

Volume 2 Issue 3

December 2009

Letter From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

This issue provides highlights of the accomplishments and amazing productivity of our College of Education in the Fall 2009 semester. We were most successful in obtaining major grants to support programmatic initiatives, developing innovative curriculum and programs, expanding our network of professional development schools, raising our Praxis II scores, and serving our candidates and communities. Our faculty continues to be recognized as experts and leaders in their fields.

The Transition to Teaching New Vistas program will allow the COE in collaboration with its partner IHE and school districts to prepare educators in areas of shortages. Four cohorts of 55 career changers, each who are committed to teaching in low income schools, will pursue a rigorous alternative program.

Through the Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality, the largest grant ever obtained by WPU, we will have the opportunity to implement an Urban Teacher Residency Program. In addition, the project will provide us with funding for the enhancement of our pre-service programs.

Our model Child Development Center recently received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's CCAMPIS Program to fund enhanced childcare for low-income eligible parents attending our institution. The grant provides the opportunity for the parents of ten to twelve children to attend classes and complete their education

A small grant from the New Jersey Department of Education is providing educators with much needed professional development program in Sheltered English, a methodology to make learning meaningful for English Language Learners. Teams of teachers from our surrounding school districts (fifty participants in all) are attending WPU for intensive sessions which will be followed up by classroom visitations.

Our faculty continues to develop state-of-the-art programs to meet the needs of our profession. We look forward to the approval and implementation of the Ph.D. in Counselor Education, our first doctoral program, as well as the M.Ed. in Middle School Education and the undergraduate endorsement in Bilingual Education.

Congratulations to Dr. Kathy Malu on receiving the prestigious Fulbright scholarship and to Cindy Genarelli for being named the 2009 Outstanding Early Childhood Practitioner by the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE).

My very best wishes to all for a wonderful, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Ana Maria

Mark Your Calendars - May 25, 2010 -PDS Conference at WPU

.The first statewide Professional Development Schools Conference will be held on May 25, 2010 with Dr. Lee Teitel from Harvard's Graduate School of Education as the keynote speaker. Dr. Teitel authored a number of books related to professional development schools including: [The Professional Development Schools Handbook](#), [Designing PDS Governance Structures](#) and [Assessing the Impacts of Professional Development Schools](#).

The conference is open to current PDS administrators and teachers as well as schools interested in becoming PDS and university partners. School teams will be encouraged to attend. The full day conference will include interactive team activities, breakout sessions and time for setting goals in addition to the keynote.

In January there will be a call for proposals for one hour breakout sessions. Presenters will need to submit proposals by March 1, 2010 and then will be notified by mid March if their proposal was accepted.

The PDS Conference is being supported by funds from a recently received Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality (GSPTQ) grant. The grant is a partnership between William Paterson, Rowan and Kean with William Paterson serving as the lead. The New Jersey Department of Education is also a partner in this grant and a co-sponsor of the PDS conference.

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

College of Education

Cindy Gennarelli M.Ed. 2002 Wins National Award

Cindy Gennarelli, director at WPU's Child Development Center and a 2002 graduate of WPU's M.Ed. program with a concentration in Early Childhood Education has been named by the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) and Cengage Learning as the 2009 Outstanding Early Childhood Practitioner of the Year. With 20 years experience as a preschool teacher, Cindy Gennarelli joined WPU's campus Child Development Center as Head Teacher in 2001 and was promoted to Director of the program in 2003. Under her supervision, WPU's Child Development Center provides high quality early care and education for children and grandchildren of WPU students, faculty, staff and alumni. She also oversees and supervises the university's Preschool to Grade 3 (P-3) initial teacher certification candidates in their field placements at the center as well as graduate students' internships, projects and research at the center. In addition, Cindy has forged university-wide collaborations and works with undergraduate and graduate students from our Movement Science, Nursing, Psychology, and Communication Disorders programs to complete assignments, observations, and projects. Under her guidance and leadership, the WPU Child Development Center received NAEYC accreditation in 2003 and was reaccredited in 2008.

