Faculty News

**Rita Chi-Ying Chung** ([rchung@gmu.edu](mailto:rchung@gmu.edu)) is the recipient of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty of the Year award for 2013. Now celebrating its 27th year, the award recognizes the finest among Virginia’s college faculty for their excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Rita received the award at a ceremony in Richmond on February 12.

Rita Chi-Ying Chung ([rchung@gmu.edu](mailto:rchung@gmu.edu)) gave an invited presentation to the American Association of University Women in Fairfax on February 29. The title of her presentation was “Trafficking of Girls and Women Into the Commercial Sex Industry.”

**Anastasia P. Samaras** ([asamaras@gmu.edu](mailto:asamaras@gmu.edu)) was interviewed on November 11 by the editor of *Mosaiko* on her work as a Fulbright Senior Specialist with her host, Eleni Morfidi, at the University of Ioannina. The *Mosaiko* website is a new initiative of the U.S. Embassy in Athens that aims to explore the many ways around the world that U.S. and Greek citizens connect to make the world a better place.

Anastasia P. Samaras ([asamaras@gmu.edu](mailto:asamaras@gmu.edu)) was interviewed about self-study research on January 23 by Chilseong Im, professor at Chonnam National University in Korea and visiting Mason scholar; Hyuk Suh, professor at Ewha University in Korea and visiting Mason scholar; Young Jung, Korean Studies Center program coordinator at Mason; and Hye Young Shin, CEHD doctoral candidate and instructor of Korean language at Mason and American University.

Anastasia P. Samaras ([asamaras@gmu.edu](mailto:asamaras@gmu.edu)) was interviewed on January 14 by Arjan de Rijk and Malika Chatyan, teacher educators at the Pieter Nieuwland College in Amsterdam, about guidelines for facilitating self-study research.

**Dimiter Dimitrov** ([ddimitro@gmu.edu](mailto:ddimitro@gmu.edu)) was an invited speaker at the First International Conference on Assessment and Evaluation in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December. The topic of his presentation was “True-Score Information for Binary Items Based on Their IRT Calibration.” Dimiter was also invited for a month as a visiting expert in educational measurement at the National Center for Assessment in Higher Education in Riyadh, where he worked on various research projects and delivered weekly seminars to researchers and faculty from different research institutions and universities in Saudi Arabia.
Eirini Gouleta (egouleta@gmu.edu) presented “Linguistic Policy and Practice in Education and Literacy Implications for Pakistan” at the National Association for Bilingual Education annual meeting that took place in Lake Buena Vista, FL from February 7–9. Pakistan is a country with high linguistic fractionalization, high levels of illiteracy and children not in school, and with large proportions of children (91–95%) without access to education in their mother tongue. The presentation examined current linguistic policies and practices in Pakistan and the literacy implications for its children.

The four-volume work, *Sports Around the World: History, Culture and Practice*, edited by John Nauright (jnaurigh@gmu.edu) and Charles Parrish (cparrish@gmu.edu), CEHD doctoral student and a member of the Center for the Study of Sport and Leisure in Society, has been named one of the Best Reference Works of 2012 by the *Library Journal*. The work includes contributions by several other RHT faculty and students. The link to the *Library Journal* site is (http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2013/02/best-of/best-reference-of-2012-including-best-free-reference/)


Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) and S. R. Hiller published “Fun Science: The Use of Variable Manipulation to Avoid Content Instruction” in the *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 24, 119–217. doi: 10.1007/s10972-012-9269-0

Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) published “Self-Regulated Learning as a Method to Develop Scientific Thinking” in I. M. Saleh and M. S. Khine (Eds.), *Approaches and Strategies in Next Generation Science Learning*. The book is published by IGI Global.

Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) presented the paper, “Scientists Taking a NOS Course: Learning Outcomes and Beliefs of Career Switchers,” on January 11 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Bridget Mulvey from Kent State University, Jennie Chiu from the University of Virginia, and Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) presented “Baby Steps: Elementary Teachers’ Initial, Concurrent NOS Learning and Teaching” on January 10 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Diana D’Amico (ddamico2@gmu.edu) was listed in the 2013 RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Presence rankings, published online by *Education Week* on January 9. According to *Education Week*, the rankings “recognize those university-based academics who are contributing most substantially to public debates about K-12 and higher education.”
Larry Yore, Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), and Christine Tippett presented the paper, “Moving Engineering Practices and Core Ideas Into Methods Courses and Professional Development Workshops,” on January 12 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Rebecca Cheng (wcheng3@gmu.edu), Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), Richard Lamb (rlamb3@gmu.edu), and David Vallett (dvallett2@gmu.edu) presented the paper, “Flow Experience and Science Learning in Serious Educational Games,” on January 12 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC. Rebecca, Richard, and David are CEHD doctoral students.

