ERME Reunion ~ A Very Significant ERME Reunion That Went Off The Scale!

This picture shows the very best you can get from the ERME experience: true friends, reliable colleagues, and the most powerful professional network! We had the chance to meet at the wedding of our dearest ERMEr Ebru Erberber, in Alexandria, VA, on January 12, 2013. Some had not seen one each other in 10 years! But here we were, catching up on work and life. Some key findings: Our bride (ERME PHD, 2010) and Terre (ERME MED, 1996) work for the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in TIMSS and NAEP. Carolyn (ERME PHD, 2007) took her chance with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), doing psychometrics. Eugenio (ERME PHD, 1994) is a Strategic Advisor at Educational Testing Service and Ann (ERME PHD, 2003) is an assessment specialist at ETS as well. Marguerite (ERME PHD, 2000) and Maria (ERME PHD, 2004) are spreading the ERME lessons from the World Bank. Kathleen (Lynch School, MED, 1995) decided to go back to school (Yale University School of Medicine) and is now doing her dissertation research on health and student achievement.

Back row: Terre Smith Neidorf, Carolyn Fidelman, Maria-Jose Ramirez, Eugenio Gonzalez; Front row: Marguerite Clarke, Kathleen O'Connor Duffany, Ebru Erberber, and Ann Kennedy.

Winter 2013

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Deadlines & Dates to Remember

March 4-8
Monday-Friday
Spring Vacation

March 28-April 1
Thursday-Monday
Easter Weekend-No classes on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. No classes on Easter Monday except for those beginning at 4:00 p.m. and later.

April 2
Tuesday
Last date for master's and doctoral candidates to submit signed and approved copies of theses and dissertations
TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center Update ~ February 2013

In December, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center conducted a hugely successful international press release of the TIMSS 2011 International Results in Mathematics and Science reports and the PIRLS 2011 International Results in Reading report. The most successful TIMSS and PIRLS press release to date, the international results were covered in over 300 news articles around the world, and there were nearly 90,000 visitors to the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center’s website on the day of release.

Since the press release, the TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center has been busy preparing the international databases and User Guides to enable researchers to conduct secondary analyses using the TIMSS and PIRLS 2011 data. These were made available to the public in January (for TIMSS) and February (for PIRLS).

The international reports, press release materials, and international databases are all available TIMSS & PIRLS International Study Center website at http://timssandpirls.bc.edu/.

By: Katie Drucker

Professional Accomplishments

Congratulations Recent PhDs!

Congratulations to our newest ERME PhD’s—Shelagh Peoples and Terrence J. Lee-St. John. Shelagh is now the Psychometric Coordinator at DESE in the Student Assessment Services division. Terrence is a Data Manager/Analyst at City Connects.

Shelagh Peoples

Title: The Nature of Science Instrument-Elementary (NOSI-E): Using Rasch principles to develop a theoretically-grounded scale to measure elementary student understanding of the Nature of Science.
Committee:
Dr. Laura O'Dwyer, Chair
Dr. Henry Braun, Reader
Dr. Katherine McNeill, Reader

Terrence J. Lee-St. John
Title: The causal impact of early childhood, systematic student support on middle school grade retention

Committee:
Dr. Henry Braun, Chair
Dr. Al Beaton, Reader
Dr. Laura O'Dwyer, Reader
Dr. Mary Walsh, Reader

Fulbright Scholar Grant

Congratulations to Susan Gracia, ERME PHD alum, who was awarded a Fulbright scholar grant to Peru and will be leaving on April 1 for a semester in Lima, Peru. She will be a visiting professor in the Education Department and the Centro de Investigaciones y Servicios Educativos-CISE at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. She will be teaching (in Spanish!) at the graduate level and conducting research of her own and with the CISE. Her own research will focus on teacher training in classroom assessment. She will return to the U.S. at the end of August 2013.

2nd Lisbon Conference

Professor Henry Braun presented an invited paper at the 2nd Lisbon Conference on the Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education. The paper title was: Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness Using Student Progress: The Promise and the Peril.

Also, Professor Braun has been appointed as chair of the OECD's AHELO Experts Group on Value-added Measurement.

2013 AERA Fellow

Professor Larry Ludlow has been selected as a 2013 AERA Fellow.

National Science Foundation Grant

Professor Mandy Li received an NSF Grant:
Award Abstract #1227245
DIP: Using dynamic formative assessment models to enhance learning of the experimental process in biology
The project is to improve student skills at conducting and interpreting experiments through giving formative assessment across the full experimental process. http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1227245
Associate Professor Promotion

ERME PhD alum Steve Stemler has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Wesleyan University.

