Join us for the Wisconsin School Counselor Association Annual Conference February 17-19! This year, WSCA turns 50! The theme of this year’s conference is ‘Fifty Years of Commitment to Excellence.’ Join us in Madison, Wisconsin, where UWRF students and faculty will be connecting with counselors across the state. Our alumni get together will be on Wednesday, February 18. Details to follow.

Upcoming Events

**Comprehensive Exam**
December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Stakeholders Meeting**
December 6<sup>th</sup>

**National School Counseling Week**
February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

**WSCA Annual Conference**
*February 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> in Madison, WI*

**MSCA Annual Conference**
*May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd, MN*

**ASCA Annual Conference**
*June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup> in Phoenix, AZ*

We have 14 new students joining the program in the spring semester. Students met with faculty and current students in November to learn about the program, register for classes, connect with fellow classmates, and get acquainted with campus.

We have added a Wednesday night event for the first time in many years. Stay tuned for details about the event.

National School Counseling Week 2015 will be celebrated February 2-6, 2015 to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within the U.S. school systems.

The UWRF School Counseling Student Group will be hosting a social and guest speaker on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Kinnickinnic River Theater on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the UC. Michael Walker serves as director of the Office of Black Male Student Achievement for Minneapolis Public Schools. He will be delivering a presentation on closing the achievement gap in a keynote address Monday evening. The social is from 6:00pm – 6:30pm and the presentation will start shortly after.

Throughout the week, the student group will be sending out emails promoting NSCW and promoting other student group activities.

**Issue Highlights**

- Award for Dr. Baker
- Meet Professor Rindone
- Jerry Liddell Nominated
- Wisconsin in Scotland
- Student and Faculty Achievements
- Open House and Orientation
- CACREP Update
- Where are they now?
- Meet Mr. Fisher
Dr. Caroline Baker was awarded the 2014 College of Education and Professional Studies Outstanding Faculty Award.

Caroline joined the program five years ago, and was initially drawn to how students made eye contact, smiled, and greeted you as you walked across campus. She enjoyed the warm environment. Now, she tries to add that warmth through her interactions with peers and students. Teaching classes allows her to do this, because she gets to see how students grow, learn, and strive for their own goals.

Since joining the program, Dr. Baker says there have been so many changes! Despite the number of program changes, she notes there is a theme throughout all of them: continuous improvement and innovation so students are prepared to become excellent school counselors. One thing that has not changed? Dr. Baker says the program engages each other in decision-making, new ideas, and implementing changes.

Looking ahead, her big goal is to attain national accreditation from the Council of the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The process of the self-study, which she has taken the lead on, has already yielded programmatic improvements and modifications to ensure students get the best training possible. She added that that is the strength of the Counseling Program: there is a systematic review of practices and procedures in order to make modifications to enhance student’s learning experiences, and Dr. Baker is excited to be a part of that.

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It was a great honor to be nominated by the department for this award during the Spring 2014 semester. At that time, I appreciated being recognized as working hard and contributing to the program, department, and profession. Actually receiving the award in August was an even bigger honor, because I know there are many other faculty members also working hard in this College. The award pushes me forward as I look to future goals, too” Caroline Baker.
Professor Helena Rindone joins the School Counseling Department from Corpus Christi, Texas. Helena is finishing her dissertation, which focuses on the experiences counselors, principals, and students have had with a character education program, at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Q: Welcome to the UWRF Counseling Program. What initially drew you to the program?
A: I was drawn to the strong emphasis on training and preparing school counselors, in hands on fashion, for future work in the education system. The department embraces strong collaborative initiative and embodies diversity.

Q: What classes are you teaching this year?
A: I am teaching Counseling 612: Lifespan Human Development, and Counseling 770: K-12 Curriculum

Q: Is there one theory you utilize most in counseling?
A: I most often utilize an experiential approach in my counseling. I appreciate the approach of understanding how experiences shape our understanding of the world.

