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LINDENWOOD

Counseling grads present research at conference

Recent graduates of Lindenwood's master's program in Professional and School Counseling participated in the annual American Counseling of Missouri Conference in February. Five alumna of Lindenwood's counseling program presented the results of their thesis research projects to mental health professionals and educators from across the state.

Rhonda Kane researched "The Relationship Between Self-Esteem, Locus of Control and Gender Among College Athletes." The results of her study indicated that the self-esteem of female athletes is lower than that of male athletes and that locus of control is more internal for male athletes.

Rhonda noted that counselors and coaches who have an understanding of the effects of gender socialization on girls and young women in relation to their self-esteem can better assist them in overcoming any negative effects of participating in athletics.

Delores Tuttle conducted an exploratory study, "Recovered Memories Associated with Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse." The study examined the different beliefs that counselors hold concerning repressed memories of childhood sexual abuse.

She sent a questionnaire to 200 counselors in the United States. The results indicated that counselors believe that memories can resurface later in life, but that they also believe that false memories can occur.

The majority of counselors are aware of the techniques that can contribute to false memory recall. The survey respondents noted a variety of problems associated with working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Terri Austin examined "Differences in the Mother-Child Relationship Between Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Children Without ADHD." She assessed families with more than two children, one of who was diagnosed with ADHD.

Mothers felt less satisfaction and less control with the ADHD child than with the non-ADHD siblings. Terri outlined a number of parenting issues and made recommendations for family-centered approaches to counseling families.

Amy Lammers studied "The Relationship Between a Therapist's Locus of Control, Therapeutic Orientation, and Directiveness of Therapeutic Communications." The results of her study indicated a need for counselors to better define concepts such as directiveness and theoretical orientation. The impact that these variables have on the success of the client-counselor relationship was discussed.

Andrea Chrismer-Still presented the results of her thesis, "Coparenting Influences: A Positive Report for the Millennium." The research focused on life-satisfaction and perceived social support among older adolescents who had experienced divorce.

The analysis showed significantly decreased satisfaction with life scores in relation to the emotional state of the parents and increased satisfaction when desired time with the non-custodial parent was regular and

predictable.

Marilyn Patterson, Ed.D., associate professor of counseling at Lindenwood, conducted a panel discussion, at the conference "From Theory to Practice: Current Issues in Counseling Research." She also attended the national conference of the American Counseling Association in Washington, D.C. over spring break.

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