

College of Education and Human Development's Newsletter March 21, 2005

Please submit items to Gail Haller (ghaller@gmu.edu) by Thursday of each week.

George Mason University was one of eleven universities chosen to participate in the National Coalition on Electronic Portfolio Research. The College of Arts and Sciences, New Century College, and the College of Education and Human Development will collaborate on research related to the learning potential of electronic portfolios. This initiative was begun by **Mary Zamon** (mzamon@gmu.edu), a CEHD doctoral student who also serves as Director of Undergraduate Academic Programs for CAS. **Lesley Smith** (lsmithg@gm.edu) and **Darren Cambridge** (dcambrid@gmu.edu) will represent NCC. **Debra Sprague** (dspragu1@gmu.edu) will represent CEHD.

Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu) was named co-editor of a new journal titled *International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*.

Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu) is now writing a biweekly policy commentary for AACTE. It is sent electronically to AACTE members and others through the organization's State Issues Clearinghouse.

"Searching for the Common Good in Federal Policy" by **Penelope Earley** (pearley@gmu.edu) is included in the recently published book, *Teacher Education for Democracy and Social Justice* (Michelli & Kaiser, Eds).

Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu) was a panelist at the "Journal of Teacher Education Discussion of the Politics of Teacher Education," a major forum at the AACTE Conference in Washington, DC.

Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu) was a panelist at an AACTE Symposium on Teacher Education for Democracy and Social Justice.

Fred Bemak (fbemak@gmu.edu) gave an all day in-service training for teachers, counselors, and school administrators in Blackford County, Indiana. The title of the in-service was *Working with At-Risk Youth in Public School Settings*.

Fred Bemak (fbemake@gmu.edu) and Robert Conyne are co-editors for a book that has just been published by the American Counseling Association. The book is titled *Journeys to Professional Excellence: Lessons from Leading Counselor Educators and Practitioners*.

Karen Berlin (kberlin@gmu.edu) and **Vicky Spencer** (vspencer@gmu.edu) presented full day training in Staunton, Virginia on Social Skills and Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders as part of the Virginia Department of Education's Autism Priority Project. This train-the-trainer model is in its pilot year throughout the state and is a 6 module training series that has been developed and correlated with Virginia's ASD competencies.

Anastasia Samaras' (asamaras@gmu.edu) paper titled "Self-study of Vygotskian Applications in Teacher Education" was accepted for presentation by the Scientific Committee of the First Congress of the International Society for Cultural Activity Research.

Layne Kalbfleisch (mkalbfle@gmu.edu) presented a talk titled "fMRI Studies of Reasoning and Attention in Children, Adults, and Autism" to the Departments of Psychiatry, Radiology, and the Center on Human Development and Disability at the University of Washington in Seattle on March 11.

Bill Brozo (wbrozo@gmu.edu) gave two invited addresses. One, titled "A Common Shoulder to the Wheel: The Responsibility of Us All for Improving Workplace Literacy" was given at a meeting of the Michigan Rotary Club. The other was titled "Helping Boys Find Entry Points to Reading" and was given for teachers, students, and community members at Lansing Community College.

David Anderson (danderso@gmu.edu) conducted a discussion titled "Alcohol and You" in the GMU Presidents Park residential complex on March 8. This hour-long discussion with 35 freshmen used the "Patriot Pulse" decision software, where students responded anonymously to questions that were prepared in advance as well as questions generated by the students. Questions addressed students' behavior with alcohol and impaired driving, as well as their attitudes about a variety of alcohol issues.

Karen Weller (kweller@gmu.edu) and **Mary Kayler** (mkayler@gmu.edu) presented their paper titled "Learning As We Teach: Faculty Development Through Critical Pedagogy" at the Eastern Educational Research Association in Sarasota on March 4.

Mark Goor (mgoor@gmu.edu) chaired an NCATE visit in New York City from March 12-16.

Elijah Mirochnik's (emirochn@gmu.edu) photographic essay titled "Chinatown Bus" appears in the March/April 2005 issue of *Polar Inertia Journal of Nomadic and Popular Culture* (<http://www.polarinertia.com>).

Joe Gagnon (jgagnon@gmu.edu), at the request of the University of Maryland, conducted guest lectures in Heidelberg, Germany on topics including mathematics instruction for students with disabilities, and conceptual models of deviance and disordered behavior, and the role of educators in preventing and minimizing problem behaviors.

PhD Students

Jennifer Norford (jnorford@gmu.edu) will defend her doctoral dissertation titled "English Language Learners' Interactions With Various Science Curriculum Features" on March 28 from 12:00PM – 2:00PM in Robinson Hall B441. Committee members include Margo Mastropieri, Chairperson, Tom Scruggs, and Marjorie Haley.

