



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



School of
EDUCATION

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ANN ARBOR

Spring/Summer 2018

Blessings from the Dean



The Lord is still pouring his blessings on the School of Education. We have experienced many positive and constructive outcomes during this school year. Our Educator Preparation Institution (EPI) score was raised once again, which means that our students are faring better on the MTTC (Michigan Test for Teacher Certification), and we are receiving positive feedback on our surveys.

We have entered into a wonderful Residency Program partnership with Eastpointe Community Schools. This collaborative venture will be beneficial for some of our student teachers and for the Graduate Education department. We are expanding our course offerings in the MSCI (Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction) program to include a focus on teacher certification.

Our Family Life Department is continuing to flourish under the leadership of Professor Joshua Kittleman. In addition to the year-end culminating activities for the Teacher Preparation students and the Family Life students, we are also beginning to make plans for our joint opening event in the fall.

We are so proud of our School of Education Advisory Committee. Our last meeting of the year will be held on April 26. Mr. Travis Grulke, Superintendent of Schools for LCMS will serve as our host, for which we are appreciative.

We are thankful and grateful for everyone's support! Blessings and best wishes!

Sandra J. Harris, Ed.D. – Campus Dean

Strengthening Our Score

The School of Education is proud to announce a stronger EPI score, for the 4th year in a row. Each year the School of Education is ranked by the State of Michigan Education department. As an Educator Preparation Institution (EPI) in Michigan, our final grade comes in the form of an annual EPI Score. The CUAA School of Education was recently informed our score has improved for the 4th consecutive year to a "1," which rates our program as satisfactory (the scale is 0-6, with 0 being the best score). The score is derived from MTTC test scores, surveys of both graduates and supervisors, and the efficacy of our program graduates. We are pleased with this score which is evidence of the dedication and hard work of our leadership, faculty, staff, and teacher candidates. Thank you to all who have contributed to our ongoing improvement and success.



School of Education students at an Escape Room in Ann Arbor (see Escape Room, p. 2)

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Student Spotlight



Pictured: Nate Louisignau

Student Nate Louisignau Teaches in Japan

Nate is an education student majoring in music. He exemplifies what it means to be an innovative School of Education student pushing global boundaries.

To Bless and Be Blessed

Nate Louisignau took an opportunity to go bless and be blessed by serving as an ESL teacher in Tomisato, Japan for 30 days. The trip ran from January 5th until February 2nd. While there, Nate was immersed in a Japanese classroom, heated with a gas stove, and cleaned by the students.

Takeaways



"I was blessed with the opportunity to teach English in Japan," Nate says. "I learned so much about respect, honor, responsibility, and culture while I was there." Nate is the first student from CUAA to participate in this program.

"I felt right at home right away and it was great to play and interact with the children," says Nate. "I have been so blessed by this experience and would recommend Japan to anyone!" There is one summer position available in Tomisato. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Marilyn Meell for more information.

Escape Room (pictured on front)

The Differentiated Instruction course taught by Dr. Rokicki recently had the pleasure of participating in an escape room experience. Students had to use the leadership and teamwork skills learned within their course through the Habitudes series by Dr. Tim Elmore to solve the clues and try and save a patient that had been bitten by a venomous snake. Students also had to rely on differentiated tools taught in their class in order to determine who would work on which clues. We are excited to report that both groups were able to accomplish their mission! Great work School of Education students!

December Graduate Called to Living Word Lutheran Church in OH

Madalyn Short graduated from CUAA in December and was recently called to Living Word Lutheran Church in Galena, Ohio. "My husband and I moved down here mid-March and so far we love the place and the people," she says.

What is your new position? I am the Director of Family Life Ministry at Living Word. I mainly work with families with kids in junior high and younger by equipping parents to take faith home so they are the primary teachers of the faith for their children.

What do you like most about what do you? The best part about my job is the people I serve. They are so inviting and friendly and strive to show everyone they meet the love that Jesus has given to them, it's refreshing.

What are you most excited about? I am most excited about testing out and implementing ministry ideas that have been flowing through my mind. The church I am called to lives outside the box and are on board with some of the craziest ideas and I can't wait to explore them.

What is the 'why' behind what you do? I am in church work because I love Jesus and I love people and there is nothing else I would rather be doing than spending my time with both of them.

