

Florida Educational Research Association

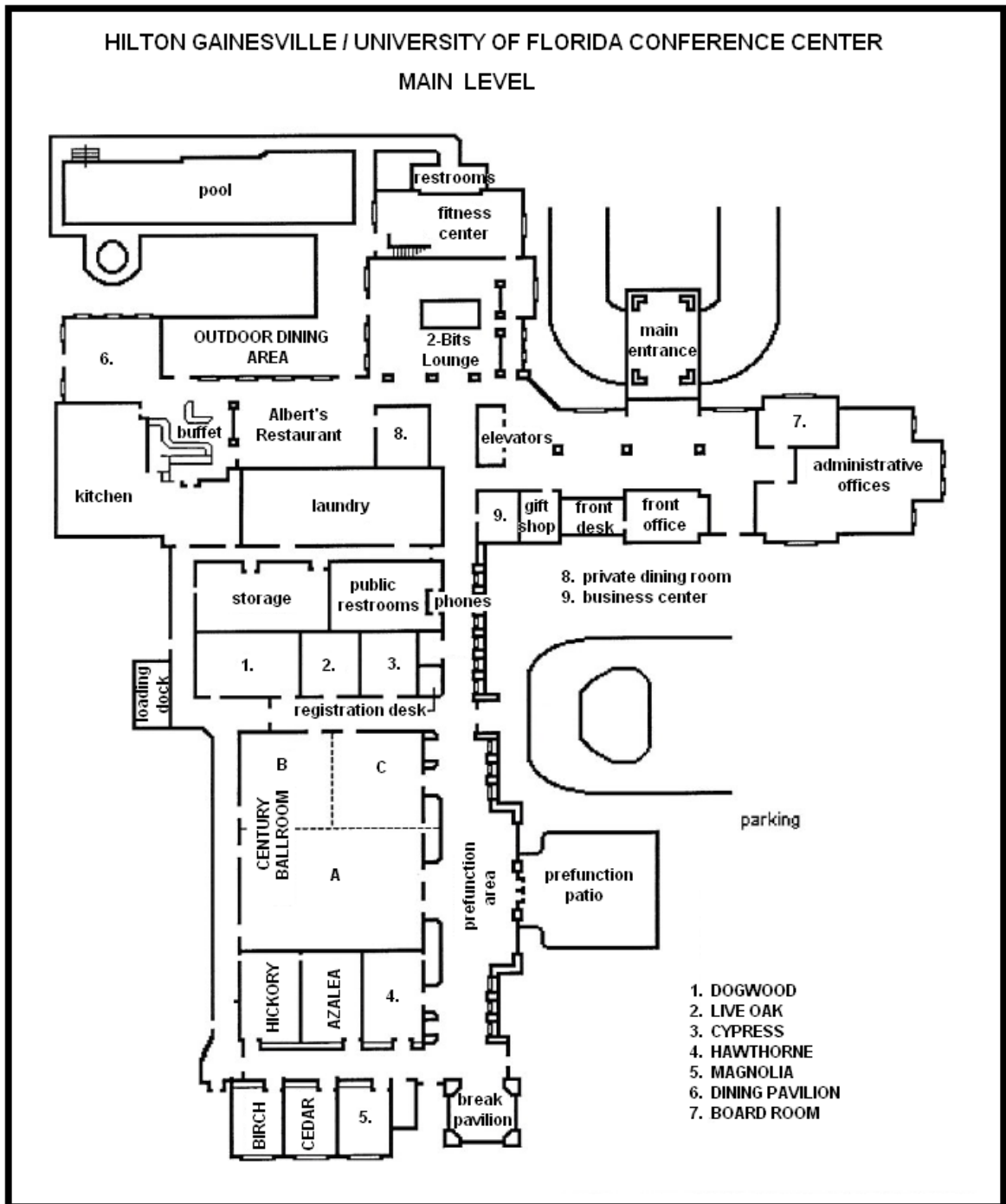
57th Annual Meeting



*Hilton University of Florida
Conference Center
Gainesville, Florida*

November 14-16, 2012

Hotel Floor Plan



REGISTRATION

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Registration Desk

Pre-Conference Session

9:15 AM – 11:15 AM Dogwood

The REFLECTS® Model

Speaker: Judith Lombana, Ed.D.

Moderator: Wendy Dickinson, Ph. D., Ringling College of Art + Design

Judith Lombana, Vice President of Research, Grants and Government Relations at the Museum of Science and Industry has also served as Vice President of Research and Institutional Development and Vice President of Education/Grants at the Museum. As Vice President of Education/Grants, she was responsible for all aspects of the Museum's on and off site 300+ educational programs for K-12 and other public audiences.

