

STAC SPACE



STAC Space is a newsletter publication by the Student Teacher Advisory Council at San Diego State University.

Tips from a Master Teacher

Susan Foster is a Guide Teacher at Rancho Bernardo High School. The following excerpts are based on her responses during a recent interview.

Q: Student teachers in our program have often complained that they lack adequate preparation in the field of classroom management. In your opinion, what are the most effective means of maintaining classroom discipline for a student teacher?

A: Student teachers need to have a plan prior to going into the classroom. They should discuss the expectations of classroom management with their master teachers prior to entering the classroom, but they must also have a clear idea of their own management plans. There is really no way to learn classroom management except by teaching, however, a clear philosophy of management and a plan of classroom control strategies are helpful. Being organized and fair are the key components of a successful classroom management plan.

Q: What do you believe are the most challenging obstacles a student teacher may have to overcome in the classroom?

A: The biggest obstacle is that the students will challenge the youth and authority of student teachers, especially if they take over at semester or after a few weeks into the semester. Student teachers must be prepared to be firm, yet fair, in their classroom management styles.

Q: All student teachers in our program have been encouraged to network at their host school sites. However, many have little or no knowledge of how to go about establishing a presence amongst their school's faculty, administration, or student body. What suggestions do you have for student teachers who wish to introduce and involve themselves with peer professionals at their respective school sites?

A: The best thing to do is to be very visible. Go to the cafeteria at lunch, attend staff meetings and sporting events, volunteer to take over a club, and be sure to introduce yourself to everyone. Best tip: be friendly and open! Try to go above and beyond your job duty, cheerfully. Ask an administrator to observe your classroom, and present your best lesson!

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue:

- *Tips from a Master Teacher*
- *Getting Involved as a Student Teacher*
- *FAQ's*
- *School Law*
- *Buzz Words, Test Dates & Employment Resources*
- *Job Fairs & Recruitment Events*



*"Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."
-Louis-Hector Berlioz*



Did You Know?

The STAC Newsletter will soon be available online? Please look for upcoming issues on the School of Teacher Education Website at <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/STE/sac.htm>

Tips from a Master Teacher

Continued from Page 1

Don't be disappointed if they don't show—just introducing yourself puts your name on the radar for possible job openings.

Q: Lastly, several student teachers have expressed concerns with time and stress management. What tips might you have for a student teacher who finds himself overwhelmed by the difficulties and responsibilities of teaching?

A: Teaching is HARD. A great teacher makes it look easy, but it is a lot of work to manage 160 kids a day, take care of the paperwork, and have a personal life. Student teachers need to understand that during the student teaching, and also the first year of teaching, they will be overwhelmed. Accept this and work hard. The best way to manage stress is to eat right, exercise, and set some time for relaxation. Master teachers should be able to give student teachers tips on how to grade papers and manage the work load. Keep this in mind—as hard as student teaching is, the first year of teaching is even harder. Great teachers have an excellent work ethic.

Getting Involved as a Student Teacher

San Diego State University hosts several organizations that offer a variety of opportunities for credential program students to become involved in student government, Greek life, and union politics. The following profiles are meant to inform students in the School of Teacher Education about the networking potential and social value of the aforementioned organizations.

Student Teacher Advisory Council

Also known as STAC, the council is a representative body that consists of students from each cohort or block in the School of Teacher Education. Council meets on a monthly basis to discuss and offer solutions to common concerns among credential program students, and its representatives strive to create a

stable line of communication between the student body and the School of Teacher Education's faculty, team, leaders, and/or supervisors. If you wish to learn more about taking part in STAC, please contact your team leader and inquire as to how you might become a council representative.

Student California Teachers Association

San Diego State University hosts a local chapter of the SCTA that all undergraduate and credential program students may join. The organization provides an opportunity for students to discuss and address governmental policies and issues, philosophical controversies, and social issues within the field of education. The

Continued on Page 3

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BTSA?

