Plant the Seeds and Watch Them Bloom.

Table of Contents

Seeds of Communication ................... 1
Seeds of Service ............................. 1
Seeds of Hospitality ......................... 2
Seeds of Excellence ......................... 2
Seeds of Equity .............................. 2
Seeds of Calling ............................. 3
M.S. Hooding Ceremony ..................... 4
Annual Awards Banquet ..................... 5
Alumni Newsflash ........................... 6
Seeds of Wellness ........................... 6

Seeds of Communication by Kristen Luba
my.nyack.edu, facebook.com, and LiveText

The School of Education has tried various traditional means of communication through the years—newsletters, snail mail, e-mail, memos in campus mail—but we are about to take it to an increasingly electronic level.

Three new methods of communication that we are rolling out for the 08-09 academic year are groups in the two social networking sites my.nyack.edu and facebook.com as well as posting relevant handbooks and forms in LiveText. The goal of these three initiatives is to increase the level of communication between and among the School of Education faculty/administration, current students, and alumni.

The site my.nyack.edu is gradually being introduced to all Nyack College alumni by the alumni relations arm of the college. It is a safe social networking site available only to college and seminary alumni. The School of Education has made use of this by creating a group for School of Education Alumni. Graduates, please log onto the site and join the group for open discussions. (continued on pg. 3)

Seeds of Service by Professor Sherry Jarrett
Dominican Republic Service Learning & Mission Trip

During the 2008-09 Winterim, the School of Education is offering a service learning course/mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This is the last opportunity to join our team as we plan to purchase airline tickets this summer.

We will be partnering with Crossroads—a ministry led by a family that has been serving the poor communities in the DR for over thirty years—as we minister to the children and families in and around the Puerta Plata area and visit local schools. Please visit www.dominicancrossroads.com to learn about Crossroads, read about the different ministry opportunities, and view the retreat compound where we will be staying.

I am very excited to be teaching this course and looking forward to experiencing God’s leading and work in our lives. This trip is quite special to me, as this is the place where my family took our first mission trip back in 2003. I invite you to prayerfully consider (continued on pg. 3)
Seeds of Hospitality by Dr. JoAnn Looney
CELT Conference Hosted by NYC Campus

The Christians in English Language Teaching Conference (CELT) was hosted by Nyack College on April 2, 2008, at the Manhattan Campus. The CELT 2008 site committee, chaired by Eleanor Pease, was comprised of Nyack faculty: Peg Bowen, Janice Yeoh and Marie White. Ninety-eight participants enjoyed many informative sessions addressing ESL teaching methodologies, as well as two plenary sessions. Speaker Dr. Zoltan Dornyei, a renowned scholar in the field of Psycholinguistics and the first plenary speaker, addressed participants on the theme of the Conference, “Education with Vision”. Ms. Lavinia A’Costa, the second plenary speaker, is the Coordinator of the ESL Program at the Downtown Learning Center. She spoke on “Affirmation, Restoration and Perseverance” in teaching.

Congratulations to the CELT conference team for a job well done!

Danielle Palentchar, RC Apple Award Recipient, made learning fun for the students at Valley Cottage Elementary School. Each lesson became an opportunity to get the kids up and out of their seats doing choral readings, reader’s theatre, relay races, and group scavenger hunts. She kept the students busy and productive and had little trouble with classroom management. As a baseball player, she understands the concept of being a “team” player and her cooperating teacher was overwhelmed by Danielle’s willingness to step in whenever needed. Danielle was “Christ-like” by example and this is a coveted and vital aspect of the student teaching program at Nyack College. ~by Professor Christine Buel

Seeds of Equity by Professor Sherry Jarrett
Children’s Legislative Breakfast Forum

In March, Nyack College Early Childhood Education majors attended the Children’s Legislative Breakfast Forum to discuss early childhood and school age care and educational services in Rockland County. All students in attendance represented Nyack College and the SOE Early Childhood Education Program with professionalism, and many present took notice. One student spoke to approximately 100 early childhood professionals and legislators about her calling and dedication to young children and her concerns entering the field. One student present at the forum was approached by the director of an outstanding NYC early childhood program and encouraged to apply for a position. He had recalled her fieldwork at his center and was evidently impressed.