David Vallett (dvallett2@gmu.edu), Richard Lamb (rlamb3@gmu.edu), Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), and Rebecca Cheng (wcheng3@gmu.edu) presented the paper, “Interactions of Visuospatial Ability With 21st Century Skills and the Selection of STEM Careers,” on January 11 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Richard Lamb (rlamb3@gmu.edu), Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), David Vallett (dvallett2@gmu.edu), and Rebecca Cheng (wcheng3@gmu.edu) presented the paper, “The Interface of Creativity, Fluency, Lateral Thinking, and Technology Using the Design of Serious Educational Games in the Science Classroom,” on January 11 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), Richard Lamb (rlamb3@gmu.edu), David Vallett (dvallett2@gmu.edu), and Rebecca Cheng (wcheng3@gmu.edu) presented the paper, “Impacting the STEM Career Pipeline: How Science Interest, Self-Efficacy, and 21st Century Skills Indicate STEM Career Awareness,” on January 10 at the 20th International Conference of the Association for Science Teacher Educators in Charleston, SC.

Mark Ginsberg (mginsber@gmu.edu), Donna Sterling (dsterlin@gmu.edu), Rob Johnson (rjohns24@gmu.edu), Pat Linehan (plinehan@gmu.edu), Mollianne Logerwell (mlogerwe@gmu.edu), David Long (dlong9@gmu.edu), Jill Williams (jwilli46@gmu.edu), and other members of the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) leadership team hosted a reception and information session in January for the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. The event was organized by Betty Jolly and Sabena Moretz of Mason’s Government and Community Relations office. The purpose was to provide the General Assembly members an overview and update of the VISTA project. Several members or staff from both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate attended the session, where they learned more about the five-year science education and research initiative.
David Long (dlong9@gmu.edu), a research faculty member with the Center for Restructuring Education in Science and Technology, presented a talk on the status of evolution education in U.S. schools at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on March 8. The talk was followed by a panel discussion of scientists and theologians and an audience question and answer period. David is the author of the 2011 book, *Evolution and Religion in American Education: An Ethnography*, published by Springer. He currently directs the VISTA implementation research.


C. Bowles, Jatin Ambegaonkar (jambegao@gmu.edu), and Nelson Cortes (ncortes@gmu.edu) published “The Trend Towards Minimalism: Footwear for Distance Runners” in the *International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training*, 17(6), 14–18.

A. Rickman, Jatin Ambegaonkar (jambegao@gmu.edu), and Nelson Cortes (ncortes@gmu.edu) published “Core Stability and Injuries: Implications for Dancers” in *Medical Problems of Performing Artists* 27(3), 159–65.

Elizabeth Levine Brown (ebrown11@gmu.edu) presented a paper in October titled “Assessing the Readability of Mental Health Communications for Teachers” at the national School Mental Health conference.

Elizabeth Levine Brown (ebrown11@gmu.edu) presented a paper in September titled “Teachers’ Identification of Mental Health in Elementary Education Students” at the national Mental Health Education Integration Consortium conference.

Shahron Williams van Rooij (swilliae@gmu.edu) published an article titled “The Career Path to Instructional Design Project Management: An Expert Perspective From the U.S. Professional Services Sector” in the *International Journal of Training and Development*, 17(1), 33–53.
Fred Bemak (fbemak@gmu.edu) published a chapter titled “Counselors Without Borders: Community Action in Counseling” in the new book, Helping Beyond the 50-Minute Hour: Therapists Involved in Meaningful Social Action. The book is published by Routledge.

Fred Bemak (fbemak@gmu.edu) was the invited closing speaker at the Maryland Counseling and Development Annual State Conference on February 23 in Montgomery County. His presentation was titled “Multicultural Counseling and Social Justice: Successes, Concerns, and Challenges for 2013.”

