

Friends of Detectives

Science Education Partnership Award

Winter 2004

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the *Detectives in the Classroom* curriculum.

I would like to share some great news. As you may know, *Detectives* is funded by a Science Education Partnership Award from the National Institutes of Health. The 2001-2003 Phase I award was to create, field-test, and post the curriculum on the internet. This past September, we learned that we had been awarded a 3-year Phase II grant for the dissemination of *Detectives*.

We plan to disseminate *Detectives* to a wider audience by doing the following:

- Continuing to advocate for and preparing middle school science teachers to teach *Detectives*,
- Advocating for and preparing teachers in a wider range of grades (middle and high school) and disciplines (science, mathematics, and health) to teach *Detectives*,
- Advocating for and preparing teachers to teach *Detectives* in alternative educational venues (after-school and weekend programs, summer enrichment camps and workshops, homeschool settings, and trips to science centers and museums),
- Establishing Investigation Development Teams to update and create new *Detectives'* investigations,
- Updating, expanding, evaluating, and revising our *Detectives'* web site, and
- Continuing to evaluate *Detectives'* effectiveness in increasing students' interest in science, fundamental abilities in science as inquiry, scientific literacy, and knowledge of epidemiology.

If you would like to participate in any of the above activities, please give us a call. Your comments, suggestions, and participation are always welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy this update and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Mark

Field-Testing Team's Final Workshop

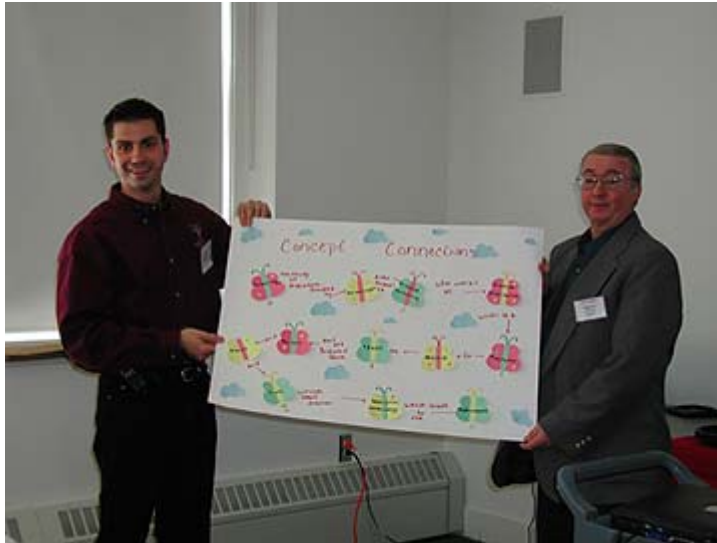
On April 25, 2003, the Field-Testing Team attended its fifth and final workshop at Montclair State University. Many special guests attended, including the University's president Dr. Susan Cole.



The members of the Field Testing Team shown in the picture above are science teachers from the Paterson Public School (PS) District.

Front row from left to right: Rosa Kopic PS # 7; Lucy Mankovich PS # 4; Lynn Tarant PS # 9; Dr. Susan Cole, President Montclair State University; Mary McClam PS # 12; Esperanza Anastasio, Science Resource Teacher, Jani De Santis, Project Coordinator, *Detectives in the Classroom*. Back row from left to right: Paul Healy, Health and Related Professions Academy; Donna Kerwien PS # 21; John Super, Health and Related Professions Academy; Debra Falek PS # 7; Dr. Mark Kaelin, Project Director, *Detectives in the Classroom*; Veva Tronci PS # 24.

The workshop began with a discussion of the challenges of teaching *Detectives* and how each of the teachers addressed those challenges. We then reviewed the investigations in the fifth and final module. These investigations prepare students to answer the curriculum's 5th Essential Question: *Did the disease prevention strategy work?* and develop the Enduring Understanding: *The effectiveness of a strategy can be evaluated by making and comparing rates of disease in populations of people who were and were not exposed to the strategy. Costs, trade-offs, and alternative strategies must also be considered.*



John Super and Paul Healy, from the Health and Related Professions Academy (HARP), describe their students' experience creating a concept map at the April 25th Field-Testing Team Workshop.

