Dear ARCA Students,

It is with great joy that we are sending our first of many quarterly student newsletters. The purpose of our newsletters will be to share information about student-related programming within ARCA, as well as student resources and initiatives that students can get involved in. Our Student Committee recently launched ARCA’s second annual Mentorship Program, in which we were able to pair a total of 31 ARCA mentors and mentees who will begin a year-long mentorship relationship during this next year. Our hope is for students and early career professionals to have more support in their endeavors and to be able to learn from the fruitful experiences and careers of many of our professional members.

Currently, our Student Committee is in the process of working with the National Association for Multicultural Rehabilitation Counseling (NAMRC) on creating a CRC Examination Resource Document that will provide helpful recommendations for study-related resources. In doing so, we have also programmed a summertime CRC Exam Preparation Overview Webinar this June. More information can be found in this newsletter and via email!

Much of our advocacy and programming efforts have been focused on offering funding opportunities to students, including free ACA and ARCA membership renewals, free ACA Conference registration this year, and various scholarship opportunities for our students. Please continue to check your emails, as we will be sending out more funding-related opportunities in the upcoming weeks! In the meantime, we hope that those of you who will be attending ACA’s 2021 American Counseling Association Virtual Conference will support our fellow students by partaking in the pre-recorded ARCA sessions.

In the upcoming months, we will be announcing panel discussion series for student and early career professionals that will feature professional members in different sectors of the rehabilitation profession. It is our hope that our students can learn more about the various career opportunities that exist within our field. Our first student-hosted panel discussion will be taking place virtually in May and will feature four former ARCA Presidents who will discuss leadership and advancing the field of rehabilitation counseling. A flyer for this panel can be found in this newsletter. More information about upcoming webinars will be sent out via email!

For those who may be interested, we encourage you to get involved in ARCA so that we can collectively serve our student membership and the profession at large. If you would like to get involved in any of the ARCA student initiatives, or if there is any way that myself or the Student Committee can be of support, please do not hesitate to contact me at Daniel.balva@uga.edu.

I’d like to extend sincere appreciation to some of our wonderful Student Committee members, Jessica Forys and Mara Stevenson, who helped create this newsletter! We hope you enjoy it!

Sincerely,
Daniel Balva, M.S., NCC, CRC
Alexis Duggan is the Student Disability Case Manager at Texas A&M Commerce. I received my Master’s Degree in Counselor Education with a focus in Vocational Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at Florida International University. I received my Bachelors in Special Education at the University of North Florida where I was a Special Education teacher for five years. I am currently enrolled in the Higher Education Doctoral Program at Texas A&M University Commerce. It is my goal to help adults and adolescents with disabilities gain independent living resources and reach their career aspirations. It is my passion to serve individuals with disabilities and assist them in living their best life. I believe that the disability population is often overlooked and left out of mainstream society, which is why I have chosen to be an advocate for individuals with disabilities. I am currently a member of FAMCD (Disability Concerns and Legislative Chair), ARCA (Understanding Rehabilitation Counseling Award 2018), NAMRC (Membership and Coalition Chair), ACA, NRA (Social Media Chair), and NCRE. Over the last several years, I have had the opportunity to travel across the country to participate in several different conferences that focus on improving the lives of people with disabilities through student research. As a current Student Disability Case Manager at Texas A&M University-Commerce and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) I thoroughly enjoy working with the disability community and look forward to sharing my expertise with you!

Daniel Balva (he/him/his) is a 3rd year Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia. Upon graduating with his master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Rehabilitation Counseling, Daniel worked as a vocational evaluator. He is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and National Certified Counselor (NCC) and currently serves as the Student Representative for ARCA. Daniel has a strong passion for disability education and awareness, global mental health, multiculturalism, and international social justice concerns— all of which form the basis of his research and clinical interests as well as leadership involvement in various organizations.

