



Newsletter

Spring 2023

**The President's
Corner:
Deborah J. Harris**



Greetings!

The virtual and in-person Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching—we hope you are as excited about this as we are! When your NCME Board was asked what they valued around the Annual Meeting their replies included: it's a chance to present new research, network with colleagues, gain different perspectives on important topics, learn new things, engage with those in industry, and increase our membership engagement. Something for everyone!



There are a few new things for this year:

- We have a 2023 Annual Meeting logo, which we invite you to use for your presentations and papers. This branding will associate your slides and/or paper with this NCME gathering whenever people view them. (Plus it's really attractive and incorporates the new NCME logo!)
- We are introducing a new session type- Clustered eBoards- to increase engagement across presenters.
- We are incorporating a 'giving back' initiative in the form of supporting a virtual book drive.
- We are hiring a photographer to take headshots during Friday of the Annual Meeting. While all attendees are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity, we think it will be especially appealing for graduate students and new career scholars who would like a professional photo for their social media and other usage.

In addition, there are many 'not new' things to look forward to:

- An exceptional slate of engaging training sessions and presentations. The caliber of presenters and the range of topics should interest even the most jaded conference attendee.
- We are continuing our efforts toward being greener/more sustainable.
- The Presidential Reception will be open to all attendees.
- A Run/Walk event that showcases the city in the vicinity of the NCME hotel headquarters.

Lots of interesting things are happening within NCME in addition to the focus on the Annual Meeting, many of which this newsletter showcases. The Committees and SIGIMIEs are active, there are numerous webinar events and journal articles to engage with, our social media presence is getting reenergized, and on and on. Please reach out through email or in person at the Annual Meeting and share your ideas.

Thank you.

Deborah Harris
NCME President
deborah.harris@uiowa.edu

From the Editor:
Arthur (Art) Thacker



We are fast approaching the NCME Conference, and I hope to see everyone there! I am proud of our organization for keeping us interacting and collaborating during the most severe months of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, I also miss talking with colleagues in person and discovering what cool and interesting measurement things they've been doing in service to education. See you in Chicago!

I've reduced the frequency of the Newsletter for 2022-23 because most of the committees and SIGMIES now have their own regular communications. As an organization, we've gotten better and more targeted in our communications. I don't want to send redundant information, but I envision the purpose of the Newsletter to be more general. Your more specific interests may be served elsewhere, but the Newsletter should give you a more general set of headlines for NCME. Look for biannual(ish) publication of the NCME Newsletter for 2023-24.

I've gotten excited lately reading about ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence (AI) writing program that can generate text using the internet as its information source, given just a few parameters. Journalists have demonstrated, with apparent glee, that the program could replace much of their authoring responsibilities. I've seen numerous TV and internet news reports that were written by ChatGPT—and the newsperson reading the stories reveals that fact at the end of the story to astound and amaze us. It is pretty amazing!

When we think about the potential of this technology for education, it's not surprising that many go to the "cheating place" first. Recent survey studies indicate that large percentages of college students have turned in papers written by ChatGPT with little or no editing. There may be legitimate cause for concern when educators cannot distinguish papers written by students from those generated by AI.

There is also growing concern that the skills associated with good writing may be supplanted by automation for students. Will students' ability to write atrophy and die because of ChatGPT? While I don't have a crystal ball, history suggests the answer is "no."

Each technological innovation brings about its own naysayers and skeptics. When the fountain pen was invented, critics claimed that it heralded the end of writing quality. Without the time to think, generated by the necessity of dipping one's quill into ink, authors would clearly be blathering on when they had nothing of note to say. I shudder to think of what those critics would make of the tablet I use for writing.

In more recent educational advances in technology, we have been warned that calculators will eliminate kids ability to do math, that typewriters will eliminate students ability to write with paper and pencil, that the internet will eliminate the necessity for kids to know anything,

and now that ChatGPT will do all our writing for us. The evidence on these topics is mixed—but in mostly good ways. Students don't spend as much time learning to do complex mathematical tasks by hand, but they learn to use their knowledge of math to require computers to do that math for them (which necessitates a deeper understanding). Students don't do as much writing by hand, but they do more writing, and they correspond in more ways than ever before via their computers and phones (for education, entertainment, and socializing). I write more now than ever before, and my writing continues to improve, but I sometimes forget how to make a cursive z because I don't typically write by hand. And the internet has caused us to change how we think about what constitutes "knowing things." If our assessments are any indication, education has shifted from wanting kids to know discrete facts toward wanting kids to use their knowledge, skills, and abilities to "do things." What we value has shifted to take advantage of the technology to improve the human condition and to advance student learning.

