Welcome to the first issue of our annual RMS newsletter which is being distributed to current students, alumni, MCE faculty, and community partners.

2015-16 was a busy year in the RMS program. Karen LeVelle has established herself as a highly efficient and friendly Academic Services Associate. Last fall, we welcomed Dr. Bruce Uhrmacher to our department from Curriculum & Instruction. He is an internationally known scholar in arts-based research, an award-winning college teacher, and a fantastic mentor of doctoral students. His strengths in qualitative research balance out our program so that we truly live up to our title – Research Methods and Statistics.

As you will see from this newsletter, our faculty and students have been very productive, presenting at national conferences, publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals, and collaborating with community partners. Our Fourth Annual Research Methods & Information Science Department Research Day in April was a great success with over a dozen oral and poster presentations – of very high quality. We held four monthly Lunch and Learns to provide our students with the opportunity to hear from experts about selective RMS topics. Six doctoral students graduated and we expect great things from them. We continue to attract a high quality applicant pool to our master’s and doctoral programs, both nationally and internationally.

This year, several initiatives are taking place. We will establish a student advisory board as a venue for current students to share their thoughts and suggestions for improving our programs. I will be asking RMS alumnae to serve on a professional advisory board to help us ensure that our programs are cutting-edge and meeting the needs of the field. Plans are also in the works for a doctoral concentration in qualitative research and evaluation.

Thank you for being a friend of RMS. Please send me your news (Nicholas.Cutforth@du.edu) and let us know what you think of this newsletter. We welcome your feedback.

Nicholas Cutforth
Graduates 2016

Congratulations to the 2016 graduates

Master of Arts
- Dareen Alzahrani
- Angel Chi
- Anna De Guzman
- Ryan Marks
- Kara Mastalski
- Christopher Pena
- Ian Saari

Doctor of Philosophy
- Priyalatha Govindasamy
- Melissa Hofmann
- Jeff Sauro
- Turker Toker
- Courtney Vidacovich
- Maria Volcovich
- Cheryl Wink

2016-17 Cohort

The Research Methods and Statistics Program has a rich history of outstanding students. We welcome the Fall 2016 Cohort to RMS:

Master of Arts:
- Miriam Estrada, Amy Grenier, Sarah O’Neil, Mathais Smrekar, Damon Vine, and Yanqiu Zhang

Doctor of Philosophy:
- Allyn Alquitran, Dareen Alzahrani, Kathleen Chaballa, Yixiao Dong, Abdelfattah Elbarsha, Debbie Gowensmith, Kevin Hemminger, Lam Huynh, Megan Kauffman, Christopher Pena, Melissa Peterson, Kady Rost, Ryan Smyth, Amanda Thomas, Aixin Zhang, and Sara Zikri

RMS Diversity

The RMS program’s students and faculty are among the most diverse in the Morgridge College of Education community. They hail from across several countries including China, England, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Libya, Mexico, Nepal, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Trinidad, Turkey, and the USA.
Student Experience

The four years of journey in Research Methods and Statistics Program was remarkable. The Research Methods and Statistics program facilitated me to become a good teacher and a researcher. The faculty are the greatest assets to the program. The close working opportunities with the faculty helped to develop my knowledge and skills in research methods and statistics. Faculty’s encouragement and continuous support nurtured me into a responsible and respectable applied statistician.

Priyalatha Govindasamy, PhD, 2016
Professor, Psychology Department, Sultan Idris Education University

PhD Dissertation Topics

Priyalatha Govindasamy (standing)
A comparison between propensity score matching, weighting, and stratification in multiple treatment groups: A simulation study

Cheryl Wink
Policy convergence in European higher education: A mixed methods examination of the role of the epistemic community in the Bologna process

Courtney Vidacovich
Measuring teachers’ knowledge and use of data and assessments: Creating a measure as a first step toward effective professional development

Turker Toker (center)
A comparison of latent class analysis and the mixture Rasch model: a cross-cultural comparison of 8th grade mathematics achievement in the 4th international mathematics and science study (timss-2011)

Melissa Hoffman
A descriptive study of the effect of payer source on multiple longitudinal outcome measures within the TBI model systems national database using longitudinal hlm analyses

Jeff Sauro (center)
Measuring the Quality of the website user experience

Courtney Vidacovich
A descriptive study of the effect of payer source on multiple longitudinal outcome measures within the TBI model systems national database using longitudinal hlm analyses
Students’ Publications, Presentations, and New Positions

RMS students have been showcasing their skills and talents in many arenas over the academic year.

Gabriel Hottinger, RMS PhD Student
Presentation
Hottinger, G. L. (2016). The relationship between depression and perfectionism: A meta-analysis. Poster session presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Convention, Denver, CO. This poster was picked to be in the top 10 that received in-person review.

Kara Mastalski, RMS MA Student
New Position
Kara has been hired as Health Program Specialist, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Jessica Morganfield, RMS MA Student
New Position
Jessica has been hired as a graduate research assistant in the Marsico Institute on the Evaluating the Efficacy of Learning Trajectories in Early Mathematics project.
She is also collaborating to devise strategies to develop a social networking structure to promote integrative medicine practices between acupuncturists and medical doctors.

