Message from the Dean: Initiatives Underway at WSU

On an overcast day in May nothing dampened the excitement when Wayne State University president Irvin D. Reid publicly announced the university’s first-ever capital campaign, Wayne First: The Campaign for Wayne State University. Mother Nature cooperated and it turned out to be a spectacular event held on Anthony Wayne Drive on May 24. The roadway was transformed into a mecca of activity in which the schools, colleges, divisions and programs of Wayne State University were showcased. Many area dignitaries participated in the event, including Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick; Oakland County executive L. Brooks Patterson; Eugene Applebaum, Chair, Wayne State University Foundation and Chair, Wayne First; Anthony Kales, M.D., WSU Board of Visitors member; and WJR radio personality Paul W. Smith, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. This campaign is one of several important activities underway at Wayne State that I’ll highlight in this issue of The Educator.

It is hoped that the capital campaign will raise $500 million in private gifts, which are needed to ensure the university’s continued progress. During the campaign’s “silent phase,” half of this goal has already been raised, due much in part to the contributions from university employees, which demonstrates their generosity and commitment to Wayne State University. We are now counting on our alumni and friends to continue this momentum and help us reach or exceed our campaign goal. Your support is urgently needed. President Reid made this clear in the Spring 2005 issue of the Wayne State alumni magazine, in which he said “I urge each of you to get involved with this campaign. We need all our alumni to spread the word about Wayne State, to help keep our momentum going. The university needs your loyalty, your advocacy and your gifts. Working together, we can make Wayne State the model urban, public research university for this century. The best should lead, and the best is what this campaign is all about.” We need to continue keeping Wayne first.

The college’s scholarship program is an example of the tremendous help that is provided by our alumni and friends of the college. The article on page 5 describes how increasing donor support has made it possible for us to provide additional scholarships and larger awards to our students. And the article on page 4 demonstrates the commitment many of our alumni have for the college and university, and the ways in which they choose to give back. We are grateful for the continued support from our alumni and friends. The update on the GoGirl project on page 2 shows how foundation support provided to the college and university makes it possible for us to provide important services to the community.

A capital campaign brochure has been published for the college in which many of the goals we have set for the coming years have been identified. We hope that when you receive your copy you will take a moment to look it over and decide how you can best assist us in realizing these goals. The philanthropic support of our alumni and friends is a vital link to meeting the current and future challenges facing education. We appreciate all you have done and continue to do to show your support and make this university great. Wayne First!

Other important initiatives are taking place at the college and university that may also be of interest to you. The university’s North Central Association (NCA) re-accreditation process is currently underway. I was privileged to be asked by Provost Nancy Barrett to organize a committee of faculty and academic staff to assist with this important activity, and they are currently busily engaged in this undertaking. The NCA site visit is scheduled for spring 2007. Preparing for re-accreditation review is a grueling process that requires the university to demonstrate it meets rigorous standards. We are proud of our ability to meet these standards and are confident that this will continue. The university has held continuing NCA accreditation status for many years.

In addition to the university accreditation process, schools and colleges at the university also undergo their own separate accreditation process through appropriate accrediting bodies. The College of Education has begun the process of seeking accreditation through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). This requires meeting certain preconditions followed by preparation of a self study report and later a site visit from NCATE officials and Michigan Department of Education personnel. Our site visit has been set for October 2007. During the next two years, we will be engaged in documenting how we meet the requirements for accreditation and preparing for the site visit. The accreditation process, both at the college and university levels, requires the involvement of the

continued on page 2

Children from the COE Early Childhood Education Center were the highlight at the kick-off of the university’s Capital Campaign on May 24, 2005 when they sang “The World is a Rainbow” for the platform guests and assembled crowd.
Initiatives Underway continued on front page

wider community, not just employees of the university. Alumni and those outside the university with whom we work on a regular basis are called upon to participate in various ways, especially during site visits when the visiting team conducts interviews with various groups and individuals in order to collect information needed to prepare their site visit report on how well the university (or college) has met the criteria set forth by the accrediting body. Many of you, of course, are quite familiar with the accreditation process because you participate in these activities in your own organizations and institutions, so you understand what lies before us in the coming months. If you are called upon to participate in some way, we hope you will be able to do so, and we look forward to your assistance with these important activities on campus.

These are a few of the major activities currently underway, but every day we are engaged in a myriad of other activities that make this university, and especially our college, great. As you read through this issue of The Educator you will see how the faculty of the college is making a difference in many ways beyond their role in the classroom; for example, Dr. Ehrenson’s NSF grant (see page 4), Dr. Posch’s LCES project with the Detroit Public Schools (see page 3), and Dr. Feld’s summer institute (see page 5), are just a few of the efforts we undertake in addition to the innovative, award-winning academic programs offered in the College of Education.

The faculty and academic staff are not only engaged in important work here in the college, but are also involved in and recognized for their involvement in their national organizations. Finally, speaking of accreditation as I did above, I would like to point out that our program areas in the college must also undergo regular accreditation reviews through their national organizations; thus we are continually seeking to develop and improve on what we do in order to ensure that our programs continue to be recognized by the national associations that represent them and, of course, to provide the very best education for our students. ■

GO-GIRL Program on the Move

GO-GIRL (Gaining Options-Girls Investigate Real Life) will go nation-wide during the 2005-2006 academic year after six semesters of successfully building seventh grade girls’ confidence and competence in mathematics in the ten week Saturday program hosted at the WSU College of Education. Funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and collaboratively developed by faculty and staff from the University of Michigan Institute for Research on Women and Gender and the Wayne State University College of Education, the GO-GIRL program was established in response to research findings that indicated a declining interest in mathematics among girls and minority youth during middle school.

The program is designed to help girls build mathematical confidence, skills, and conceptual understanding by integrating mathematics and social science research in a single-sex, technologically rich environment supported by university student mentors. Over 200 seventh grade girls from public and private schools in the Detroit metropolitan area have participated in the program since its inception in fall 2002.

An NSF dissemination grant awarded to the Roosevelt University, Chicago (IL) will support the implementation of sister programs at Howard University (Washington, D.C.), University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), and Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL), and Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL) in the 2005-2006 academic year. COE faculty member Dr. Sally K. Roberts is working in collaboration with Dr. Pamela Trotman Reid, Provost and Executive Vice President at Roosevelt University, to launch the sistership programs at the new sites. Each of the sites will use the GO-GIRL curriculum in conjunction with service-learning courses modeled after the courses developed by Reid and Roberts. Case study data collected from the new project sites will be used to provide information for extending the program to additional sites nation-wide.

GO-GIRL is scheduled to continue at Wayne State University during the winter semester 2006. For more information, visit: http://www.gogirls.wayne.edu ■

CPR Training is for Everyone

A warm summer evening this past July on Hansen’s Island on Lake St. Clair turned into a life-and-death situation for Kevin Carroll, system administrator in the College of Education. When a young boy at a neighboring cottage was electrocuted as he pulled himself from the water to a boat with an improperly grounded electrical supply, Kevin performed CPR for 15 minutes before emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene.

“There were a lot of people standing around the boy,” Carroll says. “I ran over to him, dropped to the ground, and began administering CPR. His lips were purple and there were no signs of life.” After Kevin performed CPR, EMS technicians arrived, used a defibrillator, and rushed the victim to River District Hospital.

Although he had to be on a ventilator for a few days, the young man recovered and, miraculously, suffered no ill effects. “The ER doctor told me that CPR made a big difference and helped his recovery,” Kevin says. Kevin has served in the Coast Guard Reserves since 1987 performing search and rescue operations, but has never had to use his Lifesaver training until this incident. “I’ve never needed to use it until that night. I’m so glad I had the training and was able to put it to good use.”

Carroll would like to see more people take CPR classes and learn basic lifesaving techniques. “It only requires making a commitment of a few hours for the classes and some reading. You can’t put a value on the return,” Kevin says.

Another lifesaving measure Carroll believes is vital, particularly in the workplace, is the defibrillator used in cardiac emergencies. The dean of the College of Education, Paula Wood, recently approved the purchase and installation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on each floor of the Education Building.

Training workshops were offered to faculty and staff by Pete Roberts, assistant professor in the college’s division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies, and so far more than half of the faculty and staff participated in the training sessions. It is hoped that the remainder of the staff and faculty will be trained in the use of AEDs this fall.

Note: for information about CPR and first aid classes, visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org and select “Health and Safety Services” from the “Our Services” menu. Also, some school districts offer Red Cross CPR/first aid classes through community education classes, and several private companies offer classes at locations throughout the Detroit metro area. ■

Excepted from article in Life@WSU by Tom Reynolds, WSU Media Relations

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To make comments, suggestions or submit items for the newsletter, please e-mail any of the individuals listed here. You may also call the Office of the Dean at (313) 377-1620 or Sophie Skoney at (386) 776-3809.

