A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends:

The end of the year 2004 offers an opportunity to reflect on the past and plan for the future. While it is true that our academic year extends into 2005, the conclusion of the calendar year presents additional opportunities to reflect and perhaps make resolutions.

Although I am not sure of the origin of the tradition of making New Year’s resolutions, I understand the value and the timing of these decisions. As the year closes, we are faced with decisions that affect our future. That is why we have chosen to share an extra edition of our alumni newsletter, Endeavors, with you. For the first time, we are including an envelope with Endeavors, with a no-solve-way reminder to consider remembering the College of Education as you make financial gifts that could be deducted in part of your tax preparation.

I invite you to join me in including the College of Education in your annual giving. An investment in this college will not only help us in our quest to be one of the top ten colleges of education in the country, but will also make an important difference in the lives of our students and the children and adults they serve after graduation.

As we noted in our last edition of Endeavors, the College of Education’s significant achievements over the past several years have been made without the benefit of any significant renovations or investments in its facilities for more than 20 years and without the benefit of endowed chairs or professorships. An addition to our existing building is a critical need—one that will require private support to continue the public funding of our programs.

We established the Investment in Excellence Fund to secure the overall amount needed to initiate construction in the future. Until the time of construction, the interest from that fund will support scholarships. Our largest gift to date is from Jean Mullan, president of your Alumni Chapter Board of Directors. In an article that appeared in Endeavors, I thank Jean for this magnificent gift that will benefit both our facilities and students, and hope that some of you will be able to join Jean in this investment.

Another priority of the college is to secure private support for the Maryland Institute for Minority Achievement and Urban Education. This large-scale research and development effort partners with area school districts to focus on the interwoven problems of urban school reform and minority achievement. We hope to obtain private funds to name the Institute for a benefactor and endow the directorship.

Finally, it is important for our alumni and friends to know that to be among the host, we need to recruit and retain top faculty. Many of the most prestigious colleges have endowed funds that support chairs or professorships. Unfortunately, our competitors use these prestigious positions to lure away some of our best faculty. In order to retain our position of preeminence, we must receive funds for endowed chairs and professorships.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss a range of naming interests along these lines with our alumni and friends.

In the coming months, I will share more about our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the College of Education. Until then, I want to thank our many wonderful alumni who make regular gifts to the college and those who have chosen to designate gifts to specific departments and programs. We are grateful, too, for those alumni who might choose to make a special gift to the College of Education as part of a resolution to show their appreciation.

On behalf of the College of Education, our faculty, staff and student community, we wish all of you a peaceful, productive and happy New Year.

Edna Mora Szymanski, Dean and Professor
College of Education

Scholarships: An Invaluable Tool and Key to Success

A conversation with Kathleen Angeletti – Assistant Dean for Student Services

Scholarships have always been important to students struggling to finance higher education, but in recent times, they have proven in many cases to be the key to student success. Scholarships can be the difference in pursuing a degree, or dropping out.

According to Kathleen Angeletti, assistant dean for student services in the College of Education, the costs of a college education have been escalating steadily. Due to decreasing state funding, a greater financial burden is being placed on state universities, which in turn falls on students. Tuition costs have risen and all students have been impacted, especially those coming from out of state.

Now, more than ever, students have to search diligently for financial aid options, which is not without its obstacles. For instance, the Maryland Higher Education Commission has announced it no longer is accepting applications for HOPE Scholarship programs for 2004-2005. This has created a significant void and students are looking for ways to help fill it. Academic advisors in the Office of Student Services are concerned that a worrisome trend might be developing where students are working more to afford school, which in turn affects their academic performance. Student Services is seeing more students taking a reduced course load and/or postponing to drop classes in mid-semester. This is very frustrating to see and leads to students taking longer to complete their degree.

Successful defined as degree completion

New on the horizon is the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion policy that was approved by the University Senate for implementation in fall 2005. In an effort to reduce the current average of students’ time to degree, this policy will stipulate that students who do not graduate within a four-year time period will need special permission from the dean of their college to continue their programs. This policy has the potential to greatly benefit students because it provides them with a structured framework, initiatives to support student success, and appropriate criteria to guide them in this pursuit. At the same time, however, the policy puts greater pressure on students to take a full course schedule.

