



Educator Collaboration Event

Presenter Biographies

Tuesday, October 6, 2009
Rochester Museum & Science Center
657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607

Keynote Speaker

Dr. James Stigler

James Stigler is the Director of the TIMSS video studies and co-author of *The Teaching Gap* (Free Press, 1999) and *The Learning Gap* (Simon & Schuster, 1992). He holds a Masters in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan. He served eight years on the faculty of the University of Chicago and is currently Professor of Psychology at UCLA. He has received numerous awards for his research, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1989 and the QuEST award from the American Federation of Teachers in 1995. Dr. Stigler is best known for his observational work in classrooms, and has pioneered the use of multimedia technology for the study of classroom instruction.

Track A: Lesson Study

Lesson Study Collegial Learning Circle

Children's School of Rochester (Number 15 School), Rochester City School District

Estelle Medina-Colon, co-teacher of today's lesson: After working eight years for the Rochester City School District, Estelle Medina-Colon decided to pursue a teaching career. She received a Masters of Education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Nazareth College. She has taught for six years at the Children's School of Rochester. This will be her third year involved with lesson study.

Danielle Vaccaro, co-teacher of today's lesson: Danielle Vaccaro is an elementary teacher in the Rochester City School District. She has taught at the Children's School of Rochester for eight years, primarily in grades three and four. She currently co-teaches first grade. She has participated in lesson study for the past seven years, including the Summer Institute with Dr. Catherine Lewis at Mills College in Oakland, CA.

LaShara Evans, LaShara Evans obtained her Public Health degree from the University of Rochester and her Masters in Education from the University of Rochester Warner School. This is her fourth year teaching in the Rochester City School District, now co-teaching fourth grade. She has a love for math and is very excited to be participating in a math lesson study.

Barbara Holmes, Dr. Barbara Holmes received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Tulane University. She worked for the National Park Service and the Navajo, Hopi, and Zuni Tribes in Historic Preservation. She now lives on the family farm in the Rochester area and teaches in elementary school. She has been participating in lesson study for six years.

Irasema de la Torre Kash, aka **Edie Kash**: Edie Kash has worked in the Rochester City School District for thirteen years as an English as a Second Language teacher in both the bilingual and LEAP programs, including five years at the Children's School of Rochester. She was the academic intervention specialist there for three years. Presently she is the ESOL teacher for kindergarten and fifth/sixth grade LEAP classes at John Williams, #5 School. This is her second year with lesson study.

James Parks, James Parks has taught in the Rochester City School District for thirty years in grades one through twelve. He received his B.A. from Wittenberg University in History and Elementary Education and M.Ed. from Bowling Green State University in Reading. Before coming to the Children's School of Rochester, he taught social studies and reading at Edison and Franklin High Schools. Presently he serves as the math and language arts support teacher for first through third grades. This is his third year with lesson study.

Jayne Rockell-Alba, Jayne Rockell-Alba has been an ESOL teacher in the Rochester City School District for twenty-seven years. She received her Masters of Science Degree from Nazareth College in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She is currently teaching in a second grade class with both monolingual and second language learners at the Children's School of Rochester. She also taught ESOL at the elementary and adult level in the district. This is her third year participating in lesson study.

Joseph Saia, Joseph Saia is currently co-teaching in the second grade family at The Children's School of Rochester. He has taught for twelve years at various elementary grade levels and has also worked as a Reading Recovery teacher, reading support teacher and academic intervention specialist/coach. He holds a Masters in Literacy Education from Nazareth College and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Saint John Fisher College. This is his second year working with the Lesson Study Collegial Learning Circle.

Heather Sommer, Heather Sommer has been a teacher for almost five years. All of her teaching experience has been at the Children's School of Rochester. Although she is considered a special education teacher, she not only provides services to the children with special needs, she teaches all subjects to all of the students in the integrated classroom. She truly enjoys teaching and learning about math. This is her first year with lesson study.

Nancy Sundberg, Nancy Sundberg has co-taught in inclusion classrooms in elementary and middle schools for twenty years, half her teaching career. Currently she is a first grade teacher at CSR. She has an M.A. in Special Education from California State University, San Francisco and is National Board Certified in Middle Childhood Education. She was a founding member of the American Federation of Teachers' first lesson study group, located here in the Rochester City School District, in 2001. She has remained active in lesson study since.

Knowledgeable Others

Dr. Diane Barrett

Dr. Diane Barrett is Director of the Master's Program in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education and an associate professor of mathematical and computing sciences at St. John Fisher College. She teaches mathematics content courses as well as mathematics and science education. Her professional interests focus on challenging teachers to find ways to integrate mathematics, science and technology in an inquiry based classroom as well as engaging them in true collaboration through lesson study and training them to become reflective practitioners.

