Alumni Spotlight

Page 2

Alumni News

Page 7

Alumni Events

Page 9

Awards

Page 12

Program Highlights

Page 13

Faculty Appointments

Page 21

Upcoming Events

Page 22
Greetings From The Dean

SHELLEY B. WEPNER
Dean and Professor, School of Education

School of Education alumni are returning to Manhattanville! Alumni are coming back for professional development, networking, and recognition. They are serving on the newly developed School of Education Alumni Board, and are organizing and serving on their own program boards. Alumni participated in this past spring’s Graduate Commencement as VIPs, and received special awards for their teaching, service, and contributions to the education field.

Alumni are coaching future teachers and leaders to help them grow into the profession, and are working with School of Education faculty and administration to develop new program opportunities, and mechanisms for alumni outreach. Alumni are taking advantage of opportunities to learn from and interact with other alumni, professors, and experts in the field. Indeed, this has been the year of "great beginnings" for alumni's return to Manhattanville.

Alumni—as the School of Education’s legacy—reflect Manhattanville’s ability to prepare teachers and leaders to serve, competently and compassionately, students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Alumni demonstrate to others in the region how they are using unique aspects of their educational experience to advance the field through their teaching and leadership. Years of informal and formal feedback from educators in the field have revealed that School of Education alumni have acquired a reputation for being knowledgeable, able to teach, respectful of and attentive to diverse student needs, collaborative with their colleagues and the community, and professional. These characteristics, which represent the School of Education’s goals for its students, are indicative of Manhattanville’s magical potion of combining high-quality students with talented and dedicated faculty, well-crafted programs, and specially-designed field and professional development experiences.

Alumni’s sterling reputation as exemplars for teaching and leading has contributed to the School of Education’s ability to continue to develop as “the” premier education school in Westchester County. With full NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation, the School of Education now offers 72 different programs (the widest array in Westchester County), has 23.5 faculty, nearly 1100 students, and 22 partnerships with schools and school districts in Westchester County and New York City.

The School now has a signature theme for community outreach and program development, “Changing Suburbs Institute®” (affectionately referred to as CSI), which uses evidence-based information to make discoveries about ways to best educate diverse student populations in changing suburban school districts, with a special emphasis on Hispanic students and their parents. Six CSI school districts in Westchester County have established Professional Development Schools with Manhattanville so that they can engage in meaningful partnerships that focus on teacher preparation, professional development, inquiry and research, and student achievement to bring about school improvement and renewal of the teaching profession. (See page 17 for more about CSI.)

The School of Education also has developed new programs this year as a result of communicating with alumni and other local educators. We now have approval from New York State Education Department (NYSED) to offer a Bilingual Extension program, a new master’s degree in literacy for classroom teachers interested in more fully developing their ability to promote literacy, and a school district leadership extension program. We also will be pursuing once again approval from NYSED for our proposed doctoral program in Educational Leadership that promises to be one of the most innovative, useful, and user-friendly programs in the region.

Now, more than ever, alumni involvement with Manhattanville provides the School of Education with firsthand information on how to best prepare new teachers and continue to develop practicing teachers for our region’s multilingual, multicultural classrooms. Alumni insights and experiences help to keep Manhattanville in the forefront of the profession, and help to distinguish Manhattanville as a college that sees its alumni as the centerpiece of promoting a community of collaboration.

No one understands the importance of alumni than our new President Molly Easo Smith.
Danielle DeSimone and Jenna Marvin graduated from Manhattanville College in May 2009. Danielle DeSimone received her Bachelor’s Degree in Education and Sociology/Anthropology; Jenna Marvin received her Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education and Psychology. Danielle and Jenna completed their student teaching experience at the Thomas A. Edison School in Port Chester, New York.

When learning about their student teaching placement, Jenna and Danielle were more than happy when they learned they were placed at Edison. Danielle said, “I was thrilled when I found out I’d be student teaching at the Edison School. I have always admired the warm, caring environment Edison offers its students and wanted to be a part of that community.” During their first placement, both in the 4th grade but taught in different classes, they often worked together, shared ideas and plans.

While supervising her 4th grade class singing during glee club, Danielle was moved by a song her students were singing called “Welcome Home.” “It was a song that really touched me and I felt it was necessary to share it with others,” Danielle said. With this, Danielle was brainstorming all ways the students can share this special song and there was a wonderful opportunity waiting to be seized upon.

During the fall of 2008, Danielle had previously volunteered her time for a program called My Soldier which is sponsored by Manhattanville College. This program organizes pen pal relationships as well as care packages between citizens and U.S. soldiers serving in Iraq. Danielle thought that this would be a great chance to motivate the students to become involved with a community service effort. “I have such great love and passion for children and I wanted to engage them in such a powerful, community service driven project” she said.

She wanted to plan a lesson on letter writing to teach her students so they can write their own letters to U.S. soldiers and send a recorded copy on a CD of them singing their song, “Welcome Home.”

Based on this thought, she shared the idea with Jenna Marvin who wanted to become involved in the project right away and fully supported the idea. After hearing “Welcome Home” Jenna said, “The song is heart touching and gave me goose bumps when listening to them sing it.” Jenna and Danielle worked tirelessly for many weeks planning how the lesson should be delivered and the organization of this project. With the help and support from the Edison School’s 4th grade teachers, glee club instructor, Principal Dr. Eileen Santiago, and the My Soldier program at Manhattanville College, this project was certainly on its way to success.

When first informed about the project, the students were excited and confused at the same time. They couldn’t understand how they could possibly write letters to real soldiers! Once convinced this was very much possible, they could not wait to begin. Jenna said, “When I told my 4th graders about this project they were excited to write the letters. They couldn’t stop talking about it, they really enjoyed themselves.” Danielle and Jenna who worked in separate classrooms, distributed packets about the My Soldier program and began by teaching their students the letter writing process.

After the students’ rough drafts were completed and carefully proof read, they wrote their final copies on an American flag paper that they colored and cut out. In all, the students wrote letters to 8 different soldiers serving in Iraq. Many of the students needed little guidance for topics to write about. They were full of ideas and questions they wanted to share with “their” soldiers. In the letters, several students shared their hobbies, interests, and concerns for the soldiers serving abroad.

Almost all of the students were eager to know if the soldiers would reply to their letters and repeatedly asked how soon their letters would be mailed out. The positive feedback from all the students made this project worthwhile. Danielle said, “It’s absolutely incredible to watch 10 year old students explore and really put great thought, effort, and time into writing letters to U.S. soldiers. They are such amazing, unique children who have expressed their individuality through their writing”.

The next day, the 4th grade students arrived at the Edison School wearing red, white and blue. Danielle and Jenna distributed My Soldier hats and bracelets and the
students were ready to record their song “Welcome Home.” The students were recorded singing their song, all dressed in patriotic colors wearing their new hats and bracelets, which they have worn to school every day since! This song was then transferred to CD’s, which was included in each envelope with the letters the students wrote and mailed to each of the soldiers.

The principal of Thomas A. Edison School, Dr. Eileen Santiago said, “The My Soldier project, conducted by student teachers Jenna Marvin and Danielle DeSimone, truly reflects the essence of Edison’s Professional Development School Partnership with Manhattanville College. As part of this partnership, future teachers engage in hands-on learning activities with their students involving themselves in a project that will serve to become part of the school’s legacy making a difference in the lives of others and reflecting the school’s core values of respect, responsibility, kindness, and tolerance.”

