College News

School of Allied Health Technology Faculty Presents CEU Workshop

William C. Fiala, professor of practice in the School of Allied Health Technology, conducted a continuing education program for the Akron Canton Chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders at Mercy Medical Center in Canton on June 14. His program included instructions for reporting evaluation and management services rendered by physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants consistent with governmental and non-governmental insurance carrier regulations. Attendees included healthcare billing and coding professionals, physicians, and insurance company representatives.

College of Health Professions Representatives Win UA’s EXL Center Award

The College of Health Professions is proud to share that its faculty and contract professionals were selected to receive the UA EXL Center’s Spirit of Experiential Learning Award for its Wellness Wednesday initiative.

The EXL Faculty Steering Committee’s Awards subcommittee reviewed all nominations and recommended Claudia Hoskins, Judy Juvanic-Heltzel, Greta Lax, and Kathy Schupp for the Award. The recipients will join a May 9th 3:00-4:30pm Awards Ceremony at the EXL Center.

Wellness Wednesdays is a year-long student-led interprofessional, community-based experience supported by ARI-AHEC and the College of Health Professions faculty in partnership with our local public housing authority. Students connect monthly with residents, primarily older adults and adults with disabilities living in three public housing sites (programming three evenings each month, for six months). Goals of the program include (1) empowering students from different professions to take the lead in working together in developing programming, (2) providing community-based interactive training, (3) challenging students to meet needs of a specific underserved population, and (4) providing the opportunity to improve content and delivery with feedback with each weekly session.

Congratulations to College of Health Professions colleagues on your success.
The College of Health Professions would like to thank Dr. Mary Jo MacCracken, Professor in the School of Sport Science and Wellness Education for 50 years of dedicated service to The University of Akron. Mary Jo also served as Grand Marshall for the 2018 Spring Commencement ceremony.

Dr. MacCracken graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the College of Wooster with a major in Physical and Health Education in 1965, a master’s degree from The University of Akron with a concentration in Physical Education in 1969, and a doctoral degree from Kent State University, with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction in 1980. She began her career teaching at The University of Akron as a Lecturer in 1968-1970, and then as an Instructor from 1970-1978. She was hired as an Assistant Professor at The University of Akron in 1978, received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982; and Professor in 1988.

School of Allied Health Technology Faculty Author Journal Article

Dr. Kristine N. Kraft, associate professor and interim director for the School of Allied Health Technology, and William C. Fiala, professor of practice in the school, authored an article that has been reviewed and accepted for publication in the Journal of AHIMA.

Their article clarifies the classification for post-operative ileus. It has been estimated that ileus costs $750 million annually in the United States. Founded in 1928, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) serves to improve health record quality by taking a leadership role in the effective management of health data and delivering quality health care to the public.
College News (Cont.)

College of Health Professions Faculty Named As Mid-American Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellows

The College of Health Professions is proud to congratulate Matthew Juravich (School of Sport Science & Wellness Education) and Naomi White (School of Social Work) as two of the three 2018-2019 University of Akron fellows selected for the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP).

The mission of the MAC ALDP is to identify, develop, prepare and advance faculty as academic leaders in MAC schools. The program provides an opportunity for faculty to gain valuable knowledge and experience in academic leadership by working closely with select administrators from other colleges and universities in the MAC.

Our College of Health Professions colleagues will learn to:

Articulate the complexity of the structure and operations within an institution and across institutions;
Describe the impact of the external influences on the role of leaders in a higher institution.
Identify best practices in academic leadership;
Assess one’s own leadership potential, including strengths and weaknesses, and identify leadership pathways;
Communicate the importance of inclusive excellence.

Best wishes to Matthew and Naomi as representatives of the College and University.
Blaire D. Gray-Harrison, from the School of Social Work will be the student speaker at the Spring Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 12, at 10 a.m. She is graduating with a B.A. in Social Work with a minor in Spanish.

Blaire I will be working while earning a graduate degree in the School of Social Work here at UA, then moving to Texas to begin her career. She admitted that the best advice she ever got from a professor was that there are no coincidences, everything happens for a reason! Remember, there is a reason you are where you’re at! Her favorite campus activity was volunteering and being part of different organizations. Meeting new people, getting involved and gaining new experiences.

When asked how she has changed during her years at UA she says “I have matured. When I started, I had bad time management and organization skills. Life was all about partying. Fast forward, and now I rarely party, my grades are good, and I have enjoyed many great opportunities as a result.”

