IMPORTANT DATES

January & February

BCI Reports & Taskstream Payments Due
Friday, January 23rd • 101 Blair

Application for Admit Due
Friday, February 13th • 101 Blair

Job Search Workshop For Seniors
Monday, Feb 16th • 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Spring Research Forum
Wednesday, February 18th • 4:30 p.m. • 101 Blair

March & April

Mini-Recruiting Fair for Seniors
Monday-Thursday, March 9th-12th

Student Teaching/Licensure Meeting for Juniors
Wednesday, March 18th • 6:00 p.m.

Advising Week
Monday-Friday, March 23rd-27th

Education Faculty Colloquium (Dr. Yontz)
Wednesday, April 1st

Student Teaching Celebration
Wednesday, April 29th • 4:00-5:30 p.m.
First Year Teacher Forum

“Expect to not know what to expect.”
--Katy Williams, high school science

This sound advice was given to a group of over fifty education majors and minors who gathered in Blair 101 on November 19th for the First Year Teacher Forum. This event was hosted by Wittenberg University Student Education Association (WUSEA).

There were five first year teachers, recent Wittenberg graduates, who spoke (pictured above left to right are Maggie Maloney, Brooke Brennan, Taylor Hiner, Katy Williams and Zoe Thompson). All of the women are employed in schools in Springfield and the surrounding areas. Three of the women are employed as intervention specialists for a wide range of age groups, one is a preschool teacher, and the other is a high school science teacher. All of the women offered sound advice and feedback on what it is like during the first year out in the field as a teacher. The first-year teachers spoke on a variety of topics, from the challenges they’ve encountered as first year teachers, to advice for finding a teaching job, to taking the OAE tests required for licensure in the state of Ohio.

For many of the education majors and minors, the advice of the first year teachers alleviated some of their worries and helped them begin to picture what their life will be like once they graduate. All in all, the event was a success and we would like to thank all of the first year teachers who came out to share their experiences with those of us still in the program; your advice was greatly appreciated, thank you.
New in the Education Department

At the beginning of the 2014 fall semester the Education Department welcomed Dr. Regina Post as its new department chairperson. This change occurred after 3 years of service from Dr. Sally Brannan who has begun work as the Coordinator of Academic Services in the Office of Academic Services at Wittenberg. Dr. Brannan continues to teach courses in the Education Department but her background with intervention services is now being utilized to serve students across our entire campus. The Education Department students, staff, and faculty appreciate Dr. Brannan’s years of service as chairperson and thank her for her hard work and dedication to the department.

Dr. Gina Post is a familiar face in Blair Hall as she has been a faculty member since 2007, primarily teaching courses related to math education. Dr. Post is originally from Ohio but has spent numerous years in K-12 schools and in higher education in Colorado, Arizona, and Utah. Prior to becoming the chairperson, Dr. Post served as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Education Department. Dr. Post is looking forward to leading the department through a curriculum revision and hopes to strategically position the department towards growth in the preparation of excellent teachers. Welcome, Dr. Post to this leadership position.

Dr. Roberta Linder has picked up the mantle of Director of Graduate Studies for our department in the 2014-15 year. Roberta joined the Wittenberg Education Department in August of 2009. She is presently teaching courses in reading assessment & strategies and phonics in the teaching of reading and writing as well as courses in the master's program. Kudos to you Dr. Linder for your caring and attention to the graduate program!
As tradition in the Education Department, our graduate students were able to disseminate their research at the Graduate Research Forum on October 8, 2014.

**Stacie Anderson Cook**, MA and **Jessica Dewey**, MA earned their master’s degrees from Wittenberg University during the summer of 2014 and presented their thesis research to an audience of over 25 students, faculty and staff.

Stacie’s presentation, titled *Professional Learning Community and Self-Video to Develop Teacher Questioning Strategies to Enhance Student Discourse in Mathematics* was a summary of her mixed-methods study focused on promising pedagogical practices for elementary school math teachers. Stacie is an elementary school teacher in the Tecumseh Local Schools.

Jessica’s presentation, titled *What are the Lead Administrator Perceptions of the Ohio Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program as it Relates to School Finances, School Culture, Student Achievement, and Athletics* recapped her thesis study focused on implications of school choice policies on public and participating private schools. Jessica is a middle grades teacher at Emmanuel Christian Academy in Springfield.

Both graduates did an excellent job with their graduate studies and have modeled the importance of teachers being active researchers.

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**The Spring 2015 Research Forum will be held February 18th at 4:30 PM in Blair 101**

The Spring Forum will feature three more recent grads from our Math and Science cohort: **Erica Banion, Dani McCoy, and Katie Cammarn-Maliskas**.
When the Fall 2014 semester began on August 25, Blair Hall was without one of its beloved alumna and faculty members, Dr. Lora Lawson. After 15 years of service as an Education Department faculty member, Dr. Lawson began her retirement.

