

Fall/Winter 2010



WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

College of Education

Letter From the Dean

Happy New Year! Last year has been a very good year for the College of Education at William Paterson University (WPU) and its faculty, staff, and students. As this newsletter illustrates, our faculty, staff, students, and school partners have received a number of honors, awards, and grants; have presented at state and national conferences; and have published a number of scholarly articles.

Faculty, staff, school, and university partners have been preparing teacher candidates in programs that provide multiple pathways to teaching and dual licensures. We are proud of our New Vistas Teaching Project and our Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality, which, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education, enable us to fund and prepare teacher candidates at the post-baccalaureate level for work in urban settings in high needs subject areas. These initiatives also result in licensure in a specialty area, endorsement in English as a Second Language or Bilingual Education, and a Master's degree. In addition, the College of Education has been supporting teachers and teacher candidates in Sheltered English Instruction, thanks to funding from the New Jersey Department of Education; and it continues to partner with the College of Science and Health to support teachers and teacher candidates in math and science education through MAST and Reforms grants.

I know that you will want to join me in wishing all the best to Professors Marion Turkish and Stanley Wollock, who collectively have served WPU and the College of Education for almost 90 years, and who are retiring this year. Professor Wollock reminded me that I am the 15th dean for the College, and I am very pleased that I am here. I owe a great debt to the deans who have made this such a wonderful college; and I am very pleased that Dean Schuhmann has been able to find the time to return to work with us this year as our new accreditation coordinator.

All best to you in the coming year,

Candace Burns, Dean



Partners in Preparing Quality Teachers



Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan and former WPUNJ President, Dr. Arnold Speert.

Bergen Community College and the College of Education faculty and administrators celebrated the signing of an articulation agreement on Tuesday, June 29th. The agreement will help students make a seamless transition to the education majors at William Paterson University and a co-major of their choice.



Guest Students from Netherlands Meet With Dean Burns

Dr. Candace Burns met with Alexander Nijkamp and Johannes Reinders who are exchange students at WPUNJ for the Fall semester. Both are from Windesheim University in Zwolle, the Netherlands. Mr. Nijkamp, a history major, and Mr. Reinders, a geography major, are earning credits toward their certification as teachers in the Netherlands. The College of Education of WPUNJ and Windesheim University are completing three years of partnership. The College of Education will host a delegation of graduate students from Windesheim in the Spring 2011 semester.



Dr. Candace Burns with Aleaxander Nijkamp (middle) and Johannes Reinders (right)

Honors and Awards

Dr. Darlene Russell Recipient of National Award



Dr. Darlene Russell was the recipient of the National *Women Educators (WE) Activist Curriculum Award* presented by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). The award recognizes scholars who create materials that positively affect social justice issues in schooling for girls and women.

Dr. Russell's classroom practice revolves around culturally responsive instruction. She serves as a student research advisor for teacher candidates and established the Nurturing Culturally Responsive English Equity Teachers (NCREET) Research Project. This project is designed to introduce and expose selected undergraduate English education majors to the value and importance of culturally responsive instruction, social justice, and equity in the K-12 classroom.

Dr. Darlene Russell was also nominated to chair the *Diversity Task Force Chair* (for Research on Women in Education, American Educational Research Association). Appointed for 2010-2013.

Dr. Janis Strasser Honored by NCATE

Dr. Janis Strasser was the recipient of the *Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher Educator Award* for 2010. The award given by the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators was presented to her on November 3, 2010 at the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Anaheim, California. Dr. Holly Seplocha, who nominated her, presented the award at a ceremony attended by more than 100 early childhood teacher educators. Also present at the award ceremony was WPUNJ M.Ed. Early Childhood Concentration alum Lisa Mufson Koeppel. In addition to a plaque, Dr. Strasser received an honorarium from Pearson Publishers.



