

UtahStateUniversity



Emma Bullock Named AERA Division A Graduate Student Representative

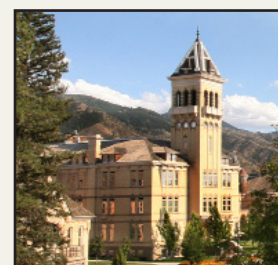


Emma Bullock, a doctoral candidate in the Mathematics Education and Leadership program, was recently named as the 2015-16 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Division A Graduate Junior Representative. During 2016-17 she will

take over as Senior Representative. Division A supports an examination of sources and types of PK-12 educational leadership, including school and district leaders and other formal and informal leaders inside and outside schools, and the effects of leadership on educational institutions and their staff and their effects on student learning and other outcomes. Emma became involved with Division A because of her experience as a school principal and her interest in examining the role school

leaders' play in students' mathematics learning through the lens of complexity theory. The position offers a unique opportunity to get involved in Division A matters and to work closely with scholars in the field. Other benefits of the position include meeting and working with graduate students within Division A and from different disciplines. Both Junior and Senior representatives are expected to attend the fall convention for the University Council of Educational Administration (UCEA) and the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Junior and Senior Representatives receive a stipend to support their travel to the AERA annual meeting and other required meetings. As part of this position Emma is responsible for graduate student advocacy, community building and self-governance within Division A. Additionally, she coordinates with the Division A Graduate Student Council to plan the Division A Fireside Chat for the AERA annual meeting and administer the Foster Polite scholarship program, Dialogic Forum, and UCEA publishing session.

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Where are they now? Spotlight on Dr. Jodi Mantilla

Dr. Jodi Mantilla's dissertation was titled: Identifying Factors Common Among Students Who Do Not Fit The Typical Mathematics Self-Efficacy and Achievement Correlation. After completing her PhD coursework at Utah State University (USU) in the Mathematics Education and Leadership program, Mantilla began her first faculty position in fall 2014 as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education in the Department of Teacher Education at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. At BYU Dr. Mantilla is teaching Mathematics Methods courses in the Elementary Education program as well as in the Early Childhood Education program. She is also an instructor for in-service teachers in the Elementary Mathematics Endorsement program. Dr. Mantilla notes the excellent and specialized education targeted toward mathematics leadership as a highlight of her studies at USU. She uses the knowledge and understanding she gained in USU's Mathematics Education and Leadership program to integrate math-

ematics theories and pedagogy in her teaching. She has found that her experiences at USU taught her to evaluate mathematics curriculum, use current research to effectively teach pre-service and in-service teachers, and collaborate with others in writing and presenting. Mantilla attributes the distance doctoral program for making it possible for her to achieve her life-long dream of earning a doctoral degree and obtaining a university faculty position in mathematics education.



Moyer-Packenham Sabbatical Involves International Collaboration

During the 2015 calendar year, Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Director of the Mathematics Education and Leadership Programs, took her first sabbatical. The goals of Moyer-Packenham's sabbatical included developing a new research project and grant proposal with her research group and serving as the editor of a book to be published by Springer that focuses on International Perspectives on Virtual Manipulatives. In preparation for the creation of the book, Moyer-Packenham developed relationships with mathematics educators around the world who also conduct research on virtual manipulatives. During

the Spring Semester, Moyer-Packenham was a visiting professor at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey. While in Turkey, Moyer-Packenham gave a keynote address at the national conference on Computers and Mathematics Education and was hosted by Safure Bulut, Erdinc Cakiroglu, and Cigdem Haser of METU. During the Fall Semester, Moyer-Packenham was a visiting professor at the University of Toronto (U of T) in Toronto, Canada. While there, she visited the world-renowned Fields Institute, home of the Fields Medal in Mathematics, the highest honor a math-

ematician can receive. She met with her Springer Editor, Dragana Martinovic, and was hosted by Doug McDougall, Associate Dean and mathematics educator at the U of T. During her sabbatical, Moyer-Packenham had numerous opportunities to meet with international scholars and discuss research ideas on the topic of virtual manipulatives. These international experiences helped her to gain perspective on the research being conducted on virtual manipulatives in other countries and to think about directions for future research on technological applications for mathematics teaching and learning.



Moyer-Packenham's keynote presentation at the conference on Computers and Mathematics Education in Adiyaman, Turkey



Dean Golge Seferoglu, Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Associate Deans Cigdem Haser and Erdinc Cakiroglu at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey



Associate Dean and mathematics educator, Doug McDougall, hosted Moyer-Packenham at the University of Toronto

Shumway Awarded the Lawson Fellowship

Mathematics Education doctoral student, Jessica Shumway, dedicates her academic life to



improving mathematics teaching and learning for young children. In spring 2015, Jessica was awarded the Lawson Fellowship for her work with children

and families. One key consideration in selecting Jessica for this award was her work doing professional development for preschool teachers in the Dolores Doré Eccles (DDE) Center for Early Care and Education at USU. Her mathematics coaching, professional development, and teaching assist the DDE Center in developing age-appropriate and cognitively demanding mathematics curriculum. The DDE Center Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Boyce, stated, "Jessica's focus on math intuition, cognitively guided instruction, investigation of children's thinking, and planning and implementing formal lessons is helping our program to become much more innovative and effective in our mathematics activities and curricula."

