



# Reflections

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

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## Dr. Kohli named graduate teacher of the year, Neumann Award winner

The votes are in and Alpha Sigma Nu (ASN) selected Dr. Wendy Kohli, professor of educational studies and teacher preparation, as Fairfield's first ever graduate teacher of the year. The award capped a busy year of professional and volunteer work for this beloved professor.

Dr. Kohli, who earned a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, said she accepted the teacher of the year honor on behalf of her colleagues. "I accept this award for all of us as the University continues to enlarge and embody its strategic commitment to graduate education."

Dr. Kohli has taught at Fairfield for nine years and her work extends far beyond her classroom, particularly with her ongoing outreach efforts with St. Martin de Porres Academy in New Haven. She received the 2010 St. John Neumann Award through the Hartford Archdiocese for her volunteer work training and advising young teachers through this Nativity/Miguel middle school, which provides tuition-free, extended-day education to underserved children. The Neumann Award recognizes individuals who have served as volunteers to K-8 schools in the Hartford Archdiocese and was given at the Archdiocese's annual awards dinner.



Dr. Wendy Kohli

The Rev. Charles Allen, S.J., executive assistant to the president, said the teacher of the year must demonstrate outstanding academic achievements, concern for students, and loyalty to the Jesuit ideals of education.

GSEAP faculty, students, and staff have developed a close partnership with the Nativity/Miguel Network middle school, which serves low-income families in the New Haven area. The school's teachers, many of whom are part of the Americorps education grants program, receive both a modest income and housing for their work. GSEAP is providing crucial professional development both at the school and on campus.

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*Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions*

## Commencement 2011

More than 400 graduate students were awarded master's degrees, and 22 received their certificates of advanced study at Fairfield's 61<sup>st</sup> commencement ceremony on May 22 on Bellarmine Lawn. The Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions graduated 207 students, including Stephanie Santos, who won the Loyola Medal, presented to a student who exemplifies the true spirit of a Jesuit education (see page 4 for more on Santos).

Despite wet weather conditions early in the day, University officials decided to hold the ceremony outside as scheduled. It proved to be the right call, as it stopped raining just in time for students to receive their graduate diplomas. It was the third time in Fairfield's history that a separate commencement ceremony was held for graduate students. This year also marked an impressive 30 percent increase in students receiving their master's degree.



Jessica Viner, who delivered the class address before receiving her MBA, asked her classmates to examine how they would measure success. "It's not by the amount of money we make, but by the positive impact we have on those around us. By striving to improve who we are as individuals, by treating one another with dignity and respect, and by living out our vocation with passion and courage," she said.

In his commencement address to the graduates, Navy Rear Admiral Brian Monahan '82, the attending physician



for the United States Congress and United States Supreme Court, explained that receiving a Jesuit education also means that you are called to be men and women for others. "What that means is your academic achievement brings with it a responsibility to examine social systems critically, and to become directly involved with those who are underprivileged and underserved," said Monahan, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.



with them means a lot and keeps me grounded in the real needs of poor urban children."

In September 2010, Dr. Kohli received another honor dear to her heart: She was asked to read her letter from *Dear Maxine: Letters from the Unfinished Conversation* at the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of noted educational philosopher Maxine Greene at Lincoln Center in New York City. Greene, philosopher-in-residence at Lincoln Center, is a mentor and inspiration to Dr. Kohli.

## Advisory Board hosts Community Conversations series

The GSEAP Advisory Board hosted two more well-attended events in its visionary Community Conversations series, which focused on this year's theme, "Re-Imagining Education." The most recent free, public events featured Yale University child development expert Walter Gilliam and an informative panel discussion on vital issues in special education and drew an audience from on campus and beyond.

Dr. Gilliam, associate professor of child psychiatry and psychology and director of the Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy at the Yale Child Study Center, was the featured speaker at an April event at Alumni House. More than 50 people attended "Great Beginnings: Re-Imagining Early Childhood: Education, Family, and Community."

Dr. Gilliam discussed how proper teacher preparation and stress management would go a long way to helping preschool children reach their potential and develop self-discipline. His sobering talk touched on statistical information regarding preschool expulsions, the effect of Head Start programs, and the varied policies of preschool programs across the nation.

