

School of Education and
Professional Studies

Newsletter

Summer 2017 • Volume XVIII



 **Potsdam**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Dean's Update 2017



Dr. Robyn Hosley, Interim Dean
Class of '77
Professor Emerita

The faculty and staff in the School of Education and Professional Studies remain committed to preparing our students to be the best in their field.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Interim Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies since January 2016. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Walter J. Conley will be serving as the Interim Dean beginning July 1, 2017. Walt has been a leader on the SUNY Potsdam campus for several years and joins us from the Department of Biology in the School of Arts & Sciences.

The School of Education and Professional Studies includes successful programs in Elementary and Secondary Education with advanced programs in C & I, Literacy and Inclusive and Special Education, Business Administration, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and Community Health, which includes Wilderness Education and our newest major, Exercise Science.

We were fortunate to have several successful faculty searches this year. We will be welcoming a new faculty member in Inclusive and Special Education and a new Community Health Internship Coordinator, as well as welcoming new faculty in Accounting, Human Resource Management, and Information Technology Management to our Business Administration Department.

The faculty and staff in the School of Education and Professional Studies remain committed to preparing our students to be the best in their field, as evidenced by the wide variety of articles included in the newsletter. I continue to be amazed by their dedication to our SUNY Potsdam students and hope you enjoy the stories that describe our students' experiences attending conferences and participating in academic competitions. It is a source of pride that our students continue to excel when competing with peers from other institutions.

Enrollment continues to be a focus for everyone on campus, as we strive to reach our program and department enrollment goals. We are working on several new program proposals that we feel have great potential for generating new enrollment or retaining current students. Special thanks to every faculty and staff member for continuing to share the message of what makes a SUNY Potsdam education so special with our current and prospective students.

We are looking forward to continuing the collaboration established with St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, and are especially excited about the new Education Careers Academy that will be housed on campus. This full-day program will provide area high school seniors with the opportunity to earn up to 15 college credits while finishing their high school courses.

We remain grateful to our faculty and alumni for their continued support for so many of our school initiatives. We can't thank you enough for your much-needed and greatly-appreciated financial support.

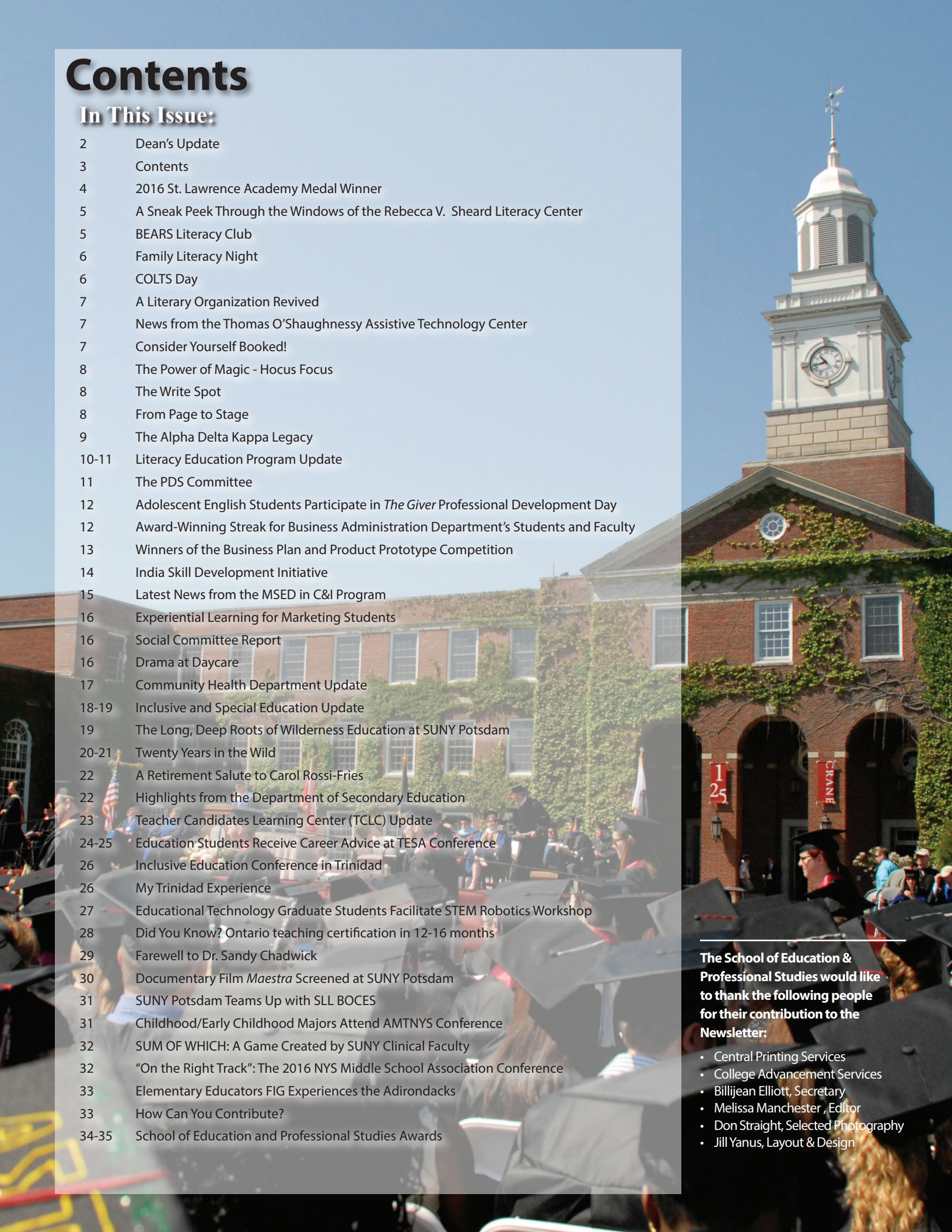
- Through generous donations to the School for support of scholarships; academic departments; the Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center's Literacy mentoring, The Write Spot, and Branching Out with Books programs; the Math and Science Education Center; the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology; and the School's unrestricted fund.
- Through volunteering on advisory boards, such as the School of Education Alumni Board, the Business Administration Council, and the Sheard Literacy Center Advisory Board.
- Through returning to campus to speak to students at events such as the April 2017 TESA Conference session with alumni superintendents and principals.
- Through hosting our teacher candidates for crucial field experiences and student teaching placements, and hosting our Community Health and Business Administration students in internships.

Your ongoing contributions allow us to maintain the high level of excellence and quality of instruction SUNY Potsdam is known for.

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Jean Lemieux Pottle '68 Honored with the 2016 St. Lawrence Academy Medal at Reunion Weekend

Nancy Griffin

The School of Education Alumni Association honored Jean Lemieux Pottle, Class of 1968, with the 2016 St. Lawrence Academy Medal at the College's annual Reunion Weekend in July 2016.

Jean was a non-traditional student at Potsdam when she earned her bachelor's degree in 1968 and master's in 1972. She began her career teaching seventh and eighth grades at St. Lawrence Central Schools in Brasher Falls. Later, she taught at SUNY Potsdam's Campus School, where she designed innovative curricula for grades five through eight, including multi-graded classrooms, open classrooms, and self-contained classrooms.

In 1989, Jean became a consultant educator for the Research Foundation of New York, overseeing the administration of several Dwight D. Eisenhower Grants. For the next ten years, Jean was responsible for the team of educators that provided summer professional development programs for math and science teachers in schools throughout the North Country. The team designed and presented one- and two-week workshops for elementary, middle, and high school teachers, using campus resources as well as field activities designed to highlight the Adirondack region's natural and cultural resources. She also wrote curriculum materials that were distributed to participants and area schools. Jean's work was well ahead of its time, providing modeling and interdisciplinary approaches to teaching in language arts, physical and life sciences, and technology.

Jean's career also included eight years as a librarian and English instructor at Mid-State College in Auburn, Maine. In addition to her

teaching, Jean is author of 11 books and numerous journal articles on teaching and writing across the curriculum, and integrating science and language arts in the classroom.

Throughout her career, Jean was always extremely supportive of her colleagues, with boundless enthusiasm, energy and creativity. One of her campus colleagues said that "she possesses those qualities we all value in teachers – a passion for her subject, the ability to see beyond boundaries, and the energy and enthusiasm to always move forward with her ideas and commitment." Another colleague praised her spirit of congeniality, effective working relationships with her colleagues, and selfless dedication to her students.



Jean Lemieux Pottle '68 (center) was presented the 2016 St. Lawrence Academy Medal by David Vroman '83, President of the School of Education Alumni Association, and SUNY Potsdam President Kristin G. Esterberg.

About the St. Lawrence Academy Medal

SUNY Potsdam's School of Education Alumni Association awards the St. Lawrence Academy Medal each year to an alumnus or alumna of the School of Education and Professional Studies who has distinguished himself or herself in the field of education and whose contributions have been exceptional.

Candidates must be alumni of the School of Education who have, through significant contributions to the field of professional education or a related field, dignified the professions of teaching or community health study, research and practice either directly or indirectly in political, social or financial ways.

Letters of nomination must include a completed nomination form and the following materials:

1. Three additional letters of support
2. Resume of College activities and positions held
3. Endeavors and accomplishments since graduation
4. Present position, family, address and phone numbers

Deadline is February 1

For more information and a nomination form, please visit:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/alumni/awards/medal.cfm> or call (315) 267-2515



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A Sneak Peek Through the Windows of the Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center

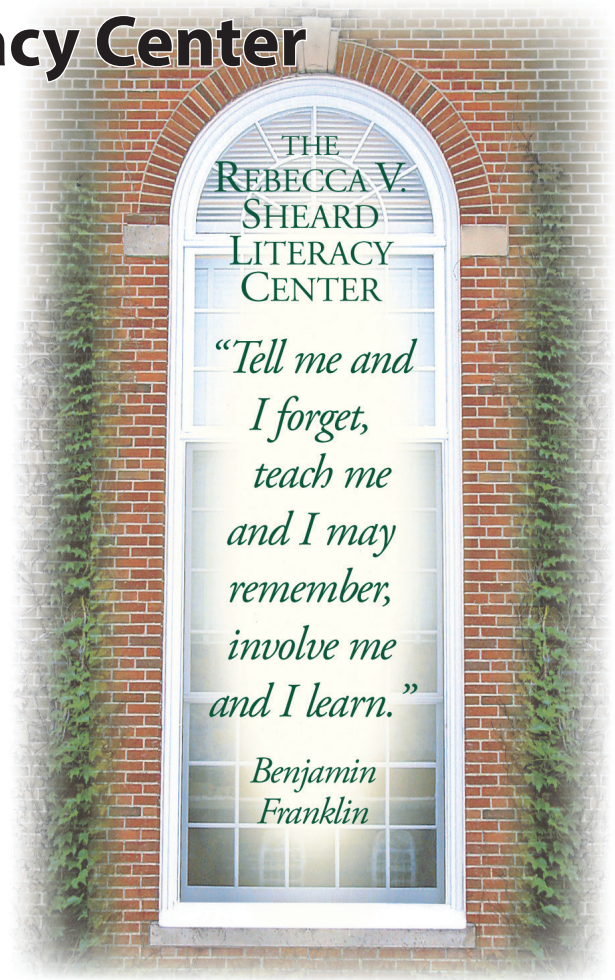
Nestled in Potsdam's Satterlee Hall, the Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center is a retreat for education and non-education members alike. A much-referred to quote by Benjamin Franklin at the Center reads, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." Everything we do at the Literacy Center is a result of this core belief.

Involving our college students in authentic experiences to strengthen their college experience and better prepare them to become teachers is at the heart of the mission at the Center. As a result, we are able to offer enriching experiences to our campus and community.

The Sheard Literacy Center also supports the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology as well as the Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Instruction.

Over the past thirteen years, more than 38,000 college students have been involved in authentic learning experiences through these centers. Approximately 300,000 school children have been immersed in literacy, mathematics, science, and assistive technology enrichment. Over 11,000 local educators, college instructors, and professors have also collaborated to benefit both college students and school-age children.

