



Dozens of educators attend Centenary University's Annual Literacy Conference to learn about equitable instruction for all learners.

Fall and Spring Education Forums

At the fall and spring Education Forums, the School of Education and Humanities celebrated its clinical interns for their accomplishments in the Education program and in their classrooms.

Both events featured guest speaker Tom Marshall — the Principal of Stony Lane Elementary School, leader of the New Jersey Literacy Leaders' Network, and a former staff developer and national consultant for the Teachers College Reading & Writing Project. Mr. Marshall delivered a presentation called, "Be the Duckling: Looking Ahead to Your First Few Years as a Teacher," where he discussed how to find the joy in teaching and motivated the interns as they head off into their first jobs.

Spring graduate Jake Lombardo said, "The Education Forum was a cherry on top of the enlightening experience that student teaching provided. Celebrating with our fellow clinical interns and professors allowed us all to commemorate our shared experiences throughout the semester. The forum also gave us the chance to build new connections with administrators and education professionals as we enter the profession of teaching. This event, as well as my time in Centenary's education program, solidified and validated my choice to become an educator in seeing a community come together to not only support one another, but to best support our future generation of learners."

The School of Education and Humanities would like to congratulate the following interns on their success in their clinical experience this school year:

Fall 2023

Christina Bubniak
Isabella Delgado-Saling
Gina Farino
Courtney Kastl
Natalie Kelson
Deniza Mehmedovic
Quinn Perschy
Margaret Saalfield
Michaela Snyder
Carolyn Stoner

Spring 2024

Johanna Beam
Alyssa Bizzarro
Antonia Cacopardo
Macy Conklin
Brianna Creagh
Isabel Dutta
Kelly Ann Earrusso
Erica Gallo
Brenda Galvez-Hernandez
Shelby Garno
Jennifer Hardison
Jake Lombardo
Kayla Melnizek
Ashley Natale
Zachary Orr
Tanya Priego
Viannys Reyes
Lynn Roberto
Danielle Savarin
Sarah Sconda
Puja Shah
Maya Wicki

