



Syracuse University

'Learning through Community'

Higher Education

350 Huntington Hall Spring 2004
<http://soeweb.syr.edu/highered/HIGHEREDU.html>

From the Chair

Letter from the Chair

Summer is soon upon us. It brings warm weather, flowers, and, in our case, redecoration of the third floor suite. The third floor of Huntington Hall that is the School of Education will be completely renovated this summer. As a result, from May 17th to August 6th, the Higher Education Program will move its offices to 309 and 307 Huntington Hall. Though our phone numbers will remain the same, everything else will change. If you want to visit, look for Teresa Rice, Carrie McLaughlin, Rachel Smith, and I in 309 and 307.

Inside

Graduation

New Book on Syracuse University Learning Communities

SU team places first in Case Study Competition

Student and Alumni News

Given the situation, I will be spending most of my time at my home office. You can reach me there either by email (vtinto@syr.edu) or by phone (315-472-2981). Hopefully we will all return to our brand-spanking new suite by August 9th. Please note however, that I will be traveling a bit this summer. I will be in Norway the week of June 13th keynoting a national conference on student persistence and in Luxembourg the following week participating in a conference on education and migration. The following month, I will be in Australia the week of July 11th keynoting a national conference on - you guessed it - student persistence. In both instances, Norway and Australia, people want to learn more about

learning communities and our research on their impact on student success.

Speaking of research, Cathy Engstrom, Cerri Banks, and I will be presenting the first results of our Pathways to College Success Project at the conference of the National Learning Communities Project in Seattle. We will be posting a brief report of our findings on our Pathways to College Success website (<http://pathways.syr.edu>).

Though Cathy will continue to be involved in the Pathways research project, she will be on sabbatical this coming academic year. To fill the void, Stacey Riemer will be taking over the instruction of the Lab in Learning Communities class for the fall, and will also be acting as the Master's program class advisor, while Carrie will be assuming a coordinator role for our practicum students.

Finally, it is time to bid farewell to our class of 2004. We wish you well in your professional careers. We expect great things of you. Stay in touch and please feel free to call upon us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Vincent Tinto



HED Graduates the Class of 2004

On May 8, 2004, the Higher Education Program bid a fond farewell to 18 outgoing Master's degree students, and 1 PhD student.

Mary Ann Adamcek, Ryan Barker, Jennifer Bevilacqua, Gemma Cowling, Erin Engelhardt, Allison Green, JoLynn Hamilton, Beth Hensberry, Stephanie Hovsepian, Gina Hurny, Sarah Lennon, Amanda Mereau, Stacey Phelps, Francesco Rivero, Amber Graham Schult, Eric Streeter, Brad Troy and John Turbeville were all awarded their Master's degrees, and Stephanie Waterman was hooded and awarded her Doctorate in a convocation ceremony at 12 o'clock noon in Manley Field House. A reception followed at the Inn Complete for the graduates and their families. Festivities included a slide show and presentation of yearbooks.

The outgoing class of Master's students has the distinction of being the first Higher Education Learning Community for



graduate students across the nation, and have dubbed themselves the "alpha class" of the Graduate Interest Group (GIG) learning community seminar.

Syracuse HED team takes first place in StudentAffairs.com Virtual Case Study



Second year Master's degree students Ryan Barker, Amber Graham Schult, Gina Hurny and John Turbeville took first place honors in the StudentAffairs.com Virtual Case study competition in March 2004. In all, 46 different teams from 39 colleges across the nation participated. This year's case study project was to develop a 14 week syllabus for a course on technology and Higher Education. The team's final presentation can be found at

http://studentaffairs.com/ejournal/Spring_2004/

Building and Sustaining Learning Communities: The Syracuse Experience by Hurd and Stein

Throughout the last several years, Sandra Hurd, a professor of law and public policy and current interim dean of the Whitman School of Management, and Ruth Stein, a teaching consultant for the Center for Support of Teaching and Learning, have spent countless hours compiling a book to discuss the creation of learning communities and profile the SU learning community experience.

