Excellence in Teaching Symposium: Deborah Appleman

Deborah Appleman was the keynote speaker at this year’s Excellence in Teaching Symposium. She is the Hollis L. Caswell Professor and Chair of Educational Studies and Director of the Summer Writing Program at Carleton College. In addition, she is Associate Director of the American Studies Department.

Professor Appleman’s recent research has focused on teaching college-level language and literature courses at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater for inmates who are interested in pursuing post-secondary education.

She taught English for nine years before receiving her doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Appleman is also the author of several books, including Reading for Themselves: How to Transform Adolescents into Lifelong Readers Through Out-of-Class Book Clubs, Teaching Literature to Adolescents, Critical Encounters in High School English: Teaching Literary Theory to Adolescents, and Braided Lives: An Anthology of Multicultural American Writing. She has also written several scholarly articles and book chapters, and is a frequent keynote speaker and workshop leader for English teachers across the country.

From 2009-2010, Appleman will serve as the Humanities Center Fellow at Carleton College. Appleman also received the Gordon M.A. Mork Alumni Award, for Outstanding Educator in a School-based Educational Setting at the University of Minnesota in 2001.

In 1973, Appleman graduated from the University of Minnesota Cum Laude and also received her Master of Arts from that institution in 1980. In 1986, she obtained her Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction.

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A dinner was held on March 9th at the Beloit College Presidential Dining Room. 25 people were in attendance, including EDYS students, faculty, and staff, and President Scott Bierman and his wife Melody. Roasted pork loin with black bean salsa was served.

Following the meal, Professor Appleman gave a presentation on her time spent teaching at the correctional facility using Powerpoint. She shared some of her students’ writing and spoke about how she taught the course. The talk was well received by the audience.

“I just read From the Inside Out: Letters to Young Men and Other Writings in one sitting. Why one sitting? Because this is not the type of text that you can pick up, put down, pick up; the emotion, honesty and rawness of it rather grips you and takes you on an incredibly emotional and deeply profound journey.

Like many, the prison system had always been something utterly Other to me. Inmates were "there," and I, comfortably, was "here." Their lives, feelings, thoughts and words necessarily could not infiltrate my own peaceful world. But From the Inside Out changed that, and for that I am so grateful.”

- Brett Schwartz, NY;
Review from amazon.com

Upcoming Events:

Honors Day: Sunday, April 28th
Von Eschen-Steele and Hattie Mae Chamberlain Awards distributed

Grad Brunch: Saturday, May 8th – 10:30 am
Fireside Lounge, Morse-Ingersoll

Graduation: Sunday, May 9th
Middle College Lawn (Rain location: Flood Arena, Sports Center)

Faculty & Staff:

Kathy Greene
Chair, Associate Professor
greene@beloit.edu

Sonja Darlington
Professor
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Bill New
Associate Professor
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Jingjing Lou
Assistant Professor
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Nicole Helregel
Student Assistant
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Greg Wallendal honored at ETS 2010

Greg Wallendal (BA, Beloit College, ’98; MA, Directing, Roosevelt University, 2009) started his career teaching at Southern Oaks Girls School, a juvenile prison, and took over the theatre at Beloit Memorial High School in 2002. Greg has made it a priority to bring awareness to students about bullying and school violence, drugs and alcohol abuse, and other similar social issues through student-directed theatrical projects. In 2005, he founded Parents Advocating for the Performing Arts in Our Schools to save his theatre program.

Today, thanks to many generous donations, the Beloit Memorial Theatre is a state-of-the-art facility that rivals many professional houses. His group was featured at the Wisconsin High School Theatre Festival in 2009, and he is preparing to take fifteen of his students to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. Greg lives in Beloit with his wife Rebecca, who helps out with all of his productions, including their thirteen-month-old daughter, Esther.

Excellence In Teaching Symposium Luncheon and Dinner

For questions and concerns, please contact the editors:

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If you study to remember, you will forget. If you study to understand, you will learn. ~Anonymous
Alumni Updates

Where are your former classmates, and what are they doing?

Miranda Kindschi (Zimmerman), Class of ‘01

Miranda is teaching at Todd Elementary in the town of Beloit. She was initially teaching 3rd grade, but recently has switched to teaching 1st grade. She has really enjoyed the switch to teaching younger students.

