

Alumni Spotlight: Christina Feng (MACO '13)



Current Title: Senior Clinician, LMHC

Favorite Professors: Dr. Mason, Dr. Kaminski

Favorite Class: Christ in the Old Testament

Favorite Memory: No one memory comes to mind, but what stays with me the most is being able to share life together with so many like-minded and like-hearted people—dropping in a friend's dorm at random, studying on the beach with my roommate, rock-climbing nights, just the overall rhythm of navigating our callings together and experiencing rich seasons of growth and pruning.

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and where are you serving now? Do you have a particular specialization?

Upon graduation, I started in the field as an in-home therapist, but transitioned to working in outpatient group practices for the majority of the last nine years. During the initial years, I prepared for licensure with a couple of close friends from the same class, and we were all working in separate spaces at the time. We thought it'd be neat if all of us could work together one day, but it had always seemed a far-off possibility. A few years ago, this became a reality when I joined Harbor Christian Counseling, a team that serves the greater Boston area and was founded by other fellow GCTS alumni. At Harbor, I work primarily with older teens and adults, and areas of interest include mood and anxiety disorders, trauma, and spiritual formation. Outside of Harbor, I've had the opportunity to serve in a local campus ministry where I work primarily with international graduate students from mainland China. This space has allowed me to incorporate counseling into the context of relational ministry and missions.



What do you love about your work?

I have always loved getting to know people on a deeper level, and my work allows me to do that on a daily basis. To me, it's a sort of privilege to be able to engage in this kind of work or have "access," where I'm able to hear people share about what can oftentimes be the hidden parts of their lives—the painful, the nitty gritty, the messy, the

breakthroughs—and also speak into it with the truth that Scripture supplies. The support that Harbor throws behind us as a team is also something that makes it easy to stay focused and committed to the work we do.

What are the particular challenges of serving as a therapist in your context?

Something noteworthy is the ever-growing diversity of our clientele. Though we take a biblically informed and gospel-driven approach to our practice, we keep our doors open to clients from all walks of life, including from various religious and/or spiritual backgrounds, and notice that many who do not profess a faith at all also step through our doors. There are many other factors that lend to an increasingly diverse clientele, and these sometimes pose challenges for us as clinicians in guiding a therapeutic process that prioritizes both cultural sensitivity and biblical truth.

How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your past and current work?

What I've really taken from my experience at GCTS and incorporated into my daily work is a deeper understanding of the significance of the biblical narrative as a whole. For instance, redemption is a major theme I draw on in my counseling practice as it facilitates the process of recognizing areas of brokenness and points to the need and potential for healing and change.

How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now?

When I think about my place of work and ministry right now, it's a testament to God's sovereignty, goodness, and creativity. I had always wanted to explore counseling in the context of overseas ministry, but logistical and practical challenges made it difficult to consider in the initial years following graduation. A few years ago when I stumbled upon a local campus ministry serving international students from mainland China, I thought it'd be something interesting to check out. I had no intention of joining regularly due to potential language and cultural barriers as it was run purely in Mandarin Chinese. As an American-born Chinese, I knew my Mandarin was fluent enough for everyday conversation, but definitely inadequate for ministry and/or professional counseling purposes. It's been just over three years now that I've been a part of this campus ministry, and it's both humbling and encouraging acknowledging the ways that God has led me to serve in this context continually. I mostly engage in building and deepening relationships with the young women there, providing practical help with daily struggles, introducing the gospel, and offering mentoring and discipleship. Different ministry experiences of working with individuals and couples have helped me with language and culture acquisition, and over the past year it's even led to opportunities for me to counsel professionally in Mandarin Chinese at Harbor when the need arises.