Welcome to the inaugural issue of the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) eNewsletter. The CEHS eNewsletter will be produced twice annually in an effort to update you on what’s going on with our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We are proud of our ongoing accomplishments and are excited to share this news with our constituent communities.

This issue features news about our nationally ranked online M.Ed. program; our first doctoral degree program; our serving as the new administrative home for the National Network for Educational Renewal; our integral involvement in the Ohio Latino Education Summit, Limb Loss Education Day, the PAX Good Behavior Game Training, and the implementation of edTPA; our outstanding students and alumni; and other noteworthy events.

I encourage you to read about and become involved in what’s going on in CEHS and to send us relevant news items that can be included in future CEHS eNewsletters.

Special thanks to CEHS eNewsletter Editor Melissa Rubins for making this idea a reality!

--Dean Charlotte Harris

Please submit ideas for future newsletter articles to melissa.rubins@wright.edu.
Attendees at the edTPA training.

WSUNER Conference

Plans for the Wright State University Network for Educational Renewal Conference (WSUNER) are continuing. The conference, scheduled for Saturday April 20, will be held on campus in Allyn Hall. It will begin in the Hangar with a continental breakfast. Dr. Greg Bernhardt, former Dean of CEHS and current co-director of the National Network for Educational Renewal, will give the keynote address.

Following the keynote, participants will have the choice of attending any of the forty-five presentations scheduled during three forty-five minute sessions. Presenters are faculty and staff from Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, Dayton Public Schools, Fairborn City Schools, Huber Heights City Schools, Milton Union Exempt Village Schools, Trotwood-Madison City Schools, Troy City Schools, West Carrollton City Schools, Dayton Regional STEM School, EL Puente, Webster Street Academy and Daybreak. The topics will include a range of K-12 and community outreach issues. The Hangar will be the location for lunch and district reports which will conclude the conference.

As an active participant in the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) at Wright State University (WSU) has developed strong partnership agreements with ten K-12 school districts in southwest Ohio and with the Dayton Regional STEM School. Many of these partnerships began as early as the 1990s. The focus of these relationships is to develop excellent teacher candidates, to improve K-12 student achievement, and to encourage “simultaneous renewal” among the participants.

NNER founder, John Goodlad, describes the importance of these partnerships, “School university partnerships in general and partner schools specifically are the essential vehicles through which we may bring about simultaneous renewal.” Goodlad’s reference to “simultaneous renewal” emphasizes his belief that collaboration within the partnership structure will result in a synthesis of new and innovative ideas, ultimately the key to improving the educational system. The WSUNER Conference will encourage this collaboration among the participating school districts and the university on an annual basis.

WSU is the new administrative home for NNER

Wright State University Network for Educational Renewal’s (WSUNER’s) proposal to serve as the host site of the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), including the continuation of Ann Foster and Greg Bernhardt as co-directors, was approved by the NNER Governing Council at its March 1 meeting at the AACTE Annual Conference in Orlando. The announcement from Council Chair Deb Shanley noted “a significant institutional commitment, a campus capacity to build upon a strong foundation, and a supportive infrastructure.”
Kinesiology and Health Department hosts Scuba Event for Amputees

A group of physically challenged recreation enthusiasts were treated to a free scuba diving clinic at the Wright State University Natatorium in the Student Union on Saturday, March 23.

The instruction was part of Limb Loss Education Day, Dayton, Ohio, which featured Stacey Minton, a World Class Instructor Certifier at Scuba School International (SSI).

At the event, Orthotic and Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF) presented First Dive!, an outreach program that introduces the amputee population to the emotional and physical benefits of scuba diving.

“It has been said that scuba offers participants a freedom that they never thought they would feel again,” said Drew Pringle, Ed.D., associate professor and chair of Kinesiology and Health. “This is a wonderful event and it makes perfect sense that Wright State would host something like this.”

“We are very excited to be able to bring these educational events to local communities and provide them at no charge to amputees and their families,” said Kendra Calhoun, president and CEO of the Amputee Coalition. “Our goal for some time has been to offer these workshops in various regions of the country for the convenience of our constituents. We want to make it easier for many to attend who would not be able to make it to national events.”

“OPAF is pleased to partner with the Amputee Coalition to bring a variety of our First Clinics to the amputee population across the country,” said Robin Burton, OPAF’s executive director. “First Clinics offer adaptive recreation instruction at an introductory level, as well as a vital social opportunity for amputees and their family members to meet and share the experience. We want to include everyone in the First Clinic experience, as either an active participant or as a cheerleader!”

