

Future Faculty Focus

THE E-NEWSLETTER OF THE VCU PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY (PFF) PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 2010

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Updates from the PFF Program Office

SPRING 2010 PFF PROGRAM COURSES

Students registered for GRAD 602 (currently meeting) and GRAD 605, Section 905 (Social Sciences; begins meeting March 23rd) will receive pertinent course information via email from the PFF Program Office and the course instructors.

GRAD 606: SUMMER 2010 AND FALL 2010 (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. For summer 2010 enrollment, the deadline is **Monday, May 17th**; for fall 2010 enrollment, the deadline is **Thursday, August 19th**. Proposals submitted after the deadline will be considered for the next semester. 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 the “Courses” tab).

NEW WAYS TO CONNECT WITH THE PFF PROGRAM OFFICE!

In addition to the Blackboard page and VCU webpage, you can now connect with our office in two new, more interactive ways. The [PFF Program Blog](#) provides regular updates on VCU and PFF updates as well as resources of interest to graduate students and future members of the professoriate. The [PFF Program Fan Page on Facebook](#) has also been developed, and we want you to become a fan of our page! We look forward to connecting with you!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PFF PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENTS!

The following individuals completed the requirements for the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement in either the summer 2009 or fall 2009 semester. We congratulate these individuals on their accomplishments, and thank the faculty members who have supported their professional development and the PFF Program by serving as faculty mentors in the PFF Program capstone experience internship/externship.

These individuals will be joined by those who complete all requirements for the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement in spring 2010 and faculty contributors to the PFF Program at the annual Graduate Research Symposium on April 20, 2010. More information on the Symposium will be disseminated through the Graduate School Dean's Office.

Maitham Al Hawaj

Maitham is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy. His faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Cynthia Kirkwood, Pharm.D., BCPP**, Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy.

Ruth Srednicki-Burk

Ruth is a current graduate student in the VCU School of Nursing Ph.D. Program. Ruth's faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Carolyn Driscoll, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems, VCU School of Nursing.

Dawn Cummings-Webb

Dawn is a graduate of the Master of Science program in Criminal Justice and the Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate program in Criminal Justice, Forensic Science Crime Scene Investigation concentration, both programs in the VCU College of Humanities and Sciences. Dawn also graduated magna cum laude from VCU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. She is currently teaching CRJS 260: Criminal Law at VCU, and is planning to pursue a doctoral degree. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **John Reitzel, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator for Criminal Justice, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, VCU College of Humanities and Sciences.

Samantha Nolte

Samantha will graduate in May 2010 with a Master of Art Education, Department of Art Education, VCU School of the Arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dance and Art Education from Mercyhurst College. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Sara Wilson McKay, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Art Education, VCU School of the Arts.

Sherry Pinkstaff

Sherry is currently a graduate student in the Ph.D. Program in Physiology, VCU School of Medicine. She is a graduate of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, VCU School of Allied Health Professions. Sherry also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies from George Mason University. Her faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Ross Arena, Ph.D., PT**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Physical Therapy, VCU School of Allied Health Professions.

Osama Shoair

Osama is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcome Science, VCU School of Pharmacy, as well as the Certificate in Aging Studies, Department of Gerontology, VCU School of Allied Health Professions. Osama holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Misr International University (MIU), Cairo, Egypt. His faculty mentor for the GRAD 606 capstone experience was **Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, Director, Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program, Associate Professor of Pharmacy, VCU School of Pharmacy.

INFORMATION ON THE PFF PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

In order to receive the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement, students must successfully complete the nine credit hours of PFF Program coursework (detailed below) and submit the electronic portfolio for evaluation.

- Successful completion of the core PFF Program courses
 - GRAD 601 The Academic Profession
2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the fall semester, students who entered the program during or prior to Fall 2009 semester will substitute the one-credit hour GRAD 601 and one-credit hour GRAD 604 course for this requirement)
 - GRAD 602 Teaching, Learning and Technology in Higher Education
2-credit hour lecture course (offered in the spring semester)
 - GRAD 603 Responsible Conduct of Research
1-credit hour lecture course (8-week short course, offered in the fall semester)
 - GRAD 605 Professional Specialty Seminar
1-credit hour seminar course (8-week short course, offered in the spring semester)
- Successful completion of **three credit hours** of the mentored capstone experience
 - GRAD 606 Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching: Offered for variable credit (1, 2 or 3 credit hours offered in fall, spring and summer semesters). Prerequisites are GRAD 601, GRAD 602, GRAD 603, and GRAD 605. Prerequisite flexibility ONLY for students who enrolled in GRAD 601/604 in Fall 2009: these students may take GRAD 606 in summer 2010 or fall 2010 *prior to or concurrent with enrollment in GRAD 603*. Proposal will require statement of acknowledgement in proposal that student must take GRAD 603 in Fall 2010.
- Submission and evaluation of the electronic portfolio (see details on our website: <http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html>)

Upon completion of these requirements, a text comment will be recorded on the student's academic transcript. The student and his/her faculty mentor will be recognized for this accomplishment at a Graduate School event, usually held in the spring semester at the annual Graduate Research Symposium.