Produced by the Office of the Dean, College of Education, Wayne State University.
Faculty Member Studies Lake Erie Ecosystem via NSF Grant

Dr. Jafiz Ebenezer, associate professor of science education in the Teacher Education Division, has been awarded a $1.2 million three-year grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study science, technology, environmental and societal issues associated with the Lake Erie ecosystem using Information Technology (IT). Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this project, science teachers and their students as well as teachers and students from other related disciplines such as math and technology are being recruited to participate. During the three-year period of this project, 45 teachers and 225 students will be educated and trained in the use of IT to study ecological issues surrounding Lake Erie. The IT-literate teachers will then translate their IT knowledge and skills to their respective subject areas. At the end of this project it is expected that approximately 9,000 students will be technologically literate and able to apply IT in learning.

This will be accomplished by training high school teachers to use IT in their classrooms by first engaging them in specially designed summer institutes, and then studying the Lake Erie ecosystem with their students using IT such as the Geographic Information System and sensors. Thus, the project will meet the needs for building teacher capacity in information technology, developing student technological literacy, increasing under-served students’ motivation to learn, and educating students for the workforce.

The high school teachers will work collaboratively with their students in Lake Erie research projects, providing students the opportunity to conduct real research and ecological-based life and physical science activities that will contribute to the body of data on the health of the Lake Erie ecosystem. Concurrently, students will learn with IT in the content areas they would normally learn in the classroom, relating IT to careers and public issues.

Ebenezer is the principal investigator (PI) on this grant. Her Co-PIs is Bob Brandson, professor of electrical and computer engineering in WSU’s College of Engineering. Tom Green, coordinator of the Monroe (MI) Public Schools’ Bollie Harbor Mathematics and Science Center, is coordinating the high school teachers’ project activities. Greg Marks of the College of Education is the project manager. Carl Hoffman of the Monroe Public Schools and David Sante of the WSU College of Engineering will provide expertise in information technology.

Congratulations to Dr. Ebenezer and all of the participants in this important effort.

COE Researcher Helps Special Education Students with Life Skills

For almost ten years Dr. Peggy Posch, researcher in the College of Education, has directed the implementation of a Life Centered Career Education (LCCE) curriculum in ten middle and high schools in the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) to teach functional life skills to special education students with mild to moderate disabilities.

The LCCE curriculum focuses on daily living skills, personal social skills and occupational preparation and guidance. The participating teachers are provided with materials to use the curriculum along with academic subjects and trained to apply these lessons in real-world situations. Classroom speakers often supplement the efforts of the teachers; for example, an individual from a bank might tell students how math is used to balance a checking or savings account, or a police investigator might speak to students about social issues and how they can avoid “trouble” on the streets.

This community-based instruction (CBI) puts a real-world meaning on instructional content. Scores of businesses, agencies and organizations have supported the program by visiting schools and presenting to classes, as well as by providing instruction in community settings. The field trips allow students to practice skills they learned in the classroom, and exposes them to the communities in which they live. These activities have helped students make career choices and motivated them to stay in school, or supported successful transitions to community and independent living.

Dolores Wylie, a teacher at DPS’s Hutchins Middle School, says of the LCCE curriculum, “As an educator it is difficult to apply a ‘one size fits all’ approach to educating students, and teachers are constantly in search of the most effective means of providing students with the skills to become productive members of society. The LCCE curriculum has assisted greatly in doing just that. Special education students are able to grasp concepts and gain experiences that go far beyond the classroom textbook. And LCCE provides teachers with thorough lesson plans that can be used to reach all students regardless of their level of academic functioning.”

DPS curriculum development for special education is progressing. A Center for Transition will soon open in the Detroit Public School system, and LCCE will be a key component of the new, improved curriculum for students with disabilities as well as the fundamental framework for community involvement. Inspired by the LCCE program, DPS will provide superior transition support services to students with special needs.

For more information about the LCCE, contact Dr. Posch at 313-577-3126 or M.Posch@wayne.edu.

College of Education Houses Assistance Program for Clients with Disabilities

Faculty in the Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations have established an affiliation with the Blue Water Center for Independent Living, a consumer-based organization designed to serve persons with disabilities through the use of advocacy, service and referral services. The goal is to help people achieve and maintain independent lifestyles by providing opportunities to make their own decisions that affect their lives and the abilities to pursue their own choices. The philosophy of the center is that everyone has the right to have control and self-direction in his/her own life.

The center serves over 1300 clients and provides opportunities for students in the college’s rehabilitation counseling program, with the opportunity to develop counseling skills and techniques. The center has established internships for students as well as for clients for on-site services provided by students.

In addition, the staff of the center has taken an active role in campus life. One staff member serves on the University Education Accessibilities Services Advisory Board, another served on the Rehabilitation Counseling Program Advisory Board.

This is the second year the center has been housed in the College of Education. The rehabilitation counseling program is part of the college’s counseling program, which offers a variety of other specialties.

For more information on the Blue Water Center for Independent Living, please contact Robert Devra, 313-577-2599.
Alumnus Phillips Puts Philanthropy in Action

Julianne Hunton Phillips is the personification of planned philanthropy: she “talks the talk” but backs it up by “walking the walk,” too! Having earned three academic credentials from the College of Education—a master’s degree in guidance and counseling, a teaching certificate in elementary education and a PhD in instructional technology—Julianne has made it a point to “give back” to the college.

Julianne is married to an attorney with the Detroit Board of Education. They have a daughter, Lauren, who is a fourth grader at Defer Elementary School. Julianne loves to garden, cook, and to collect cookbooks, and she and her husband have toyed with the idea of opening up a bed and breakfast inn. We recently sat down with Julianne to ask her about her philanthropic goals.

Q. What prompted your interest in providing for the College of Education in your estate plan?
A. I had been asked by the university’s development office to serve on its Planned Giving Committee, and it was an expectation that each member should contribute to the new Wayne First capital campaign. This only makes sense. I love Wayne State; it is truly a wonderful and vital link to the future of Detroit.

Q. How did you go about giving to the College?
A. My husband and I contacted our attorney, and sat down with him for an hour. He asked us a few pertinent financial questions and presto… it was done. We simply had to sign a final copy of the document. I have wanted to do this for a long time… WSU’s recent need for help with its Planned Giving Committee prompted me to move the process along.

Q. Why did you provide for the College of Education? What made you want to “give back”?
A. I spent many hours in the college, between taking classes, meeting colleagues for a study session or discussing numerous projects with professors. The college became a second home to me so it was a logical and personal choice for me to select this college of the university. I am a richer person in terms of broadening my horizons because of my college experience. I want to be able to say that I am instrumental in keeping the college alive for other students to benefit from this fine institution.

Q. What is your philosophy about higher education?
A. I am a firm believer in it; not only does education open up doors, it opens up minds to different viewpoints… a college or university can provide a place where people can come together and converse for a better understanding of these viewpoints.

Q. What is your overriding memory or feeling about the college as a result of earning three of your academic credentials here?
A. The professors in the college were just superb. The coursework and related projects were interesting and very challenging. As I approached graduation day, anxiously waiting to receive my doctorate, I was feeling incredibly proud that I had realized my dream of attaining this highest degree.

Q. How do you think your credentials from the College of Education have helped you in your career and/or current employment?
A. I am the college liaison for DTE Energy, which means I work with community colleges and universities mainly in establishing skilled trades curriculum that matches our technical jobs in the DTE plants. I was selected for this position because of my doctorate in instructional technology from the College of Education.

Q. What words of advice would you give to students who are potential educators in terms of what they should get out of their experience in the College of Education?
A. I believe it is key to be open to new ideas. Being open can lead to many opportunities. For instance, I was open to the idea of being a college liaison at work; this has led me to becoming involved in partnering with the Department of Labor. It has opened so many exciting doors; I can’t wait for the next one to come my way.

Q. Why would you encourage other educators to include the college in planned gifts?
A. I hear so many of my friends, at this time in our lives, say... “I want to make a difference.” I believe this is one way that educators can do this. By making a financial commitment to the college, I trust the experts to utilize the money in the best interests of the college and ultimately the students, who are our future.
COE Scholarship Program Continues to Grow

On June 14, 2005, the College of Education presented scholarship certificates for the 2004-05 academic year to 125 students at its annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. This year’s ceremony was moved to the WSU Community Arts Auditorium to accommodate the growing number of scholarship recipients and their guests.

Dean Paula Wood, serving as emcee for the occasion, indicated how gratifying it is that the college “continues its tradition of providing students with scholarship funds so that they can make progress toward their degrees and ultimately achieve their academic and career goals.” Over 140 scholarships were awarded for a dollar amount exceeding $3,100,000, which is $100,000 more than awarded in 2004 because of a significant increase in donations over the past year.

“We could not continue to expand our scholarship program without the generosity of our donors,” Dean Wood emphasized. “It is their belief in the college and in the rewards of a teaching or counseling or administrative career in education that makes it possible for our students to pursue their dreams. Without the financial assistance, particularly in these times of tuition increases, many of our students would have to defer these dreams indefinitely,” she pointed out.

Over 500 family members and friends applauded as the scholarship recipients received their award certificates. The audience included Jackie Washington, Chair of the WSU Board of Governors, Annette Miller, member of the Board of Governors, and Nancy Barrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Following the awards ceremony a reception took place in the foyer outside of the gallery. Scholarship recipients and their friends and family members had the opportunity to get acquainted with their scholarship donors and COE faculty and staff, and were also able to enjoy the COE’s art education program student art exhibit on display in the gallery.

