

# NEWS & PERSPECTIVES

from the School of Education

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## A WELCOME FROM THE DEAN



I am very pleased to report that at the February 27, 2009 Nazareth College Faculty Meeting, the faculty voted to approve a proposal to create an Education Major at the undergraduate level! For many years, the School of Education has offered a very popular and rigorous 39 credit hour program leading to four teaching certificates in Childhood/Middle School Education and

Teaching Students with Disabilities at the undergraduate level. This program had not been recognized as an academic major, however, which tended to deemphasize this important part of teacher education candidates' experience at Nazareth College. Now with the identification of this program as an academic major, students will more thoroughly see themselves as people who are preparing to be teachers. Students will still be required to have a major in the liberal arts and sciences, which is appropriately regarded as a distinguishing feature of the teacher education experience at Nazareth College. But this change will put their

professional teacher education coursework on equal footing with their liberal arts and sciences coursework, thus sending a strong message of the value of both areas to their educational experience and preparation. A special thanks to **Kate DaBoll-Lavoie**, Chair of the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education, for her skillful leadership in this effort.

The consequences of this change will likely have impact for years to come. Please read about other important School of Education developments in this latest issue of *SoE News and Perspectives!*

Sincerely,

Timothy Glander, Dean  
School of Education

### Inside this Issue.....

- Teen Book Festival
- What's Gearing Up?
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Alum News
- Faculty/Staff News

... and more ...

## SoE PARTNERS WITH RIT

Efforts to enhance the talent pool of math and science educators in the Rochester region have resulted in a collaboration between **Nazareth College and Rochester Institute of Technology**. Nazareth College President **Daan Braveman** and RIT President Bill Destler approved an articulation agreement between the

two institutions that enables qualified undergraduate students at RIT to simultaneously pursue graduate-level coursework at Nazareth College leading toward a Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.). Both presidents formally signed the agreement during a ceremony on *(Continued on page 7)*

## CELEBRATING TEEN READERS AND THE AUTHORS THEY LOVE

Young people, along with their parents, their teachers and their school and community librarians showed up in droves to celebrate the books they love and the authors they admire at the *Fourth Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival* here at Nazareth College on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. In

fact, over 2,500 people were in attendance to meet with nineteen national and international writers. Education students from both the undergraduate and graduate programs served as volunteers at the event. *(Continued on page 3)*

## VOLUNTEERING AT TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL SEALED THE DEAL

When **Mark Ciampa, Amanda DeMaria, Alexa Tarantino, Kristina Vollmer, and AnnMarie Wantke** enrolled in a literacy education course at the start of the spring semester, these students had counted on fifteen weeks worth of interesting reading and challenging conversations regarding how best to teach their middle school and high school students to read. What they had not expected was how deeply moved they would be, personally and professionally, by meeting the authors and witnessing teens interacting with these authors at the Teen Book Festival.

What follows are excerpts of an interview conducted with all five literacy education students shortly after the event.

*Q: What was your favorite part of TBF?*

(K.V.) "It was so amazing to see their [the authors'] personalities. Even though we had read their books, read about them online, and even talked to them on email, to be able hear them talk during the opening panel and in the breakout sessions gave me a whole new appreciation for what they do".

(A.D.) I think the atmosphere was



Left to Right: AnnMarie Wantke, Amanda DeMaria, Kristina Vollmer, Mark Ciampa, Alexa Tarantino

key. It wasn't stuffy or quiet, like bookstores or libraries tend to be. I knew from the moment I walked into the Shults Center, I was walking into something different. I loved to see the popcorn. The music in the gym. The stars on the floor. It truly was a festival.

*Q: Do you think it was motivating to the teens to have direct contact with the authors? Was it motivating for you?*

(A.W.) It was exciting for me personally and professionally to hear a kid say...." I have to go buy this book" or "That book sounds so good." Plus, hearing the authors read aloud made a huge difference. It sealed the deal.

