WELCOME BACK ALUMNI!

ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

On May 14, 2014 the Noyce community invited back recent Alumni. Sarah Skidmore and Merideth Troy, Class of 2013 returned to tell current students and staff about their first years in the classroom. Both were able to give tips on classroom management and hardships to expect within the first years of teaching. Discussion centered on how the Noyce community could further help graduates.

Skidmore teaches 7th grade and is currently a JV Basketball coach. She said that in her classroom she enjoys using jokes and motivational stories. Skidmore has also maintained a great relationship with her mentor, who has helped her a lot with adjustments to Common Core and ideas to use in her classroom.

Troy has received some sub positions and has had the opportunity to help 8th grade students who were at risk help pass their state tests. She said the work was hard but very rewarding.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- PNNL APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 14, 2014
- SPRING 2015 COLLOQUIUM MARCH 25, 2014

FACTORS INFLUENCING CURRENT REFORM IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

FEATURING:
DR. DAVID CAMPBELL NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

COMING SOON:
PILOT NETWORKING PROJECT TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH ALUMNI

NOYCE INFORMATION SESSION REGARDING INTERSHIPS
Over the summer two Wittenberg Noyce Scholars participated in the Ninth Annual NSF Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program Conference in Washington D.C. The program ran from June 18 to June 20, 2014. Both scholars, Haley Conkel ‘16 and Kelcey Cook ‘16, appreciated the many speakers at the conference and engaged in multiple workshops with other Noyce Scholars from around the country. Conkel and Cook also participated in a poster presentation sharing their experiences so far with Noyce and some of the features that makes Wittenberg’s program unique. The conference focused on the effects of technology in the classroom as technology is a prominent resource in today’s schools. They also were taught about the future of Noyce, such as projections at the national level and the importance of STEM teachers today. Scholars had the opportunity to explore some of the museums where the conference was located and to travel around D.C. to visit the important monuments.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory 2014

Every year Wittenberg University send several Noyce Scholars to PNNL (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) located in the state of Washington to engage in a paid internship. This year 3 scholars and 1 additional Wittenberg student had the opportunity to go and perform research with an advisor and spend time learning about how to take this research into a Math or Science Classroom in the future. Among the scholars were Russell Williams ‘16, Mary Ann White ‘15, and Emily Bast ‘15. The students enjoyed the opportunity to engage in one of the ten U.S. Department of Energy national laboratories. One of the scholars, Emily Bast, quoted what the overall experience meant to her:

“This internship helped me see the value in giving kids authentic experiences in the classroom—having them pose questions and find the answers, having them do hands-on projects, and teaching and encouraging them to be self-motivated. These are the kinds of skills that students will need regardless of what path they choose to take in life. While it is important to prepare students to pass tests, we must also realize that our job is so much bigger than that.” Bast ‘15
The Midwest Regional Noyce Conference was held on October 2-3, 2014. All of Wittenberg’s senior Noyce scholars went and participated in the event. At the event scholars were able to listen to Alumni Noyce scholars that had varying amounts of experience in the classroom. Many of the scholars expressed interest in the advice from the teachers. Below is what some of them have to say about the experience.

“...I thought that it was extremely beneficial to hear from other Noyce Scholars who are currently teaching. We heard from first year teachers up to fifteen year teachers and they were all able to give us beneficial advice to having our own classroom and the struggles that they faced starting off. It was also awesome to hear about the rewards and why they love their jobs.” Daniels ’15

“...Matt Larson, the plenary speaker for mathematics, gave a great talk about making math work for all students. One thing I really took away from his talk was the importance of productive struggle in the math classes. Sometimes students and parents have the misconception that the teacher’s job is to make math easy for them and that if they are struggling, something is wrong. His point was that it is important for students to engage in productive struggling with math, because this will help them learn how to make sense of math and truly understand it rather than just memorizing formulas and procedure.” Bast ’15

Fall Colloquium 2014

Wittenberg Noyce’s Fall 2014 colloquium was yet another success. The colloquium featured speakers Dr. Suzanne Harper and Dr. Dana C. Cox, professors from Miami University. Their lecture was on using technology to help teach and to help students problem-solve using computer programs. Halfway through the colloquium, students, faculty members, and advisors were challenged to solve several problems using the computer program called Geogebra. The speakers reflected on how they use the technology in their own college classes to teach students how to use the beginner and expert levels of the program. The overall experience was a great learning tool for all that were present. Most of the students were not very familiar with the program and expressed the excitement that this could bring to the classroom.

At the end of the colloquium, Noyce scholars got an opportunity to share their research done at PNNL with the speakers and their advisors. Advisors were very interested about what their scholar had accomplished and also pleased to hear about the work they had done this summer. Younger scholars also got to listen about the work done at PNNL and learn about the experience that will be available to them in future years.

At the completion of the event, discussion was continued between Dr. Post, scholars, and the speakers at dinner that evening.
Welcome New Scholars to the Noyce Community!

Meet our latest scholars! Learn about their interests, plans, and their goals at Wittenberg. They all have begun to participate in Noyce activities such as the book club, colloquiums, conferences, and even internships.

Haley Conkel ‘16
Subject Area: 7-12 Mathematics
Hometown: Westerville, Ohio

Most Memorable Teaching Experience:
The summer after my freshman year of college, I had a NOYCE funded internship where I led a Math Club at an elementary school in Springfield, Ohio. This experience overall was very memorable but my favorite memory of the summer was when I realized how much my students (fifth, sixth and seventh graders) loved to have read aloud time while learning about math topics. I read several books to them over the summer and each of these books allowed them an insight on how math relates to their own lives.

Kelcey Cook
Subject Area: 7-12 Mathematics
Hometown: Maineville, Ohio

Most Memorable Teaching Experience:
As a tutor, it is a great feeling when your student finally gets it and sees that they just figured out a problem that they came to you thinking was the hardest thing in the world. It makes them feel like they can do anything.

Russell Williams
Subject Area: 7-12 Physics
Hometown: Apple Valley, Ohio

Most Memorable Teaching Experience:
A great moment for me was in my classroom when I made a joke and everyone in the class laughed. I love having an open classroom where I can connect to my students on a variety of levels. I think openness and humor are a great way to get kids excited to come to class, which is the first step to be excited about learning.