National Council on Measurement in Education

Ou Zhang has been working as Psychometrician for Clinical Assessment at Pearson in San Antonio since last August.

He will attend annual meeting of the National Council on Measurement in Education in San Francisco this year. Two papers, titled "Observed Score and True Score Equating for Multidimensional Item Response" and "Detection of Differential Item Functioning in DINA model," were accepted and will be presented.

If anyone is attending the meeting and would like to reach out to Ou Zhang, his contact information is below.

Ou Zhang, ERME MED alum
ou.zhang@pearson.com

International and Transnational Affairs at UMASS Boston

Denise Spencer, ERME PHD alum, was presented a letter of appreciation from the Associate Provost and Director of the Office for International and Transnational Affairs at UMass Boston.

Denise is participating in the International Visiting Scholar Academy at UMass with scholars from around the world. The academy focuses on transdisciplinary approaches to teaching, research, and services. Through meeting with the OITA staff, she offered to help them with learning more about their study abroad students.

She helped OITA develop surveys to administer to their outgoing and incoming study abroad students, and has been advising them on database creation, and will be teaching them how to use SPSS to conduct data analysis and interpret the results. Her objective has been to put processes in place for them so that they can sustain their efforts after she has left.

Other New Positions

Roland Stark, M.Ed. alum, started a new job in October as a Senior Research Analyst at Reinforced Care, Inc. in Ashland, MA. There he analyzes and interprets data for hospital leaders to help them understand ways to keep patients healthy after discharge; to reduce preventable readmissions; and to enhance satisfaction with and loyalty toward the hospital.

Enrique Colón-Bacó, M.Ed. 2011, recently started working at Maguire Associates, a consulting firm focused in higher education management. In this new job, he builds predictive models to help higher education institutions make decisions to reach their strategic goals.
Recent Publications


Title: With Hiccups and Bumps: The Development of a Rasch-based Instrument to Measure Elementary Students' Understanding of the Nature of Science

Yi Shang, ERME PhD 2009 had a paper accepted:

Conference Presentation

Current M.Ed. student Melaine Malcolm presented her work, "The Conveniene of Domestic Absentee Voting" on the panel "Effectiveness of Public Policies and Programs" at the 84th Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference in Orlando, Florida in early January. She is currently working on adding a time series analysis section to the study.

From the Department Chair

Hi folks—another interesting semester underway! Classes continue to draw more students from other units around the university as they come to understand how invaluable our subject matter is to them in all facets of research (and daily life—even if they have to be convinced of that).

Research projects are very active and we are able to provide many different interesting and challenging opportunities (including consulting) to graduate students.

Please note the different brown bag and social activities in the newsletter. Jill and Claire are doing a great job bringing in speakers and organizing things to do outside class. If you have ideas for other speakers and activities please let them know.

You will also notice a number of birth and wedding announcements. Please think of sending in updates on family and work events (promotions, job changes, publications) that we can share. I find these interesting to see what people are doing and it gives us a feel of being a community—not simply a bunch of people who either teach or take classes and then have nothing to do with one another again.

You are probably aware that there was a monster snow storm recently. Not everyone was stuck in it, someone was on sabbatical in New Zealand and had the bad taste of rubbing it in while everyone was stuck (pics included).

In more formal department news, we are still waiting to hear if we have received
approval to start a search for an assistant professor of assessment. Later this semester we will start our university-required department review (we may contact you—for example, what ERME-related job do you have?). We are also planning a mini-career fair day in May. In the past, we hosted a biennial career-fair/alumni panel. Due to popularity, we have decided to make this a yearly event. Finally, most of you know that Dr. Pedulla is in his research sabbatical year prior to his formal retirement at the end of this semester. We can't let him walk out the door without doing something that is nice but annoying. So, ideas of what to do and photos over his last 60 years here are welcome.

Best regards to everyone,
Larry
Captions from top to bottom, left to right:
1. Maori war canoe
2. Cafe in Kawakawa, home of "Hunterwasser toilets"
3. NZ mainland seen from Tiritiri Matangi Island Nature Reserve
4. Marlin caught at Russell—the "Hell hole of the Pacific"
5. Larry and Marilyn from Waitangi Treat House, Bay of Islands.

Professional Development

Harvard Graduate School of Education Presents:
Semper Teaching: What Public Schools Can Learn From The Marines
April 11, 2013, 5-6:30pm

Moderator: Andy Rotherham, co-founder/partner, Bellwether Education Partners, and columnist, TIME
Panelists:
* Steve Scarfe, former officer, The U.S. Marines; assist. principal, Guilford H.S., Illinois

The United States Marines are well known for being highly effective at their core mission of maintaining a nimble and lethal fighting force. Less discussed are the strategies they use, for instance transparency about performance and empowering front-line practitioners in a way public school teachers are not in today's education system. Former Marines, who now work full-time in public schools, will discuss how lessons learned in the Marine Corps might help improve our schools.

