EDYS Club Restarted by Bonny Sucherman, ‘13

Education Club is a new club on campus this year. The seed was planted last semester when Professor Sonja Darlington mentioned that such a club has existed in the past and that she would encourage and support the re-development of an education club. This semester, through the hard work of our charter members, Education Club has taken root. As the semester goes on we hope for the growth and expansion of the club as new members join. Education Club is open to EDYS majors and non-majors. The goal of the club is to create a space outside of the classroom where students can discuss topics and issues in the field of education. As a club, we will discuss valuable topics, as well as foster a relationship with schools in the Beloit community. Other opportunities for the club include becoming members of the Student Wisconsin Education Association (Student WEA), bringing guest speakers to campus, and volunteering in local schools. Alicia Gramling, 2nd grade teacher at Royce Elementary has arranged for 5 classes of 2nd and 3rd graders to visit campus on the afternoon of October 8th. She is looking for at least 4 college students who would be willing to give the students a campus tour of buildings such as the library, the anthro and art museums, and the sports center. We have student volunteers both from Education Club and Sonja’s 102 class that are going to be helping out on October 8th.

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Anna Blankschien Student Teaches In New Zealand

My student-teaching in New Zealand has been wonderful and I never want to leave. My host family is great and I have learned a lot from my helpful cooperating teachers and co-workers. I spent my first nine weeks teaching at Napier Intermediate School. There was a lot more to get used to than I expected here in New Zealand. The main difference was learning about the New Zealand national education standards and understanding how schools work to meet these goals. For example, in New Zealand, students do not receive grades for assignments and projects. Instead, students work to learn and to have fun, not simply to get a grade. On my first day at the intermediate school, I taught a lesson using a Venn diagram to compare various aspects of New Zealand to the United States. It was great! The kids loved hearing what I had to say and I learned a lot more than I expected. After school I was ambushed by heaps of cheeky kids wanting to tell me more differences and similarities. Now I have been at Napier Central Primary School for a few weeks working with 8-year-olds. Before I left the States, I was apprehensive to student-teach abroad. Now I know, however, that it has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. I highly recommend student teaching abroad and particularly in New Zealand.

- Anna Blankschien
EDYS Professors Discuss Their Summer Research, Writing, Etc.

At the beginning of June, I completed my Fulbright work in Slovakia, and the whole family went to Turkey and Greece for the month. Aside from visiting lots of fascinating and beautiful places -- I’m afraid that the beach on the Greek island of Samos ranks as my personal favorite -- we spent a week in Istanbul where I attended the World Conference of Comparative Education Societies, and co-presented with one of our recent alumnae, Alyce Kuenzli, and also spent some time with our former colleague, Michael Merry.

During this time, I also finished and submitted for publication a paper on a European court decision regarding the education of Roma children in Greece. It will appear some time later this year.

Since returning to America in July, I’ve been working on a young adult fantasy novel set in Central Europe, and wondering why life is so much...well, just better, in Europe than here in the USA.

Michael [Merry] and I have a chapter coming out later this year [previously they had written one for the Comparative Education Review entitled “Solving the ‘Gypsy Problem’; D.H. and Others v. the Czech Republic” -- “Learning who they ‘really’ are: From stigmatization to opportunities to learn in Greek Romani education” in (Z. Beckerman, Ed.), Migration, Minorities, and Learning – Understanding Cultural and Social Differences in Education, 2010. I would also like to mention that I participated as an invited speaker at a conference in Prague in May on Roma identity, as part of annual Khamorro Conference in Prague in May on Roma identity, as part of annual Khamorro Conference in Prague. Two other ACM schools, Ripon College and Lawrence University, were represented by their education faculty members, who are also pursuing an affiliation with the Foundation and plan on sending their student teachers abroad with this organization. Any students interested in student teaching in these countries can contact Sonja Darlington (darling@beloit.edu) or Jingjing Lou (louj@bloit.edu)—both of whom have contacts within the Foundation.

- Bill New

Kathy ran a half marathon (very slowly, in 90+ degree weather), attended her daughter’s wedding in Massachusetts, cycled the 150-mile Scenic Shore fundraiser for Leukemia and Lymphoma, grew tomatoes in her backyard, learned about 100 words in Turkish, spent a week visiting EDYS student teacher Anna Blankschien in Napier, New Zealand, and made a quick trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado for an impromptu family reunion.

