

# 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.



RECENT EVENTS

ONGOING  
RESEARCH  
PROJECTS

HEGARTY  
FELLOWS

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

ALUMNI  
SPOTLIGHTS

## BEST REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM

Our Rehabilitation Counseling Program ranked #1 yet again according to the 2020 U.S. News & World Report. A HUGE congratulations to our members of faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have been contributing to our success. It is such a great honor to work alongside individuals with strong commitments to research and practice to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.



## SPARTAN REHAB NEWS BOARD

Connie Sung - Advisor  
Jarhed Peña - Editor, Writer  
Evin Papuga - Writer

### CONTRIBUTORS:

Lindsay Athamanah	Victoria Gillespie
Bryan Austin	Kristin Houck
Jonathan Bischoff	Michael Leahy
Brenna Breshears	Andrew Nay
Sarah Curtiss	Kayla Patino

If you are interested in contributing to 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



Our students and Dr. Gloria Lee (lower right) during the 2018 Re:Con

## Recent Events

### RE:CON AT TRAVERSE CITY, MI

Our students in the master's and doctoral programs and some members of faculty traveled to Traverse City, MI in November last year to attend Re:Con. Re:Con is a conference composed of disability rehabilitation professionals from the public and private sectors who service persons with disabilities in the State of Michigan. This conference offered our students various opportunities to network and learn different topics relevant to the vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. In one of the activities during the conference, one of our students, Evin Papuga, won a prize for his social media use of Snapchat with a whopping 250 Snapchats during a break-out session! At the end of the conference, our students and faculty enjoyed a fun evening social event at McGee's 72 restaurant. Great job everyone!

### CRCE STUDY GROUP

Jarhed Peña, MRC, CRC has been facilitating study groups since 2017 for master's students taking the Certified Rehabilitation Counseling Exam (CRCE) through YouTube. This time, his study group composed mainly of our second-year master's level students who took the CRCE in March 2019. He met with our master's students weekly for four weeks and provided study and test-taking techniques. These study sessions were recorded and posted on YouTube.

### CRC PASS RATES

We are proud to announce that our master's students who took the Certification on Rehabilitation Examination in March 2019 ALL PASSED! We also would like to congratulate them on finishing their portfolio. Well done everyone!



# CACREP ACCREDITATION UPDATE

We continue to make substantial progress on the development of our CACREP Self-Study evaluating both our Master of Arts (MA) in Rehabilitation Counseling (RC) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Rehabilitation Counselor Education (RCE) program resources, goals and objectives, curriculum, outcomes, and strengths and limitations in relation to the requirements in the CACREP standards and policies. The new RCE PhD curriculum has been approved through the MSU curriculum revision process and will be implemented beginning Summer 2019. One of the most exciting and challenging tasks is the transition of our RC master's program from 48-credit hours to 60-credit hours. A 60-credit hour master's program will provide valuable opportunities for not only expanding on existing subject areas, but also adding new content in areas including ethics, program evaluation, human growth, and crisis intervention. Both programs are now officially on the same accreditation cycle ending October 31, 2021. We plan to submit our CACREP Self-Study report in January 2020. Many challenges and much work lie ahead, but we feel confident that we will be successful in achieving a full 8-year accreditation.



# SPARTAN REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION

Kayla Patiño, BS, CRC is the current president of the Spartan Rehabilitation Association (SRA) at MSU. SRA has organized fundraising events and has worked along-side local rehabilitation professionals to promote the diversity and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Recently, they collaborated with a local non-profit organization, Adaptive Social Program Providing Instruction, Recreation, and Enrichment (ASPPIRE), to provide social coaching classes to individuals with disabilities. SRA has been an integral contributor to several of our program events such as the annual Peckham-Smith Memorial Golf Tournament and Re:Con. In May 2019, the leaders of SRA will meet to discuss plans for events, socials, and ways to bring the master's and doctoral programs together for academic collaboration, professional, and social activities. In addition, during this meeting, a new SRA leadership will be organized and formed which we will update everyone of this in Fall 2019!



