Homefront Social

The Homefront Social is an annual Student Education Association (SEA) event geared towards children who are a part of Homefront and sponsored by the Lawrence County that aims to help impoverished families. Every year around the holidays, Homefront brings a group of children of varying ages to Rider University to play games, enjoy crafts, eat dinner and socialize. This program is consistently a huge success. Students grades K-12, as well as the Rider education students, always enjoy the event.

SEA Service Chair, Jaclyn Jacobs, and Vice President, Karmeyl MacLean put in a lot of hours to make this year's program a memorable one for everyone involved. Together the board worked to develop different games and crafts for the students to enjoy. SEA President Marc Rubi reflected on the event and said that this year was particularly special because of the high level of student engagement. “I was fascinated by the students’ enthusiasm and eagerness to participate. The Homefront kids interacted so well with the rider students; I was surprised by how open and willing they were. In the past years, I’ve noticed that it took a lot to get some of the kids to come out of their shells, so it was really wonderful to see that not only did the Rider students take initiative to get the kids involved, but the kids were voluntarily participatory. I think this speaks a lot about the Homefront program and how great of a job the Homefront staff does with them. I was also very proud of SEA for doing so well with encouraging the students to get involved.”

Each year, the Homefront social is an excellent way to get involved both with the SEA organization and the local community. We are eagerly looking forward to next year’s social in the fall of 2014. SEA will participate in Relay for Life this spring among other sponsored events throughout the semester. Take a look at the calendar at the back of each Educate You issue to see what meetings and programs have been scheduled. To become a member of SEA, contact Marci Rubin at rubiniMemorial@rider.edu or stop by the Curriculum Resource Center (Memorial 101) for more information.

Active YOU

Student Organizations Updates & Upcoming Events

Student Education Association (SEA)

- General Member Meetings (attend one of two):
  - February 12 at 9:45 p.m. (location TBD)
  - February 14 at 12:30 p.m. (Memorial 101)
- Bulletin Board on a Budget, Tuesday Feb 25 at 7:30 p.m. (location TBD)
- Social Networking Workshop, Wednesday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. (location TBD)

Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)

- One Member Meeting in February (date, location and time TBD)
- Workshop Day in March (date, location and time TBD)
- Relay for Life, April 5-6
- New Member Induction, April 26 (location and time TBD)

Council for Exceptional Children

- Three Member Meetings (One per month, date, location and time TBD)
- Valentine’s Day Craft Night in February (date, location and time TBD)
- St. Patrick’s Day Bingo in March (date, location and time TBD)
- Relay for Life, April 5-6
- Spring Dance (date, location and time TBD)

Rider University will host its annual School of Education Career Fair and Open House on Thursday March 6, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rider University Lawrenceville Campus Bart Luadeke Center

How you act and present yourself in an interview for a job is crucial to making first and lasting impressions. With so many applicants for any given job, it is essential to present yourself in a way that differentiates you from the other applicants. Professionalism is one aspect that may make you a standout applicant.

Dr. Michael Curran highly regards professionalism and knows that it is one of the keys to a student’s success. “Professionalism is extremely important in every aspect of teaching, preparation, from beginning education classes to the interview for that first teaching position. Business casual dress, confidence, and preparation for the interview will demonstrate professionalism,” states Dr. Curran. Before attending an interview it is important to talk yourself through potential interview questions and have questions prepared to ask during the interview.

Ms. Joyce Tyler agrees and adds, “The way you conduct yourself is observed as soon as you arrive at the school district’s property. If you happen to lose your temper in the school parking lot before the scheduled interviews and a few ‘choice words’ are used to express your frustration, the person interviewing you may have been the very fortunate enough to have witnessed or heard your exploits. The secretary, students and staff will also be observing your behavior, attire and friendliness. Believe it or not, they may be asked about their impression of you during the interview process.”

It is also essential to leave a lasting impression. Ms. Tyler says you can do this “by describing what you have done in your classroom experiences and college career over your four years that sets you apart from your peers and will undoubtedly help the interview team remember YOU! Give concrete examples of what you have done by showing photos, videos, lesson plans and other contributive items such as letters from professors, cooperating teachers, etc.” Dr. Curran additionally states that, “Eye contact, a strong handshake, poise, and preparation will leave a lasting impression.”

