The MESA Alumni Panels are held each Spring. This is a great way for our students to ask questions and seek advice regarding careers, coursework, research experience, networking, and more.

Contact:

Jillian Gomolka, MESA Department
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Dr. Sarah Enterline
Associate Vice President of Research, Maguire Associates
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As a MESA student, Sarah held assistantships with the GSAS Admissions Office and Teachers for a New Era Project, and was a Statistics Teaching Assistant. After graduating in 2007, Sarah continued a lot of the work she did as a doctoral research fellow, and helped create a new Office of Assessment and Accreditation in LSOE before moving on to the private sector, where she now leads the research team at Maguire Associates. At Maguire, she conducts a variety of different market research and consulting projects for colleges, universities, secondary schools, and journals. Their research includes surveys, focus groups, interviews, geo-demographic market scans, competitor assessments, and pricing/financial modeling.

Sarah’s favorite quote can be found on her coffee mug, which says “There’s a chance this is wine” because she believes that it is important to do significant, impactful work, but to also enjoy the work, and to have a good sense of humor. She is a classically trained singer and ballet dancer, and uses these skills to entertain her four- and two-year old kids. When she gets a parenting break, she enjoys yoga and singing with the Back Bay Chorale.

Dr. Rachel Kay
Director of Admissions Research and Analysis, MIT
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As a student, Rachel held an assistantship with Dr. Russell on the Diagnostic Algebra Project and was a research associate with Dr. Damian Bebell, looking at technology use in schools. Upon graduation in 2010, she continued working as a Research Scientist at the Concord Consortium, where she helped design research studies around the software developed for use in schools. Now, at MIT, she does data analysis work for the admissions office, including reporting, observing trends, predicting student outcomes, designing surveys and analyzing results.

Because MIT loves their data, and her job is to help them interpret meaning from results, she likes the quote “Experts often possess more data than judgement” by Colin Powell. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her son.
Dr. Josh Littenberg-Tobias  
*Analyst, The New Teacher Project*  
*Joshua.littenbergtobias@tntp.org*

As part of MESA, Josh was a research assistant to Dr. Mandy Li and Dr. Vincent Cho, worked for the Office of Assessment and Accreditation and at Research Services. Upon graduating in 2015, he worked as a Research Associate at the Center for Collaborative Education in downtown Boston, and is now an Analyst at The New Teacher Project, studying the academic experiences in five different school districts across the country. He manages the rating and analysis of the student work that is being collected, and a teacher survey.

Josh believes that as long as you’re open-minded and willing to try new things, you can make a lot of progress in your career, which is why he likes the quote “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get” -Forrest Gump. When he’s not working, Josh enjoys running, cooking, reading, and chasing after his 2-year old daughter.

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Dr. Katherine Shields  
*Senior Research Associate, EDC*  
*Please contact Jill for Katherine’s email*

Prior to graduating in 2014, Katherine worked with Dr. O’Dwyer on evaluations of the Evolution Readiness curriculum and STEM Career Exploration After-School Program. Once graduated, she began work at EDC where she is now a Senior Research Associate, leading studies for the Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands, and does independent consulting. She conducts quantitative research studies and evaluations on college and career readiness, as well as postsecondary access and persistence, in partnership with state and district education agencies and colleges.

She likes Michelle Obama’s quote “We believe that every single child has boundless promise, no matter who they are, where they come from, or how much money their parents have. And it is important to our continued greatness to see these kids as ours—not as ‘them’ not as ‘other’, but as ours.” because she believes that seeing the boundless promise in all children, as well as adult learners, is fundamental to our work as educators. In her free time, she enjoys kayaking, hiking, and crosswords.
Ben Sexton
*Founder and Owner, Sexton Test Prep*

In 2004, Ben founded Sexton Test Prep, a boutique tutoring company providing one-on-one test preparation and academic tutoring services to families in Metrowest Boston. He continued his business while in the MESA program and still manages it today.

One of Ben’s central tenets of his teaching philosophy is that you only know as much about something as you can explain to someone else. That is why his favorite quote is “*The limits of my language mean the limits of my world*” - Ludwig Wittgenstein, because he believes that if students say they understand something, but cannot explain it, then they do not understand. In his free time, Ben enjoys Hiking, Investing and Finance, Baseball and Basketball, and Collectibles.

Margeau Frigon
*Senior Analyst, Maguire Associates*

Before graduating in 2015, Margeau held an assistantship in the ADEP department assessing gender differences in spatial and math skills in 5th through 7th grade. Post graduation, she became an analyst, and is now a senior analyst at Maguire Associates where she supports predictive modeling and research-based consulting by creating statistical financial models that help institutions meet their enrollment goals and works with clients to define goals and research questions.

Margeau’s favorite quote related to her work is, “*It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts*” - The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. In her free time she enjoys baking and playing tennis.
Melaine Malcolm  
Research Manager, Massachusetts Trial Court  
melaine.malcolm@gmail.com

During her time in MESA, Melaine worked under the direction of MESA Alumni Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernandez to collect data for MassBay Community College, as well as conducting surveys and organized research symposiums for the Faculty Outreach and Program Assessment division. After graduating in 2013, she served as the Child Welfare Data Analyst at the Massachusetts Trial Court, and has recently become the Research Manager there as well. She assists judicial officers and court personnel in the improvement of case-flow management, performance metrics and requests for data from other agencies.

With regards to work, Melaine relates to the quote, “gain insight and share innovation” because within her personal and professional life, she relies on “insight” to understand and “share” information to leaders and stakeholders to improve outcomes for others and herself. Outside of work, she practices vinyasa yoga, travels internationally, and conducts research for a non-profit focused on improving education equity for children in the Boston Public Schools system.