



7-2016

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College of Health and Human Services, "Connections, 07/2016" (2016). *College of Health and Human Services Newsletter*. Paper 15. http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hhs_news/15

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COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



July 2016

[WMU's new physical therapy department names founding chair, director](#)

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[Social work faculty presenting research in Spain](#)

A contingent of social work faculty traveled to Salamanca, Spain, to present their research at the European Council for Social Research - 8th International Conference. The title of their presentation was, "Charity vs. Development: What Should Be the Mission and Strategy of the Social Work Profession."



[Nursing students receive scholarships at KMMBNA awards dinner](#)

Two students from the Bronson School of Nursing at Western Michigan University received scholarships at the 2016 Kalamazoo-Muskegon Michigan Black Nurses Association (KMMBNA) awards banquet. The event is held each May to commemorate "National Nurses Week."



[Dr. Lydia Schuck earns appointment, recognition](#)

Dr. Lydia Schuck (Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, 2015) has been appointed to the American Statistical Association's Committee on Disability and Statistics and also won the Explore VR (vocational rehabilitation) Open Data Competition at the Explore VR DataLab.



[Western Regional Area Health Education Center summer 2016 newsletter](#)

Read the latest news and updates from the Western Regional AHEC.



[Unified Clinics newsletter for July 2016](#)

Topics include the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation research grant awarded to OT professor; Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic accepting new patients; optometrist named president of state association; and trauma training series.



[CHHS in Social Media](#)



Yessica Garcia is the first person in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. The Medallion Scholarship awarded by WMU gave this nursing student the

opportunity to attend college and make her parents proud.

[WMU Bronson School of Nursing](#) via [Twitter](#)

In other news

Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- [Medical school reaches two accreditation milestones](#)
- [Community leader appointed new WMU development and alumni VP](#)
- [WMU ISM program named top 10 in the country for second time in a row](#)

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Physical therapy department names founding chair, director

Western Michigan University is going full steam ahead with plans to open its new Department of Physical Therapy with the hire of a founding chair and program director.

Dr. Stacie J. Fruth will assume the reins of the new department in January. Fruth will be in charge of planning, developing and delivering an innovative physical therapy program, beginning the steps required for successful accreditation, and will work closely with **Dr. Earlie Washington**, dean of the WMU College of Health and Human Services, in planning and ongoing management of facilities for the DPT program.

Fruth is coming to WMU from the University of Indianapolis, where she has been associate professor in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program since 2005. She also has served as chair of the Krannert School of Physical Therapy and director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program since January 2015.

"Stacie is coming to Western Michigan University to build something new from the ground up," Washington says.

"She has great passion for the field and she has the expertise to make this program one of the best in the country. I look forward to working with Dr. Fruth to build the physical therapy department and make the DPT program another top-ranking program at the College of Health and Human Services."



Dr. Stacie Fruth

Fruth earned a Doctor of Health Science in 2006 and Master of Science in physical therapy in 1994, both from the University of Indianapolis. She was awarded a Master of Science in exercise science from the University of Massachusetts in 1991 and a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology from the University of Michigan in 1989.

She is a board certified orthopedic specialist and was named the University of Indianapolis Teacher of the Year in 2009. She served six years on the Faculty Senate at the University of Indianapolis, being elected Senate President two of those years. Fruth wrote and published a textbook titled "Fundamentals of Physical Therapy Examination: Patient Interview and Tests and Measures," which is currently being used by approximately 20 percent of physical therapy education programs nationwide and also in classrooms internationally. In 2009, she traveled with 10 physical therapy students and another professor on a service-learning trip to provide medical and educational services to underserved people in Pommern, Tanzania.

The department and program she will oversee at WMU was approved in 2015 after the completion of a comprehensive feasibility study and planning document. The curriculum has received initial approval and ongoing budget funding has been identified.

