

*A Periodic Newsletter for Members and Friends*

Winter, 2008

Volume 3, Number 4

On the Web: <http://www.naecte.org>

**NAECTE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**

The November 2007 conference in Chicago marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAECTE. The members in the photograph below are among NAECTE's founding members since the organization's inception in 1997. For more information about the history of NAECTE, see our history page (<http://www.naecte.org/about.html>).



**Front Row** (left to right) Joan Isenberg, Stephanie Feeney, Leah Adams, Doris Fromberg, Helen Botnarescue, Doris Bergen, Kathryn Castle

**Back Row** (left to right) Mary Jensen, Blythe Hintz, Patricia Vardin, James Hoot, Anne Dorsey

Photo taken by Rebekah Fassler

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**NOVEMBER CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS!**

On November 7, 2007, our Fall Conference in Chicago brought together over 125 early childhood teacher educators to enjoy a Keynote Speaker, 30 round table discussions, 18 posters, 3 ResearchNets, 4 committee meetings, a New Members Meeting, an Affiliate lunch meeting, an author's table for display of 11 books, a business meeting, and a reception/awards/30th anniversary celebration. Congratulations and our sincere thanks to Conference Chair, Paula McMurray-Schwarz.

**Coming in the Next Issue**

- **Region Reports**
- **Committee Updates**
- **More Late-Breaking News in Early Childhood Teacher Education**

**NAECTE REMEMBERS  
LESLIE R. WILLIAMS  
WITH GRATITUDE**



All of us at NAECTE remember with gratitude, fondness and respect the contributions of leadership and friendship that Leslie Williams so graciously gave us. Her tireless work as editor of the JECTE has brought us a journal that represents early childhood teacher education as a valued area of scholarship. Leslie will be greatly missed. The following is a tribute to Leslie from the President of Teachers College.

To the TC Community,  
I'm very sad to inform you that Professor Leslie R. Williams, a stellar and much-loved member (and former chair) of our Curriculum and Teaching faculty for the past 33 years, passed away on Thanksgiving Day. In vigorously pursuing her interests in multicultural and early childhood education, Leslie was a powerful advocate for inclusion, a concept she defined as not merely "a simple representation of dimensions of diversity," but instead "a dialogue between self and other" in which both adults and children move "from initial identification of others like oneself, to acknowledgement and acceptance of differences, and finally to a deeper recognition of fundamental human similarities without denial of differences." It was a view Leslie formed as a VISTA Head Start volunteer working with Athabaskan Indian children in Alaska and later with Tribal Head Start programs in South Dakota, and a gospel that ultimately she spread quite literally around the globe and to legions of

others in her field. During her long career, she served as a consultant for early care centers and teacher education programs in Japan, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Russia, Korea, Crete and Brazil; co-authored The Encyclopedia of Early Childhood Education; served as editor of the Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education; led development of a multicultural preschool curriculum called ALERTA; wrote or co-wrote 15 books on early childhood education; and co-edited the prestigious Early Childhood Education series for the Teachers College Press. At Teachers College, where she mentored generations of students and fellow faculty members, Leslie co-founded the Rita Gold Center, a daycare and pre-K lab school for children three months to five years and led exchanges with educators from Japan and Russia – the latter effort reflecting her long-standing interest in the seminal educational and cognitive psychologist Lev Vygotsky. In her ideas and beliefs; in her teaching and scholarship; and most of all, in her demeanor within our community and toward the world at large, Leslie Williams exemplified all that is best about Teachers College. She will be sorely missed.

Susan Fuhrman, President

*A service will be held for Leslie on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at Teachers College, Columbia University*

**New Resource on the NAECTE Website under "Resources and Related Organizations"**

- NAECTE By-laws
- NAECTE Policies and Procedures
- NAECTE Position Statement on Early Childhood Teacher Certification

## 2007 NAECTE AWARD RECIPIENTS

At our fall conference, NAECTE was pleased to recognize the achievements of our 2007 award winners. Many thanks to Awards Chair Linda Davey, to the NAECTE Foundation, JECTE, and our sponsors.

