

NAPOMLE SPRING 2020



NAPOMLE Presidential Ponderings

By: Gary Senn

We have had an amazing spring. The unprecedented response to COVID-19 has turned education and everything that we call normal into something quite different. In my area, closures started at the end of Spring Break. The university cancelled all face-to-face classes for the next week and asked faculty to develop plans for distance learning. Students were asked to move out of housing, although we still have about 70 students who had nowhere else to go, most of whom were international students. The university closed facilities to all but essential personnel on March 16. We had what we are calling Phase 1 of reopening with only 50% of the staff returning on May 26. Summer 1 classes are all on-line with only a limited number of Summer 2 classes meeting on campus. Local schools closed in March, which made it a challenge for our interns who had already begun but not completed their internship requirements. Fortunately, options have been made available for our interns to obtain certification. Our university is experiencing significant financial challenges because of COVID-19 resulting in students not being on campus. There are projections of 5%-20% reductions in enrollment for the fall. There have been some financial decisions made already; which include hiring, purchasing and traveling freezes. We are not sure how this will look as we enter the fall semester.

On a personal note, we had our first grandchild born in February. We have not been able to hold him since the beginning of March. However, we did come up with what I call the “COVID-19 Grandchild Visitation Practice.” We meet in their backyard, wear N-95 masks and maintain 10 feet of physical distance. We bring our own chairs, snacks and beverages. One positive result was with our daughter-in-law who is a middle-level ELA teacher. She was able to stay home with the baby for a longer period of time as the students were not allowed back to school. Flexibility is certainly a term that has important application during these demanding times. That includes supporting our middle level candidates and inservice teachers as they migrate through the landscape of COVID-19. Flexibility might also have potential application to our gathering for the 2020 AMLE and NAPOMLE annual conference in National Harbor, MD, November 12–14. For now, AMLE and NAPOMLE are planning to hold the conference as normal. We have had submissions for our best practices sessions and are moving forward with plans for that to occur. Of course, all of this we depend on what transpires between now and November. We will keep connected with you and keep our website updated with any news about the conference.

A final note for me to share with you is a personal campaign that I have begun. I am trying to change the message from “social distancing” to “physical distancing.” In times like this we need to find opportunity to increase social interaction while maintaining physical distancing. Most people agree that this makes sense, and I have made some headway. However, I have been working on one of our campus ad hoc committees making recommendations for reopening the campus. I mentioned that it would be good to change our terminology in our documentation, but we decided to use the same phrasing produced by the CDC and other groups so as not to cause confusion. I’ll still use physical distancing in my verbal and written communication when I can.

I hope that you are faring well during this pandemic. I trust that you were able to manage the last half of the pandemic semester and are making plans to address circumstance that might arise during the next academic year. I look forward to seeing you in November or finding some other way to maintain social interaction as we strive together to focus on the middle.

-Gary J. Senn

MAY 28, 2020

Lounsbury Tribute

Greetings, In April 2020, middle level education lost one of its most ardent and influential advocates with the passing of Dr. John H. Lounsbury. John's leadership, contributions, influence, and impact on the field of middle level education cannot be understated. His passion about recognizing and providing developmentally appropriate educational practices for young adolescents was unparalleled. As co-series editors of the Handbook of Resources in Middle Level Education, Micki Caskey and I are proposing a tribute volume to honor John's lifelong contributions to the field. Our intent with this volume is to collect and publish stories, anecdotes, vignettes, or defining moments that you want to share about Dr. John Lounsbury. Your submissions may also include personal photographs. Attached please find a "Call for Submissions" with more details and guidelines. Final submissions are due August 1, 2020, with an intended publication date of October 2020. If you are interested in submitting a tribute, we would appreciate it if could let us know by June 14, 2020. Please feel free to circulate this email and the attached call for submissions to your colleagues who may be interested in contributing to the volume. Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Thank you,
Micki Caskey (caskeym@pdx.edu)
Steve Mertens (smertens@ilstu.edu)



Call For Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague and/or program for recognition at the AMLE conference in October. NAPOMLE has five awards that recognize the outstanding contribution made to middle level education. Here is a list of the awards:1) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program2) Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education3) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Candidate4) Honorary Professor Emeritus Award5) Outstanding CMLA ChapterThe criteria for each award is below. Please send your nominations/letters of support and a current vita (if applicable) to Leah Kahn at lkahn@sfasu.edu by September 1, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Leah.

NAPOMLE Best Practice Sessions 2020

Improving Teacher Candidates'
Content and Pedagogical Knowledge through Multi-Genre
Novels
Stacie Pettit, Kim Barker, and
Christi Pace; Augusta University

Navigating On-Line Learning in
Middle Level Teacher Preparation Programs
Deborah McMurtrie, Bridget Coleman,
and Gary Senn, USC Aiken;
David Vawter, Winthrop University

Forming a Middle School/University
Mentoring Partnership
Robin Dever, Kent State University-Geauga

Online Field Experiences: Oxymoron
or Opportunity?
Amanda Wall Elizabeth Barrow, Shelli
Casler-Failing, Taylor Norman;
Georgia Southern University

Enhancing Teaching and Learning: 1:1
iPad Integration with Teacher Candidates
Joanne Previts, Nancy Mizelle,
and Rachel Bray; Georgia College

Movement and the brain: Trauma
informed practices in physical education
Rebecca Buchanan, Emory & Henry College
Lauren Davis, Montana State University

Weathering and Wondering: Teaching
Amid and Beyond COVID-19
Laurie Ramirez, Appalachian State
University; Valerie A. Allison, Susquehanna University;
Laura Haniford, University of New
Mexico

Redesigning the Student Teaching
Experience during the Pandemic Crisis: Opportunities for REAL Problem-
solving
Carol Watston, Kutztown
University

Digital Literacies of My Former
Preservice Teachers: Are they Being Prepared?
Elizabeth B. Gound, Stephen F.
Austin State University

What are Best Practice Technology
Platforms?
Elizabeth B. Gound, Stephen F.
Austin State University

Promoting Family Communication with
High Leverage Practices: Simulated Mock Conferences
Christopher Weiler, Kutztown University

Creating a media-based documentary:
A look at the past to inspire the future
Nancy Ruppert, UNC Asheville; Amanda
Wall, Georgia Southern University; Bridget Coleman, USC Aiken

Empathy and an Ethic of Care in
Middle-Level Classrooms: The Threat of Social Inequality
Michelle Williams, Jerry Williams,
Stephen F. Austin State University

Check out the [AMLE job board](#)!

They are seeking suggestions from experts about resources for people seeking job such as sample interview questions, preparation ideas, or tips. Contact April Tibbles to contribute. ATIBBLES@amle.org