Greetings From the Dean

SHELLEY B. WEPNER

QUALITY, INNOVATION, OUTREACH.
These three words capture why you should take great pride in your affiliation with the School of Education of Manhattanville.

Quality permeates all that you and we do to promote our beloved field of education. Quality speaks about our reputation as a school that graduates students who know what to do to positively impact students’ learning, and actually do it. Quality speaks about the abilities and dedication of our alumni, students, and faculty, whose commitment to educating our youth is surpassed only by their talent for doing so.

Innovation speaks to the depth and breadth of program and professional development for teachers and leaders. Manhattanville’s education programs continue to be designed to address the needs of the PreK-12 schools, and the teachers and leaders who work in these schools. We actually are creating our first doctoral program in educational administration at the behest of our local administrators. With the widest range of programs anywhere in the mid-Hudson region, we want all types of students (career changers, at-home parents, traditional undergraduates and graduates) to find a fulfilling and enriching niche at Manhattanville because of the creative ways in which courses are taught and the exciting opportunities for professional development.

Outreach encompasses all that we do as a School of Education to enhance our students’ lives and contribute to the lives of PreK-12 youth. Because of our focus on and reputation for Quality and Innovation, our strategic partnerships with schools and the community are purposeful and joyful. Whether we go to the schools or the schools come to us, we are constantly figuring out ways to educate both the mind and heart.

It is no wonder why it is so easy to feel proud and excited about Manhattanville’s School of Education. Of course, our alumni are our greatest source of pride because they reflect all that is great about their preparation to teach and lead. The pages that follow, written by and for our alumni, tell some of the stories about how we live our mission that “Education is Life.”

School of Education Alumni Life

School of Ed Alumni Spotlights

Decisions

BY BRETT BOWDEN (MAT ’03)

I am what I am today
Because of the decisions I made yesterday
I’ll be what I’ll be tomorrow
Because of the decisions I make today

These words are tacked to the bulletin board in my classroom, right behind my desk. Just as I said they would while in the Jump Start program circa 2002, and (just) as they had been in room 209 at Franko Middle School in Mount Vernon. They exist as a general challenge to my students — and just the other day, were used to introduce a speaker from Leaders Today at a school-wide assembly about creating a We Generation.

Continued on page 20

Media Literacy for the Media Savvy:
A New Middle School Curriculum for YouTubers and MySpacers

BY JOHANNA MUSTACCHI
(MAT ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ’00)

“Hey, Ms. Mustacchi. Is this stuff taught in any other schools? Because I don’t think this stuff is taught in any other schools.”

So said one of my 8th grade students, only three weeks into the new school year. And I must say, I was caught a bit off guard. I had just embarked on a new journey, breathing life into a brand new curriculum, which I wrote, single-handedly, during a hectic summer of acquiring new, Middle Childhood Generalist Grades 5-9 certification, and cleaning, reconfiguring and decorating an old industrial arts shop classroom into my newest play pen: The Communications and the Media classroom.

Continued on page 16
Homecoming 2006
School of Education Alumni Reunion Event

The School of Education sponsored a Panel Discussion on “Balancing Values With Success” on Friday, September 29, 2006 as part of the Manhattanville Alumni Reunion Weekend.

The Panel was comprised of Alma Brown (MAT ’74), Senior Vice President, Chevy Chase Bank in Maryland; Monique Reilly (MPS ’00), SOE Adjunct Instructor and Fourth Grade Teacher; Dr. Rick Heckendorn, Manhattanville Associate Professor-Curriculum & Instruction; and Tabari Bomani, Co-Founder Bushwick Outreach Center and New York City Teacher.

The audience asked the panel to what extent the designed their career path based on their values, how did the panelists identify their own values, and to what extend the panelists’ definition of success correlated to their values. The program extended will beyond the designated time, as the discussion was so extensive and interesting.

The program was attended by a full house of alumni, students, and friends.

School of Education Guest Speaker

The School of Education Alumni hosted Michael Winerip, the New York Times (former) Education Editor on November 2, 2006. He spoke to students, alumni, and faculty on “On Education and On Writing.” Complimentary books of his book “Adam Canfield of the Slash” were available to program attendees, and Mr. Winerip had a book signing after his program.

Mr. Winerip is an Honorary Degree recipient at the 2007 Manhattanville Graduate Commencement on May 10, 2007.
Our partnerships continue to develop in Bedford, Port Chester and White Plains school districts, and the Carver Center. We also formed two new agreements with the Teacher Center at Purchase College and the White Plains Staff Development Center.

For Bedford, we are offering coursework so that teachers can extend their certification in secondary education and foreign language. At Port Chester, and for our undergraduate childhood education students, we offered field-based courses in literacy, science education, curriculum, management and assessment, and diverse needs. JoAnne Ferrara, Christina Siry, and Mary Ann Reilly developed and taught these courses so that our undergraduate childhood students could learn how to apply theory to practice, and vice versa. Two practicum courses were also offered for literacy, special education and literacy and special education graduate students that were taught by Steve Rosenberg, a long-term School of Education adjunct.

At George Washington Elementary School in White Plains, our newest Professional Development School (PDS), we initiated a new project: the PDS Fellows Program. Four Day Start students volunteered to do all their fieldwork throughout their Childhood program at George Washington. Day Start is a graduate education program in Childhood Education offered during the day.

We have been working at the Carver Center in Port Chester using their site to offer our Literacy Practicum and work with their children that use the center. The School of Education’s two newest agreements have been created to help teachers with professional development and to support their leadership efforts. Shelley Wepner worked with Ernie Piermarini, Director of the Teacher Center at Purchase College, to offer a discount to teachers from the nine school districts that are part of the Teacher Center at Purchase College. Kathy Rockwood worked with teacher centers in Westchester to develop the newly approved 15-credit Teacher Leader certificate.

Other partnerships that continue to thrive include the Devereux Millwood Learning Center, the Hawthorne Country Day School and the Windward Teacher Training Center. At Devereux and Hawthorne, we continue to offer an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program with a new ABA cohort beginning this spring at the Hawthorne Country Day School. At the Windward Teacher Training Center, we continue to offer courses in Multisensory Reading and Expository Writing for Manhattanville graduate credit.

**Education Is Life | Spring 2007**

**Partnerships**

**STEPHANIE COXEN**  
**ASSISTANT DEAN-OPERATIONS**

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**Edison Professional Development School (PDS) in Port Chester**

Dr. JoAnne Ferrara coordinated a fundraiser with the student teachers at the Edison school on Thursday, March 29, to raise money to provide for a guest speaker for Edison’s children. They raised $400 from the sale of stickers, coloring books, and healthy snacks. The money will be used to host an assembly program for fourth and fifth grade students.

The Manhattanville Student Teachers at Edison facilitated two parent workshops for the Edison Second Cup of Coffee Parent Group. The first workshop focused on homework help and the second workshop was about the dangers of My Space and Internet access.

Outreach is part of the Professional Development School relationship between the Manhattanville SOE and Edison PDS outreach. Part of the PDS outreach efforts included an anti-bullying workshop for the 5th graders at the Edison School. Two of the NY Giants led the workshop. The workshop format included skits and discussion about bullying victims and gang recruitment.

