

College of Education

News & Notes

Reflective Professionals Building Learning Communities

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GEAR UP high school students learn about college

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HRDSA fundraiser for Haiti

News & Notes is published by the College of Education.

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FORMER STaKE PARTICIPANT RECEIVES AWARD FOR TEACHING

COE alum Jacob Chacko ('09 B.A. Spanish, Secondary Education), a former participant in the Student Teaching and Korean Experience (STaKE) program recently received an award for excellence in teaching from the Chungcheongnam-Do province in South Korea. Chacko went to Korea in Spring '09 with the first group of students to participate in STaKE, a program designed to give students a five-month practical learning experience working with Korean students and teachers.

While in Korea, Chacko was assigned to the Cheonan Boys Middle School. The school principal showed an interest in Chacko's teaching and asked him if he would be willing to return the following school year as a full-time teacher. Chacko agreed and was hired to teach in the Secondary English Program In Chungcheongnam-Do (S.E.P.I.C.).

Upon his return to Korea, teachers at Cheonan encouraged him to enter "The First Secondary Native English Teacher Competition," a contest open to all middle school and high school native English-speaking teachers in the Chungcheongnam province.

Chacko entered the competition's preliminary round which included submission of a written lesson plan along with a video-taped recording of the lesson. He was one of six entrants chosen to compete in the final round of the contest.



Jacob Chacko (left) receives award for award excellence in teaching English from the Chungcheongnam-Do province in South Korea.

During the finals Chacko was required to give a presentation based on his original video tape and his teaching style. There were more than 150 native English-speaking teachers in attendance to witness the presentations and to get ideas for use in their own classrooms. Chacko received third place in the middle school category.

Since winning the award, Chacko has returned to his classroom in Korea. He will complete his first year of teaching in Korea in July. He has not yet decided whether he will return to Korea for another year or whether he will return to the U.S. to begin graduate studies at Northeastern. According to Chacko, he is fortunate because, as he says, "There are many paths in life from which I have the opportunity to choose."

Dean's Message

COE Professionals: Reflective, Collaborative, Transformative

After two and a half years of reviewing, debating and deliberating about the philosophical ground on which we stand in the COE, we have come to agree on a revised theme for our College. While we retain the "reflective" and "collaborative" focus of our previous conceptual framework, we have added the concept of "transformative" to our theme to indicate our belief that we play a key role in developing professionals who can respond to classrooms, schools, and communities in a way that leads to a more meaningful, democratic and equitable future for all. The entire document is on our website and I encourage you to take a look. Our school partners have been very impressed and their feedback has been nothing but positive.

As the February snow flies, the COE is busier than ever in going about the business of preparing the most effective school and community-based professionals in the state. This issue of *News and Notes* will highlight the impact we are having not only in the Chicagoland area but around the world! It will also showcase our commitment to self-examination and learning as we seek to continue to improve our own practice.

The COE is fortunate to have wonderful school and community partners and we have been taking full advantage of all that they have to offer us this year. **Effie Kritikos (SPED)** and **Eleni Makris (ELAD)** have been working with the Greek Ministry to develop a sequence of professional development courses for teachers in non-public (i.e., Greek school) settings. You will also read about our award-winning graduate, Jacob Chacko, in this issue. Jacob was part of our first "Student Teaching and Korea Experience" program and was offered a teaching position by our Korean partners, the Chungchongnam Office of Education. Finally, a bit closer to home, fifteen faculty and administrators spent a day in the Chicago Lawn/Marquette Park neighborhood working with our school and community partners around issues of family and community involvement in schools. As

you can see, the COE takes very seriously the NEIU slogan, "Learn In The City, Lead In The World."

NCATE co-coordinators, **Effie Kritikos (SPED)** and **COE Associate Dean Elliott Lessen** are working intensely on ensuring that the COE is ahead of the curve as we prepare for our fall 2012 accreditation visit. Our assessment system is going up on the web and they are meeting with faculty from each program on a regular basis to get all of our candidate assessments and data collected, analyzed and organized. I appreciate all of their efforts on our behalf as well as the efforts of all program faculty involved in these efforts. Our NCATE Committees for each standard are also contributing to what amounts to a team effort to showcase our candidates.

