

Future Faculty Focus

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Updates from the PFF Program Office

As indicated in last month’s *Future Faculty Focus*, the PFF Advisory Group has developed a comprehensive set of enhancements to the program that reflect student feedback. These enhancements were submitted to the Programs and Courses Committee of the Graduate Council, and we are very pleased to announce that all revisions were approved. A PowerPoint document available on the PFF Program BlackBoard site outlines the enhancements to the PFF Program (select the “VCU PFF Overview” tab). Also, the PFF Program section of the Graduate School’s website has been updated to reflect these revisions, and we encourage all of you to take a few moments to read through the information:

- Overview of the PFF Program: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/index.html>
- Registration and enrollment information, including course offerings and certificate sequence: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>
- Advisory faculty: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/advisers/index.html>
- Resources: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/resources.html>

Spring registration for graduate students begins on November 2, 2009.

Students currently enrolled in GRAD 601 and 604: If you plan to continue with the course sequence in the spring semester, then you will take **GRAD 602** (2 credit hours) and **GRAD 605** (1 credit hour) in spring 2010. Please note that you register yourself for GRAD 602 via [eServices](#), and you will [send an email](#) to our office to request registration for GRAD 605. More information on registration is available at <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>.

Students who intend to take GRAD 606 in the spring: ***GRAD 606 Spring proposals are due in our office as soon as possible but no later than January 5, 2010.*** The Spring 2010 proposal and course completion guide is available on blackboard. Contact [Sharon](#) or [Fatima](#) if you would like to discuss your proposal

before submitting. Remember that you must submit a proposal each semester, even if you are continuing the same project. Again, please [contact our office](#) with any questions.

Students currently enrolled in GRAD 606: The deadline for final report and grade submission for this semester is **Wednesday, December 9th**. Please plan accordingly by ensuring that your faculty mentor has received a copy of your final report prior to this deadline. Our office will send a reminder to you and your faculty mentor next month regarding this deadline and the evaluation process. Please feel free to [contact our office](#) with any questions.

New resource on Blackboard: We have developed a resource document on the academic job search – log into Blackboard, and click on the “resources” folder.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions and if we can be of assistance to you. Have a great October!

PFF Program Office
pffprogram@vcu.edu

Upcoming Events sponsored by the [Graduate Student Association \(GSA\)](#)

Meet and Greet at Mulligan’s

Friday October 9, 2009; 5 p.m. until the appetizers run out!

The GSA is hosting a Meet and Greet at Mulligan’s. The GSA will provide free appetizers, and Mulligan’s will provide drink specials to students with valid I.D.’s

Mulligan’s Sports Grille (1323 W. Main St.); On the roof deck if weather permits

VCU Family Night Event at Men’s Soccer Game

Saturday October 10, 2009; 5:00-7:00 pm

Sports Backers Stadium, Richmond, VA

VCU Family Night at the men's soccer game sponsored by the VCU Alumni Association, the School of Business and VCU Athletics. Bring the whole family for great giveaways, face-painting and a moonbounce. Buz and Ned's will also be on site with their famous "real barbecue."

Admission to the event is \$5 in advance. Tickets will be \$5 at the door plus the cost of a game ticket.

Contact Phone: (804) 828-1485; <http://www.vcu-mcvalumni.org/site/c.hnKlIMNpEmG/b.5091673/k.C92A/Events.htm>

Mix and Mingle

Friday October 23, 2009:

MCV Campus- Hunton Student Center, Alumni Lounge

Network with fellow graduate and professional students, faculty and staff! Enjoy live music, hors d’oeuvres and beverages! Must have valid student I.D. and proof of legal drinking age. Live music provided.

If you need special accommodations, please contact Yolanda Jackson at yjackson@vcu.edu or 828-2754.

Workshops and Events Around Campus

Upcoming workshops from the [Center for Teaching Excellence \(CTE\)](#) are listed below. These workshops are open to graduate students! For more information on the workshop topics and to **register**, click on the topic below. If the hyperlinks are not enabled on your computer, then please visit the [CTE Workshops page](#) to learn more and to **register**.