The application form and instructions for the 2006-07 academic year will be posted on the college’s website, www.coe.wayne.edu, in late September 2005, with a late November submission deadline.

Summer Institute Promotes Well-Being

The college’s Center for Self-Determination and Transition, established in 2004, held its second annual summer institute on July 20-21, 2005. The focus of the institute is to help educators, parents, counselors and psychologists learn strategies that help them promote resiliency and well-being for students and clients. Each year the institute has a prominent keynote speaker on positively focused education and services. Dr. Jim Patton from the University of Texas-Austin was the featured speaker at the 2005 institute. His keynote address, “From a Cloak of Competence to a Badge of Confidence,” identified the shift in the focus of disability services from how persons with disabilities are viewed by others to an emphasis on how persons with disabilities view themselves and their world.

Dr. David Myers, a social psychologist from Hope College, gave the keynote address for the first institute in 2004, which provided a synopsis of the new positive psychology movement. As an in-depth example, he reviewed the recent scientific effort to discover who is happy—what things do and do not predict people’s “subjective well-being.”

Winter 2005 Donnelly Award Recipient is COE Grad

For the winter and spring commencements the university selects one male and one female student as recipients of the Howard Donnelly Award honoring outstanding student athletes. The College of Education is delighted that Kimberly Spaulding, elementary education/mathematics major, was selected as the winter 2005 female recipient. Kimberly was a four-year letter winner on the Wayne State University women’s hockey team, and served as captain her junior and senior years. She was president of the WSU Student Athlete Advisory Committee, named to the Women’s College Hockey All-American First Team by Sports Review magazine, and was the WSU/EDU female student athlete of the year in 2004. Kimberly was a presidential scholar, and graduated with a 3.62 GPA.

During her stellar athletic and academic career, Kimberly participated in a number of campus and community service organizations. For example, she arranged for her hockey teammates to join a group of adolescent girls involved in the GO-GIRL (Gaining Options-Girls Investigate Real Life) program in the College of Education for lunch on a Saturday, to share how their athletic opportunities had enabled them to pursue a college education.

Dr. Sally Roberts, assistant professor in the Teacher Education Division who is the coordinator of the GO-GIRL project and Kimberly’s advisor and her instructor in two courses, says that it was clear from the first class that Kimberly was an exceptional young woman. “Not only was her coursework outstanding, but she also has a positive and enthusiastic attitude that is contagious. In her classes she demonstrated a sincere devotion to academic excellence and was dedicated, conscientious and self-motivated.”

A 2000 graduate of Farmington Hills Harrison High School and a resident of Farmington Hills (MI), Kimberly is a registered substitute in the Farmington School District. She is still playing hockey, on a Farmington Hills squad and women’s metro league, with her former teammates from WSU and other friends from college who have returned to the metro area. She says, “We are still competing but having a great time playing with no pressure!”

Kimberly’s career goals are to obtain a full-time teaching position and within the next couple of years begin her master’s degree coursework in a yet-to-be-determined program area. Ultimately she wants to be an elementary school principal.

Congratulations to Kimberly, who during her tenure as a College of Education student, was, as Dr. Roberts put it, “An exemplary representative of the WSU student body.”
COE Honors Sharon Elliott and Joseph Sales

Former College of Education (COE) deputy dean, interim dean and associate professor of science education Joseph Sales and assistant dean of Teacher Education Sharon Elliott were honored by family, friends and colleagues at separate events hosted by the college this year.

On January 26, 2005 a retirement reception was held for Dr. Sales at Wood's Bar & Grill in Detroit. Close to 100 people joined in the recognition of his many years of service to the college and university. In her remarks during a brief program, Dean Wood said of Dr. Sales, “He was the consummate teacher. He made science approachable through hands-on activities, and motivated his students with his approach to teaching with dignity, warmth and humor. His students emerged as strong teachers and better human beings—and true scientists.” In addition to enjoying jazz music and refreshments at the reception, guests applauded as Dr. Sales was presented with a gift certificate, a bag of COE logo gifts, and at Dean Wood’s announcement that a scholarship would be awarded to a student for the 2005-06 academic year in Dr. Sales’ name.

Dr. Sales received three degrees from WSU: his bachelor’s in 1957, his master’s in 1966, and his EdD from the College of Education in 1971. In 1968 he began his career in the college as an elementary education instructor. He received the college’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1995, served as interim dean in 1986 and retired in December 2004.

Dr. Sharon Elliott stepped down from her role as assistant dean of the Teacher Education Division (TED) on June 30, 2005 and was feted at an appreciation reception held at the college’s Early Childhood Education Center on May 11. Family, friends and colleagues enjoyed refreshments and joined in a spirited rendition of “Oh, Happy Day!” with lyrics re-worked to reflect Dr. Elliott’s many contributions to the college and university. During a brief program Dean Wood noted that “Sharon’s personnel file is full of thank-you notes from schools and organizations where she made talks and presentations or organized workshops and seminars, and from many of the hundreds of master’s and doctoral students she has supervised over the years. In 1998, her performance appraisal form reflected that she is a ‘true natural resource’ of the college.”

Dr. Elliott began her affiliation with WSU in 1962 when she earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She received her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in 1968 and her EdD in Curriculum Development/Early Childhood in 1976, also from the College of Education, and was appointed assistant dean of Teacher Education in 1989. Dr. Elliott was presented with flowers and a gift certificate to purchase outdoor sculpture for the garden at the Early Childhood Education Center, and a scholarship was awarded in her name at the college’s annual scholarship event on June 14, 2005. Dr. Elliott has returned to her TED faculty position where she will continue to serve teacher education students. She has also taken on the responsibility of coordinating the college’s re-accreditation process through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

LII Student Brings Puppets to Life at Higgins Elementary School

The audience became still as the announcer called for their attention. “We will present three puppet shows today — ‘The Three Little Pigs,’ ‘Sleeping Beauty’ and ‘The Goat and the Chili Peppers.’” Thus began the culmination of a nine-month project during which 35 children from Higgins Elementary School in Detroit, assisted by PuppetArt of Detroit, devised and created their own puppet shows.

Their teacher, Debra Smith-Dawson, a College of Education Limited License to Instruct (LLI) student working on her Master of Arts in Teaching degree, had written a grant with PuppetArt to fund the project. With generous support from Bank One, in September 2004 children began to explore the various types of puppets with help from Igor Gozman, PuppetArt director. The students then chose the stories they wished to turn into puppet theatre, and with tutelage from PuppetArt staff, they developed characters, created storyboards and scripts and, most importantly, created their own puppets to use in the shows. Each group of children decided on a different type of puppet — marionettes, hand puppets and rod puppets were selected.

The students, most of whom are learning English as a second language, ranged in age from kindergarteners to fifth graders. Ms. Smith-Dawson recruited children from her kindergarten class and from the “reader buddies” program at her school to participate in the puppet project. Children were engaged by the excitement of the project, which also helped them improve their language skills. The project demanded collaboration leading to a great deal of discussion and even productive arguments and persuasion. The processes of rehearsing cultivated more skills: listening, remaining quiet, enunciating clearly and dramatically were all necessary components to producing the shows. The performances were presented to the children’s parents at the PuppetArt Theatre in Detroit, and many shows were also given for the children of Higgins School. In all cases, performances were given in English and Spanish.

This wonderful project of Ms. Smith-Dawson allowed the entire faculty at Higgins to view the benefits of incorporating the arts — in this case the art of puppetry — into the curriculum and classroom. PuppetArt hopes to bring the art of puppetry to many schools in the Detroit area through grants. Director Gozman already has had several grants with different Detroit Public Schools, and the College of Education is currently collaborating with DPS’ bilingual department to bring a puppet project to Roberto Clemente Elementary School.

Thanks to COE faculty member Dr. Anne Williamson for her assistance in developing this article.
New Instructional Technology Faculty Introduced at Reception

On May 4, 2005 the college's instructional technology (IT) program hosted its annual spring reception at the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on campus. In addition to the outstanding student awards and presentations, classmates and alumni had the opportunity to meet and get acquainted with the program's three new faculty members who began their appointments in IT this September.

Dr. Ray Amrault brings a rich background from his private sector training and theoretical computer science experience and a keen interest in the theoretical aspects of instruction. His current research focuses on expertise and the nature of expert performance. He joins us from Florida Atlantic University where he received his doctorate in instructional systems.

Dr. Ingrid Guerra, who specializes in performance improvement and evaluation, is involved in research related to the identification of competences of the performance technologist. She comes to us from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Dr. Yvra Visser, whose specializations are in K-12 technology applications and distance education, also joins us from Florida Atlantic University with a doctorate in instructional systems. Her research involves the impact of instructional strategies on the problem-solving abilities of children.

All three have extensive publication records and each have new books coming out soon. Welcome Drs. Amrault, Guerra and Visser to the COE “family”!

Written with the assistance of Dr. Rita Richy, professor, Instructional Technology.

