



# Early Childhood Education News

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Red Rocks  
Community College

## Who's who in the ECE department?

### Inside this issue:

Meet Kathleen (con't)	2
Meet Jan Leversee	2
Meet Francis Wardle	3
Effective Teaching	4
Meet Maura Saracusa Kenney	4
Meet MaryLou Reihmann	5
Meet Carol Goss	5
Meet Janiece Knepp Walter	6
Meet Sherry Peterson	7

With the start of the new fall term just around the corner, we want to give our students a peek at who we are in the ECE department! Thank you faculty for sharing more about yourselves with our students! jsk.

### Kathleen DeVries

My undergraduate degree is in Cultural Anthropology w/ Elementary Education licensure from Vassar College. Although I did not finish the degree, I have most of an MA in Anthropological Linguistics from the University of Missouri. I also completed

Montessori training through NCME (National Center for Montessori Education). And, finally, I received by masters in Early Childhood Education from UCD.

The first preschoolers I worked with were in the Vassar College Nursery School where child development was the focus. Looking back, I now understand how powerful this experience was and the ways in which it influenced my later thinking about young children and how they learn. It gave me a deep appreciation of developmentally appropriate practice well before the term was ever coined.

I have done most everything: elementary school

teacher (K-2), center director, education supervisor, literacy coach, trainer, and consulting work ranging from start-ups to mentoring. My preschool teaching experience was over a number of years and in a wide variety of settings: public school, P-12 private school, parent cooperative, and Montessori classrooms. This allowed me to see the great possibilities that exist for children in many settings and the importance of focusing on the child and the family.

I am currently full-time faculty and program chair for Early Childhood Education at Red Rocks. I love teaching at Red Rocks and meeting and learning from my students. Semester

### Need Advising? Want some?

- Contact Janiece or Kathleen if you would like to make an appointment for advising before the start of the fall semester!
- Janiece: 303-914-6553 or [janiece.knepp@rrcc.edu](mailto:janiece.knepp@rrcc.edu)
- Kathleen: 303-914-6326 or [kathleen.devries@rrcc.edu](mailto:kathleen.devries@rrcc.edu)

### Dear Colleagues,

As our last week of the summer semester winds down, I am turning my thoughts to the new fall term! Is it really only three weeks away? I have so much to do before then!! I have a race

to run, I want to watch the Olympics on TV, I need to get my classes for fall revised and uploaded onto D2L, I am still tiling in my bathroom, I haven't shopped for school supplies for my kids yet, OYE!



Well, not to worry! I still have three weeks left...!

Janiece & Kathleen

## Who's Who (from pg. 1)

after semester, they teach me more than I teach them.

I started with RRCC as an adjunct instructor and ten years ago became full-time faculty. I have taught almost all the classes. I thoroughly enjoy the introductory ECE 101 which allows me to meet most of our students while presenting a broad overview of the field. ECE 102 is a delight as I watch students begin to make connections between theory and practice. And ECE (PSY) 238 remains a favorite; I never tire of learning new information about the wonders of development, sharing it with students, and having

them see the impact of nature and nurture over time whether in their own lives or in the lives of those around them.

Lillian Katz is my ECE heroine for her deep appreciation of the developing child and the developing teacher and how those two intersect. Fred Rogers for his kind and sensitive nature and profound understanding of the power and importance of childhood. Vivian Paley for her unwavering commitment to what is good and right in education. And Loris Malaguzzi for his great appreciation of children's competence and how we can support

and use it to learn how to learn together.

What is a hobby of yours, or favorite pastime activity? I love to be outdoors! My favorite exercise is running, and hiking with my dogs and friends is a close second. During the summertime you will find me in my backyard garden which I love because it is never finished and never complete; it is always in a state of development and change, just like children! In the wintertime I like to snuggle under a blanket with a hot cup of tea and read a good book. And then there's food – I love to eat and I love to cook.

All in all the world has so many possibilities that it is hard to pick a favorite.



## Jan Leversee

I've earned my BS in child development from CSU and MA in counseling psychology and counselor education at UCD.

With my BS degree in hand, I got my first job teaching at a child care center in Aurora. I was a teacher for four years, then stayed home with my own babies for four years before returning to the field as a teacher. Soon after, I became the director of Lake-

wood United Methodist Preschool and stayed for twenty years.