**Dr. Blythe Hinitz**, Professor EECE, The College of New Jersey, was awarded the NAECTE & Pearson/Allyn & Bacon Early Childhood Teacher Educator of the Year.

**Dr. Deborah Ackerman**, was awarded the NAECTE & Merrill/Prentice Hall Dissertation Award: for her dissertation, completed at Rutgers University. *The Learning Never Stops Lessons from Military Child Development Centers for Teacher Professional Development*

**Jonathan Gillentine**, an early childhood teacher and graduate of a doctoral program at the University of Hawaii, was awarded the NAECTE & Thompson Delmar Publishers Early Childhood Practitioner Award (see excerpt on page 4).

Outstanding Submission NAECTE Foundation was awarded to **Muriel Rand** for her research proposal titled: *Using constructivist-developmental theory to examine teacher candidate dispositions related to diversity and working with families.*

The Taylor and Francis Annual Award for Distinguished JECTE Article of the Year was awarded to **Jie-Qi Chen and Gillian McNamee**, *Strengthening Early Childhood Teacher Preparation: Integrating Assessment, Curriculum Development, and Instructional Practice in Student Teaching.*

Honorable Mentions for this award went to: **Kevin J. Miller and David P. Fuller**, *Developing Cultural Competence in Early Childhood Preservice Educators through a Cultural Self-Analysis Project.*

**Nikolaos Tsigilis, Konstantinos Tsioumis, and Athanasios Gregoriadis**, *Prospective Early Childhood Educators' Attitudes toward Teaching Multicultural Classes: A Planned Behavior Theory Perspective.*

**Dale Lynn Cusumano, Kathleen Armstrong, Rachel Cohen, and Melissa Todd**, *Indirect Impact: How Early Childhood Educator Training and Coaching Impacted the Acquisition of Literacy Skills in Preschool Students*

## NAECTE 2008 AWARDS PROGRAM

Once again, NAECTE will collaborate with a number of publishers to recognize excellence in the profession. Be considering your nominations for recognition of the following:

Outstanding Teacher Educator

Outstanding Dissertation

Early Childhood Practitioner of the Year

Details regarding nominations are the NAECTE web site, click on Awards (<http://www.naecte.org/awards.html>). We will be setting a May 1, 2008, deadline for nominations. Start thinking now of worthy nominees. For more information, contact: Stuart Reifel, [sr10@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:sr10@mail.utexas.edu)

## Taylor and Francis Annual Award for Distinguished JECTE Article of the Year

Taylor and Francis, the publisher of the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education (JECTE)*, is pleased to announce the continuation of an award to be conferred each autumn at the meeting of the *JECTE's* parent organization, NAECTE. The Award honors the excellent work of the author(s) of an article that has been judged as Distinguished for the previous year of the journal's publication. Articles eligible for consideration for the award include those of all the different genres now published in the *JECTE*. Selection criteria include:

significance of manuscript; quality of writing, scholarship, and conceptualization; and timeliness. Please see more on <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10901027.asp>

### **The Gift of a Lei**

An Excerpt from the words of our Early Childhood Practitioner of the Year, Jonathan Gillentine

I believe we are called by the children. On too many occasions I have met a child I did not know who sent me a clearly stated message without speaking, "I know who you are, I know what you do, and I trust you." So, first, I acknowledge the children who call us to this work.

I wish I had a lei to give each of you to join in this celebration, but unfortunately that isn't possible. However, I want to leave you with the suggestion of a lei . . . in Hawai'i children are often named *Kalei* (the lei), or *Ku`ulei* (my precious lei). The reason for this may be that often consider their first embraces, with their arms around the necks of those who love and care for them as the first lei that they can give. I invite you to find a child who is dear to you and freshen that lei that connects you to the work you do. That is the lei that I give you tonight. Thank you so much for this award. Aloha!

### **GOVERNING BOARD NOMINATIONS**

All members of the Governing Board must have belonged to the Association for at least 2 years. Members of the Executive Committee (VP for Membership and Secretary) must have previously served on the Association's Governing Board.

