

SECOND ANNUAL MILITARY AND VETERAN SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

VETERANS IN TRANSITION

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 – SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

COLONEL ANN MCCULLISS JOHNSON, MSW (U.S. ARMY-RET.)



Colonel Ann Johnson was born and raised in Philadelphia and currently resides in Jacksonville, FL. After serving on active duty in the U.S. Army as behavioral science specialist, she graduated from LaSalle University with bachelor's degree in social work in 1980. She completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Kansas in 1983 and accepted a commission in the Army Reserve as a social work officer in 1984. In between pursuing a career in social work and a career as an Army officer, Colonel Johnson has raised three children, been mobilized and deployed for service in Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, and supported her husband during his military career. She has more than 34 years of military service. In her last assignment, Colonel Johnson served as reserve social work consultant to the Army Surgeon General with duty at Fort Sam Houston, TX. She is currently consulting with the UCF Psychology Anxiety and Trauma department. She also works as a behavioral health provider for a DOD occupational health company, as well as a trainer and presenter for several companies.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL NATHAN KELLER, LCSW, PHD



Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Keller earned a PhD in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington, a Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia, and a BA from Gettysburg College. He holds a board certification in clinical social work (BCD) by the American Board of Examiners and an Advanced Clinical Social Work License (LCSW). He has been practicing social work as an active duty U.S. Army social work officer since 1994 and currently serves as director of Treatment Programs for both the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB) and the Joint Regional Correctional Facility (JRCF) at Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he is the health authority in both facilities and is responsible for the direct oversight of the behavioral, medical, and dental programs. In his last assignment, Lieutenant Colonel Keller was the deputy director for the Army's first MSW Program, at the Army Medical Department Center and School in Fort Sam Houston. From August 2006 to 2008, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as chief of Mental Health Services for the 1st Cavalry Division. Lieutenant Colonel Keller has been recognized for his research and clinical expertise in the areas of resiliency, traumatic event management, combat stress operations, and deployment/re-integration mental health programs, assisting service members and their families with the stressors of deployment and the unique challenges of the military lifestyle.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE*

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK TRACK – FRIDAY JUNE 6, 2014

8:00–8:45 A.M.

Jose Coll, PhD: *Welcome and Keynote Introduction* Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C

COL Ann McCulliss Johnson, MSW (U.S. Army-RET): *Keynote Speaker*

9:00–10:00 A.M.

Fred P. Stone, PhD, MSSW, MPA School of Business Building | Room 102

A Help-Seeking Model for Practice with Military Members and Veterans

Although military members and veterans have high rates of several mental health problems such as posttraumatic stress and alcohol abuse, they are often reluctant to seek help. In this presentation, Fred P. Stone, PhD, MSSW, examines the factors that influence helping seeking in this population. He offers a model that identifies the underlying factors that discourage help seeking and provides clinicians with specific interventions to encourage military members and veterans to seek mental health care.

Allen Rubin, PhD Student Community Center | Board Room C

A Practitioner-Friendly Model for Assessing Adaptations of Evidence-Based Interventions for Military Personnel and Families

Great strides have been made in the development of empirically supported treatments (ESTs) relevant to problems experienced by military personnel and their families. Still, the vast majority of clinical trials have examined interventions with civilians, and there is a gap in the literature regarding effectiveness of interventions with military personnel and their families. Moreover, studies are finding that when these ESTs are implemented in real-world civilian settings, the outcomes are often disappointing. Reasons for this discrepancy include differences between the ideal service provision conditions in random controlled trials (RCTs) and the far less than ideal conditions in most real-world practice settings and differences in clientele served in RCTs and real-world settings. This presentation will discuss a practitioner-friendly model for assessing such outcomes in real-world practice settings.

10:15–11:15 A.M.

COL Jeffrey Yarvis, PhD Student Community Center | Board Room C

Treating the Soul Wounds of War and Before: The Efficacy of Hypnotherapy

A growing body of literature addressing the issue of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has appeared in the decades following the Vietnam War. However, only a small portion of this literature represents empirical investigations of hypnotherapy as a form of efficacious therapy for PTSD and its implications. This investigation seeks to define the extent of treatment success of heart-centered hypnotherapy (HCH) versus traditional cognitive behavioral therapy, which has been considered the most efficacious treatment for PTSD without the use of medication, and critical incidence stress debriefings which have been widely

* Schedule may be revised slightly

used by military combat stress control teams when soldiers present with trauma reactions. This study showed heart-centered hypnotherapy is a most effective means of treating PTSD.