When I got my masters degree I started a small private counseling practice and began teaching ECE classes at the community college level. I also do some training of directors and ECE teachers for the Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council. I love observing and mentoring students at Red Rocks as the instructor for ECE

188. Seeing students in action in a variety of preschools and childcare centers and offering them support and assistance is very satisfying.

I have always been inspired by Bev Boz. She has an inspiring take on DAP and her heart never forgets what is the most important for children--PLAY!

**What is a hobby of yours, or favorite pastime activity?** I enjoy writing poetry and even performing for an organization called Art as Action.



## Francis Wardle

I earned my BS in Art Education, Penn State University; MS in Cultural Foundations of Education, University of Wisconsin; PhD in Curriculum and Instruction, with a minor in Human Development, and a specialty in Infant and Early Childhood, University of Kansas.

I started when I volunteered in a Kindergarten as a high school student. I have been a Head Start volunteer, education manager, national reviewer, and director; Nation Direc-

tor of Education and Training for Children's World Learning Centers; teacher at Da Nahazli School, in Taos, NM., PACERS school, in Kansas City, MO., and New Meadow Run School in Farmington, PA. I have also been on a variety of Head Start, private school, and early childhood advisory boards. I put myself through graduate school as a playground builder and model and advertising photographer.

I have three jobs: teaching for RRCC; teaching for the University of Phoenix School of Advanced Stud-

ies; and writing books and articles. In my teaching positions I like getting to know a variety of interesting students; in writing I like expressing my ideas and messing around with concepts. I am also a member of the Colorado-Minas Gerais (Brazil) Chapter of Partners of the Americas, and a board member of Partners of the Americas International.

I teach curriculum, child growth and development, and exceptional students. I do not have a favorite course; besides it's the students that make them fun, not the con-

tent! Not sure how long I have been at RRCCC (too long?)

My hero is my father, Derek Wardle. While he was not an early childhood teacher, but rather a teacher mostly of elementary students, I admire the way he did projects. He would take his student in England and Pennsylvania down into coal mines; train homing pigeons with his students, and then have them released on field trips to take messages back to the school; and he and his students discovered all the edible plants in the surrounding woods. What was

most intriguing was that he was the central learner in these projects - always risking, learning, and trying out new things, and always so enthusiastic! His rye bread project was typical. He started with the students sewing the seed, caring for the plants, and then harvesting the crop. They then threshed the grain, ground it, and baked the bread. Finally they ate their rye bread with the students' families! On another occasion he and his class excavated Braddock's Road, which is a famous historical landmark from the French and Indian Wars in Pennsylvania,

near the school. And true to a certain Wardle trait for challenging authority, he and the students were stopped by federal agents who told him that what they were doing it was against federal law!

I enjoy travel, gardening, photography and writing. I also love to listen to classical music.

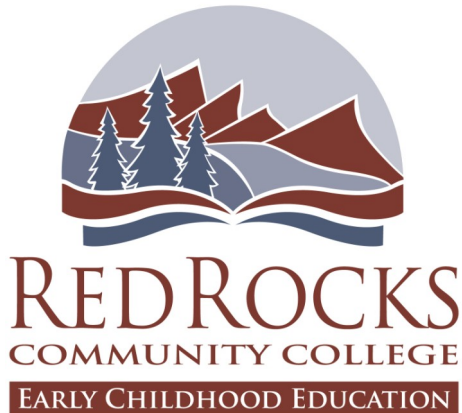


## Men in Early Childhood-Colorado (MEC-C) News

Soren Gall recently announced that MEC-C received fiscal sponsorship through Colorado Head Start Association. The MEC-C group is organizing a fundraising event on August 24, 4-7pm at the SAME café (2023 E. Colfax, Denver) to support their first event for children, a musical evening for Head Start children and their favorite male figure in their life. Stop by on 9/24 to support MEC and their work with children!







Check it out!

<http://rrcc.edu/ece/effectiveteaching.html>

The new ***Effective Teaching Spiral*** webpages have been launched! We are so excited to be sharing this interactive and resourced-loaded website with our students and the ECE Community! **But we need your help to spread the news!**

Take a few moments to visit, share the link on facebook, tweet, pin, or otherwise share with your peeps!



