

## GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

Hello everyone,

It is wonderful to welcome back our faculty, staff, and students to SCSU. I hope everyone had a great summer. We move into the fourth year of our school with final approval of our strategic plan, an upcoming move of the Dean's office to Brown Hall, planning for the Eastman Hall design, international partnerships continuing and multiple accreditations/program reviews to be completed. This promises to be a busy year!



We ended last school year with our commencement and Master's hooding ceremonies. We are so proud of all that our graduates have accomplished and we are eager to see their continued success as they begin (or continue) their careers. Many of you will be receiving this newsletter for the first time as alumni and I hope you will keep us updated on your accomplishments.

We welcome two new department chairs to the SHHS Dean's Advisory Council (DAC): Joyce Simones is the new chair of the Department of Nursing Science and Kim Schulze begins as chair of the Department of Community Psychology, Counseling and Family Therapy. They will join our returning DAC group: Rebecca Crowell (CSD), Rona Karasik (GERO), Laura Finch (Kinesiology), Louise Millis (MLS), Steve Ratliff (Nuc Med/Rad Tech) and Tracy Ore (SW). I thank Manijeh Daneshpour (CPCF) and Brenda Lenz (Nursing) for their work at DAC last year. We are also joined by a new Student Relations Coordinator, Kim Scardino.

A lot has been happening this summer in our departments and programs and there are updates below. I am pleased to welcome new faculty to our school. You'll see specific information on each of them below.

We'll be publishing one more newsletter in fall semester - if you have any information you'd like to share, please send it to us. We will be continuing our "news blasts" on a weekly basis where we can share and highlight current events in our school.

With best wishes,

Monica Devers

Dean

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**OCTOBER 16-18:**  
**DISCOVER RED & BLACK DAYS**  
THURSDAY-FRIDAY 8:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY 8:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.

**OCTOBER 18:**  
**CANCER WALK**  
WALK STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.

**DECEMBER 21: UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION AND  
MASTER'S HOODING CEREMONY**  
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Commencement to follow- Halenbeck Hall- 2:00pm

## WELCOME NEW STUDENT RELATIONS COORDINATOR



### ***KIM SCARDINO***

Kim grew up in Milwaukee, WI and has recently moved to Minnesota from Madison, WI. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she received her Bachelor's degree in History and her Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Since graduating, Kim has worked in higher education at Edgewood College as an Academic Advisor in their School of Education. She is looking forward to her new role as the new Student Relations Coordinator and getting to know St. Cloud State University better!

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY

### ***COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING, & FAMILY THERAPY***



### ***YUH-JEN GUO***

Born and Raised in Taiwan, Yuh-Jen finished his undergraduate education in Foreign Language and Literatures at National Cheng Kung University before he came to the United States. He discovered the field of counseling in his graduate study and went all the way to complete his doctoral degree in Counselor Education and Supervision. Yuh-Jen earned a master's degree in Guidance and Counseling at the University of Texas at El Paso and a doctoral degree at Auburn University (War Eagle!). He has been licensed as a professional counselor in Maryland and Texas as well as a supervisor endorsement in Texas. He is also a National Certified Counselor (NCC). Yuh-Jen is interested in research topics related to childhood mental disorders, trauma and stress, multicultural counseling, and counselor education.

Yuh-Jen worked as a psychotherapist in a children's outpatient clinic after graduation. He also worked in a psychiatric evaluation team to evaluate acute psychotic patients in a hospital. He later taught two classes for the counseling program at Johns Hopkins University. His last position was as a faculty member in the counseling program at the University of Texas at El Paso.



### ***SHU-CHING WANG***

Shu-Ching grew up in Taiwan and she studied at Chia-Yi Teacher's College for an Associate degree in Elementary Education. She later continued in the study of Sociology at Tunghai University. Shu-Ching finished her master's in School Counseling and doctorate in Educational Psychology at Auburn University. She was a certified elementary teacher in Taiwan and is currently a certified EC-6 teacher, EC-12 Mandarin Chinese teacher, school counselor, and a principalship in the state of Texas. Shu-Ching has her expertise in research methodology and evaluation. She is interested in research topics related to learning and motivation, trauma and stress, student success in education, and teaching of research and statistics.

Shu-Ching has worked as a teacher for years in both Taiwan and the United States. She worked as a high school counselor and taught Mandarin Chinese in a middle school before she joined St. Cloud State University. She also taught in undergraduate and graduate settings since her doctoral study. She has taught research and assessment courses for Johns Hopkins University and the University of Texas at El Paso.