BTSA is an acronym for Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment. It is a state funded program, co sponsored by the California Department of Education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The BTSA program was designed to support the professional development of newly-credentialed, beginning teachers and fulfill the requirements for the California Clear Multiple and Single Subjects Credential. Lastly, BTSA provides a variety of workshops, training and network opportunities targeted for different audiences involved in all levels of the program.

Where do I find information on my local BTSA program?

Detailed information about local BTSA programs can be found at www.btca.ca.gov. However, the site is a bit vague about local specifics, so it would be best to contact your local BTSA representative via email or phone. A comprehensive list of BTSA representatives are listed by school district on the BTSA website.

How are SB 2042 and BTSA related?

SB 2042 restructured teacher credentialing in California. One major reform included a requirement that teachers pass a teaching performance assessment embedded in their preparation program and a new requirement that teachers complete a two-year induction program of support and assessment during the first two years of teaching in order to earn a California Professional Clear Teaching Credential.

Buzz Words:

CFASST

An acronym for California Formative Assessment and Support System for Teachers. It is used by most BSA programs to assist beginning teachers, and it focus's teachers through a "plan, teach, reflect, apply" process with the assistance of an experienced teacher.

CSTP

An acronym for California Standards for the Teaching Profession. It consists of a set of six standards that are intended to guide teachers as they define and develop their practice.



CSET & RICA Test Dates

CSET:

Test Date	Registration Deadline
March 17 th	February 16 th
May 19 th	April 20 th
July 21 st	June 22 nd

RICA:

Test Date	Registration Deadline
February 10 th	January 5 th
April 14 th	March 9 th
June 16 th	May 11 th

Getting Involved as a Student Teacher

Continued from page 2

The SDSU chapter provides support with job interviewing skills, resume writing, classroom management, multicultural education, and other vital concerns. Regional SCTA conferences are held on several occasions throughout the year in Southern California, and members who choose to attend will find networking opportunities and help with communication and leadership development. Perhaps one of the most important aspects of SCTA membership is the offer of up to one million dollars in liability insurance coverage for student teachers. If you would like more information, or if you want to join, please visit the CTA website at www.cta.org.

School Law

Each month STAC monthly will introduce a new scenario that will aid student teachers in understanding and promoting California School Law. This month's scenario is as follows:

You are a high school teacher, and your students have just returned from their lunch break. As your pupils begin to filter in, you notice that two male students are beginning to push and shove each other as they shout obscenities. Suddenly, verbal insults turn into a full on altercation as both students begin to throw punches and wrestle with one another. You are the only member of the faculty at the scene of the incident. What do you do?

The natural instinct of most teachers would be to step in immediately and attempt to physically break up the fight by separating both antagonists. However, many rookie teachers might be hesitant to take such measures for fear of liability issues. Here is what the California State Education Code has to say about this scenario.

In accordance with California Education Code Section 49000-49001, An amount of force that is reasonable and necessary for a person employed by or engaged in a public school to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to persons or damage to property, for purposes of self defense, or to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects within the control of the pupil, is not and shall not be construed to be corporal punishment within the meaning and intent of this section.

Notice, however, that this code only refers to what should NOT be considered corporal punishment. Truthfully, there is absolutely no mention of a legal standard that teachers should follow in the event of the aforementioned scenario. However, a Poway Unified School District High School AP was able to shed some light on this dilemma. According to this official, who wishes to remain anonymous, a teacher is obligated to provide a safe learning environment for all students. That being said, if a fight were to break out and a teacher were to physically intervene in a way that only served to separate the two offending students with a minimal use of force, liability wouldn't be a major concern. Parents can sue for just about anything, but the fact is a teacher intervening in a student altercation typically has several student or staff witnesses on hand to testify that his or her actions were well within the boundaries of enforcing a safe learning environment. Moreover, no teacher can be compelled to physically intervene out of concern for their own safety, but teachers must at the very least call for support immediately, and try to quell the situation verbally. Typically, the presence of a staff member is enough to stop a fight in progress.

