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## Educational Leadership Program Newsletter June 2013

Educational Leadership Program, University of Southern Maine

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## Important Dates

- No classes July 4th
- Registration for Fall Classes is going on now!
- First day of classes for fall semester: Tuesday, September 3rd

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE

# Educational Leadership Department Newsletter

Volume 3/Issue 6

June 2013

## Letter from the Department Chair



Thanks Lynne!

In the spring of 1987, I traveled from my job as a middle school principal in Auburn, Maine to 301 Bailey Hall in Gorham to attend a Southern Maine Partnership meeting. Arriving a few minutes late, I joined a group of other principals at a table near the door. I immediately noticed a woman speaking at the front of the room; all eyes were focused on her. She had wild, dark, curly hair and a wide, sincere smile. As she spoke eloquently and passionately, I could not help but become interested in learning more

about what she had to say. She seemed to effortlessly frame a complex issue in a manner that engaged the entire audience. I thought to myself, "this is one bright person I should get to know". That person was Lynne Miller.

Three weeks ago (and twenty six years later to be exact) I traveled to the seventh floor of the Glickman Library in Portland to attend another meeting of the Southern Maine Partnership. Arriving a few minutes late, I joined a group of educators at a table near the door. I immediately noticed a woman speaking at the front of the room; all eyes were focused on her. She had wild, dark, curly hair and a wide, sincere smile. As she spoke eloquently and passionately, I could not help but become interested in learning more about what she had to say. She seemed to effortlessly frame a complex issue in a manner that engaged the entire audience. That person was Lynne Miller.

Lynne is retiring this month after twenty six years of exemplary service to the Educational Leadership Department and University of Southern Maine. She leaves her position with the same passion and dedication she brought twenty six years ago. Even her hair color has remained the same as mine has become gray.

Lynne has been a remarkable teacher, researcher and devoted partner to the schools in Southern Maine. Her legacy and impact will be long felt after her retirement.

I am a better teacher, scholar and community member because of my working with Lynne for the past twenty five years. She always challenged me to stretch my thinking, refine my beliefs and always stand up for what was right and good about public schools.

In the Seminar I teach I always end it with a little homily for future leaders. In that speech I remind them that to be successful they need to spend time on those things that really matter and avoid getting caught up on the stuff that doesn't. I also acknowledge that distinguishing between the two is often not easy. To provide some assistance I provide a quote from Thomas Jefferson: "If it is matter of fashion it goes with the tide, if it is a matter of principle it stands like a rock".

That has been Lynne's mantra for twenty five years.

Thanks Lynne.

Jody Capelluti

## Faculty Profile: Thanks, Lynne Miller!

“Lynne has tremendous professional courage. She will stand up for what she believes to be ethical, regardless the pressures to do otherwise. I deeply appreciate her setting the standard in our learning community for doing what is right. Her "modeling" provided me with needed strength in several difficult situations, and her lessons have been deeply influential. We have been quite fortunate to have her as a colleague and a friend.”

*James Curry, Associate Professor*

In May, 2013 Lynne Miller received an Emeritus Professor award, a fitting tribute from her colleagues in the Educational Leadership program as she moved closer to her retirement. Over the past 25 years she has been a constant, positive presence in the university community, always ready to advocate, defend, create and deepen the mission and integrity of the University of Southern Maine. She was able to penetrate controversy with questions, draw out and deepen conversations, delve into data, all with a commitment to equity. As I heard her say many times, a quintessential “rose among thorns.” She served on numerous committees, but I believe her strongest contributions came from her work on curriculum, at the college and university level. She was involved in major innovations of undergraduate and graduate curriculum and program development, especially the development of the Master’s degree, the Professional Educator, as well as the program Leadership for Tomorrow’s Schools, a collaboration of K-12 school districts with the faculty of the Educational Leadership program.

All of these accomplishments are a testament to her dedication and service to the university community, but Lynne Miller’s name is forged even more deeply in the memories the southern Maine community of teachers, curriculum, coordinators, principals and superintendents who collaborated with her as she lead the Southern Maine Partnership. Lynne was at her best as the facilitator of dialogue between practitioners, university faculty and community members. She always sought to deepen understanding of current issues, advocate for responsible policies and practices. With her leadership of the Southern Maine Partnership she mobilized voices of school leaders to speak out on issues like fair testing practices, first generation college students, and the essential role of teachers in public education.

