A Letter from the Chair

After being here for twelve years, it is my turn to step up and serve the students, staff, faculty and graduate assistants that make SASE one of the vibrant and active departments within the College of Education and Human Services.

You’ll find SASE part-time as well as full-time faculty members engaged in a variety of projects — including administering grants, orchestrating classroom-based research, reexamining programs and courses, leading professional development in partner schools, rethinking performance assessments and being active members on campus college and university committees.

My office door is always open (if on occasion only metaphorically) and I invite those of you whom I have not yet met to come introduce yourself. It is an exciting time of renewal and I encourage everyone to step up their game and become more involved. After all, when it comes to MSU and SASE in particular, “It’s all here,” isn’t it?

—Dr. Vanessa Domine

New SASE Newsletter

This fall, the RePPriSE grant program in inclusive iSTEM here at MSU will be coming out with a project newsletter.

Each semester, it will feature spotlights on the exciting activities teachers at their partner school are conducting in their classrooms, current news in inclusive and STEM education, and information on the concept of inclusive iSTEM.

The newsletter will be available to MSU faculty and staff through the Department of Secondary and Special Education (SASE) listserv and to students and community partners through the program’s blog: www.inclusive-istem.com.

You can also find a copy in this issue of the SASE newsletter as an insert.

Any questions about the iSTEM program can be sent to Dr. Jennifer Goeke at goekej@mail.montclair.edu.

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SASE Spotlight: New Faculty, Dr. Susan

The Department of Secondary and Special Education is pleased to welcome one of their newest faculty members, **Dr. Susan Baglieri**.

Dr. Baglieri previously attended Columbia University’s Teachers College where she received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching: Learning Disabilities.

Prior to becoming a professor here at MSU, Dr. Baglieri was a faculty member at Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus for seven years. Dr. Baglieri’s focus is on teacher preparation in inclusive settings, especially in urban areas.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Baglieri is also the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Teachers of Students with Disabilities Certificate.

You can find some of Dr. Baglieri’s articles in journals such as Remedial and Special Education, and Diversity: A Reader and Teachers College Record.

The Department of Secondary and Special Education is very lucky to have such an accomplished and talented faculty member, and we are looking forward to seeing her grow with the University.

SASE Professors Receive Grant from WIPRO

**Dr. Emily Klein** and **Dr. Monica Taylor** (SASE), along with Mika Munakata, Jackie Willis, and Colette Killian of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSAM), were awarded a $1.3 million grant from WIPRO, an IT company based in India.

The grant funds the WIPRO Science Education Fellowship (SEF) program, a 5-year project focused on K12 science teachers from high-needs schools.

Collaborating with the University of Massachusetts—Boston, MSU will coordinate a parallel program in northern New Jersey.

A main objective is to make lasting changes in districts by supporting emerging teacher leadership. Participating teachers engage in a 2-year professional development program. During the first year, teachers work in teams to study their practice through video, observe each other’s classrooms and debrief at team meetings. In the second year, they use this experience to share what they have learned through inquiry-based pedagogies and reflective practice by writing articles, speaking at conferences, running workshops and revisiting curricula.
SASE Class Collaborates with Israel

On Sunday, October 27, a collaborative learning experience took place between MSU here in New Jersey, and Kibbutzim College of Education in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Professor Gene Ciccone’s class (SASE210: Public Purposes of Education: Democracy and Schooling) and Dr. Efrat Harel’s class (Advanced English (online) #14191041114), an English for Academic Purposes course at Kibbutzim College, were able to partake in an international experience helmed by Dr. David Schwarzer, Associate Professor of the Department of Secondary and Special Education at MSU, and Dr. Tina Waldman, the Head of English for Academic Purposes at Kibbutzim College.

In a synchronous meeting using SKYPE, the 2 classes discussed several topics that ranged from customs and lifestyles of college students in both countries, required versus voluntary military duty, and the “American Dream” versus the “Israeli Dream.”

