

Spotlight on Education

The Electronic Newsletter of the School of Education and Human Services at Mount St. Mary's University



If you are reading this newsletter, it means that you are somehow connected to the School of Education and Human Services at Mount St. Mary's University. Most of our readers will be students enrolled in a teacher education class this semester while other readers are teaching an

education course or assisting our teacher candidates in a Professional Development School or a Partner School. As I write this message I find myself wondering where the semester has gone. We've enjoyed fall break, adjusted our clocks, and watched leaves change color and fall to the ground. These are sure signs that the semester is winding down.

But it is an exciting time to be at MSMU. The School of Education and Human Services has experienced a productive first semester thus far as a school. We hosted a New Student Social for UG students interested in education (September 3), a Gateway Assessment Gallery Walk for graduate students on our main campus (September 7-9) and at our Frederick campus (September 16), another Gallery Walk for Weekend College students in Frederick (September 10), and a Lesson Plan Workshop (September 14) for all teacher candidates. Faculty and students attended the Maryland Teacher of the Year Banquet (October 2). We recruited new graduate students at events in Frederick, Washington, Montgomery, and Howard Counties as well as in Ocean City (Maryland State Educators Association Convention). We recruited new undergraduate students too on the Emmitsburg campus (October 4, 25) and in Frederick (November 5).

Life in the university is certainly not "winding down." President Powell is leading us through the development of a vision statement. What will the university be like in 2015? School faculty convened in May and again in October to "dream together" about our future as we worked on a five-year strategic plan for the school.

This issue formatted by Marie Stone

Our dreams are many and varied, but I have only space to share a select few. We dream of . . .

Offering a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services

Faculty are proposing an interdisciplinary program of study that will prepare majors to assist individuals, families and communities to better cope with crisis, change, and stress.

Offering a Master of Education degree in Instructional Leadership for Catholic Educators

With the sound advice of the Advisory Board of the Center for Catholic School Excellence, faculty are developing a leadership program that will lead to Maryland certification. To serve Catholic educators in the region we are exploring online delivery for this program.

Internationalizing our Teacher Education Curriculum

Being offered for the first time in Spring 2010 is a Special Topics course titled "Globalization and Education." Undergraduate and graduate students will engage in a comparative analysis of education policy in the US and the Cameroon. This is just the beginning of our dream. We hope that a group of students will be traveling to the Cameroon in Spring 2011 to help build a school.

Reconnecting with our Alumni

We dream of building a strong network of alumni. We want to hear about the good work they are doing and to spread the word.

What are your dreams for the School of Education and Human Services? Please share your ideas with me or any of our faculty.

Wishing you a good finish to the semester, and a safe and restful holiday season.

Barbara Martin Palmer
Dean, School of Education and Human Services

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TEACH Grant Program

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program grants up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a high-need field in a public or private school serving low-income students. At MSMU those areas include mathematics education (BS, MAT), foreign language education (BS, MAT), and reading (M.Ed.).

To see if you are eligible for the TEACH grant, contact Laura Frazier, Coordinator of Teacher Education, or Dave Reeder, Director of Financial Aid.



The Educators for Justice Society joined Callings and the Center for Catholic School Excellence to sponsor a forum titled “The Catholic Church and the Educational Commitment to the Poor: A Discussion of Ecclesia in America” on Wednesday, October 21, 2009. Samantha Presti and Karl Little Owl, both students and members of the Educators for Justice Society, welcomed the 150 students, faculty and friends of the Mount who attended the forum. Professor Elizabeth C. Monahan, Director of the Center for Catholic School Excellence, served as the moderator, and in her opening remarks recognized the Church’s calling to serve the poor, without distinction of nationality, gender, race, class or religion through the ministry of education. Monsignor Stuart Swetland, Flynn Professor of Christian Ethics; Dan Curtin, Executive Director of the Department of Chief Administrators of the National Catholic Educational Association; Dr. Alejandro Canadas, Assistant Professor of Economics; and Dr. Caroline Eick, Faculty Advisor, Educators for Justice Society and Assistant Professor of Education served as the panelists at the forum. This interdisciplinary panel spoke on an array of topics related to the Church and its commitment to the poor.

We Welcome Our Newest Faculty Members!

Professor Wendy Bunker recently came to the Mount from Remsen Elementary School’s Reading First program where she acted as a coordinator. Professor Bunker is currently pursuing her PhD in Reading Education from Syracuse University.

Professor J. Michael Harpe is the first Joseph and Lynne Horning Fellow at the Mount. He is completing his PhD in Educational Leadership/ Higher Education at Fayetteville State University and holds M.A. degrees in Special Education and Guidance and Counseling.

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION CLUB

The Education Club provides opportunities for students to learn and serve.

On September 19, 2009 students attended the Literacy Conference in Harrisburg, PA to hear Ellin Keene and Bruce Morgan speak on “Teaching Literacy Well in an Era of Growing Demands.” The Education Club worked with children at the Wellness Expo held on campus. On September 26, 2009, students read stories on healthy activities, made bead jewelry, and decorated children with tattoos.

The Education Club took part in Read for the Record on October 8, 2009. Along with others across the nation, students read Eric Carle’s The Very Hungry Caterpillar to children in order to break a record of 500,000 children being read to.

See the Calendar of Events to learn about upcoming activities!

