

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

## *The Newsletter of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership*

**April 2011**

### **Director's Message:**

Spring 2011 is well underway and the largest group of DPELFS doctoral students to date is on the way to being hooded this May. Cohort 2 students have been collecting and analyzing their data and we expect to have 25 students defending their dissertations in April. Their dissertation topics are very interesting and should add to the body of literature for both PreK-12 and Higher Education.

We are currently planning the annual Alumni Luncheon that is held the day of the Research Symposium, and we are hoping for a large turnout. The event will honor those graduating this May, but will also be an opportunity for a cohort reunion of JDPEL, DPELFS, and DPT graduates--I wonder which cohort will have the best turnout?

The incoming DPELFS cohort this year will have a new track, a specialized focus on educational leaders in the special education field. A variety of courses are being designed for the specialization field that will focus on the needs of special educators in leading, teaching and learning. There has been a very positive response and we have received many applications from very qualified and interested individuals.

This year also found us preparing to offer our doctoral program in Bakersfield at CSU Bakersfield. In the initial stages, we will be offering it through Fresno State. Bakersfield Cohorts 3 and 4 will be jointly offered by Fresno State and CSU Bakersfield and Cohort 5 will be solely CSU Bakersfield students. Planning the program has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know and work with our colleagues from CSU Bakersfield, who have been very welcoming and excited about the doctoral program.

We hope to see you at the Alumni Luncheon (Connecting the Docs), the Research Symposium and other events planned for the coming year!

*Sharon Brown-Welty*  
*Program Director*

The Fresno Grizzlies and the Kremen Community Council are hosting an April 8th Fund Raiser for Conflict Resolution Education in the Schools! Buy a ticket and help seat all the peer mediators in the Central Valley (and their mentors) for free! Honoring their service to their schools and community is important. Contact Dr. Pamela Lane-Garon for further information at [pamelalg@csufresno.edu](mailto:pamelalg@csufresno.edu).

**Graduate Research and Creative Activities Symposium: May 5, 2011**

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### California State University, Fresno/University of California Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (JDPEL)

**Gerald Bodily**, Ed.D. (Cohort 15) recently published "Managing Blue Orchard Bees to Pollinate Almonds in Fresno County: A Photo Essay on Farming with Osmia Bees" published by OsmiaCA, Selma, CA. As noted in the Amazon product description, "This book on blue orchard bees is designed to be read similarly as the National Geographic, where a significant amount of the meaning is embedded in pictures and picture labels. When the reader feels compelled, the book provides options for reading beyond the pictures." The book is available on Amazon.com.

**Michelle Engel-Silva**, Ed.D. (Cohort 15) is teaching part-time in the Business Department at Fresno State. To date she has taught HRM 150: Administration of Personnel and MGT 180: Management Theory and Organization Design.

**Carole Goldsmith**, Ed.D. (Cohort 11) was appointed to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on December 31, 2010. She has served the West Hills Community College District since 2003 as the Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Workforce Services since 2009. Prior to that, Dr. Goldsmith served as director of workforce development and vocational education from 2003 to 2009.

**Mary Husain**, Ed.D. (Cohort 13) won the December 2010 and January 2011 *Club & Organization Advisor of the Month Award*. Advisor of the Month winners receive a gift card to the Kennel Bookstore and recognition through various advertising efforts throughout the university. Students within the organization(s) to which they serve nominate club and organization advisors. Her time and effort serving as advisor to student organizations is not only appreciated by the university, but by the student advisees.

**Marcy Masumoto**, Ed.D. (Cohort 12) continues her work with Co-directors, Drs. Walt Buster and Ginny Boris, at Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute (CVELI). CVELI is starting its third cohort of the Executive Instructional Leadership Program for Rural Central Valley School Districts ("Rural Network") as well as a broad range of professional development support for educational leaders across the region. In addition, the Masumoto Family Farm was featured in a 12-page article in Martha Stewart Living magazine, July 2010 issue.

**Laura Tanner-McBrien**, Ed.D. (Cohort 14) will be presenting a paper entitled "Impact of School Mobility on Academic Achievement for Homeless, Foster, and Housed Students" at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference in New Orleans on April 11, 2011.

Dr. Tanner-McBrien is now Manager 1 of Project ACCESS in the Fresno Unified School District. Project ACCESS provides academic and social emotional support to homeless and foster youth attending FUSD schools by assisting with school enrollment, offering academic tutorials, referring for needed school and community services, and by providing school supplies.

**Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Fresno State (DPELFS)**

**Idia Abode**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) will be presenting at the AERA Conference in New Orleans on April 11, 2011 with **Dr. Susan Tracz**. The title of the presentation is “Impact of Student Response System on Third Graders’ Learning, Motivation and Engagement”.