# Come Join Our MSU Students and Faculty Presentations

April 17, Wed  
Concurrent Presentations

April 18, Thur  
Concurrent Presentations

1:30-2:30PM

New Perspectives On Tough Topics: Strategies for Infusing Social Advocacy In Rehabilitation Education

Allison Levine, PhD  
Allye Banta, BA

2:45-3:45PM

Assessing Soft Skills and Employment-Readiness Skills for Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Alexis Strach, MEd  
Cecilia Jung, PhD

2:45-3:45PM

College Students' Perspectives On the Impact of Having Autism Spectrum Disorder

Hockyoung Lee, MA  
Gloria Lee, PhD  
Sarah Curtiss, PhD  
Jia-Chen, PhD  
Hung-Jen Kuo, PhD  
Joann Awada, MA

4:00-5:00PM

Collaborative Disability Interventions: Impacts of the ASSET Program on Returning Citizen Populations

Bryana Bruchman, MA  
Cecilia Jung, PhD

8:15-9:15PM

Evidence-Based High School Transition and Student Characteristics for Closing Disability-Related Educational Attainment Gaps

Ilona Byrbe, PhD

3:15-4:15PM

Leading the Future: Designing a CACREP Master's Level Curriculum in Rehabilitation Counseling

Rosemarie Ketcher, MS  
Allisa Strach, MEd  
Hockyoung Lee, MA  
Joann Awada, MA  
Perenna Bruchman, MA  
Melissa Gorman, MA  
Kara Gavetti, MA

## Poster Presentations

8:15-9:45AM

Using the SCCT Framework in Predicting Career Decidedness for College Students with Disabilities

Cecilia Jung, PhD  
Boyoung Lim, PhD

8:15-9:45AM

Family Perspectives on Web-based Transition Information for Individuals with Autism

Jina Chan, PhD  
Hung-Jen Kuo, PhD  
Gloria Lee, PhD  
Sarah Curtiss, PhD  
Danielle Ann North, MA



# SPRING 2019 NCRE CONFERENCE

Our faculty along with 12 doctoral and master's students presented at the 19th Annual National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Spring Conference at the Sheraton Hotel & Marina in San Diego, CA in mid-April 2019. The annual conference theme was Honoring Our Rich History - Leading the Future. Our faculty and students gave six concurrent presentations and two poster presentations during this three-day conference that covered a wide range of topics. Some of these topics include infusing social advocacy strategies in rehabilitation education, designing a CACREP master's level curriculum in rehabilitation counseling, developing collaborative disability interventions for returning citizen populations, understanding family perspectives on receiving online information to assist transitioning individuals with ASD. It was an exciting conference as it provided an opportunity for our students to develop research and presentation skills as well as to interact and explore collaboration with other researchers from across the country. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet our alumni who are now leaders and experts in the field of disability rehabilitation. In the evening of the second day of the conference, we had almost 40 people from our faculty members, students, alumni, and fellow colleagues get together at Jimmy's Famous American Tavern for an evening social event. It was great to catch up with everybody at NCRE and we are so glad to hear that everyone is doing well. We hope to see you again and others next year!



Pictures at NCRE in San Diego, CA.

For more pictures, please visit our Facebook Page at Rehabilitation Counseling, Michigan State University

# Ongoing Research Projects

## IMPROVING JOB READINESS FOR ADJUDICATED YOUTH

Brenna Breshears, MA, LLPC, CRC was a graduate of our Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling Program in 2017 and is currently a second-year doctoral student in the Rehabilitation Counselor



Education Program. She has been working on the Job Readiness for Adjudicated Youth (JRAY) research which examines the impact of the Assistive Soft Skills & Employment Training (ASSET) Program on the adjudicated youth population here in Lansing, MI. This research uses a 10-week version of the ASSET Program to a group of 14- to 17-year old youths currently are involved in the criminal justice system. She has been examining the impact of the ASSET Program in relation to social responsibility, locus of control, job readiness, and its impact in the community setting. Recently, she presented the findings of this intervention program to fellow researchers, educators, and students at the 19th Annual National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Spring Conference held in San Diego, CA. Brenna's research interests include re-entry and returning citizen populations, social justice, psychosocial system impact, trauma-informed care, and innovative community partnerships.

