According to a recent report in the *St. Petersburg Times* (January 4, 2007), the newly elected Governor, Charlie Crist, referred to them as "gobbledygook." Things are so bad that he signed an executive order giving state agencies until April 3 to adopt "plain language plans" as a way to work through the gobbledygook issue. The gobbledygook that the Governor is referring to is "acronyms". There's too many of them and not everyone knows what they mean.

In the field of research acronyms are unavoidable and the usage and meaning of them may vary from institution to institution. We devote the research theme in the February 2007 ADR News Report Issue to research "acronyms" and what they mean. You will find the 56 page *Research Acronym Document: A Comprehensive Glossary* attached (please click-on).

We hope that the *Research Acronym Document: A Comprehensive Glossary* will be helpful as we engage in our daily university research proposal writing and grant compliance endeavors.

**Happy New Year!**

**FACULTY GRANT AWARDS**

This is to extend CONGRATULATIONS to the faculty and staff below who have successfully secured the following research and training grants since October 1, 2006.
George Batsche (Psych & Social) and Michael Curtis (Psych & Social) have been awarded a grant totaling $1,394,598 from FLDOE to support the instructional program in schools and families and to aid the successful transition from school to work;

Roy Winkelmann (FCIT) has been awarded a grant from the FLDOE totaling $700,000 for the Sunshine State Standards Revision and Implementation project;

Daphne Thomas (Special Ed) and Jeannie Kleinhammer-Tramill (Special Ed) have been awarded $190,000 for the Professional Development Partnership grant to help recruit, train and retain personnel to work with children with disabilities;

Patricia Linder (Anchin Center) and Marilyn Kline (Anchin Center) have been awarded a grant from the FLDOE totaling $90,000 to conduct the evaluation of the FLDOE implementation Reading First Program for the 2006-2007 academic year.

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**PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**

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Walter Chason (IIRP) has been awarded a grant totaling $83,139 from the Grant Professional Certification Institute to develop and produce a valid, reliable, psychometrically accurate and legally defensible certification program.

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**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

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**FACULTY PRESENTATIONS**

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In November 2006 Janet Richards, professor, Childhood Ed, presented "I Stuck in a Little Bit of Everything and It Backfired": Preservice
The purposes of the Mini-Grant Research Program are:

- To provide seed funding for faculty research that may lead to future externally-funded grants;
- To foster excellence in research and scholarship, and;
- To support faculty development.

The sponsors of the College of Education, Office of the Associate Dean for Research, Mini-Grant Research Program are:

- USF, College of Education, Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Lakeland and Sarasota Campuses
Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2007. Applications that arrive after the submission deadline WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED and will be returned to the applicant. Receipt of the proposal packet by the College of Education, Office of the Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Bruce A. Jones (LOCATION: DAVID C. ANCHIN RESEARCH CENTER) will be recorded as to date and time.

NOTE: These guidelines were adapted from the Internal Awards Program sponsored by the USF Office of Research and may be revised by the Dean to address unforeseen situations to ensure the smooth operation of the program.

Research Announcements

Dr. Anne Hancock, Southeast Regional Secretary of the United States Department of Education Visits USF College of Education

On December 4, 2006, Dr. Anne Hancock who serves as the Southeast Regional Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education met with representatives of the Office of the Associate Dean for Research, the David C. Anchin Center and the Hillsborough County School District. The meeting, which took place in the College of Education, David C. Anchin Research Center, Doane Conference Room served four purposes which are consistent with the missions of the USF-College of Education, the David C. Anchin Research Center and the Hillsborough County School District:

- Establish a relationship with the U.S. Department of Education (Atlanta) Regional Office for the purpose of advancing joint research and program initiatives between the USF-College of Education and the Hillsborough County School District;

- Engage the Regional Secretary in site visits to schools in Hillsborough County (Tampa) that achieved remarkable improvement through a leadership initiative that was implemented under the auspices of the David C. Anchin Research Center;

- Engage the Regional Secretary in a tour of the USF-College of Education and discuss major initiatives underway within the College, and;
• Prepare (with advice and guidance from the Regional Secretary) for a meeting in Washington, D.C. scheduled to occur on December 6 – 7, 2006, with representatives of the United States Department of Education and the National Science Foundation.

Left to right: Gwen Luney, Assistant Superintendent and Mary Ellen Elia, Superintendent of Hillsborough County School District; Jack Lamb, Chairperson of Hillsborough County School District; Bruce Jones, Director of Anchin Research Center and Associate Dean for Research; Anne Hancock, Southeast Regional Secretary; and Donna Elam, Senior Anchin Research Associate

RESEARCH METHODS IN A NUTSHELL

Rule-Space Methodology: Constructing More Useful Information from Test Performance

26 January 2007, 2:00 – 3:30 PM, EDU 219

The Department of Measurement and Research invites all faculty, staff, and graduate students to an informal presentation, scholarly discussion, and collegial conversation on rule-space methodology as a method of inquiry.

The second in the Research Methods Workshops series, tentatively entitled “Research Methods in a Nutshell”, will introduce rule-space methodology (RSM), which is one approach to test/survey data analysis that combines cognitive psychology principles with traditional psychometric analysis. In addition to the traditional ability estimate provided for each examinee, the rule-space method diagnoses the cognitive abilities and inabilities of individuals and groups of students, based on their patterns of responses. The RSM approach has been successfully applied to various educational fields, including mathematics, science, reading comprehension, and architecture. It may be able to be applied to psychological fields, such as personality or attitude surveys.
A brief presentation and overview on RSM as a research method will be provided by Yi-Hsin Chen. If you’re interested in RSM, please drop by to join the conversation. Also, please feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested. In keeping with our desired informality, there is no need to RSVP and (of course) dress is decidedly casual. Yi-hsin will post a copy of their Power Point presentation on the Measurement Department website (http://www.coedu.usf.edu/main/departments/me/Workshops.html) a few days before 26 January, if you’d like to see what Yi-hsin’s planning to present. You can contact Yi-hsin (ychen@coedu.usf.edu) or Jeff, the department chair (kromrey@tempest.coedu.usf.edu), if you have any questions.

A Symposium:
Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Panel:
Speaking with Tenure-Earning Faculty

Wednesday February 7, 2007-11:00 to 12:30p.m.
TECO Room, College of Education, USF, Tampa

Outstanding Researchers and Scholars will address issues pertaining to:
Research & Grants
Publication & Dissemination
Classroom Teaching & Mentorship

Lunch will be provided

ADR CONTACTS

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(813) 974-5959

- Research Acronym Document: A Comprehensive Glossary prepared by Ms. Grace Wang with support from the Division of Sponsored Research
- ADR News Report design by Ms. Stephanie Ballinger