In reference to the overall experience, Danielle said, “This project was such a great success and could not have been done without the support from the Edison School and My Soldier program. I truly felt passionate about pursuing this idea and primarily because I thought it was critical to make students aware of the world around them. Not only did this foster their academic learning, but I believe it demonstrated the importance of volunteer and community service work.” Jenna was just as satisfied with the results saying, “My hometown is right in West Point, so I have grown up with close ties to the army which is why I was eager to begin this project. Seeing how excited everyone was about doing this for the soldiers really touched my heart.’’

**Phys Ed Program Alum Recognized**

Mike Riveles, MAT ’08 Physical Education and Sports Pedagogy was profiled in *The Advocate* and *Greenwich Time* (Sunday, April 19, 2009) for what he has accomplished with the Physical Education program at Stanwich School.

Mike is currently a physical education teacher and coach at the Stanwich School. He transitioned from previous careers. Mike was previously an account manager running MasterCard’s baseball sponsorships for a sports marketing firm. In 1999, Mike was a pitcher in the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He describes his current career as a physical education teacher “the best job of his lifetime.”

During his teaching internship at Stanwich, Mike knew that he was on the right path when he realized that he was making a difference in the lives of his students. He remained at Stanwich and teaches Physical Education to students is grades 2 to 6, and coaches soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Mike embraces the phys ed program philosophy at Stanwich. It’s not just gym, but rather the school is giving the students the skills and foundational experience in life-long fitness. Mike credits the Manhattanville MPE program for the preparation he received to be a teacher.
Coral Reef at Scarsdale Middle School

CRISTINE GILLILAND (MAT ’98)

Cristine Gilliland (MAT ’98 and SOE Alumni Board member) wrote in to say that, among other projects, one project in particular has been keeping her busy as a middle school teacher at Scarsdale Middle School.

The middle school decided to build, that is to say crochet, a coral reef replica to not only show the beauty and wonder of a coral reef, but to educate the school community about the plight of the coral reefs.

They began with a teachers’ institute course in October 2009 called EcoActivism and Art, where they were informed about coral reefs and then introduced, or re-introduced, to the wonderful world of crocheting. During the course of the year, the Scarsdale Middle School community – faculty, staff, students, parents of faculty, au-pairs, etc – worked very hard at crocheting pieces of the reef.

In May, we got together and built our reef. The grand opening / ribbon cutting was June 8, 2009.

Cris Gilliland put together a website, blog, and several movies. Other teachers created podcasts. The link is: http://shs-20.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/~coralreef

Cristine added that this project has been a real valuable teaching tool for the students. The student reaction has been very positive. The students gather around the coral reef display, sometimes quietly contemplating the display and other times involved in a lively discussion.

Alum Receives Big Honor (again!)

BY KATHLEEN HARBORT

I graduated from Manhattanville College with a B.A. in Biology in May 1973. Since September 1976, I have been a teacher at Eastern Middle School in Riverside, Connecticut, a school in the Greenwich Public School system.

Last year, on May 8, 2008, I received an honor from Manhattanville’s School of Education titled “Alumni Innovative Teaching Award” Honorable Mention. This award is “Presented to an alumnus who has demonstrated innovative teaching that positively affects students’ motivation and achievement.” (See School of Education Alumni Magazine, Summer 2008 issue, page 13.)

On May 5, 2009 I was awarded another honor in my 33 year career in education. In Greenwich Public Schools, each year, 6 teachers are chosen as “Distinguished Teachers.” I am one of the “Class of 2009” Distinguished Teachers!

My award reads —

“The Greenwich Distinguished Teacher Awards Committee recognizes Kathleen Harbort as A Distinguished Teacher 2009 To Acknowledge Exemplary Service To the Children of the Greenwich Public Schools.”

There was an article about the ceremony in the May 6, 2009 issue of the Greenwich Times. The article also appeared in the Greenwich Citizen and Greenwich Post.
**Educating Kids with Special Needs Getting Pediatric Care**

**Maureen Tomk piel**  
(MAT '98 Early Childhood Education)

Maureen Tomk piel was profiled in the ‘Profits & Passions” section of The Westchester Business Journal May 4, 2009 issue. Maureen just received the Manhattanville School of Education Alumni Valiant Educator Award (see page 21, School of Ed Alumni Awards).

Maureen’s school, the John A. Coleman School, has been professionally designated a “School of Excellence” for 2009 by the National Association of Special Education teachers (NASET). Maureen is the Executive Director of the John A. Coleman School and Children’s Rehabilitation Center. Maureen states that their programs are based on respect and recognize the unique differences and abilities with children. She acknowledges her staff and says that it’s a team effort where they strive toward excellence in education.

**School of Ed Alum Nominated to Educational Testing Service Panel**

Soraya Martino (MAT ’05 and SOE Alumni Board member) was nominated by a colleague and selected for participation on an important language panel led by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

Soraya represented the state of Connecticut on the panel on August 27th and 28th, 2009.

**Manhattanville School of Education Alumni Board**

The School of Education Alumni Board was formed in the Fall 2008. The Board met four times over the past academic year. Board members serve on various committees that are part of Board activities: Program Committee, Awards Committee, By-Laws Committee, and the Development/Fundraising Committee.

Alumni provide the best input and feedback for programs and events for the School of Ed alumni. New programs were developed this past year for alumni thanks to the ideas of alumni board members.

**Meet Your School of Education Alumni Board**


**We Need You For the School of Education Alumni Board**

You are invited to be a part of the School of Education Alumni Board! The SOE continues to strive to create rich experiences for its alumni, and to cultivate and sustain its relationship with alumni. Your ideas, perspective, and input are all needed!

The purpose of the Board is to explore ways in which alumni can reconnect to Manhattanville School of Education to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

Benefits to alumni include career development, professional development, personal development, and networking.

Benefits to the SOE include program improvement, public relations, development, and the support of initiatives.

Help to create and develop ideas for your School of Education alumni community. Create an alumni organization that you and your fellow alumni
THEI CHERRY is currently working at PS 88 in the Bronx as a special education teacher in a CTT classroom. Thei had the pleasure of moving up with her children every year, so Thei has worked with kindergarteners, first graders, and second graders. Prior to working in the city, Thei taught preschool, taught at an all-girl Catholic school in Connecticut, and assisted high school students in an alternative high school in Westchester. She is proud to say that she is a teacher.

KRISTEN DINI teaches at PS 37-River East Elementary School in East Harlem. She has been teaching elementary visual arts for two years.

ROSEANNE BAXTER FRANK Class of ’86 is thrilled to participate on the SOE Alumni Board. It’s a great opportunity to stay connected with the school and the ever-changing field of education. Roseanne graduated with a BA and certification in education N-6. She then continued her education at Hofstra University for an MS in Reading (’92). She worked on the early childhood level for private schools for ten years before taking time off to have a family, two girls who are now 8 and 11 years old. Roseanne is involved with her children’s schools by volunteering her time on various PTA board positions. She is an out-spoken advocate for sound educational practices and curriculum in her district, and she is convinced that administration has a dart board with her picture on it. Roseanne is vice-president of programming for the Friends of Bryant Library. She started a popular and successful program called the Building Bridges Program, which sponsors activities for parents and children to go together. And, lastly, she is assisting her husband Paul on starting a website, and she is on the hunt for an agent to represent her manuscripts of children’s stories.

CHRISTINE STIASSNI-GERLI got her Masters in Humanities in 1974 in addition to her Masters in Teaching from Manhattanville. Christine was back on campus again and received her Masters of Writing this past May, 2009. Christine received a citation from The Institute of Museum Services in Washington, D.C. in recognition of exceptional contributions to the United States Government and the museums of this nation. She taught English at public and private high schools in Westchester County. Christine “side-stepped” her teaching career and went 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 says that she does not feel very “retired” with still a number of non-profit and family pursuits. Christine has worked over the years as a volunteer and board member of a number of local and regional groups.

