

# The MONDAY REPORT

#627

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## NOTES FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

For those of you interested in statistics, a new source of equation-fodder is the SchoolMatters site at [www.schoolmatters.com](http://www.schoolmatters.com). The site is created by Standard and Poor's, well known for its analysis of fiscal and demographic data for Michigan schools. The new SchoolMatters site provides a variety of data for all 50 states including:

- \* Student Performance: SchoolMatters analyzes student achievement measures, including national and state test results, as well as participation, attendance, graduation, and dropout-promotion rates.

- \* Spending, Revenue, Taxes, & Debt: SchoolMatters analyzes financial data for each school district, along with state and county comparisons.

- \* School Environment: SchoolMatters analyzes performance in the context of the learning environment, which includes class size, teacher qualifications, and student demographics.

- \* Community Demographics: SchoolMatters analyzes community characteristics, such as adult education levels, household incomes, and labor force statistics.

The Schoolmatters site can be used to address questions big and small. It can be a relatively simple matter to draw national comparative statistics. I also easily created a list of schools in Ypsilanti, with the ability to sort them by size, grade, income level, etc. The site appears to be a

valuable resource for those engaged in research or writing grant proposals. It also did not take long to decide it could also serve as a fine problem-finding tool—helping me ask questions that hadn't occurred to me before. If spring brings you a few slower moments, take a look. It can be fascinating!

*The outcome of any serious research can only be to make two questions grow where only one grew before.--Thorstein Veblen*

*If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?--Albert Einstein*

## CORRECTION

The faculty member awarded an Academic Service Learning Fellowship is **Loreena (Lori) Parks**, not Kathlyn Parks as reported in the last *Monday Report*. My deepest apologies to Drs. Parks and Parker.

## ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE BEGINS

This spring marks the beginning of the first cohort of students entering the new graduate certificate program in Educational Assessment. The cohort is based in Brighton, in conjunction with the Livingston Educational Service Agency (LESA). The certificate program is designed to give educators the skills they need to effectively gather and use data to make educational decisions. Jim Reese, director of general education at LESA cites educators' need to be "agile" with regard to their decision making, reading to "assess today and adjust for tomorrow." The certificate program can be completed on one year at EMU-Brighton.

**GRADUATION!**

Spring Commencement was held April 23, 2005, with many hundreds of students completing their preparation to be teachers, counselors, and other education professionals and—according to the program—100 students receiving masters and specialist degrees. Of particular note are the ten students who were awarded doctoral degrees in the field of educational leadership. They included **Barbara Bleyeart, Matthew Calfin, Richard M. Diebold Jr., Sara A. Duvall, Benjamin P. Edmondson, Marcia Mardis, Korin C. Quinn, Michael Stearns, Katrina A. VanderWoude, and Dawn LouEllen Vorenkamp.**

Dr, **Thomas Gwaltney** was honored as Grand Marshall, carrying the University Mace.

**DISSERTATIONS**

As one cohort of doctoral students celebrated their graduation, others continue toward that goal. This month included one doctoral defense. **John Selmon** defended his dissertation *Change and Persistence in an Independent Nonprofit College and University: A Case Study* on April 15, 2005. His doctoral chair is Dr. **James Barott.**

**MARS CELEBRATES GRADUATES**

The Minority Achievement Retention and Success program (MARS) celebrated 22 MARS Scholars at their banquet April 22. MARS is a professional development program designed to support minority prospective teachers during their senior year of study. MARS is coordinated by Drs. **Carolyn Finch** and **Deborah Harmon**, with special assistance from MARS mentor **Cheryl Price**. This year's MARS scholars are: **Michael Bagley, LuJane Bashi, Jabari Bingham, Brian Boles, Keyva Bridges, Kristopher Campbell, Vivian Connor, Chantey Crawley, Samara Cunningham, Emily Dixon, Kai Flanagan, Meyin Hardy, Annie Honore, Jeremy Moore, Leonie Parker, LaQuanda Simmons, Roashaun Standard, Brandon Winters-Sterling, Salamah Sulaiman,**

**Charlise “Jewel” Walters, and Angela Williams.**

**GRADUATE EXCELLENCE**

Completing the report of honors celebrated during Eastern's Week of Excellence in late March, students from the College of Education were recognized for excellence at the Graduate Research Fair. Those participating included:

**Carol Pearsall and Pamela Holloway** *Is There a Need for the LESA Early Childhood Developmental Classrooms to have One Coordinator?*

**Gerri-Lyn Nichols and Myrna Toote** *Supervising Special Education Programs in the Twenty-First Century*

**Barbara Doffredine**

*A Study of the Effectiveness of Parent Involvement in Supporting Osteoporosis Lessons in Second and Third Grade Classrooms in Selected Michigan Elementary Schools*

