Welcome these new students to our program:
- Mason Jones, masters
- Riley Herr, masters
- Kelsey Nason, doctoral
- Kyle Green, masters

We hope to see you at these upcoming conferences:
- IUPUI Assessment Institute, Oct. 9 & 10 in Indianapolis, IN.
- NERA Conference, Oct 19-21 in Trumbull, CT
- Virginia Assessment Group Annual Conference, Nov 16-18 in Richmond, VA
- SACSCOC Annual Meeting, Dec 3-6 in Atlanta, GA.

CARS News

Transitions

New Faculty
On July 1, 2022 we welcomed Dr. Joseph Kush to CARS as an Assistant Assessment Specialist. Dr. Kush will be leading the Program Assessment Support Services (PASS) team. His research interests include: moderated nonlinear factor analysis, propensity score methods for causal inference, and multilevel structural equation modeling.

CARS Leadership
Dr. Keston Fulcher is on academic leave this semester and will return in January as an “Improvement Strategist” in University Studies. In this role, he’ll be developing strategic partnerships with other institutions and organizations interested in learning improvement. He’ll continue his role as a Professor in the Assessment and Measurement program; congratulations, Keston!

Dr. Megan Good returned to JMU in Fall 2021 after 6 years at Auburn University (leading assessment and then serving as SACSCOC liaison most recently). She is currently Interim Executive Director of CARS.

Program Leadership
After more than a decade of exemplary service to JMU, Dr. Deborah Bandalos has retired and is now designated an emerita faculty member. She will have an office in Johnston Hall this academic year as she is serving as APA Division 5 President – congratulations, Debbi!

Dr. Brian Leventhal is now the director of the Assessment & Measurement PhD program as well as coordinator of the Quantitative Psychology concentration in the Psychological Sciences M.A. program.
Awards

Dr. Sara Finney was selected as the 2021-2022 College of Health and Behavioral Studies Madison Scholar. Each year, in recognition of superlative achievement in scholarship, the College of Health and Behavioral Studies identifies one faculty member within the college as the recipient of the Madison Scholar Award. Sara will be giving her Madison Scholar address to her peers on January 13, 2023 during the full college meeting.

The National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) presented Dr. Brian Leventhal with The Jason Millman Promising Measurement Scholar Award for 2022. The award, given in support of the Millman endowment, recognizes a scholar at the early stages of his/her career whose research has the potential to make a major contribution to the applied measurement field. Dr. Brian Leventhal was honored for his research that spans a wide range of topics, most notably on applications of complex IRTree models.

Assessment 101 Dates Announced

Assessment 101 is ideal for those relatively new to assessment practices. Many seasoned assessment practitioners attend as well. They come to learn strategies regarding how to teach others about assessment. Attendees will practice the components of the assessment cycle with a special emphasis on learning improvement through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous assignments.

This 5-day virtual workshop explore topics such as:

- writing student learning outcomes
- mapping the curriculum
- creating instruments
- examining implementation fidelity
- analyzing data
- reporting results
- using results to make evidence-based decisions

Announced Sessions for 2023 (Registration open)

- June 12th – 16th, 2023 – Virtual Assessment 101
- June 26th – 30th, 2023 – Virtual Assessment 101
Recent CARS Talks

On September 2, CARS welcomed back Dr. Dary Erwin Professor Emeritus of Strategic Leadership Studies and Graduate Psychology, formerly Associate Provost for Public Policy at JMU. Dr. Erwin was the founder of the Center for Assessment and Research Studies, the Assessment and Measurement program, and the Strategic Leadership program. He also made big strides in the national and state assessment scene shaping assessment as it’s practiced today. Dary talked about the history of CARS, A&M, and Strategic Leadership, and his experiences in the assessment field.

On September 9, several Assessment and Measurement Ph.D. Students students gave presentations about their recent external internship experiences.

- Sarah Alahmadi, American Board of Surgery, *Addressing Anchor Drift for Stable Common-Item Equating*;
- Yelisey Shapovalov, The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc., *Developing a Tool for Educational Leaders to Select High-quality Assessment Literacy Initiatives*;

Upcoming CARS Talk

October 7, 2022, 11:30 AM in Lakeview 1104 - NERA Presentations: An opportunity for our students to present their papers that have been accepted by the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)

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