The School of Education Welcomes Dean Michael S. Rosenberg

Faculty, staff and students of the School of Education welcomed both the new school year and a new dean of education this August. Dr. Michael S. Rosenberg, previously Associate Dean for Research in the School of Education and professor in the Department of Special Education at Johns Hopkins University, joined New Paltz August 3.

It’s a return to New York and to the State University of New York for Rosenberg, although he had been at Johns Hopkins University for 26 years. He is from Brooklyn and earned both his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in Special Education from Buffalo State. Dean Rosenberg taught adolescents with learning and behavioral disorders at Orleans-Niagara BOCES before earning his doctorate in Special Education from Penn State.

As chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Education, Rosenberg looks forward to building on faculty accomplishments and “keeping their good work going,” he says. “We have a lot of positive energy to channel into caring for our students and improving our schools. For example, we are enhancing the programs we already have in place and building on our strengths to concentrate on early literacy and preparing science and mathematics teachers at all levels, meeting two significant needs.”

Since settling in at New Paltz, Rosenberg says, his “initial, very positive impressions have been reinforced. We have excellent faculty doing wonderful things. They have an enormous impact in enhancing the quality of education in our communities by developing exemplary teachers and infusing best practices into every aspect of teaching.”

Among his initial activities will be meetings with stakeholders, including Mid-Hudson Valley school district superintendents, education leaders state-wide, and the School of Education Student Advisory Group, a team of graduate and undergraduate students. Rosenberg will also manage the School’s financial...
resources and external fundraising, recruit new faculty, and mentor faculty and chairs.

Rosenberg’s scholarship is in the areas of educational policy and instructional practices. He has been a visiting professor at Westminster College in Oxford, England and a Fulbright Fellow at St. Patrick’s College in Dublin. He is co-editor of “Teacher Education and Special Education,” the journal of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children; and co-author of “Educating Students with Behavior Disorders” (2003); “Student Teacher to Master Teacher” (2006); “The Special Education Sourcebook” (written with his wife, Irene Edmond-Rosenberg); “Inclusion: Effective Practices for All Students” (2010), and numerous publications in professional journals.

Seven local teachers earn 2012 Dean’s Award

Since 1984, the School of Education at SUNY New Paltz has collaborated with area school districts to recognize teachers in the Mid-Hudson Valley for excelling in their fields and endeavors. Each year, teachers are recommended by area school administrators and selected by a committee of SUNY New Paltz education faculty and professionals. As recipients of this award, each teacher will receive an honorary appointment as an adjunct clinical professor with the School of Education.

The winners were honored at a reception at The Terrace on the SUNY New Paltz campus and again at the Mid-Hudson School Study Council’s Awards for Excellence Dinner in October.

This year’s recipients are:

Greg Carlson
Newburgh Enlarged City School District
Gidney Avenue Magnet School (GAMS)
BS SUNY Oswego,
MS SUNY New Paltz

Joseph Huben
Ulster County BOCES
Career and Technical Center
MS Marist College, post-graduate work at Syracuse University and Adelphi University

John Shanley
Millbrook Central School District
Millbrook High School
BS SUNY Oswego,
MS SUNY New Paltz

Greg Carlson
Greg Carlson is the K-5 Science specialist at Gidney Avenue Magnet School in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. The school is a technology magnet school, and the GAMS Tech Children’s Museum designed, set up, and maintained by Carlson is one of its highlights. The Museum is curriculum-driven, interactive, and offers children and teachers a rainforest, fish tanks, a low tide pool, exotic animals, an outside pond, vegetable garden and materials for physics experiments, including a moon walking simulator, and, of course, a state-of-the-art science lab. A significant number of Newburgh Free Academy’s most talented science students trace their inspiration to Greg Carlson’s teaching, and to the boa, python, tarantula, and lizards in his classroom. “Watching Mr. Carlson work with students is like watching Bill Nye the Science Guy,” says his principal.

Carlson also collaborates with the Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum, the Nature Museum of the Hudson Valley, and organizes GAMS’s yearly Science Expo. He has developed good relationships with local organizations to help support the science projects, bringing the community into the classroom.

Joseph Huben
Joseph Huben is the New Visions Health Career Explorations instructor at Ulster BOCES in Port Ewen, and he is the “best of the best,” say his colleagues. He began his health service career as a nurse. For the past 15 years he has been helping Ulster BOCES students explore the health care field deeply enough to decide whether they too would like to pursue such a career. His students observe all aspects of medicine, from births to autopsies, with everything from administration to knee replacement along the way, and find ways to engage in civic action related to health care as well.

