

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation

Developing Thought Leaders in Evaluation

STUFFLEBEAM INDUCTED INTO OSU HALL OF FAME

Daniel L. Stufflebeam, founding director of The Evaluation Center, has been inducted into the College of Education and Human Ecology's 2009 Hall of Fame at Ohio State University (OSU).

Stufflebeam established OSU's Evaluation Center in 1963, which he moved to WMU in 1973. In 2007, Stufflebeam retired from WMU as a Distinguished University Professor and an emeritus in educational studies after 34 years of service to the University.



Quarterly Newsletter
of the
Interdisciplinary Ph.D.
in Evaluation



From the director...

This spring I will begin teaching foundational evaluation courses for The Evaluators' Institute (TEI; see page 5), replacing Mark Lipsey, who will be teaching more advanced courses for TEI, including methods for impact evaluations. It is both an honor and a privilege to join the ranks of the elite group of TEI instructors, including Drs. Ann Doucette, Gary Henry, Lipsey, Michael Patton, and Patricia Rogers, among many others. Former directors of the IDPE, Drs. Micheal Scriven and E. Jane Davidson, also have provided instruction at TEI. TEI attendees include government officials and staff from a variety of agencies and organizations from around the country such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as graduate students and others who commission and/or conduct evaluations.

Also beginning this spring, the IDPE will host a biweekly colloquium intended to sharpen IDPE students' analytic skills (see page 2). Largely student-led, the colloquium will provide students an

opportunity to lead discussions on a variety of methods-related topics with the intent of practicing the skills that they have acquired in courses at WMU and elsewhere.

Finally, the IDPE extends a warm welcome to Dr. J. Bradley Cousins from the University of Ottawa, whom I have worked with in India this past year—a truly exceptional learning experience from one of the field's leading theorists and practitioners! Dr. Cousins will be providing a workshop on participatory methods of evaluation to IDPE students and other potential attendees later this spring (see page 6).

—Chris L. S. Coryn

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Research and Evaluation Methodology

IDPE Hosts Biweekly Research and Evaluation Methods Colloquium

Hosted by the IDPE program at WMU, the IDPE Research and Evaluation Methods Colloquium (IDPE-REMC) meets every other Friday from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM at The Evaluation Center.

The purpose of the IDPE-REMC is to provide opportunities for students to engage in and lead focused discussions about and applications of research and evaluation methods in greater depth than is typically feasible in most classroom settings. By engaging in and leading focused discussions and applications of research and evaluation methods to both real and artificial problems, examples, and cases, students will be able to further develop, enhance, refine, and apply the methodological skills learned in their core research methods coursework. Each meeting will be led by an IDPE student with assistance from a moderator.

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method research and evaluation approaches and techniques will form the basis for most meetings including, but not limited to, design and measurement strategies for different types of problems, step-by-step analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, interpretation of findings, and working in both quantitative (e.g., SAS, SPSS, Mplus) and qualitative (e.g., MAXQDA, NVivo) data analysis applications. The IDPE-REMC also will examine methods problems and solutions from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives and traditions as well as methods not covered in traditional social science research methods courses (e.g., standard setting, values inquiry, needs assessment). Prior to each meeting students will be provided with readings related to the discussion topic, a set of problems, instructions, and problem data sets.

The IDPE-REMC has a companion Web site on the Internet, its home page address is <http://researcheval.net/REMC/>

The IDPE-REMC's home page contains materials for discussion and other resources. These include meeting dates, sample problems and solutions, structured exercises, data sets for problems and exercises, and links to other Web sites relevant to research and evaluation methods.