COE Technology Committee Developing Logic Model

The COE Technology Committee was established by the College of Education’s Executive Committee in Winter 2004. The committee is chaired by COE assistant professor Sally Roberts, and its members represent faculty and staff across the college. The committee's mission is to enhance the effective teaching, learning and research environment of the College of Education with technology.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the committee began the development of a "logic model," which provides a structure for strategic planning and evaluation, and also conducted an environmental scan to be used for strategic planning activities related to technology for the college. The committee was fortunate to have the assistance and guidance of Marie Colomba from WSSU’s Center for Urban Studies to facilitate this process supported by funds from a college grant, Preparing Tomorrow’s Teachers to Use Technology (PT3). Marie worked with the committee at large and also with subcommittees to develop a draft logic model that reflects the Executive Committee’s changes. In addition, Marie Colombo, Sally Roberts, and Mary Waker, director of the COE’s Education Technology Center, have been instrumental in the development of faculty and student survey instruments that were administered during the spring 2005 to collect information about technology knowledge, skill levels, etc. among the college’s faculty and staff. Data from the surveys will be available early in the fall semester and will support continued work of the committee.

Members of the university community joined the committee during the year to provide information and answer questions about university-wide technology initiatives and resources. Contributions from the following people who interacted with the committee during the 2004-2005 academic year are appreciated:

- Robert Truman, IT manager, Administrative Services - Lifelong Learning, addressed issues of available technology for off-campus sites.
- Jeffery Treciack, associate dean, University Libraries, addressed issues related to media services and off-campus sites.
- Patrick Gossman and Lynne Standley-Ryan, academic technologies and customer services in CBIT, discussed new BlackBoard initiatives.
- Barbara Price, Office of the Provost, and staff from the School of Business Administration demonstrated the MBA on-line course model.

Contacts with members of the university community have not only served to provide valuable information for the committee’s work, but also resulted in additional support for the college. The committee will continue its work during the 2005-2006 academic year.

COE and OUD Host First Reunion for COE Doctoral Graduates

On October 29, 2004 the College of Education (COE) hosted its first doctoral reunion, sponsored by the Office of University Development (OUD), in an ongoing effort to reach out to alumni and provide an opportunity for former students to renew their ties to each other, the college and the university.

The reception was held at the beautiful Village Club in Bloomfield Hills, and was attended by over 200 COE doctoral recipients and their guests. Faculty members who serve as doctoral advisors also attended and enjoyed learning about the careers of their former students. A great deal of goodwill filled the room throughout the reception, and many attendees expressed pride in having received their doctorates from the College of Education as well as their appreciation for the opportunity to catch up with college faculty and former classmates.

During a brief program Paula Wood, Dean of the College of Education, gave an update on new programs in the college and new buildings on campus. She invited those who have not been to the main campus for a while to take advantage of campus tours offered periodically. She also spoke briefly about the university’s Wayne First Capital Campaign, the public phase of which was announced on May 24, 2005.

Dr. Frances LaVantie-Sommerov, Associate Professor, Administrative and Organizational Studies, with COE doctoral alumni.

Doctoral alumni gather at the reception at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills on October 29, 2004.
NEW STAFF IN ACADEMIC SERVICES
The Division of Academic Services is pleased to welcome the following new academic services officers: Ebony Green and Paul Johnson, both of whom work primarily with undergraduate students. Ebony, among her many other duties, also coordinates special programs and undergraduate admissions’ orientation programs; and Paul also coordinates certification information meetings and undergraduate databases. Ebony can be reached at 313-577-1605 or egreen@wayne.edu, and Paul can be reached at 313-577-8291 or a7318@wayne.edu. Welcome, Ebony and Paul, to the College of Education!

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
COE students interested in applying for a scholarship award for the 2006-2007 academic year from the College of Education should look for application information on the college’s website: coe.wayne.edu/scholarships. Applications for 2006-07 awards will be due in mid-November. The college’s Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and award recipients are required to attend this event to receive their awards. Awards were presented to 125 students at this year’s ceremony held on June 14 (see article on page 5).

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS OF TEACHER CANDIDATES
Effective winter 2005 students interested in becoming certified teachers must supply proof of a criminal background record prior to submission to the College of Education, and again upon certification. This requirement is necessary to comply with a state Administrative Rule governing the certification of teachers that permits the revocation of a certificate of an individual who has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude or an act contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Individuals who have been convicted of such offenses must be brought to the attention of the state’s Office of Professional Preparation Services.

Students can perform a search of criminal history records by name by accessing www.michigan.gov/icat. You will be required to register with an e-mail address and your name and address, create a password, and will be asked for credit card information to cover the $10 (per search) fee. The search takes less than a minute to complete after registration is done and credit card information is submitted. Evidence of completed background check(s) must then be provided to the COE Division of Academic Services for placement in your student file. If you have any questions, contact your advisor or the Academic Services office, or state officials via e-mail at CJFC_apphelp@michigan.gov.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Educational Accessibility Services (EAS) Office, 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library, 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365, is responsible for providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students can take advantage of the following services:
• consultation prior to university enrollment
• priority registration
• study rooms with adaptive equipment
• alternative testing arrangements
• scribes and interpreters
• information on community resources.

In addition, the College of Education is committed to providing students with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from its programs, services and activities. All print materials can be made available in alternative formats. Please request these from your course instructor. If the circumstances of your disability interfere with your ability to fulfill requirements for successful completion of a course, please contact the EAS office at: (Voice) 313-577-1851 or (TDD) 313-577-3365.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM
As has been stressed in previous issues of The Student Educator, this is to remind you that the College of Education has a “zero tolerance” approach to plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Specific examples of academic dishonesty, including what constitutes plagiarism, can be found in the university’s Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Student Handbook and the Student Due Process Policy. It is the student’s responsibility to read these documents (which are also available at www.wayne.edu) and to be aware of which actions are defined as academic dishonesty. Possible sanctions include failure in the course involved, probation and expulsion. Students are advised to think carefully, ask for help from instructors if needed, and to make informed decisions about their academic work.

STUDENT SERVICES — THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS:
• Free academic support is provided through the university’s Academic Success Center, 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library, 313-577-3165. Services offered include group and individual tutoring, supplemental instruction, workshops, classes and individual meetings with professional learning specialists. If you need help with a course, stop by the center to learn more about these free services. Supplemental instruction is offered in 1000 and 2000 level courses, as is special group tutoring designed specifically for each class. Services are geared toward success in general education courses.
• A listing of child care centers on or near campus is available at designated locations throughout campus and at the Student Resource and Assistance Center, 313-577-4103.

GREE WAIVERS
The university’s Financial Aid Office can provide GREE waivers for students who may need to take the exams. The student must have a low Expected Family Contribution (EFC) on his/her financial aid application. Students should visit the Financial Aid office to see if he/she qualifies. More information about this program is available from the Financial Aid Office at 313-577-9753.

NEW INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM
Effective fall 2004, the WSU Library System implemented a new Integrated Library System (ILS) from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., Millenium. This means that in addition to an improved library website, an online library catalog with enhanced features is available that can be used to access library resources such as: faster keyword searching, one-click access to book reviews from library catalog records, and saving and retrieving previous searches to expedite research. For more information about the new system please go to http://www.icom.com/millenium/academic.shtml.

VARIABLE CREDITS ON PIPELINE
Students can now specify or change the number of credits for variable credit hour courses on Pipeline. Previously, the system would assign the lowest number of credits and students could change it either by phone or sending the Registrar’s Office an e-mail. Now, the Pipeline system can process variable-credit classes. Variable Credit Sections will register the minimum number of credits. If you want to increase the number of credits, click on the “Credit” column link. This will take you to the “Change Class Option” screen. Enter the number of credits and click on the “Submit Changes” button. To view the changes on your schedule, click on the “Return to Add/Drop Classes Menu.”

CPR REQUIREMENT
House Bill 4038, signed into effect on June 10, 2003, requires that teaching candidates who are certified after July 1, 2004 are required by the State Department of Education to obtain First Aid and CPR (adult and child) certification before they can teach in the state of Michigan. The College of Education’s Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies sponsors periodic workshops for students to fulfill this requirement. For more information about when workshops will be offered, contact peteranaberti@wayne.edu.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY — WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION IN THE REAL WORLD
DOCTORAL QUALIFYING EXAM SCHEDULE
Tentative dates for future qualifying examinations for doctoral students are as follows:
Fall 2005: October 19-20-21
Fall 2006: October 18-19-20
Prior to taking the qualifying exams, an approved plan of work must be on file.
For information call 313-577-1605.

UG STUDENTS COMPLETING DEGREES AND CERTIFICATION
Students who are planning to complete degree and teacher certification require-
ments must apply for their degree at the university's Student Records Office and
apply for their certification at the College of Education's Academic Services Office.
Contact the College of Education at 313-577-1600 for due dates and more infor-
mation.

2005-06 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM
Contact Dr. Marshall Zumberg at 313-577-1641 or m.zumberg@wayne.edu or Dr. 
Marc Rosa at 313-577-1704 or marc.rosa@wayne.edu for information on study 
abroad opportunities for 2005-2006. Enrollment is limited so don't delay if you're 
interested in such opportunities.

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Students are encouraged to visit the Teacher Education Division (TED) website at
http://ted.coe.wayne.edu/ted/index.html for professional development opportuni-
ties and division and college updates of interest.

REFERRAL SERVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS
A "recruitment tool" is available to assist the university in contacting prospective 
students. Fill out a short form with information about a prospective student, which is available online at http://www.admissions.wayne.edu/recruit/. The 
Admissions Office will then contact the individual to provide brochures, invitations 
to events, and other information about Wayne State.

