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January Update

Welcome back to campus! We hope everyone has had a fantastic and stress-free winter break. CGSE is excited to announce a number of great events for the Spring semester in preparation for our Spring 2010 Conference, which is shaping up to be the largest conference in School of Education history.

Our first CGSE general meeting of the term will be Thursday afternoon, January 14th, in the Colloquium Room in Posvar Hall at 2:30 PM. We have exciting information to share regarding the CGSE conference, plus, all travel and research grant presentations are to be conducted at the meeting.

If you have any questions, please visit our newly updated website at www.education.pitt.edu/cgse or contact Lou at lls25@pitt.edu. We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting of the term and anticipate your involvement in our annual conference!

CGSE Conference Update

At this time, the planning and preparation for the CGSE Conference is nearly complete. We would sincerely like to thank all of the individuals who helped us with organization and event planning and are looking forward to one of the most amazing events of the year. We are still in the process of finalizing our Wednesday night keynote speaker, however, our Thursday and Friday speakers are confirmed. More information on our keynotes can be found on page three.

The only thing that’s left for our conference is YOU. Please submit your proposals as soon as possible, to ensure a spot at our historical event.

Call For Conference Proposals

The proposal submission window will run from Tuesday, December 1, 2009 until Friday, February 12, 2010 for all submissions.

Proposals should be no more than 500 words and Any research related to dissertation, Master's thesis, course work, project work, classroom research, or other independent work is eligible for submission. Collaborative research with faculty is eligible for submission as long as the student has played a substantial role in the research.

All proposals undergo "blind" review by members of the committee. The review committee consists of graduate students with representatives from different departments in the School of Education.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Jason Fitzgerald at (cgseconference@gmail.com) or Lou at (lls25@pitt.edu) and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible. We greatly look forward to your submissions!
Office Hours

To accommodate the needs of the CGSE student body, the four officers have agreed to hold office hours throughout the school year. This will be done in an effort to involve more people in CGSE and truly work for you, the student body. Details on office hours are as follows:

Lou Sabina
Lou will hold office hours every Thursday (when general CGSE meetings are not scheduled) between 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM. If you have any interest in getting involved in planning and preparation for the CGSE conference, Lou would greatly appreciate your help. Please note that Lou’s office hours will be after 3:00 PM, to accommodate any MAT or School Leadership students with any questions.

Susanna Benko & Stephanie Kane-Mainier
Susanna and Stephanie will hold office hours on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. They will assist with general questions and those regarding grant applications (but not necessarily the distribution of funding) and grant writing.

Tabetha Bernstein-Danis
Tabetha will hold office hours on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Tabetha will assist with any financial questions involving grants or budgeting for the 2009-2010 school year, in addition to assisting with our conferences.

Conference, Research, and Travel Grants

Please note that the new travel and research grant application has been posted to the CGSE Website—please use this document for spring submissions. The most important things to notice about this document are:

- Spring submission deadline has been extended to: January 14, 2010
- Spring award notification is: January 31, 2010
- Be sure to pick only the grant for which you are applying.

- Grants are no longer awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please read the document for details about how grant money will be awarded.

If you have any questions about the grant procedures for the spring, please contact Susanna Benko or Stephanie Kane-Mainier.

susanna.benko@gmail.com
stephaniekane@mac.com

E-Mail Regarding Student/Staff/Faculty SoE Awards

Please note that in the next week or so, a very important e-mail will be coming out regarding student/faculty/staff awards from the School of Education.

This e-mail will contain information on the following annual awards:

Student Service Award
Staff Service Award

Faculty Award for Exemplary Teaching
Faculty Research Award
Faculty Service Award

The nominations for any of these awards will be due on March 1st, and the criteria will be sent out next week. Please nominate an individual that has made a difference in your life or to the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Education!

CGSE YouTube Account

CGSE is proud to announce a new YouTube account at http://www.youtube.com/user/PITCGSE

If you have videotaped any presentations that you have made at any professional conferences and would like CGSE to host them for you, please contact Lou at lls25@pitt.edu and e-mail your videos and we will upload them to the CGSE account. Use the technology of YouTube to broadcast yourself, promote your research and share your presentations with others!

Also, please consider videotaping your presentation at the CGSE Conference to be hosted on our account!

Please note, there is a 10 minute limit for each clip, so please split the clips prior to submission if your presentation is more than 10 minutes long!
Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speaker—Wednesday, March 24th, 2010—TBA

Details are still being finalized for our Wednesday night keynote speaker, which will take place at 7:30 PM. Wednesday night’s poster session and speaker are sponsored by Dr. James Jacob and the Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE). IISE will be providing an informative speaker to talk about current developments in comparative and international education. As soon as the speaker is finalized, a biography and information will be posted on the CGSE and IISE website.

