

NEWS & PERSPECTIVES

from the School of Education

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A WELCOME FROM THE DEAN



It is certainly true that our most important and our most authentic kind of learning experiences occur within the special type of social organization known as *communities*. It is within genuine communities that standards of excellence are established, multiple and diverse perspectives are engaged, real problems and questions are encountered and solved, and democracy and open communication can flourish. Thus, it is no surprise that everywhere one turns in P-16 schooling today, one finds educators looking to re-establish and revitalize their learning communities, attempting to dismantle autocratic and top-down structures, and reach-

ing toward new relationships and partnerships with other like-minded communities of scholars. Everywhere teachers are seeing the importance of cultivating this sense of mutual trust and shared purposes. In October, I attended a conference at Teachers College, Columbia University that focused on "University-Assisted Public Schools as a Model for P-16 Education in New York State." It was heartening to learn that the Nazareth College School of Education is not alone in its efforts.

Within the Nazareth College School of Education this spirit is palpable. The four new academic departments within the School are developing identities as academic units and finding reasons to collaborate anew. New partnerships and site-based learning opportunities are being explored with urban, rural, and suburban districts and with communities in our immediate region and beyond. An exciting new plan with Rochester Institute of Technology to prepare teachers of mathematics and science is taking shape,

while the Offices of Field Placement Services and the Teacher Opportunities Collaboratives work to make connections with neighboring districts in novel ways. International relationships are being sought out in a manner never before seen at the College. A plan for a regional school, with all its transformative potential, is being seriously investigated, as is a new Center for Urban Education. The centrality of literacy to our work in teacher education is gaining renewed appreciation and the Marie Callahan Reading Center is continuing to have an impact that ripples throughout our region.

All these activities enrich and deepen the educative experiences of our community: Our students, our alumni, our faculty, our staff. This edition of the SoE Newsletter shares just a few of these developments and ideas.

Sincerely,

*Timothy Glander
Dean, School of Education*

Inside this Issue.....

- SoE Leader in Urban Education Initiatives
- International Partnerships
- Preschoolers Attend College
- SoE Adopts Library
- Faculty/Staff News

... and more ...

GRANT SUPPORTS FUTURE MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

The National Science Foundation has awarded Nazareth College a grant of \$749,692 to establish the Nazareth College Robert Noyce Scholar Program. **Kate DaBoill-Lavoie**, Inclusive Childhood Education, and **Lynn O'Brien**, Chemistry, will serve as project directors for the grant. The focus of the

Noyce Program is to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate teacher education students enrolled in programs leading to certification in adolescence education Grades 7-12 in the areas of mathematics, biology and chemistry and in childhood/middle child-

hood education Grades 1-6 (with majors in mathematics or the sciences). The financial support will be in the form of scholarships and stipends. In addition, the program will support enhanced advisement for students and additional research opportunities.



NAZARETH
COLLEGE

SoE LEADER IN URBAN ED INITIATIVES

Shirley Sommers, coordinator of urban education initiatives, is undertaking a project to draft a guide to urban education resources. The guide will include initiatives, projects and programs that Nazareth's SoE is involved in to enhance teacher education students' preparation to succeed in urban schools. An impressive twenty-eight Rochester City School District related programs are currently in place, with several new initiatives in the planning stages. Not only does this involvement lend credence to the fact that our faculty are "committed to teaching and scholarship", but it supports the dynamic collaboration between the Nazareth community and the broader community of schools, agencies and

cultural institutions, carrying-out our mission of, "connecting practice to theory".

