

A PERIODIC
NEWSLETTER FOR
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD TEACHER EDUCATORS

NAECTE

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2012

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- We want to share teaching ideas and tips! See box page 3
- NAECTE Foundation launches Fundraising Campaign
- JECTE has a new editor
- Apply for a free NAECTE membership and \$100 gift certificate! See page 7

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NAECTE Fall Conference

November 7, 2012 in Atlanta, GA

The NAECTE Fall Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 7, in the beautiful city of Atlanta, Georgia! Our conference, which promises to be a full day of intellectually stimulating events, will be held in the Omni Hotel at the CNN Center, Dogwood Room A. Registration will begin at 7:30am, and the morning session will begin promptly at 8:00am.

Our conference theme is an accurate reflection of the challenges we face, as well as the promise that exists for those of us who prepare teachers of young children.



Children at play!

That theme, **21st Century Early Childhood Teacher Education: Research, Reform and Resilience**, will be addressed by our esteemed keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige. Carlsson-Paige has written extensively about a number of important topics related to the education of young children, including

her most recent work, "TAKING BACK CHILDHOOD: A Proven Roadmap for Raising Confident, Creative, Compassionate Kids." Dr. Carlsson-Paige has focused on children's well-being as a response to media saturation and other cultural forces; she speaks passionately about the need to preserve children's play in order to support healthy development. **Her keynote address, *Early Childhood Teacher Educators: Leading with Knowledge, Vision, and Courage*, will most certainly inspire and challenge us all.**—Kelly Baker

Lunchtime

Box lunches will be available for order at the registration table, and will be priced at \$12.00-\$15.00. At 11:00am, we'll enjoy an ACCESS/NAECTE lunch, and a presentation by Chip Donahue, Erikson Institute, on the use of technology in community college and university settings.

Afternoon

Following the afternoon roundtable and poster sessions, the conference will close with our annual business meeting, from 4:10 until 4:30pm. There will be a "Tech on Deck" session, focused on Early Childhood Teacher Educators, from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Many may want to visit that session prior to attending the NAECYC Opening Session, featuring Mem Fox.

Evening

The NAECTE Awards reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:00pm, November 7. The location, which has yet to be determined, will be included in the conference program. Please continue to visit the website (www.naecte.org) for the conference program, which will be posted on October 1.

From our NAECTE President, Sara Davis

You really need to see Ken Robinson's "Are Schools Killing Creativity?" on the daily video podcast, *TED Talks*. He tells a "story" of a little girl who tells her teacher that she is drawing a picture of God. The teacher says no one knows what God looks like and the girl replies, "They will in a minute". My students start out believing that their chances to develop personal creativity skills are pretty much over. I emphasize, though, that at the heart of creativity is being able to solve problems and that we can actively support children's ability to do that. In this political era, we all need to hang on to our sense of humor and our belief in creativity to solve problems. In this newsletter, we are sharing efforts by many to solve problems and tackle professional issues.



"In this political era, we all need to hang on to our sense of humor and our belief in creativity to solve problems."

- Sara Davis

NAECTE has hired a new data manager for membership, Lauren Harper. Lauren has just started looking at our needs and has hit the ground running. She actually works for our journal publisher, Taylor and Francis, so she should be able to increase communication between the publisher and our membership. She is working with our website manager to look into updating the way membership information is kept. We are SO pleased that Lauren has joined our group! We owe a great deal of gratitude to Anne Dorsey, professor emerita from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. Anne has been our data manager for the past several years, going above and beyond the expectations to support NAECTE. Without her help and vision, we would not have been in such a good situation. Thank-you Anne!

We have a new contract with our publisher, Taylor and Francis, that we feel is strong. They have proposed new awards that we will be looking at very carefully. We want graduate students to be supported in their work and we want our members to be supported in their research and publishing efforts. Stay tuned for more news about that!

Be sure and read the NAECTE Foundation report on page 4. The Foundation represents one of the best ways to support our work and encourage others to join us in the early childhood teacher education field.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta!

- Sara Davis

Let's Share Teacher Education Ideas!

We have a new idea for our newsletter.

We would like to share teaching ideas or tips for early childhood education classes.

If you have something you have done in class that generated a powerful discussion, made strong connections, or created memorable moments, we would like to share it.

