



Dear NSU Department of Counseling:

It is with bittersweet emotion that I write my final newsletter contribution as your department chair. After 5 years serving in this administrative role, I will be making this long-planned transition back to my faculty role in the clinical mental health counseling program effective July 1, 2021.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the department and to work with such an amazing team of faculty, staff, and students in moving the program forward on many major initiatives across the years. In addition to achieving the critical milestone of the CACREP site visit for first-time accreditation for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration, the department has also continued its School Counseling accreditation goals, consolidated the counseling degree across six campuses/formats, hired 12 full-time faculty, implemented a New Student Orientation course, and maintained high-quality curriculum delivery, clinical training, and student engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department will be in good hands with Dr. Melanie Iarussi taking over the chair position next month, and I support her successful transition into the role.

I'm looking forward to a Fin-tastic Fall Term when we resume classes in August for the 2021-22 academic year. I remain optimistic that we will safely resume the valuable in-person connections that sustain our community of learners. Please stay tuned to important university e-mail updates from President Hanbury's office about fall plans and monitor <https://www.nova.edu/coronavirus> for details.

As our NSU counseling family forges ahead in our recovery and reconstruction from the pandemic, I hope this summer is offering you some time for restoration and reflection. These past 15 months have provided many opportunities to tap into our strengths both personally and professionally. I'm proud to be a part of a profession that fosters this resilience in our communities and constituents. Keep up the amazing work you are doing!

Fins Up!
Dr. J



Dr. Patrice Leopold

Meet our newest full-time faculty member!

Patrice Leopold, PhD, LMHC, NCC was born and raised in Miami, FL to Haitian immigrant parents. She is a double gator having earned her PhD in Counseling & Counselor Education and BS in Family, Youth, & Community Sciences from the University of Florida. She also earned her MA in Marriage, Couples, & Family Therapy from the University of Central Florida.

Dr. Leopold is currently a counselor educator and licensed counselor, thus her work entails training future counselors at the graduate school level and counseling individuals, couples, & families. She desires to continue promoting and researching establishing healthier relationships, marriages, & families within communities of color while dispelling the stigmas associated with counseling and other help seeking behaviors.

Dr. Leopold orients to the idea and often quotes "People need people." Thus, as she continues to intentionally navigate connections & interactions of her own, she considers it a privilege to help others to love, celebrate, cherish, & learn from others and the world around them.



STAFF Spotlight



CSO BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

- President:** Lisa Davis
- Tampa/ Clearwater VP:** Cindy (Cynthia) Johnson
- Online VP:** Grisell Vazquez
- Miami VP:** Sean Mccray
- Treasurer:** Leah Armstrong
- Mental Health Counseling Rep:** Karolyna Cuesta
- School Counseling Rep:** Drew Grissell
- Communications & Outreach Chair:** Vanessa Longhi
- Alumni Liaison:** Samantha LoForte
- Advisor:** Carly Paro

Secretary, Fort Lauderdale Main Campus VP, Orlando VP, and Palm Beach VP positions are still available. Email LD1429@mysnu.nova.edu if interested.

If interested in joining CSO, please sign up through SharkHub.



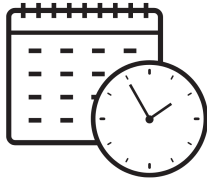
Social Media

Instagram: NSU_CS0

Facebook: NSU Counseling Student Organization - CSO

REMINDERS

Please subscribe to receive announcements from the Canvas Student Center for important program updates!



Practicum Application Deadlines:
January 15 for Summer start
April 15 for Fall start
September 15 for Winter start

Counselor Preparation Comprehensive Examination (CPCE)
Application Deadline:
First day of each term

Dr. Stubbs has accepted a position at UCF and will be living in Orlando, leaving her position at NSU as Program Coordinator and Senior Academic Advisor. We support her in the advancement of her personal career goals!

Please direct all communications that you would normally send to her to counseling@nova.edu until a replacement can be hired. Once completed, we will keep you updated on the communication protocols.

We are grateful for the contributions that Dr. Stubbs has made during her time here. This photo was taken at a luncheon for Dr. Stubbs to celebrate her new venture!



CACREP update

CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING CONCENTRATION

The Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) concentration completed a virtual site visit with a CACREP site team April 14-16, 2021. The visit occurred more than a year after our March 29-April 1, 2020 on-site visit was cancelled due to covid-19. We had an overall positive experience with the virtual site visit and received some good feedback from the site team. The CACREP Board will make a decision about NSU's CMHC accreditation at their July 2021 Board meeting, and the decision will be communicated to the University thereafter. Information about the CMHC concentration's CACREP accreditation status will be communicated to students and alumni at that time.

