Message from the Dean:

I’m pleased to inform you that a lot has been happening in the School of Education this spring. We have a great deal of wonderful news to share with you in this edition of the newsletter. Laura Straus, a sophomore who is an excellent student and involved in service to the community and the profession, was the first recipient of the Susan A. Young Scholarship Award. Chiara Shah, who recently completed the Master of Arts in Teaching Program, received a New Jersey Distinguished Teacher Award. Nicole Stevens, a history and education major was named the Outstanding Student of the Year and also was awarded the Monmouth University Library Research Award and Alumni Award. We are extremely proud of our students’ accomplishments.

In this issue, you can view the new programs that were developed by the faculty and a new course on assessment. We also focused on our student organizations and our alumni. We have information about upcoming events, which include our evening of music with Tim McCloone, the fall Literacy Symposium, and the annual Susan A. Young Gift Auction.

Please use the enclosed form to help us locate our alumni and update their contact information. You’ll receive emails from us with continual updates. Additional information can be found on our website: www.monmouth.edu/academics/schools/education. Best wishes for an enjoyable, relaxing summer.

Lynn Romeo
Dean, School of Education
Dr. Witherspoon Selected to Participate in New Mentoring Program

Dr. Sheila Witherspoon has been accepted as a mentee in the New Faculty Mentoring Program, Division E (Counseling and Human Development) by the American Educational Research Association (AERA). This program provides new faculty members with the opportunity to meet across institutions, receive advice from successful researchers in their field, and develop a mentoring relationship with an experienced scholar. The program consists of a one-to-one mentoring and networking dinner and a half day seminar/panel. Selected participants met on April 12 and 13 at the annual meeting held in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Mary Lee Bass Publishes in “Reading Today”

Mary Lee Bass recently wrote an article that featured the Monmouth University Student IRA Council, “Student IRA Council Leads the Way in Literacy Outreach Both On and Off Campus.” It has been published in Reading Today, a publication of International Reading Association which has a readership of 80,000 people in 100 countries worldwide.

Some Excerpts............

For nearly 15 years, Monmouth University’s International Reading Association Special Interest Council (MU IRA/SIC) has served as a springboard for literacy-based community service by students—often long after they graduate. Each service-related initiative in our neighboring communities is ongoing and part of every academic year. By offering multiple activities, members can pick and choose as schedules permit. The following represent some of the MU IRA/SIC initiatives that student members enjoy and count on each semester:

“Local elementary schools—Several elementary schools partner with MU IRA/SIC through a “Reading Buddy” program offered during the school day or during an after-school program for homework help.

“Big event—Members partner with the university at large to connect students to community service projects that help enhance a local neighborhood.

“Read Across America—Six kindergarten classroom doors are adopted in honor of Read Across America Day.

“Largest book distribution in our state—in this latest endeavor, members will participate in the first annual large-scale book distribution across our state as a way to celebrate Read Across America Day.

“State Reading Association Conference—MU/IRA/SIC annually sponsors five registrations for its officers to attend the New Jersey State Reading Association’s Conference.

For further information, please contact Mary Lee Bass at mbass@monmouth.edu.

Dr. Jose Maldonado at Career Day in Asbury Park Middle School

Dr. Jose Maldonado participated Asbury Park Middle School’s Career Day at the request of Monmouth University School Counseling intern, Katy Califano. The students related to his personal story about growing up as part of a minority group and found the talk to be meaningful as well as inspirational. The event was a great success!
During the spring semester, Dorothy Varygiannes piloted a new course proposal in curriculum and instruction, entitled Assessment Practices: Now and When? This course is intended to provide prospective teacher leaders with the knowledge and skills for evaluating and understanding student growth and learning across diverse educational settings. Teachers and other professionals examine theory and practice of assessment with an emphasis on classroom evaluation and assessment procedures that are consistent with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Criterion referenced standardized tests (state, commercial and national) are also examined as part of the treasure chest of potential tools. Teacher Leaders are encouraged to analyze current assessment policies and practices--their own as well as local and national---and to consider assessment practice from the perspective of the learner, grounded in a theoretical base.

