Faculty News

Dominique Banville presented a poster at the 2003 National Physical Education Teacher Education Conference held in Baton Rouge, LA from October 2-5. The title of her poster was "Utilization by Trained and Untrained Cooperating Teachers of Behaviors Associated with the Five Stages of a Clinical Supervision Model.”


Marjorie Hall Haley was an invited guest researcher for a videotaping by WGBH public broadcasting station in Boston. The topic was "Planning for the Standards-Based Classroom and Diverse Learners." This project is underwritten by Annenberg/CPB and can be accessed online at www.learner.org.

Mary Williams gave a presentation at the Annual Character Education Partnership National Forum, held this year in Washington, DC, titled: “Assess the Effectiveness of Your Character Education Initiatives and Show Positive Results to Gain the Support Needed to Continue Your Program.” Educators from around the country attended the presentation. George Mason University awarded CEU’s to forum participants attending all 3 days. The following GSE master’s and doctoral students volunteered as assistants at the forum: Anne Spear, David Beach, and Allison Balderston.

Dimiter Dimitrov presented two papers at the Annual Conference of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA - October 15-18, 2003, Columbus, Ohio). At this conference, he was also appointed as a Director of Division D (Measurement and Research Methodology in Education) of MWERA. Along with this, Dr. Dimitrov's first article with his GMU affiliation is published in a 2003 issue of the Journal of Applied Measurement, 4(3), 222-233.

Patricia Moyer-Packenham and PDS site facilitator Deborah Niezgoda presented a paper "Young Children's Use of Virtual Manipulatives to Learn About Patterns" at the 6th Annual Conference on Technology in Mathematics Teaching in Volos, Greece.


Jennifer Garvey Berger presented her paper, "Dancing on the Threshold of Meaning: Recognizing and Understanding the Growing Edge" at the Transformational Learning Conference at Teachers College in New York on October 24.

Mark Hicks, Jennifer Garvey Berger and Anastasia Samaras presented their artistic representation: "Contours of Identity: Theater as Language for Presenting Self-in-Other" at the Transformational Learning Conference at Teachers College in New York on October 24.

Fred Bemak is on the Advisory Board for the National Institute of Health Office of Minority Affairs Family Community Violence and Prevention Program. He attended an advisory meeting in San Antonio from October 8 - 10.


Margo Mastropieri gave the invited keynote address at the 25th Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities, Council for Learning Disabilities, in Bellevue, Washington. Her presentation was titled “Combining Effective Instruction with Covering Content for High-Stakes Testing: Reality or Fantasy.” She also presented a paper titled “Strategies for Increasing Learning.”

Joe Gagnon with colleague P.M. Maccini presented “Math Instruction in Juvenile Corrections” at the Teacher Training Session at the Ferris School Juvenile Commitment Facility in Wilmington, Delaware.

Candace Strawn presented at the 29th Annual Fall Conference of AERA's SIG, Research on Women and Education, October 23-25, in Knoxville, TN. She is also a new member of this SIG's Board of Directors.

Kyppee White Evans, Project Coordinator for Multicultural Early Childhood Team Training (MECTT), led a three-day multicultural leadership workshop for state teams in Columbus, Ohio on September 30 - October 2, 2003. She was joined by her colleagues Daaiyah Rashid from the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (a collaborator in the project) and Teresita Jacinto from Prince William County’s Public Schools. Ms. Jacinto is a UTEEM graduate and bilingual outreach trainer for the MECTT Project. Ohio is the ninth state to participate in state leadership training for family/professional teams.

The Armenian Elementary Level Teacher Training Project has its fourth book, Improving In-Service Teacher Training in Schools: An Educators’ Handbook, going to press this month. Gary Varrella is the "academic advisor" to the ELT project and contributed to conceptualization and development of this handbook of more than 300 pages.
copies will be distributed to the teachers and administrators of 102 pilot schools, and to Ministry of Education and Science officials.

**PhD Students**

Mohd Al-Ansari defended his doctoral dissertation titled “Using Computer-Mediated Communication Technology to Facilitate Students’ Intellectual and Social Interaction in a Service-Learning Graduate Course” on October 14. Committee members include Debra Sprague, Chairperson, Ed Jones, and Joe Maxwell.

