

STEPHEN F. KUNIAK, PhD NCC ACS LPC  
P.A. State License Number: PC006478

## **EDUCATION**

December, 2014

Philosophical Doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision  
Department of Counseling, Psychology, and Special Education  
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
CACREP accredited

May, 2008

Master of Science in Education  
Clinical Mental Health / Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling  
Duquesne University; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
CACREP accredited

May, 2005

Bachelor of Arts (Major - Psychology),  
Addiction's Specialist Certificate (additional certification)  
Saint Vincent College; Latrobe, Pennsylvania

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

August, 2021 – Current

Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Lock Haven  
Assistant Professor (CACREP Accredited)  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Full Time - Core Faculty

August, 2017 – July, 2021

Messiah University; Assistant Professor (CACREP Accredited)  
Graduate Counseling Department  
Full Time - Core Faculty

February 2018 - Appointed Course Steward of Human Sexuality and Marriage,  
Couple, and Family Skills/Practice courses

February 2021 – Appointed Course Steward of Research Methods course

August, 2016 – August, 2017

Thomas University; Assistant Professor  
Clinical Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling Program  
Full Time – Core Faculty

August, 2011 – August, 2017

Westmoreland County Community College; Adjunct Faculty  
Psychology Department

August, 2013 – October, 2013

Saint Vincent College; Adjunct Faculty  
Education Department: Counselor Education Masters Program

January, 2012 - March, 2012

Mount Aloysius College; Adjunct Faculty  
Counseling Department Masters Program

November, 2010

Guest Lecturer, Family Systems Course  
Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania  
Department of Psychology

August, 2010 – December, 2010

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania,  
Department of Counseling, Psychology, and Special Education  
Course Title: Psychotherapeutic Aspects of Human Sexuality

July, 2010 – August, 2010

Guest Lecturer, Unity Family Services Therapeutic Summer Camp Program  
Topics: Benefits and Concerns with Video Games & The Hero's Journey

July, 2010

Guest Lecturer, Master's Level Clinical Supervision Course  
Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Department of Counseling, Psychology, and Special Education  
Topics: Professional Development through Supervision

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Graduate Courses**

Introduction to Counseling  
Counseling as a Profession  
Professional Issues and Ethics in Counseling  
Human Sexuality  
Orientation to Counselor Education, Services and Technology  
Introduction to Family Counseling  
Foundations of Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling  
Psychopathology and Diagnosis  
Human Growth and Development  
Research Methods  
Theories of Counseling  
Techniques of Counseling  
Basic Skills and Techniques in Mental Health Counseling  
Advanced Counseling Skills and Practice

Multicultural Counseling  
Theories of Personality  
Theories and Techniques of Group Counseling  
Substance Abuse Counseling  
Trauma and Crisis Counseling  
Assessment and Program Evaluation  
Marriage, Couple, and Family Skills/Practice  
Counseling Internship I  
Counseling Internship II

**Undergraduate Courses**

Introduction to Psychology  
Human Growth and Development  
Abnormal Psychology (Psychopathology)  
Introduction to Counseling (Models of Counseling Theory)  
Social Psychology

**OTHER TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

**Kuniak, S. F.** (December, 2022) *The gamer culture: Look at me still talking while there's science to do.* Presented to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Club, through the Graduate Counseling Program at Commonwealth University - Lock Haven.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (April, 2022) *Counselor Advocacy.* Presented to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Club, through the Graduate Counseling Program at Commonwealth University - Lock Haven.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (October, 2021) *The gamer culture: Look at me still talking while there's science to do.* Presented to the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Club, through the Graduate Counseling Program at Commonwealth University - Lock Haven.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (May, 2018) *The gamer culture: Look at me still talking while there's science to do.* Presented at the Messiah College Annual College Wide Development Week, through Messiah College's Department of Faculty Development.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (March, 2018) *An ethical code from a more civilized time 2.0: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Messiah College Annual Supervisor's Luncheon, through Messiah College's Graduate Counseling Department.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (May, 2014) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Washington County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Program, through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2013) *Video games: The cake is not a lie.* Presented at Fred Rogers Center of Saint Vincent College, through the Saint Vincent Prevention Projects Fall Student Assistance Program Fall Thematic Workshop.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2013) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at Warren State Hospital, through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (June, 2013) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Human Services Center of New Castle PA, through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (February, 2013) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Bio Medical Science Tower of UPMC, through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming. (simultaneously broadcast and archived online)

**Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2012) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Chadwick, Wexford PA, through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (May, 2012) *An ethical code from a more civilized time: The impact of media on ethical standards.* Presented at the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit through Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic's Office of Education and Regional Programming.