Two special sessions for students were held: March 3, 2009, Assessment: The Big Picture with guest speaker, Willa Spicer, Deputy Commissioner of New Jersey Department of Education. Willa is a nationally recognized leader in performance assessment and has written several texts on the subject.

During this session, the graduate students dialogued (sharing and learning) and constructed their perspective of the BIG PICTURE to inform their future practice.

The follow-up session, Making Sense of the DATA on April 21st, focused on district action/reaction to making sense and use of the assessment data. Guest Panelists were:

Tricia Barr, Principal, Colts Neck Primary School, Colts Neck, NJ
Regina Botsford, Assistant Superintendent of the Ridgewood Schools & NJPAA Partners
Susan Novelli, Principal, Emma Havens Young Elementary School, Brick, NJ

Each of the above panelists is currently engaged in their respective districts with this issue of import. Sharing of their initiatives in and of itself is lesson-study! These dedicated educational leaders are working together with teachers on a daily basis helping to provide that haven for ongoing professional development and growth.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Faculty and Administrators from Monmouth University and Hazlet Public Schools Participate in Panel Discussion at National Conference
By Joseph Correiro

In March, at the National Professional Development School National Conference in Daytona Beach, faculty and administrators from Monmouth University and the Hazlet Township Public Schools participated in a panel discussion titled “Transforming a University/school District Partnership into a Professional Development School.” Presenting different perspectives, the panel members shared experiences directed at turning Monmouth University/Hazlet Schools existing partnership relationship into a formal PDS model. In an interactive session with the audience, the panel focused on how both faculties used sustained professional learning opportunities as a forum for developing shared conceptions of effective teaching and learning to create the basis for a “professional learning community.”

The Professional Development School Steering Committee, comprised of faculty, administrators, and parents from Hazlet Public Schools and Monmouth University have been meeting during the spring to plan the formal launching of the Professional Development School at Middle Road School in Hazlet for September, 2009.
Student Council for Exceptional Children

The fall and spring semesters have been extremely busy for the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC)! The club has been actively involved in a number of community service and fund-raising events.

Some of these service projects include:
- decorating floats and taking part in the Ronald McDonald House Columbus Day Parade;
- setting up and managing a Halloween party for third graders from the Audrey W. Clark Elementary School in Long Branch;
- assisting children at the Martin Luther King Jr. event in creating cards for critically ill children through the Make a Child Smile Foundation;
- hosting the movie “A Friend Indeed: The Bill Stacker Story” in Wilson Hall along with the ARC of Monmouth;
- donating and taking part in an Easter Egg Hunt at Linkages Homeless Shelter for Women and Children;
- heading a bake sale;
- walking and raising over $600 for POAC’s Walk for Autism.

All of these events were inspiring and so much fun to be a part of! As always, SCEC encourages all Monmouth Students to join the club and take part in service events! Member meetings are held monthly. Thank you so much for your support!

For more information on the Student Council for Exceptional Children, contact wharriot@monmouth.edu

International Reading Association

- IRA members submitted a proposal for a Poster Session for the Global Understanding Convention; poster was displayed Monday, April 6th from 10-3pm.
- IRA members visited Red Bank Head Start twice during the spring semester; each visit the members donate new bilingual books for all 36 of the children in the two classrooms. Each child self-selected a book and an IRA member read the book to the child. Each child took a book home for their personal home library.
- IRA members are participated once again as "Reading Buddies" at the Gregory School in Long Branch, NJ.
- March 2, 2009 IRA volunteers visited the Kindergarten classrooms at the Gregory School - each volunteer read a Dr. Seuss book to the children.
- Several IRA members participated in February as book sorters for the largest book distribution in the State of NJ sponsored by Bridge of Books, the largest distributor of free children's books in NJ.
- During the spring semester, IRA members assisted the Deal Elementary School Library with their new online circulation system.
- On February 26, Monmouth University students Sara Van Ness and Christina Grott, representatives of the International Reading Association, addressed the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees. Their presentation focused on IRA’s efforts to support literacy initiatives for children of all ages. Under the direction of Dr. Mary Lee Bass, Monmouth University’s IRA Chapter has reached out to the local community in numerous ways to promote literacy.
- IRA members assisted with registration and set-up on the evening of the Dr. Susan Young Scholarship fundraiser.

