



2006 Awards For Excellence

This year, MHSSC welcomes a new sponsor to our awards program. Glencoe-McGraw Hill joins Bank of America as corporate sponsors of this annual event. We are delighted that have partnered with us to help support this prestigious study council program.

On October 12th, we will honor 36 recipients of the 2006 awards for excellence in teaching, administration, school board service, support staff services, and pupil personnel services. Anthony's Pier 9 will host this annual dinner celebration.

This is a very special evening for the recipients of the awards for excellence, and we invite and encourage colleagues, friends, and family members to join our award winners at this esteemed ceremony. Last year over 800 people attended the awards dinner. We hope you plan to join us in celebration of this year's educators who have demonstrated their pursuit of excellence.

Reservation forms were mailed to the office of your superintendent.

The 2006 award winners are listed below.

Administration

Arnold Fucci, Clarkstown
 Kenneth Garry, Monticello
 Mary Jean Marsico, Rockland BOCES
 Judith Muller, Pine Bush
 Louis Pietrogallo, Wallkill
 Patricia Rice, Ulster BOCES
 Richard C. Roberts, Monroe-Woodbury
 Richard K. Roberts, Port Jervis
 Maureen Ryan, O/U BOCES

Support Staff

Marilyn Avveduto, Washingtonville
 Dennis DePasquale, Monticello
 Laurie Devore, Tri-Valley
 Dorothy Dreyer, Chester
 Robert Garloch, Pine Bush
 Dawn Grieco, Newburgh
 Tammy Pospisil, O/U BOCES
 Rosalie Stokes, Kingston
 Lois Schwarze, Dutchess BOCES

School Board Service

John Anthony, Pine Bush
 Mary Arne, O/U BOCES
 Fred Cook, Washingtonville
 Gloria McAndrews, Florida
 Kathleen Schibanoff, Dutchess BOCES

Pupil Personnel Services

Patricia Martone, Rockland BOCES
 Evon McGuire, O/U BOCES
 Joan McMahan, Dutchess BOCES
 Norma Nunez, Chester
 Barbara Shearer, Pine Bush
 Rita Sherry, Ulster BOCES
 Nina Snyder, Newburgh

Teaching

Laura Bair, Newburgh
 Julie Bauer, Livingston Manor
 Monica Larca, Brewster
 RoseMarie Mastrocola, O/U BOCES
 Nancy Talbott, Rondout Valley
 Bernadette Vicki, Nyack

Calendar Highlights

Awards Dinner

Anthony's Pier 9
 October 12, 2006

Mentoring Sessions for New Administrators

Newburgh Ramada Inn
 Nov. 2, 2006, Dec. 5, 2006
 Jan. 18, 2007, Feb. 13, 2007

Election Day Workshops for Support Staff Members and Education Office Professionals

Anthony's Pier 9
 November 7, 2006

MHSSC Executive Committee Meeting

Newburgh Ramada Inn
 December 6, 2006

Annual Legislative Brunch

Hotel Thayer, West Point
 February 10, 2007

MHSSC

Room 101E, OMB
 800 Hawk Drive
 SUNY New Paltz
 New Paltz, NY 12561

Tel: (845) 257-2820
 FAX: (845) 257-2797

E-mail: doyles@newpaltz.edu
crugerl@newpaltz.edu

Website Address
www.newpaltz.edu/mhssc

51st Annual School Law Conference

MHSSC President Joseph P. Zanetti (L) with Law Conference presenters Karen Norlander, Jay Worona, & David Shaw

Craig Ramsey (Wallkill) with Jay Worona

MHSSC's 51st annual school law conference was held on August 4th on the SUNY New Paltz Campus. Traditionally held on the first Friday in August, this annual event provides important legal updates for superintendents, administrators, school board members, and attorneys. Each attendee received a binder containing copies of the presentations that were delivered during the conference. Also, attending attorneys were eligible to receive CLE credit sponsored by the Westchester Women's Bar Association.

Timely topics and impressive speakers combined to give our audience numbering over 220 an important legal briefing on special education issues, new regulations associated with the law on fiscal accountability, and current decisions of the courts and the commis-

sioner.