Prior to her work with the museum, Dr. Lombana worked with Hillsborough County Public Schools as a Grants and Research Operational Officer, where she secured competitive federal, state and foundation grants while providing grant writing and grant management training to teachers and administrators. She also worked as an Evaluation Supervisor for the Division of Supportive Services, the Acting Executive Director of the Hillsborough Education Foundation, Inc., and an Evaluation Specialist with Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Dr. Lombana has conducted over 100 internal and federal, state and Foundation grant funded program implementation evaluations and research studies, and she has had numerous publications.

Description: The REFLECTS® model provides evidence that a new field-tested, research-based, reflective practices-centered professional development curriculum for museum educator researchers (MERs), has eventuated in new practices, increased self-efficacy, and especially - an increased ability to flexibly scaffold diverse learners in science activities. This work has grown out of a six-year teacher NSF funded action research based project. This model is a cycle of museum educator reflective practice, within which MERs helped to design and then test newly developed tools for initially focusing on *noticing* what learners do. Julie Fooshee, Program Data Manager to Dr. Lombana, will present a technology demonstration utilizing the RASS mediated segments. The REFLECTS® RASS mediated segments are led by the avatar EVETA (Electronic Virtual Environment Teaching Assistant).

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

11:15 - 12:00 PM On Your Own

Common Core National Research Gates Research Projects

Speakers: Jeffrey Steedle, Ph.D., Council for Aid to Education (CAE)

**David Steele, Ph.D., Chief Information Officer,
Hillsborough County Public Schools**

**Danni Resnick, Supervisor, Measuring Effective Teachers,
Hillsborough County Public Schools**

Moderator: Bonnie Swan, Ph.D., University of Central Florida

Dr. Jeffrey T. Steedle is a Measurement Scientist at the Council for Aid to Education where he manages research and development projects and assists in operational aspects of administering the Collegiate Learning Assessment. His research interests include performance assessment, student motivation, value-added modeling, psychometrics, and science education. He currently manages the development of performance tasks for use by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia. Dr. Steedle was a high school Physics teacher, and he currently teaches Classical Test Theory and Modern Test Theory as an adjunct assistant professor at New York University.

Dr. David J. Steele is the Chief Information and Technology Officer and Project Director for Empowering Effective Teachers for Hillsborough County Public Schools. Dr. Steele earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Florida, Master of Education at Harvard, and Ph.D. at the University of South Florida. He previously served the district as a teacher, assistant principal, International Baccalaureate coordinator, high school principal, and General Director for Secondary Education.

Danni Resnick is the Supervisor for the Measures of Effective Teaching Project in Hillsborough County Public Schools. Danni earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Florida and a Masters of Arts in Teaching Middle School Math from the University of South Florida. She previously served the district as a middle school teacher and a district resource teacher for middle and high school.

Description: This interactive session focuses on design, execution and initial findings from two research projects funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Common Core State Standards Validation through Assessment (CCSSVA) project tests the linkage between mastery of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and college readiness. As part of the session, participants will be asked for feedback on the research project. The Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project examines how evaluation methods can best be used to tell teachers more about the skills that make them most effective and to help districts identify great teaching.

The session will also provide an overview of Common Core State Standards with discussion on how CCSS are different in terms of the knowledge, skills and dispositions students should have in order to graduate college and career ready.

Group Selection and Classification

1:45 - 3:15 PM**Dogwood**

Comparing Small Sample Equating Methods under the Nonequivalent Groups Anchor Test Design

- Feng Zhou , Florida State University
- Insu Paek, Florida State University
- Serdar Caglak, Florida State University

Methods to Detect Treatment Effect in Cluster Randomized Trials with Small Level-1 Sample Sizes

- Burak Aydin , University of Florida
- James Algina, University of Florida

Selecting a Two-Group Classification Weighting Algorithm: Take Three

- Mary G. Lieberman, Florida Atlantic University
- John D. Morris, Florida Atlantic University

Wednesday November 14

Creating Equal Groups for Unbiased Comparisons: An Examination of Three Matching Methods

- Brandon Craig, University of South Florida
- Ted Dwyer, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Linda Gaughan, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Pre-service and Higher Education

1:45 - 3:15 PM

Live Oak

Problem-Based Learning: Perspectives from Pre-service Teachers

- Sally Blake, Flagler College
- Denise Winsor, University of Memphis
- Candice Burkett, University of Illinois Chicago

Examining How Pre-Service Teacher Education Students Conceptualize and Frame Problems of Professional Practice in Light of Professional Knowledge and Habits of Mind

