



Eighth Annual  
Celebration of  
Student Inquiry  
2008-2009

College of Staten Island  
Department of Education  
May 21, 2009  
Center for the Arts

# Program and Mission

## Program

- ❖ **5:00 – 6:00 pm Roundtables & Refreshments**  
East and West Faculty Lounges
- ❖ **6:00 – 7:00 pm Paper Presentations**  
Lecture Hall

## Mission

The Celebration of Research conference offers New York City teachers a professional forum to exchange ideas. Our primary objectives are to provide a stimulating and supportive venue for scholarly presentations; to share/discuss educational practices; and to promote the development of skills in conducting research. The conference, which represents teachers across all disciplines and grade levels, provides a meaningful vehicle for the preparation and presentation of scholarly work by students who are at the end of their graduate education. By recognizing the diverse applications of (and inquiries into) educational research represented in conference presentations, we can better learn about and serve the diverse needs of our students and schools.

# Paper Presentation Session

6:00 – 7:00 pm

## Lecture Hall

- ❖ The effects of classroom containment on student behavior  
**Sarah Clifford**
- ❖ The effect of literacy websites on reading comprehension of second grade students  
**Mary Pizzo**
- ❖ Building upon Teacher Research Projects to Understand, Facilitate, and Support Student's thinking in CTT Settings and with Journal Writing  
**Valerie LiPuma & James Farley**
- ❖ Sharing the Power of Teacher Change: Experiences of Transforming Math Education Practice for Facilitating Young Learners' Development  
**Okpo Adije**
- ❖ Teaching without adequate content knowledge  
**David Cugini**

# Roundtable 1

**Facilitator: Professor Margaret Bérci**

Will use of a class blog improve the reading comprehension of second graders?

**Karen Codoner**

Will classroom management strategies improve third grade students' behavior during classroom transitions?

**Christina Scordato**

Does using sense in early childhood mathematics help young children develop a better understanding of math?

**Helen Marchak**

The effects of using computer technology as motivation before introducing a novel to intermediate students in a language arts class

**Suzanne Glanstein**

Does increasing the self-efficacy of students with learning disabilities improve their performance on reading tasks and other academic tasks?

**El Wazzan, Soha**

Teaching without adequate content knowledge

**David Cugini**

Do the schools that the deaf and/or hard of hearing attend have an effect on their self esteem?

**Katrina Winslow**

# Roundtable 2

**Facilitator: Professor Brian Carolan**

Differentiation for gifted students using virtual media and video games

**Dion De Nardo**

How can blogs and podcasts enhance students' listening and speaking skills in Spanish?

**Violetta Surowiec**

Cooperative team teaching: Social and academic development of mixed ability students in the math setting

**Lauren Mulligan**

Gender differences in mathematics among adolescents

**Kaitlyn E. Lang**

The effects of cooperative learning on student achievement

**Aurora Guyon**

Beyond the lesson plan: Successful, social relationships between teachers and at-risk students

**Donato Fornabaio**

The effects of a token economy system on the behavior of students with disabilities

**John Knudson**

# Roundtable 3

**Facilitator: Professor Gail Rosenberg**

Will the use of literacy websites improve the reading comprehension abilities of third grade students in the Bronx?

**Geraldine Fletcher**

Trubel speling? Will a spelling in parts strategy with classroom blogging improve the spelling ability of fifth grade students?

**Maria Tsoukalas**

Helping students identify and understand their number sense in order to increase students' achievements in mathematics

**Adije Okpo**

Within class grouping: What is best practice and what is reality?

**Julie Sullivan**

Factors that influence a child's decisions to read outside of school

**Jachie Hickman & Francesca Saraniero**

The willingness to change: A case study of teachers in a dual language school

**Scott Gabel**

The effects of organizational skills instruction on homework completion

**Lindsey Engelson**

# Roundtable 4

**Facilitator: Professor Vivian Shulman**

How can music help with classroom management during class transitions?

**Sheila Hurley**

Why are computers not being used in elementary classrooms?

**Harold Williams**

Does the placement of mathematical concepts in realistic context and the use of student interest in choosing this context improve comprehension, motivation, and learning?

**Kate Rose**

How do graphic organizers affect the comprehension of fifth grade students learning social studies?

**Phyllis Vreeland**

The effect of multimedia technology on student engagement

**Michael Hubbs & Peter Kurinzi**

Collaborative Team Teaching: Is it perfect for all?

