CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY TENURED AND PROMOTED FACULTY

Charles (Chuck) Degeneffe - Dr. Degeneffe was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education. He serves as the President of the San Diego Brain Injury Foundation. Chuck’s primary research interests focus on adjustment and caregiving for family members of persons with traumatic brain injuries. He has published his work in such outlets as Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin, The Journal of Rehabilitation, The Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling, Health and Social Work, and The Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counseling. Chuck has also presented his research at the Annual Meetings of the American Psychological Association, the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association, and the Brain Injury Association of Wisconsin.

Nancy Frey - Dr. Frey was promoted to Professor in the School of Teacher Education. She has focused her research efforts on literacy assessment and instruction of struggling readers and writers, and the insights gained by their teachers. Of particular interest to her is determining how school-wide structures can ensure that these students become increasingly proficient in content area literacy at the secondary level. She has also worked with districts to design and implement district-wide literacy plans. One of her signature studies reported on the three-year journey of a rapid-growth school district in Riverside County. For the first time, educators were confronted with issues traditionally associated with urban districts, including a significant increase in the number of English learners, and a widening economic gap in the community. Dr. Frey, working with Dr. Doug Fisher, helped this district develop a plan, which included professional development, capacity-building, and ongoing assessments.

Sharan Gibson - Dr. Gibson received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in the School of Teacher Education. As director of San Diego State University’s Reading Recovery Program and Community Reading Clinic, her work has centered on intensive education and support for teachers’ instruction for failing readers and writers. In addition to highly specialized content and instructional knowledge that literacy teachers need, they also need to develop the ability to notice and respond appropriately in-the-moment to each student. Dr. Gibson, in collaboration with Dr. Pamela Ross, is conducting a series of research projects delineating the differences in noticing behavior between expert and novice literacy teachers. Based on this work, they are proposing a new framework for literacy instruction. Additionally, Dr. Gibson is currently the lead editor for Literacy, Teaching and Learning: An International Journal of Early Reading and Writing.

Nan Zhang Hampton - Dr. Hampton was promoted to Professor in the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation and Postsecondary Education. She joined SDSU in 2005 after nine years at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Guided by the social cognitive theories, she has focused her research on attitudes toward people with disabilities, assessment, and quality of life among people with disabilities, particularly those from underrepresented and underserved groups. She has extensive experience in cross-cultural comparative research on people with disabilities in Asia and the U.S. Her studies have been published in major national and international refereed journals and conferences. Dr. Hampton has been recognized as a most influential/outstanding faculty member by her students at both SDSU and UMass-Boston. She has a consistent record of service to public school programs, higher education, professional organizations, community service agencies, and international organizations.

Angela S. McIntosh - Dr. McIntosh was tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education. Her research focuses on improving educational services for students with disabilities who are from culturally or linguistically distinct backgrounds through the use of research-based practices in instruction, assessment, and classroom management, as well as through transformative teacher preparation practices. Her recent work includes publications in Learning Disability Quarterly and Remedial and Special Education. Additionally, Dr. McIntosh authored a recent issue of Current Practice Alerts, distributed by the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) Division of Research and Division of Learning Disabilities, as an authoritative overview of functional behavioral assessment as an effective practice with individuals who have special educational needs. She serves on the boards of the CEC Black Caucus and Division for Diverse Exceptional Learners.

Tonika Duren Green - Dr. Green received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in Department of Counseling and School Psychology. She is committed to preparing school psychologists who are multicultural thinkers and actors, and who understand how racial, ethnic and sociocultural factors influence student performance. Her research focuses on culturally-affirming school practices that lead to improved outcomes for diverse learners with specific attention to African American students and closing the achievement gap for this population. Dr. Green has several publications on multicultural competency and increasing achievement of culturally and linguistically diverse children, and grants including a grant to prepare school psychologists and counselors as English Language Acquisition (ELA) Consultants. Dr. Green received two Presidential Awards of Recognition from the National Association of School Psychologists for her service to the organization.

Dean’s Update
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San Diego State University
College of Education
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WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

The College of Education welcomes six new faculty members and three new staff members this fall. As we begin a new academic year, these exceptional new people remind us of the opportunities each represents to enrich us all with fresh perspectives and new energy. The new faculty and staff members are joining a College rich in a tradition of excellence in learning, discovery, and engagement with the communities we serve. They join us in our continuous quest to provide our students and stakeholders with the highest level of professional service, scholarship and teaching. It is with great pride we introduce these six new members of the faculty and three new staff members. Please join me in welcoming them to the SDSU College of Education!