Honors and Awards (continued)

Nancy Norris-Bauer and Cindy Gennarelli Receive Awards from the Directors' Council

Two members of the professional staff in the College of Education were honored by the University Directors' Council for their outstanding contributions to the community. Cindy Gennarelli, Director of the Child Development Center, received the *Consideration Award* which recognizes a project or initiative that demonstrates exemplary service to the student body, to other members of the University, or to the greater, external community.

Nancy Norris-Bauer, Director of the Office of Field Experiences and School Partnerships, received the *Innovation Award* for her leadership in a project or initiative that results in an innovative and successful program that advances one or more aspects of University life.



Dr. Kim Daniel-Robinson, Dr. Sandra Miller, Cindy Gennarelli, Nancy Norris-Bauer, Librada Sanchez, and President Kathy Waldron.

Stephanie Koprowski-McGowan Honored at Red Dress Dinner

Stephanie Koprowski-McGowan, Director of Education Enrollment and Certification, was the recipient of the *Women of Vision Award* presented to her at the annual Red Dress Diner on Wednesday, March 24, 2010. Nominated by her staff, Stephanie was selected based on her continued studies toward a doctoral degree at Fordham University, collaboration on successfully obtaining nearly \$13 million dollars in federal teaching grants, and for her role as a parent advocate and board member for the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN). Funds raised at this event were donated to the American Heart Association.



Brittany Dunn, Donna Galante, Michele Wright, Stephanie Koprowski-McGowan, Susan Burns (from left to right)

Grant News

Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality

The William Paterson University Summer Urban Teacher Academy was offered to eight high school juniors entering their senior year, who are thinking about a career as urban teachers. The program was held from July 12th– 22nd. The mission of the Summer Urban Teacher Academy was to increase the pool of candidates interested in becoming urban teachers. The students received an introduction to teaching and the teaching profession, an opportunity to meet with WPUNJ faculty, educational leaders, and teachers to discuss issues pertinent to urban education. They went on field trips to urban community agencies such as



CUMAC ECHO Food Pantry in Paterson, the Great Falls and the Paterson Museum. They also participated in hands-on learning activities with the children at the Child Development Center on campus. At the conclusion of the two weeks, students created portfolio presentations that were presented to their peers on what it means to be a teacher in an urban area. This program was sponsored by Garden State Partnership Grant for Teacher Quality.

New Vistas

On July 20-21, 2010 New Vistas participants, Kathleen Ruhle, Michael Sklar and Robert Matthews, attended the *UbD: Designing from the Standards Conference* in New Jersey. Grant Wiggins, an expert in Understanding by Design (UbD), was the keynote speaker. The New Vistas program is a five year federally funded grant for the preparation of alternate route teachers who finish the program with dual certification in elementary or secondary education and either Special Education, ESL, or bilingual endorsement.



Kathleen Ruhle, Grant Wiggins, Michael Sklar and Robert Matthews
(from left to right)

Math and Science Teachers Grant-MAST Program

Dr. Miryam Wahrman, Professor of Biology in the College of Science and Health, recently became the Director of the MAST Program, a collaborative project between the College of Education and the College of Science and Health that supports and encourages teaching mathematics and the sciences. The Math and Science Teachers grant (MAST) is funded through the Federal Transition to Teaching program. Professor Sharon Leathers, MAST program coordinator, organized a number of exciting events for MAST participants including individualized peer tutoring, mentoring, Praxis II classes and workshops, and research opportunities. She also organized a welcome lunch, a visit to Passaic High School, and study skills workshops.

This past summer, the program sponsored a Mentoring Workshop for 28 K-12 teachers. Twenty-six math and science teachers also participated in a MAST Summer Institute where they learned to apply state core curriculum content standards and skills to the real world, national problem of childhood obesity.

MAST students also conducted research under the sponsorship of science faculty: Edgar Valdivia completed research under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Spagna and Jacqueline Kuzora conducted research under the supervision of Dr. David Gilley.