Huben is unique among the Dean’s Award winners in that his recommendations came not only from BOCES and participating school districts, but from the Northeast Center for Special Care, the Health Alliance of the Hudson Valley, and Senator Charles Schumer. A recommendation from the local organization Breast Cancer Options states that Huben, who takes his students to Breast Cancer Advocacy Training and Lobby Day in Albany each year, exemplifies “enhancing the experiential curriculum with… community engagement and civic responsibility.”

John Shanley
John Shanley
John Shanley teaches mathematics, from Algebra to Calculus, at Millbrook High School, also coaching basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer. He is a “consummate professional whose attention to detail and dedication to students is an example for all,” his principal says, adding that he has “an enthusiasm and drive that are unique, exceptional, and appreciated” by his colleagues and students. He is one of those teachers that students hope for, a colleague says, and know they can always go to his classroom after school for help, or to his review sessions on Friday evening or Saturday morning.

One of the many additional responsibilities he has taken on at Millbrook is that of mentor to new teachers. “I realized that my delivery of (mathematics) content to the students was a little rough around the edges,” says one teacher, and Shanley’s advice on differentiated instruction, patience, technology, and even classroom layout made the difference. “It is Mr. Shanley,” says his assistant superintendent, “who creates a pit in my stomach each time a retirement incentive is announced, which only dissipates when he does not submit his paperwork.”

A special award for Early Career teachers was initiated last year, and this year introduces a new award for Collaborative Teaching.

**Early Career Award Winners**

Brynn Allees and Jennifer Vogel have earned Early Career Dean’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

**Brynn Allees**

Livingston Manor Central School District
Livingston Middle/High School

*BS SUNY New Paltz*

*MS Long Island University*

In her first five years of teaching, Brynn Allees has gone “above and beyond the call of duty in all aspects,” according to her colleagues at Livingston Manor Middle/High School, where she teaches English Language Arts.

By adapting her lessons to reach her students’ needs, Allees exemplifies what it means to be an involved and devoted educator. Going out of her way to ensure that her students are performing to their highest ability, Allees stays after school to provide extra help to her students and holds them “accountable to the expectations [the school has] for them, both behaviorally and academically.” Her principal, Sandra Johnson, describes her as “professional, resilient, and extraordinary.” By providing a student-centered classroom, Allees conveys “a firm yet caring attitude about her interaction with students” that has had a lasting impact on her students.

**Jennifer Vogel**

Rye City School District (Fall 2012)
Rye High School
East Ramapo Central School District (2011-2012)

*BA University of Maryland, MS St. Thomas Aquinas College*

Jennifer Vogel was teaching Special Education and English at Spring Valley High School when nominated for this award, and has moved on to teach the same subjects in the Rye City School District. Although she has only been teaching for four years, her nominating principal, Karen J. Pinel of Spring Valley High School, tells us that Vogel’s dedication and professionalism inspire her students to outdo themselves and excel. She teaches self-contained English Language Arts, in the Resource Room, and excels in the collaborative classroom, acting as a “wonderful role model of independence for young women,” Karen Pinel says. Vogel is a strong student advocate, acting as the Senior Class Advisor and making herself available to students “before, during, and after school hours.” She is described as an exemplary teacher who is growing in professionalism and developing her pedagogical techniques, immersing herself in the world of education, and “an educational professional who is conscientious, intelligent, sincere, and hardworking, not to mention respected by her colleagues.”

**Collaborative Team Winners**

**Julie McGuirk**

*BS SUNY Oneonta*

*MS SUNY New Paltz*

and

**Linda Weiner**

*BS, MS, Mount Saint Mary College*

Both teach at
Maybrook Elementary School, Valley Central School District

Julie McGuirk and Linda Weiner of Maybrook Elementary School in the Valley Central School District are the recipients of the first Dean’s Award for collaborative teaching. Both teachers attended an intensive Lesley University training program as Literacy Leaders, enabling them to train their colleagues in literacy pedagogy. The two teachers have launched a rigorous and comprehensive early childhood program.

Julie McGuirk, Reading Recovery Teacher and Academic Intervention Reading specialist, successfully competed for a $10,000 grant to purchase a collection of books for the students of Maybrook...
Elementary. The collection supports several literacy projects for students and their families: Reading Challenges, Parent/Child Workshops, and a “Buddy Program” for kindergarteners struggling with reading. Superintendent Richard M. Hooley says that McGuirk, who is on the District Writing Committee, has “high standards for teaching reading and writing and her expectations for her students and colleagues have led to extraordinary success in the field of English/Language Arts… She is nothing less than outstanding.”

