Last year, through a lengthy, collaborative, and consensus-building exercise, we arrived at the new name. And with that, we welcome you to the first newsletter of:

THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION!

Welcome back, and have a great semester!

Starting July 1, 2012, the name of our department changed to Secondary and Special Education. How did this change come about and why?

As one of the older departments in the College of Education and Human Services (previously named the School of Professional Studies), the Department of Curriculum and Teaching has spawned many successful offspring, both individuals and programs. For example, the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education grew from our offerings in elementary education as ECELE’s founding Chair, Dr. Nancy Lauter, came from our department, as did Dr. Jennifer Robinson, Executive Director of the Center of Pedagogy, and two prior deans: Dean Ada Beth Cutler and Dean Nicholas Michelli.

However, in the last decade, our department has changed focus and vision a bit, and we now include significant courses and students in Special Education. We also felt that we were the only department whose name did not succinctly describe what we do. While all departments write curriculum, and all departments teach; what is it that we do that others don’t? Prepare high quality secondary and special education teachers to serve all children! Thus, an idea was born…

OUR MISSION:
The Radical Imagination: Educators who see things as they are not yet.

IMPORTANT DATES
Sunday, October 21
Graduate Open House
12:00PM

Wednesday, November 28
Graduation Information Session
6:00pm

Friday, March 1, 2013
Field Experience Due for Fall 2013 Semester

Spotlight Shines on New Program Assistant

Deanna Wolowitz has recently joined Montclair State University as a Program Assistant in the Department of Secondary and Special Education.

She previously worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Career Planning and Development Office at Caldwell College.

In her new role, Ms. Wolowitz will be working closely with the Department Chairperson in handling overall office management as well as assisting with the development and coordination of special events and programs, renovations and College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) facilities projects, and budget management.

Deanna’s hobbies include baking, specifically cupcakes and cookies, and sports. Her favorite teams are the New York Giants and New Jersey Devils.

We are so excited to welcome her into our SASE family!

By Dr. David Lee Kaiser
Laura Foresta worked at Montclair State University for 21 years and 14 of those years were spent as the secretary for the Curriculum & Teaching (Secondary & Special Education) Department. She made the office feel warm and welcoming for anyone who came into the suite.

Both faculty and students felt taken care of by Laura, even if it was a question that could have been directed to someone else. Laura played classical music throughout the office and was like a mother to the department. We are sad to see her retire but wish her the best and want to thank her for all her help at Montclair State University!

Laura currently lives in Little Falls with her husband, Joe. They have two daughters, and two grandchildren. Her hobbies include photography and traveling to Cape May and Spring Lake.

From all of us, THANK YOU LAURA!

Invited to the White House!

On Monday, May 7, 2012, the White House honored 14 individuals as Champions of Change for leading the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math for people with disabilities in education and employment.

The Champions of Change program was created as a part of President Obama’s Winning the Future initiative. Each week, a different sector is highlighted and groups of Champions, ranging from educators to entrepreneurs to community leaders, are recognized for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities.

Dr. Schwarzer and Dr. Goeke were joined by colleagues from around the United States who share their interest in this field. As the Graduate Program Coordinator for Middle/Secondary Special Education Programs, Dr. Goeke takes particular interest in the STEM field, and was awarded a Restructuring Preservice Preparation for Innovative Special Education (RePPriSE) Grant.

“STEM is vital to America’s future in education and employment, so equal access for people with disabilities is imperative, as they can contribute to and benefit from STEM”

-Kareem Dale, Special Assistant to the President for Disability Policy
Dr. David Schwarzer was asked by the Fulbright Program to conduct a workshop for Russian scholars visiting American universities, including Montclair, on syllabus development. With the help of graduate Samantha Zepeda, he was able to create a workshop that included universal design for learning, project-based learning, criteria & rubrics, and assessments. On August 21-22, they facilitated the workshop at the Institute for International Education (IIE) building in the United Nations Plaza. The experience of working with Russian scholars and the United Nations was something Dr. Schwarzer and Samantha will always remember!

On August 22, 2012, Dr. Mayida Zaal and the YPAR Curriculum Team facilitated a Professional Development session titled Engaging Students in Critical Issues, Research, and Action: Implementing a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Curriculum at Montclair State University, hosted by the Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal (MSUNER).

The Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) curriculum project, a grant funded by The Schumann Fund of New Jersey, serves as a means for young people to identify and study problems that directly affect their lives, and ultimately, to act upon these issues with the aim of transforming their immediate present.

