



THE FOCAL POINT

Stephens Counseling Program Newsletter
Issue 3

STEPHENS
COLLEGE

Stephens College Counseling Program
Summer/Fall 2024| Issue 3
School of Health Sciences | September 2024



Message from the Director

Dear counseling students and alums-

Another academic year passed quickly-a fact highlighted by the slight delay of issue 3 of the Focal Point. Nevertheless, this issue features the many activities and accomplishments of current students, recent graduates, and counseling faculty. Be sure to also take a few minutes to check out upcoming professional development opportunities and to learn about the Mission Promise Kept program for women veterans here at Stephens. And finally, as another busy academic year gears up, be sure to consistently attend to your own personal wellbeing. Here's to another challenging and successful academic year!

Best,
Dr. Kissinger

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Staff/Faculty & Alumni Spotlight

The Counseling Department is proud of the successes of our faculty members and alumni! Here you will find brief bios and professional updates with Stephens Counseling faculty and alumni, sharing their current experience and showcasing their diverse background and skills.



Thank you and Congrats, Nicole!!

Nicole Snow (CMHC, '24) graduated in Spring '24, specializing in CMHC. Following graduation, Nicole moved to St. Louis, MO where she joined a group practice and offers primarily play-based therapy to individual clients ranging from 3 years old to teenagers.

Importantly, Nicole also served as the counseling program's graduate assistant for 3 years. In those 3 years, she proved herself indispensable to faculty and students alike. On behalf of the faculty, **THANK YOU and CONGRATS, NICOLE!**

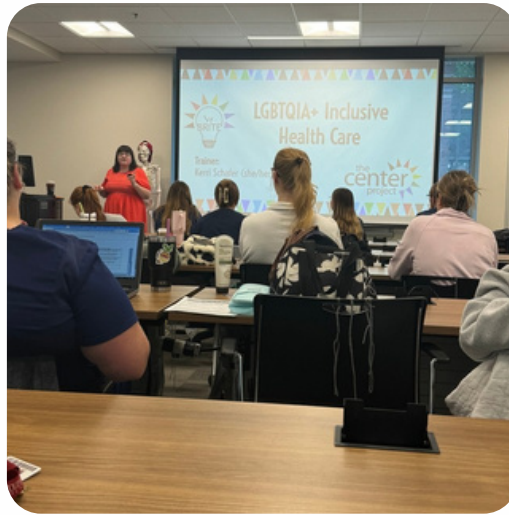
Faculty and Student News

BRITE Training at Stephens College

The Center Project of Columbia recently partnered with the physician assistant and counseling programs to offer a BRITE Space training to students and faculty in the Physician Assistant and Counseling programs. The Center Project is an organization in Columbia which serves LGBTQIA+ people across Mid-Missouri. One of the many resources The Center Project offers is BRITE (Building Respect and Inclusivity through Training & Education) training. Thank you to all of the students and faculty who participated in this important training-and a special thanks for Dr. Mary Amanda Haskins and the Physician Assistant program faculty for partnering with the Counseling Program for this important training. To learn more about The Center Project and the resources they provide, please visit <https://centerproject.org/>



Counseling Faculty (Dr. Kissinger and NAME) at the training



Current and incoming graduate students at the training.



Kerri (Trainer) from The Center Project

Stephens Now Vol 3 Spotlight

Check out the 3rd volume of the official college magazine to learn more about the counseling profession and program offerings at Stephens College. To view the magazine, click the following hyperlink: [Stephens' College Now_Vol 3 by Stephens College - Flipsnack](#)

Awards and Recognitions

**Congratulations to our
Outstanding Student Award
winners!**

**Marissa Collado (CMHC) & Jen
McIntyre (SC)**

We are proud to announce the 2024 recipient of the Outstanding School Counseling (SC) student award and the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) student award. The winners of the SC and CMHC outstanding student awards are selected by Counseling faculty. Congratulations to Jen McIntyre (Outstanding SC student award recipient) and Marissa Collado (Outstanding CMHC student award recipient)!



