A Letter from the Chair

I am delighted again to be welcoming you to the newsletter for the department of Secondary and Special Education. We have worked very hard during the fall semester and it shows! In this newsletter, we are showcasing several important people in our learning community and their achievements.

Lissa Alexander is the new Graduate Program Coordinator for the Physical Education and Health program – Welcome Lissa!

We are also focusing on three adjunct faculty that are crucial to the functioning of our department: Dr. Adrienne Santola, Dr. Robert Noonan, and Professor Lizette Zebi – Thank you for all your hard work with our students!

We continue to highlight our outstanding programs in the different communities: the Teaching for Learning I filed based courses (see picture from Professor Janet Goldstein’s section); our Newark – Montclair Urban Teacher Residence and our iSTEM Grant Team at Bloomfield Middle School.

We are also featuring the following faculty and staff members in our department:

Dr. Nancy Tumposky, one of our most internationally active faculty members in the area of

English as a Second/Foreign Language; Dr. Vanessa Domine, one of our most popular PBS panelists; and Mrs. Maggie Leckey, our very devoted advisor for all the Special Education Programs in the department.

Finally, we are showcasing the Dual Degree/Dual Certification Program – a newly incepted program that promotes both the integration of a Content Area and the Teaching Students with Disabilities certification as well as a BA/Master’s degree combination.

Thank you for all your efforts in making our department a wonderful learning and teaching community.

Muchas Gracias a todos!

Dr. Naiditch Selected as Keynote Speaker

Fernando Naiditch has been invited to be one of the keynote speakers at the annual conference of the International Association for Intercultural Education, which will be held in Florence, Italy, from February 28 to March 2, 2013. The event in Italy is being sponsored by Fondazione Intercultura and will bring together experts from all over the world to discuss issues of cross-cultural communication and tools for intercultural learning in the digital age.
Dr. Lissa Alexander has recently taken over as the coordinator for the Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) and Post-Baccalaureate certificate in teaching Physical Education and Health.

Dr. Alexander is a faculty member of the Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education. Her expertise is in adapted physical education and disability sport.

She is also the current coordinator of the MAP swim program on campus. This program is a required component of the Adapted PE class offered to PE majors. Montclair State University students teach people with disabilities aquatic skills for the duration of the semester.

In her new position as MAT/Post-BA coordinator, Dr. Alexander will advise students who have chosen to come back to school to earn a teaching certificate in Physical Education and/or Health. She will work closely with Susan Hagen in the Department of Secondary and Special Education in order to ensure students are provided with appropriate guidance throughout their academic career at MSU.

Dr. Alexander enjoys spending time with her 2-year-old son, Zachary; her husband, Marv; and her two dogs. They enjoy hiking, baking, spending time at the lake, and going on “family adventures.”

SASE Professor Involved in Multiple Education Journals

Dr. Vanessa Domine (Department of Secondary and Special Education) is the co-editor of the Journal of Media Literacy Education, which just published its third issue for this year. JMLE is the Journal of the National Association of Media Literacy Education. The new issue, JMLE 4:3, can be found at JMLE.org.

Dr. Domine’s Graduate Assistant, Michelle Thomas, is the editorial assistant of the journal. MSU doctoral candidate Drew Berkowitz had his article, “Framing the Future of Fanfiction: How The New York Times’ Portrayal of a Youth Media Subculture Influences Beliefs about Media Literacy Education,” published in JMLE 4:3.

Dr. Domine’s qualitative study "Blogging the Field: An Emergent Continuum for Urban Teacher Development" was recently published in the Journal of Technology and Education, 20(4), 387-414. Also, she participated in the 2012 Best Minds Conference (Sept 19-21), an annual event hosted by the Knight School of Communication at Queens University of Charlotte. The conference brings together leading thinkers, innovators, scholars and practitioners in the area of digital media literacy.

