

VOLUME 4
ISSUE 1
AUGUST, 2019

While we have your attention, might we suggest that you add a few dates to your calendars before they fill up with, you know, classes, studying, eating, and sleeping? Here are some important upcoming dates:

- ⇒ **Tuesday, August 20:** New Students Arrive! Welcome to IWU. You're a Teaching Titan now.
- ⇒ **Saturday and Sunday, August 24 & 25:** Returning Students Arrive. You're still a Teaching Titan!
- ⇒ **Monday, August 26:** First day of classes—Wahoo!
- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 4, 7-8:00 pm** in Hansen: Illinois' Teacher of the Year Lindsey Jensen (more to the right)
- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 4:** President's Convocation. Don't miss it! You need this kind of inspiration in your life. Trust us.

Educational Studies

Teacher-Scholars for Social Justice

August, 2019

<https://www.iwu.edu/educational-studies/>

We're Baaaaack!

The Educational Studies faculty and staff are delighted to welcome all Teaching Titans back to campus! It has been a productive and exciting summer for us all, and we can't wait to jump back into the swing of things here at IWU.

Can we get a TGOE!?

Welcome 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year,
Lindsey Jensen!

We are just pleased as punch to host Illinois' 2018 Teacher of the Year Lindsey Jensen! Brought to us by the IWU Student Education Association, Lindsey Jensen will be at the Hansen Student Center on **Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 pm**. Be sure to come and hear inspiring words from one of the state's top educators from 2018. Lindsey's talk is entitled, "So, You Want to be a Teacher?" and promises

to be inspiring, entertaining, and all around amazing. Lindsey is also slated to share some helpful tips for future teachers—all for the cost of admission, which is free, btw.

Kudos to the IWU SEA for arranging this awesome speaker! Check out Lindsey Jensen's [website](#). (We especially appreciated her blog posting about affluence and poverty—just sayin'.)



Swing by the SEA booth at the RSO fair on Thursday, August 29th, 4 to 6. All the cool cats will be there!



Are You In? If not, you totally should be!

"In what?" you ask. Why, the SEA, of course! IWU has an active chapter of the Student Education Association. It's the professional education organization affiliated with the [Illinois Education Association](#) (IEA) and the [National Education Association](#) (NEA). The SEA offers opportunities for students interested in education to learn more about teacher quality and political action and to become involved in the wider community in which they teach. In fact, they are the group responsible for bringing 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year Lindsey Jensen to campus on September 4. You wrote that on your calendar, right? Right! The IWU SEA also worked with Bloomington-Normal's Not In Our School (NIOS) organization to host a stellar event at Hansen last spring during which local educators and staff were recognized for creating inclusivity and safe learning environments. So, yea—join SEA. Contact Colleen Herald (cherald@iwu.edu) to find out how. Seriously!



So you're a teacher, huh? What do you do all summer, anyway?

Lest you think your beloved faculty do nothing but kick back and sip lemonade all summer, we hasten to point out some of our scholarly accomplishments over the past few months:

First up: Professor Epstein

Professor Irv Epstein published his fifth book, *Affect Theory and Comparative Education Discourse: Essays on Fear and Loathing in Response to Global Education Policy* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019). In this book, Professor Epstein examines case studies from around the world to determine why so many people are resistant to and angered by educational practices, even when they are supposed to be socially beneficial. Check it out here: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/search?q=Irving+Epstein&Gid=1>. As if that weren't enough, Professor Epstein served as an external reviewer for the International Global Education graduate program at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To top it all off, Professor Epstein holds the reins of the Ed Studies department as department chair—he does a terrific job of keeping us on track (and we're not an easy bunch to keep on track).

Next up: Professor Evans

Professor Evans, as first author, published “How Did That Happen? Teachers’ Explanations for Low Test Scores,” in *Teachers College Record*, Vol. 121 no. 2, 2019, p. 1-40. This incredibly important research explores how teachers respond to the presentation of data that is supposed to inform their pedagogical choices. Plus, Professor Evans is a movie star! She was interviewed about her research during the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in Toronto. Check out Professor Evans’ eloquent description of her research in this video: <https://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentId=22555>. OK, so maybe she hasn't been offered a star in front of Grauman's Theatre in Hollywood, but we think she belongs there!

And next: Professor Gray

During her leave last spring and expanding into the summer, Professor Gray continued her research focused on first-year teachers and their decisions regarding classroom management. Drawing on interviews with sixteen first-year teachers, Professor Gray explored which factors seemed to be the most influential as the first-year teachers established their classroom rules and procedures. You can check out her work in the journal *Teaching Education* here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10476210.2019.1631785>. Renaissance woman that she is, Professor Gray has also had a manuscript accepted for publication in the journal *Filoteknos*. This manuscript explores the literary structure of Jason Reynold's novel, *Long Way Down*. (If you're looking for a moving, powerful book, read it! It's great!)

Let's not forget: Professor Nillas

Professor Nillas completed a busy academic year successfully serving as chair of two of the most important committees on our campus: the Curriculum Council and the Faculty Committee on Diversity. Needless to say, these committees command a significant investment of time and energy, and we are deeply proud of Professor Nillas' leadership on our campus.

But wait! There's more!

And of course, the extraordinary Jen Crider

As our dedicated Director of Field Experience, Jen Crider continues to develop collaborative relationships with area school administrators and teachers in order to provide each and every one of you with stellar field experiences. Trust us: This work Does. Not. Stop. Jen Crider works year-round on not only field placements, but also to prepare and teach the wide array of courses for which she's responsible. Who can blame her for taking a few weeks off for an amazing summer trip to Greece and Italy this summer? *I'm not jealous; you're jealous!*

And who could forget Dr. Colleen Herald!?