Shelley Wong (swong1@gmu.edu) and Maryam Saroughi published the chapter, “Language Exposure in Farsi” in Patricia Friedrich (Ed.), Nonkilling Linguistics: Practical Applications. The book is published by the Center for Global Nonkilling, and a free, electronic copy of the book is available at http://nonkilling.org/node/18

Shelley Wong’s (swong1@gmu.edu) photos were selected for the “China in My Eyes” exhibition of scenes from everyday life. The exhibit was sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the Johnson Center Gallery 123 on February 13.

Bev Shaklee (bshaklee@gmu.edu) was elected to the Executive Board of the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) at the 47th conference for international schools in San Francisco. She will serve a three-year term of office. AAIE is the senior organization serving a dynamic global community providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and research concerning development in the field of international education, school leadership, and advancing international education through participation with educational institutions and associations worldwide.

Bev Shaklee (bshaklee@gmu.edu) was invited by the College of The Bahamas and the Union of Tertiary Educators to serve as the Visiting International Scholar on the Promotions Board for the College 2013 review of candidates in instructional and non-instructional faculty positions.

In October Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu), Sheri Berkeley (sberkele@gmu.edu), and master’s student, Melissa Hughes (mhughesb@gmu.edu) presented a research project titled “Computer-Assisted Instruction for Struggling Elementary Readers With Learning Disabilities” at the 34th International Conference on Learning Disabilities in Austin, TX.

In July, Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu) presented with Christopher Lemmons from the University of Pittsburgh at the 2012 annual Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) Project Director’s Conference in a breakout session for doctoral students. The presentation was titled “The Elusive First Grant: What You Need to Know to Get One.” The presentation video, transcript, and PowerPoint are now available on OSEP’s Scholar Initiative Website at https://www.osepideasthatwork.org/scholars/
Rob Smith (rsmithx@gmu.edu) authored a second invited contribution for the Harvard Education Letter “Research I’m Reading” column titled “The Promising Practice of Induction.” The column can be accessed at: http://www.hepg.org/hel/article/561

Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) was in Montreal, Canada from January 21–22 at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics participating in a summit as a member of the Learning Metrics Task Force of UNESCO/Brookings. Bill was one of a broad international team of scholars and international development experts responsible for establishing post-2015 global learning standards, tests and measurements, and a feasible implementation plan. The first report of the task force, Toward Universal Learning: What Every Child Should Learn, was completed in February and can be downloaded at http://www.brookings.edu/research/reports/2013/02/learning-metrics

Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) was in Baltimore from February 5–6 working with Tim Shanahan from the University of Illinois, Chicago to provide expert analysis of elementary and secondary literacy research for Laureate International Education.

Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) was a featured speaker at the Wisconsin State Reading Association conference held from February 7–8 in Milwaukee. His presentations were titled “Ensuring Content Literacy for All in an Effective RTI Program” and “Reading is a Guy Thing: Closing the Achievement Gap for Boys.”

Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) published an article in the Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, 56(5), 253–257. The article is titled “Content Area Reading and Disciplinary Literacy: A Case for the Radical Center.” Bill’s co-authors are Gary Moorman, Carla Meyer, and Trevor Stewart from Appalachian State University.


Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) was quoted on February 2 in a New York Times commentary titled “The Boys at the Back” by Christina Hoff Sommers. The article is online at http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/02/the-boys-at-the-back/

Susan Bon (sbon@gmu.edu) and A. G. Osborne published “Students With Disabilities” in J. C. Russo et al. (Eds.), Yearbook of Education Law, published by the Education Law Association.

S. Eckes, Susan Bon (sbon@gmu.edu), and J. Mead presented “Current Issues in Special Education Law for School Leaders” at a symposium session on November 17 at the University Council of Educational Administration Conference in Denver.

Susan Bon (sbon@gmu.edu) N. D. Snyder, and K. A. Schade presented the paper, “IDEA Transition Plans: What Is Required to Ensure FAPE for Students With Disabilities?” on November 12 at the Education Law Association’s 58th Annual Conference in Hilton Head, SC.


Bob Baker (rbaker2@gmu.edu) and Craig Esherick (cesheric@gmu.edu) published a book titled The Fundamentals of Sport Management in the Human Kinetics’ Fundamentals of Sport and Exercise Science Series. The book is published Human Kinetics.