Dr. Stephanie Burrell Storms, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, and Dr. Eileen Ward '80, M.A.'88, GSEAP board member, led the discussion, which was organized by board members Denise Lewis, J.D., Matthew Longcore, M.A.'98, and members of the Lecture Committee.

On August 4, about 125 people converged on Brooklawn Country Club for "Re-Imagining Education: Meeting the Needs of Special Learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." GSEAP board member Susan Carroll hosted the reception and conversation for students, alumni, and friends.

The stressors facing parents of students with disabilities was one of the main topics for this evening, which was also supported by the Alumni Association and featured three panelists: Dr. Mary Monroe Kolek, deputy superintendent for the

New Canaan Public Schools; Dr. Evelyn Bilius Lolis, assistant professor of school psychology and special education at Fairfield; and Dr. Christine Siegel, GSEAP associate dean and associate professor of school psychology. Dean Susan Franzosa moderated.



Advisory Board member Judith Conk

Dr. Kolek encouraged all members of the educational community to be leaders in educational innovation, challenging teachers to work in collaboration on behalf of all students. Dr. Bilius Lolis described the need to nurture the social-emotional and academic skills of special learners to promote self-efficacy in students. Dr. Siegel described methods to promote parenting expertise, something that is part of her ongoing research.

Audience response was lively, with many questions from school administrators, psychologists, teachers, and parents.

Programs in this series will be held throughout the year. Check [www.fairfield.edu/gseapevents](http://www.fairfield.edu/gseapevents) for dates and speakers.

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"Wendy's work in our partnership with St. Martin's has been stellar and I'm delighted that it was recognized both by the Archdiocese and her own students," said Dean Susan Franzosa.

Dr. Kohli said her work at St. Martin's informs her teaching at Fairfield. "I am committed to the mission of the school," she said. "They are extraordinary people who have taken on an amazing challenge. To have them value my work

Alumni

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## Honors and Awards

### Faculty

**Dr. Jennifer Goldberg**, associate professor, director of Elementary Education, won the Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Award.

**Dr. Ingeborg Haug**, associate professor, won the Connecticut Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's Award for Outstanding Service to the Profession.

**Dr. Wendy Kohli**, professor, Curriculum and Instruction, won the first annual University Graduate Teacher of the Year Award and the Hartford Archdiocese's St. John Neumann Service Award.

**Dr. Rona Preli**, associate professor, Marriage & Family Therapy won the FWC/AAUP Colleague of the Year Award.

Adjunct Instructor **Renee Strainge**, Marriage & Family Therapy, won the University Adjunct Professor of the Year Award.

### Students

Alumna **Kristen Record M.A.'99** was named Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

**Stephanie Santos M.A.'11** won the first annual Graduate Student Service Award and the Graduate Loyola Medal.

Students **Anika Walker** and **Deb Boyhen** won the University Library Research Award.

**Gillian Thompson M.A.'11** and current student **Diana Muttitt** received the Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress Scholarship Award.

**Anika Walker** won the Connecticut Association of School Librarians' O'Neil Memorial Scholarship.

Student **Yesina Rosado** won the American Library Association's Spectrum Scholarship.

## Improving early education in South Africa

**D**r. Barbara Welles-Nyström, associate professor of Curriculum & Education, co-led a six-member team of early childhood experts visiting South African schools and welcomed South African teachers to campus, thanks to a Rotary Foundation grant.

The \$75,000 grant for early childhood education training allowed the team to travel to Rustenburg, South Africa to observe and interact with organizations associated with the Royal Bafokeng Institute. A contingent of South Africans returned the favor, coming to campus in March to visit GSEAP's Early Learning Center and other sites. Dr. Welles-Nyström's work is a vivid example of Fairfield's current focus on global citizenship.

"This was an important opportunity for Fairfield University to begin collecting cross-cultural comparative data on South African childrearing practices and beliefs which we can then use in future teaching and research as part of the global citizenship focus," said Dr. Welles-Nyström, whose team included experts and practitioners from Housatonic Community College and the Bridgeport public schools.

