

M.Ed. in Curriculum and Learning: Newsletter

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College of Education, William Paterson University of New Jersey

Editor's Notes

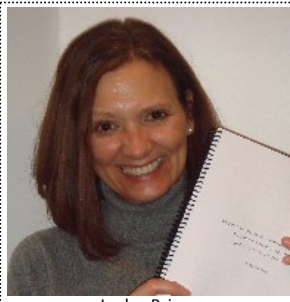
Welcome! I hope that everyone has had a joyous and restful holiday season.

This is the first issue of the newsletter in the program of M. Ed Curriculum and Learning, intended to further develop a sense of community within our program. The newsletter's primary aim is for us to share our professional and personal experiences.

If you have any feedback, please contact Dr. Heejung An at anh2@wpunj.edu

Enjoy reading!

Student Spotlight



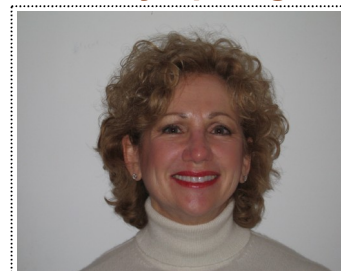
Lesley Briggs

By Lesley Briggs: Early Childhood Concentration

The last four years have been a fascinating and often intense journey, as I juggled teaching full-time and studying for my M.Ed. The final year of this journey culminated in the writing of my thesis, which focused on young children's perception of time and their ability to sequentially recall story narratives. I can hardly believe that this part of my journey is now complete. I came to teaching as a second career, after having worked for twenty years as a registered nurse in England before relocating to the US in 1997. I enjoyed nursing, but I love teaching, and just feel so lucky to have had this opportunity. The professors I had at William Paterson University changed my life and

I have now achieved my childhood dream of becoming a nurse and a teacher!

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Janis Strasser

Congratulations to **Dr. Janis Strasser** who received the Teacher Educator of the Year award from the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators in November at the annual conference of the NAEYC in Anaheim, California, on November 3rd, 2010.

Dr. Strasser has been in the field of early childhood education for more than 30 years as a preschool, kindergarten and music teacher, and Head Start Education Coordinator. She is a consulting editor for *Young Children*, a member of the Advisory Board of Teaching Young Children and frequently presents at state and national conferences.

She was also the recipient of the NJAECTE Teacher Educator and Researcher of the Year awards in 2005 and the recipient of the WPU Faculty Excellence Award for Service in 2004.

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December 2010 Research Poster Presentations

Congratulations to all of the students who completed their M. Ed research studies in December, 2010!

The engaging research studies are listed as follows:

Roberta Bland, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

How Jazz and Classical Music Affect Focus and Creativity During Writing Workshop in First Grade

Lesley Briggs, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Exploring Preschool Children's Understandings about Time

Giselle Buttler, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Investigating if Teacher Emphasis on Rhyming Impacts ELL Preschoolers' Phonological Awareness

LuAnn Cifelli, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Comparing Journal Writing in Kidpix2 to Hard Copy Journal Writing in Kindergarten

Pierangely Crespo, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Exploring the Relationship between Intentional Teaching That Focuses on the Forms and Functions of Written Language and Preschool Children's Writing

Veronica Dougherty, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, School Library Media

Using Online Social Networking and Socratic Seminar to Strengthen Student Connection to Text

Elizabeth Drennan, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, School Library Media

An Examination and Comparison of the Effects of Three Story-sharing Methods on Students' Ability to Differentiate Between Four Types of Folk Tales When Focusing on the Element of Character

Alma Haixhu, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Teaching Children Mathematics

Effects of Integrating Educational Technology on First Graders' Conceptual and Procedural Knowledge of Addition and Subtraction

Cathy Intravaia, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, School Library Media

The Effects of the Battle of the Books Reading Program on Students' Reading Motivation and Attitudes Towards Reading

Leslie Janevski, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, School Library Media

Comparing Graphic Novels to Traditional Texts and their Effects on Student Reading Motivation and Attitudes

Aliza Mayer, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

How Teaching about Parts of the Body Impacts Preschool Children's Drawing

Ellen McDermott, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, School Library Media

How Media Literacy Instruction Affects Middle School Students' Perceptions of Advertisements

