

News & Notes

College of Education

College of Education Professionals: Reflective, Collaborative & Transformative

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Sharon Hahs
President

Richard Helldobler
Provost

Effie Kritikos
Acting Dean

Russell Wartalski
Editor

Rosetta Cash
CCICS Contributing Writer



COE Accepted into New AACTE Program

On April 29, the College of Education received notice that it was selected as one of 10 institutions accepted into the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education's (AACTE) first *Networked Improvement Community* (NIC) program. The NIC program spans a three year period and aims to diversify our nation's teaching force by recruiting more African-American and Hispanic men into teacher preparation programs. The NIC program is part of AACTE's The Innovation Exchange, an initiative designed to promote change and advance university educator preparation programs. The program creates space for members to engage in scholarly discourse and share findings that address issues concerning student achievement and educator preparation program advancement. More than 50 AACTE member institutions in over 25

states applied to participate in the NIC program. The Committee on Professional Preparation and Accountability (CPPA) reviewed the applications and the selection process was guided by criteria including: 1) significant diversity within the communities and school districts served; 2) alignment of NIC goals to current strategic initiatives and mission of the institution; and 3) strategic attention to enrollment and retention trends of sub groups of male candidates by race/ethnicity. CPPA members also gave preference to applicants that clearly articulated the contributions they plan to make to increase the work of the NIC and the teaching profession. Dr. Maureen Gillette, who submitted the application to AACTE on behalf of the COE stated, "I expect our participation in the NIC program will help us continue on this path in this very important endeavor."

The Historic Bronzeville Neighborhood: A Community Study

In April, Northeastern's College of Education faculty and staff participated in a community study. This year's community study focused on the historic Bronzeville neighborhood, located on Chicago's near south side. Bronzeville is home to the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). Dr. Zada Johnson, Assistant Professor and Program Facilitator of Inner City Studies Education, organized this year's event that included a tour of the CCICS campus, visit to the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center, a bus tour of the Bronzeville neighborhood, as well as a trip to the Englewood neighborhood to visit with students and faculty at Team Englewood school. *(continued on page 3)*



Victory Monument Statue located at 35th Street and King Drive

Acting Dean's Column

Dear Colleagues:

We have had a very fruitful semester. The COE was accepted into a new AACTE program called Networked Improvement Community thanks to Dean Gillette! The focus of this program is to diversify the teaching force by recruiting more African-American and Hispanic men into teacher preparation programs.

Our Bronzeville Community Study was a big success. Thanks to Zada Johnson for organizing this year's event. Kappa Delta Pi hosted its first honor cords ceremony. Thirteen students were recognized at this event. We also had a wonderful emeriti luncheon. It was great to reconnect with colleagues from our various departments.

As always, we welcome your news, comments, and questions. Please send those along to Russell Wartalski at R-Wartalski@neiu.edu.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the College. You are truly appreciated. I also want to thank you for your support this semester. It was a rewarding semester and being your Acting Dean was a fantastic experience for me. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Effie Kritikos



Dr. Effie Kritikos, Acting Dean
College of Education



College of Education Professionals:

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(Continued from page 1)

Upon arriving at the CCICS campus, faculty and staff from the main campus were presented with historical facts about the neighborhood, the history of the Frank Lloyd Wright designed campus structure, and some of the sociopolitical issues currently confronting the neighborhood. Everyone participated in a short walking tour and visited the Victory Monument statue, which honors the 8th Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, an African-American unit that served in France during World War I.

COE faculty and staff also had the opportunity to visit the Bronzeville Visitor Information Center, where they gained insight to the political landscape of working with the city of Chicago on neighborhood initiatives, while also learning about ways in which to get involved in the community. Numerous artifacts, files and memorabilia were on display at the center highlighting the contributions of African-Americans and the broad history of



COE Faculty and Staff on the rooftop of the CCICS campus building in Bronzeville.