### **MENTORING & ADVISING**

**Graduate Counseling:** 25 Master's Degree Advisees CUP – Lock Haven (2023 – present)

40-45 Master's Degree Advisees Messiah University (2017-2021)

#### **Mentor**

March, 2020 – May, 2020

Jeff Markow – Master's Thesis

(California State University, Fullerton – Thesis Consultant)

September, 2019 – May, 2020

Joseph W. – High School Senior Thesis

(Covenant Christian Academy – Senior Capstone Thesis Mentor)

October, 2018 – June 2019

Jennifer Uhlman – Master's Thesis [defended]

(California State University, Fullerton – Thesis Consultant)

### **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

#### **University/Union Service**

September, 2023 – Current

APSCUF Legislative Committee

Steering Committee Member

Commonwealth University – Lock Haven

October, 2022 – Current  
APSCUF Committee for Action through Politics (CAP)  
Steering Committee Member  
Lock Haven University

April, 2022 – Current  
E-Sports Club  
Faculty Co-Advisor  
Commonwealth University - Lock Haven

August, 2019 – October, 2019  
E-Sports Hiring Committee  
Committee Member  
Messiah College

December, 2018 – August, 2019  
President's E-Sports Task Force  
Subcommittee Chair  
Messiah College

May, 2018 – May 2019  
Digital Repository Task Force  
Committee Member  
Messiah College

### **Department Service**

September, 2023 – Current  
Evaluation Committee Member  
Department of Counseling & Educational Leadership  
Commonwealth University – Lock Haven

### **Program Service**

April, 2022 – Current  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Lock Haven University  
Marketing Committee

December, 2021 – Current  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Lock Haven University  
Course Steward for Counseling as a Profession, Counseling Theories, Trauma and Crisis  
Counseling, Research Methods, & Assessment and Testing in Mental Health Counseling

September, 2021 – Current  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Lock Haven University  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Club Faculty Co-Chair

November, 2021 – December, 2021  
Remediation Committee Member  
Lock Haven University

November, 2020 – July, 2021  
Graduate Counseling Department  
Messiah University  
Counseling Exam Study Material Archivist

February, 2018 – July, 2021  
Graduate Counseling Department  
Messiah University  
Course Steward for Human Sexuality and Marriage, Couple, and Family Skills/Practice

September, 2019 – September, 2020  
Hiring Committee Member  
Graduate Counseling Department  
Messiah University

May, 2018 – August, 2019  
CACREP Program Realignment  
Graduate Counseling Department  
Messiah College

## **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

### **Program Architect**

August, 2012 – May 2013  
Designer and Consultant, Saint Vincent College, School of Education, Masters of Science Counselor Education Program (Program Approved May 2013, First Students enrolled Fall 2013)

### **Organizational Development**

August, 2017 – Current  
Founder and President, Experience Points (Program Attained Nonprofit Status August 2017, and achieved certified 501(c)(3) status December 2022)  
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and reducing stigma through the practice of educating individuals, families and communities in gaming and geek centric mental health counseling, support, resources, and related outreach activities.

December, 2012 – Current  
Founder and President, The Geek and Gamer Counseling Alliance (Program Attained Nonprofit Status October 2014, and achieved certified 501(c)(3) status February 2015)  
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals identifying with the Geek and Gamer culture through community outreach, education, and scholarly research to increase wellness and decrease stigma.

