



# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSPHERE

National University  
*The University of Values*

AUGUST, 2009 | VOL. 3, ISSUE 2

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## Taking On the Challenges of Change

By Joan Van Tassel

In his well-known book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Kuhn defined normal science as the way scientists do their research most of the time. His book dealt with the way scientists do research the rest of the time – during periods of upheaval. Twenty-five years later, Silvio Funtowicz and Jerome Ravetz characterized the questions that science must address in current times as requiring a new approach, one they dubbed *post-normal science*, where “facts are uncertain, values are in dispute, stakes high, and decisions urgent.”<sup>2</sup>

Facing these difficulties, Funtowicz and Ravetz advocate an *extended peer community*, which would allow people who are affected by an issue to become part of the dialogue, rather than keeping the inquiry within the expert or scientific community. They also argued for a broader notion of data, to include hunches, intuitions, folklore, art and tacit knowledge.

Trained as a biological scientist and schooled in normal science, O'Hara has come to see the value of post-normal science to understand some of the most important challenges of our time. “There are issues like global warming or social rehabilitation after such disasters as Katrina where there are so many different variables where you can't sit down and plan your efforts in a logical way. These situations require action inquiry and

investigative inquiry, both normal science and post-normal science, because they are at levels of complexity beyond the scope of normal cause and effect logic,” O'Hara believes.

O'Hara is interested in how people maintain psychological balance and health in times of great social upheavals, such as the current period. (See video.) Her work tries to understand the relationship between the larger cultural context and the psychological life of individuals, as a reciprocal relationship. She believes this work is essential: “Things are changing so fast and the challenges are so huge, particularly climate change, that none of the existing cultural ways of being that we've inherited are adequate to face our problems. So we are at a moment in history when we have to invent cultural understandings for this new world or risk go into a period of global cultural collapse.”

O'Hara works principally through the International Futures Forum (IFF), based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Working with communities in Scotland and the UK, including London and Bristol, she is part of an interdisciplinary group that combines science and social action. For example, projects on community development frames the art communities as cultural therapists, using their art as a social intervention. “This framework envisions art not only as aesthetic experience, but as the means whereby cultures to learn new values and share new ways to cope with existential challenges. It is a potent blend of art, civil society, and cultural anthropology.”

O'Hara explains that part of the research effort in which she is involved is to try to identify what supports cultural progress or cultural growth, cultural and social learning, as opposed to collapse. Cultural collapse results in anxious, blood-letting kind of behaviors, which have occurred repeatedly in history in





cultures that have undergone profound disruption of their cultural /social coherence. In a recent paper she explored the role of higher education in preparing people to thrive in the coming world.<sup>3</sup>

“We want to help communities whether large or small, maybe even global culture, find healthy ways through the current anxiety and disruption, and not collapse into genocide,” explains O’Hara.

She has co-authored a book with Graham Leicester, *Ten Things to do in A Conceptual Emergency*, to provide information to individuals and communities about help them face crises.

“It’s a distillation of huge amounts of information. When individuals and communities recognize their dilemmas, they can find common ground that leads to creative

solutions. But if they are in denial, they often become polarized or seek scapegoats. We’ve had e-mails from all around the world that say things like, ‘I made your book into a PowerPoint and presented it in my village in Malaysia or my town in Finland.’ So there are lots of people interested in what we are doing.”

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<sup>1</sup> Kuhn, T. S. (1962). *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 1st. ed., Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press

<sup>2</sup> Funtowicz, S. O. & Ravetz, J. R. (September, 1993). *Science for the Post-Normal Age*. *Futures*, 25:7, pp. 735-755.

O’Hara, M. (2007). *Strangers in a Strange Land*. *Futures* 37, pp. 930-941.

## Feeling above PAR: Assessment as Research

By Joan Van Tassel

Now that program lead faculty have finished their Program Annual Reviews (PAR), when everyone is deep in reflection, it’s a good time to assess assessment. According to Brenda Shook, Associate Professor of Psychology (COLS), it is most useful to think of assessment as research.



She observed that all faculty members have disciplinary interests, and they can look to their field of expertise as they carry out assessment.

“Look to your discipline for your method of inquiry and construct assessment tools out of those conceptual categories,” said Shook.

“The standards of your profession can be your first and best guide, not just packaged assessment procedures. Look to the embedded assessment methods second. A good place to introduce your discipline-specific methods is the section for overall reflections.”

A trained scientist with expertise in statistics, Shook plays with measures of clustering and dispersion for entertainment. But she understands that not everyone has the same level of numeracy that she does. However, even when faculty members teach poetry, film criticism, or another discipline that does not focus on scientific methods, they can still turn to their own field for guidelines.

