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## *Graduate Research Forum*

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The Effect of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy on Behavior of Children who have Experienced Trauma

Alishia Allegrucci

Sponsored by Professor Lynn Hutchings

College of Health and Human Services

Abstract

The purpose of this research project is to explore the efficacy and impact of equine assisted psychotherapy (EAP) on the behaviors of children who have experienced trauma. Approximately, twenty-five parents of clients ages 6 to 18 and five clients ages 11 to 18 volunteered to participate in the study. Parent participants were asked to complete the Child Behavior Checklist while clients were asked to complete the Youth-Self Report; both surveys reported on current behaviors of the client and took place before and after the client received six sessions of EAP. The findings will illuminate the relationship between behavioral changes in clients and participation in this equine assisted psychotherapy program. Results will help to determine the relationship between behavior and EAP.

# The Impact of Clay Manipulation on Anger Experience, Expression, and Control in a Non-Clinical Community Sample

Rachel Baratz

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Parker-Bell

Insalaco College of Creative and Performing Arts

## Abstract

The purpose of this experimental design was to explore the effects of potter's clay manipulation on the experience and anger reactivity in a non-clinical population. Thirteen participants were recruited at Marywood University and public community bulletin boards in Scranton, Pennsylvania. T-tests were conducted on all scales and subscales to determine any significant difference between pre and post scores of the Novaco Anger Scale and Provocation Inventory and the State Trait Anger Expression Inventory-2. Qualitative data was collected using researcher designed pre and post short answer surveys. It was hypothesized that participants exposed to the clay activities will have reduced overall anger reactivity as evidenced by lower mean scores on both psychometric scales. Results concluded statistical significance in two subscales.

# College Freshmen's Attitudes Regarding Social Issues

Rebecca Catlin

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

School of Social Work

## Abstract

This study investigates college freshmen's attitudes regarding social issues that impact their lives. Between 215 and 250 students completed the Cooperative Institutional Research Program Freshman Survey (CIRP) administered by Marywood University each year. This study includes data from approximately 690 students looking over a ten year span. This study is a secondary analysis of data collected by Marywood University. The results will describe freshmen's attitudes regarding social issues such as thoughts on abortion, same-sex marriage, and racial discrimination at a private Catholic university.

## Exploring Best Practices in 'Second Life' Virtual World Adoption

Mark Choman, M.S., M.S., Ph.D. (candidate)

Reap College of Education and Human Development

### Abstract

The relative newness, rapid growth and wider adoption and deployment of virtual world environments such as 'Second Life' (SL) (<http://www.secondlife.com>) present tremendous opportunities for research. Such environments "are still in their infancy, and extensive research, development, and investment are on-going as critical challenges continue to emerge" (Jarmon, 2008). Virtual world and related technologies are increasingly used in business, government, and educational settings. The U.S. government's investment in the "Apps for Healthy Kids" program (<http://www.appsforhealthykids.com>) is one of a myriad of examples currently used. Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), in particular, are increasingly making greater investments in virtual world environments. This study, a research-in-progress, uses a grounded theory approach to identify the emergent themes to better understand the selection and adoption of 'Second Life' virtual world in institutions of higher learning. Chief technology officers, instructional technologists, and faculty were interviewed. It utilizes Atlas.ti, a popular qualitative research data analysis software tool, to help identify emergent data keywords, categories, and themes for further analysis. Initial analysis indicate that the creation of Second Life buy-in support is critical. Other findings and insights and implications for further research will be discussed.



# The Impact of a Family Enrichment Class on Recidivism

Katelyn Clare

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

College of Health and Human Services

## Abstract

This study will assess the impact of a Family Enrichment class on recidivism of inmates in the Broome County Jail. This study will have a sample of 300 inmates. The experimental group consists of 150 inmates, 75 female and 75 male, who attended the class. The control group consists of 75 female and 75 male inmates randomly selected from among those who did not attend the class. A retrospective analysis of records will be conducted on the class sign-in sheets to see who attended the class and on the daily roster sheets to see if the inmates recidivated. This study will determine if the inmates who attended the class had lower recidivism rates than the inmates that did not attend the class.

