Greetings Everyone:

The semester is about to end. This can be a blessing and a curse. While the break is the light at the end of the tunnel, there is always a ton of work to be done: exams, grading, deadlines, reports, and more. So, let me take this opportunity to wish you well for the Holidays and thank you for all that you do.

In the next issue I will begin talking about Centers and Institutes and how faculty and the College might benefit from these sorts of affiliations.

Best,

One of my office’s key initiatives of focus this next year is, in fact, center development.

In this issue I again highlight our activities and opportunities. I hope you will take notice of all that is going here at Purdue. And, if you have a chance, please let me know of your ongoing scholarship via email or my web based survey (see page 2).

Best,

Jeffrey W. Gilger, PhD
Associate Dean for Discovery & Faculty Development
College of Education
Beering Hall, Rm 6114, 100 N. University Street,
W. Lafayette, IN 47907
765-494-6542 voice; 765-494-5832 fax

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT:

Within the field of collaborative learning, three questions are of particular interest: 1) what are the moment-by-moment interactions that underlie moment-by-moment learning; 2) how do different types of tasks affect collaborative interactions and learning; and, 3) when do we get unique benefits from collaboration that we do not obtain from individual study—in other words, when does the group exceed the independent sum of its parts? Dr. David Sears (EDST) conducted two experiments with university students to address these three questions. In one of a set of experiments, the effects of two versions of a statistics task on individual versus group learning were examined. On a novel measure of transfer, real groups were found to outperform nominal groups modeled under truth-wins assumptions (i.e., perfect knowledge sharing) on a learning task. In other words, the experiment found a type of task on which groups outperformed the sum of their parts. Thus, something in the group interaction must have led to new understanding that was not readily available to individuals working alone. This finding points to the potential unique benefits for learning that collaboration can offer as well as the types of tasks that may be likely to yield these benefits.

For information about faculty support or initiatives, please contact Beth Helton, see archived newsletters, or see my webpage under Faculty Support Initiatives.

Reminders:

—New Support Programs for Graduate Students. See www.education.purdue.edu/gradoffice/currentSt/dean_support.html or contact Beth Helton for more information.

—Ongoing Faculty Web Survey. See: http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~mawilkin/Faculty-survey.htm.

—Statistical/Methodological Consulting Services through PUPIL. See: http://pupil.education.purdue.edu/Consulting.htm

—The Dean’s Award for Outstanding Scholarship. Nominations are due in the Associate Dean’s Office by February 15th, 2007. See http://www.education.purdue.edu/learning_research/Faculty_Student_Awards.html.

—Other COE award opportunities. Contact Beth Helton.

—Faculty positions open in the COE. See: http://www.education.purdue.edu/about/employment.html

—Internal Grant Opportunities. Summer PRFs and the Year Long PRFs: See: http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/funding/internal.html


—Curriculum Development Grants for new option or capstone courses in the Entrepreneurial Certificate Program. Up to 10k is available towards developing new courses for this undergraduate program. Applications are due December 15th. If interested please consult with Jeff Gilger and see http://www.education.purdue.edu/dean/Gilger/EntrepreneurshipCertificateRFP.pdf.

New Announcements:

Error on Organizational Chart in the Last Newsletter Issue: Student Awards and Fellowships was inadvertently left off of the organizational chart and should have appeared under the office of the Associate Dean for Learning.

Sigma Chi Faculty Research Award – The Purdue Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, is seeking nominations for the 2007 Faculty Research Award. Nominations are due by February 28, 2007 (Lyle Lloyd of EDST is currently the President of the PU Sigma Xi chapter). See http://www2.itap.purdue.edu/elist39/docs/FacultyResearchAward.pdf.

Sylvia Scribner Award - Nominations are open for this 2007 AERA Division C award recognizing work that has significantly influenced thinking and research in the field of learning and instruction (in particular, current research within the last ten years). Submission deadline is January 5, 2007. See P. Karen Murphy by e-mail at pkm15@psu.edu using the Subject line: Scribner Award Inquiry.

Engagement Web Site - See this site for information on the Engagement Task Force and engagement activities at PU/COE: http://www.education.purdue.edu/learning_research/engagement.html

Post-doc Opportunities in Medicine, Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, Clinical and Health Psychology and Education. See Jeff Gilger for information on this prestigious program or visit www.dprgpostdoc.org.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). The PU Graduate School is conducting a study to inform and establish guidelines in this area. The COE, like other Colleges on campus will be a part of this process. RCR encompasses research misconduct, human participants, research involving animals, data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership, mentor/trainee responsibilities, publication practices and responsible authorship, peer review, collaborative science, conflicts of interests and commitments. For more information, see the APA website on the topic at http://www.apa.org/science/rcr/homepage.html. The COE is compiling information on where RCR is addressed in courses or other activities. We are interested in instances where RCR is addressed for our graduate students. Please see your Department Heads, or Dr. Moon for input. Dr. Gita N. Ramaswamy, Associate Dean, in the Graduate School is heading this project for the University.