The work at the Sheard Literacy Center is certainly a collective effort. Many college professors and instructors collaborate to offer authentic experiences to our students and community. The Center is also 99% alumni donor and grant funded. We are so very thankful for our donors and college professors/instructors. Due to their generosity and involvement, we are able to positively impact learning from birth through senior citizens.



BEARS Literacy Club (Building Education and Academic Reading Success)

Jessica Quimby – Graduate Assistant, Sheard Literacy Center & Tina Wilson Bush – Director, Sheard Literacy Center

The Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center has been home to the Literacy Center mentoring program for thirteen years. The mentoring program has recently adopted a new name, BEARS (Building Education and Academic Reading Success) Literacy Club. This club has approximately 120 students per week (240 per year) from local area schools in grades pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. Each week these students (mentees) join teacher candidates (mentors) in the education program at SUNY Potsdam to explore the wonders of literacy!

BEARS Literacy Club works in conjunction with the lab portion of an introductory literacy course at Potsdam. In this lab course, students are given the tools and techniques to execute model lesson plans during mentoring as well as create lesson plans of their own.

Each year outstanding mentoring awards are given to four college students at the School of Education and Professional Studies Award Ceremony. This award was established in honor of Dr. Patricia Ruggiano Schmidt '65 and her husband, Thomas. Throughout her entire career, Patty served

children and their education. Patty retired from Le Moyne University in Syracuse as a literacy professor. She is also an accomplished scholar and author; an active volunteer for her campus community and alma mater; and a generous contributor to many organizations, including the Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center at SUNY Potsdam. Given Patty's commitment and passion for education, literacy, diversity, and the Literacy Center, this award is given in her honor.

The recipients of this award participated in the BEARS Literacy Club as mentors for the 2016-2017 academic year. The four individuals receiving this award have demonstrated excellence through their professional demeanor, such as well-prepared lessons, punctuality, and love and respect for children, and they have served as positive role models to their fellow mentors as well as to the elementary students they serve. The Outstanding Mentor awards will be presented to Michelle Albrecht, Alexis Currier, Alexandra Sprague, and Michelle Terrance. Congratulations to these recipients and a sincere thank you to Patty and Thomas Schmidt!

Family Literacy Night

Miriam Rendon, Graduate Assistant Intern
Lindsay LaSala, Literacy Center Mentor Program Coordinator

On March 8, SUNY Potsdam's Sheard Literacy Center held its third Family Literacy Night. The Albany Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) and the Potsdam Public Library were featured at this event as well. Family Literacy Night is dedicated to supporting literacy development through fun activities. Parents were invited to attend the event with their children. This year's Happy Camper theme was a huge success with over 80 parents and children in attendance.

The collaboration of 50 of Dr. Marta Albert's GRED 660-661 and Dr. Lynn A. Hall's EDLS 207 college students allowed parents to learn easy tips and tricks to support literacy development at home. Students developed 15 different work stations, each focusing on various literacy skills. This differentiated instruction successfully targeted the needs of a wider audience. One station was a phonetic center focusing on developing speech sounds using everyday items. Parents were able to observe and practice how to further support their children at home.

During Family Literacy Night, the Sheard Literacy Center was also hosting their Scholastic Book Fair. Each child in attendance was given a book to take home. Fun was had by all, especially when Clifford, The Big Red Dog, made his celebrity appearance.

Family Literacy Night is a great way to support the community and our very own SUNY Potsdam students. Interactive educational events such as this one really benefit our future teachers, as well as the community. A special thank you is given to graduate student Jessica Quimby '18, who spearheaded the entire event. Without her passion and dedication, the night would not have been so successful.

Special thanks as well to our Alpha Alumni Association friends whose generous endowment provided the financial resources to support this program! From our college students and community children, THANK YOU friends!



COLTS Day

Morgan Lindsay, Arts Intern

On Friday, April 7 on the SUNY Potsdam campus, Community Performance Series and the Sheard Literacy Center proudly hosted the 2nd Annual COLTS Day, an event that welcomes all of the student body from Colton-Pierrepont Central School to the SUNY Potsdam campus for a day immersed in the arts. With the help of student volunteers from the Crane School of Music, the Department of Theatre & Dance and the School of Education & Professional Studies acting as instructors, this annual event provided participants and instructors with valuable experience.

The SUNY Potsdam students challenged their leadership abilities by working with groups of children and creating fun ways to engage them in topics such as music, theatre, dance, and movement. Children were able to participate in interactive games that enabled them to master concepts within the arts disciplines while having an incredibly fun time.

The Performing Arts Center was filled with laughter and excited chatter throughout the day as children eagerly danced an Irish jig with a parachute and played games like hoedown and pass the beat, altering their movements to match various types of music.

“COLTS Day is one of my favorite days of the year. As an education major, it's so great to actually be working with the kids within the arts disciplines. It's a great group and we're very fortunate to have the facilities to maintain something like this and the organizational teams to be able to run something like this,” said Maiorana Holden, a Music Education major in the Crane School of Music.

The most exciting part of this day took place as the Colton-Pierrepont students were led into the Performing Arts Center lobby to participate in a group picture and enjoy an excerpt from a performance called *Give My Regards*, a production that showcased the most prominent and innovative musicals throughout Broadway's history. *Give My Regards* was funded and sponsored by the SUNY Potsdam Lougheed-Kofoed (LoKo) Festival and will be performed in its entirety as part of the festival on May 1 and 2.

“Our production wanted to have an educational outreach component and today we were lucky enough to be able to perform at COLTS Day. We're really excited to be able to share our music with students and educate them about theatre and production, as well as a little bit about Broadway,” said *Give My Regards* Producer Morgan Cluck.

As the performance began, children, college students, and teachers were stunned into silence by the talented cast. The children's excitement mounted when there was a pause in the show specifically for a dance party. As the day came to a close, children reluctantly grabbed their belongings in order to climb back onto their respective school buses. As they headed out, they could be heard gushing to one another about their favorite games and activities from the day.

A Literary Organization Revived!

Carol MacDonald-Schmidt, Graduate Assistant/Sheard Literacy Center

Tina Wilson Bush, Director/Sheard Literacy Center

The Alpha Literary Society may sound like an unfamiliar name on campus; however, this organization has been affiliated with our campus since 1886. The society has been committed to giving back in the name of literacy for many years. (Please see “The Alpha Delta Kappa Legacy: Lifelong Friendships and a Love of Learning” in this newsletter for more information.)

This year the organization started again in full force with their first membership event. The Sheard Literacy Center, in partnership with the Alpha Alumni Association and a group of college students, revived the Alpha Literary Society!

The goals and activities the Alpha Literary Society have discussed thus far are community outreach programs, such as reading books to local elementary schools as well as to clients at local nursing homes. Sponsoring a book club has also been discussed to help members express and even find their love of literacy. In order to integrate the different levels of students, undergraduate and graduate, the organization plans to utilize the skills of alumni in order to better prepare the next generation for their futures. One example of this will be through an event that is currently being planned for the fall semester regarding career development.

At this time, the Alpha Literary Society has approximately 25 members ranging from undergraduates to graduates and encompassing all majors in education. The organization is open to any member of the School of Education. The current membership is made up of Childhood/Early Childhood Education, Art Education, Literacy Specialist, Special Education, and the Masters in Teaching programs. In the future, the Alpha Literary Society would like to expand our membership to students in the Secondary Education Department to completely integrate the School of Education into this organization.

The Literacy Center is thrilled to co-sponsor a student-led literary organization and looks forward to the positive impact this group will have on our campus and community. A special thank you to our Alpha Alumni Association friends for investing in the Sheard Literacy Center and our mission. Your involvement has humbled and inspired us.



News from the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Assistive Technology Center

Cindy Wells, Coordinator of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology and Instructor

Coordination of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Assistive Technology Center has provided an opportunity to reach out to our college population and community in numerous ways. Along with organizing artist Kevin Spencer's visit to campus, the Center has been able to provide several other services to the college. Lab hours have been established to offer Assistive Technology (AT) support to our college students to review types of programming available for academic assignment completion. Informative outreach to our elementary and secondary education students has promoted understanding and presented examples of how AT can be implemented in a classroom setting. To promote connectivity to our area colleges, we have established collaboration efforts with Lisa Tebo, Coordinator of the Early Childhood satellite of the Adirondack Regional Technology Center, which is a federally-funded AT lending library housed on the Clarkson Campus. Future plans for the Center include broader outreach to our immediate campus community along with expansion of information available electronically, linked to the Sheard Literacy Center pages on the SUNY Potsdam website.

Consider Yourself Booked!

Sheryl Scales and Carolyn Stone of the Literacy program are co-chairs of an upcoming literacy conference entitled Journey Into Literacy: Applying a Diversity of Perspectives. The conference will be held October 26-27, 2017 in the Barrington Student Union, Thatcher Hall, and Satterlee Hall locations. The conference will feature best-selling and nationally-recognized authors Sharon Draper, Henry Cole, and Kate Messner. Additionally, special guest speakers Ciona Rouse and Lisa Wilde will be featured, and SUNY Potsdam alumni will present workshops and sessions on varied topics in the field of literacy. Current School of Education and Professional Studies students as well as area educators and administrators are welcome to attend. The conference is generously sponsored by the SUNY Potsdam Center for Applied Learning and St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES. All information and registration is available on the website, www.journeyintoliteracy.com.

The Power of Magic - Hocus Focus

Cindy Wells, Coordinator of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology and Instructor



Tina Wilson Bush, Director of the Sheard Literacy Center, and Cindy Wells, Coordinator of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center, in collaboration with Patti Mason, Educator Director of Community Performance Series (CPS), and Tracy Wanamaker, Music in Special Education Coordinator, Crane School of Music, planned a unique college residency opportunity for high school and college students, area educators, and college faculty in February.

Our visiting artist, Kevin Spencer, is an illusionist, who has more recently become involved in researching the use of magic to increase learning performance through a program entitled Hocus Focus (<http://www.hocusfocuseducation.com/>). Kevin visited college classes and the Education and Human Services BOCES class (housed in Flagg Hall), followed by a day of professional development with over 60 attendees. During these sessions, he demonstrated ways in which magic can be integrated with learning tasks as a powerful tool to promote engagement. Kevin's current research assesses growth in several key areas, and his findings show that cognition, communication, motor skills, social skills, and creativity all show overall improvement while using this approach. These essential skills transfer to heightened overall academic success.



One of the messages most strongly communicated via the evaluations from this visit was "bring Kevin back for a second day of training – this was amazing!" We thank Corning, Inc. for their financial support in helping make this visit possible.

The Write Spot

Cindy Wells, Coordinator of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology and Instructor

This spring the Sheard Literacy Center successfully sponsored the after-school writing program, The Write Spot, for the sixth year. Fifteen middle and high school students signed up for the program from Colton-Pierrepont and Potsdam Central Schools, along with a home-schooled student. College students from our MST and graduate level programs volunteered to serve as mentors for the program. One of the highlights this semester was a visit by a local author who spoke about generating ideas and the art of writing to an audience. When the young authors attending the program were asked to share their thoughts about their experience, commenters said, "We really enjoyed being able to attend this program as it gave us better ideas on how to get started on a non-directed writing project and be able to bring it to completion," and "This program is very positive in its nature and the mentors' encouragement is a factor in our continued improvement and returning semester after semester."

The five-week program culminated with a celebration during which family and friends honored the efforts of our authors and thanked the mentors. The Write Spot was established in 2012 via an endowed scholarship made by SUNY Potsdam alumni Claire (Freedman) and Martin Koshar '56.

From Page to Stage

Cindy Wells, Coordinator of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology and Instructor

The Sheard Literacy Center hosted 52 students and nine teachers on our campus from area high schools in March. While here, they participated in activities and professional development in preparation for a second visit to the campus in May to see the play *The Giver*, performed by the National Players, a professional theater group. Our Secondary English Education students from Joanne Stiles' class gained authentic experience teaching high school students lessons they had created around major themes presented in the book.