For more information on the Monmouth University's International Reading Association Special Interest Council, contactmbass@monmouth.edu
On March 22, 2009, eighteen School of Education undergraduates were inducted into the Nu Tau Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi. In addition to the new inductees, 23 graduating seniors received their honor cords to wear at graduation. Students must hold a 3.2 GPA and complete service hours in order to be eligible for membership. For cord privileges, students had to complete additional service hours beyond those required for membership. The chapter is advised by Professor Mary Brennan and Dr. Carolyn Groff.

The ceremony was held in Wilson Auditorium and began with a procession of the students and honorees, as well as the Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Lynn Romeo. Maria Manzo, a member of the KDP executive board gave the opening remarks. During the ceremony, the chapter honored one faculty member and two teachers for their outstanding contributions to the field of education. Dr. Mary Lee Bass, faculty member at the School of Education, was honored as the Distinguished Educator of the Year.

Dr. Bass teaches courses in literacy instruction and educational leadership, and serves on many school and university committees. She is the faculty advisor for the International Reading Association Student Chapter at Monmouth which provides literacy enrichment in the local districts. The chapter was recently featured for their work in Reading Today, a publication of the International Reading Association. Dr. Bass presents at many international conferences and was most recently published in the scholarly journal, The Reading Teacher.

Melissa Osmun and Christopher Ippolito, teachers at Red Bank Middle School, were honored for their dedication to education. Ms. Osmun and Mr. Ippolito direct the AVID program at RBMS which seeks to assist at-risk students in achieving academic success and meeting personal goals. The teachers were acknowledged for their hard work in establishing a great rapport with the students and putting in many extra hours beyond the school day. Students spoke on behalf of all three honorees during the induction, and the ceremony concluded with remarks by Dean Romeo.

The following students were inducted into the chapter:

Suzanne Anastasio
Laura Marshall
Emily Brown
Ashley Meisinger
Diane Caulfield
Amy Moberg
Alyson Florio
Stefanie Moyer
Sasha Goldfarb
Meghan Pakalik
Adrienne Hansen
Sara Paternoster
Narissa Kanzler
Jennifer Smith
Jaclyn Lehman
Amy Smither
Maria Manzo
Jeni Starinsky

The following graduating seniors will wear a KDP Honor Cord at graduation:

Suzanne Anastasio
Erin Gallagher
Krista Barna
Dale Greenspan
Jenel Bramante
Michael Herbert
Lauren Brownlee
Erin Humphries
Amy Buchanan
Jacie Jankowy
Stacey Cappuzzello
Kathryn Kaminski
Nicole Ciavattoni
Sharon Lasko
Alexa DiGiorgio
Lisa MacDonald
Alicia Driber
Nicole Miani
Jill Epstein
Selvija Radoncic

The KDP executive board for 2009-2010 consists of the following members:

Emily Brown
Nicole Miani
Maria Manzo
Amy Moberg
Ashley Meisinger
Amy Smither
Meghan Pakalik
EDL 326 Students Volunteer at First Annual Family Literacy Night in West Long Branch School

School of Education literacy students from Dr. Bass’ undergraduate class volunteered for Betty McElmon Elementary School’s first annual “Family Literacy Night.” Seven EDL 326 students assisted the Kindergarten and First Grade teachers throughout the evening. Parents were given an opportunity to visit multiple stations and to explore various literacy activities that can be used at home to support their child’s literacy learning.

Maureen O’Reilly, Principal of the Betty McElmon Elementary School wrote, “Thank you so much for participating in our first Family Literacy Night. I think the teachers did an outstanding job organizing and it was great to have so many of your students assist. I think it was a great way for your students to see that teaching does not end at 3:00 PM. You have some of the most dedicated students this semester and I can only hope that they continue in their pursuit. As you and I both know, this is the hardest job you will ever love, (even after all these years).”

