



Seventh Annual  
Celebration of  
Research

2007-2008

Front Cover

College of Staten Island  
Department of Education  
May 21, 2008  
Center for the Arts

## Program and Mission

### Program

- ❖ **5:00 – 6:00 pm Roundtables & Refreshments**  
East and West Faculty Lounges
- ❖ **6:00 – 7:00 pm Paper Presentations**  
Recital Hall

Mission Statement  
The Celebration of Research Conference offers New York City teachers a professional forum to exchange ideas. Our primary objectives are to provide a stimulating and supportive venue for scholarly presentations; to share/discuss educational practices; and to promote the development of skills in conducting research. The conference, which represents teachers across all disciplines and grade levels, provides a meaningful vehicle for the preparation and presentation of scholarly work by students who are at the end of their graduate education. By recognizing the diverse applications of (and inquiries into) educational research represented in conference presentations, we can better learn about and serve the diverse needs of our students and schools.

Lecture Hall  
**Page 1**

## Paper Presentation Session

6:00 – 7:00 pm

### Recital Hall

- ❖ Using metacognitive strategies to improve reading comprehension  
**Laura Hamilton**
- ❖ Academic Honesty: Teachers' attitudes and perceptions  
**Andreana Doyle**
- ❖ Dilemma by exception: "No Child Left Behind" and the uncertain future of gifted education  
**Karen Murray**
- ❖ The impact of manipulatives and games on student performance and attitudes in elementary mathematics  
**Joanie LaMonaca**

## Paper Presentation Session

6:00 – 7:00 pm

### Lecture Hall

- ❖ Rekenrek: A manipulative used to teach addition and subtraction to students with learning disabilities  
**Youngseh Bae**
- ❖ How do you want me to solve THAT?  
**Patricia Maresca**
- ❖ Making time for math: A curriculum guide for half-day Pre-K  
**Susan Como**
- ❖ Why Do Girls Fight?  
Reasons Behind Aggressive Adolescent Female Behavior  
**Kathryn M. Urso**
- ❖ Solving problems and explaining strategies: How online games and blogs affect problem solving in mathematics  
**Elizabeth Vuoso**

# Roundtable 1

**Facilitator: Professor David Kritt**

How can PowerPoint presentations improve student learning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies?

**Russell Berry**

Computer software and motivation: Will “Jumpstart” kindergarten software and math web games jumpstart classroom participation?

**Diana Rose Guardino**

Peer-led book talks: “Squawking about science fiction,” grade 7

Joseph Villani

The relationship between low socioeconomic status and reading achievement  
Jennifer Walther & Lisa Weiss

# Page 4

Literature Circles: Effects on student comprehension and on

attitude toward reading

**Dawn Scalise**

Implementing reading recovery model of teaching in guided reading groups

**Katie Scala**

The effects on a student’s literacy skills after becoming mainstreamed

**Adrienne Barbato**

Can the use of manipulatives and games help develop number sense?

**Christina D’Adamo**

# Roundtable 2

**Facilitator: Professor Susan Sullivan**

Public School Musical: The quest to focus

**Joseph Bianco**

How can the use of a computer help Kindergarten English Language Learners learn to read?

**Melissa Ishmael**

Solving problems and explaining strategies: How online games and blogs affect problem solving in grade 4 mathematics

**Elizabeth Vuoso**

What are Catholic school teachers’ views on inclusion classrooms?

Giovanna Imperato

What is the role of research in helping their student teaching experience?  
Larissa Dolce

# Page 5

The impact of explicit teaching of exploratory talk on children’s discourse

**Zehra Haider**

The use of manipulatives and real-life scenario problems outside the classroom to help with mathematics education, specifically fractions

**Melanie Rose Leto**

Do manipulatives foster critical thinking in mathematics and enable students to retain information?

**Melani Genine**

# Roundtable 3

**Facilitator: Dr. Deirdre Armitage**

How can an interactive math website improve the way second graders solve word problems?

