Greetings from the Executive Director | Laura Lynn

Dear Colleagues,

We at the Center for Research Quality (CRQ) are excited to bring you this quarter’s newsletter. We have many updates to share on research resources and innovations for scholarly development for you and your students. Some key items are highlighted below.

New Resources in Support of Student and Faculty Scholarship

The Social Change Impact Report Datasets are now available to the Walden community. These Walden-owned datasets are a source of secondary data for you or your students to support research agendas related to social change. Using this information could be a good way to explore new avenues or jump-start your current research. Be sure to read Dr. Lauck’s announcement in this issue for more information.

And on the topic of analyzing datasets, we have been able to make SPSS available to members of the Walden community for download at no cost. This statistical software is a very important resource for your support of students’ doctoral capstone committees, as well as your own scholarship. You can find more information on the Research Resources tab of our website, and in Dr. Milanesi’s article in this newsletter.

Professional Development for Scholars

At University Faculty Meeting and Graduation we had the opportunity to pilot a couple of new professional development sessions in support of dissemination.

The New Scholars Workshop was piloted with 12 graduates. At this session they received training on next steps for publishing and presenting their capstone research.

As an alternative to the Winter Research Symposium, we held a Research Colloquium with a panel of 5 presenters from the Walden faculty who discussed their research in support of Virtual Training for Scholar Practitioners.

Both of these sessions were successful pilots that we plan to continue at future sessions. More information on both can be found in Dr. Salter’s article.
This issue is filled with more information on the abovementioned items as well as several other updates. So many of the research initiatives and resources from the CRQ have come from listening to your input and working collaboratively with faculty from all of the colleges. Please continue to give us your feedback, thoughts and ideas at CRQ@waldenu.edu.

Sincerely,

Laura

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**Welcome from New Associate Director in the CRQ**

by Annie Pezalla

Greetings!

I am excited to contribute this short posting to introduce myself as the newest member of the fabulous Center for Research Quality (CRQ) team. At the end of 2012, I transitioned out of my role within the Academic Skills Center, where I managed the support courses within the Center for Student Success (CSS), and moved into an associate director role within the Office of Research Quality Management. I am now serving as the designee to the Chief Academic Officer in performing the final abstract review that serves as the final endorsement of Walden’s capstone research projects. This new position includes other exciting roles as well: to consult on new and existing research curriculum across the university, to provide research methods mentoring for faculty, and to lead faculty training and development activities. I see this position as a great fit for my educational background in research methods; my new role will also provide a birds-eye view of the great research being generated across the university and an opportunity to add to CRQ’s contribution of making it even better.

Of course, it is with a heavy heart that I leave my role within CSS, a place I have proudly called my home for the past 4 years. Yet in my new role within CRQ, I see the potential to add to the already strong collaborative efforts across these two centers, and I’m eager to work with everyone in CSS on bridging all our assessment and support efforts to our students—from the time they enroll at Walden until the time they graduate.

Here’s to a future of collaborative efforts for our students!

Annie Pezalla, Ph.D.
Social Change Impact Report Datasets | Molly Lauck

Walden-owned datasets on social change now available to Walden students, faculty, and staff

We are excited to announce access to a new research resource that is currently available to the Walden community. The Social Change Impact Report (SCIR) Datasets are Walden-owned SPSS files from online surveys about social change that were conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of Walden University in 2011 and 2012. The surveys investigate U.S. and International participants’ views on and experiences with positive social change and/or social action; more specifically, involvement in activities that make improvements in the lives of individuals and communities both locally and around the world.

The SCIR Datasets are available for use by all Walden faculty, students, and staff. An overview of the datasets, including instructions about how to request access to them, can be found on Research Resources page of the Center for Research Quality website. As a reminder, the university is also a member of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, which provides access to many other potentially useful secondary databases, as well as publications and training in quantitative analysis.

Questions about the SCIR Datasets, and how to request access to the files, should be directed to DataSetAccess@waldenu.edu.

Research Programming in Miami 2013 | Daniel Salter

Over the past several years, the Center for Research Quality (CRQ) has hosted semi-annual Research Symposia for our academic community, which has become part of our university DNA. Unfortunately, the logistics of the Miami venue did not allow us to offer the symposium at the level of quality that we have all come to expect. So, we made the difficult choice to not have a poster session and roundtable event in January. Rather, we took this opportunity to diversify the types of programming we offer and provided two new experiences.

New Scholars Workshop

With the support of the Alumni Relations office, we also piloted a New Scholars Workshop (NSW) for a select group of 12 doctoral graduates, just prior to the university faculty meeting and graduation. The NSW was created to be an
interactive experience to support the research dissemination efforts of new scholars. Nina Nabors, from the School of Psychology, and I facilitated the 4 hour workshop. Participants explored the various venues and audiences for their scholarship, crafted specific strategies for sharing their capstone findings, and developed some plans to continue their work as a scholar.

**Research Colloquium**

During one session of the university faculty meeting, we offered a Research Colloquium for the first time. The colloquium was designed to showcase faculty scholarship in the form of a moderated panel of researchers (a format that should be familiar to anyone who has attended a professional conference). Each research colloquium is organized around a theme of general interest to the academic community, and the presentation includes summary observations from a discussant. After the formal presentation, time is available for questions from the audience.

The theme for the Miami 2013 Research Colloquium was *Virtual Training for Scholar-Practitioners*. The five panelists explored how some traditional approaches have been adapted to the virtual environment to meet the same learning objectives. The research spanned projects that were in the initial stages to ones that were in another phase of data collection. Three were supported by internal grants. After the presentations, the discussant for this colloquium, MaryFriend Shepard of the Riley College of Education and Leadership, provided her summary and synthesis of the presentations. Materials from the research colloquium will be housed on the CRQ website.