Prior to the Skype meeting, both classes viewed the Academy Award winning film, “Strangers No More” (Karen Goodman, Kirk Simon), which highlights the Bialik-Rogozin School in Tel Aviv.

The school is noteworthy due the large number of refugee children who are enrolled there. Many do not speak Hebrew, have never been to school and have lived through horrific experiences.

Immediately following the group discussions, the students were divided into 10 groups and conducted smaller group discussions via SKYPE with their partners from Israel.

As part of the class, each group comprised from both Israeli and US students will produce a poster that highlights the differences and similarities between the US and Israeli systems of education based on class discussions.

Asynchronous meetings are scheduled using a NING. The group projects will be presented on the final session on November 24, and virtual copies will be presented in the ning.

SASE Professor Honored by NAMLE

The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) awarded Dr. Vanessa Domine (SASE) the Meritorious Service Award this past July in recognition of her years of service on the Board of Directors.

Throughout her two elected terms, Dr. Domine served in various roles, including conference program chair, co-editor of the Journal of Media Literacy Education (a publication of NAMLE), and most recently as NAMLE vice president.

The Department of Secondary and Special Education would like to congratulate Dr. Domine on receiving this esteemed award.

Source: namle.net
The New Jersey Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE) will be holding its spring conference at MSU again in 2014.

The conference will be all day on Saturday, March 29, 2014, beginning in the Student Center.

**Dr. Laura Nicosia**, a professor of English and Education courses, and the advisor for the undergraduate English Education program, is a member of the NCTE and runs the event. Attendees earn 7 professional development hours, and choose and attend 3 informative and insightful workshop sessions throughout the day.

This year, special guests include Jeff Hirsch, the winner of the 2014 Muriel Becker Award. He is the author of the frightening and hugely popular *The Eleventh Plague*, and *Magisterium*.

M. Jerry Weiss, a pioneer in the field of adolescent and children’s literacy, will speak about censorship and books for kids. The keynote speaker will be Michael Sokolove, author of *Drama High*.

All are encouraged to attend. Registration for the conference can soon be found at:

http://www.njcte.com/

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**SASE Professors Attend Conference in Israel**

Dr. David Schwarzer, Dr. Susana Juniu, Dr. Katia Goldfarb and Dr. Jaime Grinberg presented at the 6th International Conference on Teacher Education, “Changing Reality Through Education.”

Some focal points were “Local and international reforms in education systems,” and “Glocal (global and local) education.” The conference was organized by the MOFET Institute in Israel, which is the umbrella organization for the study of teacher education in Israel, and includes numerous colleges in the country that prepare teachers and administrators in pre-service and in-service programs (undergraduate and graduate). This includes our partner institution in Tel Aviv, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts.

This international conference attracted many scholars from around the world, including many from European countries and from the US and Canada.

They presented two symposia entitled “Internationalizing Teacher Education and Human Services: A Glocal Critical Overview,” and “Our Future, Our Teachers: A Critical Reading Form Four Disciplinary Stand-Points.”

The sessions were well attended, and some audiences were standing room only. The responses were highly positive and the papers presented generated many invitations for publication.

Above: Dr. Grinberg, Dr. Goldfarb, Dr. Juniu & Dr. Schwarzer
Next semester, MSU is excited to welcome back the Educational Assessment and Intervention Services (EAIS).

The EAIS (a program for children, provided by the College of Education and Human Services) provides children from kindergarten through college with educational evaluations.

Parents or guardians who believe their child (or children) can benefit from an educational evaluation can schedule a series of meetings for their child (or children) to receive a quality evaluation from a student in the LDT-C program at MSU.

For the educational evaluation, an individualized evaluation of a child’s academic strengths and needs is used to develop a plan for improving the student’s skills and success in school.

For the educational and psychological evaluation, an individualized evaluation of a child’s academic strengths and needs, cognitive functioning, social-emotional functioning, and behavior is used to develop a plan for improving the student’s skills and success in school.