Finally, we continue to build our relationships with our College of Arts and Sciences colleagues through various team efforts. The Chicago Community Trust hosted a breakfast for the presidents, provosts, deans of arts and sciences and deans of education to celebrate the Teacher Quality Partnership grant acquisition. It was such a pleasure to have **President Hahs, Provost Frank, and Dean Njogu** there in support of teacher preparation as a university-wide venture. On that same day (2/5), we held our fourth College of Education-College of Arts & Sciences Summit on Teacher Preparation. This year's theme is "candidate dispositions" and we are thrilled that **Nanette Potee (CAS)** has agreed to work with **Sandra Beyda-Lorie (SPED)** while **Tim Scherman (CAS)** is on sabbatical.

The COE continues to be a state and nationwide leader in the preparation of Latinos with education degrees. Additionally, our Inner City Studies program is number one in the nation in graduating African-Americans with degrees in Ethnic and Cultural Studies. This speaks to a specific responsibility to ensure that we are responsive, respectful and collaborative colleagues in the city, the state and the world and I am very proud of all of our accomplishments.

Maureen Gillette



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NCATE

The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

TECH TALK News from the COE Technology Committee



The Technology Committee is in the process of compiling technology resources available to students and faculty.
DID YOU KNOW...?

The College of Education's Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) Resource Center has:

- Two PCs with Microsoft Office and Adobe Design Premium; and three MACs with Print Shop, iMovie, iDVD, iPhoto and AppleWorks.
- Software to create your own promotional buttons.
- A wide-format printer and two scanners.
- A new PC with video editing capabilities will be available soon.
- American history PBS videos
- Art slides from the Terra Museum in Chicago and a scanner to scan them into other programs such as PowerPoint.

For further information about CTC's other sources and services visit: http://www.neiu.edu/~ctc/resource_center.html.

The Multimedia Learning Resource Center (MLRC) has two digital videotape cameras for NEIU faculty use.

NEIU employees are eligible to order a licensed copy of select Microsoft Office desktop programs to install and use on a home computer. The cost is \$19.95. If you are interested in participating in the Microsoft Home Use Program (HUP), send an e-mail request to helpdesk@neiu.edu. Please include "Microsoft Home Use Program" in the subject.

If you have any information you would like to share with us, feel free to contact any of the following technology committee members: **Phyllis LeDosquet (SPED)**, **Joann Karr (TED)**, **Alberto Lopez (TED)**, **Dave Cutton (HPERA)**, **Joanne Vazzano (READ)**, and **Theresa Segura (COUN)**.

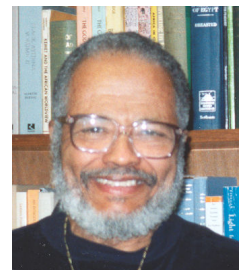
NEWS FROM CARRUTHERS CENTER FOR INNER CITY STUDIES

Teaching About Africa

The Kemet Institute, co-founded by the late Jacob H. Carruthers, Jr., began another season of its Teaching About Africa (TAA) Program at CCICS. TAA consists of eight lecture and curriculum sessions and runs from January through March. The program provides 45 hours of training for teachers using a multidisciplinary approach to the inclusion of information and materials on Africa into the curriculum.

Fifth Annual Jacob H. Carruthers Conference and Gravesite Ritual Celebration

In February, the Kemet Institute will host its Fifth Annual Jacob H. Carruthers Conference at CCICS. Admission is free and open to the public. The theme for this year's conference is "Intellectual Warfare: The Struggle Continues." Presentations will be made by scholars such as **Anderson Thompson (CCICS)**, **Robert T. Starks (CCICS)**, Mario Beatty from Chicago State University, Larry F. Crowe from the HistoryMakers, and others who are continuing Carruthers' work and ideas. Chicago Public School teachers can earn CPDUs for attending this conference and other Kemet Institute programs. The culminating event is an annual gravesite ritual at Oak Woods Cemetery in remembrance and celebration of the life of Jacob H. Carruthers, Jr.(right.)



SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE



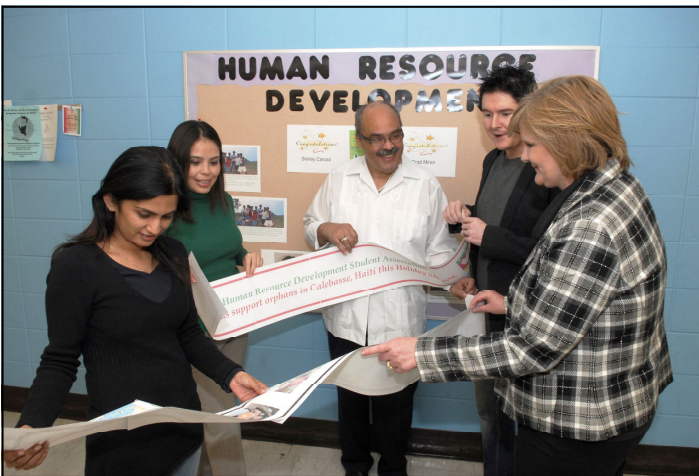
COE Organizes “Get on the Bus” Trip to SWOP



COE faculty and administrators discuss community involvement in academic achievement with teachers and parent-mentors at SWOP member school Talman Elementary.

COE faculty and administrators recently participated in a day-long “Get on the Bus” trip to the southwest side to see how schools in the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) are engaging parents and community members in initiatives to help improve students’ levels of academic achievement. SWOP is involved in programs such as Parents-as-Mentors and Grow your Own Teachers (GYO). The organization currently supports a cohort of 44 teacher candidates, seven of whom are taking classes at NEIU through GYO. The COE will graduate their first two SWOP GYO candidates in May. In addition to its commitment to academic achievement in the public schools, SWOP is also known for its efforts to reduce violence, its fight to end predatory lending, and its work to win rights and protect the civil liberties of immigrants.

HRDSA Fundraiser for Haiti



Even before the tragic events that resulted from the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, members of the Human Resource Development Student Association (HRDSA) were aware that Haitian orphans were living with little, and that their needs were great.

When HRDSA President Brad Minor’s brother (who works with in an orphanage in Haiti) related that the children in the orphanage didn’t even have the essentials that most Americans take for granted, Brad brought the need to the HRDSA club membership and to **Suzanne Benson (ELAD)** the club’s advisor.

The club decided to provide a backpack for each of the 24 children in the orphanage. This was the wish from the children, who had indicated they would like something in which to

carry their books while they walked the two miles necessary to catch a bus to go to school. Knowing that there was a great need for so many basics, the club also wanted to provide items such as soap, shampoo, tooth brushes and tooth-paste as well as some age-related toys for each child.

Although it was a busy time of the year for the HRD students, an appeal went out to all the HRD classes for donations. The response was overwhelming as word spread to students, staff and faculty from across the campus. During finals week, the items were packed and shipped to Florida and then taken by plane to the orphanage in Haiti. Pictured above (left to right) are **HRDSA club members Phenil Mehta, Ana Rosa Sanchez, Frank Gonzalez, Brad Minor,** and **Shirley Caruso** examining the display banner that advertised the successful event.

NOTE: Thanks to the overwhelming support for the HRDSA fundraiser, the club was able to provide a monetary gift to the American Red Cross to assist Haitians during the difficult time following the earthquake.

SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE

...at Chicago Teachers' Center



Internationally respected educator and researcher Lois Hetland recently worked with Chicago-area artists and 100 teachers from Berwyn South School District to create contemporary art using whatever objects could be found in the classroom. Applying the theme "What Does Learning Look Like?" Hetland shared her approach to assessing student art work and provided teachers with concrete tools for taking the practice back into the classroom.

An Associate Professor of Art Education at the Massachusetts College of Art and a Research Associate at Harvard's Project Zero, Hetland's research in cognitive and developmental psychology focuses on issues of learning, teaching, and disciplinary understanding, with an emphasis on the arts. Her CTC workshop presentation was made possible with funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Professional Development for Arts Educators Grant Program. She will also write the forward to CTC's new *Every Art Every Child* curriculum guide which is part of CTC's Arts at the Center Program .

A team of teachers and working artists view their art on a laptop at Lois Hetland's visual arts workshop at Heritage Middle School in Berwyn, IL .

