

The MONDAY REPORT

#629

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NOTES FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

A new report, *A Good Teacher in Every Classroom* has been released by the National Academy of Education, an invitation-only group made up of many of the most distinguished researchers in education. The report follows a book, *Preparing Teachers for a Changing World*, which outlines the research basis for the report's conclusions. Both publications tackle the important questions "What do we know about teacher preparation?" and "How must we apply that knowledge to prepare teachers for changing student populations?" They address both the types of teacher preparation programs the authors feel are necessary for success and the financial commitments that will be required to attain them.

Recommendations include "tightening" accreditation, with states ready to close down programs that don't meet standards; a minimum of 30 weeks of clinical practice; the creation of a national teacher test; and significant increases in funding at the state and national levels. It will be interesting to see how these recommendations compare to the AERA report due for release later this year.

However the reports compare, it is clear that teacher preparation is entering a new era. As education becomes an increasingly high stakes enterprise, the importance of highly qualified teachers moves to the forefront of many agendas. This is likely to both benefit and challenge teacher preparation programs. On one hand, the increased focus on high quality is likely to emphasize the importance of the work we do—and perhaps even spur increased funding. On the

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other hand, this is not a time we will be able to rest on past practice or reputation. Finding ways to use what we know in increasingly effective and complex ways will be challenging, particularly in Michigan's economic climate, but essential. As the title states, we are preparing teachers for a changing world. We'll need to examine carefully how we can be a proactive force toward the needed changes.

They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.--Andy Warhol

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.--Franklin D. Roosevelt

My future starts when I wake up every morning... Every day I find something creative to do with my life.--Miles Davis

MICHAEL FLANAGAN NAMED TOP EDUCATOR

The State Board of Education recently named College of Education alum Michael Flanagan as Michigan's State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Flanagan was serving as the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators. He previously served as Superintendent of Farmington School District and Superintendent of the Wayne Regional Education Services Agency.

State Board President Kathleen N. Straus said the Board was impressed by all three final candidates. "They all were very articulate, very sensitive, and very committed to children. But Mike Flanagan knows Michigan. He knows Michigan's educational issues, its strengths and weaknesses, and he is familiar with the high quality staff at the

Department of Education.” Congratulations to this very distinguished alumnus!

MATH /SCIENCE FINALISTS

Michigan’s Department of Education has named five Michigan mathematics and science educators as state-level finalists for the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Four of the five finalists are EMU alums. They include the following.

Science Nominees

Ted J. Emch, Tappan Middle School, Ann Arbor Public Schools

Timothy S. Graham, Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte Public Schools

Mathematics Nominees

Cindy L. Hasselbring, Milan High School, Milan Area Schools

Anne Marie Nicoll Turner, Tappan Middle School, Ann Arbor Public Schools

June L. Teisan of Harper Woods Schools also was named as a finalist. The PAEMST program, established by the White House in 1983, is sponsored by the National Science Foundation. In odd-numbered years awardees are selected from among those who teach math and science grades - 12. Elementary school mathematics and science teachers are chosen in even-numbered years. Recognition for Presidential Awardees includes a special citation signed by the President; a \$10,000 honorarium from the National Science Foundation and gifts from donors; and a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend special recognition events and meet with leaders in government and education.

FULBRIGHT FROM EMU

Joe Bishop, of the Department of Teacher Education, has been named a Fulbright Scholar for the Winter 2006 term. Dr. Bishop will spend about five months (February through July) in Bosnia. While there he will lecture on democratic citizenship education and work with educators and schools to promote democratic citizenship.

KDP ACES AGAIN

The Pi Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi has been named as a recipient of an Achieving Chapter Excellence (ACE) Award, which will be presented at the Convocation opening ceremonies on Thursday, November 3, 2005. The ACE Award is presented every biennium to chapters who demonstrate excellence and dedication to the ideals of Kappa Delta Pi. This is the third time Pi Chapter has received an ACE Award, a highly unusual honor. Kappa Delta Pi is an international honor society in education, committed to recognizing excellence and fostering mutual cooperation, support, and professional growth for educational professionals. Special recognition is due to chapter counselor **Beth Johnson** and former counselor **Thomas Gwaltney**, whose leadership over many years has provided a tradition of excellence. Former dean **Jerry Robbins** also has been an active supporter of Pi Chapter.

