TR Program Prepares for Strong Presence at ATRA Conference

As the fall semester kicks off, faculty and students are busy gearing up for the American Therapeutic Recreation Association’s Annual Conference which will be held September 29th – October 2nd in Pittsburgh. Having the national conference in Pennsylvania provides a unique opportunity for Temple TR students to experience this exciting professional opportunity.

A total of seven faculty and eight students will be involved in presentations. Six other students will be assisting with the Temple sponsored Appy Hour social, where they will facilitate discussions about apps that are appropriate for use in recreation therapy treatment. In addition to the students presenting, other TR students will be traveling to the conference as attendees and are excited to experience their first ATRA Conference!

The student club, Rec4Life, has been active with fundraising efforts to support student participation at the conference. Additionally, the generous donations of Temple TR Alumni to the TR Development Fund have enabled the program to offer additional conference scholarships to support those students who are actively involved in the conference by presenting and/or assisting with the Appy Hour.

Temple’s TR program will also have a display in the Exhibit Hall where faculty and students hope to connect with alumni and other professionals interested in the latest “Temple happenings”. Be sure to stop by for some fun giveaways. We will also have some of our new t-shirts for sale. Hope to see you there!

APPY Hour

Temple’s Department of Rehabilitation Sciences is proud to sponsor and host an APPY HOUR at the ATRA Conference. This will be a social and educational opportunity for TR professionals to discuss with colleagues and Temple students and faculty how specific apps are being used to enhance recreation therapy service delivery. Stations will be organized to stimulate conversation on apps that can address physical, cognitive, psychological, sensory, and social functioning goals, along with leisure and community participation, and apps specific for geriatric and pediatric populations.

A special “Thank You” to the following Temple Students who will be representing the program by serving as APP experts:

Victoria Cooper
Morgan Ferrante
Lauren Frabizzio
Michael Gocht
Kristin Hartman
Julianne Holbert
Kristine Ismael
Stephanie Lechner
Ashleigh Stewart
Abe Yoon
**Educational Sessions**
Low and High Ropes Course Intervention
*Elaine Halata, Ph.D., & CTRS Jen Carben, MS*

ATRA Treatment Network Session: Assistive Technology & TR Belong Together!
*Ann Dolloff, M.Ed., CTRS & Kathryn Elokdah., M.Ed., CTRS, ATP*

Utilizing iPad Technology in Recreation Therapy Education
*Nanette Vliet, Ed.M., CTRS*

Utilizing iPad Technology in Recreation Therapy Practice
*Nanette Vliet, Ed.M., CTRS*

Stigma: The Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing
*Gena Bell Vargas, Ph.D., CTRS and Gretchen Snethen, Ph.D., CTRS*

Knowledge Translation Plans: A Bridge for Taking Evidence into Practice
*Rhonda Nelson, Ph.D., CTRS, Victoria Cooper, Morgan Ferrante, B.S., Kristen Hartman, B.S., Sara Heinze, B.A. Julienne Holbert, B.A. & Chih-Chiao Lin, M.Ed.*

Barriers for Active Living in Aging Adults with Developmental Disabilities
*Pei-Chun Hsieh, Ph.D., CTRS and Rosemary Price, B.S., CTRS*

**Poster Sessions**
Understanding and Treating Agitation in Dementia through the Continuity Theory
*Jacquelyn Gimbel, B.A.*

Hope Theory as it Relates to Resiliency in Children with Pediatric Cancer
*Sara Heinze, B.A.*

**Peg Connolly Scholarship Awards**
Each year, as part of their annual conference, The American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) honors eight students from across the country with Peg Connolly Scholarships. Named in honor of Dr. Peg Connolly, the first ATRA president and former Executive Director of the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC), these scholarships offer tremendous personal and professional benefits and rewards. Not only do students receive support to attend a national conference, but they also gain professional knowledge from conference sessions and have the opportunity to network with professionals from around the country. These awards are highly competitive, and any TR program would be honored to have a student selected. Temple University is extremely proud to recognize our two scholarship award winners for 2013.