## DEVELOPING A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM

Kristin Houck, MS, CRC is currently a first-year doctoral student in the Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program. She has been developing an observational measure



to assess functional and adaptive abilities of persons with autism in employment settings using the domains outlined in the Assistive Soft Skills & Employment Training (ASSET) Program. This instrument will assess communication, positive attitude and enthusiasm, teamwork, networking, problem-solving, critical thinking, professionalism, mental health and stress management, self-advocacy, and awareness of self and others. This study utilizes a simulated scenario outlined in the ASSET Program in which a participant demonstrates to the researcher his/her/their understanding of the scenario. The interactions are recorded and scored based on the content and quality of the social-behavioral performance. Kristin's research interests include evidence-based support programs for and quality of life outcomes of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) as well as improving professional competencies of and access to supports for human service professionals working in a direct support capacity with individuals with IDD.



# Hegarty Fellows

## PROMOTING GENETIC LITERACY RELATED TO AUTISM AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Sarah Curtiss, PhD is an MSU-DOCTRID Hegarty Postdoctoral Research Fellow co-located at Michigan State University and Trinity College Dublin. She received her doctorate in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Curtiss conducts applied, community-based research that supports the needs of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. At MSU, she has worked with Dr. Gloria Lee and Dr. Kristin Rispoli to understand what information parents need to support their children on the autism spectrum with the transition to adulthood. At Trinity College Dublin, she has worked with Dr. Louise Gallagher to promote genetic literacy with self-advocates, parents, and practitioners as well as employed strategies to involve stakeholders in genetic research on autism. In addition to these areas, Dr. Curtiss conducts other research that is meaningful to youth with autism and their families in the areas of family mealtimes, sex education, and father involvement. In the fall, Dr. Curtiss will be starting a position as an Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Delaware. Thank you for your commitment to improve the lives of persons with disabilities, Dr. Curtiss!



## DEVELOPING A CLIENT REGISTRY TO ENHANCE DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Lindsay Athamanah, PhD, CCC-SLP received her doctorate in Special Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago and worked as a speech-language pathologist for 10 years before pursuing her doctorate. Her research focuses on how peer-mediated interventions and peer mentoring programs impact the social language skills and attitudes of individuals with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in inclusive settings. As a Hegarty Fellow, she has worked with Dr. Connie Sung and Dr. Marisa Fisher at MSU to explore the impact of a postsecondary education peer mentoring program on the lives of the peer mentors. She has also worked with Dr. Geraldine Leader at National University of Ireland, Galway to build a client registry for the service provider, Daughters of Charity-Disability Support Services, to assess clients' service needs and outcomes in Ireland. The Daughters of Charity provides services for individuals with intellectual disabilities in the Dublin, Limerick, and North Tipperary/Offaly areas. After the Hegarty Fellowship, Dr. Athamanah will join the faculty of the University of Missouri-St. Louis as an Assistant Professor in Special Education. Thank you for your invaluable work for the disability community, Dr. Athamanah!



# Upcoming Events

## 2019 NANCY CREWE SYMPOSIUM



We are sponsoring the 2019 Nancy Crewe Memorial Symposium, titled "The Evolving Role of Disability in the Workforce: Good for Workers, Good for Business" on May 15 at Peckham Inc. in Lansing, MI. This symposium was organized to commemorate Dr. Crewe's landmark contributions in the rehabilitation and psychology disciplines and her life as a colleague and a friend. Dr. Crewe was a professor of MSU's counseling psychology and rehabilitation counseling programs for 17 years and but unfortunately passed away in 2011. This event is supported by the Fred Brown Foundation, Peckham Inc., PAR Rehab Services, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services. For more information and online registration, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/nancycrewe2019>.