Alesia McDaniel, LCSW [School of Business Building | Room 102](#)

Recover YOUiversity: A Psycho-Educational Approach to Recovery-Based Inpatient Treatment for Veterans

Attendees will learn how to create and present a themed group module for recovery using psycho education as the primary therapeutic vehicle. Attendees will learn how to handle distractions and manage generic groups, facilitate games and role plays to effect change in the lives of psychiatric inpatients or outpatients, using the psychiatric hospital as a group milieu therapy of sorts to create a safe haven which promotes an empowering attitude of recovery behavior for life balance.

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Michelle Hoggins, PhD [Student Community Center | Board Room C](#)

The Impact of War Trauma for African-American and European-American Female Veterans of OIF/OEF

The phenomenological study examined war-related stressors and whether being African-American and female influenced the combat experience and reintegration. Thirty combat females completed email interviews; fifteen European-Americans served as a comparison group. Combat stress emerged as the most prevalent and reported theme for both African-American (73%) and European-American females (87%).

Veronika Ospina-Kammerer, RN, PhD, and Christine Gordon, PhD [School of Business Building | Room 102](#)

Client Self-Care Through Therapeutic Gardening Activities/Walking

Client Self-Care Through Therapeutic Gardening will be introduced and discussed at length. The Medicine Wheel Garden, as well as other garden styles, will be presented as types of “hands on” projects. A demonstration movie titled *Reflection Garden* will show how to install a medicine garden as a place of solace, contemplation, and relaxation. Client involvement will be stressed as a community effort.

12:30 – 1:45 P.M.

Lunch and Networking [Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C](#)

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Brooke Fina, LCSW, and Tracy Clemans, PsyD, MSW [School of Business Building | Room 102](#)

Treating Combat-Related PTSD with Prolonged Exposure Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy: An Introduction

The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize social workers with prolonged exposure therapy (PE) and cognitive processing therapy (CPT) for combat-related post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These two treatments have the greatest empirical support for their use in treating PTSD. Additionally, the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Defense Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of PTSD recommends these two treatments as included in the primary interventions for combat-related PTSD.

We will discuss treatment techniques with military populations and how to obtain training and certification in these therapies.

James Whitworth, PhD, LCSW, BCD Student Community Center | Board Room C

Use of Motivational Interviewing Techniques in Counseling Homeless Veterans

This presentation describes the expanding use of motivation interviewing (MI) approaches with homeless veterans. MI techniques are emerging as a favored tool with such veterans due to their client-centered focus and readiness for change approach. The presentation will summarize current research and applications into the use of MI with these veterans along with describing an upcoming effort to train graduate social work students on the practice and use of MI with homeless veterans.

3:15–4:15 P.M.

Moneque Walker-Pickett, JD, PhD School of Business Building | Room 102

An Overview of Policy: Veteran’s Treatment/Diversion Courts

Many court jurisdictions are experimenting with special court diversion programs designed specifically to address criminal offenders who are veterans. Many veterans who appear in court on low-level/ misdemeanor offenses have similar service-related mental health issues, as well as substance abuse and cognitive functioning problems. Veteran courts’ programs are currently emerging at the county and state level across the United States. The presentation will provide a general depiction of successful veteran court programs from multiple jurisdictions.

Tracy Clemens, PsyD, MSW Student Community Center | Board Room C

Brief Interventions for Suicidal Military Personnel and Veterans

Suicide rates among active duty service members have steadily increased since 2002, and in 2008, the suicide rate among service members (20.2 per 10,000) surpassed that of the general U.S. population (19.2 per 10,000) (Kuehn, 2009) with 2012 marking the highest number of suicide deaths on record for all branches of service. In addition to increased suicide rates, mental health professionals are frequently providing care to service members and veterans who express suicidal thoughts and exhibit suicidal behaviors. As such, this presentation will provide information on “real world,” clinically useful interventions that can be utilized with acutely suicidal and higher risk military personnel and veterans. Likewise, this presentation will focus on understanding “why” military personnel and veterans become suicidal, identifying the differences in suicide risk level, and how to tailor psychological interventions that can reduce the overall suicide risk of service members and veterans.

4:30-6:00 P.M.

Poster and Wine and Cheese Reception Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK TRACK – SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014

9:00–10:00 A.M.