“I think there is this general belief, whether true or not, that everybody has to be quantitative. So when I talk to people in English, they say, ‘We are being forced to be quantitative and poetry isn’t quantitative.’ But they can do sound qualitative research – content analysis, for example – so they can apply analysis that is much more holistic,” she explained.

Shook makes suggestions to make the assessment job easier:

- The key to avoiding difficulties in assessment is to make sure that program learning outcomes (PLOs) are aligned properly to course learning outcomes (CLOs). Such alignment means that grades for embedded assignments and exam questions will be easily turned to assessment purposes.
- If your PLOs and CLOs align, then try using embedded assignments. That way, you will always have grades, which ensures you will have some numerical scores to work with.
- Start assessment early so you can call on your School Assessment Committee members for mentoring help.

Shook’s most surprising advice is: “No matter which methods you use, make assessment interesting to yourself!”

“No matter which methods you use, make assessment interesting to yourself!”

—Brenda Shook







## Mail from Ismail

**By Ismail Sebetan**

Dear Colleagues,

I want to welcome you to the Faculty Scholarship Conference, which starts the day before Fall Assembly. This year, we will have a book fair, featuring all the authors and producers with their publications. We also have a full day of research presentations that includes work from all the schools. I think you will be impressed with the quality of work our colleagues have created.



The Research Council has had a busy year since last Fall Assembly. Under the leadership of Mike Maxwell, we continued the monthly NU Lecture Series, bringing in nine speakers to discuss their research and ideas. Joan Van Tassel and I organized the Student Scholarship Conference. Mohammed Amin, Robyn Hill, and I put hours of work putting the Scholarship Directory together. Connie Fajardo and Mohammed Nadeem presented workshops for new and seasoned researchers at Spring Symposium, and you will see the results of Roland Fleck's organizing of the Book Fair at the Faculty Scholarship Conference.

We are all very pleased to encourage research at National University. We hope our efforts will inspire and motivate you to keep involved in scholarship activities and that we can support your efforts.



*I show (off) the splendid student research projects to President Patricia Potter.*

## Grants-At-A-Glance

**By: Michelle Hills**

Director of Grants and Compliance  
mhills@nu.edu | x8342

Office of Sponsored Programs & Research (OSPR)

There is a new emphasis on seeking grant funding to support research, professional development, and program expansion within the University.



I want to encourage all faculty and researchers to come forward with their project ideas so that my office can provide the best possible service.

The Office of Sponsored Programs sends out the Grants Hot Sheet regularly, which provides a listing of a few selected opportunities that could be of interest. However, if I know a faculty member has a specific research focus, I can look for individual opportunities that may be available to them. I see more and more opportunities wherein the funding source encourages collaborative efforts between researchers in various schools within the same university as well as consortia of different universities, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), non-profit Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and/or industry partners.

OSPR provides support with writing the proposal. Of course the faculty member is the subject matter expert who will be responsible for the research elements and the development of the project idea. However, we can fine-tune the application to ensure a complete response to specific requirements. We read the narrative and make sure all requirements outlined in the grant application guidelines are addressed and that the university's internal policies with respect to budget review and approval of proposed cost sharing and faculty course release time support the research application narrative. Finally, we collaborate with other university units such as Institutional Research to put together supporting documentation for the application.

The timeline and budget development are very important aspects of any grant application. Faculty can come to us when they are in the development phase of the proposal. When they have a clear idea, and a preliminary draft of the research project, then we can start putting together the budget and begin to consider the need for other institutional processes and approvals. As a general rule, proposal proponents should plan for about a month to complete the application, starting from the time we all begin working together on it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance with any grant-related matters. I am happy to assist. Thank you.

—Michelle Hills





## Provost's Perspective

**From Provost Eileen D. Heveron**

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and effort of the Research Council as it provides opportunities to promote and share faculty scholarship. Through the Research Conferences at the Fall Assembly and Spring Symposium, the Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching and this newsletter, our University's attention to the pursuit of knowledge shines forth.

As many of you know, I too was a working adult while pursuing my advanced degrees. My learning was enriched tenfold by the research agendas of the faculty members under whom I studied. From the ideas exchanged in the classroom, brought to life by "up to the minute" nuggets from a faculty member's scholarship, ideas for my own research projects began to grow. More important, I was able to take the understanding I learned from this blend of theory and practice to my job each day. This was an extremely valuable aspect of the educational experience that I was afforded "way back when," as it truly is for every National University student today.

I am pleased to support the Research Council's ongoing efforts to provide forums that recognize faculty and their pursuit of knowledge and original research. These efforts contribute to student learning, the University culture and the academic community at-large.

