

College of Education

# News & Notes

Reflective Professionals Building Learning Communities

## In this issue...

- COE students travel to Korea for study abroad experience
- CPS/COE partnership provides courses for Reading endorsement
- CPS regional science fair at NEIU

## What's at STaKE for College of Ed Students?

Northeastern Illinois University and the Chungnam Office of Education in South Korea recently signed a partnership agreement providing NEIU students with an opportunity for a Korean teaching abroad experience. Known as STaKE, (Student Teaching and Korean Experience) the program is open to teacher candidates enrolled in either the College of Education or the College of Arts and Sciences English as a Second /Foreign Language Program.

Every year, selected students will be eligible to travel to Korea for a five-month practical learning experience working with Korean students and teachers. They will work closely with their Korean counterparts, teaching English to Korean students as well as teaching their content area in English. An English speaking Korean classroom teacher will mentor and support each of the participants. The partnership also provides for thirty Korean teachers to come to Northeastern each summer for four weeks of intensive training in speaking and writing English.

The first group of students will travel to Korea in March and will be supervised by **Elizabeth Landerholm (TED)**. Jacob Chako, a senior majoring in Spanish and Secondary Education is one of the students taking part in the experience.

"This will be my first time away from home for this length of time," said Chako. "I'm a little nervous; but more than that...I'm looking forward to an amazing educational adventure."



At an official signing ceremony recently held at Northeastern, President Sharon Hahs and Dr. Seog-Soo Han, Acting Governor of the Chungnam Office of Education, display the education partnership agreement they both signed.

STaKE is being coordinated by **Kyu Young Park, Director of Asian Programs** and is jointly sponsored by the Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences, the Office of Academic Development and the Office of International Programs. The partnership grew out of Northeastern's relationship with three other Korean higher education institutions.

"We're pleased to be able to offer our students this international teaching experience," stated COE Dean Maureen Gillette. "It's a great opportunity for them to practice their teaching skills and at the same time, learn first-hand about another culture."

News & Notes is published by the College of Education.

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## Dean's Message

Welcome to the second semester! Spring is right around the corner and it seems like the academic year is flying by quickly. I am thrilled to announce the faculty members in the COE who have been awarded sabbatical leave for the 2009-2010 academic year: fall, 09 — **Jeff Edwards (COUN)**, spring, 10 — **Nicole Holland (ELAD)** and **Jo Ann Karr (TED)**. We sent our best wishes off to **Ed Odisho (BLBC)**, **Tom Schevers (SPED)** and **Ray Zelazny (TED advisor)** who retired in December.

The College of Education is embarking on a comprehensive partnership with Aspira of Illinois to assist the four schools in the Aspira network in their mission to provide college access to Latino students. The partnership has several components. The COE, in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Lopez, garnered a Hispanic Serving Institutions internal grant to begin a Future Educators project supporting middle and high school students from the four Aspira schools who are interested in careers in education. The Educational Leadership program faculty and faculty from the Reading Department are also engaged in talks with administrators at Aspira about offering some of the course work for the Type 75 and the Reading Specialist Endorsement at El Centro. **Richard Rutschman (CTC)** is working on a grant application focusing on Adventure Education and Teams work. Additionally, Aspira administrators have expressed interest in working with COE faculty on curriculum alignment and support strategies designed to ensure that Aspira students are college-ready upon high school graduation and will not require developmental coursework prior to beginning general education courses. Daniel Lopez is working with faculty from both institu-

tions in anticipation of beginning dual credit courses for Aspira high school seniors.

Feedback has been gathered related to the reorganization scheme I proposed and a recommendation will go to the Provost this week. I want to once again publicly thank the members of the Reorganization Task Force as well as all of the faculty and staff who made their views on reorganization known through written comments and personal conversations.

We have several important events coming up for the COE: February 20<sup>th</sup> is the next COE-CAS Committee of Teacher Education event to continue our work on writing expectations for teacher candidates. Many, many faculty from both colleges have worked hard on putting together a draft rubric for writing and we will engage in an exercise to get us talking about interrater reliability! Please plan to attend.