Ari Sherris (asherris@gmu.edu) and Dr. Valerie Jakar, David Yellin College, Jerusalem Israel, will be co-presenting a workshop titled "Mentoring is Professional Development in Action" at the 39th Annual TESOL Convention in San Antonio on April 1 from 2:00 - 3:45 pm at the Marriott River Center/Conference Room 5.

Jennifer Suh (jsuh4@gmu.edu) will defend her doctoral dissertation titled "Third Graders' Mathematics Achievement and Representation Preference Using Virtual and Physical Manipulatives for Adding Fractions and Balancing Equations" on March 30 from 1:00PM – 3:00PM in Commerce, Room 100. Committee members include Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Chairperson, Mark Spikell, and Brenda Bannan-Ritland.

Kelley Regan (kregans@aol.com) will defend her doctoral dissertation titled "Promoting Expressive Writing Among Students With Emotional and Behavioral Disturbance Via the Dialogue Journal" on March 28 from 2:00PM – 4:00PM in Krug Hall Room 108. Committee members include Margo Mastropieri, Chairperson, Tom Scruggs, and Mark Goor.

Karen Glago (glago@yahoo.com) will defend her doctoral dissertation titled "The Effect of Problem Solving Self-Determination Instruction on Elementary Students With Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disabilities" from 11:00AM – 1:00PM in Robinson Hall B441. Committee members include Margo Mastropieri, Chairperson, Tom Scruggs, and Anastasia Kitsantas.

Karen Curtis (kcurtis1@gmu.edu) will defend her doctoral dissertation titled "An Analysis of the Construct of Efficacy on New Teacher Retention" on March 25 from 2:00PM – 4:00PM in Robinson A251. Committee members include Joan Isenberg, Chairperson, Jeff Gorrell, and Anastasia Kitsantas.

Linda Kirby (lkirby@gmu.edu) will present her doctoral dissertation proposal titled "The Impact of a Brain Research Course on Knowledge of the Brain and Teacher Efficacy" on March 25 from 10:00AM – 12:00PM in the Krasnow Institute Seminar Room. Committee members include Eva Thorp, Chairperson, Barbara Given, Anastasia Kitsantas, and Jane Flinn.

Anita Bright (Anita.Bright@fcps.edu) facilitated an all-day in-service for Mathematics teachers from three Pennsylvania school districts. The in-service, held in Lancaster, PA, was titled "Differentiating Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners," and was attended by approximately 50 teachers.

Anita Bright (Anita.Bright@fcps.edu) facilitated a session at the annual VESA (Virginia ESL Supervisor's Association) conference in Richmond on February 26. The session was titled "Writing in Mathematics and Science for ESOL Students."

Grants/Proposals

Penelope Earley (pearley@gmu.edu) received a grant from National Evaluation Systems for a study of teacher recruitment and retention in the amount of \$59,834.

Eamonn Kelly (akelley1@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal titled “Building Research and Human Capacity in Cognitive Neuroscience and Mathematics Education” to the National Science Foundation.

Donna Sterling (dsterlin@gmu.edu) with Tomasz Arciszewski submitted a proposal titled “21st Century Civil Engineering Curriculum for an Urban University” to the National Science Foundation.

Donna Sterling (dsterlin@gmu.edu) submitted a proposal titled “Modeling Physics: Building Conceptual Models in Physical Science” to SCHEV.

In collaboration with Camp and Associates, LLC, **Joe Gagnon** (jgagnon@gmu.edu) submitted a grant proposal to the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) For the Health Behavior in School-Age Children-U.S. Survey.

CEHD News

Ruth Potter (rpotter@gmu.edu) has been selected as one of the recipients of the Exceptional Support Award. Congratulations Ruth!

Seminars and Conferences

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, will sponsor seven advanced studies seminars on the use of NCES data. Each multi-day seminar will be held in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and covers several topics, including the nature and content of the database, computer software for accessing and analyzing the data, and funding opportunities. The primary purpose of these seminars is to demonstrate the richness of NCES databases and provide instruction on how to use the data properly and effectively. Seminar activities include lectures, illustrations, and demonstrations. The hands-on computer practice sessions will allow participants to conduct analyses with their selected databases. Applicants should have knowledge of statistics and be proficient in the use of SAS or SPSS statistical software packages.

The seven seminars run from mid-May to mid-July 2005, with an application deadline of April 1 for the first two seminars. Additional information is available in the Dean’s office.

(The following conference announcements were listed previously and will continue to appear until the conference date)

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