Two ERME Alumni Awarded Fulbright Grants

The Fulbright Scholar Program, established in 1946 through Senator J. William Fulbright and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the largest international exchange program in the United States. The program aims to investigate and examine the educational differences of other countries in relation to the United States. Fulbright currently extends itself to 155 countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program gives scholars the opportunity to teach, conduct research, and encounter the education system in other countries. Fulbright teachers are also able to share opinions and ideas in developing solutions to international educational issues. Scholars chosen to receive Fulbright grants must be exceptional in both their academic achievements and leadership skills.

Two of our own ERME Alumni, Dr. Catherine Horn and Dr. Susan Gracias, have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships this year. Dr. Horn is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Houston. She recently left to spend five months in Santiago, Chile, where she will be teaching and conducting research involving, “Comprehensive Access and Outcomes: Modeling the Impacts on Student-Level Outcomes of Attention to Resourcing Tertiary Education Opportunities for Underserved Students.” She plans on spending much time in the Catholic University of Chile, which has been successful in providing opportunities for low-income students.

Dr. Gracias, the Director of Assessment at Simmons College, plans to experience her teacher exchange opportunity in Peru, most likely in the spring of 2013. Dr. Gracias will be researching classroom assessment-related professional competencies, licensing requirements and training for Peruvian teachers, the assessment experiences of students in schools, and the relationship between assessment practice and student achievement. As well as conducting research, she will teach 1-2 courses on educational measurement, research design, classroom assessment, survey design, program evaluation, education policy, and/or testing.

ERME wishes to offer both ERME alumni congratulations and to enjoy your adventures in Chile and Peru!

By: Suzie Scordino

Sources: fulbrightteacherexchange.org; us.fulbrightonline.org; http://www.coe.uh.edu/
**New Media Award**

Professor Laura O’Dwyer was chosen as a winner of the Teaching with New Media Award. Students at Boston College were asked to nominate instructors whose use of technology in and outside of the classroom has enriched their learning experience. Out of the 149 instructors identified, the Instructional Design and eTeaching Services (IDeS) have chosen 5 outstanding winners to receive this award. Professor O’Dwyer and the other winners will receive their awards and a fun technology prize on May 16th during the eTeaching Day event.

**Dissertations**

Congratulations to Dr. Caroline Wang, Dr. Gabrielle Stanco, and Dr. Jessica Brown on successfully defending their dissertations! Click on the student’s name for abstract details.

**Yang (Caroline) Wang**

Title: Measuring Value-Added in Non Cognitive Learning Outcomes in Higher Education Institutions: A Civic Engagement Perspective

Readers on Dissertation Committee:
- Dr. Henry Braun (chair)
- Dr. Laura O’Dwyer
- Dr. Karen Arnold

**Gabrielle Stanco**

Title: Using TIMSS 2007 Data to Examine STEM School Effectiveness Factors in an International Context

Readers on Dissertation Committee:
- Dr. Ina Mullis (chair)
- Dr. Michael Martin
- Dr. Katherine McNeill

**Jessica Brown**

Title: The Teacher Attitudes Toward Homeless Students Scale: Development and Validation

Readers on Dissertation Committee:
- Dr. Larry Ludlow (chair)
- Dr. Laura O’Dwyer
- Dr. Eric Dearing
- Dr. Wendy Vaulton

**Publications**

Professor Saenz was recently published in the Review of Research Literature, an official journal of the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Saenz and Michele Moses’s article “When the Majority Rules: Ballot Initiatives, Race-Conscious Education Policy, and the Public Good” can be found here at http://rre.sagepub.com/cgi/content/full/36/1/113.

Professor Ludlow and researchers, H.M. Dumas, M.A. Fragala-Pinkham, S.M. Haley, P. Ni, W. Coster, J.M. Kramer, Y.C. Kao, and R. Moed were published in PubMed.gov. The publication is titled, Computer adaptive test performance in children with and without disabilities: prospective field study of the PEDICAT, under the subject of “Disability Rehabilitation.” Check it out!

Josh Tobias, doctoral student in ERME, was published along side colleagues at Brandeis in the Journal of Jewish Communal Service. Information on the article “Opening the Black Box: Lessons from Research on Immersive Jewish Service Learning Programs for Young Adults” can be found here.
Kara Smith (PhD, class of 2011) was married to Talon McWilliams on December 3, 2011 in Lake Placid, New York. Shortly after the wedding, she accepted a position as a Research Scientist at the College Board, working in the Research & Development Department on the Evaluation & Research team. She primarily works out of Newtown, PA but also has an office in New York, NY.