Several teachers participated in a breakout session with Cindy Wells, exploring innovative ways to help their students increase engagement and build stronger connections to the book. High school and college students participated in active learning "conversation roundtables" led by Trudy Caswell-Ryan '96 from Madrid-Waddington Central School and Rachel (Arey) Cook '06 from Norwood-Norfolk Central School – both secondary English teachers. This event was sponsored by The Sheard Literacy Center and Community Performance Series (CPS).

The Alpha Delta Kappa Legacy: Lifelong Friendships and a Love of Learning

Nancy Griffin

Alpha Delta Kappa's roots at Potsdam are more than 125 years old, having been founded as an honorary literary society in 1886. Through the years, Alpha sisters have shared a special bond of friendship that endures long after they leave Potsdam. Many sisters also share a love of teaching and learning, whether they nurtured learning as teachers in the classroom or as mothers in the home.

The Alpha Children's Book Collection

In honor of their love of learning, a group of Alpha sisters, led by Joyce (Barnholt) Yianoukos '71, completed a successful book drive to collect children's books for SUNY Potsdam's Sheard Literacy Center. More than 1,500 books were donated to be used by the 250+ local school children who come to the Center after school to be mentored by education students.

The Alpha and Friends Challenge

To further strengthen the Alpha legacy, a group of sisters conducted a special fund drive to create "The Alpha and Friends Fund," with the goal of building a significant endowment to provide ongoing financial support for the Sheard Literacy Center. To that end, Jackie (Tantillo) Aab '71 offered a challenge: If the College raised \$60,000 for the Literacy Center, she would match donations dollar-for-dollar.

We are happy to report that the \$60,000 goal has been met, thus earning Jackie's match to create a



A group of Alpha Delta Kappa alumnae visited campus in October 2016 to celebrate the successful completion of the Alpha and Friends Endowment challenge in support of SUNY Potsdam's Sheard Literacy Center in Satterlee Hall. Alpha alumna Jackie Tantillo Aab '71 (second from right) matched the first \$60,000 in gifts to the fund, thereby raising more than \$120,000 in gifts and pledges for the Literacy Center. Assisting in the fund drive were committee members (from left) Ellen Davey Burns '59, Sandy Lawrence Tomalty '64, Barre Hobkirk Hall '65, Joyce Barnholt Yianoukos '71, Jackie Tantillo Aab '71, and Kathy Benson Elliott '73. Also on the committee was Kathy Jordan Londraville '75 (not pictured).

\$120,000 endowment for the Center. In recognition of the generosity of Alpha and Friends, a permanent sign is now displayed in the Center in gratitude for Alpha's "generosity and dedication to making a difference in improving the lives of all who pass through our doors."

The New Alpha Literary Society

Building on the organization's 148-year history and the recent good work of Alpha alumnae in support of the Sheard Literacy Center, a group of students has organized the new Alpha Literary Society. Advised by Literacy faculty member Cindy Wells, with assistance from Literacy Center Director Tina Bush, the Alpha Literary Society is a student-led organization that promotes literacy, learning, and success. The group held its first meeting in March 2017 and now has a membership of 25 students, representing Childhood/Early Childhood Education, Art Education, Literacy Specialist, Special Education and the Master's in Teaching programs. Organizers are also hoping to recruit Secondary Education students as well.

Activities being discussed include community outreach programs, such as reading books to local elementary students

and residents of local nursing homes. The group may also host a book club to allow members to express and perhaps even find their love of literacy. The organization plans to utilize the skills of Alpha alumnae to help better prepare the next generation of teachers. To that end, the students and alumnae are working together on plans for a career development event to take place in fall 2017.



The first meeting of the new Alpha Literary Society offered members the chance to win a prize from the raffle basket and receive a free book. Alpha Delta Kappa alumnae are invited to participate in the events of the new organization by assisting in various campus and community activities in support of the Sheard Literacy Center.

Literacy Education Program Update

In 2016-2017, the Literacy Education program members' commitment to collaboration helped strengthen several unique course and program experiences and inspired new initiatives. We continued to ensure our graduate program candidates have the knowledge and leadership experience to serve our school partners at the highest level. We also taught a variety of literacy-focused courses for initial certification in elementary, secondary, and arts educator programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In all of these courses, we share research-based best practices in literacy and forge creative alliances to highlight cross-curricular connections. Also during the year, we continued to engage with our alumni and connect them with current students to provide perspectives from the field. We look forward to deepening our alumni connections through networking with regional educators as we head toward our biennial Journey Into Literacy Conference in fall 2017.

Applied learning in literacy continued this year in Associate Professor and Literacy Program Coordinator Marta Albert's fall 2016 Writing in Middle & High Schools course. For a fourth year, a literacy education class was involved in a writing- and research-focused partnership project with Jennifer Hutchins, Salmon River Middle School AIS literacy teacher and Literacy Specialist alumnus. This year, the partnership expanded to include Ray Bowdish, University Instructional Specialist in biology, and Amy Hollister, Salmon River Middle School science teacher and Biology alumnus. In the course, Marta's math, science, and social studies pre-service educators joined forces with Ray's students in his Sustainable Agriculture course to grow microgreens for PACES campus food service. The 8th grade partners also experimented with food production and conducted research about agriculture in the region. Through blog-based discussion using Edmodo, all of the students involved documented and connected the experience to Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma*, a book read by the middle schoolers and teacher education students. As a culminating experience, the 8th graders visited campus to attend Ray's class and to present the results of their research, which included designing interactive digital maps of local, healthy food sources, as well as brochures created to educate and inform consumers. All partners are looking forward to our "growing" collaboration in 2017-2018!

Associate Professor Lynn A. Hall continued to build upon her work to develop the campus collection of multicultural children's literature, enhance instruction in literacy courses related to inclusive practices about diversity and equity, and promote early literacy through creative and inclusive family literacy outreach projects. In summer 2017, Lynn and Sarah Sachs '82, Public Services Manager at the Potsdam Public Library, will present at the United Kingdom Literacy Association (UKLA) Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Their presentation, entitled "Going Beyond 'It's OK to be different!': Preservice Teachers' Responses to Multicultural Literature and the Utility of Employing Critical

Literacies in the Early Childhood Classroom," will explore the promise of engaging challenging questions while reading multicultural literature with children. Lynn and Sarah will then visit the UK's National Literacy Trust Hubs of Bradford, Middlesbrough and the Reading City Program in Liverpool to study rural and urban literacy programs that successfully bring long-term change to communities where low literacy levels are intergenerational and entrenched in the culture and way of life. In particular, Lynn and Sarah will examine the ways that programs thrive in the presence of austere budgets and increasingly diverse communities. To support literacy in local communities, Lynn's students created nearly six hundred take-home literacy kits for Family Literacy Nights at local schools and the campus Literacy Center. Made from common household materials, the literacy kits provide entertaining and tactile ways to master phonological concepts to support reading and writing fluency.

Kathryn Jeror presented with school partners Brooke Reid, Erin Casey, and Kaitlyn Baker at the New York State Reading Association Conference in the fall of 2016, representing the role of internships in a local school's efforts to build culture around literacy education, assessment, and intervention by adapting principles of data-driven instruction and students as partners in learning. Her current focus is on examining models of instructional coaching as they relate to literacy instruction and assessment. She served the C & I, Literacy, and Special Education Department as department chair.

It was a productive year for Dr. Sheryl Scales, Assistant Professor in the Literacy Education Program. She was busy teaching, presenting with colleagues at conferences, and working with colleagues to prepare next fall's Journey Into Literacy (JIL) Conference. Sheryl continued to enjoy teaching her graduate and undergraduate students and developing innovative and creative assignments. In the fall of 2016, Sheryl presented "The Utility of Focus Groups for Racial Justice Efforts in Predominantly White Institutions of Higher Education" with Dr. Matthew LaVine and Dr. Jennifer Mitchell at the Center for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (CIARS) at the University of Toronto. She was honored to co-present at this conference with her university colleagues and found the conference content to be exciting and stimulating.

In spring 2017, Sheryl presented "A Bridge Across Our Fears: Teaching Our Aspiring Teachers and Tutors Through Story" with Dr. Frankie Condon at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, OR. Working with Frankie was thrilling, and the pair is planning future collaborations. While in Portland, Sheryl had the good fortune of visiting BRAVO George, a Portland elementary public school featured on *NBC Nightly News*, and BRAVO Cesar Chavez. BRAVO Youth Orchestras is an arts partnership that provides conservatory-level music instruction to Portland elementary and middle school students who attend underserved schools. BRAVO's budding orchestra

students and Executive Director Seth Truby were gracious with their time, visiting with Sheryl and welcoming her to sit in on their evening rehearsals. Sheryl eagerly shared this experience with her Literacy in the Arts Education students.

Sheryl also presented “How Common Core Got it Right?! Let’s Explore Lesser Known Stories” at the Disciplined Inquiry in Education Seminar in April. This presentation outlined an innovative method to infuse fiction, nonfiction, and sociocultural issues into the classroom. As the spring 2017 semester closed, she looked forward to fall 2017 and meeting authors Sharon Draper, Henry Cole, and Kate Messner; poet Ciona Rouse; and graphic novelist Lisa Wilde, all of whom will all be participating in the Journey Into Literacy conference.

Carolyn Stone took on the role of Literacy Service Course Coordinator in the 2016-2017 academic year, under the new C & I, Literacy, and Special Education Department. In this role, she served as liaison between the Literacy Program and the Departments of Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Arts Education, attending meetings and coordinating scheduling of courses and instructors of all literacy service courses. Additionally, she collaborated with Dr. Deborah Conrad of the Department of Elementary Education in ongoing research and scholarly writing in the area of pre-service literacy education. Together, they have a manuscript under review for publication in *The Language and Literacy Spectrum* (NYSRA peer-reviewed journal). It is entitled “Preparing Today to Empower Future Leaders: Pre-service Teachers’ Experiences Selecting & Evaluating Children’s Literature for Quality and Use in PreK-6th Grade Integrated Literacy/Science Instruction.” Carolyn also continued to focus on community literacy outreach through two initiatives, the After-School Literacy Consortium (supervising interns in after-school literacy programs) and the biennial literacy conference Journey Into Literacy: Applying a Diversity of Perspectives (co-chaired with Dr. Sheryl Scales) to be held October 26-27, 2017. Finally, with Dr. Marta Albert, Carolyn is planning and leading a short-term study abroad course to Finland and Sweden during the spring 2018 semester.



Photo by Jason Hunter

The PDS Committee – Exploring Partnerships, Opportunities, and Best Practices in Teacher Preparation

Nicole Conant

The Center for School Partnerships and Teacher Certification at SUNY Potsdam launched a Professional Development Schools (PDS) Committee this spring. A group of 23 individuals were invited to participate. This committee includes various stakeholders, including public school teachers, college faculty, school administrators, and alumni, who meet once a month on SUNY Potsdam’s campus. Nicole Weakfall, an elementary teacher from Colton-Pierrepont Central School District who was asked to join the committee, stated, “As a teacher, it’s been a pleasure to serve with representatives from various stakeholder groups to develop ideas for how to further improve these partnerships and increase the teacher pipeline in the North Country. Colton-Pierrepont has had a great deal of success in partnering with SUNY Potsdam in several ways that have been mutually beneficial to our students and theirs.”

Pictured are Nicole Conant (Assistant Director, Center for School Partnerships and Teacher Certification), Thomas Burns (District Superintendent/CEO, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES), and Ronald Burke (Superintendent, Edwards-Knox Central School District) during a recent meeting. Thomas reflected on his involvement with the committee, saying, “The PDS Committee has been an excellent partnership between Higher Education and P-12 Educators. The past few years have been a time of great change in education, and the timing is right to have meaningful conversations about what the teachers of the future will need to be successful, and we have begun that process. We are also able to increase our collective capacity at a time when funding and resources are limited. Being an alumnus of SUNY Potsdam and the Teacher Ed program, I’m looking forward to our work and continuing partnership.”

