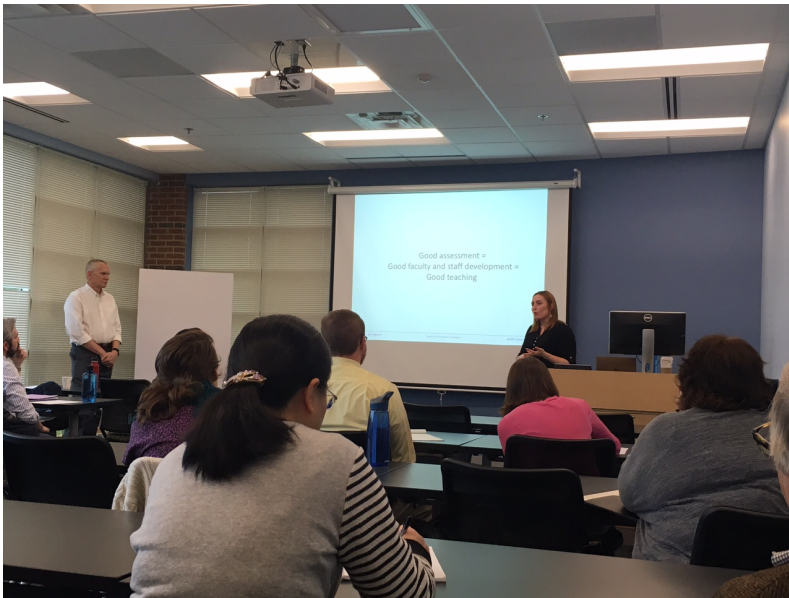


November



Blaich & Wise visit CARS

On their way to keynoting the Virginia Assessment Group Conference, higher education leaders Charlie Blaich and Kathy Wise stopped by the Center for Assessment & Research Studies. *See more on Pg. 2*



Pictured above: Blaich & Wise present to CARS Faculty, Staff, and Graduate students....

Publications

John Hathcoat, along with Cara Meixner from the Center for Faculty Innovation, has a paper in press currently in the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*. The paper is titled "Pragmatism, factor analysis, and the conditional incompatibility thesis in mixed methods research." We will bring you more information about that paper when it is published and available in the *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.

JMU Faculty travel to Kosovo

Facilitated by Mr. Ahmet Shala (James Madison University faculty in residence) Dr. Herb Amato, and Dr. Keston Fulcher met with many different groups while visiting the country during the week of Thanksgiving Break. Among these meetings, Drs. Amato & Fulcher met with representatives of Kosovo's government and educational partners: Minister of Education, Science and Technology; the head of Parliament; the President of Kosovo's flagship institution, Prishtina University; World Learning; and the U.S. State Department. The trip's purpose was to take a snapshot of Kosovo's higher education needs, foster relationships and provide recommendations of how James Madison University might assist both short- and long-term.



Wabash Study's Charles Blaich and Kathy Wise visit the Center for Assessment & Research Studies (continued from page 1)



WABASH
COLLEGE

Charles Blaich and Kathy Wise visited the Center for Assessment & Research Studies November 17th & 18th, on their way to the Virginia Assessment Group conference in Richmond, VA. They presented about their experience consulting with over 200 higher education institutions about assessment. They discovered that better methodology alone does not lead to learning improvement. Following this discovery, they spend much of their time working directly with faculty strategizing about how to facilitate a culture of improvement.



During their visit they spoke with several faculty, students, and administrators. Faculty Dena Pastor and John Hathcoat shared information about the Assessment and Measurement PhD program. Graduate students Kristen Smith, Madison Holzman, and Carolyn Meisen talked about JMU's work with implementation fidelity. Vice Provost Linda Halpern and Associate Vice Provost Herb Amato held conversations with Blaich and Wise about the state of accountability and accreditation in higher education. These conversations continued into the Virginia Assessment Group, and we hope they continue. JMU has certainly learned from their experiences and perspective.

CARS Assessment News and Service – November 2015

- The Student Affairs Assessment Advisory council is currently making minor modifications to their website and collecting additional resources to facilitate the use of a new assessment reporting template. A marketing subcommittee has also been formed to promote assessment on campus as well as to identify strategies to facilitate the use of the new reporting template. John Hathcoat is co-chairing a subcommittee aiming to implement an assessment award system for student affairs practitioners. The award subcommittee, in conjunction with the council, has decided to provide an assessment award to student affairs practitioners who illustrate a commitment to advancing assessment practice. The award would be handed out during the annual Student Affairs and University Planning meeting. This award would be similar to the Provost's Award that is currently in place for academic programs.
- November 18th through the 20th, Keston Fulcher, Jeanne Horst, Ph.D. student Madison Holzman, and M.A. student Carolyn Miesen attended the annual Virginia Assessment Group meeting in Richmond, VA. The JMU group was actively involved throughout the meeting. Keston led the closing plenary session; Jeanne participated in the board meeting. Madison and Carolyn presented a 60-minute workshop, co-authored by Sara Finney, on Implementation Fidelity at the Virginia Assessment Group's annual conference in Richmond, VA. The workshop, formally titled "Closing the assessment loop: Using implementation fidelity data to make informed changes to programming" centered around how to couple implementation fidelity data with outcomes data in order to close the assessment loop and, in effect, improve student learning. Approximately 20 people were present at the workshop, including conference keynote speakers Charles Blaich and Kathy Wise.
- The Assessment Advisory Council for Academic Affairs met November 13th to discuss the candidates for the Provost's Award for Excellence in Assessment. Each year, programs are evaluated by the Assessment Progress Template reports and the programs meeting the award criteria are passed along to the Assessment Advisory Council. The council will vote on the potential programs and a winner will be chosen and announced in spring.
- Members of SASS have been preparing a presentation for a webinar about implementation fidelity assessment. The webinar will be administered through the Association for the Assessment of Student Learning in Higher Education and will take place on January 15th.

