

Happening in SRO

You can find this "Happening in SRO" and all similar newsletters on the SRO Intranet Home Page, located at: <https://sro-intranet.isr.umich.edu/> under Key Updates.

If you have items for the newsletter or if you would like to highlight an event, please let Brenda Spaulding or your subunit director know.

General Interviewer Techniques Training (Sharon Parker and Derek Dubuque)

As part of onboarding newly hired SRO employees, we offer a special in-house session of General Interviewer Techniques (GIT) training. The GIT in-house training is an adaptation of the training all of our new interviewers complete that teaches them the basics of standardized data collection. Attending this training helps keep us in touch with the challenges facing our colleagues in the field and SSL as we design and implement projects, systems, and support. Participants complete the "home-study" component on-line and then attend five hours of in-person training. The latest session was presented by Derek Dubuque and Andrea Sims on November 6 with the following participants: Jackson Collier, Chelsea Graham, Katy Lemmer, and Joe Zylka.

Derek complimented the trainees on their attentiveness and interest in the training, and agreed with Andrea that all four would be excellent additions to the interviewing staff. The small group allowed for some opportunity to go in greater depth on certain topics, and during training, each trainee expressed an appreciation for learning more about the interviewers' work, including how their work intersected with the interviewers. Shout out to the Help Desk team for the laptop set-up and support, and our amazing training team for everything they do.



BCLUB Chairperson

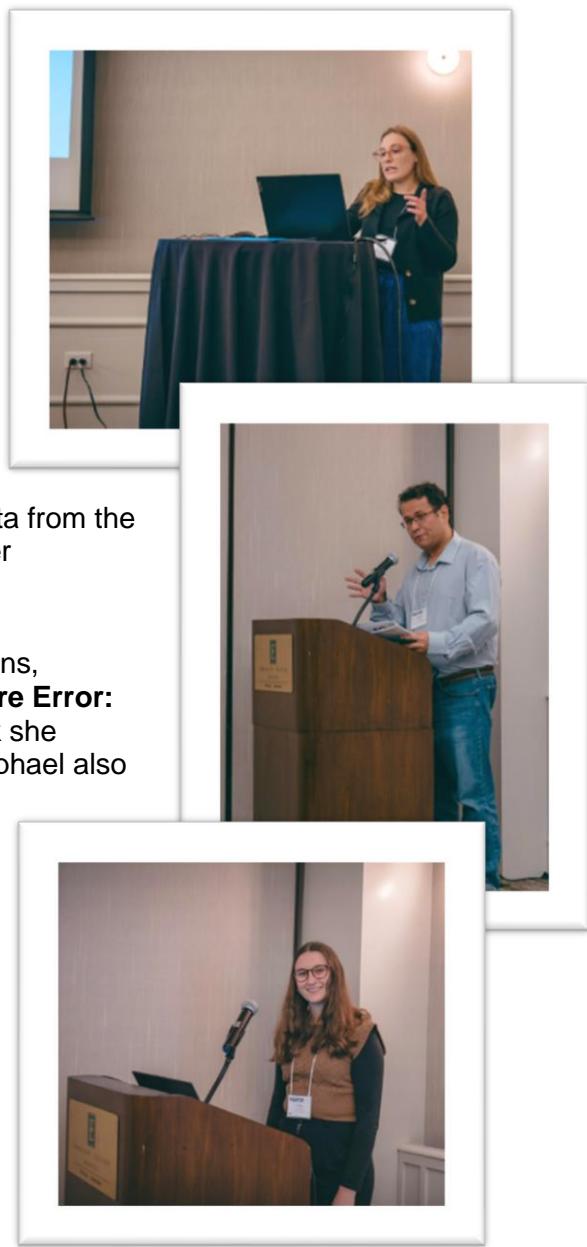
Join me in congratulating Karl Dinkelmann on accepting the role of *BCLUB Chairperson*, starting January 2026! "BCLUB" is the advisory board of Blaise corporate license holders, established by StatsNetherlands to help the Blaise development group plan their roadmap and roll out new Blaise features and functionality. The BCLUB (representatives from all board institutions) meets virtually every 3-4 months, and in person every 9 months (sometimes in conjunction with the IBUC (Blaise Users Conference) that meets every ~18 months). As Chairperson, Karl will be responsible for setting the meeting agendas and facilitating the discussion, and working with the in-person meeting hosts to ensure a productive interaction. Karl has been a very active member of BCLUB, and the StatsNetherlands team is thrilled to now have his leadership. Thank you, Karl, for representing SRO/SRC in this important role!