(A.T.) I can see even more clearly now how these books can help me

to relate to my teen students as well. Through discussing these books with my students, they can not only become more critical readers but find that teachers are real people too. The whole experience sealed the deal to be a secondary educator for me.

*Q: What do you want to say to School of Education Newsletter readers?*

( M.C.) Even if you haven't read these books, you should experience the day. I hope school administrators will support using these books in high schools right now because these topics are real. The level of investment in these books is critical – we saw teens engaged.

(A.T.) Going to a festival like this you can see firsthand who the popular authors are. You have to be up to date with your students and how best you can reach them.

(A.D.) Promote young adult literature in your classes – even if you can't read it as part of your curriculum.

ALL: Teachers and their students should go to the festival. We plan on being there again next year. Hopefully, this time with our own students too! ■

## NAZARETH ALUM APPOINTED NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR VICTOR SCHOOLS

Nazareth students are known for their aptitude to excel and go far, and for Nazareth alumna **Dawn Santiago-Marullo '81, '84**, this is no understatement. The education she received from Nazareth, and the inspiration of the professors who taught her, helped her on the road to her current success and new position as superintendent of the Victor Central School District.

"I had several wonderful role models," says Marullo. "They were all so passionate about what they taught. They inspired me to be a better teacher." Some of those role models



**Dawn Santiago-Marullo**

were her two Spanish professors, **Tina Pereda** and **Edward Malinak**. After various teaching jobs she finally took a job as a Spanish teacher at Victor High School beginning an

18 year career. Her love of teaching led from one responsibility to the next as she worked to develop and coordinate the International Baccalaureate Diploma and K-8 Enrichment programs at the Victor schools. Throughout her career Marullo places the experiences she gained from Nazareth to be her most important lessons.

"At Naz, I learned to follow my passion. If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. I've been fortunate to always love what I do." ■

## RESPECTING FAITH TRADITIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Teachers are sometimes unaware of the implications of their students' faith traditions and may inadvertently use practices that could cause a culture clash. The Coordinating Committee of ESOL resources (CCER)- a local, grass roots organization of English to Speakers of Other Languages teachers in the greater Rochester area, Nazareth College TESOL Programs, & The Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue held a Spring 2009 Conference, *Diverse Faith Traditions of English Language Learners: Implications for the Classroom* on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 local area teachers came to Nazareth College to listen to a panel of 6 expert speakers from these faith traditions: Muslim (Arab and non-Arab), Christian (Orthodox and Catholic), Buddhist, and Chinese. Participants learned about how they can be sensitive to holidays and the ways that they are

celebrated, such as fasting; as well as reasons for why some people may feel uncomfortable with commonly celebrated US holidays such as Halloween. The panelists addressed their faith's perspectives on curricular issues such as science, evolution, history and politics. Panelists spoke about issues such as the use of collaborative grouping in team class work as well as expectations regarding clothing. During a question and answer session with the audience, questions were raised about each faith's practices regarding topics such as physical education classes, parent participation in schools and homosexuality. Everyone walked away having learned something new. One teacher noted that the conference "totally exceeded my expectations!" and many commented that they had learned important information relevant to education. ■

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"...totally exceeded my expectations!"

-- Conference Participant

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## TEACHING DIVERSE AND DIGITAL YOUTH



The new Frontier Center for Urban Education, hosted "Teaching Diverse and Digital Youth," a lecture and workshop presented by Jabari Mahiri.

**Jabari Mahiri** Mahiri is an Associate Professor at the University of California at Berkeley who researches the literacy learning of urban youth- particularly African Americans- in schools and out of them.

