



# Odds and Ns (an occasional newsletter of the department)

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 16th, 2006

## In this Issue:

- [Meet the Faculty](#)
- [Contest Prize Winner](#)
- [Cream Update](#)
  - [Project 1](#)
  - [Project 2](#)
- [Core](#)
- [Saturday Research Group](#)
- [Meet an Alumnus](#)
- [Dates to Remember](#)
- [Q & A](#)

## Meet the Faculty: Who is Jeff Kromrey?

I completed my Ph.D. at the University of South Florida quite a few years ago. I serendipitously stumbled into this field while completing a Master's degree in Special Education. I had worked for many years with mentally handicapped people and their families, and decided to return for a graduate degree in the area. Along the road to this degree, I encountered "the right professor at the right time" who showed me that statistics is exciting, challenging, and filled with areas needing additional inquiry (my earlier encounters with statistics, in undergraduate Psychology and Genetics courses, had left me pretty bored with it).

Since entering the field and figuring out how to study the way numbers behave in the context of research, I've never tired of the types of questions we can ask about the tools we use to make sense of our data. Beginning with my dissertation (a study of missing data treatments in regression models), I've investigated the behavior of many types of statistics in oodles of research contexts. I find that keeping my hand in collaborations on applied research projects always seems to suggest more technical questions that should be asked about statistical analyses.

Although I've found many challenges in carving out time to keep my hand in research while serving as the Department Chair, the most recent projects that have had my attention relate to the statistics used in meta-analysis and an investigation of the impact of random measurement error on estimation in hierarchical models.

Outside of the office, I'm married and have four reasonably-grown children. I enjoy traveling (not via airplanes) and seeing unfamiliar cities, seashores, and mountains. I often get oh-so-happily lost in museums and second-hand bookstores. My enjoyment of the highway is so great that, if this professoring job doesn't work out, I plan to enroll in truck driving school to become a cross-country driver.



## Quote of the Week.....

Statistics means never having to say you're certain.

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com>

## And the Winner is.....

**Congratulations to Jesse Coraggio  
who suggested the name for our  
Departmental newsletter.**





### **Graduate Students Currently with CREAM**

**Bethany Bell-Ellison  
Teresa Chavez  
Susan Earl  
Susan Hibbard  
Tina Hohlfeld  
Tom Lang  
Ha Phan  
Bryce Pride  
Patricia Rodriguez De Gil  
Heather Scott  
Joel Wao**

The official mission of CREAM is to “*promote excellence in research and practice through supportive collaboration and partnerships across the University and in the community.*” We strive to do this by providing quality services to schools, university partners, and community agencies (and have fun at the same time!). The backbone of our center is our group of top-notch graduate students who work in the center. Our department faculty members are actively involved in many of our projects, thus enhancing the opportunities for students and faculty to work together and get to know each other better. As a result, students become more aware of the research interests of various faculty members, often leading to other collaborations. Our team members have varied experience levels and interests. We have team members who have been with us from the beginning three years ago, Heather Scott, Ha Phan and Tom Lang, as well as newer members, Susan Earl, Bryce Pride, and Joel Wao, who joined us this fall. As an individual gains more experience, acquires more advanced skills, and becomes more familiar with processes, they take on more responsibility, often becoming the lead researcher for specific projects. Below are just two examples of projects we are currently working on with the lead team member.



### **College of Engineering Research Experiences. Lead Researcher: Tom Lang**

We are currently involved in quite a few interesting and enjoyable projects with the College of Engineering. Three of these are summer programs, pairing engineering faculty members with teachers or undergraduate students to conduct research together. CREAM provides evaluation services for these projects (all are three-year grants, funded by the National Science Foundation) to provide the Principal Investigators (PIs) with ongoing feedback as well as summative findings to gauge how well the projects are meeting their intended goals. Tom, an advanced PhD student, is the lead researcher on all three projects. As such, he coordinates all aspects of the projects, coordinates the efforts of the four and five-member teams, and provides feedback, both informal and formal, to the PIs.

### **American Cancer Society, Summer Research Fellowship. Lead Researcher: Heather Scott**

This summer and fall, CREAM is conducting an evaluation of the 29-year old Research Fellowship program sponsored by the Florida Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Heather is leading this project, which involves not only coordinating the efforts of our team with key personnel in the ACS, but also with the five site coordinators throughout the state. She is supervising construction of three surveys for current participants, mentors, and alumni to gather data regarding participants’ experiences and the potential impact of the program on their decision to pursue advanced studies in cancer research or related fields. The findings of this project will provide information to the research board for the Florida Division of ACS to help guide decisions about the future of the program, including possible expansion to other universities and sites in the state.

**For more information about our center, personnel, and projects, both past and present, please visit our website at:**

**<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/cream/index.htm> or contact the director,  
Dr. Melinda Hess at [mhess@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:mhess@tempest.coedu.usf.edu).**



Let's face it, we have all gotten to that frustrating point in our research where we just have no clue what to do next or how to do it. Instead of tossing all your papers up in the air while screaming at the top of your lungs or smacking your computer because you know it has to be the computer's fault, why not contact CORE, the Consulting Office for Research in Education?!