**Michelle Graziano**

The effects of applied behavioral analysis on the achievement of students with autism

**Courtney Pavelec**

# Roundtable 5

**Facilitator: Professor El Samuels**

How can a class website promote parental involvement?

**Heather Garr**

Weblogs: How can using weblogs ease transition into high school?

**Michelle Young**

The effects of using card games and manipulatives  
to teach addition in kindergarten

**Richard Sanchez**

The implementation of the graphing calculator in the  
high school mathematics classroom

**FangFang Sun**

Student teachers' perceptions of sexuality among  
students with cognitive disabilities

**Michael Murdoch**

Do personality traits determine who enters the teaching  
profession and/or who leaves the profession?

**Jacqueline Kolanovic**

The effects of classroom containment on student behavior

**Sarah Clifford**

# Roundtable 6

**Facilitator: Professor Nelly Tournaki**

How can the use of graphing calculators and the Geometer's  
Sketchpad motivate high school students to learn geometry?

**Anney Li**

How can the use of PowerPoint presentations  
engage students in social studies classes?

**Jonathan Zagare**

Factors that influence teacher satisfaction in a  
collaborative team teaching setting

**Ann Verderber**

The development of formal math literacy: Developing an  
understanding of Base 10, place value & number sense

**Shawn Gitman**

Can a school- wide horticulture project improve the attitudes and  
perceptions of homogeneously-grouped primary students?

**Nicole Nigro**

From foot post to classroom: Identity development in second  
career teachers who have a background in law enforcement

**Roy Mackay**

The effects of deep breathing exercises on concentration ability of  
elementary school students with special needs

**Claire Holdipp**

# Roundtable 7

**Facilitator: Professor Ken Gold**

Will interactive literacy websites and e-books motivate fifth graders to read?

**Vivian Lo**

Math, problem solving and blogs: Can blogs help students explain their problem solving strategies?

**Lisa Zarrella**

The effects of using manipulatives in a high school mathematics ESL classroom

**Maurita Tituana**

What are urban high school students' beliefs about bullying?

**Anthony Pellegrini**

Students' attitudes about bi- and homosexuality

**Amanda Rocanova & Nicole De Marinis**

How does an inclusion classroom impact the efficiency of a teacher?

**Maria Mollica**

The effects of after-school program participation on academic performance in mathematics

**Olena Emelina**

# Roundtable 8

**Facilitator: Professor David Kritt**

Do literacy websites increase reading skills for struggling readers in a third grade classroom?

**Gerard Maiorana**

Can manipulatives enhance a child's learning?

**Michelle D'Albero**

How does communication through the use of math journals and writing benefit the student and teacher?

**Valerie Lipuma**

The relationship between learning styles and teaching styles

**Donna Dreizen**

Is it possible for a teacher's teaching style to enhance or hinder students' reading?

**Ross, Stephanie**

Why won't they listen? Does classroom management affect teaching efficiency?

**Ranley Noel**

Using a picture exchange communication system to enhance speech in children with autism

**Elaria Salib**

# Roundtable 9

Facilitator: Professor Judit Kerekes

Motivating fourth grade gifted and talented students: How can  
Renzulli Learning Systems help?

**Kimberly Mccorkell**

Technology & mathematics - *Inseparable*  
(What's in it for our students?)

**Olga Gandlin**

Reading in the content area: Can literacy integration in  
mathematics enhance students' mathematical learning?

**Wanda Carter**

The impact of the interactive whiteboard on  
teachers and students

**Michael Ruggiero**

Do popular students get lower grades?

**Angela Vultaggio**

Motivations to teach: Factors that influence  
New York City teachers' career aspirations.

**Anissa Raghunath**

Comparing attitudes of teachers and students  
on standardized tests

**Kara Matachiera**

# Roundtable 10

Facilitator: Professor Susan Sullivan

Multiplication fluency: A rap music and web based intervention  
**Irosha Pathirage**

The effects of manipulatives on pre-school children

**Adreana Giordano**

Reading + writing = arithmetic: The role of  
literacy in mathematics

**Traci Ward**

What are the contributing factors to separation anxiety  
in preschool students?

**Janiece Smith**

Teacher burnout: Is there a solution?

**Alexander Rohls**

Does teacher self-awareness impact teaching efficacy  
of first year teachers?

**Jessica Troncione**

Measuring teachers' attitudes towards balanced literacy

**Emily Felzin**

# Roundtable 11

**Facilitator: Professor Maxine Fisher**

How can websites affect reading comprehension skills of second grade students?

**Mary Pizzo**

How does a cooperative team teaching environment impact the academic development of the general education student in mathematics?