“We know that the financial needs of students bear on academic success and readiness, but there is concern about having the necessary financial supports in place once this policy is implemented,” Angeletti explains.

Increased scholarship support is particularly needed for juniors and seniors, who face financial hardships in their course of study that are not usually taken into account. In particular, every student majoring in education is required to complete an extensive field component as part of their teacher education.

This senior-year capstone experience includes a year-long internship in a Professional Development School. The internship is viewed as a full-time commitment. Having a second job is strongly discouraged. In addition, the student-teaching experience requires a special fee of $400, students are expected to have professional dress, and they must be prepared to travel to whichever school is assigned at their own expense. Students in their final year also have to pay for licensing exams among other expenses Angeletti knows of students who have been forced to choose between their education and financial survival. This “Scholarships are critical,” she says, “especially those that have criteria that allow for flexibility in selecting qualified applicants.” She noted that the recently established Charles J. Bratty Scholarship Fund provides support for Montgomery College transfer students who are interested in completing an undergraduate degree.

Approximately 35 College of Education students receive support from scholarships, thanks to benefactors who recognized the value of setting up scholarship funds. For these and other donors, the benefit of helping students is often more important than the tax and financial benefits received for setting up scholarship funds.

“It is because of these generous alumni and friends that we are able to create an environment where students can come and not have to worry about a choice of education for financial reasons,” Angeletti said. “I am hopeful that we can keep the momentum going. On behalf of the students, thank you for your generous support of the College of Education scholarship programs.”

Alumna Presents Generous Gift to College’s Investment in Excellence Fund

The Investment in Excellence Fund was established to accept gifts to initiate construction of an addition to the Benjamin Building, the current home of the College of Education. Until such time that ground can be broken, proceeds from the donations to the fund will be used to provide scholarship support to College of Education students.

As honored as Kathleen Angeletti is, she has made this most generous gift to the college,” said Szymanski. “This fund is very special to the College of Education, and will help us fulfill our goals of providing scholarship support to worthy students.”

Said Szymanski, “Her contribution is a reflection of her desire to help the College of Education in its quest to be among the top ten colleges in the nation. It is a wonderful way to launch this year’s fundraising campaign.”

Mullan earned her bachelor of science degree in elementary education. She taught at Cherry Lane Elementary School in Prince George’s County for 21 years moving to New York where she completed post-graduate credits while teaching second, third and fourth grades. She retired from teaching to raise a family, but has stayed active in education through volunteer work.

An active civic volunteer, Mullan holds a longtime friendship and support of the University of Maryland. She has served as president of the College of Education alumni board for just over two years.

Jae Mullan presenting Edna Mora Szymanski with her gift to the College of Education.
NSF Renews Funding of Center for Graduate Studies and Research in Mathematics Education

As part of its effort to address critical issues relating to mathematics education, particularly the persistent shortage of highly qualified mathematics teachers at all levels, the National Science Foundation has awarded $11.5 million in ongoing support for the Mid-Atlantic Center for Mathematics Teaching and Learning.

The Mid-Atlantic Center is a partnership involving mathematics educators and mathematicians at the University of Maryland, the University of Delaware, and The Pennsylvania State University, and leaders of school mathematics programs in Prince George's County, the Delaware State Department of Education, and Pittsburgh.

"This continuation of this outstanding program with support from the NSF recognizes the leadership role the University of Maryland has taken in providing a knowledge base for improved practice of mathematics education," says Edna Mora Szymanski, Dean of the College of Education. "By collaborating with our partner universities and schools, we continue to strengthen our leadership role the University of Maryland has taken in providing a knowledge base for improved practice of mathematics education today." Over the past four years, the Center has addressed two tasks that are fundamental in improving the performance of pre-service teachers and the professional development of in-service mathematics teachers K-12. During the five-year period of extended funding, Mid-Atlantic Center faculty will continue their work in graduate education and mathematics teacher development and focus on three research questions with critical implications for policy and practice in mathematics education:

• How do pre-service teachers develop mathematical and pedagogical knowledge from content and methods courses and internship experiences?
• How do practicing teachers draw on and continue to develop mathematical and pedagogical knowledge in the course of their professional work?
• How does teacher content and pedagogical knowledge affect student achievement?