## Maura Saracusa Kenney

My degrees are a BA, Psychology WVU: MA, Child Family and School Psychology, DU

A professor of mine at DU, Gail Joseph, turned me onto ECE with all her stories and teachings with CSEFEL. I was trained both in graduate school and a year ago in Pyramid Plus. I hope to one day become a trainer!

I currently work at Havern School as a Social Skills Instructor. I love the diversity of my job and the ability to work with lots of different children with different learning disabilities.

I have been teaching at RRCC for more than 4 years and I love every minute of it. I love to teach ECE 103, Guidance of Young Children because the students seem to always take away so much from the course and there is always new research to provide them.

My ECE hero/heroine would have to be Gail Joseph, I think she is amazing and so enthusiastic about ECE.

**What is a hobby of yours, or favorite pastime activity?** I love crafts, I am currently crocheting a baby blanket for the arrival of my first child in September. I also enjoy cooking...How could a Sicilian girl not like to cook?



***Maura, now you can do both at the same time! That is if you have time after the baby comes!!***



## Mary Lou Reihmann

I received my Master of Arts in ECE from University of Colorado at Denver, 1994

I first became interested in ECE in college when a best friend was studying Child Development at Iowa State University, and I browsed her textbooks. Went on to get my Bachelor's in Child Development from there. I have worked as an infant/toddler program coordinator, preschool teacher and director, school-age program teacher, and community college instructor, and have taught many workshops and seminars.

I am currently co-running and teaching preschoolers at the Active Learning Center in northwest

Denver. Founded the school with another woman in 1984. Love the freedom to implement curriculum and study of the Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education, and knowing that our small school has been a part of so many families' lives in our community of north-west Denver for so many years.

I started teaching classes for Red Rocks in 2005. I have been teaching the 103 Guidance Strategies course ever since. I love it, because I believe I help many people learn new positive perspectives on guidance.

I love the work of Lillian Katz. She is a very thoughtful and intelligent voice for children and teachers. I have been reading her work since my undergraduate days in the late 70's.



My favorite thing to do in my free time is ride my horse Amigo (see photo). We have been together for almost 10 years, and I have been riding horses for over 25 years. It is a passion I have had since my early childhood (I begged my parents for a horse every Christmas, but only got small ceramic ones to my dismay). I finally and happily became a horse-owner in 2002.

## Carol Goss



I earned my M.A. Education, ECE emphasis, Concordia University, St. Paul; B.A. Behavioral Science, Minor Special Education, Metropolitan State College of Denver.

I started out working as a paraprofessional for Jefferson County Schools. When I graduated from Metro, I went to Florida where I was a kindergarten teacher for Hendry County Schools. I became a Program Coordinator for a large Head Start and Florida State f

funded center that served infants through preschool, for Child Care of S.W. Florida. I also served as instructor for the Florida state mandated ECE classes. I moved back to Colorado and served a short time as Site Coordinator for Early Head Start at Clayton Foundation and then a number of years as Education Coordinator for Creative Options division of CP of CO, where I worked with 5 programs that included Head Start and Early Head Start with blended funding. When I received my Master's degree, I began to teach Early Childhood Education classes at Red Rocks Community College, the Community College of Denver, and then UNC.

Currently, I am working as adjunct faculty for Red Rocks Community College and at the University of Northern Colorado's Urban Education Program. In the fall, I may also teach online classes for CCC Online. I especially love working with Red Rocks Community College where there is an awesome Early Childhood Education Chair Person and a very dedicated staff to work with. I also

love the students I serve at Red Rocks.

I have been affiliated with RRCC for over 4 years now. I usually teach ECE101 and it is close to my heart as I have the opportunity to work with many ECE students, some working in the field, some preparing to work in the field, some working in other related fields, and some just interested in learning more about ECE.

My ECE heroine is Kathleen DeVries, our Early Childhood Education Chair Person. She is so very dedicated to her staff and to the students at Red Rocks Community College. She puts more than 100% into anything she endeavors. She is an awesome supervisor, coworker and friend, who always takes time to talk with me and assist when I need support.

### **What is a hobby of yours or a favorite pastime activity?**

I love to do things with my children and grandchildren. I like to paint and to walk in the mountains.