**James Farley**

The impact of interactive whiteboards on high school science teachers and students

**Brian Fagan**

Teachers' accommodation of different learning styles and students' likelihoods of success

**Michael Anderson, Nicole Damon, & Lauren Hershey**

Highlighting an awareness of stress and anxiety in the classroom:

Is teacher stress directly linked to the act of teaching, or is there more?

**Elena Bisignano**

Attitudes towards team teaching: The impact on the individual when members of the team vary in levels of classroom experience

**Robert Rose**

Social stories and their effects on behaviors of elementary education students with disabilities

**Nicole Lasky**

# Roundtable 12

**Facilitator: Professor Len Mendola**

How can blogs help ninth grade math students?

**Joseph Russo**

The impact of meaningful experiences based on conceptual understanding on children's learning of basic facts

**Eunjung Lee**

Does the use of PowerPoint foster learning in global history and geography? The advantages and disadvantages of its use

**Joseph Puleo**

The effects of outside employment on high school students' academic achievement

**Bobby Anfang, Lindsay Beren, Labella Liz, & Lauren Stabile**

Am I the same teacher in a suburban school setting as I am in an urban school setting?

**Patrice Buffaloe**

Teacher-student relationships: Friend or foe?

**Gina Salazar**

The effects of graphic organizers on the post-reading comprehension of students in a

Collaborative Team Teaching setting

**Natalie Tousson**



# Roundtable 13

Increasing students' English scores: Will online games, Smart Board, and a class blog motivate students to learn?

**Marisa Schaefer**  
**Antonella Manieri**

Why do people change careers to enter the teaching profession?

**Jennifer M. Torres**

The role of participation in competitive sports  
in children's academic lives

**Lauren Baydal**

Challenges teachers face when their culture  
is different from that of their students

**Angela Caggiano**

Lessons learned: The reciprocal learning process between  
novice and veteran teachers

**Alicia Scala**

The effects of a gluten free diet on young children  
with autism.

**Andrea DeLorenzo**

# Roundtable 14

The effects of hand-on learning vs. drill/rote learning  
on student math achievement.

**Stefanie Castelli**

The effects of a token economy system on  
positive behaviors in school

**Kathleen D'Orio**

Independent reading: A comparison of independent  
books vs. regular books.

**Melissa Brofsky**

The effects of inclusive and self contained classroom settings on  
social interactions between elementary education students and  
their typically- developing peers.

**Bridgette O'Neill**

Students experience success in reading: Differentiated instruction  
through phonics and guided reading.

**Anna Del Sorbo**

The effects of questioning during read-alouds

**Beth Goldberg**

# Roundtable 15

Does questioning during read-alouds aid comprehension?  
**Jessica Zielinski**

Does a visualizing and verbalizing program improve reading?  
**Teresa Kelly**

Attitudes toward inclusion: How important is it  
to general education teachers?  
**Kathleen Sullivan**

A comparison of two methods of reducing aggressive  
behaviors in students with autism.  
**Stephanie Burdge**

The effects of reading programs on ELL elementary  
students' reading achievement  
**Anthony Agelire, Jr.**

Using verbal praise with tangible reinforcements  
to help motivate students with autism  
to learn social skills  
**Lisa Morgan**

# Congratulations

The following students have had their research  
papers nominated for the 2009  
"best educational research" award:

**Bobby Anfang**

**Liz Labella**

**Lindsay Beren**

**Lauren Stabile**

The effects of outside employment on high school  
students' academic achievement

**Alicia Scala**

Lessons learned: The reciprocal learning process  
between novice and veteran teachers

**Mary Pizzo**

The effect of literacy websites on reading  
comprehension of second grade students

**Lauren Muligan**

Cooperative team teaching: Social and academic  
development of mixed ability students  
in the mathematics setting

The effects of classroom containment  
on student behavior

**Sarah Clifford**

# Celebration of Student Inquiry 2008-2009

## Faculty

Margaret Bérci  
Maxine Fisher  
Judit Kerekes  
Len Mendola  
El Samuels  
Greg Seals  
Nelly Tournaki  
Vivian Shulman, Coordinator

President: Tomás D. Morales  
Provost: William J. Fritz  
Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences: Francisco Soto  
Education Department Chair: Ken Gold

**The Educational Research Faculty wishes to thank those who graciously consented to read for "Best Paper Award":**

- **Professor Ken Gold**
- **Professor Brian Carolan**
- **Professor Igor Arieivitch**

**The Education Department wishes to thank the  
Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences for his support of this event.**