The Student Teachers also worked alongside the teachers to get the Edison students ready for the annual Fashion Show Fundraiser which was held in April, 2007.
School of Ed Alumni News

Penny (Worth) Genise (MAT ’70)

Two weeks after finishing my last class for an MAT at Manhattanville, when it was still Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, I married my high school sweetheart Bob Genise July 25th 1970 and subsequently began working in Stamford, Connecticut public schools as a third grade teacher and later as a reading consultant. I retired from Stamford for motherhood at the time of the birth of our first daughter in 1976 but consulted part time for a school in Madison, Connecticut during the next year. Babies two and three arrived in 1978 and 1980, and for one year I taught in a French/English bilingual school in Larchmont, New York, teaching mathematics, P.E., and art in the lower school. We moved to England a year following the birth of our fourth daughter in 1984 and returned a couple of years later, first to Connecticut before moving to Bellevue, Washington. The desire to maintain involvement in education outside of employment led me to pursue volunteer work in areas of personal interest:

I ran extracurricular classes in French, Spanish, Japanese, German and science in elementary and middle schools, a rape-prevention program for female students and faculty members in two high schools, served on the District Development Team to create alternative mathematics assessment tools, and led three Girl Scout troops. Noticing that schools needed more preparation for emergencies, I volunteered to fill. With an initial budget of $25, which grew to $75 a year, I created a network from the 25 schools in the district, and we shared ideas and inspired and educated each other about what we had learned at the local level. With support from Bellevue PTA Council, Bellevue Education Association (the teachers’ union), and the Board of Education, I made a proposal to the superintendent, which he approved, for district-wide improvements not impacting budget, i.e. district-wide earthquake drills, creating a team to meet with the Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness staff, and studying with intention of adopting in the district’s science curriculum two curricula developed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Teachers Association and the Geophysical Union to educate students on relevant science. Now my volunteer efforts are focused on Harrington House, a transitional housing for pregnant or newly parenting homeless women, and a chapter of AAUW chairing its Community Grants committee.

My daughters are quite grown up and pursuing careers reflecting their interests. Pamela, my first, is an immigration attorney in DC. Hilary, married five years, had been doing research in genetics in ophthalmology when she decided to change fields altogether. She is now halfway through a doctoral program at USC in physical therapy. Her husband Mike Noble is a software engineer with Hewlett Packard and travels back and forth between Palo Alto and Pasadena while Hilary is in school. Adrienne, number three, works for two research labs in the cardiology department of a hospital in Boston while pursuing an MBA at Simmons College nearby. Victoria, the baby of the family, graduated from Gonzaga University with a major in art and minors in economics and French. She returned to Gonzaga this fall for a two-year MBA program. We spend a fair amount of time on airplanes, for work or fun or sometimes just to be together.

Joanne Pickett (MAT ’70 Elementary Education) is a retired First Grade and Kindergarten teacher. She also has a BA in Psychology from Manhattanville College, and an MA from New York University, and an MS from the New York Institute of Technology. Joanne is involved in many community organizations: the Pelham PTA, Pelham Children’s Center, Pelham Art Center, The Manor Club, Bartow-Pell International Garden Club, FCC teacher at St. Catherine’s Church, Mamaroneck-Larchmont School District PTA. She is commuting between residences in Pelham, Savannah, Georgia, and Manchester, Vermont. Joanne is busy volunteering, traveling around the world and with various programs.

Frances O’Connell Rust (MAT ’70 Psychology & Sociology, Certification N-6) is about to retire from New York University where she is a professor, and move to Chicago where she will become the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at the Erikson Institute. Frances has an M.Ed. from Teachers College and an Ed.D. in 1984 also from Teachers College. In 1985 she was awarded the American Education Research Association’s Outstanding Dissertation; Outstanding Alumnus-Teachers College in 1998; and in 2000 a Research Award from the Association of Teacher Education. Frances is a national Advisor to the Teachers Network Leadership Institute. Frances has two children and four grandchildren.

Catherine M. Francomano-Renza (MAT History ’72) is a retired educator. She is a Docent at the Bangs Hallett House Historical Society of Yarmouth, MA. Catherine is studying with Rick Flealy (Landscape Painter) at the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis, NH. She has exhibited paintings at Cape Cod Community College in Hyannis, MA. Catherine’s daughter Major Elizabeth P. Renza ASAMC is a Surgeon Chief of General Surgery at Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC soon to be deployed to Iraq – Afghanistan.
Christine Stiassni-Gerli (MAT ’72) got her Masters in Humanities in 1974 also from Manhattanville. Christine is back on campus again and is now in the Masters of Writing program. She taught English at public and private high schools in Westchester County. Christine “side-stepped” her teaching career into museum administration. She served as the director of the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, CT and served as the CT representative for the New England Museum Association. Christine then became a small business owner for fourteen years running Helping Hands, a nanny search and support firm in Greenwich, CT working with parents in Westchester and Fairfield counties recruiting child caregivers for families. Christine has worked over the years as a volunteer and board member of a number of local and regional groups related to church affiliations, and for different social and educational agencies.

Kathleen Collins Reilly (MAT ’73 English) is currently the Director of Training for the Tri State Consortium, which is a learning organization that assists its member districts in using student performance data as a framework for systemic planning, accreditation, and continuous improvement. Kathleen was previously an English teacher in Edgemont High School in Scarsdale. She was recognized in 1999 for Outstanding Contribution to Regional Partnership of Schools and Colleges by Purchase College, SUNY; New York State Educator of Excellence; Influential High School Teacher in 1997 by Dartmouth College and Inspirational High School Teacher in 1994 by Tufts University.

Joan Beller (MAT Elementary / Special Ed K-12 ’74) is a retired classroom and resource room teacher. She was also a VP for Marketing Answers Inc, a market research and consulting firm. She also holds an MS (Computing in Education) from Teachers College. Joan was elected to Kappa Delta Pi and listed in Who’s Who in American Women. She is a tutor in an adult literacy program and has conducted several workshops for the adult literacy program.

Dorothea Delventhal Schreiber (MAT ’74, Elementary K-6) is retired from her position as Director of Village Nursery School (1979-1995) in Chappaqua, NY. She is working at local preschools and volunteers. Dorothea has five children and twenty-one grandchildren.

Catherine McCready Strauch (MAT ’74) was hired by Saint David’s School, an all boy’s private school in Manhattan after graduating from Manhattanville. She taught at this school for over thirty years as a classroom teacher in kindergarten, first and second grades. Catherine later developed a science curriculum and taught science in pre-school through first grades. In 2005, Catherine received a certificate of appreciation for over twenty-five years of dedicated service to the school. As a Board member of the national Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York, she was Chairman of the Educational Projects. She oversaw the educational program that welcomed over 1,700 New York City students to the NSCD Museum Headquarters. They dressed in Colonial costumes and learned about Colonial life in the 17th and 18th centuries. In 2006 her husband’s job was transferred to Newport Beach, California. Not knowing anyone in California, Catherine decided to keep busy with substitute teaching. She is no subbing at the Harbor Day School in Corona del Mar. She thanks Manhattanville for a fun and exciting career in education.

Isabelle Carino Birdsall (MAT ’77) is a retired teacher as of June, 2006. She was a team Leader for Grade 6 in the Port Chester School District. She is currently Assistant to the PREP at Resurrection Church in Rye, NY. Isabelle was Port Chester Teacher of the Year for Middle School in 1998, was awarded the Reggie Hairstein Humanitarian Award in 2003. The Port Chester Board of Education awarded her the People in Education Award in 2007.

Mary Lando (MAT ’84 Music Education) believes in bringing her students to other venues to perform because they need the experience of seeing things outside of Mt. Vernon. This past March, 2007 she coordinated a project at the United Nations Chapel where her students joined with another elementary school in Mount Vernon to perform at the Tillman Chapel Church Center in New York City. Mary implemented and led the Mount Vernon Showcase Choir and the Praise Dancers in an unprecedented performance in front of a large group of United Nations delegates. The concert was a message of peace and joy through music.

The other event took place in 2006 where the Edward Williams School Select Chorus traveled to South Mountain School in South Orange, New Jersey to participate in a joint concert entitled “Two Schools in Harmony.” Mary Lando coordinated this event with the music teacher at South Mountain. The chorus also traveled to F.E. Bellows School in Rye Neck at the invitation of that school’s principal to perform a similar program. These are great experiences for Mary’s students to visit, perform with and get to know students from other districts.