**Mary Biondolillo**

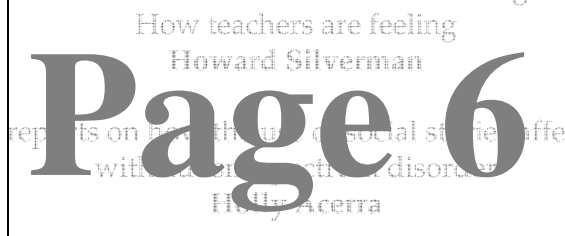
Raising career aspirations: Grade 4

**Chantai Jimenez**

The relationship between home language and reading achievement

**Michael Ammirato & Christina Armenia**

A look inside the Collaborative Team Teaching classroom:



Teachers' reports on how the use of social studies affects children with learning disabilities

Teacher beliefs about stuttering

**Donna Rello**

Cooperative leaning in third grade

**Kristy Stergius**

Dynamic Geometry software and its effects on student learning

**Jennifer Antosz**

# Roundtable 4

**Facilitator: Professor Irina Lyublinskaya**

Using inspiration software to improve students' note-taking skills and text comprehension

**Robert Lanotte**

The relationship between peer engagement and student achievement

**Karen Zakrezewski**

The effects of different storytelling venues on the narrative skills of kindergarten children

**Sara Pabst**

The impact of background music on the behavior and

writing fluency of 8th graders

**Page 7**

The role of

emergent reader. A case study

**Kristen Heigl**

The impact of manipulatives and games on student performance and attitudes in elementary mathematics

**Joanie LaMonaca**

How does creativity in the classroom help motivate students?

**Donna Schneider**

The effects of manipulatives in a high school mathematics classroom

**Deana Restivo**

# Roundtable 5

**Facilitator: Professor Ed Lehner**

Blogging your way through literature: Grade 9 English  
**Martyne Cianciaruso**

The relationship between school sector and mathematics achievement  
**Phyllis Cataldo**

A case study of differentiated instruction: A "Pilot project"  
**Ashley Dellolio**

Teachers' views on standardized testing  
**Jillian Ferrari**

The effects of cooperative learning on a secondary English class  
**Adam Klein**

Discussion Board: How do writing discussion boards stimulate sixth graders' written expression?  
**Linda Leahy**

Preschoolers use one to one correspondence when exposed to manipulatives  
**Christina Sesny**

How do you want me to solve THAT?  
**Patricia Maresca**

# Roundtable 6

**Facilitator: Professor Helen Robinson**

Using E-pals in the classroom to connect students with information for better academic assessment and motivation:  
Grade 11  
**Joanne Cipolli**

Using a homework website to improve homework completion in grade 7 mathematics  
**Kristina LoVerde**

The relationship between socioeconomic status and dropout rate  
**David Giampiola**

Changes in instructional strategies: Professional development helps the transition  
**Patricia Sesny**

Factors contributing to the longevity of teachers  
**Marie DeLeon**

Read aloud: The strategies used to enhance vocabulary learning  
**Natalie Kuryland**

Focusing on students' mathematical understanding: How does using manipulatives and games enhance the ability to solve problems?  
**Melissa Farella**

How does the use of math games in the classroom help to teach and reinforce mathematical strategies taught in the primary grades?  
**Janey Moran**

# Roundtable 7

**Facilitator: Professor Ken Gold**

Meeting the requirements of adequate yearly progress by integrating computer software and test preparation in grade 7  
**Tracey Colasuonno**

Using the Smartboard to help kindergarten students with reading and writing  
**Kristen Melone**

The relationship between race and academic achievement  
**Marc Goldberg & Jacquelyn Graziano**

The effectiveness of a direct instruction approach incorporating manipulatives on the mathematical achievement of fifth graders

Celeste Catalano  
**Page 10**  
Sally Martinez

Correlations between elementary teachers' epistemological beliefs and reading instruction  
**Diane Schwartz**

On the path to better math! Learning mathematical concepts through hands-on activities and games  
**Lauren O'Keeffe**

A design for the acquisition of number sense: The creation of a learning framework for first grade mathematics  
**Jo Ann Maldarelli**

# Roundtable 8

**Facilitator: Professor Margaret Bérci**

Using a homework website to improve tenth grade homework completion  
**Bruce Connell**

Teachers interact differently in the classroom during observations  
**Teresa Hernandez**

Incorporating the arts into the classroom and its effect on elementary school children and teachers  
**Marc Cuchia**

Teachers' roles and views about cooperative learning

Cherilyn Harasek  
**Page 11**

Attitudes and use of computer technologies as reported by middle and high school teachers  
**Yung Ping Kam Henry**

How the use of manipulatives fosters student learning  
**Alison Weiss**

Do manipulatives have a positive effect on student achievement?  
**Jaclyn Barrile**

# Roundtable 9

**Facilitator: Professor Judit Kerekes**

Using “Kidspiration 2” to reduce disruptive behavior and increase quantity and quality of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders independent written work

**Christine Cuomo**

How can webquests and blogs help fifth grade students to improve in reading?

