

Fall 2014

## NEIU College of Education News & Notes- Fall 2014

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# News & Notes

College of Education

College of Education Professionals: Reflective, Collaborative & Transformative

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## Full Speed Ahead: COE Announces New Building

The College of Education is moving forward with plans to build a new education building. The new building will be designed by the nationally-recognized architecture and engineering firm, SmithGroupJJR. The new building will be 160,000 gross-square-feet in size and represent the future of instructional space design. A full-range of space types will be programmed, including general and specialized classrooms, clinics and laboratories for students and faculty, and conference and meeting spaces.

"This is a perfect time to build an environment worthy of Northeastern students and faculty," said Tim

Tracey, AIA, Chicago office director and design principal at SmithGroupJJR. "It's important to provide them with a consolidated, state-of-the-art facility where ideas can translate into innovative processes."

With the new building, the College of Education will develop a one-stop hub for all programs within the College. By pulling from multiple Northeastern facilities, SmithGroupJJR will merge the various facets of each program into a single, strategic resource for all students and faculty. The project is currently in preliminary design stages. Stay tuned for design and building updates.

## Gifted Education Program: Highlights of Summer Field Experiences

Two August graduates of the Master of Arts in Gifted Education program, Corina Vaccarello and Kathy Nilles, spent much of their summer working on a fieldwork project that they designed which they dubbed *iQuilt*. The purpose was to create a documentary "for students by students" showcasing the personal traits, aspirations, and insights about giftedness of gifted children across a broad age-span. Another goal was to educate teachers, administrators, parents, legislators, peers about what it means to be gifted as there is scant primary source material of gifted children providing personal insights on film.

They combined over 250 hours, 18

enthusiastic gifted students, 7 tripods, 6 computers, 5 video and digital cameras, 3 umbrella lights, 2 film editing software applications, and one 10'x15' green screen into a project that they intend to expand in the future.

Themes that they discovered that resonated across the ages related to societal and global issues, friendships, ways to change the world, and personal interests while academics, grades, accomplishments were on the backburner. Corina and Kathy also received the news during the summer that their proposal had been accepted to present their work at the Illinois Association for Gifted Children Conference in 2015.

(continued on page 3)

## Dean's Column

Welcome to the 2014-15 academic year! I had an exciting sabbatical in the spring of 2014 and I have to thank Effie Kritikos, who served as acting dean, and Alberto Lopez, our Associate Dean, for all of their hard work during the semester.

The COE has many new developments underway. Our new education building is funded and we are planning for the design and construction of the building. Work teams are being formed and our architects, SmithGroup JJR, is leading us in a process that will culminate in a building that honors our roots as a normal school, while providing a venue for our cutting-edge programs and partnerships.

It was an outstanding year for scholarship fundraising and I am grateful to the NEIU Foundation for its work. We received two new scholarships in Early Childhood Education, a new scholarship in Special Education, and one for a student in any major leading to a teaching certificate. We all know how much our teacher candidates benefit from scholarship help so I am especially thankful to the donors, who you will hear more about at our Faculty Assembly this year.

We had a difficult budget year and Effie had to navigate the most serious budget cuts since I became the dean. Knowing that enrollments are down throughout the state and nation is of little comfort when we have had to make sacrifices in

order to meet our bottom line. I plan to call a faculty meeting to go over the state of the COE in terms of budget so please look for that announcement and try to make it to the meeting.

I am pleased to have you read about the fall events that are being sponsored by the COE in this issue of the newsletter. I would draw your attention specifically to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jean B. Carlson lecture on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to bring your classes to what promises to be a very thought-provoking evening.

I am very proud of the fact that we have increased faculty and staff giving to the COE, whether it is to the college in general, a specific department or program, or to efforts to support students. We use non-scholarship money to send faculty and students to conferences, to support COE projects, and to support faculty retreats and meetings. Without the support of our faculty, staff, alumni and friends, we would not be able to sustain all of our great work. Thanks so much!!

May this academic year be the best ever!



**Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean  
College of Education**



## Upcoming COE Events

**October 14, 2014** – The COE is pleased to co-sponsor a lecture by Dr. Carlos Alberto Torres. Dr. Torres is Distinguished professor of Social Sciences and Comparative Education at UCLA, Director of the UCLA Paulo Freire Institute, and Associate Dean for Global Programs. He is also Founding Director of the Paulo Freire Institute in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and at UCLA.

**October 17, 2014** – The COE will host Dr. Desiree H. Pointer Mace, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Education at Alverno College, who will share her experiences implementing edTPA at Alverno College.

**November 10, 2014** – The COE will host the third annual **Dr. Jean B. Carlson Memorial Lectureship**. Upon recommendation of the Carlson Selection Committee, the COE will host [Dr. Angela Valenzuela](#), program chair and professor of educational policy and planning at the University of Texas at Austin, as this year's guest speaker. Dr. Valenzuela will present on educational equity and policy. The lecture will be held in Alumni Hall from 4:15 to 7:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public.

(Gifted Education—continued from page 1)

At the same time, an entirely different field experience was designed, created and delivered at Jamieson School in Chicago by Elizabeth Hale and Linda Murakami. Long time teachers at Jamieson, these two colleagues decided to craft a summer experience for high-ability students. Their three week program was built around the theme of *Fun with Fractured Fairy Tales*. The interdisciplinary unit combined the disciplines of literacy, math and social studies as the activities also included a comparison of cultures, art-work and the use of technology for researching the origins of many similar tales.

