



August 2007



## PGS Mission

The primary purpose of this international professional society, Phi Gamma Sigma, is to celebrate the professional excellence of our outstanding doctoral graduates. Phi Gamma Sigma offers the Fischler School of Education and Human Services this opportunity to recognize its outstanding alumni who have excelled and made significant professional contributions.

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## PGS Alumni Accomplishments

*-Thank you all so much for continuing to send us your news and accomplishments. Keep them coming! –Casey Elise*

**Fartun Mohamud, Ed.D. 2006:** Dr. Muhamad will be presenting at the 10th Annual Somali Studies Conference entitled, *Somali Studies in the 21st Century: Local and Global Perspectives* (<http://www.somalistudies.org/index.php>). Dr. Muhamad's presentation will focus on Refugee Education: Cultural Barriers and Social Integration.



**Joseph Underwood, Ed.D. 2006:** Dr. Joseph W. Underwood, EdD (NSU, 2006, Ed Leadership) was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas in June. Dr. Underwood teaches television production, moviemaking, and entertainment law at the ARTEC Academy at Miami High School in Miami, FL. Dr. Underwood has been a member of the

Miami High faculty since 1984. The photo is of Dr. Underwood speaking at NTHF induction ceremony - photo taken by Jolene Underwood, age 12.

**Michael Uttendorfer, Ed.D. '03 (ITDE Cluster 12),** has been appointed Acting Dean of the School of Education at the New York Institute of Technology effective July 16, 2007.

**Marie Wallace, Ed.D. 2005:** Dr. Wallace will be presenting at the Oxford Roundtable Forum on the following: The Development of Technology-Based Counseling Strategies to Enhance Outreach to Parents and Students. This paper is now published in the Oxford Roundtable Forum on Public Policy Online: <http://www.forumonpublicpolicy.com/papers.htm>.

### Did you know?

Phi Gamma Sigma has a new web board, exclusive to and open for discussions among PGS members. Visit: [www.nova.edu/WWWBOARD/FSEHS/phigammasigma/](http://www.nova.edu/WWWBOARD/FSEHS/phigammasigma/). Please e-mail Casey if you would like the log-in information.

★Share your news! Email Casey at [elise@nova.edu](mailto:elise@nova.edu). ★

### PGS Goals and Objectives

Phi Gamma Sigma strives to:

- ★ recognize professional accomplishments of graduates
- ★ identify significant contributions to education by alumni
- ★ provide a forum for sharing ideas
- ★ provide a leadership forum
- ★ improve quality of education by sharing best practices
- ★ offer opportunities for graduates to network
- ★ encourage the development of communities of learners
- ★ offer special events on timely and important topics
- ★ encourage alumni to remain active in applied research

## PGS Profiles: Paul Giguere, Ed.D. 2002

Dr. Giguere is currently Director of Distance Learning for the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Dr. Giguere is responsible for the on-going development and administration of a distance learning environment in support of a full graduate degree program in nutrition science. Dr. Giguere is also responsible for providing oversight on policy development, faculty training and support, student services, and learning technology implementation.

Prior to Tufts University, Dr. Giguere was a Senior Scientist for Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) where he was responsible for investigating and implementing distance learning systems, theories, and practices with regard to its appropriateness for the delivery of training and professional development through projects primarily based in the Center for Health and Human Development Programs (HHD) at EDC. Dr. Giguere also served as a project director and advisor for collaborative learning projects dealing with health education and promotion, violence prevention, and HIV prevention.

Over the past twenty years, Dr. Giguere has worked on many projects providing support in the integration and implementation of technology in various contexts. Dr. Giguere has played a lead role in the area of distance learning including the National Training Partnership's "Navigate by the Stars" web-based conference, the National Training Center for Middle School Drug Prevention and School Safety Coordinators, the National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention, and the National Center for Suicide Prevention. This work has helped advance the adoption and implementation of web-based learning initiatives in agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Head Start Bureau, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Dr. Giguere also serves as a principle investigator and co-director of a National Science Foundation-funded project entitled "A Distributed Hybrid Approach for Creating a Community of Practice Using NSF Funded Manufacturing Engineering Technology Curriculum Modules". His current research and applied development focus is the creation of on-line learning systems and virtual communities of practice that serve health education practitioners.

With over twenty years of experience in the computer and human services/education fields, Dr Giguere has worked in a variety of positions for state and local governments and private non-for-profit institutions. Dr. Giguere has written numerous articles in the area of distance learning and he also teaches and lectures at area universities on such topics as computer science theories and the ethical issues involving technology in society. Dr. Giguere holds a doctoral degree (Ed.D.) in Instructional Technology and Distance Education from Nova Southeastern University, an M.S. degree in Administration and a B.S. degree in Human Services, both from Springfield College.