(From the Wright State Newsroom, Seth Bauguess.)

Latino Summit held at Wright State

Co-chaired by a few of Ohio’s most powerful education advocates, the Ohio Latino Education Summit (OLES) was held at the Wright State University Nutter Center. Pictured left to right at the March 1 event are Robert Sweeney, Wright State University executive vice president for planning; State Sen. Charleta Tavares, Ohio’s 15th District; Lilly Cavanaugh, executive director, OCHLA (Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs); Grace Ramos, Wright State University board member; State Sen. Peggy Lehner, Ohio’s 6th District; and Tony Ortiz, Wright State University senior lecturer and OCHLA commissioner.

Steps to strengthen the educational system for Latinos were the focus of a first-of-its-kind Ohio summit at Wright State University that drew lawmakers, teachers, administrators and students.

The Ohio Latino Education Summit (OLES) was co-chaired by a few of Ohio’s most powerful education advocates. State Senator and Chair of the Ohio Senate Education Committee Peggy Lehner (Kettering, OH), state Senator and Commissioner on the board of the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA), Charleta B. Tavares (Columbus, OH) and OHCLA Commissioner and Dayton Latino community liaison for Wright State University Tony Ortiz led the summit.

“Never before in our history has education played such an important role in employment and security for our young people,” said Lehner. “It is critical that we remove those barriers that may prevent our Hispanic students from being successful.”

Tony Ortiz heads the Latino Dream Team, a proactive group of Dayton-area Latino organizations whose mission is to preserve the culture of Latinos and assimilate them into the fabric of the community. Ortiz, who is also a lecturer at Wright State and has been teaching for over 35 years, was asked to organize the summit when Kasich named him to the OHCLA last year. He said his goal for the event was to create an environment where best practices can be shared among educators, Latino students and parents.

“We want to identify where the problems are by getting the decision makers and consumers together to better understand what is needed and how to deliver it,” said Ortiz. “There’s an education gap in Ohio’s Latino communities stemming from a lack of understanding of the American education process and a lack of communicating that process effectively. This program should help connect those pieces.”

Presentations included a segment from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, which has found success closing the achievement gap with Latino students. The Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Latino Student Affairs Office shared its improvements in increasing retention rates for Latinos. The achievements of Ortiz’s own afterschool program, the El Puente Learning Center in the Dayton area, were also shared, among many other successes.

El Puente offers Wright State education students an invaluable opportunity to work with Latino students they are likely to encounter with their first jobs out of college.

(From the Wright State Newsroom.)
Wright State to offer new Ed.D. in Organizational Studies

A program that will help professionals become innovators and change agents for education institutions, businesses and government agencies is now being offered at Wright State University in what is the first doctoral degree from the College of Education and Human Services.

The Department of Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations, which is offering the new Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Studies, is now accepting applications for the fall 2013 semester.

“The Ed.D. in Organizational Studies seeks to assist students of the program to innovate and become creators of knowledge that will bring about change and make a positive impact on their organizations,” said Suzanne Franco, Ed.D., associate professor in the Department of Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations.

The program is designed to be attractive to professionals in education, government, public service, business and nonprofit organizations. Most of the program’s graduates are expected to seek leadership opportunities in a variety of organizations, including school systems, government and higher education.

“The focus is to develop scholar-practitioners committed to exploring and expanding research related to the practice and processes of organizations,” Franco said.

Students will follow a concentration in one of two areas: Leadership Studies or Learning Organizations. Each student will collaboratively develop with their advisor their concentration coursework to meet their career aspirations as organizational leaders or organizational learning experts.

Candidates must also complete an internship either within their current organization or in an outside organization. The internship experience is designed to help students expand their expertise and knowledge and explore other career opportunities, if desired.

The concentration component and the internship requirement make the new doctoral program distinctive, Franco said.

The program’s curriculum will take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of topics, theories and research often used by successful leaders. Core courses will address systems theory, leadership, decision making, personnel issues, external relations, planning, program evaluation and organization behavior.

The doctoral program is the first offered by the College of Education and Human Services, which also offers 12 undergraduate degrees, 45 master’s-level degrees and more than 40 licensure or endorsement programs.

More information on the Ed.D. in Organizational Studies is available on the College of Education and Human Services website (www.wright.edu/edd) or by contacting Julia Acosta, leadership programs coordinator, at (937) 775-2506 or julia.acosta@wright.edu.

(From the Wright State Newsroom, Bob Mihalek.)