Some of the initiatives that are in place include:

- Teacher Opportunity Corps
- Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts
- Services provided through the Marie Callahan Reading Center
- Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers
- GEAR UP
- Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Program ■

URBAN GRANTS PROGRAM SUPPORTS CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Over the summer, the Urban Education Grants Committee awarded a grant to **Shawgi Tell**, Department of Social and Psychological Foundations and Sira Shairi, an ESL teacher at Lackawanna High School to design, coordinate, and deliver a professional development workshop for Rochester area teachers and youth workers who wish to gain more factual knowledge of and greater appreciation for Arab and Muslim culture and issues, particularly those related to the experience of youth. ■

*"The map appears to us more real
than the land."
—D.H. Lawrence*

PARTNERSHIPS PROVIDE RELEVANCE IN LEARNING

The Department of Inclusive Childhood Education, in its effort to provide authentic curriculum, has diligently worked at creating partnerships which allow classes to be held at a variety of community sites. Presently there are eleven site based classes. In addition to sites at urban and suburban schools, community settings such as Strong Museum of Play, and the Monroe County ARC Institute for Social Inclusion are also places where Nazareth students are attending classes. But our partnerships are not just about places. It really is the relationships formed with people in the community, which allow for the rich collaboration.

For example, right down the road from the Nazareth campus, **Shanna Jamanis** holds class each Monday morning with her Nazareth students at French Road Elementary School. Dottie Farmer, the Instructional Support Specialist, serves as the building liaison and helps coordinate the before school literacy student support sessions and the placement of each Nazareth student into a grade level classroom. As the Nazareth pre-service teachers visit classrooms, they are able to participate directly, one-on-one or in small groups with the

students, specifically in the area of literacy support. The Nazareth class *Learning Theory and Curriculum for Diverse Learners* takes on a level of authenticity. As one indication of this authenticity, **Jamanis** reports that her students not only learn about the theoretical structure of a variety of developmental theorists, but also have opportunities to see developmental characteristics manifested in the classroom setting.

One of our longest standing partnerships has been with the Rochester City School District. One such partnership is at H.W. Longfellow School #36. The principal, Mr. Paul Montanarello, and his faculty have been gracious hosts to the graduate *Introduction to Diverse Learners* class for over five years. The pre-service Nazareth students participate in professional literacy circles with teachers at School #36, reading and discussing current articles related to race and education.

Ellen Contopidis, the Nazareth instructor for the class, reports that teachers at School #36 have noted that the readings compelled them to revisit basic considerations when working with children. Students in her class report back

that the school #36 teachers bring experienced voices to the discussion. It is the mixing of experience with learning that makes the site based classes so rich according to **Contopidis**.

Across town at the Strong Museum of Play, **Nancy Niemi** is partnering with Linda Phillips. Although not the traditional setting for a site based class, the museum provides a perspective of education not easily found in school based site classes.

The museum is a classroom for the public, and therefore the Nazareth students are able to interact with a diverse population in the broadest sense. **Niemi** explains that one of the greatest benefits that this placement provides is that it legitimizes that education can, and should, take place outside the typical classroom.

These three classes are just a sample of the opportunities that exemplify the strong connections between field work and course work, and provide authenticity, and relevance in learning. It is the partnerships with people at these community sites, as well as many others, which support us in working toward achieving this goal.

PRESCHOOLERS SPEND A DAY AT “COLLEGE”

On October 18, Nazareth College was a buzz with preschoolers and their families taking part in the third annual Pre-K @ College day, a part of the Helen and Walter Cooper Urban Institute. Early on that Saturday morning each youngster was greeted by a high schooler and a college student who accompanied the child to all of the day’s activities. First on the day’s schedule was an opportunity to hear local author Will Hubbell read his book *Apples Here!*

The children then participated in a variety of musical, physical, and art activities prepared by faculties of the Department of Language, Literacy, and Technology, all of the Departments in the School of Health and Human Services, the Rochester City School District, and Wegmans’ nutritionist and her staff. Their parents attended a workshop that addressed children’s nutritional needs, literacy, and parenting. The School of Education and the Department of Language, Literacy, and Technology presented each child with a copy of Will Hubbell’s book *Snow Day Dance* to remember the day at Nazareth College.

A committee representing St. John Fisher College and the Rochester City School District initiated this program two years ago. Dr. Naomi Erdmann, Director of the college’s literacy programs was recruited by the group to take the day “down the street” to Naz-

areth. She and her faculty, Dr. Laura Jones and Julia Postler asked the School of Health and Human Services to collaborate with them in planning the day and engaging the children in the day’s events.

