Inter - Professional Experience
by: Olivia Todd

What I enjoyed the most about the fall IPE evening and all the IPE meetings is the holistic aspect of treating and interacting with the client. I think gaining a different perspective from other professionals is so beneficial for helping the whole client. Every student at my table were at different levels in their professional and educational journey. It was encouraging to see how eye opening this experience is. It makes you aware of how much you have already learned and furthermore, is highly valuable to be able to apply it to a realistic situation. I believe growth happens every time I participate in an IPE evening. I’m shocked by how much I can actually contribute and it seems to increase each semester.

1 Corinthians 12:12, “There is one body, but it has many parts” was the theme verse for this IPE evening this fall. As a soon to be professional, but also just as a human being, it is easy to get caught up in the comparison game. It can also be a pride game. That verse reminds me that when everyone’s unique God given skills, profession, and personality are integrated together to serve a common goal it is always a wonderful thing. We should view our clients in that same way. We should all encourage each other’s different strengths, skills, abilities, and educational backgrounds because we all can bring something to the table and that will ultimately glorify God.

Students and faculty from many different programs come together to work on the case study that they are presented.
Get to Know the Faculty. . . Mrs. Kristy Brown

1) Where were you born? Arkansas

2) When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Early on, my brother and I were going to drive a garbage truck. He would drive and I was going to hang off the back and throw the bags in. As I matured, I knew I wanted to work with kids.

3) Siblings: Stacey Alexander Cox and Scott Alexander

4) Where did you attend college? Harding University

5) Spouse and how long you have been married: Marshall Brown - we met at Harding.

6) Children: Ethan (17), Griffin (15), Tyson (13) all boys

7) Somewhere you would like to visit and why? Hawaii

8) If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why? Honestly, my sons and my husband. With three teenage boys, time is precious. It also doesn’t hurt that they are my favorite people. :) 

9) Something not many people know about you: Traveling to all 50 states with my husband is on my bucket list. So far we have been to 30 together.

10) Favorite color: Green

11) Favorite movie: Forrest Gump

12) Favorite sport and/or team: Football and the Razorbacks (I was born and raised in Arkansas!)

13) Favorite thing about Searcy: My friends and family that live there

14) Favorite book (other than the Bible): Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud - I recommend it often

15) How long have you been teaching at Harding? For 6 years

16) Biggest challenge or obstacle: I work in the field of education. We say ALL MEANS ALL. I believe our daily mission should be all means all, that doesn’t mean it is not a daily challenge or an obstacle (usually mindset) that we must overcome.

17) Proudest moment or accomplishment: My sons come to mind first. Then I think about the day one of my students told me they named their dog Mrs. Brown. That was awesome!

18) Person who had the biggest impact on your life and why? My father, Harold Alexander. He didn’t just talk it, he lived it. He truly lived out "love your neighbor". He loved others deeply and it was evident in his daily walk. By others, I mean ALL others. He knew what "all means all" meant. :)

19) Favorite scripture: Isaiah 41:10

20) Words of wisdom for our students: In my office I have a sign that reads: You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence of your choice.
Student Spotlight—Romas Roberson

I was born in Dallas, TX. I haven’t seen my biological father since I was seven years old. I lived with my mother, Sheryl, who was a strong single mother who raised 3 boys. She was a God fearing woman who instilled faith at the core of our family. For that, I’m thankful. It set the foundation for my faith. When I was ten, my life forever changed. My mother made the hard choice to send my brother and I to Westview Boys Home in Hollis, OK, a Christian based home for boys. God was in control. I was baptized in August 2003 during my stay. It was there where I was raised by countless members of the body of Christ. I experienced living with, from what I can recall, 20-25 different sets of houseparents within an 8 year span. Without their love and support, there’s no telling where my life would’ve gone. I truly believe that God put me in that home, to be influenced by people who truly love those they encounter. People like Ron Bruner, Doug and Dennise Gonzalez, Troy and Shiann Metheny, Terry and Adrienne Owens, Cathy, Ruby, Burl and Y’Vonne Butler, Sue and Chip Moore, and the list goes on. These people I am forever grateful for. Ron and Doug are both father figures for me to this day. I give thanks to God every time I think of those people. I lived there until I graduated high school. The home continues to support me, they are my family and I love them all. I came to Harding University to play football and graduated with an undergrad in Kinesiology and Social Sciences. God blessed me with an amazing career surrounded by life changing teammates and coaches, like Paul Simmons. Words can't express what Harding football means to me. We are a family, a brotherhood, I know I can always call on my brothers. Through football at Harding, I was given the platform for my mother and I to grow our relationship! She hardly missed a game. She is now married to an amazing man, Nolan McCarter. They still come support me at games, even through my coaching career. They are strong Christian examples, and encourage me to reach higher and keep God at the forefront of my life, for that I am so thankful. After graduating, I came to a crossroad again in my life, and at the right time God intervened. Pat and Donna Brown took me in, I stayed with them during the fall of 2015 and became a volunteer coach at Harding. Donna and I had many talks about life. Donna, Carol Adams and Anissa Harris helped move my heart toward the counseling program at Harding due to my love for people. I'm thankful to God for that quality. I prayed that God would reveal to me the path to which he wanted me to go. In the Spring of 2016, I was blessed to be accepted to continue my education through the clinical mental health counseling program. After the first semester in this program, God gave me the opportunity to become a grad assistant coach for the football team, and that's where I am today. I believe it is important to give Him all the glory. God always shows up right on time. I pray that through this program I'm able to learn how to make a change in this world. My vision is to lead young people to live their lives to the fullest. I believe that is my calling. I'm right where I'm supposed to be, and I am humbled by how far God has brought me.
Alumni Spotlight—Stephanie O’Brian

