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*Measurement*, edited by Mark Wilson, and decided to send the GSE professor an e-mail to find out about the Quantitative Methods and Evaluation program here.

“I remember saying to myself ‘if he replies, I’ll apply,’” recalls Liu, who eventually received Wilson’s reply, only there was nothing in it. “I thought ‘that’s weird, maybe he forgot to write in it, or more likely, maybe he wanted to delete it but somehow hit the reply button instead.’ Either way, I took it as a ‘yes,’ applied and got in!”

After earning a master’s and doctorate in quantitative methods in 2006, Liu finally mentioned the e-mail omen to her advisor. Wilson laughed loudly at the anecdote, perhaps realizing how important his (non) reply could be to a prospective student.

Liu joined the Educational Testing Service (ETS) as a research scientist directly after graduating. There, she has directed eight research projects serving a range of testing programs including the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP) and National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). She is also the lead scientist on a project investigating the construct validity of outcomes assessment funded by the U.S. Department of Education. ETS honored Liu with its Presidential Award in 2008 for her outstanding contributions to research.

While far from her New Jersey office and home, UC Berkeley and the Graduate School of Education remain very close to Liu’s heart and work.

“I spent a most wonderful time at Cal,” says Liu, who fondly remembers exchanging ideas with fellow colleagues and students in the QME lab. “GSE is a very diversified, dynamic community and offers a lot of opportunities to think independently, learn and develop. I’ve met a lot of people who turned out to be collaborators professionally and friends personally.”

She has worked closely with professor Marcia Linn since 2002, when Liu was a graduate research assistant on Linn’s Technology Enhanced Learning in Science (TELS) grant. Currently, Liu is a co-principal investigator and Linn is principal investigator on two multi-million dollar five-year projects funded by the National Science Foundation on science learning and assessment (see page 14) — Visualizing to Integrate Science Understanding for All Learners (VISUAL) and Cumulative Learning using Embedded Assessment Results (CLEAR).

And she still also collaborates with Wilson; they published four papers together in measurement journals after Liu graduated. The two are waiting for a response from the U.S. Department of Education on a grant proposal on outcomes assessment in higher education. If funded, this project ensures another four years of collaboration.

Funny how fulfilling a false start can be.

## Spotlight

# Ou Lydia Liu Taking It To the Blank

BY STEVEN COHEN

Many alumni have taken circuitous routes to and through the Graduate School of Education. Lydia Liu’s experience may have been the most fortuitous.

Growing up in Hunan Province, Liu was among the first generation to experience China’s one-child policy (that country’s family planning policy introduced around 1980). She attended the University of Science and Technology of China as an English and Science major, but numbers have always infatuated her.

After enrolling in an education psychology program at a Big Ten college, Liu became intrigued by a series of textbooks, *Objective*

# ...class notes

If you would like to submit a Class Note please fill out the form at [gse.berkeley.edu/admin/communications/classnotes.html](http://gse.berkeley.edu/admin/communications/classnotes.html). Class Notes for future issues must reach us by September 30, 2010.

## 1950s

**Ellis Harlow**, M.A. '55, taught German and French at Oakland High School for 35 years. For 25 years, he was associated with GSE's Teacher Training Program, and Dr. Karl Shevill's study Performance Evaluation of Foreign Languages. A veteran of World War II combat, he retired as a captain and is past president of the Sacramento chapter of Military Officers Association of America. Harlow has written American and European history textbooks that have been adopted in nearly every state, including California. He retired from teaching in 1983 but still takes a limited number of clients as a literary consultant. "I am 87," he says, "but they tell me I don't look a day over 77, and there are mornings when I feel like 97."



**John Andes**, Ed.D. '57, served as assistant superintendent in the Richmond schools and then as superintendent of the San Mateo schools. After retiring in 1970, he served as president

of the California Retired Teachers Association, treasurer of the National Retired Teachers Association, and as an AARP Trainer. He moved to Friendship Village in Tempe, AZ in 1990, and will be 98 years young in January.

