News and information from around the College

Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health

In response to Hurricane Sandy, The Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health (CAECMH) offered a workshop entitled “Helping Infants and Children Affected by Hurricane Sandy”. Topics discussed at the training workshop focused on the consequences of the disaster, strategies for consultation and support for infants, children, families, providers, and ways to "help the helper". Also, in collaboration with the Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership, the Center offered free consultation services to CEHS faculty, staff and their families in order to process events related to the storm. In addition to these services, Gerry Costa, the Director of the Center, has been working with state partners including the Department of Children and Families and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, as well as nationwide providers such as FEMA, Save the Children and Zero to Three, to discuss how we remember the 'youngest among us' in the wake of disasters and trauma. Gerry convened a meeting on November 9th here at MSU with these organizations and other infant and early childhood practitioners in our state to do the following:

1. Rally the troops! Inform them about the impact of the hurricane and the particular way the devastation can affect infants, children and families.
2. Inform participants about the developmental, emotional and behavioral consequences of such disasters on infants, children and families.
3. To identify specialists who are able and willing to work with other state-organized efforts in the nine counties identified by FEMA as deeply affected by the storm. These efforts could include working with Disaster Relief Teams, and be deployed in infant and child/education provider centers and family care provider homes.

In addition, the CAECMH hosted the over 300 participants who attended the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders international conference on November 16, 17, and 18th, and served as host for the Annual Membership Meeting of the New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health (MJ-AIMH) on November 9th. NJ-AIMH is actively engaged in bringing information and training regarding the effects of trauma – such as Hurricane Sandy – on infants and young children to those who work directly with families.

Counseling and Educational Leadership

Sherlene Ayala, a doctoral student in the Counselor Education program, was chosen to facilitate a workshop she developed, “Oh the Places You’ll Go: Choosing the Higher Ed Degree that Fits your Personal Calling”, at the Careers in Student Affairs conference.

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education

Victoria Puig was elected to the editorial board for The Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education.
Health and Nutrition Sciences

Ndidi Amutah was featured as the paper of the month for her paper “African American Women: The Face of HIV/AIDS” in The Qualitative Report. In October, Dr. Amutah was an invited panel member for the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issue (SAAPHI) scientific symposium on “Health Disparities across the Lifespan: Addressing Gender-Specific Health Inequities among the African Diaspora”.

Lisa Lieberman, along with a recent graduate of the MPH program, Dawn Diamond, conducted an interactive workshop entitled “The Affordable Care Act: What Does it Mean for You?” at West Orange Pleasantville Elementary School for the PTA and members of the West Orange Community.

Secondary and Special Education

Emily Klein and Monica Taylor are co-principal investigators on a newly funded teacher leadership program for experienced science teachers, entitled The Wipro Science Education Fellowship program. The privately funded $1 million grant program is in partnership with the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and here at MSU, is a collaboration between the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Education and Human Services. The Principal Investigator on the grant is Mika Munakata, a Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Science and Mathematics.

Doug Larkin was recently featured in an online video on Teacher College Record online. His article, “Using the Conceptual Change Model of Learning as an Analytic Tool in Researching Teacher Preparation for Student Diversity”, was published in TCR. The article and video are located at this URL: http://www.tcrecord.org/ExecSummary.asp?contentid=16527

Upcoming Events

Wanted: A More Diverse Teaching Force. A webinar hosted by Education Week
December 18th at 2:00 p.m. Register for the webinar here.
Ana Maria Villegas, a professor in the Department of Secondary and Special Education, will lead a webinar for Education Week about recruiting and retaining teachers of color. Districts have made efforts in trying to recruit a teaching force that mirrors the country’s increasingly diverse K-12 student population. Despite some successes, a “diversity gap” remains between students and teachers. In this webinar, a scholar and a practitioner will outline the research on the minority-teacher population, the challenges faced in the recruitment and retention of such candidates, and what one district program has done to improve working conditions and professional development for teachers of color.

Ph.D. in Family Studies Information Session for Prospective Students
Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., University Hall Room 4116
The PhD and combined MA/PhD programs in Family Studies at Montclair State University promote the well-being of all types of families across the life span, across cultures and throughout the world through research, scholarship, advocacy, prevention and intervention. Students in the programs develop expertise in self-chosen areas of study through research and scholarship to become effective advocates for policies, practices, and interventions that promote family health. To register, please email mailto:phdfamily@montclair.edu.

Fast Track MA in Educational Leadership Information Session for Prospective Students
Saturday, January 26, 2013, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., University Hall Room 1020
The College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University is accepting applications for its Fast Track Option for the Master of Arts Degree in Educational Leadership. Students admitted to the program will take courses through a combination of online, face-to-face and hybrid models, and will
earn a master's degree in fourteen months while working full-time. This is a "summer to summer" opportunity to receive a master’s degree as well as principal and supervisor certification, and the next cohort will begin taking classes in May 2013.
To RSVP for this information session, please visit our REGISTRATION WEB SITE. If you have questions prior to the session, please contact Professor Eunice Grippaldi at grippaldie@mail.montclair.edu.

Early Childhood Education Conference
Seize the Play: Supporting Play-Based Learning in an Era of Standardized Curriculum and Assessment
April 13, 2013, University Hall Conference Center
Keynote Speaker: Beverly Falk, Director of the Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education at the City College of New York, School of Education. Beverly Falk has been a classroom teacher, public school founder and director, district administrator, researcher, and consultant - at the school, district, state, and national level – as well as a Fellow of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the CCNY Colin Powell Center on Public Policy. Dr. Falk’s work focuses on supporting teachers to create educational environments that support how children learn – through active engagement, by being responsive to diverse cultures and languages, involving families, and developing not only cognitive skills but other important dispositions such as curiosity, perseverance, empathy, flexibility, resilience, and social awareness. She is particularly interested in ensuring that our youngest, most vulnerable citizens in historically under-served diverse urban communities have equitable access to high quality learning opportunities.

This conference will bring together practitioners, professionals, teacher educators and all those who care about young children to share ideas and strategies that build bridges between these conflicting values to support the successful learning and development of all children.

More details and registration information will be available in January.

What’s New in CEHS is a monthly e-mail publication for the faculty and staff members of Montclair State University’s College of Education and Human Services. If you have news, please send it via e-mail to Melissa Harris at harrism@mail.montclair.edu. What’s New in CEHS is published each month during the academic year, and the deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.