10-2018

Connections 10/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy class of 2018

Congratulations to the CHHS Outstanding Alumni Academy Class of 2018. Antonio Giannelli (Physician Assistant) and Dr. Allen Montgomery (Speech Pathology) were inducted into the academy this year and celebrated along with award-winning alumni from across campus at the Night of Excellence event during Homecoming weekend.

Nursing students introduced to VR simulation tech

Nursing students recently received a tutorial on new virtual reality simulation software that is being developed as part of a collaboration between WMU’s new Virtual Reality Lab and the Bronson School of Nursing.

Research group’s annual symposium focused on opioids

As deaths from opioid addiction and abuse make headlines in communities across the country, researchers and policy makers are working to find ways to stem its reach into vulnerable populations. The Michigan Public Health
Practice-Based Research Network’s 2018 symposium was focused on Michigan’s opioid prevention response.

"Exquisite" art on display in CHHS gallery
The Southwest Michigan Printmakers group, which includes a number of University employees, is currently exhibiting its Exquisite Corpse: Head-to-Toe & In-Between project in the second floor art gallery in the College of Health and Human Services.

CDS issues annual report
The 2017-18 Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services Annual Report is now available for view on the CDS website.

HHS on Social Media

OT students Aaron Strong, McKenna Duffy, and Brooke Werner reminded visitors to take a break from screens (and gave them brown and gold bracelets to act as reminders)
during a warm and rainy homecoming day event. Almost 80 guests stopped and got bracelets - even in the rain!

From the Department of Occupational Therapy via Facebook

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

- WMU refocuses marketing efforts, updating on-campus communications
- WMU public safety set to switch to countywide consolidated dispatch
- Study: WMU's regional economic impact exceeds $1 billion
- WMU's Unified Clinics receives $1.5M state appropriation

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.

2018 Outstanding Alumni

Congratulations to the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy, class of 2018.

- Dr. Allen Montgomery - Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences
- Antonio Giannelli - Department of Physician Assistant
Dr. Allen Montgomery grew up with a severe stutter. The summer before entering Miami University to study mathematics, a therapist treated him with Van Riper methods of speech therapy, which virtually eliminated his stutter. That led Allen to WMU, where he studied under Charles Van Riper, and graduated with an M.A. in Speech Pathology in 1961. Since then, he has published extensive research on speech disorders and provided therapy for hundreds of individuals who stutter.

Dr. Allen Montgomery is a research professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of South Carolina. His 57-year career has included teaching at colleges in North Dakota, Iowa, Indiana and as a senior lecturer at the Lincoln Institute in Melbourne, Australia. He was a Research Audiologist at the Army Audiology and Speech Center in Washington, D.C. and a NIH Senior Fellow for the Department of Communicative Disorders and Computer Science. Early in his career, he was an active clinician and now serves as a consultant for the active fluency program at the University of South Carolina.
Antonio Giannelli graduated with a B.S.M. from WMU’s Physician Assistant program in 1977. An expert in the area of arthritis and autoimmune diseases, Antonio is a regular speaker at state and national conferences. In addition, he remains devoted to developing the next generation of PAs. Mr. Giannelli is a clinical instructor and preceptor for Michigan State University’s College of Medicine. He and his wife are even known to open up their home to students who have clinical rotations in the Lansing area.

In addition, Antonio Giannelli is a senior PA at Great Lakes Center for Rheumatology in Lansing. He has been a practicing physician assistant for 40 years and has more than 20 years of rheumatology experience in the area of arthritis and autoimmune diseases. Giannelli is president of the Society of Physician Assistants in Rheumatology and is also a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. He was appointed a Delegate to the 2017 AAPA House of Delegates.

Nursing students introduced to VR simulation tech
Nursing students recently received a tutorial on new virtual reality simulation software that is being developed as part of a collaboration between WMU's new Virtual Reality Development Studio and the Bronson School of Nursing.

Kevin Abbott, interactive media specialist in WMU's Office of Information Technology, launched the virtual reality development studio this fall with a small team of talented students. "We started the development studio to help faculty explore and integrate custom virtual reality content into their classes and research," says Abbott. "After visiting the College of Health and Human Services and seeing the manikins they use in nursing, it seemed that these simulated nursing procedures would be a good fit as our first project in virtual reality.

