

# Happening in SRO

## Important Dates in SRO

Mark the date! The **SRO Potluck** will be December 6, 12:00-1:30 pm in G150 and the Atrium. Sign-up sheets are posted near you.

SRO will be closed Monday, December 24. If you need to work, speak with your supervisor. Otherwise this will be a personal vacation day. December 26-28 and 31 are season days. Tuesday January 1 is a holiday. Have a safe and enjoyable vacation!

## MDRC

Reading Partners is a “pull-out” program that operates both during the school day and after school using a proprietary curriculum developed in partnership with the Stanford University School of Education. The modular curriculum, delivered in twice weekly, 45-minute sessions, is highly structured, research validated, and aligned with state content standards.

Reading Partners and MDRC partnered to win a Social Innovation Fund grant. In this project MDRC is the organization in charge of designing and executing the evaluation, while Reading Partners is the nonprofit that provides the tutoring service. The University of Michigan has been contracted by MDRC to do the on-the-ground work of administering assessments and teacher surveys.

Schools included in this evaluation are located in California, New York City, and Washington DC. Each school in the sample contributes an estimated 60 students toward the treatment and control groups, for a total of approximately 1,260 students distributed among grades 2-5. Eligible students whose parents provided informed consent were randomly assigned to either the Reading Partners group (treatment) or the non-Reading Partners group (control). Control and treatment students will be assessed using a battery of reading assessments in fall 2012 (baseline) and spring 2013 (follow-up).

## SRO International

On the ‘international front’ we have several projects underway, and several in the planning stages. We are helping to field a study in Tunisia to develop and assess methodologies to measure the presence of extremist ideologies. Staff travelled there in October to train interviewers for the pilot phase of the project. Staff are travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia this month to conduct a two week training for the launch of this World Mental Health nationwide study (n=10,000). Staff just returned from China, where they attended an intense week of planning meetings for the launch of the largest mental health study ever undertaken (n=40,000) in this nationwide study. We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of Ghana to conduct collaborative research and are discussing a possible project in conjunction with faculty from UM’s Medical School. Staff are traveling to Geneva this week to attend a meeting at the World Health Organization to discuss a large-scale project to measure disability world-wide. Staff travelled to India in September and visited a number of research institutes to discuss long term collaborations. One of those looks quite promising and staff from this institute is visiting SRC this week. Our involvement in all of these activities acknowledges that SRO is a world leader in survey research methods and operations. Our hope is that the growing breadth and scope of SRC’s international work will continue to provide opportunities for SRO staff to share their expertise around the world.