Bob Baker (rbaker2@gmu.edu) became the first sitting president of the North American Society for Sport Management to present at the Sport Management Association of Australia and New Zealand. Bob and Pam Baker (pbaker5@gmu.edu) presented “Implementation and Evaluation of International Sport Development, Peace, and Diplomacy Programs” in Sydney, Australia on November 23. The presentation was co-developed with Anna Evmenova (aevmenov@gmu.edu) and Craig Esherick (cesheric@gmu.edu).


Craig Esherick (cesheric@gmu.edu) was interviewed on Bloomberg Radio by June Grasso who examines the major legal issues of the day that impact business. The topic discussed was “Lance Armstrong: Current and Future Legal Issues Surrounding His Public Admissions.”

Jim Kozlowski (jkozloows@gmu.edu) published an article titled “Assumption of Risk for Observable Ballfield Defects” in the January 2013 Parks & Recreation. The link to the article is http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2013/January/Assumption-Risks-for- Observable-Ballfield-Defects/

Jim Kozlowski (jkozloows@gmu.edu) published an article about Bible distribution regulation at a gay pride festival titled “Parks, Proselytizing,
and Pride” in the December 2012 Parks & Recreation. The link to the article is http://www.parksandrecreation.org/2012/December/Parks,-Proselytizing,-and-Pride/

Vicky Spencer (vspencer@gmu.edu) and Richard Boon published a new book titled Adolescent Literacy: Strategies for Content Comprehension in Inclusive Classrooms. The book is published by Paul H. Brookes Company, Inc.

Lois Groth (lgroth@gmu.edu) presented a paper on February 15 with Jennifer Orr, the site facilitator from Annandale Terrace Elementary School, titled “A PDS Partnership Promoting Critical Reflection in Preservice Teachers.” They presented at the annual conference of the National Association for Professional Development Schools in New Orleans.

Marjorie Hall Haley (mhaley@gmu.edu) was the keynote speaker for the Languages Other Than English annual conference on January 28 in New York City. The title of her address was “Using Brain-Compatible Strategies With Today’s Millennial Language Learners.” She also presented a workshop, “Applying Theory to Practice Using Brain-Compatible Skills and Strategies.”

Marjorie Hall Haley (mhaley@gmu.edu) was the keynote speaker for the Washington Association for Korean Schools on February 23 in Burke. The title of her address was “Fun Ways to Use Brain-Compatible Teaching Strategies.”

The research of Wendy Frazier (wfrazier@gmu.edu) and Becky Fox (rfox@gmu.edu) was presented on February 6 in Rehovot, Israel at the International Conference of the Outdoor Learning Environment sponsored by the Weizmann Institute of Science. The presentation was titled “Professional Development in STEM and World Language Via Problem-Based Learning to Support an Environmentally Responsible, Global Citizenry: Far East Russia and the United States.” Findings were shared from Wendy and Becky’s prior U.S. State Department-funded work supported by CEHD’s Center for International Education that explored collaborative opportunities and impact when world-language and STEM teachers join together through establishment of an international community of practice to foster internationally minded teacher leaders. The presentation was made at Ein Bokek, which is situated on the shore of the Dead Sea where environmental issues abound with respect to a diversity of stakeholders and perspectives.

Becky Fox (rfox@gmu.edu) and Steve White (cwhite1@gmu.edu) presented a paper titled “Investigating Advanced Professional Learning of Early Career and Experienced Teachers Through Program Portfolios” on February 17 at the Association for Teacher Education annual conference in Atlanta.
Becky Fox (rfox@gmu.edu) and foreign languages colleague Joanne O’Toole of the State University of New York, Oswego presented a half-day teaching lab titled “Research Conversations, Classroom Inquiry, and Language Learning: Taking an Inquiry Stance Toward Learning in World Language Classrooms” at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in Baltimore on March 10. Becky also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Council of NECTFL.

Becky Fox (rfox@gmu.edu) has been appointed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages for a three-year term as their representative to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, the new teacher accreditation body being formed by unifying the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council.

Elavie Ndura (endura@gmu.edu) presented an invited keynote address titled “Who Will Save My Children: Exploring National and International Dimensions of Burundi’s Conflict and Quest for Peace” at Valparaiso University’s Peace and Social Justice Symposium in Valparaiso, IN on February 16.