Online M.Ed. ranked #15 in the Nation

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Wright State University’s online Master of Education degree in Curriculum & Instruction as No. 15 in the nation among online graduate education programs.

The U.S. News ranking in its Best Graduate Schools 2014 edition made Wright State’s College of Education and Human Services’ online program the top-ranked program in Ohio and ahead of well-known universities such as the University of Florida, Michigan State and Penn State. A total of 576 institutions were surveyed.

The magazine evaluated admissions selectivity, faculty credentials and training, student engagement and accreditation, and services and technology. Other factors included retention and graduation rates, student indebtedness at graduation, average undergraduate GPA of new entrants and support services such as career placement and academic advising. Wright State scored a perfect 100 percent in retention.

“The Department of Leadership Studies in Education & Organizations is very proud of our national ranking and the faculty team who deliver this program: Drs. Grant Hambright, Doug Roby, Suzanne Franco, Yoko Miura and Chris Cline,” said Jill Lindsey, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Leadership Studies. “This program has long enjoyed regional respect, especially for our dedicated faculty. It is very affirming to have earned a ranking of 15th in the nation.”

The teacher leadership program focuses on curriculum, instruction and professional development for educators who want to remain in the classroom and mentor younger teachers, develop curriculum, improve teaching strategies or oversee special programs for students. It is also the initial coursework for those who aspire to be principals and superintendents.

Formerly referred to as the Teacher Leader Program, the Master of Education program began in the 1970s as a way to reach out to students by sending faculty members to teach courses in outlying areas where there were a significant number of students, such as Wapakoneta, Marysville, Washington Court House, Batavia and Forest Hills.

As online technology developed, the program morphed into a hybrid model, with some of the courses and cohorts—or groups of students—being taught both face to face and online. In 2004 some of the cohorts went fully online; today, all of the cohorts are online. In Fall 2012, the department began offering three additional online programs: a Master of Education for Principals, an Education Specialist Degree for Curriculum and Instruction Specialists and an Education Specialist Degree for Superintendents.

(From the Wright State Newsroom.)
College Embarks on Drafting Strategic Plan

The College of Education and Human Services 2008-2013 strategic plan is set to expire, and a committee has been created to begin to draft the plan that will succinctly and concretely guide CEHS as we move forward. All of the departments and offices that make up CEHS will provide input as the plan is created, and continue to give feedback throughout the process. Because each committee member will be charged with seeking the input and ideas of their departments, offices, and groups, the plan will be an accurate and inclusive guide for our entire college community. The success of the plan requires that all faculty and staff have a stake in the goals set forth. A draft of the plan should be ready by the CEHS Fall Retreat in August.

Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign

Wright State University’s 2013 Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign began in March and runs through the end of the Spring semester. The campaign raises money for WSU scholarships and programs. In keeping with this year’s theme, CSI: Wright State, here are some things faculty, staff, and retiree donations will do for our students:

Solve the higher education puzzle for people of all means.

Shine a light on the need for high standards and high-quality educational experiences.

Uncover the need for recruitment and retention of a diverse and exceptional faculty.

Reveal the building and maintenance of superior educational facilities.

Allow students to observe leadership qualities in their chosen professions.

If you’d like to donate, please visit the following link: https://www.wright.edu/php-bin/advancement/giving/give.php?site=CSIC&solicitation_type=CSIC

You can also contact CEHS Unit Chair Melissa Rubins at melissa.rubins@wright.edu for more info.

Human Services Psychopharmacology Alumni and Supervisor Conference

The Wright State University Department of Human Services and the College of Education and Human Services present PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY in PLAIN ENGLISH with Kenneth Carter, Ph.D. Oxford College of Emory University at the 2013 Alumni and Supervisor Conference on Friday, April 12, 2013 from 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m in the Berry Room, Nutter Center, Wright State University

The Dean of CEHS Dr. Charlotte Harris and DHS Chair Dr. Stephen Fortson will welcome over 100 alumni, supervisors, students, and faculty to the 2013 Alumni and Supervisor Conference. The American Counseling Association President-elect Dr. Cirecie West-Olatunji will make remarks during the luncheon. This one-day seminar focuses on providing practical and useful information about antidepressants, anti-anxiety medications, and medication for insomnia, as well as the tools to handle the ethical decisions that surround psychopharmacology. The attendees will familiarize themselves with appropriate aspects of various ethics guidelines and examine how those guidelines might apply to their practice. It will get to the “bottom line” on the most prescribed antidepressants, anti-anxiety medications, stimulants, and medication for insomnia on the market today, and investigate the top medicines from each category that are the most important to know. Participants will leave knowing how they work, as well as the benefits and side effects associated with each. If they know how these work, they will be able to understand nearly all of the rest.