# Janiece Knepp Walter

My undergrad degree is in Biology from Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. In addition, I completed a 12 month internship with Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, IA in Medical Technology. I went back to school in 2005 to earn my MA Ed-ECE emphasis from Concordia Univ., St. Paul, MN. This was an online degree program. Is it any wonder that I enjoy the online education format?!

I took the scenic route to get into ECE! My first career was in the hospital laboratory as a Medical Technologist. I worked 9 years in the Chemistry dept. and another 9 years in the Immunology dept. During that time I started taking ECE coursework at MSCD (never finished that degree!) because I loved what my twins were doing in preschool. Fast forward to 2001, when I became the director at St. John's Early Learning Center. I did that for 9 years ( plus teaching as an adjunct with RRCC for three years) before moving into a full time faculty position at RRCC in 2010. I love supporting the ECE teachers that work in the classroom and feel I can make the most impact by influencing teachers from the classroom rather than as a director.

I've taught all the 100 level classes and the two administration classes (ECE240 & ECE241). Since administration and leader-

ship are my areas of strength, it is those classes I enjoy teaching. Along with ECE103 (I've learned a lot about what NOT to do with my own children!) and ECE 111 (just love working with those toddlers....). I really enjoy teaching online and hybrid coursework! I am always interested in see what new technology I can incorporate into my teaching for students to learn. Honestly, it's my kids that teach me about the latest apps and techno tricks with my iPhone, iPad and computer!

Influences in ECE that I appreciate — Bob Keeshan (aka Captain Kangaroo) for his sense of humor, Fred Rogers for his sensitivity to children's feelings, John Dewey for his insightful commentary on what is education, and Margie Carter & Deb Curtis for advocating on authentic learning experiences and environments, the art of observation, and supporting teachers and directors to be their best.

**What is a hobby or favorite pastime activity?** I like to read, play classical guitar, quilting, wine-making, running, walking and hiking, canning homemade jam — not necessarily in that order!



## Director Qualification Working Meetings

The Division will have staff available on the following dates and times to review transcripts, experience letters and process paperwork to expedite the Director Qualifications application/renewal process.

### • Thursday, August 16, 2012

⇒ 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 in conference room 4 A/B

o 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

### • Wednesday, August 22, 2012

⇒ Dept. of Health and Human Services Bldg, 1845 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401 in the upstairs conference room

o 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

### • Thursday, August 23, 2012

⇒ Dept. of Health and Human Services Bldg., 510 29 1/2 Rd. Grand Junction, CO in the Lunch Room and Room 1081

4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Please bring copies of your paperwork, including the attached original application packet or renewal application, if you'd like to take advantage of this service.

Director Qualifications information can be found on our website at [www.colorado.gov/CDHS/DQ](http://www.colorado.gov/CDHS/DQ)



# Sherry Peterson

I earned my BS Home Economics/ Child Development University of Texas, Austin, TX and MS Human Development / Family Studies University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

I started in ECE as an Infant Caregiver for a full day program. Since then I have worked with Private, Public and Federally Funded Programs in various roles. Cumulative, I have 20 + years in Leadership positions such as Education Coordinator and 15 years' experience in the classroom.

I am currently the Head Start Administrator for the City of Lakewood Head Start program. This is a new position for me and the first time I have been a Director of a program. I look forward to what I can learn and bring to this wonderful program in my new role.

I have been with Red Rocks Community College as adjunct faculty since 1998. I have taught Child Growth and Development, Administration of Early Childhood Programs and Infant Toddler Theory and Practice. MY passion is Infants/Toddlers, this class lays a foundation for all other information in the ECE profession. I am thrilled that it is now a required course for everyone in ECE and especially Directors.

There are two persons that come to mind but, one of them this year semi-retired from the profession. Her name is Nancie Tonner-West. I have been in the field for many years but, there is not one person who motivates me to learn more than Nancie, her passion for this work and her dedication to helping ECE staff is beyond comparison. I look to her for insight, inspiration and knowledge. She never stops learning or questioning our role and how we can become the best for children and families.

**What is a hobby or favorite pastime activity?** I love to knit. I have only been knitting for nine years and want to become a knitting teacher when I retire.

