NEC's Masters of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Masters of Human Services is proud of the high caliber faculty that teach in this important program. Each faculty member is remarkable in their own right for the level of professional and academic experience. Students within the program benefit wholly from a pedagogical lens that embraces a scholar practitioner model. The faculty are active and respected professionals within the field of mental health counseling, and as a result, they help students readily connect theory with real time practice. This provides students with an unparalleled learning experience. A description of each faculty is found below.

Paul L. Dann, PhD
Program Director, MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Paul L. Dann, Ph.D., is the Director of the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and the MS in Human Services at New England College and has taught at the College since 1997. He teaches Cultural Foundations, Graduate Capstone, and Research Methods. Paul has his MA and PhD in Human and Organizational Systems and also serves as the Executive Director of NFI North a non-profit multiservice mental health and human services agency providing care to children, youth, families, and adults throughout New Hampshire and Maine.
Paul is and has served as a Board member of multiple non-profit organizations. He is a former Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Innovation and trains nationally on effective leadership development, resiliency and culture. Paul is a dynamic public speaker, and in his free time, he’s the frontman for a regionally recognized blues band.

Darius Cooper, PhD., LPC, LCMHCC, NCC, ACS  
Associate Professor of the Practice in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Darius Cooper received his doctorate in Human Services and Counseling Studies from Capella University and received his Masters of Science in Criminal Justice from Radford University, Masters in Education from Grand Canyon University and his Bachelors in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Hampton University. Darius is Licensed as a Professional Counselor in the state of Georgia and Licensed as Clinical Mental Health Counselor in the state of Utah, and is Nationally Certified as a Counselor and he is approved as Clinical Supervisor.

Darius has 25 years of experiences serving in various Criminal Justice and Mental Health agencies such as Pre-trial, Probation, Adult and Juvenile Corrections, Community Mental Health, and Mental Health Hospitals. Darius has 17 years of academic experiences serving in several roles such as a Core Faculty, Program Director, Interim Dean, Director of Academic Affairs, Dissertation and Residency Reviewer, Course developer.

Darius has a private practice in Atlanta, GA and is on the panels for most of the major insurance and EAP organizations. Darius is also approved by the National Football Players Association to provide clinical services to active and retired athletes and their families in addition to working some of the celebrities and entertainers in the Atlanta area.
Roger Ballou, PhD, LMFT  
Visiting Associate Professor for the MS in CMHC

Roger Ballou is a full-time faculty member in the graduate program in clinical mental health counseling. He currently teaches courses in the areas of counseling techniques, family therapy, group therapy, and human growth and development. His primary research interests are improving effectiveness in couples counseling, strengthening family resilience, and teaching parenting skills appropriate to the contemporary family. Roger holds the PhD in counseling/marriage and family therapy from Purdue University and MEd in counseling psychology from the College of William and Mary. He is also a diplomate in Adlerian psychology.

Kaitlyn Forristal, PhD, LPC, NCC  
Program Coordinator for Clinical Mental Health Counseling / Assistant Professor and Core Faculty, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Kaitlyn M. Forristal, PhD, LPC (OH), NCC joined the NEC faculty in 2018. She received her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from the University of Toledo in Toledo, Ohio in 2018. She also earned her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (2015) and BA in Psychology (2013) from the University of Toledo. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (OH) and a National Certified Counselor. She currently serves as the immediate Past-President of the Ohio chapter of the ACA’s Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling. Dr. Forristal’s clinical experience working with adults, children, and families includes a college counseling center, a community non-profit organization providing mental healthcare to those
in need, community mental health center, and in private practice. Her clinical specialties include counseling college students, women and gender minorities, especially transgender folx and their families, and multiply marginalized clients. Her research interests include multiculturalism and diversity, specifically incorporating body size into conversations about diversity and marginalization. Dr. Forristal has presented at several local, state, regional, and national conferences on this subject. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her cats, cooking, and traveling.

Patricia Fillio, MS, LCMHC
Part-time Lecturer

Trish earned her undergrad degree from Salem State University in education and her master's degree in mental health counseling from New England College in 2009. She is a licensed clinical mental health counselor and has been a family therapist for Child and Family Services, an emergency services and outpatient clinician for the Center for Life Management and an integrated care therapist for Elliot Hospital. Trish is currently the clinical behavioral health trainer for New Hampshire Healthy Families.