More information on the committee can be found online at: www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/education/fieldexp/profdevschools

Mission Statement

Recognizing the value and importance of P-20 partnerships to the North Country Region, the PDS Committee at SUNY Potsdam is dedicated to uplifting the teaching profession while addressing the educational needs of the region. Developing a strategic vision for P-20 partnerships based on best practices will guide the committee’s work and steadfast commitment to the field of education.

Adolescent English Education Students Participate in *The Giver* Professional Development Day

Joanne Stiles

Adolescent English Education students participated in a Page to Stage professional development workshop on March 9. The focus was on Lois Lowry's novel *The Giver*. Each teacher candidate developed a lesson that provided a relevant connection to today's world. Topics for presentations were inspired by specific scenes or excerpts from *The Giver* novel. Presentation topics included euthanasia, totalitarian government, dystopian versus utopian societies, euphemisms and job assignments. Teacher candidates taught their lessons to small groups in 15-minute intervals throughout the morning; teaching it seven times gave them the authentic experience of adapting and changing to the audience's needs. Each lesson began with a connection to the novel and connecting to what the participants knew about the story. Lessons were interactive and required participants to engage with the topic. Fifty-three area students, which included eighth-, eleventh-, and twelfth-grade students, along with ten middle level and high school teachers, participated in the activities. For most of the Adolescent English Education majors, this was their first time teaching to adolescents. By the end of their session, they successfully presented to approximately 70 people. The event was hosted by the Sheard Literacy Center and the Community Performance Series. On May 12, the National Players will perform a stage version of *The Giver* in which area students are invited to participate.



Award-Winning Streak for Business Administration Department's Students and Faculty



This has been a semester of accomplishments and awards for both our students and faculty in the Department of Business Administration. We started the end of the academic year awards season with our students winning the Student Affairs Division Awards. Our graduating seniors, Nicholas Avery and Rebecca Fletcher, made us very proud by winning the Division of Student Affairs Awards. At the same awards ceremony, Sandra Cruz won the Shirley Merritt Memorial Award, and Jordan Bautista and Emily Schenck were recognized as Student Affairs Graduating Student Staff.

At the 2017 Learning and Research Fair, Rebecca Fletcher received third place in the Kilmer Undergraduate Research Awards for her research on "A New Kind of Electronic Medical Records in the US" under the mentorship of Dr. Shalu Wunnava.

This was followed by a stellar performance by our students at the Innovative Idea Competition of Economic Fusion 2017. Maxwell Beebe and Patrick Mylod won first prize for their RYDEless app. Maxwell came up with this original idea as part of his class project for Information Systems for Business. Jordan Bautista and Matthew Nugent won the second prize for their "Small Business Support System," a decision support system aimed at small businesses in the North Country. Taylor Lucas won the third prize for his app SWAP-R.

Our faculty have also had their share of wins this awards season. Dr. Joe Timmerman, Chair of the Business Administration Department, has won this year's President's Award for his exemplary contributions in the area of Community Service and Outreach. Dr. Ed Portugal won this year's President's Award for his tremendous contribution to Scholarship and Creative Activities over the years.

We as a department congratulate our students and faculty for a very successful semester and academic year. We are indeed very proud of them.

Winners of the Business Plan and Product Prototype Competition

Edwin J. Portugal

The winning team in the 47th Business Plan Competition in the Department of Business Administration presented and discussed their idea and prototype for an LED-backlit mirror with compartments for makeup accessories. The product can be attached to the back of dorm room doors for easy access and convenience. The team plans to sell the product called the “Mirror Diva” to college students. Members of the team were Megan Colle (Marcellus, NY), Craig Darcy (Sea Cliff, NY), Chris Gray (Plattsburgh, NY), Johnathan Jones (Brooklyn, NY), Stephen Lewis (West Stockholm, NY), and Xavier Ryan (Saratoga Springs, NY).

More than 35 students enrolled in Strategic and Global Management participated in the competition. Six different teams completed prototypes of their product ideas and created 100-page business plans. The teams made their 20-minute presentations in front of external judges who scored them based on the feasibility of their ideas, profitability potential, and clear consumer demand for their products.

The theme for the products in the fall 2017 semester was “doors,” so teams came up with ideas and built prototypes such as a door blind that transforms to a message center, a door handle lit by UV lights to kill germs, a gadget that surrounds existing door knobs that kills germs on contact, an organizer that hangs over doors, a makeup mirror attached behind doors, and a door stopper strong enough to deter home invasions. The teams also created marketing posters that were displayed on the second floor of Dunn Hall.

The judges announced the grand champion winner on May 10, 2017. Dr. Savita Hanspal, Dr. David Kistler, and Dan Hayes served on the panel of judges.

“Students experienced the anxiety of working in randomly-formed teams, the uncertainty of developing realistic business plans, the challenge of building the prototypes, the anguish of presenting to judges, and the exhilaration of competing with other teams,” said Professor Edwin J. Portugal, who pioneered the event. He said that students develop skills that could be valuable in their future employment.

“Just two weeks ago, I bumped into a former student from 23 years ago, and we ended up talking about her team project. She vividly remembered the product and business plan they created. She may have forgotten some of the theories of business, but the experiential challenge of working in teams and creating a business plan was quite memorable for her,” Edwin added.

The “Team Excellence Trophy Competition” was introduced in fall 1993. More than 800 students in the Business Administration program have participated over the past 24 years. The event is open to the public.

The Strategic and Global Management course is the capstone course in the Business Administration major. Students learn to integrate their knowledge of the functional business areas, such as accounting, finance, operations management, information systems for business, legal environment of business, human resources, principles of marketing, and principles of management. The class is heavily focused on active learning using class activities, such as debates, small group problem solving task forces, one-minute summaries, and one-minute elevator pitches.



Back, left to right: Megan Colle (Marcellus, NY), Craig Darcy (Sea Cliff, NY), Chris Gray (Plattsburgh, NY), Johnathan Jones (Brooklyn, NY), Stephen Lewis (West Stockholm, NY), and Xavier Ryan (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Front, left to right: Mr. Dan Hayes, Dr. David Kistler, Dr. Savita Hanspal, and Dr. Edwin J. Portugal

India Skill Development Initiative

Anthony Betrus

SUNY Potsdam has furthered their five-year relationship with the National Education Foundation (NEF) through a new partnership with a subsidiary of the NEF in India. The purpose of the partnership is, in the words of NEF CEO Dr. Appu Kuttan, to “make a difference” in the lives of students in the US and India, “especially the disadvantaged, their families, and communities.” To this end, SUNY Potsdam faculty in Business Administration and Educational Technology have developed a series of skill development courses for undergraduate seniors, with the intention of making them workforce-ready. These hybrid courses are available both at SUNY Potsdam and at institutions in India. The partnership involves the development and delivery of the courses, faculty development, and a transfer agreement to bring students from India to Potsdam to complete their Master of Science in Organizational Performance, Leadership, and Technology (OPLT), Curriculum & Instruction, or Educational Technology.

In March 2017, Dr. Anthony Betrus, Krista LaVack, and Joshua LaFave visited Delhi, Bangalore, and Mysore, hosted by the head of NEF-India, Professor M.B. Gururaj. During the NEF-funded trip, Anthony, Krista, and Joshua visited several potential partner universities, including:

- Amity University, Delhi
- RV College of Engineering, Bangalore
- CMR University, Bangalore
- BGS Group, Mysore
- Parivarthana Schools, Mysore
- De Paul School and College, Mysore
- Manipal University, Jaipur
(visited during a previous June 2016 visit)

In a recent meeting to debrief the trip, the SUNY Potsdam team was in unanimous agreement that establishing a collaborative relationship with the National Education Foundation India (NEF-India) will be a campus priority.

From left to right: Dr. Anthony Betrus, Joshua LaFave, Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Maha Swamiji (BGS Group), Krista LaVack, Professor M.B. Gururaj (NEF-India), Dr. Rame Gowda (BGS Group).



The SUNY Potsdam NEF-India team, from left to right: Dr. Shakuntala Das, Assistant Professor of Economics & Finance; Dr. Anthony Betrus, Professor of Educational Technology & Leadership; Dr. Shalu Wunnava, Assistant Professor of Business & Technology; Joshua LaFave, Director of Graduate Studies & Continuing Education; Dr. Anjali Misra, Professor of Special Education; Dr. Bette Bergeron, Provost; Dr. Savita Hanspal, Assistant Professor of Business & Marketing; Krista LaVack, Director of International Education & Programs; and Dr. Gregory Gardner, Associate Professor of Business & Leadership.



The Latest News from the MSED in C & I Program

Dr. Kathleen Valentine, Program Coordinator



Isaac Griffith



Lauren Stafford



Miriam Rendon and Ma Yining

The past academic year has brought many changes to the MSED in C & I program. Once housed in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction (Childhood Education), it now has a new home in the Department of C & I, Literacy, and Special Education. The MSED in C & I has developed concentrations for those students who wish to focus on a specific area of study in their choice of electives. These concentrations are Early Childhood Education, Intercultural Educator, Language Acquisition, Leadership in Education, Human Resource Educator, Technology Educator, and Wilderness Education. More information about the new changes to the MSED in C & I program can be reviewed at the program web site: <http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/education/departments/curriculum/curriculumandinstruction> At the present, Early Childhood Education and the Intercultural Educator concentrations have been selected by the 2016-17 graduate students. The Center for Graduate Studies and Kathleen Valentine have worked to ensure the message “gets out there” by updating the program website and highlighting concentrations in the Facebook page for the Center for Graduate Studies. The most recent highlight on Facebook has been for the Wilderness Education concentration.

Mark Simon and Adam Wheeler have met with Kathleen Valentine, Program Coordinator, to develop additional ways to not just advertise the benefits of an MSED in C & I with a Wilderness concentration but make connections to different undergraduate programs with majors that would benefit from a Wilderness concentration. Most recently, Mark Simon met with the Department of Environmental Studies to discuss the

benefits the Wilderness concentration would provide for their graduates.

MSED C & I Research News

This year, students in the program have conducted three research projects. Isaac Griffith successfully completed his research on “Relationships of Police in Minority Communities” and has graduated from the program. He is now finishing a master’s degree in sociology at St. Johns University in New York City and teaching as a graduate assistant at the university as well! Jamellah Lahens, Samantha Kelly, and Lauren Stafford successfully completed their research on “The Effects of Music on Students’ Recall Ability,” where they worked in close collaboration with The Smart Cookies Child Center in Potsdam. Ma Yining and Miriam Rendon are currently engaged in the Institutional Review Process and expect Board approval of their project within the next week.

The final news is about the new program proposal, the Advanced Certificate for College Teaching. Josh LaFave and Kathleen Valentine have worked in close collaboration on the development of the program proposal, and Peter Brouwer has agreed to teach one of the courses in the program. The entire certificate program will be delivered online with a hopeful start date of summer 2018. The idea for this program was the result of the October 13, 2016 meeting of SUNY Community College Chief Advancement Officers (CAO). At this meeting, the CAO expressed a strong need for an advanced certificate program for college faculty in pedagogy. Currently, it has been approved by the Department of C & I, Literacy, and Special Education; Academic Affairs; and the Dean of the School of Education. Impact statements have been received, and the program proposal has been sent to faculty senate.

Experiential Learning for Marketing Students

Dr. Savita Hanspal

Dr. Savita Hanspal, a new marketing faculty member, introduced experiential learning projects for her marketing students.

During fall 2016, students in the Marketing Research course researched student perceptions of campus student services by conducting interviews. Using insights from the data, they developed suggestions to further improve student satisfaction with these services, which included The College Store, Maxcy Hall, Becky's Place and Dexter's Café.

During spring 2017, students in International Marketing were introduced to a simulation that allowed them to explore market entry, segmentation, targeting, and the 4Ps (place, product, price, promotion) for selling toothpaste in different countries from the Latin American region. They were able to appreciate the differences in culture, competitors, and marketing approaches. Using this information, they made decisions on marketing different varieties of toothpaste in the selected countries and were able to understand how these decisions contributed to the profitability of their company.

