

# UIC College of Education Office of Research

## Research for Better Learning, Better Leadership, Better Lives

Welcome to the first issue of the Office of Research newsletter for 2015! Thank you all for helping to make the College of Education at UIC a college on the move! Please continue to send the Office of Research news and updates on grants, publications and important presentations as you accrue them. In addition, if you have other notes that you think would be helpful to share through this dissemination vehicle, please feel free to forward them as well.

### Kudos/ Congratulations

#### Grant Awards:

- Dr. Alfred Tatum** has received nearly \$1 million grants from the Kellogg Foundation to conduct research and professional development training that will advance the reading and writing achievement of African American boys in grades 3, 4 and 5. The grants run for three years. Dr. Tatum is Dean of the College of Education at UIC.
- Dr. Gregory Larnell** has received a \$55,000 grant from NSF through a collaboration with Michigan State University to research *Access, Agencies, and Allies in Mathematical Systems*. He is Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UIC.
- Drs. Phillips and Woodard** have received a Proposal Incentive Fund grant through the Office of Research for \$5,000. They will explore the ways in which the practices of composing and making multimodal support science teaching and learning in the traditional classrooms and hybrid learning spaces.
- Dr. Stacy Horn** received \$100,000 grant from the National School Climate Center to implement a public service project for two years. She is Professor of Educational Psychology and Human Development at UIC.
- Betzabeth Montoya** has received the *100 Hours Undergraduate Research Internship* award from the Office of Research. As an intern under the mentorship of **Drs. Cosner, Main, Mayrowetz, & Sheridan**, Montoya will collect video and other form of data, help to analyze those data, and store the video data in a secured, cloud-based storage. Montoya is an undergraduate student in the Elementary Education program at UIC.
- Jaime Vasquez** received a \$500 grant from the Office of Research to collect and analyze data for her dissertation research. The title is *Family literacy by design....Ms.* Vasquez is a doctoral student in the College of Education.
- Steven Kushner** received a \$500 grant from the Office of Research to pay for expenses related to conducting and analyzing his dissertation research. The title of the dissertation is *Apprenticeship experiences of preservice secondary content area teachers in a literacy course*. Kushner is a doctoral student in the College of Education.
- Melanie Walski** received a \$500 grant from the Office of Research to support her to collect, organize, and analyze her dissertation research data. The title of her dissertation is *Teacher sense making of literacy standards*. Walski is a doctoral student in the College of Education at UIC.

#### Honors:

- The Frances Degen Horowitz Millennium Scholars Program has selected **Dr. Aerika Brittian** as a mentor for the 2015, because of her motivation to succeed and willingness to help others succeed. Dr. Brittian will attend Biennial one day meeting 18 March 2015 in Philadelphia, PA and develop a lasting mentoring relationship with her mentor.
- Dr. Arthi Rao** will receive the 2015 Teaching Recognition Award from the Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for providing an excellent example of high quality instruction that characterizes the best of UIC. She will receive the award at the Faculty Awards Reception in 2015. Dr. Rao is Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Education at UIC.
- Dr. James Pellegrino** has received from UIC the *University Scholar Award* with \$15,000 cash prize each year for three years. Dr. Pellegrino demonstrates that he is one of the best scholars in his field. He produces superior products, performs at superior levels, and shows promise in research and teaching. Dr. Pellegrino is distinguished professor of psychology and education in the College of Education at UIC.
- Dr. Steve Tozer** has received from UIC the *University Scholar Award* with \$15,000 cash prize each year for three years. He demonstrates that he is one of the best scholars in his field. He produces superior products, performs at

superior levels, and shows promise in research and teaching. Dr. Tozer is professor of Educational Policy Studies and founding coordinator of the EdD Urban Education Leadership program at UIC.

**Dr. Timothy Shanahan** has received a new appointment from Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland. Dr. Shanahan will be a Visiting Research Professor in the School of Education from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2015.

On Martin Luther King Day, **Evan Taylor** served as a panel member in the *Young Scholars Reflecting on the Dream* program at the DuSable Museum. He contributed to the public discourse against the "colonization of imagination." Taylor is a senior student in the Urban Elementary Education program at UIC.