Jessica was also recognized for her commitment to connecting mathematics education research to the classroom. In spring 2015, Jessica received \$1000 from the Student Involvement Office's Research and Project Grant to fund portions of her dissertation research. Jessica is investigating the influence of specific instructional strategies on elementary children's number sense development. She is teaching an instructional intervention based on number sense and collecting data in three local elementary school classrooms. The results of the research will lay the groundwork for better equipping elementary school teachers with robust instructional activities to help children learn mathematics with meaning.

Ron Twitchell Earns PhD

During the Spring 2015 graduation ceremony, Ron Twitchell graduated with a PhD concentration in Mathematics Education and Leadership. Ron's dissertation advisor was Dr. Amy Brown. Dr. Twitchell's dissertation was titled: Common themes associated with teacher-identified obstacles to implementing change in mathematics instruction attributable to participation in mathematics professional development. This study had three purposes: (1) explore the phenomenon of secondary mathematics teachers' experience in mandatory and voluntary secondary mathematics professional development; (2) determine changes in teacher attitudes after completing secondary mathematics professional development; and (3) describe the contents of the shared experiences in secondary mathematics professional development in order to make explicit the structure and meaning of the experiences that cannot be revealed through ordinary observations. Since graduating in May 2015, Dr. Twitchell has obtained a new position with the Provo City

School District. He now serves as the Director of Assessment, Data, and Research in the district's Teaching and Learning Department. His experience in the doctoral program at USU prepared him well to influence classroom instruction by explaining current research to colleagues, thus strengthening decisions concerning student instruction. Dr. Twitchell has made important contributions to mathematics education throughout his career. He served for 8 years on the board of the Utah Council of Teachers of Mathematics (UCTM) as secondary representative, President elect, President, Past President, and newsletter editor. He served as president of the Provo Educa-

tion Association for three years and was the Vice-president of the Jefferson County School District Education Association for two years. Dr. Twitchell remains active in his community but finds time to enjoy his family, including his ten grandchildren.



Dr. Amy Brown, Dr. Ron Twitchell

Remembering Ian Sorenson



Ian Ralph Sorenson, a valued member of the College of Education's 2012 C&I and Mathematics Education Doctoral Cohort passed away due to complications related to Leukemia on the 20 August, 2015 in Salt Lake City. Ian was born 28 March, 1964, in Safford, Arizona and was truly loved and respected by every person he met. Ian is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lisa Colleen (née Kingery), 2 daughters, Emily Earlene (Paul Leatherbury) and Kathrine Mae (Trevor) Jones, and son, Samuel Ralph. He has one grandson, Paul Declan Leatherbury. His parents are Edwin Ralph and Ella Mae (née Lamb) Sorenson. He has 3 sisters, Sheri Cluff; Wendy (Steve) Rogers; Virginia (Martin) Mitchell; and a brother, Kevin (Sheryl) Sorenson. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews. Ian was a 20 year veteran of the US Navy, most of those years as a pilot. Most recently he was a professor at Utah Valley University in the Developmental Math

Department. He was serving as a bishop in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Orem Utah.

Kevin Whitehead, a cohort friend said about Ian: "In remembrance of our friend and colleague Ian Sorenson. I believe Ian has moved on to post-doctoral studies in a better place at a far greater university. He left a legacy of goodness that will perpetuate itself through his posterity. It was a privilege to learn, laugh, and build a friendship with Ian over the last couple years. In my view, he was focused on those things that are of the greatest weight and significance during this life, including faith, personal improvement, family relationships, extending himself in service to many others, and life-long learning. I am grateful we shared these years of wonderful association with him." We will all miss Ian and the perspectives he shared with us. Our sincerest condolences to Ian's family and friends.



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About Us

The Mathematics Education and Leadership Programs in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services provide students with a variety of advanced study options in mathematics education at the graduate level. Students can select the Mathematics Education and Leadership Emphasis in the PhD program, the Elementary Mathematics Endorsement emphasis in the Master of Education Degree in Elementary Education, professional development credit in the online Elementary Mathematics Teachers Academy, or the Secondary Mathematics Emphasis in the Master of Education Degree in Secondary Education. The Mathematics Education and Leadership Programs at Utah State University provide students with opportunities to focus on enhancing their mathematics education expertise and develop leadership skills for positions at all levels of mathematics teaching, learning, supervision, and research. Contact the director today to begin your graduate work in Mathematics Education and Leadership at Utah State University!



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