Feria del Libro Listed as a Top 10 Community Event of 2009

In May 2009, NEIU and CTC hosted the second *Feria del Libro Mexicano y Latino*. The event was selected by *eXtra*, "Chicago's Leading Bilingual Newspaper," as a Top 10 Community Event of 2009. The feria was cited in the newspaper's literary excellence category as follows: "*The five-day Feria del Libro Mexicano y Latino event was not your average pick up-and-read book fair. This multidisciplinary event covered all literary aspects relating to the arts in Chicago's Latino community, including art workshops and live discussions with prominent authors such as Ana Castillo, Román Gubern and Michele Serros and an open stage to local and visiting musicians and comedians. The fair represented their byline with excellence: 'The Cultural Diversity in All of America' .* –from *eXtra* online news 12/30/09

GEARING UP FOR COLLEGE VISITS

Spending time on college campuses is a cornerstone of the GEAR UP project. Since GEAR UP's original funding in 1999, CTC has hosted countless trips to colleges and universities. This year, as the original cohort of GEAR UP students moves through 11th grade and gets closer to college selection, visits become vital tools in the students' decision-making process. At NEIU alone, since the fall semester began, CTC has hosted visits from seven high schools that serve more than 250 GEAR UP students. Six more high schools are scheduled to visit NEIU during the spring semester. In addition, this year, CTC hosted students and their parents on an out-of-state college visit to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. CTC is also GEARing UP for six different out-of-state college visits during spring break which will involve nearly 300 students and parents.

At right, a student and grandparent from Michele Clark High School and a student from Roosevelt High School do a DNA extraction activity in the Biomedical Lab at University of Wisconsin – Madison.





ALUMNI CORNER

NEIU VALENTINES



Murray K. Fisher, Ed.D., COE Instructor and Educational Consultant; ('72 B.A. Physical Education, Elementary Education, Special Education) Retired CPS teacher 33 years - Special Education/Low Incidence/Vocational Training; Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year 1995; Council for Exceptional Children (national) Clarissa Hug Award 1996; Golden Apple award winner 2001.

Carol (Russell) Fisher, Educational Consultant ('72 B.A. Music Education); Retired CPS teacher 34 years- Middle School Math; Golden Apple award winner 1989.

Murray and Carol Fisher (left) met in the NEIU band in September 1968. They have been married for 35 years and have two grown daughters: Rachel, who works for an agency that develops educational documentary films; and Leah, who teaches choral music at the middle and high school levels.

If you met your Valentine at NEIU, please contact us at alumni@neiu.edu.

TOAST OF THE TOWN

Bob Chikos, ('07 M.A. Special Education) is pictured (center) with Chicago Toastmasters governors during an awards ceremony for Toastmasters International. Chikos was named by the organization as Chicagoland's top humorous speaker after winning a Toastmaster's contest with his speech titled "Bob's Plan for Fixing the USA." To achieve this status Chikos practiced his speech more than 400 times and won competitions at the club, area, and division levels before reaching the Toastmaster's district level contest. A special education teacher at Crystal Lake Central High School, Chikos is also the school's head speech coach.



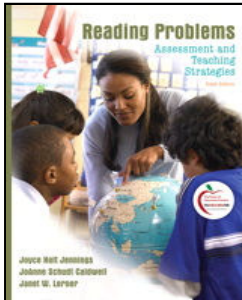
We'd love to hear from you... Send notice of your accomplishments to our newsletter editor, Susan Appel Bass at s-bass@neiu.edu.

FROM THE FACULTY

At the Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Convention in Louisville, KY, **Jennifer Banas (HPERA)** presented “A Standardized Course Design Model to Seamlessly Integrate Learning Objects: Transforming Learning and Instruction in Online Environments” and “Considerations for the Design of TPCK Professional Development: An Analysis of Teacher’s Perceptions about Technology Integration.”

Gerald Moreno’s (SPED) article “No Need to Count to Ten: Advocating for the Early Implementation of the Functional Behavioral Assessment in Addressing Challenging Behaviors” was recently accepted for publication in the *Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties* journal.

Alberto Lopez (TED) presented “The Planning Process of a First-generation Latina Teacher in a Bilingual Social Studies Classroom in the Midwest United States” at the recent Worldwide Forum on Culture and Education in Rome. He was one of five COE faculty to present at the Forum. (See *News & Notes Winter 2009* for other Worldwide Forum presentations.) Lopez also presented “A First-generation Latina Teacher Planning in the Bilingual Social Studies Classroom: Planning for Others” at the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) under the division of the College and University Faculty Assembly (CUFA) in Atlanta, GA.



