



# PRÉCIS

By Dr. R.J. De Ayala

---

2010 August

---

## Department of Educational Psychology



### *Welcome Back!*

As the summer ends and we begin our 102<sup>nd</sup> year I have been reflecting on the past twelve months. We have had the high of hiring Roxana Moreno and the low of her untimely passing. The 2009-10 academic year did not look good in terms of our budget. As you may recall I did not fill the Graduate Student Support person to help offset the projected budget cut. In the end, things were not as bad as they could have been and we lost only half of the position. I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to Allison Jones for stepping up to take on the graduate student support responsibilities.

This upcoming year is presenting some outstanding opportunities to advance some of our programs. Presently, we have Jon Templin coming in to do a presentation on September 1st at 11:00 in Mabel Lee 270 and Kathy Rudasill will make a presentation on September 28th at 11:30 in Mabel Lee 242. Additionally, we are hoping to bring in a couple speakers to stimulate our research.

Last year the pundits were trying to convince the populace that the recession was ending or about to end (depending on the pundit). Well, what can I say? Nebraska has fared relatively well during the economic downturn. However, recent media reports indicate that the state budget faces a \$750 million shortfall (Journal Star, August 17, 2010) during the coming biennium. So we can expect additional budget cuts. I believe we are still relatively well-positioned to weather any reasonable budget cut. As mentioned above, we have a vacant staff position as well as several open faculty lines. Despite the availability of this open staff position we may still need to cut in other areas in order to retain our open faculty lines. Just like last year, we are still comparatively better off than our colleagues throughout the country.

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

Transitions  
Cosas  
International  
Speakers  
Notables  
Editorships  
Graduations

<http://edpsyc.unl.edu>

# Transitions

This past year was a time of change with new faces coming on board and some resignations.



- Doug and Aggie welcomed a new baby girl, Zoey.



- Matt Grady joined us as a visiting assistant professor. Matt received his Ph.D. in quantitative methods in the Department of Educational Psychology at The University of Texas - Austin. Matt has expertise in multilevel modeling and psychometrics.



- Allison Nespor (BA in French and Philosophy, MA in Philosophy, UNL) was hired as the new Clinic and Consortium Secretary. Allison moved with her family to Lincoln from Grand Island.



- Elizabeth Marsh, one of our two student workers, graduated in May and will be spending the year working in Spain.

- Emily Burgess, Clinic and Consortium secretary, resigned in June to go to school full-time and finish her degree in Textiles, Clothing, and Design

# Cosas

- To address the loss of a staff member staff responsibilities have been redistributed. Specifically, the graduate student support person's responsibilities are being distributed across two persons. Allison Jones will still be responsible for the Counseling and School Psychology admissions. However, Allison Nespor will, in addition to her clinic and consortium responsibilities, be handling the CLD and QQPM graduate admissions. For room scheduling and course-related matters (e.g., scheduling, access) please see Patti.



- Merilee has assumed school psychology **program director** responsibilities from Beth.

- The School Psychology program has been undergoing its **APA re-accreditation** this year. The self-study was submitted this past semester and was well-received. The site visit will occur in October.

- Dave will be the Department's representative on the Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee.

- Eric and Ed return from their spring sabbaticals. Both Ken and Mike are on sabbatical this fall semester. To help out Ed has assumed Ken's role on the CEHS P&T committee (Fall) and Doug will be filling in for Ken on the Department's Graduate Committee (Fall).



- After ten months we have finally (almost) replaced our antiquated Clinic recording equipment (i.e., VCRs) with digital video recording.



- Meghan finished her year as a Fellow with **Leadership Lincoln**.



- Neeta finished her term on the **Society of Vocational Psychology**.

- Ian secured additional commitments from six US colleges and universities to initiate programs to reduce high risk drinking. Ian and the **Nebraska Collegiate Consortium to Reduce High-Risk Drinking** hosted an all-day workshop dealing with the roles parents can play in reducing alcohol related risks among college students. Rob Turissi from Penn State University was the facilitator. Ian was involved in facilitating a discussion group of UNL personnel exploring special initiatives that could be conducted with our student and parent populations. The workshop was held at the ETV so that it could be broadcast to other sites in the state and streamed worldwide. In addition, a two volume DVD set of the entire workshop was produced for schools and other interested parties.