MAPOR 2025

On November 21 - 22, six SRO staff members attended the Annual Conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research (MAPOR) in Chicago. The conference theme, *Midwest: It's a State of Mind*, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the conference with sessions acknowledging the rich history of the organization and its wide range of contributors. Historically, MAPOR has included presentations from all 50 states, as well as many international presentations!

First time attendee, Ruyi Chen, participated in **Categorical Analysis of Complex Survey Data in R: A Hands-On Course**. This interactive course covered the R functions needed to create the survey design object to account for the sampling design, obtain weighted proportions from survey data, and conduct analyses using data from the American National Election Studies. (We also thank Ruyi for sharing her photography skills with the group!)

Makenna Harrison, a co-author on all three of the 2025 SRO submissions, presented **Multiple Frame Sample Integration using the Mean Square Error: A Simulation Study and Application of ANES 2024 Weighting**, work she carried out under the direction of her co-author Raphael Nishimura. Raphael also moderated a session titled *Prompting New Research: Large Language Models and AI*. Not surprisingly, AI was a common theme throughout the conference. In a separate session focused on AI applications in Survey Research, Grace DesJardins presented **Evaluating the Feasibility of AI-Driven Translation: A Comparative Analysis of ChatGPT-4 and Human Translators in Survey Research**. Raphael, Makenna, Andrew Hupp, Meredith House, and Liliana Gruuber also contributed to this work, which builds on their AAPOR paper presented earlier this year.





Jeffrey Albrecht presented his paper, **Testing an Open-Ended Item Heads-Up Message on STARRS-LS Wave 4** which he co-authored with Makenna, Meredith, Ji Qi, and James Wagner. There was great discussion in this session and throughout the conference about increased use of open-ended questions, the need for this in the future of social science surveys, and the benefits of LLMs in being able to process these data efficiently.

Robert L. Santos, Former Director of the United States Census Bureau and former SRO Director, delivered the Keynote address: *Consejos del viejito: How using your 'whole self' can enhance research insight, build knowledge, and catalyze creativity.* Drawing on experiences from the last 45 years, Rob used storytelling to illustrate how each of us has a unique, valuable perspective to offer in all aspects of research.

The annual Pedagogy Hour brought together a distinguished panel of MAPOR fellows and past presidents with moderator Mary Losch to share their perspectives and experiences over the last five decades. Considering both retrospective and prospective looks at public opinion, survey research, and MAPOR, panelists shared their ideas about the evolution of MAPOR and what might be on the horizon for the next generation of public opinion researchers and the Association.

MAPOR is characterized by its smaller size and high level of support and congeniality among participants. We all enjoyed the opportunity to connect with one another - inside and outside U-M - and learn about the work of our fellow social scientists!



Artificial Intelligence Series in 2026

(Rachel Orlowski)

SRO Survey Process Forum (SPF) last hosted a session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in September 2023. A lot has evolved in the past two years, and AI continues to change at a rapid pace. It is important to understand how many of us regularly use AI in our work and to discuss where we can go using this technology in the future – perhaps very near future – considering both the benefits and drawbacks of the technology.

With this goal in mind, SPF will host monthly AI sessions via Zoom in 2026 on non-Proj/Prod Fridays from 1-2pm. We will kick off the series with an introductory session from an expert in the field. Subsequent sessions will feature colleagues from various SRO subunits sharing ways they have used AI in their work. All attendees will be encouraged to engage in discussion following the prepared material where we can reflect on how each AI use might be applicable to other aspects of our work and suggest further AI development. All sessions will be recorded and posted to the SRO Intranet.

Below is a list of planned sessions. You can save them to your calendar from the SRO Events Google calendar. We will email links to calendar invitations in the new year.

- **February 6: AI Overview** - Alexis Castellanos (ISR, ARC, UMSI)

Alexis is a data scientist at ISR and Advanced Research Computing. He also is a lecturer in the School of Information. His presentation will focus on U-M supported tools, governance, and data sensitivity - highlighting current capabilities and responsible use guidance.

- **March 6: Accelerated Code Building & Migration & Prompt Engineering** - Andrew Piskorowski (TSG) & Derek Dubuque (DCO)

Andrew will walk through his use of AI as a practical problem-solving partner during our migration from SSRS to Power BI Report Server. We will show how AI helped think through folder and report structures, automate repetitive tasks, and troubleshoot issues such as embedded data sources and deployment differences between environments – accelerating migration, reducing trial-and-error, and helping turn a complex reporting migration into a more structured, repeatable process.

