In line with our college motto, “Promoting a Culture of Excellence in a Changing World”, we offer educator programs led by conscientious, expert instructors who cultivate close working relationships with districts and schools. Professors keep abreast of state and national reforms and, most importantly, put children first. Over the last six months, the Isabelle Farrington College of Education has been adding new programs and improving existing ones. I’m delighted to highlight a few of them.

We now offer cross-endorsement in Comprehensive Special Education for certified teachers in Connecticut. Beginning summer 2015, this 30-credit program features a four-semester summer cohort model. In partnership with Bridgeport Public Schools and Cooperative Educational Services, the program features summertime practicum experiences along with evening courses during the academic year. The program prepares general education teachers to develop effective learning environments for individuals with challenges in the areas of autism, emotional disturbance, and learning disabilities. Dr. Jacqueline Kelleher directs the program. She served as a consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education in the areas of autism and general supervision monitoring, and her current outreach activities include the Connecticut Autism Advisory Council and the Bridgeport Board of Education.

We are also gearing up for an Ed.D. strand in Higher Education to begin fall 2015. Designed for working professionals, this program prepares them for careers in higher education administration, as well as for teaching roles within post-secondary and corporate environments. We offer coursework in a blended framework—occasional weekend meetings at our Stamford Graduate Center and frequent online contact. The program also features seminars that facilitate completion of dissertations in a timely manner. Our second strand of the Ed.D. Program is in PK-12 educational leadership. This strand, which includes Connecticut Superintendent (093) certification, is slated to begin fall 2016, pending State approval. Dr. Michael Barbour is director of doctoral programs. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and he is an international expert on primary and secondary level online learning, including the policies surrounding virtual schools.

We will offer a new major to undergraduates beginning fall 2015 that is tailored to the needs of prospective elementary school teachers. The new Interdisciplinary Studies major provides a balanced set of courses in the arts and sciences—English, history, political science, geography, mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics—as well as the opportunity to explore one of the aforementioned areas in depth. It’s designed to give students the academic background to successfully teach the content areas emphasized in elementary schools.

We are substantially revising our master’s degree. The new M.Ed. features coursework and a culminating project that emphasize academic content areas. There are also updated electives and a new course in assessment-driven instruction. The M.Ed. will enable practicing teachers to seamlessly advance from provisional to professional certification in the State of Connecticut. It begins July 2015.

We were so pleased this semester to honor retired professor of English education professor Sondra Melzer with Emerita status. I have also enjoyed interacting with students at the initial and advanced levels. Earlier in the semester initial preparation candidates traveled to Quinnipiac University where education policymaker Diane Ravitch talked to practicing and aspiring teachers about the pitfalls of accountability measures in Connecticut. I am especially proud of Francesca Bruno, Ruth Ann Phillips, and all of the students in our Education Club who organized an event on digital learning. Under the guidance of Prof. Mike Giarratano, they presented this workshop to area high school students involved in the Today’s Students Tomorrow’s Teachers program.

Here’s wishing you the very best for the holiday season and a peaceful and productive New Year.

Sincerely,

James C. “Jim” Carl
Dean
Update: Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Higher Education

Earlier this fall, the Farrington College of Education submitted an application for the Connecticut State Department of Education for the creation of an Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Higher Education. The proposed Ed.D. in Higher Education prepares graduates to lead effectively and successfully in institutions of higher education in one of two areas: Higher Education Administration or Higher Education Teaching. This 60-credit program will prepare individuals for careers in higher education administration; administration of policy and research centers, community educational institutions, and agencies; or teaching roles within post-secondary or corporate training and non-profit sectors.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2010-2020 employment projections, jobs in the education, training and library occupational group will be expected to grow 15% by 2020. The BLS also noted a 17% increase in doctoral-qualified graduates will be required to fill the national need, especially in higher education between now and 2020.

Students will complete a series of core courses focused on foundations, law, ethics, diversity, and the changing nature of the higher education population; as well as a practicum based on their specific interests. Students will also complete coursework in student affairs, enrollment management, budgeting, strategic leadership, and human resources or in instructional design, andragogy, assessment, and online learning. Following their coursework, students will complete comprehensive exams and progress to a dissertation phase consisting of three seminars.

This program will be offered at the Sacred Heart University Stamford Graduate Center. It will be delivered using a hybrid model, with students meeting face-to-face for up to three weekends (i.e., Friday evenings and Saturdays) each semester and the remaining content being delivered online utilizing Sacred Heart University’s Blackboard system and the various tools it provides.

The proposed Ed.D. is targeted for practitioners in the field of education (as opposed to a Ph.D. which is more focused upon preparing university faculty). At present the College of Health Professions and the Welch College of Business both have practitioner-focused doctoral degrees. The addition of an Ed.D. to the Farrington College of Education will provide similar doctoral-level opportunities. Additionally, it enables students to partner with faculty members, as they engage in practitioner-focused research.

It is expected that the Connecticut State Department of Education will reach a decision on our proposed Ed.D. soon.

