Welcome New C.U.R.E. Cohort

Liz Alarcon- Childhood Education
Nicole Brooks- Childhood Education
Jessica Cabrera- Adolescence Math Education
Ashley Chapple- Physical Education
Jesse Couillou- Physical Education
Alyssa Guerrier- Childhood Education
Trevor Griffin- Physical Education
Krystina Hardter- Adolescence Education
Sulema Iriarte- Childhood Education
Rachel McKenna- Childhood Education
Sabria Santos- Speech Language Development
Melissa Sarmiento- Adolescence Spanish Education

Pictured below: Jess, Trevor, Sulema, Krystina, Rachel, Sabria and Liz

Dates to Remember

ALL-C.U.R.E. SEMINARS
All-C.U.R.E. Seminars will meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in Room 301-303 Corey Union
Tuesday, October 4
Tuesday, November 1

MENTOR MEETINGS
Mentor Meetings will run from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in Room 301-303 Corey Union
Tuesday, November 8

Inside this issue:
1. Welcome New C.U.R.E. Cohort
2. Class Reflections: Terry Case
3. C.U.R.E. Profile: Alana Bruck
4. What I’ve Learned: Nicole Rodriguez
5. C.U.R.E. Welcome Back Picnic
CLASS REFLECTIONS: THOUGHTS ON ‘EXPLORING EDUCATION’
BY TERRY CASE, JUNIOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION MAJOR FROM SYRACUSE

In Spring Semester of 2005, Terry Case and the other second year C.U.R.E. students took INT 270: Exploring Education with Dr. Mary Raymondi. These are Terry’s thoughts on this class.

INT 270: Exploring Education: Urban Emphasis was much different then the previous two C.U.R.E. classes. In this class we read books that seemed to have more relevance to me. The book, What Is It About Me You Can’t Teach?, by Eleanor Rodriguez and James Bellanca gave me a lot of insight on different techniques teachers can use in the classroom setting; techniques that I plan on using when I become a teacher.

I feel as a student who wants to become a teacher that I am heading in the right direction (or at least I hope I am). I feel that this course has helped me gain a focus on the struggles of urban schools and that, as a future teacher, I have the power to change some of the things that are going on in the physical education room. I feel more confident now then before this class about being an urban school teacher. The more I think about the inequities between urban schools and suburban schools, the more it fuels my fire to become an urban school teacher. To somehow give back to the kids of an urban setting, much like the teachers that I had while in school.

I feel that this class has helped shape the way I am going to run my class. Maybe not on purpose but this class has taught me ways to deal with children who perhaps don’t act the way that we think they should in class.

The book, Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun, by Geoffrey Canada was a book that opened my eyes. It showed me that even if kids are living in a troubled neighborhood they can still come out of that neighborhood as a role model to younger kids. This is something that I will keep in mind as a teacher. Knowing that good kids can come out of difficult situations is something I think all teachers should realize. Teachers seem to give up on students like these. I hope that I don’t ever become like one of those teachers in the future.

Finally, I feel that as a teacher I will keep evolving, but I am greatly influenced by the class that I just took. As times change, however, I hope to change along with them. I hope to look back on this in the future and see how much I have changed, and how much the system changed. People seem hard pressed to realize that change is a good thing.

C.U.R.E. PROFILE: ALANA BRUCK

Alana Bruck is the Graduate Assistant this year in the C.U.R.E. office. She comes from Suffern., which is in Rockland County, NY. Alana graduated from SUNY Cortland in May 2005, with a degree in Adolescence Education: Social Studies. She was a student teacher for ninth and tenth grade at Cortland High School and won a Certificate of Excellence in Student Teaching. Alana is currently working on an M.A. in History here at SUNY Cortland’s Graduate School. Alana hopes to work as a social studies teacher in either New York City, or the Rockland/Westchester area when she completes her degree. Alana believes that the social studies are an important component of the adolescence curriculum, and that teachers should “work to create fun activities that are relevant to both the student and his/her understanding of the larger world.” She knows that it can be difficult to make students interested in the subject, but hopes to infuse historical topics with issues that are important to them.

Alana likes SUNY Cortland, because “most professors are willing to go that extra mile and there are always activities offered on campus.” What she misses most about home though, is her family (2 sisters, mother and grandparents), doing laundry for free, and being able to hop the train or bus into NYC. In her free time, Alana takes ballet, likes to watch bad reality TV, (especially “Extreme Home Makeover”) and goes for a jog when it is not too cold or rainy.

Welcome to the C.U.R.E. office Alana! We know it will be a great year working with you!
Throughout my years here at SUNY Cortland, I have taken many classes through the C.U.R.E. program. I have learned to become comfortable with controversial ideas such as diversity, race, sexuality, and religion. It has not been an easy ride, and as I continue to grow and learn, I am beginning to realize that I am lucky to have been exposed to these things. It has made me a well rounded person. This class (INT 270: Exploring Education, Urban Emphasis) was different from the C.U.R.E. classes because we all had field experiences in different schools. Such varied observations lead us to different opinions on urban schools, and teachers.

The observation hours not only opened my eyes, but my heart. It was hard for me to truly understand what it would be like to teach; you go through a lot of training, but nothing compares to experience. Being in an elementary school for a full week, six hours a day was eye opening. I knew it was going to be hard. But I also found it to be exhausting, fun, and rewarding. I realized that this is not just your job, it's your life. Before this semester I had observed classes, but it was once a week. This was a completely different, eye opening experience that everyone should have. I feel it would be amazing if every student had to have a week in an urban school, it not only shows you a world different from your own, but it reveals that there truly are teachers who can do it. This experience was both motivating and inspiring.

For this class, we read only one book that was about someone’s life story. The rest were analytical, and they helped us to evaluate different situations, and how to break things down. They also brought up controversial topics, which lead to discussions that were eye opening for me.

Hearing other people’s opinions and ideas can also help to make you a well-rounded person. The book that really made an impact on me was See You When You Get There by Gregory Michie. It helped to see what teachers can go through, but also how they handle the daily situations in education. We also discussed physical education, which was most helpful because in many of my other classes people do not think to combine physical education and urban education.

Another issue that has become more controversial is sexuality. We, as a class, have generally the same feelings on racism, religion, and diversity. However, when we discuss sexuality it is a different story. This has been an issue that is hard to talk about, and it seems as if gays and lesbians are going through the same struggle as many ethnicities did years ago (and are still going through). Discussing it in class really encouraged me to understand others’ points of view. It is a difficult task, but it is necessary to try to appreciate everyone’s opinions—especially on an issue that is so controversial. If my students’ views are different from mine on this or any topic, I will be more understanding. Talking about this issue will make it easier for me as a teacher and be more open to different opinions.

Now that we are coming to the end of our C.U.R.E.classes, I have to admit I am going to miss them. It has been an amazing experience and I have met amazing people. Now as I move into the next step in my life, I will always keep everything I have learned close to me, in my mind and heart. I have learned so many things to help make me an amazing teacher and that is what I plan on doing. I enjoy learning about new issues in this world, and I want to make a big difference to the wider community. I am who I am, I am proud of it. After being in C.U.R.E., and all the accompanying education classes, I have come to realize that if you don’t accept who I am, I already know people who do.
C.U.R.E. students enjoy the Welcome Back Picnic on September 18, 2005