FUTURE EDUCATOR'S DAY: OCTOBER 27, 2023

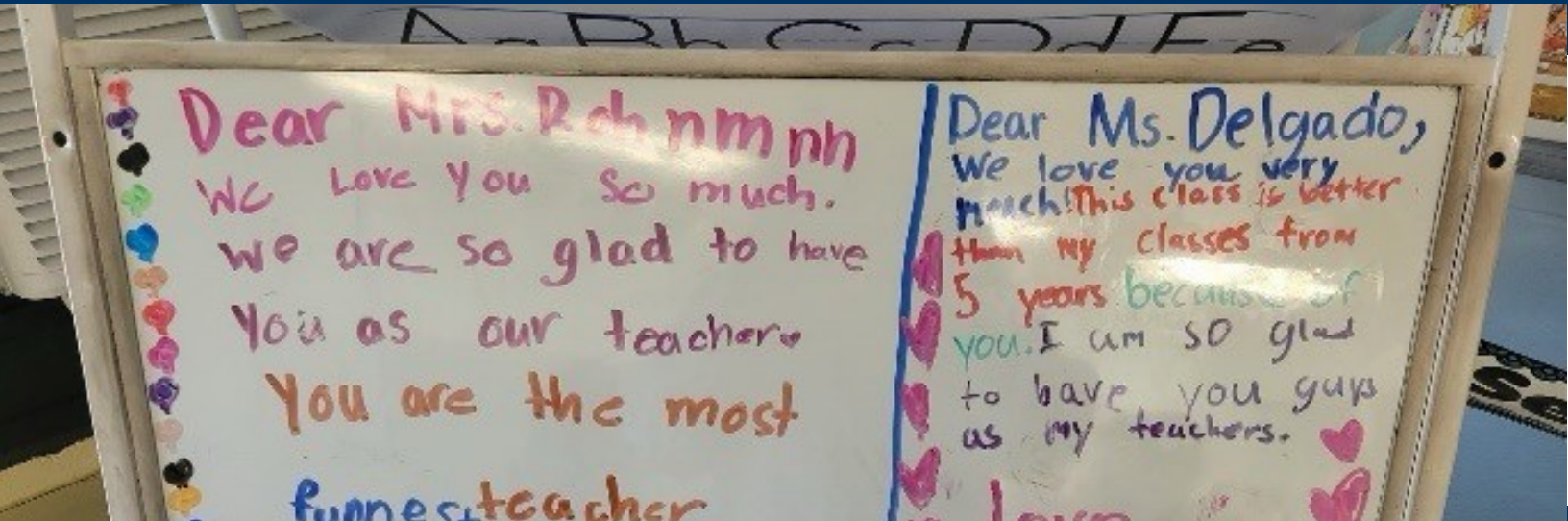


Dr. William Carpluk, event organizer, giving his closing notes.

STORY HOUR: SPRING 2024



Prof. Katherine Chrusz with her daughter at Story Hour in Taylor Memorial Library



Kind letters from the students at Patrick McGahren School.

The Importance of a Holistic Approach

By Isabella Delgado

Clinical Intern at Patrick McGahren School

When we embarked on this journey into teaching, our goal was to effect positive change and leave a lasting impact on future generations. During my time as a student teacher, I had the privilege of collaborating with a diverse array of educators, administrators, LDTs, and many others who contributed to my growth and development. In the initial phase of my student teaching, I had the opportunity to delve into and refine my personal teaching philosophy while witnessing theory put into practice. In the latter part of my student teaching journey, I encountered individuals who left an indelible mark on my approach to teaching.

One such individual was Ms. Julie Tepper, my co-operating teacher in special education. Under her guidance, I learned invaluable lessons in time management, preparation, and the art of establishing meaningful connections with students. Additionally, Mrs. Meghan Rohmann imparted to me the significance of infusing joy into teaching and the importance of fostering open collaboration. Their mentorship underscored the importance of addressing the holistic needs of students and the art of differentiation to cater to diverse learning styles and abilities.

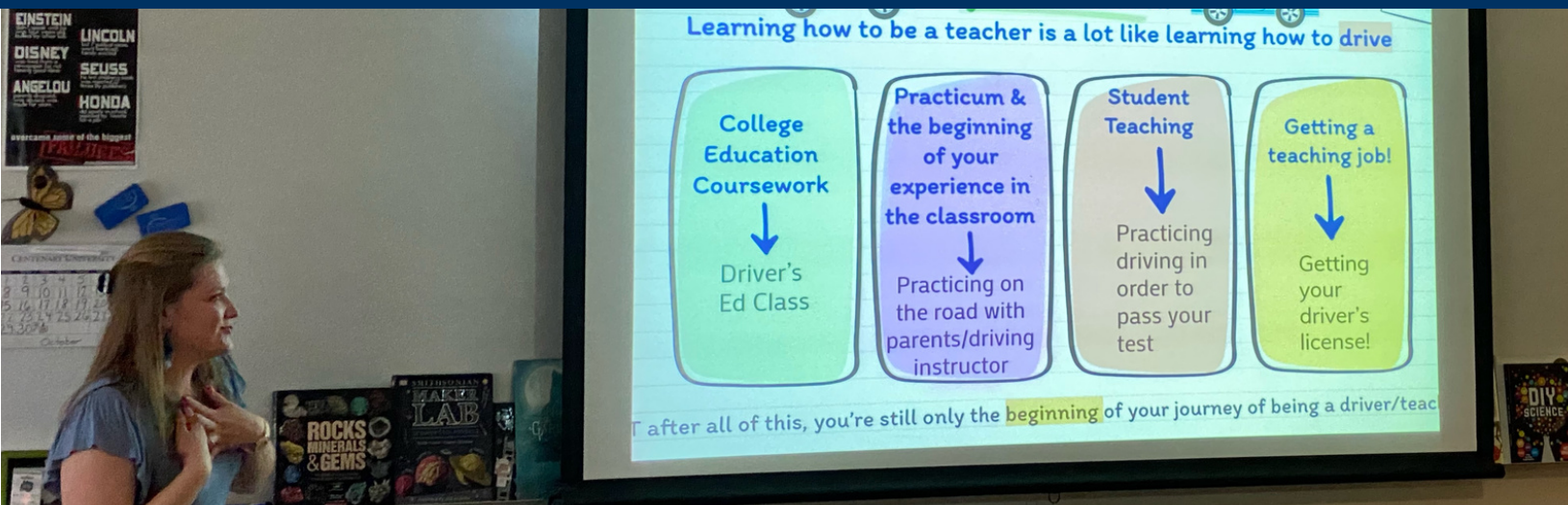
It is crucial to recognize that our students come from varied backgrounds and may face challenges beyond the classroom. Providing a safe and inclusive environment where they can express themselves, fostering collaboration, and imparting social-emotional skills alongside academic content are paramount aspects of our role as educators. While content mastery is undoubtedly vital, it is equally essential not to lose sight of nurturing the overall development of the child.

