

President's Comments

Both the NCME *Newsletter* Editor and NCME Website Editor suggested (nicely but strongly) that I write comments. To fulfill their request, I thought I would update you on some recent NCME activities.

The NCME website, ncme.org, is up and running. Our website editor Del Harnisch has done a superb job in designing and developing this site. Thanks also go to Anne Fitzpatrick and David Frisbie in their role as Chairs of the NCME Publications Committee for their oversight of the website development. Please check out the website and provide Del with suggestions for additions and improvements.

I am pleased to report that AERA Council has agreed to extend our Central Office Contract for 5 years. The AERA Central Office provides NCME with Central Office Services, on contract. The excellent services that are provided are key to NCME's success, and I am pleased that we can count on a continuation of this relationship.

The *Test Standards* are now published and available from AERA. Many NCME members had significant roles in developing and reviewing the *Standards*. Members who reviewed the *Standards* for NCME were acknowledged in the last *Newsletter*. Special thanks go to Daniel Eignor for his many years of exceptional service as NCME liaison to the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee on Testing Practices (JCTP) has begun a process to revise the *Code of Fair Testing Practices in Education*. A working group has been formed, and the group's first task is to review the *Code* for consistency with the 1999 *Standards*. According to Julie Noble, one of NCME's representatives to JCTP and current JCTP co-chair, "the intent [of the revision] is not to completely redo the *Code*; it will be modified only as needed to be consistent with the new *Standards*."

Program Chair Deborah Harris has been working extremely hard developing the program for the NCME 2000 Annual Meeting. This year, NCME is fortunate to have a very active group of graduate students who are putting together several sessions including a paper session and roundtable session. Rick Stiggins is again organizing assessment awards to classroom teachers and an associated poster session. In celebration of Year 2000, Cathy Welch has organized a pair of special contiguous invited sessions, "Looking Forward and Back: Measurement Issues for the 21st Century." In these sessions, prominent measurement professionals will discuss key measurement issues. Now that the *Standards* are published, they need to be implemented, which will be the subject of an invited session. Due to Ratna Nandakumar's hard work, we also have an extensive set of professional training and development sessions. Please consider attending one of these.

Earlier this year I appointed the NCME Ad Hoc Committee on Psychometric Software whose charge is to recommend steps that can be taken by NCME to facilitate the availability of information about software implementing psychometric procedures used in educational measurement, and the dissemination of such software. This committee, chaired by Bradley Hanson, has made considerable progress. The Committee will present their findings at a session at the NCME Annual Meeting. The report of the committee will be made available on the web prior to the Annual Meeting, and I have been assured that there will be ample time for discussion during the session.

The NCME Publications Committee, chaired by David Frisbie, has been active in recommending editor candidates for various editorial positions for NCME publications. Jeri Benson has agreed to be the next editor of *EM:IP*. Douglas Becker is now the *Newsletter* editor. A new *JEM* editor will also need to be appointed fairly soon.

I continue to be impressed by the extraordinary energy and involvement of NCME members to further the goals of our organization.

Best wishes for the Year 2000 and beyond.



Michael J. Kolen

LEGAL CORNER

S.E. Phillips, Michigan State University

Watch for the Legal Corner in upcoming issues of the *Newsletter*, as S.E. Phillips addresses legal challenges that are of particular interest to the measurement community.

NEW FROM NAP

Two recent publications from the National Academy Press:

1. **Embedding Questions: The Pursuit of a Common Measure in Uncommon Tests**

Daniel M. Koretz, Meryl W. Bertenthal, Bert F. Green, Editors; Committee on Embedding Common Test Items in State and District Assessments, National Research Council 96 pages, 6 x 9, 1999. Paperback \$18.00

In the face of significant investments in standards and testing, educational policy makers are looking for clear evidence of how well their students are performing relative to their peers and in comparison with national and international standards of student performance. *Embedding Questions* evaluates the feasibility of putting test items from the National Assessment of Educational Progress or other tests in state or district assessments to develop a common, national measure of student achievement. The goal is to obtain this common measure without increasing students' testing burden or disrupting existing testing programs. Using three specific scenarios, the book evaluates the advantages, disadvantages, and tradeoffs that are inherent in typical embedding strategies. The book also examines how administration practices, uses of test scores, test security, abridgment of test content, and context effects influence the quality and meaning of results from embedded test items.

