



PRÉCIS

By Dr. R.J. De Ayala

2009 August

Department of Educational Psychology



Welcome Back!

As we enter a new school year (as well as our 101th year as a department) I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect back on the past twelve months. Although the past year was to a certain extent focused on budgetary issues, there were a lot of positive things that also occurred. For instance, we were successful in hiring a new faculty member, all of the courses submitted to the new Achievement-Centered Education initiative were certified, we had a successful *Century Speaker Series*, and compared to our colleagues throughout the country we were, overall, relatively unaffected by the budget cuts.

Currently, the pundits are trying to convince the populace that the recession is ending or about to end (depending on the pundit). Nebraska has fared relatively well during the current economic downturn. Because there are predictions that we will lag behind the rest of the country's recovery we will still face some budgetary pressures this upcoming year. However, I believe we are relatively well-positioned to weather any reasonable budget cut.

As you know, we have a vacant staff position as well as several open faculty lines. At this point in time, there are no approved faculty searches in the College. As the budget issues begin to be resolved we will address the staff position. I am hopeful that we will retain our open faculty lines.

The following is a non-exhaustive collection of some of the things that occurred this past year.

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<http://edpsyc.unl.edu>

- In the Fall 2008 we became beta testers for the **Graduate Admissions Management System (GAMES)**. Among other things, GAMES allows faculty to review student applications online. Although there were some minor glitches here and there, overall the implementation and transition to GAMES went well. As a result, GAMES will be how we will be performing admissions.

- **Course Evaluation Online:** In the Spring 2008 semester several faculty volunteered to be beta testers of the course evaluation online system. In general, this beta testing went well. Therefore, the 2008-09 academic year was the first year that all faculty and TAs had their course evaluations done online. One issue that has arisen is that the response rates are showing greater variability than with the paper forms. A second issue was the timing of contacting students about performing their course evaluations. That is, because students can perform their course evaluations during end-of-semester course assessment(s) (e.g., a test) their evaluations may be colored.

- The titles and promotion procedures for **Professor of Practice (PoP)** were approved by the College and we amended our bylaws to accommodate PoPs. We have no PoPs in the Department.

- The **Nebraska Internship Consortium of Professional Psychology (NICPP)** APA accreditation site visit took place at the end of June. As some of you know, Sue Swearer (co-director), Michelle Sullivan, and Kristy Behrens began work on the self-study in the summer of 2007. After Michelle's departure, Emily Burgess stepped in to help Sue address the feedback on the self-study and prepare for the site visit. Sue et al. did a great job and needless to say things went swimmingly well. We now await the results.

- The **Midwestern Social Development Consortium 2009** annual meeting was held in May. Eric organized and hosted the conference. Dorothy Espelage's (University of Illinois) keynote address, *Sexual orientation, homophobia and bullying*, was very interesting and set the standard for all the presentations. Other presenters included Kyongboon Kwan, Greg Welch, and Kari Visconte, to name just a few. The event was co-sponsored by CYFS and the Department. All indications were that it was stimulating time for all who attended.



- As you may recall, Dave critiqued UNL's draft **Strategic Plan for Diversity**, in part, on what he considered to be unjustifiable constraints on the First Amendment rights of all UNL employees to freedoms of belief and expression and on the academic freedom of faculty. Subsequently, Dave was asked to chair UNL's Diversity Committee charged with addressing issues of diversity of UNL. The committee's subsequent report "generated a firestorm in the Senate that spilled over into the local media" (including the *Daily Nebraskan*). In the end the Committee was thanked for their work by the Senate. What will happen now with the report is anybody's guess. This coming year he will be investigating and responding to the disinvitation of William Ayers.

- This past year the University's General Education requirements were replaced by the **Academic-Centered Education (ACE)** initiative. We were fortunate in receiving ACE certification for all of the courses that we submitted. These were EDPS 189H, EDPS 209, EDPS 250, EDPS 251, EDPS 327, EDPS 330, EDPS 362, EDPS 457, and EDPS 459.

