

IDD&E Spotlight

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Hello from the Chair!

Dear All: Greetings from Syracuse!

Many exciting events have happened in the last a few months. In late April, alumni, friends, and IDDE faculty and students gathered to celebrate the successful, productive, and impactful career of Pr. Nick Smith.

After 33 years of extraordinary services to Syracuse University and to the professional community, Professor Smith retired at the end of May. Colleagues, former students, and family members shared their stories (some touching, some funny) on how Professor Smith had impacted their lives, and several people joined in long-distance through Skype. We cannot thank Professor Smith enough for the significant contribution he has made to the profession and the local communities. We wish him a very happy retirement as a Professor Emeritus.

In spring and early summer, we conducted two very successful faculty searches. We are happy and excited to welcome Dr. Moon-Heum Cho to start this August as a tenure-track Assistant Professor, and Dr. Jason Curry as a Teaching Assistant Professor. You will find more information on their research and experiences in this newsletter.

In May and August we also graduated top-notch doctoral, masters, and CAS students. Three doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations: Dr. Yiyang (Page) Wu, Dr. Jacob Hall, and Dr. Ye Chen. We also graduated nearly 20 master's and CAS students. Congratulations on their achievements and we wish them very successful and fulfilling careers!

This newsletter provides a glimpse of the publications, presentations, and research projects that faculty and students have been engaged in. You'll also read great news about and from our alumni and friends regarding their work and life. We'll keep you updated with what's going on in the department. We also look forward to hearing from you.



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Ice Cream Social 2018

ANNUAL GATHERING TO CELEBRATE FRESH GRADUATES

On May 12, 2018, current master's and doctoral students came to celebrate those who graduated this summer from the IDD&E program. Traditionally, the celebration is held in Huntington Hall at the IDD&E department. Two graduates received departmental prizes in nominations for their exceptional work during their studies:

- **John Stawarz:** Best Portfolio Award
- **Yiyan "Page" Wu:** Syracuse University Doctoral Prize



Left-to-right: Jing Lei, Phil Doughty, Yiyan Wu, Tiffany Koszalka, Nick Smith



Left-to-right: Jing Lei, Phil Doughty, Nathan Elequin, Tiffany Koszalka, Nick Smith



Left-to-right: Jing Lei, Phil Doughty, John Stawarz, Tiffany Koszalka, Nick Smith



Students at the Ice Cream Social 2018 at IDD&E



Students at the Ice Cream Social 2018 at the IDD&E Department

Back row (left-to-right): Amber Walton, Nick Smith, Philip Doughty, Jake Hall (with his son)

Middle row (left-to-right): Yiyang Wu, Tiffany Koszalka, Jing Lei, Lisa Battalino, John Stawarz

Front row (left-to-right): Garmondy Daddyboy Whorway, Nathan Elequin, Elnara Mammadova, Lili Zhang, Yuri Pavlov

SPOTLIGHT: Professor

DR. NICK L. SMITH HAS RETIRED

On June 01, 2018, Dr. **Nick L. Smith** retired from the IDD&E department after serving Syracuse University for 33 years. On April 21, there was a retirement party in Jamesville where his colleagues, former and current students came to celebrate his prolific career. **Nick L. Smith's** impact at IDD&E and in the field of evaluation has been tremendous. We thank Dr. **Nick L. Smith** for his outstanding work, brilliant mind, and profound wisdom that helped so many generations of students here at SU become better thinkers.

Dr. **Nick L. Smith** earned his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign in 1975. Prior to coming to Syracuse University in 1985, he worked in Research & Development for 12 years. His scholarly interests include evaluation theory and the methodology of applied social science. Throughout his career, he held multiple leadership positions with professional organizations, including being President of the American Evaluation Association (2004). He served on the editorial boards of journals on evaluation, including his Editor-in-Chief position of the *New Directions for Program Evaluation* (1988–1992). In his academic work and in his courses, he always emphasized that all inquiry is fundamentally investigative and requires the development of knowledge, observation, reasoning, and intuition skills. He is co-author of *How to Prepare a Dissertation Proposal* (2005) and editor of the influential volume *Fundamental Issues in Evaluation* (2008).



Dr. Nick L. Smith's son Dylan congratulates his father on retirement at the party held at Philip Doughty's house on April 21, 2018. **Left-to-right:** Dylan, Karen Kirkhart (Nick's wife), Nick Smith

SPOTLIGHT: Alumni

SEAN AVANT

Sean Avant is a recent athletic student graduate from IDD&E who is now applying his new Instructional Designer competencies as an academic support advisor at the University of Miami. This Spring, **Sean** contacted the IDD&E department with a kind thank-you note for the education he received at our master's program.