In the Principles of Advertising course, students created advertising campaigns for different areas of campus, including the Student Success Center, the 5x5x5 Internship, and the Department of Business Administration. They also used a simulation to market bags using various social media marketing platforms.

The students enjoyed these experiential projects and took home learning that went beyond textbooks and connected them to the developments in the marketing field.

Social Committee Report

Carol Rossi-Fries

The Social Committee was busy this year with monthly events to bring faculty and staff together and to contribute to charitable causes. To start out the semester, the "Welcome Wagon" was rolled out for a luncheon in the faculty lounge. The food was delicious and the event well attended. The crisp October weather had us enjoying hot cider, donuts, and other treats in the lounge as Halloween drew near. In November, the SOE&PS faculty and staff were very generous in their contributions to the Campus Food Pantry as we sent over several boxes of food. That trend continued as we moved into the holiday season and, for the first time, put up a Mitten Tree. The tree quickly turned into a big box of hats, mittens, and scarves to donate to a local church for distribution. Secret Santa was a big hit, as always, and was a great way to end the semester. Coming back in February 2017, many attended a scrumptious brunch on their way to the by-laws meeting in Sheard, and in March, the call for more donations to the Food Pantry was answered. To celebrate spring's arrival (finally), a dessert bar was planned in April. Many thanks go to the members of the Social Committee and all those who participated in its events.

Drama at Daycare!

Susan Stacy

Small groups in EDUC 303: Learning Through Sensory and Creative Experiences each developed a puppet show to perform at the SUNY Potsdam Daycare Center in the spring. The groups met outside of class and the entire class met for an all-day work session on Saturday, February 25, to create the puppets, props, and background, as well as write the scripts for the shows. In an effort to address diversity, each group chose a culture to investigate, then rewrote a commonly-known folktale or children's story integrating various aspects of that culture. Countries and cultures represented in the various puppet shows included Spain, Russia, New Zealand, France, Greece, South Africa, and the Native American culture. The students enjoyed presenting their work to the children at the daycare center.



Community Health Department Update

This has been an exciting year for the Department of Community Health with many new changes. The new Exercise Science major has grown by leaps and bounds since it was approved in 2015. Since then, approximately 60 students are enrolled in the Exercise Science major and currently 11 students are completing the required internship. Our interns are working in a variety of areas, including occupational therapy clinics, physical therapy clinics, athletic strength and conditioning, and Army ROTC. One of our students, Anastasia George, is currently working on the Akwesasne Mohawk reservation with pregnant women offering prenatal yoga classes, wellness classes, and other activities to help support healthy pregnancies. We are excited to see how this new program grows and evolves.

Part of the evolution of the Exercise Science program has been adding new positions to support its growth. Dr. Christopher Torres, CSCS, is the new assistant professor in exercise science in the Department of Community Health. He earned his PhD in 2017 at The Ohio State University in Exercise and Physical Activity Behavior, where he also received his MA in Education with a specialization in exercise science. Christopher is a United States Weightlifting (USAW) Master Athlete and Sports Performance Coach and a National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Strength and Conditioning Coach. He has recently been appointed as the New York State Director for the NSCA. His scholarly work includes two peer-reviewed articles and presentations at local, national, and international venues. Outside of work, he enjoys a wide variety of sports, including cycling, volleyball, and tennis, but his favorite pastime is fishing.



Tanya Hewitt, MSEd, EP-C, CSCS, CHES, is the Exercise Science Coordinator in the Department of Community Health. A graduate of Buffalo State College and SUNY Potsdam, Tanya has over 15 years of experience in the field of fitness and exercise science. Tanya is certified through the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Prior to joining SUNY Potsdam in 2006 as the Fitness Center Director, Tanya coordinated fitness programming for the United

States Marine Corps aboard Camp Lejeune, NC. She lives in Norwood with her husband and two small children. In her free time, Tanya enjoys running and is currently on a mission to find the perfect chocolate chip cookie.

We have also been busy preparing the new exercise science laboratory to train students about the practical applications of the exercise science degree. Located in Merritt Hall, the lab has clinically-based equipment that the students are trained to use for

their careers in the exercise science field. This facility, co-managed by Tanya Hewitt and Christopher Torres, has the full capabilities to test the resting metabolic rate, advanced cardiovascular testing and has a mobile hydrostatic weighing unit. In addition, the lab has strength and conditioning equipment that will allow students to learn how to safely instruct and use the techniques needed to train people of all fitness levels.



Brent Crow, in collaboration with other SUNY faculty and alumni, led a travel course to the Universidad de Cienfuegos in Cuba over Winterim this year. The students were in Cienfuegos and outlying areas from Jan. 5-20. All of the locations they visited helped students connect the history and culture of Cuba to current agricultural and public health issues. Several Community Health undergraduate students were able to take part in this exciting opportunity as well as learn about the integration of the fields of public health and agroecology. As a new formal agreement was signed between SUNY Potsdam and Universidad de Cienfuegos, we expect this travel course to grow.

Ada Martinez (formerly Santaferria) has been our Internship Coordinator for 13 years and will be retiring in June and moving to Florida. Upon her impending retirement, she communicated that "It's been an honor to serve the Potsdam community. I'll miss this campus, my colleagues, the students. I will leave at the end of June with many, many fond memories as an alum and as an employee, but I owe a debt of gratitude to SUNY Potsdam for the opportunity to work at the best job on the planet." Ada has been an integral part of the Community Health Department and we will miss her energy, insight, teamwork and community presence.

Our students are continuing to experience success before and after graduation. Dana Reid, Exercise Science major, received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in April. In addition to her studies, she is a dedicated paramedic serving with the Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad and Indian River Ambulance Service. John Bresette, Community Health MS student, was hired as the Youth Clubhouse Program Director for a new program in Massena, NY through the Seaway Valley Prevention Council. Zack Regan ('16) was hired as a Sexual Health Educator with St. Lawrence County Health Initiative. Juan Perez ('16) has been hired as Program Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County, working with nutrition education. Michael Geiger ('16) was selected as a Health Extension Volunteer for the Peace Corps, serving in Tanzania. Our students continue to grow as community health professionals and make our department proud.

Inclusive and Special Education Update

Dr. Anjali Misra, Program Coordinator

Inclusive and Special Education is now part of a combined department with two other programs, becoming the Department of C & I, Literacy, and Special Education. Dr. Anjali Misra is the coordinator of the Inclusive and Special Education program. Other dedicated faculty associated with this program include Dr. Dennis Conrad, Laura Carbone, and Pamela Charleson. Lisa Lamondi-Grenville is a new faculty member.

Our Diverse Faculty

Dr. Anjali Misra has been at Potsdam for 27 years. She served as chair of the Special Education Department for a total of 13 years. Originally from New Delhi, India, Anjali completed a BS and MS in Child Development from Delhi University, India and received another MS and PhD from Pennsylvania State University. She started her teaching career in general education, but her interests led her to teaching students with a wide range of disabilities across all age groups. She also founded a small school for children with special needs in India. She has published chapters in six different books and written approximately 20 articles in professional journals. In addition, she has conducted numerous presentations at various international, national, and local conferences. Anjali was the recipient of the SUNY Potsdam's President's Award for Research and Creative Endeavors. Her recent research interests are in international special education, and she was recently a visiting scholar to Europe.

Dr. Dennis Conrad served as chair of the Inclusive and Special Education Department for the last five years and has been a faculty member at Potsdam for 17 years. He completed his PhD in Special Education Leadership from Virginia Tech. Additional educational credentials were received from Trinidad University, and he received his special education qualifications from the University of London. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Dennis was a pioneer in teacher education and special education. He has taught in both regular and special education settings and was a principal of an alternative school in Trinidad. His research interests include the intersections of learning difficulties with culturally responsive teaching. He has been actively involved in leadership roles with major research associations and is a reviewer for many journals.

We whole-heartedly welcome our newest faculty member, Lisa Lamondi-Grenville, who accepted an assistant faculty position starting in fall 2017. She is currently working on her PhD in Integrated Educational Studies at McGill University, Canada. She has a BS and MS in Special Education, as well as an administration degree from Massachusetts. During her educational programs, she also studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. Lisa's most recent work experiences include superintendent of schools, director of special education, supervisor of special education, and high school and elementary school principal. She started as a special education teacher for students ranging from Pre-K through high school. She has conducted numerous workshops and staff development trainings across three counties in the North Country.

Laura Carbone, an alumna of the Special Education program, went on to complete her Advanced Certificate for Educational Leadership at St. Lawrence University. She continues as adjunct faculty for SUNY Potsdam. She has been an administrator for special education, has held the positions of CSE chairperson and staff supervisor, and has conducted many staff development workshops. Laura was a middle and high school teacher for inclusionary classrooms for 10 years. Currently Laura is Interim Coordinator of the Graduate Education program in Watertown and is also working with families through the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Laura is President of the NNY Autism Foundation.

Pamela Charleson continues as a consultant teaching assistant for our program, providing critical service to our department. She has a BS in Education and English Literature and is an alumna of our program. She has been on many Dean's and President's Lists during her education and has been inducted to many honors societies. She received numerous awards and scholarships while at SUNY Potsdam. Pam has been very active in assisting us with program development, working with students, supervising research, and promoting special education awareness on campus and in the community.

Scholarship

Dr. Anjali Misra and Lisa Lamondi-Grenville did a presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention in Boston in April. This peer-reviewed presentation was well received. Conference attendees, who came from various states across the US, provided very positive feedback. The title of the presentation was “Collaboration Between a Public School and College to Establish a Unique Summer Program.” We shared our 20-year-long summer partnership with Canton School District where we provide an inclusive, academic summer school program. This offers an innovative, alternative approach where, under the supervision of college professors and qualified mentor teachers, students with disabilities are taught by our graduate students. This community outreach is invaluable for both the college and school.



Ben Yandeau with Norwood-Norfolk Central High School students.

The Long, Deep Roots of Wilderness Education at SUNY Potsdam

Adam Wheeler

The SUNY Potsdam Wilderness Education program is celebrating its 20th year and, in doing so, has been looking back at the hundreds of success stories that the graduates of the program have accomplished. One of those successes is Ben Yandeau '02, M '07.

Ben currently teaches art at Norwood-Norfolk High School in northern New York. In addition to teaching art, Ben also runs a Wilderness Studies program at the high school. The program features many of the same aspects of the Wilderness Education program that Ben participated in as a student at SUNY Potsdam. Ben teaches wilderness travel, off-trail navigation using map and compass, backcountry food selection and preparation, expedition group dynamics, leadership and decision-making, weather, rock climbing, and high ropes course facilitation. Graduates of Ben's program earn college credit through SUNY Potsdam.

In collaboration with Adam Wheeler, Ben has recently developed a feature of his program in which Norwood-Norfolk students trained in rock climbing and high ropes facilitation develop and implement a program for middle-school students in the school district using the rock wall and high ropes course at the SUNY Potsdam Leadership and Challenge Center in Maxcy Hall. This is truly an applied learning experience!

Realizing that many school districts are looking to implement wilderness studies programs into their school programming, the Wilderness Education program at SUNY, in conjunction with the Curriculum and Instruction (C & I) graduate program, have created a new Wilderness Studies concentration in C & I. The program provides students with the ability to analyze social, historical, and policy factors in the development of new curriculum and instruction. Students also learn to apply effective research processes within the field of curriculum and instruction, including analysis, practical design, and evaluation. The Wilderness Studies concentration will offer students the opportunity to develop and implement wilderness studies programs in public and private school settings. For more information on the program: https://www.potsdam.edu/sites/default/files/CI_Wilderness16_0.pdf

Twenty Years in the Wild: Leadership Training in Adverse Conditions

Jason Hunter

SUNY Potsdam's Wilderness Education program has been cultivating student leaders for the past 20 years. Mark Simon started the program in 1996, taking what was then just a collection of physical education classes and turning it into an extensive wilderness leadership program.