- Erskine S. Dottin, Florida International University

The Digital Kids Technology Camp: A Course for Teaching Pre-service Teachers Effective Technology Integration

- Albert D. Ritzhaupt, University of Florida
- Youngju Kang, University of Florida

Personal and Institutional Factors: Relationship to Self-Efficacy of Persistence to the Senior Year in College Among Self-Identified Black Undergraduate Students in a Hispanic Serving Institution

- Sandra Fletcher, Florida International University
- Adriana McEachern, Florida International University

School Performance

1:45 – 3:15 PM

Cypress

Age and School Performance: A Brief Study Inspired by Malcolm Gladwell's Outliers

- Ron Dailey, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Laura Brown, Hillsborough County Public Schools

An Examination of the Association between Kindergarten Attendance and Academic Performance in Primary School

- Atalie A. Ashley, University of South Florida

The Decision to Home School: Primary Parental Motivators; Primary Student Motivators

- Wade Smith, Walden University

Positive Reinforcement: What Teachers Need to Know

- Wei Guo, University of Central Florida
- Roxanne Goodling, University of Central Florida
- Theresa Greer, University of Central Florida

Symposium (3:30 - 4:30)

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Dogwood

Give Teachers Motivation and Satisfaction using an Educational Data Warehouse Application

- Maria Alexandra Paladines, School District of Palm Beach County
- Randy Powell, School District of Palm Beach County

Presentation (4:30 – 5:00)

Education Dissertation Consistency with Recommended Guidelines of Effect Size & Measurement Reporting

- Debbie L. Hahs-Vaughn, University of Central Florida
- Tary Wallace, University of Central Florida
- Parul Acharya, University of Central Florida

Differential Item Functioning/HLM

3 :30 – 5:00 PM

Live Oak

The Effect of Anchor Item Differential Item Functioning Equating Invariance

- Anne Corinne Huggins, University of Florida

Loglinear Procedures for the Detection of Differential Item Functioning: How Good Is It?

- Jin Koo, Florida State University
- Insu Paek, Florida State University

Assessing Several Approaches of Iterative Procedures for the Logistic Regression DIF Procedures Using an Observed Score Matching Variable

- Insu Paek, Florida State University
- Haiyan Wu, Florida State University

The Effect of Charter School on Student Achievement: Meta-Analysis Using HLM

- Wei Xu, University of Florida
- David Miller, University of Florida
- Nancy Thornqvist, University of Florida

Teacher and Leader Quality

3:30- 5:00 PM

Cypress

Evaluating the Impact of Leadership Development with VAM Metrics

- Katherine P. Divine, Schultz Center for Teaching and Learning

Determining Teacher Candidate Quality: Multilevel Linear Modeling of Student Pre/Post Assessment Scores to Reveal Student Teachers' Value Added

- Matthew R. Lavery, University of Central Florida

Measuring Effective Teachers

- David Steele, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Danni Resnick, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Exploring the Relationship between Online Distance Algebra and Biology Teacher Qualifications and Course Completion Rates

- Bonnie Swan, University of Central Florida
- Michael Hynes, University of Central Florida
- Jaime Godek, University of Central Florida
- Xuan-Lise Coulombe-Quach, University of Central Florida
- Yan Zhou, University of Central Florida
- Kris Childs, University of Central Florida

Coffee Break

5:00 – 5:15 PM

Prefunction Area

Coffee Break

Vendor Sponsored

Florida's Value-Added Model Measuring Student Learning Growth

Speaker: Juan Copa,
Director of Research and Analysis in Educator Performance,
Florida Department of Education

Moderator: Sam Whitten, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Juan Copa is the Director of Research and Analysis in Educator Performance with the Florida Department of Education. He is leading the development of value-added models measuring student learning growth for use in educator evaluations. Prior to this appointment, Juan served as the Bureau Chief for Research and Evaluation at the Department, overseeing the calculation of statewide school accountability measures and conducting various data analyses. Juan has been with the Department of Education since 2005. Juan holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from Florida State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Miami.

Description: Juan Copa will present the history of the Value-Added Model in use in the state of Florida, including the reasons for inclusion or exclusion of specific variables. He will provide information on the status of the information collected to date, including modifications that have been made to the model after the initial year of implementation.

Mr. Copa will provide information with regards to the interpretation of the scores that are being provided and their use in districts throughout Florida.

Evening Reception

Hilton Dining Pavilion
(in Albert's Restaurant)

Sponsored by:

Michael Adkins, Education Account Executive

SCANTRON

and

Laura Bresko, President and CEO
Brenda Bartholomew, District Liaison
PROGRESS TESTING, INC.