Afterwards, you should take an extra moment to send thank you letters to each person with whom you met, immediately following your interviews. This can be a card, letter or e-mail. Email is faster, however, letters or cards are more personable and could set you apart from the other candidates. Coordinator for Assessment and Special Projects Suzanne Carbonaro had to say about thank you notes, “I once got a job over someone else because I sent a thank you note and the other candidate did not. The employer told me this on my first day. It is something I keep with me every time I meet a student who needs advice or when I take a new job or position.”

Test out your new professional outlook at the annual School of Education Career Fair and Open House on Thursday March 6 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Rider University Lawrenceville Campus in the Bart Luadeke Center.

Professionalism in an Interview

Welcome Back! As you begin your spring semester, consider the importance of professionalism and its role in your lives. As one of the foundations of our School of Education’s Conceptual Framework, we are committed to teaching and infusing professionalism in all of our programs. “Novice and experienced educators enrolled in the School of Education are on a career-long path toward professionalism that does not end with graduation. We encourage candidates to become thoughtful, creative problem-solvers.” To that end, we have dedicated this entire issue of Educate You to the topic of professionalism and its valuable presence in your lives.

Make the most out of your time to develop your professionalism through the courses you take, the clubs you lead and the resources you can access here at Rider University. The articles in this issue feature ways you can hone in on your professionalism needs and develop these skills in your methods courses, in your interview preparation processes, counseling sessions with our career advisor and leadership opportunities in your organizations and events on campus.

Take a look at our article Professional Networks and consider joining both our School of Education Facebook Page and LinkedIn Page. Both are valuable resources to help you find a job, keep you up to date with what’s going on in P-12 schools and job opportunities. Here you can network with principals and alums of Rider University along with faculty and staff.

We look forward to working with you on your path to becoming more professional, professional!
You Page The Rider University School of Education Professional Networks

Rider University School of Education has created a two networking groups on the social media platforms of LinkedIn and Facebook. If you are a Facebook member, please like us so you can receive valuable information on programs, events and educational resources. It only takes one click to LIKE us: https://www.facebook.com/RiderSchoolOfEducation
What is “LinkedIn”?
LinkedIn is the world’s largest on-line professional network. It is how professionals from all disciplines, industries, and fields connect to foster on-going career and professional development. http://www.linkedin.com/static/key=what_is_linkedin

Why should I join LinkedIn?
Simply put, LinkedIn will help you manage your career for the rest of your life! Certainly you have heard the saying “It’s not so much what you know, but who you know?” LinkedIn “puts you in the know” and will enable you to more proactively manage your career.

How do I join LinkedIn?
Joining LinkedIn is easy. Simply visit http://www.linkedin.com and follow the instructions to create a profile.

How do I join the Rider University School of Education Professional Network?
Once you have created your account, simply go to the search bar at the top and type “Rider University School of Education” and hit enter (or click the magnifying glass). You will be taken to the group page on LinkedIn and you can ask to join the group. You will be accepted into the group within 24-48 business hours.

The other mistake people make is that they don’t include relevant skills and experiences that could put them ahead of other candidates. These skills can include, leadership miles they have held, or volunteer experiences, technology tools and even prior field experiences. Make sure you do an audit of your experiences before you leave something critical out of the final version of your resume. It is very important that your application process include a meeting with our Education Career Advisor here at the School of Education. This can help prompt you to brainstorm other experiences you may have forgotten.

Next Issue Topic: Technology! Please email croliner@education.rider.edu with any questions by February 21st. Any and all questions are appreciated.

Building Your Resume
A resume is your own marketing tool, so it is important to have a well-written resume that reflects you as a student and a teacher. Here are some tips you can use when putting together your resume based on our research for this issue:

• Are you a member and/or leader of an organization or honor society? Do you have a job on campus? Have you volunteered in peer mentoring and/or tutoring? Share your tasks, accomplishments and skills on your resume with future employers by clearly stating the actions you performed in these roles.

• Do you hold additional certifications; outside of your teaching certifications that you are pursuing? Do you speak another language? Have you completed work outside of your academic program that enhances your skill set? Share these accomplishments with employers as they set you apart from the masses.

• Technology Certification: Education majors who successfully complete nine credits in technology-based courses are eligible for the Certificate in Technology issued by the Department of Teacher Education indicating proficiency in instructional technology.

• Certification in Leadership: The Center for the Development of Leadership Skills (CDLS) and the Leadership Development Program (LDP) were created in 2004 in response to the need of students to graduate Rider University with a deeper awareness of professionalism. Interns in this course are expected to be an active participant in the classroom by planning and executing lessons on a weekly basis and then reflecting deeply upon their teaching. It is through this reflective process that pre-service teachers begin to transform into professional educators. As John Dewey writes, “We do not learn from experience…we learn from reflecting upon experience.”

