

Washington State University, College of Education

## A Note From The Program Coordinator Dr. Olusola Adesope



On behalf of our faculty and students, I welcome you to the third edition of WSU's Educational Psychology Program newsletter. The goal of our newsletter is to keep you informed on exciting research and opportunities that our faculty and graduate students are working on and to let you know the impact of our research locally, nationally and internationally.

In August 2015, Dr. Brian French, our erstwhile program coordinator, traveled to Spain with his wife, Sarah and their children, Elise and Evan. Dr. French is on sabbatical in Spain for one year (you can read more about his adventure on page 4 of this newsletter). Brian has done an amazing job as the program coordinator over the last 5 years. On behalf of the program's faculty and students, we wish him and his family a terrific adventure, and look forward to having them back in fall 2016.

In our last edition we highlighted some of our faculty and recent graduates. In this edition we highlight our two new faculty members, one of our faculty who is on sabbatical, a recent graduate and some of our students who recently got university awards. Our faculty and students are doing amazing work, too numerous to explicate in a newsletter. However, we hope you enjoy reading the few highlights we provide in the current edition. Please feel free to drop us a note if you have questions or just want to chat about our work or ask how you can help us grow!

### 2015 Program Highlights:

1) Our third methodology workshop was held on May 12th and 13th. Dr. Greg Hancock from the University of Maryland led the workshop on Advanced Structural

## Inside This Issue

A Note from the Program Coordinator	1
New Faculty Members	2-3
Student Updates	4-5

Equation Modeling. It was well-attended by faculty and students from different programs

2) Faculty and students presented at local, national and international conferences, including the *American Educational Research Association*, the *National Council on Measurement in Education*, *American Society for Engineering Education*, and *Computer Science Education* conferences.

3) Faculty and students have publications and manuscripts in top journals such as the *Review of Educational Research*, *Structural Equation Modeling*, *Learning and Instruction*, *Journal of Educational Measurement*, *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Education*, *Computers & Education*, *The Internet and Higher Education*, etc.

4) Faculty also had several new projects funded from sources such as the National Science Foundation, Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Justice, and Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Educational Psychology faculty were principal and co-principal investigators on about \$2.2 million grants only in 2015. The funded projects involve topics from cognitive and social engagement in engineering classrooms, measuring effective teaching, improving power electronics learning through affordable kit and software tutors, providing and evaluating a self-regulation intervention to 3 and 4-year old children in low-income childcare facilities, mechanisms of heat shock protein regulation, and the influence of peers in response to threat.

## Program Statement

*We apply advanced methodologies to answer applied and basic research questions in the context of complex educational environments. We develop leaders who possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to transform educational environments.*



## *New Faculty Member*

### Kira Carbonneau

#### ***Where did you get your degrees?***

My degrees come from the University of New Mexico. I have a BS in Elementary Education, an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology.

#### ***How did you wind up in Ed Psych?***

This was a journey! I actually started my undergraduate career in pre-med thinking that I wanted to become a pediatrician, but eventually changed to elementary education, with an endorsement in math and science.

I taught for 5 years in a first and second grade looping program, where I kept my students for two years. During this time I earned my M.Ed. in leadership.

While teaching I began to seek additional resources that allowed me to help students who were struggling, organize my classroom environment in an efficient way, and ultimately change my instructional practices to help improve overall learning and student experiences. Many of my searches for additional resources were coming from educational psychology textbooks and articles. Over coffee one morning my husband told me if I was going to spend this much time researching outside of my teaching maybe I should just get my Ph.D. I applied the next day!

#### ***Where were you before you came to Pullman?***

I was in Albuquerque, NM where I was working as a Visiting Assistant Professor at UNM.

#### ***What are your research interests?***

The overarching goal of my research is to improve educational practices in mathematics and science classrooms. To this end, I am particularly

interested in examining innovations in k-12 STEM education. In addition, I am keen to the idea of ensuring that research is conducted in a fashion that will allow these innovations to be utilized in the classroom environment. In order for this to occur it is essential that educational researchers examine issues in a scientific and transparent manner.