WALK-IN ADVISING ON TUESDAYS
The College of Education’s Division of Academic Services offers walk-in advising 
to students from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in Room 489 Education 
Building. Students can meet with an advisor about registration issues, curriculum 
questions, revising plans of work, adding endorsements, admission requirements, 
transfer credit issues and program requirements. Students may also make appoint-
ments to discuss these issues by calling 313-577-1601 for undergraduate advisors 
and 313-577-1605 for graduate advisors. Please note that walk-in advising is not 
designed for on-the-spot transcript evaluations for post-baccalaureate students inter-
ested in initial teacher certification programs. Evaluation requests should be 
submitted to the Academic Services Division and completed evaluations will be 
returned via U.S. mail.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION INFORMATION MEETING DATES
Individuals who are interested in the post-bachelors or Master of Arts in Teaching 
(MAT) teacher certification programs should attend a certification information 
meeting. Forthcoming meeting dates are:

- Thurs., Oct. 6 3:00-4:30 pm Adaimary Undergraduate Library: Bernath Auditorium
- Fri., Oct. 21 3:00-4:30 pm Oakland Center, Room 130 Lecture Hall
- Fri., Nov. 4 2:00-3:30 pm Macomb University Center
- Sat., Nov. 19 10:00-11:30 am Education Building, Room 189
- Mon., Dec. 12 3:00-4:30 pm Adaimary Undergraduate Library: Bernath Auditorium
- Thurs., Jan. 26, ’06 10:00-11:30 am Adaimary Undergraduate Library: Bernath Auditorium

Contact Academic Services at 313-577-1605 for directions and to confirm this 
information prior to attending as dates, times and locations are subject to change.

GRADUATE PROGRAM APPLICATION FEE
Applications for admission to a graduate program must be accompanied by a $30 
check or money order to cover the non-refundable application fee. The amount 
for international students is the same. There is no application fee for members of 
the WSU Alumni Association, their spouses and/or dependent children (copy of 
Alumni Association membership card must be attached to application).

BLACK EDUCATORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION (BESA)
The Black Educators Student Association (BESA) is seeking active and involved 
members to assist with programming and activities. BESA is a recognized organi-
zation within the College of Education that has a strong commitment to motivate, 
encourage and support its members and provide empowerment tools to manage 
their academic and professional development. If you share this commitment or 
spirit to benefit from its mission, please consider joining BESA by contacting Ebony 
Green or Sharon Sellers-Clark in Academic Services. Help our students, or help 
yourself, enhance and enrich their educational and professional opportunities and 
activities. For more information contact Sharon Sellers-Clark at 313-577-4941 or 
sscl@wayne.edu.

SPRING/SUMMER DEGREE CONFERRAL
Wayne State University now confers degrees at the end of the spring/summer 
term. Students who complete degree requirements in the spring/summer term 
will no longer have to wait until December for degree conferal.

MICHIGAN TEST FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION
Internet registration for the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) is avail-
are: October 15, 2005, January 7, 2006, April 1, 2006, and July 8, 2006. Please 
ote note that changes to procedures and policies may occur during the program year.
Current information is available online.

ADDRESS CHANGES
It is very important that you notify the university if your address changes. You 
can change your address through WSU Pipeline at http://pipeline.wayne.edu; you will 
need your WSU AccessID and password. If you do not know your WSU AccessID, 
you can find it at http://webmail.wayne.edu.

JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES
The College of Education's Academic Services office offers placement services to 
assist CDE students in finding teaching positions. To utilize this service, you must 
establish a credential file. At the time you start pre-student teaching, you should 
retain a self-explanatory Credential Kit by visiting www.coe.wayne.edu/ai/placement. 
The college provides each student with twenty (20) free credentials within six 
months of the time you receive your degree or certificate; after that, the cost is 
$5 per address to send your credentials to employers.

You can find out about available teaching positions by visiting Academic 
Services to review job postings retained in binders in the Academic Services office 
and/or by attending the college's Job Placement Fair that will be held in April 2006 
(see item elsewhere in The Educator). You can access the binders anytime Monday 
through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., during the fall and winter 
semesters, the office is also open until 6:00 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.
The binders are located by the tables between rooms 489 and 469 Education Building.

GRADUATE SCHOOL OPENHOUSE
The WSU Graduate School, one of the largest graduate schools in the country, 
hosted an open house on August 3 at the Welcome Center with support from the 
College of Education. Admissions representatives were available to review applica-
tions and the $50 application fee was waived for on-site participants. The open 
house allowed graduate college to meet with counselors and program represent-
tatives to create a complete application package and potentially get an admissions 
decision on the spot. To fast-track the admissions process participants attending 
the event were asked to bring their college transcripts as well as test scores from 
any entrance exams they may have taken. There are 13,000 graduate and profes-
sional students at Wayne State who choose from more than 60 doctoral degree 
programs, 150 master’s degree programs and 30 plus certificate, specialist and 
professional programs the College of Education offers. For more information 
about the WSU Graduate School, visit www.gradadmissions.wayne.edu or call 
(313) 577-3577.

ELECTRONIC DISSERTATION SUBMISSION
PhD students: Did you know that you can now submit your dissertation electroni-
cally? For more information on this process, please visit http://www.gradschool.wayne.edu/Current/PhD/Graduation.html.

REGISTERING FOR DISSERTATION CREDIT
PhD students: When ready to register for dissertation credits, you must contact 
the Graduate School PhD Office to receive the correct registration codes and an 
override. The phone number there is 313-577-2171. PhD students must register for 
7.5 credits for four consecutive semesters.

EdS students must contact the Graduate Office in the college's Academic 
Services Division for the number of dissertation credits. The phone number to that 
office is 313-577-1605.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
Wayne State University now offers a convenient web-based graduate school appli-
cation process. Applications submitted electronically receive the same 
consideration as paper submissions. This online process is for graduate admission 
only. Special applications are required for guest or permit register status. Please 
contact (877) WSUINFO or requestinfo@wayne.edu if you are interested in either 
of these admission statuses. A previously admitted and registered graduate 
student should contact the graduate officer of the college/school in which he/she 
wishes to resume graduate work.
COE Welcome Back Week Open House

On September 13, 2004 over 300 College of Education students consumed 60 complimentary pizzas and other refreshments during an open house sponsored by the Dean’s Office as part of the university’s “Welcome Back Week” activities. The occasion also provided students with the opportunity to browse displays of literature about the college’s programs and have their questions answered by COE faculty and staff while enjoying the refreshments.

“We know that all of our students lead very busy lives and that many come from work to classes without having the opportunity for a meal in between. More than a few told us that this was an unexpected and very welcome dinner,” stated Dean Wood.

Because the open house was a huge success, the college plans to make it an annual event during the Welcome Back Week festivities as a means of expressing support for hardworking COE students. This year’s open house was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 in the lobby of the Education building.

Dedication of Tree in Memory of Dr. Lawrence Selaty

On November 11, 2004 family and friends of the late Dr. Lawrence Selaty dedicated a flowering pear tree and sculpture in his memory at a ceremony held on the east lawn of the Education building. Dr. Selaty, an COE alumnus and adjunct faculty member in the College of Education, passed away on Thanksgiving 2003 at the age of 56 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. His sudden and tragic death was a significant loss to his students and all of the COE family.

The memorial tree and accompanying sculpture were purchased with funds raised by Dr. Selaty’s family, friends and students in an effort spearheaded by his former student Sue Welcome. At the dedication ceremony Dean Paula Wood praised Dr. Selaty’s commitment and service to the College of Education, his students, community and the teaching profession. At a reception in the college's Faculty Lounge following the dedication, family members and students shared their memories of Dr. Selaty.

Dr. Selaty earned all of his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Wayne State University’s College of Education. He spent much of his career in the Chippewa Valley School District in Clinton Township (MI) and the Troy (MI) Public School District, where he was director of special education.

Sarah Selaty, who is a school social worker in the Anchor Bay School District, described her father as “a man of rare and wonderful character who would bend over backward to help a friend. He had a quick wit and irrelevant sense of humor. In one of his last classes at WSU, he asked his students to think of what their legacy statement might be. My father’s was: ‘I will not be forgotten. What I had to offer by my words and deeds has made a difference for students not yet born.’” Dr. Selaty is also survived by his wife of 52 years, Gail, a first grade teacher for the Roseville Community School District; his mother Rose; and three brothers and two sisters. The family has established a website to honor his memory: www.larryselaty.com.

Helping the Student Victims of Hurricane Katrina

WSU President Irvin Reid recently sent the following message to the WSU community: “It is important to realize that the effects of Hurricane Katrina will be acknowledged as one of the greatest disasters in the history of our nation, and will not soon be resolved. Millions of people will require our help for years to come as the rebuilding process continues. We in the Wayne State University community will continue to assist whenever and wherever we can.” In his remarks he noted that the university is reaching out to undergraduate and graduate students whose universities are closing offering them an opportunity to study at WSU. The College of Education has already assisted several affected students in this regard, helping them with their study and housing needs.