-Ric A. Hovda, Dean

Meredith Houle, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education (Ph.D., Boston College, 2008; M.Ed., Boston College; B.S., Allegheny College). Dr. Houle recently completed her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in science education. As a new faculty member, she plans to expand a current line of research that explores how emerging interdisciplinary fields of science, such as urban ecology, can be leveraged to engage students in meaningful science learning. Furthermore, she is interested in exploring how curriculum materials and preservice and professional development experiences might be designed to better support urban teachers to use inquiry-based learning environments that foster students’ conceptual understanding of science and scientific inquiry.

Kendra Jeffcoat, Assistant Professor, ARPE (Ph.D., CSPP/Alliant International University [Industrial Organizational Psychology]; M.A., Psychology, Connecticut College; M.A., Speech Communication, UCLA). Dr. Jeffcoat served as a community college faculty member in Speech, English, and Psychology for 25 years and a community college administrator for 13 years. Her administrative positions included Instructional Dean (Mesa College), Interim Dean of Student Affairs (Grossmont College), Interim Assistant Chancellor (San Diego Community College District), and Vice President of Academic Services (Imperial Valley College). Her research interests focus on program and curriculum development, effective teaching strategies, and the link between institutional policies, curriculum, teaching and student learning outcomes. Dr. Jeffcoat is teaching in the doctoral program for Community College Leadership and will be coordinating the Community College Teaching Certificate.

Katina Lambros, Assistant Professor, Counseling & School Psychology (Ph.D., UC Riverside, 1999). Dr. Lambros is a school psychologist specializing in ecobehavioral assessment of academic and socio-emotional problems in school-aged populations. Her research interests focus on the provision of developmentally appropriate mental health prevention/intervention to young, at-risk children and their families. Dr. Lambros holds a special interest in inter-sector service coordination, with a focus on services in schools. She is presently a co-investigator on a study examining how therapists, adolescents, and their parents decide what is important to address during school-based mental health treatment sessions and how cultural beliefs and identity inform this process.

Sascha Mitchell-Kay, Assistant Professor, Child and Family Development (Ph.D., UC Berkeley, 2004). Dr. Mitchell-Kay’s primary area of interest is early childhood education. She has been an early childhood educator, teacher educator, and child development researcher for over 15 years. Her research focuses on child care quality, family-professional partnerships, program practices that promote the social and emotional development of young children and address challenging behavior, and early childhood teacher and leader professional development. She is presently researching effective leadership practices in early childhood, and investigating the ways that high-quality discipline policies can help early childhood programs build an infrastructure that promotes social and academic success. Dr. Mitchell will take leadership in the development of our forthcoming Credential in Early Childhood Education.
Jessica Pierson, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education (Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, 2008; M.S., Texas State University). Dr. Pierson is a mathematics teacher educator who brings a passion for her content area and for challenging and interacting with students to help them realize their potential in mathematics and in life. Her research is tightly linked to teaching and the work of teachers in K-12 classrooms. She uses both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to identify patterns in classroom interactions and student discourse and how those patterns influence mathematics learning. She also has studied the effect of teachers’ use of innovative technology on students’ learning of mathematical concepts and children’s formation of math identities and the impact on their learning.

Kathryn Singh, Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership Department (Ed.D. University of Texas Austin, 1991; M.Ed. San Jose State University; B.S. Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst). Dr. Singh is an educator who specializes in the area of school leadership. During her career she has made it a priority to remain active from both theoretical and practical standpoints. Combining research projects with site level leadership allows her to stay in touch with the reality of school administrators. Her areas of interest include: implications of distributed leadership, organizational learning in the schools, facilitating change processes, and the changing role of the school administrator. Currently she is working with doctoral students on research projects related to instructional leadership and effectiveness, organizational change and transformational leadership behaviors, teachers’ perceptions of leadership and organizational climate, process of communicating a new organizational culture in a university involved in a multi-national merge, and transformational leadership distributed amongst leaders and followers. In addition, Dr. Singh maintains a connection with the area of administration of bilingual education, specifically related to providing quality services for English language learners and their families and managing issues related to diversity.

Nina Salcedo Potter, Director of Assessment, College of Education (Ph.D., University of Washington, 2000) comes to San Diego from the Shoreline School District in Washington State where she was the Director of Assessment. Her background is in educational measurement, statistics and research design. Much of her work at Shoreline included working closely with teachers and school administrators in the use of assessment data and other information to make valid data-based decisions at the student, classroom, building and district level. She has experience teaching classroom assessment courses for the Master in Teaching program at the University of Washington and statistics courses at the University of Washington and Washington State University. Before earning her Ph.D., Dr. Potter taught early childhood special education in the Experimental Education Unit at the University of Washington.