Julia Poster, event manager, indicates the goal of the Pre-K @ College event is to “bring children and their families to the campus for an opportunity to promote learning and enjoyment as well as to have the parents recognize college could be in their own as well as their child’s future.”

In addition to Nazareth College’s Department of Literacy, Language, and Technology, the School of Education, the School of Health and Human Services, and their undergraduate and graduate students, the day was supported by St. John Fisher College, the Rochester City School District, Wegmans which provided its corporate nutritionist and her staff, the Monroe County Library System, the leaderships programs of the American Red Cross and the City School District as well as Mayor Duffy’s Literacy Council.

“I am interested in trying to awaken educators to a realization that transformations are conceivable, that learning is stimulated by a sense of future possibility and by a sense of what might be.”

-Maxine Greene

STUDENT TEACHING IN WALES

Going, going, gone! Six students from the Quad Inclusive Elementary Education Program departed for Wales on October 25th. They are attending the University of Wales, Newport, as international exchange students completing their second student teaching placement in elementary schools in the town of Caerleon. Nazareth College has had a partnership with the University of Wales for nearly ten years. Every Spring semester we look forward to hosting students who come to do their student teaching through Nazareth and the Manor School in Honeoye Falls. Nazareth students and those from Wales all agree that the wider world view that

results from their experiences will impact their teaching for years to come. □



Kelcey O’Sullivan, Keddy Todd, Tara Ettis, Megan Whipple, Leah Bergan, Katie Gravelle



Golden Flyer visits with Preschoolers

GOVERNOR’S SUMMIT A SUCCESS

On October 10, Nazareth College hosted the New York State Governor’s Summit on School Engagement and Dropout Prevention. The summit was a call to action to meet the challenge to provide “wrap-around supports” for youth in our region, ensuring success in education and life. Governor Patterson, as well as many educators and community leaders came together to begin the dialogue to answer the call.

URBAN EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

“Building on School, Family and Community” was the topic of discussion at the 2008 Helen C. and Walter Cooper Urban Education Institute, October 16-18 at Nazareth College. Noted author and Educator, Vivian Gussin Paley was the Keynote Speaker.

“Homogeneity is fine in a bottle of milk, but in the classroom it diminishes the curiosity that ignites discovery.”

-Vivian Paley

WHAT'S NEW?

The need for more Spanish-English bilingual educators continues to grow according to the New York State Department of Education, and Nazareth College is helping to answer that call by offering a newly added incentive for Nazareth's bilingual education certification program. The 15-credit hour **Bilingual Extension (BE) Program** at Nazareth College has been accepted by the New York State Department of Education's Intensive Teacher Institute (ITI), which funds tuition support for teachers who need to earn a bilingual extension for their New York State Certification. The ITI will give teachers \$900 per class for tuition support, and Nazareth has agreed to provide additional tuition funding to any student accepted into the ITI-Bilingual Extension program. "This is exciting news for Nazareth's Bilingual Extension Program—it means that a student can take the entire

15-credit program for less than the cost of one graduate level class," said **Cindy McPhail**, director of Nazareth's Graduate TESOL program and Bilingual Extension Program. "Urban school districts often have a difficult time filling bilingual positions, and teachers wanting to get the certification don't always know where to turn. Nazareth is excited to offer this support for its program."



Nazareth College is pleased to announce the TESOL for International Educators (ITSL) Program, a new and unique master's degree program. This TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program is specifically for students who wish to learn to teach English abroad or in private schools and programs in the U.S. "The new TESOL for International Educators program will develop in students a

deep understanding of the theoretical, practical, and cultural concerns of teaching English around the world," said Timothy Glander, dean of Nazareth's School of Education. "The program will attract both international and U.S. students who desire to teach English to learners at a variety of developmental levels and ages. There are virtually no other programs like this in our region, and it responds to a significant educational need in our local and international communities."