Elizabeth Morgado, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

The Effects of Using Yoga and Deep Breathing to Help Preschool Solve Conflicts and Calm Themselves

Kerry Nicolich, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Bilingual/ESL

Effects of Audio Scaffolding on Class Participation for English Language Learners

Elizabeth Tiernan, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Examining if Teacher Modeling Specific Play Strategies Affects the Pretend Play of Preschoolers with Disabilities

Diana Torres, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Examining the Effects of Using Visual Aids on Preschool Children's Block Building and Their Acquisition of New Vocabulary

Leslie York, M.Ed. in Curriculum & Learning, Early Childhood

Exploring How Preschooler Use Digital Cameras in the Classroom



Student News

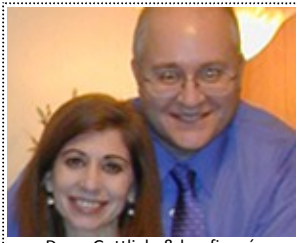
► Congratulations to **Aliza Mayer and Melissa Spano**, both of the Early Childhood concentration. Aliza recently gave birth to a girl named Perry, and Melissa gave birth to a boy named Christopher Michael, Jr.



Melissa Spano & her baby, Christopher

► **Allison Cosgrove** (School Library Media concentration) is engaged and planning a wedding. Congratulations, Allison!

► **Kristin Storz** (Teaching Children Mathematics concentration) is engaged and will be getting married to Daniel Szelingowski on July 30, 2011. Congratulations, Kristin!



Dawn Gottlieb & her fiancé

► **Dawn Gottlieb** (Bilingual/ESL concentration) recently became engaged to Dr. Joseph M. Sivo, who is a professor of physics at Bergen Community College. Congratulations, Dawn!



Nicholas Demsak's baby, Máire

► **Nicholas Demsak** (Learning Tech concentration) became a father on December 29th, 2010 to Máire Egan Demsak.



Jason Langer

► **Jason Langer** (Learning Tech concentration) program, who is a teacher at Union City High School, was featured in the *New York Times* on Constitution Day, Friday, September 17th, 2010. In its inaugural feature, "Great Ideas from our Readers," the *New York Times* cited Mr. Langer's project designed for his high school students as a "very practical, open-ended and replicable use of the Times to help students – whether in a journalism, history or civics class – understand the critical, real-world role of this living document." Mr. Langer teaches a mixed-grade journalism class and his project asked students to find articles in the news that reflected freedoms outlined in the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, as well as articles about countries without the same constitutional freedoms and guarantees as the United States.

According to Mr. Langer, "Different students discussed each aspect of the First Amendment and, surprisingly, students drew articles from every section of the newspaper. Students commented afterward that their eyes were opened to sections of *The New York Times* that they previously skimmed rather than focused on in their daily newspaper reading."

► **Lili Helgiu** (Teaching Children Mathematics concentration) and **Nichole Rucci** (Bilingual/ESL concentration) presented their thesis research projects at the [41st Annual Northeastern Educational Research Association \(NERA\) Conference](#) in October 2010. Lili's research focused on incorporating technology into 8th grade mathematics. Nichole's research focused on using bilingual/ESL strategies for teaching social studies in middle schools.



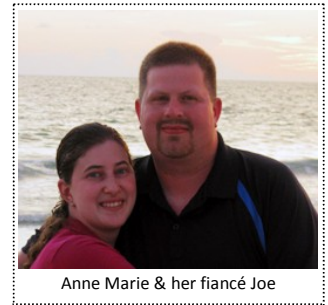
Lili Helgiu

► **Mary Amore-Ingham's** annotated bibliography on mystery books for children was published in *Bookmark*, the official newsletter of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL, June, 2010).

Alumni News

► **Patricia Ackerly Huizing** (School Library Media concentration '09 graduate) recently got married. Congratulations, Patricia!

► **Anne Marie Trinkleback** (Learning Tech concentration a Spring 2010 graduate) and her fiancé Joe were engaged in January, 2009. They'll be married in Anne Marie's hometown of River Edge at St. Peter the Apostle Church on June 4, 2011. Congratulations, Anne Marie!



