Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends:

I hope all of you have had time this summer to relax and enjoy some respite from the busyness of the academic year. There has been a lot of activity here in the School of Education and hopefully the SOEXPRESS will catch you up to speed on the events, conferences, achievements and more of the educational involvement of our faculty & staff, students and alumni. I look forward to yet another challenging and successful academic year in 2011-2012 and wish you all nothing but the best.

Avatar Debut

The School of Education premiered our new educational technology system "TeachMe" during the summer session with students admitted through the NYC Teaching Fellows program.

"TeachMe" allows students to teach a virtual classroom of five students all with specific personality profiles, to improve upon their classroom management skills, lesson plan development, and teaching styles before stepping in front of an actual classroom.

The students have truly embraced the avatar like technology and faculty such as professor Sharon Medow, have shared the same sentiments.

"It truly is a great technological tool for our students and faculty to use," Medow said. "It allows students the opportunity to try out their lesson plans and teaching methods and get real time feedback so they can make adjustments before they teach in a real classroom. There are lots of benefits in having the "TeachMe" technology and myself, the rest of the faculty, and our students are very excited about it."

Both the NYC and Pleasantville campuses are now fully equipped with the "TeachMe" systems for faculty and students to use and enhance the teaching and learning experience.

Check out a short video clip on how the "TeachMe" software works by clicking here.

The SOE Welcomes Its First Fullbright Scholar

The School of Education sends a warm welcome to its first ever Fullbright Scholar Dr. Xiao Cheng. Dr. Cheng is a native of Tibet, China and has spent the last 15 years teaching English at Tibet University.

During his 10-month Fullbright experience, he will be conducting research on trilingualism, which is the ability to use three languages with equal or near equal frequency, under the supervision of School of Education professor Dr. Xiao-Lei Wang.

The visit to the United States is Dr. Cheng's first and he is eager to experience the culture, life, and education of the U.S. through the School of Education at Pace University.

"It's an honor to be accepted into the Fullbright Scholar Program by Pace University," Dr. Chegn said. "I think it's very important to build a good academic relationship between both universities (Pace and Tibet). Maybe in the future, some of the faculty here can come over to Tibet University and teach English and experience our culture."

New Faculty & Staff at the SOE

The School of Education would like to welcome three new faculty and two
new staff members. Dr. Peter McDermott (research interests are in literacy education, urban international education, and the new literacies), Dr. Bonnie Keilty (research focuses on early intervention for families with infants and toddlers with or at risk for developmental delays or disabilities), and Dr. Kelley Lassman (research based in preparing general and special educators to teach students with special needs), have joined the SOE as tenure track faculty. Mr. Christopher Bozzone has joined the SOE as the new Director of School Partnerships on the NYC campus and Dr. Fran Wills will be contributing to the SOE as the Coordinator for Professional Development.

Professors Brian Evans & Janet Mulvey Take Teaching To Africa

In August, School of Education professors Dr. Brian Evans and Dr. Janet Mulvey traveled to Africa to work with elementary and secondary school teachers in Nkokonjeru, a town in Uganda. This project was set up through a U.S. based charity called Educate Uganda, founded in 2006, whose focus is to help orphaned children in Uganda go to school and improve the schools in which these children attend. Dr. Evans’ background is in mathematics education at both the elementary and secondary school levels while Dr. Mulvey’s background is in elementary and special education as well as educational leadership.

Read Dr. Evans and Dr. Mulvey's combined reflection of their Uganda trip [here](#).

SOE Junior, Catherine Flores Details Her Summer Educational Experience

Catherine Flores is an SOE adolescent education student majoring in Mathematics. Over the summer, Catherine was one of the 9 Pace University students selected to attend the 2011 National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), which was an all expenses paid for trip (except for food) by Pace University, in California from May 31-June 4th.

"There were two college board panels and they spoke about educational testing and President Obama's ambition about education as well as offered many workshops that we could choose to attend based on our preference," Catherine said. "The one workshop in particular I was amazed by was the one entitled 'A Conversation with Angela Provitera McGlynn', which was about different teaching techniques we can use to improve retention rates for first generation low-income and minority students mostly on the high school level. I ended up buying Angela's book and taking a picture with her. Overall it was a great way to network with other educational people and traveling to the west coast was something I have never done before so I enjoyed that as well."