Elavie Ndura (endura@gmu.edu) was one of the panelists invited to participate in a high-level congressional roundtable discussion on “Promoting Peace and Security for Women in African Nations” that was co-hosted by Congresswomen Eddie Bernice Johnson and Karen Bass in Washington, DC on February 26. Kathleen Kuehnast, director of the Center for Gender and Peacebuilding at the United States Institute of Peace, moderated the discussion. Other panelists included U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence, Zainaab Bangura; U.S. Secretary of State for African Affairs Ambassador, Johnnie Carson; Director of Economic Policy and Poverty Reduction Programs for Africa at the World Bank, Marcelo Giugale; USAID Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Nancy Lindborg; and several NGO representatives.

Holly Lawson (hlawson2@gmu.edu) presented three sessions at the Virginia Chapter conference of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, on February 27 in Glen Allen, VA. The sessions were titled “Vision Therapist: A Hat We Don’t Wear”; “Contrast Sensitivity With Adults,” co-presented with Alexis Malkin; and “Contrast Sensitivity With Children,” also co-presented with Alexis Malkin.

Julie Kidd (jkidd@gmu.edu), T. W. Curby (Mason psychology faculty), C. E. Boyer, K. M. Gadzichowski, D. A. Gallington, J. A. Machado, and R. P. Pasnak (Mason psychology faculty) published “Benefits of Interventions Focused on Oddity and Seriation, Literacy, or Numeracy” in *Early Education and Development*, 23, 900–918.

David Wiggins (dwiggin1@gmu.edu) published “A Worthwhile Effort? History of Organized Youth Sport in the United States” in the *Kinesiology Review*, 2, 65–75.
Staff News

Jackie Anderson (jander14@gmu.edu), human resources manager for CEHD, recently became certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources. The certification, awarded by the HR Certification Institute, signifies that Jackie possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the field. To become certified, an applicant must pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate a strong background of professional human resource experience. The HR Certification Institute is the credentialing body for human resource professionals and is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management; its purpose is to promote the establishment of professional standards and to recognize professionals who meet those standards.

Division News

The Division of Special Education and disAbility Research hosted its first Student, Alumni, and Faculty PhD Social on January 16. The spring social event was planned to welcome newly admitted special education PhD students and introduce them to current PhD students, alumni, and faculty. Everyone had a great time and is looking forward to the next social.

PhD Students

Wendy Young (worneryo@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on January 28 titled “Investigating In-Service Head Start Teachers’ Beliefs About Language and Literacy Practices for English Language Learners (ELLs).” Committee members are Steve White (cwhite1@gmu.edu), chairperson, Gail Ritchie, and Gary Galluzzo (ggalluzz@gmu.edu).

Kathleen Reilly (kreilly4@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on January 15 titled “Artist or Author? Making Meaning Through Verbal and Nonverbal Texts in Secondary English Language Arts.” Committee members are Joseph Maxwell (jmaxwell@gmu.edu), chairperson, Diane Wood, and Betty Sturtevant (esturtev@gmu.edu).

Samita Berry Arora (sarora6@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on January 16 titled “Leadership in Early Childhood Special Education.” Committee members are David Brazer
Kristine Neuber (kneuber@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on February 5 titled “Implications of the Implementation of Accessible Instructional Materials for Students With Print-Related Disabilities in Virginia: A Delphi Study.” Committee members are Mike Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu), chairperson, Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu), and Anna Evmenova (aevmenov@gmu.edu).

Molly Rawding (mrotherm@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on February 21 titled “Exploring Middle School Math Teachers’ Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Collaborative Learning Teams Within Professional Learning Communities.” Committee members are Jennifer Suh (jsuh4@gmu.edu), chairperson, Margret Hjalmarson (mhjalmar@gmu.edu), and Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu).

Pamela Bailey (pbailey2@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on February 21 titled “Developing Rich Tasks: Influence on Planning and Implementing Mathematics Instruction.” Committee members are Margret Hjalmarson (mhjalmar@gmu.edu), chairperson, Jennifer Suh (jsuh4@gmu.edu), and Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu).

Jie Tian (jtian@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on March 6 titled “Beliefs and Practices Regarding Intercultural Competence Among Chinese Teachers of English at a Chinese University.” Committee members are Becky Fox (rfox@gmu.edu), chairperson, Shelley Wong (swong1@gmu.edu), and Steve White (cwhite1@gmu.edu).

