What’s New in CEHS

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January-February 2014

News and information from around the College

Center of Pedagogy

Montclair State University has sought international collaborations and partnerships through its Fulbright program and Global Education Center, and has hosted renowned international scholars to share their expertise and enhance the academic experience for MSU students. To add to this repertoire of cross-cultural exchange, the science and math education faculty in the College of Education and Human Services and the College of Science and Mathematics, with the Office of the Provost, were invited to present initiatives in PreK-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at the STEM World 2014 Conference held in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Leonel Fernández, former president of the Dominican Republic and founder of the non-profit organization Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, hosted the conference. Nearly 200 Dominican educators and policy makers, including the Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Science and Technology, converged to learn about STEM education and explore the possibilities for partnerships for teacher education between MSU and the Dominican Republic.

MSU representatives to the conference included Provost Willard Gingerich, Dr. Jennifer Robinson, Director of the Center of Pedagogy, Dr. Mika Munakata, Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Jackie Willis, Director of Resources in Science and Mathematics, Dr. Sumi Hagiwara, Assistant Professor in the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education, and Dr. Doug Larkin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Secondary and Special Education. These representatives collaborated with the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Dr. Robert S. Prezant, and the Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Dr. Francine Peterman, to highlight STEM initiatives at MSU that aim for excellence in teaching and innovative learning experiences for children across the Pk-12 spectrum. Other invited speakers included representatives from the Smithsonian Institute Center for Science Education, Carolina Biological, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Saddle River Day School.

Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services

Erin M. Bunker, MPH, joined the staff of the Center for Research and Evaluation on Education and Human Services (CREEHS) as Senior Research Associate. Ms. Bunker comes to CREEHS from the New Jersey Department of Health. She has expertise using collaborative and participatory approaches to evaluate research and plan public health initiatives focusing on at-risk populations. She has managed several evaluations and research projects related to policy and environmental changes to prevent chronic disease. These include state and local obesity and tobacco prevention initiatives in a variety of settings such as community-based organizations, schools, worksites and local governments. Ms. Bunker also has expertise in planning and evaluating partnerships, clinical interventions and health-related legislation. She holds a Master of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dean’s Office

Dean Francine Peterman served on the Selection Committee for the Mid-Career Award recognizing an outstanding researcher for Division K: Teacher Education of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).
Adrian Martin, a student in the EdD program in Teacher Education and Teacher Development, had an article published in *Voices in the Classroom*. The article is titled “Kaleidoscopic musing on a queer praxis.”

**Early Childhood, Elementary, and Literacy Education**

Heidi Kottas, a recent graduate of the teacher certification program in Early Childhood through Third Grade, was featured in an article in the New York Times about programs in New Jersey that expand access to preschool. To view the article, visit this IRL: [http://nyti.ms/19WwV0n](http://nyti.ms/19WwV0n).

Bree Picower received a $20,000 grant from the Schumann Fund for New Jersey to implement an Anti-Racist Initiative with the Newark Montclair Urban Teacher Residency.

Dr. Picower is coordinating a social justice education conference scheduled for March 15, 2014 in Brooklyn, NY as part of the New York Collective of Radical Educators. Registration is open and 800 educators and students are expected attend over 75 workshops. Please consider attending and feel free to share with students. [http://www.nycore.org/conference](http://www.nycore.org/conference).

**Educational Foundations**

Helenrose Fives and Nicole Barnes (née DiDonato) were recently awarded a research grant from the Spencer Foundation to examine how teachers use data to inform instruction. The title of their project is, "Teachers with expertise in data use: How do they engage in data driven decision making from student performance data to influence instruction?" Using multiple, rigorous qualitative methodologies, they will investigate whether (and under what conditions) fifth grade English Language Arts and Social Studies teachers with expertise in data use engage in subprocesses and microprocesses to convert classroom student performance data into actionable knowledge for instructional decisions. They will focus on teachers’ use of recorded student performance data from formative assessments gathered at the classroom level that are deliberate and are designed to discern and improve students’ learning. The Spencer Foundation funded seven proposals nationwide. The award is for $155,000 for a two year study.