Ellen Fancher-Ruiz defended her doctoral dissertation titled “The Perceived Influence of Parents on the Career Development of 15 Community College Students From Single-Mother Families” on October 22. Committee members include Linda Seligman, Chairperson, Joe Maxwell, and Diana Gibb.

Bill Van Evera defended his doctoral dissertation titled “Achievement and Motivation in the Middle School Classroom: The Effects of Formative Assessment Feedback” on October 27. Committee members include Martin Ford, Chairperson, Anastasia Kitsantas and Tom Scruggs.

George Flowers presented a research paper October 18 on "Focused Reading as a Prelude to Writing" at the fall convention of WATESOL (Washington Area Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). The study examined the use of reading as a pre-writing activity to stimulate writing fluency. WATESOL is a non-profit professional association for ESL/EFL teachers and volunteers in Washington D.C., Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

Richard Harding Priest will defend his doctoral dissertation titled “Utilization of Computer Technology by Science Teachers in Public High Schools and the Impact of Standardized Testing” on October 30 in Robinson A251. Committee members include Donna Sterling, Chairperson, Kevin Clark and Herb Ware.

Jonathan Crook will defend his doctoral dissertation titled “Interactions Among Parents of Children with Disabilities Using Email and A New Discussion Board in a Literacy Tutoring Website” on November 1 in Robinson A251 from 7:00PM – 9:00PM. Committee members include Brenda Bannan-Ritland, Chairperson, Linda Seligman, and Mike Behrmann.

**Grants/Proposals**

Edward Wegman and faculty associate David Anderson submitted a proposal titled “Agent-Based Simulation of Ecological Alcohol Systems” to the National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Jack Levy and faculty associates Farnoosh Shahrokhi, Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Bev Shaklee and Gary Varrella submitted a proposal titled “Pakistan Teacher Education Professional Development Program” to the Academy for Educational Development.
Programs that Work Award

Donna R. Sterling, Juanita Jo Matkins, and Anastasia Kitsantas received a “Programs that Work” award from Governor Mark Warner at a dinner in the Governor’s Mansion on October 13, 2003 for the New Science Teachers’ Support Network (NSTSN). The “Programs that Work” awards feature programs that support females and minorities in mathematics and science and is given by the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition. The NSTSN is to help provisionally licensed science teachers in middle schools and high schools succeed at teaching and remain in the profession. This is especially needed because of the 66% attrition rate of these teachers in their first three years of teaching. In addition to creating a multifaceted support network, research is being conducted on factors that affect teacher retention and attrition. The program is a partnership of Prince William County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, and George Mason University. It was initially funded by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia and is now funded by the National Science Foundation.

The Harold Howe II Youth Policy Fellowship “Bridging Youth Policy, Practice and Research” announces their 2004 competition for their annual Fellowship award. Further information is available in the Deans office. The submission deadline is January 9, 2004.

The National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship forms are available at http://www.nae.nyu.edu. Applicants must have received their Ph.D, Ed.D. or equivalent between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2003. The deadline is November 20. Further information can be found at their website or in the Dean’s office.

Information for the Ford Foundation Fellowships for Minorities is available in the Dean’s office, by email at infofell@nas.edu or http://national-academies.org/fellowships

It is time to sign up new members for the Student Virginia Education Association. Any student who is doing fieldwork or student teaching receives liability coverage as an SVEA member. If you have students in your courses this semester who are in field placements or are student teaching, please let Shari Castle know at scastle@gmu.edu and she will send brochures and membership forms to distribute.

Conferences

The Professional Development Schools National Conference will be March 4-7, 2004 in Orlando, Florida. Further information is available in the Dean’s office or at www.ed.sc.edu/pds/pds.htm.

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

The 56th Annual AACTE Meeting will be held February 7-10, 2004 in Chicago. Information is available in the Dean’s office or at www.aacte.org/Events/meeting_exhibits.htm.
The Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference will be held March 1-6, 2004 in Atlanta. Further information can be found at http://aace.org/conf/site