Abbott, with student developers Leah Barton and Joe Samyn, worked with Susan Houtrouw, faculty specialist II in the Bronson School of Nursing, to create the custom VR simulations. These simulations will be used in tandem with the high-tech manikins already in use. They also add a degree of flexibility in that they can be experienced on any VR-equipped computer, rather than tied to a particular room in the building.
"This is a great addition to our simulation exercises," says Houtrouw. "It doesn't replace our manikins or simulated patients, but it is a wonderful addition to the variety of simulation activities that we use at the Bronson School of Nursing."

Virtual reality can be used to simulate some routine activities, like intravenous blood transfusion, main line dressing replacement and tracheostomy care. But it will also allow for more detailed injuries such as lacerations and wound care.

The VR program for nursing will be integrated into courses beginning spring 2019. "The situations we can simulate in VR will eventually go beyond what we can do with our manikins," says Houtrouw. "The students seem to appreciate the technology and understand that it will help them practice their skills in an exciting new way."
As deaths from opioid addiction and abuse make headlines in communities across the country, researchers and policy makers are working to address the opioid epidemic and find ways to stem its reach into vulnerable populations. The Michigan Public Health Practice-Based Research Network (MI-PBRN) presented its 2018 symposium, focused on the Michigan opioid prevention response, bringing together researchers, nonprofit administrators and policy makers to identify key aspects of Michigan’s opioid epidemic to develop collaborations to address Michigan’s opioid crisis.

The symposium was held at Western Michigan University’s Downtown Grand Rapids location on October 19. It was open to invited guests and covered topics ranging from the opioid epidemiological landscape and Michigan's legislative perspective, to discussions about responding with prevention and developmental programs.

"The opioid crisis is growing in Michigan. In our efforts to address the determinants of health, health inequity and health disparities, we are working to enhance our efforts to prevent opioid
abuse” says Dr. David Wingard, TrueNorth Community Services Director of Research and Strategic Development. “This year, we are focusing this annual research symposium on opioid prevention by bringing in state and national experts to inform and guide our strategic efforts."

The keynote speaker was Dr. Kimberly Johnson, the former director of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Currently on faculty in the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences at the University of South Florida, Johnson began the day’s conversation with details from throughout her career, which has been spent addressing various manifestations of addiction.

Illustrating the breadth of the conversation, Dr. Rob Lyerla, professor in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program at WMU and former SAMHSA Associate Director of Science, discussed national challenges for prevention programs while Lisa Brennan, executive director of the Western Regional Area Health Education Center, touched on the impact workforce development can have on public health programs.

U.S. Congressman Fred Upton, who represents Michigan’s sixth congressional district, hosted the afternoon’s last session, which was focused on the federal legislative impact on Michigan’s opioid response. On Oct. 24, President Trump signed legislation aimed at curbing the opioid crisis nationwide.

Among the many other panelists were Tom Leonard, Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Dr. Eden V. Wells, chief medical executive at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Anthony Muller, director of clinical and business development services at Wedgwood Christian Services and Dr. Ron Cisler, dean of the WMU College of Health and Human Services.

ABOUT MI-PBRN

The Michigan Public Health Practice Based Research Network is based on a unique partnership between Western Michigan University and TrueNorth Community Services, and is an affiliated
member with The National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research at the University of Kentucky. MI-PBRN supports interdisciplinary research increasing the knowledge base for health disparities and other situations contributing to unsustainable cost increases to health and human service systems and is co-directed by Dr. Kieran Fogarty, director of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. Program at Western Michigan University and Dr. David Wingard, director of research and strategic development at TrueNorth Community Services. MI-PBRN members provide services across Michigan.

ABOUT TRUENORTH COMMUNITY SERVICES

TrueNorth Community Services is a private, nonprofit organization that builds communities with one mission: we empower people and strengthen community to inspire hope and build a brighter future. Founded in 1972, TrueNorth envisions a world where all people have the opportunity to create permanent positive change. TrueNorth offers more than 70 programs and services; and has a service focus touching all of Michigan. For more, visit truenorthservices.org.