**Congratulations, Victoria Cooper and Sara Heinze!**

2013 Peg Connolly Scholarship Winners
TR Faculty Member Receives Research Grant

Dr. Gretchen Snethen was recently awarded a Field Initiated Research grant of $590,000 from the National Institutes on Disability and Rehabilitation Research in the area of community living and participation. Co-investigators include Dr. Mark Salzer and Mr. Eugene Brusilovskyi.

The project, Increasing Community Participation in Adults with Schizophrenia, uses a novel community-based intervention, the Independence through Community Access and Navigation (ICAN), to increase community participation and decrease sedentary behavior in adults with schizophrenia spectrum disorders (SSD). Research indicates individuals with SSD spend greater than 90% of their day in sedentary or sleep behavior. Sedentary behavior is a unique and modifiable health-risk factor that has a significant impact on the health status and life expectancy of individuals with SSD. Targeting negative symptoms and sedentary behavior through non-pharmacological interventions is consistent with a recovery orientation to mental health treatment. The project draws from a social-psychological framework and from recent innovative model of cognition and negative symptoms, which proposes negative symptoms result from poor efficacy beliefs.

The ICAN intervention is a recreational therapy intervention theoretically grounded in Self-Determination Theory that operationalizes an individualized placement and support model to promote independent, community-based recreation participation, which facilitate positive efficacy beliefs. This study builds upon preliminary research conducted by the PI, and extends it by objectively examining the outcomes of the ICAN intervention using a randomized control trial. Participants in the experimental group will participate in the 6-month ICAN intervention, while the active-control participants will receive literature about freely available community-based activities and the benefits of participation.

Assessment will utilize a pre-post design. Participants will enroll in the study on a rolling basis over a 2-year period. Specifically, we propose that community-based recreation participation will increase community participation as measured by mobility, decreases in sedentary behavior, and social functioning. Through a positive self-appraisal process, the improvements in community participation will facilitate improvements in motivation and the reduction of negative symptoms. Specifically, the study proposes that engagement in interest-based activities will serve as a mechanism to increase motivation, perceived competence, and positive self-evaluation directly affecting negative symptoms. Intervention evaluation and participant acceptability are evaluated through quantitative and qualitative data. Outcomes of this intensive research study include the establishment of outcomes and outcome measures for the ICAN intervention; establishing the relationship between negative symptoms and motivation, social functioning, community mobility characteristics, and sedentary behavior; and hypotheses about potential change variables associated with the ICAN intervention.

New MS RT Scholarships Awarded

The Therapeutic Recreation program was pleased to award two new scholarships to individuals accepted into the MS in RT program for fall 2013. These scholarships are designed to provide modest financial support for tuition and are awarded for a two year period of study.

Recipients were selected based on their strong academic history, life experiences in health promotion and disease prevention, skills in complimentary disciplines and a commitment to serving individuals with disabilities. Congratulations to our two scholarship recipients for 2013:

**Tiffany Coleman, CTRS - Temple University Recreation Therapy Graduate Student Scholarship**

Tiffany graduated with a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from Temple University in January 2010. She has been working as a CTRS at Temple University Hospital on the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit since January 2011. Tiffany’s background also includes TR experience in Behavioral Health. She is an active member of the New Jersey/Eastern PA Therapeutic Recreation Association and has served as a guest speaker in the TR Modalities Class. Tiffany is interested in pursuing NCTRC specialty certification in Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation.

**Aurora Crew, CTRS - John Shank M.S. in Recreation Therapy Student Scholarship**

Aurora is a May 2010 graduate of Temple University with a BS in Therapeutic Recreation. She is currently the Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Waverly Heights, a Continuing Care Retirement Community, in Gladwyne, PA. Aurora has extensive experience working with geriatrics and has served as an internship supervisor for several Temple TR students. She is also very involved in professional organizations and currently serves as the PA Member at Large on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey/Eastern PA Therapeutic Recreation Association. This year she was also a member of the Peg Connolly Scholar Selection Committee for ATRA. As part of her MS in RT program at Temple, Aurora hopes to pursue NCTRC specialty certification in Geriatrics.
Congratulations, Nannette!