Carmen Curphy, Administrative Coordinator, Educational Leadership. Carmen comes from the School of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) in the Joint Doctoral Program, where she worked for 6-1/2 years. Prior to this, Carmen worked as an executive assistant to the CEO of Delimex, a Mexican food processing company, then sold to Heinz Ketchup. Carmen’s experience in customer service, her computer background from a utility company, and Carmen’s knowledge of SDSU’s infrastructure make her an asset to Educational Leadership Department.

Amy Dalton, Administrative Support Assistant, Dean’s Office. Amy comes to the COE with both an administrative and an artistic background, holding bachelors and masters degrees in music from Southern Utah University and Brigham Young University, respectively. She has worked as a public school music teacher and a freelance musician and musical director. Since the arts sometimes can be a hit-and-miss field in which to make a living, she has supported herself largely as an administrative assistant, with several years in library and ecclesiastical settings. The arts consistently remain a part of Amy’s life, however, and she does quite a bit of musical theatre and other work in the arts around the San Diego cultural scene.
Dr. Lasisi Ajayi (Assistant Professor, Division of Education, Imperial Valley Campus) is the recipient of a University Teachers Scholar Award for 2008 by Rotary International Grants. Additional congratulations to Dr. Ajayi for recently becoming a United States citizen.

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Degeneffe (Associate Professor in Rehabilitation, ARPE) has been selected as President-elect for the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), the professional organization of educators dedicated to quality services for persons with disabilities through education and research. Formed in 1955, the NCRE is the leading professional association for rehabilitation educators in the 21st Century, representing over 90 institutions of higher education and more than 700 individual members. Dr. Degeneffe will assume the presidency during the 2010-11 academic year.

Dr. Ronald Evans (Professor, STE) has been awarded the 2008 Exemplary Research in Social Studies Award for his book, This Happened in America: Harold Rugg and the Censure of Social Studies. The book is a biographical account of Harold O. Rugg, professor at Teachers College, Columbia University, whose innovative social studies textbooks came under attack from patriotic and business groups in the early years of World War II. The National Council for the Social Studies, the premier social studies organization in the country, will give the award to Dr. Evans in November at their 88th Annual Conference in Houston, TX.

Dr. Doug Fisher (Professor, STE) will be inducted into the California Reading Association Hall of Fame at CRA’s annual conference in Sacramento this month, in recognition of the contributions he has made at the local, state, and national levels. Hall of Fame inductees have made lasting contributions in the areas of service to local councils of the California Reading Association; dedication to the cause of literacy; leadership in reading/language arts; and scholarship that is recognized by professional peers. More information is available at www.californiareads.org.

The National Education Association recently awarded Dr. Fernando Rodriguez-Valls (Assistant Professor, Division of Education, Imperial Valley Campus) a grant in the amount of $5,000, which was used to implement Literacy Circles with one hundred families whose children were enrolled in first grade at Blanche Charles Elementary in the Calexico Unified School District. A second $100,000 grant recently awarded to Dr. Rodriguez-Valls from the University of California Subject Matter Project will also be used in developing learning communities with the staff at Blanche Charles Elementary. The preliminary findings of both projects will be presented in the 54th International Reading Association in February 2009 in Phoenix, AZ.

The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs recently awarded Dr. Carol Robinson-Zañartu (Chair, CSP; Interim Chair, CFD) $800,000 for a four year partnership with Valley Center Pauma Unified School District and four surrounding reservation communities. They will support the training and preparation of 12 school counselors and psychologists, and work with teachers, youth and community members to bridge the achievement gap, especially within the Native American populations.
Dr. Gerald Monk (Professor, CSP) is co-author with John Winslade of the recently released book, *Practicing Narrative Mediation: Loosening the Grip of Conflict*. In addition, their book *Narrative Therapy in Practice: The Archaeology of Hope* was just published in Japanese.

Dr. Bobbie Atkins and Dr. Mari Guillermo (Interwork Institute) have had their proposal, "Project Higher Education: A Universal Model for Success," funded by the Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education. The three-year award will enable them to continue the work and progress of the Disability & Diversity Project. Of special note, the technical review of their proposal was awarded a perfect score of 100 (maximum 100 points possible) by all three reviewers.

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) recently held their 4th Annual NALEO Education Leadership Initiative National Summit on the State of Latino Education & NELI Legislative Hearing on Pre-K and the Early Grades in Washington, D.C. Dr. Lou Murillo, Director of COMPACT for Success, presented the COMPACT for Success Program, one of three presenters on the panel of the three-day Summit.

Ms. Theodosia Ballard, a fifth-grade teacher at Porter North Elementary School, was one of five local educators named 2008 County Teacher of the Year. Theodosia has been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and is currently enrolled in the joint USD/SDSU doctoral program.