The School of Education has received approval from New York State Department of Education to add the following content areas to the M.S.E.d. Inclusive Adolescence Program: Chemistry, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Graduate Students may now pursue these areas of certification in addition to the many options that currently exist.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS OFFER UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON TEACHING

Leeds Met in England and the Academié de Montpellier, France, invited **Kate DaBoli-Lavoie** and **Mary Skvorak** to make a presentation at Leeds Met's annual Professional Development Festival, in early September. Titled, "International Partnerships: A Case Study in Education", the presentation featured commonalities shared in the field of education and how tri-lateral partnership can be developed with universities in different countries. Participants agreed on the necessity for continued personal investment, sharing



Kate and Mary were determined to set foot in the Mediterranean Sea, despite a busy workday.

and envisioning ways to assure participating education students' optimum experience while far away from home. Three graduate students, **Lynn Lubecki**, **Charles Brooks** and **Jessica Moy** will be Nazareth's first student teachers at Leeds Met. For Nazareth, Academié de Montpellier is a new partner. Visiting there was fruitful and exciting; an agreement holds promise for yet another venue for the student teachers in the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education. ■

FULBRIGHT PROMISES TO FIND SOME BOOKS

Poonam Dev, associate professor of Education in the Department of Social and Psychological Foundations was the recipient of a Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad grant this past summer. Little did she know that her experience would lead to building a library! **Dev's** five weeks in South Africa gave her an enriching glimpse into the history of, and current issues in educational and social systems in South Africa. But, it also gave her a little bit more. **Dev**

visited a school in the township of Mamelodi, near Pretoria. There, she notes, she was impressed by how engaged the students were and how much the teachers were able to accomplish with so few resources. The school is in a very poor area and the buildings were made of plywood and tin. The school has enrolled 600 students in grades 1-6, but their library had barely 80 books. "I promised the librarian that I'd find some children's

books to send them." **Dev** wasted no time upon returning to Naz. She engaged the Intercultural Experiences Committee in the SoE which has decided to adopt the Mamelodi school library. Currently, the committee is collecting any fiction or non-fiction books, used or new, paper only, suitable for children in Pre-K through grade 6. "We'll get them shipped, if the community gets us the books," **Dev** comments. We are confident that our community will respond to the need. ■



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The School of Education is pleased to announce

Kerry Dunn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, has been appointed Program Director for the Graduate Inclusive Childhood Education Programs. Kerry began her new position in August.

Shannon Elliott, Ed.D., Associate Professor in the College of Arts & Sciences has been appointed Program Director for Art Education filling the shoes of **Karen Trickey** who retired this past summer.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY



Meg Callahan, Ph.D., State University of New York at Buffalo; Ed. M., State University of New York at Buffalo; B.A., University of Notre Dame, assistant professor, joins the Department of Adolescence

Education. Callahan will teach Psychology of Adolescence in School and Community and Language Literacy.

Rui Cheng, Ph.D., University of South Florida; M.A., Capital Normal University; B.A., Shanxi University, assistant professor, joins the Department of Language, Literacy & Technology as director of the new TESOL for International Educators Program.



Robert Humphrey, Ph.D., Cornell University expected May, 2009; M.S. Ed., SUNY College at Cortland; B.S., SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, instructor, joins the

Department of Adolescence Education.

Arlene Leach-Bizari, M.S., Ed, Nazareth College; B.A., Regis College, visiting instructor, joins the Department of Social & Psychological Foundations in a full-time capacity.



Jacquelyn Smith, M.S. Ed., Nazareth College; B.A., Allegheny College, visiting instructor, joins the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education.



Ellen Contopidis, **Kate DaBoll-Lavoie**, **Deana Darling**, and **Kerry Dunn** from the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education presented "Meaningful Collaboration to Find Evidence of Enhancing 1-6 Student Learning: A Dialogue about the Rocky Road of Research" at the New York State Association of Teacher Educators/ New York State Colleges for Teacher Education fall conference in Albany, New York. They have also had a presentation accepted for the Association of Teacher Educators annual conference in Dallas, Texas entitled, "Assessing Teacher Impact on the Whole Child: Preparing Teachers for the Communities They Will Serve."