Mary is always looking for other connections for her students to stretch their sights beyond their school. Mary is very interested in connecting with other alum from other districts who may be interested in joint music performance projects. Please contact her at the Edward Williams School at (914) 665-5070 or on her cell phone at (914) 474-8072.
Award in 2007 and the “Going the Extra Mile” Award in 2007. Isabelle is a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

1978

Deb Peterson (MAT ’78 Music Education) is retired after 33 years of teaching as the Vocal Music Director at Haldane Central School. She also has a Financial Planning Certificate from Marist College. Deb moved to Florida for retirement. Deb is the VP of NYSUT Council 43 of Retired Teachers in Florida, the Marketing Director of the Platinum Coast Chorus, and is a member of the Melbourne Florida Chapter of Sweet Adelines International. She is a member of a group of women called Soldier Moms: this group supports a unit of soldiers in Iraq by sending weekly letters and monthly packages of personal items. Deb’s daughters Keva and Kiera will both be married during 2007.

1982

Frank J. Orfei (MAT ’82) is a high school history teacher in the Pelham School District and is the Union President. Frank received the Westchester County Outstanding Social Studies Teacher Award. He is involved in Teacher Union activities and NYSUT. Frank is married to Gail M. Orfa, has a son Adam who is 17 and a daughter Gabrielle who is 16.

1984

Mary A. Lando (MA ’84 Music Education) has been a music teacher for 27 years at the Edward Williams School in the Mt. Vernon City School District. Mary is very interested in bringing her students to her venues to perform because they need the experience of seeing things outside of Mt. Vernon. Mary has been married to her husband Carman for 22 years. They have a music ministry called “SpiritFire” and will be recording a new CD. (See article on page 3)

1991

Rosa Taylor (MPS ESL ’91) is the Principal of the Park Avenue School in Port Chester. Rosa is certified in Bilingual Education N-6, ESL, Elementary N-6 and SAS. She is a member of Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s Hispanic Advisory Board.

1992

Susan Cargill (MAT Elementary Education, Reading ’92) is an Adjunct Instructor at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA for the past four years. She has taught courses in elementary science methods and early childhood education. Susan also acts as university supervisor for elementary education majors in their final semester of student teaching. (See Articles)

1993

James E. Carlson (MAT ’93) is a Department Head of Social Studies at Sussex Technical High School. James was awarded the Sussex Tech Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2007. His daughter Leigh graduated from Vanderbilt University in the Spring, 2007.

1995

Christopher Giam (MAT ’95) is an Art Teacher at the George Fischer Middle School in the Carmel Central School District. He also was a Fine Arts major at Ithaca College and has a BFA from Pratt Institute. He worked as an Art Director, Graphic Designer and Illustrator before teaching. He continues his work in Fine Art and is a member of an Art Club. Christopher is also a member of the Mid-Hudson Road Runners.

1997

Jane L. Wals (MAT ’97 AA9N-12) – (See Article)

1998

Deborah Darragh (MAT Elementary Ed ’98) is currently a Fourth Grade teacher at the Arlington Central School District.

Gayle Sporn (MAT Art K-12 ’00) teaches Art at the French-American School in Larchmont, NY. She entered her first graders in the Art Conetes at the French Embassy in New York City. Three of her students were winners and their paintings were based on Paul Cezanne as the contest had to do with Impressionism.
Christine (Jancski) FitzPatrick (MAT Science Education ’99) has a daughter Fiona born in 2003 and a son Edward born in 2005. She is currently working at Fitzpatrick & Sons Inc. as a Kitchen Designer.

Nicole Diamente (MAT Elementary Education ‘00) is a teacher at the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in Croton-on-Hudson and is teaching a new curriculum on Media Literacy for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Prior to this, she taught for 9 years at the Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School in Croton-on-Hudson. Joanna pursued additional certification courses at Pace University for Middle Childhood Generalist Grades 5 – 9. (See Article)

Gayle Sporn (MAT ’00 Art K-12) (See photo story page 4)

Larry Barruch (MAT ’02 PK-6, Social Studies 7-9) is currently a cluster teacher and an AIS at PS/MS 31 in the Bronx. He also obtained an MS and an MBA degree.

Nicole Diamente (MPS ‘02) teaches Latin at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua, NY. Nicole received a Fulbright Award and will be spending the summer in Italy studying the literature, history, and archeology of the Roman Empire.

Kelly Horan (MAT Elementary Education ’02, BA Sociology ’01) has been a 5th Grade teacher at the John Marshall Elementary School in Edison, NJ for the past five years. She also teaches supplemental instruction for “at risk” students and has been a Summer Enrichment teacher. Kelly received tenure last year. Kelly has been working on graduate coursework for the past few years and recently completed her Masters +30. She is the Safety patrol Coordinator in her school and is the John Marshall representative for the district’s Environmental and Safety Committee. Kelly received a Community Leadership Award last spring and a Who’s Who Among American Teachers recognition. Kelly got engaged last November to Christopher Amabile in Disney World. He is an Executive Chef for a company called Sodexho and is currently the Corporate Chef for CNBC.

Iris Aldea-Pollack (MPS ’02 TESOL) was recently appointed Assistant Principal at PS 64X in the Bronx which is a K-5 school of 950 students. Iris finished a Masters Degree in school administration last year from the Bank Street Principals Institute.

Eileen Rosenthal (MAT ’02 Elementary Education, K-6 Certification) is a third grade teacher at Sachem Central School District.

Brett Bowden (MAT ’03) (See article on page 1)

Claudine Lespes (MPS Educational Leadership ’03) is a French teacher at the Brearley School. Claudine also has an MPS in Languages, and is a member of Kappa Delta Phi. She is an advisor to seniors in her school. She also has a children’s book that was published.

Jennifer Carriero-Dominguez (MPS Educational Leadership ’03) is a fourth grade teacher at the Park Avenue School in Port Chester. Jennifer has a BA in English from Fordham University and an MST in Elementary Education from Fordham. She is a member of Kappa Delta Phi. Jennifer was awarded SUNY Purchase Teacher Center Professional Development Curriculum Award Grants. She is married to Robb Dominguez who is a counselor at the Guidance Center in New Rochelle. She is the mother of two daughters: Jane who is four, and Gwen who is two.

Shelby Cromwell (MAT ’04) recently began a position as a permanent substitute at Lewisboro Elementary School in South Salem, NY. Prior to this, Shelby worked part time at a charter school in South Norwalk, CT as their Reading Grant Coordinator and managed an annual budget of $100,000 to spend on early reading success for the primary grades and planning celebrations of literacy.

Samantha Larrea (graduated Samantha Jill Cohen), (MAT Visual Arts Education ’04) is an Art Teacher K-12 in the Eastchester School District

Victoria J. Romano (MAT Education ’04) Victoria is a Spanish teacher at Irvington Middle School. She is certified is Spanish K-6 and Grades 7-12. She participates in the Manhattanville Alumni Mentoring Guild program for 2006-2007. Victoria did a graduate education program abroad in Granada, Spain in the summer, 2006 and is doing a program this summer in Guadalajara, Mexico.
Jill (Shankman) Valentino (MAT Elementary Education '04) Jill is currently an Enrichment Teacher for Grades K-5 in the Wappingers Central School District. In 2007, she received an MS in Literacy (Birth-6) and certification from Long Island University. Jill started her teaching career in 2004 as a 4th Grade leave replacement in Washingtonville Central Schools. In 2005, she transitioned to her current job as a full time tenure track position. Jill was a Coach for a special project called Odyssey of the Mind in 2005. Jill was engaged on Valentine’s Day, 2003 to and married Michael Valentino in April, 2004. They had their first child, Saise Angeline Valentino on July 8, 2006.