Mark reflected on the early years, saying, "The first semester I was there, I just started teaching what I could in the outdoors, pretty short-term weekend experiences. And what we've done is turned it into more high impact learning."

The program now offers 17 classes taught by Mark, Adam Wheeler, and Matt Hosmer. They range from rock and ice climbing to wilderness first responder training and an extensive leadership course where students plan and execute a 21-day backpacking trip.

Potsdam and the surrounding wilderness provides the perfect outdoor classroom for students to build their leadership and team-building skills. The College is located about 10 miles northwest of the entrance to the Adirondack State Park in Parishville. "Most of what we do around here is within 35-50 miles of campus, so it's just real economical for us," Mark said.

On a recent ice climbing trip to Mt. Azure, 48 miles from Potsdam, alumna Alaina Goodrich '09, stood at the base of a rock wall covered in ice while belaying a fellow ice climber. Eight years after graduating from SUNY Potsdam, she was back taking Mark's ice climbing class. "It's good to get out into the wilderness where it's peaceful," Alaina said. "The people are great. It's a certain type of person that enjoys being in the outdoors and pushing their limits. It's fun to be around those types of people."

The ice climbing class is an intensive two-week course at the College where students learn skills in a classroom setting and then hike to a remote ice climbing site to use crampons and ice axes as they ascend a frozen cliff. Brandon Keough, a Wilderness Education minor from Rochester, was one of those students ascending the ice wall earlier this month: "Problem solving and making critical decisions in adverse conditions sets a high bar for my performance

as a leader, thus allowing me to tackle situations in my daily life with ease."

"The whole premise behind the program is student leadership development," Mark said. Students lead backpacking classes, oversee the rock wall and manage the ropes course. "We wouldn't be able to run this program without them," he explained. "We utilize our own student leaders. While they're here, they gain a lot of leadership experience." He explained that he doesn't know of another program that utilizes student leadership to the extent that SUNY Potsdam does.

Sophomore Greg Larbi, who is originally from Ghana but moved to the Bronx in 2012, said that he recently declared Wilderness Education as his minor. Before arriving in Potsdam, he had no prior experience, except for one trip to an indoor rock climbing wall in the city. "The backpacking experience was totally new to me and pretty exciting," he said.

Larbi became interested in the program because of the students. He said that most of the classes have to do with teamwork and team building. "We depend on each other and trust one another," he said. Trust and teamwork is essential when working on rock climbing skills, such as belaying your climbing partner and building anchor systems for the climb.

Larbi said that the technical skills he has learned range from tying knots to rope rappelling to the hanging of bear bags. "Remember to hang your bear bags because it's better to lose all your food than to be eaten by a bear," he joked. His favorite experience so far has been interacting with classmates around a campfire on his backpacking trip where they told stories and made food together.

Mark reflected on one of the program's more intensive outdoor adventures: "The culminating experience for the leadership track is a 21-day expedition out west." He noted that climate change has affected the terrain, which has presented challenges while preparing for recent trips. For instance, last summer's planned excursion to the Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico

was changed to Northern Montana because the snow pack disappeared several months earlier, a noted change from years past.

Mark is very impressed with the students entering the program, such as Dolma Lhamo, who grew up in Kham, a small village in Tibet. Her parents wanted her to have a better education, so she moved to Queens in 2006. Now a senior, Lhamo said her favorite adventures have been her backpacking and wilderness leadership courses, where she gained a lot of hands-on skills and leadership experiences. “They helped me to be someone stronger and come out of my comfort zone,” she said. She praised her classmates, noting their positive influence on her life.

Looking to the future, Mark said that he looks forward to implementing a new concentration in Wilderness Education within the Curriculum and Instruction graduate program. The concentration will focus on preparing students to implement wilderness education programs in a k-12 setting in public schools.

The program has grown extensively over the past 20 years, and Mark believes that “the future of the wilderness education program will be shaped by our pursuit of new and challenging applied learning experiences in wilderness settings.”

For more information about the program, please visit: <https://www.potsdam.edu/academics/SOEPS/wildernessed>



A Retirement Salute to Carol Rossi-Fries

Julie Reagan



One of our most beloved faculty members will be retiring this spring. Carol Rossi-Fries will be entering a new phase of her life and will be missed by the SOE&PS faculty and students.

Carol joined the SUNY Potsdam community in 2001 as an instructor in the Teacher Education Department. She was named New York State's Teacher of the Year in 2003. Over the course of her SUNY Potsdam career, she has taught in the Elementary Education and Secondary Education departments.

Carol is a passionate educator who has taught a variety of social studies courses for the undergraduate and graduate education programs. Such courses include Elementary Social Studies and Classroom Observation: Middle/Secondary Social Studies.

She has been described in student evaluations as being a model for effective teaching

who makes course content interesting. In addition to her role in the classroom, Carol supervises practicum students during their field experiences.

Carol continues to share her vast experience with her participation in activities across campus. She has served on the Secondary Social Studies Steering Committee and has presented numerous seminars, including an Effective Teaching Seminar and Best Practices in Teaching. She has also served as an advisor to Omicron Delta Kappa and the Newman Club and is a Freshmen Residential Fellow.

In recognition of her 16 years of service, dedication, and support to the College, SUNY Potsdam now awards Carol Rossi-Fries the rank of Instructor Emerita. Please join us in wishing Carol a wonderful retirement.

Highlights from the Department of Secondary Education

Peter Brouwer, Department Chair

Faculty in the Department of Secondary Education had another busy year. This represents just a sampling of the activities that faculty engaged in this past year.

After serving as Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies for five years, Peter Brouwer rejoined the department in January 2017 as chair. Don Straight, who served very capably as chair for five years until fall 2016 was on a long-overdue sabbatical in spring 2017.

The department had the good fortune this year to hire Tyler St. Clair as an assistant professor of secondary science education. Tyler completed his PhD at Oregon State University. His interests lie in the areas of teaching the nature of science, higher education professional development, and polymer chemistry.

Peter Brouwer, Don Straight, and Becky Duprey engaged in an external review of the Lake Placid K-12 mathematics program. This consisted of two full days of interviews with school administrators and teachers, a follow-up visit, and a written report.

Peter Brouwer and Becky Duprey (along with Blair Madore and Victoria Klawitter from the Department of Mathematics) brought a van full of students to the 2016 Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State conference in Rye, NY.

Secondary Science Education students traveled to Rochester, NY this past November to attend the 121st annual Science Teachers Association of New York State professional development conference to learn about the new and upcoming science learning standards in the state. Our teaching candidates are now out in the field having a successful time in their full-time placements and are in the process of applying for jobs.

Laura Brown and Tyler St. Clair are developing a Secondary Education Freshman Interest Group (FIG) for entering first-year students who might be interested in pursuing careers as secondary school teachers.

Teacher Candidates Learning Center (TCLC) Update

Eudora Watson

The work of the TCLC is grounded in the ideas that writing is a craft learned over time and test prep's key value is as a means to develop teacher candidates' writing, critical thinking, and teaching skills.

The Sustained Tutoring Program (STP), a collaboration with the School of Arts and Sciences, continues to offer teacher candidates personalized guidance in improving their writing through peer tutoring sessions. A minimum of four tutoring sessions is recommended, which gives teacher candidates a chance to work on their craft over time. From its inception in spring 2013 through the spring 2017 semester, the program has provided individual tutoring sessions to over 170 teacher candidates.

Tutors in the program receive training beyond what they receive as part of the Writers' Block tutor training and meet on a regular basis with the TCLC coordinator. For the 2016-17 academic year, three tutors worked in the program: graduate students Sara Cantwell (English and Communication), who is the Writers' Block Assistant Director; Jessica Shaul (Secondary Education); and undergraduate Carly Jensen (Community Health). Sara and Jessica (pictured) had this to say about the program: "We feel the greatest benefit of this program is that our students leave knowing they can meet their own writing needs . . . Students should feel encouraged to participate in this free professional development opportunity, knowing that our tutors at the Writers' Block can provide them with the resources they need to be successful."

A recent change in the requirements for the NYS Teacher Certification exams (NYSTCE) – the elimination of the Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST) – removes the one test that was not amenable to being used as a tool for teaching critical thinking. The other two exams – Educating All Students (EAS) and the Content Specialty Test (CST) in each certification area – provide opportunities for teacher candidates to study content and work on skills that will apply directly to the teaching profession. While those who became certified while the ALST was a requirement may feel the twinge of "not soon enough



Sara Cantwell and Jessica Shaul

for me," and those who are not familiar with the exam may wonder what all the fuss is about, students who are now preparing for certification are spared the trial of coming up against an exam that was widely considered invalid.

The Center's work in helping teacher candidates prepare for the remaining exams continues, of course, and students' access to the TCLC resources is expanding through the use of Blackboard Collaborate, a browser-based online conferencing tool. Current SUNY Potsdam teacher candidates, and alumnae who are not yet certified, who are interested in improving their writing and/or working to prepare for their NYSTCE are encouraged to contact the TCLC coordinator at testprep@potdam.edu for more information about the support SOE&PS offers.

"We feel the greatest benefit of this program is that our students leave knowing they can meet their own writing needs . . ."

Education Students Receive Career Advice— and Job Offers—from School Administrators at TESA Conference

Nancy Griffin

More than 60 SUNY Potsdam teacher candidates had the opportunity to meet with 30 school administrators to learn about career opportunities and practice their interviewing skills at the 6th annual Teacher Education Student Association (TESA) Conference in April.

The administrators included school superintendents, principals, and librarians, most of them SUNY Potsdam alumni, who traveled to Potsdam from throughout northern and central New York, and from as far away as the Bronx, to help students prepare to enter the job market. Most of the administrators had job openings in their districts and spoke of an increasing shortage of teachers in all grade levels.

The conference was organized by TESA Advisor and Assistant Director for School Partnerships and Teacher Certification Nicole Conant '08. Nicole was assisted by TESA members led by officers Katie Ames '17, President; Carly Watson '17, Vice President; Cameron Richards '17, Treasurer; Lizzette Aquino '17, Secretary; and Roger Maxam '17, Public Affairs Chair.

School administrators who participated in the conference included:

Benjamin Barkley '00
Principal, Salmon River Elementary School, Fort Covington

Mark Bennett '00
Principal, AA Kingston Middle School, Potsdam

Joe Binion '04
Principal, Madrid-Waddington Jr./Sr. High School

Thomas Burns '92
District Superintendent, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

Joann Chambers '87
Superintendent of Schools, Potsdam Central School District

Shiela Conners
Human Resources Director, Malone Central School District

James Cruikshank '92
Superintendent, Norwood-Norfolk Central School District

Kate Cruikshank '93
Principal, Hammond Central School

Mark Davey '84
Superintendent, Champlain Valley Educational Services

Vicki Day '87
Principal, East Side Elementary School, Gouverneur

Meghan Davison
School Library System Coordinator, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES

Allen Gravell '96
CSE Chair, Salmon River Central Schools

Jerry Griffin '94
Superintendent, Malone Central School District

Christin Holt '93
Superintendent, Inlet Common School

Travis Hoover '00
Superintendent, LaFargeville Central School

Todd LaPage '03
Principal (7-12)/Director of Special Education, Brushton-Moira Secondary School

Jennifer Lynch '00
Assistant Principal, Brushton-Moira Secondary School

Scott McDonald '94
Principal, William H. Golding Middle School, Cobleskill

Alan Oliver
Principal, JW Leary Junior High School, Massena

Brandon Pelkey '94
Principal, Franklin Academy High School

Christie Reitsma '06
Vice Principal, Smiths Falls Dist Collegiate Institute, Upper Canada DSB

Duane Richards '90
Principal, Jefferson Elementary School, Massena

Robert Stewart '96
Superintendent, St. Lawrence Central School

Jamie Sweeney '03
Principal, West Carthage Elementary School



Ted Swartz
Director of Professional Development, Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

Susan Todd '88
Superintendent, Heuvelton Central School

Matthew VanDervoort '03
Assistant Principal, Lansingburgh Central School District, Troy

Kevin Walbridge '90
Principal, Salmon River Elementary School, Fort Covington

Kelly Wilson '98
School Library System Coordinator, St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

Charity Zawatski '02
Principal, West Side Elementary School, Gouverneur

Conference break-out sessions were presented by April Charleson '01, Kerry Clancy '15, Michael Comet '97, Becky Duprey '93, Julie Madlin '90, Kate Mills, Stephanie Ranger '11, Eudora Watson '90, and Charity Zawatski '02.