March 3 is the next COE mini-retreat where we need to bring closure to the redesigned conceptual framework and the diversity proficiencies. Departments should be having discussions around these topics to please come prepared to contribute your thoughts and to move this process forward. Finally, our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual COE Assessment Day was originally scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>. It was just announced that the NEIU Student Research Symposium is also scheduled for that day! So, we will reschedule. More on that to come!

I wish you all the best for a wonderful semester and let's hope for spring to come in a hurry!



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# NCATE

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## SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE...

....at the Chicago Teachers' Center

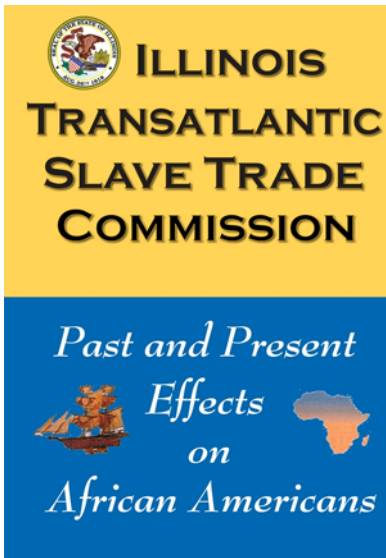


Wendy Thomas-Williams, GEAR UP Mathematics Program Manager, welcomed 125 teacher participants to this year's Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) math conference.

*Graphing calculators really bring math to life for my students. They now see how mathematics influences everything in the world.*

CTC Math Conference participant Evelyn McGhee, teacher Daniel J. Corkery Elementary School

***iMATHination***, the third annual Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) Math Conference was held January 23-24 at the Q Center, a corporate training retreat center in St. Charles, Illinois. Keynote speakers included Mr. Mike Byster, the "Walking Calculator" of Brainetics, who has appeared on ABC's 20/20 and Dr. Anthony Giaquinto of Loyola University. During the two-day conference, 125 teachers were introduced to new ways to teach, learn, and communicate mathematics. They were immersed in hands-on, thought-provoking activities that introduced material on the cutting edge of math education. Participants were especially impressed by facilitators' breadth of knowledge as well as the materials they were able to take with them to use immediately in the classroom. The conference was funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education (GEAR UP and Upward Bound Math and Science) and was co-sponsored by Chicago Teachers' Center/Northeastern Illinois University and Loyola University Chicago.



## ....at Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies

In 2004, the Illinois State Legislature established the Illinois TransAtlantic Slave Trade Commission (ITSTC), that is now housed at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies. The work of the ITSTC has become institutionalized as a research project that will have as its ongoing mission, research and publication. In the area of higher education and curriculum development the Commission recommended, "African-centered curriculum initiatives at the state level should be established for K-12 and higher education to include curricula review and instructional developments and activities that focus on age-appropriate critical understandings of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade System." The final report of the Commission was recently completed and submitted to the Illinois State Legislature. For more information on ITSTC and the report, visit [www.itstc.com](http://www.itstc.com).

## SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE...



**COE Dean Maureen Gillette** talks with students from Periyar Primary School in Trichy, India. Dean Gillette was part of a group of NEIU faculty and administrators who recently traveled to India with graduate students from the New Perspective Fellows Society. Among other opportunities, the Society provides the students with a global/international experience.

Joe Kallas, CPS Area 1 Instructional Officer, and **COE Associate Dean Terry Stirling** presented awards at the recent Chicago Public School Area 1 Science Fair for grades 6-8. NEIU also hosted the Area 19 Science Fair which included participants from Area 1 feeder high schools. Both science fairs were co-sponsored by NEIU's College of Education. COE students who are part of NEIU's Math & Science Teacher Quality Enhancement (MSTQE) Program were among the science fair judges. Winners from the fairs at NEIU compete in the city-wide Science Fair at the Museum of Science and Industry.



