

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.



WELCOMES

RECENT EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

RESEARCH &
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHTS

UPCOMING EVENTS
& ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Drs. Jaeyoung Kim, Trisha L. Easley, Yazmin Castruita Rios

Please join us in welcoming our new faculty members, Drs. Jaeyoung Kim, Trisha L. Easley, and Yazmin Castruita Rios, who joined us in the fall of 2023. Their arrival marks an exciting addition to our academic family, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise. We eagerly anticipate the positive impact they will have on our community and the collaborative journey ahead. Here's to a successful and inspiring academic year with our new colleagues!



WELCOMING NEW FACULTY



Jaeyoung Kim, usually go by Jay. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2023. His research interest is focused on understanding the psychosocial impact of traumatic events on diverse psychosocial outcomes and incorporating trauma-informed approach into service provision and counselor training. He has a few years of clinical experience in mental health counseling with college students and in community psychiatric rehabilitation. Besides work, he is starting to explore the East Lansing and Lansing areas, especially trying new donuts and pastries.



Trisha, originally hailing from the Upper Peninsula, obtained PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education at MSU. Presently, she serves as an assistant professor and clinical coordinator. Her research interests include the psychosocial adjustment of families, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities across the lifespan, counselor education and supervision. As a licensed professional counselor and certified rehabilitation counselor, she brings a multifaceted perspective to her role, emphasizing the enrichment of her students' learning.



Dr. Yazmin Castruita Rios received her PhD in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from University of Wisconsin-Madison, with an emphasis in leadership and research on transition for youth and young adults with disabilities. Her research is focused on the transition from school to work of youth and young adults with disabilities. Specifically, her research centers on the examination of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services and employment outcomes of this group, and in the experiences of Hispanic youth and young adults with disabilities.

WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS

Welcome our new student, embarking on an exciting academic journey with us. Your presence enriches our community, and we look forward to supporting your growth and achievements throughout your studies.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Anna Podlesna



Kayla Patino



Al-Nisa Strater



Isebel Guerra



Katie Woerdehoff



Lauren Gudeman



Minju Lee



Mudita Jagota



Michael Bress



Narea Yu



Rachael Watson



Roberto Briseno

MASTER STUDENTS

SPARTAN REHAB NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

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Yazmin Castruita Rios

If you are interested in contributing to Spartan Rehab News, please contact Dr. Hung Jen Kuo at kuohungj@msu.edu.

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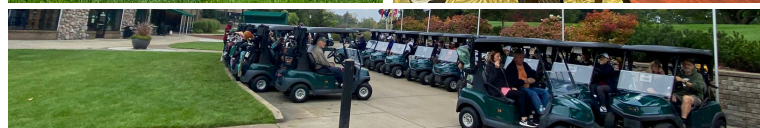
Rehabilitation Counseling,
Michigan State University



Recent Events

49TH ANNUAL PECKHAM-SMITH GOLF TOURNAMENT

We're thrilled to share the success of the 49th annual Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament, hosted on September 29th, 2023, at Forest Akers West. We had over 40 golfers and many community partners attended. Heartfelt thanks to our community partners and student volunteers for their contributions. Special appreciation to our sponsors for their crucial support. Looking forward, we anticipate an equally fantastic turnout for the 50th edition next year – mark your calendars!



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

Huge Thanks to Our Sponsors!

CBI Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
Hostetler-Fontaine & Associates
Michigan Rehabilitation Association
MSU Rehabilitation Counseling
Peckham Inc.
Michigan Rehabilitation Counselors & Educators
Association
IARP Michigan Chapter
Comprehensive Risk Services

2023 FALL RE:CON CONFERENCE

The 2023 Re: Con State Conference was held from November 8th to November 10th at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. We had 2 presentations by the MA students, Narae Yu and Michael Laird, and doctoral student Asmau Ayub, and our faculty, Dr Hung Jen Kuo. We also had our currently doctoral student Mudita Jagota invited as luncheon keynote speaker. The MSU Rehabilitation Counseling (RC) Program was well represented by our students and alumni. We also had a social hour gathering with many MSU students, faculty, alumni, and community partners. It was a great opportunity to build a connection with practitioners, employers, and community partners.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MUDITA JAGOTA

I was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Re: Con, which was centered around the powerful impact of storytelling in community building. Engaging the audience in my four-year journey of storytelling on social media as a disabled woman, I emphasized the power of vulnerability in making oneself heard, fighting for comfort, and building communities with fellow disabled individuals. I argued that the age-old art of sharing stories has incredible potential to shape a more vibrant and empathetic world by allowing people to witness the everyday lives of those with disabilities.