Harvard Graduate School of Education Presents:
Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland?
April 23, 2013, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Speaker: Pasi Sahlberg, director general of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation), Helsinki, Finland; and author of Finnish Lessons: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?

Competition, choice, standardized testing, and privatization have become common tactics to improve schools in many countries. This presentation shows that there is an alternative way to transform education systems and enhance learning for all students. It is the way of inclusion and equity, teacher professionalism, collaborative practice, and trust-based responsibility.

ERME Faculty Scholars

Interested in seeing what research our faculty has been conducting? View each
faculty member's publications from 2010 to present here. The listing includes the professor's research interests, their recent grants or research honors, and a selection of their publications.

**ERME Events Recap**

**Holiday Party**

The ERME holiday party was a great success-- we had over 70 attendees! Dr. Ludlow dressed up as Santa and handed out candy canes to everyone.
ERME Lecture Series

Thank you Nandita Gawade and Damian Bebell for your insightful presentations for the ERME Lecture Series. It was great to learn about value-added modelling for non-testing grades and subjects, as well as issues and impacts of digital learning tools in education. Stay tuned for another ERME presentation in April!

From Our Student Rep

Hello everyone. My name is Claire (Wen-Chia) Chang, first year doctoral student, and I'm the new student representative of the ERME department. I feel honored to have the opportunity to serve the growing ERME student community. As a former ERME Master's student, I've been proud to be part of this community for the past 2 years. I'm excited to have the chance to contribute and interact more closely and frequently with all of you. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback on academic related matters, I am happy to be of assistance and communicate that to the faculty. I also welcome ideas regarding social or academic events that you wish for us to host in the future. I look forward to seeing you around campus and at the events ERME hosts throughout this semester.

Best,
Claire
changw@bc.edu

Personal Accomplishments

Engagement Announcements

Clair Johnson, current PhD student, writes, "In December, I got engaged to Joe Maffei, who is studying for his doctorate in Biomedical Engineering at Boston University. We met as undergraduates at Rutgers University, where we lived in the same dorm and took our core engineering classes together. We're very excited to get married!"

Gabrielle Stanco, ERME PHD alum, recently got engaged to Matt Presley and the two are relocating to the Greater Los Angeles area this month. Gabrielle will be working in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at Orange Coast College (in Orange County). She writes, "If any alumni are in the Southern California area, I would love to get in touch!"
gstanco@gmail.com

Apryl Holder, current PhD student: "In November, I got engaged to Ben Clarkson on the Mass. Ave. bridge at sunrise. We have been together for over 6 years and are very excited to be starting this new chapter in our lives. We have not set a wedding date yet, but it will definitely be after I graduate. Also, I have been working at Boston Public Schools for about 4 months and our department is in the midst of hiring, so if
any alumni are looking to work in a diverse and active school district, please contact me at holderap@bc.edu!

Baby Announcements

ERME PHD Alum Jessica Brown wrote, "On December 22nd Atticus James Bailey was born. He was 6lb 7oz and 19 inches long. He’s already growing like a weed is likely around 9 pounds now. He’s a very healthy, happy boy and Gregg and I are very proud parents. Here’s a picture to share from his first day."

Current PHD student Jiefang Hu wrote, "My husband and I are delighted to announce that our baby daughter, Julaine Rong, was born on 12/6/12 in Princeton. She is a 10-pound baby, healthy and happy. Here is a picture to share."

Dana Diaconu (Ph.D. 2012) and husband Cristian are the lucky parents of baby boy Dan George, born on December 10, 2012. Everybody is healthy, happy and getting to know each other!
ERME Bowls for Life

For the third time, ERME students participated in the ALS Foundation Bowl for Life at the Lucky Strike bowling alley. Todd Reeves, the coordinator of the event, writes, "Kelsey Klein, Terry Lee-St. John Caroline Vuilleumier and myself raised a whopping $200 for the foundation and produced embarrassingly lower scores while doing it. The ALS Foundation supports research on the disease, public awareness, and provides assistance to those with ALS."

Just for Fun...

If you are looking for a good laugh, an ERME student forwarded us the Eduspeak Jargon Generator: http://wiki.bssd.org/index.php/Eduspeak

"This high quality, data-driven, intentional Eduspeak tool is designed to assist in the writing of reports, grant applications, program evaluations, and any other required documents discussing either the goals or reporting progress in our schools. Now you, too, can stun the readers of those School Improvement Plans (SIPs), for instance, with a few finely honed phrases of Eduspeak."

Contact ERME at Boston College

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