Fifty-five students participated in MSU ASCD’s second professional development event, *Differentiated Instruction: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners* on February 1, 2014. Dr. Tom Tramalini, the keynote speaker and the Chief Academic Officer and Director of Curriculum & Instruction for Keansburg School District, provided an overview of differentiated instruction, highlighting the importance of differentiating instruction, when to differentiate, and strategies for differentiation. Students reported that Dr. Tramalini’s presentation was relevant, informative, and engaging. During the second part of the workshop, ten school administrators (supervisors, principals, and superintendents) from across NJ served as mentor educators helping students to differentiate a lesson plan in the subject area they intend to teach given pre-assessment data. MSU ASCD is a student chapter of ASCD, a nonprofit organization of 160,000 educators worldwide that aims to support pre-service teacher education through professional development workshops and networking opportunities. Nicole Barnes (née DiDonato) is the group’s faculty advisor. Students can email ascdmsu@gmail.com to join.

**Exercise Science and Physical Education**

Bill Sullivan taught the first sports conditioning seminar ever conducted in Vietnam. Approximately 350 participants attended the seminar held from January 2 to January 18, 2014. The participants included graduate and undergraduate students in exercise science from different Vietnamese universities, national and regional team coaches, and elite athletes. Participants represented over 40 sports and came from 12 different Vietnamese provinces. The sponsoring organization, the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Sports, invited Dr. Sullivan to return each of the next three years to continue teaching sports conditioning while training Vietnamese exercise scientists to teach the discipline. Dr. Sullivan also taught a section of an annual weeklong taekwondo instructor seminar. The project was partially funded by an MSU Global Education grant.
**Family and Child Studies**


**Health and Nutrition Sciences**

Amanda Birnbaum served on the expert panel of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to develop the Guide for Effective Nutrition Interventions and Evaluation (GENIE), which will be launched online in early 2014.

Eva Goldfarb served on an advisory panel that developed National Standards for Teacher Preparation in Sexuality Education. These new standards will be officially published in the *Journal of School Health* in June.

Master of Public Health student, Paul Santos, received a *SOPHE 21st Century Student Scholarship*, a competitive award which will enable him to attend the 2014 Annual Meeting of the national Society for Public Health Education in March.

**Secondary and Special Education**

Monica Taylor, Emily Klein and Linda Abrams, a student in the Ed.D. program in Teacher Education and Teacher Development, recently had their article entitled “Tensions of reimagining our roles as teacher educators in a third space: Revisiting a co/autoethnography through a faculty lens” published in *Studying Teacher Education: A journal of self-study of teacher education practices*.

**Upcoming Events**

Pivot TV and the *National Association for Media Literacy Education* (NAMLE) are sponsoring a free screening of the documentary *"Eyes Wide Open: This is Media"* on Wednesday, February 19th from 2:30-4:00pm in University Hall 1050. The screening is open to the first 100 undergraduate students who arrive and light refreshments will be served. The 22-minute documentary will be followed by a lively discussion about digital and media literacy and the implications of being constantly connected. Vanessa Domine (Chair, Department of Secondary and Special Education) will moderate a discussion featuring the following panelists: Harry Haines (School of Communication), Charity Dacey (Director, Teacher Education Admissions and Retention, Center of Pedagogy), Rhys Daunic (NYC Public Schools/The Media Spot) and Gregg Festa (Paterson Public Schools/NJECC). For more information, contact Vanessa Domine at mailto:dominev@mail.montclair.edu.

**Montclair State University 8th Annual Student Research Symposium**

*Saturday, April 12th, 2014 University Hall Conference Center*

The Montclair State University Student Research Symposium is a forum to showcase and reward student scholarship and research providing a venue for sharing undergraduate and graduate student research with the academic community, peers, and the greater community through poster display, oral or multimedia presentations. 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.

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*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. The deadline for submissions is the first Friday of each month.*