

Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

2017

Doctoral Students

Eileen Boswell

Advisor: Dr. Loukia Sarroub



Eileen began teaching as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guinea, West Africa. She holds an MA in Linguistics and an MS in Library Science. Eileen's interest in teacher training began when she worked as Technical Coordinator for Professional Development and Training at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC.

Area of Interest:

My research interests are training instructors to teach ESL pronunciation; teaching reading to English Language Learners; classroom discourse; and the interplay of prescriptive and descriptive linguistics in language teaching.

I am excited about grad school:

I look forward to strengthening my academic writing, honing my skills in ESL methodology and teacher training, and beginning my scholarship in literacy studies

Michael Hart

Advisor: Lorraine Males

Michael is currently teaching 7th grade math at Park Middle School. He has taught at Park for 5 years after completing his master's degree last summer through UNL's Math in the Middle program. Since he had such a great experience, he decided to further his education through the Curriculum, Teaching & Teacher Preparation Doctoral program.



Area of Interest:

Michael is interested in eventually working with pre-service teachers at the college level or some kind of instructional coach for newer in-service teachers. His advisor, Lorraine Males, worked with him over the past few years while supervising various practicum students and student teachers.

I am excited about grad school:

Michael is excited to further his educational journey and learn more about the research side of education since that was not a major focus in Math in the Middle. He is also interested to see how to shape this experience differently from others as he continues to teach full time throughout his education.

Elizabeth Hasseler

Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Lewis



Elizabeth Hasseler is in her fourth year of teaching physics at a rural New York high school. Her unique background in mechanical engineering impassioned her about STEM education. She runs a maker space, advises a STEM club, and has mentored a FIRST robotics team.

Area of Interest:

Gender Disparity in the STEM Fields and STEM Education

I am excited about grad school:

I am looking forward to working alongside people who want to make a positive difference in education.

Brandon Heinz

Advisor: Dr. Kara Viesca

Brandon Heinz was born in Kansas but raised in Colorado. He is an avid runner, skier, and outdoor enthusiast. Professionally he is an aspiring educator; prior to pursuing graduate school, I was in the private technology sector for seven years.



Area of Interest:

Brandon's academic interests lie in education and technology. He sees the role of technology growing ever more rapidly in the field of education, and he wants to explore the relationships between pedagogy and technology.

I am excited about grad school:

I am most excited about finding ways to contribute in a meaningful way in education and experiencing the trials and tribulations that this new path holds for me.

Cathy Linzell

Advisor: Dr. Jenelle Reeves



Cathy earned a B.A. in Spanish and International Studies from Miami University (1990) and a B.S. in Spanish Education with an ESL Endorsement from Ohio State University (1994).

She completed her Master's degree in Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2017 with an ELL focus. She is a certified K-12 Spanish teacher with the ELL Endorsement in the state of Nebraska.

Area of Interest:

Teacher education is my area of interest, especially as it relates to working with ELL students in mainstream classrooms.

I am excited about grad school:

I am very excited to continue learning and growing as an educator under the guidance of the faculty at UNL.

John Moeller

Advisor: Aaron Johnson

John Moeller is a former journalist who likes foreign languages, history, political science, art, music, and soccer.



Area of Interest:

His area of interest is social studies education (history/political science).

I am excited about grad school:

He is excited to learn more about how to integrate technology and innovative pedagogical methodology in the teaching of social sciences.

Danae Peterson

Advisor: Dr. GuyTrainin



Danae Peterson is currently working at LPS as a Secondary Instructional Technology Facilitator in Curriculum & Instruction. Prior to this, Danae was an Instructional Technology Coach at Culler Middle School, Special Education Instructor at Mickle and Culler Middle Schools, and 7th/8th grade English & 7th grade Reading Instructor at Raymond Central Jr. High.

Area of Interest:

Danae's Bachelor's in Human Sciences is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2006) with endorsements in English (7-12) and ELL (K-12). In 2011, she graduated from Doane College with an endorsement in Special Education (K-12) and Master's in Curriculum & Instruction.

I am excited about grad school:

The piece I am most excited about with regard to graduate school is having the chance to learn from so many others and take part in opportunities I never imagined for myself. I am starting fresh so to speak, in my pursuit of this new goal, and very much looking forward to exploring what comes.

Reed Underwood

Advisor: Dr. Lauren Gatti

I grew up in a farming family on the north central plains of Texas. I've worked as a software engineer for numerous institutions and firms, contributed to many open source software projects, taught in rural public schools, operated a small farm, and hold an M.S. in Geography.



Area of Interest:

I'm interested in culture and teaching and learning. More specifically, I'm curious about the particulars of place, poetics, and social hope as they relate to education.

I am excited about grad school:

I'm excited about the wonderful faculty at UNL as well as the community of learners with whom I hope to grow through thoughtful reading, research, and conversation.

Yassine Rfissa

Advisor: Dr. Theresa Catalano



Prior to the start of his doctoral program in Fall 2017, Yassine was a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the Arabic Language Program, in the Department of Modern

Languages & Literatures at UNL. His Masters of Arts degree was in Teaching of English as a Foreign Language at the University of Ibn Tofail in Morocco, and his undergraduate coursework was in English Studies at University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco.

My Areas of Interest:

- Second/Foreign Language Acquisition and Teaching
- Teaching and Learning with Technology

- Multicultural Education and Communication
- Translation: English-Arabic

I am excited about grad school:

For me grad school is not only a school, but a professorial apprenticeship. I am very excited to start this next chapter of my life because it is an opportunity for:

- Developing expertise in my areas of emphasis.
- Learning advanced skills and meeting people that will be my professional connections for the rest of your life.
- Learning how to do professional-quality research.
- Networking with professionals from a range of fields.
- Collaborating with education experts who share passion for understanding the nature of learners, learning, teachers, and teaching.
- And fully immersing myself in my subject of interest, which may be hard to do outside of academia