The presenter, KENNETH CARTER, PhD, ABPP, a board-certified clinical psychologist, received his Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and has a postdoctoral master’s degree in clinical psychopharmacology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Before joining the faculty at Emory University, Dr. Carter served as a Senior Assistant Research Scientist in the Epidemic Intelligence Service of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently, he is a Professor of Psychology at Oxford College, Emory University, where he is actively involved in research and teaching. Dr. Carter has been a psychotherapist and researcher for over 19 years and his work has garnered awards from the National Institutes of Health; the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; and the University of Michigan. In addition to research, Dr. Carter is actively engaged in translating research in psychology to everyday language. He has appeared in magazines such as mental_floss and Reader’s Digest, as well as in news programs such as Connect with Kids and NBC’s Today Show.
Colleen Demboski: Grad Council Scholar

The College of Education and Human Services is honored to count Colleen Demboski as one of our own! Colleen was recently awarded the prestigious Graduate Council Scholar fellowship, and will be known as a Graduate Council Scholar. Colleen, a Middle Childhood Education student, was nominated by Dr. Brian Boyd from the Teacher Education Department.

Dr. Boyd shared the following about Colleen: “Colleen is an outstanding WSU student and a role model for all who are entering the education field. Her work and experiences demonstrate her own commitment to lifelong learning. While in her undergraduate programs at WSU, Colleen has sought out additional opportunities to enhance her experience at WSU and prepare her for her career as a teacher. In addition to her coursework toward middle childhood education, Colleen is earning a second degree in Spanish. She has volunteer tutored at a couple of Dayton Public Schools. As part of the Honors program, she is completing a study on the history of bilingualism in the United States.”

We asked Colleen to share some information about herself and her time here at Wright State.

“Education has always been an essential part of my life. My parents constantly supported and challenged my seven siblings and me to dedicate ourselves in order to succeed. Together we were the foundation for my academic journey, and without them I would not have gained the knowledge, virtues, and skills necessary in life.”

“Throughout my time in elementary school and high school, I knew that I wanted to become a teacher. I was excited to gain new knowledge and experiment with the different ideas. Furthermore, school always felt like a second home to me, and I knew from the time that I started kindergarten that I would never leave.”

“Therefore, as my senior year approached, I was anxious to choose a prestigious institution in which to continue along my academic journey. Robert Brownfield, a former alumnus of my high school and the older brother of my closest friend, shared with me his experiences at Wright State University and in the College of Education and Human Services. He told me how it had shaped him into the teacher that he now was, and that he could not have created a better experience for himself. I was immediately drawn to Wright State, and upon visiting I knew that it was the university for me. My time at Wright State has been worthwhile, and I have grown as a person intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. I have been working toward a double major in Middle Childhood Education as well as Spanish. The university has supported me in this endeavor, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to pursue two areas of study about which I am so passionate. The 5-year Program for Middle Childhood Education offered at Wright State has been exceptional. The program focuses heavily on content development, which has given me the extended knowledge and understanding of the subjects that I will be teaching as well as the subjects that I won’t be teaching. Furthermore, the observation experiences placed me in a classroom setting, allowing me to interact with students, teachers, and the curriculum. I am so looking forward to the graduate program in which I will be striving to further prepare myself as a middle level educator. With the support of CEHS and the cooperating teachers of the local school districts, I will be challenged to apply the content and pedagogy skills that have been passed on to me by the professors in CEHS.”

“Once I have completed both my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees through Wright State University, I hope to teach abroad in a Spanish-speaking country in order to solidify my knowledge and use of the Spanish language. From there, I hope to teach and serve in a high-needs area that has a large Hispanic population. Bilingualism and bilingual education are a growing phenomenon in the world today, and I would like to foster a learning environment in which students are encouraged to pursue the acquisition of multiple languages. I am so honored to have received the Graduate Council Scholarship, and I will endeavor to grow in the virtues of a Graduate Council Scholar!”

Colleen was also recently named the CEHS 2013 Top Scholar, and will be honored by the Friends of the Library in a ceremony on April 12th.

Congratulations to Colleen!

