



9-2017

Connections, 09/2017

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health
and Human Services



September 2017

[2017 Outstanding Alumni Academy Inductees](#)

Congratulations to the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy Class of 2017. The college will hold events in honor of these outstanding individuals on Friday, Oct. 13, including a panel discussion - Leading Change in Health and Human Services: Increasing Equity and Access - at 2 p.m., followed by the CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy induction ceremony at 4 p.m.



- **William J Blacquiere** - School of Social Work
- **Angelique Day** - Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

- **Sam Lealofi** - Department of Occupational Therapy
- **Lori Ryland** - Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- **Becky Sutherland Cornett** - Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.

[PA students reckon with Hurricane Irma](#)

Four WMU physician assistant students assigned to rotations in Punta Gorda this fall were not expecting to be confronted by a hurricane. However, in early September, as WMU was beginning classes, they found themselves preparing to evacuate to safer areas.



[Faculty and staff changes at CHHS](#)

Every fall, CHHS welcomes a number of new faculty and staff members to its ranks. We would also like to recognize staff and faculty who have accepted new positions in recent months.



[Researchers team up for concussion app development](#)

Dr. Karen Schieman, assistant professor in the Bronson School of Nursing, and **Dr. Alan Rea**, professor of business information systems, have teamed up to develop a mobile application to help patients manage concussion symptoms post-injury and track their progress during their recovery period.



[Registration open for 14th annual Barbara Rider Colloquium](#)

The 14th annual **Barbara A. Rider Colloquium** is scheduled for Friday, November 10. The theme this year is Health Promotion & Prevention through the Lifespan and we'll feature speakers Drs. Sherrilene Classen and Jamie Pomeranz. Register at wmich.edu/ridercolloquium.



HHS on Social Media



Visit the [CHHS Office of Student Engagement and Success](#) at their brand new page on [Facebook!](#)

In other news

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

- [Montgomery promises a future focused on students, community impact and excellence](#)
- [Carlson, Klohs awarded WMU's top alumni honor](#)
- [WMU honored for diversity, inclusion efforts for fifth year in a row](#)

CHHS on Facebook and Instagram

The College of Health and Human Services is on [Facebook](#) AND [Instagram](#)! Please take a moment to "like" and "follow" us to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college.



2017 Outstanding Alumni

Congratulations to the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy, class of 2017.

- [William J Blacquiere](#) - School of Social Work
- [Angelique Day](#) - Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
- [Sam Lealofi](#) - Department of Occupational Therapy
- [Lori Ryland](#) - Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- [Becky Sutherland Cornett](#) - Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

School of Social Work

William J. Blacquiere, M.S.W. (1984)

William J. Blacquiere is the president and chief executive officer at Bethany Christian Services. He has worked at Bethany in a variety of positions since 1986, including chief operating officer from 2000-05. Prior to his work at Bethany, he supervised children's protective services, managed contracts with various agencies and developed innovative family based programs.

At present, Bill leads more than 100 offices in the United States in addition to Bethany's international social services in 18 countries. He is on the boards for the National Council for Adoption and the Christian Alliance for the Orphan. Bill graduated from Calvin College with a degree in psychology and received his master's degree in social work from Western Michigan University in 1984. Bill has been married to his wife, Mary, for 43 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.

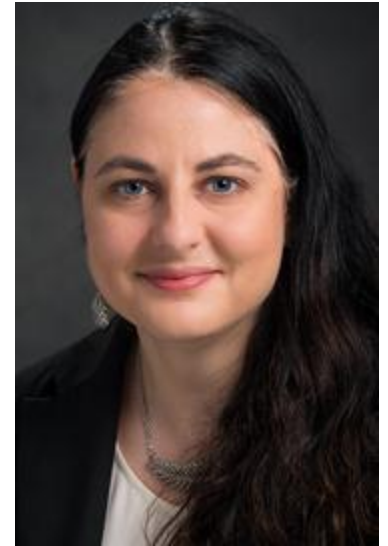


Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

Angelique Day, Ph.D. (2011)

Angelique Day received her Ph.D. in interdisciplinary health sciences in 2011 from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. She earned an MSW from Michigan State University in 2005 and a BS summa cum laude in sociology/psychology from Central Michigan University. Much of her research focuses on foster care youth, including examining the differences in college retention rates between foster care youth and other low-income first-generation college students. She also examines the “youth voice” and its impact on child welfare, education and health policy reform.

