

Winter 2014

## NEIU College of Education News & Notes- Winter 2014/15

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## News & Notes

College of Education

College of Education Professionals: Reflective, Collaborative & Transformative

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- COE Student Wins Golden Apple Award
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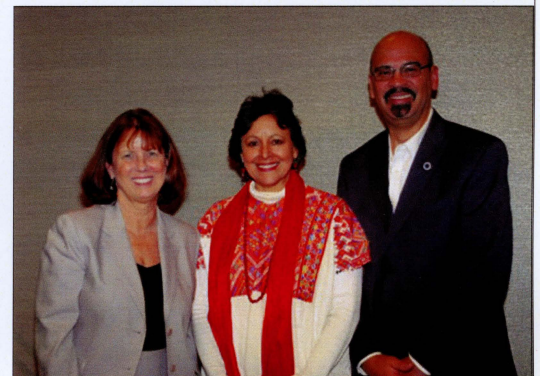
### 3rd Annual Dr. Jean B. Carlson Lectureship: Event Highlights with Dr. Angela Valenzuela

On November 10, 2014 the College of Education hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Jean B. Carlson Memorial Lectureship. Dr. Angela Valenzuela, Program Chair and Professor of Educational Policy and Planning at the University of Texas at Austin, was this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Valenzuela also serves as the Director of the National Latino Education Research and Policy Project (NLERAP), which aims to create a teacher education pipeline for Latino/a youth, nationally.

Dr. Valenzuela's discussion focused on her current research, which examines how communities can come together to address policy issues and find ways of connecting grassroots struggles to larger

policy debates and social movements. She highlighted concerns that have been shifting the state of teacher preparation programming in

*(Continued on Page 3)*



(L to R): Maureen Gillette, Dean, College of Education; Angela Valenzuela, 2014 Carlson Keynote Speaker; and Marvin Garcia, Member, NEIU Board of Trustees.

### SPED Student Competes in International Karate Tournament

Kevin Kucbor, an undergraduate student in special education, recently traveled to Bremen, Germany to compete in the World Karate Federation Championship for Persons with Disabilities. Kevin placed fifth out of 20 in his division for individuals with learning disabilities, and was only one of three Americans at the tournament. "I thought I did very, very well," said Kevin,

who was born with a mild form of cerebral palsy. "My coaches thought I did well. For me, it wasn't about the medals. It was more about going out there and competing on an international stage and getting the experience."

Kevin began his karate training in kindergarten as an outlet to stay fit and active. He trains at the North

*(Continued on Page 3)*



## Dean's Column

Welcome to a new semester and New Year! A lot of great things are happening in the College of Education. The COE is more robust than ever due to the wonderful efforts of our faculty and staff. We continue to enroll excellent students, update long-standing academic programs and introduce new ones, and maintain meaningful partnerships with grassroots organizations to increase the vibrancy of the communities we serve.

The fall 2014 semester was busy as we hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jean B. Carlson Memorial Lectureship. We had a wonderful turnout at this year's event as our keynote speaker, Dr. Angela Valenzuela, provided participants with thought-provoking perspectives on working with the state legislature to ensure we maintain a diverse teacher candidate pipeline. We will begin planning the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Jean B. Carlson Memorial Lectureship soon.

The COE continues to move forward with the new education building. Work teams have been meeting regularly with architects and project managers of SmithGroup JJR to finalize design plans. The design plans highlight collaborative learning spaces for faculty and students, incorporate the latest teaching technology to ensure student success, while employing the latest technological innovations to ensure building efficiency. The Capital Development Board must approve our design and three possibilities have been submitted to them by SmithGroup JJR. I hope that by the next newsletter, we can print an artist's

rendering of the new building!

I was fortunate to be able to visit the *Prison and Neighborhood Arts* program at Stateville with Erica Meiners and Sarah Ross. I got to observe a class and speak to the men taking the class about the role of the program in their lives. Our goal is to find a way to offer credit-bearing courses because the work is rigorous and the men deserve a chance to earn a degree.

We expanded our ENLACE program under the direction of Frank Gaytan. We now have 22 candidates enrolled in the Higher Education master's program and I appreciate all of the work that the faculty and NEIU staff are doing to continue to help our students reach their goals.