Jessica Forys (she/her) is your Chief Editor of the ARCA Student Newsletter and a current Rehabilitation Counseling Master's student at East Carolina University. After graduating with her degree, she plans on entering state vocational rehabilitation (VR) as a certified rehabilitation counselor (CRC) to help individuals with disabilities develop their independence in work and life. During her studies in her master's program, Jessica has worked on research with Dr. Susan Sherman, focused on improving the VR services through the perceptions of current VR professionals on successful caseload closure and policy. After joining the Second Chance Alliance Pitt County Chapter, Jessica developed a passion for working with prior justice involved individuals. She has felt privileged to have such strong guidance and leadership from Portia Bright Pittman, the executive director of the transitional housing and resources non-profit she works for, NC Re-entry Innovators For Success. In the future, Jessica hopes to open more supports and continue further advocacy for prior justice involved individuals. She is enthused to be a part of this journey of healing, equality, and justice.
Kelley Gutierrez As an undergraduate student, Kelley's leadership qualities were evidenced by her active involvement in campus activities and held leadership positions in several student organizations. Kelley is an active student member in several professional organizations such as the American Counseling Association and its subgroup SAIGE (Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex and Gender Expansive Identities), the National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns, and the Oklahoma Counseling Association. Currently she is a student group committee member for the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association. Kelley is a member of the Free Mom Hugs and Mama Bears Organization. Both groups volunteer to reach out to members of the LGBTQ+ communities, some of who lack support from families. This includes sending cards, emails, texts, and phone calls to individuals with encouraging, supportive, and affirming messages. Before the pandemic, she volunteered at PRIDE events to offer free hugs to individuals in need of loving support. She is a strong believer of standing in the gap for those who are unable to receive the support from absent or non-affirming family members. Kelley is pursuing her master's degree in a dual CACREP accredited program for Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and Mental Health Counseling at East Central University in Ada, OK.

Jose Luis Tapia-Fuselier is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Texas and an Instructor at the University of North Texas. He currently serves as an Instructor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in the Department of Counseling and Human Services. He has served as the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision's (SACES) Graduate Student Representative (GSR) 2018-2019. As the GSR, Jose created various opportunities for graduate students to get involved in leadership and hosted several events at the regional conference to engage members. He was elected to serve as the Student Representative for the National Council for Rehabilitation Education to serve the needs of student membership 2019-2021. Within the same year, Jose was selected to serve as the GSR for the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) 2019-2022. Jose has served in various committees in ACES to promote the profession of counselor education and advance equity and inclusion within the organization. Jose has a clear passion to serve the fields of counseling, rehabilitation counseling, counselor education by advancing the voices of others and promoting equitable and inclusive practices.

Mara Stevenson is a student at East Central University, earning her Master of Human Resources in clinical mental health counseling and clinical rehabilitation. She graduated from Colorado Technical University in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice. She is also a Veteran who served as a communications specialist in the US Army for Air Defense Artillery units for five years. In this time, she has earned 7 awards and completed her Six Sigma Blackbelt Certification. She is a mother of two, ages four years and nine months, as well as a wife to an active-duty service member in the US Army.
American Rehabilitation Counseling Association
“Kampfe Fund Award”
2021 Call For Submissions

Purpose: Provide ARCA student members with funding to support academic and scholarly endeavors. This year, the Kampfe fund will provide up to two $500 scholarship to the top two winners of this essay competition. The winners will also have their essays featured in ARCA’s upcoming student newsletter.

Reason: Dr. Charlene Kampfe, Professor Emeritus at the University of Arizona is a well-respected rehabilitation counselor educator and former leader of ARCA for numerous years. Dr. Kampfe has generously provided this funding to help support graduate students in their academic and professional endeavors.

Who May Apply: All student members of the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA).

Submission/ Evaluation Criteria: Submit a scholarship essay and one letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to your professional work as it pertains to disability advocacy and education in the field of rehabilitation counseling. A panel of reviewers will evaluate all scholarship submissions.

Essay Format: The applicant’s essay must adhere to the following requirements in order to be considered for the award: Essay must be double-spaced and may not exceed two pages. It must answer one of the following two questions:

1. What can the rehabilitation counseling profession do to better meet the needs of general members of the community with disabilities OR students with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What do you believe are the most important concerns currently facing the rehabilitation counseling profession, and what can we as a profession do to ameliorate these concerns?

Deadline for Submission: The submission deadline is Friday, May 7, 2021 at 5:00pm. Please send all submissions to our Student Representative, Daniel Balva at danbalva@gmail.com. A panel of reviewers will evaluate all scholarship submissions, and results will be announced via email and posted on ARCA’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/joinARCA) by Friday, May 21, 2021.
ARCA is excited to announce that we were able to provide free registration for the American Counseling Association's 2021 Virtual Conference Experience to 11 of our ARCA Student members, in addition to free ARCA membership to six student members—including new student members and students requesting financial assistance to renew their memberships.

We are also excited to announce the two winners of ARCA's Student Essay Competition which focused on the importance of attending the ACA's 2021 Virtual Conference Experience, and ways that the conference could be more inclusive of students and professionals with disabilities. Their essays can be found below. Be sure to stay apprised of emails containing more ways to receive student funding from ARCA!
My attendance at this year’s American Counseling Association (ACA) 2021 Virtual Conference would be monumental in the cultivation of my professional identity as a mental health counseling graduate student. Simply being in the atmosphere of established professionals and other students would allow me to network and expand my knowledge of what it means to be an ACA member and a future counselor. I am most enthusiastic to see Dr. Irvin Yalom, one of the keynote speakers this year. I have just finished his book Love’s Executioner and feel incredibly drawn to his existential orientation and unique methodology of counseling. With Dr. Yalom leading the Students and New Professionals Week, I will have the opportunity to learn from one of the top professionals regarding my journey in becoming a counselor. My hope is to work intentionally towards becoming a future keynote speaker and an involved professional in this incredible vocational meeting.

