

The Advisor

Newsletter of the Educational Studies Program at
Eastern Michigan University

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Editors

Jennifer Bennett
jvance@emich.edu

Sara Muchmore
smuchmo1@emich.edu

Susan Kinsky
skinsky@emich.edu

Welcome Cohort 14!



Rebecca Gilkey comes to the EDST program with seven years (and counting) of special education teaching experience. She absolutely adores her current role as a classroom teacher, but has found a passion for challenging the current systems of education and identifying how to better support her students and their families. Rebecca has earned her master's and bachelor's degrees both from MSU in Special Education with a focus on urban education. Rebecca has two kids, 4 and 2 years old, and speaks candidly about her eldest child's neurodivergent struggles that have further opened her eyes to the challenges marginalized communities face when navigating the modern-day educational and mental health systems. In her own words, Rebecca "wants to be part of untangling the current bureaucratic red tape to best bolster the needed resources for struggling families and students."

Deanna Gower joins the Ed Studies Program from the School of Nursing. She has been a nurse for 25 years and worked in numerous areas, such as Oncology, Public Health, and Family Planning. In 2016 she graduated with her Master's in Nursing Education and has taught various Nursing Courses at Monroe Community College, Concordia University, and EMU. At present, Deanna serves as the Nursing Lab Supervisor at EMU School of Nursing and loves her job! She and her husband will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary in the spring and she has three daughters—ages 22, 19, & 16. Deanna is enthusiastic and excited to be starting the Ed Studies Program with her cohort!



Hannah Bollin received her BA in English - Literature from Concord University and her MA in Women's and Gender Studies with an emphasis in Educational Leadership here at EMU. Hannah is a member of Leadership in the Project BIG Mentor Program and she currently works as a Graduate Assistant at EMU's Faculty Development Center, but will be transitioning into an EDST Fellowship position this winter semester. Her research interests include mentorship, intersectionality in the classroom, and trauma-informed teaching methods. Being a first generation high school graduate from rural Appalachia, Hannah's research is very personal to her and her passion for education stems from the educators who supported her along the way. When Hannah isn't working on her to-do list, she is likely sprawled out on the couch watching *Parks and Recreation* with her spouse and three cats.

Melissa Kachaturoff also joins the EDST program from the School of Nursing where she is a Registered Nurse and works as the RN-to-BSN Program Coordinator. Melissa started as a clinical instructor at EMU and plans to return to teaching full time after completing her degree. Her professional passions are education, research, and nursing and practices those passions as an active member in the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Dear Dr. CAT

We, the editors of *The Advisor*, stand in solidarity with our outstanding faculty, who, at the time of this writing, were on strike and fighting for a fair contract. We recognize that our faculty's working conditions are our learning conditions, and we value their commitment to taking a stand for their families, for EMU students, and for all educators. Out of respect for that important work, we turned elsewhere for advice this month. Instead of a professor, we've sent this month's question to a cat. Tony Starko, whose human is Professor Emeritus Alane Starko, has observed the workings of higher education for many years, including while climbing on his human's lap during Zoom meetings and listening to his human offer guidance to many graduate students over the years.

Doctoral studies can be overwhelming, and this year especially got off to a difficult start. What's your advice for getting through this uncertain time?

Dear Tired and Worried Human,

[Stretch. Scratch, scratch.] Oh, you have questions? Worries? I understand. Lots of things worry me. I worry when my human leaves the house. Or the room. I worry when my food bowl is empty. I worry when my cat friends disappear. Fortunately, I know what to do about worries. Be a cat.

I know, I know. Growing silky fur and an exceptional tail probably aren't in your skill set, but in many ways, doctoral students are like cats already. Think about it. You are not here to be walked around on a leash like SOME other species I could name. You are independent. You have ideas. You don't march in lockstep groups. You know what they say about herding cats. That's you, or it can be.

Truth is, coming into a doctoral program is a cat apprenticeship. You come in having spent many (many many) years being given educational direction and step-by-step instructions for your learning. When you leave, you will be scholars in your own right. Of course, you will still have much to learn from colleagues, but it is a different kind of learning in which each learner—each cat—comes to the table as a valued peer, not a (ahem) puppy to be trained. You are getting ready to forge your own paths. Like a cat.



Many years ago, when my human was in graduate school, her advisor brought all the incoming students around a conference table and said, "Look around. These are your professional colleagues. They will be your colleagues for as long as you are in this field. We are a professional family. We support one another. We help one another succeed. I don't ever want to hear about you doing anything else." And it was true. The people in that program, including those from years ahead and behind her, have been her best professional support network for more than thirty years. Begin building that now. Your cat-colleagues are likely to be part of your professional network longer than the faculty. When my humans are gone, cats stick together. You can do that, too.

In feline solidarity, Tony

Hats off to You! 🎩

Congratulations to those who have recently completed their dissertation defenses!

- Dr. Jason DeCamillis
- Dr. Daicia Price

And to those who have recently passed their comprehensive exams!

- Steffie Arietta
- Laila Chraim
- Sharon Hopkins
- Greg Johnson
- Rachelle Marshall
- Kat Naish
- Roderick Wallace

We'd love to share your accomplishments here! Please send news of your presentations, publications, and other special events to our [message box](#) for inclusion in next month's issue.

Upcoming Opportunities

Start thinking about [Eastern's Graduate Research Conference](#). It is not until March 24, 2023, but the application portal opens on December 12.

Our own journal, *Impact: A Journal of Community and Cultural Inquiry in Education*, invites your scholarship. [The next submission deadline is November 1.](#)

The Midwest Sociological Society is hosting their annual meeting on March 23-26 in Minneapolis. The theme is "Beyond the Academe: Community-Partnered Research and Teaching." [The call for papers, presentation, and posters](#) is now open and closes on November 7.

[The National Council for Teachers of English](#) has a call for papers for an unthemed issue and submissions are due January 5.

Because this list is far from exhaustive, identify events and publications that resonate with your research– and get on those email distribution lists!

Edvisor Message Box

Check out our digital message box to contribute to *The Edvisor*. You can access the message box at [this link](#) or with the QR code below.

Please use this message box to share good news and accomplishments for our Hats Off section, questions for Dear Dr., article topic requests, and any other questions or suggestions you may have. We look forward to hearing from you!



Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies

The Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies prepares educators from a variety of community organizations (P-12 schools, higher education and other community contexts) to engage in effective research and practice about teaching and learning within complex social, political and economic systems. A key underlying emphasis of the program is a focus on poverty and its specific impact on urban, as well as suburban and rural communities.



Save the Date: Annual EDST Fall Celebration!

Please plan to join us for this fun event on Sunday, October 16 between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. Students, faculty, and families in our Ed Studies community will gather on the lawn between the Porter and Marshall buildings to kick off the new year together.

Families are welcome, and lunch will be served.

Watch more for more details to follow. We hope you'll join us!