At the forum, Child Care Resources of Rockland Executive Director Jane Brown (below, left), asked Aimee Jimenez (below, middle), a junior Early Childhood Education major, to share her views as a teacher candidate preparing to enter the early childhood field. Aimee spoke passionately about her calling to work with young children, her dedication to becoming a highly trained and qualified teacher, and her concern about equitable compensation. Subsequent speakers referred back to Aimee, as legislatures were urged to invest in early childhood development by launching the Excellence in Early Childhood Workforce Initiative. Key areas of this initiative for EC professionals include: loan forgiveness for every year in the field; scholarship, mentoring and reward bonuses for education and training; and equitable compensation regardless of setting. The EC workforce initiative is one of three strategies on early childhood advocacy agenda, urging Governor Spitzer and the Children’s Cabinet to dramatically and systematically overhaul the State’s fragmented approach to early care and education and to provide a more efficient and accountable approach to investing in early childhood development. To learn more about early care and education advocacy efforts, log on to www.winningbeginningny.org.

In attendance were Senator Thomas Morahan, Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffe, Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski, representatives from the offices of Senator Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, and members of the Rockland County Legislature. Childcare Resources of Rockland and the Rockland Children’s Advocacy Network hosted the forum. Student participation in events such as this reflects initiative and interest in professional development beyond the college classroom.

Seeds of Excellence by Kristen Luba
Annual Awards Banquet—Rockland

The 5th annual end-of-the-year School of Education Awards Banquet was an encouraging event. Faculty, staff, students, and representatives from local, partner schools gathered to recognize and honor those who excelled this year.

While academic achievement is vital, the teaching profession is built on much more than that. Accordingly, awards were distributed to students in various areas—teamwork, academics, professionalism in fieldwork, proficiency in technology, being a Christian role model, instructional ability, knowledge of theory, affect, effort, all-around excellence in student teaching, and so forth.

Several cooperating teachers and principals were present to witness the awards. A few of them took the opportunity to affirm the soundness of the programs at Nyack College and the candidates we produce, and others spoke encouragement regarding what it means to be in the classroom affecting lives. Retiring teachers Valerie Matthews and Barbara DeFrances were honored for their collaboration through the years as mentor teachers along with Principal Brenda Grier who will be retiring this coming December.

A special thanks to Jamie Lettre for organizing this year’s banquet. Pictures are on pg. 5.

Paula Cole, NYC Apple Award Recipient, showed commitment to excellence and improving student achievement, which distinguished her as a student teacher. She worked ardently preparing them for New York State Regents in Social Studies for 5th graders. Due to Paula’s successful work and congenial disposition with the students and staff, immediately upon graduation in December, Mrs. Colon the principal at P.S. 397 hired Paula as a permanent substitute. Amidst the joy, Paula graduated Summa Cum Laude. Paula was part of Nyack’s Honor program and a member of Pi Lambda Theta. We are confident that greater things than this Paula will do for the youth of tomorrow. God speed Paula! We are proud of you. ~by Professor Miriam Velez

Congratulations to the CELT conference team for a job well done!
As another year culminates, our thoughts reflect on the aspiration and ambition of the 2008 graduates. The nine graduates come from diverse backgrounds coupled with a complexity of household responsibilities. Although they were college students, each took on multiple roles as ministry leader and participant, parent, fiancée, spouse, and primary care provider. Some entered the Childhood Education program either seeking direction or confident that this is the path they were "called" to follow. As the nine students embarked on their academic pursuits, they each found themselves bombarded by course work, field experience and student teaching assignments that stretched their imagination of who they were and are becoming. Some battled loss of family, home, and finances, but they never lost hope in the promise that they've been "called" to teach to generations yet unseen. Their desire for excellence and passion for their purpose was evident in their studies as they received the following honors: Paula Cole Dean's List, Pi Lambda Theta and Summa Cum Laude, Jacqueline Manrique Dean's List, Pi Lambda Theta, and Summa Cum Laude, Stephanie McCree Pi Lambda Theta and Magna Cum Laude, Penda Thompson Cum Laude, Alexis Vazquez Dean's List, Pi Lambda Theta and Magna Cum Laude, Rafael Velez Pi Lambda Theta and Magna Cum Laude, and Katara Walker Cum Laude. Joannis Jimenez and Johanna Rivera worked arduously as well.

