

College of Education

News & Notes

Reflective Professionals Building Learning Communities

In this issue...

- COE celebrates success of its 2008 award-winning teachers
- ICSE ranked Number One in U.S.
- Welcome new COE faculty and administrators

News & Notes is published by the College of Education.

Sharon Hahs
President

Lawrence P. Frank
Provost

Maureen Gillette
Dean

Susan Appel Bass
Editor

Send story ideas and inquiries to
S-Bass@neiu.edu

First ASN Cohort Completes Ed Leadership Program

The first cohort of Alternative Schools Network (ASN) teachers and administrators completed the College of Education's master's degree program in educational leadership in August. The group began taking classes during the 2006-07 academic year and upon completion in the summer of '08 have now qualified to take the exam for the Illinois Type 75 certification in education administration.

The cohort of 17 students was initially established through a COE/ASN partnership that resulted from talks between ASN top administrators and COE Dean Maureen Gillette. "We wanted to collaborate with Northeastern's College of Education because we believe their urban mission is closely allied with the goals of ASN," said Marvin Garcia, a student in the cohort and director of PraXis, the professional development arm of ASN. "Their curriculum provides a good match for preparing leaders sensitive to issues relating to alternative schools."

Since 1973, the ASN has been supporting community-based and community-run programs to develop and expand training and other educational services in Chicago's inner-city neighborhoods. Participating organizations are not-for-profit, independent and self-governing pre-schools, elementary and high schools as well as youth and adult education organizations. They work to provide quality education by 1) identifying the necessary resources that support educational pro-



COE Dean Maureen Gillette and Howard Bultinck, Coordinator of the Educational Leadership Program, consult with ASN cohort graduates Guadalupe Martinez (left) and Marvin Garcia (right).

grams and effective learning at alternative schools; 2) providing technical assistance and training to the ASN member organizations; and 3) advocating to positively impact and shape public and private policy as it relates to and affects inner-city youth and families.

"Students in the cohort had already demonstrated leadership skills and a commitment to urban communities through their work with ASN," stated Dean Gillette. "Our goal has been to provide them with theory and best practices in educational administration so that they can continue to enhance the quality of that work."

A second ASN cohort began taking educational leadership classes this semester. They plan to complete the program by the summer of 2010.

Dean's Message

We are off and running for the 2008-09 academic year! The College of Education is known throughout northern Illinois as a leader in preparing outstanding school and community professionals and we have much to be proud of as we continue to excel at what I think is the most important work one could do – preparing the next generation of change agents!

You have undoubtedly heard and will continue to hear about our FIVE wonderful Golden Apple awardees. Please check out their photos in the hallway outside the Dean's Office and some more personal information on each awardee in this issue of the newsletter. We will continue to hold celebrations and programs throughout the year to honor these outstanding alumni, as well as our 2008 Kohl-McCormick Early Childhood Award winner Mary Woitas. **Dr. Eleni Makris (ELAD)** has generously volunteered to organize a panel discussion with our awardees for our teacher candidates! I've asked the Student Affairs Committee to work with **Dr. Makris** to put together this event for the spring. I've had the pleasure of meeting the Golden Apple teachers on numerous occasions in the past six months and it is so gratifying to hear them praise our outstanding faculty and NEIU as instrumental in their success as teachers.

The upcoming year holds challenges and promise. We will be merging our COE strategic priorities with the NEIU Strategic Plan, finalizing our updated conceptual framework, asking more questions about possible reorganization schemes, and refining our assessments as we examine data that tells us whether or not our candidates are able to successfully put into practice all that we have taught them. Our efforts begin on September 26 as we hold the first of many COE-CAS Summits on Teacher Preparation. Our first topic is writing competence for prospective teachers – a subject that is on the minds of all who work with teachers and teacher candidates.

I wish everyone a wonderful academic year. This issue highlights our new faculty and CEST Director, so please stop by their offices and let them know how thrilled we are that they chose to join the College of Education community!



**Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean
College of Education**

College of Education
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Phone: 773.442.5500
Fax: 773.442.5510

www.neiu.edu

NCATE

The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE...

ICSE RANKED #1

The College of Education's Inner City Studies Education (ICSE) Master's Degree Program was ranked Number One in the U.S. for the number of degrees awarded to African American students in 2006-07 in the area of ethnic, cultural and gender studies, according to a July 2008 report issued by the National Center for Education Statistics.