In my teaching journey, I've encountered students from diverse backgrounds where recognizing the impact of unstable home environments on learning is crucial. Let's call one such student "Student A". Student A, who initially struggled to count to 10 at age 5, made remarkable progress under the guidance of my supervisors and me. They learned to count, recite the alphabet, and even grasp addition and subtraction using manipulatives like blocks. Student A's journey underscores the importance of personalized support and highlights the positive outcomes achievable through dedicated educators. I will persist in guiding my students along this path, ensuring that they find school as a sanctuary where they can feel safe and find comfort, peace, and the freedom to explore—a haven they might not encounter elsewhere.

My experience within the Clinton Township School District, alongside its dedicated and talented educators, has been instrumental in my ongoing journey as a teacher. It has reignited my passion for learning and provided me with invaluable insights into effective teaching practices. I go on hoping that future educators are privileged enough to have this experience as well.

Thriving in today's schools demands more than just passion; it requires dedication, resilience, and strength. I have no doubt that each graduate of Centenary University's Education Program will embark on a bright and impactful career, enriching the lives of countless students along the way.

Thank you to everyone—faculty, fellow students, and all others—who have contributed to making my time here the most rewarding and exciting period of my educational journey. I am eagerly looking forward to meeting the incredible teachers who will emerge from these programs in the future.



Natalie Kelson (Spring '24) sharing her experience in the undergraduate Education program with future educators.

The First Time a Student Told Me I Was a Good Teacher

By Natalie Kelson '23

Clinical Intern at Valley View School

For many of us pre-service teachers, the pressure to achieve the status of "being a good teacher" can feel incredibly overwhelming at times. We wonder after every time we submit a lesson plan, present an observation lesson, or write a reflection, "Is this good enough?... am I good enough?"

It is this reason that I will never forget the first time a student told me that I was a good teacher.

I was placed in a first-grade class for my practicum experience, and one morning, I was standing near a table of students. They were working on some morning work, and as I was observing, I could tell that this one little boy was getting a bit confused. So, I leaned down to him, re-explained the directions, and gave him an example of what the first answer would be, doing my best to be calm and encouraging. I did all of this without even thinking much about it, as I had given the same guidance to many students already that morning. But as I stood back up, ready to move on to the next student, the student I had just assisted cocked his head up at me and said, "Miss Kelson, you're a really good teacher."

If this little boy only knew that I, quite literally, had to fight back bursting into spontaneous waterworks in response to

his simple comment. But since he was a seven-year-old, he just smiled at me and then turned back around to begin searching for the word that rhymed with "bat."

What perplexed me for a while about this little boy's proclamation was that he said this pretty early on in my time in his classroom. So, if we're getting technical, I hadn't even really "taught" him anything yet! I didn't start presenting lessons to them until weeks later. Yet, something possessed him to confidently declare me to be a "good teacher."

After spending some time reflecting on his words, it eventually dawned on me that the qualifications that children have for someone to be a good teacher are so much simpler and intuitive than the other measures that we constantly evaluate ourselves against. I think and hope that this student claimed me as a "good teacher" simply because I was kind and showed that I genuinely cared about him, his classmates, and helping them learn.

As teachers, we must never forget these actions to be at the core of our practice.