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

- October, 2020 – Present  
Consultant and Counselor in Private Practice, Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- August, 2017 – October, 2020  
Consultant and Counselor in Private Practice, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
- July, 2014 – August, 2017  
Principal Researcher for My New Leaf Inc. (501c3 charitable organization, developing game-based recovery tools for addiction treatment)
- March, 2014 – August, 2017  
Practicing Outpatient Counselor in Private Practice, Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- May, 2014 – August, 2017  
Clinical Director, Unity Family Services, Leechburg Pennsylvania
- June, 2011 - May 2014  
Program Director, Unity Family Services Family Based Program, Leechburg Pennsylvania
- March, 2011 – June, 2011  
Interim Program Director, Unity Family Services Family Based Program, Leechburg Pennsylvania
- December, 2009 - March, 2011  
Program Manager / Trainer, Unity Family Services, Leechburg Pennsylvania
- August, 2009 – May 2014  
Doctoral Supervisor for Master's Level Students (Practicum and Internship), Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- August, 2008 – December, 2009  
Addictions Counselor, SPHS Behavioral Health, Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- January, 2008 - May, 2008  
Internship: Duquesne University
- August, 2007 - December, 2007  
Practicum: Duquesne University
- January, 2007 – August, 2008  
Primary Family Based Therapist, Unity Family Services, Leechburg Pennsylvania

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Dissertation

**Kuniak, S.F.** (2014). The gamer culture: An exploration of gamer archetypes and their relationship with coping strengths (Doctoral dissertation, DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY)

### Peer Reviewed Articles

Vincenzes, K. A., Pechek, A., Tomlin, E., **Kuniak, S.**, & Talbot, A. (2023). Using experiential learning to explore help-seeking attitudes in future helping professionals. *Journal of Mental Health and Social Behavior*, 5(2), 180. <https://doi.org/10.33790/jmhsb1100180>

**Kuniak, S.F.** (Manuscript Submitted and Under Review). The cake is not a lie: An exploration of the gamer culture, archetypes, coping methods, and resiliency. *Journal of Creativity in Counseling*.

**Kuniak, S. F.**, & Delmonico, D. L. (Data Analysis Phase). What counselors need to know about their gamer clients.

**Kuniak, S. F.**, & Nero, L. (Final Edits). Pulling the sword from the stone: Use of popular culture metaphors in counseling.

### Book Chapters

**Kuniak, S. F.**, Drozda, N., & Delmonico, D. (In progress, anticipated 2023). Sex addiction: Origins, symptoms, and treatment. In Sprong, M. E., Hollender, H., Sneed, Z., & Davis, S. (Eds.), *Substance Related Disorder: Treatment and Rehabilitation*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2019). Stronger together: The family as a super hero team. In Rubin, L. (Eds.), *Superheroes and villains in counseling*: Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge Publishing.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2019). It's dangerous to go alone: The hero's journey in the legend of zelda. In Bean, A. (Eds.), *The psychology of zelda: Linking our world to the legend of zelda series*: Dallas: Benbella Publishing.

**Kuniak, S. F.**, & Blink, M. V. (2015). Hillbilly to Hero: The transformation of Daryl Dixon. In Langley, T. (Eds.), *The walking dead psychology: Psych of the living dead*: New York: Sterling Publishing.

Gordon, G. M., **Kuniak, S. F.**, & Sherman, C. A. (2012). Record keeping and technology in counseling. In Gregoire, J., & Jungers, C. (Eds.), *Counseling ethics: Philosophical and professional foundations*: New York: Springer Publishing.

### Thesis

**Kuniak, S. F.** (Unpublished). Instilling strength: Fantasy heroes effect on resiliency. Saint Vincent College Bachelors Thesis.



### **Other Publications**

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2020, March 30). How gaming can strengthen family bonds during the coronavirus pandemic [Online Article]. In *The Mighty*.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2019, August 8). Don't blame video games (or mental illness) for violent acts [Online Article]. In *The Mighty*.

### **ASSESSMENTS**

Kuniak, S. F. (2019) Comprehensive Gamer Assessment. Self-Published.

Kuniak, S. F. (2019) Comprehensive Gamer Assessment – Counselor Resource. Self-Published.