2009 School of Education Graduate Melissa Pinheiro Succeeds Against All Odds

By Petra Ludwig

Taken from article in the Asbury Press, May 20, 2009

Melissa Pinheiro knows all about letting life's challenges make you stronger. During her holiday break in 2007, the vehicle she was riding in was broadsided by a woman later charged with drunken-driving-related homicide. The crash killed Pinheiro’s cousin, Kylie, and critically injured Melissa and her sister, Heather, a student at Rutgers. Melissa spent a semester at home, trying to recover. Her Monmouth University family would not let her give up. They organized “Kylie's Cause” to raise awareness about the ramifications of drunken driving and to help with the family's medical bills.

Melissa, of South Brunswick, was awarded her bachelor's degree in English and education during commencement on May 20th. She hopes to one day teach high school English, and later, perhaps, write.

"My sister constantly says 'You're so lucky. You went to Monmouth,' " Melissa says, noting Heather's instructors and peers did not respond the way Monmouth did. "They cared about what happened to you. . . . They made me want to come back. Monmouth really felt like a family to me."

Congratulations to the
“Teacher Who Rocks!”

School of Education Principal Candidate, Christopher Albrizio was recently recognized as a “Teacher Who Rocks” by The WRAT radio station, 95.9 FM. Twenty winning teachers were chosen from each of the following regions of New Jersey—north, central, and south. Christopher teaches seventh- and eighth-grade science classes as well as technology for students in all grades at Avon Elementary School, Avon, New Jersey. (Star News Group, 2009)
New School of Education Programs

Beginning in FALL 2009, The SCHOOL OF EDUCATION will offer the following new GRADUATE PROGRAMS, ENDORSEMENTS and FIVE YEAR PROGRAMS. These Programs are designed make students highly qualified and increase their marketability.

MS Ed Reading Specialist
This NCATE and IRA approved program has been reduced to 30 credits which includes 4 online courses.

MS Ed Special Education (4 tracks)

♦ Autism (online)
This track focuses on the design of educational services for children with autism and prepares individuals to identify students with autism, develop individual education plans, and teach and supervise autistic students

♦ Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant
The track prepares teachers to specialize in assessing and instructing students with special needs and to serve as learning consultants on child study teams.

♦ Teacher in Inclusive Settings
The track is designed for teachers in inclusive settings.

♦ Teacher of Students with Disabilities
This track is for teachers who pursuing the Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement.

MS Ed Principal/School Administrator
The program is geared for school personnel who want to pursue the principal and school administrator endorsements.

Director of School Counseling Endorsement
Director of School Counseling Services (post-master's) is intended for graduate students who want to supervise school counselors in K-12 educational settings.

Teacher of supplemental Instruction for Reading and Mathematics K-8 Endorsement
Completion of this endorsement enables certified K-5 teachers to teach middle school students who are struggling with mathematics and or reading.

Five Year Programs
B.A. in Anthropology, English, or History with Endorsements in Elementary or Secondary Education and M.Ed with endorsements in ESL or P3

B.A. in Anthropology, English, or History with Endorsements in Elementary or Secondary Education with M.S. Ed in Reading Specialist or M.S. Ed in Teacher of Students with Disabilities
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Jenifer Joyce Receives SGA 2009 Advisor of the Year Award

On April 26, 2009, Provost Pearson presented Jenifer Joyce the SGA 2009 Advisor of the Year award.

Dean Lynn Romeo stated that, “The students indicated that Jenifer goes beyond the duties of an advisor and gives students the best experience possible. I know we all truly appreciate Jenifer’s efforts and dedication.”

Some advising thoughts from Jenifer....

As an advisor, I work closely with my students and the administrators/faculty of Monmouth University. As a First Year at Monmouth advisor, I am afforded the opportunity to welcome students into the University and begin guiding them through the transformation of the young coed to a dedicated student and young adult. Such a growth involves guidance academically and socially, as advisees must make not only those decisions affecting their studies and career paths, but also their social and moral values. To witness an incoming freshman mature into a University learner and community member is wonderful, and a reward that fills my days with joy and rapture.

I am also an academic advisor in the School of Education with over 100 individual and special advisees. In this academic environment, students develop their professional and academic skills throughout the University, and as future educators, in partnership schools as well. The advising involves all levels—program and course information, length of studies, professionalism, and interaction with schools and faculty.

