

School of Education

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Monmouth University

Inaugural Rett Syndrome Conference

The inaugural Rett Syndrome Symposium took place on Friday, November 17th at Wilson Hall and was organized by the Speech Language Pathology Department and the New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association. At the conference the School of Education announced the launch of their Program for Research and Support for Rett syndrome (RTT).

RTT is a rare neurodevelopmental disorder that primarily affects girls. Symptoms begin to appear at about 6 to 18 months of age after a period of apparently normal early development. Regression follows, causing loss of speech, motor control, and

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Cutting Edge Program Enhances Student Experience

The Teacher Residency Program, which launched in September, 2017, with about 40 students, has already had a positive impact on the students in the School of Education.

The goal of the program, according to Dean John Henning, is to allow teacher candidates to have more experience in schools. “The Teacher Residency Program goes along with the Monmouth University strategic plan in that it prepares students for life after Monmouth,” said Dean Henning. Students are able to gain experience in the classroom, be compensated for their work, and get their names out to possible employers.

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Write on Sports Program Inspires Middle Schoolers

Eleven middle school students from local school districts participated in the Write on Sports program from July 31st to August 11th at Monmouth University. The two week camp, which is a literacy and journalism program for at-risk middle school students, teaches them how to write sports journalism and how to conduct interviews. This was the first year that the program was housed by the School of Education.

“This is incredible for the students,” said Paul Corliss, Life Trustee at Monmouth University. “The student participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds. They develop so much confidence and the children advance each day. By the end of the two weeks their confidence has grown and you can visually see the difference. I am a tremendous believer in what this program can do,” he continued.

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First Rett Syndrome Conference

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functional hand use.

The conference was designed for both parents and professionals. Speakers described recent developments in research and provided an update on issues related to care and quality of life along with information on related medical conditions common in girls with RTT.

“The event brought together parents and professionals in the field and offered strategies to guide those who are helping someone with Rett syndrome. There are approximately 200 families in New Jersey who are affected in some way by the disease,” said Patricia Remshifski, PhD, CCC-SLP, the Chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Coordinator of the Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome.

Planning for the conference started over the summer. It was time for the New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association to hold another conference and Monmouth University was the perfect place for the launch of the new program.

“This program and conference shows the breadth and depth of knowledge at the School of Education. It also shows how the School of Education wishes to work with the local community,” said Remshifski.

Speakers included Remshifski, Theresa Bartolotta, PhD, CCC-SLP, professor of Speech-Language Pathology at Monmouth University; Steven Kaminsky, PhD, Chief Science Officer of the International Rett Syndrome Foundation; Joan Raso, MSN, RN, Nursing Specialist Professor and Coordinator of the Nursing Simulation Lab at Monmouth University; Carl Raso, MD, practicing gastroenterologist in Toms River; Dave Bertone, PT, DPT, OCS, licensed physical therapist and owner of db Orthopedic Physical Therapy of Lincroft and Manalapan; and Travis Tallman, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP, assistive technology specialist and the Director of Augmentative and Computer Services at Lakeview School in Edison, NJ.



“We were very lucky to have some premiere speakers from outside Monmouth University as well as some amazing University speakers present at the conference,” said Bartolotta, whose daughter has Rett syndrome.

After her daughter was born with the disease, she was able to see the lack of research and guidelines surrounding the condition, motivating her to continue her research. “My goal is to encourage the students and educate them on Rett syndrome so that they can go out into the world and educate others,” she explained.

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-Patricia Remshifski



“It is the best thing for the community to have multidisciplinary therapy, clinics, physical therapy and speech pathology all at one location to address all of the issues of development. That can really make a difference,” Kaminsky said.

“My hope is that people who attended the conference walked away with more strategies and resources to help someone with Rett syndrome,” said Remshifski.

Write on Sports

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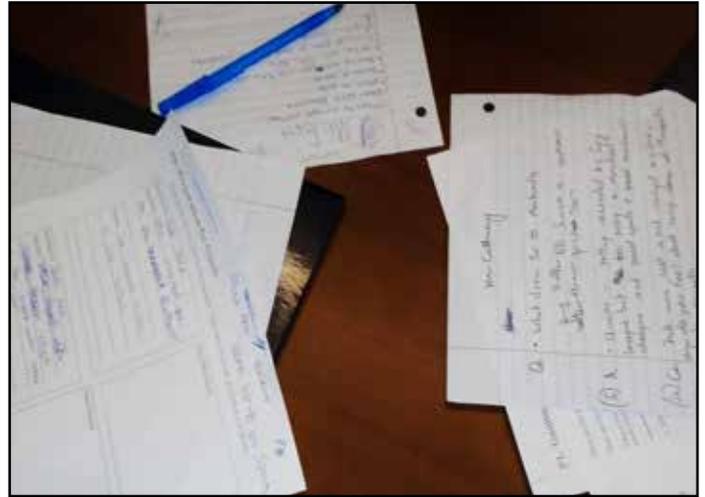
The schools involved included middle schools from Long Branch, Eatontown, and Oakhurst. Two teachers from West Long Branch Public Schools, Angel Somers, and Meghan Vaccarelli, were instructors for the program.

