

College of Education

# News & Notes

College of Education Professionals:  
Reflective, Collaborative and Transformative

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ASPIRA school future teachers visit NEIU

COE "Advance" looks at assessment data

Former STaKE participant talks about teaching in Korea

Professional Development for students

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## COE FACULTY MEMBER WINS MAJOR ACADEMIC AWARD

March 2010—**Theresa Segura-Herrera (COUN)** was selected as the first place winner of the 2010 American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Outstanding Dissertation Competition. She also recently received awards for her dissertation from the National Latina/o Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association. Her paper, "An Examination of the Psychological Well-being of Latina and Latino Students," is a qualitative and quantitative study that explores the psychological health of Latina/o undergraduate students.

Segura-Herrera's idea for the study came from her own experience as a first-generation Mexican American college student. "I struggled as an undergraduate with issues ranging from academic preparedness to the questions like 'Where do I fit in?' and 'Where does my culture fit in?'" said Segura -Herrera. "I had a sense of what students like myself experience in college, but I wanted to study more about it."

To write the dissertation, Segura-Herrera gathered data from a variety of sources including personal interviews and written questionnaires. With the information she collected, she created a psychological well-being scale for Latina/o students. She defined well-being as a multi-dimensional entity involving a general feeling of satisfaction, happiness and sense of purpose. Her findings pointed to strength of ethnic identity as a key factor in predicting degree of psychological health.



**Theresa Segura-Herrera (COUN) talking with Community Counseling master's degree candidate Veronica Kott (right)**

"My research indicated that the stronger the sense of ethnic identity, the more likely the probability for well-being," said Segura-Herrera. She added, "This is something that bears consideration when talking about the academic success of minority students."

Segura-Herrera, has a B.S. in psychology and an M.A. in community counseling from Loyola University in Chicago. She received her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Now in her second year as a faculty member in COE's Department of Counselor Education, Segura-Herrera plans to continue research on psychological well-being.

"Minority groups are the most understudied populations in terms of mental health issues," contends Segura-Herrera. "I'd like to examine these issues in greater depth with the goal of promoting academic retention among Latina/o students and building experience for the counselors of tomorrow."

## Dean's Message

We are looking forward to the May 8 graduation as the academic year draws to a close. Our first three Grow Your Own (GYO) teachers will graduate and look to begin their teaching careers in the Chicago Public Schools. Maria Buenrostro and Alicia LaBoy will return to the Chicago Lawn/Marquette Park neighborhood and Romanetha Loooper will teach in her home neighborhood, North Lawndale. We are proud to welcome graduation guests from our partner community based organizations: Jeff Bartow, Imelda Salazar, and Rabbi Joshua Salter from the Southwest Organizing Project and Madeline Talbot and Katelyn Johnson from Action Now. We have also invited the executive director of GYO-Illinois, Anne Hallett and Senator Iris Martinez, sponsor of the original GYO bill.

Graduation will also be an opportunity to honor **Dr. Ken Addison** as he retires and has the title of professor emeritus bestowed upon him. Ken has contributed his wisdom and talent to countless COE and NEIU students, faculty, administrators, programs, and initiatives during his career. He also recently received the 2010 Faculty Award of Excellence from the Black History Month Award Committee. We wish him all the best for a wonderful retirement.

The COE put its Hispanic Serving Institution grant money to good use this semester as 15 faculty and staff were awarded funds to pursue projects that advance research, scholarship, and teaching. Receiving awards were: **Huseyin Colak, Gabriel Cortez, Ana Gil-Garcia, Daniel Lopez, Kristi Madda, Erica Meiners, Gerardo Moreno, Donald Pittman, Brian Schultz, Sara Schwarzbaum, Theresa Segura-Herrera, Terry Stirling, Joaquin Villegas, Durene Wheeler, and Cate Wycoff.**

*College of Education Professionals:  
Reflective, Collaborative, Transformative*

It will be much easier to accomplish our COE strategic technology goal with the addition of **Jesse Franco**, our new technology support specialist who joined us this semester. We have also hired a new faculty member whose area of expertise is technology education. **Dr. Hua Bai** will be a welcome addition to the faculty in the 2010-2011 academic year. Finally, we are fortunate to have the support of Anderson Lam from the IT department. Anderson has begun a series of workshops for faculty which have gotten rave reviews – each week it seems that I get an e-mail or a visit from a person who attended a session, came away impressed and is ready to implement some new technologies. I cannot thank Anderson enough for the generous donation of his time and energy to support the COE in our efforts to infuse, and ensure that our candidates can use, technology as a teaching-learning tool.

As the academic year comes to a close, we are facing a serious state budget crisis. The full impact at NEIU is not yet known, but we continue to serve our candidates in the same excellent manner that they have come to expect. For example, we currently have 10 teacher candidates completing student teaching in Korea, we have hired several new tenure-track faculty for the coming year, and our investments in technology, accreditation, and faculty/staff supports will continue. Please know that your efforts and sacrifices during these difficult economic times are appreciated.

