

Elementary Education Department News



Spring 2017

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What's New?

Welcome to the Elementary Education Department! We are well into the spring semester and are very excited to share and celebrate our faculty, students and upcoming news with you. ENJOY!



On Thursday, March 16, 2017, Dr. Marcia Watson (ELED) hosted a poverty simulation for Towson students and faculty entitled: "Race, Poverty, and Education." This event was sponsored by Elementary Education Department and featured other COED faculty, including: Dr. Jack Cole, Dr. Lynn Cole, Dr. Sandra Deltac, and Dr. Cole Reilly.

The 2-hour event took place in West Village Ballrooms A & B from 5:00-7:00pm. This year's simulation had a specific focus on urban schools. The goal of the simulation experience was for Towson students to better understand poverty and identify the pervasive effects it has on everyday life (specifically in education). The event also addressed other intersecting variables, including: housing, race, immigration, healthcare, workforce development, and criminal justice.

This year's poverty simulation event had 130+ attendees, including: students, faculty, BCPS and Baltimore City teachers, community members, and even university administrators. Towson faculty members from eleven different departments attended the simulation event and represented the College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts and Communication, and Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. Additionally, several community partners also attended the event. Some of the participating community partnerships included: Baltimore City Schools, Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore Partnership for Environmental Science Literacy, The Cary Institute, University of Maryland at Baltimore County, and Vardavas & Concannon, P.A.

To Teach is to Touch Lives Forever

Guest Speakers Visit ELED 202 Classrooms

Guest speakers will be visiting the College of Education this spring! The following individuals will be sharing their stories about urban education within ELED 202 classrooms during a variety of panel discussions:

- Aimy Avila (TU and EDUC 202 Alumni) who is currently the after school Site Coordinator for Reading, Rhythm, and the Arts at Lyndhurst Elementary (BCPS) funded by the Akoben Foundation will share about the importance of after school programs in urban educational settings. Aimy will be attending Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Urban Education in the fall of 2017.
- Alexis Acciani, the Community Engagement Associate of the non profit, Reading Partners, will be sharing about the types and needs of literacy programs in urban schools.
- Don Dillingham, veteran educator for Montgomery County Public Schools, will be exploring special education and diversity in Maryland public schools with the EDUC 202 students.
- Lisalee Egbert, currently an instructor in Deaf Studies, with a signing translator, will be sharing her expertise on the state of education for not only the Deaf in schools but their instructors and respective classrooms.

“We have been pleased by the amount of the TU students that **continue** their tutoring relationship with Reading Partners in Baltimore urban elementary schools long **after** their EDUC 202 class ends! I am also very excited because Aimy Avila was a former student of mine - I am very proud of her,” said Elementary Education Professor Saundra Deltac.

Towson University's Short Term International Program Office offers great opportunities for students

For the last year Assistant Professor Saundra Deltac has been partnering with Towson University's Short Term International Program Office. They plan and coordinate customized short-term international programs throughout the year, bringing students, teachers, principals and administrators, faculty, staff and business professionals from overseas institutions and governments to Towson University for educational training and cultural learning experiences. (<https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/shortterm/>)

A variety of international individuals and groups come to Towson for short periods for different reasons. In addition to experiencing an American academic setting and cultural visits to nearby sites (i.e. NYC, DC, Lancaster, etc.), many choose to take courses at Towson's English Language Center (<http://www.towson.edu/academics/international/englishlanguagecenter/>) to improve their literacy in English. In particular, many are hungry for authentic communication with native speakers. When invited to Dr. "D"'s classroom, visitors read the assigned material, discuss with TU students, observe different instructional styles, and participate in presentations. Engaging with this international program, not only has she opened a new world to the linguistically and culturally diverse visitors, but also created a new avenue of discourse: College of Education students learning from linguistically diverse students.

Dr. Deltac's international guests visit both EDUC 202: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives on Urban Education and ELED 357: Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Learners in the Classroom. German high school students share in small groups about their education system; ELED 202 students worked with university students from the Business College of Guadalajara, Mexico worked to help them understand the history behind the No Child Left Behind policy. Those same students watched a documentary and a Hollywood movie about Mexican immigrants and what schools can be like for Mexican students once they arrive. Then they watched nervous ELED 357 students present their film analysis to their TU classmates and the Latino guests. Although emotionally provocative to watch, the films succeeded in generating significant, small group conversations filled with compassion and bonding.

Dr. Deltac insists that the benefits are global in the sense that not only do the internationals get to be a part of an authentic learning environment, but their perspectives enlighten COE students. COE students get to learn about alternative education models and how instruction occurs in other countries. Case in point, a debate occurred between two EDUC 202 students: they strongly discussed the verity behind the "pull yourself up by the bootstrap" myth. When questioned, the Korean students at the table, commented that neither the collaboration nor the debate would be allowed in a Korean university setting. The TU students were stunned and when they inquired why an evocative conversation ensued about Korean education methods.

