Welcome, Dr. Areej Ahmed!

Dr. Areej Ahmed joined the faculty in the Department of Special Education in June, 2017. Dr. Ahmed holds the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis on Special Education from Ohio University. She also holds the M.Ed. in Special Education, and B.A in Sociology. Areej teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in special education. In addition, she is the Master’s special education cohort coordinator in Ohio University, Zanesville.

Congratulations!

Dr. Ottley is our current Program Coordinator in Special Education. She is in her third year at Ohio University and enjoying working in a leadership role with the program and department faculty and teacher candidates.

Ms. Bates has been invited to remain on the Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence Selection Committee for the third year in a row.

Dr. Gut has been invited by the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) Clinical Practice Commission to join a national team preparing guidance documents and recommendations for Clinical Practice in Special Education. The group's work will be based on a concept paper prepared by the AACTE Clinical Practice Commission.

Community Involvement

Sparkles:

Ohio University Sparkles, modeled after the Sparkle Effect, is an inclusive spirit squad which connect students with and without disabilities. Its goal is to not only raise school spirit, but to also increase public acceptance of individuals with disabilities, especially around campus. Sparkle members had meeting and other activities this summer. They also prepared for OU Homecoming Events. (Photo: above and below)
Summer Teaching/Advising

Ms. Perianne Bates: “I taught the *EDTE 2010 Introduction to Exceptional Learners*, this past summer. Forty-five undergraduates candidates enrolled! Candidates were very flexible and supported one another despite the large class size. For purposes of organization, they were assigned to teams, and this worked quite well.”

Ms. Perianne Bates also designed her own independent study course *EDCE 6930 Readings and Research in Counseling Education*, which integrated trauma-informed practices with two existing courses, *Personality Disorders* and *Counseling Clients with PTSD*. As an independent study, the course will provide teacher candidates with an unique opportunity to acquire trauma-informed resources, including a related annotated bibliography, and a comprehensive PowerPoint used in Ms. Bates’s Instructional Adaptations courses in AYA and MCE.

Dr. Jennifer Ottley launched the new *Pre-Kindergarten Special Needs Endorsement*. We admitted 20 teachers licensed as K-12 intervention specialists or early childhood educators into the program to add the state’s endorsement to work with children 3 to 5 years old who have special needs. With regard to the summer course *EDTE 5800 Typical and Atypical Development*, one candidate stated, “The class was valuable because it gave me more insight into different behaviors and disorders that I did not know much about previously. The instructor [Dr. Ottley] helped to provide materials that were different than just a book in order to further our learning.” Another candidate stated, “I believe I truly learned a great deal.”

Summer Academic Activities

Ms. Bates participated in a workshop June 5-7, 2017 at Marietta College Education Department entitled "Trauma-Informed Schools and Classrooms", presented by Kathleen Whalen, Project Director of SAFE Schools NOLA, Tulane University, New Orleans. Based on the studies on the neurobiological effects of trauma on learning and behavior, Tulane University developed a curriculum for the children who experienced Katrina in New Orleans in 2005. Ms. Bates believes that infusion of this curriculum into her methods courses, including the collaboration course for Special Education, will add to her students’ knowledge and skills in working with learners who have experienced trauma, including food insecurity and poverty, which are prevalent in Southeastern Ohio. This workshop information is critical to providing appropriate and effective education to our learners in P-12 who have experienced trauma or who are currently living with chronic trauma.

Jinghong Cai, a doctoral student in Curriculum and Instruction, worked as a professional consultant at the Office of Assessment, New York City Department of Education from June to July. Her projects included analyzing data of 23 world language tests administered in New York City public education system in 2016 and 2017, and developing a guide for the 2018 test-writing workshop. Together with the team “Assessment, Evaluation and Design” (AED) of New York City Department of Education, she submitted a proposal about this project to the 2018 Conference of AERA.

Grants

SNPiITS. In a collaboration with faculty at Wellston Intermediate and Middle Schools, Dr. Dianne Gut, Dr. Pam Beam, and Ms. Cindy Hartman developed collection of freely accessible tools and video clips designed to assist teachers and administrators in implementing inclusive teaching (co-teaching) practices for all students. Materials were created from the Successfully Navigating Partnerships in Inclusive Teaching Settings (SNPiITS) Grant. This project was funded through a two-year grant from the Ohio Dean’s Compact on Exceptional Children with the cooperation of Ohio University’s Patton College of Education. SNPiITS tools consist of downloadable PDF assessments and rubrics designed to support teaching teams in inclusive teaching settings. Videos demonstrate use of the relevant tools and inclusive teaching strategies. Materials are available at: [https://ohiocoras.com/snpiits-tools/](https://ohiocoras.com/snpiits-tools/)
Ms. Bates, with colleagues from Counseling Education, Reading Program, and Middle Childhood, submitted a $25,000 grant application for a "Trauma-Informed" interdisciplinary unit. This instructional unit will be utilized in both counseling and teacher education.

Jinghong Cai, together with her adviser Dr. Gut and another professor from Voinovich School, have been awarded a grant for commission paper by American Institutes for Research (AIR) recently. Their study focuses on the investigation of the U.S. incarcerated population who participated in correctional education in recent years, using the U.S. PIAAC prison data collected by the U.S. Department of Education and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). PIAAC, the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, surveys adults (ages 16-65) in over 40 countries, and assesses their literacy, numeracy, and problem solving skills in technology-rich environment.

Dr. Jennifer Ottley, in collaboration with Drs. Darcey Allan (Clinical Child Psychology, OU), Christian Gysgas Coogle (George Mason University) & Theda Gibbs (Teacher Education, OU) were awarded $74,999.52 from the Ohio Deans Compact on Exceptional Children to work on their grant entitled, “Equity in Education: Culturally Responsive and Respectful Behavior Supports.” Three graduate students are collaborating on the project in order to develop a Professional Development Curriculum to support early childhood educators’ use of culturally relevant behavior supports with Black children (Jinghong Cai, Clarissa Bunch, & Jessica Simmons).

Publications & Presentations


* Ms. Mona Sulaimani (advisor, Dr. Gut) is a doctoral student in Special Education. The focus of Ms. Sulaimani’s research is to examine mothers’ perceptions of cultural stigma in relation to autism in Saudi Arabia. Her Master’s thesis (accepted for publication above) was entitled, “Autism and Technology: Investigating Elementary Teachers’ Perceptions Regarding Technology Use with Students with Autism.”


Ottley, J. R., & Gardner, B. (2017, May). Let Me See, So I Can Do! Presentation given at the 2015 Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Sandusky, Ohio. (State)


*Ms. Clarissa Bunch (advisor, Dr. Ottley) is a master’s student in early childhood intervention specialist. Her interests focus on social justice and increasing teacher and teacher candidates’ use of evidence-based practices and the Division for Early Childhood’s Recommended Practices.
Program Recruiting NOW!

We welcome your input. For the next issue, we would like to hear from you. When you email, please briefly describe your activities based on who, what, when, where, why and how. We appreciate you – Ohio Proud and Patton Proud!

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