The Warner School Celebrates 50 Years as the School of Education

The Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the School of Education on Friday, November 7th. Among the festivities will be the installation of Brian Brent as the Earl B. Taylor Professor of Education and a reflective address by Professor Emeritus Harold Munson, long-serving faculty member in counseling who taught under all five School of Education deans. Faculty and staff should R.S.V.P. to Alumni Relations at 877-MELIORA (877-635-4672) and students to events@warner.rochester.edu.

Education’s Big Questions
In March of 1963, the Democrat and Chronicle ran “The Expanding University,” a story about new and developing colleges at the University of Rochester—the College of Education being one of them. In it, Dean William A. Fullagar discussed what he thought to be the big questions of education: “When should we start to teach foreign language? How can we do a better job of teaching children to read? How shall we stimulate gifted ‘under achievers’...how prepare the child of below-average capacity for a useful role in a society that doesn’t seem to want him? And—of critical importance—how can we recruit more of the nation’s outstanding young people into careers in education?” Nearly 50 years later, we ask, what are today’s big questions in education? Post your thoughts on our blog, Warner Perspectives, at warner.rochester.edu/blog.
Guiffrida, Doctoral Student Publish in Journal of College Counseling

Aimee Whyte, a doctoral student in the counseling program and Doug Guiffrida, associate professor of counseling and human development, published the article, “Counseling Deaf College Students: The Case of Shea,” in the Journal of College Counseling, Fall 2008 issue.

The article describes the developmental and psycho-social challenges deaf college students experience, even when attending predominately deaf institutions. Counselors who understand the experiences of deaf students will be better prepared to assist them as they negotiate and progress through the identity development process.

French, Peterson Publish Article in Early Childhood Research Quarterly


The article examines the ways preschool teachers support the development of children’s explanatory language during science inquiry.

Hrush Publishes Articles


Luehmann Presents at Conferences, Publishes Research Articles

April Luehmann, assistant professor in teaching and curriculum, presented at the Davidson Institute of Science Education at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel on the topic, “Out of School Learning to Teach Experiences: Scaffolding Dilemmas,” on September 23. She gave a similar seminar at the Technion Institute in Haifa, Israel on the following day.


BaileyShea Awarded Ping Fellowship for Doctoral Research

Warner School educational policy and theory doctoral student Chelsea BaileyShea was recently awarded the prestigious Ping Doctoral Research Fellowship from The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). The funding will be used to support BaileyShea’s doctoral research on factors affecting American students—particularly minority and male students—participation in study abroad.

A natural partnership, CIEE offers educational programs abroad for students, faculty and educational administrators to “help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge, and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.” The Ping Fellowship is an extension of this mission, providing support for doctoral research focused on U.S. undergraduate study abroad.

Based on her own experience abroad in France as an undergraduate, BaileyShea hopes her research will offer evidence to support governmental and higher education initiatives to boost participation and access to study abroad programs, especially among minorities.
Brent Named Earl B. Taylor Professor

Brian Brent, professor, associate dean of graduate studies, and chair of the educational leadership program at the Warner School, has been named an Earl B. Taylor Professor of Education at the Warner School of Education.

A Warner faculty member since 1997, Brent’s research looks at micro-level fiscal policy issues in p-12 school systems. For Brent, local school finance phenomena are rich areas of study, and underlie many equity and efficiency issues in education.

“Whether our desire is to implement an innovative curriculum or undertake whole-school reforms, all initiatives require that educators secure, allocate, and utilize resources,” explains Brent. “I am hopeful that through my scholarship and teaching I can inform policymakers about ways in which they can perform these necessary tasks in equitable and efficient ways.”

Brent earned his bachelor’s degree in public accounting from Pace University (summa cum laude) and then went to work in New York at a Big Eight accounting firm. From there, he earned a master’s in taxation from Arizona State, and a master’s in educational administration and Ph.D. in philosophical and social foundations of education, both from Cornell University.

Brent’s scholarly work and instruction have received several awards including the Dissertation of the Year from the American Education Finance Association, the New Scholars Award from the United States Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, and the University of Rochester’s Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching. Brent also serves on several editorial boards including the Journal of Education, Leadership and Policy in Schools, and School Business Affairs. He is a former board member of the American Education Finance Association and a current board member of the New York State Education Finance Research Consortium.

Raffaella Borasi, dean of the Warner School, applauds Brent’s appointment. “Brian’s research has real, direct impact for fiscal policy at the local and state level, and operationally for school districts,” says Borasi. “He has been instrumental in reshaping the Warner doctoral programs to best prepare school leaders in an age of accountability around resource allocation and quality decision making.”

The professorship Brent assumes was established in 1948 by the University of Rochester Board of Trustees to honor Earl B. Taylor, a 1912 graduate and professor of education at the University of Rochester from 1928 to 1946. The University’s Taylor Hall is named for him.

Previous holders of the Professorship are Henry C. Mills, 1949 to 1955; Byron B. Williams, 1964 to 1967; William A. Fullagar, 1968 to 1980; and most recently Tyll van Geel, 1996 to 2006. Developmental psychologist Lucia French was named an Earl B. Taylor Professor in 2007, and is now joined by Brent.