-Kathy Greene

Sonja Darlington spent most of her summer in Beloit, where she followed up on her research with submissions to Research in African Literatures and the English Journal. She also participated in the International Conference on Overseas Practice Teaching in Red Wind, MN. The foundation for International Education, which hosted the conference, offers student teaching opportunities in 13 countries: Australia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England and Wales, India, Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Russia, Scotland, Spain and Turkey. At the three-day conference, Darlington met many of the overseas hosts and was impressed by their strong partnerships with universities such as Indiana University-Bloomington and University of Iowa. Two other ACM schools, Ripon College and Lawrence University, were represented by their education faculty members, who are also pursuing an affiliation with the Foundation and plan on sending their student teachers abroad with this organization. Any students interested in student teaching in these countries can contact Sonja Darlington (darling@beloit.edu) or Jingjing Lou (louj@bloit.edu)—both of whom have contacts within the Foundation.

- Sonja Darlington

I [Professor Jingjing Lou] spent much of my summer in China for research purposes: “While poverty is still a major barrier for some rural Chinese youth to pursue education, complex reasons other than poverty now play increasingly more important role in deciding rural students education access, experience and attainment. My research project in the past summer examined how recent socio-economic transition and educational reforms impact rural youth in different regions of China similarly or differently. In summer 2010, I conducted a survey in three regions: Zhejiang, one of the most developed provinces in East China, Henan, a less developed one in Central China, and Shaanxi, the least developed of the three. I picked one middle school, one general high school and one vocational high school in one selected rural county in each province and randomly surveyed two classes of students at each school. 841 surveys were collected.

I have just had all data inputted and I have yet to conduct further analysis. I plan to present my research at a conference in Long Beach, CA in October. So I hope to have some analysis done and to generate some preliminary conclusions by then. To be more specific, I aim at examining how recent economic and social changes in rural societies such as townization and migration in general as well as education policies such as new curriculum reform, free compulsory education and subsidized vocational education in particular impact 1) rural youths’ perceptions about education and society, and how such perceptions have impacted rural youths’ academic aspirations and expectations, 2) current education and career options available for rural youth after compulsory education, and 3) the dilemma between the previous two and the resulting problems, such as dropout. I plan to highlight commonalities as well as differences among rural youth across different regions, and also pay attention to those differences associated with gender, age, and school type.

This summer, I also attended a symposium in early June in Hong Kong. The symposium was on curriculum reform in China and its theories, implementations and critiques. The event was held at the University of Hong Kong. I gave a talk on “Suzhi, Relevancy, and the New Curriculum: A Case Study of One Rural Middle School in Northwest China” which was later included in the conference proceedings and will be publish in one of the upcoming issues of “Chinese Education and Society.” Hong Kong is always a very interesting place to attend an academic conference, due to its convenient location. At this symposium, I met many scholars in comparative education studies from main land China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and North America.

I was invited to give a talk on liberal arts education at the School of Education of Henan University in China in late May. It is one of Beloit’s two partner universities in China. The talk was well received.

- Jingjing Lou

Kathy spent much of the summer of 2010 working with the data she collected during her Spring 2009 sabbatical, for the research project, “Pursuing Liberal Education Outcomes Takes a Village: What Stories Do the Villagers Tell?” She also served (with Jennifer Esperanza) as a McNair mentor to Dominique Clayton, who studied, conducted and presented research on African American Vernacular English (AAVE), also known as Ebonics.

In addition to working on her own research and working with Dominique and Jen, overseeing four student field experiences and preparing for her FYI, “Designing An Ideal High School,”
EDYS Club (cont. from p. 1)

By joining Student WEA, numerous outside resources become available to us as future educators including networking, service opportunities, and affiliation with state and national associations of educators.

As Education Club is new this year, we welcome any input to make the club as fun and effective a resource as it can be. The first meeting of Education Club was Thursday, September 9th at 4:15pm in Weeks Lounge (1st floor Pearsons). The club will meet regularly every other Thursday at 4:15pm, as well as once a month for Sunday dinners. Thursday meetings will be discussions about topics of interest in education, as well as planning and working on any events that the club may be involved in at the time. Sunday dinners will be the last Sunday of every month and they will serve as another opportunity for conversing with peers who have similar interests. We also hope to have guest professors join the club for Sunday night dinners so that students can learn more about what research, writing, field work, etc. professors are working on outside of the classroom.

Education Club is sponsored by Professor Sonja Darlington and the charter members of the club are Co-Presidents Bonny Sucherman and Liz Chaney, Secretary Lisa Horan, and Treasurer Kate Maynor. We are all very excited about the club and hope to see many new faces at Thursday meetings! Contact Bonny Sucherman (suchermanb@beloit.edu) with any questions or for more information...

