

## College of Education New Faculty, Fall 2009

*The COE recently greatly enhanced its faculty with the addition of twelve new tenured/tenure-track faculty members, one visiting faculty member and six new lecturers.*

### New COE Leadership

**Lisbeth Dixon-Krauss, Ph.D.**, joins our College as the Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Professor in the Department of Teacher Education and Administration. Her specialties are Literacy and Teacher Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Florida in 1985. Her research expertise is in applications of Cultural-Historical Activity Theory to literacy teaching and learning. Dr. Dixon-Krauss's research and academic leadership experience in teacher education will enhance the current high quality, national reputation of Teacher Education Programs at UNT.

**Nancy Nelson, Ph.D.**, joins our College as Department Chair and Professor of the Department of Teacher Education and Administration. Her scholarship focuses on reading and writing processes and practices as well as the politics of literacy. She is best known for her work in writing from sources (discourse synthesis), some of which was published under the name Nancy Nelson Spivey. At UNT, she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses for the Language, Literacy, and Bilingual Education program. Prior to coming to UNT, Nelson was on the faculty of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where she also served as department chair, and of Louisiana State University, where she was the Elena and Albert LeBlanc Professor of Education and Director of the LSU Writing Project. She has also been on the faculty of the College of William and Mary, Carnegie Mellon University and Texas Woman's University. Her doctoral and bachelor's degrees are from the University of Texas at Austin, and her master's degree is from Southern Methodist University.

**Abbas Tashakkori, Ph.D.**, joins our College as Department Chair and Professor of the Department of Educational Psychology. He received his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the Carolina Population Center and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Tashakkori has extensive experience as an educational program evaluator, and has taught in undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of North Carolina, Shiraz University (Iran), Stetson University, Louisiana State University, and Florida International University. In addition to research methodology, his published works cover a wide spectrum of research and program evaluation in cross-cultural contexts, including self-perceptions attitudes and gender/ethnicity.

### New Endowed Chair

**Gaile S. Cannella, Ph.D.**, joins the College as Professor and holder of the Velma E. Schmidt Endowed Chair. Holding a doctorate from the University of Georgia, she is a former elementary and early childhood teacher who has served as a professor at Texas A&M, College Station, Arizona State and Tulane Universities. While

in New Orleans, her work included the application of critical qualitative research in the analysis of public education issues. Dr. Cannella's scholarship involves the use of critical, post structural, feminist and postcolonial theories to construct critical childhood policy studies.

### **New Associate Professor**

**Katherine Thomas, Ph.D.**, will join the Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation this fall. Dr. Thomas received her Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Louisiana State University with an emphasis in motor development and developmental psychology. She has previously taught at Southern University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Arizona State University, and Iowa State University. Dr. Thomas' research is focused on physical activity in children, particularly changes across age and the influence of school policies. She has received considerable external grant support and has numerous research and review publications as well as a highly regarded textbook, *Physical Education Methods for Elementary Teachers* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Human Kinetics, 2008).

### **New Assistant Professors**

**Qi Chen, Ph.D.**, joins our Educational Psychology department. Her specialties are Growth Mixture Modeling (GMM), Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM), Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), longitudinal data analyses and mediation analysis, and the application of these methods in educational and family-based data. Qi earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at Texas A&M University, College Station in 2008, specializing in Research, Measurement and Statics. She completed a one-year postdoctoral research position in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Qi's rich experiences in HLM and SEM problems on both simulated and real data fit the particular needs of the Educational Research program and will contribute to the development of UNT's Educational Research program.

**Kerrie Fineran, Ph.D.**, joins our Counseling and Higher Education department this fall. Her specialties are school counseling, addictions and personality assessment. Kerrie earned her Ph.D. from the University of Toledo of Ohio in 2009 in Counselor Education and Supervision. She is a certified secondary school counselor, a nationally certified counselor, and has experience in schools, inpatient and outpatient addictions treatment, working with at-risk youth, college counseling and coaching collegiate swimming. Kerrie heads the secondary school counseling track in the UNT counselor education program.

**Endia J. Lindo Ph.D.**, joins our Educational Psychology department. Her research involves examining approaches to teaching reading comprehension and the social factors that predict students' performance and responsiveness to intervention. Dr. Lindo earned her Ph.D. in Special Education at Vanderbilt University in 2007. A researcher and special educator, her works all serve to improve the reading performance of students who are low-achieving or diagnosed with high-incidence disabilities. Dr. Lindo's expertise and service on national committees (e.g., National Center on Responsiveness to Intervention's Technical Review Committees) serve to benefit our special education program and contribute to UNT's national reputation.