I can't imagine all the potential uses of ChatGPT and its ilk, but I'm excited by it. ChatGPT is the closest to a Turing machine (a machine that can communicate in ways indistinguishable from humans) I've seen. It still makes mistakes—ask for a report on author *Charlotte Dickinson* and you'll see—but I imagine bunches of clever English teachers out there dreaming up ways to turn a potential cheating AI into a lesson plan. AI authoring software could revolutionize item generation, creation of reading and social studies passages and science phenomena, and perform a host of other test development tasks. As measurement professionals, we'll need to guard against students using AI writing programs to safeguard the validity of our scores, at first—but think about the possibilities of what might come next!

**NCME Executive Director
Richard Patz**



NCME is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Richard Patz as Executive Director of the organization, effective January 1, 2023. NCME's Board of Directors created the executive director role to strengthen and grow our membership, improve execution of our strategic initiatives, and improve our organizational effectiveness.

Rich is well known and respected by NCME's members. He is a past president of NCME and the founding chair of the Bradley A. Hanson Award Committee. He has served in numerous technical and leadership roles in the testing industry, including as chief measurement officer at ACT and as vice president of research at CTB/McGraw-Hill Education. He is currently a distinguished research advisor in the Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment Research Center at the University of California.

"The hard work of many individuals went into this effort," said Derek Briggs, chair of the executive director search committee and Past President of NCME. "Past presidents Ye Tong and Steve Sireci got this rolling a few years ago and provided helpful guidance throughout the

process.” He added, “Rich is a well-known and respected member of the NCME community. I’d like to thank Rich for his willingness to serve in this role, and I look forward to collaborating with him in the months ahead.”

Vice President Michael Walker said, “It will be great having Rich in the new Executive Director role as I plan for the year ahead,” adding “I believe that we can be more effective and more impactful, and that our Board can be more strategically focused, with Rich taking on these essential responsibilities.”

“NCME has been my professional home throughout my career,” said Patz. “I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the organization and its members as Executive Director.” He added, “I look forward to working closely with the board of directors, the committee members and chairs, and our management company, to make this new approach a success.”

A former high school teacher, Patz lives with his family in Santa Cruz County, California.

**Classroom Assessment
Committee
Jade Caines and Caroline
Wiley**



Given lingering Covid pressures, as well as the limited capacity of classroom assessment practitioners and researchers, the Biennial Classroom Assessment Conference will not be held in 2023. Stay tuned for a call for proposals for a host location (university or school district) for Fall 2024.

The committee is excited to announce that we are planning a Fall webinar series which we hope will become a regular feature of the work of the Classroom Assessment Committee. More details to come soon.

**Training and
Development**
Qing Yi
Nathan Wall
Alfonso Martinez



There are many interesting and cutting-edge training sessions being offered in conjunction with the 2023 NCME Annual Meeting. Attendees of previous training sessions have been positive about what they have learned and have appreciated interacting with presenters. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to increase your knowledge and skills in several important areas. Please review [the list](#) of virtual and in-person training sessions and consider signing up to take one or more of them. The virtual sessions will be on March 28-29, 2023, and the in-person sessions will be on April 12, 2023. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the sessions.

NCME 2023 Annual Meeting Update (Program Chairs)

Dongmei Li

Alexis Oakley

Wei Tao



The 2023 NCME Annual Meeting is just around the corner! We are so excited to have you join us virtually March 28-30 or in person April 12-15 in Chicago, Illinois.

The theme of the 2023 NCME Annual Meeting is **Leveraging Measurement for Better Decisions**. We do measurement to inform decisions. Decisions that consider data from good measurement practices are better decisions than those that do not. Many aspects of measurement are under attack right now. Some criticisms seem justified; some do not. We do need to improve our processes and tools. But we also need to be advocates for the appropriate use and application of the tools of our profession. We can make using measurement and assessment data 'cool' again. And we should. How can we do this?

We invite you to attend the training and presentation sessions and engage in conversations with other participants to find out how we can do this by making improvements in our processes and products, by communicating more effectively how data can be a force for good, by ensuring our use of data is a force for good, by being more collaborative both within and outside NCME, and by continuing to challenge, prod, encourage, question, and listen to each other. Whether you registered for the virtual or the in-person meeting, there are many wonderful sessions that you can attend. Below are just a small number of examples on a few selected topics from the wide variety of sessions.