The bonding I have formed with my advisees is elating. As a mother of quintuplets who all have completed their varied university studies, I have witnessed the many benefits of the caring and commitment advisor to students. I place my students first and my goal is to provide them answers and steer them toward becoming well educated, self-efficient adults. We share knowledge they can use in decision planning, while at the same time reminisce of fun times, sport feats, and even on occasion, academic achievements and setbacks. Many times this involves family and peers, which allows me to get to know the student even better as well as the social arena they encounter.

One major component to my advising is to respond and act quickly. My goal is to allow them to progress with confidence, self-assuredness, and success. The important part of my advising is to always be there for them and to work with other Monmouth faculty and administrators to provide the tools the students can use to make wise decisions and become valuable citizens. So, as Monmouth University is “where leaders look forward,” I feel as an advisor, a tremendous part in cultivating that leader.

Nicole Stevens Wins Outstanding Student at 2009 Graduation

Nicole Stevens is the kind of student that teachers dream about, and on May 20th, she celebrated graduating from Monmouth University with highest honors and what she hopes will be the beginning of her career as a teacher.

Stevens, 22, of Toms River, earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education and history and hopes she will start her career in the Manchester Public School District, where she has just finished a semester of student-teaching.

Stevens graduated with the highest grade point average in her class and was named its outstanding student. But her life as an overachiever began long ago. “The most important thing is to find a subject you are passionate about,” she said. “As tiresome and frustrating as all the work could be at times, in the end I enjoyed it.

Stevens was one of two students awarded the 2009 Library Research Award for her project, The Catholic Church and the Road to Anti-Semitism: A Controversial History from the Crusades to the Holocaust.

Monmouth University Library established Library Research Awards to recognize students who demonstrate skill and creativity in using library and information resources and critical thinking skills by effectively integrating information found during their research into research papers. A sample of Nicole’s work, A Constructive Approach to the American Revolution, can be found on page 12.
School of Education Presents 2009 Awards to Outstanding Students

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<th>Award Category</th>
<th>Outstanding Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Education (Outstanding Undergraduate)</td>
<td>Shannon Higgins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts in Education (Outstanding Undergraduate)</td>
<td>Susan Berrios</td>
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<td>Master of Arts in Teaching (Outstanding Graduate)</td>
<td>John Raffaele</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Arts in Teaching (Outstanding Graduate)</td>
<td>Chiara Shah</td>
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<td>Master of Education (Outstanding Student)</td>
<td>Susan Sparrock</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in Special Education</td>
<td>Erin Gallagher</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in Special Education</td>
<td>Amy Buchanan</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in Technology &amp; Special Education</td>
<td>Ashley Gargiulo</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in M.S.Ed. Special Education</td>
<td>Alisa Singer</td>
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<td>Cynthia Wilson</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in M.S.Ed. Reading</td>
<td>Jeanne Arpert</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in M.S.Ed. Reading</td>
<td>Casey Durr</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in M.S.Ed. School Counseling</td>
<td>Christine Wegert</td>
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<td>Outstanding Student in M.S.Ed. School Counseling</td>
<td>Joanne Brennan</td>
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Monmouth University Student Chiara Shah Receives 2009 New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher Award

By Pat Heaney

Monmouth University is proud to announce that the State of New Jersey’s Department of Education has selected Chiara Shah as 2009 New Jersey Distinguished Student. She has shown herself to be exceptionally well prepared for entry into the teaching profession.

Chiara Shah of Manalapan, New Jersey, graduated from Cornell University in 1991 with a degree in communications and a concentration in education. Her career spans a variety of professions, including publishing and computer database design. In 2000, she started a family with her husband Sunish, and they have a son Kiran and a daughter Kayla.

Chiara has always thought that teaching is a wonderful profession to pair with parenthood. With that goal in mind, she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Monmouth University in January 2009 after student teaching at Freehold Township High School. She now teaches Pre-Calculus Honors and Algebra 11 at Lawrence High School in Lawrenceville, NJ. Certified in Mathematics, she is about to earn a second certification in English. As a math teacher, she hopes to use reading and writing assignments to inspire her students to think conceptually and to communicate mathematically.

The New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher Awards annually recognize the year’s 15 top graduates of teacher preparation programs administered by New Jersey colleges and universities.