Pursuing CACREP accreditation, including completing the site visit, would not have been possible without the comprehensive support afforded to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling concentration on all levels. The University and Dean Grosby provided tremendous resources and support. Department Chair, Dr. Tara Jungersen, poured countless hours into the process of pursuing accreditation. Faculty and staff ensured all components were implemented in relevant aspects of the program. Finally, our progress in pursuing CACREP accreditation would not be possible without the contributions of our valued students, alumni, and stakeholders. Go Sharks!

Melanie Iarussi, Ph.D., LMHC, LPC-S, NCC
Associate Professor

VOLUNTARY VACCINATION STATUS REPORTING

NSU was hoping for the ability to require vaccinations where possible to further protect the NSU community. However, due to a new Florida law, NSU is unable to maintain such a policy. NSU always follows the letter and spirit of the law and we must do that as the law goes into effect on July 1, 2021. Therefore, we are NOT requiring vaccinations for NSU students, faculty, and staff, as was announced back on April 1, before the legislation was passed.

The Florida law permits purely voluntary vaccine programs.

Like the state of Florida, we are striving for a high voluntary vaccination rate for the NSU community to enable NSU's campuses to return to normalcy this fall, which is everyone's wish.

We have developed a voluntary program called NSU Vax Max to encourage the whole NSU community to voluntarily receive the vaccine on or before August 1.

For more information or to access the link to voluntarily report your vaccination status: Canvas > Department of Counseling Student Center > Announcements > Updates on NSU Vaccination Policies: Option for Voluntary Reporting



2021 Graduation



A glimpse into graduation from the recent graduate and former CSO President, Yekaterina (Katya) Sorsher:

Pulling up to the stadium, that excited feeling started to swell in my chest. We got out of the car and pulled our robes over our arms as we began to walk to the area designated for graduates. Approaching the sea of grey robes, familiar faces began to come into view. Finishing our last year of our master's degree was unconventional to say the least... and so would be our ceremony. Reunions with colleagues rushed by and before we knew it we were being asked to line up. Walking through the tunnels, giving each other last minute cap and robe adjustments, the familiar notes of the pomp and circumstance march grew louder. Walking proud and tall we smiled under our masks and searched the stands for our loved ones. The school of psychology marched to their designated, socially distanced sitting area, but we were all too excited to sit. As the last graduates entered the field and found their seats, the orchestra sounds of the march began to boom... and out came the provided ponchos for it began to pour. Rain or shine, we were graduating today! The speeches came and went. We cheered for familiar faces on the Hard Rock Stadium jumbotron. Soon it was my turn. They didn't mispronounce my name and I was all smiles. I could feel my family's support from behind me in the crowd. The friendly faces of my peers surrounding me all around. We did it! Through zoom classes, Covid-19 scares, isolation, all on top of the normal graduate school stresses... my graduating class came to dominate. We did it class of 2020-2021!



MAINSTREAM MENTAL HEALTH

Highlighting people and movements that impact others and help eradicate the stigma related to mental health.

Tennis star, **Naomi Osaka**, who has won four Grand-Slam tournaments, withdrew from the 2021 French Open to **prioritize her mental health**. Osaka, the highest paid female tennis player in terms of endorsements, shared through her social media account that she has "**suffered long bouts of depression**" since 2018. She described how she handles her **social anxiety** when she plays and the anxiety she experiences before speaking to the world's media, which is often visible during her interviews. After being fined \$15,000 for deciding not to attend mandatory news conferences, she expressed her concern that there is a "**disregard for athletes' mental health**" and ultimately **withdrew from the tournament**. Many professional athletes and those with large platforms have come to her defense and share the same sentiments of mental health and self-care needing to be prioritized and protected.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Chavely Delgado

Dear NSU counseling students and staff:

As I look back on my third semester in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master's program, I am grateful and humbled to have the opportunity to pursue my dreams. Unlike your traditional student, I have been exposed to many aspects of the workforce from sales to medical assistant, to management, as well as real estate. From the relationships that I have made and the clients I have met, I realized that I want to be a resource guide and facilitator for clients in overcoming the obstacles they face because of their mental health. I think most of us just want to be heard, understood, and loved. This program has expanded my knowledge, understanding, and empathy for others and all the things to consider when pursuing this career. I hope to continue my journey and be a great asset to the mental health community. After gaining enough experience, I hope to have a private practice working with adults, possibly children. I want to be that blank canvas for an adult or child that needs someone to listen to them and to give them the emotional support they might be missing for them to be the best version of themselves.

Chavely

Professional Development

FMHCA - 2022 Annual Conference
February 4-5th Lake Mary, Florida

ABAI - 2022 Autism Conference
March 5-7th Seattle, Washington

ACA - 2022 Conference & Expo
April 7-10th Atlanta, Georgia