Nannette Vliet is this year’s recipient of Temple University’s Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. This University-wide award is given to one faculty member per year who has demonstrated excellence in mentoring students and advising them on curricular issues.

All of us in the TR program benefit from Nannette’s extensive knowledge and unwavering commitment to the students she serves. Way to go, Nannette!

In addition, Nannette has been appointed as the Interim Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs for the College of Health Professions and Social Work. She will be the point of contact for undergraduate issues such as grade grievances and academic program changes/development.

As part of this role, Nannette will continue the work that she has been doing this summer with the Office of Enrollment and Student Services related to the Critical Paths Project. This project is a University-wide initiative impacting all CHPSW undergraduate degrees that is designed to provide better academic planning and shorten time to degree for undergraduate students. She will also chair CHPSW undergraduate committees and represent the College, along with Assistant Dean Gail Glicksman, at undergraduate meetings with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies.

Congratulations, Heather!

Dr. Heather Porter was recently awarded the College of Health Professions and Social Work’s Excellence in Teaching Award!

Those who have had Dr. Porter as an instructor will understand that she is very deserving of this recognition. Her commitment to the education of Temple’s TR students is commendable and our students are privileged to have a professor who is so invested in their professional development.

Dr. Porter has high expectations of all her students and it is always exciting to see what students are able to accomplish with her encouragement. She constantly looks for new ways to make learning exciting and meaningful, as was evident at our first ever Evidence Based Practice Day that she organized this spring. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!
Welcome, Alan!

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and Therapeutic Recreation program welcomes Alan Okazaki to our team. He started with the department in July and has been a terrific resource in the short time that he’s been on board.

Originally from Lansdale, PA alumnus Alan Okazaki returns to Temple University from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN where he worked for several years as Fiscal Officer in the Office of the VP/CFO of the university.

Before entering the world of finance, Alan worked in theatre, television, and film for many years as a scenic designer and art director. Among his credits are the scenic design for the world premiere of “SUDS” in San Diego that he followed to its off-Broadway premiere and subsequent productions across the United States and Canada; Associate Scenic Designer for the world premiere of “Into the Woods” at The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego; and Art Director on over 300 half-hour situation comedies, game shows, and specials on network television, including “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “Saved by the Bell – The New Class,” and “Celebrity Poker Showdown.” He received a Primetime Emmy Nomination for his art direction for “The Soul Train Music Awards.”

Alan holds his M.F.A. in Theatrical Scenic Design from Temple University and his B.A. in Theatre Arts from Penn State University. Welcome, Alan!

Alumni Gather on Main Campus

This past spring, graduates from the Therapeutic Recreation and Occupational Therapy programs gathered with faculty and staff from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences to take place in the 5k Run and Family Fun Walk. This fun-filled event was part of Temple’s Alumni Weekend, held in April of each year.

The department was excited to have such a strong presence at the event, complete with newly designed sun visors! Friends, family and even pets gathered to participate in a little exercise and camaraderie. If you missed the event this year, have no fear! We are planning to make this an annual event and look forward to seeing you this spring!

Adjunct Faculty
Fall 2013

We are excited to welcome the following individuals as Adjunct Faculty in the TR Program during the fall 2013 semester.

These CTRS’s bring extensive TR knowledge and experience to the classroom and are enriching the educational experience of Temple’s TR students. Welcome!

