News and information from around the College

Center for Research and Evaluation in Education and Human Services

Eden Kyse is now serving as Interim Director of the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS). Dr. Kyse has been with the Center, as a Senior Research Associate, since July 2011. She has over 10 years of experience in applied research and program evaluation, including expertise in research design, qualitative and quantitative methodology, statistical analysis, and data maintenance. She currently manages several large- and smaller-scale evaluations at CREEHS, including those focused on teacher preparation and development, school improvement, and community health. Dr. Kyse has also worked as a statistical consultant and adjunct faculty in the areas of educational psychology and research methods. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, specializing in Quantitative Methods in Educational and Psychological Research, from the CUNY’s The Graduate Center.

CHREEES is also excited to introduce the latest member of the team: Senior Research Associate, Rebecca Swann-Jackson. Ms. Swann-Jackson comes to CREEHS with over nine years of experience as an evaluator of educational programs and community-based initiatives serving urban children and families. She has managed evaluations for varied clients, including school districts, state departments of education, community organizations and foundations, and child welfare agencies. An experienced methodologist, she has applied evaluation principles to projects focused on school-based programs for at-risk youth, school reform, family homelessness, community health, community revitalization, systems integration and systems change, child welfare, substance use, and school violence. Ms. Swann-Jackson has a M.Ed. from Rutgers University, with a concentration in Statistics, Measurement, and Evaluation.

Counseling and Educational Leadership

Muninder Ahluwalia was appointed as a member of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs for the American Psychological Association.

Katrina E. Bulkley was named to the list of top education scholars in the 2013 Rick Hess Straight Up Edu-Scholar Public Presence rankings announced in Education Week. The rankings recognize "university-based academics who are contributing most substantially to public debates about K-12 and higher education." They are based on the scholar’s academic body of work and their contributions to public discourse on education and policy issues. Dr. Bulkley joins prominent education scholars on the list from around the country, from research institutions including Harvard, Stanford, New York University, UCLA and Columbia.

Angela Sheely-Moore has recently accepted a 3-year term on the editorial board of the International Journal of Play Therapy.

Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education

Elizabeth Erwin, Victoria Puig, and Tara Evenson, Director of the Ben Samuels Children Center, had their article entitled “Community and connection in inclusive early-childhood education: A participatory action research investigation”, published in the leading practitioner journal in the field, Young Exceptional Children. The article describes an innovative methodology where families, teachers,
therapists, administrators and researchers collaborate to conceptualize and carry out a research study examining "community" in inclusive early childhood. All the work was done at MSU between the Children’s Center and ECELE faculty and graduate students.

Bree Picower’s article entitled “Resisting compliance: Learning to teach for social justice in a neoliberal context” was featured in an edition of Teachers College Record focusing on learning to teach for social justice. Dr. Picower is also featured in an interview on the Teachers College Record website located here http://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=16090. Dr. Picower had two other articles published. The first, “Education should be free! Occupy the DOE!: Teacher activists involved in the Occupy Wall Street movement” was published in Critical Studies in Education, Special issue of Grassroots in Educational Organizing in an Era of Venture Capital, 54(1). The second, “Teacher activism: Enacting a vision for social justice”, was published in Equity and Excellence in Education, 45(4).

Educational Foundations

Zoe Burkholder was named to the list of top education scholars in the 2013 Rick Hess Straight Up Edu-Scholar Public Presence rankings announced in Education Week. The rankings recognize "university-based academics who are contributing most substantially to public debates about K-12 and higher education.” They are based on the scholar’s academic body of work and their contributions to public discourse on education and policy issues. Dr. Burkholder joins prominent education scholars on the list from around the country, from research institutions including Harvard, Stanford, New York University, UCLA and Columbia.

Zoe Burkholder is serving as the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Fellow at Tamiment Library and Labor Archives at New York University. This is a research fellowship, where she will be working on her research project, Defenders of Democracy: New York City Teachers and the Battle for Cold War Americanism. She will be giving a talk on her research at Tamiment Library at 5pm on April 25th in the NYU Bobst Library; the talk is free and open to the public.

