Don’t forget to PRAISE your students or peers by leaving feedback on their poster or presentation!

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http://webcentral.uc.edu/ursc-praise/
PRaISE 2015 Schedule of Events

8:45-9:00am  **Welcome**  
Susan Kotowski, PhD,  
Praise Committee Chair  
Melinda Butsch-Kovacic, MPH, PhD  
Associate Dean of Research, CAHS

9:00-9:30am  **Alumni Awards Ceremony**  
Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT, MPA, PT  
Interim Dean, CAHS

9:30-10:30am  **Keynote Speaker**  
Michael Topmiller, PhD  
HealthLandscape

10:30-11:30am  Graduate student posters

11:30-11:50am  Snack and Drink

11:50-Noon  Review of afternoon schedule

Noon-3pm  Undergraduate student posters and oral presentations in conjunction with the Undergraduate Research Conference
Alumni Award Winners

Debra Lierl, MEd, RRT, ‘75
Distinguished Alumni Award Winner
Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences

Debra Lierl, MEd, RRT graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy.

Lierl retired from Cincinnati State in 2012 after 30 years of service as a tenured faculty member, including 22 years as the chair of the respiratory therapy program. She still serves as a part time academic advisor, guest lecturer, CPR instructor and proctor and also manages the Test of Essential Academic Skills for Allied Health (TEAS-AH) exams.

Lierl continues to play an active role in the respiratory therapy community in the Cincinnati area. She is a member of the advisory board for the Respiratory Care Consortium for Cincinnati State/UC Clermont, as well as the Respiratory Care program at UC Allied Health Division. She was also instrumental in helping develop our online Bachelor of Science completion program in Respiratory Therapy.

She has been an active member of the American Association for Respiratory Care since 1976, and in 2000 was named the “Education Section Practitioner of the Year.” She was also inducted as a Fellow for the American Association for Respiratory Care in 2001. The Ohio Society for Respiratory Care honored Lierl with the “Outstanding Contributor Award” in 2011.

Julie Honaker, PhD, ’99, ’06
Distinguished Alumni Award Winner
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Julie Honaker, PhD received her Master of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1999 and her PhD in Audiology in 2006 from the University of Cincinnati.

Currently, Honaker is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska –Lincoln (UNL), where she teaches and mentors students at all levels (including PhD dissertations). Additionally, she is the director of the Dizziness and Balance Disorders Lab at UNL. Honaker also recently completed an intensive Post-Doctorate Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Honaker has a passion for the clinical assessment and rehabilitation of balance disorder patients, which is the focus of her clinical research endeavors. These research interests have led her to produce 22 peer reviewed publications and numerous presentations across the country. In addition, her most recent grant involves working with the NCAA, DOD Grand Alliance and the Concussion Assessment, Research and Education (CARE) Consortium.
Thais C. Morata, PhD, ’90

Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Thais C. Morata, PhD, earned a doctoral degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Cincinnati in 1990.

Morata works as a research audiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, Cincinnati) and the coordinator of the National Occupational Research Agenda Manufacturing Sector Council -- a network of partners and stakeholders who collaborate through activities encompassing the entire research continuum.

In addition to her work at NIOSH, Morata created and directs the Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Awards™, is a Founding Associate Editor for the International Journal of Audiology (from the International Society of Audiology), and a Founding Editor of the Cochrane Collaboration Occupational Safety and Health Group. Her pioneering work in the area of noise interactions in the workplace has influenced not only NIOSH priorities and policy but has affected national and international occupational safety and health policies. Her current focus is on improving the communication of science to the public through new media and promoting the adoption of evidence-based health practices.

Lauren Niemes, MEd, RD, LD, ‘83

Distinguished Alumni Award Winner

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Lauren Niemes, MEd, RD, LD graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics in 1983.

Since 1994, Niemes has served as the Executive Director of the Nutrition Council. Her role at the Nutrition Council includes designing and implementing community nutrition education programs, working with community partners to create environments that support healthy eating, as well as fundraising and communication for the organization.

Niemes is a licensed, registered dietitian with over 27 years of experience that includes teaching at the University of Cincinnati and working as a research dietitian. Her graduate degree is from Tufts University and she completed her dietetic internship at New England Medical Center in Boston. Her areas of expertise include nutrition education, childhood obesity and public health.

In addition to her role at the Nutrition Council, Niemes is highly involved in local organizations dedicated to nutrition in the Cincinnati area. She is the past president for the Greater Cincinnati Dietetic Association and currently serves as its Legislative Chair, serves on the Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, Green Umbrella’s Local Food Action Team, the City of Cincinnati Creating Healthy Communities Coalition, and the Hamilton County Head Start Health Advisory Board.
Michael Sclafani, DPT, CSCS, ‘13  
*Recent Graduate Achievement Award Winner*  
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Michael Sclafani, DPT, CSCS received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2013.

Sclafani completed a Sports Physical Therapy Residency at the Cleveland Clinic in 2015. During his residency, he served as the team physical therapist for John Carroll University and St. Edwards High School in addition to professional sports rotations with the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Cleveland Indians.

He currently works as a sports physical therapist in the Sports Medicine Department at Children’s Hospital Colorado in Denver, Colorado. Sclafani’s areas of professional interest include rugby, sports performance, and contact sports. He also serves as a reviewer for Sports Health and the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy, in which he is also published.

Dana Harley, PhD, MSW, LISW-S, ‘03  
*Distinguished Alumni Award Winner*  
School of Social Work

Dana Harley, PhD, MSW, LISW-S, received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2003.

Harley is a fourth-year assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Social Work and Leadership at Northern Kentucky University (NKU), where she is responsible for teaching, research/scholarship, and service to the university and broader community.

Harley is a Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor and has over 10 years of clinical social work practice experience. She specializes in child and adolescent mental health and developmental issues. Recently, she was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration to train MSW students in Trauma Focused Care with children, adolescents and transition-age youth.

Recently, Harley has been the recipient of numerous regional and national awards. She was awarded both the "TRIO Greatest Impact Award" and the "Award for Excellent Performance in Outreach & Community" from NKU, as well as the “SAGE/CSWE Innovative Teaching Award”, a national recognition in social work education.
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Wendi Craddock
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Special Thanks to the Interdisciplinary Research Committee:

Susan Kotowski, Chair
Brian Earl
Michael McCarthy
Alan Vespie
Debra Krummel

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Seth Baker
Kyle Bailey
Derrick Chandler
Meridy Glenn
Don Hodges
Kaitlyn Maxwell
Ashleigh Miller
Ryan Young
Tina Whalen