Rachel Gucwa, M.Ed., CTRS  
TR Modalities, Section 1

Dean Parker, M.S., CTRS  
TR and Mental Health

Anne Richard, M.S., LRT/CTRS  
TR Administration

Jennifer Sciolla, M.S., CTRS, CCLS  
TR Modalities, Section 2
There are currently over 700 certified Recreational Therapists (RTs) in the state of Pennsylvania (PA). Although certification ensures that basic competency of skills are met, in the eyes of the law, certification is optional. This means that employers can decide to hire individuals who are not certified to work as Recreational Therapists in their agency. In some instances, people are hired in RT positions that do not even have a degree in Recreation Therapy. This raises concerns since it not only allows individuals with limited training in Recreation Therapy to practice in the profession, but also places individuals receiving services in potentially harmful situations.

In order to ensure that only qualified individuals are providing recreational therapy services (and subsequently reduce the risk of harm to citizens); RT needs to be licensed. Utah, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and New Hampshire have RT licensure; and many other states have developed RT licensure bills that are under review (e.g., New York). Both NCTRC and ATRA support RT licensure and are offering licensure help to states. An “RT Licensure Coordinator” has been identified in every state to lead the effort for their state. In Pennsylvania, Dr. Heather Porter is the RT Licensure Coordinator. Under her direction, an RT Licensure Committee for PA was formed and the committee is working hard to move this agenda forward.

What we need “YOU” to do:

1. **Fill out the survey:** If you are a CTRS who lives in Pennsylvania, complete the RT Licensure Survey at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RT_Licensure_in_PA](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RT_Licensure_in_PA)

2. **Sign the petition:** Go to: [http://www.change.org/organizations/recreational_therapy_licensure_committee_for_pennsylvania](http://www.change.org/organizations/recreational_therapy_licensure_committee_for_pennsylvania) and electronically sign the petition for RT Licensure in PA. It only takes about 30 seconds to do this. Then, send this link to all of the people on your contact lists (family, friends, co-workers, Facebook friends, colleagues) and ask them to sign the petition. Politicians will not support this bill unless they “hear” from the people that this is wanted. Every time someone signs this petition ALL of the PA Senators and Representatives will receive an automatic email alerting them that another person has signed the petition. WE NEED LOTS OF SIGNATURES! THIS IS IMPORTANT!

3. **Send an email to Rep. Sabatina:** Representative John Sabatina has already stepped up in support of RT licensure in PA and has requested a bill to be drafted. Send an email to Rep. John Sabatina simply saying, “Thank you for supporting RT licensure in PA.” ([jsabatina@pahouse.net](mailto:jsabatina@pahouse.net)). THIS IS IMPORTANT! The more words of “thanks” he hears, the harder he will work for us.

4. **Join the RT Licensure email list:** Send Dr. Porter an email at [hporter@temple.edu](mailto:hporter@temple.edu) indicating that you would like to be periodically updated about RT licensure in PA (indicate your full name and preferred email address in the body of the email). Your name will then be added to the RT Licensure Update email list.

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**Save the Date – RT Evidence Based Practice Day Conference**

Last year, Temple’s TR program hosted its very first RT Evidence Based Practice Day Conference on Main campus for RT students. The conference was so successful that we decided to open our upcoming 2014 conference to students AND professionals…yes, that means YOU’RE invited! The conference is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 30th, 2014**. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

If you would like to receive information about the conference when it becomes available, please send an email to Dr. Heather Porter ([hporter@temple.edu](mailto:hporter@temple.edu)) with your preferred email address and you will be added to our conference email list. Hopefully, we will see you there!
New Interactive Leisure Course Launched

Community and Leisure-Time Physical Activity
Using LTPA to increase Community Participation for Individuals with Disabilities

This past summer, faculty from the Therapeutic Recreation Program debuted new courses specific to Rehabilitation Sciences. Community Participation and Leisure-Time Physical Activity (LTPA) for Individuals with Disabilities (RS 5311) was one of these courses. This course was developed to provide information about and strategies to encourage community-based, leisure time physical activity for individuals with disabilities. Topics included strategies to assess physical activity, the benefits of LTPA, barriers that may prevent LTPA, interventions that promote LTPA, and external funding.