Math Science Partnership Grant Enters Second Year

The Isabelle Farrington College of Education has received Phase 2 funding of the New Terrain Next Generation Science Teaching Project in the amount of $378,087.00. This Math Science Partnership grant has been secured by Professor Bonnie Maur, Project Director, and Professor Mark Beekey, Project Manager, who work in conjunction with national experts to raise student achievement in Math and Science. The program knits together the K-12 and university science education communities to increase the likelihood that shifts in teaching identified in the National Research Council (NRC) Framework and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will take place in a coordinated way. Professors from science education programs at eight Connecticut universities work together to improve teacher preparation programs across the state. The program shifts the way teachers learn and teach science -- in a 3-dimensional way (disciplinary core ideas [DCIs], scientific and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts). Teachers adapt curricular units to align with changes set forth in the Framework and NGSS.

Additionally, this grant provides exciting opportunities for K-12 teachers throughout Connecticut to configure teacher and faculty learning experiences around a unique professional development blended learning model. It brings together online and face-to-face learning to immerse educators at all levels. The program builds a strong network of educators across the state, as participants increase their understanding of content, pedagogical beliefs, and best practices – promoting a coherent, systematic approach to strengthening science education in Connecticut across K-16. At the center of the New Terrain project is a model of professional learning designed around evidence-based tenets of professional development.

The New Terrain program promotes Campus Hubs of K-16 educators. The planned activities in year one laid the groundwork for participating teachers and faculty to take major steps in adapting curriculum to meet the needs of current science practices and standards. This leads to enhanced K-12 student learning across the state, as educators apply the newly learned content and teaching approaches to their classrooms. Upon completion of New Terrain mini-units of instruction, teachers will reflect on student participation and learning, and will come together in an innovative August 2015 institute to share their reflections, revise, and improve their lessons. The mini units will ultimately be available to teachers across the state.

This grant also grows capacity for leadership. In a second institute also to be held August 2015, Maur and Beekey will train individuals at both the K-12 and higher education levels to take on leadership roles in scaling up this new professional development system. Hence, the New Terrain grant program allows SHU the opportunity to lead the state in transforming science education for years to come.
Microsoft’s Global Director of Teaching and Learning Comes to SHU

Dr. Cathy Cavanaugh, who is currently the Director of Teaching and Learning at Worldwide Education at Microsoft, spent a day at Sacred Heart University on September 26, 2014. Dr. Cavanaugh’s background is in the use of technology to improve the access to and the quality of educational opportunities for students around the world. She began her day speaking to faculty and staff in the Farrington College of Education about global learning developments. Drawing on her experience as a former leader at Abu Dhabi Women’s College and faculty member at the University of Florida, Dr. Cavanaugh also provided insights on the College’s proposed Ed.D. programs.

Later, Dr. Cavanaugh spoke to a diverse group of students, local school administrators and SHU faculty about the global digital divide. Focusing on the positive impacts of digital inclusion, Dr. Cavanaugh argued that retention, degree completion and economic growth can all be tied to increased access to digital technology within the scope of a forward-thinking educational framework. By creating innovative ways of providing instruction through the use of digital technology, developing countries in turn increase learning outcomes and address systemic issues inherent in overburdened bureaucracies and weakened curriculums. Of note, YouthSpark was cited as a holistic educational program, which Microsoft developed to situate the learner in a self-directed and empowered approach to digital literacy. Furthermore, Dr. Cavanaugh cited instructional technology reform efforts made in various developing countries that have positively impacted both math and reading outcomes.

Discovering Your Power to Prevent Bullying

This fall Education Professor, Dr. Terry Neu, teamed up with the SHU choir to provide a workshop on preventing bullying. SHU’s 4-Part Harmony and soloists (directed by Dr. John Michniewicz and accompanied by Galen Tate) – engaged the SHU community with a combination of strategy and song to effect the discovery of personal power. Attendees learned to recognize bullying and channel their own positive power to prevent it. The power of the smile, standing strong in one’s personal space, cultivating respect for others – these were some of the strategies Dr. Neu highlighted. In addition to interactive strategies, songs like “Roots before Branches”, “I Will Survive” and “Don’t Give up You’re not Alone” enhanced the message. The scene was the Chapel of the Holy Spirit with pitch perfect acoustics. The takeaway was belief in your own personal power.

Terry Neu is a national expert on gifted boys, bully-proofing and twice-exceptional children; Vice President of the Association for the Education of Gifted Underachieving Students (AEGUS) and author of Helping Boys Succeed in School. Dr. Neu has taught graduate and undergraduate classes at Sacred Heart University since 1996. For more about developing your personal power, see Bully Proofing Presentation on Dr. Neu’s web page.
FCE Celebrates Sondra Melzer

Beloved professor, Sondra Melzer Ph.D., entered to a wave of resounding applause on Thursday, November 20th, as family, friends and colleagues gathered at a reception in the Oakview Building to celebrate her well-deserved Emerita status. The well respected teacher/scholar/author was accompanied by her husband, Franklin Melzer. This year marks her 56th year of teaching and 20th year at SHU. Sondra’s outstanding teaching career includes 39 years as a public school teacher, including 26 as the Chairman of the English Department at West Hill High School, Stamford. She is the author of the book, The Rhetoric of Rage: Women in Dorothy Parker. Sondra is the first Farrington College of Education faculty member to receive this distinction. BRAVO, Dr. Melzer!