## PECKHAM-SMITH GOLF TOURNAMENT



We would like to invite everyone to our annual Peckham-Smith Memorial Golf Tournament on September 6 at Forest Akers West in East Lansing, MI. Proceeds from this tournament will be donated to the Ralf A. Peckham Memorial Fund at MSU to support educational activities for students in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program. For more information, please contact Dr. Andrew Nay at [nayandre@msu.edu](mailto:nayandre@msu.edu) or (517) 353-2952.

## SPARTAN PROJECT SEARCH COMPLETION CEREMONY



Please join us in celebrating the completion of the 2018-2019 Spartan Project SEARCH Intern class on Wednesday, June 5th, 2019, from 3-5pm, in the KIVA at Erickson Hall. Spartan Project SEARCH is a school-to-work transition program at MSU for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## DOCTRID VI CONFERENCE



The DOCTRID VI Conference is scheduled to take place on September 19th and 20th at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The overall conference theme is "Transitions across the lifespan for people living with Autism and/or Intellectual Disability", which include four specific themes that represent the difficult challenges and transitions individuals with these impairments and their families face every day. These transitions include: Pre-natal to first 1000 days; Pre-school to school; School to 3rd level and/or employment and independent living; and ageing. The DOCTRID VI conference will include presentations from international experts, panel discussions and workshops aimed at exploring the transitions across the lifespan for individuals living with Autism and/or Intellectual Disability. In addition, the DOCTRID Research Institute will present their plans for the future and the ASSISTID Marie Curie and the Hegarty Fellows will provide updates, and outcomes of their research.

# Alumni Spotlights

Bryan Austin, PhD, LPC, CRC, graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counselor Education Doctoral Program in 2012. He currently works as an Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Counseling



at the University of Idaho and will be promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure, starting Fall 2019. He is actively involved in two research endeavors. First, is the Perceptions of Clinical Judgment Skill Competencies in Rehabilitation Counseling which focuses on establishing important rehabilitation counselor clinical competencies to improve professional judgments. The second is Vocational Rehabilitation Outcomes for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Co-Occurring Psychiatric Disabilities which aims to add knowledge on characteristics that contribute to employment outcomes of this population. Dr. Austin's research interests include rehabilitation counselor clinical competencies that address bias and employment outcomes for intellectual and co-occurring psychiatric disabilities.

Jonathan Bischoff, MA, CRC, LPC, CBSP, graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Program in 2015. He currently works for Michigan Rehabilitation Services in the Business Network Division as a Business Relations



Consultant. Jonathan promotes partnerships with private sector and non-profit organizations, state and local governments as well as federal agencies to assist persons with disabilities find, gain, and/or maintain employment. A centerpiece of the business engagement model is information gathering and developing individualized business service plans with businesses to support and maximize the inclusion and diversity of their workforce. Jonathan has several interests in the field of disability rehabilitation, including disability awareness training, small business and self-employment for people with disabilities, labor market information for vocational guidance and counseling, accommodation process consultation, return-to-work and transitional employment, universal design, and resource cultivation.

## QUICK GRADUATE UPDATES

- In Fall 2019...
- Danielle Ami-Narh, our doctoral program graduate, will be joining Emporia State University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling.
- Dr. Lindsay Athamanah, our Hegarty Fellow, will be joining the University of Missouri-St. Louis as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Special Education.
- Dr. Sarah Curtiss, our Hegarty Fellow, will be joining the University of Delaware as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Special Education.
- Dr. Brian Phillips, our doctoral alumnus, will be joining Utah State University as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Counseling.

# Go Green! Go White!

