

Progress toward achieving the CARS mission during the month of October was evidenced by the following activities and achievements:

- The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) recently contacted JMU's Social Work program, because the faculty and program were identified as an exemplar in assessment. NILOA sought additional information from the program to feature in their upcoming report and on their web site. The Social Work response highlighted the collaboration of CARS to their success.
- The October 5th issue of *The Breeze* featured a story about James Madison Innovations, Inc. and the possible spin-off company that will market some of the tests developed at JMU. Mary Lou Bourne and Donna Sundre were interviewed for the article. If the negotiations underway at this time are successful, this will be JMU's first spin-off company.
- CARS and the Assessment and Measurement PhD program commissioned a plaque to commemorate our appreciation for the strategic partnership between our program and the College Board. The plaque was presented to the College Board at a special meeting during the NERA conference. Our students have benefited from several internships--and as a result of those wonderful experiences, full time jobs. NERA has become a major recruiting springboard for our graduate programs. We have opted to pay for a conference sponsorship which provides advertising in newsletters, on the NERA website, and on the conference program and other materials.
- Assessment and Measurement PhD student, Shelley Ragland, is currently conducting her internship with Pearson in Austin, Texas. She recently authored an article for the Pearson Bulletin as follows:

Ragland, S. (2009). The use of separate answer sheets. *Test, Measurement & Research Services Bulletin*. October 2009, Issue 8, www.PearsonAssessments.com

- The National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) recently contacted JMU's General Education Cluster 3 program, because the assessment program was identified as an exemplar in assessment. The directors of NILOA had heard about the recent AGLS Assessment Award and sought additional information from the program to feature in their upcoming report and on their web site.
- Chris Hulleman had an empirical research paper accepted for publication in the world renowned *Science* as follows

Hulleman, C. S., & Harackiewicz, J. M. (accepted for publication). Promoting interest and performance in high school science classes. *Science*.

- Donna Sundre traveled to Atlanta to represent JMU and the Center for Assessment and Research Studies at the annual Colonial Academic Alliance Assessment Symposium. She will be reporting on CARS' activities and leading a session on reviewing and reporting assessments that will feature JMU's Assessment Progress Templates and review procedures. She will also discuss our database plans for the future.
- Several CARS faculty and students were featured at the College of Integrated Science and Technology Faculty Research Day as follows:

DeMars, C. E. (2009, October). *A comparison of limited-information and full-information methods for estimating IRT parameters*. Poster presented at the CISAT faculty research day, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Finney, S.J., Barry, C. L., Johnston, M., & Horst, S. J. (2009, October). *Are there distinct academic help-seeking types? An application of mixture modeling*. Poster presented at the annual Faculty Research Day, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Jurich, D. & Goodman, J. (2009, October) *IRT Parameter Recovery in Mixed Format Examinations in PARSCALE and ICL*. Poster presented at James Madison University Faculty Research Day, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Zilberberg, A., & Pastor, D. A. (October, 2009). *A mixed methods investigation into the functionality of the Willingness to Consider Contradictory Evidence Scale*. Poster presented at Faculty Research Day, College of Integrated Science and Technology, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

- New faculty member, Chris Hulleman, provided a few late updates that should have been included in the August and September Progress Reports. Some of these are just too good to miss. Note that CARS faculty member Dena Pastor is listed as third author on one of these papers. Chris doesn't fool around with seeking collaborators.

Harackiewicz, J. M., Hulleman, C. S., & Pastor, D. A. (2009, August). *Developmental trajectories of interest within semester-long courses in high school science and introductory psychology*. Paper presented at the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Biennial Conference, Amsterdam.

Harackiewicz, J. M., Hyde, J. S., Hulleman, C. S., Rozek, C., & Katz-Wise, S. (2009, August). *Parents' understanding of the utility value of STEM courses for high school students*. Paper presented at the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Biennial Conference, Amsterdam.

- CARS faculty and students had a major impact on the Northeastern Educational Research Association meeting in Rocky Hill, Connecticut with the following presentations:

Barnes, S. & Burchard, M. *Developing a Scale to Assess Self-Efficacy for Response to Intervention Practices in Schools*

Bloom, J., Melchione, D., Grote, M., Nelson, S., Snow, M., Vijay, N., & Barron, K. *What Constructs Matter in Academic Motivation?*

Brown, A. R., Finney, S. J., & France, M. K. *Examining the dimensionality of the Hong Psychological Reactance Scale*

Jurich, D. & Goodman, J. *A Comparison IRT Parameter Recovery of Mixed Format Examinations in PARSCALE and ICL*

Koepfler, J., Fulcher, K., & Orem, C. *Assessing Students' Writing Performance at the University Level*

Russell, J., Anderson, R., Goodman, J., & Lovin, L. *Assessing Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching: An Examination of the Learning Mathematics for Teaching Instrument*

Zilberberg, A., & Pastor, D. A. *A Mixed Methods Investigation into the Functionality of the Willingness to Consider Contradictory Evidence Scale*

- The following presentations were part of a NERA conference symposium organized by Dr. Sara Finney:

Thelk, A., Sundre, D. L., Horst, S. J., & Finney, S. J. *Examining Inferences about Test-Taking Motivation: The Student Opinion Scale (SOS)*

Brown, A. R., Barry, C. L., Horst, S. J., Finney, S. J., & Kopp, J. *Modeling Test-Taking Motivation Over the Course of a Low-Stakes Testing Session: A Mixture Modeling Approach*

Sundre, D. L., Erb, P., & Russell, J. *Motivation in Low Stakes Testing Conditions: What's the Feedback on Feedback?*

Zilberberg, A., Brown, A. R., Harmes, J. C. & Anderson, A. *How Can We Increase Student Motivation During Low-Stakes Testing? Understanding the Student Perspective.*

- JMU Professor Bob Koolvord, Director of JMU's STEM Outreach Center, contracted with Dr. Kenn Barron and Dr. Chris Hulleman to conduct a series of workshops for faculty members teaching Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics disciplines at JMU, EMU, BRCC, and Bridgewater College as part of his NSF grant. The workshops will occur in December and are co-sponsored by the Center for Faculty Innovation and can be accessed at: www.jmu.edu/cfi/events/specialevents/stem2.html. The focus will be on helping faculty develop teaching methods that help motivate students to stay in STEM disciplines.