## 1960s

**Terry Maul**, M.A. Education '68, Ph.D. '70, recently retired as professor and department chair of San Bernardino Valley College's School of Psychology. Like his son, Andy (see '08 Class Note), he is still devoted to GSE, where he serves on the Alumni Council.

## 1970s

**Gwen Grondal**, Gwen Grondal, M.A. '70, Ph.D. Education: Policy, Planning and Administration '75, is a consultant residing in Carlsbad, CA. She spends most of her time teaching and mentoring doctoral learners at the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Studies.

Steven Cohen



GSE Professor and PACE Director Bruce Fuller, left, listens to Torlakson.

**Richard Chambers**, M.A. '76, multiple subjects credential '79, Ph.D. '87, is president of America's Return Inc. He has consulted with more than 1,200 senior management teams, and has spoken before thousands of others through presentations for corporations, business schools and professional organizations. He is the former vice president of one of the nation's largest small-business consulting companies.

**Fred Murray**, single subject credential '76, a classroom teacher since he graduated, sends greetings to all his classmates in the University of California Cooperative Teacher Preparation Project (UCCTPP).

**John Lee**, Ed.D. '79, is president of JBL Associates. The firm recently finished a feasibility study for a new community college in Washington, D.C., the last major American city without a community college. The plan will be the basis for the development of the college over the next several years.

## 1980s

**Fatima Badry**, Ph.D. LLSC '83, is professor and head of the Department of English at American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. She is directing a conference, December 17-19, 2009, on Bilingualism and Bilingual education in the Middle East, with the theme, "Fostering Multiliteracies Through Education: Middle Eastern Perspectives."

**Sharon Gocke**, Ph.D. Educational Administration '83, also earned a degree in law from the University of San Francisco and is a practicing attorney on a part-time basis. A professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Napa Valley College, she has won a National Endowment for the Humanities award to study Naturalistic Epistemology at the

**Tom Torlakson**, multiple subjects credential '72, M.A. '77, is in his final term in the California State Assembly. He previously served in the State Senate from 2000-08 and the State Assembly from 1996-2000. Torlakson is a candidate for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction in November 2010. Torlakson's career in public service began as a science teacher in 1972. He was elected to the Antioch City Council in 1978, and then served on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors for 16 years.

University of Hawaii and a Ford Foundation Fellowship to do research at Vassar College in New York.

## 1990s



**Jodi Libretti**, M.A. DTE '90, has worn many educational hats since earning her teaching credential. While in California, she taught

various elementary grades, as well as bilingual Spanish, ELD and English-immersion classes in public schools. She took a leave from the "indoor classroom" to teach environmental education at a wilderness preserve and direct the training of volunteer naturalists, ages 18-80. After moving to Chicago, Libretti worked for the Great Books Foundation as a national training instructor and then for the Wright Group developing a mathematics program. She currently works as a consultant and writer, mainly in the area of math. She also directs the education program for children and young people at her church and is founder and leader of a grassroots group working for peace and social justice.

**Paul MacFarlane**, M.A. teaching credential DTE '93, is in his second year teaching English at Tianjin University in Tianjin, China. He says that his new career in China has given him a new professional lease on life after teaching elementary school in California for 30 years.

**Desiree Pointer Mace**, M.A. '96, Ph.D. LLSC '01, is an assistant professor of Education at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI, and the author of the recently published *Teacher Practice Online: Sharing Wisdom, Opening Doors* (Teachers College Press, 2009). Her work focuses on envisioning and inventing ways of representing teaching and learning using



**Susan Roberta Katz**, Ph.D. Language, Literacy and Culture '94, a professor of International & Multicultural Education (IME) at the University of San Francisco (USF) and a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Education, has developed an emphasis in Human Rights Education (HRE) for M.A. and Ed.D. candidates at USF, the first pedagogical college in the nation to offer that option. She also received a Fulbright fellowship in Ecuador to study bilingual/intercultural

education among the Shuar, an indigenous group in the Amazon. Katz has plenty of support from her GSE and USF colleagues. USF assistant professors **Shabnam Koirala-Azad**, Social and Cultural Studies '04, and **Emma Fuentes**, Social and Cultural Studies '05, helped develop and teach new courses for the human rights program.

new media and online technologies. She has developed multimedia websites of exemplary practitioner inquiry for many years, beginning with her work at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. There, Pointer Mace and Ann Lieberman co-directed the Goldman-Carnegie Quest Project for Signature Pedagogies in Teacher Education, focused on the use of such websites in pre-service teacher education, and the Noyce-Carnegie Quest Project for Elementary Literacy, which documented the relationship between classroom practice and professional development in elementary writing. Pointer Mace and Lieberman are the founding co-editors of *Inside Teaching*, a "living archive" of teaching practice.