Additionally, PBS recently interviewed Dr. Domine for her opinions on violence in media post-school shooting. The video can be found on the PBS website. (http://video.pbs.org/video/2320526646)
DDDC Program Prepares Inclusive Teachers

Since the passing of the 2001 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, we are observing more and more students with special needs in general education classes. Because of this, New Jersey’s schools are in dire need of highly prepared inclusive teachers. MSU recognizes the importance and need for teacher education programs, which prepare future educators for inclusive environments. As a result, a new program, The Dual Degree/Dual Certification (DDDC) program, has been implemented. The DDDC is a 5-year program that allows students to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree with teacher certification in general education and special education. There are 3 programs available: P-3 and special education; K-5 and special education; and subject area and special education. Students in this program will complete general education and major course requirements, and initial coursework in education as an undergraduate. Continued coursework in education, as well as fieldwork and student teaching, will be completed as a graduate student. This innovative program may be the right choice for you if you are interested in becoming a dually certified educator. Please find more information at the Center of Pedagogy’s website, or by contacting Mrs. Carla Engstrom, program advisor at: engstromc@mail.montclair.edu.

Dr. Adrienne Santola has enjoyed a wonderful career in education, including her contribution to Montclair State University. Below, we want to highlight Dr. Santola’s history/contributions, accomplishments and awards.


Degrees: 1986: Ph. D, Rutgers Graduate School of Education. 1979: M.A (Reading Spec.) Rutgers Graduate School of Education. 1975: M.Ed, Rutgers School of Education. 1969: B.A English/Psychology (dual major).

Adjunct Focus: Dr. Adrienne Santola

Dr. Adrienne Santola

Dr. Adrienne Santola
New Project Improves Teaching of Math and Science

The "Restructuring Preservice Preparation for Innovative Special Education" (RePPriSE) project is a highly complex, 5-year, 1.4 million dollar grant project funded through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) of the United States Department of Education.

Dr. Jennifer Goeke, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC) for middle/secondary special education programs for the department of SASE at Montclair State University, is the principal investigator for the RePPriSE Project. It is in its second year and has already been met with significant success. The existing Dual Certification MAT Program has been redesigned with a focus on inclusive integrative STEM (iSTEM) Education and is a one-of-a-kind innovative teacher education program that develops middle and secondary math and science teachers using an integrated, inquiry-oriented approach to teaching and learning.

Ms. Francesca Ciotoli is the Grant Coordinator for the RePPriSE Project and oversees all aspects including oversight of collection, and co-writing scholarly articles project personnel, developing and implementing mentor teacher professional development in our partner schools, budgeting and expenditures, recruitment and admissions, reporting and data articles and presentations. Ms. Ciotoli is delighted to be working on such an important project that she believes will greatly impact both teachers in training and those in the field, as well as improve the learning of the students involved. Most importantly, she hopes the work will help to create a new vision with a usable and sustainable framework for inclusive iSTEM Education.

Students Appreciate TFL I & II and Each Other

Montclair State University’s undergraduate Teaching for Learning I and II courses, taught by Professor Janet Goldstein, help students begin on their road to success. We visited the classroom of Jesse Aporta at West Orange High School and the photo was taken at the front door of the high school. Jesse is an MSU graduate who shares effective teaching strategies with her students.

One student, Franklin Tiburcio, was offered and accepted a job in the Emerson School District, impressively prior to his graduation. Aware that his courses, professors and classmates helped him along the way, he wrote an appreciative email to his TFL II class and professor.

“I want to thank you guys and girls for all the feedback and collaboration we have done together [these] past two semesters,” he writes. “You guys have helped me a lot through the conversations we had in class.”

Pictured from right to left: Language Arts Teacher Mindy Harvat, Principal Hayden Moore, Language Arts Teacher Jesse Aporta, and Physical Education Teacher Franklin Tiburcio (7th from right). Also the Fall 2012 TFL II Class and far left Professor Janet Goldstein and Dr. David Schwarzer.
Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Noonan** for being elected as President of **AFT Local 6025** last year. The union of Montclair State University Adjunct Professors’s goal is to advance the rights and privileges of approximately 950 adjunct professors here at MSU.