The goal of the Rotary Foundation grant is to improve knowledge about how government and

non-governmental early childhood education agencies cooperate to improve early childhood education for at-risk children, to share early education best practices and enhance cultural and learning opportunities for both children and teachers, and to improve parent engagement.

Right: Dr. Welles-Nyström (lower right) in Africa

Below: African teachers visit campus.



## New 5-Year B.A./M.A. program available

**F**airfield undergraduates now have the option of a new five-year integrated B.A./M.A. teacher certification program in secondary, elementary, and TESOL education. Secondary education tracks include English, science, math, social studies, and world language education. The University has launched the new program along with a revamped minor in education studies that is open to all students.

The five-year program replaces Fairfield's traditional undergraduate teacher education preparation and operates in tandem with the University's highly regarded, nationally accredited master's certification programs in secondary, elementary, and TESOL education.

Many of the best and most effective teacher education

programs in the country are five-year programs. At Fairfield, candidates will begin their educator preparation program requirements as undergraduates and complete them as graduate students in the degree programs.

This change will allow many more students from all majors, including interdisciplinary majors, to pursue their professional education at Fairfield without sacrificing participation in the enriching experiences of athletics, the arts, study abroad, and other student activities. An additional benefit for students and their families is that the expense of earning a graduate degree, required to maintain one's teaching certification, has been significantly reduced in this innovative configuration.

For more information, visit [www.fairfield.edu/cas](http://www.fairfield.edu/cas).

## New certificate programs announced

**G**SEAP now offers five Advanced Training Certificates (ATC) for those who wish to enhance their competencies and update their skills. Classes began this summer and will be offered year-round in the following five areas: Applied Behavior Analysis; Early Childhood Studies; Integration of Spirituality & Religion in Counseling; School-Based Marriage & Family Therapy; and Substance Abuse Counseling.

Applicants to each program, except Early Childhood Studies, must hold a master's degree in a related discipline.

The 3-course, 9-credit **Applied Behavior Analysis** program provides in-depth training in behavioral strategies and applied behavior analysis (ABA) now required by Connecticut law for those working with children with autism spectrum disorder. It is intended for those who hold a master's degree and are certified to work in public schools. Potential students include those in school psychology, special education, and school counseling, and school psychologists in the field who need more training in ABA for their professional certification.

The 3-course, 9-credit **Early Childhood Studies** program is useful for elementary education teachers currently working in Pre-K sites who wish to advance in their employment; candidates in GSEAP's teacher education program who seek additional expertise in early childhood education; and child services agencies, daycare providers, and preschools who wish additional foundational training for their bachelor's degree-qualified staff.

**Integration of Spirituality & Religion in Counseling** is an 18-credit, 6-course program based on the 14 competencies identified by the Association of Spiritual, Ethical and Religious Values in Counseling, a division of the American Counseling Association. GSEAP's counseling accreditation entity, the Council on Accrediting Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), has encouraged programs to infuse and integrate these competencies into curriculum.

The 7-course, 21-credit **School-Based Marriage & Family Therapy** program will prepare candidates to use their knowledge and training as marriage and family therapists to work within the public school systems in fulfillment of the certification requirements of the State Board of Education. The program is available to current MFT students and to graduates of COAMFTE-accredited programs. Completion of this program leads to eligibility for state certification.

**Substance Abuse Counseling** is an 18-credit, six-course program based on competencies established by the Connecticut Certificate Board for Drugs and Alcohol Counseling. Completion of these courses is required in order to sit for the certification exam that leads to licensing as a licensed or certified alcohol/drug abuse counselor. *Note: Required supervised training is not provided through this program.*

For more information, visit [www.fairfield.edu/atcs](http://www.fairfield.edu/atcs).

## Koslow Center opens

The Bensonians a cappella group sang to an enthusiastic audience of onlookers as all waited under a white tent for the dedication and opening of the Kathryn

P. Koslow Center for Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) on the afternoon of April 8. The Koslow Center in Southwell Hall may be the oldest building on campus, but it contains the newest state-of-the-art technology and houses a new training facility for Marriage and Family Therapy graduate students thanks to recent



University President Jeffrey P. von Arx and Kathryn P. Koslow at the Center's ribbon cutting ceremony

renovations. These renovations were made possible by a generous donation by Kathryn P. Koslow '05, a member of the GSEAP and Marriage and Family Therapy advisory boards.

