

# Future Faculty Focus

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## Updates from the PFF Program Office

### *Spring registration for graduate students is underway!*

The GRAD 602 course *Teaching, Learning, and Technology in Higher Education* is a two credit hour course being held on Thursdays, 4:00-5:40 p.m., in the Center for Teaching Excellence in Grace Harris Hall. There is no prerequisite requirement for this course. Registration is limited, so register soon through eServices!

The GRAD 605 course *Professional Special Seminars* is a one credit hour course that provides students with the opportunity to focus on the full range of faculty responsibilities specific to their chosen disciplines/professions in such a way that builds on the more general knowledge and skills covered in GRAD 601 and GRAD 602.

**Prerequisites for this course are GRAD 601 and GRAD 602, and concurrent enrollment in GRAD 602 during the spring semester does satisfy the prerequisite requirement.** Registration by permission of the program.

To register for this course, please send an email to [pffprogram@vcu.edu](mailto:pffprogram@vcu.edu) with your name, V-number, and section choice (or your program of study).

***New resource for those pursuing the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement!***

The PFF Program office has developed a PFF Program Certificate of Achievement worksheet for students to use to guide them through the program and track their progress toward the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement. This resource is available through the PFF Program Blackboard site. Click on the “PFF Certificate” tab, and you will see the worksheet on this page.

***Proposals for Spring 2010 enrollment in GRAD 606 Internship / Externship in Professional Teaching:***

The deadline for proposing a one, two, or three credit hour internship/externship for the GRAD 606 course is one week prior to the first day of classes, which is **Tuesday, January 12, 2010** for spring 2010. We encourage students to submit proposals early (ideally by December 14) to provide ample time for the approval process to take place before students return to campus for the spring semester. Please keep in mind that the university is closed December 19, 2009-January 3, 2010. Proposals submitted during that time period will be reviewed once the university has reopened, and we will provide students with approval notifications (including the need for revisions to the proposed project) during the week of January 11<sup>th</sup>. Proposals submitted after the January 12<sup>th</sup> deadline will be considered for summer 2010 or fall 2010.

Detailed instructions for the proposal are located on the PFF Program website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>) and on the program’s Blackboard site (click on “Courses” tab).

***Please contact our office with any questions or feedback regarding the PFF Program!***

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program Office

[pffprogram@vcu.edu](mailto:pffprogram@vcu.edu)



## **PFF Program Alumni Spotlight**

### **Stephen P. Sowulewski, M.A.**

#### **PFF Program Certificate of Achievement, Spring 2009**

Doctoral Candidate, School of Education, VCU

Assistant Professor and Department Chair, Health and Physical Education, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Adjunct Professor, Health & Human Performance, School of Education, VCU

Faculty member, Department of Fitness and Wellness, University of Richmond

#### ***About Stephen***

Stephen, a native of Saginaw, Michigan, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science from Lake Superior State University (in Sault Ste. Marie, MI) in 1997. In 2000, Stephen started the Master of Arts in Health Promotion program at Central Michigan University (CMU, Mt. Pleasant, MI), which was interestingly the same year that current VCU President Dr. Michael Rao began his tenure at CMU, and Stephen received the M.A. degree in 2003. In addition to his current positions as Assistant Professor and Department Chair of Health and Physical Education at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC), faculty member at the University of Richmond, and Adjunct Professor in the VCU School of Education, Stephen is also a doctoral candidate in the School of Education at VCU. He represented JSRCC by serving as a visiting professor to ID College in the Netherlands as part of a joint faculty exchange within the Virginia Community College System in May of 2008.

During the spring of 2009, Stephen completed a doctoral externship at the Men's Health Network in Washington, D.C. that included involvement in briefings at the congressional level toward establishing an Office on Men's Health within the United State's Department of Health and Human Services. Stephen facilitated and led the VCU School of Education's Health and Human Performance department's first ever study abroad trip to Perth, Australia in the summer of 2009. In October 2009, Stephen delivered a presentation in Vienna, Austria at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual World Congress on Men's Health. Stephen is certified as a group exercise instructor through the American Council on Exercise (ACE) and has been a frequent contributor to McGraw-Hill Company. His research interests include weight-loss and nutrition regimes for bariatric surgery patients, men's health issues, global health perspectives, and substance abuse/addiction.

#### ***When you hear "PFF Program," what are some of your first thoughts and memories?***

When I first heard about PFF from Dr. Warren, Dean of the SOE, I was immediately intrigued. I looked forward to the opportunity of getting more prepared and learning further about the professoriate from experienced and senior faculty members which I certainly have found to be beneficial. In some of our classes we were able to direct questions to panels with varied faculty members from other institutions including VCU about such topics as interviewing, tenure, and the life of a faculty member in the academy.