Anne Marie & her fiancé Joe



Kristen Casale

We are proud to announce that two of our Teaching Children Mathematics concentration alumni, **Jacqueline Dauplaise and Kristen Casale**, were accepted into the Montclair Ed.D. program in Mathematics Pedagogy. It should be noted that both Jacky and Kristen also earned their bachelor's degrees at William Paterson University as Mathematics/Education majors and in addition, Kristen completed her Supervisor's Endorsement at WPU. Both candidates are currently high school mathematics teachers in the New Jersey. Congratulations to these distinguished WPU alumni.

► **David Scozzaro** (Learning Tech concentration) finished his doctorate (Ed. D.) in the program of Educational Leadership for Social Justice, Department of Educational Leadership and Administration, Department of Educational Leadership and Administration, Loyola Marymount University, in December, 2010. His dissertation was entitled "Youth, Social Networking, and Resistance: A Case Study on a Multidimensional Approach to Resistance." This exploratory case study focused on youth using technology, specifically MySpace and text messaging as a means for resistance. The specific case centered on learning how and why youth used MySpace to organize student walkouts in protest of House Resolution 4437 in late March 2006, ultimately amassing 40,000 students in Los Angeles. A framework was created out of the study's findings for ways in which educators can meaningfully embrace multidimensional resistive pedagogy: the combination of pedagogy, technology, and revolution.



Dr. David Scozzaro

► **Yanina Tsupa**, a Spring 2010 graduate of the Bilingual/ESL concentration presented, in cooperation with Ms. Anna Pellosie of the Paterson School District, a workshop at the 30th Bilingual/ESL entitled "Moscow Nights, New Jersey Afternoons: Meeting the Needs of Russian-Speaking ELLs and Their Parents."

► The following School Library Media concentration alumni have obtained jobs as school librarians this past September, 2010. Many of them have interviewed for and obtained school librarian positions in new districts. This remains an important statistic to show that school librarians are indeed in demand, and that positions are not being widely cut as sometimes assumed. Congratulations!

- **Jennifer Romano** – Center Grove Elementary School, Randolph Township
- **Cathy Intravaia** – East Hanover Elementary Schools
- **Lena Hayek** – Hillers Elementary School, South Hackensack
- **Katherine Panczyk** – Rochelle Park Junior/Senior High School
- **Denise Bemke** – Roberge Elementary School, River Vale
- **Melissa Ferro** – Ramapo High School
- **Cean Spahn** – Lewis F. Cole Middle School, Fort Lee
- **Dawn Stubing** – Dover Elementary Schools
- **Patricia Ackerly Huizing** – Lakeview Elementary School, Denville

Faculty News

- ▶ **Dr. Holly Seplocha** has just completed her 2nd term as Secretary for the New Jersey Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NJAETCE).
- ▶ **Dr. Heejung An** and **Dr. Holly Seplocha** co-authored an article that appeared in the September 2010 edition of *Young Children*, the journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The article, "Video-Sharing Websites: Tools for Developing Pattern Languages in Children," shares insights into ways to use videos available on the web to support the development of pattern languages and literacy in young children. This article is available at: <http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201009/AnOnline0910.pdf>
- ▶ **Dr. Gladys Scott** has become a lead reviewer for TESOL/NCATE. Dr. Scott has been a fully-accredited TESOL reviewer for several years now.
- ▶ **Dr. Bruce Williams** presented a paper at the Hawaii International Conference in Honolulu in January, 2011. The talk focused on media and pedagogy during Albania's post-Cultural-Revolution era (1977-1980). This is a part of a long-term research agenda on Albania.
- ▶ **Professor Hilda Weisburg** also has published a new book, *Being Indispensable: A School Librarian's Guide to Becoming an Invaluable Leader* (with Ruth Toor, ALA Editions, 2011).
- ▶ **Dr. Heejung An's** article entitled "The impact of urban district field experiences on four elementary preservice teachers' learning regarding technology integration" was published in the Fall, 2010 issue of the *Journal of Technology Integration in the Classroom* (with. S. Shin)

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(Continued from *Student News* - page 4)

