Mathematics Program celebrates 100 years of PhDs

This past commencement ceremony marked 100 years of conferring PhDs in the Mathematics Education Program at TC. The field of Mathematics Education was founded at the turn of the 19th century. Teachers College was the first to provide a PhD in the field. In 1902 TC conferred its first Masters Degree and in 1906 it issued its first PhD degree. The titles of the first dissertations in the Mathematics Education Program were "The Educational Significance of Sixteenth Century Arithmetic from the Point of the Present Time" and "A History of the Teaching of Elementary Geometry with References to Present-Day Problems" by Lambert Lincoln Jackson and Alva Walker Stamper, respectively.

TC has produced thousands of leaders for our nation’s schools, colleges, and universities. Currently, the program’s faculty is working on research in the areas of number theory, algebraic geometry, topology, and geometric analysis. Dr. Karp, a mathematics professor here at TC, is the managing editor of the International Journal for the history of mathematics. The major aim of this journal is to "provide mathematics teaching and mathematics education with its memory, in order to reveal the insights achieved in earlier periods (ranging from Ancient time to the late 20th century) and to unravel the fallacies of past events".

Michael Passow, An Earth Expert

Dr. Michael J. Passow, Adjunct Professor of the Science Education Program, teaches Earth Science at the White Plains Middle School. He is also the founder of "Earth2Class Workshops for Teachers" at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO) (www.earth2class.org), where he serves as Adjunct Associate Research Scientist.

Additionally, Dr. Passow is President-Elect of the National Earth Science Teachers Association, and has been President of the Science Teachers Association of New York State and the National Association of Geoscience Teachers-Eastern Section. Passow is active as an American Meteorological Society Education Program Peer Trainer. He is a member of the TC Alumni Council. For his efforts during the past 36 years, he has received awards from national, regional, and local organizations, including the "Catalyst Teacher" award from the American Chemistry Council.

Another little fact, Dr. Passow is an avid kayaker.
Science Program Alumnus Honored

Dr. Paul Bishoff, a TC Science Education Program graduate, was recently selected as a recipient of the 2006 SUNY Research Foundation Research and Scholarship Award. Currently, Dr. Bishoff is the coordinator of the Science Education Program at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oneonta. He joined the SUNY faculty in 2001 with an Ed.D. in Secondary School Science Education from Teachers College.

Bischoff was selected for the award based on nominations from the entire SUNY system. Nominees were evaluated based on their records of research activity, grants, publications and presentations, involvement of students in research, teaching, community activities, and reputation in their fields.

Bischoff obtained a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of over $800,000 to develop programs to interest high school students in potential careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. He helped implement the "PR2EPS" program (Preparation, Recruitment, Retention and Excellence in the Physical Sciences) for high school students in Central New York.

Dr. Bischoff also served as principal investigator for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education through which he designed and developed the new Science Teaching Literacy Center at the SUNY. Additionally, he has received a Faculty Research Grant and collaborated with students in several Student-Faculty Research Grants from SUNY Oneonta.

Professor Robert Taylor, An Artist in CCTE

Have you been to the library of the Academic Computing Services Office? If so, have you noticed the art displayed on the walls there? Ever wonder who drew those amazing pictures? Well, it was none other than Robert Taylor, the faculty member who founded the program in computing at education at Teachers College over 30 years ago. Professor Taylor, who began drawing at an early age because there was nothing else to do on the farm when his older brother started school, maintained a lifelong interest in art, though never pursuing that as a career. (His formal training in art was limited to a course in oil painting as an undergraduate, and one summer's work with an accomplished artist while in graduate school.)

After nearly 30 years of doing very little in the way of drawing, Taylor was stimulated by some unforeseen event to begin drawing again. Upon returning from a Spring 1996 meeting in which he gave an address in Santiago, Chile, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In the next month or so, as he underwent testing to determine how serious it was and what treatment should be undertaken, he began drawing again to distract himself from the cancer worry. In the decade since the surgery, he has continued to draw, endlessly, producing well over 5000 drawings, many of which can be seen on various websites on TC servers. Seventeen of which can be accessed from www.tc.columbia.edu/taylor.

The first thing one sees in looking at any sizeable collection of these drawings is the variety of subjects they cover. That variety reflects something of the range of Taylor's academic and other interests, a range that includes not just digital technology and art, but music, travel, professional interactions and meeting, globalization, and a number of other things. Several of those sites, for example, specifically reflect persons in transit, persons in meetings centered on international issues, persons making music, persons in academic and administrative meetings of various kinds, persons in far parts of the world, and so on.

More than a decade after beginning his long career at Teachers College, Professor Taylor was approached by the Director of Music at Riverside Church. The director, whom learned that he had sung at Chicago in Rockefeller Chapel, invited Taylor to begin singing at the church. He has sung there as a chorus member and occasionally a soloist for over twenty years.

