

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

FAREWELL TO OUR DEAR FRIEND, TEACHER, AND COLLEAGUE

Please join us in wishing Dr. John Kosciulek the very best of luck and the greatest of success in all his future endeavors. After 20 years serving as a Professor in the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at MSU, Dr. Kosciulek will be leaving us and joining the faculty at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign starting January 2020. During his time at MSU, Dr. Kosciulek served as the director of the master's program from 2003-2013 and the director of the doctoral program from 2016-2019. He has been instrumental in our recent CACREP accreditation process for both of the master's and doctoral programs. We are grateful for his dedications and contributions to our programs. Thank you, Dr. Kosciulek! We will miss you and hope to continue to collaborate with you in the future.



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If you are interested in contributing to Spartan Rehab News, please contact Dr. Connie Sung at csung@msu.edu

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Drs. Connie Sung and Gloria Lee (far right), master's, and doctoral students at our golf tournament.

Recent Events

46TH ANNUAL PECKHAM-SMITH GOLF TOURNAMENT

We had another successful Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament on September 6th this year at Forest Akers West. We had over 60 golfers and many community partners attend. We had a fantastic turnout from our master's and doctoral students who volunteered and helped out at the event. We are so grateful to our sponsors and everyone who attended. We hope to see you again next year!



Some pictures taken at the tournament. More pictures at our Facebook Page.

HUGE THANKS to our sponsors!

- CBI Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
- Comprehensive Risk Services
- Disability Network of Michigan
- Genex Services, Inc.
- Michigan Rehabilitation Association
- Michigan Rehabilitation Counseling and Education Association
- MSU Rehabilitation Counseling
- Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center
- PAR Rehab Services
- Peckham, Inc.
- Rehab Pathways Group
- Work Rehab Solutions



DOCTRID VI CONFERENCE AT IRELAND

The DOCTRID VI Conference: Transitions Across the Lifespan for People Living with Autism and/or Intellectual Disability took place on September 19-20 in Galway, Ireland. Attendees were greeted with Irish hospitality and cordiality and were showered in sunshine during the entire conference (an unusual occurrence told by many)! The sessions and workshops at the conference focused on four key themes: Pre-natal to First 1000 days, Pre-school to Middle School, High School to Postsecondary and/or Employment, and Ageing. The conference was attended by interdisciplinary educators, disability professionals, people living with Autism and/or Intellectual and Developmental Disability, and their families and caregivers from across Ireland and the United States. MSU faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and C-RAIND fellows also attended the conference. Our Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies was represented by Dr. Michael Leahy, Dr. Connie Sung, Dr. Gloria Lee, Dr. Jiyeon Park, Dr. Christiana Okyere, Dr. Rebecca Kammes, Rosanne Renauer, and Alicia Strain. Attendance at this international conference supported a variety of networking opportunities and valuable exchanges to promote international collaborations across various disciplines. It was a fantastic and worthwhile conference and we look forward to 2021 with the DOCTRID VII Conference!



Dr. Connie Sung with our Hegarty Fellows at DOCTRID.

RE:CON AT TRAVERSE CITY, MI

Snow in Traverse City, MI did not stop our faculty members and students in the master's and doctoral programs from attending Re:Con: The Convention of New Beginnings. Re:Con, which took place on November 6-8 this year, is a conference composed of disability rehabilitation professionals from the public and private sectors who serve persons with disabilities throughout Michigan. This conference offered our students various opportunities to network and learn about disability topics through conversation and breakout sessions. The breakout sessions topics allowed everyone to engage in discussions to better serve persons with disabilities in the field of rehabilitation. In addition, students enjoyed opportunities to engage with vendors and small businesses. They also participated in wellness activities and celebrated leaders and innovators in the field at the award recognition of the conference. One of our students, Yuqi Luo, won a selfie stick that was quickly put to use for a Michigan State Spartan style selfie with the Keynote Speaker Lee Thomas. Lee Thomas is a Detroit Fox 2 news anchor and motivational speaker who has vitiligo, a disease that causes the skin to lose pigmentation. To celebrate the end of a successful conference, our students, faculty members, and alumni enjoyed a fun evening social event at McGee's 72 restaurant. We look forward to next year's Re:Con!



Lee Thomas (far left), Dr. Gloria Lee (middle), and our students at Re:Con.

