jenene Alexander, Ed.D.
Director, Professional Counseling Program

Angela English
Newsletter Editor/Designer

Alpha Pi Chi

Alpha Pi Chi is Harding University’s Professional Counseling’s chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI). CSI is an international academic and professional honor society. Students in the Professional Counseling Program can be nominated for CSI based on GPA, leadership, and other criteria. Dr. Marc Fager and Dr. Todd Patten serve as faculty advisors. Each year an induction ceremony is held in the spring to welcome new members to Alpha Pi Chi. Following the ceremony, a business meeting is held to plan activities for the upcoming year as well as elect new officers. Alex Samuel was elected president, and Roxanne Moaveni was elected secretary for the 2015-16 academic year. They have created a Facebook page for current members to increase communication.

Each year members have an opportunity to participate in a fundraiser. Chi Sigma Iota and the Classy Lady Awareness Foundation hosted a faculty vs. students basketball game on Thursday April 9th 2015 in the Rhodes Fieldhouse. The games were very competitive. Admission for this event was $5. All proceeds from the event will assist in feeding the children in Haiti on the professional counseling and Harding’s engineering programs combined summer mission effort. The event was very successful, so we hope to repeat this event next year. We would like to thank everyone who donated and supported the event.

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