**Marissa Mourer**

*What Does an Internationalized Campus of Higher Education Look Like?*

**Stefanie Baier**

*Cultural Shock Experience of International Students in the US*

**Beth Corbin and Amanda Edgell**

*Social Skills Training for Individuals with Cognitive Impairment*

**Brian Filipiak**

*Web-based Communication of the Middle school Teacher : Are Available Tools Being Used Effectively?*

**Benjamin Edmondson**

*The Effects of Parental Involvement and Small Class Sized on the Academic Achievement Gap*

**Benjamin Edmondson and Stefanie Baier** were awarded the George Brower prize for excellence in the field of education.

Faculty Advisors for the event included **John Palladino, Helen Ditzhazy, Joe Bishop, Robert Carpenter, Jacquelyn McGinnis, Ellen Hoffman** and **Charles Achilles.**

**GRAND ROUNDS**

Students in the Speech Language Pathology program presented their “Grand Rounds” projects on April 15, the culmination of their graduate experience. Students participating in the program were as follows.

**Grand Rounds Presentations****Robyn Wilmot**

*Treatment Efficacy of DIR/Floortime for Autistic Preschoolers*

**Tracey DeWitt**

*When Stuttering and Language Disorders Co-Exist in Children*

**Erin Etlinger**

*The Benefits of Phonological Awareness Training for Children with Speech Impairments*

**Kimberly Maraone**

*The Impact of Whole Brain Learning*

**Benjamin Darragh**

*The Picture Exchange Communication System for a Cognitively Impaired Middle School Student*

**Hollie Stromenger**

*The Efficacy of Social Stories with Young Adults with Autism*

**Darryl Seldon**

*Is Functional Traumatic Brain Injury Intervention Effective?*

**Poster Presentations****Megan Rubens**

*Efficacy of Head Lift Exercises for Treatment of UES Dysfunction*

**Emily Beaman**

*The Benefit of a Multi-Modal Approach to Intervention*

**Kelly Chapman**

*The 3:1 Service Delivery Model*

**Lisa Haaksma**

*Speech Production Training for Adults with Apraxia of Speech*

**Erin Radley**

*Children with Communication Disorders: Influences on Younger Siblings*

**Deanna Spann**

*Nutrition and Hydration Considerations in*

*Dysphagia Diet Recommendations*

**Elizabeth Hartmann**

*Discrepancies Between a Bedside Swallow Evaluation and a Modified Barium Swallow Evaluation*

**FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

**Linda Lewis-White** was featured in an April 22 *Ann Arbor News* article on students’ use of profanity and other offensive language in schools. The article describes the way Dr. Lewis-White’s students study the derivation of pejorative terms and how such examination can diminish the words’ power.

**ALUMNI IN THE NEWS**

An April 26 story in the *Detroit Free Press* described EMU alum **Gregory Chappelle** and his team of four eighth graders from Durfee Elementary and Middle School in Detroit, who were winners of the eCYBERMISSION northwest regional competition. Their project concerned safety gear for pedestrians and night workers. Competing against 1,150 other teams representing all 50 states and U.S. territories and Department of Defense Education Activity schools around the world, the “Durfee Boys” have earned a spot among the final 16 regional teams headed for the national competition in Washington, D.C., later this year. The team’s cyber mission is to reduce the number of pedestrian fatalities in the United States and Canada. The team hypothesized that safety gear worn by pedestrians and those who work outdoors at night could reduce the number of fatalities caused by driver’s limited vision at night and early morning. They conducted experiments at the Hopkins International Airport in Cleveland, an Army facility in Warren, Eastern Michigan University, the University of Michigan, the University of Windsor and in their classroom. The results were three safety products that can’t be revealed publicly until after the competition.

**Nancy Finlayson**, who holds a masters in music education from EMU and who was, until her retirement in 2000, a music teacher in the Riverview Community Schools, was featured in the April 18 issue of the *Ann Arbor News*. Finlayson has become a historian of lighthouses and makes frequent presentations on lighthouses to school and other community groups.

#### **FACULTY/STAFF NOTES**

**Beth Johnson** was Runner Up for the "Faculty/Staff Person of the Year Award" given by the EMU Chapter of the NAACP.

Dr. Johnson recently presented *Using Pop Culture as Dynamic Instructional and Assessment Tools to Close the Achievement Gap* at the Pop Culture/American Culture Association Conference in San Diego. She presented *We've Gotta Reach 'Em to Teach 'Em: Innovative Strategies to Move Students from Boredom to Stardom!* at the North Central Association's National Conference in Chicago.

