Holiday Celebration at Dr. Dina Castro’s house

This year’s holiday celebration was held at Dr. Dina Castro’s house on Friday, Dec 05, 2014. Here are a few pictures of our faculty, staff and graduate assistants who attended and joined in the celebration ~ singing, partying & more……………….

And our winners for the ugly sweater contest: Mr. Philip Lamb, Ms. Sherrie Beeson & Dr. Sarah Pratt.

Holiday decorations by our Student Assistants ~ Mr. Gustavo Alveraz, Ms. Hallie Nelson & Ms. Jasmine Chappell.

Matthews Hall Suite 204, 206 & 218.
Since January, UNT students have served as mentors to Denton school district Hispanic English Language learners as they prepare to transition from high school to college.

This semester, college mentors have met with about 40 Guyer High School students twice a month in small groups to discuss applying for college, financial aid opportunities, selecting a career, improving grades and preparing college admission exams.

"The idea is... that there are possibilities beyond high school," said Rossana Boyd, director of the Bilingual/English as a second language teacher certification programs at UNT.

She also heard students say they’re not going to college because of concerns that it’s a financial burden, and that’s something the program is attempting to change. She also mentioned that some students don’t aspire to attend college because they don’t know how to get there.

Each semester also culminates with an event where parents are invited to see what the students did during the semester and what they’ve learned. Information packets in Spanish about how to make that attainable were shared with parents.

The full article was published in the Denton Record-Chronicle newspaper on 14 November, 2014. Below is the link.


And here are a few pictures of Faculty & Staff who participated in the Community Engagement Grant Awards.

Dr. Rossana Boyd, Dr. Karthigeyan Subramaniam, Mr. Reynaldo Quiroz, Ms. Elia Alducin Garcia & program coordinator Ms. Amairani Ordonez.

Performance by Dr. Carol Revelle’s class.

After reading "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" a collection of art and poetry from the children of Terezin Concentration camp during the Holocaust, learners from the 4-8 certification section of Carol Revelle’s Cross Curricular Literacy course prepared a performance of a one-act play by the same name.
Dr. Miriam Ezzani’s online course now used as National benchmark for quality.

Dr. Miriam Ezzani, Senior Lecturer in the department of Teacher Education & Administration constructed the first online course at UNT to be certified by Quality Matters (QM), a national benchmark for online course design.

As the internet becomes increasingly integrated in society, many have seen online courses as a cost effective and flexible alternative to traditional classrooms. However, with that flexibility came the view that online courses inherently lessened, even cheapened the material and social interaction present in the classroom setting. Dr. Ezzani’s course design addressed those perceived weaknesses with help from QM and the UNT Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR). The curriculum emphasizes wiki projects, learning blogs and other projects that require interaction between students. She also conducts individual Skype meetings with each student at least twice during the course.

“Teachers no longer just sit in their classrooms working in silos, they’re required to engage in professional learning communities where they are collaborating with other teachers,” said Ezzani, explaining the significance of the interactivity.

Ezzani believes teachers need to be tech savvy. With tablets and other computers becoming commonplace in schools around the US, online courses present an opportunity for future teachers to become acclimated to systems that may have been absent from their own education.

When Jane Himmel from Quality Matters approached Ezzani about submitting her course for QM certification, she had no sample course to reference. Ezzani worked from a rubric and with CLEAR instructional consultant, Alese Smith, to meet certification standards. Her course is now used as the sample to demonstrate the principles and requirements of the QM program.

Since the first course, Ezzani has constructed two additional courses that are aligned with QM standards. Other UNT faculty are developing and reworking courses to reach similar standards.

College joins national consortium to improve EdD programs

The Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) is a consortium of over 80 colleges and schools of education that work together on a national scale to examine and evaluate the doctorate in education (EdD) degree.

Participation in this national effort will strengthen the programs and put them on the cutting edge of innovation in these professional practice degrees.

UNT’s College of Education is represented in the consortium by our faculty member Dr. Miriam Ezzani for the Educational Leadership EdD.

College hosts career advancement workshop for aspiring educators.

Over the summer, the college’s Educational Administration program hosted a workshop for UNT students and alumni aspiring to be principals and superintendents. Dr. John Brooks, principal lecturer spearheaded the workshop. The workshop provided participants with face-to-face meeting time with top educational recruiting firms from Texas, networking opportunities, tips on marketing yourself for an administrator position, resume building and interviewing skills.

For more information on upcoming career workshops, please contact John Brooks at john.brooks@unt.edu.
FACULTY NEWS

Southwest Securities Superintendent Certification Program Reunion 2014.