### ***JULIE ACKERLUND BRANDT***

Julie A. Ackerlund Brandt earned her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, and her M.S. in Behavior Analysis & Therapy from the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale. At both universities she conducted research and clinical work in Applied Behavior Analysis with children diagnosed with autism in clinical and school settings. She earned her Ph.D. in Behavioral Psychology from the University of Kansas. While there, she conducted research and clinical work with typically developing children in a preschool setting. Prior to coming to the Applied Behavior Analysis program at St. Cloud State University, Dr. Ackerlund Brandt taught classes in Applied Behavior Analysis and

Psychology at Penn State Harrisburg. Her current research interests include variables that affect reinforcer efficacy and preference, choice behavior, attention as a reinforcer, and peer interactions or social behaviors (i.e., selective mutism, shyness, bullying, etc.) of young children with and without autism.

## **KINESIOLOGY**

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***SPIRO DOUKAS***

Dr. Spiro Doukas completed his doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Sports Management specializing in Sports Marketing from the United States Sports Academy. Dr. Doukas has worked for the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA, the Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee, the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and taught the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Diploma CIES program while in Trinidad and Tobago.

## **NURSING**

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***STACY BAKKER***

Stacy received her Bachelor of Nursing from Jamestown College (now University of Jamestown) in Jamestown, North Dakota. She recently completed her Master of Nursing with a focus on nursing education from Bethel University. Stacy has worked in a variety of clinical settings as a registered nurse providing direct patient care, care management, staff development, and new hire training. Before joining St. Cloud State University, she worked at Maple Grove Hospital as a hospital educator. Stacy is looking forward to helping nursing students prepare for their future roles as registered nurses.



***LINDA BJORK***

Linda is originally from California and moved to Minnesota 9 years ago. She obtained her original nursing education with an ADN degree in CA, BSN through University of Wyoming and MSN with Kaplan University. She has been a registered nurse for 16 years, practicing in a variety of areas, with her primary and favorite area being PICU. Linda has slowly gotten into teaching, beginning as an adjunct instructor. She is enjoying educating the future generation of nurses.



***SIGRID HEDMAN-DENNIS***

Sigrid has a BA in Nursing from Gustavus Adolphus College, and a MSN from Northern Illinois University. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist with a certification in Pediatrics. She has worked at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Swedish American Hospital in Rockford Illinois, and the St. Cloud Hospital with a specialty in Pediatrics, Pediatrics Intensive Care and Neonatal Intensive Care. Most recently, Sigrid taught at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in the Department of Nursing.



***KRISTIE KOVAL***

Kristie received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in St. Joseph, MN. She is in the process of finishing her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus as a Nurse Educator from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Most of her clinical practice has been in critical care and medical surgical nursing with opportunities to float to various units, along with experiences in staff development, pain management, pediatrics, and public health. Before joining SCSU in 2011, she worked at Mayo Clinic in Rochester as a staff ICU RN for many years. This Fall, she returned to SCSU to teach at the baccalaureate nursing level, after teaching in the practical nursing program at St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) for 2 years. Kristie has also been on the Kappa Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing as a board member.

## **SOCIAL WORK**

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***SARAH DEVOS***

Sara is a traditionally trained clinical social worker, receiving her Master of Social Work with an emphasis in Clinical Social Work from the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University and is in the process of obtaining her PhD in Social Work with an emphasis on Social Service Administration from Walden University. She has worked in various settings ranging from crisis work in hospitals and residential treatment for co-occurring disorders to traditional outpatient mental health clinic at the local VA. Sara has been nationally trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapies including trauma-focused therapies as well as Motivational Interviewing. She has also enjoyed program development, specifically as it relates to implementation of social service programs. Sara has completed research in anticipatory grief and is currently narrowing her dissertation topic on compassion fatigue within helping professions.

## **PROVOST ACTION GRANTS**

In 2013-14, the Provost initiated a program of Provost's Action Grants to fund projects that had been identified by departments as part of their efforts towards developing and supporting an "extraordinary education" for our students. These initiatives were funded due to their potential to directly and substantially impact the learning experience for our students. There were 8 SHHS projects funded. An update is provided on the 7 of the 8 currently in progress this year.