REGISTRATION**Symposium (8:45 – 9:45)**

8:45 – 10:15 AM Dogwood

Challenges and Successes in the Development of Common End of Course Assessments Among Collaborating School Districts

- Heather Peltier Wright, Lake County School District
- J. Eric Ehrhart, Polk County Public Schools
- Claudia Guerere, Pinellas County Public Schools
- Frank Gilbert, Orange County Public Schools

Sponsored Presentation (9:45 – 10:15)***Sponsored by Wireless Generation*****Methodological Studies**

8:45 - 10:15 AM Live Oak

A Comparison of Maximum Likelihood and Bayesian Estimation: A Monte Carlo Simulation Study

- Serdar Caglak, Florida State University

The Comparison of the General Diagnostic Model (GDM) and Bayesian Networks Using a Middle School Mathematics Test

- Haiyan Wu, Florida State University
- Russell Almond, Florida State University

The Comparison of WLSMV and Bayesian Approaches for Ordered Categorical Data with Missing Values in Confirmatory Factor Analysis

- Yan Xia, Florida State University
- Yanyun Yang, Florida State University

Using the Generalized Propensity Score to Remove Selection Bias from the Effects of Programs with Multiple Versions: A Comparison of Strategies

- Walter L. Leite, University of Florida
- Burak Aydin, University of Florida
- Sungur Gurel, University of Florida

University Instruction

8:45 – 10:15 AM Cypress

The Effect of Part-time Faculty on Community College Students Academic Achievement

- Hongwei Yu, University of Florida
- Wei Xu, University of Florida
- Dale Campbell, University of Florida

Formative Assessment in Higher Education: Insiders' Views

- María D. Vásquez-Colina, Florida Atlantic University
- Marianne R. Russo, Florida Atlantic University

What Do Instructional Designers in Higher Education Really Do?

- Aaron Thomas, University of Florida
- Albert D. Ritzhaupt, University of Florida
- Swapna Kumar, University of Florida
- Priya Rudradas, University of Florida

Thursday November 15

A Phenomenological Study of Games and Simulation Courses in Educational Technology: What Are We Teaching?

- Albert D. Ritzhaupt, University of Florida
- Christopher Frey, University of Florida
- Nathaniel Poling, University of Florida
- Youngju Kang, University of Florida
- Margeaux Johnson, University of Florida

School Grading and Student Achievement

8:45 – 10:15 AM Azalea

Predicting 3rd Grade FCAT Scores through FAIR

- Janet Mahowski, University of South Florida
- Claudia Guerere, University of South Florida

Florida's School Grade Rating System: Consistent or Not across Many Changes

- Kathleen Dailey, St. Lucie County School District
- Ron Dailey, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Florida's Achievement Gap: Ten Years of Leaving Some Children Behind

- Helge Swanson, Florida State University
- Eleanor Yaciw, Florida State University

Language Arts Teachers' Use of Young Adult Literature in South Florida Public High Schools

- Carmen L. McCrink, Barry University
- Priva Fischweicher, Barry University

High School Research

8:45 – 10:15 AM Magnolia

Primary Stressors Identified by Students Pursuing International Baccalaureate Coursework

- Robert Dedrick, University of South Florida
- Elizabeth Shaunessy, University of South Florida
- Shannon Suldo, University of South Florida
- John Ferron, University of South Florida

Determinants of High School Graduation and Dropout for At-Risk Students: A Multilevel Technique of Measuring School Effectiveness

- Bidya R. Subedi, School District of Palm Beach County
- Richard G. Williams, School District of Palm Beach County

Verbal Reports as a Methodological Tool in Language Learners' (LLs') Writing Processes: A Review of the Literature

- Patriann Smith, University of South Florida

General Session

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Century B & C

PARCC – National and State Perspectives

Speaker: Vince Verges, Florida PARCC Project Director

Moderator: Frank Gilbert, Ph.D., Orange County Public Schools

Vince Verges is the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Implementation Director for Florida. He has overall responsibility for working with the Florida Department of Education and other state staff to ensure Florida’s readiness for the implementation of the Common Core assessments in the 2014-2015 school year. Vince also serves on PARCC’s Leadership Team along with state agency staff from other PARCC states to design and develop the PARCC assessments and work with PARCC contractors. His prior background in education includes high school mathematics curriculum and instruction, as well as overall responsibility for FCAT and Florida’s End-of-Course test development.

Description: Vince Verges will describe the status of PARCC both nationally and in the state of Florida. The U.S. Department of Education awarded “Race to the Top” assessment funds to PARCC for the development of a K-12 assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English, language arts and mathematics. PARCC assessments are scheduled to replace current Florida assessments in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics in the 2014-2015 school year, and updates will be provided on the efforts to prepare for the transition.