2. **Evaluation of the Voluntary National Tests, Year 2: Final Report**

Laurens L. Wise, Richard J. Noeth, and Judith A. Koenig, Editors; Committee on the Evaluation of the Voluntary National Tests, Year 2, National Research Council, 110 pages, 8.5 x 11, 1999. Paperback \$26.25

In his 1997 State of the Union address, President Clinton announced a federal initiative to develop tests of 4th-grade reading and 8th-grade mathematics that could be administered on a voluntary basis by states and school districts. As the national debate about the proposed voluntary national tests continues, so does the work to develop those tests. This study assesses the second year of test development, focusing on a range of technical issues as well as on the intended purpose and use of these tests. It considers the quality of the test items that have been developed and plans for the inclusion and accommodation of students with disabilities or for whom English is not their first language. The study provides both technical and policy recommendations to the policy makers who will decide whether to proceed with the development and implementation of the voluntary national tests.

STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING – New, Revised, and Expanded

The new Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing is now available! Revised significantly from the 1985 version, the 1999 Standards has more in-depth background material in each chapter, a greater number of standards, and a significantly expanded glossary and index. The new Standards reflects changes in federal law and measurement trends affecting validity; testing individuals with disabilities or different linguistic backgrounds; and new types of tests as well as new uses of existing tests. The Standards is written for the professional and for the educated layperson and addresses professional and technical issues of test development and use in education, psychology and employment. This book is a vitally important reference for professional test developers, sponsors, publishers, users, policymakers, employers, and students in education and psychology. The Standards has fifteen chapters organized into three sections: Test Construction, Evaluation, and Documentation; Fairness in Testing; Testing Applications.

Refer to the NCME website for information on how to obtain your copy. (<http://ncme.org>)

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SELECTED NCME PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Courtesy of Deborah Harris, NCME Program Chair 2000

NCME PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Linking assessments effectively: Purpose and design

Michael J. Kolen, University of Iowa

1998 CAREER AWARD WINNER ADDRESS

Conceptual compatibility between large-scale and classroom assessments

Moderator: Robert L. Linn, University of Colorado

Presenter: Lorrie A. Shepard, University of Colorado

Discussants: Caroline Gipps, Kingston University, Surrey
Robert J. Mislevy, Educational Testing Service

INVITED SYMPOSIUM

Looking forward and back: Measurement issues for the 21st century

Organizer: Catherine J. Welch, ACT, Inc.

Moderator: Cynthia B. Schmeiser, ACT, Inc.

Presenters:

- Michael T. Kane, University of Wisconsin
Current concerns in validity theory
 - Robert L. Brennan, University of Iowa
Reliability: Historical practice, current problems, and future prospects
 - Nancy Cole, Educational Testing Service
The new faces of fairness
 - Mark D. Reckase, Michigan State University
Computerized testing – The adolescent years: Juvenile delinquent or positive role model?
 - Rick Stiggins, Assessment Training Institute
Classroom assessment: A history of neglect, a future of immense potential
 - Eva Baker, UCLA/CRESST
Roles of performance assessment in practice and policy
 - Susan Embretson, University of Kansas
Improving construct validity with cognitive psychology principles
 - Ronald K. Hambleton, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Measurement, test design, and scoring models
- Discussants:* Linda Crocker, University of Florida
H.D. Hoover, University of Iowa

INVITED SYMPOSIUM

Maintaining test security in computerized testing programs: Implications for practice

Organizer: Cynthia G. Parshall, University of South Florida

Moderator: Lynda M. Reese, Law School Admission Council

Presenters:

- Fanmin Guo, Walter Denny Way, Rosemary Reshetar, Educational Testing Service
Test security and the development of computerized tests
 - John Kalohn, Judy Spray, ACT, Inc.
Test security and item exposure control for computer-based examinations
 - Gerald Rosen, Sylvan Prometric
Computer-based testing – Test site security
 - Mark D. Shermis, IUPUI
Where did all the data go? Internet security for Web-based assessments
- Discussants:* Timothy Davey, ACT, Inc.
Cynthia G. Parshall, University of South Florida

SELECTED NCME PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

continued

INVITED SYMPOSIUM

Linking educational assessments

Organizer/Moderator: Bradley A. Hanson, ACT, Inc.

Presenters:

- Paul W. Holland, University of California at Berkeley
Linking non-parallel tests: Not just a larger error term, but bias and unfairness as well!
- Eugene G. Johnson, American Institutes for Research
Issues arising in attempting to link the Voluntary National Test to NAEP
- Daniel Koretz, Boston College
Embedding as a method of obtaining comparable scores across states: Findings of an NRC committee

Discussants: Robert L. Brennan, University of Iowa
Edward H. Haertel, Stanford University

New considerations of validity with second language tests

Organizers: Craig Deville, Micheline Chalhoub-Deville, University of Iowa

Moderator: Micheline Chalhoub-Deville, University of Iowa

Presenters:

