

The MONDAY REPORT

#620

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NOTES FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

This week the College of Education is taking the first steps in an exciting endeavor—certainly one of the most important initiatives in the College's history. Based on the work of our strategic planning groups, we will begin the official organization of a College of Education office focusing specifically on urban education and issues of diversity for education professionals. The office will provide an umbrella to continue and expand successful existing initiatives such as the Minority Achievement Retention and Success (MARS) program, and give impetus to new and expanded efforts on a variety of fronts. These will include expansion of programming targeted specifically at the needs of professionals in urban areas and expanded research opportunities in urban education.

This is just the beginning. As the semester progresses I expect I will have the opportunity to announce the office's official ribbon-cutting, the beginning of our electronic resource collection, and a host of other events. But the dream begins this week. I can think of no more fitting time—during the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—to take first steps to make an important dream a reality.

I do not expect this effort to be easy. The issues we face educating young people in urban settings are daunting. In higher education we have our own institutional and policy challenges. But as we understand the essential nature of the challenges, we also understand that we can not

and we must not back away. And so, as Thoreau enjoined, we will “go confidently in the direction of [our] dreams.” They are good ones.

*So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.--
Christopher Reeve*

GRADUATION: ALUM EARNS HONORARY DEGREE

At the winter 2004 commencement, College of Education alumnus **Dean Rockwell** was awarded an honorary doctorate. Rockwell graduated from Michigan State Normal College in 1935 and at age 92 still regularly attends university events. He served as a teacher and coach, including coaching the U.S. Greco-Roman wrestling team at the 1964 Olympics. Rockwell is probably best recognized for his distinguished career in the Navy and his pivotal contribution to the success of the D-Day invasion. In his book *D-Day, June 6, 1944*, Steven Ambrose wrote, “By using his courage and common sense, Lt. Dean Rockwell made the single most important command decision of any junior officer on D-Day.

GRADUATION: NEW ALUMS CONTINUE

At the winter 2004 commencement, six individuals were awarded the Doctor of Education degree, the highest degree awarded at Eastern Michigan University. Their names and dissertation titles are listed below. There were also numerous students awarded bachelors, masters, and specialist degrees across the college.

Dr. Kevin Brandon

Change and Persistence in a Christian Liberal Arts Institution: A Case Study

Dr. Christopher Curtis

Creating School Communities that Foster Achievement in At-risk Students

Dr. Sarah Ginsberg
*The Role of Classroom Communication in
College Faculty Transparency*

Dr. Melanie Ferran
*The Impact of Program Review on Successful
Entrepreneurial Units in Higher Education*

Dr. Lorrie Jean MacDonald
*Education in the Media: Its Impact on Teacher
Self-Efficacy and Retention*

Dr. Randall Morris
*The Teacher perceiver Interview: An Assessment
by Students and Administrators.*

COE FACULTY WIN MLK AWARDS

Two College of Education faculty members and a local educator were awarded the Martin Luther Kind Jr. Humanitarian Award at Eastern's 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day luncheon. This prestigious award honors those who carry forward the work and mission championed by Dr. King.

Dr. **Elizabeth Johnson**, an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education, was described as "an exceptional mentor to students from virtually every racial, ethnic and language group, especially women." She was noted for her creative teaching and her efforts to "empower . . . people of color, the urban poor and the dispossessed."

Dr. **Nora Martin**, professor emeritus from the Department of Special Education was cited as "a strong advocate for youth, especially underrepresented and marginalized youth." She was particularly recognized for her work in the Comer School and Families Initiative project with the Detroit Public Schools and her efforts to support diversity in the teaching profession.

The third winner, Dr. James Hawkins, is a former superintendent of Ypsilanti and Gary, Indiana schools. Now retired, he remains active in schools as the social action chairman of the Ypsilanti East Middle School mentoring

program for African American males.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Two professional education faculty were honored at the 14th Annual Teaching Excellence Awards breakfast. This event honors faculty selected by alumni for their excellence in teaching. Dr. Kay Woodiel was selected as the College of Education honoree for her efforts in the field of Health Education. In the time since the nominees were selected, Dr. Woodiel's department was transferred to the College of Health and Human Services, but her efforts and accomplishments are no less appreciated.

