

Newsletter

Master of Science in Early Intervention



WELCOME!

As the vibrant hues of autumn paint the world around us, it's time to welcome a new edition of our MSEI newsletter. I hope this issue finds you in good health and high spirits.

In these pages, you will discover a “cornucopia” of updates, insights, and accomplishments from our MSEI bulldog family. In this issue, we highlight important legislation in "Updates from the Field," spotlight Frances Rooks Patterson, Executive Director of the Little Light House, and celebrate an outstanding achievement by an MSEI alum. Enjoy!

If you are interested in contributing to the Dec.-Jan. issue of the MSEI newsletter, please contact Dr. Pansé-Barone (cp1992@msstate.edu).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advising sessions are coming up in October! Please be on the lookout for an email from your advisor, which will include a link to book your advisement meeting. Scheduling this meeting is a requirement to enable your advisor to authorize your registration for spring semester courses.

Newsletter Highlights

Program
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Student and Alumni
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Updates from the
Field

Research Corner

Practicum Supervisor
Spotlight

Career Building
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STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

We're excited to announce that Sydney Yance, one of our MSEI alumni, has been accepted into the Human Development and Family Sciences (HDFS) doctoral program at Mississippi State! Sydney's dedication to early intervention was evident throughout her time in the MSEI program. Her acceptance into the HDFS doctoral program reflects her dedication to advancing the field and her potential to make a significant impact in child development and family-centered practice. We're confident that Sydney will thrive in her doctoral studies. We're immensely proud of her achievements and look forward to witnessing her ongoing success.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

In the latest "Updates from the Field," we bring attention to an important bill titled the "H.R.5141 - Funding Early Childhood is the Right IDEA Act." This legislation carries significant implications for the children and families we serve in early intervention, as it seeks to increase funding under Parts C and B 619 of IDEA. You can access the bill [here](#) to explore its provisions in detail.

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is currently engaging in advocacy efforts to reintroduce this bill to the Senate. You can read about DEC's efforts and stay updated on their progress by visiting [this link](#). We strongly urge our students and graduates to remain informed and up-to-date regarding this legislation.



RESEARCH CORNER

In a recent study titled *Ethics in the Early Intervention System: A Mixed Methods Exploration* (Corr et al., 2023), the authors employed a mixed methods approach, combining survey and interviews, to investigate how early interventionists (EIs) perceive and address ethical dilemmas in their work. The results indicate that EIs define ethical dilemmas as conflicts between right and wrong or policy

violations. The findings also revealed that EIs frequently encounter ethical dilemmas in various aspects of their work, such as breaching EI rules and policies, navigating EI system logistics, and managing boundaries in relationships with families and colleagues. The authors provide recommendations to EI professionals to help them navigate ethical dilemmas. For further reading, here is the DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02711214231182117>. Students are also highly encouraged to read DEC's Position Statement on Ethical Practice (2022) [here](#).



PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR SPOTLIGHT: FRANCES ROOKS PATTERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Never stop raising awareness and fighting for the importance of early intervention services in our state for all children under age five. These are the most impactful learning years of our entire lives and can change the path of a child’s future for the better. Mississippi children deserve the best!” -Frances Rooks Patterson

Little Light House – Central Mississippi (LLH) is a tuition-free Christian Developmental Center that serves children with special needs from birth to age six. These children have a wide range of diagnoses, including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, blindness, sensory disorders, and more. LLH welcomes families from diverse racial, socioeconomic, and religious backgrounds.

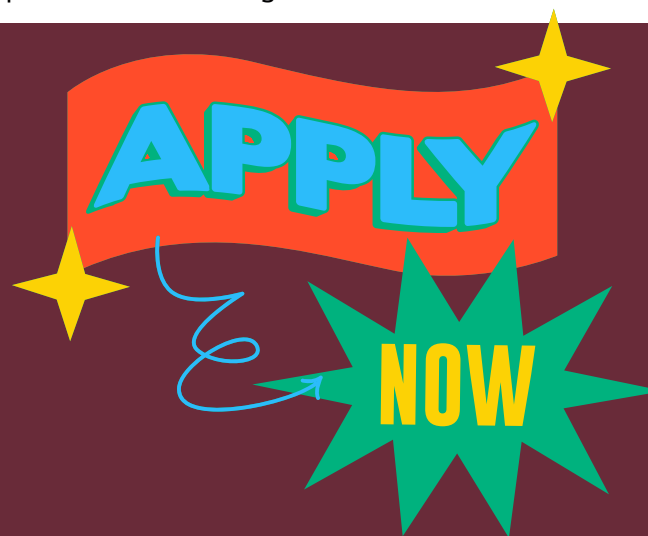
At LLH, they operate with an unwavering belief in the realm of possibilities, where miracles occur every day. Since its inception, LLH has witnessed many remarkable achievements. Students have learned to walk, communicate through various means (including sign language and assistive devices), and overcome significant feeding challenges. These milestones are achieved through personalized goals set by a dedicated team of teachers, therapists, and parents.

As the executive director of the program, Frances recognizes the importance of MSEI students gaining diverse experience with children of varying abilities. LLH uses a transdisciplinary approach, where certified teachers, associate teachers, therapists, and parents collaborate to create individualized programs for each child. The team works closely to help children reach their goals and developmental milestones. These experiences offer MSEI students invaluable insights not found in typical programs.

At the heart of LLH’s efforts is their mission: “To glorify God by improving the quality of life of children with special needs, their families, and their communities.” Their unwavering commitment to this mission informs their approach to mentoring MSEI students.

Spring Enrollment

Do you know a friend or colleague who might be interested in pursuing their Master’s degree in early intervention? The deadline to apply for spring enrollment is quickly approaching on December 1st. Additional information can be found on our MSEI program website: <https://www.online.msstate.edu/msei>. Encourage them to check us out and apply!



Career Building Opportunities

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Click on the conference title to learn more and register!

- [National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference Expo](#) (Nov. 15-17, 2023). Nashville, TN.
 - [Division for Early Childhood 39th Annual International Conference](#) (Nov. 28-Dec. 1, 2023). Minneapolis, MN.
 - [2024 AAC Early Starts Conference](#) (Feb. 15-16, 2024). Virtual.
 - ****Registration is free when participants register before Feb. 1, 2024****
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SCHOLARSHIPS

Click on the scholarship name to learn more!

- [AAUW Career Development Grant](#): Aids women pursuing an advanced degree in education and social sciences. Covers tuition, fees, books, supplies, transportation, and dependent care. Priority given to women of color.
 - **Award:** \$2,000-\$20,000
 - **Deadline:** Nov. 15th, 2023
 - Mississippi Dept. of Education (MDE): Up to twenty scholarships for graduate students who are [MPE members](#) will be awarded (will be posted on the MDE website in December).
 - **Award:** \$1,000
 - **Deadline:** February 16th, 2024 by 4:30PM
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INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Click on the position title to learn more and apply!

- [Bipartisan Policy Center: Early Childhood Initiative Virtual Intern](#)
 - **Deadline:** Nov. 24th, 2023
- [RespectAbility: National Leadership Program Virtual Fellowship](#)
 - **Deadline:** Will be announced in early fall