Graduate Student Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 PM Cedar

FERA Graduate Student Business Meeting Luncheon

Sponsor: Bruce Hall, Ph.D.

Graduate Student Coordinators: Anabelle Andon, Florida State University and Matthew R. Lavery, University of Central Florida

Invited Speaker: Anne Corinne Huggins, Assistant Professor in Research and Evaluation Methods, University of Florida

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:00 - 1:30 PM On Your Own

Poster Sessions

1:30 – 3:00 PM Azalea

Kathleen M. Alley, University of South Florida
Autonomy-Supportive Teaching and Classroom Environments

Atalie A. Ashley, University of South Florida
An Examination of the Association between Kindergarten Attendance and Academic Performance in Primary School

Jennifer Carter, University of Central Florida
The Relationship between Teacher Motivation and Student Task-Involvement in Elementary School Children

Kristi Cheyney, University of Florida
Ecological Study of Neighborhood Contributions to Language and Literacy Learning

Xuan-Lise Coulombe-Quach, University of Central Florida
Asian Students: Model Minority or Muddled Minority

Griselda Flores, University of Florida
Academic and Social Factors that Influence College Student

Thursday November 15

Poster Sessions

***Persistence and Attainment between Latino and White Students:
Are They Really that Different?***

Saralyn Grass, Florida State University

An Evaluation of a Short-Term International Service Learning Experience and the Development of Students' Intercultural Competence

Bethanne Hull, University of Central Florida

***The Effects of Food Deprivation on Memory
in Individuals with Anorexia Nervosa***

Diep Thi Nguyen, University of South Florida

***Evaluating Student Engagement in English Language Learning
of a Conversation Partner Program: An Innovative Approach***

Elexis A. Ritz, University of Central Florida

***Academic Advisors Helping Students Develop Self-Regulation
Strategies to Succeed in College***

Katrin-Elisabeth Seidel, University of Central Florida

***Student-Centered Classrooms: Effective Instructional Interventions
in Low-Performance Schools***

Jean Theurer, University of Florida

Kristi Cheyney, University of Florida

Nicole Jean-Paul, University of Florida

Wearing the Label of Mental Illness

Melanie Varney, University of Florida

Mapping African American Literature Over the Past 20 Years

Jeff Drayton Wolfgang, University of Florida

***Ecosystemic Resilience Factors: Processes Involved in Overcoming
Traumatic Stress & Academic Underachievement***

Jeff Drayton Wolfgang, University of Florida

Parenting Practices Articulated by Latino Parents That Relate to Their Children's Academic Success

Pei-Chen Wu, University of South Florida

The Development and Validation of Distributed Leadership Scale

Jessica Weppel, University of Central Florida

Motivational Strategies: Building Stronger Leaders

NOTE: Posters will be on display from 12:15 to 5:00 PM.

Symposium (1:30 – 2:30)

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Dogwood

District Assessment – Every Student, Every Subject, Every Grade

- Michelle Watts, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Laura Brown, Hillsborough County Public Schools
- Patti Simmons, Hillsborough County Public Schools

Sponsored Presentation (2:30 – 3:00)

Technology in Classrooms

1:30 – 3:00 PM Live Oak

Principals, the Catalyst for School Technology

- Matthew Ulyesses Blankenship, University of South Florida

Predicting Technology Integration in K-12 Classrooms: A Multilevel Path Analysis

- Feng Liu, University of Florida
- Albert D. Ritzhaupt, University of Florida
- Kara Dawson, University of Florida
- Ann E. Barron, University of Florida

Using iPads in Assessing English Learners' Language Proficiency: Promises, Problems, and Possibilities

- Alexis A. Lopez, Educational Testing Service

Team Cohesion in StarCraft II: Measuring Team Cohesion in an Academic Online Digital Game-Based Course

- Nate Poling, University of Florida

Models

1:30 – 3:00 PM Cypress

Is "Acceptable Misspecified Model" Acceptable?

- Yan Xia, Florida State University
- Yanyun Yang, Florida State University

An Evaluation of Model Selection Strategies for Multilevel Factor Mixture Model

- Miao Gao, University of Florida
- Walter Leite, University of Florida

A Comparison of Strategies for Class Enumeration in Growth Mixture Models with and without Covariates

- Jinxiang Hu, University of Florida

The Consequences of Specifying Level-1 Error Structure on the Multi-level Meta-analysis of Single-case studies: A Monte Carlo Study

- Merlande Petit-Bois, University of South Florida
- Eun Kyeng Baek, University of South Florida
- John M. Ferron, University of South Florida

Content Knowledge

1:30 - 3:00 PM Magnolia

Does Evaluating Professional Development Really Have to Be This Hard?

