



Happening in SRO

You can find this "Happening in SRO" and all similar newsletters on the SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/> under Recent News.

If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Ann Vernier or your unit director know.

Thanksgiving Closure Reminder

(Vivienne Outlaw)

SRO will be closed on Wednesday, November 21. If you are planning to work on November 21 and have not already made arrangements, please contact your supervisor. Note that Patty Maher is the point of contact for SRO that day. Please enter vacation time in ET if you are taking the day off. Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 are UM Holidays and should be entered as holidays in your ET.

We hope you enjoy this upcoming break!



Save the Date – December SRO Holiday Potluck

(Vivienne Outlaw)

The SRO Holiday potluck is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11 at main ISR. Please look for more information coming soon.



September All-Staff Meeting

(Gregg Peterson)

We had a great (but overdue) All-Staff meeting in September - our first since December of last year. Thank you for your feedback about the meeting. A record 102 people responded to our survey request. 95% of you said you were Very or Somewhat Satisfied with the meeting, which is tied with the highest number we've seen since we began tracking satisfaction with these meetings; 94% of you said we did an excellent or above average job (a rating of 5 or 4) on "keep[ing] you informed about what's happening at SRO."

The success of our meetings is driven primarily by the quality of our speakers and the meaningful content they provide. So many thanks to all of our guest and SRO presenters. Among those presenting was of course, Patty Maher, who made her final All Staff Meeting presentation. The standing ovation following her talk was well deserved.



All of the presentations from the September meeting (including the New Hires video) are available on the SRO Intranet site and can be accessed directly via this link: <http://isr-wp.isr.umich.edu/srointranet/all-staff-meetings/>



Our Work in the World – Project Talent

(Patty Maher and Kirsten Alcser)

Project Talent (PT) is a national longitudinal study that first surveyed America's high school and junior high students in 1960. PT was designed to represent the diversity of the American high school experience at that time. The study sample included private, parochial and public schools across the United States. At the time it was the largest and most comprehensive study of high school students ever undertaken – with nearly 440,000 students participating in two days of educational testing and completing supplemental questionnaires on social interests, personality and family background. The research team at the American Institutes for Research (AIR) followed up with additional data collection at one, five, and eleven years after the initial cohorts joined the study.

In 2010, at its 50th anniversary, researchers from AIR partnered with SRC and SRO to do a feasibility and “proof of concept” study. David Weir and Mary Beth Ofstedal from the SRC Health and Retirement Survey (HRS) were the UM principal investigators of this new work, which was funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) through an administrative supplement to the HRS to support this joint effort with the Project Talent research team. The HRS principal investigators were primarily interested in exploring feasibility of alternative approaches to obtain consent for administrative linkages to Social Security Administration records and collecting data via a self-administered questionnaire. In 2010 the students of the 60's were now of ages similar to the HRS cohorts. SRC/SRO drew a representative 1% sample or 4,400 from the PT sample for the locating and consenting work, including executing the mail survey data collection.

A recent reference to the Project Talent work appeared in the Washington Post. It seems that the PT sample continues to be used to address a variety of research questions. This article mentions research on Alzheimer's disease and report that "subjects who did well on test questions as teenagers had a lower incidence of Alzheimer's and related dementias in their 60s and 70s than those who scored poorly."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/in-1960-about-half-a-million-teens-took-a-test-now-it-could-predict-whether-they-get-alzheimers/2018/09/20/fcbabebe-b864-11e8-a7b5-adaaa5b2a57f_story.html?utm_term=.8a0d79e720b4



(Gina Cheung)

The 18th International Blaise Users Conference (IBUC) hosted by Westat is taking place October 23 to 25, 2018, in Baltimore, Maryland USA.

The conference program includes three days of presentations on the capabilities of Blaise, new uses of Blaise to meet the high demands of today's computer assisted interviewing (CAI) survey environment, and future development of the system along with a pre-conference training on Blaise 5 on Monday, October 22.

University of Michigan SRC has 5 presentations in this conference.

1. Conducting Offline Blaise 5 Surveys in a Distributed Environment by Marsha Skoman
2. Developing Organization Level Screen Layout and Design Guidelines for Blaise 5 by Karl Dinkelmann, Shane Empie, Rebecca Gatward, Lisa Holland, and Andrew Hupp.
3. Transitioning an Established Longitudinal Study to Blaise 5 and to a Mixed Mode Design: A Case Study using the Health and Retirement Study by Rhonda Ash, Karl Dinkelmann, Shane Empie, Rebecca Gatward, Andrew Hupp, Jason Ostergren, James Rodgers, Marsha Skoman, Rhymney Weidner, and Laura Yoder.
4. Transforming Survey Paradata by Cheng Zhou, Andrew Piskorowski, Mark Simonson and Laura Yoder.
5. Script Writer - The Compilation of Script Generation by Max Malhotra.

The conference also includes special technical presentations by the Blaise Team on key Blaise 5 developments.

Tenrox Upgrade/Timeline

(Ryan Neice)

SRO Finance in coordination with SRO Data Collection Operations is currently engaged in an upgrade to the Tenrox time and expense system. We are currently exploring new features as well as the possibility of migrating to a cloud based system. We hope to complete our upgrade in January 2019. As we get closer to the completion of testing we will communicate our go-live date and plans to the respective project teams. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ryan Neice or Chrissy Evanchek.

Carpet Cleaning in the Perry Building

Carpet cleaning will take place at ISR-Perry from November 19-21.

All spaces will be cleaned including offices, cubicles, conference rooms, and corridors.

Here are some quick tips on how to prepare:

- Items such as boxes, plants, papers, etc. will need to be picked up off the floor
- The carpet vendor will pick up or move chairs, small side tables, wastebaskets, etc.
- The vendor will not move heavy furniture or equipment such as file cabinets, copy machines, etc.

As we get closer to the scheduled cleaning, an email with more detailed specifics will be sent.