Dr. Fred McFarlane (Emeritus Professor, ARPE) and Dr. Nan Zhang Hampton (Professor, ARPE) have received a grant from the Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information and Exchange. The grant supported Drs. McFarlane and Hampton’s trip to China this past October, the purpose of which was to provide technical assistance to the Chinese Rehabilitation Association for People with Disabilities and to conduct a needs assessment of rehabilitation workers in China.

A new book, *The Multiple Faces of Agency: Innovative Strategies for Effecting Change in Urban School Contexts* was recently published, with Dr. Alberto J. Rodriguez (Professor, PLC) serving as editor. Dr. Rodriguez has also been named Principal Investigator for SDSU for a major grant sponsored by the National Science Foundation, “The Effective Science Teaching for English Language Learners (ESTELL): A Pre-Service Teacher Professional Development Research Project Across Three Universities in California.” The total funding for the project is $3.1 million over four years.

Several COE staff members were recently recognized at the 35th Annual SDSU Staff Awards: Presidential Staff Excellence Awards were presented to Martha Pedroza (Dean’s Office) for “Innovation,” and to Cecilia Necoechea (Joint SDSU/CGU) for “Service to the University.” Kathleen Borsos-Wooley (STE), Marilyn Bredvold (Dean’s Office), and Lisa McCully (Office of Student Services) were recognized for 20 years of service, Julie White (Dean’s Office) was recognized for 15 years of service, and Elsa Tapia (EDTEC) for 10 years of service.
Dr. Nancy Frey (Professor, STE) has been awarded the Early Achievement Career Award for Significant Contributions to Literacy Research and Education from the National Reading Conference. Only one such recognition is given nationally each year. Dr. Frey was presented with this award at the 58th Annual Meeting of the National Reading Conference in Orlando, Florida in early December.

The International Training Center is celebrating 25 years of regular broadcasts to 15 Central and South American countries as well as to China, India, and Spain. These broadcasts have been viewed by thousands, with viewers also receiving learning workbooks and, for the past five years, having access to additional web-based learning materials. Dr. Fred Saba (Professor, EDTEC), who also makes occasional technology- or education-related presentations, moderates these programs at KPBS. In total, nearly 150 individual broadcasts have been presented.

Dr. Nancy Farnan (Director, STE), has been appointed by the California Department of Education (CDE) and California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) to serve as a member of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP) Review Advisory Panel. The panel’s charge is to review and suggest revisions to the current CSTP to ensure they respond to today’s educational demands and the needs of California’s K-12 population.

The 9th Annual 7th Grade Campus Visit, sponsored by Compact for Success, took place this past October, with a record number of parents and students (nearly 4,000) from the Sweetwater Union High School District participating. SDSU President Stephen Weber and Sweetwater Superintendent Jesus M. Gandara spoke to students and parents about SDSU guaranteed admissions and encouraged all to strive to do their best in school, as well as signing the Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding, which commits the Sweetwater Union High School District and San Diego State University to collaborate on all Compact for Success activities through 2014. The theme of this year’s campus visit was “I pledge to go to college,” and all students signed a banner to commit to this pledge [see photo].

Dr. Carla Mathison (Professor, STE) and Dr. Elsa Billings (Assistant Professor, PLC) presented the findings of their study, “The Effect of Primary Language Advanced Organizer Podcasts on ELL’s Academic Performance,” at the E-Learn 2008 World Conference in November. This study was the first in a larger research agenda designed to examine the use of new technologies to facilitate learning and academic vocabulary development in 3rd-5th grade ELL’s at School In The Park, a program within the City Heights Educational Collaborative.

As members of the Master of Arts cohort who focused on Urban Education, Marcelina Madueño, Miriam Atlas, Tamiko Stratton, Jennifer Olinger, Dana Riggs, and Cindy Page published two articles, entitled “Addressing Student Trauma in the Wake of California Wildfires,” and “How Schools Can Help: California Teachers Recall the Wildfires.” Their pieces were part of a special section in the January/February 2008 issue of Social Education, for which their graduate advisor, Valerie Ooka Pang (Professor, STE), served as the guest section editor. Social Education is the largest publication of the National Council for the Social Studies. Teachers described their experiences and those of their students with wildfires providing recommendations about how to assist students in dealing with the trauma they experienced. Not only did teachers explain how they led several in depth discussions about student fear and anxiety, but they also explained the importance for school districts to send phone messages about the status of schools to all parents in English and Spanish. The authors concluded with additional suggestions for school preparedness.
Randy Philipp (Professor, STE) has been elected a Board Member-at-Large of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE), the largest organization of mathematics teacher educators in the nation. AMTE and its members work together to promote and improve the education of preservice and inservice teachers of mathematics. Dr. Philipp will begin his three-year term at the AMTE Annual Meeting in February 2009.