WELCOMING OUR NEW MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS

We welcome the new master's and doctoral students into our program! This year, we admitted seven master's and two doctoral students from diverse educational backgrounds (e.g. Rehabilitation Counseling, Psychology, Human Resource Management, Public Health Education, Criminal Justice, Bioscience, and Chemistry). Three of our master's students had prior experiences working with individuals with disabilities in elementary and postsecondary education settings. One student had served the United States Navy and another currently working for the Michigan National Guard. Considering our two doctoral students, Trisha Easley is a recent graduate of our MA in Rehabilitation Counseling program and has consistently been involved in teaching and research within our program. The other new doctoral student, Eveliz Rosado-Martinez obtained her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in Puerto Rico and was working as a Rehabilitation Counselor in Washington D.C. prior to joining our doctoral Program. Warm welcome to all our new students and we look forward to working with all of you!



Trisha Easley (left) and Eveliz Rosado-Martinez (right).

RSA GRANT AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The MSU Rehabilitation Counseling program has once again awarded a \$1 million Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Long-Term Training Grant through the U.S. Department of Education. Our program has continuously received this award since 1956. The grant will provide scholarship assistance to many students who desire to pursue a career in Rehabilitation Counseling and are committed in working with individuals with disabilities. Our current RSA scholars are Jess Richards and Evin Papuga, both second year students in our master's program. Congratulations to Jess and Evin and good luck on your CRC exam in March and upcoming graduation next year!

Scully-Hill Diversity Award and Elaine Tripi Endowed Scholarship

One of our master's students, Yuqi Lou, was selected as the recipient of the 2019-20 Scully-Hill Diversity Award to recognize her contribution and commitment in promoting diversity and inclusion in the field of Rehabilitation Counseling. This award was named after the generous donors Dr. Susan Scully-Hill and Dr. Calvin Hill. Another master's student, Evin Papuga, was selected as the recipient of the 2019-20 Elaine Tripi Endowed Scholarship. Dr. Tripi gave this great donation out of honor for her grandchildren, Nicholas and Olivia. Like Dr. Tripi, Evin is a first-generation college student and is very thankful for this generous support which will be used for school expenses. Congratulations Yuqi and Evin. Also, thank you Dr. Tripi, Dr. Scully-Hill, and Dr. Hill for your ongoing support of our Rehabilitation Counseling students!

Ongoing Research Projects

CREATING AN AUTISM SCREENING TOOL FOR PERSONS IN UGANDA

Jorem Emmillian Awadu, MA, CRC graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Program in 2016. Shortly thereafter,



he got accepted into the Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program at MSU and is currently a doctoral candidate. Jorem's research interests revolve around assessment, psychoeducation, identification of unmet needs of parents of children with ASD, and the use of technology in rehabilitation. His dissertation title is: Validation of Autism Screening Assessments: Comparison of the Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ), Social Responsiveness Scale, 2nd Edition (SRS-2) and 23- Q with DSM-5 in assessing for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Uganda. This will provide an initial step in understanding the utility of the SCQ and SRS-2 in the screening of children who are at risk for ASD in Uganda. This study has a significant application to the identification of valid, reliable, and efficient autism screening tools to aid in the early identification and rehabilitation of those at risk for ASD in low- resourced countries. He is also involved in the development and initial validation of a family psychoeducation intervention module for families of transition-age youth with Autism in Michigan.

WORKING WITH PEER MENTORS OF PERSONS WITH ASD

Danielle (Dani) Tabitha Odarkai Ayeh, MA, CRC also graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counseling Master's Program in 2018. She is currently in her



second year of doctoral study in the Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program. This semester, Dani has worked with Dr. Connie Sung and Dr. Marisa Fisher (a faculty of Special Education) under the supervision of Dr. Lindsay Athamanah (former Hegarty Fellow) to conduct interviews and focus groups with 16 Spartan Project SEARCH Peer Mentors. The focus of the interviews was to gain an understanding of the peer mentors' experiences interacting with transition-age individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who participated in Project SEARCH, a year-long school-to-work transition program. The interviews and focus groups are currently in the process of being coded and analyzed. The research project was centered around the Self-Determination Theory to examine the peer mentors' perception of the program and its impact, the support they received during the program, and gain insights on how the design and development of the program impact the peer mentors' intrinsic motivation and their attitudes toward individuals with disabilities.

MSU-DOCTRID Hegarty Fellows

STUDENT SKILLS APPLICATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Jiyeon Park, PhD is from South Korea and has studied Special Education for more than ten years as an undergraduate and graduate student. She earned her doctoral degree in Special Education here at MSU early this year. During her doctoral studies, she utilized video modeling to teach adaptive skills and virtual manipulatives to teach mathematics to students with disabilities. She also investigated strategies to help students with developmental disabilities retain mathematics skills. Her research interests include effective instructional strategies for students with disabilities. She seeks to explore how students can retain skills learned in the classroom and then use them in their day-to-day lives. As a Hegarty Fellow, she plans to expand her current line of research by analyzing effective practices in skill maintenance of students with developmental disabilities (including those with Autism Spectrum Disorder). She would like to further explore the skills and attributes that help people with developmental disabilities to maintain employment. Dr. Park has cheered on several MSU sports teams and hopes to attend an MSU basketball game before going to Ireland next year!