Past Monmouth University School of Education winners of the New Jersey Distinguished Student Teacher Awards are:

2008 - Oscar Diaz  
Sara Van Ness
2006 – Lorraine McEvoy
2005 – Lauren Connor
2004 – Victoria Burrowes  
Joanna Kotsis

A ceremony was held May 13, 2009 to honor Chiara for the 2009 NJ Distinguished Student Teacher Award. Pictured left to right: Dr Dorothy Vanygiannes; Dean Lynn Romeo; Chiara Shah; and Pat Heaney, Director of Field Placements
Further, Laura is an incredibly strong academic student with close to an A average. She has just completed the Undergraduate Early Literacy course and her field placement was in Betty McElmon Elementary School, WLB, where teachers noticed her desire to go above and beyond. When Mrs. O'Reilly, the Principal asked for possible volunteers for BME’s Annual Saturday Carnival, Laura took charge and signed up her friends. Three weeks ago, there was another request from BME to assist the K and 1st grade teachers with the First Annual Family Literacy Night. Once again, Laura enthusiastically became involved.

She has graciously accepted IRA’s top position and will become the next President in September. During this current semester she has been busy shadowing former Officers and covering for the current Officers who have been student teaching.

The Susan A. Young Memorial Scholarship reception was held on May 12th in the Club dining room. Dr. Mary Lee Bass presented Laura Strauss with a $2000 scholarship for her outstanding academic record and her involvement in the International Reading Association Monmouth University Student Council.

As a Freshman, Laura attended the Student Services “Student Involvement Fair” in the early Fall. She met the International Reading Association Officers and immediately became involved after hearing about the benefits and the fun IRA has reaching out to the children in our greater community. Across the last 2 years, she has participated in IRA’s meetings, Head Start visits, the Martin Luther King Annual Festival, the Big Event, the Leadership Conferences sponsored by Student Services, and the School of Education’s Symposia. She has embraced the organization and its leaders with enthusiasm and a passion for service and volunteerism. In addition to becoming involved in all of the above literacy connections, in January Laura also decided to help out Bridge of Books as a volunteer book sorter in preparation for “Read Across America” and the largest book distribution in the State of New Jersey.
Monmouth University honored three outstanding New Jersey secondary school teachers at a dinner on May 14, 2009 hosted by President Paul G. Gaffney II. The Monmouth University-Roberts Charitable Foundation Outstanding School Teacher Award recipients were Linda Ensor, Shore Regional High School (West Long Branch, NJ); Dr. Robert Marraccino, Department of Education of New York City; and Salvatore Principe, Keyport High School (Keyport, NJ). The Monmouth University-Roberts Charitable Foundation Award was instituted in 2006 to recognize outstanding secondary school teachers who made an important contribution to the education of current Monmouth University students. Each teacher received an award of $1500 and was nominated by a Monmouth University senior student for their outstanding teaching skills and dedication to education. The selection committee included the Dean of the School of Education Lynn Romeo and Monmouth University professors and students.

Linda Ensor has been an English teacher at Shore Regional High School for the past seven years. She serves as the coordinator of the school’s International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, advises the student newspaper staff, coaches the Model UN team, and teaches journalism, world literature, and theory of knowledge. She was nominated by her former student Adrienne Hansen who stated: “Her enjoyment for English was contagious. She ignited my passion for English and inspired me to become a teacher. As much as she taught the content of English, she also taught us life-long skills, for instance, how to study and think critically. I looked up to her as a role model and continue to do so.” Ms. Ensor lives in Red Bank, NJ.

Robert Marraccino, Ph.D., is coordinator of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, and since 2001, instructor of the medical laboratory and assisting program in biotechnology (Med-Tech) at the Tottenville High School in Staten Island, New York. As instructor of the Med-Tech program, he developed a two-year sequence and curricula in partnership with biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries and post secondary institutions. The Med-Tech Program prepares students for medical and allied health professions. He was nominated by his former student Michael Slisz who had him as a teacher at Tottenville High School in Staten Island. Michael will be attending medical school after graduating from Monmouth University this year. Michael stated: “Dr. Marracino was extremely dedicated to his students. He was able to engage the whole class in active learning. In addition, he actively searched for funding for our experiments and research classes and secured several sponsorships. I feel I would have never made it this far without my good grades and research successes, which all stem back to Dr. Marracino.” Dr. Marraccino resides in Staten Island, NY.

