

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY™

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



APRIL 2016

Message from College Academic Leadership

As the end of the traditional school year approaches, some of you are preparing for commencement, and it is a good time for reflection. Recently I came across this quote from Persian literature, *Becoming a scholar is easy; the real challenge is becoming a true human being*, and it made me ponder how this applies to our work as educators.

I believe a true human being strives to make the world a better place. As educators, you did that by first going on a journey to acquire an excellent education. Through this process, you have not only acquired the necessary skills, knowledge and abilities to be an effective educator, but you have also developed respect and appreciation of a diverse group of people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. You have also become equipped with the ability to reflect and

to communicate with others, thereby increasing your problem solving and reasoning skills. These are skills that you will, no doubt instill in your own learners. And, in doing so, you will serve your community locally and globally.

As an educated human being, you also have the responsibility to be a leader—one who advocates for your learners and for this profession, the noblest of all professions. Take pride in what you do, and the powerful impact that you will make on each of your learners' lives. And, remember that you are helping to develop not only a scholar, but also a true human being!

Wishing you all the best!
Dr. Marjaneh Gilpatrick
Executive Director of Educational Outreach



Dr. Marjaneh Gilpatrick



Bethany Wilson

Student Spotlight

When, and why did you decide to pursue teaching?

Ever since I was young, I have loved working with children and have had a passion for teaching. I remember lining up my stuffed animals and "teaching" the material to them when I had to study for a test. Ever since I decided to pursue teaching as a career, I have absolutely loved where this journey has taken me. Teaching is way more than just a career. It is an opportunity to reach out and truly make a difference in the lives of the children of the next generation. Teaching provides a platform to bless other people and instill in students a lifelong love of learning.

What has been your favorite GCU course thus far? Why?

My favorite GCU course I have taken so far was Cultural Diversity with Dr. Carlyn Ludlow. Dr. Ludlow was one of the best teachers I have ever had throughout my life because she challenged us to critically think and make applications to what we were studying. This course opened my eyes to the problems that occur on a daily basis within schools and society regarding the oppression of cultures that appear different. During that class, Dr. Ludlow shared this idea that we cannot hate those whose stories we know, encouraging us to get to know other people and learn from their experiences.

How have you encompassed the COE conceptual framework to "learn, lead and serve" during your time here at GCU?

In my time here at GCU, I have had the privilege of being a leadership officer for the Educator's Rising club, the President of the International Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi, and have worked at the Front Desk of the College of

Education as a student worker. These opportunities have led to other amazing experiences such as being asked to be a contributing author for the COE blog and to present at the Educators Rising Fall Conference in Tempe as a breakout session speaker. The College of Education's conceptual framework has been a guide for me to not only strive to be successful in my classes, but to also become a leader in the field of education and the community.

What will be the most important lesson you will want your students to learn from being in your class?

As I begin to prepare to have my own classroom, I ask myself what lessons I want my students to learn and what values they can gain from having me as their teacher. I think one of the most important lessons I want them to take away from my class is how to be a good person to others. I want to instill in them a sense of open-mindedness in order for them to be accepting of people that are different from them. I want my students to realize that there is so much to learn from other people if they take the time to get to know them.

What advice do you have for other GCU College of Education students?

My advice for other College of Education students would be to get involved. Whether it is with Educators Rising or Best Buddies or just with volunteer opportunities through Habitat for Humanity or other community projects. The best way to gain leadership and interpersonal skills that are essential to being a teacher is through getting involved. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities that I have been given and I would encourage others to strive for creating those experiences as well. — Bethany Wilson, Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education



Faculty Spotlight

I have been with GCU for a little over three years and have plenty of Lopes spirit! I started out as an adjunct professor, teaching ESL courses on Monday and Wednesday nights, after teaching 6th graders during the day at Cordova Middle School. I then transitioned to being a full-time online faculty member for COE, teaching the ESL Courses for two years. I am currently a full-time ground assistant professor and I teach ESL and the Science and Math Methods courses for elementary teacher candidates.