Linda Weiner, Grade 1 teacher and the school’s first Primary Literacy Coordinator, has developed and enriched the primary literacy framework at Maybrook Elementary School. Weiner’s patience and positive attitude have allowed her to teach her colleagues how to approach new ways of teaching reading and writing, making her an outstanding coach and team player. Her first graders read, write, and discuss text at a “significantly higher level” than other students in the area, due to her close and careful instruction, an assessment supported by a database on students’ reading progress. According to Deputy Superintendent John A. Hunter, Weiner is “a dedicated teacher who puts her concern for her students above herself, who goes above and beyond her call of duty as an educator by meeting the students’ needs and bringing them to the next level.”

The School of Education and the College community celebrated the Old Main Building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception in May 2012. The 105-year-old building reopened in Fall 2011 after a three-year renovation.

President Donald P. Christian, Retired Dean Robert Michael (Education) and Interim Dean Karen Bell (Education) were speakers, as were Senator John Bonacic and Assemblymember Kevin Cahil (SUNY New Paltz ’77), both of whom helped secure funding for the renovation.

Old Main, which dates from 1907, has housed multiple schools and offices through the years, including the entire College at one time. In line with New Paltz’s dual strategy for academic excellence and a green campus, the renovation incorporated the installation of high-tech classrooms, modern faculty offices, complete electrical upgrades, central air-conditioning and meticulous attention to the interior finishes of the building to restore its elegance and ornamentation.

Green features include maximum water efficiency; a highly efficient air-conditioning system, lighting, and other systems that will achieve 10 percent more energy efficiency than the standards established by the New York State Energy Code. Materials with recycled content were incorporated into new construction, including steel beams and columns, and finishes such as carpet, vinyl tile flooring and acoustic ceiling panels. During the demolition, more than 90 percent of the material removed from the facility was converted into recycled content.
Dr. Tom Meyer, of the Secondary Education Department and director of the Hudson Valley Writing Project (HVWP), was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Faculty Service in May 2012. Meyer’s contributions to the HVWP and his focus on “teachers teaching teachers” are some of the reasons he was selected for this honor. Meyer, known for his personal and professional commitment to the HVWP, has created an award-winning educational network among New Paltz faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, area teachers, and school administrators that helps to develop and support literacy education, bridge theory and practice, and promote professional development and systemic leadership in local schools and districts.

**New Faculty in the School of Education**

**Lisa Barker – Department of Secondary Education**

Dr. Barker received her PhD in Curriculum and Teacher Education from Stanford University and her MA in Educational Theatre from New York University. She was the 2011 winner of the Winifred Ward Scholarship, awarded to an outstanding graduate student who has demonstrated intellectual and artistic ability in the area of child drama/theatre.

Barker's dissertation, “Under Discussion: Improvisational Theatre as a Tool for Improving Classroom Discourse,” examined how English and history teachers learn to facilitate classroom discussion and the extent to which training in improv influences the quality of classroom talk.

Prior to joining us, Barker taught in the Stanford Teacher Education Program and the Center to Support Excellence in Teaching, performed with the Stanford Improvisors, and founded Stanford’s first children’s repertory theatre company.

**Nataly Chesky – Department of Elementary Education**

Nataly Chesky will receive her Ed.D. from Montclair State University in December. Her concentration in her M.Ed., also from Montclair, was in Critical Thinking. Chesky has New Jersey Middle School Mathematics certification and is an IAPC (Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children) certified practitioner.

Chesky’s dissertation is titled “STEM(ming) from where? A philosophical analysis on US mathematics education policy.”

Before coming to New Paltz, Chesky taught religion and philosophy at Bergen Community College and mathematics courses in the Montclair State University Gifted and Talented Program.

**Jennifer Davis-Duerr – Department of Elementary Education**

Dr. Davis-Duerr earned both her Ed.D. in Educational Studies/Reading and her MS in Reading from the University of Northern Colorado. She started her academic career in the SUNY system, graduating from Geneseo with a BS in Special Education. She has dual New York State certification in Special Education and Elementary Education.