The course was delivered as an asynchronous, online course. Students were required to respond to the online content via the “comments section” on each page. Additionally, students co-created a blog, posting information that related the weekly topic to the student’s interest population. This format not only allowed students to learn from each other and interact with the content that other students posted. The delivery of this course was intentionally designed to increase students’ comfort with utilizing online media and disseminating information electronically. As health services become more community-based, practitioners will benefit from the ability to develop websites and disseminate information in a professional way to stakeholders.

The culminating assignment required students to submit a mock letter of intent, which proposed a new program designed to increase LTPA in the student’s population of interest. The purpose of this assignment was to encourage students to combine the topics across the semester to develop an implementable intervention. Additionally, as funds for the development of new programs continue to be limited, the intent was to encourage students to seek non-traditional funding opportunities.

We are excited about the potential for this course and the other Rehabilitation Sciences courses to promote community-participation for individuals with disabilities. Further, these courses are open to graduate students across the College of Health Professions and Social Work. We value the opportunity to share the expertise that we have as Recreational Therapists with the broader allied health community.

Innovative Child Life Interventions Class at Temple

For the past couple of years, Temple’s TR Program has offered a course in Child Life Interventions for Recreation Therapy students who have an interest in pursuing dual certification as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) and Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS). While this has been a popular class with TR students, enrollment has typically been quite small given the focused interest of the course.

However, changes in requirements for Child Life Certification by the Child Life Council have resulted in great interest in Temple’s course from individuals across the country. Effective in July 2013, all individuals hoping to become a CCLS are required to have a course in Child Life taught by a Child Life Specialist. Temple is currently one of only three colleges/universities in the state of Pennsylvania to offer such a course.

Adjunct Instructor Jennifer Sciolla, MS, CTRS, CCLS, has been instrumental not only in crafting an exceptional course, but also in restructuring Temple’s course to attract students from other programs. During the Summer 2013 semester, this course was offered in an online format to accommodate students from outside the Philadelphia area. Students were required to come to Philadelphia for one weekend intensive clinical rotation at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, which gave them very valuable exposure to the role of a Child Life Specialist. Students from diverse backgrounds had extremely positive feedback on the course.

The course will be offered again in Spring 2014 with some additional revisions (e.g. web-conference sessions) based on student feedback. For more information on this course, contact Dr. Rhonda Nelson, TR Program Director at 215-204-1387 or Rhonda.nelson@temple.edu
Successful Foray into WebEx for New Interdisciplinary TR Graduate Course

Summer 2013 brought an opportunity to offer the interdisciplinary course Managing Dementia Care via Temple’s newest technology format: WebEx. WebEx is the new platform being utilized for distance learning that allows students to be in a live classroom through the use of webcams and microphones.

Taught by Dr. Susanne Lesnik-Emas, CTRS, the course needed to reinvent itself in order to be appropriate for this live online format. Graduate students from Recreation Therapy, Speech Language, Pathology, and Nursing shared the classroom on equal footing; learning and exchanging discipline specific information related to dementia. Students participated in creative projects and discovered unique ways for the disciplines to move together in supporting persons with dementia. One nurse brought to the group the interesting perspective of a person being admitted to her acute care unit for a medical crisis, and having an overlay of dementia.

Although the technology was a learning experience for all students and the teacher as well, it proved to be connective and supportive, despite the physical distance between all participants. We look forward to offering this innovative interdisciplinary course with the aid of new technology again next summer. For more information, contact: Dr. Rhonda Nelson, CTRS, TR/RT Program Coordinator, at rhonda.nelson@temple.edu.

Active Living for Persons with Aphasia

Busting at the Seams!

The start of the fall semester brought the return of some of our favorite community people. There was Baron sticking his head (covered with a Temple U baseball cap) into many offices and trying to make writing tablets for group members with the help of Dr. Nelson. Pat, Richard and Jeanette have been guest “clients” in Dr. Porter’s Assessment and Documentation sections, Richard reported using the ipad tablet to test his cognition with different game applications, and Pat is hoping to learn how to crochet from several TR students.

