

# RESEARCH AND EVALUATION BUREAU



Fall Semester Newsletter

September 2014  
Volume 1, Issue 2

## REB PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS...

### Toyota STEAM: Han Zhang's Trip to Singapore

Research Team: Pamela Freeman, Linda Robertson, Deepa Shanadi & Han Zhang

Han Zhang, a Ph.D. graduate assistant in Kent State's Research and Evaluation Bureau (REB), observed the implementation of the Toyota Education Initiatives in STEAM Innovation (Toyota STEAM) program in Singapore and conducted a focus group discussion at the end of the study trip.

Toyota STEAM is a fully-funded, professional development program for U.S. secondary school educators. The program supports efforts to prepare and inspire U.S. students to study and pursue careers in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) fields.

"This summer has been 'statistically significant' to me," stated Han. Upon finishing her comprehensive exam, Han



began a trip to Singapore as a data collector, together with a group of secondary school teachers and administrators from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Educational institutions abound in Singapore and Han's first impression was that the country "highly valued education and heavily invested in its people." Participants were told that "Singapore's biggest natural resource is its people, so we have good schools."

Han visited a variety of schools within the Singaporean educational system, including secondary schools, a specialized school, independent schools, and private schools. During these visits, Han observed classrooms and extra-curricular activities and talked with students and teachers.

Many different ethnicities live in Singapore and enjoy positive relations with each other. All public signs are expressed simultaneously in four official languages: English, Malay, Chinese and Tamil. Han was in Singapore on July 21<sup>st</sup>, Racial Harmony Day. This holiday promotes inter-racial understanding among students and acts as a reminder of social cohesion and harmony.

This was one experience that Han will "not soon forget!"

## SPOTLIGHT STAFF

### MEMBER Han Zhang



I am originally from Fujian Province, located in southeast China. I came to the U.S. in 2008 and earned my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Otterbein University. I am now working towards my Ph.D. in Evaluation and Measurement. In addition to working on the Toyota STEAM project, I am currently assisting in both the Clips Envoys and Literacy Pyramid programs in the REB. My work primarily focuses on online survey consultation and development, as well as data management and analysis. My personal research interests are instrument development, quantitative data analysis, classroom assessment, and teaching evaluation.

### Fun Facts:

When not studying or working, I enjoy cooking, watching movies, and traveling.

#### Points of interest in this issue:

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#### Spotlight Staff Member

- Han Zhang

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# REB PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS, CONT...



## Project ASTUTE

Research Team: Andrew Wiley, Brian Barber, Deborah Shama-Davis, Deepa Shanadi, Stacie Berg, Leanna Lostoski & Han Zhang

The REB recently conducted a process evaluation involving three separate evaluation activities during Phase I of the EHHS Project ASTUTE (Improving Education for All Students Through Unified Teacher Education). This project combines efforts of EHHS faculty from both Special Education and Middle Childhood Education as well as public school partners.

The purpose of the project is to design, pilot, and evaluate a four-year unified

teacher preparation program allowing students in EHHS to obtain a dual teaching license in both Middle Childhood Education and Special Education in Ohio.

Preliminary data from meeting observations, interviews with EHHS school and faculty administrators, and surveys completed by public school partners and Kent State faculty, showed that the development of the Unified Program at Kent State is applauded.

Survey responses indi-

cated that this program “will address a need and a demand for professionals highly trained in both content areas so they are better able to teach all students in the classroom.” Faculty agreed that progress on action items has been made toward the development of the Unified Program.

For the Phase II evaluation, the REB will assess student outcomes in the newly developed courses, which begin in spring of 2015.

## Camp Erin® and Comfort Zone Camp®

Research Team: Pamela Freeman, Deepa Shanadi, Rhonda Richardson, Sue Maxymiv & Leanna Lostoski

Funded by The New York Life Foundation, the REB is conducting a longitudinal evaluation of Camp Erin® and Comfort Zone Camp®, two national networks of bereavement camps for children and adolescents.

These camps share an overarching goal of helping campers live healthy and inspired lives. The evaluation uses a positive youth development framework, which emphasizes identifying and optimizing conditions of resilience and flourishing in youth. This framework is then applied within the bereavement camp experience.

Parent/guardian, children, and alumni survey collection will be completed at the end of September. Results will provide a means for determining the impact of camp attendance on both campers and their families.