For all who know Lynne she will be best known as a scholar, who knew how to balance family with professional commitments. We all know how much she relishes her family time but the “rose among thorns” mind-set that is Lynne Miller still has time to produce well-informed, critical op-ed pieces for the public press.

All the best in the future, Lynne, on all fronts.

*Jeff Beaudry, Associate Professor*

## Alumni Spotlight: Leadership Symposium

On Wednesday, April 24th the Educational Leadership Program held their Leadership Symposium at King Middle School in Portland, Maine. This event marks the completion of the Educational Leadership students' internships. The student names and titles of their final projects are listed below. The faculty and staff of the Educational Leadership Department would like to congratulate the students for a job well done!

**Erin Frazier**-Behavior Interventions: Least Restrictive to Most Restrictive

**Sarah Rent**-Effective and Efficient Training Models for Special Ed Ed Techs

**Bernadette Flynn**-\*Kids \*In \*School \*Succeed - \*The Importance of Daily Attendance in the Primary Grades\*

**Joyce Hebert**-How Can Technology Impact Student Learning in Middle School Math?

**Tracy Weitz**-Ipad Pilot Program at Fryeburg Academy: Supporting Teachers With New Technology

**Elizabeth Dunton**-Edcamp

**Nancy Drolet**-Student Surveys: Asking Students About Teaching?

**Ryan LaRoche**-Creating an Assessment Form for Teachers in a Customized Learning Environment

**Larry Peters**-Bottoms Up! Student Leadership from the Ground Floor

**Brendan Scully**-Organizational Restructuring of a High School Activities Department

**Chris Jandreau**-Targeting Student Needs Through Student-Teacher Relationships

**Shawn Towle**-Changing Grading Paradigms at Falmouth Middle School

**Judy Gowell-Gosselin**-Customized Learning: Engaging Students to Become Successful-Directed Learners

**Sherry Whittemore**-Community Architects: The Creation of the King-Parkside Afterschool Collaborative

**Jason Grantham**-Researching a Technology Based World Language Program for Massabesic Middle School

**Christian Gurney**-Substitute Teacher Handbook and Training Session

**Jamie Cluchey**-Code of Kavod: Developing Shared Accountability Through a Community Honor System at the Elementary Level

**Bethany Connolly**-Working together: Establishing a School Advisory Council at Lincoln Middle School

**Rachael Ranger Furbush**- the South Portland Special Education Parent Teacher Partnership

**Kim Blenk**- Developing and Implementing an Effective and Efficient 504 Program at Falmouth High School

**Stephanie Melaugh**- Planning and Implementing a Behavioral RTI Model for Bonny Eagle Middle School

**Jennifer Dowler**-Developing and Effective RTI Program at the Elementary Level

**Michael Davis**- School-Wide Behavior Management: One Step at a Time

**Richard Hogan**-PBIS in a Middle School

**Andrew Folley and Gene Kucinkas**- Evaluating a District Special Services Model

**Henry Ingwersen**- What's the Best Way to Teach STEM in Wells Elementary School?

**Angela Marzilli**-Developing a High School STEM Pathway

**Jason Judd**-Learning Walks

## Southern Maine Partnership Glenn Cummings

This past spring, as I began working at the University of Southern Maine's educational leadership department, it became increasingly evident that I was working with a tremendous team - both within the university and, to the benefit of Maine students, the leaders in our schools. Having visited over a dozen superintendents and school leaders over the past few months, evidence of serious, effective and ambitious work on school improvement existed in every district.

This perception was further enhanced by the quality of discussion at the Southern Maine Partnership's inaugural renewal dinner held on April 23rd. Dozens of impressive, thoughtful educators delved into the core issues of improving learning for all students over a good meal at the top of the Glickman Library. Many people commented on the importance of regular convening of area colleagues for this focused purpose of teaching and learning. While other matters such as human resources, budgets and state/federal compliance remain crucial to success, the core of our work lies within promoting the intellectual and personal wellness of each child.



