NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SCHOLAR DR. LISA DELPIT VISITS UNC ASHEVILLE

The Department of Education at UNC Asheville continued to demonstrate yet another facet of its commitment to diversity, inclusion, and social justice this Fall. With the focus on equipping pre-service teachers and area educators with the tools to be culturally responsive, the university hosted nationally acclaimed education scholar Dr. Lisa Delpit. Delpit spoke about issues in education reform and diversity, including unconscious bias, colorblindness, color muteness, and the soft bigotry of low expectations in a series of events at UNC Asheville in October. Well over 250 people attended the events, including area teachers and administration of Asheville City Schools. The school district—in conjunction with the Asheville City Schools Foundations—hosted reading circles using Delpit’s work and culminated their activities with multiple opportunities to interact with Dr. Delpit in person, all while receiving continuing education units toward their professional licenses.

Delpit has won accolades for her work on teaching and learning in urban schools and in diverse cultural settings. She won a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant in 1990 and three years later received the award for Outstanding Contribution to Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, which hailed her as a “visionary scholar and woman of courage.” Delpit is the Felton G. Clark Professor of Education at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Lousiana, where she lives. She is the author of *Multiplication is for White People: Raising Expectations for Other People's Children* (New Press, 2013), *Other People's Children* (New Press, 2006) and co-editor of *Quality Education as a Constitutional Right* (Beacon Press, 2010), *The Skin That We Speak* (Beacon Press, 1998).

The event was sponsored by UNC Asheville’s Office of the Provost, Department of Education Office of Teacher Recruitment, Teaching Fellows Programs, Department of Education Diversity Committee and Center for Diversity Education, as well as Asheville City Schools and Asheville City Schools Foundation.

MIDDLE GRADES LICENSURE RECEIVES “PROGRAM TO WATCH” AWARD

The Department of Education’s middle grades teacher licensure program has been selected to receive the Teacher Preparation Program to Watch Award for the North Carolina Western Region. This award is given by the North Carolina Association for Middle Level Education and the North Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education. “The award recognizes the excellence of your academic program and the efforts of your faculty and graduates that advance the aims of exemplary middle level education.” Huge congratulations is in order for Dr. Nancy Ruppert, program coordinator, and all who contribute to the middle grades program!
Showers of gratitude and appreciation to the folks who helped make the annual Very Special Arts Festival a huge success this fall at T C Roberson High School. We had glorious weather, great volunteers, and plenty of happy kids! This one-day festival is held for students with disabilities from across WNC, featuring their artwork, karaoke, performances, craft booths, games, and ... oh, yeah—FUN! UNCA Education Department annually sponsors a sno-cone booth, and helps sponsor the spin-art booth. UNC Asheville faculty and students dished up sno-cones and braved the spin-art machines. The festival provides an excellent opportunity to engage with teachers, students, community stakeholders, and caregivers all dedicated to the positive development, education, and welfare of some very special kids!

Above: Department faculty and students host activities at the Very Special Arts Festival.
FIESTA LATINA

The Office of Teacher Recruitment once again supported and participated in this year’s exciting Fiesta Latina in downtown Asheville. Both the Department of Education and the Office of Admissions at UNC Asheville had a great presence at the festival and successfully demonstrated not only the rich diversity, culture and inclusiveness of our campus but also the outstanding academic, creative expression, and enrichment programs that continue to make UNC Asheville a national front-runner in the liberal arts. From the popular origami cubes that Sam Kaplan used to creatively engage the public to the written materials produced in Spanish, such as Programa de Educación de Maestros and the Admissions Quick Facts: Seriamente Creativa, to the Center for Diversity Education’s wonderful display Sí Se Puede, we demonstrated that UNC Asheville remains committed and intentionally connected to diversity of its local and regional communities. The combination of faculty, staff, students and volunteers signaled to the public the level of our collective pride and belief in UNC Asheville!

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL TEACHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (USTEP) HOLDS BEGINNING TEACHER EVENTS

The Induction committee of UNC Asheville’s University School Teacher Education Partnership held three separate events for Beginning Teachers in their first three years as a classroom teacher for our partner districts around the area. Beginning Teachers in their first year of teaching (BT1s) met at WRESA to celebrate their successes and to network with other new teachers in our region. Beginning Teachers in their second year as educators met to dine together and have roundtable discussions on issues concerning the new teacher. Beginning Teachers in their third year (BT3s) were introduced to the National Board Certification process, which was graciously hosted at the Buncombe County Central Office. Educators from Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools and Henderson County Schools were in attendance.