Joyce Jennings (READ) was one of the three authors whose book “Reading Problems: Assessment and Reading Strategies” (Allyn and Bacon) was recently published in the sixth edition. The book discusses normal literacy development and dissects the problems that arise in teaching reading. It also provides a variety of practical strategies for helping struggling readers overcome reading obstacles.

“Preparing Bilingual Teacher Candidates: A Linguistic Conundrum in a Changing Political Landscape,” a research paper prepared by **Judith Yturriago (TED)** and **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)**, has been accepted for presentation at the 2010 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting in May 2010.

Brian Schultz (ELAD) is one of the editors of the 2009 *Handbook of Public Pedagogy: Education and Learning beyond Schooling*, New York and London: Routledge. **Erica Meiners (ELAD)** and **Lance Williams (ELAD)** were among the contributing authors to the book’s 67 chapters. **Schultz**, along with NEIU **Grow Your Own Teachers Coordinator Christina Madda**, published their article “Revitalizing the Ideals of Multicultural Education through *Grow Your Own Teachers*,” in the *Multicultural Perspectives* journal 11(4), 204-209.

Lorie Annarella (TED) was recently a featured speaker at the Chesterton Museum in Chesterton, IN, and at the Grohmann Museum, at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee, WI. Her talk focused on “Industrial Art.”

Howard Bultinck (ELAD) was reappointed Chair of the Board of the New Trier Federal Credit Union and reappointed as Hearing Officer for Westmont School District.

SPED faculty Effie Kritikos, Phyllis LeDosquet and Mark Melton recently presented “Supporting Families of Bilingual Children with Special Needs” at the 33rd Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students in Oak Brook, IL.

MORE FROM THE FACULTY

CNN invited **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)** to be a panel member in Chicago for a discussion of their nationally presented video documentary “Latino In America.” Gil-Garcia also proposed and chaired the roundtable “Best Practices on Internationalization of Higher Education Campuses” at the 32nd Annual Fulbright Association Conference in Washington D.C. and she delivered the keynote at the launching of the “Latino Initiative,” a youth mentoring program organized by Chicago Metropolitan Family Services. Her other recent presentations have included “Common Management Practices and Leadership Innovations of International Agencies of Higher Education: Sharing a Research Story” at the annual conference of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and “Language, Culture and Cognition: Interconnecting Success” at the Fifth National Congress on “Education, Development and Diversity: Building the Future”, sponsored by the Universidad Especializada de Las Americas, in Panama City, Panama.

Huseyin Colak (TED) recently published his first book, “Children’s Nature of Science Views and Personal Epistemologies: Exploring the Development of Nature of Science Views and Personal Epistemologies of Upper Elementary and Middle School Students” (Lap Lampert Academic Publishing).

In December, at the 59th National Reading Conference in Albuquerque, NM, **JoAnne Vazzano (READ)** and **Janet L. Pariza (READ)** presented “Fostering Conversations about Literacy Development Lessons: Extending Teacher-to-Teacher Professional Development.”

Elaine Chakonas (TED) recently presented “Meeting the Needs of All Students: Challenges and Solutions in a Culturally Diverse Classroom” at the Sixth International Conference on Teacher Education and Social Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The presentation focused on real-life scenarios of elementary and middle school students from diverse cultures along with solutions to assist teachers in supporting these students in their acclimation process within the American school culture.

Sara Schwarzbaum (COUN) presented “How to Avoid Bad Couples Counseling,” at the Annual Illinois Counseling Association Conference; and “Using Real Life Stories in Multicultural Counseling Courses” at the American Counselor Education Society (ACES) biennial National Conference in San Diego, CA. In addition, two of her articles were published in recent issues of the *Illinois Counseling Association Journal*: “When Counselors Need Counseling: We Don’t Always Practice What We Preach” and “The Expanded Use of the Autobiographical Story.”

MORE SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE



Brad Minor, HRD undergraduate student, and Shirley Caruso, HRD graduate student, were honored last November as finalists for the Chicago Land Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development (CCASTD) Deborah Colky Award. The award recognizes the outstanding effort and achievement of a current undergraduate or graduate student committed to pursuing a degree and career focused in the Workplace Learning and Performance profession. This is the first time NEIU has had finalists for this prestigious award.