Paula Drake

Paula Drake has been an educator for almost forty years. She is retired from the Syracuse City School District and currently works as a math consultant for the Syracuse City School District, Toledo Public Schools, Lafayette School District and Nation School and the Children's School of Rochester, RCSD. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at SUNY Cortland, is a national trainer for the American Federation of Teachers, Educational Research and Dissemination courses "Thinking Mathematics," and is on the New York State Math Advisory Committee. She earned her Masters in Urban Education from Syracuse University and has been involved with lesson study for nine years.

Makoto Yoshida

Dr. Makoto Yoshida is founder and president of Global Education Resources as well as professor and founder of the Center for Lesson Study at Paterson University. His doctoral dissertation on *Lesson Study in Japan* helped introduce lesson study to the U.S. In it he coined the term "lesson study," as he translated the original Japanese term "jugyokenkyu". He is considered one of the foremost researchers and educators of lesson study, and his work is cited heavily in Stigler and Hiebert's book, *The Teaching Gap*. He co-authored *Lesson Study: A Japanese Approach to Improving Mathematics Teaching and Learning* with Clea Fernandez, co-edited *Building Our Understanding of Lesson Study* with Patsy Wang-Iverson, and oversaw the English translation of the Tokyo Shoseki series of Japanese elementary school math textbooks. Born in Hiroshima, Japan, he received his B.A. in Education and Psychology at Lewis and Clark College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Education from the University of Chicago, where James Stigler was his dissertation advisor.

Track B: Culture of Collaboration

Douglas Llewellyn

Doug Llewellyn teaches educational leadership courses at St. John Fisher College, a former middle school science teacher and former Director of Science at the Rochester City School District, and frequently writes and presents on inquiry and constructivist strategies to teaching and learning science.

Sylvia Cooksey

Dr. Diane Enerson

Diane M. Enerson, received her Ph. D. from the University of Chicago in 1991, where Jim Stigler was dissertation advisor for her study of expertise in chemistry problem solving. She also holds a Masters from the University of Pittsburgh in Special Education. Presently she is Professor of Psychology and founding Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Nazareth College. She began her work in the area of faculty development while completing her dissertation as part of the Chicago Teaching Program (3-year project funded by FIPSE). For 11 years prior to coming to Nazareth, Dr. Enerson directed the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at Penn State University, University Park, PA.

Track C: Professional Learning Communities

Dr. Kris Green

Trained as an applied mathematician and physicist, Dr. Kris Green has been teaching at St. John Fisher College for the past decade. His research interests focus on the learning and teaching of mathematics and science at all levels, with a particular focus on the use of writing and technology to develop and explore models of real world situations. As a result of these interests, he has published in a variety of research journals and has presented at many conferences and workshops, both locally and nationally.

Brenda Green

Brenda Green has been involved as a lead teacher for the past two years introducing and implementing PLC's in the Webster School District. Brenda has taught third, fourth, and fifth grades, worked as an enrichment specialist, and instructed college courses on differentiating instruction. She has offered professional development trainings in a variety of topics including presentations at the Memorial Art Gallery.

Dr. Marla Iverson

Dr. Marla Iverson is currently the Assistant Superintendent for School Improvement at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES where she has worked for 19 years. She has spent most of her career in the area of professional development and specializes in group process, facilitation, and long-range planning. She received her Master's Degree from the University of Scranton, her administrative degree from SUNY Brockport, and holds a doctorate from the Warner School at the U of R.

Panelists

Dr. Theresa Nicolay

Dr. Theresa Nicolay earned her doctorate in English at the University of Rochester. She has published articles on writing placement and writing across the curriculum. She is the author of *Gender Roles, Literary Authority and Three American Women Writers* (Peter Lang, 1995), and "Placement and Instruction in Context: Situating Writing in a First-Year Writing Program," which appeared in *Writing Program Administration*. Dr. Nicolay currently is Coordinator of the Center for Academic Excellence and Writing Center Director at St. John Fisher College. As Chair of PETAL, the faculty development committee at Fisher, she coordinates monthly workshops on teaching and learning as well as the summer Learning Circle program.

David Peter

David Peter is an Elementary School Principal in the Webster Central School District where the district is currently in the third year of PLC implementation. He has attended a 3-day seminar presented by the DuFours and numerous in-district leadership sessions focused on Professional Learning Communities. This is his 32nd year as an educator and 25th year as an Elementary Principal, having worked in both small-rural and large-suburban school districts.

Dr. Christopher Price

Dr. Christopher Price is the Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and Instructor for the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the College at Brockport, State University of New York. He also directs Brockport's Faculty Learning Community (FLC) program. The program is currently in the second year of a three year pilot investigating how FLCs can help meet the professional development needs of Brockport faculty and staff.

Barbara Goldammer

Barbara Goldammer has taught high school math and computer science, including the Syracuse University Project Advance Calculus and AP Computer Programming. She served as an Instructional Technology Specialist and High School Assistant Principal before beginning her position in the Webster Central School District as the Curriculum Supervisor for Mathematics, K-12. She is now in her third year as supervisor and is heavily involved in the implementation of Professional Learning Communities across the entire Webster Central School District.