The students conducting the evaluations are nearing the end of their post master’s certification in Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant and are overlooked by clinical professionals.

At the conclusion of the evaluation, the child will receive an instructional plan, which will include strategies for success, materials, and educational placement recommendations that will help improve his or her skills and success in school.

If you would like to schedule your child for an evaluation, or if you have any questions or concerns about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Deanna Wolowitz at:

wolowitzd@mail.montclair.edu
Or, you can call her at:
973-655-5187

The International Education Honor Society

Founded in 1911 at the University of Illinois, Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) seeks to “promote excellence in and recognize outstanding contributions to education,” as well as to “sustain an honored community of diverse educators [by] advancing scholarship, leadership, and service.”

KDP stands for Knowledge, Duty, and Power and the organization is based on four ideals of Science, Service, Toil, and Fidelity to Humanity.

Some famous KDP members include John Dewey, Howard Gardner and Jean Piaget. There are currently over 45,000 KDP members worldwide, and they are educators in various stages of their careers such as students, novice teachers, experienced teachers, teacher leaders, administrators, college professors and retirees.

The Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, here at MSU, was one of the first 100 chapters in the country. It is always looking for dedicated undergraduate and graduate level education students who are willing to participate in numerous projects, including, but not limited to: organizing and attending professional development seminars, education career seminars, developing and fulfilling community service projects that involve children and schools, serving in leadership roles and generally enhancing the accomplishments of Kappa Delta Pi at MSU.

To be eligible to become a member, students must have at least 12 credit hours in education course work programmed, in progress, or completed. Additionally students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (undergraduate students), or 3.25 or above (graduate students).

If you are interested in applying, please feel free to contact Dr. Monica Taylor at:
taylorm@mail.montclair.edu
and she can email you an application. Each year applications are due at the end of February and initiation takes place in April.
MSU and SASE welcome Assistant Professor Dr. Talida State. While at Lehigh University, she directed the Center for Adolescent Research in Schools (CARS). CARS is a federally funded, multisite national center for identifying and evaluating effective and practical school-based classroom and mental health interventions for high school students with emotional and behavior challenges.

Dr. State was directly involved with the development of a comprehensive intervention package addressing the emotional, behavioral and academic needs of high school students at-risk for school failure. The efficacy of the intervention package was evaluated in a randomized controlled trial with 634 students across 5 states. Dr. State is currently heavily involved in the analysis and dissemination of the findings generated by CARS.

Dr. State is dedicated to CEHS’s mission to provide quality instruction and support for our students in order to prepare future professionals who will make an impact in the community.

She is currently teaching two courses within the Dual Certification/Dual Degree program (SPED488 and SPED469), and one course in the Master’s Program (SPED588). She plans to continue to pursue her research agenda while at MSU.

Improving the educational outcomes, and ultimately the lives of students with special needs, is an area of personal passion and an area which she believes will have tremendous potential for growth and development, both in research and pedagogy. While at MSU, Dr. State plans to continue her research focusing primarily on identifying and intervening on variables that will improve the social and educational outcomes for students with emotional and behavioral disorders.

**iSTEM Students Share Their Experiences**

As the first students in the Inclusive iSTEM cohort (dual certification in Science or Math and Teacher of Students with Disabilities) to go through Fieldwork, Priscilla Camacho and Grisel Santos are finding their experience to be different from their classmates who are in the traditional teacher education program.

“For many other students, they’re just going in for their observations, and there’s no meetings with the principals or other teachers at all [on a consistent basis],” explains Priscilla. Through the program’s partnership with Bloomfield Middle School (BMS), Priscilla and Grisel participate in monthly rounds, in which they visit with other teams of teachers in their content area to hear their strategies on incorporating design challenges and to collaborate with them in improving the process.

Through the program, Priscilla and Grisel are also completing a project to leave a legacy for future generations of students at BMS. They are developing an iSTEM after-school program, during which the middle school students would work to solve real problems found around the school using the design challenge paradigm. Their first target is the improvement of an old fountain found at the school entrance.

