

Dr. Betty Dore is a full Professor and Coordinator of the Middle Level Teacher Preparation Program at Radford University, Radford, VA. She earned her Ed.D from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley and her M.S., C.A.S., and B.S. from the University of Maine. She is Past-President of NAPOMLE, Past-President of the Virginia Middle School Association and presently Executive Director of that organization. She was Editor of the *Crucial Link*, the former newspaper of VMSA, for ten years. She currently is on the Review Board of several educational organizations including the *Journal of Ethnographic & Qualitative Research*, *Middle School Journal*, *Middle Grades Research Journal*, *Current Issues in Middle Level Education*, and *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* for the International Reading Association. Among her publications is *Diversity and young adolescents: More than color* for NMSA as well as journal articles and book chapters. She is also on the Board of Examiners for NCATE. Dr. Dore has made numerous presentations locally, state wide, and nationally.

Dr. Anita Dutrow has spent over 40 years in education and has attained the rank of full professor. She has taught middle school, community college, and teacher education. As a teacher educator she chaired the Teacher Education Program as well as NCATE for the Department. She has served as Coordinator of Elementary Teacher Education, Middle School Teacher Education, and Secondary Teacher Education. She currently serves as a Doctoral Committee Chair and second committee member for 25 Walden doctoral students. She has been listed in Marquis Who's Who and other professional recognition publications. She has presented nationally and internationally including in Japan, China, Northern Ireland, England (participating in the Oxford Round Table, Oxford, England) and a science think tank in Costa Rica. Her research can be found in journals and as book chapters. She is an active team member for Schools to Watch in both NC and SC. She is a Board Reviewer for NMSA Teacher Education programs, Board member of NAPOMLE, and on Editorial Board for *Current Issues in Middle Level Education*. In addition she serves on the Board of First Steps of Laurens County and the School Improvement Council for Bell Street Middle School.

Dr. Johna Lee Faulconer is an Associate Professor and Area Coordinator of Reading Education in the College of Education at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. She earned her Ed.D from North Carolina State University. She is a past board member of the North Carolina Middle School Association, North Carolina English Teachers Association, and National Association of State Coordinators of English Language Arts. A former North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Consultant, Dr. Faulconer has focused on many aspects of literacy education. She has presented locally, state wide, and nationally and also serves on the Board of Examiners for NCATE. Dr. Faulconer is active in many professional organizations and continues to research literacy and adolescents.

Dr. Robert R. Heath is Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Appalachian State University. He served as a high school and middle school English/language arts and social studies teacher and as a middle school assistant principal and principal for twenty-two years, including several years as principal of a professional development school. Dr. Heath has served as president of the SC Middle School Association and SC Association of Middle Level Principals. He was named a National Distinguished Principal and SC Middle Level Principal of the Year.

Dr. Delphina (Del) Hopkins-Gillispie is currently an Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Licensure at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana, where she teaches courses in Anatomy & Physiology; Home, School, Community Relations; Science Content Methods and she supervises science student teachers. For the past six years Del has coordinated and traveled with preservice teachers during spring break for service learning and mission work in Nicaragua, Central America. Her interests include international education, multicultural education, social justice issues, STEM research, and cadet teaching.

Dr. Virginia Jagla received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Curriculum and Instruction in 1989, her MS from the University of Chicago in 1976, and her BS from DePaul University in 1970. She has been a teacher and administrator in urban schools, museums and arts organizations. She has taught for various colleges and universities. Currently Dr. Jagla is an associate professor at National Louis University in the Chicago area. She is co-editor of *i.e.: Inquiry in Education*, a journal of practitioner research. She leads the university service-learning team.

Dr. Jagla has a published book, *Teachers' everyday use of imagination and intuition: In pursuit of the elusive image*, and numerous published chapters and articles in various juried journals. She is a frequent presenter at local, national, and international conferences and symposia. Her research interests include imagination and intuition in education, the use of the visual and creative arts in education, with particular emphasis on creative drama; and service learning, particularly as it applies to middle level education.

Dr. Karynne L M Kleine is a Professor, Programs Coordinator, and Mentor Leader of Middle Level Education at Georgia College. In each of these roles she is called upon to collaborate with her colleagues on a frequent basis thus being at an institution which supports such efforts is especially satisfying. Her other research interests include the intersection of intellectual development and scientific thinking in teacher preparation as well as democratic education more generally.

Dr. Tom LoGuidice is a professor emeritus from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, He worked with the middle team and was responsible for putting five middle level courses in place as part of the programming at Platteville. He instituted team teaching

the courses and often served on the teams teaching key concepts and 10-15 human development courses as well as a graduate course in the middle level curriculum.

Dr. John M. Niska is an associate professor in the Educational Studies Department and Coordinator of the Middle Level Teachers' Program at Rhode Island College. The immediate past-president of NaPOMLE, John's main research and training interests include advisory program development and advisor skill training.

