

Ed Studies News



Teacher Scholars for Social Justice

Half-Way There

October 14, 2015

Volume 1, Issue 2

Judging by the look of determination and near-panic on people's faces, it is clear that the fall semester is in full swing! It's that time of year when everything feels somewhat impossible, but yet inexplicably do-able. Indeed, classwork continues to pile up, required readings beckon, and there are so many other things that tug at our attention. But, hey. We're halfway done with the fall semester already!

During this stressful time, please be sure to take care of yourselves. Get plenty of rest (really—an hour and a half of sleep a night is just not enough), eat well (Cheetos are not breakfast), and take deep, cleansing breaths every once in a while.

Let's try that: Breathe in through your nose for four seconds and exhale through your nose for eight seconds. You'll feel more calm in no time! Go ahead—try it. We'll wait . . . (Thanks to Bob Rogers at IWU Counseling and Consultation Services for that helpful tip!)

If you feel completely (or even slightly) overwhelmed, reach out to Counseling and Consultation Services (556-3052 or <https://www.iwu.edu/ccs/>). In addition to providing group and individual counseling services, they also have a wealth of information about alcohol and drug abuse, study skills, and resources for managing anxiety.

And did you know that they have a—get this—**Relaxation Room**?! Really! We wouldn't lie about a thing like that.

Don't hesitate to take advantage of the resources that are available to you and that can help you when you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or just in need of a little bit of support. More than anything, we want you, our students, to be safe and healthy!

Do take care of yourselves.

And the Winner Is . . . (Drumroll, please)

Emily Wegner, Interdisciplinary Ed Studies!

Emily was the only person to answer last month's Guess Who? question correctly, so she wins a free \$5.00 gift card to Dunkin' Donuts! If you're nice, she might share.

In case you were wondering, the answer was Christine Horner, our new Office Coordinator! She is an avid gardener, wrangles three lively kids, and enjoys yoga when she can squeeze it in. A surprising number of you guessed Professor Jen Crider—really, do you think Professor Crider gardens?! There is not one living plant in her office, people.

Anyway, try to win our next Guess Who? Contest. See the back of this newsletter for more info.

Need a Giggle?



Key & Peele - TeachingCenter



Watch this sketch by Key and Peele about how teachers should be treated—it's Sports Center, only for Teachers. Classic! (Search YouTube—Key and Peele Teaching Center or use the QR code.)



Have you heard? **Academic Advising starts Wednesday, October 21.** If you haven't read through the TEP Handbook for a while, now is a good time to do that!

Add this to your agenda:

The founder of **#BlackLivesMatter** will be on campus on **Thursday, October 22, 7:00-8:00** at the Hansen Student Center. Please carve out some time to hear what will no doubt be a very important message and a call to action!

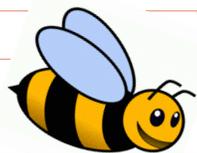
New and Improved!

The Ed Studies department now offers a new endorsement—the Reading Teacher Endorsement. By completing a series of courses, students can graduate with this vital endorsement on their teaching license. Upcoming courses include:

- ◇ Advanced Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading (Spring '16)
- ◇ Advanced Interventions for Struggling Readers (May '16)
- ◇ Child and Adolescent Literature (May '16)

Talk to your advisor for more information!

What's an Endowed Professorship, anyway? Endowed Professorships are sponsored by donors and awarded in recognition of a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, ongoing scholarship over the course of a career, and service at the very highest levels of the university. Hearty congratulations to our own Endowed Professor Epstein!



Faculty: Busy as Bees

Faculty in Ed Studies are pretty busy people. Sure, we spend a lot of time planning our classes, assessing student work, and doing an awful lot of reading. But did you know that faculty is also involved in all sorts of other endeavors, some related to education and some not? Well, we are! Below is a short list of some of the things that keep your Ed Studies faculty as busy as, well, bees.

Endowed Professor Irv Epstein will be giving a talk entitled *21st Century Youth Movements and Social Change: Distinguishing the Ephemeral from the Fundamental* at Teacher's College, Columbia University. He also just published a book entitled *The Whole World is Texting: Youth Protest in the Information Age*, which examines the implications and the impact of social media upon protest efficacy and its enduring consequence. Fascinating research!

In addition to serving on two university committees (The Center for Excellent in Teaching and Learning and the May Term Advisory Committee), **Professor Pennie Gray** just co-presented with Meghan Henwood (IWU alumna, 2015) a workshop at Illinois Reading Council Conference. Their presentation examined the use of multiple texts to teach social studies through a social justice lens. Part of their presentation referenced a website they created and that you can find here: <http://pgray18.wix.com/ircc2015multicultlit>. Professor Gray is also on the Board of Directors of the philanthropic organization called For a Better Tomorrow—and she volunteers at Humane Society every week, regularly resisting the urge to bring home a whole passel of dogs.

Professor Leah Nillas is likewise active on campus, serving as Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee. She is also highly active helping students with undergraduate research. For instance, in addition to teaching the Senior Seminar, she oversees a host of Independent Studies and projects. As if those responsibilities don't keep her busy enough, she makes time to serve on the Institutional Review Board, ensuring that all campus research is ethical. And look for her upcoming presentation entitled *Mathematics and Social Justice: A Challenging but Relevant Connection* at the 65th Illinois Council for Teachers of Mathematics Conference in Tinley Park, Oct. 23-24.

Guess Who?



Let's try again to see how well you know your Ed Studies faculty and staff by playing Guess Who? We'll give you a few hints, and if you can guess whom we're describing, you could win a **\$5.00 gift card to**

Dunkin' Donuts! Yum! Enter by filling out a ballot in the Ed Studies Commons Area the next time you're in CLA! Good luck:

Here are the hints: This person:

- * Has been to the top of the Eiffel Tower—twice;
- * Is usually reading five or six or twelve books at a time;
- * Loves jazz and classical music;
- * Makes an occasional pie from scratch.

The next drawing will be held on Thursday, October 29.

Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each. ~PLATO

Titan Trivia

*You call yourself a Titan?
Who wrote the IWU Alma Mater,
and in what year? (Answer below.)*