### **EDITORIAL BOARDS**

January, 2024 – Current

Journal of Creativity in Mental Health  
Editorial Board Reviewer

November, 2023 – January, 2024

Journal of Creativity in Mental Health  
Ad Hoc Reviewer

August, 2019 – Current

Journal of the Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Editorial Board Reviewer

October, 2018 – Current

Journal of Games, Self, and Society  
Editorial Board Reviewer

### **GRANT FUNDING**

#### **External Grants**

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2020). *American Counseling Association – North Atlantic Region Branch Development Grant*. American Counseling Association.  
Awarded - \$500

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2019). *American Counseling Association Institute for Leadership Training*. American Counseling Association.  
Awarded - \$492

#### **Internal Awards**

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2020). *Graduate Teacher of the Year Award Grant*. Messiah University.  
Awarded - \$600

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2019). *Faculty Development Funds Expansion*. Messiah College.  
Awarded - \$525

**Kuniak, S. F.** (2018). *Faculty Development Funds Expansion*. Messiah College.  
Awarded - \$300

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

Delmonico, D., Griffin, E., & **Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2023). *Hitting reset: Examining the gamer culture through a sexual offense lens*. Presented at the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA) Post Conference Webinar, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed - National}

**Kuniak, S.F.**, Nero, L., Lesney, C., Dattlo, R., Sims, T., Phillips, P., & Riffle, B. (November, 2023). *Earning an xp boost: The importance of gamer identity & gamification of the counseling process*. Presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

Parker, D.J., Scanlon, N., **Kuniak, S.F.**, King, J., & Drozda, N., (November, 2023) PACES panel discussion: *Advocacy and gatekeeping within counselor education and supervision*. Presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.**, Sims, T., Dattlo, R., Phillips, P., Lesney, C., Nero, L., & Riffle, B. (September, 2023). *Going from casual to leet: Gamifying the counseling process*. Presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Commonwealth University – Lock Haven Clinical Mental Health Program Virtual Conference, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

Delmonico, D., **Kuniak, S. F.**, & Drozda, N. (September, 2023). *Hitting reset: Examining the gamer culture through a sexual offense lens*. Presented at the Massachusetts Society for a World Free from Sexual Harm by Youth (MASOC) Annual Conference. {Peer Reviewed - Regional}

**Kuniak, S. F.**, & Delmonico, D. (June, 2023). *Hitting reset: Examining the gamer culture through a sexual offense lens*. Presented to the Washington Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (WATSA), Virtual Format. {Invited - Regional}

**Kuniak, S.F.**, Lesney, C., Phillips, P., & Riffle, B. (April, 2023). *Going from casual to leet: Gamifying the counseling process*. Presented at the Therapeutic Applied Geek and Gaming Summit, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.** Sims, T., Riffle, B., & Dattlo, R. (April, 2023). *I have lived a thousand lives: Teaching mental health professionals about the geek and gaming community*. Presented at the Therapeutic Applied Geek and Gaming Summit, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.**, & Riffle, B. (April, 2023). *No mic needed: Mental health implications surrounding comfort in virtual spaces*. Presented at the Therapeutic Applied Geek and Gaming Summit, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2022). *Creativity in counseling: Theory in practice*. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Commonwealth University – Lock Haven Clinical Mental Health Program Virtual Conference, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2022). *An ethical code from a more civilized time*. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Commonwealth University – Lock Haven Clinical Mental Health Program Virtual Conference, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}

