

OCTOBER 2021

COUNSELING CONNECTIONS

Western Carolina University - Fall Issue

Newsletter
Editor

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Photo Credit: Eric Haggart

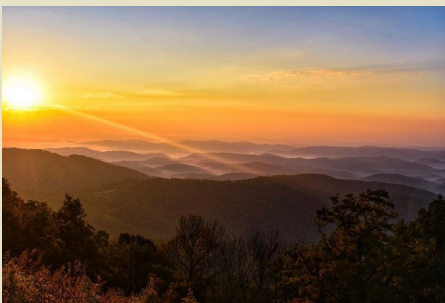


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WELCOME DR. GONZÁLEZ-ROSARIO TO WCU'S COUNSELING FACULTY

Assistant Professor

Pronouns: she/her/ella

General Biography

Dr. Loidaly González-Rosario is an assistant professor in the Counseling Program at Western Carolina University. She is originally from Puerto Rico, was raised in Miami, FL where she got her Bachelor of Elementary Education and a Master of Professional Counseling from Florida International University. Her work centers around social justice advocacy, community action, and supporting culturally and linguistically diverse students in the public school system. She uses the Multicultural and Social Justice Counseling Competencies to ground her work. Dr. González-Rosario strives to uplift the voices of youth and families in research and advocates for families across systems.

I recently had the amazing opportunity to sit down on a virtual meeting with Dr. González-Rosario and get to know her a little more. Dr. González-Rosario recently graduated from University of Tennessee with her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision in Spring 2021. Upon her Ph.D. completion, she made the move from Knoxville to Asheville with her husband and pets. Her Doctoral studies focused mainly on International Youth, Children, and Families she holds a certificate in Grief, Loss, and Trauma.

Dr. González-Rosario has had a multitude of experience in the school system in the Miami, FL area prior to earning her Ph.D. Both as a teacher and counselor. During this experience, she empowered as well as advocated for international and linguistically diverse students and families. She also served as part of the Crisis Support team for her school district in the Miami area.

Classes Dr. González-Rosario is teaching includes:

- The Helping Relationship
- Developmental Perspectives of Counseling
- Cross Cultural Counseling
- Career Development

When she is not at work, you can find her cuddling with her two cats and dog, creating through pottery, and spending time with or talking to family. She also enjoys serving others through healthy, culture-rich cuisine. Dr. González-Rosario is very excited for this next chapter of her career and hopes to bring a multicultural, advocacy, and holistic counseling approach to Western Carolina's Counseling Program and surrounding Asheville Area.

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Building

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Fall 2021 Graduate Spotlight

Fun Facts and Aspirations from some of the students that will be graduating from the Counseling Program in December 2021

Shelby Barnes

Began the Program in 2017

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Track

Next Steps after Graduating: I plan on trying to acquire a job at an in-patient treatment center!

Something unexpected but exciting that happened while in the program: Traveled the world for a year & got married!

Favorite course taken in the program and why: Probably either Nature as a Metaphor (I love nature & implementing that into my practice!) or Theories. I love learning new things!

Favorite Fall/Autumn Activity: Either going apple picking or going to a Haunted Farm!



Mackenzie Higdon Rogers

Began the Program Summer 2019

School Counseling Track

Next Steps after Graduating: Continue my job as the school counselor at Andrews Elementary!

Something unexpected but exciting that happened while in the program:

I got engaged and married while in the program!

My husband, Rance, has been my number one supporter!

Favorite course taken in the program and why: I loved Family with Melodie Frick and Groups with Heather Thompson-Rainey. I felt like I grew a lot in both of these courses!

Favorite Fall/Autumn Activity: Drinking hot apple cider!

Pumpkin Contest

& Other News / Events

PUMPKINS

The WCU Counseling program will be hosting the 2021 pumpkin carving "contest". There is no theme, be creative! Send your pumpkin photos to **curtis@wcu.edu** by 5PM on Friday, October 29th.

Most of the pumpkins will be displayed on the WCU Counseling Facebook page. You can also share your pumpkin on social media using the hashtag **#wcucounjack**.

NCCA 2022 Conference

Join NCCA Members and fellow counselors Wednesday through Friday, February 16-18, 2022 in Durham for the 2022 Annual Conference!

Deadline for Graduate Student Proposals for Presentations at the 2022 Annual Conference is **DECEMBER 15th, 2021**

More Information can be found at:

<https://www.n2ca.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3288>

Upcoming Live Webinar



**Rwenshaun Miller, MA, NCC,
LCMHC**

What Counselors Need to Know About Creating Insurance and Progress Notes

As a part of its series, Building Professional Excellence, the NBCC Foundation invites you to a no-cost webinar on **Wednesday, November 10, 2021, from 1-2 pm EST**. Live webinars are available at no cost to NCCs and current NBCC Foundation scholars and fellows, and documentation of one clock hour of continuing education is available for registrants who attend the full webinar.

To Register / More Info:
<https://www.nbccf.org/webinars/upcomingwebinars>

News & Events Cont.

NCSCA Conference

October 27-29, 2021

Embassy Suites Resort & Convention Center
5400 John Q. Hammons Dr NW
Concord, NC 28027

To Register Visit:

<https://ncyi.org/conferences/ncscac/#ncscaregister>



Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development Presidential Webinar Series Countdown to 50!

Join the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development who also served as ACA Presidents share their stories.