The Center for Urban Education was created to provide support and

resources for Nazareth students as well as the community of educators in the Rochester area. The CUE hopes to bring more eminent scholars like Mahiri to lecture and provide workshops on effective methods of teaching in urban schools in the future. For more information contact **Shirley Sommers**, Coordinator of Urban Education Initiatives, [ssommer4@naz.edu](mailto:ssommer4@naz.edu). ■

## CELEBRATING TEEN READERS ( from page 1)

The day began with authors arriving in limousines and walking the red carpet into the Shults Center where they put their colorful personalities on display during a panel session. Three 40-minute breakout sessions followed where authors read excerpts from their books and fielded questions from their young fans. To end the afternoon, an autograph signing session took place in the gym, giving teens the opportunity to chat informally with their favorite authors and have their books signed to commemorate an unforgettable day. ■

### Did You Know.....?

Despite the negative impact that the recent economic downturn has had on the demand for K-12 educators, the 2008 American Association for Employment in Education Executive Summary indicates there is a considerable shortage of teacher candidates in fields including special education, science, mathematics, and bilingual education. This is hopeful news for Nazareth teacher education students and graduates, as it is an indication of a very strong job market, especially for those open to the possibility of relocating outside the region. The job prospects for teachers over the next ten years will vary from good to excellent according to the 2008-09 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook. They indicate that most job openings will result from the need to replace the large number of teachers who are expected to retire over the next 5 to 7 years. Job prospects should be better in urban and rural areas than in suburban districts. Many new incentives to attract and retain qualified teachers are springing-up throughout the nation. It is recognized that we must invest in our teachers if we wish to invest in our children.

## NAZARETH PIONEERS IN NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Research shows that the quality of the classroom teacher is the single most school-related factor in raising student achievement (NBPTS, 2008); and preparing quality teachers is at the heart of Nazareth College's School of Education. Working in partnership with local teaching centers, the School of Education has developed a regional support group for practicing educators seeking National Board Teaching Certification (NBTC).

National Board Teaching Certification is a voluntary certification level in which teachers engage in a 1 to 3-year long process of professional development, reflection, and portfolio writing.

As of 2008, less than 2% of all

teachers in the United States have received this national certification. Both the Rochester Teachers' Association and the Fairport Teachers' Center have established candidate support groups. What began as small pockets of teachers seeking National Certification here and throughout the state has now turned into a greater movement of organized collaboration. Committed to the ideal of enhancing teacher quality, Nazareth was eager to provide the centralized location, faculty support, and technical assistance for this worthwhile professional development opportunity. It is through this partnership of those valuing the teacher as a professional that the Nazareth based

National Board Candidate Support Group began this fall.

Nazareth faculty member and support provider, **Deana Darling** (MS, 1995) observed, "It is amazing to see the dedication of these positive and motivated teachers. With all of their personal and professional responsibilities, they come together to share, grow and learn. Each one will tell you that it is to become a better teacher for their students. This is professional development at its best."

For additional information contact Trudy Bantle at [trudy\\_bantle@fairport.monroe.edu](mailto:trudy_bantle@fairport.monroe.edu) or Deana Darling at [ddarlin@naz.edu](mailto:ddarlin@naz.edu). ■

## BUILDING, ADVOCATING AND SUPPORTING SAFE SCHOOLS FOR KIDS

On April 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Nazareth hosted the lecture, "Becoming Visible in the Workplace: Changing Times for Gays and Lesbians," featuring **Julianna Sykes**, Nazareth alumnus and current principal of Thousand Oaks Elementary School

In Berkeley, CA. The lecture focused on creating safe classroom spaces for gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) students. Sykes provided recommendations on how teachers can build, advocate for, and support safe schools including

how to be a straight ally, use of inclusive language, and addressing issues of bullying or harassment related to sexual orientation. ■

## TAPAS AND TOPICS: STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS WITH OUR STUDENTS

"Tapas and Topics" began as the faculty in the graduate inclusive childhood program were eager to find ways to enrich their students' experiences beyond the walls of the classrooms and structure of the courses. This use of a "Tapas and Topics" venue allows us to engage in discussions about hot topics in education and enduring issues while sharing food and thoughts about the subject. Our first "Tapas and Topics" occurred in October. Together, graduate students and

full and part time faculty viewed a movie, "Vote for Me," about a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class in China that attempts to vote for a class president according to how they view the United States democratic process. This provocative film allowed for great discussions and addressed many social issues that impact education. The spring "Tapas and Topics" participants viewed, "Autism: the Musical," and explored issues of Autism in today's society through the multiple perspectives that were demon-

strated in the film. We invite Graduate students to join these discussions. It provides additional opportunities to be connected to Nazareth in a venue for provocative conversation and learning beyond the classroom walls. ■

"What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all of its children."

