

FALL  
2018

Volume 3

# Spartan Rehab News

A newsletter from the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (ORDS) at Michigan State University designed to build bridges between practitioners, researchers, & educators.

**BEST  
GRAD SCHOOLS**

**U.S. News**  
A WORLD REPORT  
RANKINGS

Ranked  
#1



Welcome  
Everyone

Recent  
Event

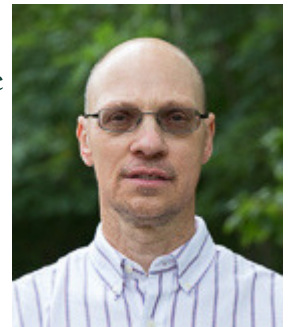
Research  
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## Welcome Everyone!

Warm greetings from the Office of Rehabilitation & Disability Studies at Michigan State University. We hope this newsletter finds you well and productive in your professional endeavors. We are excited to begin another intellectually stimulating academic year. Our May 2018 and August 2018 master's rehabilitation counseling and doctoral rehabilitation counselor education program graduates have secured high-quality rehabilitation counseling faculty and practitioner positions. Outstanding new cohorts of both master's and doctoral students are beginning their respective programs in fall 2018. Our 45th Annual Peckham/Smith Golf Tournament held on September 21 was a great success with over 60 golfers participating and funds raised for student fellowships. This fall, we will have extensive student and faculty representation and involvement at the Re:Con conference in Traverse City from November 7-9. Other program happenings include continuing work on various tasks, documentation, and processes for the continuation of CACREP accreditation for both our masters and doctoral programs. In addition, faculty and students continue to pursue and be active in a wide variety of local, state, national, and international research projects. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you updates on the many MSU Rehabilitation Counseling Program activities and accomplishments in our fall 2018 newsletter and wish you well as the leaves turn colors and temperatures drop during October and November.



John Kosciulek, PhD, CRC  
Professor & Director

Doctoral Program in Rehabilitation Counselor Education

## Spartan Rehab News Board

Jarhed Peña, MRC, CRC - Editor

Connie Sung, PhD, LPC, CRC - Advisor

If you are interested in contributing to the Spartan Rehab News, please contact Dr. Connie Sung at [csung@msu.edu](mailto:csung@msu.edu).

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Rehabilitation Counseling, Michigan State University

## Recent Event Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament

The moment the night exchanged with day, the sun crested the horizon with its celestial orb of provenance; it was a magnificent moment that began the procession of inauguration on the 45th Annual Ralph Peckham & Harry Smith Golf Tournament. As soon as the sun pushed aside the morning dew, the sky became overwhelmed with a wall of wetness whose containment burst at the seams. Nonetheless, the spirit of green and white coupled with the prism of color arcing across the sky became the backdrop greeting golfers as they arrived. The familiar camaraderie paved the red-carpet welcome for folks new to the tournament, and as mingling ensued, the hum of bag-pipes partnering with the sunshower danced atop the peak of collegiality. Golfers entered their carts filled with the glow of skill bolstered by a touch of luck as the exodus to the manicured hills began. Rotation around the course was a collection of smiles, competition, focus, and cheer complemented by expletives sprinkling their deposits when the ball and club disagreed on a direction. Although golfers and mother nature played a

passionate dodgeball game, it was the golfers who triumphed in the end. With a fulcrum of gratitude balancing honors of culinary delights, tributes, and laurels, the tournament concluded; golfers shook each other's hands and resolved to see each other the next time their paths crossed. It was another successful sporting event penned in the history book of the Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament. In preparation of next year's event: Have a good round—may the fours be with you!

Alicia Strain, MEd, LLPC, CRC  
Doctoral Student  
Rehabilitation Counselor Education

## A BIG Thank You to our sponsors!



### Doctoral and Master Program Volunteers

### Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament

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See you all at next year's tournament!!

**If you are interested in sponsoring in this event, please contact**

**Dr. Mike Leahy at [leahym@msu.edu](mailto:leahym@msu.edu) or  
Dr. Andy Nay at [nayandre@msu.edu](mailto:nayandre@msu.edu).**



## Research Projects

### Family Intervention of Transitioning Individuals with ASD

In 2017, the Lifting Individuals and Families through Empowerment (LIFE) was formed. Led by Dr. Gloria Lee, this research team consists of members from alumni, Hegarty fellows, as well as current doctoral and master's level students both from MSU and other institutions. Currently, LIFE focuses on implementing a family intervention program called Spartan Transitioning Together (STT) for families who have a daughter/son with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopmental disabilities. The goal is to prepare and assist families in working with their daughter/son as she/he transitions into adulthood. STT is launched at Adaptive Social Program Providing Instruction, Recreation, and Enrichment (ASPPIRE) in Lansing.

Heekyung Lee, MA  
Doctoral Student  
Rehabilitation Counselor Education

### Rural Rehabilitation Research

A collaboration between Dr. Michelle Lizotte and Dr. Trent Landon, Dr. Annemarie Connor, all MSU alumni, and Jarhed Peña, who was working for the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, took place last year and this year. Some unique key findings in this study include: the influence of bad (or good) reputation in rural settings and fewer employment options. This study was presented at the National Rehabilitation Association Conference – Idaho Chapter in July 2017

and then later at the National Council on Rehabilitation Education in Spring 2018 . This study will be published fall this year.