The Counselor Education faculty is in full swing as they prepare for their October 2015 CACREP visit. Send your support as they are submitting their report soon.

As everyone in teacher education knows, the new, state-mandated edTPA assessment is upon us. I so appreciate everyone's hard work in getting our programs and our candidate's ready. Believe it or not, our next CAEP (formerly NCATE) visit is three and a half years away so Effie Kritikos is leading the effort to get us on track with the new standards!

Thank you for all of the good work you do. I hope you have a successful semester!

*Maureen Gillette*



Dr. Maureen Gillette, Dean  
College of Education





**[Carlson Lectureship—Continued from Page 1]**

the United States. In addition, she commended the COE for its work in advancing the Grow Your Own Teachers program, which works with multiple community organizations in Chicago to recruit and graduate a diverse range of talented teachers. Dr. Valenzuela concluded with thoughts on the intersecting role of policy work related to accountability and assessment – at both the state and national level – and authentic approaches to learning and instruction. She and attendees retreated to Golden Eagles for a reception at the conclusion of her discussion.

For 18 years, Dr. Jean B. Carlson (1922-2010) taught at Northeastern Illinois University in the Department of Educational Foundations. During her tenure, she served as Chair of the Department and later on as Acting Dean of the College. The lectureship was established by Dr. Carlson's family and friends to honor her commitment to lifelong learning, as well as to recognize the contributions she made to the University. Watch for updates concerning the 2015 Dr. Jean B. Carlson Lectureship in a future edition of News & Notes.



**Ms. Mayra Bravo-Gonzalez (BA, 2011, SCED-MATH), introduced this year's keynote speaker.**

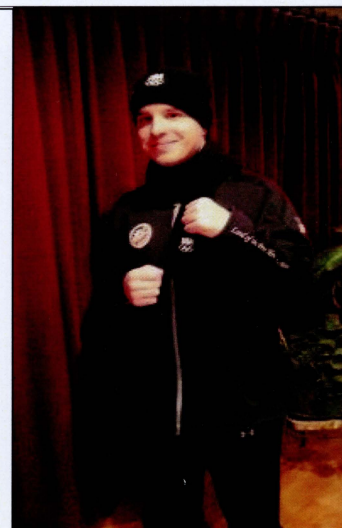


**Dr. Angela Valenzuela, 2014 Carlson Memorial Lectureship Keynote Speaker**

**[SPED Student—Continued from Page 1]**

Shore Dojo in Glenview. He doesn't plan to return to the international stage for several more years, but is now focusing his time on developing as a coach for athletes with disabilities and uses his university as an inspiration.

"In the classroom, Kucbor has demonstrated a genuine interest in helping students with special needs," noted special education instructor, Dean Korbakes. "Kevin is an engaging young man. He is likeable, hard-working and has a genuine passion for [SPED] subject matter," Korbakes added. Much of what Kevin wants to achieve outside the dojo still relates to karate. He became inspired to pursue special education by his coach, who asked Kevin to be a mentor in his program for people with disabilities. "As soon as I started working with those kids, I fell in love with it," Kevin said. "I couldn't see myself doing anything else. Coming back from the world championships and doing as well as I have, I think I continue to serve as a positive role model for those kids. It's awesome knowing I can make a difference and make an impact in a positive way."



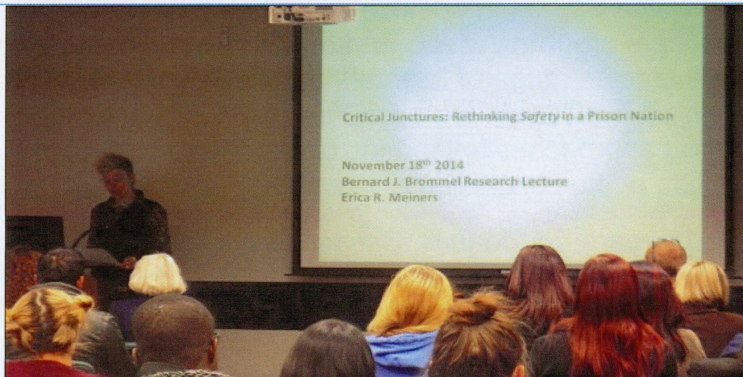
**Kevin Kucbor**



## Dr. Erica Meiners Named Brommel Distinguished Research Professor

Provost Helldobler announced Dr. Erica Meiners (EICS) as the 2014 Dr. Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor. Dr. Meiners was selected because of her scholarly research and creative works, which were vetted by a group of external peer reviewers. Dr. Meiners was formally presented at the May 2014 commencement ceremony. On November 18, 2014, she presented her research to the University community in a presentation entitled, *Critical Junctures: Rethinking Safety in a Prison Nation*.