Selected sessions on effective uses of test information and measurement models for better decisions:

- Using Eye Movement and Natural Language Processing to Inform Various Decisions (Thursday, March 30, 10:30am-12:00pm)
- Improving Assessment Decisions Using Collateral Information About Incorrect Responses and Response Times (Thursday, April 13, 8:00am-9:30am)
- Better Decisions Through Comprehensive Statistical Model Evaluation (Friday, April 14, 8:00am-9:30am)
- Combining Innovation and PAD to Economize Assessment Processes that Support Better Decisions (Saturday, April 15, 8:00am-9:30am)

Selected sessions that look back into the history, respond to current challenges, or look into the future of educational measurement:

- Historical Perspectives on Educational Measurement (Friday, April 14, 9:50am-11:20am)
- The Future is Now: Game-Changing Innovations in Educational Assessment (Friday, April 14, 8:00am-9:30am)
- Recent Evidence from the Pandemic and Test Optional Admissions Policies? (Thursday, April 13, 1:30pm-2:30pm)
- Challenges and Opportunities in Score Reporting (Thursday, March 30, 10:30am-12:00am)

- Challenges in Growth Measures and Accountability Decisions (Friday, April 14, 2:50pm-4:20pm)

Selected sessions on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- The Lingering Impact of the Pandemic from Multiple Analytic Perspectives (Thursday, March 30, 10:30am-12:00pm)
- Monitoring Performance of U.S. Students in the Pandemic with NAEP Long-Term Trend Assessments (Thursday, April 13, 11:40am-1:10pm)
- The Impact of Pandemic on Testing Industry (Saturday, April 15, 4:40pm-6:10pm)

Selected sessions on culturally relevant and culturally responsive assessment:

- Developing Culturally Relevant Assessment Content: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead (Thursday, March 30, 10:30am-12:00pm)
- Culturally Responsive and Related Approaches to Assessment: What are They? (Thursday, April 13, 11:40am-1:10pm)

Selected sessions grappling with equity and inclusion in the measurement profession and in the larger society:

- State of the Field: Gender and Racial Equity in Educational Measurement (Saturday, April 15, 9:50am to 11:20am)
- Improving Measures of Opportunity to Learn (OTL) to Address Systemic Inequity (Saturday, April 15, 2:50pm-4:20pm)
- Test Equity and Fairness from the Voices that Matter (Saturday, April 15, 4:40pm-6:10pm)

Selected sessions showcasing technical advances in various areas of the field:

- Research Blitz: Advances in Item Response Theory (Wednesday, March 29, 2:45pm-3:45pm)
- Latest Work in Item Difficulty Modeling and Cognitive Complexity (Thursday, April 13, 9:50am-11:20am)
- Using New Techniques to Gather Validity Evidence (Friday, April 14, 9:50am-11:20am)
- Cheating Detection Using Machine Learning and Deep Learning Methods (Saturday, April 15, 9:50am-11:20am)

We'd also like to call your attention to the electronic board (eBoard) sessions and a few special sessions. The eBoard sessions run all day on Thursday April 13, including the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) eBoard sessions and the clustered eBoard sessions. The clustered eBoard is a new format that we started this year where two or three presenters with similar topics share the same presentation station so that there can be more interactions among the presenters. The 2023 edition of the **NCME Gala Comedy Event** takes place 4:40pm-6:10pm on

Thursday April 13. In the 2023 **NCME Career Award Session** (Friday, April 14, 1:30pm-2:30pm), Dr. William Stout will address his major accomplishments in formative assessments. Last but not least, one session is devoted to remembering and celebrating the contributions of Ronald K. Hambleton, one of the most influential and productive psychometricians – **Remembering Ron: Reflections on a Career and a Legacy** (Saturday, April 15, 4:40pm-6:10pm).

We are so thankful to all who have contributed to this engaging program, including authors of the submissions and all volunteers. We are appreciative of the reviewers for providing helpful feedback as well as colleagues who volunteered as discussants and chairs. We want to thank Qing Yi, Nathan Wall, and Alfonso Martinez, the Training and Professional Development Committee Chairs, as well as Sergio Araneda and Janine A. Jackson, chairs of the Graduate Student Issues Committee and Can Shao, chair of the Committee on Diversity Issues in Testing for their work on the program. We are also very thankful to the previous NCME program chairs for their help. Finally, we thank the NCME President Deborah Harris for her time, patience, encouragement, and continuous support.

NCME Fitness Walk/Run Corner

*Katherine Furgol
Castellano, Jill R. van den
Heuvel, Jim Solan, and
Brian French for the
NCME Fitness Walk/Run*

The annual NCME meeting is fast approaching, and the details for the NCME Fitness 2.5k Walk/5k Run are all falling into place! We are excited to announce that the walk/run will be Friday, April 14, 2023 (5:45 – 7 AM), and the course will start just over half a mile away from the NCME headquarters hotel (Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile) at the Jane Addams Memorial Park. We're hoping all veteran participants and newcomers will show up in force this year! Don't worry about the chilly Chicago air. We've got you covered with long-sleeve tech shirts.

