A WORD FROM THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Affairs Committee is proud to publish this inaugural Simmons School of Education & Human Development Academic Affairs Digest. As you read about the activities and accomplishments of our faculty and staff, I am quite certain that you will be impressed as we are by their remarkable energy, drive, and dedication. Simmons School of Education & Human Development faculty and staff are engaged in exciting and important projects both in their disciplines, classrooms, the community and around the world. The Academic Affairs Committee will be publishing the AAC Digest two times to highlight academic publications, academic conference presentations, and grants. We hope you find this information both informative and useful in your work.
Gashaw Abeza, Clinical Assistant Professor, along with N. O’Reilly & B. Seguin recently presented: The Value of Social Media for Sport Fans: A Sequential Focus Group Design Exploration at the 2016 North American Society for Sport Management Conference (2016).

Caitlin Anderson, Lecturer, recently presented: “The Impact of a Wellness-Based Curriculum on College Student Attitudes” at the Festival of Positive Education, hosted by the International Positive Education Network in Dallas, TX.


Takeshi Fujii, Lecturer, recently presented: “Perceived Sense of Well-Being and Perceived Campus Climate Among LGBT Students” at the National Wellness Conference in St. Paul, MN.

Sushmita Purkayastha, Assistant Professor, along with Kaitlyn Maffuid, Megan Murphy, Farzaneh Sorond, Can Ozan Tan recently presented: “Cerebral Autoregulation is Impaired during the Acute and Sub-Acute Phase Following Concussion: A Pilot Study” at the 16th International Symposium on Intracranial Pressure & Neuromonitoring in Boston, MA.


Peter Weyand, Professor, recently was awarded a $439,000 extension (beyond original contract of $892,000) for “Locomotion with loads: practical approaches to performance outcomes”.

Peter Weyand, along with L. Ludlow recently presented: Estimating inclined loaded walking energetics: no functional difference between added and body mass.


Michael Harris, Associate Professor, recently published, “How networks between city-regions and higher education institutions fuel local innovation, growth, and creativity” in Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research.

Michael Harris, co-authored with a former student, “Recruiting strategies of nonresident students and the privatization of public universities” in College & University.

Leanne Ketterlin Geller, Professor, recently was awarded a $4,078,405 grant for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academy from the Texas Instruments Foundation – partners include Dallas Independent School District, Southern Methodist University.


Alexandra Pavlakis, Assistant Professor, received the AERA Family-School-Community-Partnership SIG Outstanding Dissertation award.


Meredith Richards, Assistant Professor, along with K.J. Stroub recently presented: The Impact of School Closures on Patterns of School Attendance and Achievement in HISD and DISD at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC (2016).


Frank Hernandez & J. McPhetres recently presented: Adolescents’ perceptions of sexual relationships and teachers: Implication for school leadership at The University Council for Educational Administration, Detroit, MI (2016).
**TEACHING & LEARNING**

**Stephanie Al Otaiba, Professor & Jill Allor, Professor**, were recently awarded an Institute of Educational Sciences at US Dept. of Ed. Grant ($1,600,000). Co-PIs include: **Jill Allor, Paul Yovanoff, Aki Kamata**


E. Pappamihiel & **Stephanie Al Otaiba** recently presented: *The impact of digital storytelling projects on preservice teacher beliefs about English Language Learners* at the annual International Conference on Psychology, Athens, Greece (2016).

E. Pappamihiel & **Stephanie Al Otaiba** recently presented: *Strategies to improve writing outcomes for kindergarten children* at the annual Society for the Scientific Study of Reading conference, Porto, Portugal (2016).

C.J. Lemons, **Stephanie Al Otaiba**, S.J. Conway & Mellado De La Cruz recently published: Improving professional development to enhance reading outcomes for students in special education. In B. Foorman (Ed.), *Challenges and Solutions to Implementing Effective Reading Intervention in Schools* (2016).


**Jill Allor, Stephanie Al Otaiba, Paul Yovanoff, Professor, & M.B. Ortiz, M. B.** recently presented: *The effects of a text-centered supplemental curriculum for students with intellectual disability* at the Annual Council for Exceptional Children Convention, St. Louis, MO (2016).

**Francesca Jones, Clinical Assistant Professor**, D.B. Gifford, **Paul Yovanoff, Stephanie Al Otaiba & Jill Allor** recently presented: *Alternate formats for progress monitoring students with ID: Do alternate formats increase the reliability of performance for students with ID?* at the Annual Council for Exceptional Children Convention, St. Louis, MO (2016).


**Doris Baker, Assistant Professor**, D. Basaraba & P.S. Polanco recently published: Connecting the present to the past: Furthering the research on bilingualism and bilingual education. In *Review of Research in Education* vol. XX (pp.1-63). DOI: 10.3102/0091732X16660691 (2016).


Amy Rouse, Assistant Professor & Rob Rouse, Clinical Assistant Professor recently presented: Designing and authoring pop-up books to facilitate third graders' understanding of engineering concepts at The American Educational Research Association Conference, Washington, DC (2016).

Karen Vickery, Director, recently presented at The International Dyslexia Association Conference in Orlando, FL (2016).

Candace Walkington, Assistant Professor, was recently awarded a grant for $1,389,560 (SMU subcontract: $338,208) from the Institute of Educational Sciences. PIs include: Mitchell Nathan and Peter Steiner (University of Wisconsin-Madison).


Candace Walkington & M. Bernacki recently presented: Context personalization as a relevance intervention at the International Conference of Motivation, Thessaloniki, Greece (2016).

Paige Ware, Dean ad interim and Professor, Karla del Rosal, Assistant Professor & Diego Román, Assistant Professor were recently awarded $2,400,000, 5-year grant from the US Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition - Project CONNECT: Creating the Ongoing Network Needed to Engage Communities and Teachers (2016).


Annie Wilhelm, Assistant Professor, was recently awarded a University Research Council grant for $2,599 entitled “Twitter as a learning technology for mathematics teachers”.