Blaire went on to say that she completed her internship with the National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP). “I enjoyed working alongside the employees and with the clients. I was able to apply classroom knowledge to the real world. I learned and experienced so much in one year. The moment that stuck out to me was at a luncheon with the founder and hearing his story, and the reason for starting NYAP. I support the mission. My experience with this agency was amazing!”

Her advice to incoming freshmen is to have fun and live life, but stay true to yourself and remember the end goal — graduate and obtain your degree!
On April 27, 2018 the College of Health Profession’s School of Counseling delivered a successful community-wide workshop focused on trauma informed clinical supervision for professional counselors and marriage and family therapists. Continuing education units were provided to 26 attendees, including representatives from 10 different organizations in Summit and Stark Counties.

Held at the School of Counseling’s Chima Family Center, Drs. Heather Katafiasz and Julie Lenyk helped participants understand key components of trauma informed care, the impacts of trauma on clinicians and the benefits of trauma informed supervision, ethical implications of trauma on boundaries, wellness, and self-care for clinicians, and a trauma informed model of supervision with individuals and/or groups.

Dr. Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich (Interim Director) shared that “Drs. Katafiasz and Lenyk led an excellent presentation which was informative, thought-provoking, and practical. The audience was captivated by the amount and depth of knowledge being shared.”

Dr. Robert C. Schwartz (Interim Associate Dean) echoed that “It was so nice to see many alumni and community supporters, along with almost all School of Counseling faculty, coming together for a quality presentation in a well-appointed setting with excellent attendance to build on our educational and outreach missions at UA and community-wide.”
The School of Counseling in the College of Health Professions held its 33rd consecutive Chi Sigma Iota annual induction and award ceremony on April 22.

Following a greeting by Alexander Moga, president, a keynote speech was given by Dr. Yue Dang, a visiting assistant professor of instruction in the School of Counseling.

Inductees took a new member pledge and received a call to action by Samantha Hearn, president-elect. Awards for extraordinary contributions were shared for outstanding practitioner, Tanya Middleton; supervisor, Dr. Yue Dang; research/writing, Orit Rubin and Bill Owenby; fellowship Samantha Hearn; service, Natasha Lacey; master’s student, Chase Swaney; and doctoral student, Tanya Middleton. The 2018-2019 executive board was introduced to facilitate continued success of the organization. Founded in 1985, Chi Sigma Iota is the international counseling honor society and has more than 110,000 inducted members. Our Alpha Upsilon Chapter is one of the largest and most awarded worldwide.

Dr. Robert Schwartz, faculty advisor, noted that “these new inductees, award winners, and newly elected officers show the strong commitment University of Akron School of Counseling students have toward promoting academic, professional and scholarly success in the counseling profession. Chi Sigma Iota’s motto ‘not just another line on one’s resume’ was clearly demonstrated by the enthusiasm of its members.”
School of Nursing Honor Society Holds Annual Induction and Award Ceremony

Delta Omega, The University of Akron chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, held its 37th annual induction and award ceremony on Sunday, April 15 at the Student Union. 25 students and 1 nurse leader attended.

Following a greeting by Lori Kidd (2nd Vice President and faculty member), a keynote speech was given by Ashley Capestrain, RN, BSN, Class of 2017, who has served as chapter student intern and community extern. Inductees took a new member pledge and received a call to action by chapter President Aris Eliades. Ten practicing nurses from local agencies were awarded recognition in Nursing Leadership, Nursing Practice, Nursing Education, Nursing Research, Nursing Mentoring, and Nursing Research Utilization, Outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing students, Outstanding Chapter Contributions, and the Lillian DeYoung Research-Based Knowledge Translation Award, followed by a reception of members, honorees, and proud family and friends.

Founded in 1922 by six nurses in Indiana, Sigma Theta Tau is the only Nursing Honor Society and has more than 135,000 members in over 90 countries globally. The Delta Omega chapter at The University of Akron is one of two chapters worldwide to be awarded Sigma Theta Tau International’s Key Award honor 13 times, signifying excellence in membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, professional and leadership development, and local, national and international collaboration.
Food and environmental nutrition students create new entrees for competition

Students from the Food and Environmental Nutrition Program recently partnered on a project with the research and development team of local food manufacturer, Fresh Mark, Inc. Working with Dr. Jennifer Warren, assistant professor of practice, in their Food Industry course, students completed an Ideation Project, using Fresh Mark products in specifically targeted restaurants.