I do hope that everyone finds time to relax and renew over the summer, even as many of you undertake teaching and research responsibilities. I look forward to continuing our work in 2010-2011.

*Maureen Gillette*



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## TECH TALK News from the COE Technology Committee



The technology committee extends a special welcome to **Jesse Franco** (B.A. '05 HRD), **the new IT Support Associate for the College of Education**. We had the opportunity to meet with him at our last meeting and we were excited about the wealth of knowledge and technology experience he brings to us! As a technology committee, we will be interfacing with him on several levels. He also welcomes your questions and is ready and willing to be of support to you! Stop by and say hello to him. His office is LWH 4045 (across from the COE office) and his extension is 4562. You may also email him at [j-franco@neu.edu](mailto:j-franco@neu.edu).



**Jesse Franco IT Support Associate**



In March, **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)** visited Belize and Guatemala as an invited speaker by the U.S. Department of State Speaker and Specialist Program. She spent time at several schools grades 1-12, where she met with teachers, principals, students and government administrators to talk about "Helping the Girls Stay in School." At left she is pictured with Vinai Thummalapally, US Ambassador in Belize.

Pictured from left to right at the Spring 2010 Mentor Reception are keynote speaker Elsa Rubio, principal, Fairfield Academy Elementary School, **COE Director of Clinical Experiences and Student Teaching Catherine Wycoff**; **COE Dean Maureen Gillette**; Romanetha Looper, student teacher at Lawndale Academy Elementary School; and Edna Hanley, Looper's cooperating teacher. The mentor reception is held annually to honor the accomplishments of COE's student teachers and to recognize the contributions of cooperating teachers and school principals.



## NEWS FROM CARRUTHERS CENTER FOR INNER CITY STUDIES

**Conrad Worrill (ELAD)**, director of the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, (pictured) will be among the esteemed legends taking part in NBC5's "Finishing the Dream" project. He will be discussing the Civil Rights Movement and how it must be brought forward. Taping for the program will take place at 7p.m. Wednesday, April 28 at the DuSable Museum of African American History.



The CCICS student organization, UTATU Collective, recently hosted a lecture by Haitian historian, Dr. William Leslie Balan Gaubert titled "Haiti, Before, During, and After the Earth Shook."

## SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE



### COE Fifth Annual ADVANCE: Using Assessment Data to Inform Program & Candidate Practice



At the recent annual COE annual “Advance” COE faculty and staff gathered to discuss assessment as it relates to program and candidate practice. The morning activities focused on sharing, analyzing and using data and included presentations that showcased how specific COE programs are using data for continuous improvement.

The afternoon featured a panel discussion titled “Preparing Candidates to Work with Community Partners.” Included among the panel members were administrators from the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and the Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA). Both organizations partner with NEIU’s College of Education in the Grow Your Own (GYO) Teacher Program. Also on the panel were GYO teacher candidates who are currently attending NEIU.

Pictured speaking is panel member **Imelda Salazar, GYO Coordinator for SWOP, along with SWOP GYO teacher candidate Mayra Bravo-Gonzalez, who also served on the panel.**

Scenes from Improving Teacher Preparation Summit IV...From left to right **MT Garretton (TED), Steve Dundis (ELAD) Summit Co-Chair Nanette Potee (CAS-Communication, Media & Theatre) and Summit Co-Chair Sandra Beyda-Lorie (SPED).** The summit series is a collaborative effort between the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education that focuses on improving teacher preparation through shared means of improving students’ knowledge and skills.



### A TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE AT NORTHEASTERN

Students from Future Educators Association of Aspira (FEAA) clubs recently visited the NEIU campus for a taste of college life. In Fall 2009, NEIU’s College of Education launched the FEAA clubs at four schools, in partnership with ASPIRA Inc. The purpose of the clubs is to promote an understanding of the role of schools in our society and to encourage students to pursue teaching as a career. Pictured are **FEAA club advisor Bethany Groff, a teacher at ASPIRA Early College High School (center) and FEAA club members talking with NEIU club advisors Gerardo Moreno (SPED) (left) and Mark Melton (SPED).**