Questions regarding the IDPE-REMC should be directed to the moderator, Dr. Chris Coryn, via e-mail at chris.coryn@wmich.edu

EXCELLENCE MICHAEL SCRIVEN DISSERTATION AWARD

Applications for the IDPE-sponsored Michael Scriven Dissertation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Evaluation Theory, Methodology, or Practice are now being accepted. The award is presented to a student whose doctoral dissertation represents a significant contribution to the theory, methodology, or practice of evaluation. The winner receives a \$500 cash award and a certificate of recognition. This award is sponsored by the IDPE. Past winners and application information can be found at <http://evaluation.wmich.edu/phd/awards.html>

MAE Annual Conference

The 15th annual conference of the Michigan Association for Evaluation (MAE) will take place on April 15, 2010. This year's conference theme is "Sharpening Your Evaluation Skills." The conference features more than 10 different workshops targeted at different audiences: experienced evaluators; non-evaluators charged with

being their organization's evaluation expert in residence; users of evaluation; and funders of evaluation. For further information please visit the MAE Website at <http://www.maeval.org/index.htm>

American Evaluation Association Conference

PRODUCTIVITY IDPE Publications

Dr. Thomas D. Cook, Dr. Michael Scriven, IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn, and IDPE student Stephanie Evergreen had their paper titled "Contemporary Thinking about Causation in Evaluation: A Dialogue with Tom Cook and Michael Scriven" published in the *American Journal of Evaluation* (AJE). Evergreen also had her review of the book *A Practical Guide to Program Evaluation Planning* published in AJE. IDPE student P. Cristian Guigu, IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn, and their colleagues, Ruth Clark and April Kuehn, had their paper titled "Development and Evaluation of the Short Version of the Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care Instrument" published in *Chronic Illness*. For a complete listing of publications from both current and former IDPE students, please visit <http://evaluation.wmich.edu/phd/publications.html>

Eighteen IDPE and Evaluation Center students, faculty, and staff presented at this year's American Evaluation Association (AEA) conference held in Orlando, Florida, during the first week in November 2009. These students, faculty, and staff presented papers, posters, or gave demonstrations in more than 35 sessions at the conference.

AEA now hosts an evaluation eLibrary, where users can

IDPE Students, Faculty, and Evaluation Center Staff Give Presentations at Conference

browse, upload, and download files related to evaluation and the AEA conference. The eLibrary can be accessed from AEA's home page at <http://www.eval.org/>. It is worth noting that the top three most viewed eLibrary documents are from current and former IDPE students and faculty, including former IDPE director Dr. E. Jane Davidson's "Improving Evaluation Questions and Answers: Getting Actionable Answers for Real-World Decision

Makers (#1)," recent IDPE graduates Drs. Wes Martz, Daniela Schröter, and Nadini Persaud's "Developing and Using Evaluation Checklists to Improve Evaluation Practice (#2)," and IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn, IDPE students Lindsay Noakes and Carl Westine, and Dr. Schröter's "An Empirical Review of Theory-Driven Evaluation Practice from 1990-2008 (#3)."

Michigan Saves Evaluation

Near the end of 2009, Dr. Daniela Schröter, director of research at The Evaluation Center, and recent IDPE graduate, Dr. Anne Cullen, obtained a competitive, multi-year contract to conduct an evaluability assessment and process evaluation of the Michigan Saves program.

Michigan Saves is a state-wide, innovative program

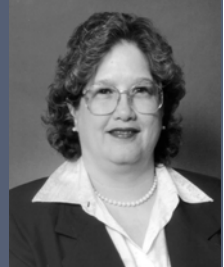
currently being developed by Public Sector Consultants, Inc. in Lansing, Michigan. The program is intended to make energy efficiency upgrades and installing renewable energy systems more affordable for all types of Michigan energy consumers and—at the same time—stimulate the economy in Michigan.



Staff: Mary Ramlow, IDPE Coordinator

Congratulations to Mary Ramlow, coordinator of the IDPE and office coordinator for The Evaluation Center, who was named as one of four semiannual winners of the 2008-2009 WMU Staff Service Excellence Awards. She also was a recipient of the WMU Make-A-Difference award in 2008.

These awards are given in recognition of WMU staff who meet and exceed their job expectations and who regularly demonstrate exceptional service to WMU.