#### ***How did your experiences in the PFF Program enhance your understanding of what it means to be faculty and impact your plans for a career in academia?***

Being that I am already fortunate to be a full-time faculty member, I still found it very interesting to examine the role of a faculty member. I remember a sort of "3 prong" approach that was instilled in us during class. The primary piece of this 3-prong approach involves having a duty and obligation to help cultivate my students' learning and their quest for knowledge. Second would be service to the community at large to help disseminate my time and talents toward the greater good of society. Lastly, it is imperative to continue to bolster my own professional development and continuing education by staying current in my field and contributing to the body of knowledge. Thus, teaching, service, and scholarship are the cornerstones to the life of a faculty member.

***How did experiences with the PFF Program and receipt of the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement give you an 'edge' in your career?***

I think having the opportunity to become immersed in the inner-workings of academia through the PFF classes in my role as a student and from my role as a faculty member has made me a better steward of how the four-year schools operate. I am comfortable in my role at the community college level but have certainly come away with much knowledge of how the four-year university realm differs from their two-year college counterparts. I like the mix of having a "foot in the door at VCU and U of R" and my continued full-time employment at JSRCC.

***The capstone experience of the PFF Program is the internship/externship in which the student is mentored by a senior faculty member. Tell us a little bit about your internship/externship experience, and share with us the impact that the project and the mentoring relationship had on you.***

I had a wonderful experience with my internship component because I had the opportunity to work along side the Dean of the SOE, Dr. Beverly Warren, who also happens to be my doctoral advisor. We co-taught a graduate-level nutrition course to a cohort of physical education K-12 teachers. I take a great sense of pride in my reflection on the impact that Dr. Warren has had on me personally and professionally. She has inspired me through her devotion to her students and to her steadfast approach to the great importance of higher education. When the course came to completion, she whole-heartedly endorsed me to teach this course solo in the near future. "They" say that one learns from the best. By teaching with Dr. Warren and collaborating on the course, we were able to offer a wide breadth and depth of topics for the students, and I was able to have my teaching practices critiqued so I can better hone my pedagogical style.

***What is the most crucial piece (or pieces!) of advice that you would give to students currently enrolled in the PFF Program coursework?***

Engage your professors and challenge them on the issues that faculty face today and how these issues may impact what the future of the academy will offer. Question your professors and learn from their experiences, stories, and conversations in class and follow them up by reading as much as you can about what it means to get in front of a room full of powerful minds who will one day blaze trails of their own. Finally, seek out organizations and professional development training seminars that will beckon you to become empowered and enlightened in the college arena.

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

### **Barnes & Noble @ VCU – Monroe Park Campus** (1111 W. Broad St.)

The GSA is hosting a **Meet and Greet** at the Monroe Park Campus Barnes & Noble @ VCU bookstore on Thursday, Nov. 5 and Friday, Nov. 6 from 4 to 7 p.m.

The bookstore will provide a 20 percent discount on all items (excluding textbooks). This is the perfect time to start holiday shopping as well as buy diploma frames for students graduating in December.

The GSA will provide refreshments, and the bookstore will provide Starbucks coffee.

When you arrive, please check in at the GSA table for your discount coupon.

If you do not have parking, please park in the West Broad Street deck (above the bookstore) and bring your green entrance ticket with you to the GSA table for free validation. For any children who will be at the event, story time will start around 5:45 or 6 p.m.

### **Barnes & Noble @ VCU – MCV Campus** (601 N. 10th St.)

The GSA is hosting a **Meet and Greet** at the MCV Campus Barnes & Noble @ VCU bookstore on Tuesday, Nov. 3 and Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 3 to 5 p.m.

The bookstore will provide a 20 percent discount on all items (excluding textbooks). This is the perfect time to start holiday shopping as well as buy diploma frames for students graduating in December.

The GSA will provide refreshments, and the bookstore will provide Starbucks coffee.

When you arrive, please check in at the GSA table for your discount coupon.

If you have any questions about these meet and greet activities, please contact Lori A. Floyd-Miller at (804) 828-2233 or [lafloyd@vcu.edu](mailto:lafloyd@vcu.edu).