Last, but not least, because the Team Participation Competition is back again this year! This time around, it's a "make-your-own-team" competition where participants can rally their friends and colleagues together to make up their own team. **The winning team will be announced and featured with their team photo at the NCME Business Meeting on Friday!**

See you bright and early Friday morning, April 14, for an invigorating start to the day with fellow NCME colleagues!

Career Award Committee
Catherine Close



Catherine Close is the outgoing chair of the NCME Career Awards Committee. She has served for three years and will pass the baton to a new chair for next year's selection. The committee recently completed their selection of this year's recipient, to be announced at the NCME Conference.

NCME Website
Committee
Erin Banjanovic
Nathan Dadey



After launching a reorganization of the website last spring, the NCME website committee has continued with efforts to improve the look and feel of the website. We launched a rebranding of the organization which went live early this year. We have a new logo and a number of official templates for official NCME use. We have also been working to develop a style guide for the website that will offer guidelines on website structure and formatting, a summary of committees and SIGIMIEs with website responsibilities, and how-to instructions for all website edits. We have also been working to develop a series of generic user profiles that will be used to inform a review of how our website is serving our members and the community at large.



The website committee has also been working to establish greater partnerships with other NCME committees and SIGIMIEs. We have worked closely with the Graduate Student Issues Committee to update content for students on the site (e.g., internships, fellowships, standards study group). We have also worked with the Contemporary Issues in Scaling, Linking, & Equating SIGIMIE to integrate their content into the website. We continue to work with the academic journal editors to post supplementary material, the Annual Meeting chairs to post meeting information, and other groups as needed. We love working with other committees and SIGIMIEs to help our website be the best it can be and welcome collaboration and input from all members in the organization. Please reach out to the committee co-chairs (Erin Banjanovic <erin.banjanovic@gmail.com> and Nathan Dadey <ndadey@nciea.org>) if you have any feedback or recommendations for improving the website.

**Committee on Diversity Issues
and Testing**
Cathy (Can) Shao



The CODIT committee is collaborating with Graduate Student Issues Committee, and the Membership Committee to organize the social networking session for the Historically Marginalized Groups at the 2023 NCME annual meeting. Below are the event details:

Reception for Researchers from Historically Marginalized Groups
Fri Apr 14, 2023, 1:30 to 2:30 pm

Marriott: Floor 7th – Salon I

This is a semi-structured social networking session for both graduate students and professionals that identify themselves with one or more groups that are underrepresented or historically marginalized in the field, and their allies/co-conspirators. The event will include a variety of socially engaging group activities as well as light refreshments and beverages.

Our committee is also excited to be collaborating with the AERA Division D Equity and Inclusion committee to co-list an invited session titled: “Recruitment and Retention of Minoritized Measurement Professionals”. The session is scheduled to take place on:

Sat Apr 15, 2023, 4:40pm-6:10pm

Marriott: Floor 5th – Denver/Houston

we invite all of you to join us for the organized session.

**Committee on Informing
Assessment Policy (CIAP)**
Richard P. Phelps



CIAP produced a series of three Winter Webinars in January and February on the topics: Media coverage of educational assessment; Balancing the needs of informing instruction, equity, and accountability during the transition to through-year assessment; and Assessment policy update. All sessions were recorded and will be available on the NCME web site. CIAP also completed a member survey of topical expertise, the results of which will be made available soon (if not already) to journalists and bloggers who specialize in educational issues.

**Fellowship
Announcement!
Center for Measurement
Justice
State and Local
Assessment Leaders
(SALAL) SIGMIE
Zachary Warner**



The State and Local Assessment Leaders (SALAL) SIGMIE continues to meet monthly to discuss ongoing challenges that assessment directors from states, districts, and schools are facing and what opportunities for support (and commiseration!) we can provide. We have a session coming up at the Annual Meeting titled “How Can Statewide Accountability Testing Improve Student Learning?” We hope to see a lot of folks in attendance and look forward to a great discussion.

We are also in the process of putting together a webinar (tentatively scheduled for March 30) where we will introduce some common misconceptions related to state and local assessments. In the session, we will have a different expert panelist unpack the misconceptions and provide practical guidance for clearing them up. This is something that state and local assessment leaders face every day, and we look forward to hearing from our experts on how we help stop these misconceptions in their tracks. Please keep an eye out for more information!