Professional Development Schools in the News

REFORMS PDS Puts Summer Work Into Action

The fifth graders at Roosevelt Elementary School in Lodi were thrilled when Pizza Hut agreed to donate five pies to their classroom for a lesson on equivalent fractions. The lesson was created by Christine Vanderhook during a summer program at William Paterson University. The summer program focused on Curriculum Topic Study, a model which allows teachers to expand their understanding of mathematical topics. Carol Cardone, a teacher in Lodi, and Alisa Shupak, a Professor in Residence from WPU, helped Mrs. Vanderhook implement the lesson. The first part of the interdisciplinary lesson required the students to write letters to Pizza Hut. The manager was excited to come to Roosevelt Elementary on November 2, 2010 to donate the five pies. The pies were cut into four, eight, twelve, sixteen, and twenty slices. Each pie was divided by four students into equal amounts. The students had to walk around the room and determine which plate they wanted. Finally, the students concluded that the plates were all equivalent and equaled one fourth of the pie. The students had a great time and enjoyed learning about equivalent fractions.



Jason Langer Graduate Student, PDS Teacher, Featured in New York Times

Jason Langer, graduate student in our M.Ed. in Curriculum and Learning (Learning Tech Concentration) program and a teacher at Union City High School, was featured in the *New York Times* on Constitution Day, Friday, September 17th. In its inaugural feature, "Great Ideas from our Readers," the *New York Times* cited Mr. Langer's project designed for his high school students as a "very practical, open-ended and replicable use of the Times to help students – whether in a journalism, history or civics class – understand the critical, real-world role of this living document."

Mr. Langer teaches a mixed-grade journalism class and his project asked students to find articles in the news that reflected freedoms outlined in the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, as well as articles about countries without the same constitutional freedoms and guarantees as the United States.

According to Mr. Langer, "Different students discussed each aspect of the First Amendment and, surprisingly, students drew articles from every section of the newspaper. Students commented afterward that their eyes were opened to sections of *The New York Times* that they previously skimmed rather than focused on in their daily newspaper reading."

Grant for PDS Teacher from ING Unsung Heroes Foundation

Kathy Hewins, an 8th grade math teacher at Macopin Middle School, a Professional Development School in West Milford, applied for and received a \$2,000 grant from ING Unsung Heroes Foundation. "Math to Build Upon" is the program Kathy designed where students experience real life applications of math skills while incorporating new technologies. For example, students explored surface area and volume relationships in packaging and its impact on the environment. They also designed and built scale models of architectural designs through software programs such as Google SketchUp. Also, SMART Board interactive whiteboards were used to bring the lessons to life, which helped transform mathematics lessons into vivid, sensory, interactive experiences for the students. Students will take the foundation skills they learned and build upon them to create a stronger understanding of the importance and usefulness of mathematics in their lives. Kathy was encouraged to apply for the award by Gillian Hettinger, Professor in Residence. Kathy has the potential to be awarded further monies in the amounts of \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$25,000 as her project moves forward. Congratulations!

Students' Research Recognized

Undergraduates Present Descriptive Research at NERA

Undergraduate K-5 teacher candidates Brittany Bright, Jillian Dowling, Cassandra Katsogiannos, and Amanda Wiley presented their case study profiles of young readers from CIRL 229, Literacy and Learning, at the annual conference of the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA). They were accompanied by course instructor, Dr. Julie Rosenthal. The presentation was well received and the candidates indicated that they learned a great deal, both from compiling data collected during the course, and by attending other presentations at the conference. All four indicated that they hoped to conduct research in the future, and that attending the conference really enhanced their feelings of professionalism.



