



1ST EDITION

AUGUST 2023

INSIDE ELMHURST UNIVERSITY

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION
OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
NEWSLETTER!

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We are thrilled to introduce our new Dean of the School of Education, Dr. Samina Hadi-Tabassum, who will begin her leadership this semester. Dr. Hadi-Tabassum graduated from Northwestern University with a major in English Literature and a minor in Biology. She then taught middle school students in Houston, Texas as a Spanish bilingual science teacher. Later, she completed a doctorate in anthropology and education at Teachers College, Columbia University while working as a literacy specialist in the Newark Public Schools. Her research focuses on the intersection of race, culture and language and her book publications examine dual language programs as well as racial integration in American public schools.

Through her stewardship, we will continue as a premier institution of higher education and as a school of education that works to ensure that all children have equitable opportunities to realize their potential.

FACULTY NEWS AND NOTES



Dr. Diana Brannon is studying preservice teachers' causes of and reactions to stress. Included in her work is studying preservice teachers' strategies to maintain wellbeing as well as ways to increase resilience in order to support preservice teachers in the classroom as college students and in the future as classroom teachers.

If you are interested in learning more about her research, please contact: Dr. Brannon: brannond@elmhurst.edu



Dr. Lisa Burke



Dr. Linda Dauksas

The Elmhurst University Alumni Mentoring initiative began in 2019 when Dr. Burke and Dr. Dauksas received a PNC grant and developed a synchronous/asynchronous alumni

mentoring project that highlighted the significance of non-judgmental mentoring and building a professional teacher network beyond the school building or district.

Due to the current challenges of employing and retaining Special Education teachers, during this academic year, the mentoring initiative will be comprised of a group of EU teacher alumni. Veteran and first year teachers will be paired in mentoring relationships sharing challenges experienced in schools today to help the researchers identify factors that impact special education teacher retention.

If you are interested in learning more about their research, please contact them: Dr. Lisa Burke: lisab@elmhurst.edu
Dr. Linda Dauksas: dauksasl@elmhurst.edu



FACULTY NEWS AND NOTES CON'T



SAMINA HADI-TABASSUM AND PERSIS DRIVER
**BLACK AND BROWN
 EDUCATION IN
 AMERICA**
*Integration in Schools, Neighborhoods,
 and Communities*



The contemporary educational landscape has witnessed a peaked interest in multimodal communication and the importance of multiliteracies to literacy and education in the wider context. Communicating in multiple modes has been a feature

of indigenous societies such as the Akan peoples of West Africa. A review of the extant literature showed no visible study conducted that had delved into the experiences of educators who use Akan proverbs and Adinkra symbols in their instructional delivery. The objective of Dr. Opong-Wadie’s research study was to explore the educators’ experiences with Akan proverbs and Adinkra symbols in instructional delivery. Using a phenomenological approach, eleven educators who use Adinkra symbols in instruction were interviewed. Two themes that emerged from the analysis of the data were ‘the importance of culture to education, and ‘transmitting values.’ Dr. Opong-Wadie’s research discussed and positioned Akan proverbs and Adinkra symbols as pedagogies, and the explication of their implications for instruction and education writ large were emphasized.

If you are interested in learning more about his research, please contact Dr. Opong-Wadie:
kwadwo.oppong-wadie@elmhurst.edu



Dr. Samina Hadi-Tabassum published a book titled “Black and Brown Education in America: Integration in Schools, Neighborhoods, and Communities” from

Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield (2023). The book is a decade long ethnographic study of Maywood, Illinois, and the impact of its recent demographic shift from a historically Black middle-class suburb outside of Chicago with roots in the Black Panther Party to now a community with an increasing Latinx population.

If you are interested in learning more about her research, please contact Dean Hadi-Tabassum:
samina.hadi-tabassum@elmhurst.edu

You can also find the book on the [Rowman & Littlefield publisher’s website.](#)





Dr. Beverly Troiano



Dr. Simeon Stumme

Drs. Beverly Troiano and Simeon Stumme (School of Education) and Dr. Dean Jensen (Computer Science & Information Systems) have been awarded an innovation grant (\$29,945) from the University to develop a Virtual ESL/Bilingual Teacher Researcher Network. As its central goal, the project will develop a web platform to establish a virtual ESL/bilingual teacher network with Elmhurst alumni and ESL/bilingual teacher researchers locally and everywhere Elmhurst

alumni are teaching. The project is designed to create an online space to develop content, offer professional development and create a social network for EU alumni teachers that work with multilingual PreK-12 students. The Network offers an alternative to top-down professional development and is guided by the notion that teachers, through community, have the power to determine, through action research, how best to serve the needs of their multilingual learners and create transformative learning.

Please contact them if you are interested in learning more about their research:

Dr. Beverly Troiano:

beverly.troiano@elmhurst.edu

Dr. Simeon Stumme:

simeon.stumme@elmhurst.edu



Dr. Debra Meyer, whose scholarship is in the field of educational psychology, has a forthcoming chapter in the *Handbook of Educational*

Psychology (fourth edition). Dr. Meyer was invited to author a peer-reviewed chapter focusing on the application of educational psychology research to teacher preparation. She co-authored the chapter, titled *The Relevance of Educational Psychology Research in Teacher Education*, with Dr. Lynley Anderman, a professor at The Ohio State University.

The 4th edition of the *Handbook of Educational Psychology* will be published by Taylor-Francis/Routledge as an e-book in October and hardcopies will be available in early 2024. More information is available at the [publisher's website](#).