### ***COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS***

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#### ***"DEVELOPING AN INTERPROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATION***

##### ***(IPE) COURSE FOR AUTISM"***

**Theresa Estrem (lead proposer)**

The complexity of autism requires interprofessional collaboration to plan and implement comprehensive and effective services (Howell, Wittman, & Bundy, 2012). Thus, Teri Estrem, Rebecca Crowell, Sue Tarr, and Mary Beth Noll received a grant that will convene faculty from 3 schools (SHHS, SOE, COSE) from the departments of CSD, DAPE, NURS, SW, ABA, SPED, CFS, and BIO and the community to develop an Interprofessional Practice and Education (IPE) experiential learning upper-level/graduate course on autism. The course will provide a unique experiential learning opportunity for students from a variety of disciplines to join together before they begin their formal careers to learn how to break down barriers and develop skills in advocacy, teamwork, ethics, effective communication, family-centered care, and evidence-based practice for children with autism. There is support for using an IPE model when preparing future professionals to work with children with autism (World Health Organization, 2010; Johnson et al., 2007).

#### ***"UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TO PROMOTE STUDENT***

##### ***RECRUITMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE"***

**G. N. Rangamani (lead proposer)**

The primary focus of this Provost Action Grant is to provide research and experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate students in the department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), while piloting a wellness program. The goals of this research project are to: a) increase student-recruitment / retention in the CSD program; b) enhance students' understanding of auditory and cognitive-linguistic functions by developing and implementing wellness-programs for the elderly, and researching their effectiveness; and c) explore and increase public-awareness of chronic, disabling conditions (e.g. stroke, dementia, etc.) that affect quality-of-life, and access to prevention and wellness-programs.

#### ***"TECHNOLOGY FOR SIMULATED CLIENT***

##### ***ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION"***

**Sara Smits-Bandstra (lead proposer)**

The CSD department was awarded a Provost Action Grant to develop a state-of-the-art laboratory allowing students to engage in active and applied learning by assessing and treating simulated, and actual, patients from the community.

The laboratory was refurbished over the summer, thanks to coordination efforts by Dean Monica Devers, Jill Snippen and our IT team Jim Pesta, Crystal May and Josiah Enninga. The lab now accommodates 15 additional students, more computers, and new simulated patient software, including a portable laboratory station. Students enrolled in current CSD courses have already been using lab equipment and software to access 3-D interactive anatomy software and software to record and analyze speech. We anticipate, in the coming weeks, to provide students access to software to analyze nasal emission and lung volumes, and computer animated patients as these issues arise in CSD courses this semester. Furthermore, we anticipate that students beginning clinical practicums next week will use the laboratory to assess actual patients and document the effectiveness of intervention for patients currently enrolled in the St Cloud State University Speech Language and Hearing Clinic in Brown Hall.

## **COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING, AND FAMILY THERAPY**

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### **" VETERAN STUDENT PROGRESSION AND SUCCESS "**

**Tina Sacin (lead proposer)**

Due to the massive expansion of federal funding in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, there is an increased emphasis on Veteran student matriculation and success. For example, recent legislation passed by the MN State Legislature requires that veteran students receive a positive factor in graduate admission decisions. Currently, however, SCSU does not produce a report on the persistence and success of its veteran student population. In other words, SCSU does not have a clear picture of whether its veteran student population is more or less successful than other student populations on campus, or what factors explain veteran student progression and success. Identifying factors associated with veteran student success will allow the institution to identify support services that are working or may need to be implemented in order to facilitate their success.

### **"INTENSIVE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS"**

**Benjamin N. Witts (lead proposer)**

Benjamin N. Witts, Kimberly A. Schulze, Steven Hoover, and Daniel Macari moved forward with their provost action grant to develop a two-course sequence designed to assist undergraduate students who are working to gain acceptance to graduate work in the psychological sciences. The first of these two courses is currently in full operation and focuses on developing professional skills necessary to navigate the application process and to identify research projects to be conducted in the Spring 2015 semester. In the coming months we will see several graduate applications being sent out, research proposals being drafted, and IRB applications being sent for review. Research outcomes will be presented at local (SCSU), regional (e.g., Minnesota Northland Association for Behavior Analysis annual conference), and international venues (e.g., Association for Behavior Analysis International annual conference). Outstanding research will see the outcomes submitted for review in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

## **GERONTOLOGY**

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### **"DEVELOPING EMPATHY FOR WORKING WITH ELDERS"**

**Phyllis A. Greenberg (lead proposer) & Rona J. Karasik**

The 2014 Provost Action Grant allowed Gerontology to purchase two sets of hands-on equipment designed to enhance the understanding of experiences associated with physical aging: (1) The "Empathy Lung" simulates Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Wearers of this device experience the physical challenges of (COPD), a syndrome including emphysema and asthma. High risk behaviors (e.g., smoking) significantly increase one's risk of COPD. Thus, the "Empathy Lung" is important not only for Gerontology students, but for the campus (e.g., the "Tobacco Free Campaign") and community as well (e.g., through health demonstrations); (2) Similarly, Low Vision Simulation Goggles demonstrate a range of impairments from glaucoma to macular degeneration and will also help students and the community develop empathy and understanding for those impacted by these disorders.

