



M.C.P. PERSPECTIVE

Benedictine University

September 2004

M.C.P. program secures approved-program status by IDPR

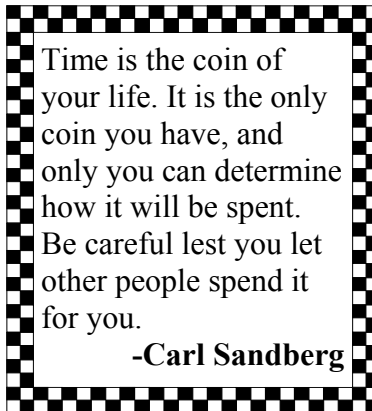
The Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR) has approved the application by Benedictine University's Masters in Clinical Psychology program for approved status. What this means to our graduates is that they will be able to apply for licensure without extensive and lengthy scrutiny of coursework. The status will facilitate an automatic acceptance of our student's application to sit for the licensure examination.

The Professional Counseling Licensing and Disciplinary Board of the State carefully evaluated the M.C.P. program by examining the program's requirements, course of study, class descriptions and syllabi. They subsequently recommended the Master of Science, Clinical Psychology Program at Benedictine

University be approved as it meets all of the educational requirements established in the Rules for the Administration of the Illinois Professional Counseling Act.

This approval means that students in the M.C.P. program are assured that their preparation and training will meet all of the criteria of the state's licensing board. This approval further demonstrates that our students are receiving a comprehensive and quality training that carefully prepares them for futures in the field of counseling and psychotherapy. In addition, graduates of the program will automatically be accepted to take the licensure examinations, both the License for Professional Counselors (LPC) and the License for Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPC), bypassing a lengthy application process.

Our students and faculty alike are thrilled to receive this important honor. The M.C.P. program is proud of this recognition and wishes to acknowledge our exemplary faculty, their expertise and the superior quality of their instruction. It is because of the faculty's contribution to the student's training that the M.C.P. program has achieved this status with the State of Illinois.



IMPORTANT DATES

- September 7 Application for December 2004 graduation due
- October 3 Fall classes begin
- November 19 Last day to drop fall classes (before eighth class meeting)
- November 19 FP evaluations due Intent forms due
- November 25-26 No classes; all offices closed
- December 3 Application for March 2005 graduation due
- December 12 Fall term ends
- December 1 Summer incompletes due
- December 24-27 Christmas Holiday; all offices closed
- December 31 Fall degree conferral

M.C.P. department rolls out subspecialties in childhood, family and the aging adult

New subspecialties in Childhood, Marriage and Family and the Aging Adult have been developed for the M.C.P. program. One just needs to indicate to the department on the required form that he or she intends to carry a subspecialty in one of the announced areas of study.

Those areas are Childhood, Marriage and Family and Life Span Issues in Aging. The subspecialty tracks allow



students to develop special expertise in psychological approaches to understanding and treating specific populations. Students who enroll in a subspecialty track complete the core courses required of all clinical students. In addition, they complete a series of coursework in the subspecialty and acquire clinical experience relevant to the area.

The subspecialties utilize current
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Lisbeth Sommerbeck presents to M.C.P. students

M.C.P. students and faculty were invited to a presentation and discussion in May with Lisbeth Sommerbeck, an accredited specialist in psychotherapy and supervision and a Danish Psychological Association psychologist at Dianalund Psychiatric Hospital in Dianalund, Denmark. Her topic of discussion was “Client-Centered Therapy and Severe Mental Illness.” She also spoke with small groups of students about her experience as a client-centered therapist with psychotic and other mentally ill persons and her use of Gary Prouty’s pre-therapy method with patients who are very difficult to reach.

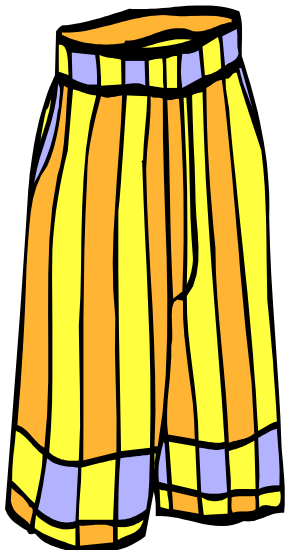
Sommerbeck wrote “The Client-Centered Therapist in Psychiatric Contexts—A Therapist’s Guide to the Psychiatric Landscape and Its Inhabitants.” She is also the founder of the Danish Carl Rogers Forum.

M.C.P. reaches highest enrollment in five years

The M.C.P. department has its highest enrollment in over five years. The current number of active students is slightly over 80. The department has seen record numbers of applicants and those accepted into the program over the last five years. Despite the number of similar programs opening up in the same geographical location as Benedictine University, our program continues to grow.

We can only assume this is due to the stellar reputation our program and students have in the field of mental health. Word of mouth is a very strong tool to maintaining a strong program such as ours. The program has also been fortunate to work positively with the undergraduate program, and many of the new M.C.P. students have matriculated directly from the undergraduate curriculum.

The coming months will see some changes for the program. The psychology department will have a new chair. Dr. James Crissman, a tenured professor of sociology, will take over the duties formerly filled by Dr. James Iaccino, who has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Springfield College. Dr. Iaccino will maintain a presence in the undergraduate department by teaching two courses for the psychology undergraduates.



