Certificate in Rehabilitation Technology (CiRT) Update
By Milton Moss

Are you interested in a career as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and want to expand your knowledge, skills and abilities? Do you work in the engineering, human service, and/or health service field with people with disabilities and want to enhance your professional knowledge, skills and abilities? If you answered yes to either of these questions, the Certificate in Rehabilitation Technology (CiRT) was designed for you! According to Dr. Tennyson J. Wright, Director of CiRT, “Rehabilitation technology provides people with disabilities access to many aspects of life that have been unavailable in the past. Vehicle modifications, home modifications, workplace modifications and computers, to name a few, are examples of rehabilitation technology that can provide greater access and independence. CiRT provides the knowledge and skills professionals need to deliver this rehabilitation technology in a changing world”.

CiRT is a new interdisciplinary graduate certificate offered by the University of South Florida Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling and Department of Mechanical Engineering. Graduates of CiRT will increase their competitiveness as an employee, enhance their current performance and prepare themselves for the changing nature of assistive technology in the field of rehabilitation counseling. Graduates will possess a working knowledge of the field of rehabilitation technology and an understanding of current rehabilitation technology, emerging rehabilitation technology, medical aspects of disability, and career and lifestyle assessment. CiRT is a 15 hour graduate level certificate consisting of the following five classes: (1) Medical Aspects of Disability, (2) Career and Lifestyle Assessment, (3) Introduction to Engineering Principles as Applied to Rehabilitation Technology, (4) Applications of Rehabilitation Technology Services, and (5) Practicum/Field Placement. Applicants who have earned a bachelor’s degree and above in engineering, nursing, social work, counseling, psychology, or related engineering, mental health or health sciences field from an accredited university are eligible for admission. Additional information on the CiRT can be found on the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling website (http://www.cas.usf.edu/rehab_counseling/cert-cirt.html).

Interested in applying? An application and additional information can be obtained at the USF Office of Graduate Certificates webpage www.outreach.usf.edu/gradcerts. All applicants must complete an application packet and mail it to the Office of Graduate Certificates. In addition to the application packet, all applicants must meet with Director Dr. Tennyson J. Wright for an interview. The Office of Graduate Certificates will not process your application packet until after an interview takes place and approval by the Director. Dr. Wright can be contacted at (813) 974-2963 or via email at twright@cas.usf.edu.

New Graduate Certificate Proposed
By Dr. Gary DuDell

The new Foundations of Holistic Counseling course was a big success. It was a very gratifying and enriching experience for me. And by the energy in the room (those projects!), and evaluations, I know it was for you too. I am so appreciative of everybody’s willingness to go along for the ride. Thanks for helping to shape this course. Foundations of Holistic Counseling will be offered Spring Semester on Monday evenings. A proposal for the new Behavioral Health Counseling Certificate Program will be submitted next semester. We’re hoping to have it off the ground next Fall.
Student News

Congratulations Graduates!
On behalf of the Dept. of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Congratulations and Good Luck in your future endeavors!

Fall 2004
Lynn Allen
Scott Barrish
Cortney Batten
Thomas Cribbs, Jr.
Denise Giarrusso
Cheryl Hart
Masami Kolbenschlag
Catherine Kummer
Tracy O'Berry
Joan Reid
Irene Weber
Danielle Zimmermann

Spring 2005
Ani Barsoumian
Christian Bryan
John Caporale
Katherine Fuerth
James Ketcham, Jr.
Miranda McManus
Trajana Thomas

Summer 2005
Stephanie Avakian
Johnny Bowman
Lisa Bright
Jana Capaccio
Yolanda Concepcion
Laura DeJournett
Halle Eslinger
Kerri Gunn
Lauren Stewart
Nicole Wilson

Congratulations to Milton Moss and Karla Soler, recipients of a $250 scholarship from the Southwest Chapter of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Many thanks to the Southwest Board of Directors for their ongoing support of our students and program.