CRISTINE GILLILAND is currently a Science teacher at Scarsdale Middle School. In the past she has worked at Woodmere Middle School as a science teacher as well. Cristine is the Director of Adult Development and Training of Girl Scout Council of Greater NY and the Outdoor Education Program Specialist in San Diego County Office of Education. Cristine received her Associate of Art degree in Music/Voice from Southwestern College, her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Interpretation from Humboldt State University, and her Master of Arts Teaching 7-12 Biology with 5-6th Grade extension from Manhattanville College.

MARGARETE GOETT’S road to becoming a teacher is somewhat unique. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Stanford University and her Master’s Degree in Teaching from Manhattanville College. Prior to becoming a teacher, she worked for fifteen years in corporate sales and marketing, producing print and television advertising and creating global brand management strategies for international companies. Along the way, Margarete published freelance journalist for news publications in tri-state area. Her writing included investigating reporting, feature articles, and book reviews. Eventually, her passion for learning overcame her business interests, and in 2003, made the move to a second career in education. Her experiences in business led to her decision to teach English. It is the subject that may, in the long run, prove to be the most important for her students. She believes that effective communication; both written and spoken, applies to all career paths. It is her hope that she can help her students make a real-world connection between their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills and their own future success.

MARGIE HUNTER is currently an Art Educator in Yonkers, New York. The past six years have been spent teaching as a substitute teacher and then an art educator in a private and public sector. She is always working to extend her personal education with a certificate in Conflict Transformation, as well as currently working on a NYS Certificate in Secondary Mathematics. In addition to her teaching she has volunteered for the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY working with 4th graders to create stop action animation. Margie spends time photographing Juvenile Diabetes walks in New Jersey and working with the Manhattanville Education Department Alumni Board speaking about the current focus of education.

ANDERSON JONES (AJ) is a High School Math teacher at Mount Vernon High School. He has an MAT in Math Education from Manhattanville College in 2003 and he also earned his PD in Educational Leadership at Manhattanville College in 2007. AJ serves as an Assistant Director of the MPALS (Manhattanville Promotes Academics and Life Language Services). MPALS is an educational initiative started in 2004 and is designed to increase the number of modest-income and minority students in high school and AP classes in Westchester County. AJ is also the Advisor of the Brothers of Class Club which attacks the high levels of high school male dropouts by developing male leaders.

SORAYA MARTINO received her MAT in 2005. She is married to Joseph A. Martino and they are raising two bilingual children: Hanna Talia who is 8 years old, currently in 3rd grade and Gianna Martino who is 4 years old, attending PreK. Currently Soraya is working at The International School at Rogers Magnent in Stamford, CT as a World Language Teacher grades teaching Spanish to grade K-5. She is also a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) since 2006.

ROBERT ORLANDO is a NYS Certified Social Studies Teacher. Presently, he is working at a public school in the Bronx, NY where he teaches Economics, Government, U.S. and Global History. In addition, he taught Philosophy in the MPALS (Manhattanville Promotes Academic and Lifelong Learning) program at Manhattanville College. Mr. Orlando’s teaching strategy focuses on highly interactive PowerPoint presentations that incorporate Socratic Dialogue and Multi-Media to enhance student attention, awareness and retention. Mr. Orlando received the Manhattanville Award for Academic Excellence in Social Studies, was on the Dean’s List, President’s List and is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Theta Kappa. His interests include Philosophy, Music, Reading, Running and Cycling.

LAURA WOODSON graduated from the BS/MAT dual degree program in Childhood and Early Childhood with a 4.0 GPA in 2006, while working full time overseeing a preschool in Stamford, CT, the Grace Christian School, which she help to found. She presently teaches 4th grade at North Street School in Greenwich, CT, and serves as an adjunct instructor in the Early Childhood Department here at Mville. Laura is happiest when she is teaching and making a difference in the lives of her students. Laura lives in Stamford, CT where she serves as a deaconess in her church where her husband is pastor. They have 4 lovely children and 3 wonderful grandchildren.
School of Ed Alumni News

1970

Pamela Hayes (MAT ’70) is the Director of Schools of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco. Her school was first in the city to receive the McKing Faith/Commitment award for working with African American children. Pamela built 110,000 square feet of new buildings and in 2000 began an all-boys high school, two elementary schools: one for boys and one for girls and the same for the high schools. Along with those accomplishments, Pamela oversaw and raised over $50 million dollars in facilities and endorsement. In July 2009, Pamela became Head of Convent of Sacred Heart in Greenwich, CT.

1978

Mark A. Cassata (MAT ’78 Fine Arts K-12 in Gift & Talent) is currently an adjunct art professor at Pace University. In addition to his MAT degree, Mark received his BFA degree at Manhattanville College in 1983. He has received medals awarded by the Women's Beaux Arts Club at Rye Library. Besides awards Mark has also been actively involved in committees such as the Draw Experience from Adults at the Somers Library, supervision of all water front activities at Rye Town Park, and conducts lectures on the Hudson River School at the Pace Environmental Center. One of Mark’s special projects is topographical study in watercolor of the Hudson Valley of the Sound Shore Region.

1979

Barbara Torre Veltri (MAT ’79) is the assistant professor of Northern Arizona University Department of Teaching and Learning. In addition to her MAT from Manhattanville College, Barbara is certified in elementary education N-6 both in NY and CT and Secondary Education 7-12 social studies NYS. Barbara has taught in Texas at the University of Texas and at Arlington after teaching at Arizona State University. Barbara created Power Hitter Football and Baseball that teaches math and literacy through sports and a themed curriculum. In July 2008, she published work in The Journal of Education and Urban Society; “Teaching or Service?: The Site Based Realities of Teach for American Teachers in Poor, Urban Schools.”

1981

Francis J. Ames (MAT ’81 Bilingual Education) worked in public relations for 13 years at the Miami Art Museum. Upon early retirement she returned to teaching, where she currently works at MDCPS. Francis created two classes for Senior Citizens. One class is “English for the Foreign Born Senior;” for students ranging from 65 to 92 years old where she uses singing and reading lyrics to stimulate learning English. The second class is a Music, Movement and Sing-a-long class for seniors 80 to 101 years old focusing on flexibility, memory skills, and music and movement. At 65 Francis is more active than ever. She teaches ESL four days and two nights a week and learns so much from her students from so many different countries and cultures.

Please note – this is a correction from the 2008 magazine. Francis Ames was listed as “Frances Ames.” We regret the error.

1983

Georgina Shea (MAT ’83) is the founder and co-director of College Connections; Higher Education for Women in Prison at the Taconic Correctional Facility. There, women have the opportunity to take both credit and non-credit courses depending on their level of preparedness for college credit. Transferable general education courses are provided on-site by a consortium of three institutions; Mercy College, Nyack College, and Vassar College.

1992

Pamela Palmer Mutino (MAT ’92 Secondary English Education) currently is a freelance writer. In 1990, Pamela graduated from Manhattanville College with her BA (Magna Cum Laude) in Literature and Theater. Pamela received the Margaret Williams Award for Literacy Criticism in 1989 and has produced six plays, and publishes poetry. In December 2007, Pamela published her first book, Swish: Maria in the Mourning, Outskirts Press, Inc. which is a non-fiction narrative which chronicles a mother’s process of mourning after losing her only child, the beautiful and charismatic Maria, to a heroin overdose at 23.