### 2005

Soraya Martino (MAT Spanish/ TESOL '05) is completing her CT BEST portfolio leading to highest level of certification in Connecticut, one of the very first ESL teachers to do so. Soraya is a FLES and ESL teacher in Stamford.

Kathryn Rosoff (PD Educational Leadership '05) is the Assistant Director of Testing in Yonkers Public Schools. She has a BS in Education from Syracuse University and a Masters of Science & Reading from Fordham.

Ellen Camillieri (MAT, Reading Certification K-12) is a second grade teacher at Oakside Elementary School in Peekskill, NY. She has been a District Representative on the Hudson River Teacher Center Policy Board since September, 2002 and a District Mentor since September, 2003. Ellen's daughter graduated from Sacred Heart University in May, 2005 and her son is a junior at RPI.

### 2006

Tania Grossman (MAT '06) is teaching Social Studies Grades 9 and 10 at Nanuet High School.

Maria Ricci (MAT '06 Jump Start) is currently a Spanish teacher at Valhalla High School.

### 2007

Roni Sarig (Current MAT Jump Start) is graduating in August, 2007 and is finishing his first year teaching at Millennium Art Academy high school in the Bronx. He teaches 12th and 11th grade English. Roni recently had a book published, “Third Coast: OutKast, Timbaland, and How Hip Hop Became a Southern Thing.” A review stated that “Third Coast is the most thorough, wide-ranging, and exhaustively researched book yet to examine the roots and development of Southern Hip Hop.” Roni is the author of five other books including The Secret History of Rock: The Most Influential Bands You’ve Never Heard. His work has appeared in the New York Times, Vibe, Rolling Stone, XXL, Spin, Salon, and dozens of other publications. The former music editor of Atlanta's Creative Loafing, he now resides with his family in the New York area.

Sharon Senno has been a 2nd Grade teacher at Holy Rosary School in Hawthorne, NY for the past five years. She and her family recently moved to Pawling, NY.

Fran Kompar (MPS Educational Leadership '06) is a Program Coordinator for Media and Technology for the Greenwich Public Schools. Fran also has a BA in Communications from Iona College and an MA in Educational Technology from Fairfield University.
News From the Early Childhood Education Department

Dr. Patricia Vardin

Many exciting events have been happening in the Early Childhood Education Department at Manhattanville College, both at the College and in the field. Faculty and students have been engaged in many interesting projects and activities.

In October, the Department co-sponsored two early childhood conferences at Manhattanville College. On October 26, 2006, the Department co-sponsored the Westchester Child Care Council 2006 Infant and Toddler Teacher Conference involving over 150 teacher educators and Manhattanville students. Patricia Vardin moderated a panel on program evaluation. On October 28, 2006, the Department co-sponsored the Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children 42nd Annual Conference involving over 400 early childhood educators, including M’ville students and faculty. Patricia Vardin served as a liaison between Manhattanville College and both organizations.

Patricia Vardin is continuing to work with former Manhattanville graduates and current graduate students in four sites in New York City who are involved in the development of the Comprehensive Curriculum Model for Early Childhood classrooms and the use of ChildChart, an innovative system for monitoring children’s progress based on national standards using a Palm Pilot and a computer. Manhattanville alumni involved in the project include: Mary Formisano, Renee Ferrito, Allison Henk, Pamela Hellman, and Marissa Columbo at Ascension School, Amy Lynch at St. Stephen’s of Hungary School and Laura Sullivan, at St. Phillip’s School in the Bronx. Numerous groups of teachers and administrators in the New York area have visited the model classrooms and have expressed interest in setting up similar programs. The Children’s Rehabilitation Center /Children’s Place school in White Plains is interested in setting up a similar program in 2007.

During the fall, early childhood students continued to be appointed to excellent teaching positions throughout New York, including Westchester County, and New York City.

This spring the Department will be involved in the Westchester Association for the Education of Young Children 2007 Spring Workshops and the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference. We also hope to continue our activities with the Japanese Early Childhood Educators English Workshop in the late spring.

The Department is also in the process of developing the Manhattanville College Advisory Council as well as an Early Childhood Education Alumni group spearheaded by several Manhattanville College alumni.

Kappa Delta Pi

Dr. Rick Heckendorn, Advisor

Kappa Delta Pi held a panel discussion April 12, 2007 to highlight 3 different partnership teams of classroom teachers, teacher education faculty, and Manhattanville students. JoAnne Ferrara and her students Erica Silver and Erica Tancora spoke about their experiences in the Edison Professional Development School, Port Chester, particularly their field experiences in the science methodology course. Jane Gangi and her students Jackie Moschetti, Erika Werbeck, and Elizabeth Eklund spoke about their experiences with storytelling for all the fifth grade students in George Washington Elementary school, White Plains (Snow Grant component), that was part of the literacy methods course. Rick Heckendorn, Jonathan Dakers, sixth-grade social studies teacher, Blind Brook Middle school, and student Estela Moreno spoke about their experiences for the middle school social studies methodology course.
## Announcing New School of Education Alumni Awards

### Call for Nominations

We are looking for distinguished alumni who embody the missions of Manhattanville College and the School of Education. Award recipients will be recognized at the School of Education Graduate Awards Ceremony in May, 2008. Nominations are being accepted now.

Submit nominations to Laura Bigaouette via email at bigaouettel@mville.edu with an explanation of how the candidate supports the criteria for the award. Nominations can come from the candidate’s students, professional peers, and / or supervisors. You may also self-nominate. Self-nominations should be supported with recommendations from students, peers, and/or supervisors.

All Alumni Awards and criteria reflect both the Manhattanville College and School of Education Mission Statements.

**Manhattanville College Mission:**

To educate students to become ethically and socially responsible leaders for the global community.

**School Of Education Mission:**

To educate candidates to become ethically and socially responsible teachers and school leaders for participation in the educational community.

### SOE Alumni Awards

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<th>SOE Alumni Awards</th>
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| Distinguished Service Award           | Awarded to a SOE Alumnus who has contributed to the SOE through involvement in programs, events, panels, mentoring, and “gives back” as an educator to the student community. | • “Gives back” experience and enthusiasm to current SOE student body by speaking at workshops, events, panels  
• Volunteers time to participate in SOE events  
• Enthusiastically and consistently shares experience, knowledge, wisdom, or research with SOE students and/or mentors  
• OR Contributes gifts or raises money for SOE in the form of contributions, scholarships or awards |
| Valiant Educator Award                 | Awarded to a SOE alumnus whose career and community accomplishments reflect the Mission of the School of Education and Manhattanville College by contributing to the ethical and social growth of the population he/she serves. | • Career accomplishments illustrate examples of promoting ethnically and socially responsible leadership with his or her constituency (Birth to Grade 12 or higher students, Birth to Grade 12 or higher faculty or others  
• Community accomplishments reflect the candidate’s commitment to promoting ethical and social growth to the population he/she serves |
| Inspirational Recent Alumni Award      | Recognition for a young SOE graduate (within the last decade) for exceptional contributions to the field of education and/or to the community. | • Must have graduated from Mville Masters program in the last 10 years  
• Has made an exceptional, creative, innovative contribution to the field of education |
| Alumni Innovative Teaching Award      | Presented to an alumnus who has demonstrated innovative teaching that positively affects PK-12, or higher education students’ motivation and achievement. | • For all Mville alumni  
• Evidence that innovative teaching addresses the diverse needs of students in the classroom  
• Evidence that innovative teaching positively affects student motivation and achievement through student comments and/or peer or principal nominations |
News From the Educational Leadership and Special Subjects Department

Exciting Program Developments

DR. KATHY ROCKWOOD

Educational Leadership

Based on response from current and potential students, we are in the process of developing more program options for teachers and practicing school leaders that moves toward a vision of a continuum of leadership program opportunities. As of January the newly approved Teacher Leaders Certificate of Advanced Study program will begin. This 15-credit program seeks to attract teachers who either assume informal or formal leadership responsibilities in their schools, but who do not aspire to be school administrators. The program is being offered in partnership with the Lower Hudson Area Teacher Centers, who have been members of two-year collaboration with Manhattanville College around teacher leadership. For teachers who make a career decision change, the program offers the option to transfer all of the 15 credits into the School Building Leader program that meets New York administration certification requirements.

New Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Planning is underway for a Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership. We are aiming for a Fall 2008 cohort but that is contingent on a lengthy approval process. To date we have made great inroads. We are attempting to design a doctoral program that is practical and responsive to the needs of the region. The overall theme of the program will focus on The Changing Suburbs and Small Cities, building on a growing initiative that the School of Education launched over a year ago. The following highlights key accomplishments:

- Terry Orr, a nationally recognized scholar in Educational Leadership, was hired to serve as a consultant to facilitate the initial planning process.
- We seek every opportunity (i.e., at conferences held on campus, meetings at a school district) to confirm the need for a doctoral program in the Westchester area. Initial needs assessment data from a survey that was distributed throughout the region revealed that 73% of the respondents said that they want a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and that access will make a difference in this decision.
- We are exploring potential partners who might contribute resources and expertise to the doctoral program. A meeting in early February will convene 3 regional BOCES to explore how we can all work together.
- A Curriculum Review and a Readiness Review will take place in the Fall when a team of representatives will do a site visit at Manhattanville College.

Finally, we are in the process of developing a School District Leader program to respond to the growing need of Athletic Director aspirants from our current physical education students as well as other students who want to assume district-level administrative positions.

MAT in Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy

DR. RHONDA CLEMENTS

Question: What do a turkey carving knife, ping-pong balls, and international sports have in common?

Answer: They all represent success!

The MAT in Physical Education and Sport Pedagogy program was very active this fall in hosting three special events. In continuing with the need for our students to become members of the regional physical education association (i.e., The South Eastern Zone Association of New York State AHPERD), we volunteered to hold the group’s Annual fall workshop “Care to Share in Physical Education” in the Kennedy Gymnasium. This Association consists of 37 school districts. This fall’s event offered 10 highly experienced physical educators as presenters displaying their specialized teaching practices in the area of fitness, circus arts, active games, sport skills, and assessment activities. It was most impressive that we had over 100 of our graduate students in attendance, to view the many talents of these physical educators. One presenter’s unique talent that also fostered much laughter from the audience included showing how a physical education teacher can use an electric turkey carving knife to recycle old foam balls. Amazing! In short, we look forward to continuingly holding this “Care to Share” fall event in the Kennedy Gymnasium.

The second large-scale event was truly a rare event for physical educators and athletic administrators in Westchester County. Each year the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation...
Social Studies Curriculum and Methods — A “Laboratory Education Class”

DR. RICK HECKENDORN

This class met in the Spring, 2007 and had five participants from Manhattanville College: Dr. Rick Heckendorn and his four students (two at the undergraduate level and two at the graduate level). The other participants in the class consisted of a John Dakers, a sixth grade social studies teacher at Blindbrook Middle School in Rye, New York with his class of 20 students.

Dr. Heckendorn taught and modeled curriculum and methods of social studies. An important component of the course was where he was able to show effective methodology while teaching his students a considerable amount of content that social studies teachers need to know. The class met once a week at Blindbrook where the Mville students observed the social studies class, and the students had the opportunity to discuss the class topics and methodologies used by the teacher. Mr. Dakers also showed the Mville students the application of the Smart Board technology. Each college student was able to use his or her chosen methodology to teach a twenty-minute lesson to the sixth graders.

Dr. Heckendorn’s students felt that this course gave them the optimal opportunity to turn educational theory into practice. They were given the opportunity to teach a sixth grade class with the support of two expert teachers in an environment in which they had already become familiar (the sixth grade class) after having observed the development of the class’ course of study. They were able to complete their first teaching experiences with all the preparation, support, and feedback necessary to ensure their success. They also benefited from watching each other teach a sixth grade class and discussing the lessons before and after each student taught the lesson. In addition, they had the rare opportunity of watching Dr. Heckendorn with the sixth graders, teaching them a song he wrote and how he could draw these young students in such an engaging manner.

Changing Suburbs Institute

LAURA BIGAOUETTE, DIRECTOR-CSI

The Manhattanville College School of Education Changing Suburbs Institute was created in 2005 to address the increasing diversity in seven target school districts in Westchester County: Elmsford, Greenburgh, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester and White Plains. CSI is a systematic, phased program for professional and program development for schools to help teachers, parents and administrators address the challenges of educating Hispanic students.

Manhattanville has formed a CSI Consortium comprised of administrators, teachers, and community leaders that is developing action plans across the seven districts to achieve CSI’s objectives.

The CSI Consortium, which meets bimonthly, has identified priority action plans for teachers and staff professional development. The
Consortium has determined that literacy should be its major focus for 2006-2007 because of its impact on learning across the curriculum and across grade levels. The CSI Consortium is in the process of identifying successful literacy initiatives and establishing specific literacy plans within and across CSI districts.

Mville was awarded a grant for its Literacy, Science and the Arts project in the George Washington Elementary Professional Development School in the CSI White Plains school district. Professors Annemarie Bettica, Jane Gangi and Mary Ann Reilly are implementing this program at the school, as described in the column from the Literacy Department. This Snow Grant provides funds for all fifth grade students to work with Manhattanville Faculty and undergraduate students in an integrated learning experience that involves literacy development through storytelling, science through forensic exploration, and the arts through finger painting and poetry.

Another important initiative that CSI launched this year was the Parents Leadership Institute. The education of Latino parents about the US educational system is key and foundational to any program and initiative that CSI will implement.

This program was launched on March 2, 2007 with a Leadership Conference held at Manhattanville College. David Valladolid, President or Parents Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) was the keynote speaker. Andy Spano, the Westchester County Executive, addressed the parents during lunch. Over 120 parents and community organizations attended the event. The event was co-sponsored and organized in collaboration with the Westchester Advisory Board and the CSI school districts.

CSI is beginning to capture the attention of government leaders, Hispanic organizations and key educators. CSI Manhattanville leadership has been invited to community and school district meetings to participate in discussions related to the education and assessment of Hispanic students.

On November 16, 2006 CSI was honored by LATYN (Latino Administrators, Teachers, and CSEA of Yonkers Network) as the recipient of the Aguila Award for “exemplary leadership and educational commitment to improving the educational opportunities of Latino students.”

Manhattanville’s role with CSI is to (1) bring together stakeholders involved in and interested in promoting Hispanic students’ achievement; (2) work collaboratively with these stakeholders to develop and assess programs that are both experimental in design and validated by prior research; and (3) bring greater awareness to the achievement gap challenges that exist in school districts heretofore under the radar screen of the general public so that time, attention, and resources are provided to begin to close the gap. As a result, Manhattanville will enhance its ability to develop teacher candidates because of its increased interaction with and understanding of high needs school districts. For example, Manhattanville is already providing additional multicultural experiences for teacher candidates.

To continue and sustain CSI’s community involvement and visibility, Manhattanville CSI is holding its second annual CSI Conference on Friday, June 8, 2007. Dr. Linda Darling- Hammond, an expert on teaching quality, and school reform and educational equity from Stanford University, and Dr. Robert MacNaughton, Superintendent, Ramapo Central School District, will be the keynote speakers. Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and County Executive Andy Spano will be at this event to address the audience. The event is being held at Manhattanville College and consists of a full day of workshops and speakers.

CSI Tuition Reduction

CSI is extending a tuition reduction for School of Ed Graduate courses for teachers and staff in CSI districts (Elmsford, Greenburgh, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester, White Plains) 20% tuition reduction

School districts with Professional Development Schools (PDSs) receive 1/3 tuition reduction. These districts are New Rochelle, Port Chester, and White Plains.