**Marissa Collado (L) and Jen
McIntyre (R) accepting awards
at the spring award ceremony**



Pictured: Dr. Sarah Irvin

**Congratulations to our Graduate
Faculty Teaching Award winner!**

Dr. Sarah Irvin

We are proud to announce Dr. Irvin as the 2024 recipient of the Graduate Faculty Teaching Award. The graduate faculty teaching award recognizes a Stephens College graduate faculty member who demonstrates excellence in the areas of teaching, advising, and mentorship. The graduate faculty teaching award is selected by a vote of both students and graduate faculty. Congrats, Dr. Irvin!

Conference Presentations

2023 ACES Conference - Colorado, Denver

The Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) hosts a bi-annual conference highlighting research and best practices in supervision and in the training of counselors. This year, Dr. Kendra Shoge attended the 2023 ACES conference in Denver Colorado. Dr. Shoge participated in a panel discussion titled, “Please laugh at my jokes: Navigating the needs and boundary development of counselor educators” along with 5 other counselor educators and a moderator. Nice work, Dr. Shoge!



Dr. Kendra Shoge and colleagues on panel discussion

9th Annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference - New Orleans, Louisiana

The annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference provides up-to-date cutting-edge content in the areas of law and ethics in counseling. Dr. Sarah Irvin serves as the Program Chair of the Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference along with the Conference Director, Dr. Theodore Remley. Dr. Remley is a widely published author in the area of legal and ethical issues in counseling and is the co-author of the textbook used in our course Ethical and Legal issues in Counseling. This year, faculty members Dr. Kissinger and Dr. Irvin presented a roundtable addressing the key partnership between site supervisors and counselor training programs, with an eye on optimizing the site supervisor experience for site supervisors and supervisees through support and training.



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Irvin, Gerald & Marianne Corey



Dr. Remley (L) and Dr. Irvin (R)

2024 Spring Research Conference



2024 SPRING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Hosted by the School of Health Sciences

The School of Health Sciences hosted their annual Spring 2024 Research Conference across campus, where undergraduate and graduate students from across SHS presented their research. This year's theme was **Day of the Horse** in celebration of Stephens' Equestrian program and the new Women in STEM Research (WiSR) program that Stephens College is launching in Fall, 2024. The 2024 SHS Research Conference showcased the research of many Stephens College School of Health Sciences across our graduate (Physician Assistant, Counseling) and undergraduate programs (Biology & Life Sciences, Nursing, & Psychology).

This year, Kate Wagoner (pictured), a student in the CMHC program, collaborated with Dr. Kissinger in presenting a poster on Equine-Assisted Therapy (or Equine Therapy/EAP/EAT). This type of modality involves therapeutic strategies that engage clients and horses under the dual supervision of an equine specialist and licensed mental health professional. Their poster introduced EAP/EAT, with special emphasis on its distinctive history, academic/professional training, therapeutic uses (i.e., treatment of anxiety/depression) and strategies/interventions, how to find/select qualified EAPs/EATs. The poster also highlighted career opportunities and local EAPs/EATs.

Next year's SHS conference is just around the corner and focuses on the "Intersection of Wellness and Science". This topic is a great opportunity for Counseling students to get involved. Be sure to talk with your instructors and advisors if you have ideas for presenting. Additionally, more information will be provided closer to the conference in April-we hope you will attend-we expect to have at least one prominent counseling professional as a keynote speaker-you won't want to miss it!



Kate Wagoner at the "24 SHS Research Conference

Congrats to our Graduates!

Fall 2023 Graduates (CMHC)



Pictured: Dr. Kissinger, Heather Willet, Rachel Jones, Jacob Motta, Aimee George, Shelby Wessing, Holley Perring, Dr. Irvin, Dr. Shoge

Spring 2024 Graduates CMHC & SC



Pictured (L-R): Michelle Haas, Ashley Martin, Jen McIntyre, DaeJera Aaron, Katie Bowes, Amy Pescaglia, Nicole Snow, Natalie Moore

Not Pictured: Emily Kingsolver, LaToya Gatewood

Welcome Fall 2024 Cohort!



Front Row (L-R: Emmalee Djerf (Graduate Assistant), Larissa Sears, Nicole Snyder, Rebecca Cramer, Desiree Hausam)

Back Row (L-R): Jesse Reimann, Jenrose Malloy, Alyssa Harker, Brad Cook, Madelyn Hicks, Megan McBride, Patrick Derboven, Macie Edwards

Mission Promise Kept @ Stephens College

Dedicated Support for Women Veterans

What was the inspiration for Mission Promise Kept at Stephens College?

