SRAM Happenings

On a sunny Friday morning in late March, the Survey Research and Methodology program had two distinguished guests in its midst. Perhaps the most well-known of the two for survey researchers, Robert Groves, is the current Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Myron Gutmann, head of the directorate of the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) at the National Science Foundation, visited campus as well. Groves was here to discuss the NSF Census Research Network grant (mentioned below) awarded to the UNL-Gallup Research Center, "Reducing Error in Computerized Survey Data Collection." Both expressed their excitement about having UNL as part of the NSF Census Research Network. Before leaving town, Groves sat down with a local reporter from the Journal Star to discuss his visit. The article can be found here.

SRAM Faculty Notes

Professor Allan McCutcheon and SRAM colleagues Bob Belli, Kristen Olson, Jolene Smyth, and Leen-Kiat Soh (Computer Science & Engineering), have received a National Science Foundation Census Research Network (NCRN) grant in the amount of more than $2.9 million for their proposal titled "Reducing Error in Computerized Survey Data Collection." Their research will focus on improving survey designs/instruments while enhancing data quality by reducing both interviewer and respondent burden. Collaborations among the SRAM Program, the Gallup Organization and AbtSRBI Inc. will be critical to accomplish the proposed goals and objectives. This unique cohort ensures that the proposed project will be carried out with optimal efficiency and quality. You can watch a short video of the grant announcement celebration, hosted by The Gallup Organization at their headquarters in Omaha, here.

AMSTATNews is a publication that reaches some 18,000 American Statistical Association members in the US and the world each month. In the April 2012 issue (#418), the NSF Census Research Network grants are highlighted. The UNL grant (see previous article) is one of those. You can find the article here.

SRAM faculty member Professor Allan McCutcheon spent nearly three weeks in Leuven, Belgium in March teaching a course at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL). KUL is the second oldest university in continental Europe, founded in 1425. UNL and KUL have an exchange program that places emphasis on modeling and analysis of quantitative survey data, and the communication of these analyses to key decision and policy makers. Dr. McCutcheon's course on "Log Linear Analysis, Latent Class Analysis and Logistic Regression" is a regular part of the curriculum in the Master of Quantitative Analysis in the Social Sciences program at KUL.

Library at KU Leuven (photo courtesy of Allan McCutcheon)

SRAM professor Janet Harkness approached The Gallup Organization last year about being the local host for the 2012 meeting of the international workshop on Comparative Survey Design and Implementation (CSDI). Gallup graciously agreed and the meeting was held from March 22-24, 2012 at the Gallup World Headquarters in Washington, DC. Gallup provided meeting space and facilities, workshop refreshments and lunches, as well as the unexpected luxury of a technician throughout the meeting. Gallup CEO and Chairman Jim Clifton gave a stimulating welcoming talk on behavioral economics.

Among the 30 some papers presented, two were presented by UNL students. SRAM MS graduate Debbie
Miller, now studying for her PhD at UNL, presented the paper, "Toward Informed Consent as a Communicative Construct" and SRAM PhD student Mathew Stange presented on "Conducting research on sex workers: Challenges and current methodological answers." Workshop presentations will be available on the CSDI website in April. Anyone interested learning more about CSDI can contact the organizers through the website: http://www.cdsiworkshop.org/.

SRAM Student Happenings

Jamie Marincic and Mathew Stange (both pictured below) were among nearly 1,500 students who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln at commencement exercises this past December. In September 2011 Jamie, who received her PhD, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Vague quantifiers of behavioral frequency: An investigation of the nature and consequences of differences in interpretation" under the direction of Allan McCutcheon (SRAM), Jolene Smyth (SRAM), Lesa Hoffman (Psychology) and Walt Stroup (Statistics). In October, Jamie began work as a survey researcher at Mathematica Policy Research in Princeton, NJ. Since joining Mathematica, Jamie has provided survey methodological consultation on a variety of policy-relevant projects in education, labor and health care.

Mathew received his master's degree from the SRAM program. He began the program in January 2010. Mathew has chosen to continue with the SRAM program by starting his PhD studies in January 2012. Mathew is continuing his work as a graduate research assistant in the UNL Gallup Research Center. Mathew says that he looks forward to continuing to work and learn from the SRAM faculty. A belated congratulations to them!

SRAM MS student AnaLucía Cordova Cazar (below) presented the research results from her internship at the graduate research fair. Her research looked at traffic violations and accidents among teens within the first two years of obtaining their provisional permits. She used latent class analysis. Additionally, two papers with results of her internship research have been submitted for publication together with Dr. Duane Shell and Dr. Ian Newman from the department of Educational Psychology.

SRAM MS student Jill Heese was recently promoted to the Survey Program Coordinator at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). UNMC conducts a wide variety of research studies focused on health, including the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey for Nebraska, Montana and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her primary responsibilities include planning, organizing and implementing research projects as well as development of proposals and summary reports.

SRAM Alumni Feature

Mario Callegaro & Ana Villar now working in London

Phd Alumni Mario Callegaro & Ana Villar recently relocated from Mountain View, California to London. Mario continues his work as survey research scientist for the quantitative marketing team at Google. Ana was working at Stanford as research associate with Professor Jon Krosnick. In London Ana got a position at City University as Research Fellow, working for the European Social Survey.

"The main reason we moved,” say Mario & Ana “is to be closer to our families, even if it meant leaving the USA, a land that has treated us extremely kindly. We really enjoy living in London and travelling is a breeze; we quickly adjusted to the city life without a car. We get to walk a lot and that is great.”

You can read more about Ana and Mario’s move on our website.
SRAM Alumni Information

SRAM graduate **David DeVries** (2001) had an article published in the *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases* entitled, “Gender Difference in Stroke Case Fatality: An Integrated study of Hospitalization and Mortality.” He will be presenting his research at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists annual conference in Omaha this coming June.

In the latest *report of Survey Practice* for the year 2011 SRAM alum **Mario Callegaro** (2007) paper "Recent Books and Journals in Public Opinion, Survey Methods, and Survey Statistics" was the second most read for the year 2011 and the paper, "Do You Know Which Device Your Respondent Has Used to Take Your Online Survey?" was the fourth most read for 2011.

Other publications by Mario include: Poggio, T., & Callegaro, M. (2012) Italy. In M. Häder, S. Häder & M. Kuhne (Eds.), *Telephone surveys in Europe: Research and practice*. Berlin: Springer.

SRAM graduate **Kumar Rao** (MS 2006) has been appointed as one of the two new editors of AAPOR's "*Survey Practice*.” Another SRAM alum, **Andy Peytchev** (MS 2002) -- will be finishing his term as one of the current associate editors.

SRAM MS student **Matt Hastings** was invited to speak on a panel and provide two workshops at the 2011 fall meeting of the National Association of State Directors for Career and Technical Education consortium (NASDCTEc). As part of the talks, Matt discussed using data to drive decisions about CTE programs. The meeting, held in Baltimore, provides members with professional development opportunities and covers timely issues that impact CTE. The objective is to provide members and other advocates with the knowledge and tools to best serve their roles as leaders in the CTE community. You can find out more about the CTE on their website.

**Calendar Notes**

- **April 23-28:** Last week of classes
- **April 29-May 4:** Final exams
- **May 4:** Graduate Commencement
- **May 14:** Late registration begins for summer semester
- **May 14:** Summer classes begin

The entire academic schedule can be found here: [http://www.unl.edu/regrec/calendar/calendar_main.shtml](http://www.unl.edu/regrec/calendar/calendar_main.shtml)