...continued at bottom of page

New Teacher Days in Beloit Useful for EDYS Students, says Jessica Heyer, ‘10

Student teaching in the fall offers an opportunity that should really be taken advantage of - participation in new teacher days. I attended this year's new teacher days prior to starting student teaching and I got a lot out of it. While a lot of the information covered during new teacher days does not apply to us yet, the program does address issues that are important to soon to be educators. There was a talk on classroom management that gave useful and practical suggestions, such as dressing professionally so that you are treated professionally. The new teachers are also introduced around the school. I met the principal, dean of students, and many other staff members during that week. These people are resources and it was good to meet them in the relaxed setting of new teacher days. I also got to know the new teachers who would be in my school. These people have recently finished the process that we as student teachers are now undergoing and can give advice or a friendly ear to help you through the days to come. I would recommend participating in new teacher days to any future student teachers; it is definitely worth giving up that last week of summer vacation to do.

- Jessica Heyer

EDYS Club First Meeting Update

The first meeting of Education Club held Thursday, September 9th was a success! Nine students attended the meeting and had some great input on what they would like the club to be involved in this semester. The meeting was mostly informational as it was our first, but we talked about a lot of opportunities available to the club in the coming semester. We discussed local school volunteer opportunities, joining student WEA, and holding monthly Sunday night dinners for the club. In addition, club members suggested connecting with other Midwest college education departments, exploring post-grad teaching opportunities such as Teach for America, as well as inviting an education department faculty member to a meeting for a Question and Answer session. From this point on we will meet as a club every other Thursday from 4:15pm-5:00pm in Weeks Lounge.

- Bonny Sucherman
EDYS Students’ Awards

ANTHROPOLOGY:

William Simpson Godfrey, Jr.,
Award – Hannah Yokom

EDUCATION:

Hattie May Chamberlin (1899)
Award – Elizabeth McClaren

Von Eschen-Steele Education and
Teaching Award – Margaret Clarke

POLITICAL SCIENCE:

Ivan Stone International Relations
Internship Fund – Jessica Rardin

Jane Quisenberry Wirtz and W.
Willard Wirtz Endowed
Scholarship – Eric Hetland

SOCIOLOGY:

Joyce A. Summers Award – Andrew
Heer

OTHER:

Lucius Porter Prize in Asian
Studies – Sarah Chapman

Pat Dawson Award – Ryan Schmitz

Ruth Colman Peterson Award –
Mary Parker

Congratulations to
EDYS Graduates on
Their New Jobs!

Ryan Schmitz:
High school math in Albany, WI,
School District of Albany

Ruthie Sipher-Mann:
Fifth grade math, in Memphis, TN

Margaret Clarke:
Language arts at Turner Middle
School in Beloit, WI

Jordan DeGeorge:
Assistant baseball coach at
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Jordan DeGeorge:
Assistant baseball coach at
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Student Teachers, Fall 2010!

- **Andy Papke**: Math - Beloit Memorial High School
- **Andrew Heer**: Social Studies – McNeel Middle School
- **Mary Parker**: Social Studies, Economics – Clinton High School
- **Jessica Heyer**: Art – Beloit Memorial High School
- **Anna Blankschien**: All elementary subjects - Napier School, New Zealand
- **Miranda Zuo (Mueller)**: All elementary subjects – Blessed Sacrament School
- **Kristin Verenski**: All elementary subjects – Wright Elementary
- **Thomas Hartley**: Social Studies, Science – Monroe Middle School
- **Sarah Chapman**: All elementary subjects – Todd Elementary
- **Caitlin O’Leary**: All elementary subjects – Merrill Elementary

Department Announcements

**SEPT. 20TH**: Cooperating Teaching Seminar, 6pm at Domenico’s Restaurant

**SEPT.24TH**: Alumni Social Hour, 4-5pm in the fireplace lounge

Matthew Ruddle ’12 and wife Josie Inaldo, asst. director of international education, welcome the birth of their son, Samuel Mathew Ruddle born Sept. 11th, 2010.

Samuel Mathew Ruddle, 6lbs., 9oz.

Future Events In the EDYS Dept.:

For the Excellence in Teaching Symposium, February 2011, the keynote speaker will be Jing Lin, a scholar on Peace education from the University of Maryland - College Park. Doctor Lin will give a talk relating to prioritizing peace and sustainability in education, or religion, spirituality, and peace education.

For more information on Doctor Lin, visit: http://www.education.umd.edu/Depts/EDHI/about/faculty_pages/jlin.html

Advising Meeting for EDYS Students:

Sunday, Oct. 31, 5 pm in Fireplace Lounge, Morse-Ingersoll
SCHOOL STAFFING...

KIDS     TEACHER     EDUCATION EXPERTS

RACE 2 the Top GURUS    ED SCHOOL Ph.D.s    THINK TANK Thinkers    FOUNDATION ANALYSTS    ADVOCACY ADVOCATES