Dean Schuhmann in her letter of support noted, "As the dean of the College of Education, I am most appreciative of Cindy's professionalism, spirit of collaboration, and her many contributions to preparing the best teacher education candidates. I would be remiss if I did not add that in these most difficult financial times, I am also extremely grateful to Ms. Gennarelli for her unparalleled ability to create a program that ensures positive social, emotional, physical and creative growth in young children with basically very little funding. I marvel every day at her creativity and enthusiasm for what she does. She is implementing a true model program where ethnic pride, self-confidence and joy of learning are developed in young children."

Cindy received this prestigious national award in Washington, DC on November 18, 2010 at an award's presentation ceremony held during the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Dr. Seplocha Featured Presenter

Dr. Seplocha was a Featured Presenter at the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference held November 16-21 in Washington, DC. Her presentation entitled Meet the Authors and Illustrators: Children's Literature at NAEYC included the artistic award-winning David Catrow with his remarkable gift for comic illustrations, the creative NY Times best selling author Karen Beaumont with her gift of rhythm and rhyme, and the prolific and passionate Vera B. Williams who has won not one but two Cadelcott Awards along with numerous other awards. Over 1000 people attended the session.

Dr. Strasser and Dr. Seplocha Present Research

Dr. Strasser and Dr. Seplocha presented their research at the annual conference of the National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators held in conjunction with NAEYC on November 16 in Washington, DC. Their session was entitled: A Snapshot of Quality in Kindergarten Classrooms in Low-Income Districts.

Dr. Verdicchio Recognized

Ron Verdicchio was recognized for 25 years of service to the Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS.org) by being named a Lifetime Director of The Board of Directors. The event was held on September 24 at the Swedish Ambassador's Residence in Washington at a dinner hosted by Senator Chuck Hagel and H.E. Jonas Hafstrom Ambassador of Sweden.

WPUNJ Students and Alums Gather at NJEA 2010

On November 5, 2009, 26 William Paterson, College of Education students and members of the Education Club participated in the 2009 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 students were able to participate thanks to the USDOE award that the college received for the Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality.

The convention offers a wealth of professional development programs and seminars. Students - *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 goes with many free teaching resources and materials of which WPUNJ students took advantage.

At 5:00pm all 26 students managed to get all of their bags of materials back on the bus for the ride back to William Paterson University. Once on the bus, the students exchanged information that they had learned, ideas that were shared and discussed new educational materials that they had experienced. As shared by the students, it was a wonderful professional development day and a great introduction to the professional community.

At just about the same time (5:00PM), faculty and staff from the College of Education were greeting College of Education alums at



the Tiara Ballroom at the Taj Mahal for an evening of celebration.

Interim Dean Ana Maria Schuhmann presented President Arnie Speert with a plaque for his years of service to the University and support for the College of Education. Alums enjoyed meeting old friends, making new ones, good food and great music (compliments of WPUNJ jazz dept faculty and students), and many left with gift baskets of WPUNJ memorabilia.

Kathleen F. Malu, PhD Awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Kathleen F. Malu, PhD, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach American and British literature courses and secondary literacy methods courses at Rwanda's national pre-service teacher training institute, the Kigali Institute of Education (KIE) in the capital city, Kigali, from January-October, 2010. Two recent experiences helped her consider returning to this country where she previously worked in the Ministry of Education as a curriculum developer and English language inspector for the nation's 60 secondary schools in her role of Peace Corps Volunteer (1980-1981). WPUNJ's Outstanding Student Teacher awardee, Jean-Gratien Uwisavye, from Rwanda, encouraged Dr. Malu when she was his student teaching supervisor in 2007. While researching for a recently published chapter, she discovered the Fulbright announcement and submitted her application. Drs. Sue Godar and Donna Perry offered her support during this process.

Over the last two months Dr. Malu has presented, *Rwanda: An Overview*, speaking to more than 450 children, 28 teachers and 1 superintendent at the "Doing History Day" Conference for National History Day and across the tri-state including New Jersey (in the school districts of Paterson, Passaic, Cresskill, Oakland, Clifton, Malapan), Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. In the spring 2010, she will skip into these schools so the students can ask follow-up questions about her experiences.