Conferences

SDSEA Annual Conference

The SDSEA is hosting an annual science conference on March 20, 2007 at Francis Parker School. All educators interested in the field of science are invited to share the latest scientific, technological and pedagogical information. For more information, please visit www.sdsea.org or contact Judi Heitz at jmheitz@earthlink.net.

Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi is an international honor society in education, and San Diego State hosts the Alpha Sigma Chapter. Membership in KDP requires that students meet a minimum GPA requirement and pay annual dues. Once a member, KDP provides several networking opportunities via monthly meetings, scholarship events, socials, and professional development workshops. If you would like to find out more about KDP and SDSU's Alpha Sigma Chapter, please visit www.kdp.org or contact

Continued on Page 4



Job Fairs and Recruitment Events (Statewide)

Ventura County

Oxnard Union High School District Teacher Recruitment Fair This event will take place on March 10th, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Oxnard High School.

Sacramento County

Elk Grove Unified Teacher Recruitment Fair. This event will take place on February 24th, 2007 on an interview only basis at Robert L. Trigg Education Center in Elk Grove, California.

Newsletter Staff:

Brent Wozniak

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Cheryl Mason

Contact the Editor:

The STAC newsletter is a publication by the SDSU School of Teacher Education. To submit letters to the editor, articles, or questions please contact:

Brent Wozniak

Stacnews@hotmail.com

Employment Resources

Southern California Teacher Recruitment & Support Center

The SCTR & Support Center provides information on credentials, test preparation courses, referrals to university teacher preparation programs, financial and scholarship information, resume and interview assistance, and job fair locations and dates. For more information, please visit www.teachsocial.org or email a representative at socaltrc@sdcoe.net. The center has also set up a toll free assistance line at (877)-908-3600.

EDJOIN.ORG

EDJOIN provides a comprehensive job search engine that allows the user to view job opportunities in teaching, administration, and higher education throughout the state of California. For more information, please visit www.edjoin.org.

California Association for Employment in Education

CAEE hosts annual Northern and Southern California Teacher Recruitment Fairs and Outstanding First-Year Teacher recognition awards. CAEE provides information on certification, credentials, test preparation, and employment opportunities throughout California. For more information, please visit www.caeelink.org.

Conferences

Great San Diego Mathematics Council Annual Conference: Charting A Course for Student Success in Mathematics

This two day conference will feature over one hundred workshops and professionals who will present math topics ranging from elementary to the university level. The conference will be held on February 2nd & 3rd, 2007 at the Marina Village at Mission Bay. Two day registration for college students is \$50 with Saturday only registration at \$35. For more information, please call Joan Commons at (858)-672-3512.

Job Fairs & Recruitment Events (Southern California)

San Diego County

Teacher Job Fair: Secondary & Special Education (K-12). This event will take place on March 10th, 2007 at the University of San Diego Jenny Craig Pavillion from 9a.m. to 2p.m.

San Diego Regional Charter Schools Job Fair. This event will take place on March 31st, 2007 from 9a.m. to 12p.m. Location to be announced.

Riverside County

2007-2008 Teacher Job Fair: Sponsored by Lake Elsinore Unified School District. This event will take place on February 10th, 2007 from 8a.m. to 4p.m. at Ortega High School in Lake Elsinore, CA.

Middle & High School Teacher Job Fair: Sponsored by Alvard Unified School District. This event will take place on March 3rd, 2007 from 9a.m. to 12p.m. at La Sierra High School in Riverside, California.

San Bernardino County

Teacher Job Fair: Sponsored by San Bernardino City Unified School District. This event will take place on February 24th, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the San Bernardino Adult Education Building.

Los Angeles County

Santa Clarita Valley Teacher Job Fair: Sponsored by: Santa Clarita Schools. This event will take place on March 10th, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 26250 E. Valencia Blvd. in Stevenson Ranch, California.

Southern CAEE Teacher Recruitment Fair. This event will take place on April 24th, 2007 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Grand Long Beach Event Center in Long Beach, California.

For all events, Please visit www.teachsocial.org or www.edjoin.org for detailed registration and contact information.