If you are interested in learning more about her research, please contact Dr. Meyer: **debram@elmhurst.edu**



Director of Secondary and K-12 Education, Dr. Theresa Y. Robinson has been selected to serve as an ambassador for the Elmhurst University Hispanic Serving Institution grant program. This summer, Dr. Robinson and other faculty from

across campus participated in the ESCALA Certificate in College Teaching and Learning in HSI's retreat. As ambassadors, they will engage in an action research project to improve the experiences of Latinx students in their respective courses and programs.

Dr. Theresa Y. Robinson is also the Principal Investigator for the National Science Foundation (NSF), Robert Noyce STEM Teacher Scholarship Program. August 23, 2023 will be the kickoff of the Noyce Scholars Summer Bridge Program, which serves as an orientation to the School of Education and the Secondary Education Program. The Scholars will engage in presentations on the licensure process, Noyce program activities and culturally relevant STEM teaching and learning.

Please contact Dr. Theresa Robinson if you know a high school student who is interested in attending Elmhurst University and receiving federal funding to become a Noyce STEM Teacher Scholar: **theresa.robinson@elmhurst.edu**



Dr. Jeanne White is thrilled to take on her new role as Director of Elementary Education. She is looking forward to meeting the new candidates in Block 1 as well as preparing Block 3 candidates as they spend two days in their student teaching placements. We hired several supervisors who are excited to share their years of expertise with candidates in the practicum placements.

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Breimeier is being awarded a Graduate Whitener Scholarship for her master's degree education. She is a 5th and 6th grade math teacher at LaGrange Highlands Middle School and is starting her fifth year of teaching. Her favorite part of the job is co-teaching, as she can form relationships with unique students. This fall, Jacqueline will start her second year of the Master of Education in Teacher Leadership program to understand how to make a difference in her school while prioritizing the students.



Dr. Jaime Zurheide is an associate professor in the School of Education and the new

director of the Educating Young Children and Special Education programs. Her current research focuses on the use of mixed-reality simulations in teacher preparation programs. Mixed-reality simulations involve students working with actor-controlled avatars playing the role of students, parents, or other

professional in education to give students practice specific teaching scenarios. For example, in one of her classes, Dr. Zurheide has students complete a simulated IEP meeting with the avatar playing the role of a parent and the students playing the role of a special education teacher running the meeting.

Working with Dr. Lisa Burke and Dr. Deb Meyer, Dr. Zurheide applied for an innovation grant through the University in 2021 and received funding to expand simulations to all School of Education programs

over the course of three years. Dr. Zurheide is currently working on two research studies related to the simulations, a mixed-methods study on the implementation of the IEP simulation with special education program students and a mixed-methods evaluation study of the implementation of the simulations across programs with Dr. Burke and Dr. Meyer.

If you are interested in learning more about her research, please contact Dr. Zurheide: jaime.zurheide@elmhurst.edu

ADMISSION DATA



William “Bill” Slodki is our admission director and monitors our student growth. Our programs in Elementary and Secondary education are our largest student numbers while Educating Young Children and Special Education have increased over the summer.

Please contact Bill if you would like to know more about the admissions process: slodkiw@elmhurst.edu

FRONTLINE NEWS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Here is the latest news from our Educator Licensure Officer, Michael Jankiewicz, Ed.D.

ILLINOIS LITERACY PLAN

Throughout the summer, ISBE has conducted listening tours to seek feedback regarding the draft of the Illinois Literacy Plan. For educator preparation programs, the Illinois Literacy Plan *requires educator candidates to have coursework in methods of reading aligning with the ISBE **comprehensive literacy plan** and creates a new reading foundation assessment as part of a new elementary education content test.* To read the draft plan and to provide feedback go to the [ISBE website](#). Feedback received by September 1, 2023 will be considered for edits to develop the 2nd draft of the plan.

LICENSURE CONTENT TESTS

As of May 11, 2023 the public health emergency declared by Governor Pritzker has ended. Consequently, licensure content test will be required prior to student teaching starting January 1, 2024 for those candidates enrolled in Spring 2024 student teaching.

edTPA

[PA 103-0488](#) was signed into law August 4, 2023. This law provides that beginning immediately and through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a teacher preparation program or other candidate is required to pass a teacher performance assessment. The law creates the Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force to evaluate potential teacher performance assessment systems for implementation in this state. Any current and future licensure candidates in our program are not required to complete the edTPA.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Tell us about what is happening in your school community. If you are an alum of the School of Education, please let us know what you are up to or find out how to get involved with us.

Our goal is to help with community needs and opportunities so please reach out if you are seeking professional development opportunities from our expert faculty and/or want to collaborate on a project.

Please email our Administrative Assistant, Thanaphat “Bea” Martino:
thanaphat.martino@elmhurst.edu

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
School of Education Student Fair

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
in Koplín Hall, 3rd Floor

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13:
Advisory Council Breakfast

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
in the Frick Center

Guest speakers:

Dr. Erin Roche

Principal of William H. Prescott Elementary,
a Blue-Ribbon School



A distinguished educator for nearly two decades, Erin Roche develops and executes educational strategies for students from ethnically diverse, mainly low-income backgrounds.

As Principal, Erin Roche has raised overall test scores, implemented rigorous science and math curricula, and enhanced teacher assessments, professional development, and strategic planning initiatives.

Dr. Sherron Jones-Bibbie



Dr. Sherron Jones-Bibbie worked in several capacities in elementary settings in a large urban school district for over 36 years; they included teacher, special education department chairperson,

assistant principal, principal, and administrator-in-charge.