Elisa Borah, PhD, MSW, Moderator *School of Business Building | Room 102*

Military Families/Spouses Panel

A panel of military and veteran spouses will discuss the stressors associated with military life, as well as the resilience and strengths that they have acquired as a part of their service.

10:15–11:15 A.M.

Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW, and Julie Canfield, PhD, LICSW *School of Business Building | Room 102*

Military Families and Solution-Focused Therapy

A solution-focused and resilience-based approach to military families coping with unique grief reactions to veteran suicide will be presented. Examples of how social work clinicians can adapt solution-focused techniques with a bereaved military family including children will be delineated.

Valvincent A. Reyes, LCSW, BCD *School of Business Building | Room 214*

Clinical Skills Used in Assisting Combat Veterans with Moral Injury

Service members in the combat zone can be confronted with moral, ethical, and spiritual challenges. Most are mitigated by military rules of engagement, effective leadership, combat training, and high levels of unit morale. However, some war zone experiences can transgress deeply held beliefs that characterize one's sense of humanity, fairness, and respect for others. Transgressions can occur as a result of direct and indirect acts or witnessing atrocities committed by others. Transgressions that can create internal conflicts which shatter moral, ethical, or spiritual beliefs are identified as morally injurious behaviors. This seminar will familiarize participants in the construct of moral injury in the context of war and provide clinical, social, and spiritual interventions that can assist clinicians who treat Afghanistan and Iraq combat veterans.

11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M. *School of Business Building | Room 102*

Nadine Bean, PhD, Lawrence Davidson, MSW Candidate (May 2014), U.S. Army Veteran

Tracy Pennycuick, U.S. Army Veteran and Director, Veterans Affairs, Montgomery County, PA

Ray Facundo, MSW, Veterans Services Coordinator, Portland State University (via Skype)

Gala True, PhD, Curator, From War to Home, University of Pennsylvania (via Skype)

Narrative Approaches (Journaling, Photovoice) in Teaching and Learning about Military Social Work

The use of the narrative approach for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) dealing with trauma has a strong evidence base (prolonged exposure therapy, cognitive processing therapy). The presenters will discuss using narrative tools (journaling, Photovoice) for learning about work with SMVF from the perspective of veterans, a professor in a MSW Program who teaches a course on working with SMVF, and curator of *From War to Home: Through the Veterans Lens*.

April Steen, LCSW, CCTP School of Business Building | Room 214

Advocating for Families of the Fallen by Joining Forces

This workshop will discuss the key concerns to be aware of when advocating for families of fallen service members. Several components will be addressed including relationship building, overcoming barriers, and partnering with other organizations.

12:30–1:45 P.M.

Lunch and Networking Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C

2:00–3:00 P.M.

Adam Borah, MD School of Business Building | Room 102

A Primer on Psychopharmacology Interventions in Military Populations for the Non-prescribing Provider

Psychopharmacology has a role in the treatment of many behavioral health disorders as either a primary intervention, as a component of combination therapy, or as an augmenting strategy to address symptoms associated with a condition. However, special considerations must be taken into account when psychotropic medications are utilized in military populations and settings. Specific concerns should include: assessment of the impact of medications- alone and in combination- upon ability to perform duties; knowledge of a medications efficacy in the military population; awareness of medications that are specifically prohibited in areas designated as combat zones; and understanding of the potential implications of medications upon a soldier's career. This presentation will serve as a practical introduction to the use of psychiatric medications for various behavioral health conditions common in military populations and will address the military specific issues associated with these prescriptions.

Patrick Foley, MSW, MA School of Business Building | Room 214

The Metaphors they Carry: Exploring Veterans' Use of Metaphor in Describing Experiences of PTSD and the Implications for Social Work Practice

Service members/veterans often use language that is colorful and metaphoric. The ability to appreciate and make use of such language in social work practice is instrumental to establishing a strong therapeutic alliance. This presentation will help social work professionals become more familiar with military language by identifying the metaphors that service members/veterans use to describe their experience of PTSD and exploring how these metaphors can be used to promote healing, resiliency, and a survivor's mission.

3:15–4:00 P.M. School of Business Building | Room 102

COL Ann Johnson, COL Jeffrey Yarvis, LTC Nathan Keller, Dr. Adam Borah, Renee Delgado, LCSW
Panel of DoD/VA Providers Addressing Service Delivery with Soldier and Veterans

4:00–4:30 P.M.

Closing and Evaluations Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATOR AND VETERAN HIGHER EDUCATION TRACK – SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2014

9:00–9:30 A.M.