Project: Integrated Health Partners

IDPE students and faculty currently are engaged in an exciting evaluation project with Integrated Health Partners (IHP) in Battle Creek, Michigan. IHP is a nonprofit organization that serves as a networking organization for physicians and clinics in southwest Michigan. IHP contracted with the IDPE to evaluate its Care Management Collaboration (CMC)—a project intended to promote practice transformation focused on teaching physicians how to better care for patients with chronic illnesses like diabetes based on the Chronic Care Model (CCM) of treatment.

In the first phase of the evaluation, IDPE director Dr. Chris Coryn; WMU Evaluation, Measurement, and Evaluation (EMR) student Jason Davies; and IDPE student P. Cristian Gugiu conducted a pilot study using a large sample of collaboration patients to gauge their perceived receipt of the CCM treatment. In

addition, they also conducted a power analysis prior to considering implementation of a quasi-experimental study to investigate the intervention's effectiveness. This work resulted in two publications: Gugiu, P. C., Coryn, C. L. S., & Applegate, E. B. (in press). Structure and measurement properties of the Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC) instrument. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* and Gugiu, P. C., Coryn, C. L. S., Clark, R., & Kuehn, A. (2009). Development and evaluation of the short-version of the Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (PACIC) instrument. *Chronic Illness*, 5(4).

Given that a rigorous quasi-experimental design was not feasible, the evaluation was redesigned in the second phase. Currently, the primary design being used to investigate the intervention's effectiveness is the Success Case Method. IHP had access to a wealth of information on

patient outcomes, using a centralized information database. To systematically identify successful and unsuccessful implementing clinics, IDPE student Carl Westine analyzed the database and ranked clinics according to their patient outcomes, such as annual foot examinations, presence of a self-management goal, and acceptable levels of cholesterol and other biometric indicators.

In addition to a detailed descriptive report of the impact of the practice transformation on patient health, the evaluation will include an investigation into the aspects of IHP's CMC that were most effective in improving patient health. This work will occur in the 2010 spring semester through interviews with successful and unsuccessful clinic doctors by IDPE students Stephanie Evergreen and Jan Fields.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATIONS OF EVALUATION: THEORY, METHOD, AND PRACTICE

Dr. Chris Coryn is currently completing his first full-length textbook, tentatively titled *Foundations of Evaluation: Theory, Method, and Practice*. In the book, Dr. Coryn “attempts to develop and describe a pragmatic, contingency-based theory of evaluation practice that integrates and incorporates a wide variety of modern theories of evaluation practice, including Scriven's unique logic of evaluation practice, as well as those of other contemporary theorists, methodologists, and practitioners.” Early draft chapters are available for review from his Web site at <http://research.eval.net/foundationsbook>. He welcomes comments and feedback on the draft chapters and can be reached by e-mail at chris.coryn@wmich.edu.

IDPE on Facebook

The IDPE now hosts a group on Facebook's social networking site, which is located at <http://www.facebook.com>. Members of the group can join in or create group discussions and also post photos, links, and videos of interest to the IDPE community.

To join the group create a Facebook account, if not already a member, and then search for “Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation” and request to join the group. The group's administrator, Dr. Chris Coryn, will confirm all membership requests.

INSTRUCTION IDPE DIRECTOR TO TEACH AT EVALUATORS' INSTITUTE

This spring Dr. Chris Coryn will begin teaching courses for The Evaluators' Institute (TEI) in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington. TEI is an internationally recognized and respected provider of high quality instruction, delivered through a balanced curriculum that emphasizes practical relevance for practicing evaluators. TEI, the first entity of its kind in the world, was founded by Dr. M. F. "Midge" Smith. Dr. Smith's vision was to bring together the most highly regarded experts in the field to identify the most useful evaluation content areas, who would then provide instruction and learning activities that enhance the role of, the practice of, and the impact of evaluation. TEI continues Dr. Smith's vision in its new home at George Washington University. For additional information about TEI please visit <http://tei.gwu.edu/index.htm>

Student: P. Cristian Gugiu

P. Cristian Gugiu started the IDPE program in spring 2004 as part of the second cohort of students. He holds a Master of Arts in Clinical and Community Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In his capacity as a scholar, he has published articles in *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, *Chronic Illness*, *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, *Evaluation Journal of Australasia*, *Journal of MultiDisciplinary Evaluation*, *Evaluation and Program Planning*, and *Tribuna Invățământului*. He also has four manuscripts under review and several others in development. He has given numerous conference presentations and workshops, including expert lectures at the American Evaluation Association annual conference in 2007, 2008, and 2009. These accomplishments have earned him several prestigious WMU awards, including the Gwen Frostic Doctoral Fellowship and the All-University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award.