The program was directed by Dr. Alex Romagnoli, an Assistant Professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Students in his Content Literacy class were required to work with the campers as part of the course. The students worked with the middle schoolers in small groups and had the opportunity to have real life experiences. "The students get to practice their skills with real life populations while also making a difference in the community," said Romagnoli.

"The student participants come from a wide variety of backgrounds. They develop so much confidence and the children advance each day. By the end of the two weeks their confidence has grown and you can visually see the difference. I am a tremendous believer in what this program can do."-Paul Corliss

The camp participants interviewed athletes, took part in press conferences, wrote articles, and created a video. At the end of the program a magazine was printed which included all the articles the students had written during the course of the program. The final day of the camp included a family day where the campers shared their videos and stories with their families.

There were various people, both faculty from the University and individuals outside of Monmouth, who took part in the camp this past year; including Football Coach Kevin Callahan, Men's Basketball Coach King Rice, Award-winning Journalist Jack Ford, Women's Basketball Coach Jenny Palmateer, Cross Country, Track and Field Coach Joe Compagni, Women's Soccer Coach Krissy Turner, Asbury Park Press Journalist Jerry Carino, WBGO Radio Host Doug Doyle, Associate Athletics Director Eddy Occhipinti,



and Former Men's Basketball Coach Dave Calloway.

Corliss attended the Write on Sports Gala about five years ago and was inspired by the program. While at the event he heard a story about a student who attended a Write on Sports camp when he was a child and who later went on to earn a full ride scholarship at Princeton University. "I encourage all young people to take advantage of this program and I think it will be at Monmouth for a long time," said Corliss.



Teacher Residency Program

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“Dean Henning was passing out pamphlets about the program and the first thing that caught my eye was being paid for the work I am already doing. I knew that any opportunity to continue to get my name in the school systems we partner with was something that I did not want to pass up,” said Gina Geletei, senior Elementary and English student with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. She is placed in Eatontown at Meadowbrook Elementary School.

Geletei hopes to gain a connection with teachers, administrators, and faculty that work at the school and in the district she is partnering with. She also hopes to have a better understanding of what goes on in the life of a teacher besides just the teaching.

Kelly Catanzaro, a junior at the University and one of the first members of the program, recounts hearing about the program through word of mouth and then going to Dean Henning’s office to ask him about it.

“I knew that the program was still new and would be evolving each day, but I felt that joining would be an amazing and rewarding experience for me- and I was right,” she said. “Even being a junior and only twenty years old, you learn a lot about yourself when you are in charge of a classroom filled with a bunch of ambitious third graders. I wanted to teach and grow within an environment that will soon be my career setting,” Catanzaro continued.

Catanzaro is currently a junior English and Elementary Education student with an endorsement in Special Education. Her teacher residency takes place in Middle Road Elementary School in Hazlet.

The program has had an impact on the community, both at Monmouth and beyond. “I feel like I am impacting the Monmouth community by just reminding students that if you feel strongly that something is your calling- go for it,” said Catanzaro. “As for the Middle Road School community, I feel like I am impacting them by simply being a friendly face in the school that will only become more familiar.”

Dean Henning expressed the importance of learning in increments and how important it is to learn through experience. “The vision is to give students the opportunity to be able to graduate with two to three full years of experience in the classroom. You have to learn in increments, you cannot do it all at once, and the Teacher Residency program creates an environment where Monmouth students are able to gain real world experience,” he explained.

“Everyone must come to teaching through their individual personaliy. The more you interact with children, the more you discover who you are as a teacher,” Henning concluded.