EXCITED TO WORK IN GLOBAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Christiana Asantewaa Okyere, PhD is from Ghana. She studied in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen's University in Canada prior to starting Hegarty Fellowship. She has a BA in English and Linguistics and an MA from the University of Ghana and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Center. She employs the draw and write technique to involve and elicit detailed stories of children with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD) in her research. While at Queen's University, she conducted a three-part study on the implementation of inclusive education from the experiences of children with IDD and their teachers in Ghana. She also has worked as an Educational Development Associate with Queen's University Centre for Teaching and Learning supporting graduate and post-doctoral students in their training as skilled post-secondary teachers. She looks forward to future collaborations with faculty and community partners while in Michigan and, later, be involved in global development projects that advance the overall quality of life of persons with IDD across the lifespan. Dr. Okyere loves music, travelling, volunteer work, and community involvement.



POSITIVE SEXUAL IDENTITY FOR PERSONS WITH ASD AND IDD HERE AND ABROAD

Rebecca Kammes, PhD is from Chicago and is also an MSU PhD graduate this past May. She has been attending MSU for 5 years now and a lot of her work has focused on parents of adults with disabilities and understanding their role and perspective in healthy relationships and sex education. Her research has focused on identifying the risks and challenges in developing positive sexual identity for older adolescents and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Part of her work in the past has included understanding healthy relationship experiences as well as provided sexual education for adults with disabilities. As a Hegarty Fellow, she hopes to expand her work in understanding healthy relationships for couples with disabilities using community-based and cross-cultural research and practice locally here in Michigan and then international in Ireland. On a different note, she loves Halloween and is a huge fan of spooky ghost stories. If you have a ghost story to share, she'd love to hear it!



Upcoming Events

NCRE - April 2020 in San Diego, CA

The upcoming National Council on Rehabilitation Education Spring Conference will be held in April, 2020 at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina in San Diego, CA. This year's conference theme is "The Best Way to Predict the Future is to Create It!". We are looking forward to attending and presenting at the conference. We hope to see you there!



Group picture (left) and the Sheraton Hotel (right) at NCRE this year.

Master's and Doctoral Program Graduation Recognition

We will be holding our Master's and Doctoral Program Graduation Recognition in May 2020. We have a group of amazing students who will be graduating at the end of the school year and all have worked so hard to reach this milestone. Please join us in celebrating our future graduates!

Doctoral and Master's Program Recruitment

We are actively recruiting future students to join our master's and doctoral programs. The application deadlines are as follows:

- PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education: 12/1/2019
- MA in Rehabilitation Counseling: 2/1/2020

Please visit the link below for more information.
<http://education.msu.edu/cepse/rehab>

Alumni Spotlights

Dr. Steve Zanskas, PhD, CRC, LPC graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counselor Education Program in 2007. He has been working at The University of Memphis since his graduation in 2007 and is currently



serving as the Associate Dean of the College of Education, College Director of Graduate Studies, and the Coordinator of the PhD Program in Counselor Education and Supervision. He also serves as the President of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA). On top of this very busy schedule, he is actively working two research projects. The first is titled Calling and Meaning in Rehabilitation Counseling (working title) which focuses on whether Certified Rehabilitation Counselors' sense of calling to be a rehabilitation counselor predicts the meaning they derive from their work. Another is titled Peer support and the United States Border Patrol (working title) which is a mixed-methods study regarding the preparation of facilitators of self-help groups for the United States Border Patrol agents. His research interests revolve around professional issues, ethics, traumatic injury, and disability.

Hung Jen Kuo, PhD, LPC, CRC graduated from MSU's Rehabilitation Counselor Education Doctoral Program in 2013.



He currently works as an Assistant Professor for California State University, Los Angeles and has been in this position for two years now. Dr. Kuo's areas of interest center around ASD, Assistive Technology, Social Skills Training for transition-age individuals with ASD, and Rehabilitation Counselor Education. He is actively working on several research projects. Some of these include a family-based psychoeducation for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), an online social skill and employment readiness training for transition-age individuals with ASD, and a social skills training for individuals with ASD using virtual environment called TeachLive. He believes that if we can provide a variety of training to individuals with ASD, we can accommodate the different, unique learning styles of persons with ASD. He is committed to enhance the social skills and employment readiness of individuals with ASD.

Go Green! Go White!