Sean Avant, M.S. '17 (Photo credit: SU)

Sean was a football player who managed to complete 30 credits in 2017. "There was a lot of restful nights," he recalled in his email. He needed to get the degree done in one year. His diligence, commitment, and responsibility coupled with the assistance of the professors led him to this accomplishment. Very soon, it also led him to his employment with the University of Miami. He said, "Although my job title does not say Instructional Design, the degree is so broad it can be applicable to mostly anything that is associated with higher education. My job requires me to evaluate and implement instruction when making a plan to ensure the success of the student athletes day in and day out."

At Syracuse University, future instructional designers develop large-scale generalizable skills which can be applied across a wide range of professional contexts. This is how **Sean** described his instructional designer competencies that he uses in his work: "The IDD&E program made me conscious of every little detail that goes into my work. As I am now in the 'real world,' I can

see that designing and implementing a plan is not so simplistic as it may seem and that it is very complex, especially for individuals that do not have the background knowledge on how to do so. My skillset helps me work efficiently everyday."

Sean is grateful to the IDD&E faculty for their support and care: "I know as professors your job is already filled with busy schedules, and you still managed to ensure that we had all the tools and time to be successful in the classroom." His enthusiasm about the IDD&E is unflagging: "Thank you, and keep up the great work, because it does not go unnoticed." Thank you, **Sean**, for those words—and best of luck with your new position, in which you utilize a variety of instructional designer competencies on a daily basis!

Faculty News

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

It has been officially announced now that the IDD&E department has hired two professors starting Fall 2018. The search for the new faculty members was a collaborated effort of the IDD&E full and adjunct professors as well as the students. We thank everyone for helping the IDD&E during the search process in the Spring semester 2018!

Dr. **Jason M. Curry** is a new full-time non-tenure track IDD&E Assistant Teaching Professor who will primarily teach online courses in our Master of Science and Certificate of Advanced Study programs beginning Fall 2018. Dr. **Curry** has over 15 years of professional and higher education experience in various faculty, regulatory/compliance, corporate, institutional and programmatic accreditation, distance education, and leadership roles. Prior to joining Syracuse University, Curry was a Curriculum & Student Consumer Research Analyst in the Licensing & Registration Unit at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. In addition to his regulatory background, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville and an Instructor/Program Administrator for the Bachelor of Science in Workforce Leadership program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He was also a Director of Education and Academic Affairs at ATA College.



Jason Curry, Ph.D.



Moon-Heum Cho, Ph.D.

We also welcome Dr. **Moon-Heum Cho** as a new full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor of the IDD&E. Dr. **Cho** will be activity teaching, advising, and running research projects beginning Fall 2018. Prior to joining Syracuse University, he taught instructional design, technology, and program evaluation courses at Sungkyunkwan University (South Korea). He also taught classes on technology integration in K-12, learning theories, and educational psychology to preservice teachers at Kent State University (Ohio). He is interested in designing theory-based learning activity and transforming learning environments to enhance student learning experiences. His research has been published in research journals such as *ETR&D*, *Internet and Higher Education*, *Educational Psychology*, *Social Psychology of Education*, and others. For more information about Dr. Cho's research, please visit <http://itld.weebly.com>.

FACULTY AWARD

On April 26, 2018, Dr. **Jing Lei** was honored with the Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award. Many thanks to Dr. **Lei** for her dedication to graduate teaching, mentoring, and career preparation at IDD&E and across the university!

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Check out new publications of our faculty in the first half of the Year 2018!

- Luo, H., **Koszalka, T. A.**, Arnone, M. P., & Choi, I. (2018). Applying case-based method in designing self-directed online instruction: A formative research study. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 66(2), 515–544. doi:10.1007/s11423-018-9572-3
- **Smith, N. L.** (2018). Observation, intuition, and reasoning. *New Directions for Evaluation*, 2018(157), 83–85. doi:10.1002/ev.20290

FACULTY CONFERENCES

Our faculty participated in conferences in the first half of the Year 2018:

- Dr. **Tiffany A. Koszalka**: 2018 Distance Teaching & Learning Conference in Madison, WI:
 - *ePoster*: “Learning the content: Students' perspective and actions” (with doctoral candidate **Mary Wilhelm-Chapin**)
 - *Spotlight Session*: “The professionalism of instructional design”
- Dr. **Jing Lei**: 2018 AERA Annual Meeting in New York City, NY:
 - *Sessions*: **(1)** “Exploring Asynchronous Online Discussions: Interactions, Facilitation, Levels of Thinking and Engagement with Learning Resources,” **(2)** “What Makes the Difference in Learning Outcomes in MOOCs: Results from a Meta-Analysis of Peer-Reviewed Empirical Studies,” **(3)** “Applying the First Principles of Instruction in Flipped and Face-to-Face Approaches: A Mixed-Methods Approach,” **(4)** “Effectiveness of Hybrid Massive Open Online Course (HMOOC): A Meta-analysis from the Research Design Perspective.”
[with other doctoral students and professors—see p. 9 of the newsletter]

Student News

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE NEW DOCTORS!