The Dr. Bernard J. Brommel Distinguished Research Professor Award was established by Dr. Brommel, Professor Emeritus, Communication, Media and Theatre, to be given annually to the tenured/tenure-track member of the NEIU faculty who best demonstrate excellence in research and scholarship. The award was presented for the ninth time in 2014.



## COE Graduate Wins Golden Apple Award

On October 24, 2014, **Ms. Madeline Kobayashi** (MSI-Language Arts program) was the latest NEIU student to receive a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Ms. Kobayashi is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts teacher at Philip Rogers Elementary School, and strongly believes in the transformative power of teaching and learning. "There is nothing more impactful on a student's life than hope – the hope that sustains [students'] belief that they can be successful. The hope that inspires students to pursue their goals, continue to learn, and to aspire for growth as human beings," stated Ms. Kobayashi. She was selected from a pool of 272 applicants and 620 nominations. To view the 2014 Golden Apple Awards ceremony, click [here](#).



(L to R) Dr. Katy Smith (EICS-SCED), Ms. Madeline Kobayashi, and Dr. Tim Duggan (EICS—SCED).



## SPED Hosts First Annual Conference

On November 15, the Department of Special Education (SPED) hosted its inaugural Research to Practice conference. The four-hour conference offered future and current educators information on critical issues in the field, including Common Core, working with diverse learners, professional collaboration, and positive behavior management. The conference, under the direction of Drs. Brown, Moreno, and Wong-Lo, were led by advanced masters (LBS II) candidates. These teacher-leaders helped participants understand how research and theory informs their current school practice. The Department plans on holding a second conference, led by masters candidates, on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Stay tuned for more details.



## New Inductees Honored at Kappa Delta Pi Ceremony

The Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi at Northeastern Illinois University held a ceremony this past semester for new members. On October 20, Drs. Elaine Koffman (Associate Professor and KDP Chapter Counselor) and Effie Kritikos (Professor and Associate Dean) welcomed more than 20 new undergraduate students into the Chapter. Dr. Tim Duggan provided musical entertainment for this year's event. A reception followed the event in Golden Eagles.



## Out and About

Drs. Diep Nguyen (TED), Jeanine Ntahirageza (CAS—TESOL), and Judy Yturriago (TED) stop and pose for a picture at the Chicago Public School Biliteracy Seal event.





# CCICS in the NEWS



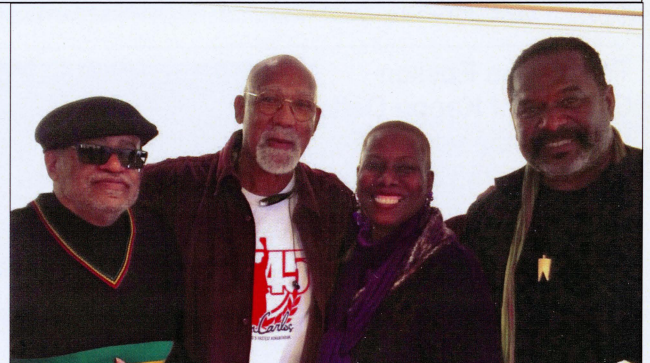
## Jazzy Mondays at the Center

CCICS's Great Black Music Project presents "Jazzy Mondays at the Center" that began in June and have been playing to a full house each month. Hosted by award winning vocalist Joan Collaso (pictured right) and WVON radio personality Cliff Kelly, every second Monday of the month with performances by Chicago's best jazz performers. Musicians such as pianists Willie Pickens, Miguel de la Cerna, and vocalists such as Dee Alexander (pictured far right), Maggie Brown, and Frieda Lee, to name a few, have been delighting audiences. The next performance is **January 12, 2015**, featuring guitarist Frank Russell and bassist Chuck Webb. Ticket price is \$10 per person. Showtime 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Reservations strongly recommended.



