STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES EXPAND

Employees often on front lines to direct students to available health resources

JASON CODY //HEALTH & SAFETY

The significant expansion of counseling and mental health resources for MSU students has led to a dramatic increase in the use of those services, and campus officials stress that more students in distress need vital support.

In the first three weeks of the fall 2019 semester, MSU’s Counseling and Psychiatric Services saw a 41% increase in the number of unique students using its services compared with the same time in fall 2018.

“The increase reflects that students are more willing to seek out our services,” CAPS Director Mark Patishnock said. “We know if we build a robust, effective program, they will come.”

CAPS, created in 2017 with the merging of the MSU Counseling Center and the MSU Psychiatry Clinic, serves as the main resource on campus for students seeking help for a wide range of concerns, including depression, stress, anxiety, gender identity and sexual orientation, trauma, body image concerns and other mental health concerns.

Since the 2017 merger, CAPS has more than doubled the number of counseling staff and greatly expanded services.

Faculty and staff across campus play a key role in connecting students to needed services, said Patishnock, who added employees are often a key referral source for students.

“Our students may experience a great deal of stress,” he said. “Some students find that stress and pressure unmanageable or unbearable. Faculty members and staff play a crucial role in identifying students who are in distress and assisting them to find the available resources.”

CAPS has set up a website, caps.msu.edu/faculty-staff, that provides resources for employees, from identifying students in distress to incorporating classroom strategies such as adding the resource information to a class syllabus. Patishnock said that many more students and campus officials were involved in this effort.

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GRAD RATE AT RECORD HIGH

MSU boosted its graduation rate to a record high as student success initiatives help more undergraduates fully reap the benefits of a college education. For the 2011 student cohort — the latest data available from the National Center for Education Statistics — was 60%. MSU’s rate had hovered in the high 70% range for more than 10 years before rising to 80% last year. Additionally, the percent-age of first-time-college students returning for their second fall semester, known as the persistence rate, is 91%. The persistence rate is a leading indicator of graduation, said Mark Largent, interim associate provost for undergraduate education and dean of undergraduate studies. “We are seeing positive trends in both persistence and graduation rates that demonstrate our efforts are both raising the tide of student success and closing opportunity gaps, and there’s more work to be done,” Largent said. “We are committed to re-doubling our efforts to meet students’ needs and help them navigate their way to graduation.”

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Student success
“Impact is truly the stu-dents’ stations: they are responsible for running it and guiding the content,” Whiting said. “We want Impact to be a home for those looking for a fun, in-clusive environment where students can pursue their interest in radio and digital media as a career or hobby.” Impact has given Kienutske and other students valuable insight into what they would enjoy doing as a career. “I’ve learned that I like working in almost any area of media after dabbling in all our different teams,” she said. “Radio is still alive. I could be a part of the genera-tion that helps it grow again.” Interested students can get involved by filling out a volunteer application at impact89fm.org.

FINANCIAL AID

Attending MSU is designed for teams of experienced health care providers from varied disciplines to sharpen their leadership skills and collaborate on a project to address complex health prob-lems. The program also allows them to gain new perspectives and expertise while extending their impact and influence as professionals and as trusted members of their communities.

GOUDREAU TO LEAD MSU EFFORTS ON CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCES

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation recently announced the appointment of John Goudreau as the new director of the Clinical and Translational Scienc-es Institute at MSU. Goudreau comes with an outstanding background in basic, transla-tional and clinical research. He joined the MSU faculty in 2001 and is an associate professor in the Departments of Neurology and Ophthalmology and Pharmacology and Toxicology. Goudreau was also recently named the associate dean for research in the College of Osteopathic Medicine and co-directs the college’s doctorate-training programs.

RESEARCH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION NAMES MSU LIBRARIAN VISITING PROGRAM OFFICER

MSU data librarian Scout Calvert was appointed as a visiting program officer by the Association of Research Libraries, or ARL. In this role, she will serve as a liaison from ARL to the Coalition for Networked Information and EDUCAUSE in a strategic partnership to better understand how research libraries — as collaborative partners in the research and learning enterprise — can best advance research and learning during these times of significant changes in the production, dissemination and reuse of digital content. Calvert’s term began Oct. 1 and will continue through March 2021.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Scene of the crime

In the classroom, Joe Hefner, lead one of only six forensic anthropology doctoral programs in the nation. In the lab, he has developed new ways for researchers around the world to identify and classify human skeletal remains. In the field and at crime scenes, he and his team use their expertise to help unravel complex crime scenes—from homicides to Ground Zero following 9/11.

Hefner and his colleague, Todd Fenton, charter member of the anthropology department, are the only board-certified forensic anthropologists in the state of Michigan and two of just 130 in the United States.

The initiative honors fac-

city, teaching assistants, undergraduate and graduate students who also serve as the educator for professional development at the Hub. Neal headed the Thank an Educator initiative, and Neal and the #iteachmsu team recognized it can be difficult to fully recognize and leverage the contributions of a community’s teaching and learning contributions on such a large campus. This initiative provided the community with an outlet to commend educators who’ve made a difference. Educators who are nominated are notified twice a year contributions that are responsible for macerat-130 in the United States.

