In the Spring of 2012, the TEP Department welcomed Mrs. Heather Nielsen as the Department’s License Officer! It didn’t take long for the Department to see the great contributions of Mrs. Nielsen! Not long after her contract took place, Mrs. Nielsen began initial advising for students, distributing students in elementary pre-clinical placements, doing certifications, and other administrative duties.

Mrs. Nielsen is not only efficient, but truly dedicated to education. Mrs. Nielsen taught high and middle school in both rural and urban areas. She worked for approximately 5 years in an alternative school where she mentored students and helped them succeed!

Mrs. Nielsen received a Bachelors of Science in English and a Masters of Education. Besides many years of direct teaching, she also has assisted with (and taught) Methods courses and assisted adjunct faculty at the collegiate level. During what little free time Heather has, she enjoys reading mysteries and forensic science! Mrs. Nielsen brings a wide array of interests, knowledge, and experience to the Department! We are glad to have you! Welcome, Heather!

Ms. Nielsen was one of two outstanding new employees to be hired last year! Ms. Shea Sims was also hired in May of 2012. Ms. Sims is the Department’s new Office Support Specialist. Various commonalities that Ms. Nielsen and Ms. Sims share are their accomplishments and cheerful attitudes in the Department!

Ms. Sims was and continues to be a front end ‘backbone’ for the Department. Ms. Sims previously worked as an Office Support Person at Express Employment and as an Account Manager at Design Ideas. Though Shea is great in any task assigned, she particularly loves creative writing!

Shea graduated from Illinois State University in 2010 with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Minor in Creative Writing. Her vocabulary, writing ability and creative ideologies have come out in her collaboration with staff in Department meetings and specifically in organization of student files and main office!

During her time out of work, Shea enjoys creative writing, blogging, painting, crocheting, and composing photography! We are very happy to have you, Shea! Thanks already for what you do!

In celebration of our new hires, the Department also sorrows because of the resignation of Mr. Tyler Tanaka and retirement of faculty member, Dr. Allan Cook.

Mr. Tyler Tanaka was previously the Department’s Online Coordinator for Secondary Mathematics Students. He left the Department in pursuit of employment with the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. We will certainly miss you, Tyler!

The Department would also like to tremendously thank and say happy retirement to Dr. Allan Cook, who has been at UIS for 18.5 years! Dr. Cook is now helping as an emeritus professor and consultant for the college. Thank you and we will miss you, Dr. Cook!
**CONGRATULATIONS DR. KAHN!**

This past summer, Dr. Brian Kahn has worked very hard with faculty from the Sociology, Political Science, Economics, History and Geography fields, as well as secondary teachers of various schools, to better serve students. Specifically, Dr. Kahn has implemented a rising national initiative to teach students about the integration of all the social sciences using primary sources through the preservation of digitization. Primary sources are documents that are made while someone experienced an event first hand (ex: authenticate videos of the live 2008 election). All of this hard work is being noticed this fall, as Dr. Kahn was awarded a **$20,000 grant from the Library of Congress**. Dr. Kahn and his colleagues are already implementing this initiative. For example, in his Methods classes, Dr. Kahn has begun referring and using online primary sources. This national implementation will help students paint a more accurate and unbiased picture of various historical events. Dr. Kahn mentioned the importance of multicultural awareness, objectification, authenticity, and the provocation of critical thinking when responding to his motivation for the grant. The Department is very excited about teaching with primary sources and congratulates Dr. Kahn on his efforts. It is predicted that this implementation will be an extraordinary improvement in education. For more information about the progressive movement of using primary sources in education, please go to: www.loc.gov for details.

**Attention Students:**
The Teacher Education Department is going to try something new this year. We are scheduling rooms on campus to hold study sessions prior to each of the TAP, Content, and APT exam dates. These will be very informal gatherings for you to work together with each other. It is our hope that those of you who have already passed these tests will volunteer to come to the study sessions to help provide guidance to those who have not yet taken the tests. Please check out the dates here and plan to meet with each other for some moral support (Wilson, 2012)! The **November study sessions for ICTS are: Friday, November 2nd from 4pm-5pm and Monday, November 5th from 5pm-6pm.** Look for future ICTS study sessions on the Department bulletin board and good luck!

**Reflection on Spring 2012 ECCE EVENT:**

Last spring, the TEP Department and UIS hosted a descriptive and inspiring set of events. These all oriented around the Jewish Resistance that took place during the Holocaust.

Faye Schulman’s art exhibit revealed much about this era. The photo exhibit was called **Pictures of Resistance**. Ms. Schulman is the only known Partisan to have documentation of the Jewish Resistance. **Pictures of Resistance** was held in the visual art gallery for almost a month. After the opening ceremony, the UIS ECCE series and TEP Department hosted Mitch Braff, who is the Executive Director of the Jewish Educational partisan Foundation. **Mr. Braff gave a presentation about the award winning and inspiring film: Defiance.** Despite students’ busy spring schedules, this event was a success and very informative!

---

**ISBE Certification: Recommendation for Students**

**Attention Fall 2012 Student Teachers:**
Have you submitted a Request for Entitlement form? See [http://www.uis.edu/cehs/resources/Forms.html](http://www.uis.edu/cehs/resources/Forms.html) for more information.