## CCICS Hosts Famed Olympian

On Saturday, November 1, 2014, CCICS in conjunction with the Friends of Track and Field hosted "A Conversation with Famed Olympian Dr. John Carlos." Dr. Carlos won the gold medal for track and field in the 1967 Pan American Games. He won the bronze medal in the 200 m race, and ignited controversy at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico when he and gold medalist Tommie Smith gave what was called the "Black Power Salute" during the medal awards ceremony. Dr. Carlos spoke to an overflow audience on the topic of "Revitalizing Track and Field in the Inner City," and his book, *The John Carlos Story*. After the lecture Dr. Carlos met with members of the audience and signed his book.



(L to R) Dr. Conrad Worrill, Dr. John Carlos, Rosetta Cash and Ezra McCann.

## ASCAC Midwest Regional Conference Held at CCICS

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations Midwest Regional Conference (ASCAC MWR) was held November 7-8, 2014 at CCICS. NEIU alum and ICSE Administrative Assistant, Rosetta Cash, is the President of the ASCAC Midwest Region and helped organize the conference. Presentations were given by NEIU alumni and CCICS instructors Yvonne Jones and Dr. Josef Ben Levi. Other NEIU alumni, Dr. Kamau Rashid and recent graduate Jacob Carruthers IV, also made presentations. ASCAC President Dr. Mario Beatty was also in attendance. The conference was well attended and participants included students from CCICS and Chicago City Colleges. Members of the Inner City Studies Majors Club of CCICS are working with the students planning to attend the national conference which will be held in Seattle, WA in March 2015.



# Faculty SPOTLIGHT

**Dr. Erica Meiners (EICS)** co-authored [\*Beyond Crisis: College in Prison through the Abolition Undercommons\*](#) in *Lateral*, 3. The article explores inter-relationships among institutions of higher education and prisons. Focus is given to teaching and learning – the hallmarks of college in prison programs – as they relate to research and administration within the and across universities/colleges and prisons. It aims to contribute to broader structural thinking about working in college in prison programs most ethically and in ways that contribute to strengthening public higher education and eliminating prisons. In addition, **Dr. Meiners** co-authored *Ending Our Expertise: Feminists, Scholarship, and Prison Abolition* in *Feminist Formations*, 26(2), 1-25. Lastly, she was a guest speaker on the radio show, *Latino USA* (NPR), where [she discussed the relationship between education and incarceration](#).

**Dr. Jennifer Banas (HPERA)** published [\*Preservice Teachers' Attitudes and Beliefs Towards Different Types of Bullying and the Likelihood They Will Intervene\*](#) in *Northwest Journal of Teacher Education*. The survey study examined preservice teachers' attitudes towards beliefs about and intentions to intervene into a bullying situation. In addition, **Dr. Banas** co-authored [\*The Impact of Authentic Learning Exercises on Preservice Teachers' Motivational Beliefs Towards Technology Integration\*](#) in the *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education*, 10(3), 60-76. The quasi-experimental study explored the impact of authentic learning exercises on preservice teachers' motivational beliefs and intentions to integrate technology, as well as the ability of those beliefs to predict intentions. Lastly, **Dr. Banas** co-authored [\*eSalud Culturally Tailored Design and Implementation Considerations for eHealth Interventions with Latino Populations\*](#) in the *American Journal of Public Health* (doi: 10.2155-AJPH.2014.302187). The article highlights cultural and linguistic factors that should be considered during the design and implementation of eHealth interventions with this population.

On October 7, 2014, **Dr. Laura Tejada (COUN)** co-presented *For the Play Therapist: The Value of Engaging Parents' Histories*, at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Play Therapy Conference. The conference was held in Houston, Texas.

**Dr. Mei-Whei Chen (COUN)** and **Dr. Nan Giblin (Professor Emerita, COUN)** recently published the second edition of their book, *Individual Counseling: Skills and Techniques*. Denver, CO: Love Publishing.

On December 4, 2014, **Dr. Lorie Annarella (TED)** presented *Understanding Culture through Memoir* at the Worldwide Forum on Education and Culture Conference. The conference was held in Rome, Italy.