Dr. Malu will collaborate with Dr. Maria Villar and her honors anthropology students and Robert Stockton College's Holocaust and Genocide Program faculty during Rwanda's Remembrance Week in April. Dr. Malu will collaborate via skype and a blog she will create once in country. Plans to collaborate with Dr. Allison Dobrick, Director of WPUNJ's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies are in progress.

Students at WPUNJ have already benefitted. Dr. Malu shared her news and presentation with her close to 100 WPUNJ students this semester. "We want to know all about it and stay in touch," they said. In fall 2010, WPUNJ students will continue to benefit from this scholarship. Dr. Malu will teach two online courses from Rwanda, Anthropology in Education (Anthro 202) and Children's Literacy in the 21st Century (ELRL 617).

Dr. Malu's (2009) research chapter, *Rwanda's Audacity: A Story of Hope at the Middle Level*, was published by the American Educational Research Association's Special Interest Group, Middle Level Education Research, in *An International Look at Educating Young Adolescents, Volume 7* in the series *Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education* (Steven Mertens, Vincent Anfara, and Kathleen Rooney, editors).

Dr. Malu will arrive in Kigali almost 30 years to the day of her first arrival in 1980.

Dr. Kowalsky and Jennifer Caputo Present at National Conference

Dr. Michelle Kowalsky and recent WPU graduate Jennifer Caputo presented a poster at the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference in Charlotte, NC, on Nov. 6-8, 2009. Caputo recently completed her graduate studies in the Department of Educational Leadership and Professional Studies, and is now employed as the school library media specialist at Sparta Middle School. The pair presented "Technologizing Student Projects," a 3-D model of the evolution of K-12 classroom projects and strategies which incorporate technology. Their poster was one of a hundred competitively chosen presentations for the Exploratorium, a poster session attended by over 800 school librarians, their school administrators, and their library science professors. Their model, which followed the conference's NASCAR theme, detailed suggestions of technology implementations which educators should probably 'stop' doing since these modes are outdated; tech strategies which teachers may want to 'yield' to consider before searching for better technological alternatives; and new technologies for teaching and learning which can increase project complexity and cognitive load, thus representing ideas to 'go' and investigate further. Kowalsky and Caputo were one of several presenters whose exhibits were photographed by the conference committee for promotional purposes. At the request of organizers and attendees, the two filmed a video explaining their rotating poster, which was uploaded to the AASL website. As part of the conference activities, the educators also had dinner with Carol Kuhlthau, Leslie Maniotes and Ann Caspari, authors of *Guided Inquiry*, a seminal work in the school library media field; they visited the innovative public library of Charlotte-Mecklenberg to meet with Kelly Czarnecki and learn about the library's information commons approach; and they attended the Treasure Mountain School Library Research forum to brainstorm ideas for the future with 30 other library leaders including Ross Todd and David Loertscher.



The Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality (GSPTQ)

The College of Education, the College Science and Health, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at William Paterson in collaboration with Kean and Rowan Universities received a USDOE award in the amount of \$10.8 million dollars over five years to improve the academic achievement of K-12 students in high need urban schools through the recruitment, preparation and retention of highly qualified teachers in New Jersey. The Garden State Partnership for Teacher Quality (GSPTQ) will be working in collaboration with the high-need school districts of Bridgeton, Camden, Jersey City, Leap Academy Charter School (Camden), Passaic, Paterson, Union City and the New Jersey Department of Education to reform the pre-baccalaureate programs at the three universities and establish the Garden State Urban Teacher Residency Program which will culminate in dual certification and a master's degree. This will ensure both highly-qualified teacher status and expertise in areas of critical shortage including special education, ESL and bilingual education. Fifteen Professional Development Schools will be established throughout the state with support for both pre-service and in-service teachers and as a vehicle to recruit, prepare and retain educational leaders in New Jersey's urban communities.