Fairfield University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J., led the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Koslow, who was among the speakers for the afternoon. She called the University her "second home" and spoke about how grateful she is for the entirety of her experiences at Fairfield. Her vision for the Marriage and Family Therapy Center began three years ago and has finally become a reality.

The site will provide excellent sliding scale services for couples and families in the region. To make a donation in support of the Kathryn P. Koslow Center for Marriage and Family Therapy, visit [www.fairfield.edu/mft](http://www.fairfield.edu/mft).

## Alumni 'homecoming' well received

Anna Speciale M.A.'65 remembers her Fairfield graduate education as a time of trepidation – and triumph. In one class, she was learning the nuts and bolts of educational theory and in another she was deconstructing Shakespeare's plays for the tough, but fair Rev. Bond, one of many priests who taught at the University in those days.

"I was a little unsure of myself in that class," she said, laughing. "But you know...I still have my notes. I must say I had a terrific time here."

Speciale, who went on to a long career in teaching and counseling in Long Island City, N.Y. schools, was one of about 100 early GSEAP graduates who converged on campus in October 2010 for an inaugural alumni luncheon and panel discussion on how education has changed – and stayed the same – in the nearly 60 years since many of them graduated.

Organized by the School and Alumni Relations, the event was spearheaded by Sister Julianna Poole, S.S.N.D., who retired two years ago after teaching TESOL and bilingual education at Fairfield for 20 years. Dean Susan Franzosa said hunting down all of the alumni from the 1950s and 1960s was a daunting task. "But those of you who know Sister know she can be very determined," she said.

Once found, many alumni were delighted to be invited back to campus, Sr. Julianna said, especially to reminisce and to listen to the day's speakers: Dr. George Baehr '51, professor emeritus, Fairfield University; Dr. Rocco Orlando, M.A. '56, dean emeritus, Southern Connecticut State University; Mary Homza, M.A. '57, one of the state's first certified school psychologists; Eileen Inglis, M.A. '64, C.A.S. '71, a Bridgeport reading specialist; and Dr. Vincent Murphy, professor emeritus, Fairfield University.

Many of the attendees found common ground: Some were young men taking advantage of the G.I. Bill to prepare for teaching and administrative roles; others, young women hoping to inspire children through their classroom work. All were among the very first degree recipients at Fairfield, where the Department of Education was the first graduate school. Since then, the modest teaching school has grown to 17 distinct tracks and graduated more than 1,300 students in 2010. "Thank you for your pioneering spirit," University President Jeffrey P. von Arx, S.J. told the audience.

"When I came here, there wasn't any campus. We just rented Xavier Hall," said Joseph DiMenna '56, whose son, also an alumnus, went on to be a key donor for Fairfield's DiMenna-Nyselius Library. But the elder DiMenna earned his master's and C.A.S. at Fairfield, going on to a long career as a school principal.

Many of those in attendance said Fairfield's small size led to strong bonds between students and their teachers, who became mentors. "This was a personal experience that depended upon dedicated faculty and administration," said alumnus Vincent Murphy. And there was plenty of old-fashioned camaraderie, too.

The luncheon was also a chance for current students, faculty, and young teachers at New Haven's St. Martin de Porres Academy, where GSEAP offers many professional development initiatives, to chat with a generation's worth of seasoned educators and counselors. "I like counseling because no two days are the same," Matthew Love M.A.'11, who finished his school counseling degree in December, told Speciale, as she nodded.

Speaking to the group, Inglis said she's tried to live by one important motto over the years: "Be a role model for your students and you'll be a winner."

Based on the success of the October event, GSEAP plans to have more reunions for different decades of graduates. For more information, call (203) 254-4000, ext. 4250.

## Recent Faculty Publications

**Dr. Marsha Alibrandi**, "Climate change: Fossils, tree rings, ice cores, and lake bed pollen cores" in *The Ladder: A Magazine for and About Future Teachers*, 2011.

**Dr. Gayle Bogel**, "Choosing the right book: Factors that affect children's reading" in *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 2011.