Through the good words of our core members, SLP professionals from across the city have been referring individuals with living with aphasia to this program. Even with the new tables and chairs, it is standing room only for this eager group of community members. New members are captivated by the sense of community and the camaraderie that oozes from the group. As the group prepares for senior level students from the Clinical Procedures course to invade their group, leading 6 week clinical sessions, they also celebrated in Club Suites at the Temple vs Fordham football game compliments of Access Sports. This week they discovered that one of “their” students is a starting forward on the Temple women’s basketball team, and they are clamoring for game tickets!

On Wednesday afternoons when you hear all of the laughter ringing through the 3rd floor hallway, you’ll know that there is a group of people doing some active living!
Looking for Evidence Based Practice?
Check out the RT Wise Owls Blog!

Recreational therapists, like all healthcare practitioners, are increasingly being challenged to use evidence-based practice (EBP). EBP is a way of “providing health care that is guided by a thoughtful integration of the best available scientific knowledge with clinical expertise” (U.S. National Library of Medicine, 2013). To do this, the therapist must be knowledgeable of the current research and spend time thoughtfully reflecting on how it can be applied to the care of each specific client/program. This can be very time consuming (and sometimes confusing). To help, publicly available EBP websites are springing up online. On these sites, therapists can enter search terms, such as “community integration”, and instantly access summaries or abstracts of journal articles that provide support for the intervention.

To help recreational therapists easily find and access such information, Dr. Heather Porter in the TR program at Temple developed the RT Wise Owls Blog (www.rtwiseowls.com). On this site, therapists can access 23 websites where therapists can search and access EBP journal articles, guidelines, reports, and protocols. It also houses 14 EBP summaries and knowledge translation plans (KTP) developed by our TR students (with more to come), that therapists can freely download and use in practice. Current topics include 1) the impact of horticulture therapy on emotional well-being in older adults, 2) the relationship between physical activity participation and risk of cognitive impairment in older adults, 3) a review of the effectiveness of reminiscence therapy on the cognitive functioning of older adults with dementia, 4) the impact of animal assisted therapy on social interaction and well-being among older adults with dementia, 5) the utilization of wilderness therapy in achieving mental health outcomes with adolescents, 6) the impact of play and recreation on reported pain levels in children with cancer, 7) technology based recreation as a rehabilitation tool for children with brain injuries, 8) using adventure therapy interventions to promote socialization in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders, 9) obesity management in spinal cord injury through leisure time physical activity, 10) benefits of social support for individuals with spinal cord injury, 11) behavior management in children and adolescents with traumatic brain injury through antecedent interventions within applied behavior analysis, 12) therapeutic benefits of sports participation for individuals with combat related lower extremity amputations, 13) multi-sensory motor interventions for behavior management of individuals with dementia in residential care, and 14) social skills training for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities.

Future goals for the Blog are to post free voice-over power points on EBP and to expand the site to include EBP summaries and KTPs from other RT academic programs across the US and Canada.

More information will continually be added to the RT Wise Owls Blog, so be sure to “follow” us by entering your email address on the Blog page. If you do this, you will receive notifications of new posts by email.

Master’s Project “Speed Dating” Night

Our first Master’s Project Speed Dating Night was held on September 12th. Second year graduate students who are currently working to identify a topic for their Master’s Project were able to benefit from faculty expertise by explaining their ideas and asking questions of multiple professors in an effort to shape and guide their project ideas. During the course of the evening, the 10 students participating rotated through brief (10 minute) conversations with 10 different faculty members. The evening generated lots of exciting discussions and ideas!