The Emerging Educational Policy Scholars (EEPS) program has selected **Rayan McCarty** to participate in two cohort meetings in March and August 2015. EEPS is a joint program of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute. McCarty is a doctoral student in the College of Education at UIC.

### **Publications:**

**Dr. Artin Goncu** collaborated with COE alum Dr. Anthony Perone and published their studies in the *Rutledge*. The title is *Life-span pretend play in two communities*. Download it at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10749039.2014.922584>. Dr. Goncu is Professor Emeritus at UIC and Dr. Perone teaches at the University of Washington, WA.

Drs. Hoffman, Paciga, and **William Teale** have published the Center for Literacy's second research paper that addresses impact of the Common Core State Standards on early literacy education. The title of the paper is *Common Core State Standards and Early Childhood Literacy Instruction*. Download it at <https://cfl.uic.edu>.

The Encyclopedia of Diversity and Social Justice in London has accepted to publish **Dr. Jason Swanson's** book chapter: *Countering hegemony with social justice leadership*. Dr. Swanson is Visiting Research Specialist in the Center for Urban Education Leadership at UIC.

### **Keynotes:**

**Dr. Alfred Tatum** presented the keynote address focused on the literacy development of black males. He spoke 19 Jan 2015 at the policy breakfast held in the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota.

**Dr. Aria Razfar** presented a paper in September 2014 at the meeting of the Linguistics Association of the Southwest (LASSO) in San Diego, CA. The title of the paper was *From languishing to languaging in the third space*.

**Dr. Federico Waitoller** presented a keynote address on assessment at the Raise Your Hand Illinois series in Chicago 18 November 2014. The title was *Raise Your Hand Illinois High-Quality Education*. **Dr. Waitoller** will also speak at the Winter Education Issues Forum at DePaul College, 17 Feb. 2015. Together with other speakers, he will examine the past and present of the special education law.

**Dr. George Karabatsos** will present two papers in this spring 2015. He will present his first paper at the Spring Meeting of the International Biometric Society in Miami, Florida. The title of that paper is *Bayesian nonparametric regression discontinuity analysis*. Dr. Karabatsos will present the second paper at a workshop taking place at Michigan State University. He will showcase the Bayesian Regression software. Dr. Karabatsos is Professor of Educational Psychology at UIC.

**Dr. James Pellegrino** was interviewed by Marc Tucker from Education Week 4 Dec. 2014. Dr. Pellegrino discussed the Common Core Standards and efforts to implement them. Dr. Pellegrino is distinguished professor of psychology and education in the College of Education at UIC. You can read the full interview at <http://bit.ly/1s0gCn3>

**Dr. Jason Swanson** presented a paper in 2014 at the University Council for Educational Administration Convention in Washington D.C. The title was *When good intentions only go so far: Principals who attempt to engage in dialogue about race*. He and other authors also presented an Ignite session. The title was *White privilege and educational leadership in school and society: Problems and possibilities*.

**Dr. Maria Varelas** will present a webinar for the Smithsonian Science Education Center at 5:30 p.m. ET, 5 May 2015. The topic is *Literacy Tool Use as an Integral Feature of Students' "Science-ing."* To register, visit <http://www.laseri3.com/teacher-webinars/>. Dr. Varelas is Professor of Science Education at UIC.

**Dr. Shelby Cosner** visited the Capitol Hill in Washington, DC as a member of the University Council for Educational Administration team. She met and discussed with Senators, Representatives, and their staff issues regarding quality school leadership preparation. Dr. Cosner is an Associate Professor of Educational Organization and Leadership at UIC.

**Dr. Theresa A. Thorkildsen** will present a keynote Address and a Workshop for the Mexican Psychological Association in Guadalajara, Mexico in March 2015. She is Professor of Education and Psychology at UIC.

**Dr. Timothy Shanahan** told the New York Times in an interview that children's motivation to read comes from parents reading to their children aloud and from other things that go on in those families. Dr. Shanahan is professor emeritus of urban education at UIC and a past president of the International Reading Association.