Contact Laura Bigaouette for information: (914)323-5482.

President Richard Berman welcoming the parents
News From the Literacy Department

Dr. Mary Ellen Levin

The Literacy Department continues its community connections through a variety of activities. We are involved in hosting and collaborating with Lit Life, a Westchester-based literacy staff development organization that runs institutes featuring renowned authors of books for teacher education. This semester our LitLink presenters included Judy Davis, the author of The No-Nonsense Guide to the Teaching of Writing, Georgia Heard, author of For the Good of the Earth and Sun, Shelley Harwayne, author of Living Between the Lines, and Leah Mermelstein, author of The Reading/Writing Connection. LitLife presented the first half of a Mini-Retreat for Literacy Coaches and a Special Day on the Teaching of Grammar and Writing.

Conventions. Jane Gangi is our liaison to LitLife.

We are once again involved in many partnerships, offering courses at both the Edison School and the Carver Center in Port Chester, and at the George Washington School in White Plains as well. Mary Ann Reilly is our literacy department representative to the School of Education Partnership Committee.

The Manhattanville Literacy Advisory Board, representing eight Westchester communities, had its semi-annual dinner meeting in November. The discussion centered on literacy assessment in the schools—what assessments are being used and what preparation is essential for our students. Mary Ellen Levin is the chair of the Literacy Advisory Board.

Mary Ann Reilly and Jane Gangi have been involved this spring in implementing a Snow Grant acquired by the School of Education, at the George Washington Elementary School in White Plains. During February, Jane Gangi did 15 storytelling workshops in fifth grade classes. In March a member of the Manhattanville biology department worked with the children. In April, Mary Ann Reilly did an arts/poetry workshop for each of the 5 fifth-grade classes to help students capture what they learned and how they learned during their storytelling (Jane Gangi and undergraduate students) and forensics (Annemarie Bettica and undergraduate students) workshops. With Mary Ann’s workshop, students first used fingerprinting to express their thoughts and then used the fingerprinting drawings as the impetus for their poetry writing. Mary Ann is now making a booklet of each student’s drawing and poetry for the entire fifth-grade class. One of her students’ drawing and poetry is scheduled to appear on the cover of a children’s magazine.

MAT

Continued from page 9

and Dance conducts a state conference. This large-scale conference usually takes place in Northern New York. This fall the conference was set in Rye, New York at the Rye Hilton. I am very proud to write that all Manhattanville PE adjunct faculty and students contributed greatly over the 4-day event. A large number of our graduate students served as presiders, and provided the much needed “muscle” that is required for carrying large boxes, stuffing conference brochures, and overseeing the conference’s “Battle of the Zones” event. This evening entertainment raises money by charging all participants to purchase a button on behalf of their physical education zone, and then compete in a variety of “funzical” activities for an oversized trophy. Typical activities involve throwing ping pong balls in small cups, shooting baskets under a time limit, and creating unique “sport art.” The full conference evening event raised more money than ever before, and new friendships and “teammates” were made. I would also like to thank Manhattanville’s Graduate Admissions office for creating the “best” (all biases aside) college/university table display. We received numerous compliments and praise from the many other exhibitors and conference participants.

All credit for the third large-scale event conducted at Manhattanville College in the Kennedy Gymnasium goes to the graduate students taking MPE 5536 Play, Games, and Sports in Historical and Cultural Contexts. At the request for an in-service training workshop by members of the SW BOCES Physical Education Consortium (47 school districts), graduate students within the class presented a complete evening of international games and sports. More than 30 high school physical education teachers and administrators participated in Rugby, Cricket, Finnish baseball, Mexican Flit, Russian Gorodri, Birilli, Rounders, African Bolo Ball, Swedish Unihoc, and the “All American” game of Stickball. Due to each student’s hard work and quick teaching pace, the in-service evaluations were highly complimentary, and the Consortium has requested an on-going partnership with Manhattanville College.
Jump Start

James Finger, Director - Jump Start and MPALS
Susan Harper, Assistant Director - Jump Start

This fall, the sixth Jump Start cohort of teachers started their full-time work. With 69 “career changers,” this was our largest cohort ever. While the majority of our students start working in New York City, about 10 to 15% of our students start their careers in Westchester or Rockland Counties, and we are striving to increase our presence in these areas.

We are especially interested, and well aware of the national focus, of increasing the number of students with Math and Science backgrounds. This year we are offering 30% tuition scholarships to career changers who qualify to teach Math, Science, and Spanish.

Public School 119, in the Bronx was cited by the New York City Department of Education for its ability to develop strong, academically caring teachers. The school was commended in particular for its relationship with Manhattanville College. As a result of this relationship, five of our students have been appointed, thus strengthening the faculty of the school.

The article below appeared in the United Federation of Teachers News on May 10, 2007 and features a student of the Manhattanville Jump Start Program:

“Coming Home”

New York Teacher
May 10, 2007

by Ellie Spielberg

In the afternoon, Tina Padilla would slip out of the posh headquarters of a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical corporation, eager to get to her destination. There was no time to lose. Every minute was precious. She hurried through the streets of midtown Manhattan where she worked, just east of Grand Central Station. For now, she was leaving the corporate world behind, where she’d risen up so high, far from her beginnings in the South Bronx.

Instead of getting on the train to Westchester, where she lived, she headed to where her heart’s desire waited, in a room filled with desks and chairs and books in the Bronx.

The former TV advertising producer and current marketing associate at Pfizer was having a love affair with teaching.

“I always volunteered to read to children after school; I was also active in Junior Achievement, a program for people who work in the corporate world to go in and teach New York City kids on our lunch break,” Padilla says.

“I volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, building homes in Brooklyn; I was always looking for something, an outlet to fulfill a need. I knew my calling was to work with children. I always wanted to be a teacher but I bought into that whole notion that teachers don’t make money and have too much work. So I went through two careers, made a lot of money, traveled. In the eyes of other people it seemed to be a successful life, but I was never fulfilled.”

In 2005, Padilla made her move. She quit her job and enrolled in Jump Start, an accelerated graduate program at Manhattanville College. “It’s for career changers, aimed for those who want to get into the classroom quickly, really intense course work three nights a week.”

Padilla will have her master’s in early August. She worked as a substitute teacher in Westchester and has been teaching full time for a year now at PS 94 in the Bronx.

“I very much wanted to teach in the Bronx, teach a population that could very much relate to me, having grown up there,” she said. “Some of the people I subbed with in Westchester thought I was crazy. But I grew up like these kids; I even used to work with some of them as a volunteer. They need to look at me and see that I was them — I grew up there, had similar experiences, went to college, became successful—and that they can do it, too.”

Padilla says her childhood was somewhat sheltered. “My brother and I were the only kids on the block who went to Catholic schools, but I wasn’t disconnected to my neighborhood, my street. It was tough; it was the South Bronx. I was born in ’68 so I grew up there in the ’70s, right around ‘Fort Apache’ time,” she says, referring to the gritty, controversial movie, “Fort Apache, the Bronx,” a cop thriller set in the city’s toughest precinct.

Yet there was a whole other aspect to that neighborhood that only insiders knew. “Yes, there was danger, growing up,” Padilla says, “but we were a very tight community, watched over each other, could knock on a neighbor’s door for a cup of sugar.”

Now she feels endangered by an avalanche of paper. “My biggest challenge is paperwork, all the administrative paperwork, the deadlines,” she says. “In the first couple of months, I was crying one Saturday because I was so overwhelmed.”

To the rescue came her 9-year-old daughter, Taina. “She looked at me and said, ‘Mom, don’t disappoint me, I’ve always wanted you to be a teacher.’”