- Katherine P. Divine, Schultz Center for Teaching and Leadership

The Effect of Teacher Science Content Knowledge on Student Achievement as Measured by the Science FCAT

- Brandon S. Diamond, University of Miami
- Jaime Maerten-Rivera, University of Miami
- Rose Rohrer, University of Miami
- Okhee Lee, New York University

An Examination of the Validity and Reliability of Constructs Used to Measure Teacher's Science Knowledge and Practices in a Longitudinal Intervention

- Jaime Maerten-Rivera, University of Miami
- Karen Adamson, University of Miami
- Soyeon Ahn, University of Miami

Estimating Program Effects with the Short Interrupted Time-Series Design and Multilevel Models: An Application to the Evaluation of a Job-Embedded Master's Degree Program for Teachers

- Francisco Jimenez, University of Florida
- Walter L. Leite, University of Florida

Coffee Break

3:00 – 3:30 PM Prefunction Area

Vendor Sponsored

General Session

3:30 – 5:00 PM Century B & C

Future Trends in Testing

Speakers: Valerie Shute, Ph. D., Florida State University

Jody Clarke-Midura, Ph. D., Harvard

Moderator: Betsy Becker, Ph.D., Florida State University

Valerie Shute is a Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems at Florida State University. Before joining FSU in 2007, she was a principal research scientist at Educational Testing Service where she was involved with basic and applied research projects related to assessment, cognitive diagnosis, and learning from advanced instructional systems. Her general research interests hover around the design, development, and evaluation of advanced systems to support learning--particularly related to 21st century competencies. An example of current research involves using immersive games with stealth assessment to support learning—of cognitive and non-cognitive knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Her research has resulted in numerous grants, journal articles, books, chapters in edited books, a patent, and a 2010 book co-edited with Betsy Becker entitled, *Innovative assessment for the 21st century: Supporting educational needs*.

Jody Clarke-Midura, is a Research Associate at Harvard's Graduate School of Education (HGSE) where she leads the Virtual Assessment Research Group. In this research, she is designing and studying the feasibility of immersive virtual performance assessments that are situated in a context and measure scientific inquiry. She recently co-edited a volume entitled, *Technology Based Assessment for 21st Century Skills: Theoretical and Practical Implications from Modern Research*, published by Springer-Verlag. She holds a master's degree and doctorate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Description: Dr. Shute's presentation will present the theoretical foundations of and research methodologies for designing, developing, and evaluating stealth assessments in digital games. Generally, stealth assessments are embedded deeply within games to unobtrusively, accurately, and dynamically measure how players are progressing relative to targeted competencies (Shute 2011; Shute, Ventura, et al. 2009). Embedding assessments within games provides a way to monitor a player's current level on valued competencies, and then use that information as the basis for support, such as adjusting the difficulty level of challenges or providing timely feedback. I plan to discuss problems with existing traditional assessments, define and then illustrate my stealth assessment approach with a set of assessments that we are currently developing and embedding in a digital game (Newton's Playground) which measure levels of creativity, persistence, and conceptual understanding of Newtonian physics during gameplay. Time permitting, Dr. Shute will discuss future research and issues related to stealth assessment in education.

'Fun', 'complex', and 'situated in a meaningful context', are words that we don't typically use to describe assessments. However, they are words that most of us aspire to use to describe learning. How can we make assessments that are engaging and mirror the qualities of our best learning experiences? Dr. Clarke-Midura's presentation will present how we can use immersive technologies to capture "virtual performances" and assess complex skills, like science inquiry, in an engaging way that is both valid and reliable.

Evening Reception

Florida Museum of Natural History

Sponsored by:

Roy Ellis, Vice President, State Services
Assessment & Information Group

Lisa Carter, Vice President Strategic Partnerships
K12 Solutions Group

Niquelle Cotton, Strategic Account Executive
K12 Technology Group

Michael Keeton, Regional Manager
Learning Assessments

Jaqueline Marshall
Vice President Strategic Partnerships
K12 Solutions Group

PEARSON

Hosted by:

College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Standard Setting Methods Used for Determining Cut Scores on State Assessments

**Speaker: Salih Binici, Ph.D., Director of Psychometrics
for the Bureau of K-12 Assessments
Florida Department of Education**

Serena Lin, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Pearson Assessments

Moderator: Paul Houchens

Dr. Salih Binici works for the Florida Department of Education in the office of K-12 assessment as a director of psychometrics. His research interests include applications of latent variable modeling such as IRT, HLM, and SEM techniques in educational assessment and psychometrics, plus scaling, linking and equating in large-scale assessment systems.