The top three winners presented their creations in the culinary kitchens at Fresh Mark and demonstrated their products for company executives. “Picking the top three was a tough choice,” said Scott Hess of Fresh Mark. “The students exceeded our expectations and created some great ideas that we can use for our products.”

Winners are pictured above with the Fresh Mark R&D Team. From left, in the second row, Steve Bennett, Luke Rocco and Scott Hess. The winners, from left, are Jennifer Forte, who created a “Wonder Waffle” sandwich with savory bacon with a sweet cinnamon waffle; Mariel Trapp, whose “Sweet and Spicy” sandwich included chocolate-covered bacon; and Rachel Zeller, who created a “Spicy Meat Lover” pizza concept.
College News (Cont.)

School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology faculty presents healthcare treatments at Joint World Congress in Japan

Dr. Scott Palasik, Assistant Professor in the College of Health Profession’s School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology will present several noted healthcare treatments at the July 2018 Joint World Congress in Hiroshima Japan. The international symposium will include the International Fluency Association, International Cluttering Association, and International Stuttering Association.

Dr. Palasik will present “Mindfulness, acceptance and commitment therapy, and the brain: an experiential journey with fluency disorders,” “Attempts to bridge the divide between stuttering therapy, self-help, and science: a panel discussion,” and “Meeting the needs of people who stutter: seeing, feeling, and experiencing counseling approaches.”

In March 2018 Dr. Palasik travelled to New York City to present “When I Stutter,” a documentary he helped co-write and in which he is featured. The documentary has been at 10 film festivals worldwide and won 5 awards since its world premiere at the Cleveland International Film Festival in April, 2017. The documentary may also be featured at the upcoming 2018 Joint World Congress in Japan.
School of Nursing Student Katelyn Schwert Honored With 2018 Daisy Award

Katelyn Schwert, School of Nursing RN-BSN student (class of 2018), was recently honored with the Daisy Award at Cleveland Clinic Foundation Avon Hospital.

The Daisy Award, acronym for Disease Attacking the Immune SYstem is a national award that celebrates nurses who provide extraordinary compassion and skillful care. This recognition was created by the family of J. Patrick Barnes who died at age 33 of complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. The nursing care Patrick received when hospitalized during that time profoundly touched his family.

Katelyn was honored for going above and beyond in her nursing care of patients and their families, who stated "It has been such an honor to be awarded the Daisy Award. I was nominated by a co-worker after I assisted a patient's family after the untimely passing of their loved one. That day, I became the family's person....I absolutely love everything about what I do and it has helped me evolve as a person."
School of Counseling Students/Graduates Recognized for Highest 2017 Professional Counselor Licensure Examination Pass Rate in Ohio

The School of Counseling students/graduates have been recognized for the highest 2017 professional counselor licensure examination pass rate in the State of Ohio. The National Counselor Examination, utilized as Ohio’s professional counselor licensure examination, is completed throughout the year by final semester counseling internship students and recent graduates.

School of Counseling students/graduates had the highest number of 2017 cumulative examination completions in Ohio (N = 68), much higher than the average Ohio university number of examination attempts (Range = 1 to 47). School of Counseling students/graduates had a 92% examination pass rate, much higher than the national average of approximately 78%. For comparison, regional university examination pass results were as follows: Cleveland State University = 64%, Walsh University = 77%, Kent State University = 78%, Youngstown State University = 80%, Malone University = 80%. Fully online counseling programs fared worst: Capella University = 69%, Walden University = 70%.

Dr. Robert C. Schwartz, College of Health Professions Interim Associate Dean and Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Coordinator explained that “these outstanding results not only exemplify the quality of School of Counseling students, but also the world class training received at The University of Akron. School of Counseling instructors, a state-of-the-art training clinic, and effective teaching methodologies (e.g., practical skill-based learning versus fully online knowledge and memory-based education) have resulted in extraordinary student/graduate success.”
For Minority Health Month 2018, the Summit County Public Health Office of Minority Health hosted an April 7 Healthy Choir Showcase with choral groups from surrounding communities to gather for education and fellowship. The main goal was to address the many preventable chronic diseases that are prevalent within minority populations.

Prior to the showcase and in between presentations, a health fair was available from various healthcare organizations providing screenings and education on all things health-related. The University Of Akron’s College of Health Professions was a key stakeholder in the event, offering information about its varying clinics serving public physical and mental health.