Derek will review the basics and best practices of "prompt engineering" - the art of crafting effective prompts that guide AI to deliver accurate, relevant, and sometimes surprisingly creative output. We'll talk briefly about key concepts, share simple tips for interacting with AI, and offer examples you can try yourself.

- **April 17: U-M Maizey/bl(AI)zey & Operational Tools** - Karl Dinkelmann (TSG) & Jeffrey Albrecht, Rebecca Gatward, Beth Ohry (PDMG, DCO)

Karl will describe how U-M Maizey (and other AI tools) were used to create "bl(AI)zey," a Blaise programming assistant which transfers Blaise survey specifications into Blaise code. We will discuss the lessons learned from developing an internal version of Maizey to assist with this task.

Jeffrey, Rebecca, and Beth will show examples of how AI helped in developing operational tools to enhance management, training, and data collection materials (e.g., study communication, respondent communication, graphic design). We'll discuss other practical applications of AI.

- **May 29: Listing Sample Addresses & Speech-to-Text Evaluation** - Minako Edgar (DMSS), Grant Benson (DCO), Hueichun Peng (TSG)

Minako will explain how she experimented with GeoAI (an ESRI-based image processing model designed to identify objects within satellite images) to detect buildings in satellite imagery. We will discuss how using this GeoAI can streamline the process of listing sample addresses by identifying missing addresses before the sample goes out to the field.

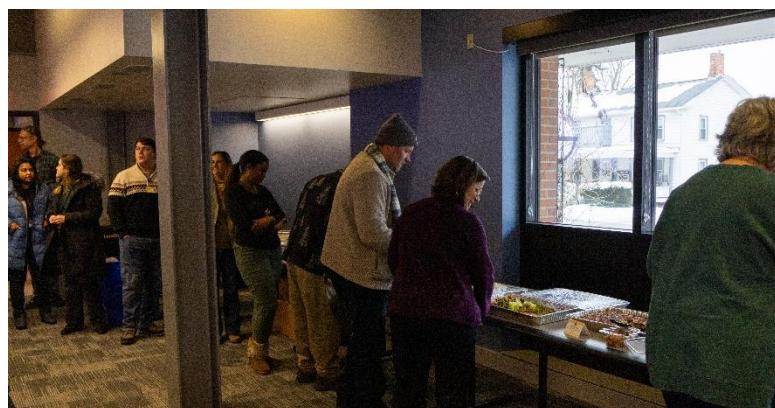
Grant and Hueichun will join Minako in describing how we utilize Large Language Models (LLMs) to automate the evaluation of interview recordings by generating both evaluation scores and case summaries, which enables efficient large-scale assessments. We will talk about how AI can improve our standard QC processes.

As time allows, we will open the floor for discussion on what we have learned thus far through this AI series and what we hope to get out of it in future sessions.

SPF is receptive to feedback on this series and is looking for future presenters. Please email us with questions, comments, and suggestions at SRO-SPF-TEAM@umich.edu. We hope to see you on February 6!

SRO All-Staff Meeting

The SRO All-Staff meeting was held in a hybrid format on December 3rd. SRO Director Stephanie Chardoul discussed the year in review and presented some SRO updates. Ryan Neice provided a financial overview. Project initiatives and updates were presented by Dan Tomlin (Safeguard), Barb Ward (National Survey of American Life), Lisa Holland (M-Panel), and Grant Benson (Future of Surveys Initiatives), and Jim Rodgers (MSMS/Nautilus Updates). Nicole Kirgis introduced new colleagues hired since June 2025, sharing photos and fun facts about each. Lunch was enjoyed by all, and we collected contributions toward the Comm3 holiday toy drive. Thank you to everyone who joined us and participated in the group picture!



Retirement of Procurement and ET Footprints (Amy Brinkey, Ryan Neice, and Dean Stevens)

Please note, effective immediately, all procurement & ET requests must be submitted via Team Dynamix (TDX). The TDX form and TDX Procurement Instructions are available on the SRO Intranet.

To access these resources:

Visit <https://sro-intranet.isr.umich.edu/>

Navigate to the Finance page

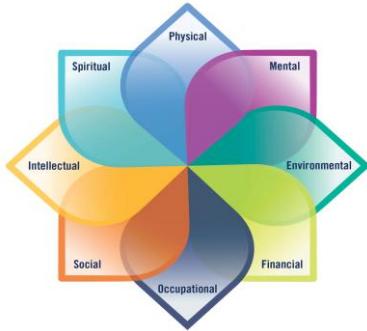
Reminder: The ET email address (sroetrequest@umich.edu) is no longer actively monitored.