A special thank you to all the Rehabilitation Sciences faculty members who shared their time and expertise with students during this fun and educational evening:

- Kristin Berg, Ph.D., AMSW
- Elaine Hatala, Ph.D., CTRS
- Pei-Chun Hsieh, Ph.D., CTRS
- Roger Ideishi, JD, OT/L, FAOTA
- Susanne Lesnik-Emas, Ed.D., CTRS
- Rhonda Nelson, Ph.D., CTRS
- Heather Porter, Ph.D., CTRS
- John Shank, Ed.D., CTRS
- Gretchen Snethen, Ph.D., CTRS
- Gena Bell Vargas, Ph.D., CTRS

Back Row: Joe Lin, Rosemary Price, Katie Borgstrom, Whitney Strange, Julianne Holbert
Front Row: Kristin Hartman, Morgan Ferrante, Sara Heinze, Jackie Gimbel
Not Pictured: Gina Ross
Faculty in the TR Program received a funded award over the summer from Temple’s Alternate Textbook Project to develop an innovative, non-traditional textbook for the undergraduate Research and Evaluation in Therapeutic Recreation course. The alternate textbook was launched this fall and has been a great success.

Drs. Hatala, Hsieh and Snethen developed the alternate textbook to provide TR students with more TR-oriented and less costly instructional materials for the course and to improve the quality of learning. Course materials include a wide range of media including scholarly articles, video, websites, and open access textbooks from Flatworld Knowledge, OpenStax and Connexions. In just the first five weeks of the course, students have used ten different peer-reviewed journals, four different research-oriented web sites, four federal websites, four Youtube videos, and three open access textbooks. They have also tapped into Ted Talks, NPR and newspaper reports. Now that’s a course text! Students have identified over 100 scholarly articles from peer-reviewed journals that they are using during class and for their evidence-based practice research papers.

In addition to developing the alternate textbook, Drs. Hatala, Hsieh and Snethen developed hands-on workshops that have been integrated into class on a regular basis. The workshops are designed to provide opportunities for practical applications of course reading and lecture materials. During workshops, students work independently and in groups formed around clinical populations - geriatric, physical disability, pediatrics, and mental health - to brainstorm interventions, critically analyze research studies, improve their skills in reading and understanding research studies, and develop strategies and writing skills as they develop their own evidence-based practice research paper.

Students report that the workshops have been enjoyable and beneficial in learning about and understanding research, and developing research strategies and skills associated with evidence-based practice. The faculty are enjoying the alternate text and workshops, too!

Leisure Education Joins Forces with the Academy of Adult Learning to Benefit All Students!

During the spring semester 2013, TR students in the THRC 3111 Health Promotion and Leisure Education course provided leadership for six leisure education sessions to students in the Academy of Adult Learning (AAL), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. AAL students participate in a four-semester certificate program providing them, as young adults with intellectual disabilities, an authentic college experience while developing vocational skills and career aspirations. And as we all know, developing leisure skills, knowledge and appreciation is critical to both the college experience and the young working adult!

During the sessions, the TR students, in teams of four, planned lessons and taught the AAL students about the benefits of healthy living, opportunities for leisure and recreation on campus and around the city, appropriate communication skills when accessing community recreation sites, and how to continue an active lifestyle after leaving the Academy and Temple University. Academy students enjoyed participating in a campus scavenger hunt, charades, small group discussions and role playing. TR students learned valuable lessons in planning, leadership and teaching strategies.

Students in THRC 3111 during the fall 2013 semester are busy planning for the upcoming leisure education session, to be implemented in November! While collaboration between the Institute on Disabilities and the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences isn’t new, we are proud to see the collaboration expand to benefit the students of both programs! For more information about the AAL, please go to: http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/inclusive/aal.shtml#basic
Congratulations, Graduates!

We warmly congratulate our recent BS in Therapeutic Recreation graduates.