Several students have received an offer for employment and are contemplating acceptance due to their desire to complete graduate studies either at Nyack, Queens College or NJCU (see pg. 4 for details). Recently our graduates were invited by John Di Fiore, Director of Recruitment to attend a New York Department of Education invite only career fair in June for new teachers. This came as a result of Prof. Miriam Velez's diligent efforts over the years to maintain a working relationship with the DOE. The invitation is an honor for the attendees, since it gives them access to all public, private and charter schools. With the experiences they've obtained at Nyack, zeal for teaching and divine opportunities, our graduates will soar above the expectations of man and themselves. It is our desire to witness it but as the seed goes forth, we can only give God praise for all He has done. Trusting that they will all "live a life worthy of the calling (they) have received." (Ephesians 4:16)

(Communication cont.)
As an extenuation of the my.nyack.edu group idea, we decided to begin groups on the popular social networking site facebook.com to make a forum available for current education majors as well. There are four groups available through facebook: Nyack College School of Education — Current Undergrad Students, Nyack College School of Education — Undergrad Alumni, Nyack College School of Education — Current Grad Students, and Nyack College School of Education — Grad Program Alumni. You have to be a member of the Nyack network in order to join these facebook groups. Join the discussions already posted!

Lastly, the next generation of LiveText has been implemented with a dashboard of Summer 2008 and Fall 2008 courses in which each student is actively enrolled. In the syllabus and resources section of each course's overview page is a link to the School of Education Reference Notebook. The reference notebook has links and attachments for all SoE handbooks and forms...available 24/7.

Trip Details:
Dates: December 27, 2008-January 5, 2009 (trip may be extended until 1/9 - TBD)
Cost: $1700.00 Deposit now due
The course will require 4 Rockland campus meetings- three in the fall and one upon return.

Course Objectives: The main objectives of the Dominican Republic Project are to: introduce students to the concepts of cultural competence, servant leadership and reflective practice; in those areas, facilitate the development of skills and application to personal and professional life; engage in service and ministry to Dominican children and families; and learn to function effectively in another culture.

Course Description: This course is an integrated program of intercultural study/ service/ experience/ reflection, based upon the Nyack College Core Values (Socially Relevant, Academically Excellent, Globally Engaged, Intentionally Diverse and Personally Transforming). Students will travel to Puerta Plata and Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic (DR) and engage in intensive service-learning projects over a two week period; attending pre-departure class sessions in the fall and a debriefing session in January, on the Nyack College Campus. This course seeks to foster the student's development of cultural competence, servant leadership and reflective practice, using the service-learning experience to facilitate learning within the course. Students will also experience/learn about local culture, environment, community and economic conditions within the DR, through service/mission projects, structured outings, cultural events, guest speakers, coursework and course readings and assignments. Ongoing structured reflection will provide a way for students to discover, articulate, integrate and act on what they learn from their experiences.
Spring Blossoms

Master of Science in Education Hooding Ceremony

2007-8 Master’s Graduates
Jacqueline Barnes-Shine—Inclusive Education
Jonathan Carr—Inclusive Education
JiSun Chang—Childhood Education
Gwendalyn Green—Inclusive Education
Marilyn Greenfield—Inclusive Education
Yoli-Ann McLeod—Inclusive Education
Lynette Steffy—Inclusive Education

Dr. Looney (left) and Dr. Schepens (right) with graduate Lynette Steffy (middle). Steffy was the recipient of both the Outstanding Thesis and Outstanding Student awards.

JiSun Chang and family at the Master of Science Hooding Ceremony.

President Scales addresses the graduates.

Gwendalyn Green (left) and Jackie Barnes-Shine (right) rejoice together.
School of Education End-of-Year Banquets

2007–8 Bachelor’s Graduates
Kristen Astor—Childhood Education
Bryane Carr—Childhood Education
Sarah DeBlock—Childhood Education
Megan Detamore—Childhood Education
Elisa Ferretti—Music Education
Jonathan Harvey—Childhood Education
Joannis Jimenez—Childhood Education
Nicole Keiser—Adolescent Ed: Math
Rachel Klusewicz—Childhood Education
Melissa Longley—Music Education

Angela Marcel—Childhood Education
Elise Motta—TESOL
Danielle Palentchar—Childhood Education
Johanna Rivera—Childhood Education
Kristin Schock—Childhood Education
Rebecca Siegrist—Music Education
Penda Thompson—Childhood Education
Alexis Vazquez—Childhood Education
Katara Walker—Childhood Education
Kathleen Wicks—TESOL

A full house of education students, faculty, staff, and local school representatives celebrate the end of the year with fellowship, awards, and good food—mmmm strawberries & whipped cream!