1997

Steven M. Tower (MAT ’97 Elementary Education) is the owner and Director of Education at Sylvan Learning Center. In 2006, he left the classroom to start a private tutoring business but was recruited to be the Director of Education in Keene, MA. Besides his work, Steven sings with Do Camera Singers in Amherst, MA where he performs 28 voices, a-cappella, and small ensemble chamber music group.

1998

Melissa Hardesty (MAT ’98 Secondary Social Studies) is the principal of the Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES and the Walkabout Program. Melissa obtained both her BA in Management and Economics in 1995 and MAT in Secondary Social Studies in 1998 from Manhattanville College. Melissa also completed a MS degree in Education Administration from Fordham University.

1999

Christine Fitzpatrick (MAT ’99 Biology, Chemistry, and General Science) is currently a kitchen designer at Fitzpatrick Design, Inc. In 1988, Christine obtained a degree from the Culinary Institute of America. Later, she also achieved a certification in home economics and childhood education K-5.

2000

Sandra K. Athans (MAT ’00 Elementary Education) is a 4th grade teacher at Bolivar Road Elementary School.
school. Besides from receiving numerous grants through the Central New York Teaching Center, Sandra achieved her secondary certification and provides national conferences and workshops. Recently she published a teacher reading reference entitled Quality Comprehension.

2001

Dr. Arlene Garcia (BA/MAT ’01Dual Degree Social Studies 7-12) is a social studies teacher at White Plains High School. In addition to her graduate degree she received her MA in 2008 and PhD in criminology in 2009 from the Graduate Center (CUNY)/John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She also instructs PSAT, SAT, & CAT courses. She was awarded the Gates Scholar award and is a Ford Scholar. Arlene’s community involvement includes being a mentor for students and professional speaker for student/parent workshops at the MLK Jr. Institute and presents at conferences. Dr. Garcia has worked for multiple learning centers such as Huntington Learning Center and Score!Prep which is a division of Kaplan. She has also tutored students privately as well. Dr. Garcia has also worked with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Senator Ted Kennedy, and Miss America, as well as local and community functions in Connecticut and New York. She has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and a coed with a will, keeps it real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and new York. She has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. she has also authored a semi-autobiographical text titled, A Coed With a Will, Keeps It Real and a semi-autobiographical text titled, and New York. She has also worked at the Teacher’s Center at Purchase College in Purchase, NY as a workshop coordinator for this professional development center for teachers. Outside of this center, Carol works on the Purchase campus and in her own classroom facilitating classes for teachers about new children’s literature, guided reading, learning centers, and literacy activities. Carol also worked as a free lance for Really Good Stuff, Inc where she collaboratively worked with the RGS team to create “What’s The Scoop On Your Group?” where it debuted in the “Back to School Catalog 2007” and currently being sold in the RGS catalogs and online. Recently, Carol is the author of Barnyard Babies To The Rescue which was published by Outskirts Press, Inc.

2004

Harvey Zuckerman (MAT ’04 English) currently works at Eximius College Prep Academy in the Bronx. He is a 9th grade ELA teacher and 9th grade team leader. In addition to his MAT in English, Harvey accomplished his Masters Education Leadership degree in 2007. Harvey was awarded with a NYCCDOE SBL & SDL certification.

2006

Scott Schiff (MPS ’06) currently is a 6th grade special education teacher at the Middlesex Middle School in Darien, CT. He has his Dual Masters in Childhood and Special Ed, NY certification in childhood 1-6 and special Ed 1-6, and his Connecticut certification in elementary Ed K-5 and special Ed K-12.

2007

Margie Hunter (MAT ’07 Visual Arts) is currently an art educator at Yonkers Public Schools. In addition to her Masters degree, Margie accomplished her BA in film from FDU. Besides from working in the school system, Margie is also actively involved on the Manhattanville College Alumni Board.

Glenn H. Roth (MPS ’07 Childhood Education & Childhood Special Ed) is currently a SETSS teacher at MS 101 Edward R. Byrne School. For nine years Glenn has been a volunteer at the Museum of Natural History.

John Casullo (MAT ’07) spent twenty years as a Mt. Pleasant police officer in Westchester County, NY. During that time he was an instructor with the Westchester County Police Academy. It was his experience as an instructor and his love of working and coaching kids that led him to the Manhattanville program. He completed his masters program in December, 2007. He was able to retire from the police department and began his career as a teacher in Virginia, where he relocated with his wife and four kids. He currently works at an elementary school in Caroline County, Virginia. He was voted by his peers as the “Rookie Teacher of the Year” for the 2007-2008 school year. His principal announced the honor at the school assembly and the kids gave him a huge hand. He was very touched by the whole experience and was honored to be recognized by his co-workers.

IN MEMORIAM
Paula Bindschedler (MAT ’08 Foreign Language) graduated in May 2008 with her masters in Foreign Language. She later passed away in September 2008. Manhattanville College and the School of Education offer condolences to Paula’s family.
2008-2009 ALUMNI EVENTS

School of Education Alumni Associations

The School of Education Faculty holds a passion for not only teaching current students, but for providing lifelong learning and success for alumni. The Faculty’s involvement in the community and with current students and alumni in their respective areas was a catalyst for the formation of alumni groups for specific areas in education.

Alumni associations for individual departments are extremely valuable for School of Education alumni. These associations provide professional development, networking, the sharing of experience and expertise among teachers in specific grade level areas. Alumni report that their involvement in these groups has already been very valuable in that the sharing of information and experiences are specific to certain grade levels or topics.

Early Childhood Alumni Association

By Dr. Patricia Vardin

Now in its second year, the Early Childhood Alumni Association hosted a holiday dinner and film/lecture/discussion in December. The dinner speaker was Ellis Barowsky, Chair of the Special Education Department at Manhattanville College. The topic of the evening was autism and autistic spectrum disorders in early childhood.

If you are interested in joining the Association, please contact Dr. Vardin at 914-798-2714.

Educational Leadership Network “Happenings”

By Dr. Kathy Rockwood

The EDLEAD Network spring forum was held on April 22 in the new Richard Berman Student Center. During the initial networking there were a lot of hugs and exchange of news. Then Eric Cohen, a Leadership Intern, introduced some fun and frivolity to the group by teaching everyone how to juggle using bean bags. No one could resist trying!

Prior to dinner the group listened to a captivating panel discussion that focused on how school administrators are making difficult decisions in this challenging fiscal environment. Panelists included: Dr. Susan Sciascia, Assist. Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction (Greenburgh 7), Jonathan Ross, Assistant Superintendent of Business (Blind Brook), Ed David (Mville graduate), Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations (Greenburgh-Graham UFSD), and Medard Thomas (Mville graduate), Assistant Principal at Waterside School (Stamford). After a stimulating discussion, good food, and the finale raffle, the wonderful evening came to an end.
Ed Leadership Alumnae/Alumni News

This is the beginning of more news exchange among EDLEAD graduates:

Colleen McLaughlin just began the Executive Leadership program at College of New Rochelle and is very excited about making this decision.

Jennifer Carriero-Dominguez keeps very busy with her young family and enjoys her professional involvement as an educator in the Port Chester community. She wrote: “I was inducted into the Park Avenue Elementary School Alumni Hall of Fame in May for contributions to the field of education. I also enjoy being a Girl Scout Daisy Troop leader and the third vice-president of the Park Avenue Parent Teacher Organization. I am proud to be the Literacy Through the Arts coordinator at Park Avenue and helped plan the Port Chester School District’s National Arts in the School day in April. I am currently enrolled in Manhattanville College’s Intensive Teacher Institute program to become certified in TESOL.”

Melissa Brown and her husband are being kept very busy with their new family addition of twins!