Student Bio: Felix Torres, SAHE student

Felix Torres is making a difference! Felix is a 2007 graduate of the Athletic Training Program and hails from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Felix is currently a Student Affairs in Higher Education graduate student, and is the Coordinator of the Friendship Food Pantry, a relatively new Wright State initiative. The Friendship Food Pantry offers emergency food for students currently enrolled in classes at Wright State. Students experiencing a food shortage due to unemployment, lack of financial aid, shortage in dining dollars, or other issues are able to visit the food pantry once a month and get enough food to feed themselves and their families. The Friendship Food Pantry has been a welcome resource for the Wright State community, and has received an enormous amount of support from the Wright State administration, faculty, staff, students, and the Dayton community. Felix runs the food pantry with the help of volunteers and handles the food pantry’s daily operations in an organized, efficient, and caring manner.

Felix feels that the goal of the food pantry, which is to serve Wright State’s student population, is right in line with his passion for student affairs. Felix believes that a position in higher education will allow him to inspire, lead, and coach students to their hopes and dreams, and he says that the food pantry has opened his eyes to new ways of helping and servicing student populations.

Felix’s Student Affairs and Higher Education professors have high praise for his commitment to education. Dr. Carol Patitu says, “Felix is very engaging in the classroom, has a very positive attitude, and is highly committed to learning about and helping others. He truly cares about other people. He is definitely going to be an asset to our field.” Dr. Roxanne DuVivier expressed a similar sentiment, stating, “Felix is an extremely dedicated student who embodies the values of the profession. He has deep compassion for others and is dedicated to helping students succeed. He takes his academic and GA responsibilities seriously. He is a delight to have in class. In short, his presence enriches our cohort!”

If you’re interested in finding out more about the Friendship Food Pantry, contact Felix at torres.12@wright.edu or 937-775-2495. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.
ERC hosts Picture Book Extravaganza and Women Write Workshop

The Charles & Renate Frydman Educational Resource Center (ERC) was busy putting together programs in March and is looking forward to more activity this spring!

"Women Write! Pushing the Boundaries in Young Adult Fiction," was held on March 5th and was co-sponsored by the ERC, the Women’s Center, and the Department of English Creative Writing Program Committee to celebrate Women’s History Month. We invited four local women authors — Katrina Kittle, Trudy Krisher, Kristina McBride, and Sharon Short — to talk about writing for young adults and their thoughts on the genre and to answer questions that the audience had.

There was standing room only as a crowd of about 88 people gathered in Millett Atrium to hear what these women had to say. The WSU Bookstore was on hand to sell books for signing by the authors, and light refreshments were served.

On its heels came the Fifth Annual Picture Book Extravaganza!, held on March 9th in the Dunbar Library Group Study Room. The event was co-sponsored by the ERC, Dunbar Library, and Greene County Public Library. Multiple copies of approximately 185 children’s picture books published in 2012 were available for viewing.

Kay Webster, Youth Services Coordinator for Greene County Public Library, opened the day by describing the trends she saw in these books.

The group of WSU students, teachers and school librarians attending the workshop spent the next several hours reading books. Two break-out sessions were offered by award-winning author/illustrator Kathryn Otoshi: "One with Kathryn Otoshi" featured implementation of Kathryn’s anti-bullying book "One"; "Character-Building Books" featured many under-the-radar titles that she highly recommends including in character-building curriculum. The WSU Bookstore brought a selection of wonderful books for purchase, including multiple copies of Kathryn’s books, "One" and "Zero." Several gift bags filled with donated items from several publishers were raffled. Participants received a certificate of participation at the end of the day.

As part of WSUNER on April 20th, the ERC will be giving tours of the ERC and sharing opportunities for partnership schools to utilize resources here in the ERC.

Stephanie Bange is planning a book repair workshop for teachers and librarians, to be held this summer. If you would like to receive information about this or any other opportunities being offered by the ERC, call Stephanie at (937) 775-2050 or send her an email at stephanie.bange@wright.edu and she will add you the ERC email list.

PAX at Wright State

Dr. Dennis Embry, the keynote speaker at the College of Education and Human Services 2012 retreat, visited Wright State on February 28 to kick off the national PAX Good Behavior Game PAX Partner Training.

Through the combined efforts of the PAXIS Institute, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, and Madison Counties, the Greene County Educational Service Center, and the Miami Valley Regional Center, the PAX Good Behavior Game approach to early universal prevention is currently in 9 school districts and over 130 classrooms. The national training brought together over 60 teachers, school administrators, counselors, and social workers from 7 states with the goal of expanding this nationally-recognized research based approach. The PAX Good Behavior Game has over 70 research studies demonstrating that the strategies promote healthy brain development, improve school success, reduce teacher stress, and reduce the long-term societal costs associated with poor educational outcomes, youth violence, and substance abuse.

