



College of Education

Connections

December, 2014

Congratulations to:

David Test, received the Iva Dean Cook Teacher of the Year award for his career service and commitment to personnel preparation in the field of secondary transition from the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition.

Diane Browder has been invited to participate as a consultant to SCALE to modify and revise the edTPA Special Education project.

Kristen Beach received a UNC Charlotte Faculty Research grant to develop and implement a school-home hybrid intervention for early adolescent struggling readers.

Alisa Wickliff, associate director of the Center for STEM Education, was presented the "2014 Herman and Emma Gatling Award for Outstanding Science Education Leadership in North Carolina." The award was presented at the NCSLA Fall 2014 Membership Meeting.

Instructional Systems Technology graduate student Tuwana Bias received the first American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) Charlotte Chapter Student Scholarship award.

SPED alumni: Jennifer Ritchotte received one of two 2014 Doctoral Student Awards from the National Association for Gifted Children at the NAGC convention. The award is given in recognition of "a superior degree of scholarship in the field of gifted education".

The most recent issue of the journal *Teaching Exceptional Children* featured the "Best of TEC" based on the most downloaded articles of the past five years. One of the articles titled "Six Tips for Successful IEP Meetings" (originally published in March/April, 2012) was co-authored by two former special education doctoral students, **Jennifer Diliberto** (graduated 2005; now at UNC Chapel Hill) and **Denise Brewer** (graduated 2006; now at Appalachian State University).

The following SPED Alumni received Personal Preparation Grants from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP): **Chris Rivera** (at East Carolina University), **Bree Jimenez** (at UNC Greensboro), **Ginevra Courtade** (at University of Louisville), **Josh Baker** (at UNLV), **Vicki Knight** (at Vanderbilt University) and **Josh Baker** also received OSEP Leadership Grants.

From the field:

From Ian Binns: Last month I spent a half-day working with the fourth grade teachers at Shady Brook Elementary School in the Kannapolis School District. This was to help them prepare for their engineering unit on electricity. They are using *An Alarming Idea: Designing Alarm Circuits* from Engineering is Elementary (EiE), a research-based STEM program from the Boston Museum of Science. This program helps teachers integrate all of the STEM disciplines with literacy and social studies. The teachers at Shady Brook participated in a one day professional development this past spring led by Alisa Wickliff and myself on how to use the EiE kits. During the unit I returned to help out in the classroom (see picture). This is part of the PDS project at Shady Brook that focuses on improving best practices for STEM education, with an emphasis on integrating science and literacy.



In the Community:

MDSK and REEL students in Dr. Adriana L. Medina's READ 6204 - Teaching Reading to English Language Learners course attended Sabor Latino, an event sponsored by the Latin American Women's Association (LAWA) and held at the historic Mint Museum to support Hispanic students' pursuit of a college education. Students learned of community resources available for their Hispanic students to help make attending college a reality. After the event, one student commented, *"this reminded me that being an ESL teacher is much more than just teaching, it is being a resource for my students and their families so they can reach their aspirations."* Students also learned about and tasted Latino dishes with roots in ancient traditions and cooking techniques. After dinner, a student reflected, *"food is a large part of culture...and this experience has helped me better understand my Hispanic students' cultures."* Pictured from left to right: Natasha Calderon, Jennifer Huber, Chernita Moore, Adriana L. Medina, Tina Lor, Wren Berney, and Denise Barnes.



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Dates to Remember:

- Reading Day Holiday Lunch: Thursday December 4, 9:30 – 1:30 p.m. in COED Building.
- edTPA TPALs: Monday December 8, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Contact Laura Hart for room details.
- Commencement: Saturday December 13, 3:00 p.m., Halton Arena.
- Grades Due: Monday December 15 by noon.
- First day of classes for Spring semester: Wednesday January 7.
- Next COED Faculty Meeting: Monday January 16, 9:30 – 10:50 a.m., COED 010.

Ed.D. Recruit-A-Thon

The Educational Leadership Department is sponsoring an **Ed.D. Recruit-A-Thon** on January 27th at 5:00 p.m. in Student Union Room 340G. All COED faculty are asked to encourage any graduating master's level students or graduates who might be interested in one of our Ed.D. Concentrations (Adult and Higher Education, K-12: Superintendent Certification, K-12 - Curriculum and Supervision) to attend this special event. To register for the event they should contact: Laurie DeBlock (ldeblock@uncc.edu) or Kristine Kohl (Kristine.Kohl@uncc.edu). Our guest for the evening will be Graduate School Associate Dean, Johnna Watson, who will be talking about UNCC Graduate School resources and the Ed.D. Program.

Around Us:

Teacher Education Advising Licensure and Recruitment (TEAL-R) has set up a Teacher Star Wall in the College of Education building to recognize important teachers.

In Case You Missed It:

"The Habits of Highly Productive Writers", <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Habits-of-Highly/150053/>

Publications:

Polly, D., Heafner, T., Spooner, M. C., & Chapman, M. (2015). Professional Development Schools and Transformative Partnerships. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

This blind peer-reviewed edited book includes 22 chapters about Professional Development School Partnerships (PDS) from the following COED faculty: Lynn Ahlgrim-Delzell, Diane Browder, Amy Good, Michael Green, Brian Kissel, Lan Kolano, Michael Putman, Tracy Rock, and Jean Vintinner.

Have a safe and enjoyable break!