Kate DaBoll-Lavoie, chair of the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education, has recently been elected to the position of President-Elect of the New York State Colleges for Teacher Education, a professional association representing New York State institutions of higher education who prepare teachers and other professional educators. Kate has also been appointed to the Advisory Panel of the Teacher Quality Research Center.

Nancy Niemi attended the National Council of Research on Women conference in October. She will be presenting at the Research on Women in Education conference in Washington, D.C. in November: "Questioning the Relationship between Schooling and Gender Equity Outside Schooling."

Prof. **Rich Hartmann**, **Doot Bokelman**, and **Mitch Messina** joined **Cathy Sweet's** class of graduate art education students for three interdisciplinary studio workshops. Using authentic mineral based paints and bases, students created oil paintings, fresco, and raku ceramics. The students wrote integrated studio-based curricula for grades K-12 and presented their work at the NYSATA state conference in the fall.

This past summer **Shirley Sommers** presented at the American Educational Research Association, and at the GEAR UP New York Regional Conference in May. Shirley also participated in the Summer Youth Employment Program mock interviews and hiring process sponsored by Rochester Works.

Rachel Whitcomb, director of Undergraduate Music Education and Assistant Professor of Music, was recently invited to serve on the editorial board of the Music Educators Journal, a national professional journal published by MENC: The National Association for Music Education.

Dean Timothy Glander has been appointed to the "Regents Work Group on Improving the Preparation of Teachers for Urban Education." The charge of this newly formed Work Group is to examine the New York State Education Department's "requirements for teacher preparation and professional development with the goal of strengthening those requirements to better serve the needs of teachers and students in urban schools." In September 2008, **Glander** chaired a site visit team for the Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Shawgi Tell reviewed: "Getting Choice Right: Ensuring Equity and Efficiency in Education Policy," by Julian Betts & Tom Loveless (Eds.). **Tell 's** review was published in The Journal of Negro Education, and appeared in Vol. 77, No. 1, Winter 2008 issue.

Several faculty in the SoE had the opportunity to visit their native country this summer. **Shawgi Tell** visited Jordan. **Shirley Sommers** spent a few weeks in South Africa.



Shawgi Tell

Jennie Schaff was recently featured as "Mom of the Week" in the Brighton-Pittsford Post. In addition, over the summer Jennie accompanied twenty Nazareth students to Germany and Poland to study the Holocaust and its implications for today's world. She participated in March of Remembrance and Hope, an international program that brings people together from various faiths, races, and parts of the world. The MRH group shared their reflections and thanked the Nazareth Community and their supporters in a moving presentation this fall.

"To remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all."

-Elie Wiesel

Did You Know...?

- Approximately one-third of Nazareth undergraduates are enrolled in teacher education programs.
- More than 800 graduate students register for education classes each semester.
- The School of Education offers over 40 teacher certification options.

Bill Cala returned from his bi-annual trip to Kenya and Tanzania at the end of June. Bill started Joining Hearts and Hands with his wife Joanne in the Fall of 2005. Since that time they have built 13 classrooms, 3 kitchens, countless latrines, and a 40,000 liter water collection tank in Western Kenya. In addition to construction, they start micro-businesses in rural Kenya to help Kenyans become self-sufficient. Three Income Generating Learning Activities (IGLA) have been started by the Calas (tailoring, dairy goat breeding and horticulture). Two new tailoring projects are currently in the planning stages. Knowing that education is truly the ticket out of poverty, Joining Hearts and Hands provides secondary school scholarships to AIDS orphans. Bill and Joanne feel that this is among the most important of their activities. Currently, 67 children are getting their education through Joining Hearts and Hands. Free public education is not yet a reality in Kenya. Without these scholarships, there would be no way for poor rural farmers who earn less than \$700 a year to

afford to send their children to school, thus continuing the cycle of poverty. Thanks to the generosity of individuals in the Greater Rochester Community, the tuition (including room and board) of \$400 per year for 4 years is providing hope for Africa's future. If you would like more information, including a brochure on how you can help or if you would like to sponsor a child's education for the upcoming school year which starts the first week in January, please contact Bill @ wcala9@naz.edu, 389-2946 or stop by his office at GAC 255.