- During the Fall 2008 we spent time, programmatically, identifying *Spires of Excellence* (a.k.a., obelisks or campaniles of excellence). These spires are the ones in which we have or would like to have a national reputation:

CLD:

Innovation in Education (this includes the facets of international focus, involvement in collaborative projects and research, inventing and testing new educational technologies)

Co Psyc:

*Multiculturally competent training and research
Counseling psychology in couple and family counseling
Prevention interventions within the field of counseling psychology*

QQPM:

*Latent variable analysis
Mixed methods
Applied measurement*

School Psyc:

*Improving & strengthening children, families, & schools
Prevention & intervention for academic, social, & behavioral competence*



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Transitions

- This past year was a time of change with new faces coming on board and some resignations. In the Fall of 2008 Doug Kauffman returned to us after having been on faculties at Eastern Connecticut State University and the University of Oklahoma. Doug's research interests are in self-regulated learning, motivation, unified learning model and feedback. Doug received his Ph.D. from the Department in 2001.
- Although we had Sharon Evans and Oksana Yakushko resign we were fortunate to have Neeta Kantamneni join us. Neeta is an assistant professor in the Counseling Psychology program. She received her degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee under the mentorship of Nadya Fouad. Her research interests include career counseling and development, as well as multicultural and STEM issues.



Doug Kauffman



Neeta Kantamneni

- Unfortunately and despite having a strong applicant pool, the QQPM search for Sharon's replacement was postponed due to budgetary issues. (We still also have the Denise Green and Leon Caldwell lines.)
- Michelle Sullivan, Clinic and Consortium secretary, resigned at the end of the year to finish her degree in Early Childhood (CYAF). She had wanted to resign earlier in the calendar year, but stayed on to help with preparing for the Consortium's accreditation visit.
- Janet Carlson finished her visiting professorship with us and is now a Research Professor in the Buros Center for Testing.

International

- John spent his Fulbright time in South Africa talking about qualitative and mixed methods and research. He visited the University of Johannesburg, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the University of Pretoria, and North-West University.



- Ken was invited to the University of Hong Kong as a visiting scholar and made two presentations on conducting and publishing research. He also consulted with faculty.



- Ian went to Thailand to work on renewing the memoranda of understanding between NHEI and UNL as well as between Mahidol University (Thailand) and UNL. In addition, Ian was in Beijing working on the five nation drinking patterns project that he co-chairs. While he was in China he also had meetings at the Huangshi CDC and lectured at the Xianning Medical College as well as at the Arts and Science College.



- Kurt was in Oslo, Norway for a committee meeting for the international standards organization.



- Doug is establishing a partnership with Dong Hua University in Taiwan to study reciprocal teaching in an international context.



Speakers

As part of an ongoing attempt to imbue the collective thinking with new and stimulating ideas we hosted a number of speakers. Among those brought in for the Department's *Century Speaker Series* were:

Carlos Cortés (Professor Emeritus, University of California-Riverside) who talked about *The New Multiculturalism*. Because of certain recent political and demographic changes both within and outside Nebraska this talk was particularly timely. *The New Multiculturalism* reflects the changes that have occurred in multiculturalism people have those changes. examined were the perception of social dynamics of the intersection of categorical silos, the reshaping of diversity categories, the expanding circles of inclusivity, the balancing and setting limits to the imperatives of unity and diversity, and the globalization of diversity.



the nature of U.S. and the ways that viewed and reacted to Among the topics changing nature of the multiculturalism, the demographic "tipping,"

Kadriye Ercikan (Associate Professor, University of British Columbia) presented on the *Validity and Comparability Issues in Cross-Cultural and International Assessments*. Ever since tests have been used for assessing a multitude of educational and psychological constructs, tests have been administered to groups of individuals from different cultures within a country and/or across countries. These multicultural assessments face great challenges. most easily understood languages. That is, in a language they do understand will not assessment information. of multiple language not only desirable but necessary for many tests that involve individuals from different cultures. Her presentation focused on validity and discussed methodologies used in examining construct and score comparability in multilingual assessments.