Research Grants Support Knowledge Athletes Project and Create Partnership with Warner

Two Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants totaling $175,000 will create a unique partnership between Knowledge Athletes, and the Warner School. The partnership hopes to capitalize on online communications to close the achievement gaps in adolescent and college learning.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the alliance will develop and pilot two new web-based educational software prototypes designed to encourage communication and collaboration in the classroom environment and beyond with social networking technology. This new software will allow students to become more excited and engaged in learning by being able to communicate the way they enjoy—digitally—and will enable teachers to collaborate with them to encourage critical thinking.

“The reality is that adolescents love digital communications, and have been engaged in networking sites for quite a while,” said Dave Miller, founder and president of Knowledge Athletes, and a doctoral student at the Warner School. “This new software will give them a chance to harness all that energy by participating digitally in class and homework while also learning from one another. Because of its user-friendliness, teachers will be able to operate in that digital environment that they haven’t been able to operate in easily, productively, and effectively.”

For Donna Thompson ’79 (M.S.), co-founder and vice-president of business development for Knowledge Athletes and a Warner School alumna, collaborating with her alma mater makes perfect sense. “We chose to partner with Warner because Dean Raffaella Borasi has a very entrepreneurial spirit,” explained Thompson. “Her approach to education is very much in tune with ours. When you create a partnership like this you have to have like-minded entities.”

Knowledge Athletes, Inc. is one of the first companies to create a new generation of collaborative knowledge-building webware that leverages the power of social networking technology for educational purposes. The company’s webware turns traditional social media applications into powerful educational and performance analytics tools that span vertical markets in K-12.

In addition, their platforms will reduce the learning achievement gap between high school and college students who are deaf and hard of hearing and their mainstreamed peers. Software is free for subscribing schools, with revenue generated through educationally-funded internet advertisements.
WARNER WORD

Warner School Receives Grant to Support Urban Teaching and Leadership Program

A $52,488 grant to the Warner School will further initiatives to serve the needs of teachers and improve the academic outcomes of students in the Rochester City School District (RCSD). Awarded by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Teacher Opportunity Corps grant program, the funding will support and enhance the Warner School's efforts to recruit, prepare, and provide professional development opportunities to current and future educators committed to teaching in urban settings.

The grant will fund new initiatives that will help to advance the work of the Urban Teaching and Leadership (UTL) program developed by Sonia James-Wilson, UTL director.

The UTL program complements other initiatives at the University of Rochester designed to serve the needs of teachers and students from historically underrepresented and underserved populations. Through the Fifth Year in Teaching Scholarship, the Warner School will continue to award up to 10 full tuition scholarships each year to University of Rochester undergraduates to become teachers in urban settings. Students accepted into the UTL program will complete a master's degree and two years of teaching in an urban school.

The UTL program, which is the result of a collaboration between the Warner School and the RCSD, provides a unique opportunity for both pre-service and in-service teachers in urban settings to gain an in-depth understanding of urban schools and specialized research-based knowledge and skills to teach more effectively and equitably in these contexts.

“This grant will have a significant impact on the UTL program because it will allow us to increase our engagement with RCSD teachers and provide new opportunities for the Warner School to encourage undergraduates in the University of Rochester’s College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering to consider a career in urban education,” said James-Wilson. “Ninety percent of the candidates in the first cohort to complete this rigorous three-year program are now working in schools in Rochester, New York City and Boston, and after two years of successful urban teaching, most have begun to take on teacher leadership roles in service of their colleagues and students. With this award, the NYSED has helped to ensure that the Warner School will continue to develop teachers for city schools who are skilled, committed to equity, and role models for other beginning teachers.”

For more information or to learn more about the Urban Teaching and Leadership program, please visit the Warner School Web site at www.rochester.edu/warner/programs/teaching/utl or contact Danielle Ianni at dianni@warner.rochester.edu.

Warner Launches Education Blog

The Warner School recently launched a multi-author education blog, Warner Perspectives, on the home page of the Warner School Web site. The blog invites posts from students, faculty, community members, and anyone else interested in a spirited discussion of education and human development.

“It is an opportunity for us to extend important conversations beyond the classrooms and hallways of the Warner School,” suggests Laura Brophy, assistant dean and director of external relations. “And it gives our faculty and students a place to share their experiences and perspectives about the profound changes that are taking place in our world and their affect on education and the human experience.”

In addition to two student blogger columns describing master’s students’ experiences in the classroom and the field, numerous faculty members have or will contribute to Warner Perspectives. Faculty bloggers include Joanne Larson, David Hursh, April Luehmann, Andrew Wall, Nancy Ares, Donna Harris, Abe DeLeon, and others.

A recent post by Joanne Larson, the Michael W. Scandling Professor of Education and chair of Warner’s teaching and curriculum department, looks at the monumental changes in the information and communication economy and explores the shift to mass collaboration for teaching, learning and schools. Associate Professor David Hursh is a regular blogger, currently exploring the implications of the current political and economic landscape for schools and education.

To view the Warner Perspectives blog, visit warner.rochester.edu/blog.