Through the YPAR-oriented curriculum, teachers are prepared to facilitate students’ inquiry. YPAR teachers give students the tools to perform tasks such as identifying and selecting a “problem,” conducting authentic research, and taking actions that help address the problem. Although students are given the responsibility of choosing the “problem” worth investigating, teachers need not be experts of content, so much as they need be facilitators of the process of research that lies at the heart of the YPAR curriculum.

YPAR professional development sessions are geared to orient teachers toward this new relationship with their students, and to give them the pedagogical tools necessary for leading students through successful issue-based projects.

A YPAR curriculum can be implemented in a number of contexts, such as classrooms and after-school programs, and is applicable across disciplines and grade levels. Its benefits to students are invaluable, as it teaches self-directed learning, critical thinking and civic action, and collaboration. By engaging in YPAR projects, students have the opportunity to develop significant research skills while engaging civically in issues they care about. Through this experience teachers have the opportunity to learn from the actions and findings of the young people in their classrooms.

Workshop attendees represented many elementary, middle and high schools throughout New Jersey as well as various academic subjects. Additional workshops are planned for this fall and next spring.
SASE Students Honored for Achievements & Excellence

**Student Awards**

- **Kacey J. Weber** received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award because of her work at University High School in Newark, N.J. She promoted effective learning and received immense student admiration.

- **Nicholas Stambuli** received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award because of his passion for teaching and learning and his dedication to establishing an inquiry-based learning community conducive to teaching all students.

- **Ching-Ching Lin** received the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award because of her research on how critical dialogical pedagogies theorize the needs of ELLs and for creating a tentative model that addresses the needs of ELLs in a more effective, equitable and democratic way.

**Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Awards:**

- **Anna Karina Monteiro and Luba Lidman** were recognized for their outstanding service as a mentor teacher for the Newark Montclair Urban Teacher Residency. Their contributions to the NMUTR program have included opening their classroom to residents, co-teaching and co-constructing lesson plans and units, developing pre-service teacher education curriculum, co-constructing protocols for professional development and coaching a first year teacher as part of induction.

- **Jennifer Snyder and Alice Haight** were recognized for their outstanding service and leadership as co/president of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Haight on top of their many responsibilities as student teachers, have devoted much time and energy to leading KDP through recruitment efforts, community service endeavors, and initiation preparation.

Summer Conference in England

This summer Monica Taylor and five of her doctoral students, Linda Abrams, Katie Strom, Rabab Abihanna, Charity Dacey and Jackie Dauplaise presented two papers at the 9th International Conference on Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices, in East Sussex, England at the Hertsmoneaux Castle. These papers were titled: "I am what I am not yet": Becoming Teacher Educators and Change Agents," and "Shape Shifting or Becoming Third Space Teacher Educators?: A Co/ Autoethnographic Self-Study of Mentors and Faculty." They were also invited to co-present at the opening presidential session, "The Transformative Nature of Self-Study."

If you have any recommendations for students honored for achievements and excellence or you know of any forthcoming events where our students will be celebrated, please reach out to Dr. Schwarzer at: schwarzerd@mail.montclair.edu, - Department of Special and Secondary Education Chairperson.

**Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society Officer Service Award:**

- **Jennifer Snyder and Alice Haight** were recognized for their outstanding service and leadership as co/president of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Haight on top of their many responsibilities as student teachers, have devoted much time and energy to leading KDP through recruitment efforts, community service endeavors, and initiation preparation.

This summer Monica Taylor and five of her doctoral students, Linda Abrams, Katie Strom, Rabab Abihanna, Charity Dacey and Jackie Dauplaise presented two papers at the 9th International Conference on Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices, in East Sussex, England at the Hertsmoneaux Castle. These papers were titled: "I am what I am not yet": Becoming Teacher Educators and Change Agents," and "Shape Shifting or Becoming Third Space Teacher Educators?: A Co/ Autoethnographic Self-Study of Mentors and Faculty." They were also invited to co-present at the opening presidential session, "The Transformative Nature of Self-Study."

**If you have any recommendations for students honored for achievements and excellence or you know of any forthcoming events where our students will be celebrated, please reach out to Dr. Schwarzer at: schwarzerd@mail.montclair.edu.**

**Contact Us:**
Phone: (973) 655-5187
Website: http://www.montclair.edu/cehs/academics/departments/sse/department-newsletters/

**Editorial Staff:**
Adam Leaman
Oliver Gough
Samantha Zepeda