Stephen Jacobson, Class of ‘07

Stephen is in his second year as a 7th grade teacher for language arts and science at McNeel Middle School in Beloit. He is a member of the McNeel Site Level Committee, a coach for football and boys and girls basketball, and he hopes to start working on his Masters Degree in administration in the very near future.

Greg C. Hanrahan, Class of ‘86

Greg has been working for the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team for the past twenty-four years. He says that if he were teaching, he’d want to work at the high school level. He says, “My Beloit College experience influences me every day. It helps me deal with my clients, bosses and employees in my department.” Greg is married and has three sons in three different years of schools. “It has been my experience in their educational activities that the best teachers are the ones that care about their students beyond the normal course work. Make sure you care about your students. If not, you may want to look for another career.”

Jim Nibberich, Class of ‘04

Jim teaches 7th grade mathematics at MS 327 in the Bronx, New York. He says, “Beloit helped develop my pedagogy as well as my ability to relate and connect with students.” He advises students to find what works for them, and to establish a system of routines and create a respectful and professional environment.

Melany Williams, Class of ‘09

Melany is an elementary teacher at Todd County School District on Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She teaches 2nd grade at the He Dog School. She is enrolled in South Dakota Counts for training as a Teacher Leader in mathematics, and she is participating in Take One! for National Board certification. She says, “Beloit's focus on student-centered, inquiry-based teaching and learning was good preparation for teaching in Todd County. I also learned to appreciate diversity and to create a lot of my own lesson plans. Also Beloit's international focus has encouraged me to give students an education that opens a window to the world for them.”

Thomas Mikolczyk, Class of ‘83

Thomas is the head of school at a private school for gifted and talented students in Des Plaines, Illinois. He says, “As a second career teacher, my hardest lesson involved ‘unlearning’ all the nonsense that I thought was teaching. My student teaching was like boot camp, where the first weeks involved breaking me down, with the rest building me back up as a real teacher.” Thomas’s wife, Amy Kessel, is an English Professor at Loyola University. They met during his first day on campus, and they will be celebrating their 30th anniversary on the same day this year.

Stacy Salomone, Class of ‘07

Stacy is in her third year of teaching English to freshmen and sophomores at Crystal Lake South High School in Crystal Lake, Illinois. She also coaches, and is getting her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She advises EDYS students to “stay organized and keeping everything in binders! The first year is the hardest, but once you have done everything a few times, it gets easier and each year goes by faster.” Stacy is married to Ryan Whitcomb, another Beloit graduate, as of October of 2009.

Timothy Barkdoll, Class of ‘80

Timothy is currently working as a tool and die maker in Rockford, Illinois. He says, “Beloit College has given me the education and experiences to be confident in what ever I chose to do. No matter what your career ends up, your education will always be an asset.” He further states, “To the students attending now I say embrace the liberal arts and be prepared to stay educated throughout your life. It will give you great flexibility in the job market.”

Peter Lichtenheld, Class of ‘81

Peter is the Director of Operations at a technology company that sells and supports voting software and equipment. He received this position through expertise in educational technology, coming into the company as a manager of training services. Of his undergraduate experience, he says, “It was a good foundation and a great experience. BC did a good job of getting me into the classroom and getting practical experience for every ED course I took. Many schools don’t do that.”

Jeffery Braden, Class of ‘76

Jeffery is the Dean at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at North Carolina State University. He is also a professor of Educational Psychology, as well as a Certified School Psychologist. He says, “I am chairing the committee for the new dean of the college of education at NC State, and have served on, consulted with, and even chaired some national and international groups with a focus on the inclusion of students with disabilities in educational assessments (e.g., American Psychology Association, Consortium of 29 European countries). Over the past 25 years or so, I’ve been a professor, obtained many grants related to educational research, and still value my education at Beloit.” He says that his wife Jill is his biggest influence. One piece of advice Jeffery has for EDYS students is to “plan top-down--first decide what you're going to teach in a year, then a semester, then a quarter, then a month, and then week-by-week. Too often, people build from the bottom up--and as a result, some topics get more time than they need, and others get little or none at all.”

