



The Balcony View

Educational Leadership Program for Aspiring Principals

Special points of interest:

- Program news!
- Stories from the field!
- Catch up with old friends!
- Have an article or idea to contribute?

No more pencils, no more books!

Now that graduation time is here, it's the perfect time of year to reflect on your time in the ELPAP program and connect with cohort members. We at *The Balcony View* hope that the '08-'09 school year was successful and prosperous. This issue provides an overview of what your fellow alum have accomplished, encountered and experienced this year.

We acknowledge the accomplishments of Phil Petru's school and the prestigious award that they won. Brad Kolhepp shares an experience meeting and learning from Michael Fullan and how you can apply these concepts in your own school. As always, Cohort Connection reconnects you with cohort members and in Chat 'N Chew on This, Judy shares some exciting news in her life!

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Balcony View*. As always, we welcome your submissions, suggestions and articles. The more we learn about you, the more we can share with your fellow alum! Take care, enjoy your final few weeks of school and have a restful and relaxing summer.

The Editors

We are excited about the connections that can be made and the stories that will be told. Again, if you are interested in writing an article for The Balcony View, simply submit a Word document via email to:

ELPAPALUMNI@YAHOO.COM

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Current Trends in Education: Cohort 2 Alum Helps Land NJ School Award

Medford Memorial Middle School, in Medford Township, New Jersey, was honored this year as one of four recipients of the prestigious **2008-2009 New Jersey Schools to Watch**. Principal Phil Petru (Cohort 2) leads the 692-student school that focuses on integrating technology and high-level student work to create interdisciplinary connections.

The school was featured in an article on the New Jersey Department of Education website, acknowledging the award. The article notes that Medford, "has a daily 40-minute

enrichment period for students to explore interests and challenging courses such as environmental science, creative writing, forensic science, TV technology, public speaking, computer animation, music and Challenge Spanish." The school also employs a student advisory council and empowers teachers to develop enriching and thoughtful professional development experiences. More information about Medford, the other three recipients, and the New Jersey Schools to Watch award can be found at:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/news/2009/0316stw.htm>

Alumni Announcements: Congrats!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ayla Jade Auerbach was born on Saturday, February 28 to alum Matt Auerbach (Cohort 7) and wife Sara.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marc Mancinelli (Cohort 7) married Ann Marie in October 2008.

Jennifer Mattei (Cohort 5) married Charles Ehlers in the Summer of 2007. They reside in West Chester and Jennifer serves as a board member for the Ronald McDonald House in Delaware.



"My Favorite Things"

Cohort Connection: Where is everybody?

Alice Ryan (Cohort 1) is Assistant Principal at Eastern High School in Voorhees, NJ and was recently appointed to the New Jersey State Math Task Force.

Annie Laurie Hens (Cohort 4) was appointed Assistant Principal at Penndale Middle School in North Penn School District.

D'Ana (Watson) Waters (Cohort 3) is now Principal at Hatfield Elementary in North Penn School District.

Hung Kim (Cohort 6) is the supervisor of K-12 Mathematics in Chester-Upland School District.

Curt McCaskey (Cohort 8) is the Principal at Blue Ball Elementary in Eastern Lancaster County School District.

Cathy Torbik (Cohort 7) was appointed Director of Special Education at Lindenwold, NJ.

Siouda Chestnut (Cohort 7) is Principal at A.S. Jenks in South Philadelphia, PA.

Dan Lazar (Cohort 7) is Principal at Barton Elementary in Philadelphia, PA.

Mary Robinson Cohen (Cohort 7) is the Director of Curriculum for Trenton Community Charter School.

Daniel File (Cohort 3) is an Assistant Principal at Pennsbury High School—West Campus in Fairless Hills, PA

Christine Kerlin-Nasserghodsi (Cohort 5) is an educational consultant with the Ministry of Education in Abudabe

FAREWELL

Tim Johnson was appointed Head of School at Pingree School in South Hamilton, MA.

We wish him the best!

Ask Alumni

ELPAP Alumni,

My school is having difficulties with chronic non-attenders and truancy. We've employed the use of a parent ombudsman and a student advisor to check up on these students and make home visits, but truancy remains a problem. What ideas do you have? What has been successful?

Help Fellow Alumni by responding to ELPAP ALUMNI on the social networking site, NING! We are proud to be launching our ELPAP ning at: <http://elpapalumni.ning.com/>

Please join us and share in continual professional growth and networking. Look for an email soon requesting you to join.

"Chat & Chew" on This!