Sense of Belonging and Empowerment among Adults  
in a Clubhouse Model of Recovery Program

Courtney Connor

Sponsored by: Dr. Kimiko Tanaka

School of Social Work

Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate if a relationship exists between empowerment and sense of belonging among members of clubhouses for psychiatric recovery. Empowerment is considered to play a critical role in one's recovery (Rogers, Ralph, & Salzer, 2010). Therefore, investigating variables that potentially increase empowerment is critical. METHODS: Quantitative data (N=37) analyzed for this study were derived from a larger study. The Empowerment Scale created by Rogers, Chamberlin, Ellison, & Crean (1997) measured empowerment. The Collective Self-Esteem Scale created by Luhtanen & Crocker (1992) was used to operationalize the sense of belonging. RESULTS: Pearson's correlation indicated that the relationship between empowerment and sense of belonging is not significant ( $r(35) = .305$ ,  $p > .01$ ). CONCLUSIONS: Despite the null finding, the magnitude of the correlation within the sample was not trivial, which warrants future replications with larger sample sizes. Various factors that influence empowerment among people with mental illness should also be further examined.

# Isolation and understanding of Telomerase in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* YPH 500 yeast cell line

Dina Elsayed and Aliya Jabri

Sponsored by: Dr. Deborah Hokien

College of Health and Human Services

## Abstract

Telomeres are known as DNA/protein structures located at the end of eukaryotic chromosomes having small repeated DNA sequences. They play an important role in maintaining the eukaryotic chromosome within a cell by specifically binding to the structural proteins. Telomeres are the proteins which cap the end of each linear chromosome to prevent nucleolytic degradation, end-to-end fusion, irregular combination, and other processes that would be considered dangerous to a cell. It is common for telomeres to interact with other proteins to contain the expression of adjacent genes. With each replication cycle, chromosomal ends tend to shorten when DNA polymerase is not capable to replicate the ends of linear DNA. This may be linked to the mitotic clock. In order to maintain telomere length it has to be associated with the activation of its enzyme, telomerase. Telomerase is a ribonucleoprotein that makes up for loss of telomeric DNA by adding repeat sequences to the ends of chromosomes using intrinsic RNA component as a template for DNA synthesis. Research has shown that telomerase activity is seen in majority of different types of cancer cells but is not able to see telomerase in normal tissue and is needed for cancer to continuously grow. Example consists of breast cancer, cervical cancer, and neuroblastoma where a connection of telomerase expression has been seen. In this research we will try to view how the telomerase activation is necessary to form and continue growth of neoplastic cells (TeloTAGGG Telomerase 8-9).

# Attitudes Regarding Diversity Among Undergraduate Freshmen and Seniors

Alecia Emory

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

School of Social Work

Abstract

This study explores whether students' attitudes regarding diversity changed between their freshman and senior years in college, and the direction of any changes that occurred. Studies have found that exposure to diversity through educational courses, organizations, and programs increase students' ability to think from diverse perspectives and openness to interracial friendships. Data from 369 students who were freshman during the academic years of 2005 and 2006, and seniors during the academic years of 2010 and 2011 were reviewed. Data were collected from the CIRP Freshman Survey, and the College Senior Survey, both completed by these students. Responses were analyzed to determine the extent and nature of any changes that occurred. The results will elucidate the relationship between students' attitudes towards diversity and their academic year in college.

Student Selection of Clinical Psychology Graduate Programs:  
Does Early Choice Impact Later Satisfaction?

Krystle Evans

Sponsored by: Dr. Janet L. Muse-Burke

Reap College of Education and Human Development

Abstract

While studies have investigated the college choices of incoming freshman (Beggs, Mullins, Bantham, & Taylor, 2008; Kimweli & Richard, 1999; Long, 2003), graduate students' program choices have been largely neglected (Poock & Love, 2001). While differences between students in clinical psychology Psy.D. versus Ph.D. programs have been reported, there has yet to be a comparison of the decisional factors that guide students' graduate program selection. Furthermore, it remains unclear whether clinical psychology graduate students' choices are associated with later program satisfaction in several primary training areas. Results indicated that graduate students in Psy.D. and Ph.D. programs significantly differ in regard to their decisional factors, but no significant differences between Psy.D. and Ph.D. students in satisfaction with primary training areas were found.