**Hatidze Pelinkovic**

The relationship between gender and mathematics achievement

**Georgia Grant**

Music as a memorization tool: How music can help our

high school English classes

**Cortney Mancuso**

# Page 12

What are teachers as future profession?

**John Vignati**

Which instructional approaches are most beneficial for ESL students, according to NYC teachers?

**Antonina Spallina**

Mind and Being

**Rosemarie Cordiano**

Cooperative Learning: An effective way to learn and understand mathematics skills in a second grade classroom

**Tradyann Ferraiuolo**

# Roundtable 10

**Facilitator: Professor Liqing Tao**

Using handheld computers to improve first grade students' interest in writing

**Lisa Delaney**

Improving student focus with Webquests: Grade 5

**Josephine Ricupero**

Inclusion: Effective pedagogical approach to teaching in an inclusion classroom

**Victor Miller**

Behavior in the classroom in secondary education

**Michael Lowney**

# Page 13

How effective are graphic organizers in improving student

The effectiveness of using graphic organizers to promote reading comprehension for at-risk third grade students

**Kari Reilly**

Does mathematics literature play a role in student strategies, approaches or ability to learn?

**TinaMarie Adamo**

Making time for mathematics:

A curriculum guide for half-day pre-K

**Susan Como**

# Roundtable 11

**Facilitator: Dr. El Samuels**

Class blog and student created PowerPoint: How can the use of technology help reduce classroom cutting and improve student learning by relating the content more to their lives?

**Mirsad Dragovic**

Wikis in writing: Are wikis beneficial when used with the writing process in seventh grade?

**Krystal Seebach**

The relationship between interscholastic sports participation and math achievement.

Jillian Lerner & Carissa Sommerlad

Teachers' views on professional development and its impact on teacher effectiveness.  
Michelle Reid

Page 14

What is the effect of participation in sports on students' self image and attitude?

**Dina Sparandera**

The impact of guided reading on first grade students.

**Sandy Lewery**

The effects of guided and partner reading

**Teresa Nenisco-Kerzner**

Does gender affect mathematics achievement?

**Jeremy Levine**

# Roundtable 12

**Facilitator: Professor Brian Carolan**

Using the Smartboard to improve student writing and increase motivation in the classroom

**Melissa Edwards**

Using a wiki to promote collaboration and teacher communication

**Robert Seebach**

New teacher retention in today's society

**Ogiemudia Omorogbe-Osagie**

What strategies do teachers report using to promote interest in writing, and what do students say they want to write about?

Jessica Difusco

The effect of mathematics activities on the development of number sense in pre-K classroom.  
Stan Jon Soriano

Page 15

How does guided reading improve reading comprehension and fluency in the early years of a child's education?

**Christina Montaperto**

The effects of a computer software program on reading comprehension

**Suzana Braca**

The effects of manipulatives on mathematics achievement

**Kerri Montano**



# Roundtable 13

**Facilitator: Professor Vivian Shulman**

Using Internet workshop to help motivate failing students to pass the American History regents exam: Grade 12

**Frances Errichiello**

The relationship between sports participation and mathematics achievement in grades 10 and 12

**Sheila Mcguire & Rayna Sanfilippo**

Teaching Mentoring: A closer look

**Stephen Ryan**

Looping: Teacher, parent and student attitudes

**Linda Babin**

Questioning techniques in the high school mathematics classroom

# Page 16

How does family play a role in the lack of literacy skills? Of ESL students' learn?

**Antonino Bussa**

The effects of background music on mathematical task performance

**Thea Jon Curry**

Comparison of decoding skills among students classified with speech and language disorders attending CTT vs. general education classes

**Jennifer D'Orazio**

# Roundtable 14

**Facilitator: Professor Nelly Tournaki**

Using software in the computer center to improve cooperation skills in kindergarten students.

**Silvana Frasier**

Using Blogs in a 10<sup>th</sup> grade global history class to foster understanding and to spark involvement and discussion.

**Robert Tanenbaum**

Education: A collaborative effort between families, teachers, and students.

**Gerard Specce**

Academic honesty: Teachers' attitudes and perceptions.