Kranti Dugar, RMS PhD Student
Publication

Kran has been hired as a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin –Eau Claire for 2016-2017.

Margaret Schultz Patel, RMS PhD Student
New Position
Margaret has been hired as Evaluation Assistant at Vantage Evaluation (http://www.vantage-eval.com).

Melissa Gordon, RMS MA Student
Publication

Tara Rhodes, RMS PhD Student
New Position
Tara has been hired as a statistical analyst with the State of Colorado.

Maria Vukovich, RMS PhD Student
She conducted site visits and co-authored the report

Paige Alfonzo, RMS PhD Student
Publication

Elizabeth Ann Wacker, RMS PhD Student
Presentation


Elizabeth Bowling, RMS MA Student
Presentation

Lilian Chimuma, RMS PhD Student
Publication
Meet The RMS Program’s Academic Services Associate

How long have you been at DU?  
I have been at DU for 11 years

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?  
Working with the students and faculty

What was your first job?  
I worked in the kitchen at Mercy Hospital

What were you known for in high school?  
I was known for being quiet

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go?  
I would love to visit Australia

What is your favorite play or musical?  
The Lion King

If you could have dinner with any 3 people (dead or alive) who would you choose?  
My mom, dad and husband

Karen LeVelle - RMS SSA

RMS Student Association President

Welcome to the new academic year. The RMS Student Association (RMSSA) provides an opportunity for students, regardless of cultural background, to share in their common interest and love for research, evaluation and statistics. The Student Association: Represents RMS students in all policy-making activities affecting program and student interests; Encourages and promotes professional, intellectual, and social interaction between students and faculty within the RMS program; Provides career assistance and mentorship to current RMS students and alumni; Enhances student educational experience through supporting research and conference activities; Represents the RMS program and students on the College of Education Student Association (COESA) and the Graduate Student Association Council (GSAC).

This academic year, the RMSSA plans a vibrant program that we hope will contribute to the continued development of our program and the sense of community we share. I am excited to help lead in this process. Let us work together as we grow from strength to strength.

GET INVOLVED!

Kerry-Ann Lewis Pearcy  RMSSA President 2016, Kerry-ann.lewispearcy@du.edu
Meet the Faculty

Dr. Nicholas Cutforth, Department Chair and Professor. Research and teaching interests include school health and physical activity environments, qualitative research, physical activity and youth development, university/community partnerships, and community-based research.

Dr. Kathy Green, Professor. Research interests are in applied measurement, specifically applications of the Rasch model, survey research, and teaching statistics.

Dr. Bruce Uhrmacher, Professor. Research interests include arts-based research, qualitative research, alternative school settings, curriculum theory and practice, and Waldorf education.

Dr. Antonio Olmos, Associate Professor. Research interests include using advanced research methods in program evaluation, program evaluation theory, and outcomes systems.

Dr. Duan Zhang, Associate Professor. Research interests are focused on two areas: first methodological area in multilevel modeling using Structural Equation Modeling and Hierarchical Linear Modeling, and second substantive area in parenting practice and school readiness in early childhood.

Community Partner Award

The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) received the community partner award for the Research Methods and Statistics Program at the 2016 Community Partners Breakfast.

ARI is a very important partner in the development of professionals dedicated to the implementation of best practices in the fields of Research Methods, Statistics, and Program Evaluation. As the research branch of the Aurora Mental Health Center (AUMHC), ARI is committed to the search for new technologies and methods of treatment that meet their clients’ needs. ARI’s Executive Director, Dr. Richard Swanson, has hired several RMS graduates as well as provided internships and practical experiences for students in the RMS program. Recently ARI established a partnership with RMS to fund an internship for a RMS student on an ongoing basis. Consequently, our students will have the opportunity to work on the implementation of research methodologies as well as program evaluation projects that will be invaluable in their future practice.
Faculty Research

RMS faculty members regularly publish in national and international journals. Here are their most recent publications.

Nick Cutforth
Journal Article


Kathy Green
Journal Article

Antonio Olmos
Journal Article


Bruce Uhrmacher
Books

Journal Article


Duan Zhang
Journal Article

Lunch and Learns 2016

Lunch and Learns provide the opportunity for RMS students and faculty to discuss issues of mutual interest.

“Studying for Comps: Hints from Faculty and Students” – RMS Faculty and Post-Comps Students (January)

“Crafting Powerful Reports and Presentation: Strategies for Improving Communication in Evaluation” – Dr. Kelci Price (February)

“Grant Writing from a RMS Perspective” – Dr. Adam Soberay (March)

“Becoming a program evaluator: Experiences from program evaluators working in the field” – Drs. Kelci Price, Sheila Arens, and Mariana Enriquez (April)

RMS Faculty and Graduates 2016

(L): Courtney, Antonio, Melissa, Nick, Cheryl, Kathy, Duan, Bruce & Jeff