

ConnectED Newsletter

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Welcome from Dean Edwin M. Lamboy

Welcome to the re-inaugural issue of *ConnectED*, the City College School of Education E-newsletter! I say “re-inaugural” because, from October 2009 to May 2013, *ConnectED* served as a vehicle to share School of Education news, as well as information about events and activities, special programs, professional development opportunities, and websites of interest. It also served as a tool to stay connected with the Education Alumni Group and with retired faculty. Professor Emeritus Norman Shapiro, former psychological foundations of education and research professor, edited the newsletter for four years.



We could not think of a more appropriate time to re-launch *ConnectED* than now. First, the School of Education just celebrated its centennial. As we dealt with a terrible pandemic and the racial and social injustice that plagues our country, this important milestone united faculty, staff, and students and gave us many reasons to feel proud of the work we have done thus far. We are excited about what we can accomplish in the next one-hundred years and are more committed than ever to educating future teachers and school leaders for democracy in a diverse world. *ConnectED* will document our journey to new successes in years to come.

As School of Education Dean, I have the incredible honor of working with and for an amazing group of faculty and staff. Their commitment to the mission of the School of Education and to positively impacting public education is simply remarkable. Through *ConnectED*, you will get to know these individuals, their work, and their contributions. You will also get to know some of our current and former students.

Education is an ever-evolving field. Our work is constantly changing as we respond to new New York State certification requirements, collaborate with others to establish new pathways for certification aimed at addressing teacher shortages, and build teams with our partners to make sure that children in under-served schools have the access to quality education that they rightfully deserve. This work is not done in isolation; it requires a community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, teachers and administrators in collaborating schools, and friends. It is our hope that *ConnectED* will continue to strengthen relationships among members of our community and develop new ones.

As Doris Cintrón, former School of Education Interim Dean and current Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs & Assessment, said in the first issue back in 2009, “We hope you will stay *ConnectED* to us as we continue to support the important work that all of us as educators do.”

Stay *ConnectED*!

Edwin M. Lamboy
Dean of the School of Education and
Harold Kobliner Chair in Education

The History of *ConnectED*

Professor Emeritus Norman Shapiro edited *ConnectED* from the early 2000s to 2013. He had officially retired in 1995 but stayed on at City College until 2012. After retiring, he continued to direct the Center for School Development. He also directed several grant-funded projects and taught a two-semester research course sequence.

ConnectED's intended audience included faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate education students. The newsletter informed people of special events and activities in the School of Education such as guest speakers, meetings, and conferences. It also reported on faculty and student achievements such as new grants, promotions, and activities for the community. Its goal was to highlight anything that was new or interesting going on in the School of Education. According to Professor Shapiro, “*ConnectED* was used not only to report activities, but to promote more activities. After special activities, we then reported on those activities.” [Read more ...](#)

Community Highlights

Reflections from the Centennial Celebration

As co-chairs of the School of Education's Centennial Committee, Aminata Diop and I faced a host of daunting questions as we began to think about organizing this project. How do we plan a centennial? How do we build a sense of collective ownership towards this event? How do we recognize the school's past, current reality, and future promise? We had more questions than answers when we began meeting in Spring 2019. [Read more ...](#)



Black History Month at the School of Education

As we celebrate Black History Month, Black members of the School of Education faculty and staff, Assistant Dean Stacia Pusey, Associate Professor and Chair of the Learning, Leadership, and Culture Department Christopher Yawn, Doctoral Lecturer Nancy Cardwell, and Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Dean Lynnètte Godley, speak about our role in preparing teachers, serving New York City teachers, and what we can do to meet the needs of the Black community. [Read more ...](#)



Publications

Professor Megan Blumenreich goes back to her roots with her book about Teach For America

Professor Megan Blumenreich and her colleague Bethany L. Rogers (College of Staten Island) recently published *Schooling Teachers: Teach For America and the Future of Teacher Education* with Teachers College Press. This book takes a qualitative approach to the issues raised by Teach For America (TFA), an alternative teacher preparation program that recruits graduates from elite colleges. For their study, Blumenreich and Rogers interviewed 30 participants of the original TFA 1990 cohort. They gathered oral history interviews of the participants to make meaning of their decision to join TFA within the context of their lives and career trajectories.