Pediatrician, mathematician, President of the United States, high school teacher, lobbyist, political scientist—these are the professions I dreamt of from kindergarten through the completion of my undergraduate degree. Take note that there is nothing there even close to “therapist.” But alas, here I am, a licensed counselor about one month away from being completed with my LAC hours! My name is Stephanie O’Brien and I graduated with my master’s from the professional counseling program in December 2013 and walked with my Ed.S. the following May. Today, I am the Director of Academic Resources and the Assistant Director of Stampede in the Center for Student Success on Harding’s main campus. Additionally, I do some private practice which focuses on resident physicians at Unity Hospital. Had someone told me at any point in my life that I would grow up to be a counselor like my mom and stepdad, I would have laughed out loud (and knowing me, rolled my eyes). My aspirations have always been rather large but walking alongside others as they navigate their struggles was not a part of my vision. But I am beyond grateful to the Lord for placing me on this path.

The path of a counselor is an interesting one, I am finding. As much as the professors tried to instill in us firm boundaries, high levels of self-awareness, and appropriate options for self-care, I find myself still having to have refresher courses on these all-too-important topics. And when I say “refresher courses,” it is more like being dunked in the pool when you did not even realize you were swimming. But you know what? That is one of the things about being a counselor that has been so amazing—the continual challenges, vulnerability, and sheer growth as a result. We are all in a field where stagnation is not even an option. It is a job requirement to grow and ruminate on one’s own self just like it is a requirement to breathe a few times a minute. It can be hard. Self-awareness is a stinker sometimes. Boundaries unintentionally become too permeable. And self-care? Ain’t nobody got time for that! But the call to be congruent is mightily strong in our field. So you, fellow counselor, feel alone in your lack of ability to just tread water sometimes, don’t! If you feel like every day you are struggling with the extremes—becoming too attached or overly apathetic, just know you have a sister right there with you (that’s me!) But also know we are in the right place. We were all given life for one purpose—to be in relationship. Relationship with God, with one another, and relationship with ourselves and our own Spirit. How beautiful is it to professionally aide in those relationships day in and day out? We are career Barnabases. And that is just neat! Far better than being President… although you can still vote for me in 2024. #O”ThePossibilities :)

Stephanie O’Brien
2016 Marriages & New Arrivals

Richard and Madison Hale were married on July 30th in Arlington, TX.

Mila Francis Hart, adopted daughter of Crystal Hart was born on March 6, 2016.

Samuel Joseph Sharp was born to Nathan and Alisson Sharp on October 30, 2016.

Congratulations, Stephanie O’Brian, Outstanding Alumni 2016!
Spring 2017 Calendar

Counseling New Student Orientation .................................................. January 5
Classes Begin .................................................................................... January 9
MLK Day (no classes) ................................................................. January 16
Spring Break ............................................................................. March 4 - March 12
Spring Sing ................................................................................... April 13 - 15
Final Exams .................................................................................. May 1 - 5
Commencement ........................................................................... May 6
Extended Summer Session Begins ............................................... May 8

Alumni Around the World

Loren Beason, one of our grads, is currently working in Greece as assistant director of our campus there. She is planning to attend the European Branch of the American Counseling Association Conference in Geneva this month. [http://eb-aca.jimdo.com/](http://eb-aca.jimdo.com/)

The Compassion Clinic

We are pleased to have our clinical resident staffed clinic, The Compassion Clinic, open to see clients from our community! We have a wonderful play therapy room for children. We also have rooms for assessment, individuals, couples, and groups counseling. Military clients and their families are welcome! The clinic is currently open on Tuesdays from 3 - 8 pm. Call 501-279-5926 to schedule an appointment.

Mission: To strengthen the kingdom by joining God in His mission by reaching our community through serving, equipping and counseling.

Statement of Purpose: The Compassion Clinic seeks to provide not only a state of the art training clinic for Clinical Residents, but also an outreach mission to the communities we call home. In accordance with the values and mission of Harding University to offer the talents and skills God has blessed us with to the community as a ministry to help those that are hurting. To this end we seek to provide quality services to our clients and a quality education to our students.