Black Chicago. The trip concluded with a visit to Team Englewood school. Drs. Zada Johnson, Lance Williams, Kimya Barden, and Sunni Ali facilitated a group discussion with several students attending the school. The students highlighted their academic and personal success, as well as future college and career goals.

Kappa Delta Pi Hosts First Honor Cords Ceremony

On April 23, Northeastern Illinois University's Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Epsilon Chapter, recognized 13 students at the first annual *Honor Cords Ceremony*. The event was hosted by Dr. Elaine Koffman, Honor Society Chapter Counselor and Associate Professor of Educational Inquiry & Curriculum Studies, and included opening remarks were given by Acting Dean Kritikos. Ms. Claudia Villagomez (B.A.,

2001), Lead Math & Science Teacher at Gray Elementary School, provided reflections on teaching and learning. Kappa Delta Pi members engage in numerous service projects throughout the year. The chapter is committed to recognizing excellence and fostering mutual cooperation, support, and professional growth for educational professionals.



Dr. Kritikos provides opening remarks at the ceremony



Honor Cords recipients' and Claudia Villagomez (center)

Department of Literacy Education Honors Distinguished Alumna

On April 17, the Department of Literacy Education presented Dr. Camille Blachowicz with the *Distinguished Alumna Award* at the annual Literacy Education Alumni Association Dinner. Dr. Blachowicz shared her thoughts about the legacy of literacy education with various generations of reading professionals. Dr. Ahmed Fareed, founding faculty member of the Department of Literacy Education, presented Dr. Blachowicz with the award. Dr. Blachowicz is currently Co-Director of the Reading Leadership Institute in The National College of Education at National-Louis University, where she is professor emeritus. She has researched, written, and presented extensively on the topic of vocabulary instruction, which is the subject of many of her books, including, *Teaching Vocabulary in All Classrooms*, *No More "Look Up the List" Vocabulary Instruction*, and *Teaching Academic Vocabulary K-8: Effective Practices across the Curriculum*. Dr. Blachowicz began her career as a classroom teacher and a reading specialist. She was a Fulbright and Spen-



(L to R) Dr. Effie Kritikos, Acting Dean; Dr. Joyce Jennings, Department Chair; Dr. Camille Blachowicz, Distinguished Alumna; and Dr. Ahmed Fareed, former Dean.

cer Fellow, as well as co-editor of the *Journal of Reading Behavior*. Dr. Blachowicz has been a board member of the Literacy Research Association and continues to serve on many committees, boards, and commissions for professional, state and federal organizations.

Dean's Office Hosts 2nd Annual Emeriti Luncheon

On May 28, the Dean's Office hosted the second annual COE Emeriti Luncheon. Current faculty and staff and emeriti faculty met for lunch and good conversation at L.Woods Tap & Pine Lodge. Several departments were well represented at this year's event, including Special Education and Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies. The luncheon was established as a way to keep

emeriti connected with the College, as well as communicate ways they can participate in the life of the University. Damaris Tapia, Director of Alumni Relations and Sylvia Danies, Associate Director of Development, encouraged emeriti to participate in future events like the student and faculty research symposium, Reunion Weekend, and the Presidential Lecture Series.



Current and former SPED faculty.



Faculty and staff gather for lunch and conversation.

COE Alumnus Finalist for Teacher Contest

COE alumnus Sean Monahan (TED, 2011) has entered a teacher contest. He was nominated by a student and is now a finalist for the [2014 Target/People/All-Star MLB Teacher Contest](#). Each MLB team will be represented by an outstanding teacher, and Sean Monahan is currently one of three finalists to potentially represent the Chicago White Sox. The teacher with the most votes will be recognized at the 2014 All-Star Game at Target Field in Minnesota, and one teacher will be featured in People Magazine. Mr. Monahan graduated from Northeastern with a bachelor's degree in teacher education program (with honors), and went to work for the Chicago Public School system as an early intervention specialist. After a few years, he left CPS and joined St. Juliana School on the northwest side as a 7th & 8th grade language arts teacher. He has reinvigorated St. Juliana's language arts curriculum with an intense focus on writing. To vote for Sean, please click on the link above.