Jacqueline Manrique (below) earned NYC’s ‘08 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Sarah DeBlock shares at an “open mic” time.

Megan Detamore chats with her guest and cooperating teacher, Ms. Green from Liberty Elementary School.

Johanna Rivera (above) and Alexis Vazquez (right) are happy to graduate.
Melanie (Cox) Lattimer ('98 and '04) is a new mommy to baby girl Alison who was born in May.

Kristen (Jones) Luba ('00) is a mommy—yet again!!—to pretty, pretty princess Aylo who was born in February. Both brothers adore their little sister who is rolling like a log.

Laura Madin ('03) was just admitted to Harvard University for the fall studying International Education Policy.

Johanna Rivera ('08) was offered a position but instead will seek to continue her studies in Bilingual Education after her marriage this summer.

Joannis Jimenez ('08) has accepted employment at Manhattan Christian Academy in New York, NY for this fall.

Katara Walker ('08) has accepted employment at P.S. 230 in Bronx, NY for this fall.

Stephanie McCree ('08) has employment at Evangel Christian Academy in Queens, NY for this fall.

Paula Cole ('08) has employment at P.S. 397 in Brooklyn, NY for this fall.

Ronald Sandgran ('07) is teaching at a private school in New Jersey.

Leila (Kluge) Paz ('06 and '07) is teaching gifted students.

Nicole Keiser ('08) has been hired at Freehold Regional HS for the fall.

Tiffany Mosely ('06 and '07) is a 6th & 7th grade teacher at St. Dominic's School and was highlighted in the May 16, 2008 issue of The Journal News in the article “St. Dominic's School helps special children learn”.

Stephanie (Nichols) Buckley ('01 cert only) earned her M.S.Ed. from Seton Hall, gave birth to Caitlin James Buckley, and has switched teaching positions from Ramapo HS to Park Ridge Middle/HS to teach Theater and English.

Don't forget to check out the alumni groups on my.nyack.edu and facebook.com!

Also:

- Dr. Dion Harrigan (faculty) has been tenured.
- Dr. Eleanor Pease (faculty) has been promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.
- Dr. JoAnn Looney (faculty) has been promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor.
- Prof. Susan Bucci (faculty) is taking the position of Program Director for the M.S. in Childhood Education at both Rockland and Manhattan sites.
- Drs. Stuart Knapp and Dion Harrigan have co-authored a book entitled Climate & Culture: Factors Enhancing Student Achievement, scheduled for release in August.

Seeds of Wellness

Doctoral Work Sabbatical for Prof. Jarrett

Professor Jarrett will be on sabbatical this 08–09 academic year, pursuing doctoral studies in health education at A.T. Still University (ATSU). ATSU is an osteopathic medical university, founded in 1892 by Andrew Taylor Still, M.D., D.O. Osteopathic medicine is a unique form of American medical care that was developed by Still in 1874. Dissatisfied with 19th Century healthcare, Still founded a philosophy of medicine based on ideas that date back to Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, and which focuses on the unity of the body. Dr. Still pioneered the concept of wellness and the “whole person approach,” upon which osteopathy is based. The whole person approach starts with a belief in the interactions of the body, mind, and spirit, and continues with an understanding of how these dimensions can be treated holistically. Instead of treating and specific symptoms or illnesses, the body is regarded as an integrated whole. What does this have to do with teachers and Early Childhood Education?

Prof. Jarrett’s research, already underway, involves the holistic wellness of teacher candidates. She feels that birth - 12 educators are uniquely positioned to influence the wellness of children entrusted to their care and under their tutelage. In order to positively impact the holistic wellness and fitness of children, educators must first themselves understand the importance of healthy living and an active lifestyle and strive to exemplify a lifestyle of holistic wellness. Teacher candidates benefit by studying areas such as nutrition, exercise safety, physical activity, program design, and health related fitness. In the coming year, teacher candidates may have the opportunity to participate in her study.

Although she will miss the classroom and seeing her students regularly, Professor Jarrett is excited to pursue her studies and looks forward to the potential impact her research will have in education. She can be reached via email, or check out her Facebook page to keep in touch. Prof. Jarrett extends her gratitude and sincerest thanks to Drs. Looney, Schepens, Turk, and the Nyack College administration for the honor and privilege of having been granted a sabbatical this year.