## SCENE FROM THE COLLEGE

...at Chicago Teachers' Center



### GEAR UP Student Leadership Conference: A Step in the Right Direction



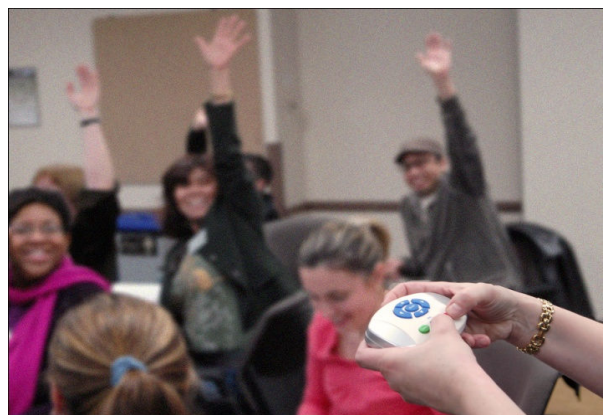
On Monday, March 1 (Pulaski Day), more than 100 students from 21 GEAR UP high schools gathered for a conference on leadership. The day was packed with activities on topics related to community building and motivation for positive change. At the end of the day, students put their public speaking skills to work and presented their outcomes to the whole conference. Some students were even motivated enough to create service learning projects for their schools and communities.

The leadership conference is just one of many activities provided by CTC through GEAR UP. Many of the students have participated in several GEAR UP supported clubs, workshops and events with a focus on building skills that support future success in post-secondary education.

### iMATHination: Exploring Careers in Math, Science and Technology

**Saturday, May 22, 2010-** Students and their families are invited to attend the first annual iMATHination 2010 Student and Family Conference. The event is open to middle and high school students and their families from institutions participating in any Chicago Teachers' Center program.

Workshop sessions will foster interest in learning math, science and technology and will demonstrate how these subjects relate to professional careers in STEM. For more information visit [www.neiu.edu/~mathconf/Students/Students.html](http://www.neiu.edu/~mathconf/Students/Students.html).



### College Resources for Families offered through Cicero-Berwyn Education Initiative

More than 100 students and family members from Cicero and Berwyn recently attended *Education: Keys for Success*, a series of workshops designed to increase students' opportunities for admission to college. Divided into four parts, the series addressed applying for public funding, resources available for students, and suggestions on how to increase success in college. A community celebration was held on the final day to honor graduating high school seniors.

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## ALUMNI CORNER



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



### COE ALUM TALKS ABOUT STaKE PROGRAM

Jacob Chacko (B.A. '09 Spanish Education), on a break from teaching in Korea, recently returned to campus to talk to COE students about the Student Teaching and Korean Experience (STaKE) program. The five-month experience offers students practical knowledge and teaching skills while living in Korea and working with Korean students and teachers.

Chacko went to Korea in Spring '09 with the first group of students to participate in STaKE. While there, he was offered a position to teach English in the Cheonan Boys Middle School in the Chungcheongnam-Do province of South Korea. He subsequently received an award for excellence in teaching from the Korean government and has returned to Korea to teach for another year.

**David Helfand** retired in August, '09 after 34 years as Coordinator of Career Counseling at NEIU and is currently doing volunteer work at Orphan's Animal Shelter in Deerfield. He brings the dogs to adoption events at pet stores, schools, recreation centers and other places sites where he talks to participants about the value of adopting a pet.

The District 62 Board of Education recently named Elgin resident **Colleen White** principal of Cumberland Elementary School in Des Plaines. An eleven-year veteran in school administration, White led Washington Elementary School in District U-46 since 1999 before being appointed principal at Cumberland.



**David Helfand**  
B.A. '72 Math  
Secondary Education



**Colleen White**  
B.A. '92 Elementary  
Education

**Dean Maureen Gillette** (left) with **COE staff Cindy Jones and Clyde McCleod** at the February 2010 Black History Month Awards Celebration. The annual celebration honors individuals for their outstanding contributions to NEIU and to the African American community. Jones received the 2010 Staff Award of Excellence and McCleod was the 2009 recipient of the same award. Not pictured, but also among the 2010 award winners are **Kenneth Addison (ELAD)**, recipient of the Faculty Award of Excellence and **COE alumna Deborah Kern** (B.A. '81 Music, M.A. '01 SPED), the Community Service Award of Excellence recipient.



## FROM THE STUDENTS



### **Kappa Delta Pi Students Support NEIU Child Care Center**

In March, the College of Education's Sigma Epsilon Chapter of the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society recently held a bake sale and raised nearly \$150. The money was donated to the NEIU Child Care Center to buy books for its classrooms.

In April, following the bake sale, Kappa Delta Pi members read to the children at the Child Care Center. NEIU Dean of Students Michael Kelly, who is a Kappa Delta Pi member himself, also participated by playing guitar.

(Pictured) **Kappa Delta Pi member Celina Martinez** read "The Little Mermaid" and dressed as Ariel, the story's heroine.

### **HPERA Senior Wins National Award**

Senior Physical Education major **Jeannette Becerra** (pictured) was recently awarded "Major of the Year" by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Each year the Association honors exemplary students nationwide who are majoring in physical education, sport management, athletic training, and the sub-discipline of kinesiology. HPERA faculty nominated Becerra based on her grades, dedication and professionalism.