The College of Health Professions has a core diversity mission, found at http://www.uakron.edu/health/about/index.dot. The College is proud that its graduates are prepared to address the needs of an evolving health care system and value the opportunity to serve health needs and promote wellness opportunities to an increasingly diverse community.
On Saturday, March 23, one student and three faculty members from the School of Social Work were honored for their achievements and contributions to the field of Social Work at the Annual Gala for the National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter. Linda McArdle, a recently retired Professor of Instruction in the School of Social Work, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her decades of social work practice in health care and higher education.

Crystal Dunivant received the Outstanding Service Award for her exceptional work as a part-time instructor and faculty liaison in the UA School of Social Work as well as her work in mental health at Community Support Services in Akron.

Gabrielle Faggella Fuller received the Social Worker of the Year award for her expertise in clinical social work, with a specialization in treating anxiety disorders. Ms. Faggella Fuller is also a part-time instructor in the School of Social Work, and teaches advanced graduate courses in clinical social work.

Maria Dixon was honored as the Social Work Student of the Year, most notably for her work at BeST Center at NEOMED (Best Practices in Schizophrenia Treatment). Dixon is a graduate social work student, and will be graduating with her MSW degree in May.

**Pictured in the Photo, from left to right**
Gabrielle Faggella Fuller – Social Worker of the Year (Akron Region)
Crystal Dunivant – Social Worker of the Year (Canton Region)
Maria Dixon – Social Work Student of the Year (Akron Region)
Linda McArdle – Lifetime Achievement Award (Akron Region)
College News (Cont.)

Nutrition Center hosting a Wellness Retreat

When: Saturday April 28, 2018 from 8am to 1pm
Where: Bath Nature Preserve (UA Field Station), 4240 Ira Avenue, Akron OH 44333
Cost: $30 regular attendees, $20 student attendees
Contact Person: Kathy Schupp, 330-972-5548 or kschupp@uakron.edu

Agenda:
8:00am = Registration
8:30am = Yoga session (bring yoga mat)
9:45am = Snack break (yogurt bar, fruit, granola)
10:00am = Horticulture therapy session
10:45am = Yoga session
11:45am = Vegetarian lunch (roasted garlic asparagus soup, quinoa salad, truffles, raspberry lemonade)
12:30pm = Guided meditation

College of Health Professions Faculty Appointed to State-Wide Health Sciences Panel

Christine Graor (School of Nursing) and Christin Seher (School of Nutrition and Dietetics) are congratulated for being selected by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to serve on a prestigious Ohio Health Sciences Cluster Faculty Panel. The Panel is part of a state-wide steering committee for the Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathway initiative, which by state law establishes guaranteed transfer pathways from two-year to four-year degree programs in an equivalent field. This effort is directly related to Ohio’s initiatives in college affordability and degree completion, mandated by the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Christine and Christin will not only represent The University of Akron, they will also help promote educational attainment in their fields state-wide. The College of Health Professions thanks them for their service.
**College News (Cont.)**

**Counseling Professors Speak in Seattle**

Dr. Heather Katafiasz and Dr. Rikki Patton presented “Finding the Fit: Applying Multisystemic Therapy’s Fit Circle to creating a Leadership Development Plan he American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy’s Leadership Symposium on March 10 in Seattle. Katafiasz, left, and Patton in the photo at right, are assistant professors in the marriage and family counseling/therapy master’s and doctoral programs in the School of Counseling.

Their presentation focused on the isomorphic application of a therapeutic intervention, the fit circle, to help emerging and established leaders develop their own fit circle as they endeavor to create their own leadership plan.

**Exercise science professor recognized for teaching and research**

Dr. Laura Richardson, professor of instruction exercise science, received the American College of Sports Medicine award as the 2017 Clinical Exercise Professional of the Year at the 2017 Midwest ACSM Fall Meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The prestigious award recognizes clinically certified professionals working at the forefront of the field promoting the advancement of therapeutic exercise. Richardson is an ACSM registered clinical exercise physiologist with more than 20 years of clinical experience as a practitioner in health care working with patients diagnosed with immunological, metabolic, pulmonary, neuromuscular, cardiovascular and orthopedic disorders.
College News (Cont.)

