

## ESM Alumni



Pat Barlow '14

Patrick is an assistant professor at the Office of Consultation & Research in Medical Education (OCRME) at the University of Iowa. His primary research areas are in higher education assessment, specifically in graduate medical education (GME) settings as well as teaching statistics and research methods in the social sciences, epidemiology, and clinical medical fields.



Pamela Bishop '12

Pamela is currently the Evaluation Manager with the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, where she evaluates interdisciplinary science education and research programs. Bishop also conducts research on the collaboration practices and productivity of interdisciplinary teams of scientists.



Jason Black '12

Jason is currently a Senior Administrator in the Accountability, Research, and Assessment Office for Orange County Public Schools. Some of his research interests include: alcohol and drug prevention research, programming, and the evaluation of prevention programs. Also, he is interested in teaching quantitative research methods and psychology of substance use.



Erin Burr '09

Dr. Erin Burr is a Senior Assessment & Evaluation Portfolio Manager in the STEM Workforce Development (STEM-WD) program at Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Her work focuses on evaluation of STEM education and workforce development program portfolios for the US Department of Energy, other US government agencies, private and non-profit organizations, and universities that target K-12 students and teachers; university students and faculty; and Ph.D.-level researchers. She has experience evaluating national and international, single-site and multi-site STEM-focused programs and focuses on evaluating federally funded programs, processes, and services at national laboratories and universities.



Brenna Berry Butler '21

Brenna Butler is an Evaluation Specialist for Penn State Extension, housed within the College of Agricultural Sciences. Brenna's primary responsibilities include designing, implementing, and analyzing the results of evaluations and assessments for educational programs and grants within Penn State Extension that deliver science-based information to Pennsylvanians. Brenna also coaches Extension faculty and staff on how to conduct a wide range of evaluation skills across the evaluation lifecycle (e.g., logic model development) to implement into their program development processes for their educational outreach programs. Brenna's research interests include best practices in data visualization and evaluation report writing for both technical and non-technical audiences.



Nikki Christen '23

Nikki is a 2023 graduate of the ESM program and is currently an Evaluation Specialist at the Synergy Evaluation Institute at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She previously earned a Master in Information Science at the University of Tennessee and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice from Tennessee Tech University. Her research interests include higher education assessment, data visualization, teaching evaluation, and survey research methodology.



Ann Cisney-Booth '15

Ann currently works as a Senior Administrator in the Program Evaluation Department for Orange County Public Schools located in Orlando, Florida. Her research interests include evaluation of domestic violence programs, community/non-profit organizations and K-12 programs.

### Shannon Coulter '09



Dr. Shannon Coulter is a graduate of the University of Tennessee ('09) and is currently the Director of Research and Evaluation at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). Shannon plays an important role in assisting educators and administrators in San Diego's 780 schools in making well-informed decisions regarding the efficacy of school programs and services. His experience encompasses the evaluation of more than 80 programs designed to support diverse student populations, including those who are economically disadvantaged, English learners, students with disabilities, and military-connected students. Furthermore, Shannon is a fellow within the Harvard Strategic Data Project, where his work involves exploring the impact of school accountability on student achievement. Prior to his tenure at SDCOE, Shannon served as an Educational Psychology professor and as a classroom teacher in alternative education settings.

### Britany Daulton '15



Brittany's primary research interests include higher education assessment, The First-Year Experience, measurement theory, technical education, and sense of belonging in college students.

### Joseph L. Donaldson '11



Joseph's current projects include Co-Chairing a statewide strategic planning effort for UT Extension and researching the Extension Agent performance appraisal system.

### Shelly Esquivel '10



Shelly is the Director of Institutional Research at Roane State Community College in Harriman, TN.



Terry Gibson Jr.

Terry is currently the Assistant Dean and Professor of Mathematics at Pellissippi State. His research interests are survey development and validation, quantitative methodology, higher education assessment, student-centered learning, and student transition to college.



Sam Held '14

Sam is the lead evaluator at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. His research interests revolve around science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and the STEM workforce.



Jenny Holcombe '12

Jenny is currently a faculty member in the School of Nursing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga where she teaches undergraduate research and graduate research, statistics, evidence-based practice, and epidemiology. Her current research is focused on graduate school selection instruments including interviews and measures of judgment, factors related to long-term allergen immunotherapy adherence, and relationships between religion/spirituality and end-of-life decision-making.



Susanne Kaesbauer '12

Susanne is currently a Senior Research Associate at the Picker Institute in Oxford, England





Kevin Kidder '20

Kevin earned a degree in Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. His dissertation was titled "Creation and Validation of the Multi-Stakeholder Survey of the Learning Environment (MSSLE) for Medical Schools" and focused on creating an instrument that would assist medical schools with measuring and evaluating the learning environment from a variety of stakeholders including faculty, staff, and students. He is now working at The Anne Burnett Marion School of Medicine at Texas Christian University as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Education.



Paul Kirkland '19

Paul has a BS in mathematics from Tennessee Wesleyan College and an MM in mathematics from the University of Tennessee. His research interests include mathematics education, statistics education, educational assessment and measurement, and program evaluation. He is also interested in teaching statistics and research methodology. He is currently employed as a Mathematics Teacher for the Monroe County School System.

