

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

- One of our advanced Assessment and Measurement PhD doctoral students, Mr. Ross Markle, began his paid internship at Northern Kentucky University. Ross will be working as an Assessment & Evaluation Specialist in the Division of Student Affairs.
- Dena Pastor provided an overview of assessment and results to the Cluster 5 Sociocultural Domain psychology instructors. This was part of an orientation to the General Education program for these faculty members. Dena also provided a separate assessment and results overview of the Wellness Domain of Cluster 5 for faculty teaching GKIN 100. This is a wonderful General Education intervention.
- Robin Anderson and Donna Sundre traveled to Old Dominion University to serve as invited panelists for a luncheon Research Panel Discussion at the State Committee on Transfer and Chief Transfer Officers Joint Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia on September 21, 2009. The discussion was well received.
- Christine DeMars and Steve Wise had another article accepted for publication. Given the recent publication schedules for this journal it may take a year to reach print status.

Wise, S. L., & DeMars, C. E. (in press). Examinee non-effort and the validity of program assessment results. *Educational Assessment*.

- Dr. Dena Pastor was invited by the Department of Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation (EDMS) at the University of Maryland to present at the Measurement and Statistics Monday Symposium (MSMS) on 9/28. She presented a paper entitled “*Modeling item response profiles using factor models, latent class models and latent variable hybrids*”. We are very proud of this distinction.
- Donna Sundre was reappointed to a two-year term with the Australian University Quality Agency as a Registered International Auditor. Every two years some auditors are reappointed and some are not. Donna has also been invited to serve on an external team visit to Bond University in April 2010.
- David Yang began the planning and architecture for the Assessment Progress Template (APT) software application. We hope this database will eventually handle APT edit, submission, review, storage of data, and report dissemination. Thus far, we have received 76 of the estimated 103 program reports.

- Dena Pastor has agreed to serve as Chair-Elect of the CISAT Diversity Council. In related service, conducted analyses on the *CISAT Diversity Council's Student Campus Climate Survey*, a survey administered to 535 undergraduates for the purposes of understanding their experiences, perceptions, behaviors and attitudes in regard to diversity issues. Finishing touches are currently being made on the report by Dena and Dr. Matt Lee, an undergraduate psychology faculty member.
- Keston Fulcher conducted a 2 ½ training session with CARS GAs to review the 2008-2009 Assessment Progress Templates. The goal of this workshop was to facilitate rater consistency.
- The Department of Graduate Psychology announced their four annual award winners. We are delighted to report that **three CARS faculty were recipients of these awards:**

Outstanding Junior Faculty Award	Dr. Robin Anderson (2 nd year!)
Outstanding Teaching Award	Dr. Dena Pastor
Outstanding Service Award	Dr. Donna Sundre
Outstanding Scholarship Award	Dr. Rich West

- New faculty member, Chris Hulleman, has wasted no time in being identified as a resource for faculty across campus. He and Kenn Barron were asked to provide a workshop on student motivation for JMU's Center for Faculty Innovation. There will be many new opportunities for Chris on our campus.
- Keston Fulcher and Gretchen Hazard also provided workshops for JMU's Center for Faculty Innovation. Their topic was student writing and how to assess writing samples using rubrics. This workshop featured the new JMU rubric that assesses writing and critical thinking.
- Dena Pastor and her graduate assistant, Allie Brown, added and modified items on the Knowledge of Health and Wellness Test, a test used in the Wellness domain of Cluster 5. These revisions were made in response to feedback provided by the Wellness domain faculty in spring 2009; additional analyses were requested and provided.
- Donna Sundre submitted the Scientific Reasoning competency assessment report to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). This was the first year that value-added indices needed to be reported.
- Dena Pastor began leadership of a new CARS' Alternative Strategies subcommittee charged with rethinking Assessment Days; their first meeting took place on 8/31. This subcommittee was enacted as a result of the CARS' Strategic Planning retreat in August.
- JMU's Cluster 3 participated in a self study as part of their program review. Donna Sundre authored the assessment component of this report with the help of Tonya Lambert, a CARS GA.