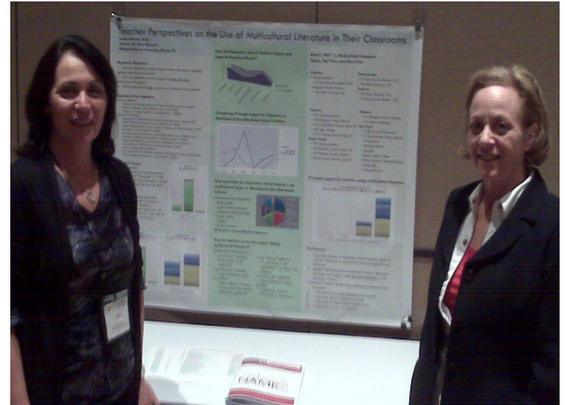
Graduate Students Present Master's Thesis Research at the 41st Annual Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)



Two graduate students from the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Learning program made poster presentations on their master's thesis research at the 41st Annual Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) Conference in October 2010. The presenters were Lili Helgiu, from the *Teaching Children Mathematics* concentration whose research on incorporating technology into 8th grade mathematics was supervised by Dr. Mildred Dougherty and Nichole Rucci, from the *Bilingual/ESL* concentration whose research on using bilingual/ESL strategies for teaching social studies in middle school was supervised by Dr. Ana Maria Schuhmann. COE faculty who also presented at the conference were Dr. Hilary Wilder, Dr. Sandra Alon, Dr. Heejung An, Dr. Julie Rosenthal, and Dr. Rochelle Kaplan.

Thesis Research Presentation at the 20th Annual National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) International Conference

M.Ed. in Literacy graduate student, Karen Holland, presented her thesis research at a poster session during the 20th annual National Association for Multicultural Education International Conference (NAME). Karen's study examined teacher perspectives of the use of multicultural literature in their classrooms. Karen collected data using a web survey and presented findings from over 40 elementary teachers across the country. Her thesis advisor, Dr. Gerri Mongillo, attended the conference that was held in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 3-6, 2010.



Habitat For Humanity



On Friday, November 5th, more than a dozen William Paterson University students joined Dr. Hilary Wilder and Dr. Dorothy Feola from the College of Education to help build a house in Paterson as part of Habitat for Humanity. The College of Education has organized this volunteer event for several years and the response this year was overwhelming. At the end of the day, most volunteers were experts at installing insulation!

Pictured to the left: Deanna LoMonaco, Amanda Austin, and Lindsay Leduc (from left to right)

Library Media Students at the Library of Congress

Dr. Michelle Kowalsky and several alumni and current students planned a visit to the Library of Congress (LOC) in Washington, DC. The group toured the LOC, obtained Reader's Room ID cards, and used the library as a professional patron for several hours, learning about the library's offerings and procedures, as well as interacting with reference librarians and requesting materials held at offsite locations. The group also visited congressional offices, toured the Capitol Building, and visited the Newseum, a news museum with an affinity for library work and Constitutional freedoms. This initial step toward a shared and interactive experience for candidates in all of the SLM programs is a tradition which is sure to continue.



Dr. Michelle Kowalsky, Cathy Blowers (M.Ed.), and Kyrsten Thomas (ASLMS) (from left to right)

NJEA Convention

On November 4, 2010, 40 William Paterson University, College of Education students and members of the Education Club participated in the 2010 New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) Annual Conference at the Atlantic City Convention Center. This convention is one of the largest gatherings of educational professionals in the world and William Paterson University students were able to participate thanks to the Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality grant.



The convention offers a wealth of professional development programs and seminars. Students participated in some of the following workshops - *NJ New Math Standards: The Impact on K-8 Instruction*; *Guided Reading: Making it Work*; *Classroom Management – The Five Secrets to Effective Learning*; *Landing Your First Job*; *Get Moving to Better Learning! Exercise in Your Classroom!* Participating students also explored the latest technology, resources, and opportunities for student learning by visiting the vast educational exhibitor area. Exhibitors provided conference goers with many free teaching resources and materials of which WPUNJ students took full advantage.

After the convention all of the students were special guests at the William Paterson University Alumni reception at the Taj Mahal. During the reception the students met with Dr. Waldron, President, Dr. Weil, Provost, Dr. Burns, Dean, College of Education, and College of Education alumni.

Mary Campomizzi (K-5, 2011), a WPUNJ student, addressed the reception attendees about her experiences as a student of the College of Education and future teacher. Her remarks were well received.