STUDENT PRESENTATION ASMAU AYUB

I presented at Re: Con as a lead presenter with Narae, a master's student. The title of our presentation is "The Art of Supervision: Reflecting on Supervisee Qualities in Clinical Supervision". As a mental health professional, my current interest in specializing in rehabilitation and disability is to work with persons with special needs and helping them navigate their mental health. My current research work is exploring the personal and external barriers that autistic students experience in their day-to-day life and overall wellbeing.



2023 FRIENDSGIVING POTLUCK EVENT

The Friendsgiving Potluck event, initiated and organized by RC graduate students, aimed to foster the spirit of Thanksgiving. The turnout from both graduate students and faculty was fantastic. The gathering featured a table brimming with love, hope, gratitude, and delectable dishes. We look forward to welcoming everyone again at the next potluck event.



CONGRATULATIONS



PHD GRADUATES OF CLASS 2024



Kristin Houck



Heerak Choi



Adriza Caesar

MA GRADUATES OF CLASS 2024



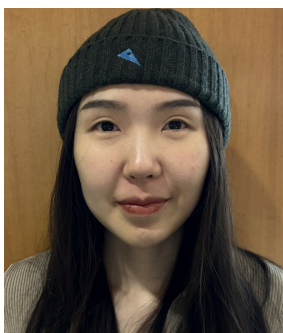
Madison Kuhn



Michael Laird



Sydney Kroll



Yu-Tien Hsieh

WELCOME OLLIE CYMAN

Ollie (they/them) is the Academic Program Coordinator for both the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies and the Measurement and Quantitative Methods Program in the College of Education. They graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Central Michigan University in Fall 2021. With a primary interest in equitable and accessible education, their academic research focused on factors of academic program outcomes in higher education and college student success. Ollie started at MSU as an Administrative Business Analyst in early 2022 and has been with ORDS since August 2023.



Newly Accredited CACREP PhD Program in Counselor Education & Supervision

Our doctoral in Rehabilitation Counselor Education has a new designation. The long-standing 74-credit program is now a 66-credit PhD program in Counselor Education & Supervision, which is officially launched in Fall 2024. Students interested in having a specialization in Rehabilitation and Disability can take an additional 9 credits of coursework. This 9-credit specialization track is being processed and approved by the university so that we can continue our tradition in educating, advocating, and conducting research in disability to promote inclusivity, equity, and quality of life. This new designation not only allows us to recruit talented students from other counseling fields, but also gives us an opportunity to educate others about rehabilitation and disability. The 66-credit doctoral program can be completed in as little as three years full-time while the specialization is optional. The program recently received the approval for the CACREP accreditation.

Research & Project Highlight

FITI RESEARCH PROGRAM

After multiple cycles of our LIFE research lab's Family and Individual Transition Intervention (FITI; Drs. Gloria Lee, Sarah Curtiss, Jina Chun, Hung Jen Kuo) implemented on caregivers of autistic transition-age youth (TAY), feedback from caregivers and practitioners led to an improved version. We added new content to the family psychoeducation group. Dr. Chun develops parallel psychoeducation modules for a youth group. Dr. Lee develops dyadic consultation and coaching sessions, allowing each caregiver-youth pair to collaborate on their transition goals outside the group sessions. This version, FITI+, aims to empower TAY by increasing their transition knowledge, strengthening the caregiver-youth partnership, and improving both caregivers and TAY outcomes.



SIERA PROGRAM

A joined research (Dr. Gloria Lee) and community (Barbara Van Horssen, the Momentum Center at Grand Haven) grant funded by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation for a stress management program for individuals with mental illness at the Center. Based on Dr. Heekyung Lee's emotion regulation intervention for autistic adults, we first ran focus groups with practitioners and individuals in recovery to solicit feedback for modifications of program materials. Drs. G. Lee, H. Lee and Lee Za Ong provided training for the Center staff to deliver the program. We are currently testing the program's feasibility and efficacy. We would like to thank Anne and Sarah in their dedication for running the group, and Asmau for helping with the project.

VIRTUAL REALITY RESEARCH

Recognizing the significance of fostering inclusive workplaces for diverse staff, employers are actively seeking innovative solutions to address the distinct hurdles faced by individuals with disabilities. Among these innovations is the incorporation of virtual reality (VR) meditation practices. VR meditation emerges as a promising avenue for promoting the well-being of individuals with disabilities within work settings, offering an immersive approach to stress management, concentration enhancement, and relaxation facilitation. Dr. Hung Jen Kuo and Michael Laird (MA student) led a pilot investigation involved 23 participants with various disabilities who participated in daily 5-minute sessions of VR-guided meditation. Findings demonstrated the feasibility and efficacy of the intervention. Participants reported favorable outcomes, such as heightened job satisfaction, increased work engagement, enhanced quality of life, and greater mindfulness. Notably, statistically significant enhancements were observed in facets of work engagement, particularly in terms of vigor and dedication. Furthermore, participants provided insights for refining future implementations of VR meditation. For more information, please visit <https://rehabpower.org>.