#### **Send your nominations to the Chair of the NAECTE Nominating Committee:**

Nancy Freeman  
USC CDRC – Room 225  
1530 Wheat Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

### **SELF NOMINATIONS ARE WELCOME!**

**Nominations are being accepted until February 1 for the 2008-2010 term of office for the following NAECTE Governing Board positions:**

**Vice President for Membership** accepts responsibility for overseeing the accurate maintenance of membership records, supplying mailing labels to the publisher to distribute the Association's Journal, sending of renewal notices, and responding to requests to rent the organization's mailing list. S/he shall work with the Affiliate Chair and Regional Representatives to maintain and increase membership.

**Secretary** accepts responsibility for taking minutes of the Association and Governing Board meetings and distributing them to the Board in a timely fashion. S/he submits minutes and other records of the Association to the archives at the end of his/her term of office.

**Affiliate Chair** accepts responsibility for serving as the Affiliate-groups' liaison to the Board. S/he shall be responsible for maintaining a list of affiliate officers, contacting the Affiliates regarding materials needed by the NAECTE treasurer for reporting to the IRS, and shall encourage and support states' efforts to form affiliate groups.

**Regional Representatives** serve as liaisons between members in their geographical area and the Board, and work with the Affiliate Chair to build and support membership.

**Region 1:** Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

**Region 3:** Washington, DC; Delaware, Maryland, Puerto Rico, Virginia, West Virginia

**Region 5:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

**Region 7:** Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

**Region 9:** Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada



**ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEARCH**  
*Editor, Journal of Early Childhood  
Teacher Education*

The Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education Editorial Board announces that applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor. Leslie Williams was scheduled to complete her second term as editor in June. Though deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Williams in November, we must continue her legacy.

NAECTE, in conjunction with the Editorial Board of the Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education (JECTE), invites applications for editorship of the journal. The appointment will be for a period of four years with the possibility of subsequent renewals. It is anticipated that the new editor will assume the editorship immediately after the NAECTE Governing Board approves the appointment in June 2008. Please see the NAECTE website for application procedures (<http://www.naecte.org/news.html>). Please consider applying and asking others to apply. Submit questions and applications to [Amanda.Branscombe@Athens.edu](mailto:Amanda.Branscombe@Athens.edu) Submit manuscripts and queries about the journal to [JECTE@yahoo.com](mailto:JECTE@yahoo.com) Submit questions about receiving 2007 journals to [annedorsey@fuse.net](mailto:annedorsey@fuse.net)

**QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP?**

Haven't received your copy of the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*?  
Forgot your username and or password to access the "Member's Only" section of the NAECTE Website? Contact Anne Dorsey at [annedorsey@fuse.net](mailto:annedorsey@fuse.net)

**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT  
BROCHURE**

This useful membership recruitment tool is now available in PDF file in color and black-and-white versions. Please contact Nancy Perry [[Nancy.Perry@asu.edu](mailto:Nancy.Perry@asu.edu)]

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NAECTE  
MEMBER?**

All NAECTE members can access the member directory by going to the "Members Only" section of the [NAECTE website](#). To access the directory:

- Click on the "Members Only" tab on the [NAECTE](#) webpage
- Enter your username and password
- Click on "Create a Directory"
- Select a year
- Select "all states" to view the entire directory
- To view contact information for members in a specific state, select the state you wish to view
- Wait for the system to generate the directory (this may take some time due to the size of the document)
- Click on "View Directory"
- Save the directory to your computer.

**COMING EVENTS**

**International Conferences:**

International Symposium on Childhood Education, May 1-2, 200, Northern Illinois University.

International Froebel Society, "Creating Trust in an Unsafe World", July 9-11, Wheelock College.

OMEP World Assembly and International Seminar August 6-8, '08 in Quebec City, Canada, [www.OMEP-Canada.org](http://www.OMEP-Canada.org).

"Exchange Every Day," April 30-May 2, 2008, Auckland, New Zealand, issues in teacher education, [www.ccie.com/eed](http://www.ccie.com/eed).

**Virginia Welcomes NAECTE Members to  
February Conference:**

Virginia Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (VAECTE) Networking and Advocacy, Saturday, Feb 16, 9:45-11:00 a.m., Reston, VA. Please email Edyth Wheeler at [ejwheeler@towson.edu](mailto:ejwheeler@towson.edu).