From 2011–2016, she was an assistant professor of social work at Wayne State University, where she taught both undergraduate and graduate classes. She’s been an evaluator, principal investigator or project coordinator on major studies funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and McGregor Fund, among others. Day has received many awards and honors, including a year-long congressional fellowship awarded during the 2016–2017 academic year by the Society for Research on Child Development and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was assigned to the office of Congressman Danny K. Davis where she helped develop the congressman’s child welfare and higher education legislative portfolios.



Department of Occupational Therapy

Sandra (Sam) Lealofi, B.S. (1999) cum laude

Ms. Sam Lealofi served 12 years in the US Air Force where she received accommodations as Airman and NCO of the Year four times. Upon returning to Kalamazoo she received her Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy from Western Michigan University in 1999. She has worked as a community organizer and manager in Kalamazoo’s core neighborhoods, and has held leadership roles in several sectors including workforce development, philanthropy and nonprofit housing. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Eastside Youth Strong, where her passion for Kalamazoo, supporting underserved youth and advocating for those in need truly shines through.

Sam has served on the board of directors at Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes and Habitat for Humanity, and she has volunteered with Girls on the Run. She is a Late Show reader at the Juvenile Home. She was recognized in 2016 as one of five community leaders and the recipient of the YWCA Women of Achievement for Kalamazoo County. One colleague was quoted



saying, “while Sam’s asset as a leader in her community is more than evident, it is truly her persona and non-judgmental nature that enables her to cross-collaborate with others on a level of effectiveness few seem to achieve.” Sam’s passionate efforts in Kalamazoo’s Eastside neighborhood demonstrate her dedication and illustrate her phenomenal leader in our community.

Specialty Program in Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Lori Ryland, Graduate Certificate (2000)

Lori Ryland is chief executive officer of Skywood Recovery/Foundations Recovery Network, which is an integrated residential treatment facility that specializes in addiction and mental health. She completed the SPADA certificate program when she received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from WMU in 2000. She is a board-certified behavior analyst and a certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor. Lori has achieved certification from the Academy of Cognitive Therapy/Beck Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is trained in evidence-based practices such as dialectical behavior therapy, cognitive behavior therapy, motivational interviewing, contingency management and applied behavior analysis.



Dr. Ryland has broad clinical experience and expertise in healthcare administration. She has been involved in numerous community and state-level initiatives including Governor-appointed advisory positions such as Diversion Council and Behavioral Health Advisory Council, development of the Michigan Medicaid Autism benefit and implementation of numerous evidence-based practices throughout the state of Michigan.

Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

Becky Sutherland Cornett, M.A. (1980), B.S. (1975) summa cum laude

Becky Sutherland Cornett retired in September 2017 from The Ohio State University, where she was most recently director of strategy and planning at the Wexner Medical Center. During her 29 years at OSU, she also held the titles of director of fiscal integrity, associate compliance director and director of inpatient rehabilitation programs & services.

Dr. Cornett has contributed over 130 articles, book chapters, and presentations on health care value and quality, regulatory compliance, Medicare policy, professional affairs, and women’s leadership roles. She co-authored *The Clinical Practice of Speech-Language Pathology* textbook, and edited *Clinical Practice Management for Speech-Language*



Pathologists. She was awarded Honors of the Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1995, and elected to the ASHA Roster of Fellows in 1996. She has been an active member of numerous committees at ASHA, including chair of Summit on the Changing Health Care Landscape, Government Relations and Public Policy Board, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Managed Care.

Additionally, Becky served on non-profit boards of directors for Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (LSSCO), Women for Economic and Leadership Development (WELD), and she is currently a member of the board of directors of 1girl, an organization focused on developing leadership skills in middle school girls from underserved communities.

PA students reckon with Hurricane Irma

Four WMU physician assistant students assigned to rotations in Punta Gorda this fall were not expecting to be confronted by a hurricane. However, in early September, as WMU was beginning classes, they found themselves preparing to evacuate to safer areas.

Goran Crnomarkovic evacuated from where he was staying to Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte, Florida. Goran is assigned to an emergency medicine rotation. He was part of the response team as they remained open during the hurricane.

Two other students, **Liz Fitzgerald** and **Chris Discenna**, evacuated to Orlando, where the storm also did damage. After the storm passed, Liz and Chris helped in the neighborhood to cut tree limbs and clean up debris.