**Marlo Kahn Kitch**, M.A. teaching credential DTE '97, and a secondary credential in mathematics '04, teaches resource math and advanced algebra to ninth grade students at Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto. She says that "it is a fabulous place to teach with students who are extremely motivated to do the hard work that will help them be prepared to attend college." Previously, Kitch taught middle school math and science in Palo Alto for nine years.



**Sam Platis**, M.A. teaching credential DTE '98, serves as a district administrator for 27 middle and K-8 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Having also served as a kindergarten teacher, coordinator of state and federal categorical programs, assistant principal and principal, he continues to draw inspiration from his tremendously valuable experience in DTE. Platis and his wife Laura are most proud of their three-year-old budding scholar, Mateos, who will be a big brother in a

few short weeks. Platis still recalls Professor Paul Ammon's anecdotes of Piagetian tasks with his son, Peter, and he celebrated profusely when Mateos recently demonstrated his understanding of Conservation of Number.

**Colette Cann**, M.A. '99, Ph.D. Social and Cultural Studies '06, is an assistant professor of Education at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where her research interests include teacher education, teaching at the secondary level and the distribution of teacher resources. Cann is organizing the third annual Teachers, Teaching and the Movies: Representations and Pedagogy in Film, Television and New Media, a multi-disciplinary conference at Vassar, April 8-10, 2010.

**Patricia Young**, LLSC '99, an assistant professor in Literacy Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, edited *Instructional Design Frameworks and Intercultural Models* (Information Science Reference, 2008), a book about the need to design information and communication technologies with a focus on generic and specialized users and learners for companies to remain competitive in the global technological marketplace.

## 2000S

**Gilberto Arriaza**, Ph.D. Social and Cultural Studies '00, is professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education at California State University East Bay, and co-author of *The Power of Talk. How Words Change Our Lives* (Corwin Press, 2009). From 2000-07, he taught at the College of Education, San Jose State University where he also served as co-director of the Leading for Equity and Achievement Designs (LEAD) Center, working on school reform.

**Katie Charner-Laird**, M.A. teaching credential DTE '00, is principal of the Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School in Newton, Massachusetts. Before becoming a principal, Charner-Laird was a teacher and literacy coordinator at the Cambridgeport School in Cambridge, Massachusetts for six years. She also received an M.Ed. in School Leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education and is a mom to a "fabulous first grader."



**Deborah McKoy**, Ph.D. POME '00, director of the Center for Cities & Schools and a lecturer in City & Regional Planning, received the Faculty Service-Learning Leadership Award at this year's UC Berkeley Chancellor's Public Service Awards in recognition for her efforts to engage students in public-planning research and action in the Oakland area.

**Suzanne Yee**, M.A. Athletes and Academic Achievement '00, has relocated from the West Coast to the East Coast, where she recently began her first season as assistant swim coach for men and women at University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Previously, Yee served as assistant coach at Washington State University from 2000-08.

**Maureen Maloney**, Ed.D. '01, is vice president for student affairs and dean of students at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Formerly the women's basketball coach at San Francisco State, she remains an avid sports fan and is a season ticket holder for Cal women's basketball.

**Lorraine (Lori) Falchi**, M.A. teaching credential DTE '02, is an instructor, research assistant and doctoral candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University. She credits DTE's combination of teaching and practitioner research with a focus on English language learners as especially valuable to her research, which examines multilingual children's changing participation in multiple literacies.

**Lisa Griffin**, single subject credential '02, M.A. MUSE '03, is a new lecturer in GSE's Language and Literacy, Society and Culture area. She received her doctorate from the University of

Rochester. Griffin and her husband happily announced the birth of their second son, Ando Kenneth Naruishi, born in July.