10/7/2009	9:00am	Developing ePortfolios
10/7/2009	1:00pm	Exploring Learning-Centered Teaching: A Framework for Self-Evaluation
10/8/2009	10:00am	Using Wikis in Education
10/9/2009	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon - Rethinking How We Teach Science
10/13/2009	9:00am	Getting Started with Blackboard
10/13/2009	1:00pm	Exploring Social Media for Teaching and Learning
10/14/2009	9:00am	Making Thinking Visible: Using Concept Mapping for Instructional Planning and Teaching
10/14/2009	1:00pm	Writing Multiple Choice Questions
10/16/2009	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon - Twitter: Does It Have A Place in Education?
10/19/2009	1:00pm	Critical Thinking on the Internet
10/21/2009	9:00am	Exploring Digital Storytelling: An Overview of the Process
10/23/2009	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon - Scholarly Teaching
10/26/2009	1:00pm	Exploring Web Based Communications
10/27/2009	9:00am	Improving the Effectiveness of Your Lectures
10/29/2009	1:00pm	Assignment and Gradebook Management in Blackboard
10/30/2009	Noon	Brown Bag Luncheon - What Is Online Learning?

The **Qualitative Research Interest Group (QRIG)** meetings for the rest of this semester are listed below. You will see that some details are listed as TBA. If you would like to receive future updates on this group, please contact [Cornelia Ramsey](#) for more information. Please note that there will not be a December meeting.

- OCTOBER— Social Work—Meeting date: October 22; Location: School of Social Work; Time: 4-6pm; Contact persons: Mary Katherine O'Connor, Pam Kovacs
- NOVEMBER—Occupational Therapy—Meeting date: November 13; Time 4-6pm; Location: TBD; Contact persons: Dianne Simons, Al Copolillo
- DECEMBER—Cancelled

The VCU **Center for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis (CARMA)** schedule is available online through the CARMA Scholars [webpage](#). If you are interested in the webcasts but are not able to participate in the credit-bearing Scholars program, then you may wish to consider the CARMA webcast program, which is free of charge for VCU faculty and students. The remainder of events for the fall are listed below, and the complete schedule along with additional information is available on the [CARMA website](#). The same page will also outline the resources available to you as a VCU student for viewing past webcasts via the CARMA Library. Please contact the [CARMA Office](#) for more information on these opportunities.

Date:	Title:	Start Time
10/30/2009	Best Methods for Mediation Analysis Dr. David Mackinnon, Arizona State University	12:00:00 PM (EST)
12/4/2009	Detecting and Diagnosing Model Misspecification Dr. Deborah Bandalos, University of Georgia	12:00:00 PM (EST)
	Mean Structure Models with Latent Variables Dr. Greg Hancock, University of Maryland	1:30:00 PM (EST)
	What Are Latent Variables? Dr. Ken Bollen, University of North Carolina	3:00:00 PM (EST)

VCU Libraries offer a variety of workshops of interest to graduate students. For more information on the workshop topics and to **register**, click on the topic below. If you have trouble with the links, please visit the [VCU Library Events and Classes page](#) or go to the [VCU Training website](#) to search.

- October 7, 2009 Noon [Navigating the VCU Libraries Homepage](#) ; Cabell Library
- October 8, 2009 Noon [Open Workshop: Using RSS Feeds to Keep Current with Health Science Research](#) ; Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 12, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: RefWorks: Part I](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 14, 2009 Noon [Library Orientation](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library