Finance

(Contact Dean Stevens for assistance with this page)

Finance Vision Statement

Systems	Documents	Other University Resources
Cost Reporting System (CRS)	Class Code Definitions	Accounts Payable
CRS Sandbox	Close Out Checklist 1 Form	Campus Safety
ET (UKG) & Tenrox Timekeeping	Close Out Checklist 2 Form	CSCAR
Footprints	Close Out Guide-Financial	eResearch
M-Pathways Reports	Excel Shrinking-Growing Button Fix	FINOPS
Printing-QTO	FY Accounting Periods	Information Technology Services
Project Lists	ISR Encumbrance Reports	ISR Business Office Forms
Resource Forecasting Tool (RFT)	ISR JE Upload Template	MAIS
Tableau Reports	Non Sponsored PG_SUB PG Process	MCommunity
TDX Forms	Recharge	M-MarketSite
	Reconciling Basic Guidelines	ORSP
	Respondent Payment Guidelines	Procurement: How to Buy
	Shortcode Creation Process	Purchasing Services
	SRO Department ID Listing	Standard Practice Guide
	SRO Purchasing Decision Tree	UM Career Navigator
	SRO Software Licenses	UM Contract Suppliers and Products
	SRO Task Program Codes	UM Gateway
	TDX Procurement Instruction	Wolverine Access



SRO Wellness News

Please reach out if you are interested in being part of the SRO Wellness committee or if you have ideas to share. srowellcomm@umich.edu

[December Kindness 2025 Calendar](#) from Action for Happiness.

FOOD TRUCKS ARE BACK!

Thanks for joining us for the Impasto Food Truck last month!

We will pick up the food truck season again in March 2026. More information on dates and food trucks will be announced soon!



Impasto Food Truck at Perry - November 12, 2025

FALL SRO FREECYCLE

Thanks for participating in our second SRO Freecycle event for 2025. Our next Freecycle event will be in the spring of 2026. More information to come in early 2026.

MHEALTHY PORTAL - POWERED BY ASSET HEALTH

Beginning December 19, the MHealthy Portal, powered by Asset Health, will be unavailable in order to make updates for 2026. It will relaunch on January 5 with access to Active U, MHealthy Rewards and an entire suite of health and well-being offerings!

Some of the great offerings in 2026 include...

- ★ Active U 2026 - Program designed to get you moving and challenge yourself during a 12-week physical activity program. Active U t-shirts are BACK! Registration opens January 5.
 - [Register for Active U, January 5 – February 2, 2026, on the MHealthy Portal](#)
- ★ MHealthy Rewards - In early January 2026, you can complete the confidential health questionnaire and set a goal within the MHealthy Portal. Completing these steps by May 29, 2026 will earn you a \$75 reward! Open to all active, benefits-eligible U-M faculty and staff.
 - [More information on MHealthy Rewards](#)

UPCOMING M-HEALTHY and U-M ACTIVITIES

- ★ [Celebrate the Season While Maintaining Your Well-being](#) - resources to take care of your well-being during this holiday season that are available to you as an employee as we lead into this busy but exciting period.
- ★ Recipes from the MHealthy Cooking Class held on December 10
 - [Cranberry Lemon Ginger Sparkler](#)
 - [Spicy Nah-garita](#)
 - [Simple Snack Mix-Up](#)
 - [Crudité Shooters](#)
- ★ **Big House 5K - will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026.** Registration sells out fast!! Registration opens January 15, 2026.
 - [More Information on the 2026 Big House 5K](#)
- ★ **Registration Open - MHealthy In-Person Physical Activity Classes:** MHealthy's winter, in-person physical activity classes - the schedule is now available online. Attend classes at locations like Ann Arbor Ice Cube, North Campus Research Complex (NCRC), KMS building, UH South Wellness Center, Cliff Keen Arena and more. Classes start Jan. 5 and are priced between \$50 – \$70 for 10 to 14 weekly sessions.

[Scholarship applications are also available through Dec. 12.](#)

- [Registration is open now](#)

ICE CREAM AND BEVERAGE WALKS 2025 - THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone that joined us for an ice cream or beverage walk this year. If you have suggestions for future locations, please let us know at srowellcomm@umich.edu



Beverage Walk to Roos Roast - November 5, 2025

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND RESTFUL HOLIDAY!