



UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Joliet, IL

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Alice Cahill
Janet Lueck
Steve Midlock
Madonna Murphy
Cathy Nelson
Sharon Wysoglad

Our mission is to develop and nurture professional growth opportunities among full-time faculty, adjunct faculty, supervisors, and administrators; thereby, promoting a "genuine community of learners" in the College of Education.

FALL 2006, vol. #3

Have a Cup of Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive, and some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and then began eyeing each other's cups.

"Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups . . . enjoy your coffee.

The Professional Development Book/Video Club

One of the easiest ways to grow as a professional is to read professional books or view videos on current practices. Each month we will be featuring a book or a video and encouraging you to participate in discussion of the topics covered. Our meeting times will be in the late afternoon so that our adjunct professors, local teachers and professional development partners will have an opportunity to attend. Please join us at Twin Oaks on **Friday November 10th at 3:30 pm** for a one hour discussion on the book We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools by Gary R Howard. **PLEASE RSVP** to acahill@stfrancis.edu by November 3, if you plan to take part in this month's conversation. The book can be purchased from Teachers College Press, here: <http://store.tcpress.com/0807746657.shtml>

Book Description

In this expanded Second Edition, Gary Howard (who has written for many professional organizations including the *Phi Delta Kappan*) outlines what good teachers know, what they do, and how they embrace culturally responsive teaching. Howard brings his bestselling book completely up to date with today's school reform efforts and includes a new introduction and a new chapter that speak directly to current issues such as closing the achievement gap, and to recent legislation such as No Child Left Behind. With our nation's student population becoming ever more diverse, and teachers remaining largely White, this book is now more important than ever. A must-read in universities and school systems throughout the country, We Can't Teach What We Don't Know continues to facilitate and deepen the discussion of race and social justice in education.

This month's book was recommended by Lisa White-McNulty. We would like to provide everyone, with their unique view on Education, an opportunity to choose a book or video to share. Please send all suggestions to Alice Cahill.

Professional Growth Themes for 2006- 2007

Communication and Collaboration - Scholarship of Teaching & Action Research - Dissemination of Materials & Resources - NCATE Standard 5: Faculty Qualifications, Performance, and Development

Sharing Professional Growth Opportunities

Upcoming Workshops:

- **Character Counts Training** - *Schools, Law Enforcement, Sports and Recreation, Business, Parents, and Faith-Based Organizations* – keynote by James Glasgow, Will County States Attorney. Tuesday, October 17th, USF Motherhouse, 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. (\$50 registration fee) Contact Maggie Barrows for more information.
- **Strategies for Teaching Methods of Educational Research** – Ed. Leadership Adjunct Faculty – presented by Dr. Janet Stutz. Saturday, October 21st 10 A.M. until 12 Noon, Twin Oaks Campus, Suite 105, Room F. Contact June Grivetti for more information.
- **Field Experience Supervisor's Checkpoint Seminar** - Agenda: 1. Address issues that have arisen during the first half of the semester regarding field experience procedures and teacher candidates 2. Collaboration. October 25, 2006 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Twin Oaks Campus
- **Secondary Reading Conference**, Nov. 18th , Holiday Inn, Tinley Park. Check the website for more information. www.dayofreading.org
- **Infusing Technology Across the Content Areas**, Nov. 18 9-12 pm, Twin Oaks. Contact Sharon Wysoglad for more information. swysoglad@stfrancis.edu.
- **NEW:** Thirtieth Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students- hosted by the Center. Monday through Thursday December 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Oak Brook
- **Mid-America Conference**, June 25-29, 2007, USF Motherhouse. Check the website for more information. www.advantagediscipline.com

COE Library

The new COE Professional Growth Library is located in Suite 105, Room D at the Twin Oaks Campus. Thanks to Maggie for her service as our Professional Growth Librarian, and to Joyce for beginning to catalog the incoming texts and materials. To date we have assembled an impressive collection of journals and other resources. Please stop in to see what's available and **CONTINUE TO SEND US** texts, journals and other materials. The online catalog of items should be available by mid-November.

Suggestions

This newsletter summarizes the activities and plans of the COE Professional Growth Committee. We want to assist the COE's journey as a community of learners. Please feel free to offer suggestions to any of the committee members. **Thanks!**

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