Speech-Language Pathology Faculty Member Speaks in Mexico

From Feb. 28 through March 3, Dr. K. Todd Houston provided a series of lectures and hands-on training on the topic of telepractice and cochlear implants in Mexico City, Mexico. Houston, a professor in the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, spoke to an audience of staff members of the Latin America division of the Cochlear Corporation, the world's leading manufacturer of cochlear implants.

The goal was to expand service delivery to unserved and underserved populations with hearing loss in Mexico and the countries of Central and South America. Tele practice allows clinicians to provide diagnostic and treatment services that would otherwise be unavailable to some families of children with hearing loss and adults who are deaf and hard of hearing.

This initial training is the first step in developing a core group of professionals with the knowledge and skills to provide evidence-based tele practice services and to meet the growing need for consistent and effective hearing health care services.

School of Nutrition & Dietetics Hosts Home Run Recipe Challenge with Akron’s RubberDucks March 20th

The School of Nutrition & Dietetics, through their Nutrition Center, will host the second annual Home Run Recipe Challenge with the Akron RubberDucks. The event is built from last year’s RubberDucks request that students create healthy ball park food items. The food challenge is held in conjunction with National Nutrition Month. The RubberDucks also use this as time to recruit for summer jobs.

The event will be held on Tuesday March 20 in the Student Union Piano Lounge. Judges this year will be Brian Manning (Food and Beverage Director from the RubberDucks), James Phillips (Executive Chef from the RubberDucks), Don Smith (Department Director of Nutrition at Summa) and last year’s winner Miranda Petrigash.
On February 16, 2018 a successful interprofessional poverty simulation workshop was completed focusing on counseling, nursing and social work student training. Sheri Hartman, Lori Kidd, Greta Lax, and Rose Resler, among many others, were key College of Health Professions faculty and dean’s office representatives.

This 14th poverty simulation (which was inaugurated in 2014) included approximately 100 students who were grouped to experience life challenges affecting persons from lower socioeconomic statuses. Community partners ranging from public housing and homeless shelter personnel, to bank and grocery store staff, to law enforcement officers simulated real-world experiences so students could better identify with the struggles of their clients/patients. Students then participated in facilitated group exercises that processed their experiences and honed in on knowledge and skills useful as healthcare professions.

Lori Kidd explains that “We are proud of the collaboration between The University of Akron College of Health Professions and our community partners, and truly believe that we are making an impact in our students’ understanding of, empathy towards, and interactions with low income persons.”
The poverty simulation project began in March 2014 with a visionary nursing director sending two nursing faculty members for a facilitator training offered by the Missouri Association for Community Action. The potential value of such a simulation in teaching health care providers so captured our imaginations that we strongly recommended purchase of the simulation kit (CAPS) for use at our own university. We then assembled an initial core team of interested faculty (Dr. Lori Kidd, Dr. Sheri Hartman, Rose Ressler and Dr. Jina Sang) from other schools in our College of Health Care Professions to help implement the simulations. The first simulation took place in November, 2014.

The initial goals of the poverty simulation were to effect a change in awareness and attitudes towards low income persons. We also enlisted help from the regional, federally funded Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Director, Greta Lax. AHEC’s primary mission is to build academic and community educational partnerships; thus, the Center Director quickly put us in contact with the local metropolitan housing authority Bridges out of Poverty program and its graduates. The graduates—persons working to improve their low income situation—assist in our simulations by playing “staff” in community resource organizations. Their efforts during the role play and small group debrief portion (where students process their simulation experiences and volunteers share some of their personal experiences with poverty) of the simulation have been invaluable. For their time and effort, they are provided minimal stipend utility vouchers through AHEC funding.

Simulations take approximately three hours. Students are assigned to “families” who have various financial and health challenges. Their goal is to navigate a mock “month” (divided into 15-18 minute sessions) of living as low income persons. They follow the instructions of their given circumstances by going to school or work and using neighborhood agencies to help them improve their situation. Following the simulation, nursing students (and other students as classroom schedules permitted) attend an additional 2 hour classroom lecture offered by the ARI-AHEC Director and based on content in the manual Bridges to Health and Healthcare: New solutions for improving access and services (Payne, Dreussi-Smith, Shaw, & Young, 2014).