**Becky Cox**, Ph.D. POME '04, is the author of the just-released, *The College Fear Factor: How Students and Professors Misunderstand One Another* (Harvard University Press, 2010), which builds on her GSE dissertation.

**Beth Samuelson**, Ph.D. LLSC '04, is an assistant professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Central Michigan University.



**K. Wayne Yang**, Ph.D. Social and Cultural Studies '04, gave the keynote at GSE's Commencement on May 17. Yang told the audience

of graduates, faculty, families, students and friends to fight for the underdog as they pursue their careers as teachers and scholars.

**Laura Vallejo**, Ph.D. ELLC '05, is a child development instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College.



When **Andy Maul**, QME '08, returned to Tolman Hall last spring to speak at a BEAR (Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment Research Center) Seminar, his former advisor, Professor Mark Wilson, presented the recent graduate with an honorary cap to remember his former school. Currently, Maul is hanging his hat at the University of Oslo in Norway, where he is doing post-doctoral work while his wife, Diana Arya, is a Fulbright Scholar there (see page 11).

## Special Education Graduates: Ready, Set, Gone!

The Joint Doctoral Program in Special Education, offered jointly with San Francisco State University, has quietly graduated about 109 doctoral students since the first degree was conferred in 1974.

"We may be one of the best kept secrets in the School," says GSE Professor Anne Cunningham, who has directed the program since 1997. "The graduates of our program are engaged in a variety of careers, from academic positions in large universities to state-level positions as directors of special education to private consultants in the field."

San Francisco State University (SFSU) has practically become the feeder school for program graduates: **Lori Goetz** ('81), **Pam Hunt** ('86), **Pamela LePage** ('95), **Amanda Lueck** ('79) and **Pamela Wolfberg** ('94) are all tenure-track professors; **Phyllis Tappe** ('92) and **Claudia Wilson** ('99) are adjunct professors; **Betty Yu** ('09) is a new assistant professor; while others, like doctoral candidate **Emmy Fearn**, have already taught and supervised credential students at SFSU.

**Yu** began work in San Francisco State's Communicative Disorders Program in the Department of Special Education just one week after filing her dissertation in August. "The transition was swift and surreal," says Yu. "Although the dust is still settling, I have gotten my bearings enough to report that I love my job."

Yu's classmate, **Emily Nusbaum** ('09) was also quick out of the gates. Nusbaum filed her dissertation last May and immediately accepted an assistant professor position in the College of Education at California State University, Fresno. While teaching two courses in the Moderate-Severe disabilities credential program there, she also works on revising that credential and travels throughout the Central Valley visiting schools and programs for students with labels of severe disability.

Not all recent program graduates go the

professorial route. They have served as directors or administrators of clinically based special education programs in public or private facilities.

These days, **Liz Hartmann** ('09) is piecing together work in a variety of part-time positions including as an educational consultant for Perkins International, part of Perkins School



for the Blind. An estimated 10 percent of the 6 million children worldwide who are blind or visually impaired have access to an education. Hartmann is doing her part.

"As one of the consultants to the program, I work to provide support to teacher education programs in universities in The Philippines and Kenya," writes Hartmann. "I also provide direct support to local educational programs and advocate for innovative and sustainable social change. For example, in Kenya, I am collaborating with the Kenya Ministry of Education to develop a comprehensive diploma program at the Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE) that will prepare teachers to educate children with multiple disabilities, such as deafblindness. I work closely with the professionals at KISE to develop curriculum, train faculty and prepare practicum sites throughout the country. Our goal is to build local and sustainable expertise by training teachers throughout Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda."

Another recent graduate, **Yael Biederman Galinson** ('03), works part time as a lecturer for GSE's Developmental Teacher Education program, and runs her own business,



Signing Smart, to teach parents and young (hearing) children to communicate using signs from American Sign Language. On the side, Biederman consults and edits children's books.

Biederman might speak for others in the program, when she says: "I feel that the JD program gave me the freedom to develop my research interests but, at the same time, I was challenged to understand these particular interests within a broader context."