After reading many fractured fairy tales, the students designed the set, masks, costumes and props for the play *Blame it on the Wolf*, which they performed for the early childhood classes in the building. Writing their own stories as well as making art in the style of the original storytellers added a creative twist. The principal has invited them to continue to plan after-school curriculum for advanced learners for the fall.

## Recent Graduates: Where are They Teaching Now?

**Stephanie Ginter (EICS-SCED)** accepted a teaching position at **Chicago Math & Science Academy**, located in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

**Patrick Noote (EICS-SCED)** accepted a full-time teaching position at **Palatine High School – District 211**. He will begin his new faculty role in the Department of English this fall.

**Jason Bohrer (HPERA)** will begin his first full-time teaching position this fall. He will teach physical education and health-related classes at **Nixon Elementary School**, located in the Logan Square neighborhood.

**Tarkan M. Sengullu (HPERA)** accepted a teaching position at Community Consolidated School District 21, in Buffalo Grove. He will teach physical education to students enrolled in grades K-5.

**Jennifer Duzinskas (TED)** accepted a teaching position at **Kensington School** in Elmhurst. She will teach preschool aged children.

**Sarah McDevitt-Aguirre (TED)** will begin her first full-time teaching position this fall. She will teach kindergartners at **Pasteur Elementary School**.

## HPERA Hosts Wheelchair Softball Event

On August 8, the HPERA Department, in collaboration with Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, Cubs Care and the McCormick Foundation, hosted the 8th Annual Wheelchair Softball Junior World Series at Northeastern. Participants came from all over the Midwest to Northeastern's main campus to compete in the annual event.



## HPERA Alum Receives Coach of the Year Award

**Robert Stassen (HPERA)** was selected as the **2014 Illinois Private/Parochial Girls State Coach of the Year** by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA). The NSCAA awards ceremony was held on Saturday, August 2, 2014 in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Stassen is currently head of the Department of Total Wellness at St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago.



Mr. Robert Stassen (center) accepts his award at the NSCAA awards brunch in Orlando, Florida.

## New COE Faculty



**Dr. Eun Hye Kwon** joins the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA) as Assistant Professor of Physical Education (K-12). She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education pedagogy from Seoul National University in South Korea, and a second master's and doctorate from the University of Virginia. Dr. Eun Hye Kwon has worked as a physical education teacher and an adapted physical education teacher in both South Korea and the United States. Recently, she conducted and presented on topics including Asian parents' expectation toward adapted physical education, as well as the status of the physical education teacher education curriculum.



**Dr. Kaija L. Zusevics** joins the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics (HPERA) as Assistant Professor of Health Education. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Genomics and Ethics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She completed her Ph.D. in Public and Community Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin, with a focus on education as a social determinant of health. She has lectured and published on health education evaluation, health policy and health disparities, and CBPR. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, with a minor in Health Education, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a master's of public health from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and maintains the Certified Health Education Specialist credential.

## Faculty SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Alberto Lopez (Interim Associate Dean)** co-authored an article, along with Dr. Ismael Flores-Martí of William Paterson University, entitled, *El sistema de evaluación en la educación física*. The article appears in *EFDeportes Revista Digital*, 190. Buenos Aires, Argentina, and focuses on evaluation methods in physical education and teacher education.

In September 2014, **Dr. Sandra Williams (ELAD-HRD)** will take over as the President of the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Dr. Williams also has an article in press entitled, *Logan Park Neighborhood Assistance – A Case of Analysis and Assessment*, which will appear in *New Horizons in Adult Education and Human Resource Development*. In addition, she was an invited guest speaker at the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics annual meeting, which is comprised of compliance officers from business, government, and non-profit organizations.

**Dr. Rene Luis Alvarez (EICS-SCED)** published, *Assessing the Modern Urban School System: The Institutionalization of Standardized Testing in Philadelphia, 1925-1930*, in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, (April 2014)193-220.

**Dr. Ana Gil Garcia (ELAD-LEAD)** completed a Fulbright Specialist appointment in May. She engaged in curriculum development, teaching and training, as well as higher education administration consulting at universities in the Republic of Georgia. The 42-day appointment involved teaching and delivering presentations to doctoral and master's-level students at Tbilisi State University, Samtskhe-Javakheti State Teaching University, and Batumi State University. She also met with the country's Deputy Minister of Education and the university presidents. In addition to her Fulbright appointment, Dr. Gil-Garcia has been selected by the National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) as the recipient of the **2014 NHLI National Mujer of the Year Award**. Lastly, Dr. Gil-Garcia will travel to Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia in August to teach and conduct research at Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University. She will be in Saudi Arabia for the academic year, 2014-15.

**Dr. Michele Kane (SPED-GIFT)** co-authored a manuscript that is in press entitled, *Fostering Well-Being in Gifted Children: Preparing for an Uncertain Future*. It will appear in F. Hellen Ribeiro Piske, J. M. Machado, T. Stoltz & S. Bahia (Eds.) *High Level Skills /Highly Gifted (HL/HG): Creativity and Emotion*. Curitiba, Brazil: Jurua Editora. In addition to research, Dr. Kane was an invited presenter at the Profoundly Gifted Retreat in Colorado Springs, CO. At the retreat Dr. Kane presented, *It's All about Identity and Imposter Syndrome and Giftedness*.