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE : STRIDE'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

Co-directed by Drs. Connie Sung and Marisa Fisher, MSU's Center for Services, Training, and Research for Independence and Desired Employment (STRIDE; <https://stride.msu.edu>) celebrated a transformative year dedicated to inclusivity in October 2023. At the forefront of bridging research and real-world impact, STRIDE expanded its team, welcoming four full-time members and 15 dedicated students, including two doctoral scholars from Project FUTURE (Focus on the Underserved in Transition Using Rehabilitation and Education), specializing in Rehabilitation Counselor Education and Special Education.



Our collaboration has been far-reaching and impactful, such as the "Ability, Opportunity, and the Future of Work Conference" and "Ethics of Accommodations." Moreover, our network has grown exponentially. We've forged strong partnerships with 14 local and state entities, ranging from vocational rehabilitation agencies to school districts and beyond, alongside 13 MSU departments and units. These collaborations are a testament to our collective commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

Here's to a year of groundbreaking achievements at STRIDE, and to many more as we continue to champion the cause of independence and desired employment for individuals with disabilities. Together, we are setting new standards for excellence, inclusion, and empowerment.

CURRENT DOCTORAL STUDENTS RESEARCH PROJECTS

Our doctoral candidate, Heerak Choi is currently working on her dissertation, "The Impact of Self-Stigma and Self-Determination on Career Outcomes of Transition-Age Individuals with Disabilities: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach". It aims to understand the psychosocial mechanisms of transition-age individuals with disabilities and suggest a theory-driven and empirically validated model. Based on the study results, she aims to develop a self-determination-based intervention for the population, experiment with it in the community, and validate its effectiveness.

Our doctoral candidate, Anni Wang, focuses on positive psychology interventions and their potential benefits for transition-aged individuals. Currently immersed in her dissertation project, Anni is investigating the effectiveness of a modified intervention on the well-being of college students. Her ultimate goal is to provide valuable insights to college service providers, offering potential solutions to enhance the well-being of students with and without disabilities. Anni's research underscores her commitment to contributing practical strategies to a diverse student population.

Our doctoral candidate, Michael Yeomans research focuses on promoting the well-being and recreation of individuals with disabilities with counseling and technology. He is passionate about how video game can be leveraged to develop interventions that benefit students with disabilities. Michael has conducted research on the risks and benefits of video games. His recent work has centered on positive cooperative contact via video games and their impact on both implicit and explicit biases. He hopes to continue to explore this unique intersection of rehabilitation counseling and technology with his dissertation and ongoing research.

DR. CONNIE SUNG NAMED APA FELLOW



Dr. Connie Sung was named a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. The designation recognizes Dr. Sung for her contributions to the field of psychology. She is one of five scholars to be named a Fellow of APA's Division 22: Rehabilitation Psychology in 2023. Congratulations to Dr. Sung on this remarkable achievement and her ongoing commitment to excellence in the field.

STUDENT KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Anna took the spotlight as a keynote speaker at the European Commission's Diversity Charter meeting in Slovakia on 11/21. This significant event brought together around 50 employers to delve into the collaborative efforts required for the employment of people with disabilities and other under-represented groups in the competitive labor market of Slovakia and Central Europe.



100% PASS ON PRELIMINARY AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

All students passed on the preliminary exam and comprehensive exam in 2023 and smoothly transitioned to the next step of the program.

Alumni Spotlights

KAILY KRAFT

I'm very grateful for my time at MSU and the way that the Rehabilitation Counseling program helped shape my career path. Some of my most memorable highlights include forming lasting friendships with members of my cohort, my internship at a local non-profit where I was able to apply everything I had learned, and the consistent support I received from the program team throughout the entire duration of the program, especially as I navigated some unexpected hardships in my personal life. I'm especially grateful for ongoing connections with the program team in my role as a Career Pathway Coordinator for the STEMM-Up Program. Being part of a program dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities from underserved communities allows me to leverage the skills and experiences gained at MSU. Staying connected to MSU while pursuing my passion for helping individuals achieve their vocational goals has been a fulfilling journey.



Upcoming Events

50TH ANNUAL PECKHAM-SMITH GOLF TOURNAMENT

Get ready to swing into action at the upcoming 50th Annual Peckham-Smith Golf Tournament! Join us for a day of golfing excitement, camaraderie, and celebration as we mark this significant milestone. Over five decades, this event has become a cherished tradition, bringing together golf enthusiasts, students, faculty, and community partners. Here's to 50 years of golfing excellence, and we can't wait to make more memories on the green with you!