Dr. Serena Lin is a research scientist at Pearson, supporting the FCAT 2.0 and Florida EOC assessments. Her research interests include test equating and linking, test translation and adaptation, and standard setting.

Description: This presentation will cover the process employed in establishing the achievement level cut scores on the scales of FCAT 2.0 and EOC assessments. A practical application of the modified Angoff method for standard setting will be described.

Race to the Top Assessments**10:45 – 12:15 PM****Dogwood**

Todd Clark is a Florida native and a graduate of the School District of Palm Beach County. Mr. Clark completed his undergraduate work at Duke University in Electrical Engineering and received a Master's degree in Natural Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. After eight years as an Engineering Duty Officer for the US Navy, Mr. Clark began his career in education as a high school science teacher in North Carolina as part of the Troops to Teachers program. In 2001, he was selected as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow and worked with science outreach programs for teachers and undergraduates with the US Department of Energy. He served as the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction at the Florida Department of Education before taking his current position as the Director of Race to the Top Assessments for the Division of Accountability, Research, and Measurement. His wife, Kathy, is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at Florida State University.

Description: Todd Clark, Director, Office of Race to the Top Assessments, will be discussing Florida's Race to the Top initiatives related to the creation of assessments. His presentation will include an update on the progress with:

- the development of high-quality interim assessment items and assessments in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Spanish stored in an item bank and test platform for districts, schools, and teachers.
- the creation of high-quality assessments for hard-to-measure content areas
- Florida participation in three international assessments: TIMSS, PIRLS, and PISA

Friday November 16

Symposium (10:45 – 11:45)

10:45 – 12:15 PM

Live Oak

Virtual Inquiries: Exploring Research Opportunities at Florida Virtual School

- Chrissy Conidis, Florida Virtual School
- Terri Pope-Hellmund, Florida Virtual School
- Polly Haldeman, Florida Virtual School
- Beth Miller, Florida Virtual School

Sponsored Speaker (11:45 – 12:15)

University Research

10:45 – 12:15 PM

Cypress

Methodology Matters: Fluidity in Qualitative Research

- Mirka Koro-Ljungberg, University of Florida

Interpreting How Personal Expectations Shape Professional Aspirations: a Hermeneutic Approach

- Hongwei Yu, University of Florida

Investigating College Students' Learning Environment Management with Personal Goals and Epistemological Beliefs in Learning Context

- Feng Zhou, Florida State University
- Beth M. Phillips, Florida State University
- Jeannine E. Turner, Florida State University

Item Response Theory/Testing

10:45 – 12:15 PM

Magnolia

The Behavior of Person Fit Statistics under Different Item Response Theory Models

- Yan Xia, Florida State University
- Insu Paek, Florida State University

Comparison of Dichotomous and Polytomous IRT Models' Linking Performance for Testlet Based Tests under Common-Item Nonequivalent Groups Design

- Lidong Zhang, University of Florida
- David Miller, University of Florida

Testing Measurement Invariance of a Reading Comprehension Test with the Rasch Model: An Introduction and an Application

- Patriann Smith, University of South Florida
- Yi-Hsin Chen, University of South Florida

Making Informed Decisions: Effects of Calculator Use During Testing

- Claudia Güerere, University of South Florida
- Janet Mahowski, University Of South Florida

Annual Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon

Vendor Sponsored

BOARD MEETING

2:15 – 3:00 PM Boardroom

In Memory
of
Russell P. Kropp
1927 – 2012

Russell P. Kropp was born in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania on July 11, 1927. He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II and later served in the U. S. Air Force. He received a research doctorate from the University of Illinois in 1953, and came to Tallahassee that year to accept a faculty position at Florida State University. During the next 42 years he served in a variety of faculty and administrative positions at FSU, spending many of those years associated with the Department of Educational Research and Testing within the College of Education. Professor Kropp retired from the university in 1995. He died on April 18, 2012.

He is credited with having conceptualized the purpose and function of FERA, and was a leader in the effort to establish FERA as a state-wide professional organization, circa 1956. Under his guidance, FERA was instituted on the premise that the myriad concerns facing schools are amendable to orderly, systematic inquiry, and that such inquiry can be nurtured and sustained through the collegial association of state and district-based educators, university professors and personnel in private and non-profit educational agencies. Dr. Kropp was the first editor of the *Florida Journal of Educational Research*, serving in that capacity from 1959 to 1964. He was one of only three individuals ever to serve twice as President of FERA, leading the organization as its first President in 1958-59 and again in 1982-83. Dr. Kropp has been an honorary member of the Florida Educational Research Association (FERA) since 1985.