As founding chair, she will have a significant impact on facility development and the composition of faculty and staff. It is expected that the DPT program will accept its first cohort of students in summer 2018. An advisory board has been actively engaged in building the program, with representatives from local hospitals and the University, physical therapy professionals, and community stakeholders.

"I am truly honored to become part of the WMU team and to join the extraordinary talent within the College of Health and Human Services," Fruth says. "I am beyond excited for this opportunity to lead the Department of Physical Therapy in building an innovative, contemporary and learner-centered DPT program and I look forward to working collaboratively with other programs within the University."

Social work faculty presents research in Spain

A contingent of social work faculty from Western Michigan University traveled to Salamanca, Spain, to present their research at the 8th International Conference of the [European Council for Social Research on Latin America](#). The conference forum was organized by **Dr. Hector Diaz**, director of the School of Social Work, and **Dr. Antonio López Peláez**, former visiting scholar to WMU. The topic was: "Charity vs. Development: What Should Be the Mission and Strategy of the Social Work Profession?"

- **Dr. Miaora Diaconu** presented papers on refugee migration and international service learning courses.
- **Drs. Linda Reeser** and **Susan Weinger** presented their research on a class activist framework for teaching about poverty.
- **Dr. Dee Sherwood** and graduate assistant, **Joy Langereis** presented research on strategies for developing intercultural competencies (co-authored by **Marian Tripplett** and **Sarah Hoyle-Katz**).



Dr. Dee Sherwood, Joy Langereis and Dr. Miaora Diaconu

The group also met with faculty from University of La Rioja and National University of Distance Education (UNED) in Madrid to explore future opportunities to collaborate with WMU.

About CEISAL

The European Council for Social Research in Latin America (CEISAL) was founded in Rheda Castle, Westphalia on April 16, 1971, as an initiative to improve relations between Western and Eastern Europe. The intention was to create an area for academic freedom and critical exchange between the two regions aiming to develop the European Americanism. For more information, visit red-redial.net.

Nursing students receive scholarships at KMMBNA awards dinner

Two students from the Bronson School of Nursing at Western Michigan University received scholarships at the 2016 Kalamazoo-Muskegon Michigan Black Nurses Association (KMMBNA) awards banquet. The event is held each May to commemorate "National Nurses Week." The location is the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Yonica Dupree received the Khan Nedd, MD Scholarship and **Sruda Xedagbui** received the Presidential Scholarship. Each year, three to five \$1,000 scholarships are awarded at the event.



Yonica Dupree and Sruda Xedagbui

The [Kent County KMMBNA](#) awards nursing tuition scholarships as part of the chapter mission to serve the "unserved and the underserved." There is a general shortage of nurses across the United States, and a shortage of nurses from underrepresented populations in numerous areas, including the Grand Rapids area. KMMBNA programs encourage students from underrepresented populations to pursue nursing careers.

To date, the KMMBNA has awarded more than \$55,000 in nursing tuition scholarships. Out of those recipients, more than 50 have graduated nursing school and are working RNs or LPNs.

Dr. Lydia Schuck earns appointment, recognition

Dr. Lydia Schuck (Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, 2015) has been appointed to the **American Statistical Association's** Committee on Disability and Statistics. Dr. Schuck's two-year term will begin in January 2017 and run through December 2019.

The committee is responsible for advancing the study of disability within the field of statistics, promoting the study of



Dr. Lydia Schuck

statistics among people with disabilities, and suggesting improvements for the accessibility of ASA-related meetings, activities, and materials.

Dr. Schuck also recently won the **Explore VR Open Data Competition** at the **Explore VR DataLab**. The DataLab is a source vocational rehabilitation system data. Dr. Schuck's analysis compared the proportion of transition age to older consumers whose vocational rehabilitation (VR) cases were closed at general and blindness agencies in 2013.

Her analysis and data visualization is available online at explorevr.org. Anyone can use the data to create an analysis for the ongoing competition.

We congratulate Dr. Schuck on these accomplishments.