Dan Elkins, also a PA student in Punta Gorda, has a house in the area. He evacuated back to Michigan for the storm. Thankfully, he returned to Punta Gorda to find that his home sustained very little damage, only losing one tree in his yard.

All of the students maintained contact with school officials throughout the week to affirm their safety and location. "The students were calm, professional and responsible throughout the entire week," said **Donna Stoker**, clinical coordinator staff for the department. "We are very proud of their ability to go with the flow and manage a difficult situation with grace."



Fitzgerald and Discenna among debris left after Hurricane Irma



Left: Students hunkered down with friends during Hurricane Irma.

Faculty and staff changes at CHHS

Every fall, the College of Health and Human Services welcomes a number of new faculty and staff members to its ranks. We would also like to recognize staff and faculty who are new to CHHS and those who have accepted new position.

Blindness and Low Vision Studies

Physician Assistant

Denise Bowen, interim chair

Janay Christian, administrative assistant I *
Jeannyne Depoian, administrative assistant II

College of Health and Human Services

Nina Comparoni, administrative support *
Alicia Dorr, executive assistant to the dean
Jachob Johnson, copy center manager *

Interdisciplinary Health Programs

Katie Fitzgerald, faculty specialist I
Rosario (Eriz) Hughey, administrative assistant I
Kimberly Jones, administrative assistant II **
Mark Kelley, director *
Kimbra Dawn Quinn, senior marketing specialist **
Jason Rivas, associate director eHealth **

Occupational Therapy

Carla Chase, interim chair
Steven Eberth, assistant professor
Allison Fox, faculty specialist I

* New to CHHS

** Transferred with community health program

We welcome our new staff and faculty members and congratulate existing staff and faculty on their new positions.

Researchers team up for concussion app development

Concussions have made headlines a lot lately—primarily in relation to collegiate and professional sports and athletes returning to the field before making a full recovery.

Yet, many individuals suffer concussions each year, and concerns about managing symptoms appropriately and returning to normal activity are present in the wider population as well. Concussions occur as a result of car accidents, recreational activity, slip-and-falls and in many other contexts.

Physical Therapy

Cozette Anderson, administrative assistant II
Don Hoover, professor *
Daren Webb, faculty specialist I *

Social Work

Michelle Adams, administrative assistant II
Donna Anson, administrative assistant I
Krista Goebel, clinical trauma interventionist
Jennifer Harrison, assistant professor
Stephanie Lagalo, director of field education *
Amy Perricone, clinical trauma interventionist
Victoria Poleni, coordinator fieldwork *
Bridget Weller, associate professor *
Kimberly Whittaker, CTAC program manager

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences

Suma Devanga, assistant professor *

Dr. Karen Schieman, assistant professor in the Bronson School of Nursing, and Dr. Alan Rea, professor of business information systems, have teamed up to develop a mobile application that will help patients manage their symptoms post-injury and track their progress during their recovery period. Recently awarded a grant of \$9,500 from the Society of Trauma Nurses to fund the next stage of the app's development, the professors are engaging students in the process of building the application.

How did this project begin?

Schieman did research on concussion injuries for her dissertation. “I looked at what people do to manage symptoms on their own after they have a concussion,” says Schieman. “What I found is that patients try random things, without always knowing if those techniques are good or bad for them. For instance, several people said that they used drugs or alcohol to manage their symptoms, and that is not a good idea.”



Schieman

Schieman helped with some revisions to the discharge instructions that people receive in emergency departments. However, patients candidly shared that they typically don't remember what those instructions are after they leave.

From there, she wanted to determine if there was a better way to educate patients about concussion symptom management.

She began thinking of a mobile application as a way to provide ongoing education to patients. Symptom management applications have been successful in longer duration diseases, such as cancer, and with chronic conditions, such as multiple sclerosis. Though concussion symptoms typically abate in less than three months, Schieman knows that those three months are critical in patients' cognitive recovery.