State of Michigan Approves Educational Technology Endorsement

The College of Education is excited to announce that it has become only the second teacher preparation program in the state to be approved by the Michigan Department of Education to offer courses for P-12 teachers to earn a new Educational Technology Endorsement.

Teachers with this endorsement are expected to play leadership roles in selecting, planning, developing, implementing and evaluating technology applications in teaching and learning processes. The college has planned this program so that the minimum 18 credit hours of coursework needed for the endorsement may be used in a graduate degree program either in instructional technology or teacher education.

Courses taken for this endorsement require students to incorporate technology into lessons and to select strategies that promote the use and transfer of technological knowledge and skills for their own students. The program stresses field work by requiring applicants to use information-age technology with their own students and to support the use of technology-based resources by their colleagues.

Applicants must already have a bachelor’s degree with an undergraduate GPA of 2.6 or better, or a graduate degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better, a current state of Michigan teaching certificate, and be able to implement their teaching plans in a P-12 setting. A 3.0 GPA or better will be required to complete the endorsement. Recent graduates with an emphasis in K-12 Technology Integration are eligible for the endorsement with little or no additional coursework.

There are two paths for students seeking this new endorsement: one for teachers who want to emphasize the use of technology in classroom teaching, and one for teachers or other school personnel interested in assuming positions of technology leadership (formal or informal) in their schools or school districts.

For more information about this exciting new credential, access: www.coe.wayne.edu/InstructionalTechnology or contact Dr. Lynn Wietecha at 313-577-1700 or lwietecha@wayne.edu; Dr. Cary Smith, 313-577-0914 or a44488@wayne.edu; or Dr. Carolyn Stephens, 313-577-0902 or ad9472@wayne.edu. All three were instrumental in shepherding the COE program through the state’s approval process.

Principal Preparation Program Re-Accredited

The College of Education’s educational administration (EDA) unit in the Division of Administrative and Organizational Studies has received re-accreditation of its principal preparation program by the Michigan Department of Education. Only two colleges of education in Michigan — Michigan State University and Wayne State University — successfully applied for this re-accreditation. EDA unit coordinator Dr. Frances LaPante-Sosnowsky thanks faculty members Dr. Roger DeMont, Dr. Michael Addonizio, Dr. Joella Gibson-Simpson and Dr. Jacqueline Miller for their hard work, enthusiastic cooperation and invaluable contributions in bringing about this important re-accreditation.
COE Faculty and Staff Highlights

The following is just a representative sample of the activities, awards and accomplishments of COE faculty and staff over the past year. There are many more activities and achievements too numerous to list here, but watch for a more comprehensive account in a forthcoming COE annual report.

In June 2004 Michigan governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Dr. Stuart Itzkowitz, senior lecturer and counselor in the Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations (TFB) and Dr. Deil/a Owens, recently-appointed assistant professor in TBF, to the Michigan Board of Counseling for terms expiring June 30, 2007. This state-wide board represents individuals engaged primarily in providing counseling, behavioral modification and/or preventative techniques.

Also in June 2004, Dr. Itzkowitz was appointed to the Patient Advisory Council at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit. This council was formed in 1998 to establish and maintain a strong collaboration with patients and a consumer-involved approach at the institute. It is made up of former patients or caregivers of former patients. Nominations to the council are made by healthcare professionals at Harper Hospital and the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Sherry Martini, a Secretary II in the Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations (TFB) was appointed to speak on behalf of the university’s Office Professionals Day on April 27, 2005. A resident of Warren (MI), Sherry has worked in the College of Education since 1998 assisting TBF faculty and students.

Adjunct faculty member Mel Miller was selected by the National Social Studies Supervisors Association (an affiliate of the National Council for Social Studies) as the 2004 National Social Studies Teacher of the Year.

Christina Nowacewski, a secretary in the Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations Division who is also an undergraduate student, has received a university grant to complete a research project examining college students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The project will look at students diagnosed with ADHD who are attending a community college or university to determine if special workshops can improve their academic performance. Christina will work with Dr. George Parris, assistant professor in the college’s rehabilitation counseling program.

Dr. Janice Green, assistant dean for academic services in the College of Education, received the Human Rights Award from the Michigan Counseling Association in 2004. This award honors an association member who has made significant contributions in one or more areas of human rights advancement.

Dr. Leonard Kaplan, teacher education professor, has been selected by the national Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) to chair the Second National Congress on Teacher Education to be held in Washington, D.C. in October 2006.

Art Education assistant professor Dr. Holly Feen has been named by art therapy faculty nationwide as Convener-Elect of the Faculty for the American Art Therapy Association for 2005. In 2006 she will assume the post of Convener.

Associate professor of science education Dr. Maria Ferreira was appointed president-elect of the Executive Board of Research on Women and Education (RWE) for 2005-06, and will become president in the 2006-07 academic year.

Sharon Sellers-Clark, a senior advisor in the Division of Academic Services, was elected to the Board of the Alliance for a Media-Literate America in August 2004, and serves as co-chair of its conference committee.

The Michigan Association of School Psychologists appointed Dr. Cheryl Somers, associate professor of educational psychology, Co-University Relations Liaison to the Michigan Association of School Psychologists.

Dr. Robert Livermore, adjunct professor of teacher education, was named superintendent of the Warren Woods Public Schools effective June 2005.

Fire at the COE

Things heated up in the College of Education on Friday, July 29, 2005 when a large bucket of hot tar caught fire during the installation of a new roof on the COE building. The building was evacuated and Detroit Fire Department personnel responded quickly, extinguishing the fire before it could reach the building. There were no injuries but a small tree on the grounds adjacent to the building was damaged by the fire. After 90 minutes or so COE faculty and staff were allowed back into their offices to resume work.

Welcoming Our New Faculty

The College of Education is proud to announce new faculty for the Fall 2004 and Fall 2005 semesters. They are:

**Fall 2004**
- Delilla Owens, assistant professor, TBF
- Susan Pizzazz, assistant professor, TED

**Fall 2005**
- Ray Amirzeh, assistant professor, AOS
- Poonam Arya, associate professor, TED
- Kathleen Crawford, associate professor, TED
- Marjiha Gawlik, assistant professor, AOS
- Ingrid Guerra, assistant professor, AOS
- S. Ali Ouzum-Koca, assistant professor, TED
- Yurou Vissar, assistant professor, AOS
- Gregory Z Vie, assistant professor, TED

More information about them will be provided in the college’s upcoming annual report.
Drexell Claytor Concludes Term as COE Alumni Association President

Ms. Drexell Claytor, who received her education specialist certificate from the College of Education in 1992, has completed her term as president of the College of Education Alumni Association (COEAA) for 2004-05. Currently the principal of Kettering High School West Wing at the Detroit Public Schools, Ms. Claytor is also a product of the DPS public schools, having attended Sampson Elementary, Pattengill Elementary, Hunter Junior High School and Mackenzie High School. She obtained her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Detroit. For 30 years her passion has been working with students with special needs.

As she steps down from her presidency, Ms. Claytor says, “It is incumbent upon today’s educators to keep our profession alive and well by constantly evolving and changing. It is our responsibility to promote, recruit, foster, mentor, encourage and support those individuals who have chosen education as their career path. With this in mind, I encourage all alumni to become active members of the COE Alumni Association, to commit financially to support student scholarships; to volunteer to mentor a new educator, strive to be the best role model you can, and speak joyfully and positively about our profession.”

Thank you, Drexell, for your service to the College of Education Alumni Association this past year and for your continued commitment to education and the students it serves.

In Memoriam

Sadly, we report the deaths this past year of the following members of the College of Education family.

Rudi Alec, former mathematician’s professor in the COE Teacher Education Division, passed away in New York on February 28, 2005 after a long illness. Dr. Alec, who would have been 65 in May, had been in a coma for several years following heart surgery, and his health seriously deteriorated in the last few weeks before his death. Dr. Alec came to the College in September 1972 as an assistant professor after being an instructor at WSU, a career consultant to the Michigan Department of Education, and math consultant to the Detroit Public Schools. Former COE Dean Edward Simpson appointed Dr. Alec to be Director of the Coldyogh Educational Center, a WSU/DPS collaboration. In addition to serving on many college and university committees as well as a member of numerous professional organizations, his community service included math and tutorial programs at local schools. He had many innovative ideas in math education and teacher education. He is survived by his mother, Anna Alec. A scholarship in Dr. Alec’s memory has been awarded to a COE student for the 2005-06 academic year.

William Billups, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College of Education and served as president of the COE Alumni Association executive board, died of pneumonia on January 28, 2005 at the age of 89. Mr. Billups began his 65-year career in public education as a junior high school teacher in Detroit in 1935. He took night classes at WSU and in 1941 earned his bachelor’s degree; shortly thereafter he began teaching at Lincoln Elementary School. Within three years he became principal of Bishop Elementary School, and in 1945 he earned his master’s degree. Mr. Billups was principal of several other DPS schools through the 1960s. In 1967 he was appointed superintendent of Region 6, where he remained until his retirement in 1978. In 2001 his wife, Eva-Marie Billups, passed away and he established a COE scholarship fund in her name. The scholarship will now be given in memory of both Mr. and Mrs. Billups. The Billups’ daughter Desreis Billups Walker, also a schoolteacher, presents the scholarship certificate at the college’s annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Memorial contributions can be made in support of the Billups Endowed Scholarship to the College of Education, 414 Education Building, WSU, Detroit, MI 48202.