We are thrilled to congratulate three IDD&E doctoral students who defended their dissertations this spring and summer. They have had a brilliant doctoral career while at IDD&E, and we have every reason to expect outstanding contributions to the field of Instructional Design & Technology in the future.

On March 08, 2018, **Yiyan Wu** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation titled “Behavioral interdependence in project team collaboration: Study of engineering students’ collaborative behaviors in high levels of interdependent task settings.” In addition, for her excellent work she was a School of Education recipient of the All-University Doctoral Prize at this year’s SU Commencement ceremony. The honor was accompanied by a \$500 honorarium.

On July 17, 2018, **Jacob Hall** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation titled “A mixed methods comparison of the First Principles of Instruction in flipped and face-to-face technology integration courses.” Dr. **Hall** will start his tenure-track Assistant Professor position in SUNY-Cortland in Fall 2018.

On July 19, 2018, **Ye Chen** successfully defended her dissertation titled “Cognitive presence in peer facilitated asynchronous online discussion: The patterns and how to facilitate.” Dr. **Chen** will start a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at University of Alaska Southeast in August 2018.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Our doctoral student **Michale Webb** published an article together with her peer scholars. Congratulations to Michale on this important milestone! Article reference:

- Welsh, R., **Webb, M. E.**, & Langen, T. A. (2018). Factors affecting landowner enrollment in wetland restoration in northeastern New York State. *Land Use Policy*, 76, 679–685. doi:10.1016/j.landusepol.2018.02.051

AERA 2018 IDD&E STUDENT & FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

On April 13–17, the annual AERA conference was held in New York City. This year’s theme was “Knowledge to Action: Achieving the Promise of Equal Educational Opportunity.”

You can view this year's program on the [AERA website](#). The IDD&E Department was represented there by our students and faculty who made the following presentations:

- **Tianxiao Yang, Dr. Tiffany A. Koszalka, Dr. Jing Lei:** Exploring Asynchronous Online Discussions: Interactions, Facilitation, Levels of Thinking and Engagement with Learning Resources.
- **Dr. Jing Lei, Dr. Qiu Wang, Jiaming Cheng, Tianxiao Yang:** What Makes the Difference in Learning Outcomes in MOOCs: Results from a Meta-Analysis of Peer-Reviewed Empirical Studies.
- **Ye Chen:** Effects of Scripted Peer Facilitation on Students' Cognitive Presence in Online Discussion: An Exploration Using Bayesian Approach.
- **Jacob A. Hall, Dr. Jing Lei:** Applying the First Principles of Instruction in Flipped and Face-to-Face Approaches: A Mixed-Methods Approach.
- **Tianxiao Yang, Dr. Jing Lei, Dr. Qiu Wang:** Effectiveness of Hybrid Massive Open Online Course (HMOOC): A Meta-analysis from the Research Design Perspective.

NATHAN ELEQUIN (M.S. '18) LAUNCHES COMPANY FOR DIGITAL STUDENT ORIENTATION, WINS \$6,000

On March 15, 2018, **Nathan** decided to take a personal project and turn it into a company dedicated to serving college students. This concept, called [#TheHunt](#), is a gamified online photo scavenger hunt that helps connect students before they arrive to their

college campuses. After two universities agreed to implement trials of his program for their students, he entered the idea in the regional [RvD iPrize Competition](#) and won \$6,000 for his business. **Nathan** shared: "The work that I've done in studying *IDE 761 Project management* and *IDE 641 Educational evaluation* have been vital in working with universities and building a model for this service. I can't wait to build this business over the next five months and see if this can grow into a fully-fledged company. We look forward to serving college students everywhere!"



Nathan received an award and money for his startup project Starfruit

THE LAST ROUND OF IDE 742

This Maymester, the last round of Dr. **Nick L. Smith's** *IDE 742 Introduction to Survey Research* was offered to master's and doctoral students in the School of Education. Eleven students from the departments of Counseling and Human Services, IDD&E, and Teaching & Curriculum gathered for the intensive 2-week three-credit class that required spending 4 hours a day in class, reading 500 pages of text outside of the class, and doing a group project at any available opportunity. Instead of sitting on the intuitive understanding of what a survey looks like in the form of a questionnaire, the students learned to look at a survey as a research design. How does a researcher draw information from a subgroup in order to understand that group? Sampling, instrumentation, operationalization, validity, reliability, data analysis, interpretation, question formulation were all part of the class discussions and home readings. The class was split into two groups who had the same task—to design a survey on academic advising. The two groups approached the topic from two different perspectives and did a great job given the time frame. One group focused on advising about housing, whereas the other group emphasized advising about course enrollment.