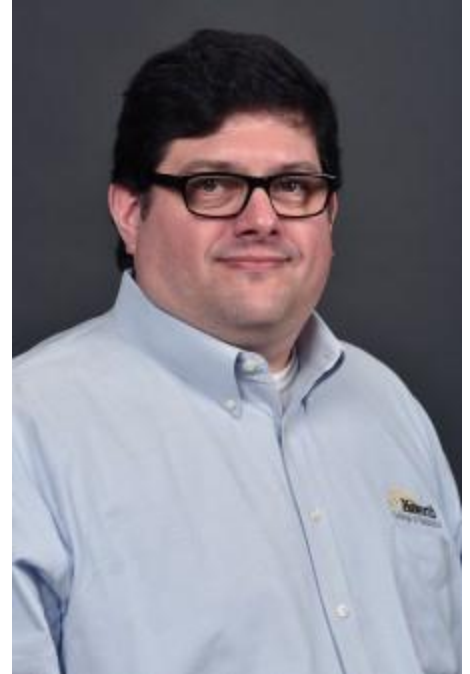
Realizing she would need expertise in IT and programming to create this app, she reached out to Rea and told him about her idea.

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Realizing she would need expertise in IT and programming to create this app, she reached out to Rea and told him about her idea.

The two came up with a game plan to work together, enlisting students in both IT and nursing to work on the project. Multiple student developers have worked on the project, with Rea recruiting students from his mobile development classes.

“Currently, students have developed multiple iterations of the project,” says Rea. “We use an agile approach called extreme programming, where segments of the mobile application are developed and tested in short development cycles and evaluated both from technical and usability standpoints. This requires constant interaction between the developers and health care professionals as we work to make sure each component will address particular needs, but it also allows us to revise the app and adopt additional requirements more readily.”



Rea

Students write multiple iterations of the sample components for the app, refining each before continuing with the next. This way the application can be deployed for testing early and often.

Rea admits that the hardest part of this process for his students is the cultural shift that needs to occur so they can avoid feeling like they are releasing an “unfinished” product, as they work through the development stages.

Senior IT student Austin Lemacks, who has been working on the development of the app, is getting a lot out of the experience. “Extreme programming is a model I’ve heard quite a bit about in class, but being able to experience it first-hand has given me a much better understanding of how it works. In my opinion, it is a great way to develop a project. Extreme programming is highly responsive to the changing demands of the client and is a way to keep the client included in the development. As features are developed, they are reviewed and discussed. The client benefits tremendously from being able to weigh in on the current state of the project.”

Business students are learning what it means to develop code in an agile environment with a multi-disciplinary team. And nursing students are learning to communicate their clinical needs to create new, beneficial tools that could measurably improve patient outcomes.

“Health care providers will be able to recommend the use of this mobile application to their patients,” says Schieman. “The app will allow patients to rate their symptoms daily, which they can share with their health care provider if they wish. It will help the patient to be able to see that their symptoms are getting better slowly over time, and they will also be able to see what strategies have the greatest affect on their symptoms. Patients should improve more quickly employing recommended symptom management strategies rather than guessing at what to do on their own.”

Though the IT students have worked on various prototypes up to this point, this fall they will be deploying a working application that goes beyond previous controlled tests. They will now measure how well the app works in actual clinical settings.

Lemacks looks forward to getting the app ready for release, which will involve presenting user data in an easy-to-use and intuitive way. “I’m pretty excited about working on the graphing system for patient data. Figuring out the best way to present the information for users and researchers without it being overwhelming should be an interesting challenge, and I’m looking forward to it.”

The 14th annual Barbara A. Rider Colloquium has been scheduled for **Friday, November 10, 2017**. This daylong event features lectures and breakout sessions with leading OT educators and practitioners. The title of the 2017 colloquium is **Health Promotion & Prevention through the Lifespan**.

- **Keynote speaker:** [Dr. Sherrilene Classen](#), PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, FGSA



Sherrilene Classen

Schedule

- 8:30-9:00 Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 9:15-10:30 Prevention Oriented Driving Rehabilitation Science: Blending a Public Health and the Health Professions Perspective
Keynote Speaker: Sherrilene Classen, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, FAOTA, FGSA
- 10:30-10:45 Refreshments & Expo Booths
- 10:45-12:00 General session
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch, Expo Booths & Scholarship Presentations
- 1:15-2:30 Break-out sessions
- 2:30-2:45 Refreshments & Expo Booths

2:45-4:00 Break-out sessions

4:00 Closing Remarks and Evaluation

Use the links to the right to learn more [about Barbara Rider](#) or the [content of previous events](#).