Welcome New Students Fall 2005
Rachelle Thomas
Gina Herom
Melissa Babb
Adeeb Saleh
Zahra Bhimani
Brook Maturo
Tera Eggleton
Elizabeth Carey
Shaun Aulita

Jennifer Boorman
Brucie De Alejo
Kathleen Favorite
Irene Hernandez
William Lambos
Ayana Lucas
Laura Mittentag
Bonnie Bornik

Future Students
Mayeronne Joseph gave birth to a baby girl, Jalessa J. Levasseur in June 2005

Nicole Wilson gave birth to a baby boy, Danford Thomas Wilson on Sept 20, 2005
While they married for the wrong reasons, they divorced upon many of the pivotal and memorable adult loving relationship dances experienced by almost everyone. Later this fall, Dr. Emener’s next book is being released. So what else is new? After publishing over 100 research and theoretical journal articles, in the late 1990s he also began publishing self-help/pop-psych books: Adult Loving Relationships (1997), Ultimate Challenges (2002), and Living Life, Anyway (2003). His next published book, his 17th, is a novel.

As can be seen in its description below, it is based on his 33 years of work in the area of couples and marriage counseling – as a licensed psychologist, scholar and teacher. As soon as it is released, it will be available through bookstores and the Internet (e.g., barnesandnoble.com).

My Sweetpea: Seven Years and Seven Days (2005)
PublishAmerica (Baltimore), 286 pages
ISBN 1-4241-0183-2

Via a flashback, this romance novel traces and spotlights the highs and lows, the ups and downs, the laughter and the pain, and the eustasies and the tragedies of Troy and Sheila. This star-struck couple, who could have been considered the “Yuppie Couple” poster child of the 1990’s when they first met in their junior year of college, marry a few months after graduation.

In spite of the very romantic and loving things they occasionally would do for each other, for the last five years of their marriage their relationship continued to deteriorate. Part of the basic problem was that initially Troy subconsciously wanted to marry a woman much unlike his mother; he wanted to marry a “live wire”– someone full of energy, vim and vigor. But he not only wanted a wife, he wanted a “subservient buddy”. Fundamentally, Sheila was everything but the kind of person he wanted, and even when Troy suspected it to be true, he thought he could change her. Sheila subconsciously wanted to marry someone like her father– Mr. Predictable: never change, go to work, come home, be a home-body who genuinely cared about fixing things around the house, mowing the lawn and taking care of his family. Troy was everything but that kind of person, and even when Sheila suspected it to be true, she believed he eventually would settle down, enjoy home cooked meals every night, go to PTA Meetings once per month, and on weekends mow the lawn and attend to things around the house.

They divorced– seven years and seven days later. Their tumultuous roller coaster marriage touches upon many of the pivotal and memorable adult loving relationship dances experienced by almost everyone. While they married for the wrong reasons, they divorced for the right reasons– as painful as it was. They loved each other tremendously, yet their relationship eventually resembled oil and water. While they were married, they had each other. But that’s all they had. It was only when they eventually appreciate their irreconcilable differences, could they truly respect and forgive themselves and each other. Soul mates forever, they wondrously, yet separately, move on with their lives – or do they?

As of this October, Dr. Emener has completed the first drafts of Chapters 1-14 of his next 25-chapter novel.

Fear of Feeling Loved

After finally wrestling herself out of a long, painful and difficult relationship, Marcia found herself thrown into the dilemma of her life. Armed with her new doctoral degree in Child Psychology, she landed a prestigious job as assistant professor at a large state university. Grateful for this opportunity of a lifetime, she decided to forgo her personal happiness for a while in order to totally devote herself to her professional career. Yet she never could have imagined what happened next.

Mid-August, while driving to Tampa on Interstate 275 to move into her new condo and begin her new career, Marcia’s front tire blew out. As she stood on the side of the road dripping in stressful sweat, Jack, a former college football player and motorcycle cop, stopped to help her change (continued on p. 5)
Alumni News

What They Are Doing Now.....