- Kuniak, S. F., & Delmonico, D.** (April, 2022). *Adolescent sex offender treatment is not a game, or could it be?*. Presented at the Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA), Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}
- Kuniak, S. F.** (December, 2021). *Leveling up: How to better support our gamer clients*. Presented at the Association for Creativity in Counseling National Conference, Online Format. {Peer Reviewed National}
- Kuniak, S.F.** (April, 2021). *Experience points: Imagining a gamer informed treatment model*. Presented at the Therapeutic Applied Geek and Gaming Summit, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}
- Cardona, J. **Kuniak, S. F., & O'Connor, P.** (Invited Keynote - April, 2021). *Looking back: Ten years of growth in the geek therapy community*. Presented at the Therapeutic Applied Geek and Gaming Summit, Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}
- Kuniak, S. F., & Delmonico, D.** (April, 2021). *Hitting reset: Examining the gamer culture through a sexual offense lens*. Presented at the Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA), Virtual Format. {Peer Reviewed}
- Scanlon, N., Schermer, T., **Kuniak, S. F.**, White, E., & Marsalek, D. (October, 2020). *Government relations/advocacy town hall*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, Virtual Format.
- Kuniak, S. F.** (October, 2020). *Conference welcome and orientation*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, Virtual Format.
- Georgieva, M. & **Kuniak, S. F.** (September, 2020). *Utilizing Minecraft in counseling: Exploring the application of sandtray therapy principles through a video game*. Presented at the Association for Creativity in Counseling National Conference, Online Format. {Peer Reviewed National}
- Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2019). *Leveling up: Introducing a wellness evaluation to better understand our gamer clients*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}
- Scanlon, A., & **Kuniak, S. F.** (November, 2019). *PCA leadership recruitment meeting*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania.
- Scanlon, A., **Kuniak, S. F.**, Schermer, T.W., & Galvin, A. (November, 2019). *PCA Membership: Check us out and join*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania.
- Kuniak, S. F.** (April, 2019) *Pop culture counseling: Finding wellness within the geek and gamer culture*. Presented at the Ninth Annual Chi Sigma Iota Conference, held at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}
- Boccamazzo, R., **Kuniak, S. F.**, Connell, M.A., Johns, A., Davis, A., & Kuniak, A. E., (November, 2017) *Trusting the party's healer: Games, gamers, & therapy*. Presented at Penny Arcade Expo (PAX) Unplugged 2017, Philadelphia Pennsylvania
- Kuniak, S. F.**, Blink, M. V., & McClure, A. E., (March, 2015) *Geek and gamer culture: An unexpected journey*. Presented at Penny Arcade Expo (PAX) 2015, Boston Massachusetts

Behun, R. J., Delmonico, D. L., & **Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2013). *Online, offline, and over-the-line: Adolescents and the digital age*. Presented paper at the 2013 Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health National Conference, Boston, MA. {Peer Reviewed}

Delmonico, D. L., Behun, R. J., & **Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2013). *Illegal images: Implications of online child pornography for clinicians*. Presented paper at the 2013 Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health National Conference, Boston, MA. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.**, Delmonico, D. L., & Behun, R. J., (September, 2013). *Press start: The gamer culture and its relationship with sexuality*. Presented paper at the 2013 Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health National Conference, Boston, MA. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S. F.** (May, 2013) *The geek culture: We've taken our first step into a larger world*. Presented at Wizard World Philadelphia Comic Con.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (October, 2012) *Our first step into a larger world: Current trends in the culture of narrative immersion and its relationship with counseling*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2012) *Pulling the sword from the stone: Counseling perspectives on the "geek culture."* Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Virtual Conference on Counseling, Second Life. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S. F.** (October, 2011). *Pulling the sword from the stone: An overview of interactive media from a counseling perspective*. Presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S. F.**, & Alexander, A. E. (October, 2010). *Ethical considerations for the use of technology in counseling*. Poster session presented at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's State Conference, State College, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

**Kuniak, S.F.** (April, 2005). *Instilling strength: Fantasy heroes' effect on resiliency*. Presented at the Saint Vincent College Undergraduate Research Conference, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. {Peer Reviewed}

## INTERVIEWS

December 8, 2021 – **Faithful & True Podcast** – Interviewed related to video game culture

January 27, 2021 – **The Washington Post** – *Video games deserve better than the blanket, parachute coverage from reporters who don't get it*

April 22, 2020 – **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** – *Gamers have us all beat when it comes to virtual interaction*

May 2, 2019 – **ABC 27 News Feature** – *Video gaming: When does a hobby become unhealthy?*

June 22, 2017 – **Counseling Today (Cover Story)** – *'Cultured' counseling*

February 18, 2015 (interview conducted) – **Polygon** – *Effects of online harassment on an individual's mental health*