Kappa Delta Pi Raises Money for Childcare Center



Kappa Delta Pi bake sale table in the student union.

The Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education's Sigma Epsilon Chapter at Northeastern Illinois University has been busy over the last few years engaging in various leadership and community service initiatives. Recently, the chapter held a bake sale to raise money for Northeastern's Childcare Center. The Childcare Center used the money to purchase new children's books, videos, and other teaching and learning



COE Students Teach Abroad in Korea

Dr. Hanna Kim (TED) recently traveled to Korea to observe COE students teaching in nine of the country's state-run schools. The COE students participate in University's **TaKE** (Teaching and Korean Experience) program, which allow them to work closely with their Korean counterparts to provide knowledge and skills in various subject areas, as well as introduce American culture to Korean students. Dr. Kim reported that all of the Korean teachers and administrators provided positive feedback regarding teacher quality. Specifically, they have been impressed with the content and thoroughness of the lesson plans used in classes, as well as the high degree of professionalism exhibited by COE students. For more information on Northeastern's education-focused study abroad programs in Korea, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/KoreanStudyAbroad>.



Dr. Hanna Kim and COE students in Jeollabuk-do, Korea.

CCICS in the NEWS

31st Annual ASCAC Conference

Both alumni and staff of Northeastern's Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies participated and presented at the 31st International Conference of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC). The conference was held at Essex County College in Newark, NJ, March 13-16, 2014. Among the presenters were: Yvonne Jones, alumna and ICSE instructor, Rosetta Cash, alumna, ICSE Faculty Administrative Assistant and adjunct faculty. Other alumni that participated included: Muriel Balla, Linda Ifé Carruthers, Larry F. Crowe, Charles Grantham, Dr. Kamau Rashid, and our most recent ICSE graduate Jacob H. Carruthers IV. Three current CCICS students attended the conference: Sierra Calhoun, President of the Inner City Studies Majors Club, and club members Gloria McDaniel, and Richard Wilkins. Ms. Cash is also the President of the ASCAC Midwest Region, which will be hosting its 30th Annual Midwest Regional Conference at CCICS this November.



Jacob H. Carruthers IV presenting at ASCAC.

Jazzy Mondays at the Center

Monday, June 9th kicked off CCICS's Jazzy Monday's at the Center Concert Series with Chicago's premier Jazz Diva Bobbie Wilsyn. Jazzy Mondays is presented by CCICS and the Great Black Music Project and hosted by another of Chicago's Jazz Diva's Joan Collaso and WVON Radio Host, Cliff Kelley features some of Chicago's great jazz musicians and vocalists. Jazzy Monday's are the 2nd Monday of the month. July 14th is the incomparable Corey Wilkes Quartet and August 11th award-winning vocalist Dee Alexander.

A JCI/ICD PRODUCTION
Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies'
Great Black Music Project
Presents

JAZZY MONDAYS AT THE CENTER

Hosted by *Joan Collaso* and *WVON's Cliff Kelley*
Every 2nd Monday of the month

July 14, 2014
The Incomparable COREY WILKES QUARTET
Junius Paul (bass), Justin Thomas (vibes), Xavier Breaker (drums)

August 11, 2014
Premier Chicago Jazz Diva DEE ALEXANDER
Miguel De La Cerna (keys), Harrison Bankhead (bass), Ernie Adams (drums)

700 E. Oakwood Blvd
6:30pm-9:30pm doors open at 6pm
\$10

Reservations strongly recommended, 312-808-0005. First come first serve at the door.
FOOD AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SOLD





Martin R. Delany Pilgrimage

CCICS cosponsored along with the Kemet-ic Institute, ASCAC Midwest Region, and the National African History Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, the bi-annual Martin R. Delany Pilgrimage to Dayton/Wilberforce, OH. ICSE undergraduate student Cyndi Hinton participated in the study tour. Rosetta Cash and Larry Franklin Crowe organized the excursion. The event examined the life of Major Martin Delany, who was a contemporary and business partner of Frederick Douglass, his contemporaries, as well as Paul Lawrence Dunbar and other historic figures from that area.