Teaching is a profession filled with nuance and constant countless decisions to be made, which can cause you to feel

like you're searching for the magic potion to make yourself a great teacher.

You can easily get lost in your whole-hearted attempt to do the best job that you possibly can. But as educators, we must remember that many of our natural instincts and dispositions are what lead to our effectiveness in the profession of teaching.

What students need most isn't always the most perfectly crafted lesson or instructional technique but simply an individual who cares deeply about their learning and about them as people.

And sometimes, it just takes a compliment from a seven-year-old to remind you of that.





Lynn Roberto (Spring '24) with husband Chuck Roberto (CU alumni '21) and two children at the Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony.

Spilling the Tea on OPP (Other People's Perspective)

By Lynn Roberto

Clinical Intern at Franklin Township School

Trying to understand another person's point of view can be very challenging, especially if you have been raised to view an event from specific perspective. This was the topic of a recent social studies lesson in my 4th-grade class.

Combining a STEM activity and building on a language arts lesson on point of view, my class was challenged with viewing an iconic American moment from a different perspective. The Boston Tea Party is a well-known historical event in our country. It is taught in every elementary school nationwide and is recognized as a pivotal signpost on the road to the American Revolution. To this day, the Boston Tea Party is celebrated and reenacted each year as we reminisce about the bravery and ingenuity of our patriotic founding fathers.

As we Americans dress in costumes and parade through the streets to celebrate, then ceremoniously dump tea leaves into the Boston Harbor, do we ever stop to think about how the British are celebrating the Boston Tea Party? It is doubtful they are rejoicing in the streets as we Americans are! When we consider the rippling effects of this historical event, it is impossible to ignore the global ramifications of one's actions. Students were tasked with viewing the Boston Tea Party through the eyes of the British as well as the Chinese, as the Chinese were

in fact the growers of the tea that was destroyed. The students were asked to discuss how they would feel seeing the results of their hard work and their tremendous financial investments tossed into the sea!

In an effort to prevent further loss of valuable resources, we brainstormed ideas on how we might protect the tea. Could we build a better crate, one that could withstand the long journey across the Atlantic and safely deliver our tea to the intended market? The class was divided into four teams of crate builders. The team that had the most successful tea crate would be the team that the British would hire as the official tea crate builders to the Crown!

To be part of such royalty (or royal-tea, get it?), the students would need to use the engineering design process we had learned in science, and using the criteria and constraints provided, the teams would design and build a tea crate that would keep the tea out of the water. Some of these constraints included 12 popsicle sticks, a 6-inch square of waxed paper, 6 inches of tape, and 12 inches of yarn. The teams were provided with only one tea bag. When the crates were built, with great ceremony, we transported our goods to the docks and launched the crates into the water... and by that, I

mean they put their tea crates into plastic tubs of water and set a timer!

Once all the crates were lowered into the water, the students had the opportunity to view the other teams' designs, and once again consider another's perspective. They were all impressed with what the other teams created, there was a lot of oohing and aahing as they asked, "Why didn't I think of that?" After viewing the competition, the teams were asked to secretly cast a vote for the crate they felt would be the most successful. This gave the students another opportunity to triumph, because even if their crate wasn't the most successful, they might still have a victory in predicting the winner!

Overall, the teams were all very successful. In fact, the project carried over into the next day! The winning team managed to keep their tea dry for 27 hours! This lesson was well received by my students. They, of course, enjoyed the hands-on activity as well as collaborating with their teams. I enjoyed watching them work together to achieve a common goal and found it both inspiring and promising to see the students consider how the impact of one event can have far reaching global effects. Experiencing a different point of view is certainly a lesson I will not soon forget, and I hope it is one that stays with my students for years to come!



Jake Lombardo, Alyssa Bizzarro, and Dr. Noah Haiduc-Dale entertain kids at Super Hero Story Hour at CycloneCon.