Discharge Transfer Placement in Relationship to Readmission to the Forensic Treatment Center  
(FTC) at the State Correctional Institute Waymart

Katherine Gonzalez

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

College of Health and Human Services

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to determine if there is a relationship between discharge transfer placement from a court ordered mental health treatment center and readmission to the center. Data comes from the State Correctional Institute Waymart and include records of inmates discharged from the Forensic Treatment Center (FTC) in 2009. Records of cell status are reviewed through 2011 to determine if discharge transfer placement had a relationship to readmission to the FTC. Results will explore the relationship of discharge block/units to readmission to the FTC. This study could greatly influence recommendations for transfer placement once someone is discharged from the FTC.

## Graphic Memoirs and Art Therapy

Jessica Green

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Parker-Bell

Insalaco College of Creative and Performing Arts

### Abstract

In this qualitative study the history of graphic memoirs, materials used in graphic memoirs, and how graphic memoirs can be used in art therapy practice are explored. Individuals who have published their own graphic memoirs were contacted to complete an online, essay style survey about their experiences creating graphic memoirs. The individuals were required to have written and illustrated their own graphic memoir and to have published it in some form, either print or on the internet. Out of the 40 contacted 5 individuals responded. Their answers were analyzed using grounded theory to codify answers and determine common themes and patterns. While the number of participants that responded did not provide enough data to generalize their answers to the population, the common themes and patterns found in their answers provide groundwork for further studies, raises insight into therapy precautions, and raises other important questions.

## Spiritual Competency in Clinical Practice: A Literature Review

Christine Haasz

Sponsored by: Dr. Janet L. Muse-Burke

Reap College of Education and Human Development

### Abstract

This poster presents a literature review of several areas of research related to spiritual competency in clinical practice. Operational definitions of spirituality, religion, and spiritual competence are included. The importance of addressing spirituality in clinical assessment and intervention are discussed. The poster includes the impact of clinicians' spiritual beliefs on competency. The poster addresses research regarding the current level of clinical training and provides training recommendations for clinicians.



## Lesson Planning in an Age of Accountability

Kimberly A. Honabach

Sponsored by: Dr. Joseph A. Polizzi

Reap College of Education and Human Development

### Abstract

Rising educational accountability to national and state standards has caused administrators to take a closer look at the instructional quality of lessons. Questions arise on how to achieve these requirements while meeting the needs of diverse learners in the classroom. This paper looks at the importance of lesson design as a means to improve instruction and fidelity to the standards. It utilizes a survey of elementary teachers in a rural PA school district to identify common language about planning. Along with the survey, research was used to develop a lesson plan design that enhances responsibility to the standards and improves instruction while meeting the needs of all students. The survey helped identify trends among faculty at different levels of experience. It identified commonalities in concepts and language. It also provided areas where common language would help with consistency and areas where professional development may be considered to aid in the quest for higher instructional quality. The lesson plan format was developed from the research and later piloted by a co-teaching team is included with sample lessons. This design was later used by a student teacher to improve lesson design and implementation of a lesson plan.

# The Perception of Happiness: The Role of Age and Culture

Richard Khan, M.A.

Sponsored by: Dr. Sharon Boyd-Jackson

Reap College of Education and Human Development

## Abstract

This presentation reviewed various studies and research data, which indicated that variables, such as age, life stages and cultural norms (e.g., wealth, marriage, religiosity, and interpersonal relationships) have significant impact on the perception of happiness. It was revealed that cultural factors and age differences are influential, indicating that these factors significantly contribute to the perception of happiness. The study recruited participants (ages 18 and older) from a religious congregation and a university setting to participate in a study that asked about their perception of happiness in the present, past, and in the anticipated future. A correlational study using variables, such as age and culture, revealed that as individuals become older, their perception of happiness changes. Similarly, results from the study show that cultural practices have significant impact on an individual's level of happiness. Therefore, it is safe to say there are more than one variable that influence an individual's perception of happiness.