Student Advisory Committee

The committee meets regularly with Dr. Palmer and Professor Laura Frazier, Coordinator of Teacher Education. Share kudos or concerns with any of the following members:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Samantha A. Marton | Margaret C. O’Connell |
| Selene M. Rayho | Theresa Finley |
| Matthew T. Himes | Brenda Bishop |
| Samantha M. Presti | Ryan Blickenstaff |

Profile of Teacher Candidates—Fall 2009

Number Internship II Candidates—Fall 2009	PDS Sites	Partner Schools	Other Participating Schools
58	15	2	10
Number in Elementary Schools		Number in Secondary Schools	
40		6—Middle 12—High School	
Undergraduate Candidates		Graduate Candidates	
13—Elementary 13—Elementary/Special Education 2—Elementary (Weekend Program) 1—Elementary/Special Education (Weekend Program) 5—Secondary 1—Art		9—Elementary 2—Elementary/Special Education 10—Secondary 2—Art	



Kelly Boutin uses Lexia Reading software to help students learn to read.

Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations to:

Kelly Boutin – Kelly, who completed her Certificate of Advanced Study in Reading in 2006, is the recipient of a Student Achievement Grant from the NEA Foundation. She is currently a Targeted Reading Intervention Teacher at Thurmont Primary and will use the \$5,000 grant to implement a supplemental computer software program called Lexia Reading. She will begin using the reading software in November with 24 identified kindergarten and first grade students in an after school reading club.

Matt Himes – Matt was recently elected as a Student Representative to the Maryland Council for Exceptional Children Board.

Dr. Megan Mackey—Dr. Mackey was elected as the Maryland State Unit Representative to the Council for Exceptional Children Representative Assembly.

News from Educators for Justice Society

Members of the Educators for Justice Society have planned many events for the new school year. Recently, they co-sponsored the panel on Catholic Perspective on Social Justice in Education on October 21, 2009. In addition, the Educators for Justice plan to begin a fundraiser for Pastor Jon Greenstone's Ecumenical Mission Trip in Kenya. In order to provide Internet for Pathfinder Academy, the society plans to raise at least \$330. A book drive for Catoctin Pregnancy Center is also in the works. Volunteering efforts at Mother Seton's After School program, as well as at Hope Alive, will continue.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Calendar of Events:

November 19—Alum Rebecca Remsburg will talk about being a Middle School Language Arts teacher, writing a children's book, and being the mother of a special needs child.

November 25 - 29 —
Thanksgiving Break

December TBD—Educators for Justice Society's Annual Christmas Blanket Making Day

December 11—Deadline for Pi Lambda Theta membership nominations

December 14-18—Final Exams

January 26—The Education Club and Pi Lambda Theta co-sponsoring movie night. "The Ron Clark Story" will be presented.

February 22—Student Advisory Meeting

April 19—Student Advisory Meeting



- Brown-Hobbs, S. (2009, September). Student work analysis through reflective inquiry. Paper presented at Maryland State Department of Education Data Collection and Student Work Sample Analysis: How Teacher Candidates Collect and Use Student Data, Columbia, MD and Kent Island, MD.
- Brown-Hobbs, S. (2009, September). Recruiting, training, and maintaining mentors. Paper presented at Maryland State Department of Education Maryland Approved-Alternative Preparation Programs Network.
- Cook, C. (2009, October). Writing conference: Making a difference through teacher language and gestures. Paper presented at Keystone State Reading Association, Hershey, PA.
- Eick, C. (2009). Complicating whiteness and other markers of difference in suburbia: The case of Miller High, 1985-2000. Session of 06-S2A-D2 (31) Political Discourses of Identities and Diversities. In Palaiologou N. (Ed.). Intercultural Conference co-organized by the International Association for Intercultural Education (IAIE) and the Hellenic Migration Policy Institute (IMEPO), under the aegis of Unesco. ISBN: 978-960-98897-0-4 (GR) & ISBN/EAN: 978-90-814411-1-7 (NL) <http://www.silktech-global.com/cd.zip>
- Eick, C. (2009). Complicating whiteness and other markers of difference in suburbia: The case of Miller High, 1985-2000. Presented at the Annual Meeting of International Association of Intercultural Education, Athens, Greece.
- Mackey, M. (2009, July). Inclusion in middle school: A case study of three general education teachers. International Association of Special Education Conference, Alicante, Spain.
- Sadera, W. & Frazier, L.C. (2009, June). A collective case study of classroom computer use and integration. Paper presented at the meeting of National Educational Computing Conference, Washington, DC.
- Ryan, P. (2009, October). Popular media representations of teachers in the post-war United States: Race and gender. Paper presented at the History of Education Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ryan, P. (2009, November). Teacher journal reflections: Reading between the lines. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

News from Pi Lambda Theta

Attention all freshmen and sophomores! Begin reflecting about your educational philosophy. PLT will sponsor an essay contest for freshmen and sophomores in December. The topic will be educational philosophies.

Nominations for membership in the Gamma Tau Chapter are due on December 11, 2009. Graduate or undergraduate students must be nominated by school faculty or invited by the chapter. In order to qualify, candidate must have an intent to pursue a career in education, a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, and be currently enrolled in a teacher education program. Graduate students must have completed at least two courses in a graduate degree program. Undergraduates must have achieved at least a sophomore standing. Faculty nominations will also be accepted. Please see the Pi Lambda Theta website at <http://www.pilambda.org/membershipqualifications.html> for further information regarding nomination qualifications for faculty.