

### Doctoral Students Bauer and Moore-Cooper Present at ORA/NRA Conference

William M. Bauer and Robin Moore-Cooper, both doctoral students in Rehabilitation Services, were guest speakers at the annual NRA/ORR conference held at the Sheraton Downtown in Cleveland in September of this year.

Their lecture, entitled "Multicultural Issues in Rehabilitation Services," was attended by over 50 people. Mr. Bauer's presentation focused on issues pertaining to rehabilitation services in the Appalachian area of the United States, and Ms. Moore-Cooper's focus was on rehabilitation issues surrounding the African-American consumer.

### OSU and Wilberforce collaborate on Rehab Training

The rehab program at OSU has begun to collaborate with Wilberforce University, the oldest historically black college in America. The purpose of this collaboration is to provide more training opportunities for African-American students. Since Wilberforce hired Dr. Sharon Brown, an OSU graduate, as its chair of their Social Science Division, a cooperative agreement has been developed to give graduates of Wilberforce special consideration when applying to our master's program in Rehab. Some courses at both institutions are also being taught cooperatively. Wilberforce has had an undergraduate specialty degree in rehab

within the Social Science Division since 1980, while OSU has had a CORE accredited master's degree program since 1985. Under Dr. Brown's leadership, OSU has assisted Wilberforce in applying for a Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) rehab training grant. This collaboration will help more students from underrepresented groups pursue a professional career in rehab, which is a national goal of the federal RSA. Individuals interested in the undergraduate specialty in rehab at Wilberforce should contact Dr. Sharon Brown at (937) 708-5266.

### Drs. Wheaton and Granello do agency wide needs assessment for RSC

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

OSU is positioning itself to become the Ohio leader in distance education. Across the country, distance education is becoming an alternative to traditional classroom instruction. However, little attention has been focused on the accessibility of Web courses for persons with disabilities, especially those who use screen readers or who have severe motor impairments. Ohio State has recognized this

problem and has created the Web Accessibility Center (WAC) to assist faculty in creating web pages that are usable to the widest possible audience. The WAC is located in OSU's Office for Disability Services (ODS) and is a joint effort of the College of Education and ODS. As co-director of the WAC, Dr. Wheaton has conducted training for over 100 staff, faculty, and teaching assistants in devel-

oping accessible web pages. In addition the WAC provides person-to-person support for all OSU web page authors. Dr. Wheaton has received over \$20,000 in grants to expand the WAC, thus becoming a leader in distance education.



Dr. Joe Wheaton

[Go to Page 3](#)

[Return to Dr. Growick's Web Page](#)