There is life after graduation! This is how some of our alumni are using their degrees...

- Gregg Armstrong ('98) is among the first to be certified nationally in forensic counseling. Gregg is a licensed mental health counselor, certified addictions professional, and has a private practice in Temple Terrace.

- Lisa Jones ('00) is now living in New Market, Virginia. She is working as a counselor for a private agency that deals with troubled youth.

- Patricia Irwin ('01) will be attending seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, beginning in January of 2006. Congratulations to Patricia – we will miss you.

- Tabatha Hays ('03) is working as a child therapist for Project Hope.

- Christine Nitsos ('03) is currently working at American Adoptions, Inc. in St. Petersburg, FL. She is an adoptions specialist working with birth parents and adoptive families after they have been matched to counsel emotionally, counsel financially and help finalize all legal paperwork (consents and relinquishments) at time of discharge of birth mother and of infant. It is an emotionally charged position but extremely rewarding. She finds herself using so much of what she learned in our program whether it be basic skills of active listening or marriage and family techniques.

- Halle Eslinger ('05) is working at the Suncoast Center for Community Health in St. Petersburg in Total Family Strategy doing in-home family therapy.

Support The Alumni Society

• Donate to the Calvin M. Pinkard Scholarship Fund, named after the founder of our Department and designed specifically to benefit Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling students. Donations are tax deductible.

JOIN! It’s easy and there are tons of benefits! Just go to www.USFalumni.net

The Alumni Society Honors Graduates

• The alumni society sponsored the first graduation reception for students who graduated in the spring and summer of 2005. A second reception is planned for students graduating in December.
Dr. Emener – Published Researcher, Scholar and Novelist - continued...

the tire. In the process, however, he simultaneously made her painfully aware of the emptiness in her heart. Over the next week, she waited impatiently for the phone to be installed so that he could call her – she wanted to find out more about who he was. But before this could happen, she felt like she had been hit by a train coming the other way – she inadvertently found out what he was.

In spite of Marcia constantly telling herself to stay away from Jack, she couldn’t help her feelings and spent more and more time with him. On one hand, she was falling in love with Jack, but at the same time she was terrified about her professional reputation and her future. She was feeling so ripped apart by love, worry and stress that she decided to end their relationship.

But shortly thereafter when she indirectly found out some new information, she panicked. She knew she had to act fast; otherwise all of her dreams about the man of her dreams would be lost forever.

At the last minute, she rushed to the airport and...

As he does with all of his books, Dr. Emener selectively invites some of his former and current students to assist him with his novels in proofreading and critical reviews of earlier drafts. This gives students an opportunity to gain insight into the book writing and publishing process, and to benefit from Dr. Emener’s 33 years of experience with couples and marriage counseling. Both Dr. Emener and the faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling think that learning from our professors is not always limited to the classroom and doesn’t necessarily end with graduation.

Is Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling for you? A GA’s Perspective

By Milton Moss

During the course of our studies, as students we have learned that the importance of work in a person’s life and meaning is much deeper than a paycheck at the end of the week. We have learned that work provides us with a purpose in life, gives us a sense of accomplishment, keeps us mentally alert, provides a satisfaction of accomplishment and enables social interaction with others. As students working on our M.A. degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, we are working hard towards the professional goal of becoming a counselor, and along with this goal, a positive vision of our professional future. Sadly, in our country, many persons with disabilities do not have a positive vision of their professional future. These individuals may have learning disabilities, suffer from a long-term disability, or suddenly find themselves disabled as the result of an accident, rendering them unable to meet their professions goals. With the help of a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, they can reach their maximum potential.