Post-Testing

Post-testing of students was completed by the end of June. Jani De Santis, Project Coordinator, along with Graduate Assistant, Laura Dunn, and Student Assistant, Mary Rossi, visited eighteen schools in the district and administered the post-test to more than 1,200 students in 53 control and experimental group classes.



At present, Lyn Kimbrough, Paterson School District MIS Supervisor, is merging our database with the district's demographic database. Lyn will remove all personal identifiers before returning it to us for analysis.

Web Site Update

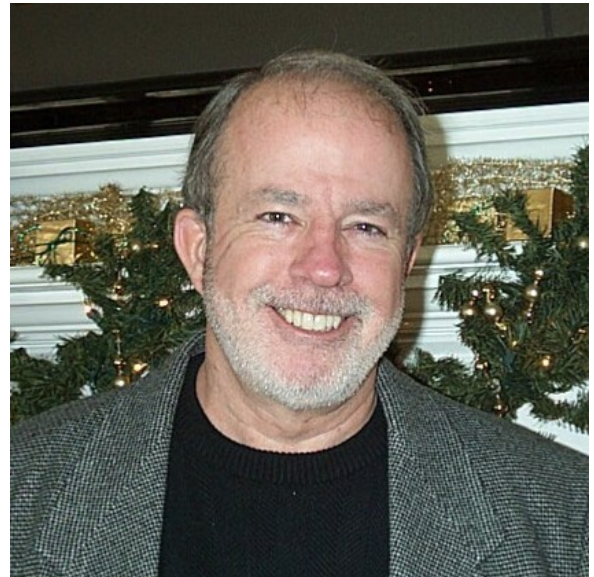


We would like to welcome and introduce John Huebner now serving on the project team as our Education Technology Consultant. Please visit the *Detectives in the Classroom*, at www.montclair.edu/detectives, click on each of the five major menu items, and see what John has done. Among the biggest challenges has been creating a user-friendly way of opening the PowerPoint presentations in “notes view” via different browsers.

An Alternative Educational Venue

One of the ways we plan to disseminate *Detectives* to a wider audience is to advocate the curriculum to be taught in what we call alternative educational venues. We envision these venues including after-school and weekend programs, summer enrichment camps and workshops, homeschool settings, and trips to science centers and museums.

We found the experience of Winston Conway Link, mathematics professor at the Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana, encouraging. You can learn more about Conway’s experience by visiting our web site at <http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/presentation/AboutDetectives.htm> and clicking on “A Note from Louisiana.”



Articles and Publications

An important aspect of dissemination is to share our curriculum development experiences with our teaching colleagues. The following articles and publications have been written by us or about us:

Manuscript: “How Do We Know Students Know?”

While Wendy and Mark created the original *Concept Connections* investigations, Lynn Tarant, of School 9, supplemented the classroom activity with a homework assignment and, based on the field-testing team teachers’ feedback, expanded it further by adding a quiz component to the investigation. Lynn recently described this experience in a manuscript that is being considered for publication in the July 2004 edition of *ENC* (Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science Education) *Focus*, dealing with graphic organizers.

Articles

Epidemiology, Science as Inquiry, and Scientific Literacy, Science Scope, November 2003.
http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/presentation/ScienceScope_1.htm

Epidemiology, Health Literacy, and Health Education, American Journal of Health Education,
November / December 2002. http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/presentation/AJHE_1.html

Greater than the Sum of Their Individual Effects, Synergy: The Newsletter of the New Jersey
Network for Educational Renewal, Volume 11, Number 1, Fall 2003.
<http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/presentation/Synergy.htm>

Insight, Insight Online: A Publication for Employees of Montclair State University, November
2003. <http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/presentation/insight/Insight11-03-03.htm>

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For technical questions about the *Detectives in the Classroom* web site
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