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ERC Presents First Seminar for 2014-2015

The ERC held the first event in its 2014-2015 seminar series on October 1, 2014. Kay Wijekumar, professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture and project director of ITSS, SWELL, and We.Write, presented *When Prior Knowledge Inhibits New Learning: Results from Classroom Use of a Web-based Intelligent Tutoring System*. The presentation focused on research with middle school students and their use of an online writing tutor program. Dr. Wijekumar recently joined the TAMU faculty from Pennsylvania State University, so this presentation provided an introduction to her research for the TAMU community.

Recent ERC Presentations


ERC Researchers Receive Honors

Anna Boriack, assistant research scientist, was awarded the TLAC Dissertation of the Year Award for her dissertation entitled, Teachers’ Perceptions of Effective Science, Technology, and Mathematics Professional Development and Changes in Classroom Practices. The purpose of the study was to examine teachers’ perceptions of professional development and changes in classroom practice.


In addition, ERC director Hersh Waxman was awarded a fellowship by the department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture to improve teacher preparation within the department and college. His proposal, entitled Recruiting, Preparing, and Retaining Excellent Teachers (RPRET), describes several research studies he will conduct designed to influence teacher education policy and practice at high needs schools.

New Book Edited by ERC Researchers

Several current and former ERC researchers contributed to a new book, Research on Technology Use in Multicultural Settings, now available from Information Age Publishers. The purpose of the book is to summarize and discuss recent perspectives, research, and practices related to the use of education technology in multicultural settings. Consisting of 12 chapters the book, (a) proposes theoretical concerns for understanding technological learning environments today; (b) envisions the potential impact of future technology use; (c) examines technology tools and models that have been used for interventions, programs, and projects; and (d) measures and documents specific outcomes and challenges involving complex interactions within low-income and language-minority families and students.

Evaluation of the Discover, Explore, and Enjoy Physics and Engineering (DEEP) Program

The Education Research Center (ERC) was recently awarded a contract to conduct an external evaluation of the Discover, Explore, and Enjoy Physics and Engineering (DEEP) program at Texas A&M University. Jackie Stillisano and Hersh Waxman are principal investigators on the project. Additional research support will be provided by Kim Wright, research associate for the ERC.

Currently in its second year, DEEP was established in 2012 by the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Texas A&M. The goal of the program is to enhance undergraduate and graduate students’ learning and research experiences by incorporating active learning, service learning, and teamwork. A key component of DEEP is to encourage undergraduate student participation in high-profile outreach activities, such as the annual Texas A&M Physics and Engineering Festival, fall and spring DEEP Showcases, and TAMU Physics Shows, under the guidance of DEEP graduate mentors from the Departments of Physics and Astronomy and Aerospace Engineering.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide program feedback to the DEEP team,” said Stillisano. “The DEEP program exemplifies efforts in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Texas A&M University by providing a venue to engage students in physics and engineering outreach, both to the university and to the greater community.”

For additional information, please contact Jackie Stillisano at jstillisano@tamu.edu or Hersh Waxman at hwaxman@tamu.edu.

Recent ERC Publications


Upcoming ERC Seminar

The ERC will hold the second event of its 2014-2015 Seminar Series at 1 p.m. on November 19, 2014, in Harrington 303. Dr. Marlon James will be presenting.