A second need for the population is psychoeducation regarding dementia and the changes that the care partner and diagnosed individual can make now to help once the dementia progresses. For example, a caregiver may need to change his or her communication style with the diagnosed individual. Instead of giving multiple directives, giving one direction at a time can help the diagnosed individual understand, remember and follow through. This also decreases the likelihood of frustration in the Alzheimer’s patient of not remembering the thing that he or she was supposed to do. There are many lifestyle and interpersonal changes that can help this population function more effectively within their environment, and dissemination of this information is needed.

What would be helpful for new clinicians to know if they are beginning work with this population?

Do not be afraid of work in this area. Some of my most rewarding experiences during my time in graduate school have come through volunteering with this population. I was nervous at first, as I had never worked with someone with dementia, and I did not know what to expect. There are difficult and emotional struggles that these clients and their loved ones face. Care partners must acknowledge that they are slowly losing their loved one. Diagnosed individuals realize that they are slowly losing their memory and abilities, and often feel like they are placing a burden on their families. Working with these families has affected me, as I have become close to them and shared in the experience of some of their pain. Still, working with the population does not only entail sadness and grief; there is lots of laughter, telling of stories, and building relationships. I would highly recommend gaining clinical or volunteer experience with this population, as I know it has been a blessing to me.

Upcoming Events

- Cultural Diversity Luncheon Series: The PSC has two CDLS events scheduled for this month. The first presentation is scheduled for November 1 from 12-1pm in CRB 228 and is entitled, “Brave New World: Homosexuals Openly Serving in the Military and the Christian Psychologist”. Presenters include T. Bowen and A. Whitesell. The second presentation is scheduled for November 15 from 12-1pm in CRB 227 and is entitled, “The Church Community: An Agent of Healing and Hope for Those Caught in Addiction.” Presenters include J. King and S. Meyers.
- November Colloquium: This month’s colloquia is on November 2 in the Moot Courtroom (2-4pm), and will feature Dr. Doug Haldeman, and our own Dr. Mark Yarhouse. Their discussion is entitled “Negotiating Clinical Aspects of Sexual Orientation and Religion.”
- CE Workshops: Two special workshops are being hosted by the Continuing Education department of the PSC this month. The first (November 4) is entitled, “Children in Crisis: Using Play Therapy” and will be offered by Dr. Vickey Maclin and Dr. Arlene Brown. The second (November 17-18) is entitled, “Therapeutic Hypnosis: Efficient and Accurate Treatment Creates Change” and will be offered by Dr. James White. Check out their website for information and dates, as well as to register: http://www.regent.edu/acad/schcou/ce/workshops.htm
- Regent Preview Weekend: Prospective students will be visiting our campus on Nov. 11-12. We hope you have the opportunity to be part of the experience of Preview visitors, either by answering questions and/or introducing them to the warm Regent community.
- SPC Prayer/Bible Study: Check out this prayer meeting sponsored by the SPC on Fridays, from 9-9:30am in CRB 205.