Mary English (menglis2@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation on March 4 titled “The Role of Newly Prepared PBL Teachers’ Motivational Beliefs and Perceptions of School Conditions in Their PBL Implementation.” Committee members are Anastasia Kitsantas (akitsant@gmu.edu), chairperson, Kim Sheridan (ksherida@gmu.edu), and Lynne Schrum.

Jill Singleton (jsingle5@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 18 titled “A Historical Review of the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s Academic Reform and Analysis of the Academic Progress Rate in Division 1-A Institutions.” Committee members are David Wiggins (dwiggin1@gmu.edu), chairperson, Chris Atwater (catwater@gmu.edu), and Gary Galluzzo (ggalluzz@gmu.edu).

Diana Karczmarczyk (dkarczma@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on November 5 titled “An Exploration of Perspectives Among 1.5 Generation Chinese American Women Regarding Nutrition Education in the U.S.” Committee members are Anastasia Samaras (asamaras@gmu.edu), chairperson, David Anderson (danderso@gmu.edu), and Beverly Shaklee (bshaklee@gmu.edu).

Olga Corretjer (ocorretj@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 16 titled “Exploring FLES Teachers’ Perceptions of Classroom Assessment Practices in World Language Education.” Committee members are Rebecca Fox (rfox@gmu.edu), chairperson, Anastasia Samaras (asamaras@gmu.edu), and Stephen White (cwhite1@gmu.edu).
Ernest Solar (esolar@gmu.edu) defended his doctoral dissertation proposal on January 16 titled “Awareness, Stress, Anxiety, Oh My! Special Education and Mindfulness.” Committee members are Margaret King-Sears (mkingsea@gmu.edu), chairperson, Pamela Baker (pbaker5@gmu.edu), and Frederick Brigham (fbrigham@gmu.edu).

Jeannine Bagnall (jbagnell@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 21 titled “The Attitudes and Beliefs of Middle School General Education Teachers Toward and Interactions With Their Students With Disabilities.” Committee members are Gary Galluzzo (ggalluzz@gmu.edu), chairperson, Margo Mastropieri (mmastrop@gmu.edu), and Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu).

Jennifer Buxton (jbuxton@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 24 titled “The Development and Validation of a Comprehensive Reading Comprehension Skill and Strategy Assessment.” Committee members are Dimitar Dimitrov (ddimitro@gmu.edu), chairperson, Anastasia Kitsantas (akitsant@gmu.edu), and Margo Mastropieri (mmastrop@gmu.edu).

Ellen Nosal (enosal@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 23 titled “It Figures in Their Future: Assessing the Impact of EverFi, A Virtual Environment, on High School Personal Finance.” Committee members are Priscilla Norton (pnorton@gmu.edu), chairperson, Kevin Clark (kclark6@gmu.edu), and Dawn Hathaway (dhathawa@gmu.edu).

Catherine Thompson (cthompsl@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 18 titled “Parents Speak! Perceptions of Parents of Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders Regarding the IEP Process.” Committee members are Margo Mastropieri (mmastrop@gmu.edu), chairperson, Thomas Scruggs (tscruggs@gmu.edu), and Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu).

Damali Hay (dhay@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 23 titled “Beyond Mathematics Interventions: A Look at the Psychological and Cognitive Perspectives (Mathematical Thinking) of Middle and Secondary Students With Learning Disabilities About Pre-Algebra and Algebra.” Committee members are Margo Mastropieri (mmastrop@gmu.edu), chairperson, Thomas Scruggs (tscruggs@gmu.edu), and Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu).

Richard Lamb (rlamb3@gmu.edu) defended his doctoral dissertation proposal on January 18 titled “The Use of Cognitive Diagnostic-Like Approaches Using Serious Educational Games in Science Education.” Committee members are Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), chairperson, Anastasia Kitsantas (akitsant@gmu.edu), and Dimitar Dimitrov (ddimitro@gmu.edu).

Cheryl Takemoto (ctakemot@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 25 titled “From Cultural Survivors to Cultural Leaders: Groundbreaking Journeys of Immigrant Latino Parents of Students With Disabilities.” Committee members are Eva Thorp (ethorp@gmu.edu), chairperson, Sylvia Sanchez (ssanche2@gmu.edu), and Joseph Maxwell (jmaxwell@gmu.edu).
Kate Moran (kmoran4@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on January 28 titled “The Effects of Using the Crossfit Kids Program on Academics and Fitness.” Committee members are Frederick Brigham (fbringham@gmu.edu), chairperson, Pamela Baker (pbaker5@gmu.edu), and Anna Evmenova (aevmenov@gmu.edu).