The last class session of IDE 742 Introduction to Survey research, 25 May 2018

Front row (left-to-right): Yuri Pavlov, Sara Petit-McClure, Lili Zhang, Agaba Lucy Baptist Bagura, Qianqian Zhao.

Back row (left-to-right): Crispin Erasto Ouma Ojwang, Nick Smith, Michelle Carleen Santiago, Rashed Saleh Almughair, Jessie Darkis, Peitao Zhu, Yeni Chu

BABY NEWS!

The IDD&E community is happy to congratulate the additions to the families of our IDD&E students. Congratulations on your new bundle of joy! Thanks for being on top of your academic work and having a work-life balance! Wishing you joy and happiness, and plenty of wonderful moments together.



Baby boy **Youdi Gao**
(mom: Yufei "Vivi" Wu, PhD candidate)



Baby girl **Sheemah**
(dad: Abdulrahman Alogaily, PhD student)



Baby girl **Fiona**
(dad: Corey Riley, MSIT '18)

Alumni News

YUNKAI XU GOT A JOB IN MORRISVILLE

IDD&E alumnus **Yunkai Xu** (M.S. '16, China) landed a job as an instructional designer this July at Morrisville State College—a 45-minute drive eastward from Syracuse, NY. Morrisville is part of the SUNY system of institutions of higher learning in New York State and hosts around 3,200 students.

Yunkai describes: "I am working at the Teaching and Learning Center. My job is to assist faculty in using Blackboard, so they can smoothly teach their courses online. SUNY-Morrisville just opened its first fully online master's degree in Agribusiness. In Fall 2018, I will collaborate with two professors to manage all phases of the design process. More and more students choose online programs over traditional face-to-face ones at SUNY-Morrisville. To respond to the challenge, the college hired instructional designers to help the faculty learn the techniques and strategies of online teaching. I think, students from the IDD&E program at SU have a significant advantage in the job market when applying for instructional designer positions."



Yunkai Xu on SUNY-Morrisville campus

IDD&E Allies

SOE STUDENTS SHARE THEIR ENTHUSIASM ABOUT IDD&E



Elvis Rivera

M.S. Teaching and Curriculum '18
Fulbright Scholar '17

Elvis Rivera (Honduras): "The IDD&E Program at Syracuse University has a faculty that brings world-class experience to campus classroom. Among the classes, I have taken IDE 764 Planned Change and Innovation, IDE 632 Instructional Design and Development II, IDE 712 Analysis for Human Performance Technology Decisions, and IDE 641 Techniques in Educational Evaluation. What impresses me the most is that content knowledge is not limited to what you would expect from a Teacher Education program. The faculty have worked in several projects in both the public and private sectors in many areas and their expertise enriches the total learning experience."



Fresenai Afeworki

M.S. Ed Leadership '18
OSF Scholar '17

Fresenai Afeworki (Eritrea): "I have taken three of the four required courses for a CAS in Instructional Design Foundations. What makes participation in the IDD&E courses unique and fascinating is the fact that it challenges and totally changes one's perspective on instruction, training, and human performance at micro as well as macro levels of a system. From the analysis of the learners, tasks, and environment to the design, implementation, and evaluation of instruction, this program has paramountly shaped my understanding of the science of instructional design in closing the human performance gap. The experience and quality of the instructors, the choice of readings, the hands-on projects, and the overall sequencing and scaffolding of the courses demonstrate that this department practices what it teaches— instructional design."

How can you contribute?

IDD&E faculty and students are most grateful to our alumni and faculty who through their generosity provide additional funding to encourage and support our students. Gifts are used to sponsor students in conference travel, R&D activities and dissertation work, like those showcased in this newsletter. Thank you to our alumni, faculty, and friends who have contributed to our development funds. We humbly ask that you continue to remember IDD&E in your future giving.

Please visit **The Syracuse University Giving** webpage at <http://giving.syr.edu/giving-tosu/give-now/>, or call 877-2GROWSU (877-247-6978) or mail gift with form from SU Giving website. Please also remember to write or say that you wish your gift to be used in the **IDD&E Professional Development Fund or Department**. You can also call us at 315-443-3703.

Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity. Your gift makes a difference!

IDD&E Spotlight

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and Evaluation Program

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8:30–5:00
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Thanks to everyone who
helped make this newsletter possible.

Call for Information

Have any news? Publications? Presentations?
Awards? We want to hear about them!

We are looking for information for the upcoming
newsletters and we would love to hear from you!

Please send any and all information that you
would like to share with the IDD&E
community to **Yuri Pavlov**, at ypavlov@syr.edu

Or you can submit your stories, publications,
conference experiences, presentations and
other news, simply go to our form page located
at <http://ridlr.syr.edu/news/your-idde-story/> and fill
out the pre-defined fields.