**Diane Benefiel** (Cohort 2) had an article accepted for publication entitled “The story of nurse licensure” in *Nurse Educator*, 36(1): 16-20.

**Jothany Blackwood**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) had a chapter published in a book entitled: *Women of Color in Higher Education: Contemporary Issues and New Directions*. The chapter is "Mentoring and Interim Positions: A Pathway to Leadership for Women of Color".

**Devin Blizzard**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) will be presenting at the Council for the Study of Community College Annual Conference in New Orleans on April 8, 2011. The name of the roundtable session is “Whose Accountability Is It?”

**Kimberley Boyer**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) will be presenting at the annual AERA Conference in New Orleans, April 8-12, 2011. The title of her poster presentation is “Investigating Differences Among Asian American Youth Participating in Afterschool Programs.” Dr. Boyer will also be conducting a workshop at the BOOST (Best of Out Of School Time) Conference in Palm Springs, April 27-30, 2011. The name of workshop is “A Sense of Belonging: Asian American Youth in Afterschool Programs.”

**Amy Brogan, Natalie Culver-Dockins, Kent Karsevar, Mary Ann McCarthy, Janell Tatsumura, Jenny Whyte, and R. Sandie Woods**, (Cohort 3) had their paper “The Urban Mission: Linking Fresno State and the Community” accepted for publication in *Metropolitan Universities*, 23(1).

**Kim Cole** along with other students in (Cohort 3) worked on The Lowell Project, a university-community engagement project that began in fall 2009 focusing on the Lowell neighborhood near downtown Fresno. Partners in the project included the City of Fresno Office of the Mayor, and its Downtown & Community Revitalization Department, and many departments within the city that provide ongoing services to the neighborhood. In addition, the Lowell Neighborhood Association and some of their partners worked with Fresno State faculty and students from disciplines across the university. The service projects were developed and implemented by Fresno State students with support and supervision from their instructors. Collectively, Fresno State students and faculty provided a number of services that supported the revitalization of the neighborhood, one of the poorest in a city identified as having the highest concentration of poverty in the nation. The following article is based on this work:

Schechter, D., Junn, E., & **Cole, K.** (in press). University-community engagement: The Fresno story of targeted neighborhood revitalization. *Metropolitan Universities*, 21(3).

**Carol Curtis** (Cohort 2) presented at the California Association of Professor of Education Administration conference on March 4, 2011 in Sacramento. The title of her poster presentation was “Factors Affecting the Attrition and Retention of Middle School and High School Mathematics Teachers”.

**Rob Darrow**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) presented his dissertation research at the Virtual School Symposium, a National Conference for Online Learning on November 15, 2010). In the workshop "Recent Research from Online Learning: Implications for Practice" a panel of researchers presented recent research with immediate implications for practitioners, including teachers, administrators, and course designers. The link to the description and conference is: <http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org/agenda.php> or <http://vss2010.wikispaces.com/breakout5>

**Christina Enquist**, (Cohort 2) is currently an adjunct faculty member and counselor at College of the Sequoias. She previously worked in the health care industry.

**Brad Hufft**, (Cohort 3) had his piece *High Above the Way Below: Songs of the Ojibwa* performed on February 20, 2011 in the Wahlberg Recital Hall on the Fresno State campus by the guitar and percussion duo of Claudia Schorn and Ivan Mancinelli from Salzburg, Austria. They also performed it last year in Vasto, Italy and Vienna, Austria. In April, they are recording it for CD release. On Sunday, April 3, 2011 his song cycle *Two Songs of Moonlight* will be performed by Helene Joseph Weil, mezzo-soprano, Lenore Hiebert in the Wahlberg Recital Hall.

**Sarah Koligian**, (Cohort 3) writes a monthly update on the Golden Valley School District in the local paper, *The Ranchos Independent*. A recent article (Feb 2011), was entitled, "The Impact of the Governor's Budget on Golden Valley Unified School District". She has also been an invited speaker at the following events:

- California School Board Association - 2009 Annual Conference - Topic: Superintendent and Board Evaluation
- ACSA Superintendent's Academy - 2010 - Topic: Board-Superintendent Roles and Relationships
- Madera County School Board's Association - 2011 - Topic: Principal Evaluation

**Cynthia Matson**, (Cohort 4) is the current board chair of the National Association for College and University Business Officers (NACUBO); a role she says is a great honor and privilege.

**Janine Nkosi** (Cohort 4) was accepted to present at the Community College Interdisciplinary Research Forum (CCIRF) on May 2, 2011, at the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The title of her presentation is "Peer Facilitated Study Sessions: Increasing Retention, Persistence and Graduation Rates".