Q: What are your professional interests?
A: Social justice advocacy is an interest of mine. I take interest in working with at-risk youth, program evaluation, and assessment development, as well.

Q: What are your interests outside of work?
A: I have a son who is four years old. I play hockey, soccer, and volleyball. My son and I are avid sports events viewers. I also enjoy drawing and cooking.

Q: What advice would you give to graduates of the program who are thinking of going on to a doctoral program?
A: I would advise personal reflection on what they would like to do with a PhD. I chose a PhD because I wanted to be in academia, training future counselors, and I have a passion in research of professional development in counseling. A doctoral program is a big commitment, both personally and professionally. I strongly advise taking time to consider where they would want to go in life with a PhD.

Q: What are you most looking forward to this year?
A: I look forward to working with both current students and future students. I am also looking forward to building professional relationships with my colleagues and students. I am enjoying life in the mid-west and Wisconsin, and I look forward to knowing the area more.
Jerry Liddell Nominated for UWRF Chancellor’s Recognition Award for Classified Staff

Department associate Jerry Liddell was nominated for the UWRF Chancellor’s Recognition Award for Classified Staff for the 2014 academic year. Although Jerry was not a finalist for the award, this nomination confirmed what a valuable asset he is to the program and the university.

Jerry began working for the university in the Outreach and Graduate Studies Department in 2004. He transitioned to his current role as Academic Department Associate in the Teacher Education, Counseling and School Psychology programs in 2009.

The Counseling and School Psychology faculty view Jerry’s work as “indispensable to the functioning of our two programs. He is an advocate for our programs, suggests creative ideas to improve the efficiency of information flow, supports faculty, staff and students, and most importantly, he understands the programs.”

“Jerry’s strength is his ability to connect with others on campus. He reaches out to the students in the programs that he works with to be sure that they are afforded the best academic experience” Dr. Gillen.

When asked about what he likes most about his current position at the university, Jerry shared that he enjoys the students and the people he works with, the campus location, and access to a variety of opportunities and events on and off campus.

Jerry was drafted into the US Army in April of 1971. He completed basic training at Ft. Ord, California. After finishing basic training, he served the Army as a photo lab specialist, printing photos for the branch of the Army that tested new and experimental weapons. He later applied to and was accepted into the Army’s x-ray technician program. After graduation in the summer of 1972, he returned to Ft. Ord to work as a technician in the post hospital. He ended his military service in December of 1973. “At the time that I was drafted, I thought it was the worst thing that had ever happened to me. I now realize it was one of the best things that has happened in my life. I believe if I hadn’t been drafted, I would not be where I am in my life now” Jerry Liddell.

Jerry is actively involved in the River Falls community. He and his wife belong to St. Bridget Catholic Church, where they co-facilitate a divorce/separated support group. He also serves St. Bridget’s as a lector. In addition, Jerry serves as financial secretary to the UWRF Knights of Columbus Council Number 15711.

Jerry and his wife Barb currently reside in River Falls, Wisconsin.

Did you know?

93% of 2013-2014 graduates obtained school counseling positions.

“What I like most about working for the program is the different hats I get to wear in performing my job” Jerry Liddell.
**Student Achievements**

**Laura Horton**
- Attended and presented at NACAC

**Justin Larson**
- SCSA Treasurer, helping to fund student group activities

**Jack Pauly and Laura Horton**
- School Counseling Student Association Co-Presidents
  - Laura implemented the first e-update newsletter for the student group
  - Jack organized the Comprehensive Exam study group sign-ups

**Kelsey Olin, Larissa Ruud, Justin Larson, Jen Poole-Stout & Amy Knutson**
- Welcome Back Social committee

**Katerina Youngberg & Stephanie Orfei**
- Studied abroad in Scotland, and are the Professional Organizations Representatives
  - Organize alumni events and facilitate student attendance and involvement at professional conferences

**Department Open House Volunteers:** Jason Ferkinhoff, Justin Larson, Lesley Simons, Kelly Anderson & Katerina Youngberg