Davis-Duerr began teaching at New Paltz over the summer of 2012 teaching graduate courses associated with the School of Education’s popular Literacy Clinic. She came to New Paltz from Rhode Island College where she had taught literacy courses and directed the Remedial Reading Clinic.

**Tarie Lewis – Department of Elementary Education**

Tarie Lewis has joined the Department of Elementary Education as a full-time lecturer in Literacy and Coordinator of the Literacy Program. She has over 12 years of teaching experience and received her MS in Literacy Education here. Her master’s project at New Paltz was titled “How Does Explicit Teaching of Spelling Strategies Impact Student Performance?,” while her master’s project for her MA in Education at University of California Berkeley was on “First Graders’ Copying as a Lens for Examining What We Teach about Writing.”
Largest Gift Ever Will Support Graduate Students

Current and future graduate students in the School of Education will be able to apply for scholarships supported by a gift of nearly $200,000 from Olga Santora, professor emerita of the Department of Elementary Education, who died in May 2010. Her bequest is the largest gift the College has received from a current or former faculty member and creates the College’s largest endowment for graduate students.

Santora taught in the School of Education for 23 years. She was influential in starting the School’s master’s program in reading and was the program’s first director until her retirement in 1985.

“Dr. Santora truly loved children’s literature. She enjoyed teaching our students about all facets of reading and played a vital role in both the Elementary Education Department and the School of Education,” said Robert Michael, recently retired dean of the School of Education.

“This is a large, and extremely generous, bequest that will enhance the Graduate School’s efforts to recruit and prepare outstanding graduate students,” said Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, associate provost and dean of the Graduate School. “It’s a gift that will profoundly impact the lives of graduate students, the work of the college, and the wider Hudson Valley community where scholarship recipients will serve as educational leaders and facilitators of learning. Dr. Santora will long be remembered for her unstinting commitment to education and for her philanthropy,” said Duhaney.

The Hudson Valley Writing Project (HVWP)

The Hudson Valley Writing Project (HVWP), known for its Invitational Summer Institutes, Saturday Seminars and Young Writer’s Programs, offered a number of programs to teachers and students this summer.

HVWP offered two week-long programs for adolescent writers this summer. Middle-school students created multimedia compositions at Poughkeepsie Day School, learning how to tell their stories digitally using photos, sound, and voiceover. At the New Paltz campus, high school students studied and practiced memoir writing, exploring and reflecting on what they know and believe: all useful skills for college and scholarship applications.

HVWP is involved in a multi-year initiative with the National Writing Project and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop and study curriculum that is aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards. Mary Sawyer and Hudson Valley teachers Jack Zangerle (Dover Plains Central Schools); Martha Young and William Nieves (both from Newburgh Enlarged City School District); and Heather Wheeler (Hyde Park Central Schools) have been working on this project with other New York State writing project teachers as well as others from across the country. In August, the group came together for a three-day leadership retreat at the Carey Conference Center in Rensselaerville to share and study student work resulting from the curriculum “modules” that they had created and taught over the course of the year. Discussions focused on how to continue to expand the Empire State Writing Project Network’s support of teachers throughout the state.
Who’s who in the HVWP:
The HVWP is housed in the School of Education’s Secondary Education Department. Tom Meyer (meyert@newpaltz.edu) directs the project, overseeing its administration, the Invitational Summer Institute and in-school professional development. Mary Sawyer (sawyerm@newpaltz.edu) leads HVWP’s Common Core initiatives and statewide coordinator for the National Writing Project’s Empire State Writing Project Network. Jackie Denu (denuj@newpaltz.edu) oversees the project’s communications, the Saturday Seminar program and Young Writers’ Programs. Former high school English teacher and New Paltz adjunct Bonnie Kaplan (blkdrama@mac.com) directs the project’s professional development regarding integrating new technologies and documents much of HVWP’s work. Martha Tait-Watkins (taitwatm@newpaltz.edu) joined HVWP this year and is the administrative director for budgets and grants.

New Work from School of Education Academic and Professional Faculty

New Publications from the Department of Educational Studies

Books


Nancy Schniedewind: Educational Courage: Resisting the Ambush of Public Education.

New Publications from the Department of Elementary Education

Chapter Contributions
Lindsey Russo: chapter contributed to Promoting Social Justice for Young Children: Advance in Theory and Research, Implications for Practice (author Beatrice Schneller Fennimore).

New Publications from the Department of Secondary Education

Books
Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski: Theory into Practice: Case Stories for School Leaders.

Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski: Making it Real: Case Stories for Secondary Students.