"Exquisite" art on display in CHHS gallery
The Southwest Michigan Printmakers group, which includes several University employees, is currently exhibiting its Exquisite Corpse: Head-to-Toe & In-Between project in the second floor art gallery in the College of Health and Human

The "Exquisite Corpse" project, aptly named for this Halloween season exhibition, is derived from an early surrealist exercise where images drawn by different artists are assembled to create figures that are strange, comical and often grotesque.

This collection of fine art prints in 'Head-to-Toe & In-Between' is in the surrealist spirit that embraces chance relationships.
In the project, the human body is broken up into four areas - head, torso, legs and feet. Printmakers are then assigned an area and allowed to freely create their section. After they reproduce their prints, the sections are randomly chosen and assembled to create unique human figures.

"This is a project that all the members of SWMP really enjoyed working on," says Debbi Kreps, SWMP member and graphic designer in WMU's Office of Marketing and Strategic Communication. "Each time the project is exhibited, the works are uniquely arranged. It's different every time, which makes it really fun to set up."

A version of the Exquisite Corpse exhibit is also at East End Gallery in Marshall, Michigan until Nov. 6.

**About the SW Michigan Printmakers group**

Founded in the late 1970s, SWMP is a diverse and informal group of regional artist/printmakers dedicated to the creation of handmade and fine art prints. Meeting bi-monthly, the group encourages artists working in printmaking and promotes excellence in various print mediums. Through exhibitions of their works, SWMP helps encourage public knowledge, understanding and support for printmaking.
Our Mission, Our Values

The mission of the Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services is to help people who because of age, illness or disability need assistance to live life fully. Through our community living, care coordination, skill building and aging services, our goal is to support a person’s intellectual and physical functioning and independence by minimizing the negative impact of age or disability on their life, and assisting them to remain living at home and participating in their community. CDS also provides WMU students with an opportunity for innovative learning and discovery in the field of aging and disabilities through internships, volunteering and employment.

Our vision is to provide high quality supports and services and to help all people be active members of their community and achieve the highest quality of life possible.

The programs offered at CDS are designed to empower individuals who are aging or have disabilities to become more independent, participate in their community and get the supports they need to live a joyous and healthy life.

It has been an exciting year for us at CDS! Renovations will take place at our property at 110 Cork Street which will house WMU’s Adult Wellness Programs, including the George Ishler Wellness Lab. The wellness lab will focus on interprofessional practice for collaborative education with students from speech, language, and hearing sciences; music therapy and occupational therapy.

Our values:
- All people are valued members of society.
- All people have the right to make choices affecting their lives.
- People who receive our services are unique individuals who should be cherished, treated with sincere understanding and respect, and provided with lifelong learning opportunities.

In January, CDS received the highest level of accreditation from CARF International, an organization that promotes quality, value and optimal outcomes of services for people with disabilities. CDS is accredited for the maximum period of three years for its community integration, service coordination, supported living and adult day service programs. This accreditation decision reflects the center’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process. It has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable and of the highest quality.

Each spring, staff and participants from AACORN Farm bring several baby goats to WMU Senior Day Services. SDS participants enjoy learning about the two-week old goats.

Staff and consumers deliver Meals On Wheels weekly.
**Western Michigan University Center for Disability Services 2017-18 Annual Report**

- **173,961** Total hours of direct service
- **73%** average goal achievement
- **92%** of participants met goals at CDS throughout the year

**Revenues**

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**Expenses**

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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- **104** student employees
- **261** people served
- **$471,102** paid out for student wages
- **22%** of individuals served at WMU Senior Day Services are Veterans
- **Hosted 93** intern and practicum students from WMU
- **1104** participant goals attempted
- **46%** of consumers sold their artwork this year at community events
- **3** evidence-informed cognitive exercise programs
- **85%** of in-home care clients report that they are able to remain living at home because of the services we provide.

Center for Disability Services | 1000 Oakland Drive | Kalamazoo MI 49008 | wmich.edu/disabilitycenter