

Higher and Postsecondary Education at Teachers College

A Note from the HPSE Program Coordinator: Dr. Anna Neumann

A very warm welcome to all of you – new students and faculty, and those continuing from prior years!

The year has gotten off to a wonderfully energetic start. I've been delighted to meet so many of you and hope you will make this a wonderful year of learning. What's new? Our newsletter says it all, and I welcome you to read it thoroughly and follow up on the many suggestions therein. I ESPECIALLY want to encourage you to join a committee and contribute to the life of the Program. TC is the kind of place where people make their own reality – through learning, thinking, acting from thought, learning from action. Join up with someone and help advance our collective effort to understand and improve higher education.

Sincerely,
 Anna Neumann
 Professor of Higher Education
 Coordinator, Program in Higher and Postsecondary Education



Save the Date!

HPSE Lecture on *Exploring the Pedagogies of Liberal Education in Diverse, Urban College and Universities* will be held on November 3rd 3-5pm. Details available on our program's website: <http://www.tc.edu/o%26i/HigherEd/>

New this year:

There is a new (non-credit) seminar for Master of Education students facilitated by doctoral candidate Milagros Castillo-Montoya. The seminar meets about once a month and provides Ed.M. students with the opportunity to supplement their academic experience and professional development in the HPSE program. The seminar touches upon career options and ways of preparing for further studies (doctoral degree or other).

The next seminar session for this semester is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30th from 7pm to 8pm in Macy Hall 261.

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Alumni Profile: Dr. Negar Farakish

By: Michael DeLeón

“As a practitioner in the field I try to consolidate scholarly learning and research. This is a great way to invest in the career.”



Alumni are an essential pillar for their alma maters, often serving as role models of how current students may artfully navigate the school to career transition. Dr. Negar Farakish is an example of this. Dr. Farakish is currently the Provost/Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Union County College in New Jersey and holds a doctorate degree from the Higher and Post-secondary Education (HPSE) program at Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Farakish also holds an Education Specialist Degree in English, a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), and a Bachelor of Arts in English Translation. Her previous positions include serving as Assistant Dean of Development at Westchester Community College, and Director of Developmental Education at Hudson Community College.

When asked what advice she can offer to HPSE students who want to become administrators, Dr. Farakish suggests that students need to consider the different types of administrative positions available at an institution. Dr. Farakish said, “some people want to be in academic affairs, while others want to be in student affairs. Institutional research is prominent as well... There are also financial sections of higher education. It depends on the focus of the student. For most of these positions applicants need an advanced degree and experience. I recommend a five-year plan, a ten-year plan and an alternate career path.” Dr. Farakish also suggests that those interested in administrative positions also consider the kind of institutions that they want to work in (e.g. community college, research, or comprehensive) as each institution type has a different focus. She recommends that students review current job postings for the type of positions they would like in the future to learn more about the requirements for those positions. For students interested in pursuing a faculty career in the future, Dr. Farakish advises students to consider the various opportunities available at different institutional types. For example, one institution might focus heavily on teaching, while another one may place more emphasis on research.

Dr. Farakish also pointed out that some students may want to pursue careers as scholar-practitioners who have administrative responsibilities and also continue to contribute to the knowledge in the field by way of their research. For these students, her best advice is to find ways to connect their administrative work with their teaching and their research. Dr. Farakish said that one way of doing this is to present at conferences, while also attending those conferences for professional development. Such practices create opportunities for the multiple components of their practice to fold into one another.

A Perspective on Balancing School, Work and Life

By: Jillianne Rodriguez



Graduate school alone is lots of work. Add a job - or a family - or both! - and things can

get overwhelming fast. Advanced doctoral candidate Katie Conway (a graduate of both the MA and the EdM) worked full-time throughout her coursework (most recently as Director of Academic Affairs for the Columbia University Medical Center). She now balances her dissertation work with a fellowship in the Office of the President here at TC, teaching in the program, and a toddler. She has a few thoughts about how to survive - and even thrive - while juggling lots of things.

First, Katie recommends that students know and understand their priorities.

Katie states, “It’s important to figure out what you want to focus your time on - whether it’s at work, at home, or at school. Say no to things that aren’t at the top of your priority list.. But... say yes to things that might not seem ‘important’ but that energize you.” For instance, Katie was also very much involved within the HPSE program as programming and professional development chair, the newsletter editor, and as a teaching assistant. While she says that those weren’t necessarily the most critical commitments on her calendar, they made her feel a part of the program and kept her engaged in a way that simply coming to class wouldn’t have.