Graduates, faculty, supporters and rising stars in the Educational Leadership program gathered at the Communities Foundation of Texas last month for a banquet with speaker Lt. Col Consuelo Kickbusch.

Teacher Education faculty members Dr. John Brooks & Dr. Jimmy Byrd.

Jeanne Tunks (faculty), named mentor of the Year for The Eagle Feather. Congrats!!

New Appointment

Dr. Jane Huffman, Professor for TE & A has been appointed as "The Dr. Mike Moses Endowed Chair in Educational Administration.

Helping kids learn English ~ and Spanish, too

How does speaking two languages help your brain and your future?

Rossana Boyd (faculty) is featured in this KERA News story on bilingual education.


Newly Elected TE & A Committee Representatives

Dr. Sarah Pratt ~ COE Faculty Assembly
Dr. Kelley King ~ COE Grievance Committee
Dr. Jemimah Young ~ Departmental Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA)
Bilingual/ESL Student Organization hosts panel discussion for future educators.

Within the next five years, it is expected that Texas will need 11,000 new bilingual/ESL teachers. Bilingual/ESL Student Organization (BESO) hosted its annual discussion for current and future bilingual/ESL education students who will help meet that need.

“We cannot possibly teach enough bilingual ESL teachers. The demand for producing a pipeline for great students who can man the workforce of the future is enormous, and K-12 is overwhelmed,” Neal Smatresk, president of UNT, said at the BESO event on October 20.

UNT’s College of Education is helping to meet the demand through its program for bilingual and ESL education. The panel included Neal Smatresk, Jerry Thomas, Dean of UNT’s College of Education, and Jim Laney, Chair of the Department of Teacher Education and Administration, as well as former members of BESO who graduated and became teachers in local school districts.

AWARDS

- Dr. Carol Wickstrom has been awarded $21,899.00 for the Write for Texas Project.
- Ami Tomlin, Graduate Student in TE & A, has been awarded $1,000.00 to support research expenses associated with the PhD in Curriculum and Instruction.
- Sumreen Asim, Graduate Student in TE & A, has been awarded a $500.00 Graduate Student Travel Grant. This award will be used for travel to the Association for Science Teacher Education Conference (ASTE).

Gustavo and his team received 2nd place on the oral presentation and 4th place on “Top Design Team” category for the NASA’s Texas Space Grant Consortium.
Mr. R. Jefferson George, 2014 College of Education doctoral graduate, traveled to the Republic of Georgia in April to share teaching methods from the Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Program (G*STEP), a free program for graduate students to prepare future educators in higher education.

George and former UNT student Davit Darsavelidze, who is from the Republic of Georgia, led a week-long workshop at Tbilisi State University through the Muskie Mentor/Advisor Exchange (MAX) program.

They made their presentations at Tbilisi State University and the Ministry of Education, where they spoke to over 200 educators from surrounding institutions in Tbilisi.

“This was a wonderful opportunity to share what we are doing at UNT in our G*STEP program, and with an international university, as G*STEP keeps its focus in supporting student learning,” George said.

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One of our outstanding Master’s students, Ms. Sara Schochler is on the panel for the K-16 Fine Arts Education Summit which is scheduled for Saturday, January 24th 2015.

Venue: University of Austin, Department of Fine Arts.

A webinar series for innovative educators by Ms. Whitney Young & Dr. Mandy Stewart.

Teach and Learn: Apprentice, Kindergartners, and High School poets.

For more information, Contact: Dr. Leslie Patterson,
BSC News

- VENDOR SETUP GUIDANCE

Based on the continued review of financial documents, Procurement Services need to make sure that all customers understand what is necessary for all vendor setups. Effective immediately, Procurement Services must ensure that a tax identification number is supported by a W-9 form prior to the vendor setup completion and release.

Part-time future teachers Needed!!

Innovation Greenhouse at UNT is looking for a few GREAT future teachers to start working in Denton ISD in January 2015.

For more information, contact Ms. Nancy J. Hong, Executive Director.

http://innovation.unt.edu/
Office: 940.369.5203
Mobile: 214.707.1659

CALENDAR EVENTS

- AERA 2015 Annual Meeting presenters Dr. Kathy Dixon, Dr. Rebecca Putman, Dr. Labotta Taylor, Ms. Amanda Hurlbut & Ms. Lois Knezek.
Venue: Chicago, IL
Date: April 16~20, 2015

Venue: Chicago, IL
Date: April 11~14, 2015

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