College of Education Alumni Make a Difference!

Candace Kaye, a graduate of the SDSU College of Education-Claremont Graduate University joint doctoral program, and currently a New Mexico State University faculty member, has been chosen for a year-long Fulbright Lecturing and Research Award to Mongolia. She will be continuing her studies on the impact of educational policies on young children’s education in the emerging nation.

While in Mongolia, Kaye will work with two universities, the National University of Mongolia and the Mongolian State Pedagogical University. She will collaborate with Mongolian educators in early education curriculum, program development and supervision of graduate student research projects. She also will lecture in the field of early education and distance education and conduct research on the current access to quality early childhood education programs.

“Mongolia represents a world characterized by rapid political transitions, newly awakened nationalism, and many other forms of potentially positive, but often challenging change for the education of young children,” Kaye said. From 1992 to 1994, Kaye served as the U.S. Information Agency liaison between the U.S. embassies in Beijing and Ulaan Baatar, the capital of the Republic of Mongolia. Her work involved supporting Mongolian citizens in their travel as country representatives to the U.S. to investigate specific processes within a democracy.

“This work afforded me the opportunity to become acquainted with Mongolia and the people of Mongolia through a vast array of unique experiences and also to develop my skills as a collegial and supportive cultural ambassador to an amazing country,” Kaye said.

The Fulbright program was created by the U.S. government in 1946 to aid international educational exchange. Fulbright grants are given for a variety of educational activities, including advanced research, graduate study and university lecturing. The main funding for the program is received from the U.S. Congress, while participating governments and host universities contribute indirectly.

The California Teachers Association has appointed Ms. Courtney Woods-Ziani to the position of 2010-2011 Student Liaison to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The Commission’s purpose is “to ensure integrity and high quality in the preparation, conduct and professional growth of the educators who serve California’s public schools.” Ms. Woods-Ziani will advocate the concerns of future California educators at monthly meetings in Sacramento.

In addition, Courtney Woods-Ziani has been selected as 2010-2011 State Council Representative to the California Teachers Association. She and two other future teachers were elected to this position by statewide ballot by fellow members of the Student California Teachers Association. This position represents the voice of students pursuing degrees leading to employment in the California public education system.

Courtney is a San Diego State University alumnae, having earned a B.A. in International Business in 1998. She is currently completing a single-subject teaching credential for French, in addition to simultaneously pursuing a Masters Degree in French. Ms. Woods-Ziani resides in Temecula with her two children.
Trish Hatch, Associate Professor in Counseling and School Psychology, has received an ‘Ohana Award from the Counselors for Social Justice Division of the American Counseling Association. The award was given at their annual conference in March 20, 2010 in Pittsburgh PA. The ‘Ohana Honors awards were created by Drs. Michael D’Andrea and Judy Daniels, Counselor Education faculty from the University of Hawai’i-Manoa. They are given annually by CSJ and honor individuals in counseling who affirm diversity and advocate for social justice in the spirit of nine elements of the indigenous Hawaiian concept of ‘ohana or extended family. Congratulations!!

Nancy Farnan, Director of the School of Teacher Education, has been appointed to serve on the TPA Users’ Advisory Committee, established in 2009 by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The committee is advisory to the Commission and its Executive Director, Dale Janssen. Its purpose is to advise the Commission on policy, procedural and technical matters related to TPA administration, and provide a forum for TPA users and Commission staff to collaborate on the issues related to developing, understanding, and using the state-approved TPAs. A related purpose is to help ensure the smooth implementation of all models of this unique requirement for licensure as a Multiple and Single Subject teacher in California.

Cristina Alfaro, Associate Professor in Policy Studies, has been elected by the Kettering Foundation to serve on the Board of Directors for The National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI). The NIFI network participants include an array of civic, educational and professional groups, organizations, and individuals that promote nonpartisan public deliberation in communities across the country. Within this network are organizations and institutions that provide organized workshops to help people develop understanding and skills for the purpose of convening and moderating National Issues Forums. In March 2010, Dr. Alfaro participated in a National Issues Forum in Washington D.C. focusing on Confronting the Achievement Gap at the National Level. Her work at the national level informs her current work at the state and local level related to Closing the Achievement Gap.

Congratulations to Pilar Vargas who was recognized this past weekend with the Dean's Award at the SDSU Student Research Symposium. The title of her paper is: Case Study: A Southern California Dual Language Program. This is the third year in a row that a PLC MA Graduate student has received this recognition. Last year, John Patal received the Award for his paper: Facing the Storm: Teaching Action Research in an Urban High School. These students worked with Dr. Cristina Alfaro as their faculty mentor. Also, felicidades to Julia Parra, who also presented a paper that was well received at the Student Research Symposium. The title of her paper is Effective Characteristics of a Dual Language Program A Need for Divergent Intervention for English Language Learners at La Escuela and her faculty mentor was Dr. Alberto Ochoa. Julia was also selected as the PLC Department Outstanding Graduate Student for the College of Education Recognition.

A warm congratulations and recognition to PLC Outstanding Graduate Students who were recognized at the PLC Department Graduation Celebration: Cynthia Roncoroni, Andrew Rosales, Angelica Sandavol, Moises Villalpando, and Kelly Walker.

Department Chair Karen Cadiero-Kaplan expresses pride in each of the members of this year's graduating cohort for enacting a pedagogy of reflection, praxis and hope, and being models of teachers as intellectuals, who are committed ensuring an education of equity and access.

Felipe Robinson-Zanartu, graduate student in CSP’s School Counseling Program, has been selected as the 2010 H.B. McDaniel Foundation Scholarship winner. This prestigious award goes to one graduate student who demonstrates: skill at research, mentorship, and leadership in school counseling. The committee cites Felipe’s unique ability to use data analysis, his record of presentations and research, and his broad mentorship of youth. He will accept the award and present his research on June 26, 2010 at Stanford University’s Faculty Club.