## 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**.

11/2/2009	1:00pm	<a href="#">Web Conferencing Tools for Instruction</a>
11/4/2009	9:00am	<a href="#">You Know What You Taught, But What Did They Learn?</a>
11/6/2009	Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Luncheon - Classroom Impression Management</a>
11/9/2009	1:00pm	<a href="#">Blogging: Exploring Learning Opportunities for Faculty and Students</a>
11/10/2009	1:00pm	<a href="#">Making Student Thinking Visible: Teaching with Classroom Response Systems</a>
11/11/2009	9:00am	<a href="#">Exploring Digital Storytelling: An Overview of the Process</a>
11/12/2009	1:00pm	<a href="#">Screen Recording with Camtasia to Support Teaching and Learning</a>
11/13/2009	Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Luncheon - Smartphones in Education</a>
11/16/2009	9:00am	<a href="#">Improving the Effectiveness of Your Lectures</a>
11/18/2009	10:00am	<a href="#">Small Grant Program Final Report - CoEd411: Training students for a future in multimedia reporting</a>
11/19/2009	3:00pm	<a href="#">Small Grant Program Final Report - Teaching Internships for Dance Majors</a>
11/20/2009	9:00am	<a href="#">Introduction to LON-CAPA</a>
11/20/2009	Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Luncheon - Improvisational Teaching</a>
11/30/2009	1:00pm	<a href="#">Organizing Your Web Resources for Learning: RSS Feeds and Online Bookmarking</a>

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 TBD. 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.

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.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Start Time</b>
<b>12/4/2009</b>	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.

November 5, 2009 Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Lunch: Anatomy.TV</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 6, 2009 9:00am	<a href="#">Library Orientation</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 6, 2009 6:30pm	<a href="#">VCU Cabell First Novelist Award Ceremony</a>	Univ Student Commons
November 10, 2009 2:00pm	<a href="#">RefWorks: Part I</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 11, 2009 Noon	<a href="#">Open Workshop: Using RSS Feeds to Keep Current with Health Science Research</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 11, 2009 2:00pm	<a href="#">Evidence-Based Medicine</a>	Sanger Hall
November 16, 2009 2:00pm	<a href="#">Library Orientation</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 17, 2009 Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Lunch: RefWorks: Part II</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 19, 2009 Noon	<a href="#">Brown Bag Lunch: Show Me the Money</a>	Tompkins-McCaw Library
November 23, 2009 Noon	<a href="#">Open Workshop: Using RSS Feeds to Keep Current with Health Science Research</a>	Sanger Hall

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!](#))

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## **“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 #949 – Aiming for Excellence in the Dissertation**

The posting below looks at what makes for outstanding, very good, and unacceptable dissertations in the social sciences. It is from Chapter 3, Aiming for Excellence in the Dissertation, in the book, Developing Quality Dissertations in the Social Sciences: A Graduate Student's Guide to Achieving Excellence by Barbara E. Lovitts and Ellen L. Wert. Published by Stylus Publishing, LLC, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, Virginia 20166-2102 Copyright © 2009 By Stylus Publishing, LLC. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission. NOTE: This book is one of three in a series that includes Developing Quality Dissertations in the Humanities and Developing Quality Dissertations in the Sciences. To find out more go to: [www.styluspub.com](http://www.styluspub.com)

**Read the rest! Link to:** <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=949>

### **Tomorrow’s Professor #899 – Dr. Mom**

The posting below is a review by freelance scientific write and editor, Vanessa Fogg, of the book Motherhood, the Elephant in the Laboratory: Women Scientists Speak Out. Emily Monosson (Editor). Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2008. 232 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8014-4664-1. \$25.00. The review appeared in The Scientist - Magazine of the Life Sciences, September 2008 <http://www.the-scientist.com/> © Copyright 2008, The Scientist, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

**Read the rest! Link to:** <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=899>

### **Tomorrow’s Professor #156 – Ethical Principles in University Teaching**

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) is a Canadian association of academics interested in the improvement of teaching and learning in higher education. [[http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic\\_support/uts/stlhe/](http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic_support/uts/stlhe/)] The Society has published a set of nine basic ethical principles that it believes define the professional responsibilities of university professors in their role as teachers. Below is an excerpt from this statement. A complete copy that includes additional commentary on each principle can be found at: [[http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic\\_support/uts/stlhe/Ethical.html](http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic_support/uts/stlhe/Ethical.html)].

**Read the rest! Link to:** <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=156>

### **Tomorrow’s Professor Posting #223 – Ten Commandments of Tenure Success**

There are hundreds of published articles and many books on the subject of tenure. One of the best sources for beginning faculty is: Getting Tenure, by Marcia Whicker, Jennie Kronenfeld, and Ruth Strickland. In it, the authors tell you how to manage your tenure case and then step you carefully through the tenure process in a way that helps you meet your institution's research, teaching, and service criteria. Many of the key points in the book are summarized in the author's Ten Commandments of Tenure Success. The posting below lists these commandments followed by a more detailed description of commandments 1, 6, and 7.

**Read the rest! Link to:** <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=223>