**EVENTS**

- **Saturday, Sept 24**
  The Center for Literacy Enrichment is hosting a Dr. Zeuss Bookfair Event at Barnes & Noble in the City Center in White Plains, NY from 1-5 p.m. For more event details [click here](#).

- **Monday, Sept 26**
  The 2nd Annual Aaron Academy/Pace University School of Education Symposium on Transition will be co-hosted by the School of Education’s TARA Center and Aaron Academy on Monday, Sept. 26th from 6-8 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at One Pace Plaza in NYC. For registration details or to RSVP please contact Stacy Rosenblum at Aaron Academy at srosenblum@aaronacad.org or 212-867-5443.

- **Thursday, Oct. 6**
  The Center for Literacy Enrichment will be holding an Open House Kick-Off Breakfast Celebration of the Center for Literacy Enrichment's 40th Anniversary. Invited guests include parents, principals, elected officials, and community leaders. Kindly RSVP no later than Monday, September 26th to Jennifer at 914-422-4135.
Catherine also had the chance to be a substitute student teacher assistant at the Center for Spectrum Services in Kingston, NY for most of June to August. Although it was a summer job it was another great way for Catherine to build connections and work with a population of students she never had.

"I've never worked with autistic students before but it was truly a great opportunity for me and I enjoyed it so much. Despite the one hour and twenty minute commute, I couldn't wait to go to work each day and I wouldn't mind working there in the future, Catherine said.

To see more pictures of Catherine at the NCORE 2011 Conference, visit our Facebook page by clicking here

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**TLQP Summer Institute Review**

On June 29 and 30, 2011, the Second Annual Pace Inquiry Learning Collaborative Curriculum Planning Institute was held funded by the Teacher Leader Quality Partnership Grant through New York State.

Led by Dr. Christine Clayton and Dr. Jim Kilbane (a former SOE professor), The collaboration just completed a second year of work with five high schools in the New York Metropolitan area. Read more.

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**Narrative Education Recap**

During the summer, faculty in the School of Education spearheaded a 4-day professional development workshop targeting K-12 teachers and administrators.

Thirty-one educators attended the first annual Narrative Education Institute, which focused on helping teachers learn how varied technologies can elicit, capture, and represent student and teacher narratives to enhance students' digital literacy (which is central to the new Common Core standards) and to create more positive classroom environments.

This work is important because schools are continually updating their curriculum for digital literacy and their efforts are most effective when teachers are digitally literate. The Institute curriculum was developed in collaboration with faculty in Columbia University's narrative medicine program and the Pleasant/Blythedale School District.

The Narrative Education Institute is sponsoring a follow-up reception for attendees on Tuesday, October 4 from 6-8 p.m. at Butcher Suite in the Kessel Center on Pace University's Pleasantville campus. This event is designed to allow attendees to share how they have used the Institute's ideas in their classes and school and to identify other ways in which the use of narrative education can continue to enhance learning.

Check out more photos of the Narrative Education Institute on our Facebook page by clicking here

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**Michele Benjamin Alumni Spotlight**

Michele Benjamin is a 1997 School of Education graduate who earned her MST in Adolescent Education in the subject area of Biology for grades 5-12. Michele has had the fortune of teaching students in multiple states such as New York, Texas, and Kansas. She has taught middle School science for a total of 8 years combined and won the Teacher of the Year Award while teaching at West Ridge School in 2000-2001.