-John Dewey, *School and Society*, 1899.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the following SoE Faculty for recent promotions:

**Poonam Dev** -Professor,

**David McGough** -Associate Professor, both in the Department of Social & Psychological Foundations of Education

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY



**Brian Bailey, Ph.D.**, University of Rochester expected May, 2009; M.S., Nazareth College; B.S., Cornell University,

instructor, will join the Department of Adolescence Education in the Fall.

**Maria Baldassarre-Hopkins, Ph.D.**, State University of New York at Buffalo expected September 2009; M.S., Ed; B.A., State University of New York at Buffalo, visiting instructor, joins the Department of Language, Literacy & Technology.



**Meg Callahan** and **Shanna Jamanis** will be featured speakers at the May 14th SoE Spring Lecture Series. "Multimodal Composition: The Power of the Digital Pen" by Callahan and "The Social Construction of Autism Spectrum Disorder" by Jamanis will be the topics of discussion.

**William Cala** returned from another successful trip to Kenya and Tanzania as part of "Joining Hearts and Hands," an organization that Cala and his wife started in 2005. In March, **Rui Cheng** presented a workshop at Nazareth, "Using technology to Teach Asian Studies." Also, Cheng presented at CALICO (The Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium) at Arizona State University, "The Role of Computer-Mediated Scaffolding in Academic Literacy Development," and "Virtual Spaces: Employing a Synchronous Online Classroom to Facilitate Student Engagement in Online Learning," for publication at the International Review of Research on Open and Distance Learning.

**Ellen Contopidis** and students in her Introduction to Diverse Learners and Learning class welcomed School #36 sixth graders and their parents to Nazareth for a College Day workshop in April. In February **Kate DaBoll-Lavoie** and **Kerry Dunn** presented, "Accountability for Our Claims: Exploring the Relationship between our Teacher Education Graduates and 1-6 Student Learning," at the Teacher Education Accreditation Council's (TEAC) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. DaBoll-Lavoie and Dunn will also present "Assessing Teacher Impact on the Whole Child: Preparing Teachers for the Communities They Will Serve," at the Association of Teacher Educators' (ATE) Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

**Shannon Elliott** and **Cathy Sweet** were panelists on Arts Friday (with Peter Iglinski WXXI in February ). They joined Sarah Lentini of the Arts and Cultural Council to respond to President Obama's platform on the arts. They discussed the impact of the arts on children and their learning and health.

**Shanna Jamanis** presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's 2009 Convention and Expo in Seattle, WA in April. Two counselors from Penfield Central Schools and Jamanis presented, "The Penfield Project: Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders." In addition, Jamanis will be presenting this model at the International Association of Special Education biennial conference in Alicante, Spain in July.

In February, **Jack Langerak**, gave the keynote address at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference at SUNY Geneseo. In March, Langerak conducted two workshops for the Arts-in-Education Statewide Common Ground Conference in Albany: "Taking it higher—AIE and higher education," "Mosquitoes, malaria and art making: Arts-in-education and the third world" (the latter co-presented with Glenn McClure). **Nancy Niemi** presented, "Portrayal of Teachers in Children's Fiction," and **Shawgi Tell**, presented "Charter Schools and the War of Terror" at the 38th Annual Meeting of the New York State Foundations of Education Association in March at Siena College. **Tell** and **Rachel Bailey-Jones** are working on a chapter, to be released in the upcoming months, which addresses issues of sexual identity in the Arab world.