The total effect is a feeling of increased involvement and a greater understanding of integrating curriculum with content driven design challenges and among science, technology and math.

“It gives us more of a look at what’s expected of teachers once you begin working in a school [to incorporate STEM]… You don’t need to teach content and then do a design challenge or activity [in summation]. You can teach the content through an activity so… that’s an advantage that we have over people who learn how to do project-based learning,” says Grisel.

Priscilla and Grisel are excited for next semester’s student teaching, where they will begin putting this into practice.
SASE Professors Present at AESA Conference

The Department of Secondary and Special Education and MSU were well represented at the recent American Educational Studies Association’s annual conference in Baltimore.

Several MSU alumni and staff participated and presented at the conference, notably SASE professors Dr. Rebecca Goldstein and Dr. Mayida Zaal.

Dr. Goldstein gave a presentation entitled “Waiting for Superman in Economic Crisis: School Reform Discourses in News Reporting,” which was co-presented by Shareen Shibli, an MSU alumna.

Dr. Goldstein also acted as Chair and Discussant for a talk given by Joseph Todd, a Pedagogy and Philosophy doctoral student at MSU. Mr. Todd’s presentation was entitled “STEAMpunk: The Dialectic of Political Autonomy and Creative Innovation.” The panel also included Nataly Cheski (MSU alum, Ed.D in Pedagogy and Philosophy), a faculty member at SUNY New Paltz.

Dr. Zaal’s presentations were titled, “Developing a Critical Stance in the Classroom: Examining Anti-Muslim Stereotypes and Discourses in the Media,” and “Teachers Influencing Sustainable Curricular Change: Professional Learning Communities and PAR.” The latter was co-presented with Jennifer Ayala of Saint Peter’s University.

SASE Professor Publishes Book: Student Development Programs

Dr. Beatrice L. Bridglall (SASE) has published a book entitled Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Studies of Three Student Development Programs. This timely volume, written from an interdisciplinary perspective, addresses possible causes of longer time-to-degree and declining completion rates in higher education. For example, Dr. Bridglall highlights evidence that the national focus on attaining access to college and university level education is no longer sufficient given low levels of student learning, particularly in critical thinking, writing, and reasoning. She takes a strengths-based approach in her examination of three national models with a track record of increasing student retention and completion and promoting high levels of academic achievement: the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; the Opportunity Programs at Skidmore Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York; and the Premedical Program at Xavier Xavier University in New Orleans. Dr. Bridglall’s book is now available for purchase through Amazon.com.

Dr. Bridglall’s areas of specialization include international, comparative and higher education and program research and evaluation. She is currently co-editing a book with Dr. David Schwarzer on internationalizing teacher education. The contributors to this volume will include former graduate students and SASE colleagues.
SASE Professors Receive National Science Foundation Award

Dr. Sandra Adams (Biology and Molecular Biology, CSAM) and Dr. Douglas Larkin (Secondary and Special Education, CEHS), were recently awarded $1,447,272 by the National Science Foundation for a project entitled Montclair State University Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

This project will recruit, prepare, and support thirty science teacher candidates who commit to teach in high need schools in New Jersey. This program provides ten scholarships per year in the amount of in state tuition and fees for the junior and senior years for Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics majors who are admitted to the Teacher Education Program, as well as $3,000 per year annual stipends. This is a collaborative project that takes advantage of the strengths of CSAM and CEHS. Partnerships have been formed with three community colleges—the County College of Morris (CCM), Essex County College, and Passaic County College—to increase the pool of eligible applicants.

Recruitment is anticipated to be the greatest task. The program will be actively reaching out to potential candidates by visiting chemistry classes, science student organizations, and relying on referrals from peers in CEHS and CSAM. It will also be relying on the community college partners to increase the pool of qualified applicants.

Drs. Adams and Larkin have stated that saying they are excited about this award would be an understatement. They are thrilled but also realized they have a huge job ahead of them to successfully implement this program.