LTC Nathan Keller, LCSW, PhD: *Welcome and Keynote Speaker*

Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C

9:45–10:45 A.M.

Katherine Selber, PhD, Dr. Nancy Chavkin, Dr. Mary Jo Biggs, Dr. Amy Russell, Mr. Dean Shaffer
Blending Dual Missions: Serving and Supporting Student Veterans in Higher Education while Training
Social Workers to Work with Veterans Student Community Center | Board Room C

This presentation will cover the model developed since 2008 for working on campus to blend two distinct missions: providing services to student veterans focused on helping them successfully complete their degrees and the training of social work students to work with the population including working inside the campus environment and outside with veteran service organizations. Data from five years of working to develop this model will be shared both from a university and veteran perspective.

Nancy Poe, PhD, MSW School of Business Building | Room 114

Unexpected Front Lines of Military Social Work: Non-clinical, Agency-Based Practice with BSW Generalists

CSWE and NASW made excellent inroads in addressing relevant issues related to “military social work” by establishing and publishing standards for graduate curricula (CSWE, 2010) and clinical practice (NASW, 2012). Meanwhile, military-affected persons are increasingly encountered in settings where the front-line service providers are BSW-generalists whose education and training contain no such mandates. This presentation explores educational guidelines appropriate for undergraduate programs and standards for agency-based, non-clinical military social work.

11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Veterans in Higher Education—Panel Discussion School of Business Building | Room 114

Michael D. Pelts, MSW, Doctoral Candidate, Colleen M Boucher, MSW, LCSW, CCSW, CCH, and David Albright, PhD, MSW

Sexual and Gender Minority Veterans in Higher Education Student Community Center | Board Room C

Reports conservatively estimate there are more than 1,100,000 lesbian, gay, or bisexual active or reserve military and veterans (Gates, 2004, Gates, 2010). Estimating the numbers of transgender military veterans is more difficult due to the risk of discharge and potential for discrimination (Shipherd, et al., 2012). However, according to data from the VA, veterans who meet the criteria for gender identity disorder is five times higher than the general population (Blosnich, et al., 2013). Referred to collectively as sexual and gender minorities (SGM), members of this population are enrolling in colleges and universities in large numbers. We will review data on SGM student veterans; explore factors for faculty, advisors, and administrators to consider; and explore implications for clinical social work practice with this population.

Rhondda Waddell, PhD, LCSW *School of Business Building | Room 130*

Veteran Students as Agents of Change: Developing Self-Efficacy and Community Service as the New Mission

The intent of this presentation is to discuss community service and service-learning as a powerful learning pedagogy for use with veteran students. As a change agent veterans who engage in community service share a commonality in that they chose to take action fueled by passion and hard work to make a positive difference in the life of a community. Veteran students offer a unique lens to their campus and community based on their military experiences.

Colonel Bill DelGrego (ret) *Student Community Center | Board Room A*

Success Factors for Veterans Transitioning into the Higher Education Environment

The post-911 era has resulted in a great number of veterans searching for the right method to integrate and transition themselves back into civilian life. This presentation will pose three questions as discussed in the outline. Ultimately, the presentation will illuminate that universities need to take a proactive and continuous and intentionally designed approach to engage veteran students so they acclimate to campus life and achieve their educational goals.

Jessica Strong, PhD *Apartment 4 | Lake View Room*

Working with Veterans in the Classroom

Service members, veterans, and their family members have unique strengths and needs, both within and without the classroom. This presentation is designed to help educators who will work with and teach this population to become sensitive to and understand those strengths and challenges, develop techniques to help these students succeed in the academic setting, and promote stimulating and sensitive classroom discussion among both military-affiliated and non-military-affiliated students.

12:30-1:45 P.M.

Lunch and Networking *Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C*

2:00-3:30 P.M.

Veterans in Transition – A Round Table Discussion *Student Community Center | Board Room C*

Eugenia L. Weiss, PsyD, LCSW; Mark R. Marquez, LCSW, MSW, EdD; Dr. Gregory E. Perkins

Future Trends in Military Social Work Education and Online Instruction

Veterans in Transition is such an important topic to social work that it warrants an ongoing social work-informed professional dialogue. This roundtable discussion is intended to foster ongoing dialogue and networking with regards to the myriad of contributions social work can make to the field of military social work and more specifically to Veterans in Transition. All social workers can benefit from this dialogue.