**New Student Orientation Volunteers:** Justin Larson, Katerina Youngberg, Larissa Ruud, Raqiya Mohamed, Jen Poole-Stout & Kelsey Olin

**New Stakeholders:** Kelei Johnson, Sam Hines, Raqiya Mohamed & Annette Nelson

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**Faculty Achievements**

**Dr. Gillen**
- Invited to State of Education Address/Teacher of the Year Recognition by State Superintendent Evers--Fall 2014
- Nominated by the Chancellor to serve on the Chancellor Performance Survey Working Group
- Served as a CACREP site visitor
- Invited speaker on Solution Focused Counseling at Texas A & M Corpus Christi--June 2014

**Dr. Baker**
- UWRF CEPS 2014 Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year
- National Board for Certified Counselors & Affiliates Grant for Initial CACREP Accreditation ($2,500 awarded so far; co written by Dr. Gillen)
- CACREP Accreditation Self-Study with Dr. Gillen, GAs Katerina Youngberg and Justin Larson, and Professor Rindone

**Professor Rindone**
- Presented at the Texas Counselor Association Annual Growth Conference--November 2014
- Appointed as the chair of the graduate student committee for the American Counseling Association
- Appointed as newsletter editor for the Wisconsin Counseling Association
- Accepted into the National Association of Professional Women

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Did you know? Retention Rate since spring 2013 is 98%
Third semester student Justin Larson, helps new students register for classes at the New Student Orientation. Larissa Ruud, a third semester student in the program, discusses course options.

“‘I always look forward to being at the New Student Orientation to help give back, since it was such a positive experience for me when I entered the program.’” Larissa Ruud

New Student Orientation was held on Saturday, November 8th. Students newly admitted to the program had the opportunity to visit campus and learn more detailed information about the program. Six current students were on hand to answer questions and talk with new students about what to expect and what graduate school is like. New students also met their advisor, received their ID cards, registered for classes, toured campus, and had lunch with current students and faculty.

The School Counseling Open House was held just a few days later on Tuesday, November 11th. Thirteen people expressed interest in the program. Interested attendees had the opportunity to meet with Department Chair, Dr. Mark Gillen and 6 current students to discuss credit loads, their interests in school counseling, the application process and what life is like as a graduate student.
CACREP Update

Our CACREP accreditation process is on track for an application date of January 31, 2015! Graduate Assistants Justin Larson and Katerina Youngberg spent many hours scrutinizing details, troubleshooting technology issues, and gathering supporting documentation to ensure a quality first draft of the application materials, so a hearty thank you to them! Throughout the process, it remains clear that the UWRF Counseling Program demonstrates excellence in a number of ways:

1. Cultural, ethical and developmental considerations weave throughout all counseling courses
2. A 100 hour Practicum field placement, occurring early in the program, allows students to practice counseling skills and determine if school counseling is a right fit for them.
3. Program curriculum is consistently refined, using class and program data to inform changes.
4. Speaking of data, the program collects data on student progress from admission to the program through the examination for the school counseling license. Class assignments, program progress evaluations, comprehensive examinations, and site supervisor evaluations are a few examples.
5. Internship allows students to gain experience at elementary, middle, and high school levels in urban, suburban and rural contexts.
6. Alumni report feeling well prepared to work as school counselors!

Where are they now?

Some of our 2013-2014 graduates are working as school counselors in…

Patrick Henry High School-Minneapolis, MN
Pequot Lakes School District-Pequot Lakes, MN
Humboldt Secondary School: St. Paul, MN
Higher Ground Academy-St. Paul, MN
Clayton Schools-Clayton, WI
Farmington High School-Farmington, MN
Grant Elementary-Wausau, WI
Battle Lake Public Schools-Battle Lake, MN
James Williams Middle School-Rhinelander, WI
Hazel Park Prep-St. Paul, MN
Eric Fisher will be graduating Saturday, December 13, 2014 from the counseling program. The road to graduation has been a challenging one for Eric, but his perseverance and dedication has risen above the challenges he has faced.