**Dr. Diep Nguyen (TED)** published *What is Portfolio Assessment and Why is it Important for PreK Programs and Grades K-3*, *What Do Administrators Need to Know About Paid/Volunteer Interpreters or Using Family as Interpreters?*, and *Who are the Constituents That I Need to Build Relationships With in the District and Community?*, in Nemeth, D. (Ed.) (2014) [\*Young Dual Language Learners: A Guide for PreK-3 Leaders\*](#). Philadelphia, PA: Caslon, Inc. In addition, **Dr. Nguyen** co-presented *Long-Term Impacts of Dual Language Education: Preliminary Results* at the LaCosecha Conference, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The presentation provided a preliminary report of results from an ethnographic study conducted with young adults who had participated in a Dual Language program for over eight years. Lastly, **Dr. Nguyen** moderated *Perspectives from the Field: A Panel Discussion Regarding Bilingual/ESL Teacher Evaluation*, at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Statewide Conference for Teachers Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, in Oak Brook, IL.

On November 22, 2014, several **EICS** faculty members, including **Drs. Ann Aviles de Bradley, Alison G. Dover, Erica Meiners** and **Isaura Pulido**, displayed their work at the *14th Teachers for Social Justice Curriculum Fair*. The title of their exhibit was *Preparing Justice-Oriented Teachers*. For more details about the fair, please visit <http://www.teachersforjustice.org/>.



Several COE faculty, including **Drs. Ann Aviles de Bradley, Gabriel Cortez, Alison G. Dover, and Isaura Pulido**, were contributing editors of the *Grassroots Curriculum Toolkit 4.0: A Critical Urban Praxis Collection* (Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce, 2014). This collaborative effort of twenty-five elementary, secondary, and post-secondary educators includes strategies and resources for building community-based, social action-oriented, and academic skills-based curricula for, with, and by youth and the communities in which we teach. To learn more about CGCT and their efforts, visit: [grassrootscurriculum.org](http://grassrootscurriculum.org).

**Dr. Kaija Zusevics (HPERA)** co-authored [\*The Limits of Traditional Approaches to Informed Consent for Genomics Medicine\*](#) in Health Care Ethics Committee Forum, 26(3), 185-202. (doi: 10.1007/s10730-014-9247-3). In the article, the authors argue that it will be important for new genomic technologies to recognize the limits of traditional approaches to informed consent, so that other-regarding implications of genomic information can be properly contextualized and individual rights respected. In addition, **Dr. Zusevics** co-authored [\*Views of Non-Medical Professionals regarding the Return of Whole Genome Sequencing Incidental Findings\*](#) in Wisconsin Medical Journal, 113(5), 11-16. (doi: 10.1111/cge.12390). The paper reports the findings of a survey that was designed to contribute data on views of non-medical populations regarding the return of incidental findings following genome sequencing in a clinical setting.

## Student SPOTLIGHT

**Flavia Cioanca (HRD, M.A. Candidate)** is currently participating in a 5 month initiative to design online instruction for the Linux Foundation. Her role in the initiative is to create instruction for employees using Lectora® software. The instructional design team that Ms. Cioanca is working with is comprised of HRD professionals from Hong Kong, France, and the United States.



Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) president, **Allia Ogden (pictured left)**, and vice president, **Chad Ziarko**, presented at the *Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC)* conference in November. Allia and Chad spoke on behalf of fellow officers, **Casserina Santos, Alysha Gillani, Joselyn Badillo, and Alexandra Hoffman** on the topic *Promoting Special Education Awareness at Northeastern Illinois University*.

On December 11, 2014, **eight bilingual/bicultural students (pictured right)** attended the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Teachers

of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students, in Oak Brook, IL. The students are members of the Student Association for Multilingual Multicultural Education (SAMME) and raised money to attend the conference. They also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Socorro Herrera, Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy at Kansas State University, who is also the author of a textbook used in BLBC program at NEIU. All eight BLBC students are on-track to graduate in May 2015.



(L to R): Magdalena Ramirez, Jessica Lopez, Aishah Afzal, Dr. Judith Yturriago, Dr. Socorro Herrera, Vanessa Corado, Isolina Severiche, Elizabeth Castaneda, Karen Peralta, Gabriel Manzano, and Dr. Ngoc-Diep T. Nguyen.