Dr. Noonan, a 9-year veteran in the Department of Secondary and Special Education, points out, “Adjunct professors teach 45% of all the classes… yet they generally have little input into the formulation of policy and programs.” He continues, “If our university is to be more effective in educating our students, adjunct professors need to be made an integral part of the university community.”

One of Noonan’s primary goals as a union leader, aside from greater respect and recognition of adjunct professors, has been to acquire greater parking rights for adjuncts. He has recently achieved this goal, granting adjuncts the same parking privileges as full-time faculty.

Dr. Noonan has his Ed.D from Rutgers University in Social Studies education. Prior to teaching at MSU, he was a long-time teacher at Nutley High School and later Superintendent of the Essex County Vocational and Technical Schools. He has also served as Executive Director and educational policy analyst for the New Jersey Senate Majority office.

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**SASE Professor Travels World, Teaches English**

**Dr. Nancy R. Tumposky** has been a valued professor at Montclair State University for 26 years. She currently teaches three courses at MSU: Teaching for Learning I, Teaching for Learning II, and the graduate level methods course in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

In 2000, Dr. Tumposky received a Fulbright Scholar Award, which allowed her to spend her sabbatical teaching ESL methodology at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia. Hers was the first Fulbright ever awarded to a faculty member of CEHS.

In an office adorned with souvenirs from her extensive travels abroad, Dr. Tumposky exemplifies that work can be mixed with play. Combining her love for travel with teaching, she has helped many students not only learn English as a foreign language, but also learn how to teach English as a foreign language.

One of her current projects, offered through the Global Education Center at MSU, is the Teaching in English (TIE) program.

In the summer of 2005, Dr. Tumposky traveled to East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai, China, with the TIE program. While there, she taught a methodology course to professors in China who delivered some or all of their classes in English. The methodology course teaches faculty specifically how to teach in English when English is a foreign language for both the faculty members and the students. Dr. Tumposky returned to Shanghai with the program in the summer of 2007. She then ventured to Graz, Austria, in the summers of 2010 and 2011 to develop the program at the Karl Franzens University. In the summer of 2012, the TIE program was offered on campus at MSU for the first time.
Good Luck to Dr. Enix: Our Newest Emeritus Professor

Dr. Wandalyn Enix served Montclair State University for 27 years. As a member of the university, she served as the Chair and Deputy Chair of Curriculum and Teaching and as MAT advisor; contributed, developed, and coordinated several urban education programs for teachers including Barringer Cluster Program, Thistle Program, Newark and Paterson Professional Development Schools, and Urban Cohort Programs; co-directed the Teacher Recruitment for Urban Schools of Tomorrow program; and coordinated programs on campus for urban K-12 students interested in college education, and serves as a community speaker for educational, historical, and cultural events and presented at multicultural and educational conferences, nationally and internationally. Dr. Enix retired this past spring from the Department of Secondary and Special Education and has been designated Professor Emerita of Montclair State University.

We are sad to see her leave but wish her well.

Insight into Urban Teacher Residency

Dr. Monica Taylor and Dr. Emily Klein secured a book contract with SensePublishers for *A Year in the Life of an Urban Teacher Residency.*

This book weaves together voices of faculty, residents, mentors, administrators, community organizers, and students who have lived together in an urban teacher residency program in Newark as they reinvent math and science teaching through the lens of inquiry. The narratives in this book—by the mentors, residents, and faculty—are accompanied by the tools used within the program to support and build change. They provide readers with both real cases of how a UTR can impact school systems, as well as concrete means of helping the reader understand and replicate aspects of the process. Capturing both the successes but also the tensions and challenges, the authors offer a kaleidoscopic view of the rich, complex and multi-layered ways in which multiple stakeholders work together to make enduring educational change in urban schools.
Adjunct Spotlight: Professor Lizette Zebi

I cannot express how excited and honored I am to have received an invitation from my former graduate students at MSU to be a featured adjunct! Upon entering my fifth year at MSU, it is still invigorating and fresh for me every time I start a new class. It is that sense of exhilaration that we all felt when we were young and the new school year starts that keeps me motivated. I am thrilled to be a part of a global university where classroom interaction and online learning work cohesively together fostering success in an ever changing world.