The highlight of her year was a unit on social issues that the class just completed, involving discussion, research and a newsletter on topics like gangs, stealing, bullying and single-parenting, complete with articles, editorials, poems, advice columns and advertisements.

“This first year has been a roller-coaster, but I would never dream of doing anything else,” she says.

Throughout all those ups and downs, didn’t Padilla have any second thoughts about kissing the corporate world goodbye?

“The traveling was fun, the fancy meals, the good life, but I don’t miss it that much. I finally found where I belong. I’m in love with the job, in love with the kids, in love with the school. I don’t even remember what it was like to work in an office. This is it!”
Grades 5-9, Generalist option. this teaching children with disabilities in advanced certification program in Education has approved a new campus for five weeks, preparing them this summer we had 140 students on ossining, Port chester, tarrytown), Mamaroneck, new Rochelle, Westchester county (Bedford, seven school districts throughout Grade. We work with students from income families, beginning in the 8 talented students, from modest of the program that works with to fund operations and expansion students in 6th grade focus on the environment, and where students are exposed to here-and-now issues that have relevance to their lives. Working on topics of special personal interest garnered from inquiries based on their strengths and affinities, students in 6th grade focus on the print media, in 7th grade on television broadcasting and video production, and in 8th grade on the Internet and web site design. Through cooperative learning and group investigation, students explore the media in order to understand their society and how it sometimes exploits them. An important aspect of the 8th grade year centers on bringing a significant level of critical analysis to the Internet. Students are coached into becoming staunch judges of the veracity and worth of web sites and data gathered from their Internet searches. In addition to critical analysis, students in each grade produce a product: 6th graders create a class newspaper; 7th graders a television news broadcast and commercials; and 8th graders create and maintain the

MPALS
James Finger

The Goldman Sachs Foundation awarded MPALS (Manhattanville Promotes Academics and Life-Long Success) a $150,000 grant to fund operations and expansion of the program that works with talented students, from modest income families, beginning in the 8th Grade. We work with students from seven school districts throughout Westchester County (Bedford, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Ossining, Port Chester, Tarrytown). This summer we had 140 students on campus for five weeks, preparing them for participation in Honors and AP classes at their schools and leadership positions in their community. This grant is one of the largest foundation grants in the history of the School of Education. In addition to supporting these students, MPALS is becoming more and more integrated into the fabric of the School of Education (SOE) – three of the teachers are SOE graduates and two Assistant Teachers are currently M’ville students. Also, SOE students visit MPALS classes to fulfill their observation requirements in the summer when it is hard to find schools in session. MPALS is also a part of the Changing Suburbs Institute program. Of particular note is that this summer we hired rising college freshmen from an earlier program, also funded by the Goldman Sachs Foundation, that was housed at Manhattanville. These students, also from diverse families with modest incomes, taught and served as role models for our students. These students will be attending selective colleges, such as Davidson, Harvard, Rice, and Notre Dame. This spring, with our first student now in high school, we will be starting a Mentoring Program built around career interests. Any professionals who would like to find out more about this program may call James Finger at the School of Education – 914.323.5368.

New Program Spotlight
Accreditation and Technology
Susan Jacobs

The New York State Department of Education has approved a new Advanced Certification program in Teaching Children with Disabilities in Grades 5-9, Generalist Option. This will be of interest to Manhattanville candidates who have a valid prior certification in another area (such as Childhood Grades 1-6, for example) that is not in the previously available 7-12 areas of Math, Science, English or Social Studies. Also newly approved by New York State is an Advanced Certificate program for Teacher Leaders, as mentioned on page 2. This program does not lead to certification but is intended for teachers preparing for leadership positions.

Programs, courses, and assessments are under ongoing review with the purpose of better alignment with standards of their respective Specialty Associations. As data from assessments are gathered, they are being evaluated to provide evidence for program and student improvement. Thanks to all students, faculty and staff who have assisted in the collection and review of data for this purpose.
New Faculty 2006

Dr. Ellis Barowsky has been appointed as an Associate Professor for the Special Education program in the Department of Special Education. He served as a Professor in the Department of Special Education at Hunter College for where he taught courses in the area of behavior disorders for the last 32 years. He was awarded the Hunter College School of Education’s Harold Laddas Award, given for excellence in teaching. He currently is serving as a consultant for the Office of the Public Defender for Rockland County, New York, where he serves as an expert witness for individuals with developmental disabilities. He is a member of the board of directors for the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York. He is a licensed psychologist where he focuses on traumatic stress disorders and issues of resilience in children. He has written on a variety of topics related to special needs children, including the use of biofeedback for the treatment of disorders in children and the treatment of sleep disorders. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, his M.A. in Psychology from Hunter College and his B.A. from Harpur College of the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Dr. Rosetta A. Codling has been appointed as a Visiting Assistant Professor for English Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for 2006-2007 while Donna Tropsa is on leave of absence. She was a teacher of English and Philosophy for the New York Public Schools since 1978. She served as an SAT Prep Instructor for Mega Academy, Queens, New York, and an adjunct faculty member for Queens College where she taught literature and Freshman English. She has researched and written about the writing of Toni Morrison, and is currently writing about classical African and contemporary African-American literature. She received a Ph.D. in American Literature from Bircham University, Spain, an M.Ed. in English Education and an M.A. in Special Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, an M.A. in English Higher Education from New York University, and a B.A. in English from Queens College.

Mr. Stephen Maletz has been appointed as a half-time instructor for the Physical Education program in the Department of Educational Leadership and Special Subjects. He currently is the owner/director/head instructor of Children’s Play and Sports Center, Rockland County, New York. He was an adjunct instructor in physical education at Pace University and Brooklyn College and chairperson of the physical education department at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York. He was also a health and physical education teacher for the NYC Board of Education. His areas of specialization include teacher behavior and methodology in physical education, applying physiological principles to physical education and sport, motor skill acquisition in children, and sports skill development. He is ABD in physical education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and has an M.S. in physical education and B.S. in health and physical education from Brooklyn College.

Dr. Micheline Malow-Iroff has been appointed as Assistant Professor for Special Education in the Department of Special Education. She most recently was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education where she taught courses in child development, the psychology of exceptional children, educational psychology and educational research. She has written about educational reform and children with disabilities, health and parenting issues in childhood and adolescence, and cross-sex best friendship influences on early adolescent substance use expectancies and behaviors. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the City University of New York, the Graduate School and University Center, her M.S.Ed. and Professional Certificate in School Psychology from Queens College, and her B.S. in Retailing and Marketing of Clothing and Textiles from Michigan State University.

Dr. Victor Mazmanian has been appointed as Assistant Professor for the Science Education and Mathematics Education programs in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He spent the last two years as a Professor of Physics, Astronomy, and Pre-Calculus and Chair of the Science/Math Department at the American University of Kuwait. Previously, he spent 26 years as an Advanced Placement Physics Teacher at Greenwich High School in Greenwich, Connecticut. In this position, he designed and conducted the honors physics program and served as an advisor to student teams participating in the Junior Engineering Technical Society and the Physics Bowl. He has published on topics such as improving science education and gender equity in math and science. He received his Ed.D. in Secondary Science Education at Columbia University, his M.S. in Science Education at Fairfield University, and his B.S. in Physcias at Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon.

Dr. Rupam Saran has been appointed as Assistant Professor for the Childhood program where she will also serve as a liaison for the Jump Start program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She most recently was a Writing Fellow at York College. She was an elementary teacher in Public School 156, District 23, Brooklyn, New York, where she focused on gifted students’ mathematics achievement. She recently graduated with a Ph.D. in Urban Education with a focus on mathematics, science, and technology in education from The Graduate Center, the City University of New York. She has published on the testing movement and urban education, the reconceptualization of multiculturalism in American
urban education and the impact of Piagetian theory of cognitive development and constructivism on education. She received her M.S. in Education with specialization in elementary school mathematics from Queens College, and a B. A. in elementary education and sociology from Queens College. She also has a B.A in political science and sociology from Magadh University, Patna, India.