Classroom Management Workshop

On March 5, 2009, Dr. Ellis Barowsky-Chair of the School of Ed’s Special Education Department and Dr. Vance Austin- Assistant Professor of Special Education, presented a program titled “A Humanistic Approach to Behavior Management in the Classroom” to a large group of alumni and soon-to-be-alumni.

This very popular program was recommended by the School of Ed Alumni Board after hearing Drs. Barowsky’s and Austin’s presentation at a Fall 2008 Board meeting.

New Alumni Program – Voices of Experience

What Your First Year Of Teaching Is Really Like

When School of Education alumni are asked why they continue to be involved, the overriding response is that they all want to “give back” to the School of Ed community and its students - future teachers.

This spirit coupled with the success of similar Kappa Delta Pi programs sparked the program idea of discussing the realities of the first year of teaching to current students. The idea for this program was generated by the SOE Alumni Board Program Committee.

On March 5, 2009, a panel of School of Ed alumni presented a discussion on the realities of the first year of teaching to current students. The panel of six alumni discussed their experiences in schools, provided suggestions, and answered questions from the audience.

This program was very well attended, and the discussions were stimulating and very informative.

The panel was comprised of Margie Hunter (MAT ’07, Art Educator in Yonkers), Mike Newgaard (MAT ’03, Middle School Teacher in South Bronx), Emily Williams (MAT ’03 and Community School Teacher in the Bronx), Art Wenzel (MAT ’04 and High School Teacher in Yorktown), and Monique Reilly (MAT ’00 and 4th Grade Teacher in White Plains). Anderson Jones (MAT ’04, MPS ’06 and High School Teacher in Mount Vernon) facilitated the panel.

New Alumni Program Series

Revitalizing Ourselves As Teachers

Healthy Eating For Healthy Living And Stress Management

The Program Committee of the School of Education Alumni Board developed this idea for an alumni program.

On April 28, 2009, guest speaker Gail Flanagan, MS, RN, gave a presentation and discussion on healthy nutrition, eating habits, food choices, and promotion healthy eating for children in the classroom.

Gail Flanagan is a personal fitness trainer and a nutrition specialist. She operates her business in White Plains and Manhattan and offers training sessions and specializes in clinical nutrition, sports nutrition, and weight control.
School of Education Presents Its Alumni Awards to Three Alumni

Three School of Ed Alumni were honored at the recent Graduate Awards & Recognition Ceremony on May 14, 2009.

The Alumni, their friends and family, and colleagues were in attendance at the ceremony. The award recipients received a certificate and a Tiffany desk plaque in honor of their achievement. President Berman, Assistant Dean Laura Bigouette, and Director of Manhattanville Alumni Relations Christine Hughes presented the alumni with their awards.

The 2009 School of Education Alumni Award winners are as follows:

**THE VALIANT EDUCATOR AWARD**

**Maureen Tomkiel**

Maureen is the Executive Director of the John Coleman School and Children's Center.

Maureen has dedicated herself to early childhood education. Her 30 year career is dedicated to childhood disabled programs. She reflects the true spirit of the Valiant Award by dedicating her life to the growth and support of young children and their families.

**THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**Monique Reilly**

Monique is a 4th grade teacher at the Church Street School in White Plains.

For the past ten years, Monique has been an active member of the Manhattanville community. She has a strong commitment to children and teaching, a willingness to mentor, and shares her time and resources willingly. Over the years, Monique has freely given of her time and expertise on a regular basis by speaking at Kappa Delta Pi workshops, participating in School of Education Open House events, hosting student teachers, field experience students, and faculty members in her classroom. In addition, Monique consistently volunteers to conduct workshops about infusing brain-based education into the teaching of math. She includes in this workshop inspiration poetry and innovative teaching tools.

Monique serves on the School of Education Alumni Board and is the President of the Childhood Alumni Group. Her contributions have included several new initiatives and programs that benefit current School of Education students and alumni.

**THE ALUMNI AWARD FOR PUBLICATIONS IN PK-12 EDUCATION**

**Tricia Grosso Clancy**

Tricia is the Director of Admissions at the Iona Grammar School. Tricia wrote and published a book, *Dylan Remembers Daddy*, which was released in August 2008. The book was written with the intent to help small children cope with the loss of a parent or a loved one. Tricia said that she wrote the book as a poem so that small children would easily understand the message. Tricia hopes that her book reaches as many small children who are experiencing a devastating loss and that the book can be a tool to help them see things a little more positively.
## Call for Nominations

The School of Education Alumni community is looking to recognize its distinguished and talented alumni who embody the mission of Manhattanville College and the School of Education.

Award recipients will be recognized at the School of Education Graduate Awards Ceremony in May 20, 2010.

Nominations are being accepted now. The deadline for submissions is March 26, 2010.

Submit nominations 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 must be supported with recommendations from students, peers, and/or supervisors.

Nominations may be submitted online: [http://www.mville.edu/AcademicsandResearch/SchoolofEducation/Alumni/AwardNominations/AlumniAwardNominations.aspx](http://www.mville.edu/AcademicsandResearch/SchoolofEducation/Alumni/AwardNominations/AlumniAwardNominations.aspx) or via email to Laura Bigaouette at bigaouettel@mville.edu

### SOE Alumni Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Name</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Distinguished Service Award</strong></td>
<td>Honors 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Valiant Educator Award</strong></td>
<td>Honors a SOE alumnus whose career and community accomplishments reflect the Mission of Manhattanville College or the School of Education by contributing to the ethical and social growth of the population he/she serves.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inspirational Recent Alumni Award</strong></td>
<td>Recognition for a young SOE graduate (within the last decade) for exceptional contributions to the field of education and/or to the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alumni Innovative Teaching Award</strong></td>
<td>Honors an alumnus who has demonstrated innovative teaching that positively affects PK-12, or higher education students’ motivation and achievement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alumni Scholarship Award in Education</strong></td>
<td>Presented to an SOE Alumnus who has published notable scholarship in the field of education. Scholarship includes research or publications (books, articles)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Alumni Award for Publications in PK-12 Education</strong></td>
<td>Awarded to an SOE Alumnus who has created publications (children’s literature, curriculum design, technology guides) that foster teaching, learning, and development in the PK-12 setting.</td>
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Marina Bonello joined the Manhattanville College School of Education in January 2009. Her area of interest and specialty is one that few people in her home county, Malta, have been interested in: Physical education for early childhood. Influenced primarily by physical education literature in the USA (e.g., Prof. Rhonda Clements) and Canada, Marina emphasizes the benefits of starting children in PE at an early age. She maintains that some individuals tend to under value the role that movement plays in the life of the young child and how it has potential to enhance not only their psychomotor development but also their cognitive and social development.

Marina states that children use their bodies to think. She cited an example emerging from her dissertation research that indicated children’s perceptions of the effects of cardio activity on their bodies influences the way they understand how the cardiorespiratory system functions. When students feel the benefits of physical activity they can gain an understanding of how their bodies are working, albeit not always in parallel with scientifically correct maxims. When teachers start asking children questions about what they feel is happening to their bodies, teachers are able to better understand the children’s perceptions and as a result, gain better insight into how they think about concepts. In turn, such information can help teachers gain insight into how best to design instructional experiences that enhance students’ ability to develop a scientifically correct understanding of these concepts. In PE, when teachers develop and utilize a variety of questioning techniques they can better understand children’s perceptions. Teachers must better understand how children learn in order to enhance the teaching. Teachers can therefore change the content to help children learn better.