## **Students Engaging in Professional Development Opportunities**

In April, undergraduates from the NEIU Chapter of the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) attended the International CEC Convention in Nashville, TN. They engaged in professional development opportunities and plan to share what they learned with faculty and fellow students.

Seven students in COE's higher education master's degree program recently attended the annual conference for NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. NASPA is the leading voice for policy and practice in the student affairs administration field with more than 11,000 members worldwide. The conference was an opportunity for the students to meet other student affairs professionals and learn more about the field. The College of Education sponsored the students' attendance.

The Human Resource Development Student Association (HRDSA), sponsored by **Suzanne Benson (ELAD)** was recently recognized by the University with the NRichment Award. The award is given to a student organization which has developed and successfully executed an outstanding program, has introduced new ideas and activities, engaged fellow students, and has helped enhance the learning environment.

## FROM THE FACULTY

At the Tenth International Meeting of Education and Thinking in the Dominican Republic, **Alberto Lopez (TED)** participated in two panel presentations: "Writing for the Social Work from the Community of Learners" and "Using Research Strategies in the Social Studies Class to Develop Critical Thinking Skills and Social Justice Education Skills." At the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in April he delivered "Playing Together, Suppressing Cultural Identity and Changing the Accent: the Case of Acceptance and Rejection Practices of Dominican Students in an Elementary School in Puerto Rico," and "First Generation Mexicana Teacher's Culturally Position Planning."

**Nan Giblin (COUN) and Mei-Whei Chen (COUN)** presented a paper on "Self-expressive Therapy: Self-care for Helping Professionals" at the recent annual Illinois Counseling Association Conference. Chen, along with another colleague also presented "An Innovative Approach to Resolving the Unresolved Issues Shared by Many Compulsive Hoarders." At the same conference, **Jeff Edwards (COUN)** was named the 2009 Illinois Counselor Educator of the Year. He also presented the workshop "Strengths-based Clinical Supervision," at the conference as well as for the Illinois Association for Marriage and Family Therapy,

**Erica Meiners (ELAD)** was one of the lead authors of the recently published book "Teaching to Democracy Activism Toolkit Series," (2010) Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers. In a special issue of the DePaul Law School Social Justice Journal, she was one of the authors of "Organizing Tensions: From the Prison to the Military Industrial Complex." Her article "Resisting Civil Death: Organizing for Access to Education In Our Prison Nation," appeared in another recent issue of the same journal. In addition to her recent publications, Meiners has been teaching a free community course on "Engaging with the Prison Industrial Complex" through Project NIA/Chicago Freedom's Schools Communitarity.

**Theresa A. Segura-Herrera (COUN)** was selected as the first place winner in the 2010 AAHE Outstanding Dissertation Competition. (See story on Pg. 1)

The latest edition of **Bev Otto's (TED)** book Language Development in Early Childhood was recently picked up for translation into Indonesian.

At the recent International Woman Day celebration, **Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD)** spoke on "The Agenda of the Venezuelan Woman Today." In March, Gil-Garcia visited Belize and Guatemala and was invited by the U.S. Department of State to speak about "Helping Girls Stay in School." (See photo and more details on Pg. 3) Gil-Garcia also served as faculty advisor for the NEIU 2010 Model United Nations Club that recently competed at the UN in an international competition.

At the 2010 Illinois Reading Council Conference in March, **April Nauman (READ)** presented "Writing Instruction in High-Needs Schools." **JoAnne Vazzano (READ)** and **Janet L. Pariza (READ)** presented "Illuminating Practice through Peer-led Professional Development." Vazzano also presented "Lighting the Way During Guided Reading" with **reading program alum and current NEIU adjunct instructor, Jodi Pass.**

**Mark Melton (SPED)** was a co-presenter at the Illinois Infant Mental Health Association on "How a Child with Autism Views the World."

**Gabriel Cortez (ELAD)** recently co-presented a workshop on "Grass-roots Activism in Mexican Chicago: *Desde los 70s hasta el Milenio* (from the 70s to the Millenium)" for the *Abriendo Brecha* National Conference hosted by the University of Texas at Austin.

"What Should Students Read?" by **Steven Wolk (TED)** appeared in the April 2010 issue of Phi Delta Kappan. Wolk also presented "Real Talk: Discussion and Debate through Books" at the April International Reading Association Conference.

**Jennifer Banas (HPERA)** presented "Enhancing Learners' Comprehension via a Web-based Text Visualization Tool" at the Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Annual Convention in March. Banas was also recently chosen President-elect of the Teacher Education Division for the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.

An Immigration Research Grant from NEIU's Office of Academic Affair was recently awarded to **Rene Alvarez (TED)**. Alvarez was also a guest lecturer for NEIU's McNair Scholars Program on "The Art and Science of Academic Writing."