

# Western

## Faculty of Education



## *Centre for Inclusive Education Newsletter*

### *Message from the Director: Dr. Jacqueline Specht*

*Volume 3, Issue 1*

*Spring, 2010*

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It has been a while since our last newsletter. This past year has brought much change. We launched an official partnership with Coaching to Inclusion for the Fall conference. Our partnership meant that Grace Howell, our Centre coordinator took on the very big role of administering the conference. This change in her duties meant that we needed to move the Fall newsletter to the Winter. Highlights of the conference are included in this newsletter as is the date for the Fall 2010 conference. Specific details will follow. We are very pleased to be partnering with people interested in inclusive education from many boards in Southern Ontario. A community-university collaboration is ideal for making change happen.

Additionally, we welcome **Dr. Jamie Metsala** as one of the Faculty involved in the Centre. She was hired as a new faculty member July 1, 2009 and her introduction is included inside. Congratulations to the three graduate students on their receipt of the Centre for Inclusive Education Awards. We await their findings and look forward to sharing them with you through future newsletters and our website:

[www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive\\_education](http://www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive_education)

□ *The Centre is committed to sharing research findings and resources with academics, educators and families.*

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## Meet the Newest Member of the Centre for Inclusive Education Faculty Team: Dr. Jamie Metsala



Almost as soon as Jamie joined the Faculty of Education at Western last July 1, she was invited to join the team of core faculty members in the Centre for Inclusive Education. She comes to us from Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia where she was an associate professor in the Faculty of Education there. Her research and teaching interests focus on reading acquisition and children with reading disabilities. In 2008 Jamie was awarded a five-year grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to conduct research on the development of spoken word recognition and phonological awareness in young children. In late November, Dr. Metsala became a tenured Associate Professor at Western. Congratulations, and welcome aboard!

## Graduate Students win 2010 Centre for Inclusive Education Research Award

For the 2010 competition, applicants' research proposals could address any issue that is related to the inclusion of students who represent a diversity of backgrounds or learning needs. This broadening of the scope of research attracted a larger number of applications from full-time and part time M.Ed and Ph.D. students in the Curriculum, Policy, Counselling and Educational Psychology areas of study.

Congratulations to: **Kasia Kalat**, M. Ed. candidate for "Neoliberal educational reform and the experiences of teachers working to raise academic achievement"; **Joel Lopata**, M. Ed. candidate for "Pre-service teacher beliefs about the antecedents to bullying and victimization: A concept-mapping approach"; and **Gabrielle Young**, Ph.D. candidate for "The impact of assistive technology on self-concept and motivation across school transitions". These awards, with a cash value of \$750 each, will be presented at the Faculty of Education Awards Luncheon in June, 2010.

## Partnership Leads to a Winning Conference on Developing and Maintaining Inclusive Environments

October 16 was an exciting day as the Centre for Inclusive Education and the Coaching to Inclusion Committee began a formal partnership to co-host the annual conference in 2009. While this was the first joint effort, the conference has been held since 1998 for people involved in the education of children with exceptionalities to come together and learn from others in the field.

Since 1999, the **Champion of Inclusion Awards** have been presented to educators who promote and implement inclusive education. This year the winners were:

**Patricia McLeod, Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB**

**Kim Cottingham, Grand Erie DSB**

**AnneMarie Lambert, Huron Perth CDSB**

**Nora Cowe, Bruce-Grey CDSB**

**Danila Aref, Joe Lukasik, Pat McAdam, Hamilton Wentworth CDSB**

**Sue Nugent, Thames Valley DSB**

**Penney Shore-Talbot, London DCSB**

**Sherry Hanna, Avon Maitland DSB**

In 2008 the **Life Time Achievement Award** was created to acknowledge the efforts of individuals who have gone above and beyond in championing for inclusion. The 2009 winner was **Janice Strickland** who chaired Coaching to Inclusion for many years. She has worked on local Special Education Advisory Committees and on the Minister's Advisory Committee for Special Education.

Planning is already underway for the **2010 Conference** to be held at Western's Faculty of Education on **Friday, October 22**. See the Upcoming Events section on page 4 for more information.



2009 Champions of Inclusion receive their awards on October 16, 2009

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## Upcoming Events:



### "From Rhetoric to Reality"

February 25 – 27, 2010

A Conference on Inclusive Education

Ryerson University and Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto

Visit: <http://www.communitylivingontario.ca>



### Bridges to Learning Conference

May 13 – 15, 2010

University of Toronto Mississauga Campus

Visit: [www.bridges-canada.com](http://www.bridges-canada.com)



### Coaching to Inclusion 2010 Conference

Friday October 22, 2010

UWO Faculty of Education

London, Ontario

More information and registration forms will be posted on the Centre's website in May.

[www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive\\_education](http://www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive_education).

### Join our Mailing List!

We'll keep you up to date on the Centre's activities, research findings, and coming professional development events.

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### Team Members

- **Core faculty:** Alan Edmunds  
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- **Research Assistants:**  
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