Charlie Littrell (full-time lecturer, STE) was recently honored at the Mortar Board 19th Annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner in Casa Real, representing the College of Education. Mortar Board is the national honor society for college seniors; at this event, the SDSU chapter honors persons who have made significant contributions to the education and academic achievement of its members, and individuals who represent Mortar Board’s ideals, including superior scholarship, outstanding leadership, and dedicated service.

Juliana Liebke of Pacific Beach Middle School (and EDTEC master’s student, graduating in 2009) was recently honored as one of 10 nominees for the “Educator of the Year” award by the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS), Region 9. CLMS solicits nominations for outstanding educators through recommendations submitted by each of the 11 regional panels representing the state. Juliana is part of COMET (Cohort Online Masters in Educational Technology), which includes K-12 teachers from all over California who complete their entire program of study online.

The James Irvine Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant in the amount of $1.5 million to the SDSU Foundation under the leadership of Dr. Nancy Farnan (Director, STE) to continue development of a Single Subject Credential Program with a Multiple Pathways lens, ultimately to involve seven additional teacher preparation institutions in California. The purpose of the grant is to prepare teachers with the professional skills and knowledge to succeed in the increasing number of Multiple Pathways schools and programs, where reform efforts include combining rigorous academics with Career Technical Education; interdisciplinary, problem-based curriculum with a focus on real-world problems; support services for all students; and work-based learning experiences. ConnectEd: The Center for College and Career will be a partner in this work. To highlight the importance of providing a Multiple Pathways lens for prospective teachers, San Diego Unified School District is embarking on a district-wide Multiple Pathways initiative; and the School of Teacher Education will work closely with its schools, as well as with other districts, in these reform efforts.

San Diego State University, with the support of The Sallie Mae Fund, has partnered with the Chula Vista Elementary School District to bring The Kids2College Program, a new component of the nationally-recognized Compact for Success Program, to over 400 sixth-graders. The Program will make sixth-graders more aware of the impact and value of education, as well as assist them in seeing postsecondary education as an attainable opportunity in their future. Kids2College is led by Dr. Lou Murillo, with the support of Ms. Sandra Villegas-DuVanic representing the Chula Vista Elementary School District, and Ms. Alexis Sanchez serving as the Kids2College Program Coordinator.

The EDTEC faculty recently sponsored an event titled “Career Engagement: Taking it to the Next Level, Even in These Difficult Times,” as a showcase for EDTEC alumni. About 40 former students met in panels and roundtables, exploring how to network more effectively via professional associations and online communities, move seamlessly into management, and leverage the newest technologies and systems. Facilitators (alumni themselves) represented a broad array of industries, including health and safety, higher education (both community college and 4-year institutions), corporate, and more. Attendees also connected with Karen Boyle (Principal, Learning Gurus) and SDSU’s Career Services about how to project themselves and get noticed -- and learn what applicant “attributes” attract prospective employers.
Marilee Bresciani (ARPE) will be the Plenary Speaker at the 2009 North Carolina State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium on Aligning Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Assessment this April. The mission of the Symposium is to provide a forum for higher education professionals to exchange ideas, discover new practices and form partnerships to enhance the full undergraduate educational experience through assessment. It is designed to address both practical concerns and larger policy issues by providing attendees with ideas and tools that can be immediately shared and implemented at their home institutions, which range from community colleges to large research universities. Dr. Bresciani, a leading author and editor of books on assessing student learning and outcomes-based assessment program review, has been invited to present and publish her findings on assessment. She has developed and delivered several courses on assessment of student learning and serves on the editorial board of the NASPA Journal, as well as serving as a reviewer for the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

School Counselors from Hoover High School (Mike Askey, Kristen Pal) and Monroe Clark Middle School (Andrea Munoz) joined faculty member Trish Hatch, Director of the School Counseling program, and graduate student Danielle Duarte, in presenting at the 10th Annual Transforming School Counseling Academy entitled: “Leading the Way Toward College and Career Readiness for All” in Austin, Texas, February 5-7, 2009. Their presentation covered the implementation of the ASCA National Model College Avenue Compact in their school counseling programs. Presenters shared the results of the work of school counselors and graduate students (K-12) in a collaborative effort to provide college going culture through the delivery of data-driven curriculum and interventions. The results showed improvement in attendance, behavior, and achievement in 9th grade students. Results also indicate a narrowing of the gap in graduation rates, a significant increase in A-G completion rates for both Latino and African American students, a significant increase in the percentage of males completing A-G completion rates (topping the state average), and a sharp increase in the number of students admitted into SDSU. Trish Hatch gave the Plenary Keynote Address entitled: “Leaders, Advocates and System Change Agents.” She challenged the audience to commit to being the change they want to see happen – to becoming the leaders they are waiting for.