At 7:00pm all 40 students managed to get all of their bags of materials back on the bus for the ride to William Paterson University. Once on the bus, the students exchanged information that they had learned, and discussed new educational materials. As shared by the students, it was a wonderful professional development day and a great introduction to the education professional community.

Thanks to Dean's Office, Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality, Office of Certification and Office of Field Experiences for making this opportunity available to WPUNJ students.

Here's what some students had to say about NJEA....

"The trip was great yesterday! Thank you so much for everything!" Amanda Badami, K-5/5-8 English

"Thank you for taking us. I enjoyed it so much and cannot wait until next year! The workshops were amazing and I walked away with so much. Thank you again." Sofia Lopes, P-3/K-5



Dr. Waldron and Mary Campomizzi, Alumni Association Scholarship recipient, after Mary's address about becoming a teacher.

On Thursday, November 4th the College of Education welcomed 300 alumni to its reception at the NJEA convention in Atlantic City. Alumni were introduced to William Paterson University's new president, Dr. Kathy Waldron and the College of Education's new dean, Dr. Candace Burns.



Dr. Nina Jemmott, Dr. Dorothy Feola, Dr. Edward Weil, Dr. Kathy Waldron (Top Row)
Dr. Stanley Wollock, Bernadette Tiernan, Dr. Christopher Mulrine (Bottom Row)

WPUNJ Educational Technology Program

On December 10th, 2010, the first ever WPUNJ Educational Technology Conference was held in the Valley building, with the theme of "Teaching in the Digital Age." More than 50 attendees, consisting of K-12 teachers and technology coordinators, participated. This conference was co-chaired by Dr. Heejung An and Dr. Michelle Kowalsky.

The conference began with Dr. Candace Burns' introductory remarks, followed by Dr. Pixy Ferris' keynote address. There were also a variety of hands-on sessions. Presentation materials can be found at:

http://www.wpunj.edu/coe/edtechconference/Conference_Program.

The theme of the 2011 conference will be "Incorporating Technology into Subject Matter."



Dr. Heejung An

Recent Faculty Publications

An, H., & Shin, H. (2010). The impact of urban district field experiences on four elementary preservice teacher's learning regarding technology integration. *Journal of Technology Integration in the Classroom*, 2(3), 101-107.

Fallace, T., (2010). Was John Dewey ethnocentric? Reevaluating the philosopher's early views on culture and race. *Educational Researcher*, 39, 471-477.

VanderGast, T. S., Culbreth, J., & Flowers, C. (2010). An exploration of experiences and preferences in clinical supervision with play therapists. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 3, 174-185.

VanderGast, T.S., Post, P.B., & and Kascsak-Miller, T. (2010). Graduate training in child-parent relationship therapy with a multicultural immersion experience: Giving away the skills. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 4, 198-208.

Russell, D., (In press). How could she sacrifice her granddaughter?" Unwrapping issues of race, class, privilege in an undergraduate English methods class at a predominantly white university. In D. Cleveland (Ed.), *Teaching Race, Diversity and Social Justice in White Space*. Wisconsin: Atwood Publishing.

Russell, D., (In press). Why isn't Pecola feeling "young gifted, and Black?" Critically teaching *The Bluest Eye* to unravel identity, abuse, and societal norms that perpetuate negative self-images. In J. Milner & C. Pope (Eds.), *Engaging American Novels*, Illinois: NCTE Publishing.

Recent Faculty Presentations

Dr. Jeanne D'Haem was invited to speak at the Princeton University Down Syndrome Conference on November 14, 2010. Her topic was: *Special at School, Lonely at Home: A Community Based Mixed-age Friendship Group for Individuals with Down Syndrome*.

Dr. Alison Dobrick presented research on best practices in Holocaust education at the 17th National Forum on Character Education, October 28-30, in San Francisco, CA. It was titled "The Holocaust, Hatred, and Humanity: Effective Holocaust Education for Today's Young Students."

Dr. Darlene Russell presented at the Children's Literacy Conference, Kigali Institute of Education, Kigali, Rwanda (Africa) Fall 2010.