(L to R): Marshayna Cash, Rosetta Cash, and Larry Franklin Crowe.



(L to R): Marshayna Cash and Cindy Hinton

Faculty SPOTLIGHT

In March, **Dr. Howard Bultinck (ELAD)** published *Educational Reform: What School Board members Need to Know* in Illinois School Board Journal. In addition, he presented *Superintendent Searches: What Boards Seek* at the American Association of School Administrators' annual convention.

Dr. Ann Aviles de Bradley (EICS) published *Homeless Educational Policy: Exploring a Racialized Discourse Through a Critical Race Theory Lens* in Urban Education (SAGE Publications). Her study explored the issue of race in relation to educational policy implementation for unaccompanied homeless youth of color.

Dr. Mei-whei Chen (COUN) co-presented a workshop, *Integrating Psychodrama Principles and Techniques into Group Counseling*, at the Illinois Counseling Association, in Skokie, IL.

In March, **Dr. Laura Tejada (COUN)** was awarded a *New Writers Fellowship* from the Family Process Institute. The fellowship will allow Dr. Tejada to advance her scholarly writing agenda with editors and published authors in the field of marriage and family therapy.

Dr. Ana Gil-Garcia (ELAD), a three-time Fulbright U.S. Scholar, was selected by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* as one of the top 30 women in higher education who model leadership excellence. Dr. Gil-Garcia was selected for this prestigious award because of her outstanding contributions to the field of higher education. As a professor and published author, she has advocated for Latino educational leaders, was named one of the *Top Ten Chicago Latinos*, and was recently appointed by the Chicago Public Schools to the Latino Advisory Committee. Her research has focused on increasing engagement with the Latino community and finding ways to increase the academic success of all Latino students in Chicago and beyond.

In April, **Dr. Brian Schultz (EICS)** was an invited guest speaker at the Illinois Writing Project's *2014 NWP Urban Sites Network Conference*. The conference focused on exploring ways to empower students and teachers to enact positive social change in their communities. Dr. Schultz's discussion specifically focused on developing curriculum to address the needs, wants, desires, and curiosity of young people. In addition, Dr. Schultz received the 2014 Meritorious Award from the American Educational Research Association Biographical and Documentary Research SIG.

Dr. Michele Kane (SPED) has been busy over the last few months writing publications and presenting on various topics in gifted education. Dr. Kane published *Young Gifted Children: Looking in the Rearview Mirror and Moving Forward* in the Illinois Association for Gifted Children Journal. In addition, she co-authored *Understanding Empathically and Intuitively Gifted Children* in *Understanding Our Gifted*, 26(1). Aside from writing papers for publication, Dr. Kane gave several presentations over the last few months. In May, she presented *Parenting Gifted Children: Spotlight on Social and Emotional Characteristics*, to the Woodstock CUSD200 Parent Group, in Woodstock, IL. She was also an invited guest presenter at the Lenart Regional Gifted Center, and her presentation focused on the social and emotional wellness of gifted children. Dr. Kane was also an invited presenter at Presentation for Learning for Unlimited Success of Southwest Michigan, in Kalamazoo, MI, and her presentation focused on ways to help gifted learners cope with stress and anxiety.

Dr. Thomas Parry (HPERA) published *Influence of High School Sport Participation on Adult Physical Activity* in the Journal of Sport and Health Research, as well as *Retrospective Evaluation of Factors that Influence the Implementation of C.A.T.C.H. in Southern Illinois Schools* in the Journal of Health Promotion Practice. In addition to his publications, Dr. Parry presented *Describe and Apply How to Address NASPE Standard #1 for Physical Education Teacher Education Programs* and *A Constraints-Led Approach to Activity Design in Sport Coaching* at the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance annual conference in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Jay Polsgrove (HPERA) and Dr. Parry (HPERA) co-presented *Focus of Attention and Quality of Instruction: Influences on Agility Performance and Motor Behavior: From Research to Practice* at the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance annual conference in St. Louis, MO.