Led by the already much-missed Lynne Miller (Lynne has officially signed her retirement papers), the evening generated terrific support for the idea of monthly 'dine and discuss' meetings among area colleagues. The suggested topics from the group, informed by recent research, may include: 1. Preparing for standards-based education 2. Appropriate alignment of teacher evaluation with student progress 3. The use of macro and micro-level data to improve outcomes 4. STEM related implementation and 5. The exploration of new research on the brain.

I look forward to a terrific and, ideally, helpful agenda for the Southern Maine Partnership next fall. Again, let me thank Lynne Miller for her leadership in establishing the Partnership and, on behalf of the many people she has helped, extend our gratitude for her unfailing work for the benefit of our students.

Look forward to seeing you all this fall.

# Fall 2013 Schedule

CRN	COURSE	TITLE	DAY	TIME	ROOM	DATES	FORMAT	CR	SPECIAL DATES
20296	EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques	Wed	4:10—6:40	TBA	TBA	Blended		
22283	EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques	Mon	4:00-6:30	LAC	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
22057	EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques	N/A	N/A	N/A	09/3-12/23	Online		
24194	EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques	Wed	4:10-6:40	315 Bailey	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
20298	EDU 603	Analysis of Teaching	Thurs	4:10-6:40	402 Luther	09/03-12/23	Face to Face		
22026	EDU 667	Professional Educator Capstone	N/A	N/A	N/A	09/03-12/23			
20302	EDU 670	Introduction to Edu. Leadership	Mon.	4:00-6:30	TBA	09/03-12/23	Face to Face		
20303	EDU 671	Organizational Behavior	Tues.	4:10-6:30	207 Payson	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
20304	EDU 677	Seminar in School Management	Wed	4:10-6:40	TBA	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
22280	EDU 678	School Law	Wed.	4:10-6:40	510 Luther B	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
20305	EDU 679	Evaluation and Supervision of School Personnel	Thurs	4:10-6:40	301C Bailey	09/3-12/23	Face to Face		
	EDU 685	Internship in Educational Administration	Wed.	7:00-9:30	TBA	09/3-12/23 09/3-12/23			
	EDU 686	Internship in Special Education Administration	Wed.	7:00-9:30	TBA	09/3-12/23			
	EDU 687	Internship in Superintendency	Wed.	7:00-9:30	TBA	09/3-12/23			
	EDU 688	Internship in Curriculum Administration	Wed.	7:00-9:30	TBA	09/3-12/23			

**\*This schedule is tentative and is subject to changes. Please see MaineStreet for changes and updates.**

## Panel Discussion: Educator Evaluation

Jeff Beaudry

On March 26, at Scarborough Middle School library, the Leadership for Tomorrow's Schools program convened a panel to discuss the issue of teacher evaluations, more accurately called educator evaluations. The panel was conducted as part of the ongoing course work in the Master's degree program, and fit well with the topics of the two courses: Classroom Assessment and the Analysis of Teaching. Jeff Beaudry facilitated the panel which included several guests from participating school districts, Sara Zito, RSU 21, Peter Lancia, Westbrook, Suzanne Godin, South Portland. There are many details to work out, but the most pressing issue seemed to be, once you collect data is there support in time and resources to engage in the essential professional development to improve teaching, learning and assessment?

The panel presentation was very important as it prompted a deeper understanding of the shape of this initiative for individual school districts, as well as cross-district dialogue among teacher and administrative leaders. Systems for setting up classroom observations, surveys and reports of data must be evaluated and implemented by informed professionals, this was another collaborative step in that direction.

Based on feedback and follow up discussion we intend to take up this topic in earnest in 2013-2014.

## Summer Session Dates

There is still time to register for a summer course:

### 4 Week:

Session I      May 13-June 7  
Session II      July 1- July 26

### 7 Week:

Session I      May 13-June 28  
Session II      July 1- August 16

Please note that many courses meet at times that do not fit into the session dates. Please check Maine-Street for specific course dates.

The Educational Leadership Department Administrative Assistant, Kathie Bickford, will be out of the office from July 8 until August 5. If you need assistance during July registering for a course, please contact the Registrar's Office at 780-5230. You may also email Pete Witham with questions at [pwitham@usm.maine.edu](mailto:pwitham@usm.maine.edu). Phone calls to my number will be forwarded to Pete Witham as well.

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