July 15, 2014 – **South China Morning Post** – *Anti-anxiety apps offer a cure for depression, but do they work?*

June 13, 2014 – **Counseling Today (Online Exclusive)** – *Geek therapy: Connecting with clients through comics, video games, and other 'geeky' pursuits*

February 17, 2014 – **The Daily Beast** – *The rise of superhero therapy: Comic books as psychological treatment*

## **PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Leadership**

January, 2021 – Current  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Marketing and Outreach Committee Chair

July, 2021 – July, 2022  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Immediate Past President

July, 2020 – July 2021  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
52<sup>nd</sup> President

July, 2019 – July 2021  
American Counseling Association  
Delegate to the North Atlantic Region – PCA Representative

July, 2019 – July, 2020  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
President-Elect

January, 2019 – July, 2020  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Marketing and PR Director

### **Service to the Profession**

July, 2023  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Presentation Reviewer for the 2023 PCA Conference

January 2023 – Current  
Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Committee Member for the 2023 PCA Conference

January 2022 – November 2022

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Committee Member for the 2022 PCA Conference

April 2022

Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA)  
Conference Technical Support for the 2022 MnATSAConference

January 2021 – November 2021

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Committee Member for the 2021 PCA Conference

April 2021

Minnesota Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (MnATSA)  
Conference Technical Support for the 2021 MnATSAConference

December 2020 – February 2021

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Search Committee Chair – PCA Membership Committee Chair Search

January 2020 – November 2020

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Chair – 2020 PCA Conference

October, 2019

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Awards Reviewer for the 2019 PCA Conference

September 2019

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
PCA Executive Board Lobbying with State Representatives, Harrisburg, PA

July 2019 - November, 2019

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Committee Member for the 2019 PCA Conference

July, 2019

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Presentation Reviewer for the 2019 PCA Conference

April, 2019

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Advocacy Day at Pennsylvania's State Capital, Harrisburg, PA

July 2018 - November, 2018

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Committee Member for the 2018 PCA Conference

July, 2018 – 2021

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Government Relations Committee

July, 2018

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Conference Presentation Reviewer for the 2018 PCA Conference

April, 2018

Pennsylvania Counseling Association  
Advocacy Day at Pennsylvania's State Capital, Harrisburg, PA

### **Service to the Community**

July, 2023 – Current

Saint Vincent Archabbey Allegation Review Board  
Board Member

August, 2017 – Current

Experience Points (Mental Health 501c3)  
President & Founder

April, 2016 – July 2019

Take This (Mental Health Advocacy Organization)  
Advisory Board Member

July, 2014 – August, 2017

My New Leaf Inc. (Addiction/Recovery Organization)  
Advisory Board Member

### **Community Resource Presentations**

Barton, M., **Kuniak, S.F.**, Stang, S., Hutchinson, R., & Bradford, W. (August, 2023) *The Legend of Zelda: Exploring the Legacy of the Legend of Zelda*. Presented on behalf of the Japan Foundation of New York, Virtual Format. {Invited - International}

**Kuniak, S.F.** (November, 2022) *Leveling Up Part 2: Mental Health Applications and Gaming*. Presented to the Geisinger Health System Department of Psychiatry - Grand Rounds, Virtual Format.

**Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2022) *Leveling Up Part 1: Intro to the Gamer Culture*. Presented to the Geisinger Health System Department of Psychiatry - Grand Rounds, Virtual Format.

**Kuniak, S.F.** (June, 2022) *Safety and Wellness Series: Healthy Relationships, Boundaries 1: Healthy People Skills, Boundaries 2: Social Media, and Healthy Sexuality*. Presented to the Pittsburgh Knights Esports Team, Virtual Format.

Delmonico, D. **Kuniak, S.F.** (February, 2021) *Supervision issues of youth with sexually abusive behavior virtual training: Online, offline, and over the line: Adolescents, sexuality, and the digital world*. Presented to the New Jersey Department of Juvenile Probation, Virtual Format.