The New Vistas Teacher Project

The College of Education in collaboration with Kean University received a USDOE Transition to Teaching award in the amount of \$3.04 million dollars over five years to create a sustainable design for the preparation of recent college graduates and mid career-changers to become teachers. William Paterson University and Kean University will be working in collaboration with the high-need school districts of East Orange, Elizabeth and Paterson to recruit, prepare and retain highly qualified teachers for these schools. The program will recruit 55 teacher candidates each year for five years and prepare them via an alternate route program whereby they will obtain dual certification in elementary or secondary education and either an ESL, Bilingual or Special Education endorsement. Flexibility in program delivery including weekend, on-line and hybrid learning modules as well as graduate coursework for endorsements makes this program unique in the state.

MAST Activities

The Teachers for a Competitive Tomorrow: Math and Science Teachers Program (MAST) Program is a federally funded program designed to support and encourage the development of future Math and Science teachers in high needs schools. The MAST Program had a productive and exciting semester.

- In August, three of our participants attended the Novice Teacher Workshop.
- Three MAST participants were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$4000 each for the 2009-2010 school year, thanks to the generous funding from the PSEG Foundation
- We celebrated teaching with an information event on October 7, 2009. District administrators and WPU faculty joined us to inspire WPU undergraduates to choose teaching as a career. We would like to thank Dr. Elise Bourne-Busby for a memorable keynote address.
- We supported WPU undergraduates with a "How to Study for Math and Science" workshop on October 13, 2009.
- Workshops to support undergraduates studying for the PRAXIS were held for Biology and Middle School Math.
- October 28th was an important day for high seniors interested in teaching Math or Science. Twenty-three students from Paterson Public Schools completed WPU applications.
- The "TEACHing Grants and Scholarships" workshop reviewed financial opportunities related to teaching, including the TEACH grant and Noyce scholarship on November 11, 2009.
- The Teachers for Tomorrow series gives WPU undergraduates the opportunity to visit high needs schools and observe excellent teaching. We also invite guest speakers to campus to support WPU undergraduates.

* As part of our Teachers for Tomorrow series, on November 16, 2009, we invited WPU undergraduates to join us for an observation of a WPU student teacher in a Biology classroom at Passaic County Technical Institute.

* On December 10, 2009, we welcomed Karen Johnson, principle of Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, who took time out of her very busy day to come visit our campus and relate her experiences as an educator for over 30 years

- MAST participants also receive individualized tutoring. MAST Practicum and Student Teachers receive mentoring, as well.

Dr. Russell's Trip To Africa

Dr. Darlene Russell was invited by the American Educational Research Association (AERA) to be an *Educational Research Delegate* to South Africa. In November, she traveled to South Africa and joined researchers from around the world in the delegation. Dr. Russell participated in rich discourse and project planning with educational researchers from the United States and South Africa on educational policy and teacher preparation. The present similarities that challenge schooling in the United States and South Africa were discussed, as well as the educational inequities that continue to vividly pulsate surrounding race, class, and language in a post-Apartheid South Africa. Dr. Russell has begun organizing research with her colleagues from the States and South Africa around issues of social justice, educational equity, and empowerment. The delegation will convene at the AERA conference in 2010 to further discuss the collaborative research and future with educational leaders in South Africa. Dr. Russell has been invited to share her work with her professional development school in Paterson and at other educational venues.

College of Education and the Child Development Center co-hosted a two day workshop in conjunction with the Monarch Teacher Network (MTN)

In August 2009, a combined total of seventy pre K- 12th grade educators, principals, directors and William Paterson undergraduate and graduate students from both private and public schools in our tri-state region took part in a two day training workshop "Teaching with Monarch Butterflies". This workshop, based on extensive research and best teaching practice was held at the Valley Road campus. Classrooms were transformed into monarch life-cycle stations. The participants learned how to interact with, handle and care for Monarch livestock that included eggs, caterpillar instars (1st-5th stage), chrysalides, and adult butterflies. Participants received training in how to use monarch butterflies as a unit of study when working with varied ages and abilities in both traditional and non-traditional classroom settings. The instructors made connections between monarchs, preschool expectations, and content standards as an authentic way to teach a variety of concepts and skills including our growing connection with other nations and the need to be responsible stewards of the environment. Robert Thornton a 5th Grade Teacher Elmwood Park Public Schools commented, "I've been teaching for 37 years. This has been one of the most meaningful and authentic workshops I have taken. Not only did it give me the opportunity to network with other teachers in the tri-state area, but it also validated my commitment to focusing on their interests, use meaningful topics while meeting many of the NJ CCCS using a multi disciplinary approach to learning. " The College of Education and the Child Development Center will be co-hosting this workshop in collaboration with MTN again this year.