She has developed school-wide science curriculum while serving as department chair, designed and implemented a home schooling program, and offered her experience and knowledge as an in-home tutor. Now Michele has moved into an adjunct professor role at Park University in Parkville, MO, which for her is a whole new ballgame

"There wasn't much difference in teaching in New York and Texas, they were actually more similar than not. Both states have state testing and the kids were really enjoyable in both schools," Michele, who is married with two children said. "As for my new position as an adjunct, I will be teaching Science for Early Childhood and Elementary Teachers. The thought of me going to be a professor is a little daunting but I'm excited as I have always wanted to teach on a college campus and interact with students at that level." Read more

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**"Small School, Big City" Documentary Aired Nationally on PBS**

The Pace High School documentary "Small School, Big City" aired nationally on PBS on September 3rd at 1 p.m. Congratulations to School of Education professor and Pace High School co-founder Dr. Art Maloney, Pace High School principal Yvette Sy, all the faculty & staff, and students at Pace High School. In case you missed it, you can watch the documentary posted in the SOE video section on Facebook. Part I and Part II.
Technology Updates for SOE Students, Faculty & Staff

Information Technology Services (ITS) has continued in its pursuit of upgrading technology in the classrooms. Several lecture halls such as Lecture Hall South in NY and Goldstein 300 in PLV have been converted to high-end rooms. Read more

As part of the upgrade to version 4, you are now able to login to Echo 360 using your MyPace Portal Username and Password. This means that logging into the application no longer requires a separate username and password. Read more

The Pace Information Center (PLC) is your single source of information for any question about the university. To reach the PLC, dial 311 from any internal administrative Pace phone, or 1-855-PACE311 (1-855-722-3311) from off-campus. Read more.

There are many products available providing web conferencing tools. Over the past few months ITS has been evaluating the various options and working to develop our recommendations for the best tools for Pace University needs. Read more.

Microsoft Lync is a United communications solution from Microsoft that facilitates online collaboration through a rich set of integrated features. Pace students, faculty and staff can use the software to communicate with their colleagues in a new and exciting way. Read more

SOE Faculty Bulletin

SOE Faculty have recently been achieving great things in the field of Education and here are some brief examples –

Professors Christine Clayton, Ph.D., has taken over as the Pleasantville Department Chair in the School of Education and has written an article "Change Matters: Critical Essays on Moving Social Justice From Theory to Policy, An invited book review for Teachers College Record, August 26, 2011, ID number: 16514. Read more

Professor Brian Evans, Ed.D., has taken over as the new the NYC Department Chair in the School of Education

Professor Fran Falk-Ross, Ph.D., published an article in September 2011, "Media Options: A Comparison of Preservice Teachers' Use of Video, Audio, and Print Journaling for Reflective Reading Response. Reflective Practice, DOI:10.1080/14623943.2011.616883. Dr. Falk-Ross also attended the European Reading Conference in Brussels this summer where Dr. Falk-Ross made a presentation titled "Coaching Teachers to Use Language-Into-Literacy Strategies for Multilingual Students.

Professor Peter McDermott, Ph.D., has published along with K. Gormley "Do You Jing? How Screen-Casting Can Enrich Classroom Teaching and Learning" The Language and Literacy Spectrum, 21, 12-20. Professor McDermott also presented at the Using Web 2.0 Tools to Enhance Learning and Engagement in Teaching about the Hudson Valley at the Teaching the Hudson Valley, Summer Conference in Hyde Park, NY, July 26-28.

Professor Brian Monahan, Ph.D, has been named program coordinator for the SOE Educational Technology Program.

Professor Xiao-Lei Wang, Ph.D., presented a paper at the 3rd International Conference on Education, Economy and Society in Paris in July. The title of the paper is "A Middle-Voiced Approach to Diversity in Educational Settings. Dr. Wang presented another paper entitled "Effects of Teachers' Gestures on Reading Comprehension and Narration of Children with Learning Difficulties," at the 17th European Conference on reading in Mons, Belgium in August 2011 as well as spent time conducting research on trilingualism in several countries such as Switzerland, France, Italy, and Luxembourg, which will be the source of a new book "Keeping up with three languages: Adolescence."

Dr. Rita Silverman and Dr. Sandy Flank Retire: The School of Education would like to honor and congratulate both Dr. Silverman and Dr. Flank on their retirement and thank them for the many years of service, dedication, excellence, and contributions to the School of Education. We wish you well throughout your retirement and in everything you do. Thanks Again!

Attention SOE Alums: The School of Education would like to hear from our alumni about where they're currently working, when they graduated, how their experience was at the School of Education and any other interesting activities they're involved in. Please contact School of Education Communications Coordinator Justin Jones at jjones3@pace.edu to share your story.

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