Barnes, K., **Kuniak, S. F.**, Lane, C., Mitchell, D., & Waugh, A. (March, 2019) *Beyond the blues: Signs, symptoms and support for children and teens facing depression*. Presented at the Fourth Partners in Caring panel sponsored by Geisinger Holy Spirit Hospital, held at Messiah College, Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (June, 2013) *Gamer wellness: The cake is not a lie*. Presented at Fred Rogers Center of Saint Vincent College, through Unity Family Services First Summer Community Outreach Event, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

**Kuniak, S.F.** (September, 2012) *Seven ways in which mental defenses affect criminal cases*. Presented at the Saint Vincent College Law Department's CLE Event, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

**Kuniak, S. F.** (March, 2012) *Cyberbullying*. Presented at the Saint Vincent College Education Department's Annual Lecture Event, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

**Kuniak, S.F.** (March, 2011). *Cyberbullying and the video game culture*. Presented at Unity Family Services Community Outreach Educational Evening, Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

**Kuniak, S.F.** (March, 2010). *Cultural sensitivity*. Presented at Unity Family Services Family Based Program, Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

### **AWARDS and HONORS**

2023 – Outstanding Professional Teacher Award, Pennsylvania Counseling Association

2021 – President's Award, Pennsylvania Counseling Association

2021 – David W. Hall Advocacy Award, Pennsylvania Counseling Association

2020 – Graduate Teacher of the Year, Messiah University, Mechanicsburg, PA

2010 – Golden Key International Honor Society, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA

2001 – Eagle Scout Rank (Boy Scouts of America)

2001 – Shining Armor Award (Knights of Columbus)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Counseling Association (2011 - Present)

Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (2017 – Present)

Association for Creativity in Counseling (2020 – Present)

Chi Sigma Iota Member (2011 - Present)

Pennsylvania Counseling Association (2011 - Present)



Pennsylvania Association of Counselor Education and Supervision (2019 – Present)

Pennsylvania Association of Child and Adolescent Counseling Specialists (2010)

### **CERTIFICATIONS**

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in PA #PC006478 (2012 - Present)

Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) #285302 (2011 - Present)

Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS) #285302 (2018 – Present)

PA State Certified Mental Health Professional in Family Therapy (2014 - Present)

Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (2016)

Blackboard 7 Online Teaching Certification (2010)

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Tool Certified (2010)

National Institute of Health “Protecting Human Research Participants” Certification (2009)

CAFAS Assessment Tool Certified (2007)

Addiction Specialist Certificate – Saint Vincent College (2005)

### **TRAININGS FOR ONLINE TEACHING**

July, 2022

Like it or Not Online Education is Here to Stay: Best Practices for Online Teaching  
American Counseling Association – Online Format

August, 2017

Messiah College Online Instruction Training – Canvas LMS

October, 2010

Blackboard 7 Online Teaching Training

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS ATTENDED**

July, 2019

American Counseling Association: Institute for Leadership Training  
Washington, DC

January, 2010 - May 2014

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic Family Based Monthly Lectures and Clinical  
Consultations, Pittsburgh, PA.

- November, 2010 - May 2014  
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Program Director's Supervision Training
- March, 2010  
Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment Training Workshop,  
Greensburg, PA
- February, 2010  
HIPAA Training (Unity Family Services office based training)
- May, 2009  
Nuts and Bolts of Eating Disorders Training, Cranberry, PA
- November, 2008  
Confidentiality, Pittsburgh, PA
- November, 2008  
Ethics for the Addiction Professional, Pittsburgh, PA
- November, 2008  
Group Facilitation Skills, Pittsburgh, PA
- November, 2008  
HIV / AIDS Prevention Training, Pittsburgh, PA
- October, 2008  
Tuberculosis / Sexually Transmitted Diseases Training, Pittsburgh, PA
- October, 2008  
Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria (PCPC) Training, Pittsburgh, PA
- October, 2008  
CPR / First Aid Training, Charleroi, PA
- January, 2007 – August, 2008  
Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic Family Based Monthly Lectures and Clinical  
Consultation, Pittsburgh, PA.