

**Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology  
College of Education  
Mississippi State University**

**Newsletter, Fall 2010**



***New Faculty Members Information***

**The Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology (CEP) would like to give a warm welcome to Dr. Deborah Jackson, Dr. Fuyi Yang and Mrs. Lucy Wong Hernandez.**

**Dr. Deborah Jackson** has joined the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology as an Assistant Professor in Counselor Education. Dr. Jackson earned her Ph.D. Degree in Counselor Education, in 2001 from the Department of Counselor Education and Educational Psychology at Mississippi State University. From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Jackson was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling and Special Education at Youngstown State University, Ohio. During her tenure at Youngstown State University, she was serving as coordinator for Student Affairs Leadership and Practice and she was responsible in teaching graduate level courses in higher education/student affairs and counseling, and providing practicum and internship group and individual supervision. Dr. Jackson mentioned she is happy to be back in Mississippi.

**Dr. Fuyi Yang** is a visiting scholar from Shanghai, China. He is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. Dr. Yang will be residing on campus for one year with his 6 year old daughter YiLing. Dr. Yang's wife, Mrs. Jin Chen, remains in China, but she will be visiting her husband and daughter during the winter holiday. Dr. Yang's research interest area includes: cognitive/social development and treatments of children with special needs, special education, teachers' professional development, research methodology of special education, and experimental psychology. Dr. Yang expressed his appreciation for this great opportunity to expand his research ideas with faculty members at CEP/MSU.



**Mrs. Lucy Wong Hernandez** is currently an Instructor at the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, before coming to Mississippi in 2009 she was the Director of the Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Center for the Southeastern Region, where she designed and implemented face-to-face and distant learning programs to meet the training needs of state rehabilitation professionals and their partner agencies. Mrs. Wong Hernandez has extensive experience in the disability field as it relates to academics, disability rights advocacy, social policy and service provision for persons with disabilities. She has numerous articles on disability rights and policy, leadership, cultural competence and chronic illness. She has a Masters Degree in Gerontology from Hofstra University, New York and doctoral studies in social welfare from Adelphi University, New York. She has taught at York College (CUNY), New York; Hofstra University, New York; the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hawaii; East Carolina University, North Carolina, and most recently at Mississippi State University. Mrs. Wong Hernandez is looking forward to new project opportunities with faculty, staff and students at MSU.

### ***U.S. Department of Education Grant Award***

**Dr. Charles Palmer**, Associate Professor of Counselor Education has obtained a U. S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) grant award for five years for approximately \$700,000. These funds will be fully allocated to provide stipends and scholarships for 40 graduate students of the rehabilitation counseling program. The department is very excited about Dr. Palmer's significant accomplishment and this great opportunity for our students and we are thrilled that we can support more than 10 deserving graduate students per year to pursue their masters' degrees in rehabilitation counseling to work with and contribute to improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities. Congratulations to Dr. Palmer for this significant accomplishment.

### ***Congratulations!***

We are very proud to announce the membership of **Drs. Anastasia Elder, Julia Porter, and Joshua Watson** into the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) Faculty Leadership Program for 2010-2011. ORED's main goal is for Mississippi State University to be recognized as a major research university.

Also, congratulations to **Drs. Anastasia Elder, Kim Hall, April Heiselt, Julia Porter, and Joshua Watson** for receiving the State-Pride Faculty Awards from Mississippi State University and Dr. Porter received the American College Counseling Association (ACCA) 2010 Meritorious Service Award.



## *Graduate Students Orientation, 2010*

Graduate Students Orientation 2010 was a success. Enrollment has increased significantly; in addition, there are 81 new students in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology program. The students come from a variety of backgrounds, bringing with them new experiences and academic interests and their eagerness to learn.



CEP faculty and staff joined to welcome and provide information to incoming and continuing graduate students!

## *A New Course*

The Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology has developed a course entitled "**Emerging Issues: Working with Veterans, Military Personnel and their Families**" (COE4990/6990). This course is being offered for the first time this semester (Fall 2010) and is designed to provide skills training to students, professionals, veterans, military personnel and their family members, and other interested individuals in developing skills and knowledge to work with veterans and current military members (especially returning Operation Iraqi Freedom OIF) / Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) veterans), their family members, friends, and supporters. In addition, this course is also designed to assist with pre-deployed, post-deployed emerging issues and veterans students in making a positive transition from military to civilian life or from deployment to post-deployment life including college survival skills. The course will also help veteran and military students to effectively manage military stress, combat reaction stress, operational stress, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Additionally, the medical and psychosocial aspects of most prevalent combat-related disabilities will be discussed. A team teaching approach will be employed for this course. A total of five (5) modules are taught by five (5) professors/experts from MSU.





Dr. Wong welcomes a panel of ROTC members addressing one of the class sessions.

## ***Distance Learning***

**Distant Learning will be expanded and provide more opportunities for students and professionals:** Following the trend among other accredited universities in the country, including MSU, at our department we have identified a need to move toward creating distance learning courses to satisfy the needs of student-workers and other potential students' interest in this type of format to further education and employment promotion needs. We are planning to have distance learning in two formats: distance and hybrid distance. Distance education courses that require a physical on-site presence for any reason (including taking examinations) is considered a hybrid or blended course of study. This emerging model supported by updated technology is becoming widely used in universities and institutions around the globe and will be very beneficial for our statewide and national students as well. With the recent trend of educational technological advance, distance learning is becoming more recognized for its potential in providing individualized attention and communication with students nationally and internationally. The departmental faculty is encouraged to consider this approach to teach extra courses during the summer or regular semesters. Faculty can take advantage of this opportunity through the buy-in system and with the support and collaboration of AOEC to develop their modules of teaching.



The Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology is in the process of proposing an on-line Masters Program in Rehabilitation Counseling. The Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling at MSU has more than 40 years of distinguished reputation nationally in the discipline of rehabilitation counseling. Many of our graduates have become leaders and policy and administrative personnel in rehabilitation counseling in the State of Mississippi and other states. At the state level, there is an urgent demand for the need of qualified rehabilitation professionals and rehabilitation counselors in particular. This shortage has presented a significant challenge to provide high quality vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities in the State of Mississippi and



beyond that could otherwise obtain an education, vocational training and accomplish their employment goals that will enable them to be included in the statewide labor force sectors and consequently into the mainstreams of society.

## ***New Staff***

**Lizamonet “Liza” Abney**, has joined our department as a graduate assistant. Liza is from Moss Point, Mississippi. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Mississippi University for Women. She is a first year student in the Master’s of Public Policy and Administration program. Liza works closely with Dr. Daniel Wong, Department Head and Professor of the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology, on managing and updating records of current and new students in the program. Liza plans to further her studies at a law school of her choice to obtain a Juris Doctorate.

## ***Internet Safety***

**Jeri Lynn Rushing and Britney Thomas**, School Counseling graduate students, prepared and delivered an informative presentation on Internet Safety at the Starkville Academy. Their intent was to educate students, parents, and faculty on risks associated with the usage of the internet. Jeri Lynn and Britney were recognized by Starkville Daily News. Great job, Jeri and Britney!



***Pumpkins in the cornfields -- Gold among the brown  
Leaves of rust and scarlet -- Trembling slowly down  
Birds that travel southward -- Lovely time to play -- Nothing is as pleasant***

***As a beautiful autumn day!*** 