- ▶ Two School Library Media concentration students, **Mary Barbara Reynolds** and **Jackie Soroko** assisted Dr. Michelle Kowalsky for the first annual COE Educational Technology Conference held at Valley Road.
- ▶ The following School Library Media concentration students have obtained jobs as school librarians this past September, 2010. Congratulations to:
 - **Amy Bonaria** - Dickerson Elementary School, Chester
 - **Kathy Pandise** - Hubbard Elementary School, Mahwah
 - **Jackie Soroko** - Wyckoff Elementary School
 - **Jackie Maltino** - Montclair Public Library

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(Continued from *Alumni News* - page 5)

- ▶ Three School Library Media concentration alumni hosted WPU school library media candidates for a visit to the Memorial Elementary School Library in South Hackensack, NJ in October, 2010. **Anne Turturo** (2008 graduate) and **Patti Alexander** (2008 graduate), now both tenured as library media specialists, spoke to Dr. Michelle Kowalsky's Foundations class; they gave a tour of the school library facility, and spoke about the challenges of becoming a new SLMS. South Hackensack Superintendent Dr. William DeFabiis also spoke about how the school librarian role is an essential one in his school and one which he cannot cut when budgets get tight. **Nancy Poalillo** (ASLMS '99) from Maywood Elementary School showcased her work with students in building information literacy, as well as their library's collections and programs for students and faculty.

Events

► The 30th Annual Bilingual/ESL Conference:

Students from the Bilingual/ESL concentration served as facilitators for the 30th Annual Bilingual/ESL Conference, Globalizing Schools and Schooling the Global held in December, 2010. The event had as a keynote speaker Dr. Joel Spring of CUNY, a specialist on Multicultural Education. Two WPUNJ adjunct faculty members presented workshops at the event, Elena Nehrebecki on Linguistic Landscapes and Daniel Sweetman on Religion, Multiculturalism, and the classroom. The next conference will be also held in December, 2011.

► The 1st Annual College of Education Educational Technology Conference:

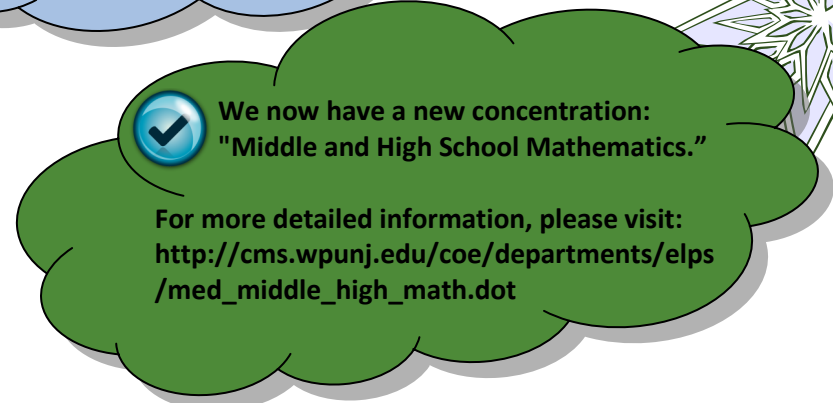
On December 10th, 2010, the first ever WPUNJ COE Educational Technology Conference was held in the Valley building, with the theme of "Teaching in the Digital Age." More than 50 attendees, consisting of K-12 teachers and technology coordinators, participated. The conference began with the COE Dean, Dr. Candace Burns' introductory remarks, followed by Dr. Pixy Ferris' keynote address. There were also a variety of hands-on sessions. Presentation materials can be found at: http://www.wpunj.edu/coe/edtechconference/Conference_Program. The theme of the 2011 conference will be "Incorporating Technology into Subject Matter." Stay tuned....we look forward to seeing you at the 2011 conference.

► The College of Education's Annual Diversity and Education Conference:

Join education faculty, pre-service and in-service teachers, and other educational professionals, as they participate in the College of Education's Annual Diversity Conference, to be held on April 1st, 2011. This conference captures the voices of educators who are committed to the journey of transforming curriculum to reflect diversity, democracy, and pluralism. For more information, please visit <http://cms.wpunj.edu/cpe/education/conferences-and-institutes.dot>



if you have any news, announcements, or articles to share for the next issue (Fall, 2011), please send them to anh2@wpunj.edu



We now have a new concentration: "Middle and High School Mathematics."

For more detailed information, please visit: http://cms.wpunj.edu/coe/departments/elps/med_middle_high_math.dot