2023-2024 School of Education and Humanities Events

Future Educators' Day

In October, over 100 high school students from local school districts attended Future Educators' Day. Attendees heard keynote speeches from Robyn Meyh, the Morris County Teacher of the Year; Tara Scritore, the Sussex County Teacher of the Year; Colleen Grzywacz, the Warren County Teacher of the Year; and Gargi Adhikari, the Hunterdon County Teacher of the Year. These speeches were moderated by Jennifer Skomial, the 2018-2019 New Jersey Teacher of the Year. The future educators then attended workshops with the teachers of the year and a Q&A session with Centenary University Education faculty and current students. Natalie Kelson, a current senior at Centenary University and education major provided an insightful and engaging presentation titled, "Becoming Miss Kelson: My Journey as a Pre-service Teacher."

Stories Told Through Sound

In February, Centenary University alumni Barry M. Putt, Jr. ran a free audio drama writing workshop. Barry earned his Master of English Literature from Centenary and has scripted over fifty audio dramas for companies in the U.S., Canada, and China. His book *Stories Told Through Sound: The Craft of Writing Audio Dramas for Podcasts, Streaming, and Radio* was published in November 2023. Barry's workshop discussed story structure, character development, and adaptation techniques and gave participants an opportunity to practice brainstorming techniques for audio drama writing.

Multiverses in the Mid-Atlantic

Centenary University hosted its second annual popular culture conference, *Multiverses in the Mid-Atlantic* this April. The conference featured presentations on a variety of topics from faculty, staff, and students. In the portion "Educational Experiences Through Pop Culture," presenters discussed the lessons of Fred Rogers, music as a tool for a cultural education in the history classroom, and information about correctional education. This segment was followed by "Cultural Expression in Science Fiction," featuring presentations on communication in Star Trek and art in Stargate SG-1. During "Learning Through Games," presenters discussed the educational value of video games and the relationship between Dungeons and Dragons and American Imperialism. The final segment "Superheroes and Society" included presentations on Kitty Pryde, Deku from My Hero Academia, and Trunks from Dragon Ball Z.

CycloneCon

CycloneCon brought community members of all ages to campus for a day of shopping, gaming, and cosplaying. Nearly 100 vendors and artists filled the gym, food trucks set up shop on campus, and there was a full day of trivia, workshops, and panels. Kids got involved too, attending story time with superheroes in Taylor Memorial Library and checking out the Oasis Arcade. Oasis also hosted a Super Smash Brothers Ultimate tournament. The day culminated with a cosplay catwalk.



Members of the Centenary Learning Community partaking in our annual Literacy Conference (Left to Right) Alice M. James (Exec. Director: Black Authors Hall Of Fame), Elaine Harold-Robinson (Co-Executive Director: Black Educators Hall of Fame), Dr. Micheal Rush (Co-Executive Director: Black Educators Hall of Fame.), Vicki Sylvain (Centenary University Board Of Trustees), Dr. Dale Caldwell (Centenary University President), and Maudelyne Maxineau- Gedeon (Haitian Children's book author).

2023-2024 School of Education and Humanities Events

KDE Induction

Kappa Delta Epsilon welcomed their new inductees and officers on April 21st. Friends and family joined KDE in the chapel to celebrate the accomplishments of these future educators and scholars.



School Leader Literacy Conference

In May, the Master of Education in Educational Leadership Program hosted a complimentary workshop for educational leaders: *Sorting Fact from Fiction Regarding Literacy Instruction*. The workshop was led by Interim Dean, Dr. Timothy Frederiks and Dr. Lexis McCoy, Director of the MEd in Literacy Instruction Program and ESL Teacher Certification Program. Educational leaders from throughout the state spent the morning learning about the importance of using a wide range of evidence-based practices to create a comprehensive literacy program in their school districts.

KDE Ribbon Cutting

Kappa Delta Epsilon was delighted to unveil the Clinical Classroom that they funded and designed so future educators can have a space to learn in that reflects an elementary classroom environment. Learn more [here](#).



Literacy Conference: Equitable Instruction For All Learners

The Master of Education in Literacy Instruction and ESL Teacher Certification Programs were honored to sponsor Kia Brown-Dudley, President of the International Literacy Association, and Dr. Kenneth Kunz, ILA Immediate Past President, as the keynote presenters at Centenary's Annual Literacy Conference. This year's conference theme focused on "Equitable Literacy Instruction for All Learners." During this day-long event, the educational community took part in a variety of breakout sessions focusing on research-based best practices. We proudly partnered with Taylor Memorial Library and the [Black Authors Hall of Fame](#) for this event.