Student SPOTLIGHT

Samuel Aguirre (TED-BLBC) is someone you should know. Even though he recently graduated from Northeastern, Mr. Aguirre accomplished many goals and tasks while double-majoring in bilingual bicultural education and elementary education. Mr. Aguirre participated in several academic programs, including the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, University Honors Program, Leadership Scholars Program, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society (Illinois Zeta Chapter), Chicago Teachers' Partnership Pipeline, and from 2012 to 2014, he was featured as a "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." As a participant in the University Honors Program and while writing his honors thesis, *Student Participation in Bilingual Programs: Transitional Bilingual Education and Two-Way Immersion, A Comparative Study*, Mr. Aguirre gained considerable research experience by presenting at numerous conferences including, but not limited to, the *Illinois African American and Latino Higher Education Alliance's (IALHEA) Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum*, *Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education Professional and Student Development Conference*, and the *Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students*. Subsequently, Mr. Aguirre's research garnered him the spotlight as a featured speaker at NEIU's first ever TED^x forum. (To watch Mr. Aguirre's TED^x presentation, please click on the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/SamuelAguirreNEIU>) Finally, from 2013 to 2014, he engaged in class room teaching at Telpochcalli Elementary School, and also worked as a tutor and student advocate at Roberto Clemente Community Academy. All of his experiences have led him to continue his education. Mr. Aguirre has been accepted to and will begin the master's degree program in second language studies—with a concentration in second language acquisition—at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in August 2014.



Thomas Szymanski (ELAD) was selected as a **2014 Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic Education Grosvenor Teacher Fellow**. As part of the fellowship, Mr. Szymanski will embark on a Lindblad voyage aboard the National Geographic Explorer and engage in multiple professional development initiatives. The fellowship promotes geographic learning through direct, hands-on field experiences. Currently, Mr. Szymanski is a National Board Certified third grade teacher at Walt Disney Magnet School and develops visual arts projects to complement two-week, arts-integrated science units that bring the world of science to life through dance, music, and acting. In addition to teaching, Mr. Szymanski is a participating teacher with *Do Your P'art* – an organization dedicated to bringing students from different backgrounds together to find commonality through art and global awareness. To read the National Geographic Education Grosvenor Teacher Fellows press release, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/Szymanski-2014TeacherFellows>.



In March, **Sonia Esquivel (TED-BLBC)** was featured on the Daily Herald's online news portal as a 'Top Teacher'. Ms. Esquivel, a **Golden Apple Scholar** and teacher at Schaumburg Township Elementary School District 54's MacArthur International Academy, was highlighted for her innovative approach to teaching dual-language learners the fundamentals of science, math and technology. To view the Daily Herald's coverage of Ms. Esquivel and her work, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/SoniaEsquivel>.

Sam Geraci (SPED), English teacher at Curie High School, has been advising the school's yearbook committee for five years. He wanted to go a step further and provide a yearbook experience that would include visually impaired students. After several meetings with colleagues and the year book committee, it was decided that the high school would move forward with an audio yearbook. To view the WGN News feature covering the new audio year book, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/CurieHSAudioYearbook>.

Jennifer Duzinkas (TED-ECED) recently won **Kappa Delta Pi's Student Teacher Essay Contest**. Her essay expanded upon reflections of the relationship between student teaching and teacher preparation.

Diane Tucker (EICS), an art education alum, won the *Best in Show* award at Artel Gallery's juried show in Pensacola, FL. Her artwork was featured in *Homage to the Past*, which ran from March 4 to April 11. As a result of winning the best in show award, she was awarded a 'one woman show' where her work is on display from June 3 to July 11.