- Terry Ackerman, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
A comparison of the dimensionality of TOEFL response data from different first language groups
- Lyle F. Bachman, University of California at Los Angeles
Alternative interpretations to alternative assessments: Some validity issues in educational performance assessments
- Charles Stansfield, Second Language Testing, Inc.
Development of a scale of proficiency in handling authentic language tasks
- Bruno D. Zumbo, University of Northern British Columbia
The effect of DIF on classical test statistics: Undetected DIF and the reliability and interpretability of scores from a language proficiency test

Discussants: Craig Deville, University of Iowa
Daniel R. Eignor, Educational Testing Service

TEACHERS RECOGNITION POSTER SESSION

Annual teachers' classroom assessment recognition program

Organizers: Rick Stiggins, Assessment Training Institute
Jeff Oescher, University of New Orleans

Presenters: Teachers from the New Orleans area will be recognized for their outstanding achievements in classroom assessment.

NATD SESSION

Standards-assessments-instructional improvement: The golden triangle of American education

Organizer: Ray Fenton, Anchorage School District

Presenters: Anne Chartrand, National Computer Systems
Fredrick Stofflet, Anchorage Public Schools
Mike Strozeski, Garland Independent School District, Garland, Texas
Bob Tobias, New York City Public Schools

Discussant: Joe Hansen, Consultant

GRADUATE STUDENT ISSUES SESSION

Measurement wit and wisdom for the 21st century: Sharing research experiences

Moderator: H. D. Hoover, University of Iowa

Presenters: Sylvia T. Johnson, Howard University/CRESPAR
Lloyd Bond, University of North Carolina
Hariharan Swaminathan, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Fumiko Samejima, University of Tennessee
Ronald A. Berk, Johns Hopkins University

NEW ORLEANS – CITY OF MANY DELIGHTS

Arthur Halbrook, GED Testing Service

Welcome to New Orleans, the crescent city, a city veiled in myths and legends, a city that never sleeps, a city alive with excitement that beckons you to visit. But how does one begin? Perhaps a few suggestions would help. The city is internationally known for its cuisine, especially seafood. For the oyster lovers, look no further than *Felix's* or *Acmes* located on Iberville in the French Quarter (FQ). Stand at the bar and watch big gulf oysters being shucked in front of you. Add a brew (or perhaps two) and your evening is off to a grand beginning. If you're looking for a poboy (a hoagie in Northern language) try *Masperos* on Chartres (FQ). The shrimp, oyster, and ham poboy are mouth watering and at a price that won't break the wallet. For traditional Louisiana menus, the *Gumbo Shop* on St. Peter (FQ) is outstanding. Their seafood gumbo, filled with oysters, shrimp and crab is excellent, and other dishes such as red beans and rice and jambalaya are equally good. Other places worth mentioning are *Ralph and Kakoos* (FQ) and *Mike Andersons* (FQ) which specialize in fried entrees and large portions. Excellent restaurants are also to be found in several of the local neighborhoods such as *Manales* on Napoleon and *Mandina's* on Canal. If you decide to dine in style, several restaurants should be considered and of course, reservations are essential. *Brennens* (FQ), *Broussards* (FQ), *Mr. B's Bistro* (FQ), and *Commander's Palace* in the Garden District are among the premier restaurants in New Orleans.

And what would a trip to New Orleans be without a late night (or early morning) visit to *Café du Monde* across from Jackson Square in the French Quarter. The small café is the home of beignets and coffee. The beignets (French donuts covered with powdered sugar) and a steaming cup of hot coffee, are the perfect way to begin or end an evening.

But New Orleans is much more than just food and one will find the city abounding in things to do and see. The French Quarter is the center of activity. Explore its narrow streets, its antique stores, the French market, Jackson Square, the Cabildo, and St. Louis Cathedral. Stroll along the river levee boardwalk, take a paddle wheeler trip on the Mississippi, and shop in the many boutiques. Revel in its acclaimed music—jazz in *Preservation Hall*, cajun music at *Patouts* or *Mulates*, and the piano bar at *Pat O'Briens*. To drink a hurricane at Pat O's and spend late evenings at its piano bar is a New Orleans tradition.

And for gambling with other interests, New Orleans also has gambling casinos that serve both the high rollers and those simply interested in trying their luck on the quarter slot machines. The *Aquarium of the Americas*, one of the top five aquariums in the US, is an adventure into exotic marine worlds and has an IMAX theater adjacent to it. The *Audubon Zoo* (located in Audubon Park) is also an interesting destination. Reached by the St. Charles Avenue streetcar (which passes through the elegant Garden District) and free bus shuttle, the zoo is home to thousands of animals and exhibits. If one has time to venture outside the city, tour the lavish plantation along the Mississippi River or take a guided tour of one of the adjacent swamps.