Steve Soreff, MD
Part-time Lecturer
Dr. Soreff is a nationally known healthcare lecturer, author, and experiential learning innovator. He has lectured throughout the United States on a wide variety of psychiatric topics including suicide, elder aggression, psychiatric emergencies, documentation, the history of psychiatry, wellness, and stress management. He is a Diplomat in Psychiatry, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and has years of practice in emergency psychiatry. He has been the Psychiatric-editor-in-chief for Medscape Reference, formally emedicine - part of web MD.

Dr. Soreff has written and edited ten books and numerous healthcare articles as well as an authority on documentation. These include “Handbook for the Treatment of the Seriously Mentally Ill, The Documentation Survival Handbook for Psychiatrists and Other Mental Health Professionals; E.M.S Street Strategies: Effective Patient Interactions, Second Edition and A Caregiver's Guide to Working with Combative Residents. He has taught at several New England colleges and universities including Daniel Webster College, Southern New Hampshire University, New England College and Boston University. He is president of Education Initiatives LLC.

He has served as president of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Chair of The Forum, an online newspaper. He is on the board of the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and the board of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association, the co- editor if the Appalachian Mountain Club’s newsletter info:INFO and member of the Nottingham Historical Society.

He has four incredibly neat kids (children- who are now adults) ages 45,43,30 and 26 and two terrific grandsons. Personal Interests include Mountain climbing, hiking, squash, jogging, tennis, golf, cribbage, Scrabble, chess, writing, lecturing, kayaking.

Catherine J. Lounsbury, Ed.D., LCPC
Part-time Lecturer

Catherine J. Lounsbury, Ed.D., LCPC received her doctorate in Counselor Education from the University of Maine, Orono, and has been a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor in the state of Maine for twenty years. Cathy comes to NEC with over 25 years of experience in the mental health field working with both children and adults, specializing in those who have experienced trauma. She has provided consultation, training and
supervision to schools and communities throughout New England on Post-traumatic Stress Management, Fostering Resiliency in Children, Mitigating the Effects of Secondary Traumatic Stress, and Promoting Positive Youth Development. In addition, she has worked on both local and national community trauma response teams, providing response to individuals affected by traumatic events and national disasters. Cathy has led several federal initiatives, including Safe Schools Healthy Students and Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse, to create better systems to support youth and families and is the past president of the Southern Maine Counseling Association. Catherine is also the Department Chair for Applied Psychology at Antioch College.

Catherine has been teaching at NEC for a number of years and teaches Trauma and Trauma Informed Treatment within the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program.

Steve Arnault, MA
Part-time Lecturer

Steve Arnault has been an active faculty member at New England College for 22 years teaching at the graduate and undergraduate level. He is Vice President of Clinical Services, Quality and Compliance at the Center for Life Management, the community mental health center serving southern Rockingham County. He is also Consulting Lead for Healthcare Systems Align, a consulting agency focusing on integrated behavioral health. Over the past several years, his interests have focused on models of integrated care with an emphasis on compliance and ethical issues.

Steve teaches Professional Orientation and Ethics of Human Service Management and Human Growth and Development within the program.
Craig Hadley, MSW, LICSW
Part-time Lecturer

Craig Hadley, LICSW received his MSW from University of New England and his Baccalaureate Degree from Arizona State University. He has been a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Work for more than 17 years and has maintained a private practice throughout this time. For the past 10 years, Craig has been actively involved in providing services through the community mental health system.

Craig has been teaching in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program since 2011, where he teaches Abnormal Psychology.

Nicholas Pfeifer, LICSW, MLADC
Part-time Lecturer

Nick is a licensed Independent Clinical Social worker with more than 10 years of clinical practice. Nick is also a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and serves as a Clinical SUD Coordinator for Beacon Health. Over the past 10 years, Nick has also had his own private practice as well as served as clinician within various community mental health centers in New Hampshire including Riverbend and the Center for Life Management.

Nick has been teaching in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program since 2010 where he teaches Substance Use and Addiction.
Ed Cooney, MA  
Part-time Lecturer

Ed has a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Antioch College and has extensive experience within the field of behavioral health. During his more than 30 year career in the field, Ed has served as the Director of Emergency Services for CLM, as an emergency services clinician and as a SWAT negotiator for the Southern NH Special Operations. Prior to his career in mental health counseling, Ed was a patrolman and detective on the Manchester police force. He is also a veteran.