IISE provides the University of Pittsburgh with one of the most dynamic and productive, internationally-oriented schools of education in the world. IISE is comprised of Affiliated Faculty and Graduate Students associated with one of the four academic departments in the School of Education. IISE also works in collaboration with many other organizations and departments within the University of Pittsburgh, especially the University Center for International Studies (UCIS) and its area studies programs (African, Asian, Latin American, Russian and East European, West European/European Union, and Global Studies).

Keynote Speaker—Thursday, March 25th, 2010—Dr. Isabel Beck

Thursday’s keynote speech will feature former University of Pittsburgh professor and renowned author Dr. Isabel Beck.

Dr. Beck is Professor Emerita of Education in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. She has engaged in extensive research on decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension, and has published her work in over 100 articles and chapters, as well as in several books.

Dr. Beck’s work has been acknowledged by numerous awards. She is a recipient of the Oscar S. Causey Award for outstanding research from the National Reading Conference, and the International Reading Association’s William S. Gray Award for lifetime contributions to the field. She is also a recipient of the contributing researcher award from the American Federation of Teachers for “bridging the gap between research and practice.”

Keynote Speaker—Friday, March 26th, 2010—Dr. Bill Ayers

Friday’s keynote speech will feature Dr. Bill Ayers, professor of education and senior university scholar at the University of Chicago—Illinois.

Dr. Ayers teaches courses in interpretive and qualitative research, urban school change, and teaching and the modern predicament. A graduate of the University of Michigan, the Bank Street College of Education, Bennington College, and Teachers College, Columbia University, Ayers has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, the cultural contexts of schooling, and teaching as an essentially intellectual, ethical, and political enterprise. He is currently the vice-president of the curriculum division of the AERA, and a member of the executive committee of the UIC Faculty Senate.

Dr. Ayers has also published in many journals including the Harvard Educational Review, the Journal of Teacher Education, Educational Leadership, and Rethinking Schools.
CGSE is an organization designed to represent the academic, social, and professional interests of graduate students in the School of Education. Specifically, the purposes of CGSE consist of the following:

- To promote student involvement and representation in the School of Education and University governance.
- To promote academic excellence by organizing and supporting activities for enhancement of School of Education student growth and success.
- To promote cross cultural understanding by facilitating opportunities for social interaction and collaboration among culturally diverse groups of students.
- To promote student professional development.
- To promote a caring and respectful academic, social and professional atmosphere in the SOE.

Chad Dorn, Doctoral Student in the Social and Comparative Analysis of Education program in the Department of Administrative and Policy Studies will be checking in on a monthly basis with suggestions and information on attending and presenting at conferences.

Over the last couple of months many of us have participated in academic conferences, including the AESA conference here in Pittsburgh. The numerous hours we spent on the three Rs of graduate school Reading, Researching and Writing finally culminate into carefully planned presentations of 20 minutes. When we are not presenting, we break up the monotony of death by PowerPoint by mingling with fellow conference goers. After hours spent working on our research, often in isolation, it is rejuvenating to meet individuals who share our interests and establish relationships that can help us in our futures whether we are writing our dissertations or seeking a job.

In 2008, Academia.edu was established to create a virtual community to help academics answer the question “who is researching what?” The Facebook-like organization of the site gives academics a research-based news feed of academic activities related to the user’s interest. The social networking site allows users to find people with similar research interests, keep track of the latest developments in their research area, and maintain an easy-to-use personal webpage. One of the site’s more innovative components is the academic genealogy feature that connects professors, post-docs and graduate students according to their work and the professors they work under.

Setting up an account is easy and free. Just go to www.academia.edu and create one. During the sign-up process you will be asked to specify your university and department, as well as advisor and research interest. The rest is up to you. Hopefully you will find out that many others, or even someone here at Pitt shares your interests.

For most of us it is just nice to find a group of like-minded people. For others, we are looking for a strategic group of people to help us advance our research and thinking. Virtual communities cannot replace our own community here at the University of Pittsburgh. However, Academia.edu gives us the chance to branch out and connect with individuals we would not normally have the opportunity to meet except once a year at the annual conference.

If anyone has any suggestions on how to improve our own community of graduate students so that we are better able to answer the question “who is researching what?” please feel free to contact your CGSE Department Representative or Chad’s Conference Corner

Website:
http://www.education.pitt.edu/cgse/

E-Mail Address: cgse@pitt.edu
Phone Number: 412-648-7055

Check us out on Facebook!
Please join our Facebook group at:
http://www.facebook.com/LouLee7th?ref=nam e#group.php?gid=96593387784&ref=mf

Check here for more up-to-date information and how you can become actively involved in CGSE.