On Friday, March 20th, 2015, students in the Teacher Certification Program accompanied several faculty members from the Education Department to New York City to learn more about the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children. The Reggio Emilia Philosophy comes from the world-renowned schools of Reggio Emilia in Italy. There are four components that are essential in this approach. Children are portrayed as able learners. The curriculum taught in the classrooms comes from the student’s interests and can take as long as a few months for the unit to be finished. A unit is planned according to those interests to incorporate teaching points. They refer to the environment as another aspect of teaching the children. They strive to have materials that can be open-ended for the children to explore. They document the learning of the students through books and displays. The documentations have children’s descriptions and their pictures to make it more their own work. The last component is that every child learns differently, therefore they provide a wide range of activities and ways of learning to ensure that each student has a fair opportunity to learn and express themselves.

The center also focuses on how the child develops physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively. The interests of the children are included in the lessons and environment. Overall, the Balfour Brickner Early Childhood Center is child-centered for every aspect of their school. Next, the group traveled to the Wonder of Learning Exhibit in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. This exhibit shows work from the Reggio Emilia approach and travels all over the world to promote this teaching approach. The exhibit has not been back to New York City since 1992. The exhibit setup is structured so that it can be set up a different way each time which gives a different meaning for each structure. The projects are shown by using different media techniques. They allowed for each exhibit to have multiple media opportunities such as audio recordings, booklets, and videos so that visitors can learn about each structure their own way and as deeply as they wish. Every city that the Wonder of Learning Exhibit has travelled to has been positively impacted by this Reggio Emilia approach in preschool and infant-toddler centers.

“My very favorite part was the tour of the Balfour Brickner Early Childhood Center. I loved seeing kids explore their curiosities and having the freedom to do so. You don’t get to see that very often, and I think it’s such a vital part of gaining a love of learning.” - Kasey Upling ‘15
Spring Semester 2015 Student Teachers

This semester, the education department has 13 students teachers completing their professional semester in the local school districts. The student teachers are located at Williamsport Area Middle School, Curtin Intermediate, Loyalsock valley Elementary, South Williamsport High School, Hughesville High School, Montoursville Area High School, Williamsport Area High School, Jackson Primary, Muncy High School, Lycoming Valley Intermediate, Hepburn Lycoming Primary, and Cochran Primary School. This semester’s certifications include early childhood education, special education, high school social studies, English, art, and French. Good luck to all of the student teachers!

Updates from Alumnae!

Elizabeth Snow, Class of 2011

Elizabeth Snow graduated from Lycoming College in January of 2011. Elizabeth majored in French with a Psychology minor. She received her certification in French K-12 with a secondary Communications certification. Elizabeth is now in her third year of teaching High School French and Drama at Warrior Run High School in Turbotville, PA. Elizabeth directs the fall play at the High School and leads the Drama club and International club. After she graduated from Lycoming, before she became a teacher at Warrior Run, Elizabeth was a substitute teacher at various schools in the area. Elizabeth said that working in the Lycoming theatre department definitely gave her a wider set of skills, such as communication, performance experience, and practical theatre knowledge, which helped her in her job in at Warrior Run. Also, opportunities like being a tutor, attending conversation tables, and studying abroad gave her great hands-on opportunities to use her French major and made her attracted to the field of education. Elizabeth said learned more in student teaching for a few months than anyone thinks is possible. She ended with saying the connections she made at Lycoming, with professors and classmates, have been invaluable post-graduation, and have led her to surprising job opportunities.

Rebecca Leid, Class of 2010

Rebecca Leid graduated from Lycoming College in 2010 with a Spanish major and K-12 teaching certification. Currently, Rebecca is in her fifth year teaching at Loyalsock Township School District in Williamsport, PA. She is teaching 6th-8th grade Spanish, Spanish I, Independent Study (Spanish II, III, IV), and Senior Internship. She also serves as a Middle School Instructional Coach, advisor of the Spanish Club and Class of 2018, as well as the distance coach for the track team. Rebecca said that Lycoming did an excellent job preparing her for what to expect after graduation. The education department was clear about what to expect and helped to guide her through the steps needed to get a job. Rebecca said her student teaching experience was the best tool for her and learning how to go through the interview process was very beneficial. Rebecca ended with saying that networking is very important when in college and that she learned from Lycoming to make relationships and the importance of relationships and networking. Rebecca is pictured at the Royal Palace in Madrid, Spain. Each Summer she takes groups of students abroad. Summer 2015 they will be heading to the Dominican Republic for a service trip.

Looking Forward to Spring Semester 2015

- SPSEA sponsored Mr. Cary Kurtz who spoke to the Lycoming College teacher candidates on the topic of professional use of social media and technology. He provided a very helpful information and the coinciding laws for PSEA in regards to social media and teachers.

- The Education Department is excited for their field trip to New York City to view the world renowned Wonders of Learning Exhibit on Friday, March 20th.

Are you an Alum from the Education Department? Please share where you’re at and what you’re doing.

Contact Colleen Fox
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