#### ***Who are your main collaborators?***

My top collaborator is my former advisor Dr. Scott C. Marley, he is currently at Arizona State University. He and I both have interest in instructional strategies, he does most of his work in reading and I have extended this work into STEM education.

My other collaborators include:

Dr. James Selig, University of Arkansas; Dr. Matthew Lemberger-Truelove, University of New Mexico; Dr. Carolyn Hushman, University of New Mexico; and, Dr. Sara Abercrombie, Northern Arizona University.

#### ***What is your favorite conference to attend?***

My favorite conference is APA, its smaller for the educational psychology portion but I find that I get better feedback than AERA and the review process is more beneficial to me as well.

#### ***What is your favorite class to teach?***

I love to teach learning theories to undergraduates.

#### ***What is your favorite Ferdinand's ice cream flavor?***

Huckleberry is, by far, my favorite... I am, in general, a big fan of ice cream and all sweets.



## *New Faculty Member*

### Zoe Higheagle Strong

#### ***Where did you get your degrees?***

Ph.D., Educational Psychology - Learning Sciences & Human Development, University of Washington  
 M.Ed., Educational Psychology - Learning Sciences & Human Development, University of Washington  
 B.A., Psychology, Seattle Pacific University

#### ***How did you wind up in Ed Psych?***

I am originally from Lewiston and Lapwai, Idaho, so I was already a Cougar at heart. As I got closer to graduating with my Ph.D., I began to pursue a position at WSU with the hopes to work in the Educational Psychology department and with the Plateau Center for American Indian Studies. I now have the honor to work in both departments.

#### ***Where were you before you came to Pullman?***

I lived in Seattle for the past several years with my husband, Mack Strong, and two boys, Isaiah and Evan.

#### ***What are your research interests?***

My primary research interests focus on the social context and influences that impact vulnerable children's schooling and learning. In particular, I tend to focus on examining the strengths and strategies of positive relationships that enhance children's academic achievement, identity, resiliency and pro-social behaviors. I am also interested in applied research that addresses harmful socialization factors that impede children's learning, such as peer bullying and retaliation, stereotypes, and cross-cultural misconceptions/bias.

#### ***Who are your main collaborators?***

Dr. Michael Pavel (CHIXapkaid) has been a long-time collaborator and mentor throughout my undergraduate and graduate programs. Currently, I am collaborating with Dr. Karin Frey (University of Washington) and Adaurennaya Onyewuenyi (University of Washington) on a three

year grant from the Office of Justice examining the cultural norms of how students tend to respond to perceived threat, injustice, bullying and their retaliatory actions. We are looking for strategies that peers use to positively influence each other during these recursive cycles.

I am also collaborating with Dr. Stephanie Fryberg (University of Washington) and Dr. Min Li (University of Washington) to expand my dissertation that analyzes the National Indian Education Study secondary dataset.

Finally, I began working with Dr. Francene Watson, WSU and renee holt, WSU on the teacher and administrative requirements for community and family engagement and how to ensure engagement is culturally responsive in Native American communities.

#### ***What is your favorite conference to attend?***

National Indian Education Association Conference

#### ***What is your favorite class to teach?***

Any classes that would focus on the socialization processes of children's schooling and learning. I also love teaching qualitative methodology. It provides different approaches to honor the voices of marginalized communities.

#### ***What are your hopes and aspirations for the Ed Psych program?***

To be a great support and add to the great work that has already been accomplished in the Ed Psych program and to expand methodology course options to provide Indigenous Pedagogy and Methodology and Mixed-Methods.

#### ***What is something surprising that people might not know about you?***

I used to break dance as a kid!