Questions about the Licensure Process?????

Contact Heather Nielsen at hmccullo@uis.edu or 206-6934

**Admission Information for Students Applying to TEP**

To meet requirements students must: Pass the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS); Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) (previously called the Basic Skills Test). **The ACT Plus Writing with a composite score of 22 or better may be used in lieu of the TAP.** Please refer to [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net) for details. After finishing the ACT requirements students should have scores sent to UIS and ISBE. When using the ACT in place of TAP, please use code 3001 for ISBE submission and complete form 73-60 on ISBE.net. Lastly, submit the Form 73-60 to Mrs. Heather Nielsen, Licensure Officer!
Potential outstanding teachers are nominated to The Golden Apple Foundation. This is one of the Department’s very prestigious affiliates. Incoming or current students are nominated for the Golden Apple Award. This attainment involves self or third person nomination, a minimum 2.5 GPA, and a strong commitment to later teach in schools of need in the future (among other things). The Golden Apple Foundation scholarship is funded by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The UIS chapter of this organization is mentored by Dr. Victoria Childs and Dr. Brian Kahn, both full time faculty in the Department. We wish these students good luck in their upcoming semesters!

Albert Einstein once stated: “the only real valuable thing is intuition (Harris, 1995).” Intuition plays a key role in education and in life! Einstein was one of many prestigious members of what is now an international honors organization, known as Kappa Delta Pi. This is a worldwide organization that is dedicated to accomplishment and academic success. This organization is composed with a vast array of objectives, including, growth in teaching, learning and professionalism. Its exact mission is: “To sustain an honored community of diverse educators by promoting excellence and advancing scholarship, leadership, and service.” With this mission and objectives, Kappa Delta Pi has grown worldwide in recognizing accomplished students in many facets. 2012 is the 100th year anniversary for Kappa Delta Pi.

Congratulations to the Kappa Delta Pi legacy!

Where Are They Now?

Teacher: Peggy Dunn

Peggy Dunn is a former student from the TEP Department. She was mentioned over and over by faculty to be a potential candidate for this excerpt. It is easy to see the reason she would be nominated after seeing her accomplishments and true dedication to this helping profession. Ms. Dunn is truly an outstanding teacher and person!

Currently, Ms. Peggy Dunn lives in Arizona and teaches high school students at a small public library. She also works at a museum to create plans for teaching students and is writing a book.

When interviewing Ms. Dunn, she mentioned that: “Teaching is an extremely demanding job that doesn’t end at the end of the day, the end of the month, or the end of the year.” She also explained that many former faculty members have given her skills and strategies to be a better teacher.

Ms. Dunn loves teaching Language Arts and History. She loves to connect with students using creativity, laughter, knowledge, and a willingness to work outside the box. She values students and referenced that teaching is much more than just a career! We are glad to hear from you Ms. Dunn! Thank you for your eagerness to change lives!

Kathy Fox, teacher at Harvard Park Elementary School, is a remarkable teacher and collaborator with the Department.

Mrs. Fox served as a cooperating teacher during the Fall of 2011 and is currently a cooperating teacher.

Mrs. Kathy Fox was formerly a CPA and liked her occupation; however she later realized that she had a true passion to teach!

Mrs. Fox mentions her favorite subjects to teach are math and reading: “Reading is important because it is used in everyday life!” She says that because concepts like reading and math are so necessary, she focuses on the basics but she always tries to use fun and authentic ways to do so!

Mrs. Fox also says that as she has gained experience, her largest improvement is getting to know and teach every student. This and other aspects of teaching very much intrigue Kathy.

Mrs. Fox’s true passion is shown as she remarks: “I enjoy that I feel I am making a difference; every day is a challenge, but a wonderful challenge!”

Mrs. Fox elaborated on her passion during the interview and it is apparent that she is a great cooperating teacher for the Department!
CONGRATULATIONS STUDENT TEACHER
SPRING AND FALL 2012 CANDIDATES!

**Elementary Spring 2012:**
*Heather Archey* *Tammi Bowman* *Tabitha Brinkley*
*Mary Dowding* *Leslie Farrar* *Jennifer Fuller-Johnson*
*Natasha Hall* *Tricia Mason-Byrd* *Ashley Palmer*
*Mary VanMetre* *Natacha Walters* *Rebecca Wear*
*Scott Weller* *Simon Wilson*

**Secondary Spring 2012:**
*Ondrea Imming* *Holly Karner* *Laura McGaughey*
*Scott Mauer* *Hannah Radford* *Laura Reynolds*
*Curtis Simonson* *Rebekka Sponsler* *David Wise*

**Elementary Fall 2012:**
*Brenna Byerly* *Kady Carter* *April Dixon* *Carrie Green*
*Amanda Harness* *Elyse Hendricks* *Keri Kirby*
*Renae Krieg-Womack* *Kaila Townsend Long*
*Christyn Riley* *Zachary Rotroff* *Monique Sandefur*
*Elise Vass*

**Secondary Fall 2012:**
*Karesa Coston* *Angela Ausplos* *David Hawkins* *Ashley Head*
*Brittany Smith* *Danae Smith* *John Hite* *Tim Viscioni*