Please contact our office with any questions about the PFF Program!

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Program, VCU Graduate School

 [Web](#)  [Blog](#)  [Facebook](#) 

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Visit: The Moseley House, Room 203, Monroe Park Campus

PFF Program Alumni Spotlight - Nicole Footen Bromfield, M.S.W., Ph.D.



About Nicole

Nicole Footen Bromfield received her M.S.W. from West Virginia University in 2000 and her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from VCU in 2007. Nicole currently serves as the Director of Student Services for the VCU School of Social Work, where she has worked since 2005. Nicole's dissertation research was on the making of human trafficking legislation in the U.S., and she has recently had her dissertation published as a book (in press). Nicole has presented on human trafficking issues at international conferences in Mexico, Germany, and Alaska, where she was supported as a Young Scholar at the Northern Research Forum International Conference. Nicole also is a pet loss support counselor for VCU's Center for Human-Animal Interaction and facilitates a bi-monthly pet loss support group. Nicole was awarded the PFF Program Certificate of Achievement during the 2008-2009 academic year.

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

When I hear students mention the PFF Program, I tell them that they should definitely take advantage of it. The PFF Program gives graduate students a candid look at both the benefits and pitfalls of an academic career and also prepares its students for classroom teaching and the academic job market.

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?

The PFF Program took a lot of the mystery out of what it is to be a faculty member. Even though I have been working in an academic environment for quite some time before joining the Program, the PFF Program helped me to gain insight into the balance that is necessary in teaching, scholarship, and service in order to be successful in academia. I also learned about life as a faculty member in other academic environments such as small colleges and community colleges.

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

I have chosen an administrative track rather than a tenure track for the time being. I realize, after participating in the PFF program, that I will need to pay attention to scholarship and service, as well as teaching, if I want to have a chance for a tenure line in the future. In other words, the PFF program has helped me to figure out where I need to focus to ensure that particular doors do not close for me.

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.

For my internship, I chose to become a field liaison and work with M.S.W. and B.S.W. students in their field placements under the mentorship of Dr. Marcia Harrigan. Dr. Harrigan has been working with students in field for years, and I felt lucky to have her guidance and to benefit from her wisdom. Dr. Harrigan's mentoring ensured that I was prepared as a field liaison when I took on my own students the following year.

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

Enjoy the time that you have in your graduate program. It is a special once-in-a-lifetime experience that most of us don't appreciate until we are looking back on it. Keep a notebook of important tidbits that you learn while in the PFF Program. I jotted down notes about scholarship opportunities, teaching, publishing, job search tips, etc. that I referred to often. Make friends. One of the coolest aspects of the Program is that you get to meet people from all over the academic and medical campus.

Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the VCU Young Alumni Association

Young Alumni Council

Whether you graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University this past year or 10 years ago, the Young Alumni Council is here to help you reconnect with fellow VCU alumni, to meet new friends and to explore interesting opportunities that the VCU Alumni Association has to offer.

Social events, volunteer activities and career networking are just some of the exciting ways young alumni can make new friends and business connections through the VCU Young Alumni Council.

If you are interested in joining, please contact [Morgan McDowell](#) (B.S.'09/H&S), coordinator for student and young alumni engagement, at 804-828-8191.

Feb. 24: Pre-game event before the **VCU-James Madison men's basketball** game at the VCU Chili's. More info to come.

<http://www.vcumcvalumni.org/site/c.frKH1PIIoE/b.3872593/apps/s/content.asp?ct=5028603>

VCU Workshops and Events for Current and Future Members of the Academy

The **Qualitative Research Interest Group (QRIG)** meetings for the spring 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.