2017 Winter Academic Award Ceremony Awardees

Excellence in Educational Counseling
Kirstin Natale

Excellence in Early Childhood Education
Amanda Marakovitz

Excellence in Elementary Education
Undergraduate-(2) Awardees
Allison Petrone
Richard Joseph “Jay” Pinnola

Excellence in Elementary Education Graduate
Alana Bielski

Excellence in Master of Arts in Teaching
Lauren Santanello

Excellence in MEd. Special Education
Helen Ihde

Excellence in Special Education
Brianne Varrone

Susan Young Memorial Scholarship Award
Juliana Illiano

Reaching Toward the Future Working With Asbury Park’s Dream Academy

Project S.E.A.L (Securing Educational Partnerships and Alliances) is a partnership between Dr. Estudillo’s Educational Psychology class and the Asbury Park High School’s Dream Academy. The Dream Academy is an early high school to college bridge program in which students are dual enrolled at Brookdale Community College and APHS. (These students will earn their Associate’s Degree while simultaneously earning their HS diploma.) MU School of Education students have had the opportunity to work with this talented group of HS students in a variety of cooperative learning and immersive activities ranging from breakout sessions on college transitioning, goal setting, mentoring, and problem-based learning. As of 2017-2018, the Dream Academy has two cohorts of students in the 9th and 10th grades, (see recent group picture below) with an additional cohort anticipated to enter this coming fall 2018—increasing APHS’s program to a total of approximately 60 Dream Academy students.



Happenings

Monmouth Future Scholars Kick-Off Event

The annual Monmouth Future Scholars (MFS) kick-off event took place at Long Branch Middle School on October 5th, 2017. The MFS program is an exciting academic mentoring program with the goal of increasing the graduation rate of first generation high school students in low-income areas. It is a pre-college bridge program that targets the 6th through 12th grade population of students in Long Branch Public School District. Graduate student interns from the Educational Counseling program are placed at the Long Branch middle and high schools to provide counseling and support services in small groups and individual meetings. The MFS program is led by Dr. Alyson Pompeo-Fargnoli, Coordinator, and Professor Cindy O'Connell, Co-Coordinator.



Central Jersey Consortium for Equity and Excellence



Student Leaders for Social Justice

The focus was on P-12 students at this year's inaugural event of the Central Jersey Consortium for Equity and Excellence (CJCEE) on October 11th. The CJCEE changed its format this year to better accomplish its mission. Students will attend two events this year in October & June. Selected 7th-12th grade students from member schools will develop leadership skills so they can become social justice advocates who initiate change within their schools. As a culminating activity, they will reconvene at the June event and discuss what they implemented throughout the year in their own districts; including their struggles, challenges, and achievements. The CJCEE is led by Dr. Tina Paone.

Interprofessional Student Scholarship Exhibition



The School of Education hosted the second annual fall semester Interprofessional School of Education Student Scholarship Exhibition to highlight students research and practice on December 4th from 5-7pm in the Student Center.

Scholarship Exhibition Award Recipients

*Dean's Award of Excellence in Research
Doctorial Level
Michael-John Herits
Restorative Practices
Advised by Dr. Bernard Bragen*

*Dean's Award of Excellence in Research
Masters Level
Danielle Sirota
Denise Colombo
Lindsay Spector
Advised by Dr. Elisabeth A. Mlawski
Do Vocabulary Scores Influence the Types of Peer Learning
Mechanisms Used by Second-Grade Children?*

*Dean's Award of Excellence in Research
Undergraduate Level
Gina Geletei
Jamie Johnson
Observations Lead to Discovery Learning in Science
Advised by Dr. Kerry Carley-Rizzuto*

*Dean's Award of Excellence in Clinical Experience
Undergraduate Level
Maria Capetta
Catherine Harvey
A Reflection on Bridging the Gaps for Service Learning Projects
Advised by Dr. Ruth Morris*

School of Education Walks for Autism at Third Annual Autism MVP Foundation Walk

The Autism MVP Foundation held their third annual walk event on the Manasquan boardwalk on November 5th from 11am to 12pm. Over 200 people attended and all proceeds supported Autism MVP Foundation programs including the Autism Program Improvement Project (APIP) with Monmouth University, as well as the Autism MVP Foundation scholarship program.

The APIP is a University-based project focusing on enhancing training for teachers of students with autism in public school programs. The program focuses on comprehensive program assessment, development of district-wide program improvement plans, individualized training plans for teachers, identification and training of an in-district coach, consultation and collaboration with district administration, and embedment of sustainable professional development model in districts.

“Part of the focus is to provide college scholarships to individuals who want to dedicate their careers to helping those on the autism spectrum,” said Keith Green, Founder and Volunteer Executive Director for the Autism MVP Foundation, on their official website. “For matriculating undergraduate college students or those continuing their education for a Master’s, Doctorate or autism certificate program, we will provide financial assistance to help offset exorbitant tuition costs,” he continued.