**Marla Prochnow**, (Cohort 2) is currently an Anthropology Instructor at the College of the Sequoias. She also notes that in addition to teaching, she is married and the mother of two little girls.

**Adrian Ramirez**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) is currently Director, Title V - Commitment to Latina/o Academic Success & Excellence (CLASE) at Fresno State.

**Klaus Tenbergen**, Ed.D. (Cohort 1) will be presenting "How Do Course Articulation Agreements Facilitate the Transfer and Completion of a Bachelor's Degree" at the Council for the Study of Community Colleges Annual Conference on April 8, 2011 in New Orleans.

**Jessica Yergat**, (Cohort 2) is Vice Principal of Polk Elementary School / District Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Administrator for the Central Unified School District.

## ***Graduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium***

Thursday, May 5, 2011

1–8 PM

Henry Madden Library

California State University, Fresno

All students (undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral), alumni, and community members are invited to attend this great event. Come view the extraordinary work of Fresno State master's and doctoral students. This event will showcase oral/poster presentations and creative works, including art, music, recitation, and more. Cohort 2 doctoral candidates will present their dissertation research in the 5:30-8:00 PM session.



Some of the audience at the 2010 Graduate Research & Creative Activities Symposium.

<http://csufresno.edu/gradstudies/symposium/>

**Inspirational talk show promises that no one leaves unchanged!**

### ***JOTHANY'S PORCH***

(Jothany Blackwood is a 2010 graduate of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at Fresno State.)

Jothany's Porch promises to be one of this season's most heartwarming, engaging talk shows. Join Dr. Jothany Blackwood, motivational speaker, writer, fourth generation educator and life coach for inspiring lessons, great stories and down home wit as she shares her porch with entertaining and informative guests!

“While growing up in the south, it was on the front porch that I learned so many lessons about living, people, and ultimately myself,” Dr. Blackwood said. “It was foundational for the person I became, someone who is invested in seeing others realize their potential. I’m convinced society still needs the front porch so we stay connected to one another and our own humanity.”

Watch Jothany’s Porch every Saturday at 9 PM PST; 11 AM CST and 6 PM Western African time. Simply go to <http://www.CentralValleyTalk.com> or Digital Channel 33.1

As the American porch is an interactive place to share stories, laughter and ideas, audiences will also have the opportunity to participate on Jothany’s Porch. Viewers can text their comments during the live show and Jothany will respond on air. In addition, SKYPE will allow guests and sponsors to join the porch.

Some of the program's special features include From the Porch that highlights an inspirational story and Quote of the Week that you can apply to your life. Jothany’s southern warmth and wit makes the porch a relevant place as she and her guests’ guide us towards our best selves... the reflection intended for us all along.

Follow Dr. Jothany Blackwood on <http://www.jothanysporch.blogspot.com> or email [jothanysporch@gmail.com](mailto:jothanysporch@gmail.com)

## **FACULTY CORNER**

### **Laura Alamillo,**

Alamillo, L., Arenas, R., & Padilla, F. (2011). A Focus on Faculty: A Teacher Education Program Improving the Preparation of Teachers of English Learner Students. *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 10(3).

### **Jeff Cummins,**

Cummins, J. (2011). Party control, policy reforms, and the impact on health insurance coverage in the U.S. States. *Social Science Quarterly*, 92(1): 246-267.

Cummins, J. (2011). Lobbying strategies, campaign contributions, and the impact on Indian gaming in California. In T.A. Skopec and K. N. Hansen (Eds.), *The New Politics of Indian Gaming*. Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press.

Cummins, J. (2010). The partisan considerations of the President’s agenda. *Polity* 42(July): 398 - 422.

Cummins, J. (2010). State of the Union Addresses and the President’s legislative success. *Congress and the Presidency*, 37(May): 176 – 199.

**Pamela Lane-Garon** just received a California Endowment Grant (\$50K) for Mediator Mentors assessment and implementation in downtown Fresno. There are openings for Doctoral students who want to get involved.

Lane-Garon, P. (2011). Lowell revitalization: One student conflict manager at a time. *Metropolitan Universities Journal*, 21(3).

**Tracz, S. & Lane-Garon, P.** (2011, in press). Adaptive Family Functioning of Resettled Southeast Asian Families. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development* Antioch University, NH "

**Don Wise**, President, California Association of Professors of Educational Administration, 2010-2011.

Wise, D. & Hammack, M. (2010). Leadership coaching: Coaching competencies and best practices, manuscript accepted for publication to *Journal of School Leadership*, July, 2011.

If you would like to submit information or an article for this newsletter, please email to Diane at [dianer@csufresno.edu](mailto:dianer@csufresno.edu).

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