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**NEW ADDITION**

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## THANK YOU!

The Field Placement Services office would like to thank all of the teachers who have welcomed our students into their classrooms this past academic year. The School of Education partners with well over 2000 teachers in area school districts as we place students for student teaching, practicum and observation hours. Please contact us at fieldexp@naz.edu or 585-389-2616 if you are interested in mentoring a Nazareth College student.

## WHAT'S GEARing UP?

Tenth grade students from the BioScience and Health Careers, International Finance, and Global Media Arts High School at Franklin visited Nazareth College campus as part of the Gear Up career awareness initiative. Many Nazareth College students took the students on a campus tour and shared their experiences as college students. This year we have had more than 60 students enrolled in the Foundations course, 204, work with 10th grade students at East High School and the three high schools on the Franklin Campus. Naz students encourage high school students to go to college by strengthening behaviors conducive to college attendance. ■

## BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

When **Poonam Dev**, Professor of Education in the Department of Social and Psychological Foundations traveled to South Africa last summer, as the recipient of a Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad grant, she visited the township of Mamelodi in South Africa. There she observed that the library was in desperate need of books. Upon returning to Nazareth, Dev solicited the support of the Intercultural Experiences Committee in the SoE, who assisted in the collection of fiction and non-fiction books. Over 800 books were shipped. Dev notes, "The books we sent were received with immense gratitude." ■



Thank you from Meetse A Bophelo Primary School in Mamelodi, South Africa

## TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S TEACHERS

The halls of Nazareth College were buzzing with activity on an ordinarily quiet early-January day as over one hundred local high school and college students, their teachers and administrators came together for the annual Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers Career Development Day. TSTT is a program whose mission and goals are "To recruit, mentor and place economically-challenged and culturally-diverse high school students through college to employment as teachers and leaders who will inspire and strengthen their communities." Nazareth's Dean of the School of Education, **Timothy Glander** welcomed participants and challenged students to take advantage of the many resources TSTT provides. Students and teachers attended hands-on workshops throughout the day on topics including: job shadowing, mock interviewing, the college admissions process, and surviving college. In April, Nazareth's TSTT students had the opportunity to work with

**Ellen Contopidis**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Inclusive Childhood Education, and her class of ambassadors to bring School #36 sixth-graders and their parents to the campus. The objective was to encourage kids in sixth grade to begin thinking about college and teaching opportunities at a young age, helping them to realize that the goal is within their reach. For more information on TSTT, contact: [Nidia\\_Montalvo@BOCES.monroe.edu](mailto:Nidia_Montalvo@BOCES.monroe.edu) or visit: [www.tstt.org](http://www.tstt.org).

"I touch the future. I teach."

- Christa McAuliffe

## KAPPA DELTA PI

On April 11th, **President Daan Braveman** and guest speaker, **Jody Siegle**, Executive Director, Monroe County School Boards Association welcomed 36 new students into Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society. The Society's purpose is to promote excellence in education by offering membership to graduate and undergraduate students who demonstrate excellence in the field of education. A reception for students and their guests was held immediately following the ceremony. Special thanks to **Linda Bice** and **Mort Stein**, advisors, and **Meredith Kahl** for all of their efforts and planning to make the induction a success.



**SoE PARTNERS WITH RIT** *(from page 1)*

April 27 at Nazareth. Under this new arrangement, qualified students in their final year of undergraduate studies at RIT in academic disciplines related to science or engineering have the option to enroll in one of Nazareth's M.S.Ed. programs, allowing students to pursue up to nine graduate credits during that period. Upon graduation from RIT, students continue their studies at Nazareth with expectations of earning initial teacher certification in Inclusive Early Childhood, Childhood, or Adolescence Education. "This agreement represents a creative way for the two schools to address the national and regional need for well prepared math and science teachers at the primary and secondary levels," says **Braveman**. "We have designed a program that meets the quality standards of both institutions and at the same time enables participating students to complete two degrees in a shorter period of time. I am very excited about this partnership and its prospects for making a difference both regionally and nationally." Adds Destler, "Our nation risks

