



College of Education

Connections

December, 2015

Message from the Dean:

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Best wishes for a terrific end to the semester and a wonderful holiday break. I hope you get much rest and have happy times with loved ones. I look forward to a new year with you in 2016. - Ellen

Congratulations to:

Chance Lewis (MDKS) for winning the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award. In the award notification, Dean Reynolds of The



Graduate School at UNC Charlotte wrote: "This year the number and quality of nominations was particularly impressive but Dr. Lewis' work with the educational and professional development of graduate students is truly remarkable."



Florence Martin (EDLD) for winning the Crystal Award from the Distance Learning Division of the Association for Educational Communication and Technology. The award is given to an innovative and outstanding multimedia-based distance education courses. The award was given for EIST 6150 Design and Development of Online Learning Systems.

Paul Fitchett (MDSK) who was named Associate Editor of *Theory and Research in Social Studies Education*.

The Instructional Systems Technology Program, consisting of **Florence Martin** and **Patti Wilkins (EDLD)** for gaining approval of the Online Learning and Teaching Certificate and M.Ed program. More information can be found [here](#).

Vivian I. Correa (SPCD) who has been selected to serve as Co-Chair of one of the four working groups for the *Read Charlotte* initiative (<http://www.readcharlotte.org/>). She will facilitate the work of the "Ready for School" group to ensure students start school developmentally on track and ready to learn. *Read Charlotte* is a collaborative community wide movement to double the percentage of third grade students reading at grade level from 40% to 80% in 2025.

Erin Miller (REEL) was notified that her paper, *Discourses of Whiteness and Blackness: An Ethnographic Study of Three Children Learning to be White* (Miller, 2015) was chosen to be a part of the Key Research Collection in Critical Race Theory in Education, Taylor and Francis Online.

The mission of the College of Education at UNC Charlotte is to prepare highly effective and ethical professionals who have a positive impact on children, youth, families, community, and schools and who are successful in urban and other diverse settings. This mission is accomplished through teaching, research, and community engagement that lead to improved practice and by working in partnership with schools, communities, and university colleagues.

Task Stream Reminder

All Task Stream evaluations must be completed by December 22, 2015. Thank you for your hard work and diligence in the data collection process for assessment and accreditation.

Faculty Searches

As you know the College of Education is actively searching for multiple faculty positions. Thank you to those of you have made time to attend research talks and meet and greet sessions!

Students Giving Back

Charlotte'S IDEAL Holiday Give Back Project

On Thursday, December 3, Learning Community students had the exciting opportunity to partner with Nathaniel Alexander Elementary School. Our theme for the day was "Giving Back to My Country." We read stories about our troops being away for the holidays, made cards to send to them, had holiday snacks together, and even shared goodie bags! It was an awesome day of students sharing together! Pics are attached.



Teacher Recruitment News

Future 49ers Teach Day- Future 49ers Teach Day was a great success! 300+ students were in attendance, all who are either committed to or interested in becoming teachers. We had breakout sessions, campus tours, and a keynote address from alumni Justin Ashley. It was an exciting day to see so many future educators gathered in one place!

Upcoming Recruitment Events-

- February 12- Admitted Students Day
- April 7- Spring Future 49ers Teach Day
- April 29- Admitted Students Day

In the News

An article published in the Review of Educational Research, coauthored by **Roz Mickelson (Sociology Department)**, **Rich Lambert (EDLD)**, and Martha Bothia, was cited in an amicus brief in support of affirmative action in higher education in the ongoing Fisher v U of Texas Supreme Court case. The case was focused in a public briefing last week in Washington, D.C.

In the Field

Drew Polly (REEL) served as an invited speaker facilitating professional development about effective mathematics teaching strategies and how to integrate mathematics into STEM curriculum for teachers in Memphis, TN. Polly also served as an invited speaker and a facilitator at Buncombe County's Elementary Mathematics EdCamp in Asheville, NC.

NCDPI Licensure Process Goes Online

Since August 1, 2015 new and existing professional educators have been able to apply for and update their North Carolina licenses online. This includes renewals for faculty, but assistance verifying renewal credits will still be offered by TEALR. Instructions and more information can be found at (<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/licensure/>).



Mark Your Calendar

First Day of Classes, January 11, 2016

Rubric Workshop, January 14, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in COED 110

COED Faculty meeting, January 15, 9:30, COED 010

Publications

Miller, E. (2015). Race as the Benu: Anti-whiteness strategies emerge out of a reborn consciousness in Early Childhood Education. *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*, 30 (3).

Polly, D. (2015). Elementary Education Pre-service Teachers' Development of Mathematics Technology Integration Skills in a Technology Integration Course. *Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching*, 34(4), 431-453.

Polly, D. (2015). Examining how professional development influences elementary school teachers' enacted instructional practices and students' evidence of mathematical understanding. *Journal for Research in Childhood Education*, 29(4), 565-582. DOI: 10.1080/02568543.2015.1073198

Thompson, G., Bonner, F. & **Lewis, C.** (2015). *Reaching the mountaintop of the academy: Personal narratives, advice and strategies from Black distinguished and endowed professors*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age.

Wood, K. D. & Soares, L. B. (2015) *How to integrate comprehension, vocabulary and writing across the disciplines: Questions from the classroom*. Westerville, OH: Association of Middle Level Educators. Lina Soares is a former student in the **Literacy Strand of the Ph.D Program in Curriculum and Instruction**.

“True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.” – Nikos Kazantzakis

Please send Connections content to drew.polly@uncc.edu. Please include the word “connections” in the subject line. January content is due January 15, 2016.