Salvatore Principe has been teaching math and coaching at Keyport High School since 1984. For the past 5 years, he has been the math/science coordinator assisting all of our teachers in both of these areas. He was nominated by his former student, Shannon Higgins who stated: “He is not only able to impart his expertise in mathematics on his students; he is able to give them the confidence to feel that they are able to “do” mathematics. His teaching methods have shaped the future teacher that I want to become. He is more than an educator, he is a role model.” Mr. Principe resides in Brick, NJ.
“Rally Mohawks, bring out your axes! And tell King George we’ll pay no taxes!”

This exciting and provocative war chant was only part of the script which students of the “American Revolution Re-enactment Association” created for their re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party. As part of the American Revolution unit, students were assigned to re-enact this very important historic event and create their own props, costumes, scenery, and scripts. Little did I know that such an assignment would motivate these students to prepare so extensively and impressively and give such an outstanding performance!

In addition to writing a detailed, factual summary and historically accurate scripts, the students also built a four-foot long ship and included the necessary props and costumes, such as chests of tea and Native American headwear. When it came to “showtime,” the re-enactors put on a fabulous performance! They sent invitations to their “tea party” to Ridgeway School’s principal Mrs. Diane Pedroza, who happily attended and was pleased to see the students so actively engaged in their learning.

Having recently finished my Teacher Work Sample unit on the American Revolution, I can look back with great pride on such moments as these and reflect on what an amazing job the students have done throughout the unit’s entirety. I could not have asked for them to be more actively engaged in their learning, as they were motivated by the various student-centered activities which I created in an attempt to make history come alive for them.

This Boston Tea Party re-enactment was only one of several exciting activities which offered students the chance to “relive” history. In another exciting re-enactment, for example, the students presented factual and persuasive arguments either defending or persecuting the eight British soldiers accused of manslaughter in our class’ mock Boston Massacre Trial of 1770. Another stimulating activity was the Revolutionary War Debate which divided the class into pro and con teams, as the students debated their predictions about who would win the Revolutionary War based on the various advantages and disadvantages of each army.

Other activities, such as two short plays, “King George Punishes the Colonists!” and “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World,” offered students the opportunity to role-play various key figures from the American Revolution era. Furthermore, a re-enactment of the Second Continental Congress also allowed students to role-play as delegates from the thirteen colonies, coming together to decide what plan of action to take regarding their relationship with the mother country.

In addition to such exciting activities, the students were also given task-based assignments which further motivated them and simultaneously assessed their level of understanding. For their culminating unit project, students worked in pairs or groups to create their own patriotic newspapers which featured interviews with King George III, political cartoons, “war forecaster reports,” front page stories about the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and other factual articles about important events of this historic era. Students were also encouraged to use their creativity to design other features, such as a “Wanted” section, “Dear Abby” letters, coupons section, and crossword puzzles.

The final component of the project asked the students to present their newspapers to a fourth grade class. The fourth-graders were given fake pence and had the chance to “buy” their favorite newspaper based on the students’ presentations. We later counted each group’s “profit” to see who the best patriotic newspaper editors were. All students did an excellent job of creating their newspapers and demonstrated a great deal of both effort and understanding.

Now that my student teaching tenure has ended, I am more than satisfied with my entire experience. I have countless memories of rewarding moments, in which I had the opportunity to witness the students actively engaged in their learning and actually enjoying their education. In addition to this outstanding group of students, I can also credit such a fantastic and gratifying student teacher experience to my cooperating teacher, Ms. Barbara Ambler, as well as my cooperating school, Ridgeway Elementary in Manchester. The school’s faculty members could not have been more welcoming or encouraging. As a result, I now know more than ever that teaching is the career for me, and I cannot wait to step into my own classroom one day and inspire my students with a constructivist approach to education and an immense passion for teaching.
The School of Education would like to thank alum Linda Pagoda for her generous donations to the School of Education, which included a Prometheus Board and two scholarships for undergraduate education majors. Linda is a Monmouth University education graduate, class of 1975.