I offer you my best wishes as you continue your work, as well as my gratitude for your scholarly diligence.

—Eileen D. Heveron, Ph.D.

## Letter from the Editor

Hello colleagues,

This is the second issue of the newsletter in a PDF format, which lets us provide more multimedia material. Please check out the video link in the front page article that covers the research of Dr. Maureen O'Hara. She gave a fascinating talk for the Research Council and the video is a good introduction to her work in her own words.



Please consider forwarding to me information at [jvantassel@nu.edu](mailto:jvantassel@nu.edu) about the research you are doing so that I can write about it and let university faculty members know about your work. It gives us all encouragement to proceed with our own research, and we can all learn from one another.

The newsletter is also a good place to let National faculty know about conferences that would offer particular opportunities for us to present our research. And please send me any suggestions you have for improving this newsletter.

Thank you,

—Joan Van Tassel, Communication Arts, SOMC



# Faculty Scholarship Conference

September 8, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

## Conference Opening & Book & Media Fair

Salon E

Dr. Ismail M. Sebetan, Chair, Organizing Committee  
Ms. Patricia Potter, President, National University  
Dr. Eileen Heveron, Provost, National University

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oral Presentations Session

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## Luncheon

Salon D

Oral Presentations Session

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Closure

3:30 p.m.

## BOOK & MEDIA FAIR

Salon E

(List of Authors/Producers)

Amber Lo, SOET	Joy Kutaka-Kennedy, SOE
Annette Cyr, COLS	Lorraine Leavitt, SOE
Charles Tatum, COLS	Lucinda Kramer, SOE
David Smith, SOBM	Margot Kinberg, SOE
Frank Montesonti, COLS	Susan Gilbert, SOE
Gary Studebaker, SOE	Tom Pollard, COLS
Joan Van Tassel, SOMC	William Fullerton, COLS

## MORNING: SESSION A

Marina Del Rey (3rd floor)

10:30 am – 12:30 p.m.

Chair: Robyn Hill & Tom Pollard

### Can you identify leadership when you see it?

C. Kalani Beyer, School of Education, National University

### The Enduring Legacy of Structured Inequality in America's Public Schools

Mark Edward Ryan, Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, National University

### Virtual Transformation: An Online Learning Experience of Self-Care

Gabrielle Pelicci, Department of Integrative Health & Health Coaching, School of Health and Human Services, National University

### Communication in Online Learning: What Matters?

Peter Serdyukov and \*Nataliya Serdyukova, Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, National University and \*Department of Math and Natural Sciences

### Online Teaching Tools for Molecular Dynamics Analysis of DNA Hybridization

Samuel A. Afuwape, School of Engineering and Technology, National University

### Learning Environments for Virtual Team Success: An Analysis of Published Literature

Barbara Lauridsen, School of Education, National University

## MORNING: SESSION B

Newport & Irvine  
(1st floor)

10:30 am – 12:30 p.m.

Chairs: Ismail M. Sebetan & Charles Tatum

### Effects of Mindfulness Practices on Depression and Anxiety.

Charles Tatum and Valire, Department of Psychology, National University

### Improved Allogeneic Cytotoxic T-Lymphocytes Designed for Specific Immunotherapy of High Grade Brain Tumor

Patric M. Schiltz, School of Health and Human Services, National University

### Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or Infant Homicide?

Ismail M. Sebetan, Forensic Sciences Program, College of Letters & Sciences, National University

### Sequence Analysis of Mouse-Passaged Dengue 1 Virus Strain That Induces Plasma Leakage in Mice

Huda A. Makhluaf, Department of Math & Natural Sciences, College of Letters and Sciences, National University

### Responses of Persons Living with HIV Disease to a Spiritual Mantram Intervention Contact person

Jill E. Bormann, Ann Kelly, Jeanne Kemppainen, Martha Shively, Patricia Bone, Wendy Belding, Sheryl Becker and Allen L. Gifford, VA San Diego Healthcare System and National University et al.