Education Club and Connecticut 2014 Teacher of the Year, John Mastroianni, Hall High School, West Hartford, CT

College Supports Professional Development for Educators

The Isabelle Farrington College of Education hosted two well attended professional development opportunities. On September 27th, the college partnered with the Connecticut Science Supervisors Association and the Connecticut Science Teachers Association to sponsor an Elementary Science Extravaganza. This event enabled FCE students past and present to sample creative lessons and activities tailored to the elementary school student and current science standards. University Commons was filled with a sense of great excitement, as educators from across the state shared units and lessons.

On October 14th, Cambridge Commons was the setting for our second annual Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) conference for area administrators and teachers, whereby educators had the opportunity to explore their visions of STEM education for local districts. They also participated in exciting sessions on incorporating technology and engineering design into interdisciplinary science and math units. Professor Bonnie Maur, who coordinated both events for SHU, is excited to be a part of the college’s effort to reach out to the community and partner with other organizations to continue to provide the very best of opportunities to professionals throughout Connecticut.

Club members enjoy time with John Mastroianni (center, with saxophone) and mentor, Prof. Mike Giarratano (center, last row).

Elementary Science Extravaganza engages educators.
Dr. Yakimowski Joins Sacred Heart

Dr. Mary Yakimowski

The Isabelle Farrington College of Education’s newest professor is Dr. Mary Yakimowski. Born and raised in the Boston neighborhood of Mattapan, Dr. Yakimowski loved school from an early age. She attended the Catholic all-girls Barton High School, and later, Bridgewater State University. While in school, Mary joined the Drum/Bugle Corp. and played french horn for a number of years. In fact, in 1994 her Corp had their 20th anniversary in Foxboro, MA and received seven standing ovations! She attended the University of Connecticut for her graduate and doctoral degrees. During her 6th year, she became an adjunct faculty member at the school and taught School Psychology, her area of specialization. She considers herself a lifelong learner, as she continues to take refresher courses in neighboring universities.

For most of her career Dr. Yakimowski worked in urban schools, including Baltimore, Maryland and Hampton, Virginia, rising to Chief Officer of Accountability. In 2005, Mary relocated to Connecticut to be closer to her parents and worked at UConn for nine years before coming to Sacred Heart. She now resides in Tolland Connecticut with her six month old kitten named Precious. Mary developed her passion for teaching at an early age, “playing school” and “teaching” neighborhood children. She loves gardening and the lily is her favorite flower. As befits a gardener, spring and summer are her favorite seasons. Favorite food is golumpki (stuffed cabbage), which she prepares herself (when she has the time) and ice cream – especially “chunky monkey”, which she says is her weakness!

In Memoriam

Salvatore “Sal” Buchetto
Salvatore Buchetto, friend of the Farrington College of Education and adjunct professor, passed away on October 15, 2014. Sal was a middle school teacher for 38 years before teaching at FCE. As he was fond of saying to teacher candidates, “You’ve got to reach them to teach them”. He was an avid proponent of Harry Wong classroom management. Among his many interests, “Mr. B.” was a talented photographer. Known for his love of science/education, enthusiasm, and sense of humor -- Sal is missed by all who knew him.

Therese “Terri” Phillips
Terri Phillips, dedicated SHU staff member, passed away on August 26th, 2014. Known for her devotion to family and friends, Terri was always sociable and ready with a kind word and warm smile. Over her 28 years of SHU employment, she worked in departments across the university, most recently she graced the Oakview Building, in support of Farrington College of Education and University Advancement. A voracious reader and fine wordsmith, Terri shared her considerable talents with FCE since 2012. She touched us all with her caring ways and will be truly missed.

Dorothy Richards
Sadly, Dorothy Richards, FCE Head Librarian at the SHU-Griswold Campus for over 20 years, passed away suddenly on June 24, 2014. Her energy, breadth of Library/Media knowledge, innovation and capacity to cultivate resources and build a comprehensive library program were widely respected. Dorothy was a pivotal member of the team at Griswold, from her research and work in support of accreditation to her tireless hands-on assistance with campus and candidate events. She is missed, both personally and professionally.

SAVE THE DATE!

Seventh Annual Educators’ Communion Breakfast

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Sacred Heart University

Chapel of the Holy Spirit
8:30 a.m. Chapel art tour
9 a.m. Mass

University Commons
10 a.m. Breakfast and talk
12 p.m. Book signing
(Books will be available for purchase)

Limited Seating. All are welcome. Go to www.sacredheart.edu/CAPP2015 or call 203-396-8201 to register.

Mother Dolores Hart, O.S.B., Abbey of Regina Laudis, CT