I have created a couple of partnerships with local schools to maximize learning and opportunities for my students. At the Academy of Math and Science Charter School in Phoenix, my students provide after school math tutoring to middle school students and have also started a Reading Buddies program with ELL students. I have also placed about 50 students at Sevilla Primary school in Phoenix for practicum hours related to math, science and ESL. I have also been volunteering in a 6th grade math classroom in the Alhambra Elementary School District this school year to remain up-to-date on the current math practices in schools, as well as serve the community.

Recently, students in my Methods of Teaching Math and Science course took a field trip to the Arizona Science Center and the CREATE Center where they learned about science concepts and how to position all learning around science and problem solving. Folks from the Education department at the Science Center visited our class in March to provide a mini professional development session on concepts related to teaching science, with plenty of hands-on activities. The Science Center is excited to partner with our GCU COE students for more projects in the future!

In December, I presented at the 2015 OELAS (Office of English Language Acquisition) Conference in Tucson where I discussed using the video conferencing software "ZOOM" to enhance learning for English Language Learners. What a blessing it is to teach and learn from our COE students and to see the impact they will have on their future students!

Exemplary Teacher Candidate Award

As a college, our mission is to help develop teacher candidates to learn, lead and serve as educators. This award recognizes a teacher candidate who has demonstrated during his or her clinical practice experience an outstanding ability to:

Demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, commitment and compassion, as well as, reflect on the teaching and learning process (Learn)

Plan, organize and implement a repertoire of classroom management skills and instructional strategies that support the needs and curriculum of all students (Lead)

Establish effective relationships with students, parents, faculty, staff and the broader educational community (Serve)

Congratulations to our Fall 2015 Exemplary Teacher Candidate Award Winners (in no particular order):

Kristen Chang, Master of Education in Special Education

Julie Sutter, Master of Education in Secondary Education

Laura Childress, Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

Jesse Laing, Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education with an Emphasis in Social Studies

COE is currently reviewing applications submitted by our Spring 2016 teacher candidates and is looking forward to announcing the winners later this month!



The Kindergarten Project and Experience

**The Kindergarten Project and Experience: English Language Arts in Kindergarten Conference
Feb. 26 and 27, 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona**

The Kindergarten Project and Experience has been a series of regional and state conferences conducted by the Arizona Department of Education and Dr. Isela Garcia. I had the opportunity to experience the state conference on English Language Arts (ELA) in kindergarten this past February. It was an amazing two-day seminar filled with great information on the newest initiatives in early childhood education, as well as a hands-on session to create various crafts and activities to take back to the classroom.

Dr. Garcia emphasized the importance of the first five years in a child's development. In this particular session, she focused on the importance of embracing our young learners with a vocabulary-rich environment. Dr. Garcia shared various strategies and examples of taking simple classroom instruction and altering them slightly to give the best experience for all learners in a kindergarten classroom. The breakout sessions in the conference were filled with actual activities that a kindergarten teacher would conduct in his or her classroom, from learning different welcoming approaches with young learners to get them comfortable in the learning environment, to signing along with books to stimulate phonemic awareness. In addition, the participants were able to create items such as books for young learners to make themselves, and puppets for teachers or young learners to utilize for engagement activities with ELA instruction and learning.

The conference overall was one of the best experiences I have had. I took away not only many crafts to take back as activities to share and re-create with small learners, but also new knowledge in the areas of authentic assessments with young learners, and organizational ideas on how best to set up ELA centers in the classroom. I would love the opportunity to attend another session by Dr. Garcia, as her passion for young learners and education as a whole is infectious.

For more information on the next session of the Kindergarten Project, please visit thekindergartenexperience.com.

Julie Blair, MEd
Program Director/Assistant Professor
College of Education

Educational Opportunities for Summer

During the summer months it can be easy to fall into the misconception that learning comes to a full stop. In reality this is quite the contrary. Summer is right around the corner, and in COE we know that means educational opportunities abound!

We are in a decade of ferocious learning. Some of you may even be enrolled in summer coursework with associated practicum. If you are seeking out practicum, or even just want to heighten your knowledge and skills, summer educational opportunities are worth exploring. Many students are learning through experiential activities and trips throughout the summer. Some districts also offer year-round schools. There are summer camps that focus on specific topics for learning, such as marine life, plants and herbs, or even robots! Some students can take this time to excel through physical activities such as sports or swimming as they learn basics of teamwork and safety procedures. In addition to all of this, pre-service educators and teachers can be active in the summer too, some venturing out to teach overseas! There are also professional development courses, conferences, workshops and book clubs. Never stop learning!

Teaching in Purple – Upcoming Topics

Contribute to Our Blog!

COE's blog, [Teaching in Purple](#), is designed to help current and prospective students find their purpose and passion in the field of education. Readers will be able to discover inspirational stories from future teachers, faculty, staff and alumni from GCU.

April: preparing our children today for tomorrow's world. This will initiate debate on topics such as the Global Achievement Gap and assigning homework in 21st century schools.

May: celebrating legendary teachers. Blog posts may discuss the controversy over uniformity versus conformity, and how legendary teachers promote authentic learning. It will also include what makes a teacher legendary, and the professional development and leadership related to continued teaching and learning.

The Teaching in Purple Blog welcomes all writers with a passion for education and GCU! There is still time to submit an article to be featured in an upcoming month! Please share your thoughts in a short 300 word entry for our blog and submit to coe@gcu.edu.

Accolades

Educators Rising Officers Present at Conference

The officers of GCU's Educators Rising — President **Connor Tressler**, Vice President **Allyssa Caron**, Secretary **Bethany Wilson** and Treasurer **Sydney Knight** — gave a presentation at the Educators Rising Fall Leadership Conference at Arizona State University. The students talked with approximately 65 high school students about professional development, service learning and leadership training to future teachers and the advantages of attending GCU. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about life as a teacher candidate in the College of Education and the various ways they can be involved.

Engineering is Elementary Scholarship Award

COE's Rodel Scholar **Anthony Perez**, who now is a 2nd grade teacher at Sunset Elementary School, is the winner of the winter 2016 Engineering is Elementary Teacher Scholarship. In addition to providing funds for him to attend a two-day professional development workshop at the Museum of Science in Boston, he will be able to implement the engineering curriculum with the storybooks, kits and materials that he will receive. Congratulations!



Tracy Vasquez and Dr. Marjaneh Gilpatrick at Tucson Conference

GCU Rodel Scholars

On Feb. 29, six GCU Rodel Scholars participated in a panel discussion that was organized by the Honors College. **Anthony Perez, Amber Loyd, Kristina Vohs, Hannah Lasley, Patricia Messner** and **John Blyler** shared about their experiences as Rodel Promising Student Teachers, and how those experiences and their relationships with their Rodel Exemplary Teachers has had an impact on their effectiveness as an educator.

Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to **John Blyler's** family, friends, his cooperating teacher and students for his sudden and untimely passing. Tragically and very sadly, John was a victim of a car accident on March 12th. **Jorge Ontiveros**, a Rodel Exemplary Teacher summed it up perfectly: "It was an honor to have worked with Mr. Blyler. I know that he will be missed by my students and the future students whom he was going to impact."

Connecting Science/Technology and the Arts

Kudos to **Amber Loyd** for her innovative way to link science and technology with arts, history and literature! She teaches algebra to students in the STEAMCore Program at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix, and she collaborates with another teacher who teaches biology as well as two other teachers who teach History and English. In this program, they place emphasis on project-based learning. They guide their learners to complete one, four-content project per semester, and two smaller subject projects. She reports that she and her colleagues find ways to link Algebra and Biology together. "The way our students are able to make connections between content is amazing and places great value on learning."

COE Faculty Well-Represented at Tucson Conference

Three College of Education faculty members presented their ideas for encouraging the increase of students' English literacy skills at the Arizona Department of Education's 2015 Office of English Language Acquisition Services Conference in Tucson. About 100 elementary and secondary teachers and English language development coaches from K-12 districts across Arizona heard GCU's assistant professor **Katy Long** give a presentation titled, "Zooming toward Student Engagement," in which she guided teachers of English Language Learners on using Zoom, a video conferencing software, in the classroom. **Tracy Vasquez**, Clinical Practice Specialist and adjunct faculty member, and **Dr. Marjaneh Gilpatrick**, Executive Director of Educational Outreach, held a breakout session titled, "Multimodal Literacy: How to Incorporate 21st Century Web Applications with Storytelling to Enhance Language Proficiency in Social Studies Curriculum."

2016 Association of Teacher Educators Annual Meeting

COE's Associate Dean, **Dr. Debbie Rickey**, and Director of Clinical Practice, **Dr. Eva St. Arnauld**, recently presented at the 2016 Association of Teacher Educators Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. Dr. St. Arnauld presented "Seeing with Other Lenses: Implementing Virtual Supervision in Student Teaching". Dr. St. Arnauld and Dr. Rickey co-presented "Sustaining Our Bridge: Raising the Level of Professionalism for Field Supervisors".

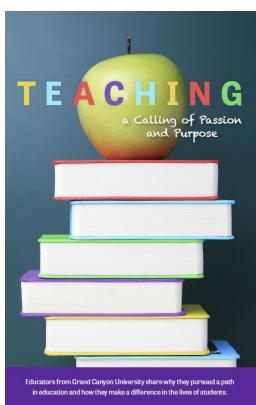
Early Childhood Education is Focus of Film, Panel Discussion

The College of Education's Educators Rising club aired "Raising of America," a PBS documentary about the importance of early childhood education, and presented a panel discussion on the topic on March 10. "It speaks a lot to what we do here at GCU because what we are doing is trying to educate and prepare our future leaders into becoming advocates in their field," said **Katie Sprute**, COE's manager of online fulltime faculty.

Gold Award Project

The joy **Kaylynn Vavrick** felt while helping children dance inspired her Gold Award project. Kaylynn's goal was to provide the opportunity for children who could not afford classes to learn to dance. So she set out to provide a dance class for children K-6 at Reunion Church in Peoria. To recruit students, Kaylynn partnered with the local Boys & Girls Club, passed out flyers, and held an informational night for parents. Over the course of seven weeks, Kaylynn taught 18 children the fundamentals of dance. Not only were the students and parents extremely grateful, but Kaylynn learned that she loves working with children. After graduating from Greenway High School in May 2015, Kaylynn was accepted to GCU where she studies elementary education. She was a Girl Scout for 12 years.

"Teaching: A Calling of Passion and Purpose" Now on Sale



Order Your Copy of Inspirational Stories from GCU's Teaching Community

The College of Education's first edition of "Teaching: A Calling of Passion and Purpose", a collection of anecdotes and vignettes from COE alumni, faculty and staff about learning, leading and serving has a forward from President Mueller and an editors' note by Dr. LaPrade and Dr. Gilpatrick. It will be given as a gift to teacher candidates, traditional student teachers who complete their program and Discover GCU COE students.

Individual copies are available for purchase at GCU's Lope Shop for \$7.99, or you can request one for \$12.99 including shipping by emailing lopeshops@gcu.edu (please include your name, mailing address and a daytime telephone number). You will be contacted by telephone to process the payment.

Upcoming Events

Kappa Delta Pi Induction Ceremony: April 20 at 5 pm

2016 AZ Professors of Educational Administration Conference: April 22 from 8 am to 3 pm at the NAU Phoenix Campus

Spring 2016 COE Commencement (Traditional Students): April 22 at 10 am in the GCU Arena

Spring 2016 COE Commencement (Online/Cohort Students): April 23 at 6 pm in the GCU Arena