GENERAL EDUCATION CLUSTER UPDATES:

- **Cluster One committee met on the 20th – the committee was joined by Adam Murray, Dean of Libraries, and Meg Mulrooney, Associate Vice Provost for General Education. The group continued discussion on the use of assessment findings, focusing specifically on the recent information literacy and critical thinking assessment results.**
- **Cluster Two faculty Dennis Beck, and CARS John Hathcoat had a presentation accepted to the Annual General Education conference held by AAC&U. The presentation provides an overview about the strengths and limitations of specific assessment strategies within the Arts and Humanities. The presentation will also illustrate how to use "Q-sorting" procedures (i.e. asking experts to sort open-ended responses using a fixed distribution) to generate a rubric. Beck & Hathcoat will travel to New Orleans in February to present at this conference.**

Visitors

Student Learning Improvement at JMU

Assessment Resources

About CARS

National Impact

Top 10 Initiatives

Awards & Honors

Connection to A&M PhD Program

Mission & Vision

About A-Day

Contact Us

Faculty & Staff

Academic Degree Programs Assessment

About

Awards

APT Template, Examples, Resources

Examples of Learning Improvement

Contact/Liaisons/PASS

Student Affairs Assessment

About

Awards

Program Reports & Resources

Examples of Learning Improvement

Contact/Liaisons/SASS

General Education Assessment

About

Awards

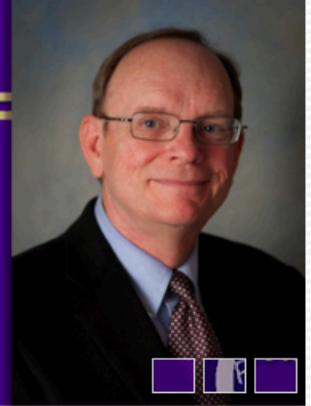
Cluster Reports & Resources

Assessment Leaders Around the Globe

Take a look at interviews with current leaders in the field of assessment.

This month's leader:

John Schuh



HEADLINES

ASSESSMENT LEADERS AROUND THE GLOBE

A one-on-one interview with Dr. Schuh
National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) Leaders Visit JMU

ASSESSMENT LEADERS AT JMU

The Madison Collaborative: Campus-wide ethical reasoning initiatives
General Education: University-wide faculty inclusion and innovation
First Year Orientation: [Connecting the dots through implementation fidelity improvement](#)

ASSESSMENT LEADERS FROM CARS

CARS Hosts Alumni Panel

LINKS TO LEADERS AND COLLABORATORS

Virginia Assessment Group
National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment
Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts – Wabash College
American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
Association for Institutional Research
Research and Practice in Assessment

CARS Website Rollout

An internal committee has been working diligently over the past semester to re-vamp the CARS website and migrate content into the University's Cascade templates. We decided this migration would be an appropriate time to reflect thoughtfully on how our website was presented to internal and external audiences. Our website committee has worked very hard over these past few months to take our website and make it as resourceful, logically designed, and aesthetically appealing as possible. The new website was finished at the end of November and launched on Friday, December 4th, and we have received a great deal of positive feedback thus far. We invite you to view our new site, and send us any feedback you may have. Our hope is that the new site will help further our mission of being nationally recognized for our work in assessment throughout higher education. A special thank-you to the website committee for all the wonderful ideas and hard work they put into this project. Thank you to Keston Fulcher, Monica Erbacher, David Yang, Liz Sanchez, and Erin Rider for their contributions.

<http://www.jmu.edu/assessment>

Presentations

- Gora, K., & Myers, A.J. (2015, November). *Using Heart Rate Measures of Attention to Explore Students' Predicted and Actual Performance in a Mental Rotation Task*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society, Chicago, IL.
- Holzman, M., Miesen, C., & Finney, S.J. (2015, November). *Closing the assessment loop: Using implementation fidelity data to make informed changes to programming*. Presented at the Virginia Assessment Group Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Mathers, C.E. (2015, November). *Effect of Foreign Accent on Lexical Retrieval, Veridical and False Memory*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomics Society, Chicago, IL.
- Walker, A.C., Hathcoat, J.D., & Harnas, S.A. (2015, November). *Violent loss and religious coping: A multi-group path analysis*. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Council for Family Relations, Vancouver, B.C. Canada

Publications

- Hathcoat, J.D., & Meixner, C. (in press). Pragmatism, factor analysis, and the conditional incompatibility thesis in mixed methods research. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.