## Faculty Highlight

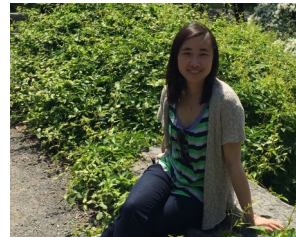
### Brian French

*Professor*

Dr. Brian French is on sabbatical in Spain for the 2015-2016 academic year, working with Maria Dolores Hidalgo Montesinos and her research group. The photo above was taken in the hallway outside his office at the Universidad de Murcia, the 3rd oldest university in Spain. Many activities are already planned for Dr. French's time in Spain. In November, the research group will host a methods workshop at the Universidad de Murcia with Jimmy de la Torre on Cognitive Diagnostic Modeling. Dr. French has also been invited to give a talk at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in the next few months. Dr. French also has plans to visit his colleague, Karl Schweizer, at the University of Frankfurt in Germany.

## AERA Success!

All 8 Ed Psych graduate students who submitted proposals to the American Educational Research Association's 2016 Annual Meeting had their proposals accepted. Congratulations, students, and good luck with your presentations in Washington, D.C. in April!



## Graduate Update

### Mo Zhang

Dr. Mo Zhang earned a promotion from the associate research scientist position to research scientist position. She will continue to work on automated scoring related projects and the evaluation and design of automated scoring systems for ETS.

## Student Awards

### Nathaniel Hunsu



Nathaniel's award for the 2015/2016 year:

- ◆ Richard R. and Constance M. Albrecht Scholarship award

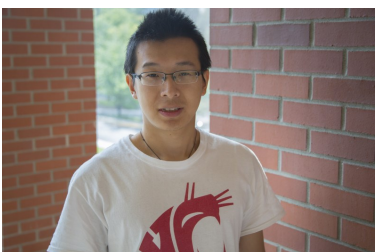
### Carlos Anguiano



Carlos's awards for the 2015/2016 year:

- ◆ Charles Allen Master Thesis Award Fund
- ◆ Brooks Family Endowed Scholarship
- ◆ College of Education Scholarship Fund

### Zhe (Joey) Wang



Joey's award for the 2015/2016 year:

- ◆ Arnold and Julia Greenwell Memorial Scholarship for Social Sciences and Humanities





## *Recent Graduate Highlight*

### Dane Joseph

#### ***What is your current job?***

I am an Assistant Professor of Quantitative Methods in the Doctor of Education Program at George Fox University. I teach doctoral level courses in Educational Statistics, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Critical Research Skills, and sometimes special courses such as Program Evaluation. I also serve as a methodologist on several dissertations - on projects that use surveys or existing data sets. About 25% of my duties will be to assist the College of Education in its assessment and continuing accreditation efforts.

#### ***What research and scholarship are you engaged in within your current position?***

Because I am partly responsible for administering the College of Ed's Accountability Management System (AMS), my recent research has heavily stressed upon best practices for AMS design. Assessment for accreditation efforts has tremendously high stakes, so faculty and staff "buy-in" to the AMS is critical. As such, I examine ways to implement and sustain a strong assessment culture - from creating a shared assessment philosophy, to conducting training on how to use the AMS as a tool for supporting teacher education, institutional research, etc.

#### ***What do you wish you had known before finishing your degree?***

I was very well-prepared by my advisors (Mike and Brian). Methodology to them was always a means to an end, and I've realized

just how true that is. By assisting Mike on several research grants, I received an invaluable pragmatic educational experience. But I guess I would have to say that it would have been very beneficial to have learnt some more about higher education governance. For example, drafting a tenure plan or personnel review letter would have saved me a tad bit of anxiety.

#### ***Any other comments about your graduate school experience related to your current position?***

There were a couple times during my PhD program when I thought that I would perhaps be better off in a different program. Looking back, I honestly think I made the best decision to stick with it. The knowledge, skills, and abilities I gained from my Ed Psych program has propelled my career. I've not just worked with administrators, faculty and students across 8 or more academic programs (both undergraduate and graduate), I'm also actively sought out because of my KSAs - no doubt honed by Mike, Brian, and the Ed Psych program. I have the intellectual flexibility I personally require to be successful, but provide much-needed specific measurement and evaluation services to my community members. Networking is imperative, so feel free to reach out to me at [djoseph@georgefox.edu](mailto:djoseph@georgefox.edu).