Seven College of Education faculty members were recent recipients of grants through the University Grants Program for the 2009-2010 funding period: Kendra Jeffcoat (ARPE) for “The Effect of Assessment and Placement Policies/Procedures on Student Success”; Tonika Green (CSP) for “Voices for Children: Examining the Achievement Gap for African American Foster Children”; Theodore Kopcha (EDTEC) for “The Impact of Technology on Reflection and the Student Teaching Field Experience”; Elsa Billings (PLC) for “Investigating the Impact of Technology-Based Graphic Organizers as Instructional Tools to Support English Language Learners’ Academic Development”; Luke Duesbery (SPED) for “Construct Irrelevant Variance in the National Assessment of Educational Progress”; Meredith Houle (STE) for “Characterizing High School Teachers Use of Curriculum Materials in Urban Ecology: Connections to Teacher Beliefs and Student Learning”; and Jessica Pierson (STE) for “Students’ Mathematical Talk: The Relationship Between Student Discourse Patterns and Math Learning.” Congratulations to all.

Mari Guillermo (Interwork Institute) will be honored in April with a 2009 Monty Award for her work with underserved and underrepresented populations in her role as a faculty member and project coordinator for the SDSU Research Foundation. Her innovations and pioneering work in online instruction have enhanced opportunities for a broad range of communities through which she promotes disability awareness and diversity. The Monty Awards annually honor SDSU alumni who have made significant contributions to San Diego State University, the San Diego community or California, nationally or internationally. Dr. Guillermo is a 1991 graduate of the College of Education in Rehabilitation Counseling.
Dr. Alan J. McCormack (Emeritus Professor, School of Teacher Education), has been named President-Elect of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the largest organization in the world committed to excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning. He will begin a three-year term beginning June 1, 2009, and will become President of the organization on June 1, 2010. NSTA is comprised of over 60,000 individuals from various science-related fields, all committed to science education. Dr. McCormack is just completing his tenure as President of the Council of Elementary Science International (CESI) and previously presided over the National Biology Teachers Association (NBTA). He also recently made a television appearance on NBC 7/39 as a promotional effort for the First Annual San Diego Science Festival in Balboa Park, demonstrating his “Dumbledore’s Transfiguration Class Show,” which he has recently performed for local schools and teacher groups.

Dr. Jessica Pierson (School of Teacher Education) has received Recognition of Merit in the 2008-09 Phi Delta Kappa International Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award program. Dr. Pierson received the award for her research on the impact of discourse on students’ learning in the mathematics classroom. PDK Executive Director Dr. William Bushaw was quoted as saying, “We are thrilled to honor Dr. Pierson’s important work.” The award is given to the PDK member whose dissertation best meets the criteria of sound scholarship and shows the most promise for improving education. In her research, Dr. Pierson examined the roles of classroom discourse between students and teachers in the mathematics classroom. She observed the interactions between teachers and students and found that two types of teacher dialogue can positively impact students’ learning. Teacher responsiveness—the act of trying to understand students’ thoughts by asking questions, clarifying, and building upon students’ comments—and intellectual work dialogue that is intellectually demanding, such as asking for justifications and examples, both improve students’ achievement.

Dr. Nadine Bezuk (School of Teacher Education) has been appointed to serve as a panel member of the Teaching Mathematics Advisory Panel for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The advisory panel will consider the need, and propose standards, for a preparation program for the Mathematics Specialist Credential. In addition, the advisory panel will determine the mathematics needs of students across the K-12 continuum and consider modifying teacher preparation requirements to enhance students’ mathematics learning.

The University Senate will honor the 2008-09 Senate Distinguished Professor and five college awardees in a ceremony April 29. Dr. Shulamit Ritblatt (Child and Family Development) will be honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Education. Congratulations to Dr. Ritblatt for this honor.

Dr. Karen Cadiero-Kaplan (Chair, Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education), has won the position of Member A (one of four members elected by the affiliate leaders to serve as affiliate representatives) to the Affiliate Leadership Council (ALC) of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc.). Dr. Cadiero-Kaplan has been involved with the affiliate council for the past three years as the TESOL liaison to California TESOL (CATESOL), served as CATESOL president in 2006-07, and was on the executive board of CATESOL as president-elect (2005-06) and past president (2007-08). She sees the ALC as a much-needed space for affiliate leaders to be engaged in professional development across borders.
The College of Education recently held its 2008-09 Honors and Awards assembly, during which the following individuals were recognized:

Retiring faculty recognized included Dr. Patricia Kelly, Dr. Fred McFarlane, Dr. Donn Richie and Dr. Maria Nieto Senour, along with retiring lecturer Ernesto Sanz. Dr. Farhad (Fred) Saba was recognized for his 25 years of service to the College of Education.

