

CLASS Connections

Collaborative Learning And School Success—Professional Development School

CLASS PDS Application/Admissions Process by Jim Bradley

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If you are considering applying to the CLASS (Collaborative Learning And School Success) PDS (Professional Development School) teacher education program, there are certain steps you will need to follow to assure timely processing of your application.

The first step, if you have not done so already, is to call Jim Bradley, the CLASS Administrative Assistant, at (207) 753-6618. Jim will be able to explain the program to you in detail and help determine if the CLASS program is the best option for you.

After speaking with Jim Bradley, either in person or on the phone, you will then need to make an appointment with a Lewiston-Auburn College advisor. The advisor will assist you with choosing the major you will complete along with CLASS. Currently CLASS students have the option of choosing one of the following majors: *Social and Behavioral Sciences, Natural and Applied Sciences* or *Arts and Humanities*. If you have already completed some coursework, either at USM or another institution, the advisor will help determine what courses you will be able to transfer to USM.

Following your meeting with an advisor, your next step

will be to apply to USM's Lewiston-Auburn College. You can obtain an application either online, in person or you can call Jim Bradley to request one be mailed to you. On the application you will need to indicate which of the three majors you wish to complete, as well as selecting "CLASS PDS" as your second major. Please make sure you indicate "USM, Lewiston-Auburn College" for your campus location.

At the same time that you apply to USM you should also apply to the CLASS program. There is a separate application for CLASS which should be submitted to Jim Bradley.

Once you have been accepted to USM you will be contacted to schedule an interview for admission to the CLASS program. You should have a decision within a couple of weeks following the interview.

If at any time during the application or admissions process you have questions or concerns, please call Jim Bradley or email him at jbradley@usm.maine.edu



Julie LaPlante works with students in the classroom.

Interested students are encouraged to apply to the program as early as possible. In most cases, first-year, full-time students will be able to enter directly into the program. Sophomores and first-semester juniors with relevant prior experiences are also encouraged to apply for acceptance into the program. However, it should be noted that because of the program requirements and the cycle of course offerings, first-semester junior students may experience some delays in completing the program. Seniors and students who have bachelor's degrees should consider applying to the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) at the Gorham campus.

Following Successful Completion of CLASS, Students Earn:

Bachelor's Degree & K-8 Teacher Certification & more than 30 credits toward graduate degree.

Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2005



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE
Lewiston-Auburn College

Student Profile: Cheryl Robert, Cohort V

I grew up in Auburn and Minot, Maine. All but two years of my pre-college education was in the Auburn public school system. I graduated from Edward Little High School in 1987. My graduating class was the first class to go through the Auburn Middle School for both 7th and 8th grade. I was able to see it when it was brand new!

Prior to starting college, I worked in the restaurant business for twenty years and enjoyed working with the public. When I started college a few years ago I was 32 and have loved every minute of it! Currently I attend college full-time and work part-time.

In addition to my education and work life, I'm also a single mother of a beautiful 3rd grader, Coreen Marilyn. When I'm not immersed in the CLASS program I am volunteering at Coreen's school and spending time with the people that I love. I'm an avid reader and love watching horror movies in my "down-time."

Last December I successfully met the requirements of Candidacy. This fall I will begin the fourth year of the program which will include *Learning to Teach Subject Matter* for Social Studies and Math. Next Spring I will begin the first section of internship.



I decided to become a teacher because I love being around children and want to be involved in helping to shape their minds, because after all, they are going to be taking care of me in the future!

Cohort News



COHORT 3.5 Julie LaPlante has been completing the Resident Internship, the last phase of the CLASS PDS Program. The resident internship consists of a 13-week, full-time placement. Following successful completion of the resident internship, interns have a "Final Intern Exhibition" which aims to celebrate and share accomplishment, share ideas, and discuss future direction, while focusing on the CLASS PDS Program Outcomes.



COHORT 4 Each of us has successfully completed our A and B internship placements. We all feel confident that we've made great strides in becoming effective teachers. The experience we have had lead teaching over the past months has been invaluable and we feel very excited as we move toward the final leg of the CLASS PDS program in the fall. We are all very excited to attend graduation on May 14 and look forward to more teaching experiences during our residency in the Fall 2005. Congratulations to all Cohort 4 members for a job well done!!!! Cohort 4 students are Katie Bunker, Cynthia Polisky, Karen Erdmann and Linda Bernier.