College of Education faculty were active at the American Educational Research Association conference in Montreal this month. Presentations included the following.

**Martha Baiyee** (with Peggy Wiencek) *Parent and Provider Perspectives on Preschool Expulsion*

**Rob Carpenter** (with Scott Paris) *Student Reading Performance: Examining Conditions for Progress*  
*The Influence of Oral Reading Fluency on Reading Comprehension*

**Peggy Daisey**  
*Secondary Preservice Teachers as Writers: Implications for Content Area Literacy Course Pedagogy*

**Cristina Jose Kampfner** and **Ethan Lowenstein** *A Family Affair: Facilitating Latina Success in Mathematics*

**Valerie Polakow**  
*"They Threw My Child Out": Single Mothers*

*Coping with Preschool Expulsion*  
*Higher Education, Advocacy and Social Citizenship*  
*Rights in an era of "Work First-Education Last"*  
*Policies*

**Ron Williamson**  
*Sustaining Teams: The Relationship Between Leader Behavior and Team Performance*  
*Different Ways of Learning: Professional Development of Principals and Comprehensive School Reform*

**Dale Rice** (emeritus)  
*Building Institutional Support for Academic Service-learning in Higher Education: Creating Learning Communities*

**John Palladino**  
*Administrative Collaboration on Behalf of Youth in Foster Care: Linking Theory and Practice*  
*Homeless Mothers of Children with Emotional Disabilities: Implications for School Administrators' Collaboration*  
*Sudanese Refugees' Migration Trends: Implications for School-Community Collaborations*  
Dr. Palladino also presented *Caring about foster care: What's a special education teacher to do?* with colleague Jean Haar at the Council for Exceptional Children conference in Washington, DC.

**Alane Starko** was recently featured in *Michigan Education Report's* "Diverse Viewpoints" section, responding to the question, "Do Michigan's Schools of Education Prepare Students to be 'Highly Qualified Teachers.'" Her answer, needless to say, was "Yes!" *Michigan Education Report* is a publication of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

**Don Bennion** (with Stew Work) presented *Top Ten Barriers to Assessment and How to Overcome Them* at the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission (North Central Association) in Chicago.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Ruth Virginia Sutton** of Ypsilanti, who held both bachelors and masters degrees in music education from EMU, died recently. She was a local-area piano teacher for over 40 years and was the organist at various local churches. She especially enjoyed being the accompanist for several prominent area high school choral groups, including the Walled Lake and Ypsilanti High School choral programs. She toured Europe multiple times with the YHS Chamber Singers.

**Madeleine Elaine Falahee**, a graduate of Michigan Normal School with a bachelor's degree in music education and a masters in elementary education, died February 18, 2005. Falahee taught in the Ypsilanti Schools for 25 years at Chapelle and Fletcher Elementary Schools.

**D.L. Bailey**, a graduate of "The Normal," died recently. He had been a high school teacher in Harbor Beach, Vassar, and Alpena.

**Joan Walton**, who held a master's degree in reading from EMU, died recently. She taught for many years in the Detroit schools. After 1984 and until recent times she taught at the Michigan Works! Service Center teaching reading and mathematics to adults who were either attempting to enter the workforce but lacked the necessary skills or who had a disability. She also taught developmental reading classes at OCC, HFCC, and Marygrove.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

The College of Education Fall Conference for the 2005-2006 academic year will be held Tuesday, September 6 8:30-1:00 in the Porter Building. Classes begin Wednesday September 7.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

Proposals are invited for the Michigan Education Association's annual Instruction and Professional Development Conference scheduled for December 1-3 in Dearborn, Michigan. Proposals are due May 10, 2005.

The Council of Great City Schools is calling for proposals for its 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference "Achieving the Dream: Great City Schools for All" in Atlanta, GA October 19-23, 2005. Proposals are due May 16. For information, go to [www.cgcs.org](http://www.cgcs.org).

The First International Conference on Children's Rights & Education for the 21st Century will be held July 26-30, 2005 Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, Texas. Information is available at <http://21stcenturyconference.tamucc.edu>

The AACTE/JUSTEC (Japan-United States Teacher Education Consortium) Conference will be held July 27-30 in Portland, Oregon with Portland State University as the host institution. The Call for Proposals for this conference can be found at the following link <http://www.aacte.org/Events/justec.htm>

**THEME STATEMENTS**

*Caring professional educators for a diverse and democratic society. (CPED<sup>2</sup>S) (Initial program)*

*Inquiry, advocacy, and leadership in education for diverse and democratic society. (Advanced programs)*