



The E-Newsletter of the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester

March 2015

HAPPENINGS



Faculty, staff, and students were on hand in LeChase Hall on Saturday, February 28, to host the "Why Teach?" event, which explored what it takes to become a teacher. The event provided meaningful conversations about teaching as a career, given the larger educational policy issues impacting educators and K-12 schools today, and highlighted the challenges and possibilities of careers in teaching.



Upsilon Rho Iota, the University's chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the counseling academic and professional honor society, held its 3rd Annual Black Tie Social in February. Graduate students from programs across Warner joined together to celebrate this year's "Social Justice" theme and to support and care for the community. The event gave participants the opportunity to meet and network with fellow classmates, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of friends. This year, voluntary donations were collected in the form of clothing and cash to support Mary's Place Refugee Outreach Center and the Rochester International School. Donations from the School of the Holy Childhood and doctoral student Amy Flack's SandLab Studio were raffled.

EVENTS

3/4/2015

[Wednesday Lunch Hour - Networking: LinkedIn and Beyond](#)

3/6/2015

[CMP3 Unit Training - 8th Grade: Looking for Pythagoras](#)

3/6/2015

[Safe Schools Against Violence in Education \(SAVE\) Workshop](#)

3/13/2015

[Writing Workshop - Critiques and Literature Reviews](#)

3/16/2015

[CMP3 Unit Training - 7th Grade: Moving Straight Ahead](#)

3/19/2015

[Diversity and Inclusion Film Series - Fixed: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement](#)

3/20/2015

[Quantitative Consulting Services Workshop](#)

3/21/2015

[GVWP Writing Workshop - "On the Places You'll Write": The Uncommon Core](#)

3/28/2015

[Writing Workshop - Writing Short Proposals for Papers and Conferences](#)

4/9/2015

[Diversity and Inclusion Film Series - Documented](#)

4/15/2015

[Teacher Recruitment Day 2015](#)

4/18/2015

[Quantitative Consulting Services Workshop](#)

5/16/2015

[Warner School Commencement](#)

NEWS



Warner reading and literacies students and alumni co-presented "Supporting Student Literacy in Urban Settings" with Carol St. George, assistant professor, at the Rochester Area Literacy Council's "Live, Local Literacy!" event in February. Pictured (l-r) are: Jennifer Barrows '13W (MS); master's student Katelyn Wissman; Rachel Klein '14W (MS); master's students Daniel Hart, Alexa Basile, Emily Morris, and Jessica Anderson; and Charlotte Miller '11W (MS).

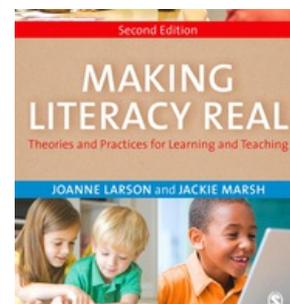


Study Shows Teacher Candidates Lack a Clear Understanding of edTPA

A new study, conducted by Warner School Professors Kevin Meuwissen and Jeffrey Choppin and funded by the Spenser Foundation, represents one of the first attempts to document teacher candidates' perspectives of and experiences with edTPA, a new performance assessment for initial teacher certification that gauges beginning teachers' skills and readiness to lead a classroom. [Read more...](#)



Ed Brockenbrough, assistant professor, delivered a lecture titled "Black Queer Pedagogies: Implications for Youth Work" at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in February. The lecture was part of the Critical Methodologies Seminar Series sponsored by the College of Education's Social Justice Education program. Brockenbrough delivered a similar lecture in February at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education as part of its Center for Urban Education's Spring 2015 Brown Bag Series on issues in urban education.



Larson Coauthors Second Edition of Book on Literacy Theory and Classroom Practice

Joanne Larson, Michael W. Scandling Professor of Education and chair of the teaching and curriculum program at the Warner School, along with Jackie Marsh, professor at the University of Sheffield, U.K., have coauthored the recently published revised edition of *Making Literacy Real: Theories and Practices for Learning and Teaching* (Sage Publications, 2015). The updated guide examines a variety of literacy theories that challenge current skill-based models and the relevance of these theories in the elementary classroom. [Read more...](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration Open for Annual Diversity Conference

On Friday, April 17, representatives from across the University will gather to discuss diversity and inclusion at the 2015 Diversity Conference: "From Bystander to Ally." The keynote speaker is Jose Antonio Vargas, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, filmmaker, and immigration activist. Visit the [conference website](#) to learn more about the keynote and the 18 workshops planned for the day. The conference is free and open to the public.

Warner Admissions Launches New Student Experience Blog

Warner School admissions has launched a new student experience blog, currently authored by Claire Del Monte, a master's student in the higher education program. You can read her posts at [warnerexperience.org](#). Other student bloggers will be added in the future. If you're interested in blogging about your experiences at Warner, please contact the admissions department at admissions@warner.rochester.edu.

| | | NYS STATE | University of Rochester |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| edTPA | # Tested | 4,800 | 34 |
| | % Passing | 81% | 100% |
| Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST) | # Tested | 11,371 | 43 |
| | % Passing | 68% | 100% |
| Educating All Students | # Tested | 10,263 | 45 |
| | % Passing | 77% | 100% |
| Content Specialty Test (CST) | # Tested | 27,303 | 91 |
| | % Passing | 82% | 96% |

University of Rochester Teacher Education Graduates Achieve 100 Percent Pass Rate on Tougher Teacher Certification Exams

Graduates of the University of Rochester teacher education programs for the 2013-14 year achieved a **100 percent pass rate** on new state-required teacher certification assessments. [Read more...](#)

Teacher Recruitment Day 2015

Teacher Recruitment Day 2015 is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Riverside. Any University of Rochester graduating students or alumni who are available for employment as a New York State certified teacher, social worker, school psychologist, administrator, or other specialist by fall 2015 are eligible to attend. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.wamer.rochester.edu/newsevents/story/1522/.