Dr. Nancy Farnan, Professor and Director of the School of Teacher Education, was announced as the 2009 recipient of the College of Education Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions.

The Phil Halfaker Awards, given for outstanding achievement as student teachers, were presented to Fall 2008 Single Subject awardee Allison Yoder; Spring 2009 Single Subject awardee Wendy Wira; and Spring 2009 Multiple Subject awardee Oliver Mamangun.

Outstanding Student awards for their respective departments were presented to Norma Diaz-Flores (Special Education), Ana Knudsen (Policy Studies in Language and Cross-Cultural Education), Theresa Little (Educational Technology), Mary Ellen Martinez (Educational Leadership), Sarah Johnson Overton (Counseling and School Psychology), Baramee Peper Anan (Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education), and Jessica Elissa Torres (Child and Family Development).

The Outstanding Student recipients named as their Influential Faculty members, respectively: Dr. Suzanne Fitch (SPED), Dr. Karen Cadiero-Kaplan (PLC), Dr. Frank Nguyen (EDTEC), Dr. Ian Pumpian (EDL), Dr. Tonika Duren Green (CSP), Dr. Sandra Cook (ARPE), and Dr. Audrey Hokoda (CFD).

The Outstanding Leadership Award was presented to student Tracy Ketelsen, President of the College of Education Student Council.

Congratulations to all of this year’s awardees.

Photos, clockwise from top right: Dean Ric Hovda congratulates Ernesto Sanz; Dr. Nancy Farnan, Director of the School of Teacher Education, congratulates Oliver Mamangun; Sarah Johnson Overton with Dr. Tonika Duren Green; Dr. Patricia Lozada-Santone, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, congratulates Tracy Ketelsen; Dean Hovda congratulates Dr. Frank Nguyen (with Theresa Little at left); Dean Hovda congratulates Jessica Elissa Torres (with Dr. Audrey Hokoda); Norma Diaz-Flores with Dr. Suzanne Fitch.
Congratulations to the College of Education (COE) for ranking in the top 25% of the 278 colleges surveyed nationally in the 2009 U.S. News and World Report rankings of Colleges of Education. The COE clusters at #71 with an impressive group of institutions. In the specialty areas of ranking, the College of Education’s Secondary Teacher Education program was ranked #18: this important distinction places the program in the top 10% of secondary teacher education programs nationally. The news of this ranking was recently announced to many COE alumni, retired faculty and staff, and other friends of the College, many of whom wrote back to Dean Ric Hovda to offer their congratulations: “That’s great,” wrote Barbara Stewart of the class of 1959: “I know of the excellent training I had while in the School of Education in the ‘50s, and after going out and teaching with teachers from all over I realized that I had far more and better training than any of the teachers I worked with.” Alumnus Pam Woodberry wrote, “I always knew SDSU was ‘doing it right’! I received my undergraduate degree from SDSU and my Master’s in Secondary Education from SDSU and went on to teach middle schoolers for thirty-one years with a solid foundation.” “Congratulations, Ric. That’s wonderful recognition,” wrote Tom Scott, SDSU Vice President for Research - Dean of Graduate Division. Self-described “Proud Provost” Nancy Marlin wrote, “Congratulations, Ric, to you and your wonderful colleagues.” And former chair of what was then known as the Department of Secondary Education, John McLevie, who was subsequently the first Director of Teacher Education, wrote: “It makes me proud ... to feel an early member of a tradition of such continuing quality. [After leaving SDSU] I subsequently worked for five years as a Consultant at the Commission on Teacher Credentialing and visited virtually every teacher education program in the state. SDSU was absolutely in the top level of this list thanks to a faculty commitment to excellent teaching practice.” Congratulations to all the faculty, staff, students, program block leaders, chairs and K-12 teachers and administrators past and present who are responsible for this recognition!

The 30th Anniversary celebration of the SDSU/CGU (Claremont Graduate University) Joint Ph.D. Program was held on April 14, 2009 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, with many alumni, current students, and faculty in attendance. Welcoming remarks were given by Dean Ric Hovda; Dean Margaret Grogan (pictured, right) from CGU; Dr. Phil Dreyer, CGU faculty; Dr. Peggy Hawley (pictured, seated), first Director of the program; and Dr. Rafaela Santa Cruz (pictured, left), current Director. Dr. Margarita Calderon and Dr. June Kubli, who were graduates from the 1978 inaugural group, and other retired faculty and administrators were also in attendance. The program started with 12 students in 1978, with the first graduate, Dr. Maria Medrano, graduating in 1981, and has since graduated a total of 169 students, including six graduating in May 2009. Employment of Joint Doctoral graduates includes 43.2% higher education faculty, 23.1% administrators, 11.8% public school educators, 10.7% social/educational services, and 9.5% private consultants.