They will also study ways to assemble and represent research findings in ways that provide a usable knowledge base for practice in K-12 mathematics education. The Center’s research on teacher knowledge is also important in the broad educational policy arena—influencing teacher preparation programs, certification standards, and school system hiring and staff development practices. According to Fey, the Mid-Atlantic Center work in doctoral education has already demonstrated solid achievement in attracting a talented and diverse pool of mathematics educators to prepare themselves for leadership positions in the nation's colleges, universities, and school systems.

"The faculty and doctoral fellows affiliated with the Mid-Atlantic Center for Mathematics Learning and Teaching have demonstrated the expertise required by our planned research and development projects, and they will be working from a strong foundation built during the current funding period. We are pointed to extend that work, building on the reputation established in our prior work."

Would you like to invest in educational excellence?

The University of Maryland College of Education ranks 20th in the nation. Our future is bright with progress and prestige. There is a way that you can help today.

• Are you interested in making a gift that returns fixed, guaranteed, lifetime income to you and/or to one other person, and later supports the education initiatives at the University of Maryland?
• Are you able to make a gift of $5,000 or more using cash or appreciated securities?
• Do you own stock or cash assets yielding 5% or less annually?
• Are you over 50 years of age?

If you can answer “yes” to at least three of these questions, a Charitable Gift Annuity can benefit you and the College of Education. For more information please contact Darcelle H. Wilson, assistant dean for development, College of Education, 301.405.6644 or visit www.umd.edu.

Endowed Fund Supports Initiatives in the Department of Special Education

With a professional career spanning 60 years, Professor Emeritus Jean Hebeler has been an inspiration to generations of students and a role model for collegial leadership and collaboration. Her longstanding association with the College of Education is one of the reasons her colleagues, friends and former students decided to honor her by establishing an endowed fund in her name to benefit the Department of Special Education.

The Special Education Endowed Fund in Honor of Dr. Jean R. Hebeler honors and celebrates her career of teaching, service, and inquiry. The fund makes annual awards to promote graduate and undergraduate students pursuing programs in special education. It also supports selected professional development activities of faculty that would enrich the intellectual life of students.

Her innovations in special education reach beyond the University of Maryland to neighboring school districts, across the state, and nationwide through her leadership of the Council for Exceptional Children. Within the university community, her contributions extended to other departments and colleges through her service as a member of the University Senate and acting dean of the College of Education from 1992-1994.

For information on how to support the Special Education Endowed Fund in Honor of Dr. Jean R. Hebeler, please contact the Department of Special Education at 301.405.6515.
College Recognizes 14 Alumni and Friends at Annual Awards Ceremony

Outstanding alumni representing a wide range of disciplines were honored Nov. 18 at the College of Education’s annual Alumni Awards Ceremony held at the Inn and Conference Center at University College. Celebrated during American Education Week, the annual ceremony honors outstanding leaders, professionals, scholars, alumni, entrepreneurs and the teacher of the year. The event was hosted by the College of Education Alumni Chapter Board of Directors, with support from Phi Delta Kappa.

The theme of the evening was “Celebrating Education: A Tribute to Teaching and Learning,” awards were presented by the President of the Alumni Chapter Board of Directors, Jean Mullin ’68, and Dean of the College of Education, Edna Mora Szymanski, Ph.D. EnTrace for the evening was Robert Ryan, treasurer of the board. The evening was dedicated to a College of Education colleague, Charles Bratter, who passed away in September. Bratter and his wife, Mary Ann, were recognized for their Distinguished Service to the College of Education.

A full biography of each recipient can be found on the College of Education website, www.education.umd.edu.