UNC ASHEVILLE PARTNER SCHOOLS ATTEND AIN’T I A WOMAN PERFORMANCE

The Department of Education co-sponsored a performance of Ain’t I a Woman for area schools on Thursday, March 27th. Over 200 students from Francine Delany School for Children, Asheville Middle, and Madison High School attended the performance. The event was a chamber music theatre work for an actress and trio (cello, piano, and percussion) celebrating the lives and times of four significant African American Women: ex-slave and fiery abolitionist Sojourner Truth, renowned novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, exuberant folk artist Clementine Hunter and fervent civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer. The musical score is drawn from the heartfelt spirituals of the Deep South, the urban exuberance of the Jazz Age and concert music by African American composers including Diane Monroe.

KIM KESSARIS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO DIVERSITY

Through long-term her involvement and commitment to AVID, our signature partnership program with Asheville City Schools, Kim Kessaris helps to match 80 UNC Asheville tutors with 250 students in grades 6 through 12. Serving students who are largely from underresourced backgrounds, AVID helps students gain the confidence and knowledge to become successful college students—many of them the first to attend college in their family. Additionally, during a recent Asheville City Council meeting Chancellor Ponder and Mayor Bellamy were to sign a memorandum of understanding between UNC Asheville and the city. During the introductory comments of the event both the city and Chancellor Ponder acknowledged some of the collaborative efforts between the two entities including Kim’s work with both CAYLA and AVID.
Kim Brown published the Instructor’s Manual and Test Bank for Teaching Children Science: A Discovery Approach. This publication provides university level science methods instructors an entire five-part learning cycle of teaching points and activities relative to research on best science teaching practices, 10 multiple choice exam questions, and 10 discussion/essay questions for each of the 18 chapters of the text. Kim also published a set of PowerPoint slides for each of the text’s chapters. She serves as the university’s representative on the state General Education Council. The Council is composed of faculty, deans, and chief academic officers, and charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of existing general education programs, recommending a set of student learning outcomes appropriate to all UNC institutions, and exploring methodologies for assessing these outcomes. Dr. Brown worked in collaboration with Elizabeth Porter from the Department of Economics to serve as mentors for three students who were pursing the SECU Prize for Innovation during the Fall 2013 semester. Kim also serves as a member and the Co-Chair of the Transylvania County School Health Advisory Council (SHAC). The Council has selected and implemented a new district sex education curriculum in accordance with new state legislation, and created a system-wide anti-bullying hotline and administrative response system. Related to her work with SHAC, Kim has been appointed as a member of the Drug Policy Task Force. This group has worked to write the policy related to students who experience positive drug testing results, and identify requirements for parent involvement, counseling, and substance abuse treatment. In addition, Dr. Brown is serving as a member of the United Way’s Education Focus Area, a group of volunteers which reviews applications from nonprofit and public entities that are seeking United Way funding for education-related programs and makes recommendations based on the strength of the applicants’ intended results and their alignment with United Way’s mission.

Jeanne McGlinn co-authored two new Teacher’s Guides. There is particularly a great deal of excitement about the guide to 12 Years a Slave. The New York Times mentioned the guide stating, “High school students could soon be studying 12 Years a Slave. Starting in September, the film, the book and a study guide will be distributed to public high schools by the National School Boards Association in partnership with New Regency, Penguin Books and the filmmakers. Montel Williams coordinated the program, which is modeled after similar distribution by The Montel Williams Show of copies of the Civil War film Glory. ‘When Hollywood is at its best, the power of the movies can be harnessed into a powerful educational tool,’ Mr. Williams said in a statement. ‘This film uniquely highlights a shameful period in American history, and in doing so will evoke in students a desire to not repeat the evils of the past while inspiring them to dream big of a better and brighter future.’ Steve McQueen, the film’s director, said: ‘Since first reading 12 Years a Slave, it has been my dream that this book be taught in schools.’”

Dr. McGlinn also co-authored An Educator’s Guide to Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World which includes an interview with the author of Cod. Additionally, she edited three other guides, all published by Penguin, written by public school teachers: A Teacher’s Guide to the Signet Classics Edition of Walden and Civil Disobedience; A Teacher’s Guide to the Signet Classics Edition Robin Hood; and, A Teacher’s Guide to Lord of the Flies. Dr. McGlinn continues to serve as the President of the Language Experience Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association and as the Program Chair for the 2014 meeting of the International Reading Association Annual Convention. She just completed her service as Editor of the Language Experience Forum Journal with this past spring’s issue.

