



January Greetings

Happy New Year. I hope this finds you well. You will find a [“profile sheet”](#) attached to this letter. Please fill it out and send it to [me](#). We are collecting this information to help us collaborate with one another better. In addition to the profile request, I would like to share a few pieces of information with you.

First, Derek Neal, from NMSA membership, sent a **“dual membership” form** for anyone wishing to join NMSA and NaPOMLE at the same time. If you have a list serve of middle level professors in your state and could forward that piece of information we would appreciate it. [Bob Ziegenfuss](#) is working on promoting membership and needs your help in spreading the word. There is still an individual membership as stated on the dual membership form as well as an institutional membership. We will be discussing the possibility of a cap on the number of people who can participate in the institutional membership, and increasing the institutional membership fee; but right now it is unlimited. We do want to be sure and get the names of everyone who is in our participating institutions.

Second, the **May Legacy Symposium** is currently being planned. Based on earlier meetings there will be opportunities for professors to share strategies and practices in Milledgeville, GA May 18-20, 2011. I have attached a **flyer** for your perusal. The planning committee’s next meeting is January 20. I will forward updates as they are solidified. Right now we hope you have those dates saved on your calendar. “Round table discussions will focus on the future of middle level education and lead to the development of a document or white paper which reflects the collective wisdom of all participants and can then inform national dialogues on middle level education which will be taking place” (excerpt from the symposium flyer.)

Third, there is an opportunity to publish in the [Current Issues in Middle Level Education](#) and other middle level state journals as well as the [National Middle School Journal](#). Sometimes it helps to work with a colleague on a common theme or project. If you need help finding someone who has the same interest, let us know. [Anita Dutrow](#), [Debbie Haskell](#) and [Ann Roberts](#) are heading up our collaboration and communication efforts. Recently, [Holly Thornton](#) invited members to participate in a survey she is conducting regarding online teacher preparation.

Fourth, one of our features on the NaPOMLE website is Middle Schools in Action. If you would like to highlight work which is going on between your university and one of the middle schools in your region or across the globe, consider writing up a 250 excerpt for online publication.

Finally, at this time we have not heard whether there will be a middle level symposium in Louisville prior to the NMSA conference. If there is we hope you will join us. We are submitting a proposal to conduct round table discussions at the National conference and hope you will share your expertise there as well. Our intent is to publish our best practices on the [www.napomle.org](#) website. If you are interested in working on the best practice sessions, contact [Al Seed](#) or [Anita Dutrow](#). We will keep you posted as to what is happening.

May the beginning of this semester be positive and productive. Keep us posted. If there are things you need, let us know. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

[Nancy Ruppert](#)

PS: (Share your celebrations with us by letting me know what is new with you!)

Congratulations to

[Greg Meeks](#) on his appointment as Associate Dean at Arizona State University;

[Anita Dutrow](#) on her appointment as full professor at Presbyterian College;

[Cal Meyer](#) on his appointment as the middle grades and secondary department chair at Morehead State University;

and to [Stuart Knapp](#) on his new position at Wesley College as the K-8 coordinator.

Thank you and congratulations to the following professors who are serving as editors for the Current Issues in Middle Level Education journal:

*April Blakely
Eastern Kentucky University*

*Bridget Coleman
University of South Carolina-Aiken*

*Elizabeth Dore
Radford University*

*Anita Dutrow
Presbyterian College*

*Valerie Fields
South Carolina State University*

*Julie Horwitz
Rhode Island College*

*Gail Ingwalson
University of North Dakota*

*Deborah McMurtrie
University of South Carolina-Aiken*

Nita Paris
Kennesaw State University

Kathleen Roney
University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Allen Seed
University of Memphis

Eleanor Sikes
Fort Valley State University

Others who are interested in serving as CIMLE Journal, contact [Kim Ligon](#).

Profile Sheet

Name:

Institution:

Title:

Areas of Interest:

Hobbies:

Email:

*__ I prefer to have this information shared
with professors only.*

*__ I am willing to have this information
posted on the NaPOMLE website*

*When is your state middle level
conference?*

*Any news to share? (awards,
promotions?)*

*Please attach a recent photo of yourself,
something you love, and/or something
you love to do.*

*Email this information to
nruppert@unca.edu*