The Maryland Fund for Excellence: Annual Gifts that Benefit Your College of Education

Contributing to the Maryland Fund for Excellence is a great way to give back to your alma mater and show your Terrapin pride! Your annual gift not only advances the College of Education, but it also supports the mission of the highly regarded University of Maryland.

Particularly in those times of reduced state assistance, alumni gifts provide valuable support in the college’s continued quest for excellence. Financial contributions, whether large or modest, augment funds for student initiatives, support faculty projects, and create critical education and research programs. Plus, the continued excellence of the college’s distinguished programs adds value to your degree.

Through the Maryland Fund for Excellence, you can choose from various ways to do your part in upholding the college’s traditions of distinction. You can designate your gift to the recently-established Investment in Excellence Fund. Proceeds from this fund will initially be used to provide annual scholarships for students enrolled in the College of Education. Eventually, this fund will help the College of Education reach its goal of expanding its facilities.

Also critical to the college’s continued rise in national prominence is the Dean’s Initiative Fund—a special account of unrestricted funds that is used to advance the college’s strategic initiatives. College of Education Dean, Edna Mora Szymanski, is deeply appreciative of the gifts to this fund as it offers means to meeting emerging challenges and priorities.

Alumni can also opt to designate their annual gift to support the Transitions Scholarship Program Fund, which was created to help students who need financial support as they transfer their education from a local community college to the University of Maryland.

The College of Education is grateful for gifts alumni make annually to support its initiatives. Students have already started calling on behalf of the college, and we hope you will take a moment to speak with them to learn more about our progress and our programs. These student callers truly enjoy talking with our alumni and will be happy to update you on news from the College of Education, or answer any questions you might have about designating your gifts to the program of your choice. For more information, visit: www.excellence.umd.edu.

Center for Young Children Sponsors Institute for Teachers, Educators

Despite growing parental and test pressures to cram even more facts into young children, teachers should instead emphasize getting the youngsters to think and reason, early childhood educators were told at a daylong institute sponsored by the University of Maryland’s Center for Young Children (CYC).

“Children’s thinking hasn’t changed,” nationally renowned educator Carol Sorefeld, Ph.D., the institute’s keynote speaker, reminded her audience Oct. 23 at the Center for Young Children. The way to make a curriculum meaningful—and therefore effective—for young children, she said, is to build it around hands-on experience, since that is the way children learn best. The author of books on early childhood education, Sorefeld is a professor emeritus in the University of Maryland’s College of Education and has worked with the Maryland State Department of Education as a consultant on issues involving children’s learning.

“Teachers today ‘can practice quality early childhood education and still meet the standards’ required of them by the growing profession of mandated tests,” said Frances Farretto, Ph.D., director of the Center for Young Children. “It can be done.”

The institute was a sharing of the work that teachers at the Center for Young Children and the other educators in attendance are undertaking to find the most effective ways to teach preschool children. “Making Curriculum Meaningful: Children as Researchers” included workshops on early childhood art; meaningful story time; investigative science study; and analyzing data like surveys, charts, and graphs, for math learning.

“With hands-on study, children are in the position of being researchers,” CYC curriculum specialist Francine Sacchetti explained to the attendees. When children visit a business or organization in their community, such as an art studio, with teachers’ guidance they are finding out things on their own, such as what real artists do. “We want them to discover,” she said. “In the process,” she added, “teachers are teaching children how to think.”

“Building a curriculum around this approach is extremely challenging to teachers,” noted Lawrence McCarthy, an institute participant and teacher at the Child Development Center at American University. “It requires them to be very clear not only about this philosophy, but also about how to carry it out,” McCarthy said.

We Would Like to Hear From You!

Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to the College of Education. You can also use this form to request information about our College of Education Alumni Chapter activities.

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Check here if you would like additional information on:

- College of Education Alumni Chapter email updates (email address required)
- Membership in the University of Maryland Alumni Association
- Planned giving opportunities to benefit the College of Education
- Making a contribution to support the Dean’s Initiative Fund

Mail this form to: Endeavors, Office of External Relations, College of Education, 3115 Benjamin Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

Or, send us an email to: Endeavors@umd.edu

www.education.umd.edu
Following is a list of upcoming events of interest to College of Education alumni and friends. For information on any of these events, please contact Pat Costantino '66, '69, Director of Alumni Relations, College of Education, at 301.405.5607, or send an email to pcostant@umd.edu. You can also visit our web site: www.education.umd.edu.