Tiece Ruffin co-presented with Agya Boakye-Boaten of Africana Studies at the 5th International Symposium on Service Learning in Higher Education- Service Learning Across the Globe: From Local to Transnational at Stellenbosch University, South Africa in November of 2013. Dr. Ruffin has also co-authored a book chapter titled “Towards an Inclusion Education in Ghana: A Matter of Human Rights for All,” to be published in Multicultural Education Discourses: Breaking Barriers of Exclusion in Selected African Contexts, a forthcoming book edited by Professors at the University of Botswana. Additionally, Dr. Ruffin and Dr. Boakye-Boaten submitted a book chapter for consideration in the forthcoming book, Service-Learning across the Globe: From Local to Transnational, to be published by the University of Indianapolis Press in January 2015. She is an invited participant and active member of the AIG Advisory Board and the Stakeholders Committee on Continuous School Improvement in Special Education for the Asheville City Schools System. Also, she’s a 2012-15 Board of Director for the Asheville City Schools Foundation. Dr. Ruffin facilitated a lunch and learn discussion, organized by the Intercultural Center, entitled “The Role of Race in the Trayvon Martin Case and was a panelist on a faculty-led panel on Dr. Cornel West’s life and book, Democracy Matters, organized by the Black Student Association. Ruffin recently moderated an on-campus panel, organized by the Multicultural Center Student Programs, Key Center for Service learning, Education Department, and Student North Carolina Association of Educators entitled, “American Promise” after the screening of the documentary with the same title during Martin Luther King Week. Tiece Ruffin and Mark Sidelnick, along with Ken Betsaie were awarded a grant from the University Service in support of their proposal “Neighborhood Time Line Project: Building Community Through Service Learning.”

Photo: Faculty members take a walking tour of the lego exhibit at the NC Arboretum during fall retreat.
Dr. Trey Adcock, Director of American Indian Outreach and enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, worked closely with the Office of Cultural Events and Special Academic Programs to continue UNC Asheville’s Native American Speaker and Performance Series, including a Cherokee stickball demonstration on campus, talks by Native American leaders and a performance by the Warriors of AniKituhwa. The series provided the opportunity to engage in dialogue and deconstruct and challenge popular stereotypes of American Indians. Paul Chaat Smith, a Comanche author, essayist and associate curator at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, delivered the series keynote discussing the contemporary landscape of American Indian politics and culture. His collection of essays, *Everything You Know About Indians Is Wrong* (University of Minnesota, 2009), examines the ways Indian stereotypes infiltrate culture. Education faculty, Reid Chapman and Trey Adcock, facilitated a reading circle on Paul Chaat Smith’s book which concluded with the author’s visit to the group. Stemming from that experience, Chapman and Adcock worked with Sarah Judson in the Department of History to secure funding via the Community Engaged Humanities Program for a film series entitled, *Reclaiming Sacred Ground: Native American self-representation in film*. Four films were screened this semester at Buncombe County Libraries. UNC Asheville also hosted a spirited and popular Cherokee stickball demonstration by members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee on the UNC Asheville Intramural Fields. Stickball began as a way for tribes to settle disputes without going to war. Chad Smith (no relation to Paul Chaat Smith), the former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, gave a presentation discussing the principle-based leadership organization and “Point A to Point B” leadership model used during his tenure. The series ended with The Warriors of AniKituhwa, a Cherokee dance group. Designated as official cultural ambassadors by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, The Warriors of AniKituhwa, have been making history by recreating Cherokee dances described in 1762, including the War Dance and the Eagle Tail dance. They are revitalizing Cherokee dance by bringing back other dances from the past, by doing research, and by offering dance workshops for their community. The Warriors of AniKituhwa educate people about the significance of their dances, their clothing, and Cherokee history and culture.

The Native American Speaker & Performance Series is co-sponsored by many UNC Asheville programs and offices: the Office of the Associate Provost, the Department of Education, the American Indian Outreach Program, the Arts & Ideas Program, the Humanities Program, the NEH Distinguished Professor, Cultural Events & Special Academic Programs and the Native American Student Association on campus.