2:00–3:30 P.M. (CONTINUED)

Mary Ann Forgey, PhD, LCSW, and Sharon Young, PhD, LCSW [School of Business Building | Room 114](#)

How Critical Are Courses in Military Social Work? An Analysis of Learning Outcomes

This presentation will describe how a military social work course was developed, what areas of knowledge were covered, and the pedagogical approaches used in the course. The presenters will describe the 50-item Military Social Work Knowledge Scale that was developed to evaluate learning in course participants. Outcomes of the pre and post quasi-experimental testing using this scale will be discussed.

Kari Fletcher, PhD, LICSW, and David Abright, PhD, MSW [School of Business Building | Room 130](#)

The State of Military Social Work Today: Is There Preparation, Presence, and Effectiveness Within Our Graduate-Level Programs?

Aside from limited descriptive information, little is known about how schools of social work have responded to the Joining Forces challenge to prepare graduate students to work with military-connected populations, to what degree programming is in place, and whether or not it is effective. Findings from an unfolding review on the effectiveness of military social work offerings on preparing students to work with military-connected populations will be presented. Current offerings and literature will be summarized.

John Jeanguenat, MEd

Workshop for Local Veterans: How to Civilianize Your Military Resume

[Student Community Center | Board Room A](#)

One of the biggest hurdles for a person leaving the military is preparing a resume for a position in the civilian workforce. Military writing styles can be very confusing to employers, and the end result can be that a very qualified candidate is not selected for a job. This presentation will highlight some of the major errors that veterans make when compiling an employment portfolio as they leave the military.

4:00–4:30 P.M.

Closing and Evaluations [Student Community Center | Board Rooms A, B, and C](#)

ABOUT SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY



Saint Leo University is a regionally accredited, liberal-arts-based institution known for an inclusive Catholic heritage, enduring values, and capacity for innovation.

The school was chartered in 1889 by Catholic Benedictine monks in rural Pasco County, FL, making Saint Leo the first Catholic college in the state. Over its 125-year history, Saint Leo has provided access to education to people of all faiths, emphasizing the Benedictine philosophy of balanced growth of mind, body, and spirit.

Today the university welcomes learners from all generations and backgrounds, from civilian occupations and the armed forces, and from all 50 states and more than 60 nations. Saint Leo's 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students may elect to study at the beautiful University Campus in Florida, at more than 40 teaching locations in seven states, or online from other locations. The university's degree programs range from the associate to the doctorate. Throughout these rich offerings, Saint Leo develops principled leaders for a challenging world.

Saint Leo University has a strong commitment to principles of equal employment opportunity and equal access to education. Saint Leo University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic origin, genetic information, gender, nationality, race, religion, or veteran status, or any other category protected by federal, state, or local law in its educational programs, admissions policies, financial aid, employment, or other school administered programs.

SECOND ANNUAL MILITARY AND VETERAN SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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VETERAN STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND



Tedd "Gunny" Weiser
Student Veteran

• Helping Heroes in Their Time of Need •

In 2012 the Military Student Support Fund was established as part of the Saint Leo Fund to allow alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to direct their donation to support current and future military students. The fund received a huge boost during the \$40 for 40 Years of Military Education campaign that was held during the university's 40th anniversary celebration of educating service men and women. During the 40-hour campaign, more than \$12,000 was donated to the fund, for a total of nearly \$20,000 since it was established.

In response to many of Saint Leo's veteran students facing unforeseen hardships that often have a direct negative impact on their educational status, these funds have been used to establish the Veteran Student Emergency Fund.

Administered through the Office of Veteran Student Services, the Veteran Student Emergency Fund provides limited financial assistance to currently enrolled veteran students during times of hardship to cover expenses such as:

- **Costs related to medical care such as prescriptions/medications**
- **Assistance with rent, mortgage, or utilities**
- **Childcare expenses that could interfere with class attendance and enrollment**
- **Food or gas**

"These brave men and women have sacrificed so much for this great nation in our time of need. It is an honor to be part of this program to help them in their time of need."

*—Dr. Jose Coll, director of
Saint Leo's Office of Veteran Student Services*

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

"My family is very grateful for the assistance Saint Leo University gave us. When the weather was bad enough that my husband couldn't work for about two weeks, we started to worry. Bills piled up. Thanks to the grant, we were able to pay insurance and electricity and also buy some food. We feel very blessed that you are here for veterans. I am proud to be a veteran and very proud to be a student at Saint Leo!" Sandi '18

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!



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