The U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Information Network (O*NET) describes a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor as one who, “...counsels individuals to maximize the independence and employability of persons coping with personal, social, and vocational difficulties that result from birth defects, illness, disease, accidents, or the stress of daily life”. In addition, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors assess the needs of the individual and design and implement rehabilitation programs that may include personal and vocational counseling, training, and job placement. The U.S. Department of Labor forecasts a projected need of 69,000 additional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors from 2002 through 2012, compared to a projected need of 11,000 Marriage and Family Therapists, and 49,000 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers, for the same time period. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors typically work in governmental or non-profit environments, but are also in private practice. While there is no state licensure for Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, numerous agencies offer certification. The Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) offers certification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), one of the most widely accepted and recognized certifications in the field.

Are you interested in a career where you can utilize and develop a broad range of counseling skills, make a difference in the life of a person with a disability and be a part of a growing profession? If so, vocational rehabilitation counseling may be what you are looking for!

“One’s mind, once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions” - Oliver Wendell Holmes
SOS, the student association for the department of Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling, works with the faculty to help improve the student’s experience in school and after graduation, contributes to the local community, and provides many opportunities for students to fellowship together. Rather than a call for help, SOS is a call to help.

Each year, SOS hosts a “Comps Workshop.” Students find this workshop most helpful. Copies of old tests are distributed, study notes are shared, and students who have previously taken the exam give guidance and tips. SOS also plays a large part in organizing the student orientation held each fall. SOS assembles the welcome bags that contain useful information such as information about the graduate school, maps and coupons to local area establishments, and helps set the agenda for the orientation.

SOS also serves the community. This fall, the club had a Jambalaya Fundraiser, which raised more than $400 for the Tampa Bay chapter of the Red Cross to benefit hurricane survivors and donated food to Hope Children’s Home. SOS members also assembled kits for hurricane survivors containing first aid and toiletry items.

But SOS isn’t all business. Each year, SOS hosts a Halloween Party and a Spring Banquet (see p. ??) for the students and faculty. This year, SOS has started a new tradition: the first Saturday of every month is the “lunch bunch.” Students take turns choosing restaurants. The restaurant name, time and location are then broadcast via a distribution list. Students are then asked to RSVP if they would like to attend. So far we have had a good turn out. If you would like your name added to this distribution list, please contact Barb LoFrisco at mailto:counselorbarb@earthlink.net.

If you are interested in joining SOS, simply show up at one of the public meetings. Beginning November 8, these meetings will be held once a month in SOC 127. Please visit SOS on the web at http://www.cas.usf.edu/rehab_counseling/sos/index.htm, or you may contact the SOS President, Amanda Hood at mailto:amanica77@hotmail.com.

SOS Student Association
Contact: Amanda Hood
Email: amanica77@hotmail.com

SOS Lunch Bunch
Contact: Barbara LoFrisco
Email: barbmlf@earthlink.net
End-of-Year Banquet 2005

Last May, SOS organized an End-of-Year Banquet for the students and faculty. Held on the Show Queen boat sailing out of the Clearwater marina, the banquet included a buffet dinner, presentations by SOS President Beth Ubele, Dr. Dixon and Dr. Richard, and lots of dancing. Prizes were given out to notable faculty members, including Dr. Dixon as “Pop Quiz Queen” and Dr. Kelley as “Professor of the Year”. The night was beautiful as we cruised under the stars, mingling with our magnificent classmates dressed in their finest. It was also a lot of fun meeting their significant others. I cannot wait for next year and for Lauren Ross to give me the dance lessons she promised.
WEB ALERT

Please check out the recently updated department website at http://www.cas.usf.edu/rehab_counseling

Much new content has been added such as downloadable forms, approved placement sites, and a lot of party pictures!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling is to promote quality services for individuals with differences in abilities and to help the state meet its human service needs in the areas of rehabilitation and mental health through teaching, research, and service.

“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” -B.F. Skinner

Dr. Gary DuDell’s “Here’s Another Fine Book” Section

The Way of Transition by William Bridges

Questions, Comments, Ideas, Announcements…

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