Second, Katie recommends that students make time to make friends. She said, “build friendships with people who are going through what you are—you

might not have friends who are also working, going to school, and having kids, but find people who are doing each of those things who can support you through the inevitable challenges of graduate school - and be there with you for all of the exciting times! Pretty soon, they’ll be taking pictures with you in your graduation gown!”

Finding the right balance is a never-ending challenge but remember to do your best and most importantly remember to be kind to yourself. What may seem as an overwhelming time in your life is simply another step in your education and career. Being a part of the HSPE program is a great achievement and one that is sure to be followed by many others.

Master of Arts Coordinator Advice Corner

By: Dr. Monica Coen Christensen



It has been a genuine pleasure to begin to get to know this year's entering class, and to continue to work with those of you who are continuing

in the program. I take my advising role very seriously; please feel free to meet with me if you need me for any reason. The most important thing I ask of those of you who are my advisees is that you please speak up!!

I know right now you may feel like you cannot look out beyond the next day or two – to the

next (major!) reading assignment, the next deadline, the next event at your internship – but the Registrar's Office, the Program and I are already looking ahead to next semester.

Registration for spring semester opens on December 5th and you need to be ready with your schedule. By the end of October I will have an advising schedule in place – you will have the option of e-mailing me your schedule during that period of time or meeting with me face to face (*though if you do not have any courses with me this semester I strongly prefer to meet you face-to-face*).

It was great to see so many of you at the

Program's first social. I hope you will all take advantage of the career preparation events that Leslie Williams is organizing for the late fall and winter. Be on the look out for upcoming scholarly and social events coming up later this fall and in the next semester – I know it is hard to fit everything in but being active in program events will make your year or so here much richer.

Dr. Monica Coen Christensen's Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-3pm & Thursdays 10am-11:30pm and by appointment

Research Strategies and Tips

By: Jessie Ostrow

As midterms and final papers rapidly approach, it is time to sharpen your research tools. The following strategies will assist you in efficiently navigating through databases such as ERIC, JSTOR, and Proquest by crafting more complex and specific searches. Happy Researching!

- **Boolean Operators:** Boolean Operators help generate effective searches by combining multiple terms to produce accurate search results. The three main Boolean Operators are AND/OR/NOT (Database search tools, 2005). For example, if you were writing a paper on contemporary student veterans, perhaps your search would look like this: Student OR College OR University AND Veteran OR Afghanistan OR Iraq.
- **Truncation:** Truncation expands a search to generate results that possess a word that stems from one specific root. By putting a symbol (varying from database to database) at the end of the root, you will retrieve a richer list of possible sources. Example: teen* will return teen, teens, teenage, teenager (Boolean, truncation, and, wildcards, 2011).
- **Wildcards:** Wildcards expand a search to retrieve results with spelling variations of the same word. Use a wildcard in the middle of the word to access a complete list of results with spelling variations. Example: wom?n will show results containing woman, women, and womyn (Wildcards, boolean and proximity operators, and precedence, 2004).

Works Cited:

Boolean, truncation, and wildcards. (2011, July 18). Retrieved from <http://www.valdosta.edu/library/learn/booleans.shtml>

Database search tools & strategies. (2005, December 14 12). Retrieved from <http://southmed.usouthal.edu/library/ref/tools.htm>

Wildcards, boolean and proximity operators, and precedence. (2004, January 15). Retrieved from <http://training.proquest.com/trc/training/boolean.htm>

Congratulations to Our Doctoral Students and Alumni!

Katie Conway, a doctoral candidate, has received the Teachers College Dean's Grant for Student Research. The title of her dissertation is "Faculty Flourishing: Toward Improved Understanding of Career Construction Strategies in the Pre-Tenure Faculty Career."

Delmy Lendof, a doctoral candidate, was awarded the College Student Affairs Professional of the Year award from the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey for her outstanding mentorship to students in that program.

Kim Pereira, a doctoral candidate, has received the Teachers College Dean's Grant for Student Research. The title of her dissertation is "Private Liberal Arts College Professors' Deepened Engagement with Students Beyond the Classroom: An Exploratory Study."

Staci Ripkey, a doctoral student, has received the Teachers College Provost's Policy Fellowship for 2011-2012.

Dr. Negar Farakish, an Ed.D. alumna, became Provost/Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at Union Community College this July. Congrats Dr. Farakish!

Dr. Kenny Nienhusser defended his dissertation this past May, becoming an Ed.D. alumnus. The title of his dissertation is "Implementation Of In-State Tuition Legislation For Undocumented Students In New York." Dr. Nienhusser has also joined our faculty this year.