Prior to coming to Wittenberg in 1999, Dr. Lawson served as a preschool and elementary school teacher for 14 years, primarily in the Springfield City and the Northeastern Local School Districts. At Wittenberg, Dr. Lawson taught numerous courses in the early childhood, special education, and graduate programs. Dr. Lawson made many significant contributions to the Education Department and to the discipline of teacher preparation.

She is a co-author of the Heinemann book *Rethinking Phonics: Making the Best Teaching Decisions*; has published numerous articles, including in the prestigious *Reading Research Quarterly* and the *Handbook of Research on Teaching English Language Arts*. She actively represented Wittenberg in the local Arts Alive group, in partnership with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Lawson served as an influential mentor to countless students, area teachers and colleagues within the department.

The Education Department faculty and staff celebrated with Dr. Lawson and her husband, Bill, on November 14th at the Simon Kenton Inn. Those in attendance reflected on her career at Wittenberg and it was evident that her work as a faculty member was a life well lived. Dr. Lawson noted, “your students will not care what you know until they know that you care.”

Today, Dr. Lawson is staying active in the arts community by working part time on an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant with the Springfield Museum of Art at Wittenberg University, focusing on community involvement and expanding and improving the art education program. We will miss you, Dr. Lawson. *Thank you for passing on your light.*
Grad courses scheduled for Spring & Summer, 2015

These courses provide opportunities for school districts to provide professional development with Masters credit.

Spring offerings include:
- Educ 520 Differentiated Instruction & Co-teaching in Inclusive classrooms
- Educ 510: Cognitive Perspectives in Math & Science
- Educ 585: Research & Advanced Study of Lang. Arts & Reading (Ohio Reading endorsement)
- Educ 536: Writing for Teaching and Learning

Summer offerings include:
- Educ 520: Frameworks for Teaching Math & Science
- Educ 570: Working with Diverse Communities
- Educ 605: Practicum in Reading (Ohio Reading Endorsement)
- Educ 534: History of Literacy Instruction: Policy & Politics
- Educ 537: Community Relations
- Ohio Generalist endorsement courses for math, social studies & principles and practices.

Robed and ready! Current faculty gathered after the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation January 19. From left: Tracy Whitlock, Gina Post, Sally Brannan, Amy McGuffey, Brian Yontz, JoEtta Cooper, Roberta Linder.

Kappa Delta Pi Initiative

Kappa Delta Pi International Education Honorary, held a fall intuition in October. Congratulations to the new members:
- Sarah Ellis
- Madison Rupp
- Racheal Mooney
- Nicole Strah
- Gabi Weinketz

Spring initiation will take place on Sunday April 12.

Look who is Linked in!
The Education Department - that’s who. Invitations to join our department’s closed, professional, Linked-In page were recently sent out. Undergrad seniors are looking for advice, help, jobs, and other professional tips. In the near future we will be inviting Witt alumni to weigh in as well. If you already have a Linked-In account search for “Wittenberg Education” and request access. Hope you’ll join us today!

Current faculty gathered after the Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation January 19. From left: Tracy Whitlock, Gina Post, Sally Brannan, Amy McGuffey, Brian Yontz, JoEtta Cooper, Roberta Linder.
Spotlight on alumna: Stephanie Brandstetter, 2014

Where are you teaching?
I am teaching 3rd grade at Stiles Elementary School in the South Western district in Columbus.

What elements of your Witt program have been the most helpful?
The field experience in a variety of classrooms is so helpful. Yes, the lesson plan format we use seems tedious and extensive but it's also the most accurate and really does prepare you extremely well. I remember saying, "Real teacher's don't write plans like that!" but most of the elements in the department’s lesson plan template are required by contract to be in my plans. The emphasis on recording data and having an assessment method for every lesson is something I hear about every day as a teacher.

Do you have a Blair Hall favorite memory?
I still am talking about and reflecting on the trip we took to Cleveland in Dr. Yontz's urban education class. I apply the things we learned in that class every single day. Another favorite day was showing students from the Springfield City Schools around Wittenberg (with Kappa Delta Pi). It was such a cool opportunity to show elementary students what college is like; all kids should see college as an option!

We Cannot Live Without Books ….
This fall, the Wittenberg University Student Education Association (WUSEA) and Kappa Delta Pi, the education honorary, hosted a Scholastic Book Fair in Thomas Library. The book fair ran from September 29th, 2014 to October 3rd, 2014 and made an estimated $1,100.00 to $1,200.00. These proceeds will be used to purchase books and other materials for the ARC after-school programs. A special thank you goes out to the 42 volunteers that helped set up, tear down, and run the book fair. WUSEA and Kappa Delta Pi would also like to thank Thomas Library for hosting the event as well as everyone who came out and showed their support by purchasing books from the book fair. Thank you!

Future issues of the Blair Bulletin will feature news about other initiatives of the Education Department.