Ed has taught successfully within the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program since its inception. The courses Ed has taught include Group Therapy, Internship I, II, III, Crisis Intervention and Clinical Documentation. Ed also owns a working farm where he resides with his wife.

Robin Buckley, PhD  
Part-time Lecturer

Robin has a PhD in Clinical and School Psychology from Hofstra University with more than 10 years of experience in the area of coaching and assessment. Her professional experience includes individual and group coaching, the use of assessments to identify individual and team strengths and weaknesses, the organization of professional development plans, the creation of corporate trainings and workshops tailored specifically to individuals' and organizations' unique characteristics and needs. In addition, she is a full-time faculty in the University of Phoenix's School of Advanced Studies, specifically in the Doctorate of Leadership program (business, education, health administration). Her background in Clinical Psychology has provided her with
extensive training in the use of positive psychology in order to help clients attain goals, as well as the use of assessments (leadership, personality, etc.) to facilitate the clients' work towards their objectives.

Robin has taught within the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program for more than 8 years where she teaches Testing and Assessment

Candice Alizio, MS, LMFT
Part-time Lecturer

Candice is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who has worked within community mental health for the past 4 years. During this time, she has worked with children, adolescents, adults, families, and couples; as an outpatient therapist, and emergency services clinician. Candice has worked within many different environments including in office sessions and assessments, Emergency Room assessments, Mental Health and Substance Abuse assessments for patients medically admitted to local hospital departments including ICU, along with working for 2 years on an inpatient psychiatric unit. Currently, Candice is undertaking the task of starting a private practice. Throughout Candice's professional career, she has taken on many different roles though one constant is her role as an educator. Candice understands the boundless opportunity to learn about oneself through learning about one's interests. By joining New England College's School of Graduate and Professional Studies, she believes that through sharing her knowledge and experience, she is giving back while also continuing her own education and self-growth.

Candice teaches Clinical Counseling Theory with the MS CMHC program.
Katie Clark, M.S.
Part-time Lecturer

Katie Clark graduated from Springfield College with a Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling and received her BA from Chester College of New England, majoring in Fine Art and Psychology. She is currently working as a Children’s Outpatient Clinician at the Center for Life Management. Prior experiences include acting as a Community Liaison for Easter Seals of NH, Residential Counseling for Harbor Homes and Assistant Program Director at the Currier Art Center.

Katie teaches Abnormal Psychology with the MS CMHC.

Alison K. O’Neill, MS, LCMHC
Part-time Lecturer

Alison K. O’Neill, MS, LCMHC received her MS in Mental Health Counseling from Springfield College. Alison comes to NEC with 10 years of experience in the mental health field working in community mental health centers, schools, a group practice, and private practice. Alison has worked with children, adolescents, and adults over this time. Currently, Alison is a coordinator at one of the community mental health agencies, in this role, one of her responsibilities is providing clinical supervision to interns and individuals working towards licensure. Alison is teaching Clinical Counseling Theories.
George Bortnick, PhD, MLADC
Part-time Lecturer

George Bortnick has been teaching at a variety of colleges for the past 12 years. He has his PhD in psychology and his Master Drug and Alcohol Counseling License. His PhD is in General Psychology from Capella, his MS is from Springfield College in Human Service Administration, and his bachelors is from New England College in Psychology.

He currently works for the Harbor Home Subsidiary Keystone Hall as a drug counselor. He is currently running groups and individuals in the New Hampshire State Prison. Prior to working at the Prison, he worked for Rockingham County Drug Court for Keystone Hall. He has also recently opened his practice.

His research interest is in family dynamics and especially sibling relationships. His dissertation was on "the experience of the younger brother of an older brother," and he is currently recruiting for my second study about "the experience of a younger sister of an older sister." His hope is to complete four different studies of younger siblings and do a cross comparison about them.

He also has two published book, one non-fiction about younger brothers and the second a psychological thriller called Never is Close.

Lee Boudreau, MSW, LICSW
Part-time Lecturer
Lee received her MSW from Boston University in 1997. She began working at the Center for Life Management (CLM) later that year as a Clinical Case Manager. In 2004, she became a clinical supervisor for the Community Support Program and eventually for the Adult Program in general. Lee has recently reached her 19th year at CLM. Lee has not only provided direct service but has also been responsible for supervising and training staff in the program. Her primary work is with individuals with PTSD, those with addiction, and Veterans. Lee has recently joined the faculty at NEC and is teaching Human Growth and Development.