• Professional Development Certification: Professional development workshops are offered through the Curriculum Resource Center (Memorial Hall Room 201). With the completion of the workshops in the 2013-2014 school year, participants will receive a professional development certificate of attendance to include in their selected portfolios. To sign up for a workshop, go to http://tinyurl.com/springPD14.

Spotlight on Learning
Don’t Underestimate the Importance of Your Methods Courses
Methods courses are one of the most essential learning opportunities for education students here at Rider University. In methods courses, students bridge theory into practice and hone in on important teaching skills including, lesson planning, developing an integrated curriculum, discovering learning, differentiation, assessment, and methods courses are a training ground to observe, experiment, and develop different teaching styles and to learn best classroom practices.

Dr. Carolyn Rosenberg says that her past students have often told her that The Teaching Mathematics in the High School and Methods of Teaching Mathematics in Middle School courses mark their transition from student to teacher. Dr. Rosenberg emphasizes that the methods courses’ intent is to allow “pre-service teachers to take their places in today’s middle and secondary mathematics classrooms and (they) are grounded in developing and implementing standards-based instruction and assessment practices in 21st century learning environments. Pre-service teachers design instruction and experiment with strategies that promote thinking, reasoning, and problem solving through rich mathematical tasks. Instructional practices that engage learners in investigation, discovery, and mathematical inquiry are intended to support teaching and learning mathematics in an environment that promotes conceptual understanding and transfer of knowledge and skills to new or unusual situations and contexts.”

Dr. Rosenberg believes that “pre-service teachers are challenged to plan and develop purposeful instruction and assessment practices that promote student growth and achievement. They are afforded the opportunity to see teaching come alive in the hands of experienced practitioners in the field.”

Dr. Sharon McKool, professor of ELD 308, Foreign Language and Literacy, is the second of two field based literacy courses taken by elementary education majors at Rider University. ELD 308 is unique about ELD 308 is the increased level of responsibility that is expected of interns in the field. Interns in this course are expected to be an active participant in the classroom by planning and executing lessons on a weekly basis and then reflecting deeply upon their teaching. It is through this reflective process that pre-service teachers begin to transform into professional educators. As John Dewey writes, “We do not learn from experience…we learn from reflecting upon experience.”

Dr. Rosenberg notes that methods courses are “a time to take risks and experiment in a safe, collaborative, supportive environment that prepares our candidates to teach real students in real classrooms”. Students should be taking every opportunity possible to play an active role in the classroom. Dr. McKool offers the following advice about methods courses: “Cooperating teachers who mentor our interns at this level expect them to develop caring relationships with their students, to be well prepared for teaching, to show initiative, to have effective communication skills, and to be intellectually curious about the teaching profession. Tell my interns as well: ‘Because you lack experience, you need to make up for it in professionalism!’ Be on time, dress professionally, show enthusiasm, and be a good listener.”

Additionally, Dr. Sylvia Bulgar, professor of ELD 375, Methods of Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary Classroom, states that it is important for students to be well prepared for their future. “Students should mold a college into a job in how it would most benefit him or her future. Remember, adding onto your resume for the sake of length is not the goal; it is important to have a well-rounded resume that reflects you as a student and a teacher. Here are some tips you can use when writing your resume based on our research for this issue: Where can I go to find help with composing my resume? Jenna W.

We are fortunate here at Rider to have our very own Education Career Advisor. Her name is Joice Tyler and her office is located in the Education Deans’ Suite Memorial Hall Room 111. She is here on the Lawrenceville Campus, Monday-Wednesday, 8:30 – 5:00 or by appointment. She should not be a scary contact! Ms. Tyler encourages you to call her to make an appointment to 609-896-5000, ext. 5098.

Is there anything I should not include in my resume? Chloe R.
Typically, high school experience and/or part-time jobs are not beneficial on a college resume. This resume is a well-rounded picture of your college career, so pre college experience is not usually helpful to a possible future employer/principal. In addition, resumes should have a clear objective targeted toward the job for which you are applying. Simply put: Linkedin will help you manage your career for the rest of your life! Certainly you have heard the saying “It’s not so much what you know, but who you know?” LinkedIn “puts you in the know” and will enable you to more proactively manage your career.

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For more information on high school experience, please email croliner@education.rider.edu with any questions by February 21st. Any and all questions are appreciated.

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