In their book, “the stories of the 30 participants’ experiences in the classroom describe how challenging it was and how their status as ‘elite’ college graduates did not prepare them for their first-year teaching,” Professor Blumenreich says. She adds that “the program has probably changed how they prepare candidates to teach over the years, but it is still hard to be a new teacher, particularly in a low-income school district.”

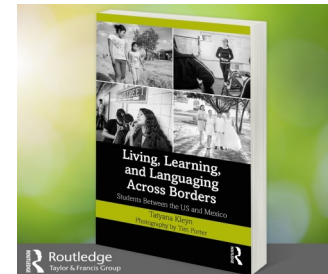
Interestingly, Professor Blumenreich was part of the first TFA cohort. “TFA was a new program then, in 1990. It was the first year, it was run by people just a year older than me, and it was being compared to the Peace Corps,” she explains. She saw TFA as “an opportunity to do something good in the world.” She is no longer affiliated with TFA, but she shares that “they now have a network of 64,000 people, so it has grown from the early days of the 1990s when there were just 500 corps members in the entire program.” [Read more ...](#)



Associate Professor Tatyana Kleyn tells us about what it is like to live, learn, and language across borders

Associate Professor Tatyana Kleyn's most recent book is entitled *Living, Learning, and Language Across Borders*. Published by Routledge Press, the book examines the lives of transborder students at all levels of education who migrate to Mexico from the United States. “For most it was a choice their parents made due to the coercive, racist, and xenophobic policies of the US,” says Professor Kleyn. “Their families returned and subsequently the children either returned—if they were older—or were brought to Mexico for the first time,” she adds.

Living, Learning, and Language Across Borders can be said to be a very transdisciplinary book. It is informed by research on return migration; transborder students and families; family return to Mexico; shifting immigration identities and immigration statuses; language learning, unlearning, and relearning; binational education; educational policy; and pedagogy. Professor Kleyn wrote the book because, as she says in its preface, she “wondered what happened to the children: what are their lives like when they find themselves in a country they have only heard about, or a country where they only spent the first few years of their lives? How does this experience vary for students at different developmental levels?” Research for the book began before her documentary film *Una Vida, Dos Países: Children and Youth (Back) in Mexico*, which was released in 2016 and was a first step in disseminating her research. The documentary film is available at [UnaVidaTheFilm.com](#). [Read more ...](#)



Associate Professor Gay Wilgus re-imagines motherhood in the twenty-first century

Imagining Motherhood in the Twenty-First Century, published by Routledge in 2020 and coedited with Valerie Heffernan, is Professor Gay Wilgus' (Early Childhood Education Program) latest project. This collection of critical essays was originally published in a special issue of the journal *Women: A Cultural Review*. In total, these essays examine images, representations, and constructions of mothers and draws from media studies, cultural studies, literary studies, and the performing and visual arts. The book pushes back against conservative depictions of motherhood by considering the lives of childless and child-free women, migrant mothers, LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and questioning) mothers, and single mothers, among others. The book seeks to challenge prevailing (mis)conceptions around mothers, motherhood, and mothering.

The idea for this book originally came about in May of 2015 when Professor Wilgus attended an international, interdisciplinary conference entitled ‘Motherhood and Culture’ in Ireland at Maynooth University, just east of Dublin. During the days of the conference, she had the opportunity to converse with the conference organizer, Valerie Heffernan, a Professor of German Literature at Maynooth. They had both attended a number of presentations that centered on representations of motherhood in various media, including television, cinema, literature, poetry and visual art, and when Professor Wilgus proposed that they edit a volume together comprising several of the presentations at the conference, it turned out that Professor Heffernan had already been thinking along those lines. [Read more ...](#)



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