

Doctoral Alumni update

Francine Michel (Dec. 1999), graduate of our doctoral program is now working in Dallas, Texas for Reassure America, a major reinsurance company. Francine is their national director of rehabilitation services. She is also teaching part-time, rehabilitation, at North Texas University in Dallas. Congratulations, Francine.

Distance Education Offered at OSU in Rehabilitation Services

To provide a complete educational experience to rehabilitation students across the globe, the OSU rehabilitation program has begun to offer distance education courses on-line. Dr. Growick is moving his Principles and Practices of Rehabilitation Services to the Web, and Dr. Wheaton is offering his Orientation to Disabling Conditions completely on-line, beginning this fall. Dr. Wheaton's course utilizes a software package called WebCT (CT stands for 'course tools'), which provides opportunities for discussion forums, chat rooms, and presentation groups, all designed to increase interactivity and make distance education a collaborative activity (a component missing from many other distance education courses. Dr. Wheaton is uniquely positioned to use WebCT as he is near certification as a national WebCT trainer.

Larry Kontash (June,2000), graduate of our doctoral program has assumed a leadership position at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Roton. Larry is now an Assistant Professor at FAU with the responsibility of helping the university develop a new specialty in rehabilitation at the Master's level. Good luck, Larry!

Darling & Moore-Cooper Selected for Governor Taft appointments

William Darling, doctoral student in rehab, has been selected by Governor Bob Taft to sit on the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Bill is currently the associate director of The Assistive Technology of Ohio, a federally funded project at OSU which provides assistance on technology for individuals with disabilities.

Robin Moore-Cooper, also a PhD. Student in rehab, has been selected by Governor Bob Taft to serve as a member of the Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. Robin is currently the director of disability services at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio.

Congratulations Bill and Robin!

Pat Dunn (June,1998), graduate of our program is now on the faculty of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He recently published a paper with Dr. Growick, on TSA in VR. It is in the latest issue of the *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. Congratulations, Pat.

Governor's Council Offers Youth Leadership Forum

The Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will be offering its 3rd annual Youth Leadership Forum for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. Approximately 40 students with disabilities will be selected to attend a 4 day Forum at the State Capitol in Columbus next July. Topics include: leadership development, advocacy training, transition from school to work or college, a visit to the Governor's office. Speakers with disabilities will be giving testimonies of life growing up with their own disabilities. A mentor luncheon will be held at the conclusion. For more information call The Governor's Council at 800-282-4536.



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Beginning in the summer of 2000, Dr. Wheaton and Dr. Darcy Granello (Counselor Education) began a training needs assessment with the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Based on the work of Dr. Jim Altschuld (of the College of Education, and a nationally recognized author in the field), the needs assessment was broken down into three parts: preassessment, assessment, and post assessment.

The preassessment phase used focus groups to identify training need areas for counselors, support staff, SSA adjudicators, and managers/supervisors. From their input, a questionnaire was devel-

oped that was composed of a general section, to be completed by all staff, and a section specific for each of the four groups identified above. The questionnaire had multiple choice, short and long answer questions to allow for both specific and open-ended input. In addition, the questionnaire was produced on the World Wide Web so it could be taken online, which has the following advantages: the questionnaire could easily include a variety of questions and formats, moving within the form was quick and easy through the use of hyperlinks, data were entered automatically and accurately, and respondents could modify their

screens for easy viewing of the form through their software (increasing accessibility). As a result of the needs assessment, RSC will have a prioritization of training needs for the next year and specific behavioral training objectives for each priority, and these priorities and objectives will be for both employees in general and for each of the four groups.

The close collaboration with the dominant rehabilitation agency in the state strengthens the OSU rehabilitation program and enhances the employment opportunities for our graduates.

Wheaton's World: Accessibility is the Key