Dr. Courtland Lee

Thursday October 21st 7PM EST

Dr. Kimberly Frazier

Tuesday November 2nd 7PM EST

Dr. Beverly O'Bryant

Tuesday November 16th 7PM EST

Register by Visiting:

<https://bit.ly/countdownto50>

WCU Intercultural Affairs Events & Other Trainings

Full List of Trainings & To Register Visit:

<https://wcu.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/departments-of-intercultural-affairs/events>

- Virtual Tour of Oppression
 - Sunday, October 17 2021 at 12:00 AM EST
 - This tour is designed to challenge people's thoughts, perceptions, and feelings on issues dealing with oppression through the lens of the global pandemic.
- Safe Zone Training Part 1- Virtual
 - Thursday, November 11 2021 at 2:00 PM EST
 - The mission of the Safe Zone Program at Western Carolina University is to provide training, support, resources, and a network of allies who are committed to enhancing the campus and local community's understanding of gender and sexuality.
- Poverty Stimulation
 - Friday, November 19th, from 12:00PM to 4:00PM
 - Cullowhee, Main Campus
 - This Poverty Simulation is an interactive (80ish WCU mostly undergraduate participants) experience of a month living in poverty. Participants get assigned a "family" and a "job" and go through the experience, encountering troubles and triumphs.

News & Events

Dr. Likis-Werle, PhD, LCMHC-S and Counselor Educator at Western Carolina was recently featured on a podcast. In this particular podcast, she addresses grief and loss processes for clients and clinicians.

You can give it a listen by following the link below!

<https://www.reesewells.com/counseling-connection-podcast/grief-and-loss>



BE AN ADVOCATE

LPCANC is excited to announce a national Medicare Virtual Call-to-Action to support the addition of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors in the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (H.R. 432/S. 828). If you haven't advocated for yourself or your profession before, your profession needs you NOW. MEDICARE. The Mental Health Access Improvement Act (H.R. 432/S. 828) adds LCMHCs as MEDICARE-Eligible Providers. Bottom line - It takes Federal legislation to make the changes necessary for LCMHCs to become Medicare providers.

HOW DO I ADVOCATE? IT'S EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3!

1st - Spread the word & share with colleagues!

2nd - Enlist your friends and family to help too! They're constituents!

3rd - Get Ready to pick 1, 2 or 3 all of the following: Tweet, Post on Social Media, and Call & Email your U.S. Representatives and Senator.

U.S Senator Contact Information:

<https://www.senate.gov/states/NC/intro.htm>

U.S Representative NC Contacts Information:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

https://www.lpcanc.org/docs/Mental_Health_Access_improvement_Fact_Sheet_2021.pdf

ACES Presentations by Faculty:

Dr. Merry Leigh Dameron: Culturally Responsive School Counseling: Preparation Leading to Action

Drs. Melodie Frick and Heather Thompson: Providing Trauma-Informed Supervision During Critical Events

Dr. Gonzalez-Rosario: Developing Social Justice Leaders and Advocates through Internships for Doctoral Students

Awards & Publications

Join us in congratulating **Dr. Likis-Werle**! She was honored to receive the WCU Curtis W. Wood Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring from the Graduate School in Spring 2021.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.wcu.edu/apply/graduate-school/about/curtis-wood-award.aspx>

Russ Curtis and **Dr. Likis-Werle** had their article published with an alumni of the program in The Family Journal this summer: "Counseling Clients Who Have Experienced Undisclosed Infidelity"

Dr. González-Rosario was recently selected as a 2021-2022 Counselor Education and Supervision Fellow, where only 13% of applications were selected. She will be working with Dr. Amanda LaGuardia and Dr. Linwood Vereen on the development of an upcoming special issue on antiracist practices in counselor education and supervision.

Dr. Heather Thompson & Dr. Melodie Frick Publication (with alumni)
Bolton, C. A., **Thompson, H.**, Spring, J. A., & **Frick, M. H.** (in press). Integrative play therapy strategies for teletherapy. *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*.

Dr. Dameron Publications

Saunders, R., Foxx, S. P., Bolin, S. T., Prioleau, B., **Dameron, M. L.**, Vazquez, M., & Perry, J. (2021). Examining self-efficacy and preparedness to succeed in post-secondary education: A survey of recent high school graduates. *Journal of School Counseling*, 19(18).
<http://www.jsc.montana.edu/articles/v19n18.pdf>

Merlin-Knoblich, C. & **Dameron, M. L.** (2021). An examination of educator multicultural attitudes before and after a Diversity Dinner Dialogue. *The Journal for Multicultural Education*, 15(1), 85-96.
<https://doi.org/10.1108/JME-05-2020-0042>

Scholarship Opportunities

LPCANC- Nancy Howell Scholarship

The University Relations Committee is currently continuing to accept applications for the Nancy Howell Scholarship. Applications can be submitted until end of day on December 15, 2021. Recipients will receive scholarship funds for the Spring Semester.

Visit the link below for more information or to become a member:

https://lpcanc.org/news_manager.php?page=24305

NBCC Foundation Fellowship/Scholarships



Apply for a Counseling Fellowship

Application deadline is Dec. 15, 2021.



Are you committed to providing counseling services to underserved communities? You may be eligible for one of **90 doctoral- and master's-level counseling fellowships** through the **NBCC Minority Fellowship Program (MFP)**.

Available awards range from \$10,000–\$20,000.

Up to 20 doctoral fellowships

Up to 30 master's fellowships
for mental health counseling students

Up to 40 master's fellowships
for addiction counseling students

For more information
or to apply, visit
[nbccf.org/programs/
scholarships](https://nbccf.org/programs/scholarships).

The MFP is made possible by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is administered by the NBCC Foundation.

NBCC FOUNDATION 3 Terrace Way | Greensboro, North Carolina 27403 336.232.0376

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Thanks for reading!
To support the next newsletter,
please send information, articles,
and news to Julia for review at
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