Wenshu Li '16

Wenshu is currently an evaluation fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her primary research interests include evaluation and assessment in Engineering Education in both K-12 and college setting.



Sondra LoRe '19

Sondra is a doctoral candidate in the Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement program. She works as an evaluator for the National Institute for STEM Evaluation and Research (NISER) and has over 20 years' experience in K-12 STEM education and leadership. She received her BA in economics from the University of Massachusetts, MS in curriculum and instruction from the University of Tennessee and EdS in educational leadership from Lincoln Memorial University.



Sherry Marlow Ormsby '17

Sherry Marlow Ormsby serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Institutional Research (OPEIR) at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. In this role, she leads the OPEIR team to support UTC's planning, assessment, evaluation, and institutional effectiveness efforts. Prior to earning a Ph.D. in the ESM Program, Sherry earned a Master of Public Administration from UTC and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Washington State University. Her research interests center around student access, success, and completion. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, hiking, and traveling with her spouse and dog.



Sarah Nadel '19

Sarah has a master's degree in quantitative research, evaluation, and measurement from The Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northern Kentucky University. Her primary research interests include self-efficacy, motivation, and retention in higher education and within organizational settings. Sarah currently works as a survey researcher for the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR).



Jessica D. Osborne '21

Jessica Osborne is the Principal Evaluation Associate for the Higher Education Portfolio at The Center for Research Evaluation at the University of Mississippi. Her primary goals are to advance the field of evaluation within higher education and to improve outcomes for students and student support programs for graduate and undergraduate students. Jessica's publications focus on evidencing best practices in student support and needs assessments. Jessica has a PhD in Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, and a BA in English from Elon University.



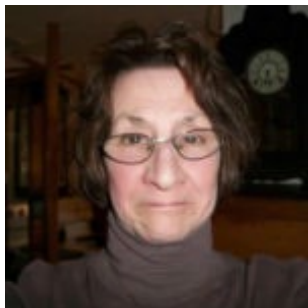
Richard Parlier '21

Richard Parlier has a PhD in Educational Research from the Evaluation, Statistics, and Measurement department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He currently works for the Office of Assessment and Accountability at the Georgia Department of Education. As an Assessment Specialist, his current roles include conducting quality control analysis of standardized assessments for K-12 students. His published research studies include the impact of learning communities, supplemental instruction, and faculty use of end-of course evaluations.



Niranji A. Pathirage '15

Dr. Niranji Pathirage graduated from the ESM program in 2015. Dr. Pathirage also earned a MS in Statistics and a BSc in Statistics from the University of Tennessee and University of Sri Jayewardenepura – Sri Lanka, respectively. She currently works as a Senior Business Intelligence Analyst at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where she develops analytical, predictive and ETL solutions with grant, finance, student, faculty, and HR data. Her research interests are focused primarily on higher education assessment and evaluation as well as workforce retention strategies. She is also interested in teaching statistics and research methods.



Carol Price '10

Carol currently works with the Institute for Assessment and Evaluation at the University of Tennessee on a variety of evaluation projects and as an independent consultant providing research support for local professionals and nonprofit organizations. Her research interests remain focused on the value of nature pursued through the newly created nonprofit organization LuNA, offering local support for nature and animals.



Jennifer Richards '07

Jennifer currently directs *Hands On: Real World Lessons for Middle School Classrooms*, a multi-state food safety education research program housed in the Department of Food Science & Technology at UT. Her research interests include teacher professional development, interdisciplinary curriculum and instruction, and psychological constructs of behavior change.



Tiffany Smith '14

Tiffany is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Stout where she teaches subjects such as research methodology and evaluation to both undergraduate and graduate students. Her primary research interests include stakeholder communication and involvement as well as reflective practice in evaluation.



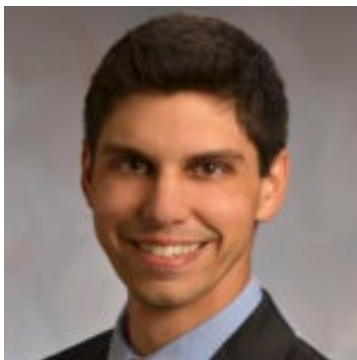
Amy Sullins '10

Amy is an associate professor of Education at Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, TN. She is also a member of the Athens City School Board.



Lakmal Walpitige '16

Lakmal currently works as a research analyst at the Division of Health Care Finance at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. His primary research interests include statistics education, evaluation of programs for international students, and large scale assessment.



John Walker '21

John earned his BS in mathematics from Grand Valley State University and an MA in international education policy from the University of Sydney. He currently serves as the assessment coordinator for the Experience Learning Initiative in the Teaching and Learning Innovation Unit. His research interests are primarily focused on higher education assessment and experiential education. He is particularly interested in what makes institutional assessments effective in a faculty initiatives, and what information faculty use from student assessments and how they use it to shape their pedagogy.





Thelma Woodard '12

Thelma works as an associate director for Institutional Research, Planning, Assessment, and Effectiveness at Wiley College in Marshall, TX.