The California Council on Family Relations held its annual conference on March 20th, 2009, in San Diego. Dr. Shulamit Ritblatt, Dr. Jacki Booth, and Dr. Pamela Gardner, officers of the council and faculty members in the Child and Family Development Department, planned and implemented this year’s conference, which attracted over 250 attendees. At the close of the meeting, Dr. Jacki Booth passed the council presidency to David Scott Sheppard, an SDSU alumnus and current tenured faculty member in the Child Development Department of the Imperial Valley Community College District.

Sean Anderson, a candidate in the Multiple Subject Credential in the School of Teacher Education’s Chula Vista Cohort, has been awarded a 2009 California Association for Employment in Education (CAEE) Scholarship for Prospective Educators. The Cohort, directed by Dr. Marva Cappello in the School of Teacher Education, is a partnership between SDSU and Chula Vista Elementary School District. Sean is one of two student teachers receiving the award, selected from over 60 highly qualified applicants. The CAEE is a non-profit consortium of practicing educators and college and university career placement professionals and is dedicated to supporting California students through a strong teaching force. Congratulations to Sean and to the Chula Vista Cohort.
Dr. Cheryl Mason, Professor in the School of Teacher Education, has been asked to serve on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Distinguished Editorial Board that will review proposals for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Challenge Grants at a panel meeting on July 20-21 in Baltimore, Maryland. The Challenge Grants are part of President Obama’s stimulus package. The first tier of the process is a mail review; the second is an in-house review; and the final step in the process is for the Editorial Board to read the reviews, write a synopsis, and then assign a score and rank order the proposals for funding. Dr. Mason’s invitation to this Editorial Board, whose work will have an impact on STEM education at a national level, recognizes her expertise and contributions to the field of science education.

Dr. Douglas Fisher, Professor in the School of Teacher Education, was recently elected as a Board Member of the National Reading Conference (NRC), a professional organization for individuals who share an interest in research and the dissemination of information about literacy and literacy instruction. Dr. Fisher has been active in the organization as a member of the field council, as a reviewer of conference proposals, as a reviewer for the NRC journal, Journal of Literacy Research, as an area co-chair for teacher education for the annual conference, and as member of the student research award committee. He will serve a three-year term on the Board.

Eric Ginsberg, co-instructor of the English methods course in the School of Teacher Education’s Single Subject Credential Program and an English teacher at Helix Charter High School, had his work at Helix recently showcased on Channel 6 News. The newscast highlighted his creation of a chess club that has grown from a few to over a hundred students throughout the school. The video clip of the televised story, titled “Chess Mania,” can be viewed at www.sandiego6.com/mediacenter. More recently, Eric was recognized for his efforts at Helix Charter High School’s end-of-the-year awards banquet as the recipient of the school’s “Above and Beyond” Award. Congratulations to Eric for this recognition.

The Department of Administration, Rehabilitation, and Post-Secondary Education recently announced noteworthy accomplishments by two of its Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (Community College specialization) 2008 Cohort student participants: David Fierro has been elected Academic Senate President at San Diego City College. “David told me he would never have run for the presidency if it wasn’t for our program,” says Dr. Bill Piland. “He wants to practice what he is learning in community college leadership.” Martha Garcia, a Cal-Works counselor at Imperial Valley College, has been selected as a US Department of Agriculture KeKa De La Garza Fellow. She is one of only twenty individuals from across the country who will spend time in Washington, D.C., this summer learning about relationships between the federal government and Hispanic Serving Institutions of higher education. Congratulations to David and Martha on their accomplishments.

Three Counseling and School Psychology (CSP) faculty members, 10 alumni, and 13 students contributed more than 13 hours of presentations at the recent conference of the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) in Riverside. Participants included CSP faculty members Carol Robinson-Zanartu, Valerie Cook-Morales and Colette Ingraham; CSP alumni Veronica E. Escoffery, Kenya Bratton, DiAnna Toliver, Brandon Gamble, Patrick Crain, Wendell Callahan, Treneika Gilmore, Thomas Russell, Lorena Ortega, and An Pham Medina; and students Diandra Benton, Jessica Dishmon, Jennifer Inaba, Vanessa Ornelas, Michelle Wu Weng, Ruben Sanchez, Noe Alvarado, Jacob Price, Janice Tso, Shawn Deschenie, Dwayne Manus, Maiko Ikeda and Felicia Fis. In conjunction with this event, more than 70 alumni and students gathered at an SDSU “family” reunion and celebrated the election of Margaret Sedor (*’90) as California’s representative to the assembly of the National Association of School Psychologists.