FEBRUARY—Psychology—Thursday, February 11, 4:30-6:30; Location: 810 W Franklin, 1st floor. Contact persons: Wendy Kliewer, Michael Southam-Gerow

MARCH—Nursing—Meeting date: Tuesday, March 23; Time 4-5:30pm: Location: TBD; Contact person: Inez Tuck

APRIL— College of Humanities & Sciences, Women's Studies – Janet Hutchinson

MAY— Education—Meeting date: Reading Day, Wednesday, May 5; Time: 3pm ; Location: Oliver Hall 2116; Contact person: Terry Carter

February 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**.

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--|
| 2/1/2010 | 1:00pm | Exploring Digital Storytelling: An Overview of the Process |
| 2/2/2010 | 10:00am | Creating Podcasts for Instruction |
| 2/2/2010 | 1:00pm | Making Student Thinking Visible: Teaching with Classroom Response Systems |
| 2/3/2010 | 1:00pm | Blogging: Exploring Learning Opportunities for Faculty and Students |
| 2/4/2010 | 9:00am | Screen Recording with Camtasia to Support Teaching and Learning |
| 2/4/2010 | 1:00pm | Memory and Learning |
| 2/5/2010 | Noon | CTE Brown Bag Lunch: 2009 ECAR Study of Undergrads and IT |
| 2/8/2010 | 1:00pm | Improving the Effectiveness of Your Lectures |
| 2/9/2010 | 1:00pm | Critical Thinking on the Internet |
| 2/10/2010 | 1:00pm | Assignment and Gradebook Management in Blackboard |
| 2/11/2010 | 2:00pm | Using Wikis in Education |
| 2/12/2010 | Noon | CTE Brown Bag Lunch: The Evolving University Library |
| 2/12/2010 | 1:00pm | You Know What You Taught, But What Did They Learn? |
| 2/15/2010 | 1:00pm | Exploring Social Media for Teaching and Learning |
| 2/17/2010 | 10:00am | Introduction to Podcasting |
| 2/17/2010 | 1:00pm | The Affective Domain: The Role of Emotions in Teaching and Learning |
| 2/17/2010 | 1:00pm | Online Tests via Blackboard or the Web |
| 2/18/2010 | 1:00pm | LessonBuilder: Create Interactive Course Content |
| 2/18/2010 | 1:00pm | Classroom Management |
| 2/19/2010 | Noon | CTE Brown Bag Lunch: Developing and Sharing Learning Resources - Revisiting MERLOT |
| 2/22/2010 | 9:00am | Exploring Web Based Communications |
| 2/22/2010 | 1:00pm | Improving the Effectiveness of Your Lectures |
| 2/23/2010 | 1:00pm | Introduction to Problem-Based Learning |
| 2/24/2010 | 10:00am | Creating Podcasts for Instruction |
| 2/24/2010 | 1:00pm | Promoting Critical Thinking in the Classroom |
| 2/25/2010 | 1:00pm | Enhancing Blackboard: Weaving the Web Into Learning |
| 2/26/2010 | Noon | CTE Brown Bag Lunch: What is the Right Blend? |

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.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|--------|
| 2/1/2010 | Noon | Anatomy.TV | MCV |
| 2/3/2010 | 6:00pm | PubMed Online Workshop | Online |
| 2/4/2010 | 2:00pm | RefWorks | MCV |
| 2/8/2010 | 11:30am | Look Before You Leap: Effective Literature Searching to Start Your Research | MCV |
| 2/9/2010 | 11:00am | Consumer Health & Evaluating Health Websites | MCV |
| 2/10/2010 | Noon | Film Screening: Hidden Epidemic: Heart Disease in America | MCV |
| 2/11/2010 | Noon | Using RSS Feeds to Keep Current with Health Science Research | MCV |
| 2/12/2010 | 9:00am | Library Orientation | MCV |
| 2/15/2010 | Noon | Q & A with a Librarian | MCV |
| 2/16/2010 | 2:00pm | Complementary & Alternative Medicine | MCV |
| 2/17/2010 | 1:00pm | PubMed | MCV |
| 2/18/2010 | Noon | Discovering VCU's Research Resources | MCV |
| 2/19/2010 | Noon | CINAHL Online Workshop | Online |
| 2/22/2010 | 11:00am | NCBI: Overview of DNA and Protein Resources at the National Center for Biotechnology Information | MCV |
| 2/23/2010 | Noon | Keeping Current with Your Research Online Workshop | Online |
| 2/24/2010 | 3:00pm | Library Orientation | MCV |
| 2/25/2010 | Noon | Web of Science | MCV |

The [VCU Office of Research](#) offers training opportunities throughout the year. February and March training opportunities are listed below. Please follow the links below for more information and to register.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|--|-----|
| 2/1/2010 | 9:30am | NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA | MCV |
| 2/1/2010 | 1:00pm | GENIUS | MCV |
| 2/18/2010 | 10:00am | Electronic IACUC Submissions using the VCUeRA | MCV |
| 3/2/2010 | 1:00pm | GENIUS | MCV |
| 3/3/2010 | 9:30am | NIH Submissions to Grants.gov using the VCUeRA | MCV |
| 3/22/2010 | 1:00pm | Electronic IACUC Submissions using the VCUeRA | MCV |

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/>.

