



# Counseling Program Newsletter

FALL 2011

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## Faculty Information

**Congratulations to Dr. Heather Barto and Dr. Latinia Shell** who both (though separately) defended their dissertations and completed their doctorates this summer. Barto received her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and her dissertation was titled "Career and Life Planning of Parenting Adolescents." Shell graduated from Argosy University of Sarasota and her dissertation was titled "Exploring the Relationship Between Racial Identity, Race Related Stress, Psychological Distress and Counselor Preferences of Black People." Both Barto and Shell are full-time faculty members in the graduate counseling program.

## Student Information

**Messiah College graduates first group of graduate counseling students.** Seven students graduated this past May as part of the first ever class of graduate students to complete their programs at Messiah College. Congratulations to each of them as they launch their careers in the counseling field. Each of these graduates was able to complete their entire program at Messiah in two years or less.

**Test Scores are Looking Good!** As you know, all students in the counseling program are required to take the National Counselor Exam (NCE) before they graduate. We are pleased to announce of our first seven students who took the exam in the spring, six of them passed the exam on their first try. In addition, all of our school counseling students who have taken the Praxis II exam (the required exam for certification of school counselors in Pennsylvania) have passed on their first try. Keep up the good work everyone!

**Spring Registration Opens on Monday, October 31st .** Make sure you touch base with your advisor before that date to get your courses approved and to get your advisor hold removed so you can sign up right away. All required registration forms (clearances, contract, site supervisor's resume, etc.) will need to be submitted to Skyla Miller before your advisor is able to remove the registration hold for Practicum or Internship. Please note that we are also working on getting all students set up with an academic plan which outlines when you will take your courses so you will be asked to complete that before you register.

## Program Information

**CACREP Self Study submitted on October 5, 2011.** The self study is the first official step in the process of getting accreditation from CACREP. We are hopeful that the process will go smoothly and will be completed by the summer of 2012.