Wright State University’s College of Education and Human Services will have the country’s first curriculum based teacher education program integrating PAX behavioral principles into its classroom management course in the Fall of 2013. Wright State University has been a strong advocate for promoting early universal prevention principles across academic disciplines. This workforce development effort will be critical to the long term sustainability and success of PAX across Ohio’s schools and communities.

At the kickoff event, Dr. Dennis Embry (PAXIS Institute) talked about a research-based community approach to preventing and decreasing many of the troubling behaviors we as a society are currently facing. Dr. Embry is presently involved in the long-term response to preventing tragedies like those of Sandy Hook and Tucson, and recently gave a TEDx event. Attendees also heard about local initiatives in Clark, Greene, Madison, and Montgomery Counties.

In addition to this exciting event, Embry’s work has created a myriad of opportunities throughout the college. In the Fall of 2013, Dr. Jason Fruth, an Assistant Professor in Education from the Intervention Specialist Program and Mrs. Anya Senetra, a Certified School Social Worker from the Greene County Educational Service Center who is also a local Program Director and National PAX Good Behavior Game Trainer trained by Dr. Dennis Embry, will be teaching the Good Behavior Game to early childhood teaching candidates. This marks the first time that the PAX/GBG system has been taught to preservice teachers at the university level. Wright State University is also the exclusive partner of the PAXIS Institute in this endeavor. Jason and Anya will instruct this course for early childhood teacher candidates by instituting the PAX Good Behavior Game to meet the knowledge, skills, and dispositions according to the current NAEYC standards. In addition, in partnership with the Office of Partnerships and Field Experience, teacher candidates enrolled in this section of the course will also be enrolled in a correlating Phase I Observational Field Experience in local schools where the PAX Good Behavior Game has already been installed to practice and refine their skills. Then, as a University Supervisor and Certified PAX Good Behavior Game Partner, Jason will supervise the Phase I Observational Field Experiences of these candidates in their classrooms.

Dennis Embry fires up the attendees of the Pax Good Behavior Game Training on February 28th.
College Outstanding Alumni Award presented to Jim Mamer, '88 B.S.Ed., '94 M.Ed.

Jim Mamer is a 1988 graduate of Wright State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in mathematics. He received his Master of Education degree in 1994 and is completing his 25th year of teaching at Rockway School in the Clark-Shawnee Local School District.

In 1989, Mamer became involved in the Middle Grades Mathematics Project at Michigan State University. This was a National Science Foundation funded project that later became the Connected Mathematics Project (CMP), the number one selling middle school math curriculum in the country.

Mamer works with hundreds of teachers yearly, leading CMP professional development sessions across the United States. He also provides training to Dayton area teachers hosted by the College of Education and Human Services at Wright State and the Dayton Regional STEM School. Mamer’s respect nationally as a teacher trainer for middle school math is due in large part to the continued success he has with his middle school students. His enthusiasm and passion for helping students and teachers better understand mathematics is inspiring.

Mamer is National Board Certified and has won many local and national awards including the Presidential Award for Secondary Mathematics teaching. He credits his success to the support he received from Wright State math professor Dr. Carl Benner as well as the authors of CMP.

Mamer’s wife Cara is a Wright State graduate and art teacher. Their oldest son, Luke, is a Wright State student majoring in business and playing for the baseball team. Their youngest son, Logan, is a junior at Kenton Ridge High School.

Dayton Regional STEM School Readies for First Graduating Class

The 2012-13 school year has been, yet again, one of “firsts” for the students and staff at the Dayton Regional STEM School. This is the first year the School has operated at its full complement of grades 6-12, housing both middle and high school students and classes on one campus in Kettering. The School recently inducted its first group of junior and senior students into its new chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). And, the School will present its first graduating class of high school seniors – the Class of 2013 – on June 1, 2013.

The Dayton Regional STEM School is one of 12 public STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) schools across Ohio, offering students a relevant, real world educational experience that prepares them for college and opportunities in the work world. The School opened in August 2009 with its first class of 9th grade students from across Clark, Greene and Montgomery counties. Students participate in inquiry and project-based instruction that integrates the traditional STEM content areas with social studies, language arts, the fine arts, and wellness and fitness – the School’s primary foreign language offering is Mandarin Chinese. The curriculum is directly connected to the real world of work being done by the scientists, engineers, strategists, planners, manufacturers, innovators and entrepreneurs throughout the Dayton region.