She currently teaches World History at the middle school level and prior to that taught reading for 24 years. She is passionate about being on the "cutting-edge" in Education. She is also a Promethean Technologies trainer for her school system, and provides on-going user groups. She conducts reading strategies workshops, as well. Linda is a dedicated educator, with 33 years of experience in Broward County Florida.

SOE Alumnus, Ann Perrone Pictured in Community Reporter February 12, 2009

Ann Perrone, fourth-grade teacher in Middle Road School, Hazlet, was pictured in the Community Reporter article “Bayshore schools are holding their own on tests.”

The article discusses how the students in the Bayshore districts are consistently scoring above average in the reading and writing portions of state standardized tests.

Hazlet Superintendent William E. George III (another MU Education alumnus), attributed students’ success to additional basic skills teachers, in-class “literacy centers” and hands-on, interactive activities.

KUDOS TO CHRISANTHI VLAHOS, FIRST GRADE TEACHER, MONMOUTH BEACH SCHOOL “TEACHER OF THE YEAR”

Reading Special Graduate Presents at National Conference

The first National Literacy Coaching Summit was held at Texas A&M in April of 2009. Researchers and practitioners from around the country gathered to reflect and discuss the ever evolving role of literacy coaching. Janice McDowell, a 2001 Monmouth Graduate, was one of the presenters at the summit. Her topic was Lab Classes: Making the Most of Literacy Coaching. The session explored how facilitating a learning lab class with clusters of teachers can improve the efforts of literacy coaching. Lab classes are an authentic learning experience for colleagues to explore instructional practices and witness literacy instruction in action. More information about this session and others can be found at:

http://literacy.tamucc.edu/

Janice has had the opportunity present coaching sessions at the 2008 and 2007 International Reading Association’s National Conventions as well. Mrs. McDowell is a former Reading Coach for the NJ D.O.E. and is currently a reading specialist in Ocean Township. She recently submitted tools for literacy coaching that were published on the Literacy Coaching Clearinghouse website at:

http://www.literacycoachingonline.org/tools.html
Over 200 NJ teachers and Monmouth University Education students gathered on April 17th to hear Dr. Grant Wiggins keynote speech on Literacy. “Amazing,” “Awesome,” “Excellent,” and “Outstanding,” were just a few of the adjectives used to describe the hour-long presentation in Wilson Auditorium.

Vicki Cobb guest author entertained the audience with her presentation on combining Games, Science, and Literature to provide fun activities in the classroom.

Participants also attended various workshops on Science, Math, and Children’s Literature; Literacy in the High School Math Classroom; Designing Literacy Curriculum; ESL Strategies in the Classroom; Inclusive Strategies for Children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities; Discovery Education Streaming; Preschool Inclusion; Reaching Digital Learners; Using Questioning in Reading Comprehension; Math Strategies for Struggling Learners; and Using Illuminated Manuscripts for Art, History, and Literacy Practices.
1st Annual Dr. Susan A. Young Memorial Scholarship Gift Auction

Monmouth University’s School of Education 1st Annual Dr. Susan A. Young Memorial Scholarship Gift Auction “By the Beach” held on March 26, 2009 at McLoone’s Pier House was an immense success. Those in attendance were treated to a four-course dinner, music by the Matt Wade Trio, and tried their luck at winning one or more of the many gift baskets that were donated by our charitable sponsors.
2nd Annual Susan Young Scholarship Fund

Gift Auction

Wednesday March 24, 2010

6 P.M.

McLoone’s Pier House
1 Ocean Avenue
Long Branch

For additional information on either event please contact:
Patti Deangelis
732-571-7518 / pdeangel@monmouth.edu
**Monmouth University**  
School of Education  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

We are reaching out to all the School of Education alumni in order to invite you to participate in advisory councils, social get-togethers, and to learn what's new in the School of Education. Please complete the following form and return it to:

Patti Deangelis, School of Education  
Monmouth University  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764  
You can also email the information to pdeangel@monmouth.edu

This form is used to update contact information for the School of Education Monmouth University for the sole purpose of keeping you informed with newsletters and upcoming events pertaining to the School of Education. This information will not be sold or disclosed to any source outside of Monmouth University.

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