2023 - 2024 Education and Humanities Awards

<i>Outstanding Junior/Senior English Student</i>	Kayla Diee
<i>Outstanding First-year/Sophomore English Student</i>	Carmen Wright
<i>Outstanding English Class Project</i>	Emma Norton
<i>Outstanding Leadership in the English Department</i>	Sofia Senesie
<i>Outstanding Critical Engagement in the English Department</i>	Maria Turker
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Kayla Diee
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Nora Dornich
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Thomas Edge
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Emilie Finegan
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Laurie Frattina
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Arianna Morillo
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Emma Norton
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Jessica Raab
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Mary Richardson
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Sofia Senesie
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Grace Stadelman
<i>Certificate of Merit in English</i>	Carmen Wright
<i>Outstanding History Student</i>	Zachary Gehman
<i>Outstanding Leadership in the History Department</i>	Nickolas Gorab
<i>Outstanding Critical Engagement in the History Department</i>	Billy Winz
<i>Certificate of Merit in History</i>	Samantha Burke
<i>Certificate of Merit in History</i>	Michael Danza
<i>Certificate of Merit in History</i>	Zachary Gehman
<i>Certificate of Merit in History</i>	Nickolas Gorab
<i>Outstanding Individualized Studies Student</i>	Anna Stein
<i>Outstanding Individualized Studies Class Project</i>	Alexandra Koch
<i>Certificate of Merit in Individualized Studies</i>	Alexandra Koch
<i>Certificate of Merit in Individualized Studies</i>	Carly Moos
<i>Certificate of Merit in Individualized Studies</i>	Anna Stein
<i>Commendations for Pop Culture Conference Presentation</i>	Laurie Frattina
<i>Commendations for Pop Culture Conference Presentation</i>	Anna Stein
<i>Commendations for Pop Culture Conference Presentation</i>	Billy Winz
<i>Commendations for Pop Culture Conference Presentation</i>	Kayla Diee



Literacy abounds at Centenary with Kia Brown-Dudley (President of the International Literacy Association- ILA), Vicki Sylvain (Centenary University Board Of Trustees), Ken Kunz (ILA), Alice James (Black Authors Hall of Fame), and Simone Adjei (iReadify).

2023 - 2024 Education and Humanities Awards

Alyce Hunter Dissertation Award:

Sally Klemm

A Study of the Perception of the Importance of Providing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Professional Development Opportunities to Teaching Staff of K-8 School Districts in New Jersey

Cathleen Benedict Memorial Scholarship:

Maya Wicki

This award was presented in honor of Dr. Cathleen Benedict to help a future teacher prepare his or her classroom.

Christopher John Stupak Scholarship for the Next Generation of Elementary School Science Teachers:

Christina Bubniak, Isabel Dutta, Sarah Sconda

(awarded in June 2023)

Distinguished Clinical Interns:

Natalie Kelson, Jake Lombardo, Lynn Roberto

This award is presented jointly by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Preparation to publicly recognize the top graduates of New Jersey's teacher preparation programs and their highly dedicated cooperating teachers.

Doris L. Moore Award:

Cheyenne Lutz

This award is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Sandra Moore and her brother, Peter Moore, in memory of their mother, Doris L. Moore, a former elementary art teacher who upheld the highest standards for herself and her students.

The scholarship is awarded to a rising Junior or Senior with at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA in an Education major who exemplifies dedication to education and students.

2023 Centenary University/Visions Federal Credit Union Education Leader of the Year:

Dr. Jessica McKinney

Principal, Belvidere High School

Strickhausen Awards:

Emilie Finegan, Angela Palazzo, Ashley Wyckoff

This award is for juniors who have impressed their professors with their class leadership, the excellence of their course work, and their overall promise.

SAVE THE DATE

October 25, 2024

Future Educators Day

April 5, 2025

CycloneCon

**Follow us on social media
for more event updates
throughout the year!**



@centuedu



@centu_edh

@cyclone_con