Monique Avakian, Class of ‘84

Monique is a Literacy Specialist at Trailblazers Academy Charter Middle School in Stamford, CT (struggling readers, Grade Levels 6-8, Reading Levels Illiterate to Grade 12), and she also has a private practice as a Literacy Specialist (all ages and reading levels). She specializes in multiple intelligences work and employs the creative arts, especially poetry and music, in everything she does. She is also her school’s volunteer music teacher. Monique lives in New York, and has a Professional Literacy Certification for the state. She has her Masters in Literacy from Fordham University. She says, “I am highly respected at my school and in two diverse communities for being the teacher who can ‘work miracles’ with the ‘most difficult and unusual children.’ I am able to do this because Beloit fostered in me an opened, creative, problem solving mentality both as a student and as a fledgling teacher. My students have benefited tremendously because of this preparation.”

...continued on p. 6
Student Teacher Completers, Fall 2009

Elementary:
- Margaret Clarke (Classical Civ.)
- Lia Bengtson (Anthropology)

Part-time:
- Anna Blankschien (English)
- Samuel Breslin (Creative Writing)

Art:
- Laura Denk

Secondary:
- Carl Anderson (Math)
- Jason Connelly (Biology)
- Jordan DeGeorge (Psychology)
- Robert Hipschman (Studio Art)
- Elizabeth McClaren (English)
- Ryan Schmitz (Math)
- John Tryneski (History)

Prospective Graduates

Spring 2010
- Keara Sommer-Grohens (Track III - Youth and Society)
- Alyce Kuenzli (Track III)
- Rebecca Stanton (Track III)
- Soukarana Stephens (Track III)

Fall 2010
- Anna Blankschien (Creative Writing, Track I – Children and Schools)
- Sarah Chapman (Japanese, Track I)
- Thomas Hartley (Psychology, Track I)
- Andrew Heer (Sociology, Track II – Adolescents and Schools)
- Jessica Heyer (Art, Track II)
- Miranda Mueller (Asian Studies, Track I)
- Andy Papke (Math, Track I)
- Mary Parker (Economics, Track II)
- Kristin Verenski (Sociology, Track I)

Excellence In Teaching Symposium, cont.

From left: Sonja Darlington, Frank Crivello, Tom Warren
From left: Greg Wallendal, Deborah Appleman

Want to stay connected to the campus and to the department of Education and Youth Studies? Here are a few opportunities: visit beloit.edu to see the new website or beloit.edu/education for department updates. You can also obtain an @alumni.beloit.edu email address. To do so, visit www.beloit.edu/alumni/services/emailrequest.
This month, Professor Jingjing Lou gave a presentation entitled: “Beyond the dichotomy of exam-oriented and quality-oriented education: Rural Chinese students’ perspective on the new curriculum” at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference, in Chicago, IL. In May of this year, she will also give a presentation on “‘A ticket to board on a train to city?’ Rural Chinese youth’s shaking belief in formal Schooling” at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, in Denver, CO, as well as a presentation entitled “International Education Explored in One Midwestern State.”

Professor Lou gave a talk the week of March 13 to a group of social studies teachers from Wisconsin K-12 schools, entitled “Education in Japan and China: An Overview.” This was for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) seminar series that was organized by University of Colorado and coordinated by Beloit College.

This semester Professor Kathy Greene is teaching Math Methods, and a new cross-listed, interdisciplinary course, “What is College For?” The thirteen students (from all three EDYS tracks) in the math methods class are learning a lot from spending their class period every Thursday at Merrill Elementary School, working with and teaching two fifth-grade classes. The thirty-two students (including twelve declared EDYS majors) in “What is College For?” are doing original research on some aspect of higher education. Another part of the class is the Wednesday speaker series, which has been a big hit.

The course is tying in well with Kathy's sabbatical research and Beloit College's ongoing curriculum review and revision.

This semester Professor Bill New is a senior Fulbright fellow at the University of Konstantine the Philosopher, in Nitra, Slovakia, where he is teaching and conducting research with his Slovak colleagues. He presented a paper at "The politics of misrecognition" conference in Bristol, UK, in January and will be presenting a paper at a conference on "Literary and Cultural Education" in Ružomberok, Slovakia, in May. He will be presenting two papers, one with a Beloit College EDYS student, at the World Conference of Comparative Education Societies in Istanbul in June.