I believe the ACA could be more inclusive of students and professionals with disabilities by focusing on some specific areas. Holding such a beneficial conference virtually can have added stressors of accommodation. The first area is establishing lead personnel for all accommodations. The position of overseeing accommodations would help to address questions, manage the process of providing those needs, and to have direction in everyone being provided for. The second suggestion would be to diligently comb through all advertising and show that ACA is here to be inclusive for everyone especially during this virtual conference that is foreign to many. Due to virtual conferences being somewhat new, many may be apprehensive to reach out, and thorough advertising can help to communicate understanding as we navigate these new experiences. The third suggestion would be to hold fundraising to provide reduced or waved fees for individuals with disabilities. My reasoning for this, is individuals with disabilities may not have access or the ability to attend all seminars or sections of the conference, and therefore could benefit from a reduced conference fee. This question alone shows the willingness and openness to create the most inclusive environment for everyone involved.
Attending [the ACA 2021 Virtual Conference Virtual Conference] event would mean a lot to me because I am passionate about the field of counseling, especially working with individuals with disabilities. I am a second-year graduate student at California State University Sacramento for Rehabilitation Counseling. I am currently in my practicum with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and this conference would give me applicable skills which I will implement throughout my career.

To maintain or improve inclusivity to individuals with disabilities it is important for there to be a contact person for accessibility, realistic capabilities of accommodations, and a general knowledge of the needs of the participants. The contact person should be available to adhere to the needs of individuals with disabilities by way of communicating with the participants, knowledge of how to provide these accommodations, and ensure that these accommodations are functional to the participants. It is important to understand what accommodations can and cannot be administered. Live captioning, interpreters, power points, call (phone) in option, and a transcription of the event are some of the many features one can include during an event for exclusivity. Organizers of the event should be mindful of the capabilities of the system in which is used such as if it provides live captioning or other features that mirror the accommodations given to the participants. There also should be general knowledge of the needs of these participants amongst all presenters and organizers of the event. This ensures that presenters and organizers hold each other accountable such as reminding one another to consistently answer questions in the chat section, increased the font size, and use verbal elaborations of visual content.
Join four generations of ARCA Past-Presidents in a discussion on disability trends, important considerations for disability advocacy, and meaningful insight on disability leadership within the counseling and rehabilitation professions. Participants will learn about disability-related areas of importance facing the counseling and rehabilitation professions. Participants will identify ways to partake in disability advocacy within our profession and in the greater community. Participants will learn more about how to get involved in disability leadership within the counseling and rehabilitation professions.

Registration Link:
https://fca23.wildapricot.org/event-4243077
Webinar Overview: The Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) credential showcases in-depth knowledge of persons with disabilities and the provision of counseling services to these populations. The CRC Examination (CRCE) serves as the examination to obtain the CRC credential, and highlights various areas of knowledge within the rehabilitation counseling profession. As such, this webinar will provide an overview of the CRC Examination, and will review areas of competencies on the CRCE, study strategies, and resources that examinees can use to better prepare for the examination.

Training Objectives:
1. To provide a brief overview of the CRC Examination and areas of competencies.
2. To review brief study strategies and examination preparation considerations prior to registering and taking the examination.
3. To identify select CRC Examination study related resources and tools to better prepare examinees.

Glacia Ethridge, Ph.D., LCMHCA, LCAS-A, C.R.C., N.C.C.

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Glacia Ethridge, Ph.D., LCMHCA, LCAS-A, C.R.C., N.C.C. an Associate Professor in the M.S. Rehabilitation Counseling program and the Program Coordinator for the Mental Health-Rehabilitation Counselor Program and the Rehabilitation Counseling and Behavioral Addictions certificate program at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in the Department of Counseling. She has worked in state, private, and non-profit sectors assisting persons with disabilities. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a National Certified Counselor (NCC). Dr. Ethridge is the founder and sole proprietor of S.T. Phelps & Associates, LLC offering a range in services in private rehabilitation counseling and mental health services.

More information regarding registration for this webinar will be provide in the upcoming weeks via email!
Submit Content To ARCA Newsletter!

Interested in submitting essays, student updates/accomplishments, and content to ARCA's Quarterly Student Newsletter?

Be sure to email your content to our Chief Editor for the Student Newsletter, Jessica Forys, at forysj20@students.ecu.edu