William and Joanne Cala, with Sister Leonia, Mother Superior of the Sisters of Usambara. An alum, Sister Leonia runs the Mother House and activities at Kwamdolwa in Kurogwe, Tanzania

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Meredith Kahl recently joined the SoE team. A graduate of Nazareth with a BA in English, Meredith will provide administrative support to SoE faculty and staff.

NEW ADDITION

Rachel Bailey-Jones, assistant professor, in the Department of Social & Psychological Foundations, and her husband, welcomed baby Lena into the world on November 4th. Congratulations, Rachel!

REGIONAL SCHOOL CONCEPT GAINS MOMENTUM

The School of Education, under the direction of **Bill Cala**, is examining the possibility of the development of a regional Pre-K through 12 public school that would consist of children from the City of Rochester and the suburbs. The school would be a partnership between Nazareth College and the participating school districts. The new design of the school intends to break up the concentration of poverty and focus on the important issues of social justice, democracy in action, service to community, problem solving, creativity, inquiry and human dignity.

On September 22nd Cala presided over a forum on the concept to a full-house audience at the Linehan Chapel. Initial planning team meetings were held on October 2 and 6 in the Golisano Academic Center. Over 100 people have volunteered to participate in the planning and development of the concept. Participants include many Nazareth Faculty members from various departments across the college as well as incredible talent from the Greater Rochester Area. To learn more about this exciting project, contact Bill at wcala9@naz.edu. ■



Standing beside bust of John Dewey: William Cala and Mary Doyle, Director of School Innovation for RCSD, during a statewide meeting on Partnerships between Universities and P-K/12 Schools.

KUDOS ALUMS/STUDENTS

Nazareth Alumnus,



Joe Feeney, '07 ACCESS was featured in a Democrat and Chronicle op-ed article discussing changing careers. After several successful

years in business, Feeney describes the joys and challenges of returning to school to follow his passion...teaching.

Karon Jackson, '82 was recently honored at the Rochester Education Foundation Partnership Awards Dinner for making a difference in the lives of RCSD students. Karon attended School 4 as a child and is now principal of this elementary school. Congratulations, Karon!

Casey Powell, '07 graduate has been awarded a Spanish Government Teaching Grant for 2008-2009. She is currently a Fulbright Scholar in Germany and

will be returning to Europe next year to teach English in Extremadura.

Alice Pratt retired music educator from the RCSD, has joined the music education faculty at Nazareth College this year as a supervisor for student teachers. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

Lynn Lubecki, Department of Social & Psychological Foundations of Education, graduate assistant, worked over the summer to draft a guide to urban education resources. The guide also highlighted ongoing urban education initiatives managed through SoE. ■

COUNCIL for EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

In spring of 2007, Nazareth started a student chapter for the Council for Exceptional Children. Under the advisement of **Shanna Jamanis**. The nationally recognized council's goals include helping to broaden understanding of diversity at Nazareth and to provide professional programs for I.C.S.

students seeking to improve opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Membership is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. ■

"Teachers should attempt to live part of their dreams within their educational space."

- Paulo Freire

SAVE THE DATE...

- Fall Teaching Job Fair, Sponsored by Rochester Area Career Development Association, Friday, December 5th, 3:30 PM-6 PM, Shults Center: Gym
- Interested in Graduate Study at Nazareth College?
Join us for a Graduate Information Session, Thursday, January 8th, 6PM, Shults Center Forum
- Join us in welcoming five students from the Institute Universitaire de Formation des Maitres in Montpellier, France during the month of January . They are the School of Education's first student teacher visitors from France
- Mark your calendar, for an informative presentation address by eminent scholar in urban education, Dr. J. Mahiri, March 27 & 28. Further details forthcoming.
- 4th Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival, Saturday, April 4th , 10 AM-5 PM, Nazareth Campus, for more information and list of national authors attending festival, www.tbflive.org

www.naz.edu

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