## ALUMNI CORNER

### Meet Robert L. Brown Ph.D.

I am a 1972 BA (Speech and Performing Arts-Secondary Education) graduate and a 1990 MA (Educational Administration) graduate. My training at NEIU has allowed me the opportunity to serve as a teacher and administrator at four area Catholic high schools for 30 years. In the past 8 years I have served as chief academic officer for two institutions: Westwood College (4 ½ years) and currently The Illinois Institute of Art-Schaumburg. Through my education at Northeastern, I have been able to secure my Type 9, Type 75 and Superintendent certificates. I Northeastern gave me the education and opportunity to be successful in my career. And while there are many people at NEIU who contributed to my success, I especially want to acknowledge Dr. Janet Fredericks, who was my mentor during my master's degree program and has been a friend ever since. Thank you Northeastern.



*We'd love to hear from you....Send notice of your accomplishments to our newsletter editor Susan Appel Bass at [s-bass@neiu.edu](mailto:s-bass@neiu.edu).*

## Spotlight on....

### COE Partnership with Chicago Public Schools Courses for Reading Endorsement Offered at CCICS

*I've learned a variety of new strategies for differential instruction that I've been able to take back to my own classroom and use successfully.*

**Fifth grade teacher Hansen Park Elementary School**

*I've gained much more confidence in teaching reading because now I'm clear on the theory behind what I'm teaching in the classroom.*

**First grade teacher, Lloyd Elementary School**

*These classes have been tremendously beneficial in providing practical applications for teaching reading and I've been able to share what I've learned with other teachers in my school.*

**Seventh grade literary coordinator, Ames Middle School**

A cohort of forty-one Chicago Public School teachers is currently taking graduate classes at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) in order to earn the Reading Teacher Endorsement from the Illinois State Board of Education. The cohort was formed last fall after the College of Education's Department of Reading was invited to partner with CPS for the purpose of further preparing teachers to build and sustain literacy development in K-8 elementary schools. The resulting partnership known as the AABLE (Academic Associates Building Literate Environments) Project, is part of a New Generation of Literacy Learners Program funded by the Chicago



AABLE Project Director Janalyn Meehan in class at CCICS shares strategies with CPS teachers who are part of the cohort seeking endorsement in Reading.



In her READ 417 class at CCICS, AABLE Project Associate Director JoAnne Vazzano displays a textbook resource.

Public Schools. The endorsement cohort teachers met NEIU Department of Reading and Graduate College criteria to be admitted into AABLE and will complete their work in two years.

AABLE is directed by Janalyn Meehan (READ). Meehan and her fellow Department of Reading faculty member JoAnne Vazzano teach the cohort classes which cover topics such as primary, intermediate and middle reading instruction, process and content writing, balanced approaches to literacy instruction, instructional strategies to enhance students' literacy development, and integrating assessment and instruction. Cohort participants also share projects completed in cohort classes and take part in workshops designed to advance the use of technology for learning in the classroom.

## From the Faculty.....

**Ann Whitaker (ELAD)** recently presented a paper in Rome entitled "Can Theory Coincide with Practice? The Experiential Learning Model," at the Seventh Worldwide Forum on Education and Culture. Also presenting at the Rome Forum was **Elizabeth Landerholm (TED)** who delivered a paper on "Playgrounds around the World."

**Anderson Thompson (ELAD) and Visiting Lecturer Yvonne Jones (ELAD)**, leaders in the African-centered Curriculum Movement in the U.S., recently attended the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Meroitic Studies held at the University of Vienna. Their participation was related to their ongoing research on the role of ancient African societies and their development and impact on civilizations of the world.

**Sara Schwarzbaum (COUN)** recently delivered a presentation on "Successful Approaches to Working with a Diverse Academic Community," to the school counselors, social workers and psychologists of Glenbard H. S. in DuPage County.