- October 15, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: Research: Talking the Talk and Walking the Walk](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 19, 2009 9:00am [VCU Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale](#); Cabell Library
- October 19, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: RefWorks: Part II](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 20, 2009 9:00am [VCU Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale](#); Cabell Library
- October 20, 2009 Noon [Evidence-Based Medicine](#); Sanger Hall
- October 21, 2009 9:00am [VCU Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale](#); Cabell Library
- October 21, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: Searching Decoded](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 22, 2009 9:00am [VCU Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale](#); Cabell Library
- October 22, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: Keeping Current with Your Research](#); Hunton Student Center
- October 23, 2009 9:00am [VCU Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale](#); Cabell Library
- October 26, 2009 Noon [Brown Bag Lunch: Consumer Health & Evaluating Health Websites](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 27, 2009 1:00pm [Library Orientation](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 27, 2009 2:00pm [Finding Tests & Measurements](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library
- October 29, 2009 Noon [Open Workshop: Using RSS Feeds to Keep Current with Health Science Research](#); Tompkins-McCaw Library

The **VCU Student Affairs** sponsors a “Things to do around VCU” website that provides links to calendars and events of potential interest to graduate students: <http://www.vcu.edu/thingstodo/>. (Hint: If you click on “student stuff,” then you will get a listing of upcoming events and workshops on campus – click on the links to learn more about events like the upcoming [GSA Meet and Greet at Mulligans!](#))

“Tomorrow’s Professor” Postings

Each month we showcase postings on four diverse topics related to the future faculty, teaching, and learning from the multi-organization sponsored “Tomorrow’s Professor” postings program. Each posting is listed with Dr. Rick Reis’s introduction; the title and this introduction will provide you with information to decide if you want to read the whole posting. To read the full posting, simply follow the link provided after Dr. Reis’s introduction. To learn more about “Tomorrow’s Professor” in general, please visit <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>. There are over 950 postings. If there is a topic area of particular interest to you, you may want to browse the site. To learn more about Dr. Reis, visit his website: <http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/reis.html>. We hope that you enjoy this month’s postings and that you find the information to be useful to you during your academic journey!

Tomorrow’s Professor #752 – Learning Your Students’ Names

The posting below looks at how you can learn all, or most, of your students’ names. It is one of the best things a professor can do. The article is by Dr. Mary McKinney of Successful Academic Coaching. Feel free to visit her web site at <http://www.successfulacademic.com> for additional tenure track tips and dissertation writing strategies. Copyright ©2006. Reprinted with permission.

Read the rest! Link to: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=752>

Tomorrow’s Professor #946 – Ten Ways to Grow a Backbone

The posting looks at - well the title speaks for itself. It is an academic take on the book by the same name [How to Grow a Backbone: Ten Strategies for Gaining Power and Influence at Work, by Susan Marshall. [Published by McGraw-Hill Professional, 2000 ISBN 0809224941, 9780809224944] <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/>. The posting below is by Gina J Hiatt, Ph.D and is from the Academic Ladder - Get help with the climb, which can be found at: [<http://academicladder.com>] © 2009 Gina Hiatt, PhD. reprinted with permission.

Read the rest! Link to: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=946>

Tomorrow’s Professor #950 – Clickers

The posting below looks at the impact of an important new technology on faculty lecturing and student learning. It is by James Rhem, executive director of the National Teaching & Learning Forum and is #45 in a series of selected excerpts from the NT&LF newsletter reproduced here as part of our "Shared Mission Partnership." NT&LF has a wealth of information on all aspects of teaching and learning. If you are not already a subscriber, you can check it out at [<http://www.ntlf.com/>] The on-line edition of the Forum--like the printed version - offers subscribers insight from colleagues eager to share new ways of helping students reach the highest levels of learning. National Teaching and Learning Forum Newsletter, Volume 18, Number 3, March 2009. © Copyright 1996-2009. Published by James Rhem & Associates, Inc. All rights reserved worldwide. Reprinted with permission.

Read the rest! Link to: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=950>

Tomorrow’s Professor Posting #853 – Peer Support for Ph.D. Students

The posting below looks at establishing peer support groups for dissertation writers. It is by Michael Kiparsky, a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California at Berkeley. It appeared in the column CATALYST, Career Advice for Scientists, in the Wednesday, August 8, 2007 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education. <http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2007/08/2007080801c/careers.html> Copyright © 2007 by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Reprinted with permission

Read the rest! Link to: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=853>