Saturday, February 5, 2005
College of Education Alumni Chapter Board of Directors Meeting and Retreat
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: TBD
www.education.umd.edu/alumni

Saturday, February 12, 2005
2nd Annual Valentine Party for Terp Couples
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
University College Marriott Inn and Conference Center
Terps marrying Terps, couples who met on campus and those who wed at the beautiful Memorial Chapel all share a special bond: love for that special someone and love for Maryland. Make this Valentine's Day one to reconnect and remember. Join the Alumni Association for a romantic evening especially for Terp Couples. For more information, contact Linda Roth '84 at lsroth@terpalum.umd.edu.

Thursday, March 3, 2005
Baltimore Area Alumni Event
6 to 9 p.m.
National Aquarium of Baltimore
Join us for this festive event and a special opportunity to visit the aquarium’s outstanding exhibits. Last year’s event was attended by more than 50 alumni and friends who enjoyed the beautiful view of the Inner Harbor. Invitations will be sent. www.education.umd.edu/alumni

Thursday, April 7, 2005
College of Education Alumni Chapter Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 p.m.
3237 Benjamin, University of Maryland
www.education.umd.edu/alumni

Saturday, April 30, 2005
Maryland Day: Explore Our World
The University of Maryland, College Park opens its doors for alumni and their families, parents, prospective students, the business community, and residents of the surrounding Baltimore-Washington Metro area to visit our beautiful campus. Come and enjoy a day filled with learning, exploration, and fun for everyone. Stop by the College of Education tent on the mall to meet the Dean and learn about our programs. www.marylandday.umd.edu

Friday, May 20, 2005
Silver and Gold Anniversary Program
1955 and 1980 were both very good years. Alumni who graduated in those years will be invited to reunite on the 25th and 50th anniversary of that momentous event in their lives by once again donning in special “silver and gold” graduation regalia, participating in a special ceremony, and enjoying a reunion with their classmates. www.education.umd.edu/alumni

Sunday, May 22, 2005
College of Education Spring 2005 Graduation
The College of Education graduation ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 22. Time and location to be determined. www.education.umd.edu

Calling all Retirees…You are Invited to Join a Cruise!
Portugal and Spain
The College of Education Retirees’ Association is planning its first cruise for members and alumni of the college. The association’s board has made plans for a trip to northern Portugal and Spain departing August 3, 2005. The trip is a combination land tour of Lisbon and the surrounding area, and a cruise on the Douro Queen departing from Porto on the Douro River across from northern Portugal and Spain. Eleven excursions are included with the trip along with special dinners at monasteries, tours of a winery and gardens, and other interesting sites. A cruise-only option is offered.

For more information on arrangements and booking, contact Bob Hardy, College of Education Retirees’ Association, at 410.730.0781.

Seats are also available on these upcoming day trips:

February 24, 2005
Trip to the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre
Wilmington, Delaware
Show: Ain’t Misbehavin’
Buffet lunch, transportation included.
Cost: $72, including a deposit of $20.
Departs: 9:30 a.m. and returns by 6 p.m.

May 21, 2005
Trip to Broadway
Show: Mamma Mia
Cost: $150 including a $100 deposit.
Show: Beauty and the Beast
Cost: $145 including a deposit of $100.
Departs: 7:15 a.m. and returns at 6:15 p.m.

October 1, 2005
Trip to Historic Waterford, Virginia
Craft show and tour of historic homes.
Cost: $50 including a deposit of $20.
Departs: 7:45 a.m. and returns at 6:15 p.m.

October 18, 2005
Trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Sight and Sound Theater
Show: The Psalms of David
Cost: $67 including a deposit of $20.
Departs: 9:30 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m.

For more information on the cruise or upcoming day trips, contact Bob Hardy, College of Education Retirees’ Association, at 410.730.0781.

Fear the Turtle.