Perhaps one that is is due to different testing individuals not speak or provide meaningful Therefore, the use versions of tests is

Jennifer Greene's talk (Professor, University of Illinois) focused on *Just What is Being Mixed in Mixed Methods Social Inquiry?* The impetus for this topic comes from mixed methods approaches attracting researchers from diverse fields, such as, education, nursing, natural resources, public health, and international development. As a result, it is important to consider how they are shaping the conceptual contours and character of mixed ways ever creative and the core issues being by scholars and mixing methods is the is being mixed in social inquiry? Is it possible to 'mix' different ways of knowing, as reflected in individual inquirers' mental models? Can the integrity of methodologies as different as quasi-experimentation (Thomas Cook and Donald Campbell) and portraiture (Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot) be maintained when 'mixed' in the same study? And what does it really mean to 'mix' measures and forms of data? These issues will be engaged at both conceptual and practical levels in this presentation.



methodology, in inventive. Among shaped interactively practitioners of question—just what mixed methods sensible or even

The Department also co-sponsored:

- with Women's and Gender Studies, Virginia Braun (professor, University of Auckland), who spoke on the discourse and practice of female vaginal cosmetic surgery.



- with Women's and Gender Studies, Joan Jacobs Brumberg (professor emerita, Cornell) whose presentation was on the history of eating disorders.



- with the Survey, Statistics, and Psychometric Core Facility and CYFS, Jon Templin (assistant professor, University of Georgia) who talked about Diagnostic Measurement: Theory, Methods, and Applications.



- The Department also contributed to the 2009 Black Male Empowerment Summit that was sponsored by UNL's Student Affairs.



Notables



- Sue Sheridan received a \$10 million grant for establishing the National Center for Research on Rural Education (R²Ed) in Nebraska. Since 2004 Sue and CYFS have received over \$32 million.



- Merilee, Ed, Tanya Ihlo, and Gina Kunz received a Personnel Preparation grant. This four-year \$800,000 grant will support School Psyc master's level students for 2 years and allow them to specialize in Response to Intervention.



- Beth received the UNL Outstanding Service to Graduate Students award.



- Doug received a Layman award and was selected for the College's Scholarly Enhancement Program.

- Ian received the Dermot Coyne Exemplary Services to International Students Award.



- Meghan was selected for the College's Scholarly Enhancement Program and the Leadership Lincoln Fellows Program.



- Jim was appointed as Secretary of APA Division 5.

- Sue Sheridan, Lisa Knoche, and their KU partners, Judy Carta and Charles Greenwood, received a \$1.5 million IES grant for the "Development of a Three-Tiered Model in Early Intervention to Address Language and Literacy Needs of Children at Risk."



- The top three student credit hour (SCH) producers in the Department were Charles (456 SCH), Ken (342 SCH) and Dave (318 SCH).



- Christy received a DOE grant for Building Accepting Campus Communities. The approximately \$1,000,000 grant is for developing online modules on best practices for how to accommodate students with disabilities in college courses.



- Mike became the Chair-elect of the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs.



- Roger, Kurt, and Ralph were awarded Fellow status in AERA.

- Alejandro Morales (Counseling Psychology) received the Cynthia De La Fuentes Dissertation Award.

- Carrie Blevins (School Psychology) received the Society for Research on Child Development Dissertation Award.

- Brandy Clarke (School Psychology) received APA Division 16's (School Psychology) Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award.

- Melissa Anderson and Kristi Hofstadter (School Psychology) won the College's Graduate Student Research Award.

Congratulations!

Editorships

- Ed, *Journal of School Psychology*
- Kurt, *Applied Measurement in Education*
- John finished his term with the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*

Graduations

Masters

Tara Beverly
Amanda Bleck
Allison Champion-Wescott
Lynne Clure
Alyssa Collaro
Kristin Jones
Jessica Lamp
Genevieve Larson
Sandra Potter
Abby Samele
Jeremy Sydik
Nithya Thomas
Aaron Thompson
Amara Vakoc
Cixin Wang
Jie Zhao

Doctoral

Summer Allen-Portsche
Cynthia Blodgett
Jennifer Burt
Dharmananda Jaíram
Jeffry Kuhr
Diane Marti
Hong Ni
Rebecca Norman
Jeremy Penn
Linda Petroff
Elaine Rodeck
Michael Toland
Rhonda Turner
Stephanie Weigel
Yíng Zhang