SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

A new College of Education monthly publication featuring news and highlights on research and scholarly activity from the Office of Research and Engagement.

**New Grants**

- Sangeeta Kamat, EPRA, and Ximena Zúñiga, SD, have recently received the highly competitive 2013 Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative award. Their $249,645 4-year project, *Inclusive Universities: Linking Diversity, Equity and Excellence for the 21st Century*, studies and analyzes the changing student demographic in Indian public higher education institutions, and will partner with the University of Pune, India.

- Rebecca Woodland, EPRA, was recently awarded a 1-year, $29,021 sub-contract with the Donohue Institute, funded by the Department of State, to implement the Instructional Leadership Institute for Pakistani Educators (ILIPE).

- Bjorn Nordtveit and Jennifer Randall, both of EPRA, have been awarded a $597,397 contract from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to provide evaluation services for the IRC’s project to increase girls’ access to education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project, titled *VAS-Y Fille!*, will be conducted over two years.

- Martina Nieswandt and Elizabeth McEneaney, both of TECS, have been awarded a 3-year, $862,895 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to analyze, evaluate, and compare small group work on inquiry-based tasks and engineering design in high school science classes.

- Florence Sullivan, TECS, and Rick Adrion of the Computer Science Department have received a two-year, $300,916 research and professional development grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Their project aims to develop and pilot a new research methodology that combines techniques from the field of human development with computational methods.

**Publications**


- Joseph Berger, Kate Hudson, EPRA, and EPRA alum Gerardo Blanco Ramirez (’13) have recently published 2 articles:

**Funding Opportunities**

- The Whiting Foundation is currently soliciting applications for fellowships to support present and prospective teachers to enable them to study abroad, or at some location other than that which they are most closely associated. All applications must be submitted to educore@educ.umass.edu no later than January 2nd. For additional information, please contact Lisa Cunningham, Grants Coordinator for the Marijon and Jasper Whiting Foundation at ljc@riceheard.com

- The American Honda Foundation is soliciting applications to support environmental and youth education projects with a specific STEM focus. The University may only submit 3 nominations. If you would like to be considered, please email a 300 word project description to Michelle Wonsey (mwonsey@research.umass.edu) by November 19th.
Upcoming Conference Presentations

Jason Irizarry, TECS, will lead a workshop on Youth Participatory Action Research and give two presentations on his book, *The Latinization of U.S. Schools: Successful Teaching and Learning in Shifting Cultural Context* at Dalton State in Dalton, Georgia on November 11th.

On November 21st, several LLC members will share their research at The National Council for Teachers of English, to be held in Boston:

- Jason Irizarry, TECS, will present “Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy with African American, Indigenous, and Latina/o Youth: Theorizing Forward Through Praxis.”
- Maria José Botelho, TECS, will chair and present in the panel, “Re-Imagining Critical Literacies: Language Praties for Sociocultural Imagination and Participation,” with Kathy McDonough, an LLC doctoral candidate, Sunny La Manchu, Bishops University in Quebec, and Hilary Janks, Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. This panel incorporates four papers in critical dialogue to explore the counter-work of critical literacies within school communities in Canada, the United States, and South Africa, pushing against the boundaries of what is deemed critical and literate within multicultural and multilingual classrooms.
- Denise Ives, TECS, and Cara Crandall, an LLC doctoral candidate, will present “The Dilemma of Desire: A conversation about Sex, Texts, and Desire in Middle School English Classrooms.” The presentation considers the possibilities and challenges middle school students and their English teachers face as students negotiate emerging gendered and sexual identities.
- Lisa Oliner, an LLC doctoral candidate, will present “Multimodal Media Literary Analysis: From Tradition to Transactional Meaning Making,” a presentation that considers Multimodal Media Literary Analysis (MMLA) as a comprehensive and meaningful form of critical literary exploration and alternative assessment.

Proposals Submitted

Since the start of the Fiscal Year, the following proposals have been submitted by the College of Education:

- EPRA: (2)
- TECS: (1)
- SD: (3)