losing its global advantage if we don't do a better job of inspiring children to excel in math and science. This agreement allows our best and brightest college students to strongly consider careers in education, ultimately providing the mentorship that will undoubtedly inspire a new generation to tap into their unlimited potential." The collaboration between Nazareth College and RIT was first proposed by the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Math and Science. **Charles Brown**, the center's executive director, says the agreement is a critical step toward developing and delivering programs that increase the quality and quantity of the student talent pool pursuing curricula in math, science and related technical fields. The articulation agreement between Nazareth College and RIT takes effect during the 2009-2010 academic year. **Pat Huntington**, Director of Academic Support Services for SoE, led the Nazareth team that worked on the articulation agreement and will serve as the point person for this new collaboration. ■

RIT President Bill Destler and Nazareth College President Daan Braveman signing articulation agreement



**WIFE, MOTHER,  
VOLUNTEER...  
TRAILBLAZER**

**Mildred Boylan '42** was the first alumna to set up a charitable gift annuity. If you would like more information on planned giving opportunities at Nazareth College, contact: Melissa Head, Associate Director of Major Gifts & Planned Giving, 585-389-2179, mhead9@naz.edu.

**NAZARETH ALUMNA  
EARNS DISTINCTION  
AWARD**

Nazareth College is pleased to announce that one of its alumni, **Cindy Lowenguth**, was recently recognized at the CLCU (Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities) 2009 Alumni Hall of Distinction Awards Ceremony. She was one of 21 graduates of independent colleges and universities throughout New York that were honored. The award focuses on inspirational K-12 school educators and school leaders who bring attention to the pivotal role that private colleges and universities play in preparing New York State's teachers. ■

**JOIN US IN  
CONGRATULATING...**

**Tarin Baxter**, (anticipated 5/09, BA, French, Education) who has recently received word that she was selected for a French Government Teaching Assistantship for 2009-2010. She will be residing in the Aix-Marseille region. Congratulations, Tarin!

**LITERACY SHAPED by TECHNOLOGY**

In LST 301, Language and Literacy Development, students explore the ways in which technology informs our concepts of literacy. In order to address this theme, Professor **Meg Callahan** has students create a literacy podcast as a final project for the course, rather than writing a traditional research paper. The students use material from two voice-recorded interviews- one with a subject of their course, and the other with a student from East High School's Teaching and Learning

Institute (TLI). The students then create an audio composition that interweaves content from the interviews with a voice-over that ties them together with concepts of the course. In the end, students usually find that audio composing differs greatly from traditional writing. Callahan hopes that this will give them food for thought as they consider how literacy continues to shape, and is in turn shaped by, the technologies in our culture and classrooms. ■

## SAVE THE DATES...

- Graduate Information Session, Wednesday, May 28th, 6PM, Shults Center Forum
- The SoE presents: Spring Lecture Series, Join us for wine & cheese and two provocative 20 minute lectures, Thursday, May 14th, 6:30PM -8:30PM, Colie's Cafe
- Reunion Weekend 2009, May 29-31  
visit: [www.naz.edu/reunion2009](http://www.naz.edu/reunion2009)
- National Board Certification Workshop: "Explore and Celebrate," May 20th, 4PM - 6:30 PM, Shults Center Forum
- New Graduate Student Orientation and Advisement Session, Saturday, June 20th, Nazareth College
- Teaching, Learning & Technology Conference, August 4-6, Nazareth College, visit: <http://its.monroe.edu/conference>
- "Learning & Leading with Courage, Competence & Care," International Alliance for Invitational Education World Conference, October 1-3, 2009, Woodcliff Lodge, Fairport, New York. Featured Speaker: Tim Cusack  
Contact Mary Connery  
([Mary\\_Connery@fairport.monroe.edu](mailto:Mary_Connery@fairport.monroe.edu))

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