The Autism MVP Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to substantially increasing the number of qualified educators and therapists who can work with children on the autism spectrum. The organization is comprised entirely of volunteer board members who have decades of experience in fundraising, marketing, PR, events, education, graphic design, sponsorship and digital media.

Sponsors for the walk included Circle BMW, Circle Hyundai, Allstate Agent Vincent Scanelli, The Allied Group, Hackensack Meridian Health K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital, OceanFirst Bank, WRAT 95.9 FM and Leggett’s Sand Bar.



Literacy Symposium Brings Together Community

The Monmouth University School of Education held their annual Literacy Symposium on Friday October 20th, 2017 in the Rebecca Stafford Student Center. The purpose of the event is to provide professional development in literacy for teachers. The event includes breakfast, a keynote speaker, various breakout sessions, and a networking luncheon.

“Its primary purpose is to provide professional development in K-12 Literacy Instruction for teachers in the area school districts,” said Dr. Carolyn Groff, Curriculum and Instruction Department Chair and Associate Professor.



This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Katherine Dougherty Stahl, Director of the New York University Literacy Clinic and Clinical Professor of Reading at New York University. Stahl was chosen because of her award-winning research and teaching in the area of early literacy.

Stahl has done extensive research on the topics of comprehension, reading acquisition, and struggling readers. Stahl’s keynote address, held in Anacon Hall at 9:30 a.m., was titled “Helping Erica and Other Young Children with Comprehension Difficulties.” It focused on the importance of comprehension research in early reading instruction and provided practical suggestions for implementing such methods of teaching in primary grades.

“She has been a teacher for 25 years, and she is an outstanding educator. She’s done great works on literacy assessment and reading comprehension with children who struggle. We were really fortunate to have her,” said Dr. Lilly Steiner, Associate Professor at the School of Education.

In addition to the keynote speaker, there were eight workshops from which the attendees could choose. These workshops were given by Monmouth University faculty and local teachers or administrators, many of whom are graduates of Monmouth University’s School of Education programs.

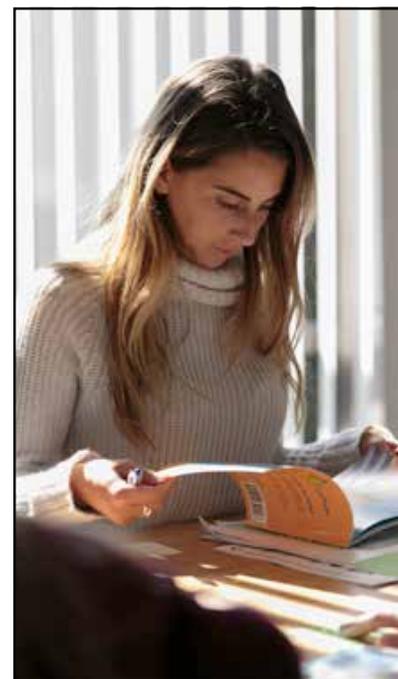
The topics covered are similar every year. However, the presentations of these topics vary according to the presenters. The Session A workshops included presentations such as “Designing Comprehension Instruction for Students With Diverse Needs” by Rachel Fox and Marisa Scarpitta; “Using Digital Literacy to Enhance Reading and Writing Instruction for the 21st Century Learner, Grades 3 – 8” by Sheryl Konopack and Christine Frenville; “Dyslexia: The Dirty Word” by Dierdre Goodman; and “Literacy Integration Into Early Childhood Science Instruction” by Katlyn Nielsen.

The Session B workshops featured topics such as “Falling In Love With Close Reading” by Adrienne Hansen; “Filling in the Blanks: Graphic Novels and Multimodal Artifacts” by Alex Romagnoli, Ph.D.; “Book Clubs: Tapping the Interests of Young Readers” by Stacy Frazee; and “Building Tier 2 Vocabulary” by Colleen Henkin.



School of Education students also attend the conference because they get the chance to see teachers who are practicing in the field. They learn more about various topics, they get ideas, and they get to meet and speak with local teachers.

“People who attend get a day to just think about literacy,” said Steiner. “The event also brings teachers together at Monmouth University and there is the feeling of a professional conference.”



Annual Academic Welcome 2017



We proudly welcomed our freshmen and transfer education students at the Academic Welcome event on Wednesday September 6th, 2017. We think that the future of education is in good hands!

We Make A Difference

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