As of August 1, Judy Lechner Brody is stepping down as the ELPAP Director. She will continue to teach in the program and serve as a mentor. She also plans to continue her teaching in the Mid Career Doctoral Program.

The new ELPAP director will be Dr. Priscilla Dawson, who has been teaching in the program for the past two years. Priscilla, an alum of the Mid Career Doctoral Program, has served as an urban principal at all levels, elementary, middle and high school in Philadelphia and Trenton. She has also served as Assistant Superintendent in Trenton.

Since ELPAP has become the core courses of the School Leadership masters' program at PennGSE, the diversity of aspiring leaders has widened. An MEd program is now offered, not only for public school aspiring principals, but also for aspiring leaders in independent schools. These MEd students join those seeking principal's certification only, as well as those in the Ed.D. program obtaining their certification.

Michael Fullan—The Six Secrets by Brad Kolhepp (cohort 6)

I recently had the opportunity to hear Michael Fullan speak on his book *The Six Secrets of Change*. As I listened to Mr. Fullan sharing his “secrets”, I continued to think back to Day One, two years ago when I began my first day as a principal.

What truly resonated with me from Fullan’s talk was the first “secret” that was discussed: “*Love Your Employees.*” It is by no fault, that this is Fullan’s first secret. Before any positive change is to be made that affects student learning, the new principal must first gain the trust of the faculty.

In order to gain the trust of my faculty from the beginning, I focused on being one thing during my first few weeks: Visible. From the minute I arrived in school I would visit the before care program to meet and talk to the kids and the teachers. Once that was over I would come up to the front entrance and greet the teachers and students as they arrived for the day. During the school day I would make my way to each classroom to talk to the students and get an overall feel for the culture of the school. I made it a point to get to know not only the kids names, but their interests. By being visible, the faculty saw that I genuinely cared about all students and was dedicated to providing them with an effective, high-quality education.

The teachers saw that I was there to support them. Leaving positive notes on their plans about their lessons and classroom environment was

Social Networking for Leaders

Common Leader: “Really, do I have time or the desire to social network?”

Leader of Change: “Can you lead alone? Isn’t there more power collectively than by oneself?”

Common Leader: “Social networking is for kids. I don’t understand those new-fangled computers anyway.

Leader of Change: “As a leader I will model appropriate ways to use 21st century skills to continue to challenge and improve my own practice. I will be relentlessly consistent with what works, and

one way to show my support. I also made it a point to recognize different faculty members for specific ways they contributed to the betterment of the school. During Back to School Night I made it a point to say what wonderful things I have seen occurring in each of the classrooms. Performing these actions during the first few weeks proved invaluable in laying the groundwork for the trust needed to promote school change.

By getting to know the relationships between the school’s rituals, artifacts, ceremonies, symbolism and school culture I was able to gain a sense of the school’s “heart” (Deal & Peterson, 1999). With this knowledge, I would then be able to go about building the trust needed from the faculty in order to start the “change” in the school that is needed for an increase in student achievement.

Deal, T. & Peterson, K. (1999). *Shaping School Culture: The Heart of Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Brad is currently principal of Saint Anastasia’s school in Newtown Square, PA.

continually innovative with new ideas.”

Common Leader: “Whatever.”

Leader of Change: “How can I start?”

(or continue!)

Join the ELPAP ning Look for an invitation coming to your inbox soon.



“Love Park”

*the first
“secret” that
was discussed:
“Love Your
Employees.”*



“View from Undine”

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PROGRAM WEBSITE: <http://www.gse.upenn.edu/app/index.html>

ELPAP Events at UPENN GSE: The ELPAP Book Club by Susan Galloza (cohort 4)

On Saturday October 18, a small but diverse group, "the ELAP Alumni Book Club" met. We read *The Six Secrets of Change* by Michael Fullan. Even though most of the companies cited in the book were not related to education, there was still much we learned. None of the secrets were new to us ELPAP Alumni. The book talked about connecting with peers, capacity building, learning as systems, learning is the work, and transparency.

I thought having a book club is a good way for us to continue our growth as educational leaders. Learning can not be stagnant and as busy professionals we need to take time to keep up our learning. This can be a great way to help us stay out of the swamp and on the balcony.

Susan is currently assistant principal at Pennsauken High School.

Look for other great events like this one coming soon!

The Balcony View Editors

Judy Brody
Martin Hayes
Todd Setterlund

Look for the Fall edition
around early October

Photography courtesy of:
Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes

<http://www.mkcphotography.com>

Interested in contributing to *The Balcony View*?
Do you want to help edit future issues? For more
information, contact us at:

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