**AFTERNOON:  
SESSION A**

Marina Del Rey  
(3rd floor)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(HALL INFORMATION)

Chairs: Consolacion Fajardo & Mohammad Nadeem

**Sustaining the Latest Management Fad**

George Drops, Department of Leadership and Business Administration, School of Business and Management, National University

**Alternative Methods of Incorporating International Financial Reporting Standards in the Accounting Curriculum.**

Consolacion Fajardo and Gregory Merrill, School of Business & Management, National University

**Do as I Do: Modeling professional behaviors in an online class**

Peter Serdyukov and Robyn A. Hill, Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, National University

**The Effect of “Open Class”- the New Model of Professional Development on Enhancing Teachers’ Pedagogical Content Knowledge**

Zhonghe Wu, Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, National University

**An Exploratory Study, of Qualified, Minority Educators: Perceptions and Aspirations Concerning the Superintendency in California.**

Gilbert Uzo Amadi, Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, National University

**Learning Management Systems Infrastructure (An Analysis of Published Literature)**

Barbara Lauridsen, School of Education, National University

**AFTERNOON:  
SESSION B**

Newport & Irvine  
(1st floor)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Chairs: Mohammad Amin & Joan Van Tassel

**Proposal for a New Graduate Degree in Internet Engineering and Cyber technology**

Mohammad Amin, Pradip Peter Dey, and Hassan Badkoobei, School of Engineering and Technology

**A Z-loop Construction using Graph Theory and Topology for Power System Under Faulted Studies**

Tedja Santanoe Oepomo, School of Engineering and Technology, National University

**Post-9/11 Hollywood: Revenge, Torture, Superheroes, Supervillains, and Super Disasters**

Tom Pollard and Carl Boggs, College of Letters and Sciences, National University

**“Net Cabinet of Wonder”**

Don Barth, School of Media and Communication, National University

**The Obama Campaign: Politics 4.0 -The Revolution Was Televised —And Microtargeted, Emailed, Blogged, Vlogged, Chatted, Texted, Tweeted, iPhoned, & Videogamed**

Joan Van Tassel, School of Media and Communication, National University

**Oepomo’s Algorithm for Computing Eigenvalue in System Engineering**

Tedja Santanoe Oepomo, School of Engineering and Technology, National University

**Organizing Committee:**

Ismail M. Sebetan, Chair; Eileen Heveron, Debra Bean, Joan Van Tassel, Michael Maxwell, Tom Pollard, Roland Fleck, Robyn A. Hill, Mohammad Amin, Mohammed Nadeem, Charles Tatum, Roxanne Eisermann, Michelle Hills, Michael Pasquarelli, Dave Hokstad.

**Review Board:**

Ismail M. Sebetan, Joan Van Tassel, Michael Maxwell, Mohammad Amin, Peter Serdyukov, Gary Hoban, Clifford Russell, Mohammad Amin, Don Schwartz, Igor Subbotin, Kouichi Hiraiwa (Fukushima Medical College, Fukushima, Japan), Youkichi Ohno (Nippon Medical School, Tokyo, Japan).

## Fall Academic Assembly Schedule

WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. New Faculty Orientation Salon A  
 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. AAC Members Salon F & G  
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Deans and Chairs Training Salon B & C  
 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Chancellor's Address & Luncheon Hilton Torrey Pines  
 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Full-Time Faculty Meeting Salon D & E  
 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Faculty Voting Newport/Irvine  
 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Reception Salon A & D

THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10

7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Salon A & D  
 9:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Provost's Address Salon E - H  
 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. BREAK Foyer D & E  
 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Educational Effectiveness Salon E - H  
 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. NU 2015 Salon E - H  
 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks Q&A Salon E - H  
 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch and Service Awards Salon A - D**

Afternoon:  
School Meetings

1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. COLS School Mtg Salon F - H  
 SHHS School Mtg Irvine Room  
 SOBM School Mtg LA/Rcho L Palmas  
 SOE - Teacher Ed Department Mtg Salon E  
 SOE - Ed Admin Department Mtg Santa Clara  
 SOE - Counsel & Psych Department Mtg Santa Barbara  
 SOE - Special Ed Department Mtg La Jolla  
 SOET School Mtg Marina De Rey  
 SOMC School Mtg Newport

Afternoon:  
School Meetings

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **BREAK**  
 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Afternoon: Department Meetings  
 COLS - Art & Humanities Department Mtg Salon G  
 COLS - Math & Nat Sciences Department Mtg Salon H  
 COLS - Professional Studies Department Mtg Salon A  
 COLS - Psychology Department Mtg Salon B  
 COLS - Social Sciences Department Mtg Salon F  
 SHHS School Mtg Irvine Room  
 SOBM - Ldrship/Mgmt/Mktg Department Mtg Los Angeles  
 SOBM - Acct'g/Fin/Mktg Department Mtg Rcho Las Palmas  
 SOE - Teacher Education Department Mtg Salon E  
 SOE - Education Administration Department Mtg Santa Clara  
 SOE - Counseling & Psychology Department Mtg Santa Barbara  
 SOE - Special Education Department Mtg La Jolla  
 SOET School Mtg Marina Del Rey  
 SOMC - Media Department Mtg Newport  
 SOMC - Communication Department Mtg San Francisco



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