Established by the U.S. Department of Education in 1966 as an experimental program focused on retraining teachers working in the inner city, ICSE became a permanent fixture in Northeastern's College of Education in 1968. Since that time the program has expanded its thrust to provide curriculum that also focuses on professionals working in private and public social service agencies in the inner city. According to Conrad Worrill, Director of the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies where ICSE courses are taught, an estimated 1,000 students have received master's degrees in Inner City Studies Education since the program's inception, and nearly 150 have gone on to complete doctorates.



LEFT Four 2008 Golden Apple winners display NEIU certificates of achievement given at a COE reception in their honor this summer. See pgs. 4-6 for their profiles, along with other COE alums who've won teaching awards in 2008.

RIGHT Frank Perino (TED) discusses classroom management and stress management at a Professional Development Day workshop for Fall 2008 student teachers. Other workshop sessions including interactive classroom strategies and the principal's perspective were presented by **Interim CEST Director Susan Augustine**, and **ELAD professors Howard Bultinck and Lynn Bush**.

ALUMNI CORNER

Jerome C. Yanoff's (B.A. '66 Elementary Education, M.A. '77 Special Education) book, *The Classroom Teacher's Inclusion Handbook: Practical Methods for Integrating Students with Special Needs*, Arthur Coyle Press; (already in its second edition) has just been released worldwide. Yanoff, who also wrote *The Classroom Teacher's Troubleshooting Handbook* and *The Excellent Teacher's Handbook*, has been a classroom teacher for over 40 years and has taught students at both K-12 and college levels.



We'd love to hear from you....Send notice of your accomplishments to our newsletter editor Susan Appel Bass at s-bass@neiu.edu.

Meet Our Award-Winning Teachers

2008 Golden Apple Recipients



**Carol Broos (right— M.A. '86 Music) with COE
Dean Maureen Gillette**



Donnell White (B.A. '02 Elementary Education)

CURRENT POSITION

Music teacher gr. 4-8 (20 yrs.)
Sunset Ridge School, Northfield

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Make the “yes” happen. We all have our brick walls, and we have to push through them to make it happen.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

When I was a child, my grandmother helped me set up a classroom in our basement. So, I guess I’ve always wanted to be a teacher. Music has been my vehicle.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

My students. Every day they teach me something new. They’re amazing.

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN MY LIFE

Dolores Nicosia (NEIU Music Professor Emeritus). We spent the entire semester focusing on our personal philosophies of music and music education. That experience set the stage for my thinking throughout my career.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

We’re at a crossroads in education as a result of the internet. It’s a powerful teaching and learning tool. New teachers must be tech-savvy so they can effectively harness the tremendous opportunities for creativity that the internet permits.

CURRENT POSITION

Middle school math teacher (6 yrs.)
International Baccalaureate Middle Yrs. Program (1 yr.)
Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet HS, Chicago

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

All students are entitled to a quality education regardless of background, ethnicity or dysfunctional behavior.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

Although it took me some time to pay attention to it, since I was 17 I’ve felt a divine calling to teach students who are having an experience similar to my own during my formative years. Namely, they haven’t yet bought into the importance of education nor have they recognized their own academic potential.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

Those students who have grown from being apathetic about education to realizing the importance of extensive knowledge and the work ethic required to attain it.

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN MY LIFE

My eighth grade teacher George Prescott. Despite my persistent disruptive behavior, he displayed an unwavering commitment to convincing me that I had potential to excel academically and that I should live to do so.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

Before embarking on a grueling career as a teacher, search your soul and conclude that you will be committed to your students with all your heart.

Meet Our Award-Winning Teachers

2008 Golden Apple Recipients



Brooke Tippet Thompson (M.A. '97 Music)

CURRENT POSITION

K-8 Music Teacher (10 yrs.)
Peirce School of International Studies, Chicago

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

It's most important that we teach children *how* to think not *what* to think.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

It was a serendipitous route. I neither planned nor wanted to be an elementary school music teacher; circumstances put me in that position...And I know now, that it's where I was meant to be.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

Providing *each and every* one of my students with opportunities to perform.

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON ME

NEIU Professor Michael Melton, my middle and high school vocal music methods teacher. He made it look like teaching could be fun. And former NEIU Professor Jack Pinnix. He let us make up our own minds as long as we could support our thinking....I've carried out that same philosophy throughout my teaching career.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

Find every opportunity to keep learning, growing and trying out new ideas in the classroom.



Pictured with her niece is Samina Khan (Biology) holding her Golden Apple Award. Khan dedicated the award to her brother Tariq who passed away at age 22.

