

At this time of year, many of us send and receive holiday cards. These cards (be they paper-based or computer-based!) often have updates on how lives were lived over the past year. In sending and reading these cards, we underscore the value of communication in maintaining and growing our relationships with the people we love or hold in high regard. With this value in mind, in this column I provide several updates of NCME activities, including the community-building that is occurring both within and outside of NCME.

Read about presidential internal and external efforts to build community and improve collaboration, and to learn how we can celebrate our community, read the full *Communities and Communication* address [here](#).



**From the Editor**  
*Megan Welsh, University of California, Davis*

Welcome to the December 2019 issue. In it, we learn about efforts to strengthen the NCME community from our president, Steve Sireci and about the importance of community among graduate students from grad student corner contributor, Erin Winters. Don't miss the video Spotlight interview with André Rupp, an NCME community member who has devoted tremendously to our community by revising our approach to the ITEMS modules. We also celebrate the accomplishments of our members by announcing NCME award members and look to the future by sharing information on NCME elections and asking for feedback on how to improve the newsletter. Happy holidays!

**Graduate Student Corner: Building a Graduate Student Community**  
*Erin Winters, University of California, Davis*



Hello everyone! Congratulations on navigating the fall term! I've always found fall quarter to be an interesting term where everyone is super jazzed to be back, but working out all the kinks they developed over summer. More importantly, I love fall quarter because it's when I get to re-connect with all of the people that were busy over the summer. My friends and colleagues all went to different corners of the world (and campus!) over the summer experiencing new things, and fall is when we come together and share what we've learned and done. This brings me to what I really wanted to talk about today: building a varied community in measurement. [Read more here](#).

## In this Issue

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### Spotlight on the People Who Make Our Organization Great

*André Rupp, Educational Testing Service*



This issue's spotlight focuses on André Rupp, Research Director at the Educational Testing Service and editor of the Instructional Topics in Educational Measurement Series (ITEMS). The ITEMS portal has added several new instructional modules which can be found [here](#).

Click [here](#) to watch André discuss how his career has evolved, hear tips for graduate students about how to approach a career in measurement, and to learn about his hobbies.

You can also watch videos on individual topics by clicking on the text to the right.

[Tell me about your job](#)

[Tell me about your research](#)

[Tell me about your teaching](#)

[Tell me about ITEMS](#)

[What career advice can you share?](#)

[What would you do if you weren't a measurement expert?](#)

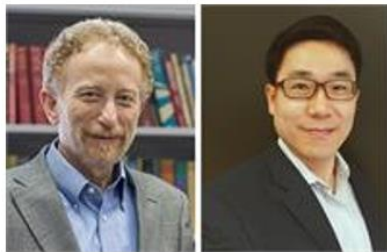
[What do you do for fun?](#)

### NCME Award Winners Announced

The awards committee is pleased to announce the winners of 2020 NCME awards. Winners will be honored at the annual meeting breakfast in San Francisco in April. For details on the winner's work and their awards, please see the wonderful [summary written by Michael Walker of the College Board](#).



Mark Wilson  
University of California, Berkeley  
Career Contributions Award



Michael Kolen and Wong-Chan Lee  
University of Iowa  
Annual Award



Edison Cho  
Graduate Management Admission Council  
Alicia Cascallar Award



Shiyu Wang  
University of Georgia  
Jason Millman Promising Scholar



Matthew Johnson and Sandip Sinharay  
Educational Testing Service  
Bradley Hanson Award



Seohyun Kim  
University of Virginia  
Brenda H. Loyd Outstanding Dissertation

## Newsletter Feedback Needed



Thanks so much for your continued support of the newsletter, and for your encouragement as I try to make the newsletter interesting and easily accessible to the NCME membership. As you know, there have been many changes to the newsletter since I became editor. As I enter my last year in this role, it would be helpful to get feedback from all of you about what does and does not work for you with respect to newsletter content and format. To that end, please complete the very short (5 minutes or less) survey [using this link](#). Results will be shared in the next newsletter.

## NCME Position Statement: Misconceptions About Group Differences in Average Test Scores

The recent request to the Regents of the University of California to stop using college admissions test scores pointed out the troubling reality that there are large score differences across racial/ethnic groups on college admissions tests. However, the letter reinforced two misconceptions about tests that need to be corrected. First, the letter claimed that differences across racial/ethnic groups in test performance signify test bias. Second, the letter claimed that the typical finding that students from high-income families obtain higher test scores, on average, than students from low-income families constitutes proof of test bias. These erroneous claims confuse correlation with causality....read the rest of the position statement [here](#).

## NCME Elections: Meet the Candidates and Vote by January 3rd

NCME Elections are underway. Check your email for your ballot. To learn more about the candidates, click [here](#).

### *Vice President*



Derek Briggs  
University of Colorado, Boulder



Sue Brookhart  
Duquesne University

### *Board Member at Large*



Ellen Forte  
[EdCount, LLC](#)



Scott Marion  
[The Center for Assessment](#)



Ada Woo  
[ACTNext](#)

### *Board Member from a State or Federal Agency*



Sharyn Rosenberg  
National Assessment Governing Board



Vince Verges  
Florida Department of Education

## In Other News

### Updates

Lots has been happening behind the scenes at NCME. Please see the links below for details:

- [Annual Meeting Program Chairs' Update](#)
- [Training and Professional Development Committee Update](#)
- [Graduate Student Issues Committee Update](#)
- [Mission Fund Committee Update](#)
- [Diversity Issues in Testing Committee Update](#)
- [Digital Presence and Social Media Committee Update: Social Media Ambassadors](#)

### Upcoming Opportunities

We are excited to share news about several conferences, nomination processes for awards and NCME Board Membership, and training opportunities that may be of interest to NCME members. Click on each to learn more:

- [Chan Zuckerberg Fellowships for Underrepresented Professionals: Apply Now](#)
- [Travel Funding for Grad Students from Underrepresented Groups: Apply by February 1](#)
- [EM:IP Cover Graphic/Data Visualization Competition: Apply by February 7th](#)
- [Fitness Run/Walk Design the Shirt Contest: Apply by January 17th](#)
- [IOMW 2020 Conference: Apply by January 7th](#)
- [FREMO Conference: Apply by February 2nd](#)
- [ATP Graduate Student Research Award: Apply by January 10th](#)

## About the NCME Newsletter

The NCME Newsletter, a quarterly publication, contains announcements and news about current events pertinent to research and practice in educational measurement. The events include those both internal and external to NCME that will interest NCME membership. The Newsletter also provides NCME membership with information about the activities of the NCME Board and NCME committees.

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