The final hour of the program was devoted to a mock oral argument on first amendment issues and intelligent design. Moderated by NYSSBA's Jay Worona, the argument was presented by James Drohan (Donoghue, Thomas, Auslander & Drohan) and Howard Miller (Bond, Schoeneck & King). Audience members participated in the final decision of our court.

David Shaw (Shaw & Perelson), Karen Norlander (Girvin & Ferlazzo), and Jay Worona (General Counsel for the New York State School Boards Association) delivered informative presentations prior to the mock oral argument.

As we begin planning for our 52nd annual school law conference in 2007, we welcome your suggestions for our program agenda and guest speakers.

Great Students and Supportive Districts Recognized

By Margaret A. Veve, SUNY New Paltz Coordinator of Student Teaching

Professional organizations, colleges and public schools across the country have increasingly begun to recognize the important role that internships can have on the professional development of future employees. At the same time, there have been reports of how difficult it has become for school districts to accommodate pre-service teachers for fieldwork and student teaching internships (MHSSC Spring 2006 *Messenger*).

Although pre-service teachers prepare earnestly and excitedly for fieldwork and student teaching experiences, they must wait patiently and anxiously. School districts, in turn, most often earnestly and conscientiously try and carry out their professional commitment to place the pre-service students in the best classrooms possible. Working with competing and ever-increasing state mandates, both pre-service students and school districts turn to a system of

asking classroom teachers to voluntarily mentor future teachers. However, many classroom teachers themselves face the challenge of higher expectations, high stakes testing, and a more diverse student population.

In this context and climate, extraordinary efforts have been made by pre-service students and mentoring staff to establish and maintain quality internship relationships. In recognition of these efforts, the first annual award ceremony of the SUNY New Paltz Career Resource Center Faculty Advisory Council was held on April 20, 2006 in the Terrace at SUNY New Paltz. The award ceremony celebrated the distinct efforts recognized by each dean of the colleges and schools of SUNY New Paltz.

The education student honorees recognized by the Schools of Education and Fine and Performing Arts were: Christina Tantillo, Adolescent Education; Karen McCrossen, Child-

hood Education; and Lauren Montforte, Art Education.

School district staff recognized for their extraordinary efforts to assist SUNY New Paltz teacher education candidates were from Arlington Central School District (Yvonne Alexander, Art Teacher); Wappingers Central School District (Cynthia Hotrovich, Art Teacher; Gian Palmer, Art Teacher; and Robert Jutton, Coordinator of Fine and Performing Art); Chester Union Free School District (Leslie Hyatt, Principal of Chester Elementary School) and Valley Central School District (Pamela Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services and Human Resources).

Although many students and districts can be commended for their role in maintaining the high quality internship relationships enjoyed by SUNY-NP, it was clear that these students and school dis-

Election Day Workshops

On November 7th, MHSSC will sponsor two professional development workshops for the support staff members in our schools. The two separate programs will run concurrently at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor on election day 2006.

Promoting positive student behavior will be the main theme of the program for paraprofessionals, aides, and all other support staff personnel.

Educational consultant Thomas Connelly will work with audience members in interactive learning activities throughout the day. Focusing on student behavior and classroom management issues, the topics for this full day conference will include identifying problem behaviors early, working with difficult students, creating positive interactions with troubled students, verbal and non verbal do's and don'ts, and managing students in large group settings.

Health educator and life coach, Patti Hudson will present an informative, dynamic, and enjoyable program for our school secretaries. Focusing on the psychology of change

and positive thinking, Patti will review different strategies for adaptation, dealing with life and work changes, and making wise decisions for yourself.

Patti has worked in the fitness, nutrition, and academic arenas for three decades. She operates her own coaching business, and she conducts seminars for schools and school personnel throughout the country.

She was a presenter at our spring workshop, and because she received outstanding evaluations as a presenter, we have invited her to return to the Hudson Valley to speak to our education office professionals. With new topics and new materials, we expect Patti to deliver an outstanding day of in-service training.

This year's election day workshop promises to continue MHSSC's excellent tradition of providing timely, practical, and important training for the support staff members in our schools.

Reservation notices were mailed to our superintendents at the end of September.