The Short Form of the Attitude toward Poverty Scale (ATP; Yun & Weaver, 2010) was used as pre and post-test to measure changes. Paired samples t-tests were conducted on data. Although total score significance indicating positive change in attitudes has only been achieved during two simulations, individual items showing changes in attitudes towards persons in poverty have demonstrated significance on multiple occasions. After 2017, the instrument was deleted from the simulations as data became redundant and no new information was being obtained. Data regarding the poverty simulations has been presented in poster at conferences as well as podium presentations.
Following the first year, Dr. Lori Kidd secured additional funding for the simulation by connecting the poverty simulation with a HRSA grant promoting geriatric education with an interprofessional collaboration focus. Although minor adjustments to simulation goals, family members, and debrief questions for small groups were required, the grant provided funding for an additional 3 years. At the time of this writing, thirteen simulations including over 900 health care professions student participants (undergraduate and graduate students in the disciplines of nursing, medicine, pharmacy, nutrition, child life, social work and counseling) have been conducted over a four year period.

(Pictured from left in the back row are Missy Dreisbach, Jim Smith, Mike Duve and Judi Juvancic-Heltzel. Pictured from left in the front row are Alan Kornspan, John Roncone, Mary Jo MacCracken, Melissa Smith, Rob Reynolds ’15, Tyrone Mosley and Danny Crish ’15.)

Several School of Sport Science and Wellness Education (SSWE) faculty presented at the 88th annual Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (OAHPERD) Convention held in Sandusky Nov. 30 to Dec. 1. Sessions included:

- “The Utilization of Concept Maps & One-Minute Papers to Enhance Student Learning” by Dr. John Roncone, associate professor and program coordinator, SSWE Wayne College.
- “BDNF: The Case for Why Your Brain Does Need Fitness” by Dr. Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, associate professor of exercise science, and Dr. Mary Jo MacCracken, professor of sport studies.
- “Panel Discussion: Exploring the Next Step….Graduate School!” moderated by Dr. John Roncone, with panelists Jim Smith, Northmont City Schools; Dr. Alan Kornspan, professor of sport studies; Dr. Mike Duve, visiting assistant professor of instruction, sport studies; Melissa Smith, M.S., assistant professor of instruction, health education; and Tyrone Mosley, Orrville City Schools HPE teacher, and assistant lecturer, Wayne College.
- “Sitting is the New Smoking: Incorporating Movement Throughout the Day Across the Lifespan” by Dr. Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Missy Driesbach, M.S., assistant lecturer, physical education, and Melissa Smith.
- “Sport Psychology: What Coaches Need to Know” by Dr. Mary Jo MacCracken, Dr. Robert E. Stadulis, emeritus professor, Kent State University; Dr. Bonnie G. Berger, Fellow CC-AASP, professor of sport and exercise psychology; and Dr. Adrian P. Turner, associate professor of physical education/health education, Bowling Green State University.
School of Counseling  Eman Tadros, MS, a student member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and a doctoral student in Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy Program in the School of Counseling, published a therapist/researcher/educator/advocate article in the Family Therapy Magazine. The story focused on encouraging leadership. As Eman explains “There are plenty of ways to advocate for the field and for your own community or specialized populations. . . . it is our duty to be continuously educating ourselves on contemporary issues, post-modern theories, evidenced-based practices, and new research.”

School of Social Work Faculty Presents at the Society for Social Work Research Conference

Dr. Jina Sang, Assistant Professor, presented at the Society for Social Work Research Conference on January 14, 2018. Her poster presentation was titled, "My child rejects me: Alienated parents from separated or divorced families." In her study, she investigated what alienated parents experience following separation or divorce. She noted that in high-conflict families, where there are high degrees of anger and distrust between parents, parental alienation may occur; that is, children turn against a parent. This study highlights the difficulties experienced by alienated parents as well as coping strategies they use to deal with their feelings and stress associated with parental alienation.

School of Counseling Honor Society Clothing Donation

Chi Sigma Iota’s Alpha Upsilon Chapter (counseling international honor society, The University Of Akron Chapter) completed a holiday donation drive including 2,000 pounds of clothes. Donations were provided to Haven of Rest Ministries in Akron, Ohio. Honor society volunteers were able to secure 1,200 pounds of free clothing donated from Plato’s Closet in Sagamore Hills, and 800 pounds donated from students at UA.

Gabrielle Stone and Natasha Lacey, event coordinators, explained that they are “honored to be able to help Haven of Rest Ministries through Chi Sigma Iota” by providing homeless area residents with warm clothing during the winter season. The donation drive is part of Chi Sigma Iota’s ongoing mission of advocacy and community service. Members celebrated the accomplishment at a social event at Sarah’s Vineyard.