Various REB members have presented on this project at the following conferences:

- Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) 36th Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD (April 2014)
- Eastern Evaluation Research Society (EERS) Annual Conference in Galloway, NJ (April 2014)
- Ohio Program Evaluators Group (OPEG) Semi-annual Meeting in Columbus, OH (May 2014)
- National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) Annual Symposium in Atlanta, GA (June 2014)
- A poster will be presented at the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD in November

## IN THE DATA LAB...

### Welcome Back!

Data Lab Coordinator: Stacie Berg

We’re ready for the fall semester and here to help with your transcription or survey data entry needs.

Stop by the REB to drop off your data and learn all of the details. Get your

projects in soon to be first in queue!

Finished transcriptions will be emailed to you as they are completed and surveys will be returned once they have been entered.

Please feel free to contact Stacie Berg, our data lab coordination, at [aberg@kent.edu](mailto:aberg@kent.edu) with any questions about this process.



# INTERESTED IN RESEARCH SERVICES?

## What We Do:

### Consultation Services

- Research design
- Statistical design

### Data Analysis

- SPSS database development
- Quantitative data analysis in SPSS
- Explanation of SPSS output

### Survey Development

- Consultation in the use of online surveys, including Qualtrics and SurveyMonkey
- Survey layout and design (online and paper and pencil)

### Data Lab Services

- Transcriptions from mp3 files, standard-size cassette tapes, or Accellion
- Data entry of hard-copy survey responses into SPSS, both quantitative and qualitative data



# EHHS FACULTY AND GRAD STUDENTS

## For Unfunded Research:

### Services for Faculty

EHHS faculty receive an unlimited number of hours of college-supported REB consultation services on unfunded projects. EHHS faculty receive an unlimited number of college-supported hours of Bureau Data Lab services for unfunded projects.

### Services for Graduate Students

Doctoral students at dissertation level and Master's students at thesis level receive 40 hours of college-supported consultation services. Graduate students receive 40 hours of Data Lab services (not to be interchanged with the 40-hour allotment for consultation services).

## For Funded Research:

We provide the same services at cost.

# NEED HELP WITH GRANT EVALUATION?

- The Bureau provides comprehensive multi-methods program evaluation services based on your project needs and specifications.
- The Bureau's highly skilled staff has extensive experience delivering high quality, evidence-driven evaluations of international, national, state, and local development programs in the areas of health, human services, and education.
- We serve as an active member of your grant writing team by providing expertise for the evaluation component of your project for your grant application.
- We are always interested in partnering with individuals or organizations to provide evaluation and assessment services.
- Please contact us to discuss your specific research and evaluation needs. We look forward to hearing from you.



# OVERVIEW...

## Contact Us

507 White Hall  
Kent State University  
PO Box 5190  
Kent, OH 44242-0001

Phone: 330-672-7918  
Fax: 330-672-3737

Email:  
reb@kent.edu

Website:  
<http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/reb/>

The Research and Evaluation Bureau offers comprehensive research, evaluation, and assessment services to schools, medical and health related institutions, human services agencies, community organizations, businesses, faculty, graduate students, and other individuals. The mission of the Bureau is to provide research and evaluation services that assist in enhancing education, health, and human service outcomes worldwide.

In addition, we work with you to develop and write a project evaluation and/or research plan, with the agreement that if the project is funded, the Bureau will be the project's evaluation team. In most cases, the Bureau is considered by funding agencies (including NSF) to be *external evaluators*.

## Meet the Staff

### Deborah D. Shama-Davis, Ph.D., Evaluation and Measurement; Special Education

Director, College Client Services  
dshama@kent.edu

### Pamela Freeman, M.A.

Director, External Client Services  
pfreema4@kent.edu

### Mark Smilaycoff, Ph.D., Evaluation and Measurement

Lead Evaluator and Lead Faculty Consultant  
msmilayc@kent.edu

### Edward Bolden, Ph.D. Candidate in Evaluation and Measurement

Evaluator  
ebolden@kent.edu

### Deepa Shanadi, M.P.H., M.S.

Evaluator  
dshanadi@kent.edu

### Debra Roeder

Administrative Assistant  
droeder@kent.edu

### Graduate Assistants

Stacie Berg  
Lynn Kerdnaimongkol  
Justin Lorko  
Leanna Lostoski  
Rachel Piskos  
Han Zhang

### Data Lab Workers

Arie Hayre-Somuah  
Candice Lawson  
Ariel Pruitt  
Danielle Rupprecht

### Newsletter Editors

Rachel Piskos  
Leanna Lostoski