## **KINESIOLOGY**

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### **"HEALTH RELATED CURRICULAR AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA"**

**Laura Finch (lead proposer)**

Laura Finch, (Kinesiology), and Rebecca Crowell, (CSD), received a Provost Action Grant to develop international health curricular and research initiatives at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University [NMMU]. Finch and Crowell will travel to NMMU this winter to collaborate with their health sciences faculty on the following goals:

1. Student/faculty exchanges with a curricular and scholarly foci,
2. Cross-cultural experiential learning opportunities on both campuses/within both communities, and
3. Joint student and faculty research initiatives.

Our students' opportunity for health sciences experiential learning in South Africa will enhance their exposure to diverse populations and partnerships with international communities.

## FACULTY AND DEPARTMENT NEWS

### *COMMUNICATION SCIENCES & DISORDERS*

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**Sarah Smits-Bandstra's** manuscript "Retention of Implicit Sequence Learning in Persons who Stutter and Persons with Parkinson's Disease" was accepted for publication in the Journal of Motor Behavior. In addition, Sarah's 30-minute technical research presentation "Applying the principles of motor learning to fluency treatment" was accepted for the American Speech Language Hearing Association Conference in Orlando Florida in November 2014.

### *COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, COUNSELING, AND FAMILY THERAPY*

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Two programs housed in CPCF produced newsletters this summer:

**Applied Behavior Analysis Newsletter** is available at: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ccp/graduate/documents/ABAatSCSUnewsletter2014.pdf>

**Community Psychology Newsletter** is available at: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ccp/graduate/documents/NewsletterdraftSummer2014-Assistant.pdf>

### *NURSING*

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The Nursing Department celebrated with **Peggy Fossen** as she completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) at Regis University on August 22, 2014. She has a DNP in Advanced Leadership and Health Care. Her dissertation was "BSN Student's Perceptions of Communication with Patients with Hallucinations after Experience a Voice Simulation." She will be sharing her dissertation findings with the Nursing Department on September 19th.

### *SOCIAL WORK*

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While on sabbatical this academic year, **Mary Pfohl** will continue as the Principal Investigator for the BSW Consortium Title IV-E Child Welfare Grant. In her absence, **Paula Watts Zehringer**, assigned to the Child Welfare Stipend Program will be a "co-communicator" on this project.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *FALL 2014 EVENTS*

#### **SEPTEMBER 25: Center for Nonprofit Excellence and Social Innovation Summit**

- River's Edge Convention Center, 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. <http://www.cnesi.org/innovation-summit/>

#### **SEPTEMBER 26 & 30: AGING IN PLACE TRAVELING HEALTH & SCREENING FAIRS**

- Sept 26, 8:00am-Noon- St. Joseph's Traveling Health Fair- Church of St. Joseph
- Sept 30, 8:00am-Noon- Sauk Rapids Traveling Health Fair- Discovery Church

#### **OCTOBER 3: SHHS INTERDISCIPLINARY DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT**

- Atwood Center Ballroom, 10:00-2:00

#### **OCTOBER 7-8: MINNESOTA NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR**

- Minneapolis Convention Center: Tuesday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 8  
<http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/FallNCF/Pages/Minnesota.aspx>

#### **OCTOBER 15-17: 3RD ANNUAL SURVIVE AND THRIVE CONFERENCE**

- Kelly Inn and SCSU Welcome Center <http://www.survivethrive.net/>

#### **OCTOBER 16-17: DISCOVER RED & BLACK DAYS**

- SCSU Campus, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- This annual October open house occurs during the Education Minnesota Break and is SCSU's largest visit event. This is an opportunity for students and parents to tour campus and explore our programs. <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/scsu4u/visit/special.asp>

#### **OCTOBER 18: MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK**

- SCSU Campus, 7:00 a.m. registration opens, 9:00 a.m. walk starts [www.MakingStridesWalk.org/CentralMN](http://www.MakingStridesWalk.org/CentralMN)

#### **OCTOBER: SHHS COLLOQUIUM (TBD)**

#### **NOVEMBER 7: TRANSFER PREVIEW DAY**

#### **NOVEMBER 14: FIRST-YEAR PREVIEW DAY**

#### **DECEMBER 4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CELEBRATION**

- Atwood Ballroom, 9-11am

#### **DECEMBER 21: UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION AND MASTER'S HOODING CEREMONY**

- Atwood Glacier, December 21st, 11:00-1:00
- Commencement to follow- Halenbeck Hall- 2:00pm