Farewell!

The School of Education is sad to say Farewell to Dr. Andrew Dowling. He is retiring from Manhattanville College as of June, 2007. Andy is the Chair of the Special Education Department and an Assistant Professor.

Andy began at Manhattanville two years ago and in a short period of time, managed to establish himself as an outstanding professor. Students have commented that Andy is very knowledgeable, very engaging, interesting and humorous. Students also commented that they appreciate his ability to weave his 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator into his instruction, and believe that his ability to draw on this numerous experiences has contributed significantly in helping students to succeed with their graduate special education coursework.

Prior to coming to Manhattanville, Andy was the Principal of the Increase Miller Elementary School in Katonah-Lewisboro for 15 years.

Andy was instrumental in helping the School of Ed develop and sustain partnerships with the external community, was the faculty advisor for the Mville-Port Chester Mentoring Program, and built and nurtured the SOE Advisory Board.

Andy will be very much missed by the SOE department and students!!!

Faculty Highlights

Publications


Book Review


Presentations


- **Lang, D.** “Free to Play Outdoors? A Cross-Cultural Comparative Case Study of Urban School Playgrounds for Young Children in Denmark and the United States” Faculty Lecture, Manhattanville College, April 18, 2007.


Shelley Wepner was quoted in “Examining Our Public High Schools: Does Your School Pass the Text” Westchester Magazine, April 2007, pp. 84 & 85.

The Manhattanville Alumni Mentoring Guild (MAMG)

Congratulations Graduates and Greetings to School of Ed Alumni!

As you begin your first year of teaching or continue looking for a teaching position, the Manhattanville Alumni Mentoring Guild invites you to become a part of our program.

We connect our new alumni teachers with experienced alumni who serve as a resource and support for new (and almost new) teachers.

Mentoring is available by phone or email, and there are several meetings throughout the year, providing you with the opportunity to network with other beginning teachers and mentors.

There is no fee, no observation or evaluation – just someone to offer support, encouragement and advice. There are also opportunities for professional development credit and tuition reduction on graduate level courses.

If you are interested in being mentored, are an experienced teacher who would like to mentor new teachers, or just want additional information about the program, please contact Roberta Fisher at fisherr@mville.edu or call 914-323-5484.
Decisions
Continued from page 1

Decisions...

We face them and make them every single day. Why did you decide to read this article? Will you decide to finish it? I kinda hope so, because I need you to decide upon the kind of world you want to see and live in... whether you are willing to become an upstander.

Decisions...

September 11th helped me decide to become a teacher. A couple of years after I did, a high school senior named Arielle Schwartz helped me decide to establish the Human Rights Task Force. And if she didn’t stop me in the stairway my third week at Croton-Harmon High School, I’d be telling you about my experiences advising the Sailing Club...

An extra-curricular club, the HRTF believes that the purpose of freedom is to safeguard it for others. Apart from saving the world on a daily basis, right now we’re focused on coordinating the 2nd annual Upstander Day events (May 23rd) as well as the 1st annual Human Rights Movie Marathon (May 20-21) at the Jacob Burns in Pleasantville, where students from 27 local high schools hope to raise $1,000,000 for Darfur.

Decisions...

Shortly after becoming “human rights guy”, I decided to act upon an invitation to bring 8 sophomores to the Human Rights Student Institute at Purchase College (sponsored by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center located right here at Manhattanville). Actually this wasn’t a tough decision as I’ve always had a passion for history and human behavior, with a particular interest in the Holocaust and power groups.

What could be better than assembling 250 sophomores in workshops aimed at experiencing the lessons of the Holocaust, firsthand?!! The energy at this event was palpable, so much so that I decide to join the Educators Planning Committee of the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center and help them with the important work they do. We function as an NGO and meet monthly at Manhattanville to offer resources for holocaust and human rights education, present provocative learning opportunities for students of all ages (teachers and adults, too!), and of course produce the annual Student Institute - which this past March took place at Manhattanville.

Last year at the Institute, we decided to create the aforementioned “Upstander Day” throughout Westchester and the neighboring counties. (We even got Andy Spano to make an official declaration.) Our primary goal: to facilitate the decision for students and communities to evolve from being bystanders to, of course... upstanders. At our school, Upstander Day featured an evening of words, art and song where dozens of students red poignant vignettes, performed live music, danced and provided inspirational artwork to about 150 members of the community.

This year’s Institute featured NBC’s Ann Curry as one of our keynote speakers. She’s been to Chad a couple of times and just recently interviewed the Sudanese recently. The workshop topics were provocative - and we moved ahead with the plans for Upstander Day and the Movie Marathon. It’s very exciting work, to tell you the truth. And the best part... the kids are totally engaged, come up with incredible ideas and action plans, and take ownership of global concerns that many adults would shy away from.

Decisions...

This year, Croton-Harmon High School will hold its own Human Rights Student Institute as part of our Upstander Day event on Wednesday May 23rd. Our students wrote a grant from the community educational foundation - and will design, coordinate and facilitate 10 workshops on issues facing their generation. Topics include: Darfur, AIDS in Africa, Fair Trade, Child Soldiers, Gold & Diamond Mining, Torture and Civil Liberties in the War on Terror, Homelessness & Poverty, Women Rights in Islam, Civil Disobedience, and Free Speech. We’ve invited students from Gorton High School in Yonkers and John Jay High School in Cross River to join us. Already there’s a lot of buzz about what this day will bring.

Decisions...

I suppose this is the part where I close strong and ask YOU about the kind of world you want to see. Are you waiting on the world to change? Or, making small decisions every day to make a difference?

The best I can do is leave you with the words of Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

About the Author

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Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center: whc@bestweb.net OR 914-696-0738
School of Education Alumni
We Want to Hear From You!

Please update your contact information and provide us with any information that you would like to share in the SOE Alumni Newsletter.

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________
E-mail Address: __________________________________________________________________________
Current Place of Employment: __________________________________________________________________________________
Position: ________________________________________________________________________________
Year Graduated from Manhattanville College: ______________________________________________________
Degree and Areas of Certification: ____________________________________________________________
Additional Degrees: _________________________________________________________________________
Awards / Honors: __________________________________________________________________________
Professional / Personal Recognition: ____________________________________________________________
Career Moves / Transitions: __________________________________________________________________
Community Involvement: _____________________________________________________________________
Special Projects / Activities: __________________________________________________________________
Notable Accomplishments: ___________________________________________________________________
Personal News: ____________________________________________________________________________
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Please return to:
Manhattanville College – School of Education
Attn: Laura Bigaouette, Assistant Dean, 2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577
Or via email at: bigaouettel@mville.edu.
Upcoming Manhattanville Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td><strong>CSI Second Annual Educational Forum</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:30am–3:00pm, Reid Castle, Manhattanville College&lt;br&gt;Keynote Speakers: Dr. Linda Darling Hammond, Education Professor, Stanford University; Robert MacNaughton, Superintendent-Ramapo Central School District&lt;br&gt;Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Luncheon Speaker&lt;br&gt;County Executive Andy Spano, Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>August 2</td>
<td><strong>Substitute Teacher Job Fair</strong>&lt;br&gt;(9:00 am – 12:30) Manhattanville College, Reid Castle, East Library&lt;br&gt;Meet one-on-one with Westchester School District Human Resource representatives for substitute teaching positions in districts. This is a great job-hunting strategy – Create your reputation in a district.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 19</td>
<td><strong>School of Education Fall Reception</strong>&lt;br&gt;3:30 pm-6:00 pm&lt;br&gt;Welcome Back SOE Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni</td>
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<td>September 28 – 30</td>
<td><strong>Manhattanville College Reunion Weekend</strong></td>
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