**KIDS INQUIRY AND SCIENCE OLYMPIAD COME TO CAMPUS**

Dr. Kim Brown coordinated the annual Kids Inquiry Conference sponsored by Asheville City Schools and held on the UNC Asheville campus. During the conference on March 27, approximately 200 elementary students presented and discussed their scientific inquiry investigations in a pseudo-science fair. Students from Brown’s EDUC 322 course served as conference facilitators. Additionally, Dr. Kim Brown and her EDUC 322 students put their science knowledge to practice as they collaborated with area elementary schools to co-sponsor the regional Elementary Science Olympiad. Kim instructed and lead her students as they wrote the actual events and served as Event Leaders for the Science Olympiad. The event took place April 12 at Owen High School with six elementary teams from the region competing. Given her work in the field of science education and related community engagement, Dr. Kim Brown has also been selected to serve as a university Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER) Faculty Fellow.
JOIN STUDENT NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS!

The Student North Carolina Association of Educators (SNCAE) is a pre-professional organization for college students interested in a career in education. SNCAE provides members with professional development, networking, and service opportunities, member discounts, and a $1,000,000 liability insurance policy to protect students during observations and student teaching. To learn more about SNCAE you can watch our video online at bit.ly/uncasncaevideo. To become a member go to www.sncae.org and click Join Today! (be sure to select the 2014-2015 year). For more information contact Runda Alamour at sncae@unca.edu.

TEACHING FELLOWS

Spring 2014 Mini-Conference: Exploring International Teaching and Learning Opportunities for K-12 Teachers

Written by Stephen Speers, UNC Asheville Teaching Fellow

This spring’s mini-conference hosted by the UNC Asheville Teaching Fellows program focused on international teaching and how to bring global perspectives to the classroom. Participants included Teaching Fellows, education licensure candidates, and other community members. In compliance with Common Core standards, it is crucial that we bring global experiences and perspectives into our classes to help shape future global citizens. We live in an age of rapid technological progress, where students from the United States are inextricably connected from other students across the globe. In our classrooms we have the ability to utilize technology so that we may connect with these students from across the world, but it is also important that our teachers have experienced other nations’ cultures and understand what it means to be a global citizen.

The conference keynote speaker was Karyn Dickerson, 2013-14 North Carolina’s Teacher of the Year, who gained global experiences by studying at the Language Institute of the University of Salamanca, Spain and by attaining her masters of Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Dickerson is an English teacher who is a big proponent of international education as she serves school committees such as Global Issues and Global Solutions Staff Development Team. At the conference, Dickerson shared with us how she is embracing the influence of the Teacher of the Year role as an active advocate of reform. She is attempting to travel to each county of our state to hear from and share ideas with our state’s educators, and she voices their concerns in one-on-one meetings with many individuals of our state legislature. She also spearheaded writing a letter to our state legislature signed by former teachers of the year and other influential educators. This letter expressed the concern for our state’s recent legislation and how we need to re-evaluate our salary system, bring back merit pay, and more. Dickerson assured us that while teachers may have frustrations or bad days in our current system, we should never lose sight of our great impact in students’ lives and how we help shape their future.

The conference breakout sessions were led by speakers who shared various international teaching and learning opportunities with future educators and how they may experience other cultures firsthand in the educational field. These sessions included the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program; the Peace Corps; and the Global Ambassadors Program. Dr. Linda Cornett, Chair of the Department of Political Science, shared with us the benefits of the Fulbright Scholars Program and how we may apply. We also had an exchange student from Hannam University, Hyejung Jung, present on the differences between Korean and American school systems, as well as how we may apply to study abroad in Korea through our university.

On behalf of the Teaching Fellows program and Department of Education, I would like to thank Karyn Dickerson, our workshop speakers, the Study Abroad Office, the Department of Education, and to the professors who attended the conference. Also, thank you to the students who attended the conference, we hope you learned valuable information and consider these valuable opportunities that may help you become a more effective and better prepared teacher.
**STUDENTS TRAVEL TO UNCA FOR LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

Ten students from Marriette Van Der Sluijs’ Spanish for Heritage Speakers class recently took part in an activity that helped them connect with students they had only previously talked to online. Earlier in April, students from the class visited UNC-Asheville where they took part in a debate with college kids on several hot-button issues. Before the trip, however, there was a lot of work that students did to prepare for the debate. “A week before we went to UNCA to have the live debate, both classes did research on their topic on the Internet,” said Van der Sluijs. “They set up their points and arguments during that time and prepared for the trip.”

