

College of Education

News & Notes

Reflective Professionals Building Learning Communities

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Sharon K. Hahs
President

Lawrence P. Frank
Provost

Maureen Gillette
Dean

Susan Appel Bass
Editor

Michael W. Pietrzak
Designer

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

COE EXAMINES POSSIBILITY FOR NEW INTRO TO ED COURSE

At a power lunch held in January, faculty met to discuss possibilities for a new introduction to education course. The lunch was held as part of the College's continuing efforts to work on priority items that were raised at the COE retreat last winter. The idea for the "power lunch" was generated by faculty members during retreat activities and is considered a great means for getting ideas (new and old) out on the table for discussion and possible action.

Discussion for this first lunch was fueled by feedback from the retreat which revealed the faculty's desire to develop cross-departmental collaboration as a means of strengthening students' skills in technology, research and writing. Dialogue at the lunch centered on pinpointing the purpose and objectives for designing a course involving this type of collaboration as well as identifying some of the difficulties related to its development and implementation. The group also examined two proposed models.

Next steps include studying course models at other similar institutions, and examining the



COE power lunch participants Ken Addison (ELAD), Alice Murata (COUN) and Sandra Beyda Lorie (SPED) studying proposed models for Intro to Ed course.

feasibility of implementing various models at Northeastern. Commented **Nicole Holland (ELAD)** who coordinated the session, "The Intro to Education course will be a great addition to the COE curriculum. It will help us identify and develop important skill sets that our students will need and use during their academic tenure and professional careers. It will also be a means for COE faculty to work collaboratively across departments."

NCATE REACCREDITATION WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In an effort to continue moving forward toward 2010 NCATE reaccreditation, the COE began examination of its conceptual framework at an all-day workshop Friday, February 9 at the Chicago Teachers' Center. Faculty spent the day reflecting upon and considering revision of the framework. Part of their discussion focused on NCATE required diversity proficiencies and how those proficiencies might flow from the framework.

Dr. Carrie Robinson, Chair of Educational Leadership at New Jersey City University (NJCU) has been hired as a consultant to help the College engage in the process. Robinson has extensive NCATE experience as an NCATE Board or Examiners (BOE) member, BOE chair, presenter on NCATE, and NCATE consultant. NJCU recently completed a reaccreditation visit. Their educational leadership department has done extensive work with performance-based assessments and LiveText as a tool for assessing students.

Dean's Message

It seems impossible to believe that the fall semester has flown by and we are into the second half of the year. One of the reasons that I love the spring semester is that I know that when it ends, graduation and warm weather will be upon us!

The College of Education is grateful to a wonderful couple, **Kim and Jay Kleeman for supporting our students with the Shakespeare Squared Student Teaching Scholarship.** Our last newsletter included a story about Jay, an alum, and his wife, Kim. I was fortunate to be with **scholarship recipients, Derrick Bullie (secondary mathematics) and Hyacinth Cabael (elementary education)** when they met Kim and expressed their deep appreciation for the support during student teaching. (Photo on Pg. 5.) Both Kim and Jay understand the financial hardships associated with the student teaching semester. Their commitment to NEIU and the COE is a gift for which I am deeply grateful.

This semester brought with it the beginnings of the hard work to implement many of the tasks that emerged from our spring "forward". The Administrative Team is in the process of putting together a 5-year strategic plan, the Technology Committee is developing competencies for our initial and advanced candidates, the Professional Development Committee is instituting several initiatives, and in February, we planned another "forward" to examine the conceptual framework. (Story on Pg. 1.) An ad-hoc committee on COE reorganization is meeting bi-monthly and is being co-chaired by **Elaine Chakonas and Joaquin Villegas.**

The annual Author's Reception, sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs was an inspiring event and several College of Education faculty members were honored for recent book publications. (Photo on Pg. 6.)

Barry Birnbaum, Joan Leafman, Sharon McNeely, and co-authors Katie McKnight and Roger Passman were given the opportunity to make some remarks about their most recent books. It was noted that Katie and Roger graduated from our MAT program and in their remarks, they recognized the high quality of the program and the mentorship they received from **Beverly Otto.** I would like to congratulate all of our most recent authors and I am sure that each of the books that they worked so diligently on will be best sellers in their fields!

The fall of 2006 brought another report critical of Colleges of Education by Dr. Arthur Levine. Dr. Levine chose to focus his most recent work on teacher education. The report, *Educating School Teachers*, has several controversial suggestions. For example, he suggests that all teacher education be completed through five-year programs where students would earn a bachelor's degree in a liberal art or science and a master's degree in pedagogy and that the ultimate assessment of the quality of a teacher education program be based on K-12 student achievement.

This report should be read by all NEIU school and university-based teacher educators to enhance our on-going discussions of how to continuously improve our policies and practices. The entire report can be downloaded at www.edschools.org. Fortunately, ISBE and IBHE are committed to teacher education and I anticipate an announcement of increased funding for innovative teacher education programs in the spring.



Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean
College of Education

MARK YOUR CALENDARS....