Mentoring Sessions for New School Administrators

***November 2, 2006**

***December 5, 2006**

***January 18, 2007**

***February 13, 2007**

*Register now for
MHSSC's 2006-07
new school
administrator
mentoring program
where experienced
and venerable
school administrators
lead our
panel presentations
and discussions*

Executive Committee Member Profile

While relatively new to MHSSC's executive committee, Christopher Como has 20 years of service on local boards of education.

His extensive and varied experience includes service on the Dover Board of Education, the Millbrook Board of Education, and the Dutchess BOCES Board. Currently, Chris is serving his second year as president of the Dutchess BOCES Board.

An active member of the Dutchess County School Boards Association, Chris has served as legislative director and has been an integral member of the audit, nominating, and dues committees. He is now serving as vice president of DCSBA.

In broadening his school board service to the state level with the



New York State School Boards Association, Chris has been the voting delegate at convention, a member of the resolutions committee, and a 10 year member of the state legislative network. Chris values the opportunities he has had to dialogue with our state legislators about issues important to public education. His direct contact with our elected officials has allowed him to be a strong advocate for our children and our schools.

Chris's enthusiastic participation in our study council's executive committee can only enhance the work of our study council.

Professor Jonathan T. Hughes Addresses Almanac Data

Professor Jonathan T. Hughes, editor of MHSSC's School District Almanac, spoke with our school officials in early September at a breakfast meeting at the Newburgh Ramada Inn.

Dr. Hughes reviewed a multitude of uses for the information contained in the almanac. He explained how this longitudinal database can help provide educational decision-makers with immediate and timely information on finances, instruction, student achievement, and demographics for educational decision making and planning.

A nationally known speaker and lecturer on technology and data analysis issues, Dr. Hughes has a rich background in both the educational, financial, and strategic planning components of school operations.

We were honored to have him journey to the Hudson Valley to speak with our superintendents and business officials.

*Visit
our website
newpaltz.edu/mhssc
to register online,
view calendar
updates,
and learn of
upcoming
MHSSC
activities and events.*

Teacher Leadership Academy

MHSSC and MHTC have collaborated to offer a series of five afternoon/evening sessions that focus on teacher leadership. This program is designed to enhance the important leadership skills of the teacher leaders in our schools.

Beginning in October and concluding in April, these sessions will meet once a month at Cascarino's Catering in Montgomery, New York. To keep the setting informal and interactive, we have set a maximum of 25 people for the 2006-07 program.

Topics include the following: serving as change agent, planning, organizing, and running meeting, communicating effectively, long and short range planning, and dealing with difficult people.

We encourage our school officials to identify the teacher leaders in their schools and enroll them in this worthwhile effort.

MHSSC Officers and Executive Committee Members 2006-2007

President - Joseph P. Zanetti, Tuxedo
Vice President - Lynn Cybulski, Wallkill
Treasurer - Mark Silverstein, Hawthorne-Cedar Knolls
Past President - Marilyn O. Pirkle, Washingtonville

Ann Bogert - O/U BOCES, Anne Byrne - Nanuet, Christopher Como - Dutchess BOCES, Alan Derry - Sullivan West, John DiNatale - Haldane, Valencia Douglas - Nyack, Richard Feller - Monticello, Carmine Giangreco - Roscoe, Richard Hooley - Valley Central, Debra Lynker, Livingston Manor - John McCarthy - Highland, Edward McCormick, Arlington/Dutchess BOCES, Dean Robert Michael - SUNY New Paltz, Carl Onken, O/U BOCES, Frank Pepe - Arlington, Joseph Phelan - Rhinebeck, Marilyn Terranova - Carmel, Lisa Wiles - Ellenville, Joseph Zambito - South Orangetown, Peggy Zugibe - No. Rockland

Ex-Officio Members

Steven Poskanzer - SUNY New Paltz President, Martin Handler - Sullivan BOCES, Robert Hanna - Orange/Ulster BOCES, John Pennoyer - Dutchess BOCES, James Ryan - Rockland BOCES, Martin Ruglis - Ulster BOCES, Ronald Smalls - Southern Westchester BOCES

Honorary Member - William F. Moran

Staff

Lynne Cruger - Assistant to the Director
Terrence Olivo - Research Director
Susan Doyle - Executive Director