Dr. Perry W. Riffel is Professor Emeritus at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana. He earned his Ed.D. from Oklahoma State University in Curriculum and Instruction, his M.S. in Education Administration from Southern Illinois University, and his B.S. from Concordia University of Nebraska. He has been a middle grades teacher of language arts and social studies as well as a principal in Nebraska and Illinois. He has also been a Director of Middle Level Education and license officer as well as Teacher/Principal in grades 5-8. Dr. Riffel has served on the Middle Level Standards Development Task Force for Indiana Professional Standards Board, NCATE Board of Examiners appointed by NMSA, State NCATE BOE for Indiana Professional Standards Board, and on the Board of Governors for Indiana Middle Level Educational Association.

Dr. Nancy Bell Ruppert is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Middle Level Teacher Preparation Program at University of North Carolina Asheville. She earned her Ed.D from the University of Florida, Gainesville, and her M.Ed from Western Carolina University. She is the current President of NAPOMLE, and Past-President-elect of the North Carolina Middle School Association. She is on the Review Board of *Middle School Journal*, *North Carolina Middle School Journal*, and *Urban Education Journal*. Her areas of interest and expertise are middle school curriculum and mathematics education. She taught math, science, and reading for 15 years in grades 6-9. As a college professor, she regularly steps out of the university to return to the classroom. Her most recent experience, working in a "turnaround inner-city school" for a year, is reflected in the chapter "Can an K-8 school address the needs of adolescents?" in the 2011 *Voices in the middle: Narrative inquiry by, for, and about the middle level community*, edited by Kathleen F. Malu. She publishes articles about teaching mathematics in the Centroid, the journal of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Most recently her article "Using visual images to enhance comprehension" is in the spring, 2011 issue. Nancy is also a singer-songwriter and wrote the song for the most recent Southeast Regional Middle Level Symposium to honor The Legacy Leaders.

Dr Dan Saurino is a professor at UNCC specializing in middle grade education. Before completing his doctorate at the University of Georgia, he taught middle and secondary science and mathematics in the Georgia public schools. He earned his undergraduate degrees at North Georgia State University and all three degrees specialize in middle grades education. He also holds a Masters of Divinity degree from Emory University. He taught at the university level since 1998 for Virginia Tech, E. Oregon University, University of W. Georgia, and UNCC focusing on methods, curriculum, assessment,

classroom management, student teaching, the middle grades learner, teacher, and school structures. Dr. Saurino developed Collaborative Interactive Group Action Research (CIGAR) as a tool for professional development. He has conducted over 50 research projects with middle level pre-service and in-service teachers, administrators, and colleagues, many of which culminated in published works.

Dr. Saurino is active in local, regional, and national middle grades organizations including president of Georgia Professors of Middle Level Education (GaPOMLE), president of the Action Research Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), president of UWG Phi Delta Kappa (PDK), organizer and Academic Advisor of the College Middle Level Association (CMLA) at UWG, Oregon Middle Level Consortium, and Oregon Middle Level Association. Other service includes active membership and reviewer services to national and regional organizations including NEA, NPEAT, NARST, NMSA, NCMSA, GMSA, VMSA, EERA, and AERA. He has been a member of NaPOMLE since its inception and signed the original NaPOMLE Charter.

Dr. David C. Virtue is Associate Professor of middle level and social studies education in the Department of Instruction and Teacher Education at the University of South Carolina. His areas of scholarly interest include social studies instruction, English language learners in the middle grades, and middle level teacher education and certification. His recent publications have appeared in *Middle Grades Research Journal*, *Research in Middle Level Education Online*, *Middle School Journal*, *The Clearing House*, *The Social Studies*, *Journal of Social Studies Research*, and *Social Studies and the Young Learner*. Dr. Virtue has contributed to numerous edited volumes, including *Surviving the Storm: Creating Opportunities for Learning in Response to Hurricane Katrina*, *An International Look at Educating Young Adolescents*, *The Young Adolescent in the Middle School*, and *The Encyclopedia of Educational Reform and Dissent*. Dr. Virtue currently serves as editor of *Middle School Journal*, a publication of National Middle School Association. During the 2010-2011 academic year he served as a Fulbright roving scholar in Norway, giving workshops for teachers and students in *ungdomsskoler* (lower secondary schools) throughout the country.

Dr. Claudia Whitley, Ed. D. is an Assistant Professor and the Coordinator of Middle Level Education in the James I. Perkins College of Education at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She was a middle school teacher for 19 years, a middle school administrator and principal for 10 years, and has been teaching at the University level for 5 years. Dr. Whitley teaches Middle Level Instruction and reading courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Dr. Dawn “Michelle” Williams received her Bachelor of Science degree from Benedictine College in 1976. She received a Masters of Science degree in Special Education in 1985 from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Science degree in

Educational Administration from Emporia State University in 1997. Michelle received her doctorate from Stephen F. Austin State University in May 2010. Michelle taught special education from 1976 to 1996. She authored and facilitated a number of Federal VIB grants. She served as a middle school and high school principal in Horton, Kansas from 1997-2000. Michelle continued her career in administration with Nacogdoches Independent School District from 2002 to 2008. She is currently employed as an assistant professor at SFASU in the Department of Elementary Education.