Hello Rehab students, faculty, and alumni!

I am Yi-Hua Tsai, and most of you may know me as Eva. I am now in my 4th year in my doctoral study, and I am very excited to be the editor of the newsletter of our program. I hope this issue can help you understand better what is going on in the program. Please feel free to provide me with your comments and recommendations to yi-hua-tsai@uiowa.edu for future editions. I hope you enjoy the semester and Happy Holidays!!

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As we end this calendar year and complete the first half of the academic year we have several endings and beginnings to address. First it is with both sadness and pride that we say goodbye to Steve Wooderson as he leaves our advisory board. Steve has been an integral part of our advisory board, providing us with his valuable perspective, advice and assistance since 2002. Steve has been selected as the next CEO of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) in Washington, D.C. and we know they will benefit from his strengths and skills just as we have.

As far as beginnings go we are off to a wonderful beginning with Nancy Wegand our new Professional Departmental Administrator in the Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education. We have featured her later in our newsletter so you can get to know her a little better. If you haven't already, please stop by to welcome her and say hello!

Other endings and beginnings also include a formal name change for both the program and the department. As indicated above our new department name is Rehabilitation and Counselor Education reflective of the departure of the Student Development program. Our new program name is Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, accurately reflecting our program priorities and focus.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I wish you very happy holidays and a wonderful beginning to 2011!

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Expose yourself to the profession

To become a professional, it is important to expand your networking, make yourself visible to the profession, and keep yourself updated with current issues. A great way of doing it is to attend local and national conferences. We will introduce some wonderful conference opportunities for you, and we are going to start with the On With Life Annual Educational Conference at Ankeny. Please see Page 5 for a brief description of the 2010 Conference.
Introducing the New Members

This semester, we have two new members joining us in the Rehabilitation and Counselor Education department. Let us get to know them better and welcome them to our family!!

Nancy Wegand

Nancy is the new Professional Departmental Administrator in Rehabilitation and Counselor Education who supports the running of the whole RCE department. Nancy worked for over 10 years at the University of Northern Iowa College of Education’s curriculum library and technology center. After moving to Iowa City and before joining the College, Nancy also worked for Elder Services, Finkbine Golf Course, and Grant Wood Area Education Agency.

Nancy’s job includes supporting faculty, staff and students, monitoring department budget, and scheduling courses. She states that “some of the challenges of her current position include the merging of two positions into one and creating systems that work for her within our larger structure.” In her free time, Nancy enjoys reading, golfing, and spending time with her family.

Claudia Bischoff is our new writing consultant. She received her MA in English from the College of William and Mary and a MFA from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She has taught college writing for over 15 years and Tools for Life Seminar for 5 years. She is also a freelance writer.

The writing consultant will help you improve your writing, develop competence in writing on the graduate level, assist you in the writing process, help you learn to edit your own writing, guide you through the research process, and assist you with presentation preparation.

If you have questions or wish to schedule an appointment, email Claudia-Bischoff@uiowa.edu. More information, including the hours, is on the Writing Consulting Services brochure and can be obtained outside Claudia’s office at N372 LC.

(Information and photo adopted from College of Education Employee Spotlight Social section November, 2010 by Chris Annicella. To know more about Nancy, please go to http://www.education.uiowa.edu/social/spotlight/index.htm)
Getting to know the Advisory Board

The RCE Program Advisory Board provides advice, consultation, and support to our program in our educational, research, and community education activities. The board also serves as the liaison between the program and the students. Members of this board are prominent rehabilitation professionals, and let’s meet one of them.

Julie Fidler Dixon, Executive Director, On With Life

Ms. Julie Fidler Dixon is the Executive Director of On With Life in Ankeny, Iowa. On With Life is a non-profit organization that provides inpatient/outpatient rehabilitation and other services specifically for individuals with brain injuries. We invited her to share a little about herself.

Q: How did you decide to study rehab counseling or being involved in this field?

JFD: I have been in the rehabilitation field for 38 years. As a young professional, I quickly realized that sophisticated counseling skills were needed to meet the needs of the individuals I was serving. Two months after my graduation from the University of Iowa in Sociology and Psychology, I enrolled in graduate school.

Q: What was your motivation to become a member of the Advisory Board and continue through the years?

JFD: It was a tremendous honor to be asked to join this board. I hope to represent the challenges and rewards of the brain injury rehabilitation field in a professional manner that might motivate students to consider this unique specialty area.

Q: What do you think is the most important role of the members of the Advisory Board?

JFD: To listen to the students and convey their needs to the faculty.

Recommendations for future professionals reading this ...

JFD: If you really want to make a difference for persons living with disability, get a great graduate education in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Iowa, consistently one of the top programs in the world. Jump in with both feet and get all the hands-on experience you can in a wide variety of settings—you never know where your career will take you!
On With Life 10th Annual Educational Conference

On With Life is a non-profit organization that works with individuals with brain injury and provides inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, long-term skilled, supported and independent living services. Every year, On With Life hosts its annual educational conference at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) with various topics on brain injury. The University of Iowa Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation usually is a co-sponsor of the conference. Continuing education credits are offered to rehabilitation counselors, nurses, social workers, therapists and case managers.

The 2010 Fall conference took place on Friday, September 24th at DMACC. The theme of this conference was “Helping Brain Injury Survivors Thrive” and included speakers from Iowa, Texas, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Topics addressed including Culture Change: Life Living for Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities, Addressing the Challenges: Substance Abuse and Brain Injury, Acupuncture: A Traditional Medicine in the Modern Clinic, Predicting Vocational Capacity After a Brain Injury: Key Factors, and Hearing from the Experts in Brain Injury: A Family Panel Discussion.