### Reasons why you should contact CORE:

- The consultants are two very friendly and wise advanced doctoral students named Bethany Bell-Ellison and Jesse Coraggio. These positions are funded by the Dean's Office and appointed by the Department of Measurement and Research.
- CORE can provide FREE technical advice and guidance to COEDU faculty and students on all your methodological issues from research design, instrument design/ development, sampling strategies and sample size determination, to statistical analysis, and psychometrics.

Don't be fooled, though. These consultants will not be suckered into analyzing your data for you or teaching you statistical analysis. Those things you have to do on your own. However, if it is advice and guidance you need, please contact CORE. Consultation is by appointment only, so e-mail CORE (core@coedu.usf.edu) to set up your date and time.

## Saturday Research Group

(SRG)



Tampa on Saturday afternoons means the beach, barbeques and baseball games to many. However, for some students in the Department of Measurement and Research, one Saturday

afternoon each month is spent in the conference room. There one finds spirited thinking, pondering questions, and pointed schemes among a table full of notebooks, laptops, cheese, and crackers. The current topic is 'Research Ethics' in doctoral education at various Universities and the researchers are called 'The Saturday Research Group' (SRG). SRG grew out of the

Saturday Discussions, a forum developed so that full-time employed Measurement and Research graduate students can participate more fully in department activities.

'We have picked a research topic, are in the midst of gathering data, and a paper will result,' says Susan Earl, lead researcher on the project. The results of our work will be presented at the November 2006 Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association and the April 2007 meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago.

*More about SRG in the next issue.....*

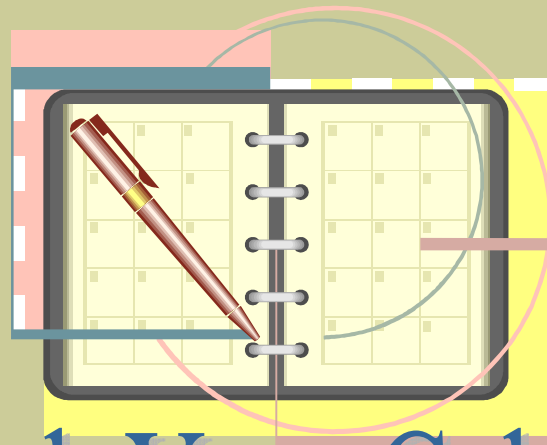
*Stay Tuned*

## Meet an Alumnus: Gianna Rendina-Gobioff

Well, life does proceed after graduation and a new cycle of research begins. Since graduation I've set several academic goals: disseminate dissertation, teach, and conduct research. It was very important to me to disseminate my dissertation. The creation of a SAS macro for other researchers to use for detecting publication bias in Meta-Analysis with a selection of statistical methods was especially important. A poster describing the macro (SESUG 2006) and paper (FERA 2006) presentation have been accepted. Two other outlets are pending (AERA 2007 and SUGI 2007). In addition, I plan on submitting a version for publication. Since I hadn't been in the classroom for a couple of years, I wanted to seek new teaching experiences. This past summer I had the opportunity to teach my first masters level course on my own: two sections of Foundations of Educational Research (EDF 6481) for USF Lakeland. I'm very excited about the upcoming academic year where as a visiting assistant professor I will be coordinating the undergraduate measurement course (EDF 4430) for USF Tampa. This opportunity will include teaching undergraduates and mentoring graduate students who are teaching the course. In addition to my responsibilities with EDF 4430, I will be teaching one section of the Foundations of Educational Research (EDF 6481). I've continued my research interests by participating in two research projects. One project I'm active with is an AIR grant funded investigation of student decision making using National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Center of Educational Statistics (NCES) databases. Another project I recently joined is a simulation study examining the application of multilevel modeling (HLM) statistical techniques to multiple baseline data. The enriching experiences that I received as a student are guiding my success in the graduate studies afterlife.



In next issue .... Meet a Student .....



# Mark Your Calendar

FALL SOCIAL — October 21st 11:00—Riverfront Park —

CONGRATULATORY PARTY FOR DR. TONY ONWUEGBUZIE — November 4th 6:00 — Dr. Hines Home

END OF TERM PARTY — December 2nd — 6:00 p.m.

(watch your e-mail for future details and directions)



---

**Do you have a question you would like answered?**

*E-mail: [adkins@tempest.coedu.usf.edu](mailto:adkins@tempest.coedu.usf.edu)*

**Answers (if found) will appear in the next issue of our newsletter.**

**Any comments or suggestions of things you would like to see in the department newsletter are greatly appreciated and will be taken into the utmost consideration.**

---

**We hope you enjoyed this inaugural newsletter.**

**For more information about our department, contact:**

**Dr. Jeffrey Kromrey, Chair**

**The Department of Educational Measurement & Research**

**4202 E. Fowler Ave. EDU162**

**Tampa, Fl 33620**

**813-974-3220**

**Please make sure you visit us on the web at:**

**<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/me/me.html>**