The topics researched were ones that hit close to home for students in the Hispanic community. “Religion and politics were some of the big topics, along with immigration, that the kids talked about debating, but the ones we finally zeroed in on were Spanglish and assimilation,” said Vander Sluijs. “For Spanglish, the debate was on whether or not it was really a language. The students who had to discuss assimilation had to discuss the pros and cons of someone assimilating.”

For Luis Montiel, the trip was an opportunity to meet the college student he had been talking to all semester as part of his class work. “It was kind of awkward at first,” said Montiel. “Most of us aren’t used to being around college students, but it was an experience and we got to see what being a college student was like.” Montiel’s group debated the reasons why Spanglish should be considered a language, a topic which the teen said was a tough one to argue. “We argued that Spanglish should be used as an official language term, but most people didn’t really agree with that,” said Montiel. “One of the things pointed out during the debate was that if you wanted to go into business law you have to know proper language. Our team argued that it was a good thing, especially around family that may speak solely Spanish or English.”

During the debate, students also learned that not everything is black and white. “At the end of our debate, we came to an agreement that the topic of assimilation was more of a conversation of an idea, instead of a debate,” said Pedro Leon. “Most everyone felt that assimilation wasn’t a bad thing.”

After the debate, students further built their leadership and teamwork skills at a ropes course. “We learned a lot about leadership,” said Montiel. “We learned that as a group if we work together we can get a lot more accomplished.”

By Landdis Hollifield, Reprinted from The McDowell News

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**ELEMENTARY ED. STUDENTS INCORPORATE OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

Dr. Adcock’s EDUC 344 class, Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School, K–6, had an opportunity to put pedagogy in action on a camping trip to Max Patch Mountain in Madison County, NC. Max Patch is located on the Appalachian Trail and offers numerous opportunities for educators in our area to take advantage of Western North Carolina’s natural beauty and resources while helping future teachers learn how to incorporate outdoor and experiential education into the teaching of social studies in elementary schools.

**AVID UPDATE**

For the spring 2014 semester, 65 UNC Asheville students are serving as AVID tutors. Of those 65, 25 have tutored in previous semesters and 40 are new to the program. All of the new tutors are completing tutor training this semester - some are enrolled in EDUC 314 and some are working as paid tutors. AVID tutors serve over 300 AVID students in grades 6-12 at Asheville Middle School, Asheville High School, and SILSA. Tutors work between 2 and 12 hours per week. We look forward to AVID Juniors from Asheville High School visiting UNC Asheville on March 28 and AVID 6th graders from Asheville Middle School visiting UNC Asheville on April 2.
CONGRATULATIONS NEW TEACHERS!

Faculty, Staff and Alumni celebrate the successful completion of the teacher licensure program for the following candidates for the 2013-2014 Academic Year:

Jennifer Aitken
Marla Bailey
Stephanie Bell
Carter Bolin
Katie Brackney
Jackson Broadbear
Joshua Brooks
Emily Bryan
Karen Campbell
Amanda Clinton
Anna Collier
Betsy Coogler
Miranda Creech
Lindsay Crisp
Douglas Cutshall
Elizabeth Dacy
Amanda Daly
Cody Edenfield
Katina Farmer
Sophie Ferguson
Nicole Foster
Melissa Garrett-Hall
Aaron Gibbons
Tabitha Gouge
Rachel Grandis
Alesia Griesmyer
Molly Harkavy
Lucas Holiman
Rachel Hollis
Amberly Howell
Allison Hughes
Alex Hutcheson
Andrea Jewett
Ashleigh Joyner
Charles Keller
Nanette Kennedy
Tara Lancaster
Sara Leonhardt
Hannah Lewis
Jessica Lombardi
Natasia Marling
John McKewn
Makenzie McMillan
Madeline Melton
Charlotte Mull
Claire Oliphant
Jennifer Pearson
Jeanie Peterson
Brittany Phillips
Veronica Raab
Mary Pat Riddle
Michelle Roach
Donald Roberts
Lindsay Ryon
Molly Sager
Cassandra Schueler
Katelyn Schueler
Ashli Singleton
Taylor Sluder
Emma Smith
Daniel Smith
Hannah Van Cott
Kristen Vann
Tashia Vargas
Juliane Vogl
Maggie Wasielewski
Rachel Wells
Stephanie White
Ashley Whitmire
Mary Wray