**May 2013**
- Rema Alrabadi
- Sherlene Anderson
- Genee Atwater
- Maureen Brace
- Madeleine Brann
- Daniel Brunetti
- Joshua Cino
- Ilknur Dagdeviren
- Toni Distasio
- Tonya Fromm
- Rachel Green
- Tracy Jastrzab
- Bessie Johnson
- Jeffrey Jones

**August 2013**
- Amanda Koller
- Kevin Kramer
- Kristine Kroll
- Erin Kathleen MacElroy
- Christine Newns
- Paulene Niessen
- Caroline O’Neill
- Debra Pakstis
- Michelle Perozze
- Cynthia Piccerillo
- Tanissa Reed
- Jessica Rudolph
- Marianella Sanchez

We also congratulate our MS in Recreation Therapy graduates from May and August. They are listed below along with information on their Master’s project:

**May 2013 Graduate**

**Katelyn Ropars**
Master’s Project: Social Skills Training for Children with Developmental Disabilities
*Faculty Advisors: Dr. Heather Porter & Dr. Susanne Lesnik-emas*

**August 2013 Graduates**

**Jenna Costello**
Master’s Project: Multi-Sensory Motor Interventions for Behavior Management of Individuals with Dementia in Residential Care
*Faculty Advisors: Dr. Heather Porter & Dr. Rhonda Nelson*

**Lindsay Rickard**
Master’s Project: Physical Benefits of Aquatic Therapy for Children with Cerebral Palsy
*Faculty Advisors: Dr. Rhonda Nelson & Dr. Susanne Lesnik-emas*

**2013 Award Winners**

Congratulations to the following graduates who received special recognition by being recognized with the following honors.

- **Genee Atwater**: Outstanding Senior Award
- **Nicole Bryman**: Bill Dayton Memorial Award
- **Tonya Fromm**: TR Program Certificate of Recognition
- **Paige O’Sullivan**: John Noisette Memorial Award
- **Nicole Perry**: TR Program Certificate of Recognition
Rec 4 Life in Full Swing

With the start of a new school year comes the beginning of Rec4Life Therapeutic Recreation Association, the student group for Therapeutic Recreation majors at Temple University. After a year of brainstorming, planning, and finalizing details, our student group is in full swing for the start of the 2013 school year!

Rec 4 Life will provide student members with opportunities for professional development hours, access to the ATRA Student Connection Facebook page, networking with other students, faculty, NJ/EPA professional members and possible future employers. The club’s bi-weekly meetings enhance members’ knowledge of the TR profession through experienced guest speakers from various populations. Additionally, the club aims to extend skills learned in class into real world experiences. The club has kicked off its first academic year with 75 members and continues to grow.

So far this semester, the club has excelled in fundraising events to support students’ attendance at the 2013 American Therapeutic Recreation Association Annual Conference. Also, the club has supported the T21 Club of Delaware Valley at Down Syndrome Awareness Day at the Philadelphia Zoo on September 15. Rec 4 Life has participated in the Annual Worldwide Park(ing) Day on September 20. To celebrate Park(ing) Day, Rec 4 Life blocked off a parking spot on Temple University’s campus and encouraged pedestrians to partake in an adapted activity. The group used Park(ing) Day as a means to promote awareness of the TR profession in the North Philadelphia community.

Other events and organizations Rec 4 Life group members have given their time to include: The Keen Game at Inglis House, Global Abilities Rec Fest at The Carousel House and the Softball tournament with SPIN at Norcom Community Center.

Upcoming events for the Rec 4 Life student group include programs at the Carousel House, planning and facilitating Recreational Therapy sessions at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, and volunteering at the Special Olympics at Villanova University.

If you are interested in presenting professional advice and experiences with the Rec 4 Life student group or are in need of volunteers, please contact Ashleigh Stewart (President) at Rec4LifeAssociation@gmail.com.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH ALUMNI FROM THE TR PROGRAM AND RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS, TRAINING, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES!

If your contact information has changed since you graduated from Temple, please update your information! Send an email to Jacquee Lukawski at jlukawski@temple.edu.

“Like” us on facebook! www.facebook.com/CTRSOWLS