Mission Promise Kept at Stephens College provides specialized support and resources for women veterans. It offers tailored support, including free on-campus childcare, access to dedicated programs and resources, and a community that values and understands their experiences, ensuring a successful transition to academic & professional life.

What should we know about women's roles and experiences in the military and as veterans?

Women play diverse roles in the military and as veterans, including combat positions and leadership roles. They face unique challenges such as gender-specific issues, discrimination, and barriers to advancement. Specialized healthcare and mental health support are needed to address experiences with gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and military sexual trauma. Many women veterans juggle caregiving and parenting responsibilities, highlighting the need for supportive programs. Creating an inclusive community and tailored support systems like Mission Promise Kept are crucial for empowering and supporting women veterans.

What do you see as key benefits of the program & challenges?

Mission Promise Kept offers tailored support programs for women veterans, including free on-campus childcare, housing that accommodates pets and children, and access to the Veteran Center for academic and mental health support. The program also provides activities and networking opportunities for peer connection, mentorship, and leadership development. However, the program faces challenges as women veterans manage multiple responsibilities, making it difficult to balance academic and personal commitments. Providing ongoing specialized care for mental health needs, ensuring awareness and access to benefits, and sustaining adequate funding present ongoing challenges despite these obstacles.

Anything else you believe we should know

It's important to consider the impact of Mission Promise Kept on the campus environment and the veteran community. By creating a supportive atmosphere for women veterans, the program benefits its participants and enriches the campus as a whole. The program's focus on gender-specific issues and providing comprehensive support highlights the unique needs of women in the military and can inspire similar initiatives across other institutions. Regularly assessing participants' experiences and challenges helps improve the support provided. Involving women veterans in shaping the program's offerings can lead to more tailored solutions and a stronger sense of community. Ultimately, programs like Mission Promise Kept empower women veterans and facilitate their successful transition to civilian life, contributing to the larger goal of ensuring that all veterans receive the respect, support, and opportunities they deserve.



Elizabeth Herrera
Executive Director



Upcoming Events

North Central Association for Counselor Education & Supervision

- October 16th-19th in Chicago, Illinois

Southern Association of Counselor Education and Supervision

- November 7th-9th in Dallas, Tx.

Missouri Behavioral Health Conference

- September 11th-13th

Website: <https://www.mobhc.org/missouri-behavioral-health-conference> Location: Branson Convention Center

2024 MMHCA Annual Conference

- October 17th -19th

Website: <http://www.mmhca.com/2024-annual-conference.html> Location: Old Kinderhook Resort

MSCA 2024 Fall Conference

- November 3rd - 5th

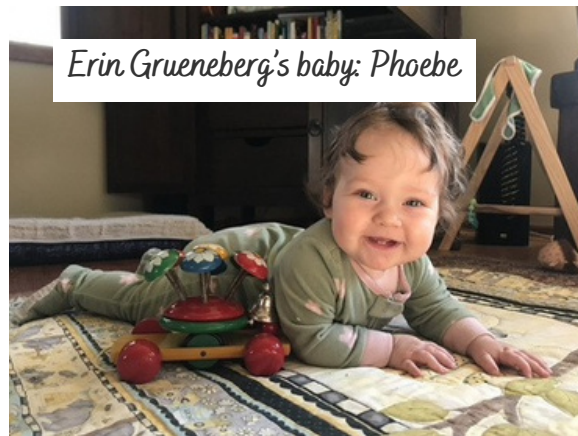
Website: [https://www.moschoolcounselor.org/2024-fall-conference?](https://www.moschoolcounselor.org/2024-fall-conference?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2xCoJjBMbkdAf8PBU2A_dzb82qNoNHlFmq7yu8ggtn_n4O-x8xJKoQxl4A_aem_6xwyRZQ4njewA4NyolyZPg)

fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2xCoJjBMbkdAf8PBU2A_dzb82qNoNHlFmq7yu8ggtn_n4O-x8xJKoQxl4A_aem_6xwyRZQ4njewA4NyolyZPg Location: Tan-Tar-A Conference Center

New Additions



Bremner Smith's Baby: Cedar



Erin Grueneberg's baby: Phoebe



Stephens College

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School of Health Sciences
Counseling Department