Family and Child Studies

Clareese Saunders, student assistant in the Department of Family and Child Studies, was invited to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Lesotho, South Africa. She will be graduating this May as a Psychology major, with minors in Public Health and Religious Studies. Clareese will work as a Healthy Youth Advisor in the community, where the HIV infection rate among people ages 15 - 49 is approximately 23%. Healthy Youth Advisors will partner with youth centers and informal community based organizations to reach out to local youth and help them develop important life skills and workplace preparedness, create community service projects, promote recreational and leisure activities, and facilitate academic development in English and Computer Literacy. A resident of Neptune, Clareese has been an integral part of the Family and Child Studies support staff for over two years. She will begin her two year commitment on June 5th.

Health and Nutrition Sciences

Amanda Birnbaum received a grant from Partners for Health Foundation for Project Coordination for the Eat Play Live…Better initiative. This initiative uses a collective impact approach to mobilize multi-sector community efforts around a common goal of making the healthier choice the easy choice within the community environment. The three-year grant, totaling over $300,000, will support the establishment of MSU as the backbone organization for this initiative.

Joseph Donnelly’s paper “Young, Denny, Donnelly, Lessons from the trenches: Meeting evaluation challenges in school health education” published in the Journal of School Health, 2012:82:528-535 was nominated for the Most Influential/Must Read award by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Council of School Health. The awards will be announced this spring.
**Mark Kaelin** facilitated the fifth annual Disease Scene Investigation (D.S.I.) program at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine, on January 10, 2013., in which over 100 high school students and their teachers tested the hypothesis that chocolate improves grade point average, and then working in teams, tested a hypothesis of their choosing. Becoming detectives for a day, they applied science, math, health, and social studies skills to an in-depth epidemiological analysis.

**Lisa Lieberman** received a grant for $17,209 from Inwood House and the Conrad Hilton Foundation for the first year of a multi-year grant to support the ongoing Adolescent Family Life Project. The AFL project evaluates the impact of several support programs for pregnant and parenting teens in the NYC Foster Care system.

**Secondary and Special Education**

**Fernando Naiditch** has been invited to be one of the key note speakers at the annual conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication, which will be held in Florence, Italy from February 28th to March 2nd, 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.

**Upcoming Events**

**Early Childhood Education Conference**

**Seize the Play: Supporting Play-Based Learning in an Era of Standardized Curriculum and Assessment**

April 13, 2013, University Hall Conference Center

Keynote Speaker: **Beverly Falk, Director of the Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education at the City College of New York, School of Education.** Beverly Falk has been a classroom teacher, public school founder and director, district administrator, researcher, and consultant - at the school, district, state, and national level – as well as a Fellow of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the CCNY Colin Powell Center on Public Policy. Dr. Falk’s work focuses on supporting teachers to create educational environments that support how children learn – through active engagement, by being responsive to diverse cultures and languages, involving families, and developing not only cognitive skills but other important dispositions such as curiosity, perseverance, empathy, flexibility, resilience, and social awareness. She is particularly interested in ensuring that our youngest, most vulnerable citizens in historically under-served diverse urban communities have equitable access to high quality learning opportunities.

*Watch the College of Education and Human Services web site in late February for more information about other conference sessions and registration information!*  

**Montclair State University 7th Annual Student Research Symposium**

**Saturday, April 20th, University Hall Conference Center**

The Montclair State University Student Research Symposium is a forum to showcase and reward student scholarship and research by students at Montclair State University. The Symposium provides a venue for sharing research with the academic community, peers, and the greater community through poster display, oral or multimedia presentations. Open to undergraduate and graduate students, the Annual Montclair State University Student Research Symposium aims to promote interdisciplinary research and collaboration in the hope of instilling in our students the importance of exploring issues from multiple perspectives. Proposals that cross boundaries among disciplines are thus encouraged. Similar presentations will be grouped together rather than organizing them by disciplinary or college boundaries.

*What’s New in CEHS is a monthly e-mail publication for the faculty and staff members of Montclair State University’s College of Education and Human Services. If you have news, please send it via e-mail to Melissa Harris at harrism@mail.montclair.edu. What’s New in CEHS is published each month during the academic year, and the deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.*