As the College of Education seeks to diversify its student recruitment, let us not forget that there is a wealth of opportunities for interdisciplinary and international exchanges already on campus. Reach out and connect today!





ELED Students: Consider applying to the M.Ed in Reading Education after you graduate and have taught in your own classroom at least one year!

Important Dates:

March 19-26: Spring Break

March 27: Class resume

April 10: Last day to withdraw from full semester courses

May 16: Last day of classes

May 17-May 23: Final exams

May 26: Commencement – College of Education

SOMIRAC Conference is coming soon!

*45th Annual SoMIRAC Conference
Theme: Charging Up With Literacy
March 29-March 31, 2017*

*Hosted by Natalie Stephenson
Conference Chairperson*

*Hunt Valley Inn
245 Shawan Road
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031*

Guest Speakers include:

Dr. Timothy Shanahan

Dr. Ernest Morrell

Dr. Patricia Edwards

Drew Daywait

Monica Burns

Julie Ramsay

Register using this link: <http://www.somirac.org/somirac-conference-2017.html>



New Tiger in Town!!!



Congratulations to our REED Department's Meghan Liebfreund! Baby Eleanor Grace arrived on March 22, 2017 weighing in at 4 lbs., 10 oz. Both mom and baby are doing well!

Recent Publications and Presentations

Dr. Cole Reilly presented twice at Kennesaw State University. The titles of his presentations were:

“Education Trumps Ignorance: Culturally Conscious Teaching & Learning in Difficult and Troubling Times” and “An Evolution of Disney Princesses”

New Book on the Shelf!

***Navigating
Assessment with
Linguistically
Diverse Learners*
Information Age
Publishing, Inc.**

By: Keri-Anne Croce,
Towson University



Summer Opportunity for Undergraduates

Maryland Writing Project is offering one-week, unpaid internships for teaching writing to English Language Learners (ELLs) in a summer writing camp. Interns will teach alongside experienced teachers and help ELLs create digital stories.

Dates: July 31-August 4

Times: 8:30-1:30 each day

Where: Norwood Elementary School, Baltimore County

Eligibility: All interns must be accepted into the ELED or ELED/ECED program

Each intern will receive a letter of recommendation documenting their experience and contributions to ELLs' success in writing. For more information, please contact Vicki McQuitty at vmcquitty@towson.edu.

Dr. Gilda Martinez-Alba was selected to be a TESOL Ambassador for the TESOL International Convention in Seattle. Congratulations, Gilda!

"I love the TESOL conventions! Having attended numerous different ELL-related conferences over the years, I believe this is THE conference for English language educators. I always tell people: "If you can only go to one conference, this is the one." There are thousands of people to meet, and it is extremely well organized.

"You can also truly find a variety of topics in the presentations to meet your needs. I love how you can attend regular presentations, poster sessions, and IS meetings, and then just pop into the Electronic Village. What is not to love? I am so there, and I hope you are, too!"



Voices of Baltimore: Portraits of Living through and Attending Schools during the Era of Legal Segregation

Gary Homana, Morna McDermott McNulty, and Franklin Campbell Jones

Premiered March 6, 2017

Critical Issues in Education Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana

This full length film captures and preserves the rich oral histories of an aging and diminishing population of African Americans. The narratives document the relevant lives of individuals who attended segregated schools and/or desegregation before and following the 1954 Supreme Court *Brown v Board of Education* ruling.

Some comments by the audience:

"The film deepened my understanding of segregation. It gave the problem a face – I loved it. I would love to use it as a way to teach history in my English Comp class. I teach Native Americans and I can see this resonating with them."

"This was really powerful! I did not know all of the history and profound impact this has on the students we serve. I think it would be very eye opening for my rural "white" students that do not have exposure to these stories and how it affects our ever growing community beyond Missouri."

"I think we often view segregation as a predominantly "south" issue and often contextualize it as such. As the film mentioned, we need to be unafraid to discuss issues in order to move forward. It can't just be swept under the rug. This perspective has universal application. It can benefit students, pre-service teachers, teachers, administrators and others."

"I work at an urban university serve 70% minority students. I would love to show this to staff and students. Thank you!"

Voices of Baltimore will be available soon. The authors are also in the beginning stages of developing a curriculum guidebook. All resources will be free and available to the public on a website also under construction. Congrats to Gary and Morna on this accomplishment!

Editor, Rebecca A. Maloy, Lecturer, Department of Elementary Education