



Fall 2011

Watson School of Education

First Years of Teaching Newsletter

A Message from the Dean



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Have you registered to be a part of the First Years of Teaching Support Program? Check us out on the web:

www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1

Years ago the National Educational Association put a slogan on its posters, mugs, etc. that said something to the effect of, "Teaching: No One Said It Was Easy." Indeed, it isn't. It takes a great deal of knowledge and skills regarding academic content, children and their families, teaching and assessment strategies, classroom management, curriculum planning and development, learning theories, social and cultural assumptions and practices, and so forth. Teaching is also a profession that is constantly evolving, in part to address the changing world in which it takes place.

For a long time schools have been treated as the scapegoat and the salvation of society. When things are going badly, critics point to the schools as a primary source of the problem and urge significant changes in what it does. If only the school would do its job better, so the argument goes, the problem would go away. At the same time, it is suggested, many problems can only be solved by the schools, as if any one

area of society should be given such overwhelming responsibilities. Whatever the area of concern, there is hope that the school can successfully address it.

If you substitute "teacher" for "the school," you can see what you're facing. And yet – when you teach a lesson exactly as you intended, and when a student's face lights up when learning something new, and when parents thank you for the work you've done with their children, and when colleagues ask for your advice . . . it's all worth it, isn't it? The deep sense of satisfaction and appreciation, sometimes on a daily basis and sometimes years later, involving so many different individuals, is something that many others simply don't get to experience.

While there are many difficulties, especially given the current lack of resources and other support being shared with schools, all teachers should strive to be outstanding in the classroom. After all, children and adolescents are directly involved. But becoming an

excellent teacher is not something that comes easily at the beginning of one's profession, although the enthusiasm of those first years is certainly helpful. It is typically a matter of at least several years of learning how and what to teach, finding out what works best in the classroom and what does not. It is very much a lifelong learning process.

Support from others can help on the journey to becoming the exceptional teacher that I hope you strive to be. The *First Years of Teaching Support Program* is a unique service of the Watson School of Education that is intended to help you on this journey. I've been at several other universities around the country and nowhere have I seen anything like it. I hope it provides you with the direct assistance you need during these first years of teaching. And if you think there's more that we can do to help, please be sure to let us know.

Kenneth Teitelbaum, PhD
Dean, Watson School of Education

First BT Professional Development Day

This year's first Beginning Teacher Professional Development Day is scheduled for Friday, December 2, 2011. Registration is now open. A registra-

tion form can be accessed at the website below. If you are interested in attending, please register by 11/22. Presentation

topics include classroom management, the innovative use of technology, developing leadership skills, and much more!

BT Website: www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1



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First Years of Teaching Support Program

Doing More with Less: Part 2

Have you registered as a member of the First Years of Teaching Support Program?

Go to:
www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1



E-Mentors Available! UNCW is offering an additional layer of support for beginning teachers. eMentors are available for all interested BTs. You will be paired with someone in your subject area who you can communicate with via e-mail. Ask questions about classroom management, content, and share resources! To sign up go to www.uncw.edu/ed/teach1.

In the Summer 2011 edition of the First Years of Teaching Newsletter, two teachers shared how they are doing more with less in their classrooms.

Here are a few more resources to do more with less in your own classroom. This list of grant resources is by no means complete; there are many more resources out there, but I recommend starting with one of the resources provided.

DigitalWish.com allows teachers to submit a technology-based lesson plan for a chance to win over 50 technology grants. Grants are awarded on the 15th of every calendar month.

DonorsChoose.org is an online charity that allows teachers to receive donations towards classroom projects. Once a project reaches its funding goal, DonorsChoose delivers the materials to the school.

NCBrightIdeas.com is the home to the Bright Ideas education grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives. NC Teachers are eligible for grants of up to \$2000. Grants are awarded in November of each year. Applications for next year will open in April.



Web Resources You Can Use!

Thinkfinity.org is a web portal supported by the Verizon Foundation. Educators, parents, and students can log into this free online community which contains at-home activities, quality teaching and learning materials, and more.

HippoCampus.org is a project of the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education. The site provides access to high quality multi-media content on general education subjects for students and teachers, free of charge.

Beginning Teacher Spotlight

This newsletter is created for YOU, the beginning teacher, with your needs in mind. With that said, I would love to be able to highlight your successes, lessons, and professional achievements. Don't be shy! Feel free to contact me and share your success. Have your classroom highlighted in our newsletter and

share your strategies, projects, and other skills with teachers outside the walls of your individual schools. I can be reached via email at lewiss@uncw.edu or by phone at 910-962-7669. I look forward to hearing from you!

~Somer Lewis
Teacher-In-Residence

You Are Invited to attend a FREE Presentation Series

"What Works: Innovative Models and Best Practices in Education"

**When: 11/29/11
5:00-6:00pm
Where: Ed Bldg,
Rm 162**

Topic: Online Learning in Education

To Register: <http://www.uncw.edu/ed/whatworks/>