**Andreana Doyle**

# Page 17

The effects of positive reinforcement in a physical education class

**Nicole Corsaro**

The effects of classical music on reading comprehension in students with autism

**Jessica Katz**

The effects of music therapy on communication skills in students with autism

**John Scarso**

# Roundtable 15

**Facilitator: Eric Waldmann**

Using websites and Webquests to increase student motivation, cooperation and autonomy in the Health Education classroom

**Lisa Galofaro**

You mean I can be the boss? Students working for students:  
Using technology to build a classroom business,  
self esteem and performance

**Nicole Tolnes**

The relationship between class preparedness & reading  
achievement

**Gina Moscato**

Page 18

How does guided note taking impact student performance on the  
English Language Arts regents?

**Marissa Parrino**

The effects of music on reading proficiency

**Lorrain Said**

The effects of playing letter-sound games on  
early literacy development in preschoolers

**Mary Sarah Solimeo**

# Roundtable 16

**Facilitator: Jessica Roselli**

Mapping the earth from space: Using Google Earth  
to improve geography skills

**Lina Glezer**

Using a class website to increase instructional time and improve  
the performance of kindergarten students

**Janine Vesce**

The relationship between sports participation and academic  
achievement for high school girls

**Lisa Murino**

Page 19

The effectiveness of guided learning in a high grade classroom

The effect of literacy strategies on high school algebra learning

**Barbara Waldmann**

Modification and adaptation of the curriculum and instructional  
strategies to support the learning of a student  
with Asperger's syndrome: A case study

**Eileen Cameron**

# Roundtable 17

## Facilitator:

The effects of computer aided instruction on the reading comprehension of students with learning disabilities

**Alison Malone**

Implementing multicultural texts and the critical lens theory in teaching literature to secondary diverse students

**Carol Baez**

How can reading intervention strategies help improve reading comprehension in social studies texts?

**Pasque Gaurdavaccaro**

Attack of the blog: The use of blogs in education. Grade 4

**Chris Serrano**

The effects of manipulatives on mathematics achievement

**Christina Lee**

# Page 20

Incorporating music to significantly increase the mastering of multiplication facts

**Jenn Scudera**

The relationship between teacher efficacy and career commitment

**Renee Kroeker**

Is successful problem solving linked to how it is presented, questioned and/or inferred?

**Iris Mantagna**

# Roundtable 18

## Facilitator:

Re-segregation in education: Under the guise of gifted and honors programs

**Nancy Zazulka**

Phonetic spelling: Teachers' perceptions

**Allison Schlactman**

The relationship between parental involvement and reading achievement

**Mary Wildes**

Will the creating of a website increase parental involvement and

knowledge in an after-school sports program?

**Amanda Chapman**

Read aloud: An effective way to increase comprehension

**Lauren Paul**

# Page 21

Student teacher-cooperating teacher relationship: One key to success

**Neil Green**

Teachers' attitudes toward computers

**Barbara Kelly**

Becoming one with History: Grade 11

**Christina Ortiz**

# Congratulations

Celebration of Research 2007-2008

The following students have presented their research papers at national conferences and/or published their research

❖ **JoAnn Maldarelli and Janey Moran**

Learning for understanding the five, ten, and twenty structured thinking in context

*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Conference*

*Salt Lake City, Utah*

*April 9-12, 2008*

(mentored by Professor Judit Kerekes)

❖ **Nancy Rossnagel**

The highly qualified teacher: Does more education for teachers mean greater achievement for students?

*American Educational Research Association (AERA)*

*New York, N.Y.*

*March 24-28, 2008*

(mentored by Professor Brian Carolan)

❖ **Edward Miller**

Playing for keeps: The relationship between high school athletic participation and dropping-out.

*American Educational Research Association (AERA)*

*New York, N.Y.*

*March 24-28, 2008*

(mentored by Professor Brian Carolan)

❖ **Youngseh Bae**

Rekenrek: A manipulative used to teach addition and subtraction to students with learning disabilities.

*Journal: Learning Disabilities: A contemporary Journal*

(co-authored with Professors Judit Kerekes and Nelly Tournaki).

## Faculty

Margaret Bérci

Brian Carolan

Maxine Fisher

Judit Kerekes

Len Mendola

Liqing Tao

Nelly Tournaki

Vivian Shulman, Coordinator



The Educational Research Faculty wishes to thank those who graciously consented to read for "Best Paper Award: "

- Professor Emeritus Tom Crowl
- Professor David Kritt
- Professor Igor Arievitch

The Education Department wishes to thank the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences for his support of this event.