Sunday, March 25

*Due Date for ATE Summer
Conference Proposals*

More info at: www.ate1.org

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

Phone: 773.442.5500

Fax: 773.442.5510

<http://www.neiu.edu/~edudept>

NCATE

The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

Spotlight on....



Elliott Lessen

Associate Dean for Policy, Research and Evaluation

Teachers bring a unique gift to their students. We want to capitalize on that gift through effective research and implementation of policies and programs that honor both teachers and students .

In September 2006, the College of Education welcomed Dr. Elliott Lessen as the first Associate Dean for Policy, Research and Evaluation. His appointment is part of the College's ongoing commitment to support and enhance building of a community of reflective practitioners.

Lessen believes that the breadth of his almost 40 years experience in education provides a good background for his current role, which he describes as "a facilitator for the faculty in helping them realize their scholarly pursuits and providing them with support in fulfilling the COE mission." He commented, "Teachers bring a unique gift to their students. We want to capitalize on that gift through effective research and implementation of policies and programs that honor both teachers and students."

To carry out his role, Lessen has outlined an ambitious three-year agenda aimed at increasing the College's presence at the local, state, and national levels through increased grant funding, research publications, the dissemination of policy briefs and a focus on professional development school models. In addition, he will use his position to organize and disseminate information to faculty regarding opportunities for research, grant-funding, and conference presentations.

With regard to policy briefs, Lessen intends to solicit data-based research (qualitative and quantitative) from campus faculty and staff at the Chicago Teachers' Center. The briefs will highlight research results and will be disseminated to numerous constituencies, including state and federal legislators. Lessen believes that through these efforts, NEIU's College of Education should be able to play an important role in informing policy.

Having now completed his first semester, Lessen looks upon this time as an opportunity to become acquainted

with the faculty and get a "lay of the land." As part of that endeavor he has been in attendance at departmental meetings to introduce the agenda and to familiarize faculty with the specifics of his role. In the months to come he is looking forward to working more closely with faculty to meet the challenges at hand.

Lessen earned an A.B in Fine Arts from Syracuse University, an M.S. in Special Education from Hunter College in New York City and a doctorate in special education from the University of Florida Gainesville. He is a member of the Illinois State Teacher Certification Board and a founding executive committee member of the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS). He currently serves as President of NAPDS. He also serves on the executive committee for the Illinois Association for Colleges of Teacher Education.

An integral part of Lessen's career has been an extensive history of working with teachers and school districts, especially in the area of differentiated instruction in regular classroom settings and his work toward increasing diversity in both faculty and teaching candidates. In addition, Lessen has received numerous teaching and student service awards, including an award as "Distinguished Teaching Professor" at Northern Illinois University DeKalb (NIU), where he later served as Associate Dean of the College of Education.

Lessen served as Dean of the School of Education at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville prior to receiving his appointment at Northeastern.

Illinois Reading Council Grant Supports NEIU/Jamaican Collaboration

Jo Ann Karr and **Elizabeth Landerholm (TED)**, along with **Jade Stanley (CAS)** recently received a grant from the Illinois Reading Council for a project to support their ongoing collaborative work with Moneague College in St. Ann Parish, Jamaica.

The project goal is to enhance the use of technology in teaching reading and writing skills. As part of the project, student-authored thematic books with digital photography and art work (e-books) will be shared via internet between Jamaican and CPS elementary schools, and with Moneague College literacy student teachers and their cooperating teachers. In addition, there will be e-chats about jointly read literature. Moneague College literacy faculty, the Chicago Area Reading Association, CPS teachers, and NEIU teacher education students will assist in facilitation of the project.

Collaboration between Northeastern Illinois University and Moneague College began in the summer of 2002 when Landerholm and Karr led a group of NEIU teacher education students on a two-week study tour to the College. Sponsored by the Office of International Programs,



JoAnn Karr (TED) with Dr. Howard Isaacs, Moneague College president, during his recent visit to NEIU



As part of NEIU/Jamaican collaboration Jamaican students work on material for theme books to be shared with CPS students.

the tour gave education majors an opportunity to learn about the culture and educational system in Jamaica. The following summer Landerholm and Karr teamed up with Stanley and expanded the study tour to include social work students and the study of Jamaican social service agencies.

Since the expansion, there have been three study tours to the College with another tour planned for summer 2007. Students involved in the two-week intensive summer experience attend lectures about Jamaican education and culture, visit local schools and social service agencies, and actively participate in a social service agency or summer school program. They also conduct ethnographic research on a social work or education – related topic of their choice. Last summer for example, studies were done on domestic violence in Jamaica, literacy and poverty, and Jamaican special education.

A network of participants that continues to share information and resources has been an outgrowth of the summer experiences. In addition, faculty from Moneague College participated in the 2005 NEIU Equity in Action Conference; and last spring, Dr. Howard Isaacs, president of Moneague College along with a faculty member from the College, came to Chicago for a week-long study of urban school classrooms and higher education institutions. Karr and Isaacs also presented a paper about the NEIU/ Moneague College cross-discipline collaboration, at the May 2006 International Reading Association Conference in Chicago.



