First Colloquium Session: February 7, 2007

Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden
Associate Professor, Department of Human Development, UMCP

Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1996 in the area of Psychology. She was named Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland in the Department of Human Development in 1996. She was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2003. During her career she has received many honors and awards including being named as a Hartman Child and Family Scholar in 2004. She is an outstanding researcher and prolific writer with more than 15 articles already published in good refereed journals. She is an expert on Early Childhood Education and Children’s Welfare.

Dr. Rolf Grafwallner
Assistant State Superintendent, Early Childhood Development, MSDE

Dr. Grafwallner currently is the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Childhood Development at the Maryland State Department of Education. The Division is responsible for the technical support to local school systems regarding prekindergarten and kindergarten. It also includes the responsibility for licensing, monitoring, and enforcement of child care programs. It provides funding under Quality Improvement portion of the Child Care Development Fund, the state’s Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Family Support Centers Network. In addition it offers a number of initiatives to improve the quality of early care and education in Maryland, such as the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MSMR), MSDE Standards for Implementing Quality Early Learning Programs, Judy Centers, Early Childhood Accreditation Project, Child Care Credentialing Project, and prekindergarten and kindergarten content standards as well as guidelines for early care and learning (birth to age 3). Dr. Grafwallner has more than 20 years of experience in early childhood education as a teacher, education supervisor, program director, and state administrator. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in the area of Education Policy, Planning, and Administration.

Dr. Felicia DeHaney
Sr. Program Associate, National Black Child Development Institute, Washington, DC

Dr. Felicia DeHaney is currently a Senior Program Associate and SPARK-DC Project Director for the National Black Child Development Institute, Inc. (NBCDI), a non-profit children’s organization located in Washington, DC. As the Director of SPARK-DC, an initiative to improve school readiness for young children in the District of Columbia funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation, she is responsible for the program development, program supervision, and ongoing analysis of program evaluation. SPARK DC partners include DC Public Schools, the Office of Early Care and Education, Department of Recreation, DC Department of Health, as well as non-profit and community leaders. Dr. DeHaney’s research interests are in the area of early childhood care and development, cognition and learning, child psychology, and social emotional development. Dr. DeHaney completed a Research Fellowship with the Defense Manpower Data Center/Department of Defense in Washington, DC. She has been a member of The American Psychological Association, the National Association of Black Psychologist, the National Black Child Development Institute, and the National Education Association. She serves as a steering committee member on several educational initiatives and collaborations in the District of Columbia. Dr. DeHaney received her B.S. in Psychology from Howard University, a M.A. in Educational Psychology from Columbia University- Teachers College, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Howard University.

All Colloquium Sessions are 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., in room 0220 Benjamin Building

STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, MEMBERS OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY AND THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY AT LARGE ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

For further information, please visit www.education.umd.edu/MIMAUE or call Dr. Martin L. Johnson, MIMAUE Director at 301-405-0246.