“Tomorrow’s Professor” Postings

Each month we showcase postings on four diverse topics related to faculty issues, teaching and learning, and scholarship from the multi-organization sponsored “Tomorrow’s Professor” postings program. Each posting is listed with Dr. Rick Reis’s selected quotation introduction as well as his own introduction, and the title. This introduction will provide you with background necessary to decide if you want to read the whole posting. To read the full posting, simply follow the link provided. To learn more about “Tomorrow’s Professor” in general, please visit <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>. There are almost 1,000 postings. 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 Msg. #987

The Constructivist Approach and Online Learning

"The philosophy of learning that each individual constructs knowledge through his or her interactions with the environment, including other learners. Thus, from the constructivist viewpoint, knowledge is not purely objective but is socially constructed in part, the learner is an active processor of information and creator of personal knowledge, and the instructor's major role is that of facilitator of learning."

Folks:

*The message below looks at the role that the constructivist approach to learning plays in online courses. It is from the Summary and Conclusion chapter of the book, *Distance Learning in Higher Education: A Programmatic Approach To Planning, Design, Instruction, Evaluation, and Accreditation* by Alfred P. Ravai, Michael K. Ponton, and Jason D. Baker. Teachers Collage Press, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York and London. Published by Teachers College Press, 1234 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027. © Copyright 2008 by Teachers college, Columbia University. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.*

Regards,

Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=987>

Tomorrow’s Professor Msg. # 991

Campus Interview – The Research Presentation

"As Eisenbach points out, candidates who are able to make their research presentation accessible and interesting to faculty and students alike are also demonstrating their teaching skill. In other words, your research presentation should simultaneously be a teaching moment."

Folks:

*The posting gives some excellent tips of giving a research presentation during the campus interview. It is from Chapter 3 The screen test, in *Job Search in Academe: Strategic Rhetoric for Faculty Job Candidates*, by Dawn M. Formo and Cheryl Reed. Stylus Publishing, LLC, <http://www.styluspub.com>/Copyright © 1999 Stylus Publishing, Published by Stylus Publishing, LLC, 22883 Quicksilver Drive, Sterling, VA 20166-2012. ISBN 1-57922-010-x (cloth). ISBN 1-57922-011-8 (paper). All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.*

Regards,

Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=749>

Tomorrow's Professor Msg. #870

Teaching Large Evening Classes

"How can faculty effectively teach, control, or even simply keep awake the students in such classes, many of whom start their days very early in the morning with family responsibilities?"

Folks:

*The posting below looks at four effective strategies in teaching large, often one night per week, evening courses. It is by Oscar Wambuguh, assistant professor of environmental health in the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at California State University, East Bay. His e-mail address is oscar.wambuguh@csueastbay.edu. The article is from the January-February, 2008, Volume 94, Number 1 issue of *Academe Online* [<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/academe/>] the bulletin of the American Association of University Professors. 1012 Fourteenth Street, NW, Suite #500; Washington, DC 20005. Copyright ©2008 American Association of University Professors. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.*

Regards,

Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=870>

Tomorrow's Professor Msg. #828

Setting Boundaries

"However, in the classroom, the 80/20 ratio shifts to 90/10. In other words, when we are teaching, 90 percent of our headaches come from 10 percent of our students. Every semester there are a few needy, or defiant, or obnoxious, or pathetic, or complaining students who cause the vast majority of our problems. Prepare yourself in advance for these difficult students by preparing in advance."

Folks:

*The posting below provides some excellent advice on how to set boundaries with students. . It is by Mary McKinney, Ph.D. of *Successful Academic Coaching*. Please visit Mary's web site at <http://www.successfulacademic.com> for additional tenure track tips and dissertation writing strategies. email: mckinney@successfulacademic.com. Copyright 2000-07 Mary McKinney, Ph.D. - All Rights Reserved. Reprinted with permission.*

Regards,

Rick Reis

Link to this posting: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/posting.php?ID=828>