**Dr. William Tale** appeared on Fox 32 interview and explained a report from a new study by Scholastic. Dr. Tale said children read more often for pleasure if their parents read aloud to them beyond their pre-school years. You can listen to the full interview at <http://bit.ly/15fi8MK>. Dr. Tale directs the Center of Literacy at UIC.

## Research Trends

**Race to the Top.** The U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has proposed \$300 million to solicit proposals that will close the opportunity and achievement gaps. The fund establishes a new competitive grant program called *Race to the Top-Equity and Opportunity (RTT-Opportunity)*. The goal is to support states and districts to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps. And it seeks to ensure that all students—particularly those with the highest needs—graduate from high school, go to college and graduate, and become ready to pursue a career. State awardees will use the fund to collect data on school-level expenditures, make those data transparent and easily accessible, provide rigorous coursework, improve school climate and safety, strengthen students' non-cognitive skills, and combat the effects of poverty and disadvantage. With the *RTT-Opportunity* program, the DOE intends to align its vision with President Obama's vision to fulfill the promise: "Opportunity is who we are. And the defining project of our generation is to restore that promise," the DOE quoted the President. You can read details of the *RTT-Opportunity* at <http://www.ed.gov/racetothetop-equity-opportunity>.

**Building Relationship with Program Officers (PO's).** Three equal elements involve in grant writing and lead to winning grants—scholarly expertise, grant writing skills, and relational skills. Lack in one and you miss-target the right grant programs. The result? Reviewers will consign your proposals into their mental trash. Most academics master the first and sometimes the second elements, but often disregard the relational element. Sometimes, academics think the element is unimportant or unnecessary. However, a list of skills outlined below intends to help you initiate and sustain a meaningful relationship with PO's at grant programs you may intend to apply.

1. Identify the grant program(s) whose objectives most closely match the themes of your proposed research. Closely review the agency's mission or purpose statement and analyze any relevant grant announcements. Do they match your idea? Modify your idea to achieve a good fit without leaving your area of expertise.
2. Write a brief pre-abstract that summarizes your proposed project. Use accessible, non-specialized language to describe your project in concert, concise terms. List your main objectives, methods, outcomes. Then stress the project's uniqueness and how the outcomes will address an important problem or contribute to the field.
3. Start with an email, which should be your pre-abstract. In it tell the PO reasons you think your project will achieve the grant program's objectives. Conclude by asking if your project is the kind the grant program might consider funding. You will get a response, and then study it as best as you can to discern details and nuances.
4. Now, you have exchanged emails and have built some rapport. Call the PO, describe your project again, and suggest you want to discuss some issues the PO raised in the email. If you are closer, suggest to meet the PO in person. Say you are planning a trip to the area and would like to meet him/her.
5. Take advantage of professional meetings. NSF and NIH hold regional grant conferences around the country. Other research administration organizations and similar ones also hold conferences. PO's attend to keep abreast with current and emerging developments in their fields, and also to present topics of their own.
6. Conduct a successful conversation. Use your conversation with PO's on the phone or in person to obtain "between the lines" information to decide: a) whether to write a proposal for this program; b) how to shape the proposal to get more favorable review. During the conversation, seek answers to questions like:
  - a. Does my project fall within your current priorities? If it doesn't ask for suggestions or explore another.
  - b. What would you recommend to improve my chances for a more favorable review?
  - c. What is the anticipated proposal success ratio? First-time submissions have lower rates.
  - d. Do you expect last year's average award amount to change this year? The answer will help you determine your project's budget size.
  - e. What are some of the common reasons reviewers reject proposals? The answer will help you understand review panel's likes and dislikes that do not show up in the program's printed materials.
7. Follow up with a thank you note. This act of kindness keeps the communication open and fresh for both parties, especially if you summarize the key points you heard in the conversation.

You will save time and resources if you initiate conversation with PO's and get some directions before you start to write any grant proposals for any grant programs. If you relate to PO's and do not rely on your scholarly expertise and grant writing skills, you will reduce the odds, use your resources more wisely, improve your review scores, and win more grants. The Office of Research adapted this article from Porter, R. (2009). Can we talk? Contacting grant program officers. *Research Management Review* 17(1), pp. 10-18.