He approaches every scene wanting to answer two questions: “Who is it?” and “What happened?” Every fragment of every bone in a skeleton is a piece to the complex puzzles that Hefner has made a career of solving. Everything from bone density to skull shape plays a part in how the team at MSU piece together the story behind the crime.

Hefner uses X-rays to find tiny fractures or anomalies to compare against medical records, intricate dental exams to classify human skeletal remains. In the field, he can even determine ancestry based on slight variations in shape. One at a time, Hefner carefully examines more than 100 bones in the human skeleton and “puts the body back together,” he says, to identify trauma and look at scientific clues throughout the skeleton. “An injury to the head from a baseball bat is drastically different than one from a tool, like a hammer. A cut from a knife is different than a saw; the force from one type of vehi-

cle on the body is completely different than another,” he says.

Creating the gold standard for forensics

Using tens of thousands of donated bones over years of research, Hefner built the Macromorphoscopic Database, the only comprehensive database massively for skull morphology.

Hefner’s reference database gives researchers the ability to catalogue, collect and compare data on “[macro- morphoscopic traits],” which are details of the skull, such as size and shape, connected to a person’s ancestry.

Forensic scientists from around the world use Hefner’s database as a reference to identify characteristics in bones that they are using in their own research.

In the classroom

Hefner’s students get hands-on experience unlike any other on campus. By working in the lab on smaller cases, learning from and practicing the methods of scientists, he said they’re prepared for success.

“Before my students gradu-

ate, I want to inspire in them to feel a bone fragment from the human body and identify it, even when looking,” he says. “That’s how skilled they should be before pursuing their next chapters in this field.”

Graduate students in his lab, he says, live an on-campus lifestyle like his own, as calls from police departments and medical examiner’s offices all have responses in the field. Once bodies come to the lab, they are responsible for macerat-

ing the soft tissue to uncover the skeletal remains.

When analyzing bones, Hefner teaches his students as partners, giving them access to all the tools and resources of the lab and having them contribute to the process. They also are responsible for helping maintain Hefner’s database with statistics that they have collected from around the world and from every case they close.

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**LORETTA HODSDON**
Loretta Hodsdon, College of Human Medicine West Michigan professional aide, died Oct. 31. Hodsdon joined the staff prior to 2011.

**KAREN MISKE**
Karen Miske, College of Human Medicine curriculum assistant, died Nov. 3. Miske joined the staff in 1976 and retired in 2001.

**JANET RONK**

**JAMES L. THOMPSON**
James L. Thompson, Kellogg Center kitchen sanitation worker, died Nov. 10. Thompson joined the staff in 1970 and retired in 1994.

**SEBASTIAN TYLL**
Sebastian Tyll, student labor assistant, MSU AgBioResearch greenhouse facilities, died Oct. 18. Tyll joined the staff in 2018.

**MARILYN VEITH**

**SMART TIPS FOR WINTER WEATHER**

**INSIDEMSU STAFF ///CAMPUS LIFE**

Spartans know that when Michigan becomes a “winter wonderland,” good snow practices will keep you safe and secure. Following are handy tips provided by Infrastructure Planning and Facilities to help navigate winter challenges.

- Drive carefully.
- Dress warmly and wear sensible shoes.
- Watch where you are walking and shorten the length of your stride while walking.
- Check the forecast before heading outside.
- Do not dart in front of circuits and use a signifi-
- Parking is prohibited in... and secure. Following are

**MSU BIKES PEDDLES LIFE-SAVING IDEAS**

**TONY YUHASZ ///CAMPUS LIFE**

Tim Potter saw a problem and wanted to be a part of a solution.

- More and more bikes are on roads not designed for shared use, and an increas-
- The device worn on the bicycle above can detect oncoming vehicles and give the cyclist and driver enough warning to take evasive action.

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**MICHIGAN STATE TO STUDY PARKS’ EFFECT ON HEALTH IN DETROIT**

Researchers will explore howreviving Detroit parks can improve the health of its residents.

**HOW THE PLASTIC BOTTLE WENT FROM MIRACLE CONTAINER TO HATED GARBAGE**

Billions of bottles were sold on the promise that bottled water is good for hair and skin, healthier than soft drinks and safer than tap water. And it didn’t take consumers long to buy into the notion that they needed water within reach virtually everywhere they went. Ramani Narayan, a chemical engineering pro-

**GETTING HITCHED MIGHT LOWER YOUR ODDS FOR DEMENTIA**

Marriage has been said to deflect depression, stave off stress, even help people live longer.

**THE URCH MAKES VAST IMPACT**

The three universities that make up Michigan’s University Research Cor-

**MSU IN THE NEWS**

News featuring MSU research, experts and successes.

**URC MAKES VAST IMPACT**

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**INSIDEMSU STAFF ///RESEARCH**

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