Our former Administrative Assistant and M. Ed. graduate Tracy Lituri McMahon, and her husband Kevin are happy to announce the birth of Bennett Paul McMahon. Bennett was born on March 14, 2012 at 1:40 PM, weighing 7 lbs 10 oz and is 20 inches long. Everyone is healthy and doing great.

**IT’S A BOY!**
ERME Job Fair

Please save WEDNESDAY, MAY 16th for the ERME Job Fair & Career Workshop from 11-3 pm. More details to come soon!

We are working hard to provide both an alumni career experience panel, as well as employer tables for ERME-related jobs. If you have any recommendations, suggestions or would like to help with the planning, please contact Jill.

ERME at AERA

Good Luck to Everyone presenting at AERA!

Be sure to check out ERME’s 2012 AERA Guide, where you’ll find information on presentations, places to go, and more!

GEA News

Thank you to everyone who attended the GEA bowling event in February! A special congratulations to Todd Reeves and Terry Lee St John who won first and second place respectively within the ERME group.

“LUNCH & LEARN”: RECAP OF PROFESSOR SAENZ’S DISCUSSION ON DEMOCRATIC PERSPECTIVE ON RESEARCH

Thank you everyone who attended the Brown Bag lunch seminar led by Dr. Lauren Saenz.

A group of 15 ERME students and faculty met on March 28th to discuss and learn about the topic of “Democratic Perspective on Research: Positioning evaluation as a public good”. Dr. Saenz, whose research is focused on deliberate democratic approach to program evaluation, shared her insight, knowledge, and experience on the topic. She primarily emphasized the importance of attaining equal and free participation in evaluation process from all stakeholders and suggested that one way to achieve this purpose is to develop practices that would mitigate power imbalances among the stakeholders.

Additionally, during this process, she also mentioned the importance of using mixed methods research techniques to harness the information from various resources in the best efficient way possible. Several questions were raised by the attendees including challenges in maintaining a healthy genuine deliberation among stakeholders while holding down strategic bargaining, and whether a democratic program evaluation can take place in societies where democracy is not yet well developed.

Dr. Saenz also talked about some of the recent research she has been conducting on the affirmative action in public higher education admissions and the impact of policies in States which now eliminated affirmative action.

Article by Bercem

FROM OUR STUDENT REP...

Good Luck on Finals ERME!

We’re almost done with the Spring 2012 semester. At this point, many of us are gearing up for the finals and looking forward to the summer! I hope you all had a great semester and that it ends on a positive note for all of you! I also would like to extend our congratulations to our friends (Caroline, Gabrielle, and Jess) who recently have defended their dissertations and graduating from the program. We wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors! —Bercem
The foods you eat can help you with studying by improving brain function. Certain foods boost your energy and mental abilities.

**Protein**
Protein foods release the amino acid tyrosine into the bloodstream. When tyrosine reaches the brain, it increases the production of chemicals such as dopamine and epinephrine to boost mental alertness and energy.

- Fish with omega-3 fatty acids, such as herring, salmon, tuna, halibut. Meat contains iron along with protein to help supply the brain with oxygen to increase concentration. Yogurt, milk, cheese, and other calcium-rich dairy products.

**Fruits and Vegetables**
Fruits and vegetables contain substances that improve brainpower. Avocados, citrus fruits, such as oranges and pineapples, cantaloupes, watermelon, plums, peaches, cherries, apples, grapes, and strawberries. Leafy green vegetables: Eat cabbage, turnips, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, collard greens, cauliflower, spinach, carrots, and red peppers.

**Nuts and Seeds**
Nuts rich in vitamins E and B6, folic acid, and omega-3 fatty acids have memory-boosting powers. Almonds, walnuts, hazelnuts, cashews, Flaxseeds, and Dry sunflower seeds are some good choices.

**Carbohydrates**
Carbohydrates release the amino acid tryptophan, which increases levels of serotonin in the brain, which provides calming effects. Whole grains stimulate the brain by improving blood flow to the brain. Choose whole-grain bread, cereal and pasta, oatmeal, brown rice, barley, and popcorn. Legumes, fruits, and vegetables also contain carbohydrates. Carbohydrates might be best later in the evening during the latter part of studying. The increased serotonin from carbohydrates will help you sleep better. Avoid refined grains found in processed foods, which can cause lethargy.