The 2010 conference provided participants the opportunities to understand issues and treatments of substance abuse after brain injury, traditional Chinese medical diagnosis and treatment, and the key vocational factors when working with individuals with brain injuries. Attendees also had the chance to hear the stories from family members of brain injury survivors and professionals to gain more insights about the long-term services that individuals with brain injury will need. Participants also had the chance to have lunch at On With Life and have a tour of its services and facility.

On With Life will host its 11th Annual Educational Conference in Fall 2011. For more information about the agency, services, upcoming events, and the conference please visit On With Life website: http://www.onwithlife.org

The 2010 conference attendees: Dr. Vilia Tarvydas and doctoral and master's students from The University of Iowa Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation.

Photo courtesy of Lesley Irizarry-Fonseca
## Save the Dates

In addition to the On With Life conference, there are other local and nation-wide conferences or activities that are great to attend and be involved in the profession.

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>January 28, 2011</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Research Symposium, Jones Commons, The University of Iowa</td>
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<td>February 15, 2011</td>
<td>Salsa Night, IMU Ballroom Proceeds to benefit LIFE Skills, Inc.</td>
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<td>March 10-11, 2011</td>
<td>Brain Injury Association of Iowa Annual Providers Conference, West Des Moines, Iowa</td>
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<td>April 5-8, 2011</td>
<td>National Council on Rehabilitation Education, Manhattan Beach, California</td>
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<td>April 15, 2011</td>
<td>Advisory Board Meeting</td>
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<td>April 30, 2011</td>
<td>NAMI Walk, Lower City Park, Iowa City</td>
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<td>Spring, 2011 TBA</td>
<td>Spaghetti Night, LIFE Skills</td>
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## Students in the community

- **William Klima and Cate Hartmann**, second-year Master’s students, hosted the “Paper From Uniforms” event for The University of Iowa Veterans Association in November 2010. This paper-making project offers veterans of both Iraq and Afghanistan the opportunity to turn their uniforms into paper or other cathartic forms of art and in many other uses. The event also allows some veterans to positively transform a uniform design for war to pieces of art of their choosing through the tactile contact with the healing properties of water.

- **Candis Hill**, the former president of UI-ARCA, and other members of the association participated in NAMI Walk of Johnson County in May 2010. NAMI Walk is the activity that helps NAMI raise funds and awareness for mental illness.

- **Lesley Irizarry**, Leslie Santos, and Ruth Mercado, doctoral students, participated at "My Iowa Health Fair" in the St. Joseph Catholic Church in West Liberty on November 7. This health fair was mainly intended for the Spanish community in the West Liberty area.
Congratulations to Ruth Mercado-Cruz

Ruth, second-year doctoral student, has received the 2010-2011 Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship in Aging.

Aging is an evolving, multidisciplinary field. The Center on Aging (COA) recognizes the importance of integrated learning environments and shared educational opportunities as part of effective training for graduate students interested in aging at UI.

In fall 2003, the COA initiated the Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellowship in Aging as a pilot program to enhance students’ professional development in aging. The program is a collaborative effort by the Center on Aging, Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health, School of Social Work and the Aging Studies Program. Mentors from these programs donate their time to expand students’ exposure to interdisciplinary learning. The fellowship provides students with unique educational experiences that deepen appreciation for interdisciplinary approaches to aging, increase exposure to multidisciplinary research, clinical and policy issues, and advance professional development.

Fellowships are awarded primarily on the basis of academic merit and support student expenses up to $2,000 per student to the Gerontology Society of America (GSA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) conferences. Independent study course credit may be awarded on an individual basis upon approval of appropriate department faculty.

Students’ activity
Are you planning on taking the CRC exam in 2011 and becoming a certified rehabilitation counselor?

The next application deadline is February 15, 2011 and the exam dates are July 8-16, 2011. The following application deadline is May 16, 2011, and testing dates for this round are October 7-15, 2011. Please check [http://www.crccertification.com](http://www.crccertification.com) for more detailed information regarding application, preparation for the exam, and testing locations.

LIFE Skills and UI-ARCA are planning a joint fundraising project — Salsa Night — on Friday **February 18, 2011** in Iowa Memorial Union Ballroom from 7 pm to 1 am. Everybody is welcomed to have fun, learn how to salsa, win prizes, and help raise funds for LIFE Skills, Inc. of Johnson County.

Admission fee will be charged: $ 7 with student ID and $ 10 for general public. There will be dancing instructors, DJ, and live entertainment in the event. Please contact UI-ARCA or LIFE Skills for more information.

The VA Standard for Licensed Mental Health Counselors has been revised. There are changes for individuals graduated from CACREP-accredited programs. For more information about the new VA Standard, please check [http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=507&FType=2](http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=507&FType=2)
The Mission of the Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation (GPR) at the University of Iowa is to prepare qualified rehabilitation counseling professionals who will assist persons with disabilities and other individuals who have barriers in meeting their functional needs in the areas of employment, independent living, and personal or economic development. The Graduate Programs in Rehabilitation prepare these professionals to provide quality rehabilitation counseling services within an interdisciplinary and community-based context, serve as change agents and advocates for their clients, and sources of specialized knowledge and consultants for professionals, employers and others in the communities that they serve.

Please update your contact information

It is always pleasant and exciting for us to hear what happened and what have changed in your life. In addition, we will be able to provide you with recent news of the department and program. Please fill out the Online Personal Information Form and keep us and you posted.