- Ken's survey of high-school students on their perceptions of cheating and its pervasiveness in their school lives drew national attention in **United Press International, U.S. News and World Report, Minnesota Public Radio**, to name a few.



- Patti and Emily rescued an injured **kestral** falcon. After the kestral had recuperated they had the pleasure of setting it free.



- Sue participated in a **National Education Association Panel Discussion on Bullying and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Intervention Research**. In addition, her article in the *Educational Researcher*, *What Can Be Done About School Bullying?: Linking Research to Educational Practice*, was one of the most read articles (#17) for the last quarter of 2009.



- Buros celebrated their **"70/30"** (i.e., 70 years since the initial publication of the Mental Measurements Yearbook series and over 30 years at the UNL) with a conference on *Monitoring Assessment Quality in the Age of Accountability*. Presenters included professionals and scholars in the field including, such as, Chad Buckendahl, Jane Close Conoley, Terry Gutkin, James Impara, Barbara Plake, Cecil Reynolds, and Robert M. Thorndike. Topics included assessing the validity of test

scores, the impact of testing standards, strategies for evaluating educational assessments psychological testing: looking forward and back to the future, assessment in the service of clinical practice: where do we go from here?, the history of the Buros Institute, and future trends in testing.

- **Committee Memberships**

*Graduate Committee*

Charles (chair)  
 Meghan  
 Doug (Fall)/Ken (Spring)  
 Ed

*CEHS Undergraduate Committee*

Eric

*CEHS Research Council*

Beth

*CEHS Awards Committee*

John

*CEHS Technology Committee*

Doug

*CEHS P&T*

Ed (Fall)/Ken (Spring)

- Our ***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*

# International

---



• John was awarded the University of Manitoba's (Canada) **Samuel Weiner Distinguished Visitor Award** for 2009-2010. As part of this award John will have a series of lectures and meetings on mixed methods sponsored by the Center for Aging.

• Beth delivered the keynote address at the annual conference of the **International School Psychology Association** in Dublin, Ireland. She also spoke to the Camden Educational Psychology team. This team is working to strengthen their use of targeted interventions to improve the school success of a wider range of students, with the hope that they can do a better job of serving students within their local schools rather than placing them in special programs outside of the borough.

• Ian's research team spent the summer in **China** collecting data to revise four instruments to reflect the tremendous changes that China has seen in the last decade. Additionally, he hosted two visiting international scholars this past year.

• Kurt was invited to the Student Admissions Test Council of the Conference of Rectors and Presidents of Universities and other Higher Education Institutions in Germany.



## Speakers

---

As part of an ongoing attempt to imbue our collective thinking with new and stimulating ideas we hosted a number of speakers. Among those brought in were:

**Robert Calfee (Stanford University)** spoke about ***When Reading Comprehension is Not Enough***.



Robert Calfee is a cognitive psychologist whose interests have focused on the school as a literate environment. His theoretical efforts are directed toward the influence of language and literacy in the development of problem-solving and communication. His projects, which include *Project READ-Plus*, *The Inquiring School*, the *Text Analysis Project*, and *Methods for Alternative Assessment*, combine theoretical and practical facets directed toward understanding and facilitating school change. A former editor of the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, Dr. Calfee is a Fellow of AAAS, APA, AERA, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, and a recipient of the Oscar Causey Award for lifetime achievement from the National Reading Conference.

**Roxana Moreno (University of New Mexico)** spoke on ***Instructional Technology: Creating a Window of***



***Cognitive Engagement for STEM and Teacher Education***. Her research interests were in applying cognitive and motivation theories to educational technology with a special focus on learning, higher-order cognition, and individual differences. Among her awards were the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering, the APA Richard E. Snow Award for Early Contributions to Educational Psychology, and the University of New Mexico Regent's Lecturer Award. She was ranked one of the twenty most prolific individual scholars conducting educational psychology research. Dr. Moreno served on the editorial boards of *Educational Psychology Review*, *Educational Psychologist*, and *Educational Researcher*; was an appointed scientist for the U.S. Department of Education; and has been recognized as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in the areas of Education and Instructional Media Design.