How do you feel CUAA helped prepare you for your role? CUAA has prepared me for Family Life Ministry by teaching me all about people. I get to work with and serve so many different people and I am so thankful that I was taught about why people are like they are.

Sara Rokicki earns Doctorate



Dr. Rokicki earned her PhD from Northcentral University in January after successfully defending her dissertation entitled Dispositional Transference in Teacher Preparation Candidates.

In CUAA's undergraduate courses, teacher preparation candidates learn about dispositional skills in their course work, and Dr. Rokicki studied the application of these skills in her research. Dr. Rokicki's research focused on how dispositional skills, such as creativity and collaboration, are transferred and applied in a practical classroom setting during student teaching.

This research will be used to further improve programs and teachings within the School of Education.

***Congratulations,
Dr. Rokicki!***



Dean Harris Recognizes National Reading Month by Visiting Ypsilanti International Elementary

Community Collaboration

The School of Education works to foster growth in our communities and schools. SOE invites many guest speakers in classrooms, hosts an advisory committee, is growing community partnerships, and creates service and volunteer opportunities for students.

Students Volunteer with North Star Reach

A group of Family Life students volunteered at North Star Reach in Pinckney, Michigan this March. North Star Reach is a non-profit camp which provides life-changing camp experiences for children with serious health challenges and their families, free of charge. CUAA students assisted with various projects to help the camp prepare for the beginning of their season in April. SOE continues to explore other opportunities for our students — particularly within the Child Life Specialist track — to partner with this excellent organization.

Student Symposium

CUAA hosted the Great Lakes Association of Child Life (GLACLP) Student Symposium in the North Building on March 23rd. Sessions were offered that met the needs of both current child life students, as well as those considering the child life field. Sessions included resume development and interview skills, a panel discussion on professional boundaries, and a break out session on medical play. Members of the executive board and educators from other institutions were present to accompany students and hold separate meetings. Concordia students assisted in welcoming guests and event coordination.

Dean Harris Makes Reading Month Visit to Classrooms

On Thursday, March 22, Dean Harris visited Ypsilanti International Elementary School in observance of National Reading Month and read *"The Book with No Pictures."* She emphasized the importance of reading and strong literacy skills. Dean Harris spent time with 2nd and 5th graders reading, singing, and bringing the books to life.

Calendar

Lunch and Learn Sessions

The Family Life Program will be offering monthly "Lunch and Learn" sessions, collaboratively with the Social Work Program, discussing topics currently impacting children and families. For information on these sessions, please email Joshua.Kittleman@cuaa.edu, or Jennifer.Fieten@cuaa.edu.

April 30, 2018 - Graduate Start Date

Graduate education courses such as Master's of Science in Educational Leadership and other programs begin. Graduate courses run on an accelerated 8-week format and applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

May 3 – 6, 2018—Child Life Conference in Washington, DC

We will have an exhibit table at the annual ACLP conference. Jennifer Fieten will be presenting a poster session, a conference presentation session, and will also be a panelist for a presentation session at this conference.

May 9, 2018 - Family Life Day

The annual Family Life Day will take place on Wednesday, May 9th from 9 am - 3 pm. Students in the FAM333: Families in Society class will be presenting topical posters to over 25 Family Life professionals in the metro-Detroit area. After the presentations, our students will enjoy lunch and conversation with these professionals.

July 30 - August 9, 2018

Each Summer, Concordia University Ann Arbor SOE Graduate Education hosts Summer Institute Workshops on campus in Ann Arbor. Workshops cover engaging topics in the field of education and provide educators an opportunity to receive State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs). Past workshops have covered topics such as transforming education with technology, utilizing peer feedback, building grit in students, creating a culture of achievement, and engaging in active learning. The workshops are either a one or two-day format and are offered for six SCECHs per day at an affordable rate of \$75 per day. For more information or how to register, email Julie.Edler@cuaa.edu.

Name the Newsletter and Reader Suggestions

Do you have a better idea than "SOE Newsletter" for the title of this newsletter? Do you have ideas and requests for future newsletter content? Please send your ideas to soe@cuaa.edu either under the subject line "Name the Newsletter" or "Reader Suggestion" and we will review all submissions. Feedback deadline for the fall/winter newsletter is July 31, 2018.

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