Shelby McIntosh (smcinto3@gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on February 4 titled “Investigating Teacher Interpretations of Student Performance on High School Exit Exams Regarding Readiness for Postsecondary Education.” Committee members are Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu), chairperson, Gary Galluzzo (ggalluzz@gmu.edu), and Earle Reybold (ereybold@gmu.edu).

Julie Galle (igalle@.gmu.edu) defended her doctoral dissertation proposal on February 4 titled “Second Generation Palestinian American Adolescent School Experiences: Emerging Identities.” Committee members are Ilham Nasser (inasser@gmu.edu), chairperson, Anastasia Samaras (asamaras@gmu.edu), and Bev Shaklee (bshaklee@gmu.edu).

**Grants/Proposals**

Kelley Regan (kregan@gmu.edu) and Pamela Baker (pbaker5@gmu.edu) received an award for $233,052 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “DCOP-5: A State-Wide Distance Model of Training Special Education Personnel.”

Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) received an award for $399,000 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “The Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)—Early Childhood in Region 4.”

Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) received an award for $2,060,905 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “The Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)—Main in Region 4.”

Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) received an award for $1,440,000 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “Accessible Instructional Materials of Virginia (AIM-VA).”

Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) received an award for $267,564 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “Consortium of Institutions of Higher Learning in Virginia in Visual Impairments.”

Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) received an award for $388,571 from the Virginia Department of Education titled “Training for Teachers of Students With Severe Disabilities.”

Heidi Graff (hgraff@gmu.edu) received an award from the HSC Foundation for $6,000 titled “Mason Life LEAP Award.”

Bev Shaklee (bshaklee@gmu.edu) received an award from American University in the amount of $8,356 titled “DC-Global Education for Teachers (DC-GET) Collaborative.”
Farnoosh Shahrokhi (fshahrok@gmu.edu) received an award for $176,477 from the International Research and Exchanges Board titled “Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA).” The grant is a result of a longtime collaboration between the EDLE program and the Center for International Education under the leadership of Beverly Shaklee. The program provides secondary school teachers from Europe, Central and South Asia, Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East, and the Western Hemisphere with unique opportunities to develop expertise in their subject areas, enhance their teaching skills, and increase their knowledge about the United States. Twenty international teachers from 18 different countries arrived on Mason’s campus on February 1 to participate in a six-week professional development program that includes an internship at a selection of secondary schools in Fairfax County. Participants also benefit from trips to U.S. cultural sites and visits to faculty homes.

Candace Parham (cparham@gmu.edu) and Amanda Caswell (aallen1@gmu.edu) received an award for $1,800 from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association titled “Bolstering Excellence in Athletic Training Students (BEATS).”

Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for $113,895 titled “Collaborative Research: The Development, Validation, and Baseline Application of CAUSE, an Instrument for the Conceptual Assessment of the Understanding of the Scientific Enterprise.”

Erin Peters Burton (epeters1@gmu.edu) received an award of $1,758 titled “The Effect of Research Experience-Based Professional Development on Teacher Efficacy, Motivation, Knowledge Calibration, and Perception of Inquiry Teaching” from AERA’s new program, the Education Research Service Projects. The award supports the members of Idea Lab, a group of doctoral students from various fields who work with Erin to do field research with teachers. More information can be found at http://www.aera.net/tabid/13163/Default.aspx

Colleen Vesely (cvesely@gmu.edu) and Betsy Levine Brown (ebrown11@gmu.edu) received an award titled “Early Childhood Educators’ Emotional Labor and Well-Being” from the George Mason University Foundation in the amount of $32,083.

Betsy Levine Brown (ebrown11@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the University of South Carolina for $75,971 titled “Exploring Teacher Identification of Traumatized Youth.”

John Nauright (jnaurigh@gmu.edu) and David Wiggins (dwiggin1@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the French American Cultural Exchange Foundation for $917,704 titled “Sport for Cross-Cultural Understanding Between France and the USA.”

Anthony Kelly (akelly1@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to San Diego State University for $239,697 titled “On MOOCs and MOORs: A Blueprint for a Conceptually Oriented Massive Online Open Research Platform (MOOR) in Mathematics.”