**Dr. Stephanie Burrell Storms**, "Building community at a Jesuit university through diversity learning circles" in *Views from the Frontline: The Voices of Diversity on University Campuses*, Common Ground Publishing, 2010.

**Dr. Patricia Calderwood**, et al. "Power without honor is indeed a dangerous thing: Constructing critical literacy in elementary teacher education" in *Language and Literacy*, 2010.

**Dr. Faith-Anne Dohm**, et al. "Clarifying boundaries of binge eating disorder and psychiatric comorbidity," in *Behaviour Research and Therapy*, 2010.

**Dr. Susan D. Franzosa**, "Building intergenerational networks of support for women in academe," in *Vitae Scholasticae*, 2011.

**Dr. Diana Hulse**, et al. "Making the case for interpersonal skills training in police academy curriculum," *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 2011.

**Dr. Wendy Kohli & Burbules**, N. *Feminisms and Educational Research*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2011.

**Kathryn Min, CAS '11 and Dr. Christine Siegel**, "Integration of SMART Board technology and effective teaching: enhancing students' academic engagement" in *Journal of School Educational Technology*, 2011.

**Dr. Tracey Robert and Dr. Ingeborg Haug**, et al. "Finding 'esprit de core': Integrating spirituality and work in a faculty and professional learning community," in *Spirituality in Higher Education*, 2011.

**Dr. Emily Smith**, "Faculty mentors in teacher induction: Developing a cross-institutional identity" in *Journal of Educational Research*, 2011.

**Dr. Barbara Welles-Nyström**, et al. "Effects of mother-infant skin-to-skin contact . . . during the first month after birth" in *International Journal of Breastfeeding*, 2011.



Dr. Tracey Robert presents Barbara Cunard with the 2011 Outstanding Community Counseling Student award.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**“Bully is a 4-Letter Word:  
Creating a Climate of Respect”**  
with CT DOE consultant,  
Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg & FBI Special  
Agent Christopher Munger  
Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.  
Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center  
[www.fairfield.edu/mftdecone](http://www.fairfield.edu/mftdecone)

**New Course!**  
SE/SL 419 Special Learners  
in Bilingual/ESL Classrooms  
Spring 2012  
For more information,  
contact the Dean's Office  
at 203-254-4250.

**Mockingbird:** A free, public  
discussion of Kathryn Erskine's  
2010 National Book Award  
winner  
Thursday, Dec. 8, 5:30 p.m.  
Fairfield University Bookstore,  
1499 Post Road, Fairfield

**Support GSEAP:**  
[www.fairfield.edu/give](http://www.fairfield.edu/give).

*Reflections*, a newsletter published twice a year by the Fairfield University Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, is written for and distributed to alumni of the Graduate School. Its primary mission is to keep alumni and friends informed about what is going on in the School and to highlight the impact of gifts and partnerships, focusing on the people behind them and the people – both students and faculty – benefiting from them.

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## Message From the Dean:

Dear Friends and Alumni,

2010-2011 was another eventful year for the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions. We hosted a reunion of alumni from the 1950s and 1960s, began a Community Conversations series, and launched a new five-year teacher preparation program. We received Connecticut State approval for five new Advanced Training Certificates designed to meet professional development needs within the region. The Kathryn P. Koslow Center for Marriage and Family Therapy opened, the new GSEAP University Community Collaborative was formed, and our students and faculty were recipients of several prestigious awards. In the Spring our graduate students organized the first GSEAP Research Symposium. It was so successful we expect to make it an annual event. With generous support from our Advisory Board, we were also able to inaugurate a GSEAP Scholarship Fund. Our hope is that, with donations from friends and alumni, this much needed resource will continue to grow

and increase our ability to support the financial needs of GSEAP students. In this issue of *Reflections*, you will be able to read about these events and initiatives as well as the honors and awards received by GSEAP faculty and students.

We hope that our newsletter continues to keep you informed about GSEAP and the activities of our students and faculty. We would also like it to include news about our graduates' professional accomplishments. So please send us your newsworthy items for inclusion in the forthcoming Alumni Round-Up section of the next *Reflections*.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Susan Douglas Franzosa, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor