

ELCF Newsletter

Spring 2007

Volume 6



Chair's Corner

The second Ed.D cohort, "Nexus", is very close to completing the first year of their doctoral journey. *Nexus* is a very diverse group of professionals. The group consists of higher education administrators and professors; K-12 administrators and teachers; a website developer and; a firefighter. We welcome and support ELCF's Cohort II:

Fotini Bakopoulos	Linda Mayfield
Vincent Crivellone	Shawnell Nash
Tracy Cureton	Kiernan Nduagbo
Jeff Dase	Mark Neiberg
Patricia Dunlap	Karen Ross
Patricia Harrell	Mark Simmons
June Jones	Hattie M. Spires
Brenda Lawrence	Linda S. Upshaw
Margaret Mares	James Weber

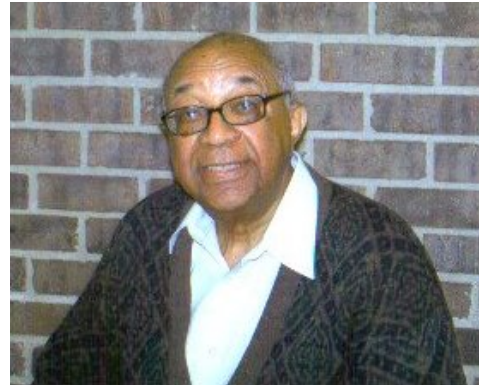
Faculty-Student Interaction:

"Internet-Based Plagiarism"

On April 11, 2007, Dr. Athanase Gahungu conducted a workshop, in the Education Building, Room 112-East, on the uses of *Turnitin*, a Blackboard-based software tool that helps to detect internet plagiarism. *Turnitin* allows faculty to compare the contents of students' assignments to current and archived electronic papers and documents. Originality reports obtained are almost instantaneous and are accessible to students for review.

At the workshop, anonymous papers were reviewed for originality. Implications of the use of *Turnitin* as an educational tool for curbing plagiarism was discussed. Participants were asked to bring an electronic copy (on disk) of a paper they have written for additional demonstration.

"Farewell Dr. Fitch!"



Dr. Clarence E. Fitch has announced his retirement at the end of the spring 2007 semester. He will be missed by the ELCF faculty.

He has been a dedicated and conscientious professor, who has enhanced the department over the past twenty years. He has been instrumental in the development of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership Program and has also helped to maintain the high standards of the General Administration Program.

Dr. Fitch has illustrated his research ability by way of his publications. In addition, he has received several honors and awards, including the *Living Legend Award* presented by the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration (2005).

We wish him well in his future endeavors and ask that he will always remember us.

Publications:

Vavilis, Bob

“*Three Ideas for Aggressive School Reform,*” paper accepted, in February 2007, for publication in the Urban Visions Journal.

This is an expository article that discusses the importance of having qualification criteria for public school board members. Next, Dr. Vavilis argues how a national standardized academic curriculum would benefit students and positively impact teacher professionalism. The article concludes with recommended discipline policies for very disruptive students.

Papers and Presentations:

Ellis, Charlesetta M.

“*The Life and Times of Malcolm X (1925-1965)*”, paper presented at the International Society for Educational Biography Conference (ISEB). San Antonio, Texas—May 3-5, 2007. Dr. Ellis was also elected to serve on the Executive Board of the ISEB.

Lieberman, Joyce & Neiberg, Mark (Ed.D Cohort II)

“*High School Factors Promoting Student Achievement and Persistence,*” paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2007 Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois-April 9-13. This research took the advice of previous researchers and asked university undergraduates’ their perceptions of the factors present in high schools that enabled them to graduate from high school and enroll in college. Of particular interest are perspectives of students from underserved, minority, and first generation populations.

Lieberman, Joyce & Upshaw, Linda (Ed.D Cohort II)

“*Making It Through the University: Student Perceptions of Retention Factors,*” paper presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2007 Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois-April 9-13. The purpose of the research was to determine university undergraduates’ perceptions of the factors that enabled them to remain in college and those factors that inhibited them in college. Of particular interest were perspectives of underserved, minority, and first generation students. By examining the perspectives of these students, college and university administrators can design programs that enhance the positive factors and reduce the negative ones in order to retain these students through graduation.

The following master's degree students presented at the 16th Annual African American and Latino(a) Adult Education Research Symposium on April 21st, 2007 at Chicago State University:

Cooper, Fenecia

“*The Absence of African American Music and Music Education in Minority Schools*”

For the last several years, we have seen a constant reduction of the arts in predominately minority community schools. In some schools, music is only offered for two days a week. Why is music not seemingly important in these particular schools, but in white schools the music curriculum seems to be thriving? Do some educators feel as if minority students cannot appreciate the art of music?

Papers and Presentations cont'd:

Ford, Nicole

“Racial Microaggressions, Acculturation Levels, and Cultural Mistrust: The College Experiences of African and African American Students”

Racial microaggressions are forms of concise, recurrent verbal, nonverbal and societal degradations that communicate negative racial insults towards African-Americans. This paper frames an intended study to explore the extent to which Black students may be experiencing institutional racism in the form of microaggression.

Gray, Maxine

“Teaching Youth Digital Age Literacy Skills”

The 21st century is said to be the digital age. Therefore, there is a drastic need to teach youth digital age literacy skills. Secondary schools in other countries are far beyond U.S. schools in terms of technology use. The hardest hit areas for lack of technology are underserved communities.

Doctoral Fellowship Recipients:

Spring 2006:

Trina Hollingsworth
Reginald Patterson

Fall 2007:

Valesta Cobbs
Adane Kassa

Spring 2007:

Valesta Cobbs
James Weber

Distinguished Students:

Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship (DFI) Recipients:

Rosalba De La Fuente
Higher Education Administration Program

Linda S. Upshaw
Ed.D. in Educational Leadership Program

- ◆ The DFI Fellowship carries a full tuition waiver for the student plus a \$14,000 annual stipend.

Student Achievement Awards:

General Administration

Cassandra P. Lockridge	Gabriela Reyes
Taree E. Porter	Rhonda M. Walls

Higher Education Administration
Karen R. Thorne

Instructional Foundations
Fenecia Cooper

J & S Strother Scholarship Award Recipients:

Gabriela Reyes
General Administration

Karen R. Thorne
Higher Education Administration

Fenecia Cooper
Instructional Foundations

- ◆ The J & S Strother Scholarship Award was established in honor of Dr. Seldon Strother, past Chair of the Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Foundations Department, who died of cancer in December 1999.

It was the custom of Dr. Strother and his wife Jane to award a scholarship to a deserving student each academic year. The Faculty and Chair of the ELCF department have continued this tradition as a way of remembering him and as a way of acknowledging students' academic achievements.