Finally, as a last comment on Taylor's range of interests, as it is illustrated in his participation in music, two last items are worth noting. First, he has sung as a soloist in a number of churches in Europe, South America, and elsewhere. Second, he commissioned and sang the world premier of each four works created to be invocations for Teachers College commencement ceremonies. In each case Taylor selected the poem to be used as lyrics, and had contemporary American composer Robert Convery set each to music.
CCTE Student “Reaches the World”

CCTE Masters student, Anthony Love-Rhodes, is involved with a program called Reach the World (RTW). RTW is an “organization using technology and travel to bring the world into underprivileged classrooms.” Each week Rhodes goes to PS 70 in the Bronx to work with students on technology-based activities. The goal of RTW is to encourage teachers to incorporate technology into their classrooms and provide students with a world view of education. Rhodes’ job is to act as a liaison between teachers, students, and crew members of RTW that are traveling the world on a boat named Makulu. These crew members provide information on the countries that they are visiting and answer any questions that students may have as well as give teachers lesson ideas. It is the aim of RTW to have teachers be able to connect their lessons to what Makulu is doing. Rhodes has been involved in the program for over two years and has even had the opportunity to be a Makulu crew member, when he sailed the coast of Africa.

For more information on RTW, visit www.reachtheworld.org.

Love-Rhodes and PS 70 Students

Technology Intensive Program

Communication, Computing, and Technology in Education (CCTE) has conducted an intensive version of its M.A. program in technology and education for 23 years. At the time of its origination, it was the only M.A. program in the country in its field. Many people wanted to get a degree from the program but could not attend classes during the academic year, so in the summer of 1983 CCTE began the intensive program with about a dozen participants. The original theme of the Intensive program was software development, and participants were people who could already program. Over the years, the audience for the program has been redefined as teachers with little or no background using computers. Due to the change, the Intensive program has taken in some 20 to 25 new participants a year. Between new and returning students, there are 50 to 60 participants at TC for each July session.

Since 1983, over 500 people have received M.A. degrees through this program, and many of them are in technology leadership programs in their schools, districts, or states. This fall, all student teachers in CCTE’s new pre-service program for the technology teaching license will be placed with technology directors who are present or former students of the Intensive program.

A new feature since the start of the program is online courses. For the first 15 years or so, all the time between July sessions was spent doing independent projects such as studies with students on using technology, reading and research, curriculum or staff development work. Since the offering of online courses, most intensive students learn in both ways.

The program’s future plans involve offering the intensive program as a completely online M.A. program. Prospective students will have the choice of coming here in July or completing classes solely online. This would benefit those students that are not to take an entire month to come to New York, and for them the online option might be appealing. Those students would attend a two- or three-day workshop before the program started so we get to know them a little, but the rest of their experience with the program could be online. For this program CCTE is exploring a set of tools for enhancing online learning, including the use of real-time video Web conferencing.

For more information regarding the Intensive Program, please contact:

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Did you Know?
Teachers College moved to its current location in 1894. Before then, it was located at 654 East 11th Street.
Newsletter Submissions

The Mathematics, Science, and Technology Department is looking for submissions for its next Department Newsletter. Some items that may be included in the Newsletter are the following:
- Adjunct Spotlights / Accomplishments
- Upcoming Program Events / Announcements
- Student Spotlights / Accomplishments
- Alum Spotlights / Accomplishments

This Newsletter can only be successful with your help! If you have any submissions, please submit them to Kenny Nienhusser at nienhusser@tc.edu.

Upcoming Conference Dates

January 3-6 Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE)
http://aste.chem.pitt.edu/

March 26-30 Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE)
http://www.acce.org/default.htm

March 29-April 1 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
http://www.nsta.org/conferences

April 9 - 13 American Educational Research Association (AERA)
http://www.aera.net

April 14-17 National Association of Research in Science Teaching (NARST)
http://www.narst.org/conference

October 10-13 National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
http://www.nctm.org/

TBA Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE)
http://www.smpte.org/

Did you know?

On December 15th 2005, TC dedicated its offices at the Theresa Towers, on the corner of Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and 125th Street, as the new Edmund W. Gordon Campus. Dr. Gordon, founder of TC’s Institute for Urban and Minority Education, has been a lifelong champion of “supplementary education”-- the idea that children must be supported by a network of caring community and family to ensure that out-of-school educational experiences positively shape their intellectual development and well-being. Recently, Dr. Gordon was named a special advisor to The Campaign for Educational Equity.

Visiting Faculty

Visiting scholar, Dr. Philip Smith, has been named the 2006 Departmental “Distinguished Alumnus” award. He was presented with the award at the Spring commencement ceremony. (See picture, left).

Student

Mathangi Subramanian has been selected as a recipient of Research Fellowship awarded by TC's Office of Policy and Research. Ms. Subramanian is a doctoral student who just completed her Master’s in CCTE this spring.