Marina also explained that the cognitive benefits associated with increased participation in physical activity is gaining more ground especially with the advent of brain-based research. For additional information, please refer to the article as recommended reading on this topic. http://www.edutopia.org/exercise-fitness-brain-benefits-learning

Marina has seven years experience teaching elementary physical education to 4-8 year olds in her home country Malta. During this time she developed and introduced physical education portfolios. She also reconceptualized the traditional ‘sports day’ as a “cooperative field day” involving a celebration of physical activity and art that was grounded upon Olympic Education principles and involved a variety of innovative equipment including parachutes. An outcome of these tools was that it enhanced the children’s physical literacy development and cognitive skills.

The new PE is very different from that of days past! It is essential that the PE environment is embellished in order to enhance children’s understanding of the content within a physical education curriculum. Marina is integrating these concepts and her experience in her coursework in the School of Ed PE program.

After completing her Masters degree at Virginia Tech, under the direction of Dr. George Graham, Marina taught for a year in Virginia; she was a health and physical education teacher at Crestwood Elementary School volunteering to work with three year olds attending the Head Start program in the school. Further, she worked with Fairfax Park Authority developing and teaching a
socio curriculum for 3 year olds (and their parents!).

Marina engages in a number of professional collaborations across the cyber space. Since 1999 she has been an editor on PELINKS 4 U (www.pelinks4u.org) and on the Advisory Board of PE Central (http://www.pecentral.org), the pre-eminent site for physical education, offering her expertise on the assessment, classroom management, and preschool physical education sections.

Marina loves the sea and originally pursued a career in marine biology. She was aptly named Marina (“Marina” means creature of the sea in Italian.) She did not like being indoors for the long hours of lab work and later switched to Physical Education while maintaining her scuba diving hobby on the side. She feels that her strong scientific background lent itself to her educational career.

Marina is an athlete, and her hobbies include biking, swimming, hiking, and archery. She was on the National Team of Malta and competed during the Small Nations Games of 1989, and in 1991 in track and field (4x100m). After a foot injury, she switched sport, trying out Archery, and liked it so much she never returned to the track. Under the guidance of her coach she qualified to represent Malta on the FITA outdoor archery teams of the Games of the Small States of Europe in 1996 and 1998. Marina can therefore speak to her passion about the need to start children in PE at an early age. Marina feels that movement is like a form of language; children must develop their capacity for making meaning out of the world, and they use their body as a tool for this capacity.

Marina has two mottos that reflect her quest for the promotion of physical activity education for young children:

PE: Committed to Making a Peak Experience (PE!!)

PEACE: Phys Ed Among Children Everywhere

Marina developed these mottos as a result of her background in Olympic Education and her work on an international travel buddy project. In 2000 and 2001, the travel buddy, Fitness Flamingo, reached San Andrea School (Malta) from Monocacy Elementary (Maryland, USA); and then resumed his travels to Torah Academy, in Johannesburg (South Africa). Fitness flamingo was accompanied by a binder showing photos of children doing physical education in these different countries and was used to educate children about their friends and physical education programs in different countries.
School of Education Distinguished Lecturer Series

Each year, the School of Education hosts a Distinguished Lecturer series where it invites leaders and innovators in the field of education to Manhattanville to speak. All events were co-sponsored by the Teachers Center of Central Westchester and The Edith Winthrop Teacher Center.

Richard Ingersoll was the distinguished lecturer for the Distinguished Lecturer Series on October 22, 2008. His topic was “The Math and Science Teacher Shortage: Fact and Myth?”

Dr. Ingersoll is professor of education and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Shimon Waronker was the distinguished lecturer for the Distinguished Lecturer Series on January 28, 2009. Mr. Waronker was featured on the TODAY show because of his success and experience in transforming one of the city’s 12 most dangerous schools.

Denny Taylor was the Distinguished Lecturer for the School of Education on April 15, 2009.

Dr. Denny Taylor is a professor and doctoral director of literacy studies at Hofstra University. Dr. Taylor spoke on “Creating Caring Communities: Teaching in Times of Economic Crisis and Other Catastrophes.” Her presentation included first-hand accounts of working in shelters and schools with people displaced by hurricane Katrina as well as experiences aiding people on both sides of the Gaza Strip.

Kappa Delta Pi

Rick Heckendorn, KDP Advisor & Assistant Professor-Curriculum & Instruction

This was a wonderful year for Kappa Delta Pi where 37 new members were initiated. Our next initiation ceremony will be on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 6:30 PM in Reid Castle.

Why should an alumnus consider joining KDP? It is a national association of educators who have had at least a 3.25 average GPA, are or were members of our college’s education program with having completed at least 12 credits, and have written a short one-page essay about why you want to devote your professional life to education. You will receive excellent publicity and will be awarded a KDP certificate in a marvelous ceremony attended by the Dean of the School of Education, the Provost, and President of Manhattanville College.

We had five guest speakers and presentations at our meetings during the school year at the Castle. They included teacher and student teacher panels as well as professors’ workshops. In addition we organized a “Reading Is Fun” day at the Edison Community School in Port Chester where we donated books and read to the children.

Our new officers will be Catherine Montero - President, Kathryn Rousso-Vice President, and Shelley Parker-Secretary.

We look to organize several wonderful events for the upcoming school year. Consider joining us by emailing me, Dr. Heckendorn at heckendornf@mville.edu and to obtain information about future meetings that will begin in late September 2009. You deserve to give yourself the opportunity to meet other teachers and students about to become teachers to maintain a strong network of professional friends. We can help you with that network. Join us!
Improving outcomes for teacher candidates and K-12 students are at the heart of all department initiatives. This year, as in past years, the faculty were involved in many outreach projects with our neighboring school districts. These collaborations with local schools help us to prepare a highly qualified pool of applicants for both urban and suburban classrooms. Our Professional Development Schools (PDS) provide the perfect venue for on-site course work, field visits, research projects, and unlimited opportunities for K-12 students, teacher candidates, classroom teachers, and college faculty to engage in a plethora of creative teaching and learning activities.

Faculty involvement in schools for this year included:

**Tony Scimone** is working with Sarah Lang, a literacy coach at New Rochelle, who received funds to start a writing center at the high school. Manhattanville English Ed students were invited to help Sarah staff the writing center; and work with individual students to develop writing skills. Tony will provide training to Manhattanville students working in this capacity and recommend service in the writing center as a way of satisfying observation field hours.

**Rick Heckendorn** is teaching an undergraduate section of Social Studies Methods at Fox Lane Middle School in Bedford and a graduate section of Fundamentals of Middle School at Fox Lane for several Bedford teachers. Rick also started a new venture at Port Chester Middle School teaching the Fundamentals of Middle School course.

**Diane Lang** is providing an in-depth exploration of social studies topics and projects for fourth grade students and teacher candidates as part of the undergraduate and graduate Childhood Social Studies Methods courses at the George Washington Elementary School in White Plains.

**Helen Krasnow** is training teachers at the Edison School in Port Chester to design and implement action research projects in their classrooms. Helen also taught undergraduate and graduate education students in the Childhood Science Methods courses to create lab experiments and science explorations for first and second grade students.

Edison Community School in Port Chester is one of Manhattanville College’s Professional Development Schools (PDS). JoAnne Ferrara is continuing to serve as the Professional Development School liaison at the Edison School, overseeing all aspects of the partnership including teaching on-site courses, supervising student teachers, working with mentors, and providing Edison students with enriched educational opportunities. Last October Edison celebrated its 7th year as Professional Development School. It is model of an effective partnership that has been replicated by the School of Education’s newly created network of Professional Development Schools.