**Prathiba Natesan, Ph.D.**, joins our Educational Psychology department. Her area of concentration is Educational Research. Her specialties are Statistics, Psychometrics (Item Response Theory), Multilevel Modeling and Bayesian Analysis. Prathiba earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Texas A&M University in 2007, and works in collaboration with the Center for Urban School Partnerships, Texas A&M. A 3-time national champion of Indian Classical dance, Prathiba keeps her creative side active by performing and giving guest lectures on the influence of Indian performing arts in the international arena.

**Karthigeyan Subramaniam, Ph.D.**, joins our Teacher Education and Administration department. His specialties are Secondary and Elementary Science Teacher Education and Educational Technology. Karthigeyan earned his Ph.D. at the University of Otago, New Zealand in 2001, in Science Teacher Education. Karthigeyan is an experienced science teacher educator whose expertise in teacher education fit the particular needs of the Teacher Education and Administration department for the coming year and will contribute to the continuing national reputation of the College of Education, UNT.

**Brenda Shumate Wojnowski, Ed.D.**, joins our Teacher Education and Administration department. Dr. Wojnowski earned her doctorate in Curriculum and Teaching with post doctoral work in Educational Administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1990. An award-winning k-12 teacher, her background includes k-12 curriculum administration and university experience at NC State, UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Greensboro. She has also served as President, Senior Program Officer and Director of Education for non-profit organizations. She is currently president of the National Science Education Leadership Association. Her research interests are mentoring and school reform, particularly as they apply to STEM education.

**Tao Zhang, Ph.D.**, joins our Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation department. His research interests have focused on supportive environments and physical activity promotion in schools and communities, achievement motivation in physical education and sport, physical activity and health-related physical fitness assessment techniques, school-based physical activity interventions and childhood obesity prevention. Tao earned his Ph.D. in Kinesiology at Louisiana State University in 2009 with a concentration in sport pedagogy and psychology and a minor in applied statistics. As an experienced teacher and coach, Tao's teaching expertise, research interests, and leadership as evidenced by his involvement in the service for different levels match the need of the department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion and Recreation, and will make significant contribution to UNT Kinesiology program.

### **New Visiting Assistant Professor**

**Marylyn Sines, Ph.D.**, joined our Educational Psychology Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Her areas of research include therapy with abused children, bilingual assessment, ADHD, pediatric neuropsychology, forensic psychology, consultation and empirically-based interventions with minority children.

### **New Lecturers**

**Jennifer Acker, MS, CCLS**, joins our Educational Psychology department. Her specialties are Child Life, Marriage Education and Family Studies. Jennifer earned her MS in Development and Family Studies at the University of North Texas in 2001. She is an experienced educator whose expertise in marriage and families fit the particular needs of the development and family studies program for the coming year.

**Judith Bradetich**, joins our Educational Psychology department as a lecturer who specializes in Development and Family Studies and is the Director of the Cornerstone Cooperative Preschool. Ms. Bradetich earned her MS in Development and Family Studies at the University of North Texas in 2007. Teaching Pre-Practicum and Human Development classes, Ms. Bradetich will work with faculty and students to facilitate a better understanding of the procedures of the web-based courses. Her background includes early childhood education.

**Leslie D. Jones, Ph.D.**, joins our Counseling and Higher Education department. Her specialties are Play Therapy/Child Counseling and Counselor Supervision. Leslie earned her Ph.D. in Counselor Education at the

University of North Texas in 2001. Dr. Jones is an experienced counselor educator whose expertise in play and filial therapy fit the particular needs of the counseling program for the coming year and will contribute to the continuing national reputation of the UNT Counseling program's Center for Play Therapy.

**Diana L. Madrigal-Hopes, MBE**, joins our Teacher Education and Administration department. Her specialties are in literacy and second language learning. Diana earned a Master of Bilingual Education degree at Southern Methodist University in 2004, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction at UNT. Diana is an experienced bilingual/ESL educator and administrator whose expertise in literacy and second language instruction of culturally and linguistically diverse students will indeed contribute to the continuing national reputation of the UNT Teacher Education and Administration program's Language, Literacy and Bilingual Education.

**Dara Williams-Rossi, Ph.D.**, joins our Teacher Education and Administration department. Her specialties are Curriculum & Instruction and Science Education. Dr. Williams-Rossi earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction at the University of North Texas in 2009. She brings a combined science background and curriculum and instruction knowledge to carry out the administrative responsibilities of overseeing instruction. Current research interests include assessing effective means of professional development with professional learning communities.