Just send your idea(s) to:

Edyth Wheeler at ejwheeler@towson.edu

for inclusion in the newsletter. *We look forward to hearing from you!*



Close Observation

I teach a science methods class and encourage you not to immediately dismiss the idea of bringing something to your class for discussion of attributes and close observation. Many of us teach observation in early childhood, but it may remain theoretical until students get out into labs or classrooms. The National Science Teachers Association has an article about researching "rolypolies" that lends itself to discussing observation close up and personally in the early childhood teacher education classroom.

My students found rolypolies at home and brought them to class. We used the guiding worksheet that came with the article and had a rich discussion about what it meant to "document observations". We also discovered that some of us were extremely squeamish about touching bugs, which began a lively discussion about how to use developmentally appropriate practice in your classroom, even when you are not comfortable with something.

Damonte, K. (2003, April). Research rolypolies. *Science and Children*, 40/7, 43.

Submitted by: Sara Davis, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith



Foundation Launches Historic Fundraising Campaign

When Harlan Hansen was attending a recent NAECTE Conference, he noticed that we had to make a last-minute (though successful) effort to fund our new scholarship. So Harlan approached the Foundation Governing Board and made the case that we needed to develop a fund-raising campaign in order to move from being a “teenager with a small allowance” to being an adult organization.

Therefore, we are asking all NAECTE members to participate in an organization-wide fund drive to assure that the Foundation will be strong and healthy in the coming years. A successful drive would mean that further requests would occur only at five-year intervals!

To encourage participation, Harlan Hansen is offering to share a piece that he wrote a few years ago for graduating high school seniors. This piece is intended to be given as a gift at graduation. In this way, we also can support future college students.

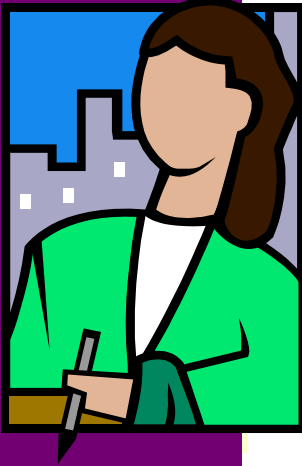
You soon will receive an e-mail letter asking you to make a donation to the NAECTE Foundation. You will have the option of sending a check or using PayPal (e.g., in monthly installments). Funds will be used to support doctoral dissertation research related to early childhood teacher education as well as teacher education research by our NAECTE members. As a campaign donor, you will be listed on our 2012 Roll of Honor. Over the summer, we contacted NAECTE Governing Board Members and Foundation Members, and most of them already have made a contribution to the campaign. We hope that you will join this effort as well. We optimistically would like to see a 100% response!

“A successful drive would mean that further requests would occur only at five-year intervals!”
- Mary Jensen



Teacher Education Research Poster presented at a recent NAECTE Conference

- Mary Jensen



“She [Patsy Cooper] brings a strong record of scholarship and publication.”
- Nancy Freeman

Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education Welcomes Its New Editor

The new year will bring important changes to the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education (JECTE)*. Under the leadership of our current Co-Editors, Amos Hatch and Susan Benner, we have seen the journal go to the next level of quality. They have led the journal for four years, and during that time they have overseen the transition to ScholarOne, Taylor and Frances’ on-line manuscript management system; have shortened the time between authors’ submission of their manuscripts and being notified of editors’ final decision; have created a system for electing members to the Editorial Board for 4-year terms; and, most im-

portantly have made the journal better than ever.

Amos and Susan have decided not to renew their term as Editors. That means that the Editorial Board, as a Committee of the Whole, embarked on the search for a new editor for *JECTE*. The call was posted in the Journal and on the NAECTE and *JECTE* websites, distributed at the November 2011 NAEYC conference, and shared with potential applicants by members of the Editorial Board and the current editors. After this careful process and with the unanimous approval of the Editorial Board, we recommended that Patsy Cooper be named *JECTE*’s new editor, to begin her 4-year

term in January 2013.

Her nomination was unanimously approved by the NAECTE Board. Patsy is an Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at Queens College, City University of New York. She brings a strong record of scholarship and publication. We are excited to welcome Patsy’s leadership – and hope you will make it a point to introduce yourself if you don’t yet know her, and that you will support her as she accepts this important role in our organization.