At the December, 2008 annual meeting of the National Reading Conference in Orlando FL., **JoAnne Vazzano, Janalyn Meehan, Janet Pariza, Joyce Jennings, (READ) and Eileen Kaiser, (TED)** presented a symposium ---"A Multi-tiered Model of Sustainable Literacy Improvement in Urban Schools." **Vazzano** chaired the symposium and presentations were made by **Jennings**-- "A Continuum for Literacy Improvement in Urban Schools: From Capacity Building to Sustainable Growth and Achievement;" **Pariza and Vazzano**-- "Reflective Practice as Infrastructure: Focused Debriefing of Demonstration Lessons;" **Kaiser**-- "Generating Changes in Urban School Literacy Instruction through Conversations and Connections about Demonstration Lessons;" and **Meehan**-- "Systematic Inquiry as Individual Professional Development: Building an Infrastructure for Literacy Achievement in Urban Schools." **Vazzano and Meehan** also presented at the December, 2008 annual conference of the American Reading Forum. Their paper was entitled "Comprehension and the Internet: How Teachers Address the Challenge."

In January, **Judith Yturriago (TED)** presided over the luncheon and delivered presentations on "Dual Language Basics: Points to Ponder for Designing a Dual Language Program," and "Debunking Misconceptions about Early Childhood Education for English Language Learners," at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically & Culturally Diverse Students.

At the University Center of Lake County, **Charles Pistorio (COUN)** recently presented an all-day workshop for school counselors, psychologists, and social workers on "Understanding Students' Educational Needs." The workshop provided models based on Positive Youth Development and Mel Levine's neurodevelopmental constructs geared to helping participants be more effective in their work.

**David Cutton (HPERA)** recently presented "Assessment of Exercise-related Behaviors in College Students," at the National Association of Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education annual conference in Florida. He also presented "Applied Motor Learning for Teachers and Coaches," at the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance annual convention .

More than 500 high school students from Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex area schools recently attended a presentation on "Faith Based Partnership: Building Strong Families and Safe Communities," given by **Lance Williams, CCICS Assistant Director**. **Williams** also recently spoke to a group of Milwaukee public school teachers and administrators on "Lessons Learned from Hip-Hop: Using the Voice of Youth as a Transformative Tool to Create Positive, Pro-Social Behavior."

**Steve Brown (ELAD) and Howard Bultinck (ELAD)** conducted an interview with John Tinker and Kenneth W. Starr on the constitutional rights of students. Tinker is best known for the 1969 Supreme Court Case Tinker v. Des Moines which continues to set the legal standard for the rights of students. Starr, currently Dean of the School of Law at Pepperdine University, is best known as the independent counsel in the President Clinton "Whitewater" investigation. The interview airs in February on WGTD Public Radio in Kenosha.

As major presenters at the recent State of the Black World Conference in New Orleans, a conference was attended by major African American leaders from across the U.S., **CCICS Director Conrad W. Worrill and Robert T. Starks (ELAD)** examined the presidential election and electoral politics as it relates to a critique of educational public policies.

**ELAD Professor Emeritus Ed Odisho's** paper "Bilingualism: A Salient and Dynamic Feature of Ancient Civilizations" previously published in *Mediterranean Language Review*, has been translated into Aramaic by Australian writer Philimon Darmo and will appear in a special collection of articles by Darmo. **Odisho's** paper "An Aerodynamic, Proprioceptive and Perceptual Interpretation of Stbawayhi's Misplacement of / /٤[T] and / /٤[q] with *Majhūra* Consonants" was recently accepted for publication in *Zeitschrift für arabische Linguistik*.

**Elaine Pierce Chakonas (TED)** is a contributing author to the book, *So To Teach*, published by the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. Her essay "Teacher, My Name is Evangelia," describes a CPS first grade student's ( Dr. Chakonas's mother) struggles as her uncaring teacher "Americanizes" her first name.

At the annual Illinois Counseling Association meeting, **President Elect Jeff Edwards (COUN)** was awarded the Wendell S. Dysinger Award for Best Publication of the Year, for the book he co-authored -- *A Consumers' Guide to Mental Health Services: Unveiling the Mysteries of and Secrets of Psychotherapy*.