COE News Bytes



NEIU Announces First Recipients of Shakespeare Squared Scholarship for Student Teachers

Pictured with **President Emerita Dr. Salme Steinberg (center)** and **COE Dean Maureen Gillette (right)** are the first Shakespeare Squared scholarship recipients **Derrick Bullie, (secondary mathematics)** and **Hyacinth Cabael (elementary education)**. Also pictured is **Kim Kleeman (far left)** one of the founders of Shakespeare Squared, a company that manages editing, writing and fact checking projects for several publishing houses. Kim and her husband/co-founder **Jay Kleeman (NEIU alum, B.A. '02 secondary mathematics)** established the student teaching scholarship to help cover living and educational expenses incurred during the student teaching semester.

COE Dean's Office Scheduled to Make Temporary Move to A-Wing

As part of the university's remodeling project, the COE Dean's Office will undergo decorating and design changes beginning February 13. The remodeling project is scheduled to take about two months. During that time the Dean's Office will move to A-109. All telephone extensions will remain the same.



CTC Celebrates Two Literacy Events

This fall more than 200 teachers along with several parents participated in the 7th annual *Young Adult Literature Conference (YAL)*. Each teacher selected four books from a list of 11, then attended workshops on two of them. The workshops were facilitated by CTC staff and CPS teachers, many of whom had attended previous conferences. One of the purposes of YAL is to introduce teachers to good young adult literature and encourage them to use such material with their students. A second purpose is to present interactive and arts-integrated approaches to use when presenting literature. YAL also provides teachers with important social support in a professional setting.



CTC celebrated another literacy event this fall when nearly 200 GEAR UP parents from across Chicago participated in the *Literature Alive: Making Reading Real Conference*. The conference was inspired by parents' unforgettable experience at last year's YAL conference. Participants were asked to select two books from a list of 10 and then attended workshops on the books. Parents facilitated the majority of the workshops which were offered in both English and Spanish. YAL and Literature Alive were funded by GEAR UP. Additional support for YAL was provided by ARDDP, 21st CCC, and the Arthur Foundation.

**Scenes from CTC literacy events—Top: Teachers participating in “The Power of Image” workshop at 2006 YAL Conference
Bottom: Book signing with author Sharon Flake**

News from CCICS

The Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission (ITSTC), housed at CCICS, recently hosted some of the nation's top scholars and researchers in the field of the Transatlantic slave trade. The scholars examined and evaluated the Commission's progress related to its mandate to report on the impact that the Transatlantic slave trade had on the state of Illinois. The ITSTC study is scheduled to be submitted to the Illinois State Legislature some time this year.

From the Faculty.....

In January, **Alice Giacobbe (SPED)** delivered two presentations (“Electronic Mentoring for Beginning Special Educators” and “Developing Collaborative Partnerships for Young Children with Disabilities”) at the fifth annual Hawaii International Conference on Education. In addition, Giacobbe recently received the University Center of Lake County’s 2006 Learning, Innovation and Scholarship in Teaching (LIST) Award. (See photo-cap below.)

Ed Hunt (SPED) and **Jo Ann Karr (TED)** and went to Moneague College in Jamaica to plan for a summer 2007 workshop and practicum. (See story about Jamaican experience on Pg. 4.)

In November, **Sandra Beyda Lorie (SPED)** along with several undergraduate special education students presented “Preparing Teachers to ‘Be Real’ in Addressing Prevention Education,” at the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children in Schaumburg.

The Department of Educational Leadership and Development (**ELAD**) was well represented at the International Leadership Association’s eighth Annual Global Conference in Chicago this past November. **Lynn Bush, Diane Ehrlich, Nicole Holland and Terry Stirling** collaborated in a panel presentation “Learning to Lead: Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.”



Alice Giacobbe (SPED) displays her recent award from the University Center of Lake County. Giacobbe, who teaches courses in the SPED master’s program at the University Center, won the **2006 Learning, Innovation and Scholarship in Teaching (LIST) Award**. Selection for the award is based on nominations from University Center students and is given to honor faculty who actively demonstrate the University Center’s core values of life-long learning, commitment to academic quality, responsiveness to adult learners and innovation in teaching.

For the second consecutive year, **Edward Odisho (TED)** has been named a finalist for the Bernard Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Award. In addition his paper “Aspiration, Spirantization and Approximation in Neo-Aramaic: A More Refined Identification,” was recently published in a special *Festschrift* in honor of the distinguished Italian professor Fabrizio Pennacchietti.

Michael Fagen (HPERA) recently presented "Evaluating the Implementation of School-Based Prevention Programs: Opportunities and Challenges," at the American Evaluation Association Conference in Portland, OR.

Five COE faculty were honored at the 2006 reception for NEIU authors sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs. (See Dean’s message.) Pictured from left to right: **Sharon McNeely (ELAD)**, **Roger Passman (TED)**, **Joan Leafman (HPERA)** and **Katie McKight ((TED)**. Not pictured is **Barry Birnbaum (SPED)**, who was also one of the honored authors.