Congratulations to HPSE Faculty!

Dr. Anna Neumann officially begins her role as President of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) this November. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful year!

Upcoming HPSE Events and TC Events

By : Jessica Stockton

For information on the latest Fall HPSE events, please visit the HPSE website: <http://www.tc.edu/o&l/highered/>

Live Music in Everett Library Café—Wadsworth Strings (ClassicalTrio) on October 26th at 5 pm: <http://library.tc.columbia.edu>

Higher and Postsecondary Education (HPSE) Open House on November 11, 2011 at 6 pm. Please RSVP at <http://www3.tc.columbia.edu/events/index.asp?eventID=10150>.

Macy Gallery Reception- Historical Foundations of Art Education Reception on December 2nd from 5-7 pm in Macy 444. This exhibition will showcase student historical research projects from Historical Foundations of Art Education, a Fall 2011 course.

Exciting Events in NYC

By : Jessica Stockton

The exhibition "Youth and Beauty: Art of the American Twenties at Brooklyn Museum" opens October 28, 2011 and goes through January 29, 2012. \$6 admission with Student ID, and free admission the first Saturday of every month from 5-11 pm. http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/visit/first_saturdays.php.

One Step Beyond, Special Evening Dance Party at the Natural History Museum. Upcoming dates include October 14th and November 11th. The October 14th date will include a dj set by the band Best Coast, and the museum will be open from 9 pm- 1 am. <http://www.amnh.org/rose/specials/index.php>

The Future of Higher Education Symposium presented by The Center for Public Scholarship at The New School will take place on December 8th and 9th at the John Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12th Street, NYC. Keynote on Thursday, December 8, 2011 6:00pm featuring: David Van Zandt (President, The New School), Jamshed Bharucha (President, Cooper Union), Neil Grabois (President Emeritus, Colgate University), Matthew Goldstein, (Chancellor, City University of New York). Tickets: Full conference \$15; single session are \$8 each. More information may be found at www.newschool.edu/cps/future-higher-ed.

SISTAS THE MUSICAL is a musical journey of African-Americans from Bessie Smith to Beyonce being presented by three time Tony winner Hinton Battle and JenKay. Discounted tickets for SISTAS may be purchased by going to www.broadwayoffers.com with the code SILUKE39.

Conversations from the Cullman Center: Authors John Jeremiah Sullivan and Wells Tower at NYPL on December 15th from 7-9 pm. Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, South Court Auditorium, Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street.

Professional Development Tip: Getting the Most Out of Conferences

By: Elizabeth Strauss

I asked Leslie Williams, a doctoral student and the Programming and Professional Development Coordinator for the program, to offer advice for getting the most out of professional conferences. Below are a list of suggestions:

Go! Whether it's ASHE, NASPA, ACPA, or a regional/local conference, consider it a part of your professional development.

Budget for conferences! Conferences can be expensive, but are an investment in your profession. Limit costs by: registering early, tracking airfares in advance, taking a bus for regional travel, sharing hotel rooms, and eating as many meals as possible at free conference events.

Prepare! Spend time reviewing the program before the conference and strategically select sessions to attend based on your interests. Also attend receptions; informal time is also important!

Be Professional! Find out the "dress code." Bring business cards (you can get official Columbia business cards in the basement of the Journalism School). Be mindful when you're engaged in conversation; you never know who's around you and what role they may play.

Seek mentoring and guidance! Check for newcomer receptions that match you with a mentor or senior member. If there is a particular scholar/practitioner that you are interested in meeting, become familiar with their work, then write them to see if they might meet with you, even if only briefly over coffee.

Follow up! Follow up with the people you met by sending them an email where you remind them of who you are and thank them for meeting with you, sending you an article, or connecting you with someone (depending on your situation). Conferences offer opportunities for relationships that are invaluable but relationships must be nurtured.

Upcoming Conferences:

The Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) November 16 – 19, 2011 - Charlotte, North Carolina - <http://www.ashe.ws/>

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) March 10 – 14, 2012 – Phoenix, Arizona - <http://www.naspa.org/conf/>

American College Personnel Association (ACPA) March 24 – 28, 2012 – Louisville, Kentucky - <http://convention.myacpa.org/>

American Educational Research Association (AERA) April 13-April 17, 2012 Vancouver, BC, Canada - <http://www.aera.net/2012AnnualMeeting.htm>

This edition of the HPSE newsletter was brought to you by the HPSE Newsletter Committee:

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