David Anderson (danderso@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal titled “Youth Risk Behavior Survey” to the United Way for $3,500.
Michael Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the Virginia Department of Education for $30,000 titled “Microsoft KINECT XBOX AT Project.”

Mike Behrmann (mbehrman@gmu.edu) and Maureen Schepis (mschepis@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education titled “e-WorkCoach” for $606,000.

Bob Baker (rbaker2@gmu.edu), Craig Esherick (cesheric@gmu.edu), and Pamela Baker (pbaker5@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of State for $1,207,938 titled “Sport Diplomacy Initiative: ECA Sports Youth Visitor Program.”

Ryan Swanson (rswansol@gmu.edu), John Nauright (jnaurigh@gmu.edu), and David Wiggins (dwiggin1@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities for $82,062 titled “History, Place, and Sport in America.”

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer (pseshaiy@gmu.edu) and Jennifer Suh (jsuh4@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the Virginia Department of Education for $246,696 titled “Building Number and Number Sense Through Math Models and Performance-Based Assessments: Teaching and Assessing Virginia’s 2009 K-2 Mathematics Standards of Learning.”

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer (pseshaiy@gmu.edu) and Jennifer Suh (jsuh4@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the Virginia Department of Education for $246,696 titled “Developing Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning Through Math Models and Performance-Based Assessments: Teaching and Assessing Virginia’s 2009 6-8 Mathematics Standards of Learning.”

Margret Hjalmarson (mhjalmar@gmu.edu) and Robert Sachs submitted a proposal for $589,191 titled “STEM Leadership in Secondary Mathematics” to Radford University.

Emanuel Petricoin (epetrico@gmu.edu) and Shane Caswell (scaswell@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the Prognosys LLC for $52,282 titled “Rapid Point-of-Care Saliva-Based Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Biomarkers Assessment.”

Nelson Cortes (ncortes@gmu.edu), Siddhartha Sikdar, Shane Caswell (scaswell@gmu.edu), Jatin Ambegaonkar (jambegao@gmu.edu), and Guoqing Diao submitted a proposal for $99,999 to the Jeffress Trust titled “Neuromechanical Modeling for Early Onset of Knee Osteoarthritis.”

Jatin Ambegaonkar (jambegao@gmu.edu), Len Annetta (lannetta@gmu.edu), Shane Caswell (scaswell@gmu.edu), Nelson Cortes (ncortes@gmu.edu), and Matthew Ferry (mferry2@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for $2,972,062. The title of the proposal is “Full-Scale Development: Encouraging Active Gaming to Learn Science.”

Alexei Samsonovich, Ellen OBrian, and Anastasia Kitsantas (akitsant@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal for $182,846 to the National Science Foundation titled “Pathways: AISL: Infusing Self-Regulation Skills With Virtual Tutoring Agents in College Mathematics.”
Robert Pasnak and Julie Kidd (jkidd@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal to the National Institutes of Health titled “A Well-Defined Evidence-Based Intervention for Children in Poverty” in the amount of $1,851,888.

**Other News**

Applications are now open for new middle and high school science teachers for the 2013–2014 VISTA professional development program. Participants in the secondary program receive free professional learning opportunities, free personalized coaching and mentoring, hundreds of dollars of resources and materials for the classroom, and a diverse community of practice to support them throughout the year, along with a $2,000 stipend. Applications and more information are available at [http://vista.gmu.edu/middle](http://vista.gmu.edu/middle). Applications are also still being accepted for the Science Education Faculty Academy, the New Science Coordinator Academy, and for paid VISTA instructional coach positions. Visit [http://vista.gmu.edu](http://vista.gmu.edu) to learn more.

Jehanzeb Cheema, who earned his PhD in 2012, received the American Educational Research Association 2013 Outstanding Dissertation Award for Advanced Studies of National Databases. The title of his dissertation is “Handling Missing Data in Education Research Using SPSS.” Jehanzeb recently took a position as assistant professor in educational measurement and statistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dimiter Dimitrov (ddimitro@gmu.edu) was his advisor.

Casey Wilkison (cwilkiso@masonlive.gmu.edu), under the mentorship of Nelson Cortes (ncortes@gmu.edu), received an Undergraduate Research Scholars Program award through the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, & Research (OSCAR) to implement her project “Effects of Virtual Reality Feedback Strategies on Gait Normalization in Lower Extremity Amputees” in collaboration with Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for spring 2013.