Cristian has more than fifteen years of research and evaluation experience. In his capacity as a professional evaluator, he has participated in eighteen evaluation and

research studies, six of which he directed. These studies have ranged in complexity from short, local projects to multiyear, international studies and have covered a wide spectrum of domains, including evidence-based medicine, education, health outcomes, mental health, institutional research, foster care and adoption, and child and adolescent development.

Cristian utilizes a diverse array of evaluation and analytical approaches in his work. His primary areas of expertise are applied statistics and psychometrics. Some of his accomplishments related to these areas include the development of Summative Confidence, exploratory factor analysis within a confirmatory factor analysis framework, bootstrap reliability, bootstrap paired designs, ordinal omega reliability, and simulating nonnormal correlated variables using a generalized lambda distribution. Even though his primary interest is in quantitative techniques, he is also well versed in qualitative methods, with several years of professional experience designing qualitative studies and analyzing qualitative data.

Currently, he is completing his doctoral dissertation, under Dr. E. Brooks Applegate, which he expects to defend in

summer 2010. Driven by the desire to introduce greater methodological rigor into evaluative conclusions, he has developed a mathematical algorithm for calculating confidence intervals for summative conclusions (i.e., Summative Confidence).

This method allows evaluators to estimate the degree to which their summative conclusions are likely to replicate given the quantity and quality of information used to generate them. According to one anonymous reviewer of a recently published article on the method, Summative Confidence has the "potential to leap-frog our methodologies forward."



Upcoming...

J. Bradley Cousins Workshop on Participatory Evaluation

Wednesday, April 14,
2010, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM



On Wednesday, April 14, Dr. J. Bradley Cousins will give a one day workshop at The Evaluation Center titled "Participatory Evaluation Up Close."

This workshop will consider connections between the theory and practice of participatory evaluation and the promise and potential of research on participatory approaches. Two streams, practical and transformative

participatory evaluation, will be differentiated, and consideration will be given to important process dimensions. In addition to practical, illustrative examples, a tentative agenda for ongoing research will be discussed.

Dr. Cousins is Professor of Educational Administration in the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa. His main interests in program evaluation and research areas include participatory and collaborative approaches, use, and capacity building. He received his Ph.D. in educational measurement and evaluation from the University of Toronto in 1988. Throughout his career he has received awards for his work in evaluation including the Contribution to Evaluation in Canada award from the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) in 1999, the Karl Boudreau award for leadership in evaluation from CES in 2007, and the Paul F. Lazarsfeld award for theory in evaluation from the American Evaluation Association in

2008. He has been editor of the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation* since January 2002.

Dr. Cousins also will be giving the keynote address at the Michigan Association (MAE) for Evaluation conference in Lansing, Michigan, on Thursday, April 15 (see page 2).

This event is part of The Evaluation Center's weekly Evaluation Café series and is jointly sponsored by The Evaluation Center, IDPE, and Michigan Association for Evaluation. Seating for this event is very limited. To reserve a seat, please contact the workshop coordinator, Dr. Chris Coryn, by e-mail at chris.coryn@wmich.edu.

MISSION

The Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Evaluation (IDPE) program's mission is to develop thought leaders in evaluation who have (1) deep knowledge of evaluation theory, methodology, and practice; (2) superior skills in practical and critical thinking; and (3) a knack for seeing opportunities for innovation and improvement.

To accomplish this mission, the IDPE is based on the concept that the best way to learn evaluation is by doing it and the best way to develop thought leaders in a discipline is by exposing them to the best and brightest minds available.

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