**Panelists**

- **Linda Crawford**, *Theoretical development, factorial validity, and reliability of the Online Graduate Mentoring Scale* (in collaboration with Iris Yob and Justus Randolph).
- **Lee Stadtlander**, *Graduate student learning: Results from a virtual lab* (in collaboration with Martha Giles and Amy Sickel).
- **Beate Baltes**, *Virtual communities of practice: Discrepancies between expertise and expert status* (in collaboration with Nic Nistor and George Smeaton).
- **Tiffany Rush-Wilson**, *Evidence-based residency skills support: Improvement for counseling students* (in collaboration with Robyn Trippany Simmons).
- **Lianne (Lulu) Williamson**, *Undergraduate field experience courses: Best practices and long-term effects*.

**Looking Ahead to Summer 2013**

Yes, we are already making plans for the Research Symposium (poster session and roundtables) at the Minneapolis meeting in August. Watch for the *Call for*
Presenters later in February. And, after some careful evaluation and consideration of the pilot, we also intend to offer another NSW this summer, as well. That information will be available next term. Our next Research Colloquium is tentatively planned for January 2014 in Orlando.

**SPSS for Walden Students and Faculty | Lou Milanesi**

**Walden students and faculty can now download the latest version of SPSS from the web free of charge.**

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) is a software package that provides users with statistical analysis, modeling, predictive, and survey research tools used in many of Walden’s courses and advanced research activities.

Walden is pleased to be able to offer this important resource free of charge as long as it is required for your program (*Note: students will be able to access SPSS as soon as they are enrolled in the first course that requires it.*)

If you are in need of the latest version SPSS, version 21.0, you may download it by following the installation instructions found under SPSS for Walden Student and Faculty on the Research Resources page of the CRQ website.

**Do I need to download the latest version?**

- Yes, if you have an older version and would like the current version.
- Yes, if you had an older version of SPSS but your license has since expired and you need to continue using it.
- No, if you already downloaded the current version of SPSS but your license has since expired and you need to continue using it. Please see the instructions below.
- Yes, if you are a student beginning your first course where you will be using SPSS.

Please note that all students and faculty will need to enter an updated access code on September 30, 2013 to re-authenticate their SPSS license. Instructions about updating an expired license are also provided under the SPSS for Walden Student and Faculty documentation.

**Student Support**

If you have any questions about SPSS or need assistance downloading SPSS, please contact Walden’s Student Support Team from your myWalden portal by
choosing the Support tab and clicking “Click to Chat.” You can also call 1-800-WALDENU (925-3368) or e-mail support@waldenu.edu. Please include your name, student ID number, and degree program with any correspondence.

**Faculty Support**

If you have any questions about this change or need assistance downloading SPSS, please contact Walden’s Student Support Team at 877-780-9954 and press option 1. Please include your name and the degree program that you are associated with in any correspondence.

**Participant Pool Updates | Jenny Sherer**

The Walden Participant Pool is seeing great success with studies that are being conducted by Walden researchers. The Participant Pool is a website that acts as a virtual bulletin board, connecting Walden researchers to members of our community who are interested in participating in those studies. This tool is valuable for our researchers as it provides access to the unique and diverse Walden community.

Additionally, it offers the chance to learn not only about research in general, but about the research being conducted by Walden faculty and staff. Both students and faculty may use the site, and is the Participant Pool a great way to see some of the research being conducted by Walden researchers.

To access the site, either click on the following link or copy and paste it into your web browser http://walden.sona-systems.com. If this is your first time visiting the site, you will need to create a participant account by clicking on the New Participant? link at the bottom of the page. Then, follow the site instructions to create a new account and receive the site-specific username and password information.

If you or your students have questions about the Participant Pool, please do not hesitate to contact participantpool@waldenu.edu for more information.
Members of the CRQ at Graduation

From left to right: Marydee Spillett, Leilani Endicott, Lou Milanesi, Molly Lauck, and Daniel Salter. Photo by Gary Burkholder.

August and October 2012 RDS Award Recipients

The Research Dissemination Support (RDS) program supports faculty who promote the visibility and scholarly reputation of Walden University through the dissemination of their research and research-related activities. The RDS program offers two types of awards:

1. **Presentation RDS** – travel support for research and research-related presentations at conferences; and

2. **Publication RDS** – support for research and research-related publications. For further information about this program, including how to apply, please download the [RDS Program Guidelines](#), which can be found on the [Office of Research & Sponsored Programs](#) page of the [CRQ](#) website.

RDS award recipients’ names appear below in **bold-face**.
Center for Faculty Excellence


Center for Research Quality


College of Health Sciences


College of Management and Technology


Cooper, C., & Kilmer, R. (2012). Using self organizing maps to find good comparison universities. Partially Supervised Learning, 7081, 148–153. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-28258-4


College of Social and Behavioral Sciences


LaCivita, L. (2012, October). Effective evidence based coaching for enhanced engagement in the virtual classroom. Information session presented at the 18th Annual Sloan Consortium International Conference on Online Learning, Lake Buena Vista, FL.


Stadtlander, L., Giles, M., & Sickel, A. (2012, August). *Graduate student researchers’ knowledge/efficacy: Results from a virtual lab*. Poster presented at the 28th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning, Madison, WI, USA.


**College of Undergraduate Studies**


**The Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership**