Since its inception, the Edison PDS has been a leader in educational innovation. Over the years the partnership has created several exciting initiatives, which target teacher preparation, services to children, professional development, and research. For example, fifth graders now regularly attend a “College to Career Day” spending time at Manhattanville visiting classrooms and learning about college life. Each semester student teachers at Edison are required to host parent workshops and donate “Legacy Projects” that benefit the students and teachers at the school. As part of their professional development, a cohort of Edison teachers routinely co-teach courses with college faculty, conduct research, and publish their work in scholarly journals.

Without a doubt, the Professional Development School provides an extraordinary training ground for future and current teachers to practice their craft in a dynamic learning community.
Changing Suburbs Institute®

LAURA BIGAOUETTE, DIRECTOR-CSI

The School of Education’s Changing Suburbs Institute® is the signature theme for community outreach and program development. The Changing Suburbs Institute (CSI) uses evidence-based information to make discoveries about ways to best educate diverse student populations in changing suburban school districts, with a special emphasis on Hispanic students and their parents. CSI’s major program components are professional development of teachers, parent education, and PDS (Professional Development Schools.)

CSI Educational Forum

The Fourth Annual Educational Forum was held on Friday, March 27, 2009 here at Manhattanville. The theme of this year’s conference was Flourishing in a Culturally Diverse Classroom and Community.

We were honored to have such high powered keynote speakers again this year. The conference keynote speakers were:

Eugene Garcia, Ph.D.,
Professor of Education, Arizona State University & Vice President of Education Partnerships; Chair of National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics; author of new book Teaching and Learning in Two Languages: Bilingualism and Schooling in the United State.

Dr. Garcia’s keynote topic was “Reducing the Achievement Gap for ELL Students.”

Sonia Nieto, Ph.D., Professor Emerita-Language, Literacy & Culture, University of Massachusetts; author of The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education, Why We Teach.

Dr. Nieto’s keynote topic was “Promoting Powerful Learning Communities for All Students: Lessons from Teachers.”

Several workshops were presented at the forum. They were developed and presented by SOE Faculty and administrators and teachers from local Westchester school districts:

- Preparing ELLs for Success on the ELA: an overview of Essential Elements in ESL/Bilingual Programs in Port Chester by Jessica O’Donovan
- Parent/Teacher Communications strategies by Maria Flores from Port Chester
- Community Mapping: Raising Cultural Awareness by Kristin Rainville
- Response to Intervention: A Framework for Working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students by Diane Gomez and Diane Lang
- Supporting Emergent Literacy Among English Language Learners: A Suburban Community Model by Zoila Tazi from Ossining
- Adolescent English Language Learners by Courtney Kelly
- Reflections of Self Through Transmediation: Exploring Ethnodrama and Multicultural Texts by MaryAnn Reilly, Jane Gangi, Zachary Moore (Theatre Department), and Mville students Stephanie Manning and Crystal Gonzales
- Professional Development School Programs and Outcomes facilitated by JoAnne Ferrara. Presenters were Ms. Marge Clarkson, Principal-
R.J. Bailey Elementary School (Greenburgh 7) Dr. Terry Klemm, Principal; George Washington Elementary School (White Plains), Dr. Eileen Santiago, Principal; Edison Community School (Port Chester), and Ms. Cynthia Slotkin, Principal; Jefferson Elementary School (New Rochelle)

Congresswoman Nita Lowey addressed the audience during lunch. The SOE CSI honored Congresswoman Lowey for her support of CSI, and honored former President Richard Berman for his leadership and continued support of CSI prior to and since the program’s inception. The Quintessentials once again performed for the forum attendees during lunch.

Over 160 teachers, administrators, students, and community organizations attended the conference. This was the largest attendance at any CSI educational forum.

The annual educational forum was co-sponsored by the Edith Winthrop Teacher Center and The Teachers Center of Central Westchester.

A central goal of the Changing Suburbs Institute is to provide program and professional development to schools, teachers, administrators and teacher education programs. In response to the expressed need of the CSI Consortium members, the SOE is now offering a graduate course of 1 credit in conjunction with CSI’s Annual Educational Forums and other School of Education events.

Diane Gomez and Diane Lang developed the one-credit course. Below is information on the course. The course is entitled CSI Multicultural Classrooms and Communities.

This course presents the issues of multicultural education and diverse populations in classrooms and communities. Students will explore a variety of media and formats to investigate the problems, assess the impact of the changing demographics in suburban school districts and formulate some solutions to improve the educational opportunities of the culturally and linguistically diverse populations found in the suburbs.
CSI Hispanic Parents Leadership Program

The third annual CSI Hispanic Parents Conference was held at Manhattanville on Thursday, May 21, 2009.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Ofelia Garcia, Professor of Urban Education from the City University of New York.

SOE Faculty developed and presented workshops at the conference.

- Diane Gomez with student Jazmin Romero presented a workshop on inclusive & differentiated strategies: Help With Homework.
- Jane Gangi with students Juzenia Tirado and Vanessa Sanchez presented a workshop on Children’s Literacy Needs.
- Mikki Malow, Vance Austin, and Carmen McStay (Port Chester) presented a panel discussion on Special Services and Inclusion for English language learners in the Schools. The discussion was moderated and translated by Gladys Hernandez (Port Chester).
- Manhattanville’s Jose Flores presented a workshop on Access to College for Your Children.
- Adonis Calderon (Mamaroneck) and parent leaders from Mamaroneck presented a workshop on Parent Leadership for Education based on their own experiences.

The conference was planned by the CSI Parents Program Committee. The Committee membership includes Maria Flores (Port Chester), Zoila Tazi (Ossining), Marcella Levin (Ossining), Gladys Hernandez (Port Chester), George Castellanos (Mville), Martha Lopez (Westchester Office of Hispanic Affairs), Daisy Torres (Westchester Office of Hispanic Affairs), Tina Guzzetti (New Rochelle), Adonis Calderon (Mamaroneck). The Committee is chaired by Laura Bigaouette.

The conference was sponsored by Hudson Health Plan, The Westchester County Office of Hispanic Affairs, HESC Lower Hudson Region Task Force on Inclusion, and Manhattanville College.

Over 200 parents and community organizations attended the conference. The conference was held entirely in Spanish.

Zoila Tazi presented to the parents about advocacy for their children’s education.
CSI Consortium

The CSI Consortium is comprised of CSI program members and participants from the CSI member school districts and community organizations. Consortium meetings are held bimonthly throughout the academic year. At each meeting, guest speakers share best practices – programs and initiatives that are successful in school districts and classrooms. This has resulted in information shares across districts and the implementation of programs in districts due to the fact that these best practices have been successful elsewhere.

Best practices that have been presented at this past year’s consortium meetings were Newcomer’s Centers (Suzanne Lasser, White Plains), Dual Language Programs (Estee Lopez, New Rochelle), Math Strategies for ELL classrooms (Jeanne Vissa, UPenn), and Multicultural Early Literacy Programs (Zoila Tazi, Ossining).

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.

CSI Tuition Reduction

CSI is extending a tuition reduction for School of Ed Graduate courses for teachers and staff in CSI districts (Bedford, Elmsford, Greenburgh 7, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Ossining, Peekskill, Port Chester, and White Plains)

Elmsford receives a 20% tuition reduction.

School districts with Professional Development Schools (PDSs) receive 1/3 tuition reduction. These districts are Port Chester, White Plains, New Rochelle, Greenburgh 7, and Bedford.