Eric was active duty in the Navy in 1990, and moved to the area to complete his undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin River Falls. Not only did he serve his country in the Navy, but later joined the Air Force, and was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan six times. While many of us were accepted into the program in the comfort of familiar surroundings, it was much different for Eric. He spoke to Dr. Gillen from a satellite phone in the mountains of Afghanistan. His wife, Carrie, attended the New Student Orientation for him in the spring of 2011 and passed information along to him. Shortly after being accepted, a rocket attack took place near Eric’s location. At the same time, Eric suffered a heart attack. After recovering, Eric started in the program that fall.

Unfortunately, that is not where the challenges ended for Eric. Later in the program, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. One might think that cancer would slow Eric down, but no. With the support and encouragement from his family, he continued with the program. When asked about family, Eric said they push him further. They kept pushing him, even when he thought he couldn’t continue, when he might have said “heck-I’m done”, they supported him.

Eric became interested in perusing school counseling while he was deployed. He heard from his wife about how his children were affected by the deployment. “My concern was for my children. I was hearing from my wife about things happening at school and how that was affecting them.”

When Eric walks across the stage on graduation day, he will not be alone. His service dog, Lola, will join him. She is at his side at all times; this includes his time in internship. Eric shared that Lola is very well behaved around children, and the students are getting used to her as well.

After graduating, Eric will be retiring. He will be medically retired from the military, and will be unable to work. When asked about how he will spend his time, he hopes to volunteer at a VA center, working with children of deployed parents. He also is working with a new group, Inspiring Our Hero’s, which works with homeless veterans, and veterans returning from deployment. He has three children, one grandchild, and another on the way.
Wisconsin In Scotland brings together counseling students from across the state

Counseling Program students Larissa Ruud, Stephanie Orfei, and Katerina Youngberg had the unique opportunity this summer to participate in the Wisconsin in Scotland Study Abroad Program. The three students took one or two courses in Dalkeith, Scotland, where they met fellow counseling students from across the state. The two courses offered, Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling, and Counseling and the Chemical Dependency Process, allowed students to collaborate, explore, and learn, all while immersed in another culture.

While living in Scotland, students stayed in the Dalkeith Palace, explored the hundreds of acres of land surrounding the house, and took weekend trips to the countryside.

This was the first time students from the School Counseling program have taken courses abroad. When asked about the program, Dr. Gillen shared that he thinks this is a great opportunity for students to gain valuable experiences while completing course work.

Interested students will have another opportunity to study aboard in Scotland. Looking ahead, the counseling program hopes to expand the Wisconsin in Scotland opportunities for students. Next summer, Dr. Savage will be teaching a PREPaRE crisis prevention and intervention training. Dr. Gillen will be teaching Group Counseling during the summer of 2016.

Interested in learning more about the program?

Contact Dr. Gillen or visit our website at http://www.uwrf.edu/csp

Mark Gillen
Office: 231 Wyman Ed Bldg.
Phone: 715.425.3890
Email: mark.gillen@uwrf.edu

### School Counseling Student Association 2014-2015

**Presidents:**
Jack Pauly & Laura Horton

**Treasurer:**
Justin Larson

Welcome Back Social Committee:
Kelsey Olin, Larissa Ruud & Justin Larson

National School Counseling Week Event Committee:
Kelsey Olin, Larissa Ruud, Justin Larson, Jennifer Poole-Stout & Amy Knutson

**Professional Organization Representatives:**
Katerina Youngberg & Steph Orfei

Fall 2014 New Student Orientation Panel Members:
Justin Larson, Katerina Youngberg, Kelsey Olin, Larissa Ruud, Jennifer Poole-Stout & Raqiyah Mohamed

“Studying abroad allowed me to learn about counseling in a new culture and explore a different part of the world”
Katerina Youngberg