FERA honored him by bestowing an annual award in his name. According to FERA By-Laws, the Russell P. Kropp Award is given “to recognize a policy maker or administrator engaged in education in the State of Florida who has demonstrated in an exemplary fashion the use of educational research or evaluation in educational decision making.” Asked in 1999 about the role he played in the development of FERA, he replied “. . . it enriched my life. . . . I always thought it was a noble and good work.”

Corresponding Author Contact Information

Kathleen M. Alley	kmalley@mail.usf.edu
Atalie A. Ashley	atalie.ashley@gmail.com
Burak Aydin	burakaydin@ufl.edu
Sally Blake	SBlake@flagler.edu
Matthew Ulyesses Blankenship	mublanke@usf.edu
Martha A. Brown	mbrow114@fau.edu
Serdar Caglak	serdarcaglak@gmail.com
Chunhua Cao	chunhuacao@mail.usf.edu
Jennifer Carter	jennifercarter@knights.ucf.edu
Kristi Cheyney	cheyneyk@ufl.edu
Chrissy Conidis	cconidis@flvs.net
Anne Corinne Huggins	ahuggins@ufl.edu
Xuan-Lise Coulombe-Quach	xuanlise@gmail.com
Brandon Craig	brandon.craig@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Kathleen Dailey	Kathleen.Dailey@stlucieschools.org
Ron Dailey	Ronald.Dailey@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Robert Dedrick	dedrick@usf.edu
Brandon S. Diamond	B.Diamond@umiami.edu
Katherine P. Divine	divinek@schultzcenter.org
Erskine S. Dottin	dottine@fiu.edu
Sandra Fletcher	osooy2@bellsouth.net
Griselda Flores	griselda@coe.ufl.edu
Miao Gao	mgao@ufl.edu
Saralyn Grass	srg07@my.fsu.edu
Claudia Güerere	cguerere@mail.usf.edu
Wei Guo	w_guo2011@knights.ucf.edu
Debbie L. Hahs-Vaughn	debbie.hahs-vaughn@ucf.edu
Jinxiang Hu	jinxianghu@ufl.edu
Bethanne Hull	bethanne.hull@nasa.gov
Francisco Jimenez	fajimenez@ufl.edu
Jin Koo	koo.jin@yahoo.com
Mirka Koro-Ljungberg	mirka@ufl.edu
Matthew R. Lavery	mattlavery@knights.ucf.edu
Walter L. Leite	Walter.Leite@coe.ufl.edu
Mary G. Lieberman	mliieberm@fau.edu
Feng Liu	aritzhaupt@gmail.com
Alexis A. Lopez	alopez@ets.org

Corresponding Author Contact Information

Janet Mahowski	mahowskij@pcsb.org
Jaime Maerten-Rivera	jmaerten-rivera@miami.edu
Carmen L. McCrink	cmccrink@mail.barry.edu
Diep This Nguyen	diepnguyen@mail.usf.edu
Insu Paek	ipaek@fsu.edu
Maria Alexandra Paladines	maria-alexandra.paladines@palmbeachschools.org
Merlande Petit-Bois	mpetitbo@usf.edu
Nate Poling	npolling@ufl.edu
Elexis A. Ritz	elexisritz@knights.ucf.edu
Albert D. Ritzhaupt	aritzhaupt@gmail.com
Danni Resnick	danni.resnick@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Katrin-Elisabeth Seidel	katrin.seidel@hotmail.com
Patriann Smith	psmith4@mail.usf.edu
Bidya R. Subedi	bidya.subedi@palmbeachschools.org
Helge Swanson	hswanson@fsu.edu
Bonnie Swan	bonnie.swan@ucf.edu
Wade Smith	wade.smith@waldenu.edu
Jean Theurer	jmtheurer@gmail.com
Aaron Thomas	aritzhaupt@gmail.com
Melanie Varney	melanie4@ufl.edu
María D. Vásquez-Colina	Mvasque3@fau.edu
Jeff Drayton Wolfgang	jeffdw@ufl.edu
Michelle Watts	Michelle.watts@sdhc.k12.fl.us
Heather Peltier Wright	wright@lake.k12.fl.us
Haiyan Wu	hw07d@fsu.edu
Pei-Chen Wu	pwu3@mail.usf.edu
Yan Xia	yx10@my.fsu.edu
Wei Xu	plainjane1232003@yahoo.com
Hongwei Yu	y.hongwei08@gmail.com
Lidong Zhang	liz34@ufl.edu
Feng Zhou	fz04@my.fsu.edu

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