The book, *Building and Sustaining Learning Communities: The Syracuse Experience*, was published in 2004 by Anker Publishing. Chapter authors include Ruth Stein; Sandra Hurd; Michele Jachim with Ronald Cavanagh and Barry Wells; Rebecca Moore Howard and Vivian Rice; Nance Hahn; Cathy McHugh Engstrom; Barbara Yonai; Steve St. Onge; Mariana Lebron; James Duah-Agyeman; Janine Debaise and Julie R. White;

Stacey Riemer and Leah Flynn; Terra Peckskamp; Martha Sutter interviewed by Ruth Stein; Sandra Hurd with William Coplin, Rosalie Carpenter, and SaraKate Kirk; Amie Redmond; Mary Ann Middlemiss and Maureen Thompson; and Mary Ann Middlemiss, Sudha Raj, Bruce Carter, Luvenia Coward, Mary Lynne Hensel, Tanya Horacek, and Carrie Smith.

The publisher's website advertises, "This book is a fascinating and practical guide for all readers interested in building and sustaining learning communities... After reading this book, administrators and faculty members will know precisely why they are worth considering and how to successfully create them." The book can be bought through the publisher's website at <http://www.ankerpub.com/books/hurd-stein.html>

Student News

Master's student **Amjad Abdo** will be an ACHUO-I intern at the College of New Jersey over the summer.

Master's student **Vanessa Dillman**, and recent graduate **Ryan Barker**, have been promoted to Assistant Directors for Residential Life at Cazenovia College.

Master's student **Barry Sullivan** will be a NODA Intern at Bentley College in Boston. He will also be attending a 3 week International Leadership Summit in Brussels, Belgium, at the Theiry Graduate School of Leadership, and presenting 3 sessions titled: "Leadership for the 21st Century;" "The 4 Dimensions of Leadership;" and "Multicultural/Gender-Sensitive Leadership."

Alumni News

Gemma Cowling, MS '04, has accepted a Resident Director position at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

R. Deborah Davis, PhD '96, has just this month published her book *Black Students' Perceptions: The Complexity of Persistence to Graduation at an American University*.

Erin Engelhardt, MS '04, has accepted a position as a Residence Director at Seattle University, a Jesuit school in Seattle, Washington.

Julie Featherman, MS '01, has accepted the position of Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs in the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.

Noreen Gaubatz, PhD '00, was the recipient of a Syracuse University 2003 Exemplary Achievement Award for individual service excellence for her work on student ratings of teaching effectiveness. These awards are given annually to acknowledge outstanding employee contributions to Syracuse University.

Raymond Gonzalez, MS '02, was married on February 29, 2004 to Heather Kelly at a small ceremony in Hamilton, N.Y. He currently works as an Assistant Director for Residential Education at Colgate University.

Allison Green, MS '04, was awarded 2003-2004 Regional Board of Directors Choice for Outstanding Advisor at the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls conference on February 27-29, 2004.

Gina Hurny and **Allison Green**, MS '04, were awarded the Senior Vice President's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in the Division of Student Affairs for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Alumni News

JoLynn Hamilton, MS '04, has accepted a position as a Resident Director at Quinnipiac University.

Arla Johnstone, MS '01, and her husband Bruce welcomed their first child, Scott Edward Johnstone, weighing 7lbs 11 oz. on April 7, 2004.

Amanda Mereau, MS '04, has accepted a position as the Coordinator for Residential Learning at the University of North Carolina - Greensboro.

Francesco Rivero, MS '04, has accepted a Resident Direction position at Siena College in Albany, New York.

Judy M. Silvestrone, MS '01, will be presenting "Designing Performance-based Exams That Get No Argument" at the Conference on Faculty-Student Partnerships in Teaching and Learning at SUNY Geneseo. She is also authoring a chapter entitled "Performance-based assessment: Improving the value of laboratory and skills examinations" in an upcoming issue of *New Directions in Teaching and Learning*.

Bill Thieke, PhD '94, was co-chair for the annual meeting of SIGUCCS (Special Interest Group: University and College Computing Services) in San Antonio, Texas from September 21-25, 2003. The meeting featured 400 computer support professionals from Colleges and Universities across the country and several international locations. The keynotes for the conference were Brian Woods (VP, Dell Computer) who spoke on trends in academic computing, and Betsy Sanders (CEO, Nordstrom's) who spoke on providing excellent customer service in our environment.

Brad Troy, MS '04, has accepted an Area Coordinator position at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

John Turbeville, MS '04, has been appointed as the Coordinator of Experiential Learning at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Wanted:

People who love the smell of cassette tapes, long afternoons at the computer and assisting in the search for knowledge.

The Pathways to College Success Project is hiring people to transcribe interviews.

Please contact Stacey Riemer at smriemer@syr.edu for more details!

Alumni Update Form

Name: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

What's happening? _____

Send me info about serving as an SU Higher Ed. representative at regional fairs and conferences

Return to:

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