Special Points of Interest

PU Press will be publishing a new journal: First Opinions, Second Reactions. Edited by Janet Alsup and Jill May (C&I). Christine King in the Libraries, with assistance from graduate student Jeannie Muzzillo (C&I).

Dr. Maribeth Schmitt (C&I) has been appointed the Jean Adamson Stanley Faculty Chair in Literacy.

Alex Da Fonte (EDST), a doctoral student, won 1st place for the AAC Institute, 2006 ASHA Student Scientific Paper Award, for: Da Fonte, M.A., & Taber-Doughty, T. Storybook interactions: Comparing commercially available communication boards to the vocabulary used by kindergartners when reading Old Mac Donald Had a Farm.
External Funding Opportunities

Below are some selected support opportunities. Some are unique. Please pass these on to potentially interested colleagues or students

- University of Iowa’s Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development. Research grants on academic acceleration. See: www.accelerationinstitute.org. Or contact Dr. David Lohman, at david-lohman@uiowa.edu.
- The APA funds research and dissertations. See http://www.apa.org/apf/
- Grants and awards at Teachers Count. See at http://www.teacherscount.org/teacher/awards.shtml?gclid=CPmJ5vGM74gCFSAeWAAdlHiBoQ

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- PUPIL activities. The group at PUPIL have been advertising a number of wonderful webcasts on a variety of topics. They also have regular meetings and formal or informal gatherings/speakers on a number of issues, as well as a Measurement Club. For more information please contact Susan Maller or Brian French in EDST or see the PUPIL web site at http://pupil.education.purdue.edu/

- Symposium. The first Annual Graduate Student Research Symposium will be on March 28, 2007! This symposium will involve presentations by graduate students in any of the teacher education programs at Purdue. Watch for upcoming details and see the PU Graduate Symposium website

- Conferences. Heather Servaty-Seib (EDST) is the Chair of this years ADEC conference that will be held in Indy this year. Stay tuned for more information. on this event (see the Association for Death Education and Counseling web site http://www.adec.org/).

- NIH Speaker. By a special invitation, Dr. Nancy Pilotte from the National Institutes of Health will be speaking at the COE on December 11 from 11:30 am until about 2:00 pm. The title of her talk is “The NIH and the Development of Your Career.” Room: BRNG 3119 (location may change based on attendance). Pizza will be served. All interested students/faculty are welcome. A head count is needed. Please RSVP ASAP to Jonathan Mosko at jmosko@purdue.edu.

- Delegation from Jyvaskyla University in Finland. As part of a recent MOU, this delegation will be visiting the COE December 6-8. Representatives have interests in mathematics education and Finnish/U.S. education comparisons, science (particularly physics) education, special education and inclusive teacher education. If you have an interest in meeting with any of these individuals, please email Stephen David. The group will also present seminars during their visit; faculty and graduate students are invited to attend. Watch for further details.

- Midwest ATE Spring 2007 Conference. This conference takes place on March 23, 2007 at the Best Western Hotel in Lafayette. Students of the COE (both Graduate and Undergraduate) and their advisors are encouraged to submit papers/posters for the students sessions. See http://www.education.purdue.edu/dean/Gilger/docs/special_announcements/Call%20for%20proposals%2007%20posters.doc

Data Tidbit: Researchers from IUPUI and the School of Medicine reported that violent video games affect the way the brain functions. Forty-four teenagers were randomly asked to either play a violent video game or a non-violent one, for half-an-hour. Subjects then underwent an fMRI protocol. According to the study, teenagers that played violent games had increased activity in the amygdala, an area of the brain involved in emotional arousal. While at the same time, they had decreased activity in parts of the brain that are involved in self-control. The researchers said further studies are needed to determine whether these neurophysiological changes make individuals behave more violently in day-to-day activities. Yet the findings are intriguing and are in line with some others, as well as the views of some associations and national organizations. See the conference at Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America; the original conference abstract at http://rsna2006.rsna.org/rsna2006/V2006/conference/event_display.cfm?em_id=4433801; and further commentary from other researchers at http://psychologymatters.apa.org/videogames.html.