I began teaching at Montclair State weeks before graduating with a second Masters in Administration and Supervision. My first Masters is in Special Education with certifications in Bilingual and ESL Education. It is this thorough and explicit background that holds the tapestry for me when I teach. The current courses at MSU that I am teaching are in Secondary and Special Education. I am dedicated to the variety of classes that I teach and each one taps into my experiences and everyday teaching. The classes are Inclusion in Secondary Education, English Language Learners, Organizational Skills and Assessment in the Inclusion Setting. With each class I focus on the direction that the students are geared towards and that is what I use to tailor and individualize my classes depending on student needs. I practice strategies and modeling behaviors that the teachers are going to implement in their classrooms. One of the biggest joys a teacher experiences is to have a former student return and relate their success based on what they have learned in class. The accolades are also extended to students because every day I, too, learn from all my students, whether they are my graduate students or my adolescent teen students.

Preparing current graduate students, teachers and future teachers for a vast and intriguing future in education is my frontline prerogative. It is imperative for me to teach them “hands on” the new methodologies that are taking place in classrooms today. Strategies that are strategically implemented are those that work best. Activities are integrated in and out of the classroom that relates to the specific content and how they can provide success for all students while having ELL and Inclusion students within their disciplines.

I am privileged to work in one of New Jersey’s largest high schools, and it is because of this experience that I am prepared and equipped to prepare the teachers of tomorrow. My current job capacities enable me to approach current pedagogies that foster student advancement. A typical workday begins with in-class support within the English arena and later having my own resource classroom driven by a native language component. The complexities of my job enable me to view the life of the student in a kaleidoscope of expectations for them. My students come with a plethora of differences, learning styles, language difficulties and the desire to learn. I have seen undeniable progress in students while preparing them with the tools they need to succeed in content and social skills.
Department Spotlight: Maggie Leckey

Mrs. Maggie Leckey has been the advisor for the Special Education Program in the department of Secondary and Special Education for three years, and she has been working in the field for twenty years. Mrs. Leckey’s responsibilities begin with assisting with the interview process that is part of the admissions decisions for the Special Education program. Students must first be admitted into one of the following programs: Teacher of Students with Disabilities, M. Ed (Master of Education) in Special Education and M.Ed (Master of Education) in learning Disabilities and Learning Disabilities Teacher -Consultant (LDTC). Once admitted, Mrs. Leckey advises them for the program’s duration in course selection, and she is responsible for maintaining their academic records. She is also involved in the iSTEM grant; she acts as a project assistant for the program, which is run by Dr. Jen Goeke, and her duties entail organizing meetings and presentations, research, and assisting Dr. Goeke.

In her free time, Mrs. Leckey enjoys spending time with her husband, two daughters, and their two cats. Disney World holds a special place in their family’s heart, and they are sure to visit every year.

Maggie Leckey  
Program Advisor for Middle/Secondary Special Education Programs  
Secondary and Special Education  
Montclair State University  
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SASE Graduates Begin their Careers in Education

Garrett Kroner: Teaching Special Education, Social Studies at North Hudson Academy in North Bergen, NJ.

Diana Silva: Recent graduate from the LDT-C program, was hired as an LDT-C for Bergen County Special Services School District last summer. She is also working as an Adjunct Instructor for our department.

Eric Fingerman: Teaching Math at East Brook Middle School in Paramus.

Mary Fuchs: Works at Thomas G. Connors in Hoboken, NJ, as a middle school Language Arts Teacher.

Susan Eckert: Hired as a biology/human anatomy & physiology teacher at Montclair High School.

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 Secondary and Special Education Chairperson.

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