**Dr. Buket Akkoyunlu**, professor of Education at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, presented on technology-related research being conducted by the Education faculty at Hacettepe University.

OQMMR hosted Professor **Udo Kuckartz** (University of Marburg, Germany). Udo is a professor of sociology and education and one of the leading social science researchers in Germany. He is the founder and developer of the qualitative software program MAXQDA.



The Buros Center for Testing and Educational Testing Service continued their annual **Buros/ETS lecture series** with a talk by Dr. Cathy Wendler, Senior

Research Director at ETS. Cathy spoke on *Responding to Accusations of Test Bias in Admissions Testing*.

The Department helped to support several university events. These include

The 7th Annual LGBTQA History Month Banquet.

The 2010 MLK “Freedom Breakfast”

A presentation by Obioma Nnaemeka, Chancellor’s Professor of French, Women’s Studies, and African/African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University, Indianapolis. Obioma is also the President of the Association of African Women Scholars. For more on Obioma see <http://www.indiana.edu/~alldrp/members/nnaemeka.html>.

## ***Notables***



Charles received the 2009 Pioneer in Distance Education Award.



Kurt was elected to the APA Board of Directors and to the Board of Directors of the International Test Commission



Jim Bovaird is part of a team including Tiffany Hogan and Ron Nelson (SECD) that received an IES subaward of \$4,484,711. The team’s subaward is part of a \$20 million award to Ohio State University for studying “Language Bases of Skilled Reading Comprehension.” CYFS was instrumental in the UNL portion.



Christy was presented with the 2009 Outstanding Contribution to Women Award



Roger along with Bob Calfee appeared in *Science, Science Education: Neglected*.



Doug Kauffman and his collaborators were awarded \$3M by NSF for their NebraskaNOYCE project.



Eric received the CEHS 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award



Dave Moshman received the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska Academic Freedom Award



Beth received the NASP Presidential Award



Mike Scheel received a \$100,000 grant from the Woods Charitable Fund



Sue Sheridan received the **George Holmes** University Professorship and UNL 2010 Outstanding Postdoc Mentor Award.

Carina McCormick (QQPM) received Graduate Studies' 2010 Folsom Distinguished Master's Award

Nick Ziegler (CLD) received a Fullbright to travel abroad in 2010-11 and study the use of the Lingua Folio evaluation process for second language acquisition and instruction.

Carrie Semke (School Psychology) received the American Psychological Association's School Psychology Award for Outstanding Student Scholarship

Katie Woods (School Psychology) received the American Psychological Association's School Psychology Award for Outstanding Student Scholarship and the Irwin Hyman and Nadine Lambert Memorial Scholarship

Andy Garbacz (School Psychology) received the Division 16 Award for Outstanding Student Scholarship

Belinda Hinojos (Counseling Psychology) was awarded an APA Minority Fellowship.

Kevin Kupzyk (QQPM) received the Stuart C. Tentoni Outstanding Professional Development Program Award from the Committee of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS)

# *Congratulations!*

## *Editorships*

---

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

## *Graduations*

---

### **Master's/EdS**

Laura Allen  
Brandi Berry  
Jason Boitnott  
Adam Collins  
Zhaoqing Huang  
Amy Hudson  
Chelsi Klentz  
Elizabeth Leeper  
Katie Magee  
Carina McCormick  
Kimberly Petree  
Jia Pu  
Kelly Rasmussen  
Tara Sjuts

### **Doctoral**

Robert Bergman  
Mary Lou Buss  
Gabriel Cline  
Lynae Frerichs  
Kimberly Galt  
Kristin Grosskopf  
Regina Harbourne  
Tara Hart  
Teresa Merrick  
Amanda Siebecker  
Michelle Swanger-Gagne  
Megan Watson