IN THE NEWS

2/26/2015

[Joanne Larson Tackles the WHY TEACH? Question on WXXI](#)

[Connections](#)

2/16/2015

[Julia White on Special-Ed Services in Democrat & Chronicle](#)

2/7/2015

[Doctoral Student and 2014 NYS Teacher of the Year Ashli Dreher Co-Authors Open Letter to Gov. Cuomo in Times-Union](#)

Spread the Word to End the Word

Spread the Word to End the Word is a national movement to end the demeaning use of the words "retard" and "retarded." The University will support the campaign with several events on the River Campus and at the Medical Center today, the movement's national day of awareness. [Read more...](#)

STARS Film Submission

The Warner School's Science STARS afterschool program, led by Associate Professor April Luehmann, has submitted a short three-minute film dealing with homelessness to the White House Student Film Festival. The film documents the journey of how STARS got involved, empowered, and made a difference in Rochester, N.Y. View part one of their efforts here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m3LQeo6XCJ&feature=youtu.be. Science STARS plans to submit a longer film that foregrounds more of the science of homelessness and giving back to the Rochester Teen Film Festival in May.



FACULTY/STUDENT NOTES

Brockenbrough Awarded Grant to Study HIV Prevention, Appointed to Editorial Board

Ed Brockenbrough, assistant professor, and Mitchell Wharton, assistant professor at the University's School of Nursing, were recently awarded a grant from the University of Rochester's Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) to study HIV prevention among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM). The SENT Project: Sexual Engagements with Networked Technologies by YBMSM, will examine how YBMSM engage YouTube, Tumblr, Grindr, text messaging, and other networked technological platforms to learn about sex, connect with sexual partners, and negotiate the risks of HIV infection. Findings from this study will be used to explore the potential delivery of sexual health education and HIV awareness initiatives for YBMSM via networked technologies.

Additionally, Brockenbrough was recently appointed to the editorial board of *Equity & Excellence in Education*, a peer-reviewed journal that publishes manuscripts on a range of topics related to equity, equality, and social justice in K-12 and postsecondary schooling, and the social justice factors that contribute to inequality in learning for students from diverse social group backgrounds. He will serve a three-year term on the journal's editorial board.

Hursh Writes Book Chapter

David Hursh, professor, has written the book chapter "Even More of the Same: How Free Market Capitalism Dominates Education" in *The Phenomenon of Obama and the Agenda for Education: Can Hope Audaciously Trump Neoliberalism?*, 2nd Edition (Information Publishing, 2015). In the chapter, Hursh reminds us of Obama's educational platform during his first campaign for president, demonstrating that he abandoned his campaign promises. Hursh then describes three specific actions that the Obama administration has taken that reveal his true education policy agenda: (1) the appointment of Arne Duncan as Secretary of Education; (2) Duncan's visit to Detroit, Mich., where he first imposed policies that would become the Race to the Top (RTTT) program; and (3) the implementation of RTTT at a national level. He illustrates how these actions reflect the current dominant neoliberal ideology of market competition, privatization, individualism, and education as preparation for work. Lastly, Hursh suggests that Obama's education policies result in contradictions that should be exposed and outcomes that might be resisted.

Rubenstein, Lustica Present at Conference

Bonnie Rubenstein, associate professor, and doctoral student Hennessey Lustica presented "Career Education: A Collaborative Integrated Approach" at the Annual Renewal and Reflection Conference, sponsored by the Western New York School Counselors Colloquium, in Rochester in February. The theme of this year's conference was "Finding Our Common Core."

The Center for Professional Development and Education Reform Holds Three-Day Institute

Twenty elementary and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) teachers from across the Rochester and Wayne-Finger Lakes regions spent part of their February break engaged in a professional learning experience that focused on high-quality mathematics instruction for all students. This three-day institute, sponsored by the Western New York Collaboration for ELL Success (Project CELLS) and taught by a team of local math and ESOL educators, examined how to support learners with diverse language needs to reason with numbers and operations across the elementary grades. Using the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics as a backdrop, teachers engaged in experiences to deepen their own understanding of mathematical concepts and the proficiencies reflected in the standards. Through video clips, case studies, and professional readings, teachers developed images of what it means to cultivate and maintain high-quality mathematics instruction for all learners and to support language development through mathematical concepts. The Center and Project CELLS will offer this Institute again, along with other institutes in math and science, in summer 2015.

White Cowrites Position Statement

Julia White, assistant professor, cowrote the position paper "Will Cameras in Classrooms Make Schools Safer?" for TASH, a disability advocacy organization. The statement was in response to the ongoing effort to keep all students safe in schools, including students with disabilities. The authors' research demonstrates that installing video cameras only in "special education classrooms" creates or strengthens a bias toward restrictive settings; encourages abuse to go underground; presents the risk that students with disabilities themselves may become targets of surveillance; and raises questions about privacy rights. [Read the paper.](#)

Clark-Taylor Awarded Fellowship

Doctoral student Angela Clark-Taylor '12W (MS), program manager at the University's Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies, has been awarded a Community Innovation Fellowship by e:Gender (formerly the National Council for Research on Women). This Fellowship offers awardees the opportunity to participate in a program designed to enhance their leadership and project development skills and help strengthen their ability to shine a "gender lens" on the work of their host nonprofit organizations, either through sharpening a current program or developing a new one.



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