In November 2009, Professor Sonja Darlington participated in the International Conference on playright Tess Onwueme in Abuja, Nigeria. As a member of the International Organizing Committee and presenter, she gave a paper entitled “The Political Voice of the Girl Child in Tess Onwueme’s Dramas.” Among the new courses Professor Darlington has taught at Beloit College, her Fall FYI was on literature, education, and visual arts in Ethiopia and Sudan. Her course was based on her research in summer 2009 with visual artists at the School of Fine Arts, University of Addis Ababa and at Practical International and Leadership School, where she volunteered as an English teacher.

**EDYS Major Talks of Experience Abroad in Scotland**

I remember stepping off the plane in the airport and thinking to myself ‘James, what did you get yourself into?’ And the answer was a world which was similar to my own and yet entirely alien. The first difference I noticed was the classes. At Beloit, a class with more than twenty people seems large, but in Glasgow a class of a few hundred is not uncommon. Thankfully, this was addressed in the way that the classes were structured. For example, in my history class, a few times a week we would meet for lecture and the entire class would crowd into the hall and hear the professor talk for an hour or two. Additionally, once a week we would meet for a seminar where it was much more similar to Beloit’s classes, with everybody sitting around and discussing some reading or concepts.

While the classes were certainly enlightening, they actually constituted only a small fraction of what I learned in Glasgow. I would argue that a majority of my education came from experiences outside the classroom. Whether that was cooking dinner with my flat mates and chatting about whatever happened to come up, or going out on the town and meeting new and interesting people, there was much more to learn than what could be found in the lecture hall.

In Glasgow, I was exposed to a much more diverse student body than I had ever encountered before and from that experience I gained a better understanding of how extremely different people can come together and live in relative harmony. This is a lesson that I will take into my own classroom—not only to remember myself when interacting with different students but also as a lesson to teach to my students. Just because people are different does not mean that those differences have to serve as a hindrance to our academic or personal lives. Quite the contrary, those differences are one of our richest resources because they can teach us not only about others, but about ourselves.

-James Jobb, Class of 2011

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**34th Annual Student Symposium**

- **Keara Sommer-Grohens**, “Building and Breaking Boundaries: Alternative Learning”
- **Alyce Kuenzli**, “Students At Risk and the Need for Educational Reform”
- **Soukarana Stephens**, “Defining Success in the Youth Development Programs”
- **Rebecca Stanton**, “Rural America: The Small Town High School Counselor”
- **Sarah Chapman**, “Down the Ladder of ‘Exam Hell’”
- **Maria Lajewski**, “The Legacy of Apartheid in South Africa’s Public Education System”

**Moderators: Professors Sonja Darlington and Jingjing Lou**
Monique advocates creativity, stating, “Synthesizing learning via creative projects with multi-modal learning will hit a ton of standards at once.” Monique encourages EDYS students to contact her with questions at monava9@aol.com.

Angela Sorrem, Class of ’08

I have recently finished graduate school at the University in Minnesota with a master’s in educational psychology. In the past month I have started working in Anne Arundel County, MD as a resource specialist for deaf and hard of hearing students. Angela teaches district-wide, ages 4-11 - subjects include reading instruction, auditory training, language development, and social skills classes. She says, “Beloit taught me the value of professional development and networking. I try and attend trainings and seminars monthly.” She stresses the importance of obtaining a reading license for teachers at the primary level.

Erinn Brooks, Class of ’08

Erinn is a second year corps member in Teach for America. She teaches ninth grade math at Ouchi High School of the Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools in Los Angeles.

Next fall, she will begin to study for her PhD. Erinn says, “I did not follow the teaching track within EDYS, but my coursework in Ed Theory and Sociology continues to influence the "big picture" ideas that shape the way I teach. For example, I pay a lot of attention to whether de facto segregation is occurring in my classroom, as well as whether students are consistently being tracked into certain levels of work.” She advises EDYS majors to have a management plan for teaching.

Keep us updated

If you did not find yourself in the alumni updates, we need to hear from you. Please keep us updated on achievements in your educational, professional, and family life. Also, please let the EDYS office know when your address changes. Provide your email if you would prefer electronic notices of events, or even your annual newsletter emailed to you.

Contact any of the below, with “Attention: EDYS Department alumni”

700 College St – Beloit, WI 53511

www.beloit.edu/education