Nancy Freeman

NAECTE Past-President
Chair of the Editor Search Committee

Ideas are the roots of creation.

- Ernest Dimnet

Directives from State Governments Influence Region 5



In Region 5, many of our colleagues are revisiting the early childhood teacher education curricula based on directives from the state governments. In Ohio, several universities have switched from a quarter system to a semester system as mandated by the Governor of Ohio. Ohio University (OU), for example, just started the semester calendar in August, so they are adjusting to a new system. In general, OU teacher education programs are moving toward a clinical model of teacher education, so they are trying different ways of doing field experiences and increasing the amount of time candidates spend in schools over the course of their college education. In Indiana, baccalaureate degrees are now to be capped at 120 credit hours. This has been an opportuni-

ty to closely examine programs to revise and update courses. In Indiana, the Higher Education Forum of early childhood teacher educators continues to promote the development of articulation agreements with the two-year programs.

In Illinois, Erikson Institute's Early Mathematics Education (EME) Project, funded by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, is partnering with early childhood education faculty of community colleges in greater Chicago area to improve the early mathematics teaching of practicing teachers. Erikson faculty involved with EME have provided an early math summer institute to the faculty and are working with them throughout the year to enhance their own understanding and strengthen their instruction concerning foundational

mathematics. It is clear, from the reception that EME has received from chairs, administrators, and faculty at community colleges, that a focus on improving early math pre-service teacher education is timely. Community colleges do a lot of "heavy lifting" when it comes to preparing early childhood teachers, and they do so with minimal resources. This initiative has already made a real difference by addressing an area of concern for early childhood teacher educators and provided resources and inspiration to improve their work.

Mary Jane Eisenhauer, Ed.D.

Purdue University
North Central
Indiana

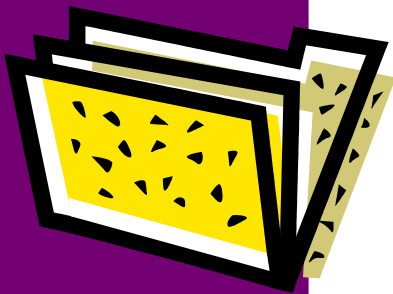
Region III: News from Pennsylvania

PA AECTE recently elected new officers: Kent Chrisman, President; Marcia Nell, Vice President; Betsy Manlove, Secretary; Amy Thomason, Treasurer

The Pennsylvania group met in August and made plans to generate two new "white papers." The first is a response to the Governor's Panel on Post-Secondary Education that relates to early childhood teacher preparation. The second is an analysis of the effects of legislation that revised the evaluation process for teacher evaluations and the impact on early childhood programs (PreK-Grade 4). The goal is to disseminate these papers to state-wide groups and other AECTE groups.

The Facebook page for PA AECTE is now operational. Please contact Donna Couchenour on FB and she will add you as a friend.

- Roberta Schomburg, PhD



Brookes Publishing Company Offers Memberships/Gift Certificates



Brookes Publishing Company is offering four graduate students a

one year (\$45.00) membership for the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators for 2013 and a (\$100.00) gift certificate to purchase Brookes Publishing Company materials. NAECTE members are people from all across the United States and from countries around the globe who share a common interest in Early Childhood Teacher Education. More information can be found at the NAECTE website at www.NAECTE.org. In order to apply for a free membership, the graduate student should com-

plete this form and submit an original, 500 word essay on an advocacy issue specific to Early Childhood Teacher Education. Deadline for applications will be October 22, 2012. Winners will be announced at the NAECTE conference on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, in Atlanta. You do not need to be present to win. Applications should be sent electronically to Dr. Mary Jo Pollman at pollmanm@msudenver.edu by October 22, 2012. A committee of NAECTE board members will choose the winners.

Brookes Publishing Company ~ Graduate Student Submission Form

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Email _____

Colleges Attended, Degrees and Expected Graduation Times

Why would you like to become a member of NAECTE?

How have you shown commitment to the field of early childhood teacher education?

Advisor and Email of Advisor

Please attach an essay of 500 words maximum about an issue in the field of early childhood teacher education and how you might engage in advocacy related to this issue.