Dr. Herald, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure and Assessment, continues to serve on the Executive Board of the Illinois Association of Teacher Educators in Private Colleges (IATEPC) and is a member of the Licensure Committee for the Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE). This year she will continue to serve as advisor for the Student Education Association. If you've been around education long enough, you know that it changes nearly every day, so Dr. Herald spent much of her summer keeping up on the myriad changes the Illinois State Board of Education threw at her—lest you were thinking she was kicking her feet up reading novels all summer.

And, saving best for last, Donna Haas

Donna Haas and a team of friends and family are partnering with the Welcome Home Haiti organization to provide a new home for a single mother and her three children. The mission team has been busy raising funds so that WHH can employ local Haitian men to work in their brick factory and build the major portion of the home. Welcome Home Haiti is celebrating the building of its 100th new home for the Pilate community this fall! And as if her work abroad were not enough, Donna continues to ensure that the Ed Studies department operates like a fine-oiled machine in spite of the ridiculous number of tasks she is asked to do.

So there you have it: The Ed Studies faculty and staff version of *What I Did Over the Summer and Late Spring* essay. We hope your summer was productive as well—or at least that you carved out some time for fun, adventure, and rest.



Bookmark This!!!

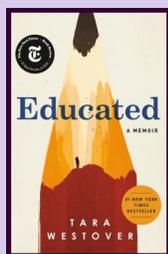


You may not have *Child and Adolescent Literature* (REA 272) on your list of classes you're planning to take (and we do wonder why you don't), but at the very least, check out this website: We Need Diverse Books: <https://diversebooks.org/> This organization grew out of committed children's book lovers who advocate for more equitable publishing practices and who are working to ensure that there is literature available that reflects and honors the lives of all young people. It's grassroots; it's about children's literature; it's informative. What's not to love?

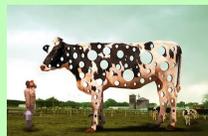
Need a Read?

(And don't we all?)

This year's IWU summer reading selection is *Educated*, by Tara Westover. This memoir explores Tara's upbringing in a large, Mormon family that eschewed public education and embraced a survivalist perspective. In spite of her family's wishes, Tara left her Idaho home and pursued higher education, ultimately earning a PhD from Cambridge. This book challenges readers to grapple with issues of truth and echoes the yearly theme of [Fact or Fiction](#). If you have a few spare moments, give it a read. (You're welcome to borrow Professor Gray's copy!)



Teacher-Scholars for Social Justice



HOLY COW!

(See what we did there?)



Do we have the most amazing students or what!? Check out these accomplishments from our very own Teaching Titans!

- ◇ **Yesenia Martinez-Calderon** and **Max Crowninshield** presented findings from a two-year research project conducted under the leadership of Professor Maggie Evans, at the fifth annual Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment Conference in Chicago. Their research focused on inclusion in higher education, exploring traits and strategies of inclusive professors who create welcoming, supportive classrooms for all students but particularly students of color, students with disabilities, and students who identify as LGBTQ+. Pretty incredible work, Yesenia and Max! Congratulations.
- ◇ **Caleb Hansen** and **Danielle Ponsot** completed a summer internship at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo this summer where they served as English tutors and instructors. Their internship was sponsored by the Freeman Foundation. What an exciting and adventurous way to spend your summer! Congrats, Caleb and Danielle!
- ◇ **Angela Roman** also completed a summer internship at EarthRights International in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where she served as an English tutor and instructor. As was the case for Caleb and Danielle, Angela's internship was sponsored by the Freeman Foundation. Angela, we can't wait to hear about your experiences abroad!
- ◇ **Olivia Ruff** was named an All-American scholar by the Women's Golf Coaches Association. She is one of 1097 women's collegiate golfers who have been so honored, as the criteria for selecting the All American team are among the most stringent in all of college athletics. Wow! An amazing student and an amazing athlete. We're so proud of you!



Yes, that's right! The dreaded Pop Quiz!

We won't encumber you with pedagogical perspectives on pop quizzes—this one is just for fun!



The topic: Education in Illinois. Give it a whirl.

You'll be stylin' and smilin' in your Teaching Titan wear.

Yes! We really are so awesome that we have our very own logo through Land's End. Hats, bags, shirts, drinkware (we kid you not!). Check out this [link](#) to get your Teaching Titan gear today! (Or tomorrow—whatever.)

<https://business.landsend.com/store/teachingtitans/>



1. How many school districts are in Illinois? A. 2001 B. 1071 C. 902 D. I don't care—as long as one of them will employ me upon graduation.
2. How many public school teachers are there in Illinois? A. 132,456 B. 151,075 C. 151,076 D. I don't care as long as I become one of them.
3. What is the name of the state's Superintendent of Education (that's your boss' boss' boss' boss)? A. Irv Epstein B. Michael Phelps C. Carmen Ayala D. I don't care, as long as I get a job.
4. How many Illinois students have an identified disability? A. 295,234 B. 159,934 C. 100,052 D. Hmmmm—a lot and I do care!

Answers are below, upside down, and in a slightly smaller font (because we're tricky that way).

Pop Quiz Answers: 1. B (and maybe D); 2. A (and maybe D); 3. C (and maybe D); 4. A (and D, too!)