The Dayton Regional STEM School currently serves 430 students in grades 6-12 who come from 28 different school districts in six counties. This year the School is fielding five middle school (FLS) and two high school (FTC) Robotics teams; both middle and high school Science Olympiad teams; a middle school Destination Imagination team; and a high school CyberPatriot team. Additionally, the School offers Science Fair; Student Council; National Honor Society; Muse Machine; Yearbook and community service opportunities for students.

From its original inception and mission: “To prepare students with the skills necessary to compete in the global economy while nurturing in our young people the same enthusiasm for discovery, invention and application that launched the vision for powered flight” the Dayton Regional STEM School has been tied to the history and roots of the Dayton region. That connection to the real world continues to grow as businesses and organizations partner with the School in a variety of ways. The return on this investment will be a steady stream of students – beginning with the Dayton Regional STEM School’s Class of 2013 – being ready to pursue their STEM aspirations across the Miami Valley.

CEHS Sponsors 2013 ARCA Research Awards Reception

March 22, 2013-Cincinnati, Ohio

The CEHS sponsored the 2013 American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA) Research Awards reception in conjunction with the American Counseling Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The reception was well attended-drawing nearly 100 students, educators, administrators, and rehabilitation counselors from across the country. Dr. Keith Wilson, ARCA Research and Knowledge Council Chair presented awards for the top three outstanding research publications in the field of rehabilitation counseling in 2012. Additionally, the 2013 James F. Garrett Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Research awards was granted to Dr. Dennis Gilbride of Georgia State University. The College of Education and Human Services received high praise for supporting the event, and served as a focal point for its high quality counselor education degree programs.
Research Notes from Leadership Studies

Dr. Yoko Miura (Leadership Studies) and Dr. Donna Tromski-Klingshirn (Human Services) presented a technical report of a 3-year research study “Examining the Effects of Credit Recovery” with school administrators at the Huber Heights School District in January 2013. This research is a follow-up qualitative interview study of perceptions of “drop out candidates and drop outs” regarding their journey in high school. After students failed one or more classes in a freshman year, they tracked two cohorts of students (Group 1 graduated in 2012 and group 2 will be graduating in June, 2013) until graduation. They also examined some archival data to triangulate the results of the qualitative interviews. The study results will be published in several journals with recommendations to school administration, counselors, teachers, parents, and others. A few joint projects resulting from this study will be developed between the district and Wright State University in the next few years, but details are yet to be determined.

Selected Key Findings

(1) Early intervention seemed to have an impact on Credit Recovery (CR) completion and staying on-track for graduation. 90% of students who stayed at the High School, and 100% of students who chose to specialize their learning at a Career Tech Center (CTC) graduated on time with their peers.

(2) The “drop out” rate (1.2%) was much lower among students who received the early CR intervention as freshmen at Huber Heights School District. The high school graduation rate of the district suggests that more “drop outs” occur among those who did not go through CR.

(3) There was no one particular defining issue that characterized all students who completed CR. CR students were diverse with respect to gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, academic performance and interests. The population consisted of less than 5% of freshmen.

(4) Clear post-secondary goals with more college-oriented objectives were observed among the second group, which received earlier intervention immediately after they failed at least one course first semester in freshman year (i.e., 2009-10). Three years after freshman CR, this group tended to remain at the high school (69%) more so than the first group of students who completed CR during summer 2009 (41%).

(5) The majority of the CR students expressed that they did not adjust well to high school in their freshman year. They identified specific differences between middle school and high school, which ranged from the duration of classes and choice of academic subjects, to misplacement in specific freshman classes.

Acknowledgement: We appreciate the School Psychologist Mr. Bob Hankey, LDR Chair Dr. Jill Lindsey, Office of Partnerships and Field Experiences, Dean Harris, and Faculty Development Grant for numerous supports to conduct this study. We also appreciate Dr. Suzanne Franco for leading the initial research conversation with the district administration and conducting a quantitative study (Franco & Patel, 2010) prior to our qualitative investigation.

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The Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) is being developed as the central, research center for Education in Ohio. It is being funded in the early stages by Race to the Top funds and has an advisory council which includes groups such as ODE, OBR, and the Governor’s office. It is made up of a consortium of research institutions from Ohio: Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, Case Western University, Wright State University, Ohio University, Miami University, Battelle for Kids, etc.

The initial goal is to become the clearinghouse for education data related to the Race to the Top initiatives in progress in Ohio. The long-term goal is to become the single-source research center for education in Ohio. A number of research projects are in progress and others have come from ODE, and will start very soon as the work ratchets up.

Jill Lindsey and Suzanne Franco are on the main Guidance Committee, while Ted Zigler is a member of the Outreach Committee.

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The Ohio Council of Professors of Educational Administration (OCPEA) is in its 7th year of existence, coming together in order to have a political voice, and to help all of the Principal Preparation Programs work together for program improvement. The organization has been actively involved with projects and other work with the Ohio Board of Regents, and is also involved in other initiatives, such as the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC), which works with Buckeye Association of School Administrators (superintendents’ association), the Ohio Department of Education, and both state principal organizations (Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators [OASSA] and the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators [OAESA]). Through OCPEA’s involvement, the group stays informed and active in the works of Ohio regarding school leadership and the development of school leaders. Recently, OCPEA facilitated the Ohio Board of Regents’ Blue Ribbon Panel on Improving Principal Preparation Programs, offering the Recommendations to Chancellor Petro in June of 2012. He approved the recommendations, in concept, just three weeks later. The Panel was made up of principals, superintendents, ODE, OBR, Battelle for Kids, BASA, OASSA, OAESA, and initially involved Barbara Byrd Bennett, current head of the Chicago Public School System.

The organization is made up of faculty from every institution offering a principal and superintendent preparation program operating on the ground in Ohio. Two conferences are held each year – in the Fall and Spring. Grant Hambright is the current President of OCPEA, and Ted Zigler is the Executive Director.

As part of the early research projects for the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC), Jill Lindsey, Suzanne Franco and Ted Zigler are investigating the implementation of the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES), with reports going back to ODE to learn about necessary adjustments to the systems.

It also appears that Wright State will lead an evaluation/investigation into the implementation of a new Entry-Year Program for Principals. The pilots are in progress and it appears other institutions and the principal associations will also start a version of this Entry-Year Program and will be included in the evaluation. This work has yet to be defined and the team has not been totally put in place. Suzanne Franco and Ted Zigler will aid in the initial start-up of the work.

The Ohio Board of Regents, via the Race to the Top directives, developed Report Cards for Teacher Education and Principal Preparation Programs. The Report Cards, which came out in December 2012, are a number of Metrics which hope to describe the quality of the programs. After the first report, the Metrics Committee was reconvened in January to examine the results in order to consider what aspects appear to be effective descriptors, and what changes might be needed. This was listed in the Race to the Top as being for public universities, but all of the private universities joined on, as well. Ohio is a rare state in having both public and private institutions working together. This Committee included Wright State representatives: Grant Hambright and Ted Zigler. This Committee is being led by Karen Herrington (formerly of Akron University) on behalf of the Board of Regents.

The Ohio Board of Regents, through another Race to the Top directive for Higher Education, is developing a funding formula for public Teacher Education and Principal Preparation Programs, based on the Metrics within the Report Card. Wright State representatives are Jill Lindsey, Chair of Leadership Studies, and Ted Zigler. This group, led by Rebecca Watts, Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, will have an impact on funding for programs based on the quality of programs, attempting to use performance as incentives to improve all programs. This work is in progress, since it was being based on the Metrics which were recently released in December 2012.
Upcoming Events

April 11th at 4:00 pm, Sinclair Community College: Workshop for Teachers and Education Majors. This is set up as three concurrent workshops and will focus on relating the Holocaust and bullying. For more information or to register, contact thomas.martin6057@sinclair.edu

April 12th at 8:30 am, Berry Room, Nutter Center: Human Services Alumni and Supervisor Conference, “Psychopharmacology in Plain English” with Kenneth Carter, Ph.D. (Oxford College of Emory University).

April 13th at 2 pm, the Quad: RELAY FOR LIFE. Join Team CEHS as they raise money for cancer research and prevention.

April 13, 2 pm-4 pm, Mini-University: STEM Event for Kids. From building and testing model vehicles and towers to planting seeds and making pattern maps, the purpose of the event is to build early childhood students’ STEM literacy and promote positive attitudes and family awareness towards STEM education. Early Childhood Education students are planning and running the event. For more information, contact Michelle Fleming at michelle.fleming@wright.edu.

April 15th at 2:00 pm, Sinclair Community College, Building 7: Renate Frydman will share her survivor’s story. For more information or to register, contact thomas.martin6057@sinclair.edu

April 20, Allyn Hall: WSUNER Conference.

April 20, 9am-4 pm, Campus Garden outside Student Union: Help create more campus garden beds for Earth Day! Contact Linda Ramey at linda.ramey@wright.edu.

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