connections between monarchs, preschool expectations, and content standards as an authentic way to teach a variety of concepts and skills including our growing connection with other nations and the need to be responsible stewards of the environment. Robert Thornton a 5th Grade Teacher Elmwood Park Public Schools commented, "I've been teaching for 37 years. This has been one of the most meaningful and authentic workshops I have taken. Not only did it give me the opportunity to network with other teachers in the tri-state area, but it also validated my commitment to focusing on their interests, use meaningful topics while meeting many of the NJ CCCS using a multi disciplinary approach to learning. " The College of Education and the Child Development Center will be co-hosting this workshop in collaboration with MTN again this year.

For more information, contact either Cindy Gennarelli or Liz Morgado at the Child Development Center at gennarellc@wpunj.edu or morgadoe@wpunj.edu. To view some of the teaching with monarchs activities implemented at the WPU Child Development Center log onto <http://www.thewpuchilddevelopmentcenter.com> website

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher-Candidates Conduct Book Drive

Two teacher-candidates enrolled in the K-5 Post Baccalaureate Program, Caitlin Mader and Larissa Rota, recently conducted a book drive, collecting books for children in Paterson School # 18 where they are taking CIEE 512, Reading, Language Arts, and Literacy. Both young women are committed to serving children who are at risk of academic failure due to the effects of living in poverty, and both plan to teach in urban schools. Following an exploration of the importance of early literacy experiences, Caitlin and Larissa considered the well-documented differences between the experiences of economically disadvantaged versus advantaged populations. Working with children in School #18, they learned that many of the children in the participating classroom had very few, if any, books at home. Having grown up in a relatively wealthy suburb where children are likely to have scores of books, the young women began to understand some of the reasons for the achievement gap that persists between high- and low-income children. They decided to contact an administrator at their church, Cornerstone Christian in Wyckoff, to ask about putting together a book drive during October. Flyers were posted, announcements were made, and shortly thereafter, close to 200 books were donated. Caitlin and Larissa took time to roughly level the books so that they could be appropriately distributed to children in various grades. The principal of the school was thrilled, and agreed to involve teachers in distributing books.

Dr. An and Dr. Wilder Present at Columbia University Teachers College

Dr. Heejung An and Dr. Hilary Wilder (far right and far left, respectively), gave a presentation at Columbia University Teachers College. The presentation was titled “Namibia & New Jersey: Teachers Working Together with Technology” and was part of their International Education Week. Dr. An and Dr. Wilder Are both alumni of Columbia University Teachers College. Dr. Wilder will be a Fulbright Scholar during the spring 2010 semester in Namibia.



COE News and Notes

COE Technology Integration Highlights

Have you ever wondered how your colleagues are integrating technology into their teaching? In order to share and foster best practices, the COE Technology Committee has produced the first issue of COE Technology Integration Highlights. This issue can be accessed online at this web address:



<http://euphrates.wpunj.edu/faculty/anh2/issue1.html>

The COE Technology Committee would like to continue adding new examples each year. Please send any new examples you would like to share to Heejung An at anh2@wpunj.edu

Thank you.
COE Technology Committee.

Recent Faculty Publications:

Seplocha, H. & Strasser, J. (2009). Using fanciful magical language in preschool. *Teaching Young Children*, 2(4).

Dobrick, A. (Winter 2009). Social Studies and the Internet. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*.

Rosenthal, J. (Winter 2009). Field Experiences in Urban Schools. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*.

An, H.; Shin, S.; & Lim, K. (2009). The effects of different instructor facilitation approaches on students' interactions during asynchronous online discussions. *Computers & Education*, 53(3), 749-760.

All The Best For A Happy and Healthy New Year!!!!