★Are you the next PGS Profile? Email Casey at [elise@nova.edu](mailto:elise@nova.edu). ★



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Do you have an  
article of interest  
that you'd like to  
share with the  
FSEHS and PGS  
family?

Need a hard copy  
of the PGS  
Newsletter?

Email Casey at  
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## "Living My Life..... One Day at a Time"

*-by Phyllis Parsons, Ed.D. 2006*

I spent the last 16 months at Nova juggling my studies and caring for my terminally ill husband, who died on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2006. I learnt some valuable lessons during this period, chief among them being that life is very transient; hence we need to do those things that we enjoy before we lose the opportunity. As a consequence, I am on a 2-year sabbatical and am using the time to do what I love most – traveling and meeting new people and seeing new places.

The highlight of this first year off was a cruise to South America (November 19 to December 3, 2006; and my recent tour of Europe (June 5 – July 9, 2007).

I have shared the cruise to South America, because the more recent trip to Europe is intertwined with that trip. You will see why.

### **Part 1 - South America**

I want to believe that the trip to South America was divinely planned. It was a mere five months since losing my husband and I was still bathed in grief. A friend who lives in Atlanta called me up in mid-October, to ask whether I would be interested in accompanying her on a cruise. My first inclination was to decline, however, I told her I would think about it.

By the end of October, I had decided that I had nothing to lose and that probably it would be good therapy to go. So armed with all the requisite documents, we boarded the Ship - Infinity - in Fort Lauderdale on November 19, 2006 for a journey that changed my life in many ways.

After two days at sea, our first port of call was Aruba. In addition to a scenic drive to the capital, Oranjestad, I tuned into nature and visited the Aruba Butterfly Farm, described as the number one ecological attraction on the island. The Farm is a tropical paradise of exquisitely colorful and unusual butterflies. I then visited the Aloe Balm facility where we were taken on a guided tour to learn first hand the various stages of aloe production and to see how the lotions, creams and deodorants are made from this product. The next attraction was a visit to a natural wonder – a bridge - carved of solid coral by the relentless pounding of the surf.

A day later I saw another wonder – the Panama Canal. The Miraflores Locks are the final set of locks that a ship must transit before entering the Pacific Ocean. Indescribably magnificent is all I can say about the workings of the Locks – one definitely has to see it to appreciate this masterpiece. Other places worthy of mention in Panama were the beautiful Spanish and French architecture in the Colonial part of the city.



Attention all  
2007  
Graduates!!!

Photos from Phi  
Gamma Sigma's  
Fourth Annual  
Induction  
Ceremony will  
be available  
soon....

Please contact  
Casey if you  
would like your  
framed photo  
sent to you.



## "Living My Life..... One Day at a Time"

*...continued*

Our next port of call was Manta, Ecuador. A visit to the Archaeological Museum with its pre-Columbian artifacts highlighting the regions culture was extremely educational. Then on to Montecristi, an ancient town founded in 1628, now the center of the Panama hat industry. Imagine watching the artisans as they weave dried leaves from the paja toquilla, (a special straw obtained from certain palms of the Ecuadorian coast) into Panama-style hats. Ever wondered how buttons are made? Well, a visit to a Tagua factory where a cream-colored nut that looks like ivory, is crafted into buttons of varying sizes and shapes, little sculptures, jewelry and other items, provided the answer.

Another rest day at sea and then we docked in Lima, Peru. I took a scenic drive to the historical center of Lima - visited Plaza Mayor – location of the Government Palace, City Hall, the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace. The Cathedral is the main church of the city and has several fine examples of woodwork that have been preserved over the years. Peru is also known for its typical Peruvian handicraft – carpets, sweaters, coats, hats, and items made of leather, copper, bronze, silver, gold and precious stones.

After a fun-filled day, it's back to ship where all the creature comforts await. Another day at sea, to do as you please before arriving in Arica Chile. But, it was not to be, the ship developed engine problems. Emergency repairs were carried out en route and at a much reduced speed, we were forced to head for our last port of call - Valparaiso, Chile.

Valparaiso is a major seaport and manufacturing center and along with its twin city Vina del mar, is a popular tourist destination. It is a thriving port located on the Pacific coast, and is about one and a half hour's drive from Santiago. I took a scenic drive to the Portillo Resort which takes you high into the Andes Mountains. Portillo is about 90 Miles north of Santiago, close to the Argentine border. It was absolutely breathtaking to view, up close, the snow-capped Andean mountain range.

Well as they say "all good things come to an end". I returned home refreshed, exhilarated, filled with hope and ready to face the world again.

***To learn about Dr. Parsons' second half of her trip, and to view her online photo gallery, please visit:***

***<http://www.schoolofed.nova.edu/phigammasigma/>.***