

Forte Earns Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. James A. Forte, a social work professor known as an exemplary teacher, internationally recognized scholar and leader in service, is the 2014 SU Distinguished Faculty Award honoree.

“Students often indicate that he makes difficult-to-understand material ‘interesting and engaging,’” said Dr. Deborah Mathews, past department chair. “He is seen as ‘highly intelligent,’ ‘well prepared’ and inspirational with a ‘true passion for social work’ which he uses to ‘motivate [his students] to excel.’”

A student added: “He loves sharing human nature and it brings him great satisfaction when a student learns something new (or perhaps finally understands something old) and is changed because of it.”

Forte has utilized face-to-face and hybrid models to teach five graduate and seven undergraduate courses at SU and its satellite sites over the years. In addition, he has written four books and 41 articles/book chapters, and has presented regionally or nationally some 66 times. In 2010, he was named Social Work Educator of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers – Maryland Chapter.

Forte has chaired four departmental committees and led efforts to develop a self-study report and revise standards to meet national accreditation. He is a member of professional organizations including the International Association for Social Work with Groups and Council on Social Work Education.



M.S.W. Goes Online

SU has launched an online Master of Social Work (M.S.W.).

“The Social Work Department is committed to reaching out to people who might not ordinarily be able to participate,” said Dr. Batya Hyman, department chair. Its bachelor’s and master’s degrees already are offered at five satellite sites in Maryland and to military personnel and their dependents in Europe.

The three-year cohort program involves taking one to two classes during seven-week sessions year round. During the last two academic years, students will engage in field internships two to three days per week in social work settings near their homes or, in some cases, with their employers. SU has a strong network of field placement professionals.

Ed.D. Program Begins

SU launched the inaugural cohort of its new Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) – the University’s second doctoral program.

Eighteen students, including teachers, reading specialists and administrators from K-12 and higher education, are enrolled. The Ed.D. in Contemporary Curriculum Theory and Instruction: Literacy Program explores the design and implementation of solutions related to literacy practices in schools and higher education.

The next generation of scholarly practitioners are provided the skills needed to develop innovations, inspire change and assess the impact of these programs in educational contexts. The program is designed for educators at all levels who envision themselves as transformational leaders and strive to collaboratively design and implement solutions to problems of literacy practice in schools.

The program is influenced by the Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate (CPED). SU is one of only 87 member campuses from the United States, Canada and New Zealand. This inter-institutional collaboration promotes programs of the highest quality that offer advanced preparation in the field of education. SU’s Ed.D. curriculum is organized around CPED’s core components of signature pedagogy, inquiry as practice and laboratories of practice along with literacy specialization courses.

NSF Grant For Math Education Research

Drs. Randall Groth, Education Specialties Department, and Jennifer Bergner, Mathematics and Computer Science Department, earned a \$260,606 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund a three-year project for a summer research site for undergraduates to study math education.

Area college students host weekly learning sessions to help fourth, fifth and sixth graders better understand mathematics skills from fractions and multiplication to decimals and statistics.

“Our primary objective is to develop math teachers who

approach their classrooms with the mindset of researchers and can make instructional decisions based on data,” Groth said. Bergner added: “By engaging them in research related to mathematics education now, as undergraduates, we also are providing them with foundations to participate in graduate programs in the future.”

Their PATHWAYS (Preparing Aspiring Teachers to Hypothesize Ways to Assist Young Students) initiative is the University’s second NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) site since 2012.

TETC Technology: Opened in 2008, the Teacher Education and Technology Center features an 18,500-square-foot Integrated Media Center with a high-definition digital video production studio, one of the few on a university campus nationwide.



Education Partnerships And Accreditation

SU earned national recognition for its collaborative partnerships with Mardela Middle and High School (MMHS).

The University was honored with the 2015 Exemplary Professional Development School (PDS) Achievement Award from the National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS). Only six campuses across the country were honored. SU is the only non-Research 1 university to earn national recognition for its PDS partnerships at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

The NAPDS Award honored SU for the collaboration that is the key underpinning of its PDS partnership with MMHS. Specifically noted was the “high productivity and morale” and “permeating spirit of reciprocal support and development” within the partnership. Also applauded was the full immersion of teacher candidates in PDS initiatives; the advocacy of school leaders; the establishment of a community of learners; and the congruent purpose and vision for the partnership between teacher candidates, interns, beginning teachers, veteran educators, administrators and faculty.

In addition to this national award, the Seidel School earned the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education’s (NCATE) highest honor: national reaccreditation.

“This accreditation decision indicates that [SU] and its programs meet rigorous standards set forth by the professional education community,” said James G. Cibulka, president of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Dr. Diane Allen, SU’s provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, added: “SU has a tradition of academic excellence in its education programs. The re-accreditation is a stamp of approval for the training our students continue to receive.”



▲ Teacher Education And Technology Center Opens In 2008

◀ Distinguished Faculty Award Winner James Forte

▼ SU’s Newest Doctoral Program In Education