SUNY Potsdam student Ryleigh Combs participated in a mock interview with Dr. Mark Davey'84 (left), Superintendent of Champlain Valley Educational Services, while two students spoke with Jamie Cruikshank '92, Superintendent of Norwood-Norfolk Central Schools. (Photo by Kiah Sexton '17)



SUNY Potsdam student Anna Lin, center, joined other students who spoke with Matt VanDervoort '03 (left), Assistant Principal at Lansingburgh Central School District in Troy, NY during the TESA Conference. (Photo by Kiah Sexton '17)



SUNY Potsdam sophomore Lauren Bilardello, center, and Adrian Darling spoke with Christie Reitsma '06 (left) about opportunities at the Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute in Upper Canada. (Photo by Jason Hunter)



Inclusive Education Conference in Trinidad

SUNY Potsdam, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Schools of Education in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad, held its first international conference on Inclusive Education. The conference was held in Trinidad Feb. 15-18, 2017. Professor Dennis Conrad successfully led a team, working closely with Dr. Elna Carrington Blaides, Caribbean UWI St Augustine; Dr. Stacey Blackman, UWI Cave Hill; and colleagues. The conference, titled “Achieving Education for All: Resolving Challenges of Learning Difference, Learner Diversity, and ‘At Risk Children and Youth,’” was an immense success with participants and contributors from Belize, Brazil, Canada, India, Ghana, Guyana, South Africa, the US, and other Caribbean countries.

Dennis Conrad



My Trinidad Experience

Daniel Valenzuela'12, M.S.Ed., Principal Intern

This February 15-18, I attended the first international Caribbean Inclusive Education Conference in Trinidad and Tobago. It was themed “Achieving Education for All: Resolving Challenges of Learning Difference, Learner Diversity, and ‘At Risk Children and Youth.’”

It was an amazing experience that gave me a platform to grow as a leader in education. I did a workshop on de-escalating aggressive behaviors in schools and was able to represent SUNY Potsdam as an alumnus. It was very well attended and a huge success.

However, there is a bigger message to share through this experience. Education in the Caribbean is at a critical point, transitioning from a colonial to social transformational style. Educators and other stakeholders are working diligently on shifting the mindset toward inclusion and education for ALL students!

Being from the Dominican Republic makes it more personal, and I am still wrapping my head around the fact that this is still an issue of this magnitude here in 2017. As an educator from the U.S., this puts so much into perspective. Yes, we have our issues in education on our end. Although the U.S. education system still needs many improvements, it is nonetheless a system more readily responsive to our students’ needs. It is evident that political influences in the Caribbean still retain a colonial mindset in terms of education. There is a desperate need for progressive thinkers, especially as teachers, teacher leaders, and teacher educators. I am grateful to have had an educational experience

that allowed me to grow and advocate for our younger generation to get the best quality education possible.

To my fellow educators in the North Country, despite the political unrest we are dealing with now, be thankful of how far we have come. Be thankful to have programs in place that help our students with special needs. Be thankful to be able to be a teacher, leader, and caregiver to children. Yes, we have our issues, but it is so miniscule compared to what is being experienced in other parts of the world that deal with colonial thinking, poverty on a grander scale, extreme marginalization of diverse people and perspectives, and lack of resources.

I am forever grateful for this opportunity to share my views on challenging behaviors with fellow educators in Trinidad. I will continue to put myself in positions to lead change and be progressive, and I challenge all of you to do the same in whatever field you are in. Never be complacent. Be thankful, push boundaries, and ask why as you challenge yourself to be a progressive leader and life-long learner. Surround yourself with forward thinking people, never settle, and keep pushing!

Dennis Conrad and Stacey Blackman recently published an edited volume, *Caribbean Discourses in Inclusive Education: Historical and Contemporary Issues*, which launched at AERA 2017 (San Antonio, Texas). The book includes sixteen chapters with three sections that explore former and contemporary challenges to education for all in the Caribbean context. A second volume focusing on the intersection of learner diversity and learning difficulties is expected for summer 2018.

Educational Technology Graduate Students Facilitate STEM Robotics Workshop for 5th Grade Students at Davis Elementary in Malone, NY

Marisa Madson, Dustin Strong, and Anthony Betrus

On the morning of December 6, 2016, Dr. Anthony Betrus and two Educational Technology graduate students, Dustin Strong and Marisa Madson, facilitated a robotics workshop for 5th grade students at Davis Elementary in Malone. To prepare for the session, the students each completed an Hour of Code from *Code.org* on the day before the workshop. The Hour of Code is an online course that helps students learn the basics of object-oriented programming using a common language called Blockly. Once Dr. Betrus and the graduate students arrived at the school, they set up an interactive scavenger hunt in the school cafeteria using puzzles, clues, and action figure props they had gathered, created, and tested the day before.

When 5th grade teacher Angela Sanchez's students arrived shortly after, they were broken up into three groups and given the task of programming their Dash robot (using Blockly) to navigate a maze of villains. Each action figure villain along the way provided the next clue in the puzzle, ultimately helping the students rescue their hero at the end of the scavenger hunt. This activity and the Hour of Code was for many students their first exposure to the idea of coding and what it can do. During the activity, you could feel the energy in the room as the students completed each task and got closer to saving their heroes. There were many giggles and cheers as the scavenger hunt was completed, and the students could barely contain their excitement. The class was able to grasp the concepts quickly and were able to save all their heroes!

Once completed, and the basics of programming Dash understood, they were given free time to explore other additional coding options, providing them with a sandbox-style learning experience at the end. The students were clearly engaged throughout the lesson, and during the debriefing, the students asked when they would be back to visit next time!

This student really developed an affection for Dash and wanted to bring him home.



Mrs. Sanchez's 5th Grade Class, Marisa and Dustin setting up the scavenger hunt.



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Contact: Debbie Anderson

Canadian Coordinator

andersdl@potdam.edu



Farewell Dr. Sandy Chadwick

Victoria O. Hayes

The MST in Childhood Education program and the School of Education and Professional Studies are both happy and sad to acknowledge the retirement of Dr. Sandy Chadwick. She has been an outstanding educator, a model of dedicated service, and a true inspiration for 45 years at SUNY Potsdam.

Sandy earned her master's degree in 1970 and her doctorate in 1972, both in elementary education, from Ball State University. She joined SUNY Potsdam in 1972 as an Assistant Professor in the Education – Reading Department. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1977 and Professor in 1982. Over the course of her career at SUNY Potsdam, Sandy has held administrative roles such as Chair of the Early Childhood and General Professional Education Department from 2005 to 2008 and most recently Co-chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction from 2011 through 2015. Sandy's groundbreaking work as Coordinator of the MST Childhood program will forever have a positive impact on students, public schools, and SUNY Potsdam.

Sandy, as she is affectionately called by her students, truly passed on the knowledge that devotion to students and understanding their needs are what is most important in being a teacher. Her love of books and reading was a hallmark of her classes and was very apparent in her office stacked with artifacts from her “Kiddie Lit” class.

Sandy enthusiastically shared her passion for education with others. Her lessons on learning and education are often captured as quotes on her office door, one of which reads,

“Once we have learned to read, the rest can be trusted to add itself unto us.”

-Robert Frost

Sandy has always put the needs of her students above all else, earning her the name “Mama Bear” as she defended her MST Childhood program, faculty, and students. She is known to be a demanding teacher who offers a great deal of encouragement and support for her students. As a testament to her exceptional teaching, Sandy has received multiple accolades, including Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1998 and a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1981.

We want Sandy to know how much she is appreciated and celebrated for her contributions throughout these years. The MST Childhood program, the Department of Elementary Education, SUNY Potsdam, and our students applaud your guidance and vision of teaching and service. Thank you, Sandy, from the bottom of our hearts.

**“ You're off to great places
Today is your day
Your mountain is waiting
So get on your way”**

Dr. Seuss



Diversifying Mathematics Teaching

Sergei Abramovich has published a book titled *Diversifying Mathematics Teaching: Advanced Educational Content and Methods for Prospective Elementary Teachers* (World Scientific, 2017). His joint paper with M. L. Connell of the University of Houston-Downtown received the Mathematics Education Special Interest Group Best Paper Award at the 28th International Conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education held in Austin, Texas in March 2017. He continued collaborating with Faculty of Information Technology, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, by acting as opponent at the open examination of a PhD dissertation.

Documentary Film *Maestra* Screened at SUNY Potsdam

Julie Reagan

In February, Julie Reagan hosted the visit of Catherine Murphy, a world-renowned documentary filmmaker, and Griselda Aguilera, a Cuban literacy volunteer and one of the stars of Murphy's film *Maestra*. A special screening of *Maestra* was held February 9 at 7 p.m. at SUNY Potsdam's Black Box Theater.

Maestra is a 33-minute documentary that explores the experience of nine women who, as young girls, taught in the Cuban Literacy Campaign of 1961. Through current day interviews from their homes in Havana, archival film footage, and still photos, the film looks at this moment and how it changed their lives as women.

Catherine Murphy is a San Francisco-based filmmaker who has spent much of the last twenty years working in Latin America. Catherine

lived and worked in Cuba in the 1990s, earning a master's degree in sociology from the University of Havana. Currently, Catherine is an adjunct professor at NYU's Center for Global Affairs and founder/director of The Literacy Project.

The Literacy Project is non-profit multi-media project devoted to the topic of adult literacy in the Americas, founded by Catherine in response to the magnitude of adult illiteracy in North and South America. Since 2003, the Literacy Project has focused on researching and recording oral histories of volunteer teachers from the 1961 Cuban Literacy Campaign, to date the most ambitious and successful national effort to eradicate illiteracy.

Griselda Aguilera was 7 years old in 1961 when she saw the droves of young people euphorically going off

to alphabetize the nation and insisted on volunteering for the campaign. Obviously too young to be sent out to the countryside, Griselda was given one student whom she taught to read and write in her home. His name was Carlos Perez, and he was 58 years old. The experience stayed with her and profoundly contributed to her personal and social development. Griselda later became a math teacher and has wholeheartedly dedicated her life to teaching ever since.

Catherine and Griselda visited various classes and events throughout the visit. The visit to campus was the initial phase of a Cuba project that Julie is embarking upon. A spring 2018 travel course to Cuba is planned for March 30-April 8, which will examine the Cuban Literacy Campaign.



Left to right: Catherine Murphy, Griselda Aguilera, Yonie Montes (Spanish major, translator). Photo by Jason Hunter.

SUNY Potsdam Teams Up with SLL BOCES to Offer Professional Development to Area Teachers

Becky Duprey

Becky Duprey, Childhood/Early Childhood Education; Dr. Blair Madore and Dr. Victoria Klawitter, Mathematics; and SLL BOCES worked together to provide ongoing professional development for teachers in the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES region. During the summer of 2016, the team developed and delivered the third “Math Camp.” Dr. Joel Foisy and Dr. Cornelia Yuen each attended the camp for a week to offer assistance. Three SUNY Potsdam students were also able to attend and assist during one of the two weeks: Jenna Bazderick and Michaela Carr from Childhood/Early Childhood Education, and Amy Guasconi from Childhood Education. During the two one-week institutes, teachers examined the Common Core learning standards and dug deeper into their understanding of Algebraic Thinking. Several workshops and sessions aided teachers in better understanding the standards, specifically Operations

and Algebraic Thinking. By the close of the camp, teachers had designed an activity to use in their classroom requiring students to think algebraically. Following camp, teachers signed up to attend face-to-face sessions during the fall and the spring semesters as well as online learning sessions.