Whatever you seek, in New Orleans you are likely to find it. Be it the food, the music, or the entertainment, the city is a portrait of many colors. Fall in love with its charm and its people. Oh, and don't forget to buy a praline from *Aunt Salley's* or *Evan's* to bring home.

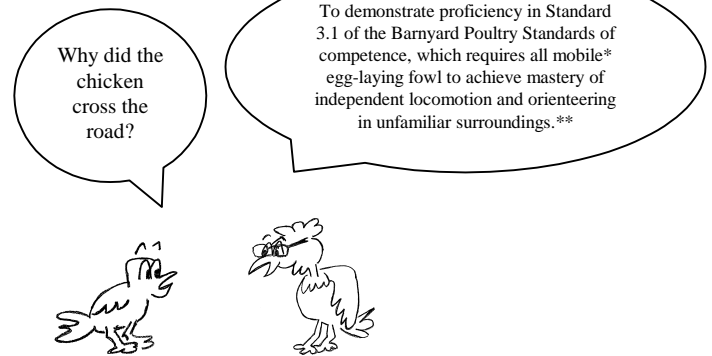
Editor's note: Arthur Halbrook is a Louisiana native and provides this glimpse of the Big Easy as his token of southern hospitality to the NCME membership.

CALL FOR LIST UPDATE

The NCME Recruitment of Educational Specialists Committee is in the process of updating its Lists of *Assistantships* and *Internships and Other Awards* for measurement students. Once the Lists have been updated, we intend to disseminate them broadly, so that prospective and current measurement students will have access to these valuable resources.

We invite people to inform us of items that should be added to the Lists. We would also like to ensure that all the current items on the List are completely accurate (e.g., contact name and phone number). The current Lists can be viewed under Opportunities on the NCME website at: <http://ncme.org>.

Please send new items and corrections to:
Cynthia Parshall, Institute for Instructional Research & Practice, USF, HMS 401, Tampa, FL 33620,
by email (parshall@seaweed.coedu.usf.edu),
phone (813/974-1256), or fax (813/974-5132).



* "mobile" is defined as scoring a minimum of 65 out of 100 score on the Perdue scale of Capon Celerity (PCC). Any fowl missing at least 2 toes from one foot, or at least 3 out of 6 toes total, is automatically assumed to be "immobile" for the purposes of this standard, and is thereby excluded from having to meet it.

** "unfamiliar" being defined as areas where a typical egg-laying fowl would not be expected to be found, like a public road or city sidewalk, or a public library.

Attributed to: Allen Flanigan, Parents Across Virginia United to Reform SOLs

FROM THE EDITOR

Douglas F. Becker, Riverside Publishing

Happy New Year! First of all, I'd like to recognize and thank the members of the *Newsletter* Advisory Board who have agreed to serve the NCME membership in the coming year. Board members generally serve for a term of one year and act to facilitate the publication of timely, accurate, and important reports to the membership. The Advisors do not serve as formal reviewers as with *JEM* and *EM:IP*. Instead, they provide information, announcements, and newsworthy reports and reactions to material at the request of the Editor. But they are not the sole source of material for the *Newsletter*. Please consider submitting newsworthy articles and other information that will be of interest to your NCME colleagues. Help us to make your *Newsletter* an even more effective communication tool.

NEWS ITEMS FROM ERIC/AE

Lawrence M. Rudner, ERIC/University of Maryland

Practical Assessment, Research and Evaluation (PARE) is a new on-line journal published by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation (ERIC/AE) and the Department of Measurement, Statistics, and Evaluation at the University of Maryland, College Park. Its purpose is to provide education professionals access to refereed articles that can have a positive impact on assessment, research, evaluation, and teaching practice, especially at the local education agency (LEA) level. (<http://ericae.net/pare>)

The National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST) has made a large number of their reports available online in full-text. (<http://cresst96.cse.ucla.edu/CRESST/pages/reports.htm>)

The American Statistical Association has issued its "Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice." The purpose of the document is to encourage ethical and effective statistical work in morally conducive working environments. It is also intended to assist students in learning to perform statistical work responsibly. (<http://www.amstat.org/profession/ethicalstatistics.html>)

The NCME Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) would like to bring your attention to several of the events planned for this year's NCME meeting in New Orleans:

- **No Host Reception**
Free hors d'oeuvres and chance to talk with professionals and graduate students.
- **GSIC Poster Session**
16 graduate students selected to present their research.
- **GSIC Paper Session**
All presenters are graduate students.
- **Topical Graduate Student Session**
 - Carol Parke, West Virginia University
Discusses her experiences as a first year faculty member.
 - Suzanne Lane, University of Pittsburgh
Discusses employment issues such as c.v.s, interviewing, and bargaining.
 - Dan Eignor, ETS and editor of JEM
Discusses issues related to journal writing and getting research published.