Journal Articles

Andrea Noel: "Easing the transition to school: Administrators’ descriptions of transition to school activities." Australasian Journal of Early Childhood Education.

New Publications from the Department of Educational Studies

Books
Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski: Theory into Practice: Case Stories for School Leaders.

Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski: Making it Real: Case Stories for Secondary Students.
Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski, editors (with Brad J. Porfilio): Using Standards and High-Stakes Testing for Students: Exploiting Power with Critical Pedagogies. (Selected for 2012 Critics Choice Book Award from the American Educational Studies Association.)


Ro Millham: Everything Moon.

Chapter Contributions
Ro Millham: chapter contributed to Using Standards and High-stakes Testing for Students: Exploiting Power with Critical Pedagogy (co-authors Julie Gorlewski, Brad Porfilio, and David Gorlewski).

Ro Millham: case studies contributed to Making it Real: Case Stories for Secondary Teachers (co-authors Julie Gorlewski and David Gorlewski).

Journal Articles:

conference presentations from the Department of Elementary Education
Andrea Noel and Kathleen Lord at the 2011 New York State Reading Association Conference: Supporting Young Children’s Future: Learning and Reading Comprehension: Basing Early Childhood Curriculum on Concepts

Andrea Noel and Kathleen Lord at the 2011 New York State Reading Association Conference: Taxation, Representation, Rebellion? Teaching Concepts to Deepen Comprehension

Lindsey Russo at the 2011 National Association for the Education of Young Children National Conference: Play, Social - Emotional Learning, Expressive Arts and Creativity versus Standardization, Rote Learning, Increased Academics and Accountability: Do We Really Have to Choose?

Conference Presentations from the Department of Secondary Education


Julie Gorlewski at the 2011 New York State Association of Teacher Educators Annual Conference: Using case stories to connect theory and practice.

Ro Millham at the National Science Teachers Association National Conference 2012: Engaging students in inquiry-based hands-on/ minds-on relevant, meaningful and standards-based learning through effective facilitation enhances content understandings and develops critical thinking and process skills.

Ro Millham at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Earth Ambassador Training 2012: Earth Ambassador training on atmospheric aerosols and climate change.

Ro Millham at Science Teachers Association of New York State Annual Conference 2012: The BIDDI Process to Investigative Success

Ro Millham at Geological Society of America Annual Meeting 2012: GRIDVIEW IMAGE MANIPULATION USING LOLA DATA (a software for image manipulation tool for data on Moon and Mars).

Ro Millham at America Geophysical Union Annual Meeting 2012: (1) Dust Emission Mineralogy from the Bodélé Depression, (2) Student Research Using GRIDVIEW Image Manipulation Tools, and (3) NASA Climate Day

Ro Millham at Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges & Universities’ 7th and 8th annual meetings (2011 and 2012), Black Creek Glass Eel Research Program.

Conference Presentation from the Office of the Dean of Education
Chris Whitaker at the 2011 Celebration of the Arts (COTA) festival: Writer Readings.
Samrat Pathania Earns 2012 School of Education Diversity Award

Samrat Pathania, a graduate student in Secondary Education, has earned the 2012 School of Education Diversity Award. Samrat grew up in India and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the National Institute of Technology in Jamshedpur, India. He worked as a programmer for over 6 years before beginning his journey to become a teacher in his adopted home in the United States.

Samrat is currently pursuing majors in both Mathematics and Secondary Education with a concentration in Physics at SUNY New Paltz. He plans to become certified to teach both Physics and Mathematics at the secondary school level and intends to work in a school district that is under-served in these subject areas.

The selection criteria for the $1000 scholarship stipulate that the applicant must be a full-time undergraduate or graduate student accepted in a School of Education program with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, with a preference given to those majoring in Mathematics or the sciences.

Contributors

Thanks for contributions to this issue are due to all our Dean's Award recipients and to Eileen Bastien, Jackie Denu, Devon Duhaney, Bonnie Kaplan, Laura Kniffen, Jennifer Palomino, Christine Retta, Mary Sawyer, and Chris Whitaker.

We appreciate the use of New Paltz press releases from the Office of Communication and Marketing.

This newsletter is a project of the Office of the Dean of Education. Dean Michael Rosenberg can be contacted at rosenbem@newpaltz.edu and Associate Dean Karen Bell at bellk@newpaltz.edu. Comments and suggestions should be addressed to Amanda Merritt at merritta@newpaltz.edu. Thank you for reading!