# Content Area Textbook Reading Strategies Handbook

Emily Levine

Sponsored by: Dr. Tammy Brown

Reap College of Education and Human Development

## Abstract

The purpose of this professional contribution was to develop a textbook reading strategies handbook for content-area middle grade teacher in the classroom. This handbook combines “best practice” reading skills and strategies as determined by the researcher after conducting a teacher needs survey. The handbook is divided into a “teacher friendly” five day guide, with helpful suggestions and examples provided. It will serve as a resource for content-area teachers to enable successful student textbook reading for critical information, key vocabulary, and concept mastery. In preparing to create the professional contribution the researcher conducted a brief survey of the middle school content-area teachers. The survey will included questions about reading in the classroom and struggles teachers may be encountering with the textbook. The responses to this survey helped the researcher to refine the areas of need within reading and develop a handbook that would address the teacher’s specific needs. The content-area reading strategies handbook includes several best practice reading strategies with step-by-step explicit instructions for use and an explanation of the strategy within use of a given subject area. The handbook is organized as a five day, teacher friendly guide to navigating a given textbook chapter. The five day pattern will follow the scope and sequence of most content area textbooks by covering one chapter/topic per week. The teacher can reference the guide for a specific strategy to reinforce the content being covered that day. The guide includes vocabulary strategies, comprehension strategies, graphic organizers, and an appendix with reproducible materials. The five day guide is intended to work within the content area teachers scope and sequence for instruction. Teachers may be familiar with some of the skills and strategies included, however they have been arranged and presented in a logical sequence in order to produce maximum effectiveness for students’ interactions with the textbook.

Interactions among Nuclear Envelope Protein Mps3, Cdc5, Htz1, and Alternative Replication Factor C complexes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

Christina Morozov

Sponsored by Dr. Lisa Antoniaci

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Abstract

Budding yeast contain 4 alternative Replication Factor C (RFC) complexes. Each complex is made of RFC 2-5 and then exchanging the main subunit RFC1 with either Ctf18, Elg1, or Rad24. These 4 alternative RFC complexes play partially redundant roles. Ctf18 and Elg1 both have roles in sister chromatid cohesion and all three, including Rad 24, function in DNA damage repair. Mps3, a nuclear envelope protein, shares functional roles with Ctf18, Rad24, and Elg1 in addition to Mps3 being involved in spindle pole body duplication and telomere and chromatin metabolism. Recently, Mps3 has been shown to physically interact with Ctf18, Elg1, and Rad 24 in addition to the histone variant Htz1. Unpublished data also identifies Mps3 physically associating with Cdc5, a polo-like kinase. The physical interaction between Mps3 and Cdc5 suggest that Mps3 may be a substrate of Cdc5 kinase activity. The research presented here further describes the associations of these proteins, supporting the interactions of the nuclear envelope, chromatin, and telomeres during genome maintenance. Characterization of these interactions included synthetic lethality of double mutants, the sensitivity of *mps3 ctf18*  $\square$ , *mps3 elg* and *mps3 rad24* double mutants to DNA damaging agents, the role of sister chromatid cohesion at both centromere-proximal and telomere proximal loci for Htz1 and Cdc5 deficient strains, and co-immunoprecipitations among the alternative RFC complexes with both Cdc5 and Htz1. Data generated is consistent with previous reports suggesting a shared function between these proteins in addition to a regulatory role for Mps3 and Cdc5.

# Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities Optimistic Thinking Skills

Alecia Palmisano

Sponsored by: Dr. Michelle Gonzalez

Reap College of Education and Human Development

## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine if optimism can be taught to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with learning disabilities who participated in character education program focusing on optimism. Optimism is thinking events and situations will turn out well. The theory of learned optimism was used as a basis for this thesis paper. The 7 students who participated in this 6 week study were given a pretest at the beginning and a posttest at the conclusion of the character education classes program. The pretest and the posttest used in this study was the 48 question Children Attributional Style Questionnaire (CASQ). The treatment consisted of 4 character education classes. Each class was 30 minutes in duration. The results were analyzed using a paired t test. The scores of the posttest showed significant improvement in optimism thinking, which supports that optimism can be learned. The importance of this study shows that positive thinking strategies can be taught.