Jarhed Peña, MRC, CRC  
Doctoral Student  
Rehabilitation Counselor Education

## Master's Program Update

We, in the Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling Program, would like to extend a very warm welcome to the 2018 cohort and the return of the 2017 cohort to the Spartan family. We are starting another year of commitment to train dedicated individuals to become rehabilitation counselors who are inspired to assist individuals with disabilities and their families. We are proud to report a 100% employment rate of our recent graduates, who are now working in diverse employment settings ranging from state rehabilitation agencies to community rehabilitation agencies. Our master's students participate in teaching and assisting in research studies in our program. The Spartan Rehabilitation Association, run by our master's students, are actively engaging in and planning various community activities to do outreach and give back to the community. We are gearing for exciting changes to enhance our master's curriculum in anticipation of the new accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. Lastly, we have five students who benefit from the Rehabilitation Services Administration Scholarship Program and two students who received the Elaine Tripi Endowed



Scholarship Award and the productive year as we continue to be leaders in our field in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Gloria Lee, PhD, LLPC, CRC  
Associate Professor & Director  
Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling

## The Elaine Tripi Endowed Scholarship Award

**B**en Strong is the recipient of the Elaine Tripi Endowed Scholarship Award in the Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Program for the fall 2018



semester. He has utilized this scholarship to assist with school-related and program-related expenses in the this semester. Ben is a second-year student who anticipate graduation at the end of spring 2019. He shared with us that his insight towards disability and inclusion deepened as he navigated his rehabilitation counseling training. Consequently, he gained an added measure of confidence as he looks forward to his new role as a soon-to-be rehabilitation professional. Congratulations Ben and thank you very much Dr. Tripi!

Ben Strong, BA  
Master's Student  
Rehabilitation Counseling

## The Scully-Hill Diversity Award

**C**aitlin Thompson received The Scully-Hill Diversity Award in Rehabilitation Counseling fall semester 2018. She was nominated for this award



by the current faculty members in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program early this year. The award was in recognition of her efforts to be involved and to promote diversity and inclusion since the beginning of her program. The monetary award has helped Caitlin with tuition, exam fees for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Examination, and necessary living expenses in preparation to complete her internship in the Spring of 2019.

Caitlin Thompson, BA, CRC  
Master's Student  
Rehabilitation Counseling

## Alumni

**D**r. Michelle Lizotte graduated from our program in summer 2016.



She taught at the University of Idaho for two years and has recently started a tenure-track position at Utah State University (USU) in Logan, UT. Michelle's position is shared between the Rehabilitation Counseling Program and the Professional School Counseling Program. This new role at USU feels like a "perfect fit" as it aligns well with her professional background, teaching experience, and research interests. At USU, Michelle has initiated the modification of an existing school counseling course by integrating topics such as transition of students with disabilities and collaboration between school counselors and rehabilitation counselors. She is currently involved in Rural Rehabilitation Research with Dr. Trenton Landon (another MSU graduate), and her additional research interests include the experiences of postsecondary education and employment among people with ASD.

**D**r. Bilal Urkmez is now an Assistant Professor in the Counselor Education Program at Ohio University.



He recently graduated from the Rehabilitation Counselor Education PhD Program here at MSU this year. In the past, he had worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor and School Counselor in Turkey, his home country. He integrates evidence-based practice concepts in teaching graduate level rehabilitation counseling education at Ohio University. His research interests include promoting evidence-based practices, improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, and effective vocational services and interventions among people with traumatic brain injuries. He is part of a research team here in MSU that seeks to understand the emotional regulation of college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. At Ohio University, he is actively involved in a research team that aims to understand parental involvement and issues of parents who have children with disabilities.

**D**r. Allison Levine graduated from the RCE doctoral program in May 2018. Upon her graduation, Dr. Levine began a job as an



Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling. In her new position, Dr. Levine continues to research various aspects of counselor education in order to improve the quality of services for people with disabilities. She is currently working on the validation of the

Dispositional Development Scale, a tool for evaluating professional dispositions in CACREP-accredited programs, as well as a multi-university study of implicit biases CACREP-accredited programs, as well as a multi-university study of implicit biases about disability in undergraduate rehabilitation students. Dr. Levine hopes to continue developing research, instruments, and curricular interventions to improve counselor education and advance social justice for people with disabilities.

**J**ustine Bond graduated from the Master in Rehabilitation Counseling Program in May 2018. She had worked for Disability



Network for several years before starting the master's program in fall 2016. She is a Rehabilitation Services Administration Scholarship recipient. This funding assisted with her tuition and living stipend throughout the entire program. She finished her practicum at Peckham, Inc. and internship at Disability Network and Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS). Shortly after her completion of the master's program, she was hired on as a full-time Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at MRS, serving persons with various types of disabilities. Recently, she has passed her Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam. She is grateful for the several professional opportunities that came since she started her graduate studies at MSU.