Contact Laura Bigaouette for information: (914) 323-5482.
New Faculty 2009

Marina Bonella was hired in January 2009 as an Assistant Professor for the physical education program in the Department of Educational Leadership and Special Subjects. She completed her Ph.D. in Curriculum Theory Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Maryland. She was an elementary physical education and health teacher in Virginia public schools, where she is a certified physical education teacher. She also was a physical education teacher in her home country, Malta (Europe). Her dissertation was focused on students’ understanding of fitness content. She already has made regional and national presentations related to her dissertation topic. She received her M.A. in Health and Physical Education from Virginia Polytechnic and State University, and her B.Ed. (Hons) in Early Childhood and Physical Education from the University of Malta.

Sherie McClam has been hired as an Assistant Professor for the Secondary Science/Math. In addition to teaching courses in secondary science and mathematics education, Dr. McClam will serve as the coordinator of the science and mathematics programs. She also will help with the science program at R.J. Bailey School in Greenburgh 7.

Dr. McClam currently is an environmental education consultant at Holcomb Farm Learning Center, and was the equivalent of an assistant professor in education for 3 years at the University of Melbourne. Previously, she was a middle school science and math teacher. She has published in international journals, and has presented nationally and internationally.

Dr. McClam received her Ph.D. in Education in Science Content Area and Social Foundations from the University of Colorado at Boulder, her MA in Science Content Area from the same institution, and her BS Biology from James Madison University.

Ross Collin has been hired as an Assistant Professor for Literacy. In addition to teaching courses in the literacy program, he will do partnership work in our new PDS at Fox Lane Middle School, Bedford.

Since 2002, Ross has worked at The University of Wisconsin Madison in different capacities. Previously, Ross was a Language Arts and Humanities Instructor at West Chicago Community High School. Ross’s research interests are literacy acquisition, social, political, and economic contexts of schooling, and curriculum design. He already has published articles and chapters, and presented at national conferences related to his areas of interest.

Ross completed his Ph.D. at The University of Wisconsin-Madison in Curriculum and Instruction, with specializations in literacy studies and curricular theory. He received his M.S. degree from the same university and his B.A. Degree from The University of Iowa in English Education, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa.
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION UPCOMING EVENTS 2009-2010

- **SOE Literacy Department Presents**
  Jason Low of Lee & Low Books, Publisher of many award-winning multicultural books
  Thursday, September 24, 2009, 4:20 pm – East Library, Reid Castle

- **Manhattanville Reunion Weekend**
  Saturday, September 26-Sunday, September 27, 2009

- **SOE Literacy Department Presents**
  Jason Low of Lee & Low Books, Publisher of many award-winning multicultural books
  Thursday, September 24, 2009, 4:20 pm – East Library, Reid Castle

- **SOE Alumni Board Meeting**
  Thursday, October, 8, 2009, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, East Library, Reid Castle

- **School of Education Alumni Event**
  Thursday, October 29, 2009, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, East Library, Reid Castle
  Speaker: Natalie Schwartz, Writer/Editor/Publisher
  Topic: Parent / Teacher Partnerships and book sale “The Teacher Chronicles”

- **SOE Alumni Board Meeting**
  Thursday, October 8, 2009, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, East Library, Reid Castle

- **PDS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**
  R.J. Bailey Elementary School, Greenburgh 7 School District
  Monday, October 5, 2009, 1:00 pm – R.J. Bailey Elementary

- **SOE Alumni Board Meeting**
  Thursday, October 8, 2009, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, East Library, Reid Castle

- **School of Education Distinguished Lecturer Series and Reception**
  Thursday, October 15, 2009, 4:20 pm – 6:00 pm, West Room, Reid Castle
  Speaker: Tonya Bolden, Award Winning Author and Editor of Books for Children and Young Adults
  Topic: “Preparing for Job Success in Today’s Climate”
  Co-Sponsored by the Teachers Center of Central Westchester and The Edith Winthrop Teachers Center of Westchester

- **CSI Consortium Meeting**
  Thursday, October 22, 2009, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, East Library, Reid Castle

- **NOVEMBER**
  - **Westchester Association of Early Childhood Education Conference**
    November 7, 2009 – Reid Castle
  - **Dean’s Symposium**
    Thursday, November 12, 2009, 4:20 pm – 6:30 pm, West Room, Reid Castle
    Speaker: Lenora Boehlert, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Susan Ostrofsky, Principal, Mount Kisco Elementary School. Professional Development credit available RSVP 323-7180
  - **School of Education Distinguished Lecturer Series and Reception**
    Thursday, October 15, 2009, 4:20 pm – 6:00 pm, West Room, Reid Castle
    Speaker: Cristina Hernandez, Curriculum Specialist, Pearson Teacher Education and Development

- **DECEMBER**
  - **CSI Consortium Meeting**
    Thursday, December 3, 2009, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Ophir Dining Room, Reid Castle
  - **SOE Graduate Open House**
    Saturday, December 5, 2009, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Reid Castle
  - **SOE Alumni Board Meeting**
    Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, Ophir Dining Room, Reid Castle

- **SPRING 2010**
  - **FEBRUARY**
    - **School of Education Distinguished Lecturer Series and Reception**
      Thursday, February 4, 2010, 4:20 pm – 6:00 pm, West Room, Reid Castle
      Speaker: Dorothy Strickland, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Professor of Education, Emerita; Distinguished Research Fellow, National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Co-Sponsored by the Teachers Center of Central Westchester and The Edith Winthrop Teachers Center of Westchester
  - **SOE Alumni Board Meeting**
    Thursday, February 11, 2010, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm, East Library, Reid Castle
  - **CSI Consortium Meeting**
    Thursday, February 25, 2010, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, East Library, Reid Castle

- **MARCH**
  - **School of Education Student Research Day**
    Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm, Reid Castle
  - **Changing Suburbs Institute Fifth Annual Educational Forum**
    Friday, March 5, 2010, 8:30 am-2:45 pm – Reid Castle
    Keynote Speakers: Dr. Timothy Shanahan, University of Illinois at Chicago – Reducing the Achievement Gap for ELLs • Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, The Courtney Sale Ross University Professor at New York University – Globalization,
Immigration and Education
Conference Theme: tbd
Keynote Speakers Co-Sponsored
by the Teachers Center of Central
Westchester and The Edith Winthrop
Teachers Center of Westchester

■ Westchester Putnam
School Board Association and
Manhattanville Secondary/
Post Secondary Readiness
Conference
Monday, March 8, 2010,
8:30 am-2:30 pm – Reid Castle

■ Dean’s Symposium
Thursday, March 10, 2010, 4:20
pm-6:30 pm – Reid Castle
Topic: tbd
Speaker: Robert Cooper, Assiatnat
Superintendent, Bedford School
District and others TBD
Professional Development credit
available
RSVP 323-7180

APRIL
■ CSI Consortium Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2010,
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Reid Castle

■ Educational Leadership
Network Forum
Wednesday, April 21, 2010,
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Reid Castle
For Alumni and Current Leadership
Candidates

■ School of Education
Distinguished Lecturer Series
and Reception
Wednesday, April 22, 2010,
4:20 pm – 6:00 pm, West Room,
Reid Castle
Speaker: Johanna Duncan-Poitier,
Senior Deputy Commissioner of
Education P-16, New York State
Education Department
Co-Sponsored by the Teachers Center
of Central Westchester and The
Edith Winthrop Teachers Center of
Westchester

MAY
■ SOE Graduate Awards &
Recognition Ceremony
Thursday, May 20, 2010,
4:15pm – 5:30pm, West Room,
Reid Castle

■ Graduate Commencement
Ceremony
Thursday, May 20, 2010,
6:00pm – 8:30pm, Quad

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Position: ________________________________________________________________________________
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Please return to:
Manhattanville College – School of Education
Attn: Laura Bigouette, Assistant Dean, 2900 Purchase Street, Purchase, NY 10577
Or via email at: bigouettel@mville.edu.
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