Thomas Coleman, former COE professor of special education, passed away in December 2004. Dr. Coleman was a 1937 graduate of Highland Park High School. He received his bachelor’s degree in speech pathology from the University of Michigan in 1941, his MEd in speech education from WSU’s College of Education in 1949, and his PhD in education psychology from the University of Michigan in 1960. From 1953-47 Dr. Coleman taught at The Coleman School in Detroit, a day school for children with mental and emotional impairment and/or behavioral challenges, and then served for 15 years as its director. He was the founding executive director of the Detroit Cerebral Palsy Clinic, a treatment center for children and adults, and served there from 1950-52. He came to WSU in 1952 as an adjunct faculty member, and joined the full-time faculty in 1957. Dr. Coleman was a member of many national, state and local organizations, committees and boards that assisted mentally impaired children. He also served as a captain in the Air Force from 1942-1945, and was married to Rosamun Coleman. In 1988 he retired from WSU.

College of Education Calendar of Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

2005 Events
• Sat., Sept. 17; Thurs., Oct. 6; Fri., Oct. 21; Nov. 4; Sat., Nov. 19; Mon., Dec. 12 – Teacher Certification Information meetings
• Fri., Sept. 30 – Last day to apply for degree
• Wed.-Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 12, 13, 14 – COE doctoral qualifying exams for 2005 fall term
• Sat., Oct. 15 – MTTC test

2006 Events
• Sat., Jan. 7 – MTTC test
• Thurs., Jan. 26 – Teacher Certification Information meeting
• Wed.-Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 22, 23, 24 – COE doctoral qualifying exams for 2006 winter term
• Sat., Apr. 1 – MTTC test
• Fri., May 19, June 16 – Art Education/Therapy Student Exhibit (Community Arts Gallery)
• Thurs., June 22 – COE Scholarship Program (Community Arts Auditorium)
• Sat., July 8 – MTTC test
• Wed.-Thurs.-Fri., Oct. 18, 19, 20 – COE doctoral qualifying exams for 2006 fall term

2007 Events

View the COE calendar online at www.coe.wayne.edu/coecalendar.htm View the university’s academic calendar online at http://sdc1.wayne.edu/registrar/accademiccalendar

Every effort is made to verify this information; we regret any errors.

Otto Jisrka, who began his career at Wayne State in 1960 and retired in 1980, was a renowned teacher of metal and wood processes in the art education program. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Ohio State University and the U.S. Army World War II, he taught in Ohio and Hawaii before being hired at the University of Buffalo. There he did his advanced graduate work prior to his WSU appointment as an associate professor. He and his wife Justine spent the summer months at their home near Rose Lake and the winter in Punta Gorda (FL) where he died on May 17, 2004.

Janet H. Jopke, superintendent of the Troy Public Schools who received her doctorate from the College of Education, died at age 62 on June 1, 2005 after a month-long battle with heart ailments. Dr. Jopke was Troy’s longest-serving superintendent, having begun her tenure there in 1993, and is credited with helping the school district develop a national reputation of excellence. Under her leadership, 19 of the district’s elementary, middle and high schools earned accreditation from the North Central Association. The daughter of a teacher, Dr. Jopke earned her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, and taught in Bay City, West Bloomfield and California before returning to Michigan as an administrator in the Utica Community Schools. A public memorial service was held on June 12 at Troy Athens High School, and a private family funeral service was held in Bay City. Donations in memory of Dr. Jopke can be made to the American Diabetes Association, 3050 Telegraph Road, Bingham Farms, MI 48025; the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, 4400 Livernois, Troy, MI 48098, or the Utica Community Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence, 7600 18 Mkt, Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

August Kerber, professor of educational sociology in the College of Education for almost three decades, died March 19 at age 87. Born and raised in Detroit and a 1933 graduate of Cass Tech High School, he received his bachelor’s degree from WSU in 1941. He met his wife at WSU, and they married in 1942. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy, where he was stationed mostly in the South Pacific until 1945. After the war he taught vocational and social studies at Northeastern High School in Detroit and began working on his doctorate in educational sociology at WSU, which he received in 1956. He retired professor emeritus from WSU in 1983. A memorial service was held in WSU’s Alumni House on June 18, 2005. Memorial contributions in his name can be made to The Nature Conservancy, 4245 N. Farlands Ave, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia, 23235.

Richard Parres, an associate professor of special education for the mentally handicapped and computer education, came to WSU as an instructor in 1966 and retired in 1996. He received his bachelor’s degree from Antioch College, interrupted when he enlisted for military service as a sergeant during the Korean War. He undertook his post-degree work at the University of Detroit and received his MEd (1962) and EdS (1966) from Wayne State. He also worked as a teacher and diagnostician for the Farmington Public Schools. Richard and his wife Mary Jo enjoyed their retirement years at their home in Madinea Beach, Florida. Dr. Parres died on June 3, 2004.

Lawrence Selaty, COE alumnus and TED adjunct faculty member, passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2003 at age 56 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Dr. Selaty earned all of his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the College of Education. He spent much of his career in the Chippeewa Valley School District in Clinton Township (MI) and the Troy (MI) Public Schools, where he was director of special education. His family and friends placed a tree and sculpture in his memory on the east lawn of the Education Building on November 11, 2004 (see related article on page 10).
COE Alumni in the News

Emily Gregory, Bachelor of Science in elementary education, has been named the recipient of the 2005 Michigan Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology (MCOATT) award. This honor is given to the Consortium for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology, which was created by U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) to set high standards in integrating technology into school curricula. Mr. Gregory’s project was based on a reading unit she taught in her Arno Elementary School (Allen Park, MI) fifth-grade student teaching classroom that examined the book Issy by Jerry Spinelli. One judge stated that her portfolio was “an exemplary example of an e-portfolio that documents the use of technology to enhance student learning.” Emily is currently an assistant teacher for Head Start in the Taylor School District and began post-baccalaureate study in speech and language pathology this spring. She plans to enter the program.

Keith Hill, who received his Master of Arts in mathematics education, is an assistant mathematics professor at the WCU Graduate School of Black Alumni (OBA) Achievement Award for 2004. This award is presented annually to African-American WCU alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional and community service endeavors. Mr. Hill is the founder and retired executive director of the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP), which began with 234 students in 1976 and now has an enrollment of over 6,000. DAPCEP’s mission is to prepare youth to excel in science and math, and to increase the number of African-American, Latino-American and Native American students in the science, math, and engineering fields. Mr. Hill lives in Detroit with his wife, Barbara; they have three adult children.

Sulora Jackson, Ed Specialist ’95, has been appointed principal of Farmington (MI) Harrison High School. Jackson spent 20 years in the Detroit Public Schools, teaching at the secondary level for 14 years before becoming an administrator. Most recently she was principal of Pershing High School in Detroit, a position she held beginning 2002.

Richard Kraus, a graduate of the Teacher Education Division’s Limited License to Instruct program, was named Educator of the Year by Communities in Schools in the spring 2005. Mr. Kraus taught at Arno Elementary School in the Detroit Public Schools.

Dr. Helen B. Landgarten, an art education alumna, was honored on September 30, 2004 at the WSU Arts Achievement Awards dinner held at Alumni House on campus. Dr. Landgarten attended WSU in 1938-39, and is a pioneer in the field of art therapy. She is a retired founder and director of the art psychotherapy program at California’s Cedars Sinai Medical Center and also a retired professor of art therapy at Loyola Marymount University.

Dr. Sophie Essa Skoney, EdD, a member of the WSU Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International, was awarded emeritus membership by executive director George Kenyon, Jr. and president Gery Morgan in June, 2004. This honor was extended to Skoney for her continued support of the association’s programs and the exemplary demonstration of the ideals of Phi Delta Kappa International. Dr. Skoney received her Master of Education degree in 1960 and her doctorate in Education Administration and Supervision in 1975.

Tyra Renee Smith, who received her Master of Education in reading, language and literature in May 2005 and her bachelor’s degree in elementary education in December 2000, was named the Detroit Public Schools’ Rookie Teacher of the Year for 2005 at an event at the Dearborn (MI) Hyatt Regency on April 27. Tyra is a teacher at Fox Elementary/Middle School and was nominated by her building principal, Wesley Carson. This is the first time DPS has selected a “rookie” teacher of the year. Nominators must have taught 1-5 years in a DPS elementary, middle or high school, be a certified contract teacher with DPS, have three letters of recommendation from individuals other than their principal, and demonstrate leadership skills and evidence of exceptional work with students, parents and colleagues. The selection is made by the director of the Detroit Public Schools Office of Teacher Development.

Dr. Mark Sperring, EdD 1999, is a principal at one of the largest high schools in northwest Indiana. A past principal in the Detroit Public Schools and a two-term president of the WSU chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International, Sperring currently serves as vice president of membership for the Indiana Dunes Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. He also continues to teach at the university level through Indiana University’s educational administration program as an associate faculty member.