HIGH FLYING STUDENT TEACHER

According to supervisor **John Bulmar**, student teacher **Robert Schicker** motivated some high flying! Mr. Schicker was a student teacher at Michener Elementary in Adrian during the fall 2004 semester. During his student teaching semester Schicker shared his love of sky diving through a demonstration dive on Michener school grounds. He—and brave EMU alum principal **Tom Carlson**—issued a challenge called “Jump into Reading.” If Michener students read more books than they did in the previous year, Carlson would join Schicker in a sky dive. The students met the challenge, and last week the entire school was bussed to the Tecumseh airport to witness the dives. Clearly EMU alumni do whatever is necessary to help students succeed!

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Dolores Hertler Church recently established an endowment that will fund The Dolores Hertler Church and Albert Carl Church Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will help to support students in the Department of Teacher Education who are preparing to be elementary or middle school teachers.

Dolores Hertler Church began her education in two one-room schools where her opportunities to help younger children learn spurred her desire to be a teacher. She and her late husband Albert Carl Church both attended Michigan State Normal College, pursuing degrees in education. Ms. Church taught second and third grade for 33 years, largely in Ann Arbor schools. Mr. Church served in the U.S. Marines and worked at Ford Motor company before beginning his teaching career. He taught industrial arts in Brighton, Willow Run, Ypsilanti, and Ann Arbor schools. The endowment for The Dolores Hertler Church and Albert Carl Church Scholarship will be activated on the death of Dolores Hertler Church. We greatly appreciate this planned gift that will allow the Church legacy to benefit teachers for many generations.

DOCTORAL DEFENSE

Thomas Reeder defended his dissertation, *A Comparison of School Improvement Process in high and Low Achieving Schools and its Relationship to Reading Achievement*, on May 20. His advisor was Dr. **William Price**. Congratulations!

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Alum **Kathy Betrus** was featured in a recent *Ann Arbor News* story about the excitement she generates about physics—particularly through her students' participation in Cedar Point's annual Physics Day.

Each two-person team of students is assigned a different ride to analyze that day. In the classroom, the students learn how to analyze different rides and prepare tools that allow them to measure horizontal and vertical accelerations. Following Physics Day, students prepare a PowerPoint presentation that details their analysis of their ride's physics as well as information about the history of the ride itself. They also must submit a brochure and a three-dimensional model of their chosen ride.

The Ypsilanti Chamber of Commerce recently awarded Betrus an E3 Award for "exemplary educational endeavors" for her work on Physics Day.

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

Ellen Hoffman and **Marcia Mardis** presented a symposium session at the 17th Annual Ethnographic & Qualitative Research in Education (EQRE) Conference in Cedarville, OH on June 3, 2005. Their session, entitled "Fomenting Feedback Loops/Performing Qualitative Methods," included Hoffman's presentation, "Supporting Nontraditional Graduate Students through Research Methods Courses: Foundations and Concepts" and Mardis's, "Firewalk with Me: Reconceptualizing the Structure and Function of a Required Research Course." A third paper in the session, "Insider and Outsider: Simultaneous Observation, Instruction, and Participation in a Qualitative Research Course," was presented by Dr. Jeremy Hockett, a guest researcher in their Winter 2005 EDPS 687 course.

Lizbeth Stevens attended the ASHA State Policy Workshop in Minneapolis on May 11-13 followed by the meeting of CSAP (Council of State Association Presidents) on May 13 and 14. Dr. Stevens is President of the Michigan Speech Language Hearing Association.

IN MEMORIUM

According to the *Ann Arbor News*, **Eva Ruth Meyer** died recently. Meyer worked in EMU's Rackham School from 1968-1975 and later in the New Horizon's program in Ypsilanti.

Sara (Mrs. Melvin Maxwell) Smith died recently in California at age 97. An EMU alum with teaching credentials in speech/drama, she formerly worked in the Detroit schools. She and her late husband were well known for their Frank Lloyd Wright designed house in Bloomfield Hills.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The College of Education Fall Conference for the 2005-2006 academic year will be held Tuesday, September 6 8:30-1:00 in the Porter Building. Classes begin Wednesday September 7.

OPPORTUNITIES

International Cultural Competency Conference, November 7-10, 2005, San Diego, CA.

Proposals are due August 30, 2005. See http://www.ccitw.org/Call_For_Presentations.htm for details.

SINO-American Education Consortium 16th annual International Conference, October 5-7, Atlanta, Georgia. Proposals are due August 8, 2005. For information, e-mail bzheng@kennesaw.edu.

The First International Conference on Children's Rights & Education for the 21st Century, July 26-30, 2005, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The first round of papers was accepted in April but as of the last week of May, proposals still were being accepted. For information go to <http://21stcenturyconference.tamucc.edu/>

National Network for Educational Renewal 2005 Conference, October 27-20, Myrtle Beach, SC. Proposals are due June 10. For information e-mail pdsconf@gwm.sc.edu.