COHORT 5 started our first learning to teach semester LTT (science and reading) and it is extremely challenging and dare I say, a little bit fun. We are getting into the meat and potatoes of teaching. We are doing lesson plans and working on writing goals and actually teaching the lessons we write! We have been spending an entire day at school compared to the 2 1/2 hours a week we spent in the earlier stages of the program. Cohort 5 students are Bobbi Cook, Ernie Gagne and Cheryl Robert.



COHORT 6 has been busy taking Applied Physics with Dr. Caron and also taking Theoretical Foundations of Learning with CLASS faculty member and advisor Dr. Christy Hammer. In Dr. Hammer's class we've been learning how to write lesson plans. We are also working toward Candidacy, which we will present for on October 13, 2005. Cohort 6 students are Tammy Watson, Paulla Billings, Sean Moore, Stacey Potvin and Bridget Fitzgerald.



COHORT 7 has just finished our first year in the CLASS PDS program. Together we have tackled such issues as Assessments, Time Management and worked together in our Environmental Science class. Next year we head off to the Auburn Middle School to gain new teaching experiences and as always we are looking forward to the challenge. Members of cohort 7 are Michelle Buck, Tracie Giambra, Kenneth Mashke, Stephanie Patterson, Christine Peterson, Sheena Roy, and Kimberly Stuart.

CLASS Students Receive Scholarships

Bobbi Cook—Ni Source

Ken Mashke—Helen Greenwood

Cheryl Robert—Harlan Philippi

Tammy Watson—Androscoggin Bank

Sean Moore Receives Service Learning Award For His Work in CLASS

Sean Moore, a CLASS PDS student in Cohort VI, was honored during the USM/Lewiston-Auburn College Recognition Ceremony for his work in service-learning.

The award is presented to a student who has performed an outstanding service project in the community. The student has also successfully integrated skills and knowledge drawn from the classroom into the service project, and has demonstrated reflection and analysis about the importance of the service learning project through discussion and writing.

Dr. Paul Caron, Sean's Cohort Leader, as well as Sue Myers and Jim Carmichael, Team 7 teachers, nominated him for the award and praised him for his support to students.

Sean's service learning project is a Language Arts version of the Global Positioning System where the students create a map or path of the community. They research various sites and leave their findings in a notebook for observers to read and sign. One of the sites researched was the Auburn Land Lab.

Having worked with these students since January, Sean's responsibilities are to provide assistance and serve as a facilitator to the students. One of the groups he assisted visited the Land Lab to conduct their research as well as cleaned the paths in the nearby area.

They wrote a letter to the City of Auburn with information about the project. They also built a box with the



Dr. Marvin Druker presents award to Sean Moore.

assistance of teachers and students in the Auburn Middle School Tech Lab in which the notebook will be placed.

For more information on Service Learning at Lewiston-Auburn College, visit: www.usm.maine.edu/servicelearning/

CLASS Students Awarded 2005 Fellowships

The CLASS PDS Program awarded three fellowships in the amount of \$3,110.00 each. The recipients of the fellowships were Katie Bunker, Karen Erdmann and Cynthia Polisky.

The fellowships are made possible through an endowment which reached its \$150,000 target during the 2003-2004 academic year. The endowed fellowship was established to help offset costs associated with students completing their resident internships during the final semester of the CLASS PDS program. Students in the CLASS program

complete a full-year, full-time internship as their last year of the program, which makes it difficult to work resulting in possible financial hardship.

Eligible students must demonstrate excellence in teaching-learning, responsible citizenship, ethics, and "making a difference" in the classroom as he or she becomes a role model, change agent and teacher-leader for the 21st Century.

These fellowships enable students to continue their education in innovative teaching and making a significant impact on the life of Maine residents.



Pictured clockwise from top: Katie Bunker, Karen Erdmann and Cynthia Polisky

Cohort VI Begins Service Learning Project to Address Teenage Depression by Tammy Watson

After many months of trying to decide on a project we could accomplish, we came up with a plan to design a pamphlet on teenage depression. We will be learning about teenage depression and then distributing information and resources to students

at Auburn Middle School. The pamphlet will include what signs to look for in helping to determine if someone is dealing with depression as well as contact information of professionals who have been trained to assist those suffering from depression.

So far the initial design has been completed, with a few small changes still to be done. We have obtained a grant to help cover the printing costs and will be taking the pamphlet to the Auburn Middle School administration for approval prior to handing out the brochures to students.

Karen Erdmann Receives 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award

Lewiston-Auburn College's Dean, Dr. Zark Van Zandt, presented CLASS PDS student Karen Erdmann with the 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Outstanding Achievement Awards are presented to graduating seniors who have demonstrated noteworthy achievement in the context of their school, work, home, and community responsibilities.