Sex-Typed Behavior and Relationship Satisfaction:  
Traditional Gender versus Gender Role Flexibility

Joseph E. Patterson

Sponsored by: Dr. Shamshad Ahmed

Reap College of Education and Human Development

Abstract

Despite constant efforts to rid society of gender inequality, gender stereotypes and sexism continue to linger deep within the American culture. Unfortunately, most programs and empirical research have focused on macro-level institutions instead of the micro-level ones that form the foundation for the American lifestyle. One such micro-level domain is romantic relationships. Much empirical research on the subject has shown both that gender stereotypes are still prevalent in the context of relationships, and that they may be responsible for the recent surge in divorce rates and decrease in relationship satisfaction. Unfortunately, research aimed at determining any causal relationship remains shockingly scarce. As such, the purpose of this study was to investigate how maintaining traditional gender roles affects overall relationship satisfaction. Since by definition Androgynous people promote gender role flexibility and sex-typed individuals maintain traditional gender roles, Androgynous participants were predicted to have higher reported DAS scores than sex-typed and Undifferentiated individuals. Furthermore, it was predicted that this effect would be seen independent of gender. 120 participants from King's College and Marywood University took both the BSRI-Short Version and DAS. Results indicated that the Androgynous group scored significantly higher on the DAS than any other group, and that this effect was found independent of gender. Implications of this study are wide and vast, as it suggests efforts towards eliminating sexism should first be directed at the basic institutions of American culture before moving on towards the larger ones, such as the workforce and employment.

# Confessions of a Social Coach: A Model for First Year Practitioners

Marcie Paulhamus and Amanda Reese

Sponsored by: Dr. Francis J. DeMatteo and Dr. Patricia S. Arter

Reap College of Education and Human Development

## Abstract

The purpose of social skills training (SST) is to increase the social functioning of students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The current model of a SST utilized sessions with the incorporation of peer coaches, and usage of three instructional techniques: role-play, coaching, and modeling. Students were introduced to a targeted skill, discussed outside classroom application, practiced using instructional techniques, and participated in homework assignments. Multiple techniques as well as the use of various scenarios help to promote appropriate responses to a wide range of situations (Bryant & Fox, 1995; Gaylord et al., 1984). As social coaches, the presenters will aim to discuss experiences and perspectives of educating adolescents with ASD in a SST at Marywood University.

# The Impact of Family Group Decision Making on First Generation and Intergenerational Children in Substitute Care

Rebecca Piechocki

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

School of Social Work

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to compare outcomes of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) among first generation and intergenerational children in substitute care to see if there is a relationship between the generational response to FGDM. FGDM brings families and their support system together to develop a plan that protects children. Intergenerational children in substitute care refers to families who have utilized out of home placement for their children over multiple generations as opposed to families whose children are placed out of the home in substitute care for the first time. Records from 66 families, 33 in each category were reviewed to determine their response to FGDM intervention. Results will reveal if there is a difference in the effectiveness of the FGDM model based on generational involvement.



## Weight-Concerned Eating Behavior Scale

Colleen Siti

Sponsored by: Dr. Edward O'Brien

Reap College of Education and Human Development

### Abstract

Weight concern is a phenomenon that has been steadily increasing among women in western societies. DSM-V research, which includes analysis of the current criteria of eating disorders, coupled with the rising number of females partaking in dieting behaviors provide evidence that there is much confusion as to when the line is crossed between weight-concern and eating disorder. The Weight-Concerned Eating Behaviors Scale was designed to assess degree of weight concern, and eating behaviors related to this weight concern, among a sub-clinical population. The 52-item scale, which is a revised version of a previously-developed scale, gives an additive measure of weight concern by assessing the number of weight-concerned behaviors a female participates in. In this study, the reading level and response format of this scale will be edited to best address a college-age population, and make the scale useable for adolescents as young as fourteen. It is hoped that this scale can be of value in detecting eating habits that may put young women at risk for developing an eating disorder in young adulthood. In order to assess convergent scale validity, the present study will correlate ratings on the Weight Concerned Eating Behavior Scale with ratings of variables that are strongly tied to both dieting and eating disordered behavior, i.e. self-esteem, body dissatisfaction, and eating disordered attitudes. The Multi-dimensional Self-Esteem Inventory will be utilized to assess self-esteem, the Figural Ratings Scale will assess body dissatisfaction, and the Eating Attitudes Test-26 will assess eating disordered attitudes. Participants will be 120-300 college-age females.