## Upcoming Research Opportunities

- William Randolph Hearst Foundations announces an *Education Grant*. 2014 award size was between \$25,000 and \$100,000. Apply anytime; no deadlines. Read the grant guidelines to apply online at [www.hearstfdn.org/funding-priorities/](http://www.hearstfdn.org/funding-priorities/). If you live or work east of the Mississippi River, email questions to [hearst.ny@hearstfdn.org](mailto:hearst.ny@hearstfdn.org) or call 212-649-3750. If in the west, email [hearst.sf@hearstfdn.org](mailto:hearst.sf@hearstfdn.org) or call 415-908-4500.
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Institute for the Humanities announce the *LAS Award for Faculty Research in the Humanities*. Award size is from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The sponsors can award larger amount if you make a compelling case. Submit proposal 16 February 2014. Email questions, and all application materials as one PDF file to [huminst@uic.edu](mailto:huminst@uic.edu). Also call 312-996-6354 and download the complete guidelines at <http://huminst.uic.edu/ifth/research-support/faculty-research-awards>
- National Endowment for the Humanities announces the *Digital Humanities Implementation grants*. Awards range from \$100,000 - \$325,000 for one to three years. Submit proposal 11:59 pm ET, 18 Feb 2015 via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Email questions to [odh@neh.gov](mailto:odh@neh.gov). To read the grants guidelines, visit <http://www.neh.gov/grants> and select the program title. Next under the "Guidelines Resources" Tab, select and download the guidelines in PDF.
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation has two grant opportunities: *Family Literacy Grants* and *Adult Literacy Grants*. Award size for each one is \$15,000. For each opportunity, submit proposal 11:00 pm CST, 26 Feb 2015 online. Email questions to [ToyotaPhilanthropy@toyota.com](mailto:ToyotaPhilanthropy@toyota.com) or call 800-331-4331. To apply, you visit the link below, take the eligibility quiz, and fill out application at [http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant\\_programs.aspx](http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx)
- Toyota USA Foundation announces *K-12 STEM Education Grants* with award size of \$50,000 for 1 to 3 years. Submit proposal between March and Aug 2015. At the link below, select the "Grant Guidelines & Applications" tab in the far right of the red ribbon and scroll down to select and read the FAQ link before applying online. The link is <http://www.toyota.com/usa/community/grant-guidelines-applications>
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation announces an Education Grants opportunity. Amount unlisted. Submit LOI 1 March 2015. Use the Chicago Area Common Grant Application Form to submit an LOI to Ms. Unmi Song, President; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; 120 S LaSalle Street, Suite 1950; Chicago, IL 60603-3419. And, if invited, you will submit a full proposal to the same address above. Read the guidelines at <http://www.fryfoundation.org/> and select links under any tabs at the top or bottom of page. Email questions to Ms. Unmi Song at [usong@fryfoundation.org](mailto:usong@fryfoundation.org) or call 312.580.0310.
- Susan Crown Exchange announces a *Social and Emotional Learning Challenge Grant* with award size of \$100,000. Submit LOI 15 March 2015 to [challenge@scefdn.org](mailto:challenge@scefdn.org). You Email questions to [challenge@scefdn.orgread](mailto:challenge@scefdn.orgread) and read the LOI guidelines at <http://scechallenge.org/invitation-for-letters-of-inquiry/>
- Arthur Vining Davis Foundation has a *Secondary Education Grants* opportunity with award size from \$25,000 to \$200,000. Submit proposal 1 April 2015. To read the grants guidelines, visit <http://www.avdf.org/> and select the "Secondary Education" graphic or "Private Higher Education" graphic. Email application to Dr. Nancy J. Cable at [dflippin@avdf.org](mailto:dflippin@avdf.org) and questions to W. Keator at [wkeator@avdf.org](mailto:wkeator@avdf.org)
- Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy announces one Departmental Teaching Excellence Award for \$20,000. Apply by 4:30 pm, 19 April 2015. Email questions to [celt@uic.edu](mailto:celt@uic.edu), call 312-413-3470, or visit <https://celt.uic.edu/> to select the guidelines under the "DETA" or "TRP" tabs.

## Questions or Ideas?

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Or just stop by!**