Dr. Paul G. Caron nominated Karen for the award and had this to say, "She brings to the elementary and middle school classroom a level of knowledge and aptitude that will help her future students in reaching their own educational goals."

In 2002, Karen led a group of students in facilitating a community service and service-learning project for the Abused Women's Advocacy Project (AWAP). She is currently working on an Action-Research project studying the effects of homework on elementary students at Sherwood Heights Elementary School. She is working with other students in collecting data and presenting it to the principal in the Fall of 2005.

Dr. Caron concludes, "Throughout her academic and community work, Karen has maintained her responsibility as a mother of two and a wife of a soldier. For most of the past four years, her husband has served overseas in the

Mediterranean and now in Iraq. She has worked very hard in being supportive of her family while studying to be an educator."



Dean Zark Van Zandt presents award to Karen Erdmann

CLASS Student Participates in Aquatic Research Project to Improve Seafood Safety

Bobbi Cook, CLASS Cohort V student, has been working in Lewiston-Auburn College's Aquatic Research Lab assisting Dr. Ike Levine in his research to improve seafood safety. Dr. Levine was awarded a grant from Northeastern University "To develop new solutions to marine and freshwater pollution."

In addition to being in CLASS,

Bobbi is also a Natural and Applied Science major and described the project this way, "It is known that certain plants have the ability to absorb heavy metals such as mercury, arsenic, PCB's as well as excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphates from the surrounding environment. Our efforts could prove to make a healthier aquatic environment."



Sherwood Heights Mentors Speak Up by Ken Mashke

Mentor Teachers play a vital role in the success of the CLASS program and its ability to develop "teacher-leaders." Each mentor teacher is someone who enjoys teaching and learning and are knowledgeable about subject areas and accommodating diversity in their classrooms. They have a sincere willingness to share their talents and their classroom.

The mentor teacher is the primary contact person and advocate for the college students and acts as a facilitator to help the college students think reflectively, as well as debrief them about all of their school-based experiences.

There are two kinds of mentor teachers; those that work with CLASS students through out the first three years

and those that work with students during their internship year.

The mentor teacher is the CLASS student's most important role model, modeling strategies and behaviors that the student learns through observations, reflection, and discussion. In return, serving as a mentor teacher offers an opportunity for reflection on one's own teaching practices. Mentor teachers often comment that one of the most stimulating parts of mentoring is being asked by a student, "Why did you do that?"

Mrs. Galibois-Barss (Mrs. G.) is a third grade teacher at Sherwood Height Elementary School and has been involved with the CLASS program first as a student, and now as a mentor. She ap-

preciates the assistance provided to students in need of help and is impressed by the attitude and initiative of her interns. She also enjoys watching the "grasshopper" (CLASS Student) mature and advance to the "master."

Mrs. Taylor is a fifth grade teacher and has been involved with the CLASS program as a mentor. She appreciates the extra help during critical times, specifically with English Language Learning (ELL). Mrs. Taylor mentioned that teaching one-on-one is extremely beneficial in the diversified classroom and with the addition of a CLASS student there is more opportunity for that type of learning environment.

2005 Distinguished Classified Staff Award Presented to CLASS Staff Member

Jim Bradley, CLASS PDS Administrative Assistant, was awarded the 2005 Distinguished Classified Staff Award. The annual award, now in its 15th year, is given to a member of the classified staff by USM President Richard Pattenauade in recognition of his or her outstanding level of achievement and service to the University of Southern Maine.

Jim has worked for USM since 1998, first at the Center for Real Estate Education in Portland and now with the CLASS PDS program at Lewiston-Auburn College.

For five years he served on the Classified Staff Senate, the last two as Senate Chair. Currently, in addition to his role with CLASS, he is actively involved in ACSUM (Associated COLT Staff of the Universities of Maine) which represents approximately one-thousand employees in the University of Maine System. He was recently elected to a two-year term as State-wide President for ACSUM, an affiliate of the MEA (Maine Education Association).



Faculty Profile by Tammy Watson

Dr. Paul G. Caron, Ed. D. Assistant Professor CLASS PDS Program

Dr. Caron is the Cohort Leader for Cohorts IV, VI, and VIII. In addition to his work with CLASS he also teaches Math and Science courses at Lewiston-Auburn College including: College Algebra, Applied Problem Solving and Physics.

What did you do before coming to the CLASS program?