Following summer camp, several teachers were chosen to present their activities at the annual conference for the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State. During the presentation, these teachers had an opportunity to share their ideas with other teachers from the state.



Childhood/Early Childhood Majors Attend AMTNYS Conference

Becky Duprey

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS) Annual Fall Meeting was held in Rye, NY from November 10-12. In attendance were several SUNY Potsdam faculty, faculty emeriti, and students. This year, Blair Madore, Victoria Klawitter, Becky Duprey, Peter Brouwer, and nine undergraduate Childhood/Early Childhood students attended. The students were Brittany Van Tassel, Lisbeth Valdera, Nicole Kohlweiss, Kayla Wells, Maggie McBurney, Jaime Aliffi, Lilly Swail, Celeste Oppito, and Monica Taylor.

Students and faculty attended a number of sessions where they learned engaging ways to teach mathematics. In addition, they attended three sessions that were prepared for and presented by St. Lawrence

County teachers in conjunction with Blair Madore, Victoria Klawitter, and Becky Duprey. These sessions showcased activities created by the teachers after attending a week-long math camp. The math camp was planned for and presented by the SUNY Potsdam faculty with support from SLL BOCES.

As always, socializing and meeting up with Potsdam alumni is a great part of attending the conference. SUNY students participated in the annual friendly Dance Contest. This year SUNY Potsdam brought home the trophy for the dance off. All participants enjoyed some laughs and especially enjoyed the time with Potsdam alumni.

Plans to attend the 2018 Annual Fall Meeting are already underway. This conference will be held in Buffalo November 3-4, 2017.

SUM OF WHICH: A Game Created by SUNY Clinical Faculty

Becky Duprey

Becky Duprey, clinical faculty member in the Childhood/Early Childhood program, created a board game, SUM OF WHICH: A Game of Numbers and Strategy. The basic game requires players to strategically place sums of ten to earn points. Although the original game was created as a way to help children practice basic addition, the strategy element in the game makes it a fun game for players of all ages.

Recently, the Ogdensburg City School District hosted a SUM OF WHICH Tournament where all students in grade three to grade six competed to be SUM OF WHICH champion. At the end of the day, several students commented on how much fun the game was.

SUM OF WHICH is presently being played by people in New York, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina,

Michigan, Minnesota, California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Ohio, as well as Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Trinidad, and Norway.

Presently, two versions of the game are available with several others to be released in the near future. More information about the game can be found at sumofwhich.com

“On the Right Track”: The 2016 NYS Middle School Association Conference

Carol Rossi-Fries

In October 2016, a group of nine teacher candidates from both Elementary and Secondary Education programs traveled to the annual New York State Middle School Association Conference (NYSMSA) in Watkins Glen, NY with clinical faculty Carol Rossi-Fries, and Megan Leger, an adjunct at the College and cooperating host teacher from Colton-Pierrepoint Central School. The theme of this year’s conference was “On the Right Track.”

The two-day conference provided opportunities for teacher candidates and faculty to interact with middle school teachers, administrators, and other practitioners from across the state. Workshops delved into a variety of topics that supported the middle school philosophy of “shared responsibility for developing the whole child.” Students participated in sessions exploring the ELA and Math Common Cores, the effective use of technology in the classroom, interdisciplinary approaches to instruction, inquiry-based and project-based learning, MakerSpace programs, anti-bullying strategies, literacy development, and fostering positive self-concepts, to name a few.

Finally, everyone participated in the closing event on Saturday morning called “Breakfast of Champions,” which is designed specifically for teacher candidates. This year, two

other colleges attended, which allowed Potsdam students to exchange ideas with peers from other schools, administrators, and NYSMSA officers about the implementation of the Seven Essential Elements of Middle Level Education.

Without question, the highlight of the students’ experiences at the conference is always dinner on Friday night with NYSMSA administrators. Meeting at a local restaurant to share a meal and conversation is an invaluable opportunity for our teacher candidates to network with prospective employers and practitioners in a social setting while gaining professional advice that will advance their careers. It further cultivates the special relationship between the organization and SUNY Potsdam. We are grateful to these dedicated professionals who make dinner a special occasion for our students. They are the personification of the middle school philosophy. Special thanks go to Jamie Cruikshank and David Vroman, both NYSMSA administrators and alumni of SUNY Potsdam, who make this happen annually.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to those from the College who supported the conference financially, including Dean Hosley of the School of Education and Professional Studies, Amy Guiney in the Center for School Partnerships and Teacher Certification, Julie Reagan in the Elementary Education Department, and Don Straight in Secondary Education.

Elementary Educators FIG Experiences the Adirondacks

Lisa Stewart

Freshman students entering Childhood/Early Childhood Education in fall 2016 once again had a chance to be part of the Elementary Educators Freshman Interest Group (FIG). These future educators were part of a cohort who took the same required courses their first semester at SUNY Potsdam. Students had an opportunity to serve as teaching assistants in the After-School Literacy Mentor Program. This experience allowed freshmen in the FIG to work closely with school-age children, while being mentored by Childhood/Early Childhood Education upperclassmen. Students enjoyed getting an opportunity to work with children.

One of the goals of the FIG is to provide opportunities for students to make connections with others in the same major. In October 2016, students and faculty in the FIG climbed Mt. Jo in Lake Placid, NY. Some students had never experienced hiking in the Adirondacks and found the experience rewarding. We witnessed students and faculty encouraging each other



along the way and saw the pride on many faces for making it to the top. We also took some time to show the students around Lake Placid. We visited the 1980 Olympic Torch, and students were amazed at how small it was compared to the Olympic Torches seen at more recent games.

We enjoyed another event at Dr. Walt Conley's home on the Racquette River. Students and faculty made smores and drank hot cocoa. The autumn afternoon was beautiful, and students got an opportunity to take a ride in his canoes if they chose to.

This FIG has assisted students with forming study groups and making connections with faculty teaching in the FIG. These students have been fortunate to work with school-age children and form lasting friendships with each other. I look forward to connecting with another group of future teachers in fall 2017.

How Can You Contribute?

Please consider making a contribution to the School of Education and Professional Studies.

Contributions to the School of Education and Professional Studies are welcome and very much appreciated. Financial support from individuals and organizations is critical to the School's ability to continue providing an exceptional educational experience for our students.

We are grateful for contributions that allow the School to provide students with scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students and to enhance the School's academic departments, the Sheard Literacy Center, the O'Shaughnessy Center for Assistive Technology, and the Mathematics and Science Education Center, to name a few.

To make a secure on-line gift, please visit <https://secure.potsdam.edu/giving/>. Please be sure to indicate how you would like to designate your gift. Contributions may also be made through a gift of stock, and you may also choose to include the Potsdam College Foundation/School of Education and Professional Studies in your will.

For more information on ways to financially support the School, please contact the Office of College Advancement at (315) 267-3253 or invest@potsdam.edu. Or you may send a check made payable to The Potsdam College Foundation to:

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Miriam Rendon

Elementary Education

Harry F. Brooks '68 North Country Educator Scholarship

Sophia Rusaw

Kenneth H. Campbell

David Law II

Carbary Scholarship

Adrian Darling

Karly Dynko

Jessica Side

Dorothy B. Carpenter '34 Memorial Scholarship

Darwin Cooley

Tessa Fields

Michaela Nissen

Ivette Sassone

Michele Christy Memorial Scholarship

Emily Drake

Julia Nieves Soto

Venice Ives Church '61 Scholarship

Caitlin Stepanek

Class of 1953 Scholarship

Jessica Lynn Side

Carol Clements Scholarship

Erica Steele

Crane Family Endowed Scholarship

Rachael Venne

Margaret B. & William H. Cullen Scholarship

Lindsey Ganter

Melissa Sampson

Departmental Scholars

Kaitlyn Buckley

Abdul Diallo

Celeste Oppito

Monica Taylor

Kelsey Young

Susan H. Dierks '75 Scholarship for Early Childhood Education

Alexis Currier

Florence M. Dowd Scholarship

Melinda Davis

Evans-Cummings '83 Scholarship

David Law II

Kathleen Strobeck Fales '44 & Allen R. Fales Scholarship

Jennifer Wilcox

William Flynn Teacher Preparation Scholarship

Gabrielle Johnson

Krista Fordham '08 Masters in Education Scholarship

Brooke Sholette

Marian Lee Frazier, Class of 1940 and Lulu M. Lee Scholarship

Natalie Pesold

Karlene Brown Jones '56 School of Education Scholarship

Jaime Aliffi

Abdul Diallo

Monica Taylor

Elizabeth "Betsy" Burgan Northrup Class of 1961 Scholarship

Lauren Vedete

Peter & Tina Santimaw Radding Scholarship

Brittany Van Tassel

Cecelia Alton Rock Scholarship

Sodelys Hilario

Alfred W. Santway Scholarship

Ivette Sassone

Evelyn Perley Schmidt '35 Scholarship

Nicole Kohlweiss

James W. & Ruth J. Scott Student Scholarship (undergraduate)

Diana Fitzwilliam

James W. & Ruth J. Scott Student Scholarship (graduate)

Brittany Bonner
Ajanee Briggs
Kelli Brislan
Corey Cuppernell
Casey Garza
Jessica Harvey
Mildred Pierce Wark '36 Memorial Scholarship
Cameron Bibens
Weatherup-Holland Teachers Scholarship
Rachel Ellingsworth

Graduate Studies

Excellence in Academic Scholarship
Shane Kelly

Information & Technology Program

Award for Outstanding Interactive Media Productions
Carol Shattuck
Award for Outstanding Research
Zach Bower Megan Burke Dakota Farley
Award for Outstanding Video Production
Megan Burke
Meghan Gabri
Courtney Johnson
Alfred W. Santway
Dustin Strong

Inclusive and Special Education Program

Thomas "Tommy" Bickford Memorial Scholarship
Marissa Brockway
Lorraine Mader Bryner Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Knauff
Brenna Snyder
Dorothy M. McGeoch Memorial Graduate Student Award
Brittany Schermerhorn
Outstanding Stewardship Award
Carol MacDonald-Schmidt

Literacy Education Program

Winton H. Buddington Reading Scholarship
Mary Bracy
Susan H. Dierks '75 Scholarship for Early Childhood Education
Errolynn Bradley
Outstanding Literacy Student
Allison Holliday
Alfred W. Santway
Ann Marie Shatraw

Secondary Education

Dorothy B. Carpenter '34 Memorial Scholarship
Nicole Carstens
Chance Phillips
Anne Stephen Cook '60 Scholarship
Katrina Martin
Departmental Scholars
Sara Janus
Abigail Sexton
Richard C. & Joy (MacDonald) '58 Dorf Family Scholarship
Shannon Szykowski
Evans-Cummings '83 Scholarship
Cashlynn Jagers
Betty Jane Paro Golding Scholarship
Erica Smith
Alfred W. Santway Scholarship
Sean Donoghue
Brandon Griffin
James W. & Ruth J. Scott Student Scholarship (undergraduate)
Logan Drake
Kathleen M. Sipher Memorial Scholarship
Nicholas Sundberg
Jerry & Catherine Welsh Scholarship
Keagen Briggs
Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center William Q. & Patricia B. Davis
Jamellah Lahens
Claire Freedman Koshar '56 & Martin Koshar Writing Internship Scholarship
Meghan Brennan
Dr. Patricia Rugiano & Thomas Schmidt Outstanding Mentor Award
Michelle Albrecht
Alexis Currier
Alexandra Sprague
Michelle Terrance

School of Education & Professional Studies

Annual Fund Scholarship
Megan Burke
Heidi Czerepak
Rebecca Derubertis
Kady Hart
Julie Howell
Shane Kelly
Katherine Knauf
Yining Ma
Angela Matthews
Abigail Sexton
Emily Tremblay
Eola Pitz Scholarship
Ashley Stay
School of Education Alumni Board's Promising New Teacher Award
Marissa Brockway



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MARY F. FOSTER
1848 - 1938
MAY 15, 1938