

## Alumni Spotlight: DeAnne Sula (MACC '19)



**Current title:** Licensed Professional Counselor Associate

**Family:** Married to Roland (MACM '19) with two children: Lidia (17) and Jakob (14)

**Favorite class:** Too hard to choose - all of the counseling classes impact all that I do! If I have to choose - Play Therapy and Helping Skills

**Favorite memory:** I so appreciate my classmates and professors, who each added to the person I am today. I loved class discussions, eating lunches in the break room, and the encouragement of walking alongside each other as students in the company of the amazing professors. Also, Dr. Cooper's laugh!

**Favorite professor:** Dr. Davis and Dr. Maclin

### What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell?

After graduating in 2019, our family returned to Albania where we serve in full-time ministry at a local church. I recently opened a Christian counseling center that employs three licensed Christian counselors and a Christian psychiatrist. I am privileged to have wonderful people who are offering me extraordinarily competent supervision so that I can continue licensure procedures in the US.

### What do you love about your work?

I am glad that the person I am as a Christ-follower, pastor's wife, mom, friend, daughter, and sister adds to this work of counseling. I am thankful that the gifts and talents with which God made me are like a hand and glove with counseling. I enjoy that my life experiences are entwined in this amazing work of counseling. I appreciate the co-work aspect of counseling with others who have a calling in this work as we encourage one another to more excellence in our profession and support one another's growth. I love journeying with others as they grow and heal, realizing that they are a part of my journey as well.

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

Perhaps the most stark challenge is a lack of resources. The lack of translated instruments for evaluation, thorough supervision for new counselors, and resources like occupational therapy is noticeable here.

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

God is a master-weaver. He brought all the events of mission and life and ministry to a fruitful and exciting place before allowing my husband and I to enjoy the profit of a GCTS education. The MACC program has an excellent professorship with people of multiple life experiences, including missional contexts and an assortment of ethnic and family heritages. This makes them

quite adept at creating room in the program for different cultures, points of view, and breadth in possible places of practice after graduation. This is perhaps the most beautiful part of how God works everything for our good—as a missionary with a heart to bring culturally relevant and best practices of counseling to the land I love—GCTS equipped me well.

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

It has allowed me to pursue my calling and ministry of counseling both for the church and for the culture around us.

**What has been Gordon-Conwell's biggest impact/influence?**

Being a learner and allowing space for learning, resonates with me and always has. But I loved this special emphasis of the Counseling department and hope to never lose it.

**What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are just entering the working world?**

(I'm reminding myself, too!) Love God with all you are and live in his love and grace for you. Being a "young alumnus" myself, I would add to ask God what he has made you for and do it for Him with all your heart.

**Do you have any publications or links you'd like to share?**

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<https://tirana-counseling-center.business.site/>