University of Missouri – St. Louis

The Graduate School
Announcement

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Education with an emphasis in Counseling

Laura L. Wood

M.A. in Drama Therapy, May 2008, New York University
B.A. in Theater Arts, May 2005, Marymount Manhattan College

The Use of Therapeutic Theater in Supporting Clients in
Eating Disorder Recovery After Intensive Treatment: A Qualitative Study

Date: April 14th, 2016
Time: 1:30pm
Place: The Sigma-Aldrich Room in the Teaching and Learning Center

Abstract
In 2007, Wilson, et al. made a call to increase the research for eating disorders, declaring that counselors are “well positioned to make important contributions to the study of eating disorders” including exploring and identifying the “mechanisms of therapeutic change” (p.212). The purpose of this qualitative research study is to explore experiences of participants who were part of an experimental therapeutic theater project after receiving intensive treatment for an eating disorder and to examine how the project benefited their recovery process. The research question was: in what ways can therapeutic theater support clients in their first year after discharge from intensive treatment for an eating disorder? This research aimed to examine the potential benefits of therapeutic theater, as well as to answer Wilson, et al. (2007) for counselors to study factors associated with therapeutic change for persons in recovery from an eating disorder.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Robert Rocco Cottone, Ph.D. (Chair)
Wolfgang Althof, Ph.D.
Holly Wagner, Ph.D.
Adrian Blow, Ph.D.