## Community Social Work Agencies in India

Andrea Summa, MSW

Sponsored by: Dr. Packiaraj Arumugham

College of Health and Human Services

### Abstract

This paper examines the work of two community social work agencies in South India, based on the author's personal visit to these organizations in March of 2012. The country of India is overpopulated with 1.21 billion people and many are living in poverty. Over forty percent of the population lives on less than \$1.25 a day. Many children are malnourished and underweight. Infant mortality rates are high. It's estimated that 2.39 million people in India are living with HIV. Many people living in India are illiterate. Two community social work agencies, namely, World Vision- India and Society for Education Village Action and Improvement (SEVAI) are working hard to resolve these problems and change these statistics. World Vision- India currently has projects to help reduce infant mortality, eliminate hunger in communities, pursue quality education, equip and empower value-based governance at all levels, mobilize shared action for rights of vulnerable children and promote highest standards of organizational excellence. SEVAI has also been working hard in alleviating the distresses of the rural communities especially by organizing self help groups. It is the author's conclusion that with the help of these agencies, Indian residents can rise up and live better lives. Implications of the organizations' role in community development will be discussed with relevant pictures.

Vocabulary Instruction: What is being used in the classroom?

Lauren Giannetta Tur

Sponsored by: Dr. Tammy Brown

Reap College of Education and Human Development

Abstract

The primary purpose of this qualitative survey is to assess what teachers are doing within their classrooms to develop vocabulary acquisition. Twenty-five elementary teachers in classrooms ranging from grade 1 to grade 3 were asked to complete an open-ended and multiple choice question survey based on best practices for vocabulary instruction. The teachers were chosen from two local school districts with similar demographics.

Referral Services of a Crisis Hotline at a Women's Resource Center

Robin Vandervort

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

College of Health and Human Services

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of the length of call and caller frequency on the extent and type of services offered at a crisis hotline at a Women's Resource Center. Data from 282 surveys were collected detailing the services received by clients as a result of the calls. The surveys were coded and analyzed and interviews were also conducted with staff members to investigate how they refer callers. First time callers and those with longer call times were more likely to receive referral services to outside agencies and within the Women's Resource Center. The findings indicate that the longer a client speaks with a hotline staff member the greater the extent of services to which they will be referred.

# The Use of Personal Medicine by Individuals with Depression

Casey Walters

Sponsored by: Dr. Barbara Lynn Hutchings

School of Social Work

## Abstract

This study explores the relationship between Personal Medicine use and depression. Personal Medicine is non-pharmaceutical activities and strategies intended to decrease symptoms and increase personal wellness. This study took place in the Partial Hospitalization Day Treatment Program at Scranton Counseling Center and included 10 consumers who identified themselves as having depressive symptoms. Pre- and post-test multi-method surveys gathered information regarding participants' level of depression as well as their use of Personal Medicine. Results will reveal the relationship between personal medicine and depressive symptoms.

# Effects of Technology on Middle School Students' Writing and Grammar

Joseph Vohar

Sponsored by: Dr. Michelle Gonzalez

Reap College of Education and Human Development

## Abstract

Technology in today's world enhances a student's education in numerous ways. It brings information in an instant with a touch of a button. Some of the technologies students are using are interactive whiteboards, computer programs, document cameras, and mobile devices. Technology is impacting many aspects of a student's daily life, including spelling and grammar. This research study explored the effect of technology (mobile devices, social networking, and computer programs) on middle school students' writing and grammar. Randomly selected participants, 50 males and 50 females, were given a survey based on their technology usage and then were asked to complete a proofreading analysis filled with spelling and grammatical errors. The mean scores of the survey and proofreading analysis were then compared. Results indicated that even though students reported varying answers to the survey, mean scores on the proofreading analysis were mainly low by academic standards.

## Family Systems in India

Andrea Wicher, MSW

Sponsored by: Dr. Packiaraj Arumugham

College of Health and Human Services

### Abstract

This paper examines the fundamental aspects of family systems in India with reference to the major concepts such as marriage, the role of caste system in marriage, and sex-balanced families. The importance of family decision making and family values vary when looking at the literature pertaining to northern India compared to literature relating to southern India. Nevertheless, the need to keep a family together is still one of the most significant values of the entire Indian culture. The implications of the values placed upon family systems in India will be discussed with relevant pictures taken during the author's personal visit to India in March, 2012.