COE Alumni Association Annual Events

The College of Education Alumni Association (COEAA) recognized six leaders from the field of education at its annual Recess Awards Night on May 7, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Fairlane in Dearborn (MI). The Distinguished Educators of the Year as selected by the COEAA were:

• Dr. David Bliesevertich, PhD, retired professor of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies, College of Education
• Dr. Janet H. Jopke, Superintendent, Troy Public Schools
• Dr. Aleatha Kimbrough, Executive Director for the Detroit Public Schools’ Department of Student Support Services and Specialized Education
• Dr. Richard Kment, Superintendent, Roseville Community Schools
• Dr. Joseph Sales, Sr., EdD, retired professor of Science Education and former interim dean, College of Education
• Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., former state superintendent of public instruction

Dean Paula Wood and COEAA president Drexell Clayton welcomed the 100+ crowd of award recipients and their families, friends and colleagues. Dr. Jopke was ill and unable to attend the event, and, sadly, passed away in early June (see In Memoriam in this issue). Award presenters were: Steven Artt, Drexell Clayton, Dr. Janice Green, Dr. Elysa Robinson, Dr. Sophie Skoney, Dr. Betty Yee, and Dean Paula Wood. Co-chairs of this annual event were James Ellison and Queeni Lundomond, both COE Alumni Association officers.

The COE Alumni Association’s Gold and Silver Anniversary Reception, which brings together college alumni from the graduating classes of 25 and 50 years ago, held its annual event May 19 in Alumni House on campus. Over 75 people attended for an event filled with much reminiscing and camaraderie. COEAA vice president Steve Artt recognized the graduates from the classes of 1953 and 1980 during a brief program.
College’s Stained Glass Window Listed in Census

Kudos to COE historian and faculty retiree Dr. William P. Sosnowsky: due to his efforts the College of Education’s Harriet Maria Scott Memorial Window, located in the east foyer of the Education building, has been registered with the Michigan Stained Glass Census.

The Michigan Stained Glass Census was established in 1992 and is administered by the Michigan State University Museum. This register lists stained glass treasures in Michigan through the efforts of volunteers such as Dr. Sosnowsky, who submit information on stained glass windows throughout the state to the census. These items are then entered into a searchable database that has become an important resource for scholarly research in many fields.

The census’ website, launched in 1997, includes online census forms, a list of registered buildings arranged by location, links to other websites with images of stained glass windows, and a Window of the Month feature. The Harriet Maria Scott Memorial window was the Window of the Month in March of this year. The website can be accessed at http://museum.msu.edu/museum.msc/index.html.

The college has received a Certificate of Registration to confirm that it has been included in this statewide inventory of Michigan’s stained glass treasures. More information on the history of the Harriet Maria Scott Memorial Window can be found in the Spring/Summer 2004 issue of this newsletter, which can be accessed at the COE website homepage, www.coe.wayne.edu, click on “COE News” at the top toolbar.

Harriet Maria Scott stained glass window located in the east foyer of the WSU Education building.

College of Education Hosts Annual Job Placement Fair

Each spring the College of Education sponsors a Job Placement Fair for its students, bringing to campus representatives from many different school districts to provide COE pre-service and certified teachers with the opportunity to meet with prospective employers, some of whom come from outside Michigan. The fair is also open to the general public.

The 2005 fair was held April 13 on campus in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center. Previous fairs were held in the WSU Student Center Building, but the change to a bigger venue was necessary in order to accommodate the increasingly large turnout. This year fifty school districts represented by 120 recruiters participated. Close to 700 students attended, spoke with district recruiters, submitted their resumes, and scheduled job interviews. This compares with the 2004 fair when personnel from 42 school districts and 500 students attended.

The first Job Placement Fair was held in May 2001. At that time fifteen school districts participated and 95 students attended. The fair has grown steadily every year since then. It provides a unique opportunity for COE students and graduates to talk with school district personnel, who answer questions and provide information about their school districts as well as conduct onsite interviews. The college is pleased that it is able to provide this service for its students and the participating school districts.

College of Education Employees Recognized for Years of Service

The following members of the College of Education faculty and staff received awards for their years of service at the university’s annual Employee Recognition Program on April 22, 2005:

45 Years
Gary Smith, Division of Teacher Education

35 Years
Gloria Harkness, Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations
Peter Roberts, Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies

30 Years
Joyce Martin, Office of the Dean
Lillie Shadd, Division of Academic Services

25 Years
Kevin Carroll, Education Technology Center, Office of the Dean
Sandra Jenkins, Division of Teacher Education
Patricia Sabatini, Division of Administrative and Organizational Studies

20 Years
Stuart Itzkowitz, Division of Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations

15 Years
Saundra Sumner, Division of Teacher Education
Holly-Teen Calligan, Division of Teacher Education (Art Education)
Daphne Cochran, Division of Academic Services
Judith Bowen, Division of Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies
Navaz Bhavnagri, Division of Teacher Education

10 Years
Margaret Posch, Office of the Dean
Placida Frierson, Division of Teacher Education
Dale Brandenburg, Division of Administrative and Organizational Studies

Retirees
Joseph Sales, Sr., Division of Teacher Education
Janet Windemuth, Division of Teacher Education

Between them, these individuals have devoted an impressive 375 years of service to Wayne State University! Congratulations to each of the honorees, and thank you for the many contributions you have made to the university and to the College of Education over the years.
The President’s message . . . .

It is an honor to greet you as the 2005-2006 president of the College of Education Alumni Association. I am excited as well as energized by the challenges we will face together. I have accepted the responsibility to build on the foundation of my predecessors, and as my first duty and responsibility, I extend a warm greeting to all.

As alumni of this great institution of higher education, we are members of a select body of highly respected educators and professionals. It is important for us to keep in mind that the purpose of our alumni association is to promote the general welfare of the College of Education and Wayne State University, and to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the college and its alumni throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Wayne State University is one of the nation’s leading urban universities. We must continue to support its vision as a premier public research university that offers comprehensive, high quality instruction, research opportunities, and public service to a diverse population.

The MISSION of the Wayne State University Alumni Association is to build loyalty and support among our graduates. We do this by promoting a positive image of the university, by strengthening feelings of identity with the university and by offering opportunities for alumni to serve the university. Our success is measured by the number of active members we have, by their efforts on behalf of the university and by their advice, counsel and financial contributions. By keeping the vision and mission of this great institution in the forefront, we will be able to strengthen our foundation and design a quality plan for the future of our alumni association.

As members of a select body of highly respected alumni who have the distinction of touching the lives of many, especially our youth, we must remember that it is our responsibility to prepare others to be productive, contributing members of the global society. This is a mighty task but together we can accomplish much. I look forward to a productive year and encourage you to show your support by joining me at our upcoming alumni association events: Phonothons: Thursday, October 20, 2005 and Thursday, January 19, 2006; Education Trends Seminar Thursday, November 17, 2005 (Alumni House, 5:00 p.m.); Reclass/Awards Night: Saturday, May 6, 2006 (Holiday Inn Fairlane, 6:00 p.m.); and Gold and Silver Anniversary Reception: Thursday, May 18, 2006 (Alumni House, 5:00 p.m.).

Ronald E. Williams, EdD, President, College of Education Alumni Association, 2005-2006
Drop-Out Forum Co-Sponsored by College of Education

In an effort to bring more exposure to the serious issue of students dropping out of school before graduating, the College of Education co-sponsored a public forum on June 21, 2005 with The Detroit News and WDIV/TV 4. A panel of educators and students who had formerly dropped out discussed the factors that lead students to leave school early, and the ramifications of dropping out for the students, the community, and the economy.

The panel grew out of a series of articles in The Detroit News written by reporter Christine MacDonald that explored why students drop out and what can be done to prevent it from happening. MacDonald found that 100,000 of Michigan’s young people between the ages of 16 and 24 aren’t in school and do not have a high school diploma. This uneducated population strains state resources and makes it difficult for Michigan to attract high-tech businesses. In a desire to examine the issue in more depth and to identify some solutions by involving parents and students in the discussion, the Detroit News invited the College of Education to co-sponsor this event along with WDIV/TV 4.

Held in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on the WSU campus, the forum was moderated by WDIV/TV4 reporter Roshini Rajkumar. Over 100 parents, students and educators attended the event and participated in the lively, and often emotional, discussion. Some solutions were proposed, including making alternative programs more accessible and effective, suspending the driver’s licenses of those who miss school, and strengthening truancy policies.

The panel consisted of: John Austin, vice president, Michigan State Board of Education; Howard Bell, executive director, TechTown; Juanita Clay-Chambers, chief academic officer, Detroit Public Schools; Paul Doxford, director of Youth Services, Wayne County MichiganWorks!; Angela Reyes, executive director, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation; Doug Ross, principal, University Preparatory Academy, Detroit. Student panelists were Alexis Zavala, who dropped out of school in the ninth grade but has since obtained his GED and training in community organizing and works at Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation as a youth specialist; Sally Wroblewski, who dropped out of school at age 16, received her GED through classes at Washtenaw Community College and is still taking classes there, planning to graduate in spring 2006; and William Graves, 18, who is completing the tenth grade at University Preparatory Academy and has interned at Henry Ford Hospital for three years with the goal of becoming a nurse.

Written with assistance from Christine McDonald, reporter, The Detroit News

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