CURRENT POSITION

Middle school science teacher (7 yrs.)
Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet HS, Chicago

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Teaching is not simply a profession, but a life choice to change the world by making a difference in the lives of each and every child in our care. Within the classroom's four walls lies the opportunity to build strong foundations for tomorrow.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

I guess you could say it's in my genes. My parents were both professional teachers. I'm always drawing on their philosophy, vision and insights. Their passion and flair for work and fair and equal treatment to the students, have been inspiring factors in my teaching.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

Being the change in my students lives. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON ME

My mother. Her disciplined life, high moral character and professional ethics have greatly impacted my teaching and my life.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

Integrity, dedication, commitment, and passion for the profession are the watchwords for success. To teach is to touch lives forever.

Meet Our Award-Winning Teachers

2008 Golden Apple Recipient



Natalie Neris-Guereca (B.A. '02 Elementary Education)

CURRENT POSITION

Fifth grade teacher (4 yrs.)
Pershing West Magnet School, Chicago

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Every student is capable of learning. It's important to create an atmosphere where students can express themselves without fear of criticism or negative evaluation so they can do their personal best. And as a teacher I take responsibility for setting an example by giving them my personal best as well.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

To effect change in the urban community where I grew up and still live.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

My students...their growth, their maturity, their acceptance of responsibility for their successes, and their ability to learn from their failures.

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON ME

My third grade teacher Kimberly Bimmerle. She was a ray of sunshine who showed both her weaknesses and her strengths. And she taught me to fall in love with words.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

Don't be afraid to seek the counsel of seasoned teachers.

2008 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Award Recipient



Mary Woitas (M.A. '02 Early Childhood Special Education)

CURRENT POSITION

Early childhood special education teacher (5 yrs.)
Columbus West Early Childhood School, Cicero

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Despite disabilities, all children are capable of learning.

REASON(S) I BECAME A TEACHER

Even from childhood, I've always had a love of learning. As a teacher, I felt I would be in a position to share that passion and instill it in my students.

I AM MOST PROUD OF...

Being selected as one of the winners of the 2008 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teacher Award.

TEACHER WHO HAD THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON ME

NEIU Professor Elizabeth Landerholm. She had practical suggestions for classroom management and for classroom activities, as well as a respect for the knowledge and teaching experience of the students in her class.

ADVICE TO NEW TEACHERS

You don't learn everything from the book. In my own career, I've gained a good deal of knowledge and confidence from dealing with all types of students, parents and administrators.

WELCOME NEW COE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS



Susan Augustine, Interim Director of Clinical Experiences & Student Teaching (CEST) received a doctorate in health services with an emphasis on nutrition and behavior, from Walden University in Minnesota. She has ten years of teaching and administrative experience in higher education and ten years in the U.S. and abroad serving as a consultant in research-based best practices in teaching strategies as well as in nutrition and learning. Before coming to the CEST Office, she served as a faculty member in NEIU's Department of HPERA. Her goal in her current position is to expand and enhance the range of COE relationships with urban and suburban schools.

Paul Blair, Chair, Health Physical Education, Recreation & Athletics (HPERA) received a doctorate in kinesiology with an emphasis on the psychology and sociocultural aspects of sport, from the University of Minnesota. He has 30 years of experience in the areas of sports, and health & fitness. Before coming to Northeastern, he served as the Chair of the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. As HPERA Chair he hopes to serve as a facilitator for optimizing the achievement and success among faculty, with the goal of continuing to improve upon the means in which HPERA serves its students.



Gerardo Moreno, Assistant Professor, Special Education received a doctorate in special education with an emphasis on emotional/behavioral disorders, from the University of North Texas. He began his career as a special education teacher in El Paso, Texas. While earning his doctorate he worked as an elementary school counselor in Fort Worth. At NEIU, Moreno will be teaching special education classes, supervising student teachers, and serving as director of COE's special education clinic. His goal is to expand and promote the clinic as a top tier resource in the greater metropolitan area of Chicago.

Judith Yturriago, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education received a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a focus on at-risk students, from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Fluent in Spanish and English, Yturriago taught ESL and bilingual students for CPS and also taught abroad in both Germany and Spain. Her administrative experience includes her role as principal of a K-5 bilingual school in Evanston and director of a federally funded teacher center. At Northeastern, she will be teaching both graduate and undergraduate classes in the bilingual/bicultural teacher training program. Her goal is to improve the achievement of English language learners through the training of high-quality teachers.