Benedictine Briefs

- The M.C.P. class in human sexuality (MCP 649) has been added to the fall 2004 schedule. It is a two credit elective that was last offered two years ago. It will meet on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Some minor revisions to the syllabus have been made to accommodate student requests and interests. Please consider this class if you intend to work with couples.
- APA student affiliation applications are available in the M.C.P. office. A reduced membership fee is offered to graduate students for \$42.00.
- The University is no printing catalogs or schedules for the graduate programs. Be sure to familiarize yourself with our web site and the information that is available there.
- M.C.P. department student rosters are available to all M.C.P. students. Stop by the department to pick up our most current issue.

M.C.P. department rolls out subspecialties

(Continued from page 1)

M.C.P. curricula, and the track courses include six or seven courses depending on the specific area.

The courses for the Childhood Subspecialty are

- MCP 646 Human Development: Infancy and Childhood
- MCP 647 Human Development: Adolescence
- MCP 664 Psychological Assessment: Measurement and Test Evaluation
- MCP 560 Behavior Modification
- MCP 650 Art Therapy
- MCP 653 Behavior Disorders of Childhood
- 655 Theory and Techniques of Play Therapy with Children.

The courses for the Marriage and Family Subspecialty are

- MCP 551 Substance Abuse: Alcoholism
- MCP 648 Human Development: Adulthood
- MCP 672 Marriage and Family: Systems and Theory
- MCP 673 Workshop in Marital Therapy
- MCP 580 Psychology of Women
- MCP 649 Human Sexuality.

Life Span Issues in Aging Subspecialty will require

- MCP 664 Psychological Assessment: Measurement and Test Evaluation
- MCP 551 Substance Abuse: Alcoholism

- MCP 585 Grief and Loss
- MCP 610 Social, Psychological and Cultural Aspects of Aging
- MCP 648 Human Development: Adulthood
- MCP 689 Professional Issues in Life Span Services

All areas of study require a clinical field placement in a setting that serves the population indicated by the subspecialty.

If you would like further information regarding the new concentrations, contact Margie Salyer or Dr. Moran.

Lisa Kay is new art therapy instructor

The M.C.P. department recently hired a new instructor for the MCP 650—Art Therapy class. Lisa Kay came to Benedictine University from the Center for Counseling at the Family Service Agency of DeKalb County where she is currently an adjunct counselor.

Her professional experience included serving as the art therapy director at Catholic Children's Home Special Education Department, an art therapist at Alton Associates of Counseling and Therapy, a clinical art therapist at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in Creve Coeur, Missouri and as a consultant for Craft Alliance Center for the Visual Arts. She is a board-certified art therapist and a licensed clinical professional counselor (L.C.P.C.). The YWCA awarded her the Woman of Distinction honor in 2000, and she has been listed in the Who's Who Among American Women.

Seeing student's enthusiasm to engage in the process of art therapy is one of her goals for her class. Kay taught the class for the first time at BU in the spring term. She said, "It was a great group. The students were responsive, receptive, positive and enjoyed learning about the process." The weekend-format class is tentatively planned for mid-May in the spring 2005 term.

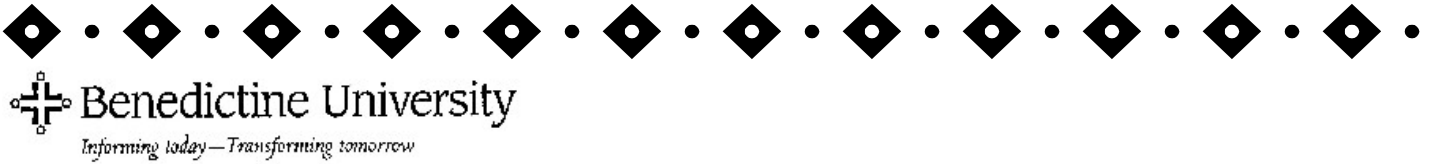
Kay first became interested in art therapy through the study and psychology of children's art. "Children's art catapulted me into this field," she affirmed.

Kay, her husband and son live in Sycamore with their golden retriever and black lab. This academic year the family is hosting a teenager from Thailand through a foreign exchange program at the local high school.

Working with beads and stones to design contemporary art along with yoga, gardening and hiking occupy Kay's personal time and interests.

Art is the imposing of a pattern on experience, and our aesthetic enjoyment is recognition of the pattern.

-Alfred North Whitehead



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Elizabeth Summers bids a very fond farewell to M.C.P.

After 10 years of great fun, challenges and fulfillment, I have decided to move on from the psychology/sociology and M.C.P. departments. I was recently offered a position in the Administrative Services area here at Benedictine University. This area of the University is facing tremendous growth, challenges and opportunities, and I feel I can make a real contribution there.

I will miss all my friends, colleagues, and of course, the students in these departments. I have truly enjoyed being a help and a support for all of you. Over the last ten years, I have seen many changes in the department, some scary but most wonderful. Over 200 students have graduated in the last ten years, and many of those students are field placement supervisors for our current students. Some graduates have come back to give to our students in the way of sharing what they have learned through the M.C.P. program and professional practices in the greater community. Margie Salyer, Gina Palumbo Abbeduto, Kate Nolan Irons and Donna Bredrup are four of these people.

I cannot miss thanking the graduate assistants I have enjoyed working with over the years, Steve Meisner, Jason Knorr, Chris Foley, Barb Lackey, Mike Venuti and Rima Mickus. Your help was invaluable to me.

To just thank Margie Salyer, Dianne Moran and Jane Boumgarden would never be adequate enough for how much they have given me. I have soared with your encouragement, friendship and love. I would not be the person I am today without having spent the last ten years with you.

I will miss you all, but I will just be one building away. Be sure to stop by once in a while, and I promise to do the same.

Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends.
-Richard Bach