Dr. Phillip Cardon, from business and technology education, was the award winner from the College of Technology.

COE ON THE WEB

The College of Education is about to embark on a major project to revise and reorganize the College's web presence. The College was an early entrant in to the world of web-based information for students, faculty, and others. We were the first institution in the nation the complete our national NCATE accreditation completely on-line. Now it is time to take the next step forward, revising our site to meet the needs of our changing audiences. In coming months we look forward to a new look and increased ease of navigation along with additional student-friendly content. Individuals with suggestions for how the COE website can best serve our students are encouraged to contact the dean's office.

STUDENT NOTES

Sara Pregitzer was honored with one of two 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Awards. Ms. Pregitzer is pursuing a teaching certificate as a post baccalaureate student in elementary integrated science. She has demonstrated exemplary community service, particularly in the city of Detroit. One of her activities included 40-50 hours per week with children who had recently immigrated from Yemen and Iraq.

ALUMNI NOTES

Barb Carl was recently honored as Howell Public Schools' Teacher of the Teacher. Carl has taught in Howell for 28 years, for the last 11 years as kindergarten teacher. Carl earned her master's degree in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University in 1981.

Ann Arbor News has recognized the volunteer work of alum **May Ping Soo Hoo**. She was particularly honored for her work with Food Gatherers. May Ping Soo Hoo formerly taught mathematics and German at Gabriel Richard High School.

IN MEMORIAM

Virginia May Smith died on December 17, 2004 at age 80. Smith was a graduate of Michigan State Normal College and was a teacher with the Ypsilanti Public Schools for many years.

OPPORTUNITIES

3rd International Conference on Education and Information Systems: Technologies and Applications EISTA 2005, Orlando, Florida, July 14-17, 2005. Proposals due February 16, 2005.

The Social Capital Foundation invites all interested persons or organizations to present a paper to one or both of its upcoming international, interdisciplinary conferences that will be held respectively on September 21-22, 2005 and September 23-24, 2005 on the island of Malta. For information see <http://www.socialcapital-foundation.org/TSCF/TSCF%20conferences.htm>

INTERESTING READING

The following information comes from the website of the Ann Arbor Public Libraries. Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Reads is a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the

shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. In 2005, the program will encourage readers of all ages to explore the

cultures of the Middle East - its many shared and diverse histories, memories and traditions of creative expressions

A selection committee of community leaders, students and educators in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area has chosen Amin Maalouf's *Leo Africanus* for this year's shared reading experience. This historical novel tells the story of the life of Leo Africanus, Hasan al-Wazzan, born in Granada, Spain, around 1488, shortly before the fall of Muslim rule to the Christians and the exile of his family with other Muslims to Fez, Morocco. Leo traveled in North Africa and the Mediterranean to Timbuktu, Cairo, and Rome, where he was baptized a Christian, and wrote his "Description of Africa," on which the novel is based. He returned to Tunis in 1527.

In Granada at the end of the fifteenth century, in an atmosphere of threat of imminent collapse of the existing political and social order, there remained a deep sense of acceptance among Muslims, Christians, and Jews who lived peacefully with each other. This sense of multi-culturalism, combined with a distrust of fanaticism and bigotry, whether religious, ethnic or social, is the pervasive theme of the book. It may provide a model for us as we deal with an increasingly complex world.

Eastern Michigan University is a partner in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program. For information on program-related events in Ypsilanti, see http://www.ypsilibrary.org/events/reads_events.shtml.

THEME STATEMENTS

Caring professional educators for a diverse and democratic society. (CPED²S) (Initial program)

Inquiry, advocacy, and leadership in education for diverse and democratic society. (Advanced programs)