From the Faculty.....

COE WELL REPRESENTED AT 2008 ICIE CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE

Six COE faculty delivered presentations this summer at the International Council for Innovation in Higher Education (ICIE) Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. Included among the presenters were **Eleni Makris (ELAD)** "Determination and Resilience to Succeed in the Face of International Conflict," **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)** "Preparing School Leaders for Schools of Tomorrow: An International Higher Education Effort," **Diane Ehrlich (ELAD)** "Cultivating Communities of Practice: Higher Education Initiatives at Northeastern Illinois University and Beyond," **Effie Kritikos (SPED)** "Fostering Educational Alliances between Higher Education Settings and Community Schools," **Barry Birnbaum (SPED)** "The Ramifications of Technology in Special Education," and **Associate Dean Terry Stirling** "Innovations in the Freshman Year Experience: Enrichment or Survival?"

In addition to her presentation in Prague, **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)** was a keynote speaker at the II Euro-American Conference on Creativity and Leadership in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Her address was titled "Innovation and Social Responsibility in the Competencies to Train and Evaluate School Leaders." **Gil-Garcia** was also one of the co-presenters of findings from a collaborative research study titled "Transformational Leadership Needs of Special Education Principals: A Case to Examine and Explore." The findings were delivered at the 15th Annual World Association of Educational Research Conference in Marrakech, Morocco.

Appearing in the September 2008 issue of *Educational Leadership*, is **Steve Wolk's (TED)** article "Joy in School." His article "School as Inquiry," will appear in the October 2008 issue of *Phi Delta Kappan*. Appearing in the 2008 summer issue of *The Reading Professor*, was **Jo Ann Karr's (TED)** article "International Exchange-Jamaica and Chicago, USA Connect." Also recently published was **Ann Whitaker's (ELAD)** paper "Cognitive Style and Global Learning: Teaching for Transfer and Understanding," *Education Landscapes in the 21st Century: Cross-cultural Challenges and Multi-disciplinary Perspectives*; and two articles by **Brian Schultz (ELAD)**: "Strategizing, Sustaining, and Supporting Justice-Oriented Teaching," *Democracy & Education*; and "Leveraging Eclectic Arts as a Rationale for Multiple Modes of Inquiry," *Curriculum & Teaching Dialogue*.

Effie Kritikos (SPED) and **Eleni Makris (ELAD)** co-presented their paper "Comparative Analysis of Blackboard vs. Learning Village through Student and Instructor Perceptions," at the ED-Media World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications in Vienna, Austria. Also presenting at this conference was **Barry Birnbaum (SPED)**. His presentation was titled "Improving Classroom Teaching Through the Use of Technology."

In New Orleans this summer, **Associate Dean Elliott Lessen**, past president of the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) served as chair for the Leadership Forum on the "Nine Essentials for Professional Development School Work" and co-facilitated a forum session on "Roles/Responsibilities and Rewards/Recognition." **Lessen** also co-authored a monograph for NAPDS titled "What It Means to Be a Professional Development School."

At the Fifth International Conference on Teacher Education and Social Justice in Chicago this summer, **Elaine Chakonas (TED)** delivered the presentation "Teaching Students from Diverse Cultures: Challenges and Solutions."

Janet Pariza (READ) presented "Selected Strategies for Secondary Success: Comprehension Vocabulary and Writing to Learn," at the Northern Illinois University/Northern Illinois Reading Council Summer Reading Conference in June. **Pariza** was also a co-presenter of "Wordless Books Speak Volumes," at the Illinois Reading Council (IRC) conference in Springfield this past spring. Also co-presenting at the IRC conference were **Janalyn Meehan (READ)** and **JoAnne Vazzano (READ)** "Comprehension and Digital Literacy: How Teachers View the Challenge." In addition, **Pariza, Meehan** and **Vazzano** mentored several Master of Arts in Reading students, all of whom presented their research work at the IRC conference. Students presenting their work included **Fabiola Fadda-Ginski**, **Amy Bruder Indriolo**, **Mary Rose O'Shea**, **Beth Hansen**, **Lorraine Ortiz** and **Ivetta Loza**.

At this summer's Opportunities for the Future Conference, conducted by Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development, **Michele Kane (SPED)** was one of three keynote panelists who discussed emotional and social issues that affect gifted students. **Kane** also presented "From Theory to Practice: Dabrowski's Theory Enters the Classroom," at the Eighth International Congress of the Institute for Positive Disintegration in Human Development in Alberta, Canada.