

Dear Stakeholders,

2019-2020 has experienced many new faculty faces including Dr. Bischoff from the University of Connecticut and Dr. Wolford from Florida State University. Former faculty continue to be scooped up by clinical practice with more flexible schedules and fewer hard deadlines. The goodness of that thought is that there will always be a myriad of open positions for good therapists!! On the Raleigh/Durham Campus, Dr. Perkins will also join a clinical practice to treat eating disorders – farewell Dr. Perkins!! The RDU Clinic and Campus will post her position immediately and begin to interview potential faculty in February and March. Interview committees -- please stay tuned for further details as they unfold.

The Charlotte Campus formally enters their cycle of accreditation this year, first with a year of eligibility assessment, and then the technical writing of the self-study to evidence its benchmarks and outcomes during 2020-2021. Please stay tuned for monthly program surveys to gather your feedback and examine its merits for future MMFT students. As we wind down for a much needed academic renewal, we celebrate the highlights of our year – (23) total MMFT graduates from both campuses, community experts speaking to our diversity and inclusivity focus groups, a Delta Kappa outdoor retreat, a highly successful Graduate Student Association service project, and our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium. The students' research questions, literature reviews, and future implications for therapy was most impressive and yielded a large gathering of family members and fascinated supporters.

During recent surveys during the Fall semester, current students rejoiced that the construction in Charlotte was almost complete, yet parking remains to be an obstacle, as well as the removal of the Admissions Office, a financial aid representative, and the well appointed Welcome Center with much needed conference space. A number of students expressed concern for the lack of disrespect between students and students and students and professors. One of the biggest culprits reported are the late arrivals of students to class and the subsequent disruptions as students enter the class, sometimes 10-15 minutes late. It will be crucial for our faculty to examine student accountability and how we communicate both the inherent and aspirational values of successful professionals.

Other feedback requests focused on more observation of live therapy prior to clinic internship, and the full integration of diversity and inclusivity across the curriculum. One resolution being studied, is the

addition of a second class in pre-internship that would follow MMFT 606 and precede MMFT 690 to better prepare students for all of the components of good documentation including the intake process, client assessment, and treatment planning. The faculty will report back on their progress in Spring 2020.

We thank you for your confidence in our Pfeiffer professionals, and the continuing investment in our academic training and hands-on experience. Our alums assure us that Pfeiffer's MFT training far surpasses other mental health training in the region because they hear and see what's happening in the trenches. As always, we rely on your honest and objective feedback, and look for new and creative ways to make the program more conducive to your learning needs and future careers. Thanks too, for your transparency and confidence in sharing your thoughts!!

Most sincerely, Dr. Wilkie and Dr. Williams