In 1974 I graduated from St. Dominic Regional High School, followed by graduation in 1978 from University of Lowell with a BS in Mathematics. In 1989 I received a Masters in Education, Math, and Science from Boston College. In 1994 I earned my Ph.D. from Boston College. I taught Math and Physics at St. Dom's starting as a long-term substitute in 1979. In 1988 I went to Boston College to work on my Master's and Ph.D., and while I was there I also supervised teachers. Starting in the fall of 1991 through the spring of 1994 I taught Math and Physics at Edward Little High School. In July of 1994 I was the Professional Development Director for The Maine Curriculum Framework for Mathematics and Science at USM in Gorham. As this was a two-year position, from the fall of 1996 to the spring of 1997 I was a Science Consultant and taught Mathematics for the Auburn School system. From 1997 to 1999 I was an Assistant Professor at St. Joseph's College in the Department of Education. From the fall of 1999 to the present I have been involved in the CLASS PDS program at USM/LAC.

What brought you to the CLASS program?

I like the fact that there is a concentration in mathematics and science, and I can teach as well as supervise teachers.



Who inspired you to become a teacher?

The English teacher I had my junior and senior years in high school. He paid attention to his students as individuals. I played the piano, and he encouraged me to continue playing, and he was involved in my playing in public for the first time.

What is your teaching philosophy?

My philosophy is to get out of the way. I facilitate and let the students learn for themselves. The students need to be the discoverers.

What is the best part of teaching?

When I hand out the paperwork on a project to a class of students, I see the look of terror on their faces. The best part is when they complete their project and they have confidence in the fact that it is going to succeed. My favorite parts are the tada moments.

Tell us something about yourself outside the CLASS PDS program.

I wrote the music and lyrics for a play that was popular about 10 years ago called Lewiston: A New Home. I also conducted the orchestra when the play was performed. One other tidbit I have done is I came in first in New England, in The New York Times online crossword puzzle championships.

CLASS Students Attend 2005 SEAM Conference at UMF by Tammy Watson

SEAM (Student Education Association of Maine) held its 2005 Conference, "Stronger Teachers, Stronger Maine" at the University of Maine at Farmington, on April 8, 2005. Six CLASS students from Cohorts IV, VI, and VII attended.

Erin Kinzer, President of Maine SEAM, kicked off the conference with a discussion about SEAM and how pre-service students can become more involved at both the campus and state level. Several workshops were planned throughout the day. The first workshop I attended was "*Certification and NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher Requirement*" which was facilitated by Nini Mc Manamy, MEA Director of Instruction and Professional Development. I received a lot of useful information on how we can achieve *Highly Qualified* status after earning our teaching certificates.

The second workshop I attended was the "*Maine Public Broadcasting Network: A Great Resource for Teachers*," facili-

tated by Cordelia Kellett, Education Manager at MPBN. There was all kinds of information available on what MPBN has to offer teachers. The information presented covered things like which TV shows are great for pre-schoolers to what is available on their website such as lesson plans. In addition to handouts, we also each received two videos that we can use in the classroom.

Following lunch, we listened to a Keynote Address by Sherri Gould, Maine Teacher of the Year who discussed "*Teaching: It's Not a Profession—It's a Way of Life!*" She was a brilliant speaker and she truly livened up the day with her funny and remarkable stories.

The final workshop I attended was "*Staying Within Boundaries*" facilitated by Cheryl Lunde, MEA Uniserv Director. The focus of this workshop was to discuss appropriate boundaries between teachers and students to maintain effectiveness and integrity.

There were seven other workshops, in addition to the three I attended, which covered topics such as: *Portfolios, Money Matters, Legal and Economic Issues for New Teachers, Interviewing for Jobs and Local and Common Assessments.*

Overall the six of us from CLASS were pleased with the information we received and would recommend anyone in the other cohorts to attend in the future. You do not have to be a SEAM member to attend.

SEAM is a pre-professional program sponsored by the Maine Education Association (MEA) and the National Education Association (NEA). It is designed to give pre-professionals a voice in state and national activities affecting the teaching profession.

For more information on joining SEAM, please contact CLASS student Linda Bernier at lgbernier@adelphia.net

CLASS PDS Program
Lewiston-Auburn College
University of Southern Maine
51 Westminster Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Creating Teacher-Leaders for the 21st Century

Phone: 207-753-6618
 Fax: 207-753-6555
 Email: lacclass@usm.maine.edu
 Http://www.usm.maine.edu/lac/class

CLASS PDS Program Personnel:
 Dr. William "Bumper" White, Program Coordinator
 Dr. Paul Caron, Faculty
 Dr. Christy Hammer, Faculty
 Mrs. Carol Miller, Site Coordinator
 Mr. Jim Bradley, Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Committee Members:

Kenneth Mashke Tammy Watson
 Kimberly Stuart Cheryl Robert
 Jim Bradley