

## Cradle to Hope Advisory Board

### Nancy Michaels

Nancy Michaels is the Programming Coordinator for the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation and earned a BA in Social Justice and an MA in Sociology from Roosevelt University. She is currently assisting on a research project involving the white response to black integration on the Southwest and West sides of Chicago. Her research, related to this project, has to do with how segregation affects racial identity and the social construction of whiteness. Other areas of interests include inequalities relating to race, the criminal justice system and mass incarceration. Nancy was awarded the Matthew Freeman award for Social Justice Award in 2008 and sits on the board of a reentry organization, Career Advancement Network.

### Heather Dalmage

Heather Dalmage is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation. Her areas of academic interests include race, class and gender inequalities, particularly in education. Dalmage has authored or edited three books and written broadly on race. She is currently concluding research she has conducted in South Africa during a Fulbright Visiting Scholarship and in Chicago. This research analyzes whiteness, social capital and neoliberal discourse.

### Jennifer Tani

### Anne-Marie Cusac

Anne-Marie Cusac, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, is a George Polk Award-winning journalist. She is the author of *Cruel and Unusual: The Culture of Punishment in America* (Yale University Press 2009, paperback edition 2010) and two books of poetry.

### Bethany Barratt

Dr. Barratt earned her PhD from the University of California in 2002, and her BA in Political Science/History from Duke University in 1994. She is Director of the Joseph Loundy Human Rights Project, which joins forces with community partners in Chicago, London, and Jerusalem to draw and apply comparative lessons to make measurable gains in respect for human rights in urban settings, at home and abroad. Professor Barratt conducts archival and field research in Central Asia, the UK, Canada, and Australia. She is author of "Human Rights and Foreign Aid" (Routledge, 2007), and has also authored articles on human rights, foreign aid, US, British, Canadian, and Australian foreign policy, and

counterterrorism. Besides her teaching experience at Roosevelt and the University of California, she has also taught in a number of jails and prisons.

#### Denise Bransford

Denise Bransford has been at Roosevelt University for 13 years, serving as Chief of Staff to President Chuck Middleton, for 6-1/2 of those years. Her responsibilities include the operations of the President's Office and special projects across the University. Her assignments generally involve student success, leadership development and strategic positioning for Roosevelt.

#### Erik Gellman

Erik Gellman, a professor in the History and Philosophy Department at Roosevelt University, holds a B.A. from Bates College and Ph.D. in History from Northwestern University. Specializing in the 19th and 20th Century United States, Gellman's research interests include African American and working-class history, social movements, and comparative ethnic and racial studies. He is the author of recent articles in the *Journal of Southern History and Labor*, recently wrote a chapter in *Black Power at Work on Chicago* (Cornell Press), and is currently finishing two forthcoming books, *The Gospel of the Working Class* (University of IL Press) and *Death Blow, Jim Crow!* (UNC Press, John Hope Franklin series). He serves the on the faculty support committee of UNITE-HERE Local 1, the steering committee of Chicago Center for Working-Class Studies, and Jobs with Justice's Workers Rights Board.

#### Ellen L. O'Brien

Ellen O'Brien is an Associate Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies and is the Director of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. She holds a B.A. in English from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Connecticut. Her research explores how innovations in literary form and genre develop new rhetorical and representational modes of political and social critique. Her teaching interests include nineteenth-century English and Irish literature, world Anglophone literature and postcolonial theory, and global and transnational feminisms.

#### June Lapidus

#### Katherine Copenhaver

Katie Copenhaver teaches writing composition and works in marketing for Roosevelt University. Previously, she worked for the Chicago Artists' Coalition

handling communications, development and programming. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA in English from the University of Iowa.

#### Kathleen Kane-Willis

Kathleen Kane-Willis is the co-founder and director of the Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy, a public policy research institute housed at Roosevelt University, in Chicago. Kane-Willis is recognized as one of the foremost drug policy expert in Illinois and is frequently asked to provide testimony for the Illinois General Assembly. Her main areas of focus are on criminal justice system reform at the intersection of drug policies, disproportionate minority contact, drug misuse and drug education curriculum development, as well educating communities and individuals about the nature of substance use issues as complex bio/psycho/social disorders. In recent years, Kane-Willis has managed over 20 research projects and authored dozens of reports. Kane-Willis' reports on drug use and policies have been featured on the front pages of all the major Midwestern newspapers and she has appeared on local and national television and radio discussing drug trends and policies. Kane-Willis has received numerous awards for her research and advocacy work on behalf of individuals who use drugs. Kathie is also an adjunct faculty member at Roosevelt University and a former heroin user.

#### Leslie Bloom

Leslie Rebecca Bloom is Associate Professor of Education and Women and Gender Studies. Leslie's academic interests include qualitative research, feminist analyses of social class inequalities, welfare policy, and community activism. She is working on an ethnography of a grassroots community-based organization that helps families struggling with poverty.

#### Lesley Slavitt

Lesley D. Slavitt, Vice President for Government Relations and University Outreach at Roosevelt University, is responsible for government relations, advertising, media relations, the University's website and community relations.

#### Michael Elliott

Dr. Michael J. Elliott is Executive Director of the Department of Human and Community Renewal, Office of Correctional Programs, located in the College of Professional Studies at Chicago's own Roosevelt University. He has worked with Human Renewal programs for the past 40 years in both youth and adult programs in Colorado, Wyoming and Illinois. The Department of Human and Community Renewal is a community service program based on the ideals

inherent in the mission of Roosevelt University to the people of Metropolitan Chicago. He looks at the University's programs with the Illinois Department of Corrections and others, as a joint venture, as an investment in the human potential of humankind. *We restore hope and create opportunities.* Dr. Elliott has been an advocate for the disadvantaged and the underprivileged throughout his public and private life.

#### Margaret Policastro

Margaret Policastro is a Professor and director of the Language and Literacy Program in the College of Education where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses and directs the Summer Reading Clinic. Currently, she is Principle Investigator of the Teacher Quality Improvement project; a federally funded Grant to the Illinois board of Higher Education. This grant work is focused on constructing Balanced Literacy schools in the Woodlawn community.

#### Mirna T. Holton

Mirna Teresa Holton oversees development and operations of Institutional Advancement; and is also responsible for fundraising for the College of Education. Mirna's career has been in non-profit community organizations in the areas of fundraising, program development and developing strategic initiatives. She holds a bachelor's from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a master's from the University of Chicago.

#### Nona M. Burney

Nona M. Burney, J.D., Ph.D., is a life-long educator, working for the Cleveland Municipal School District for more than 27 years, prior to coming to Roosevelt University in 1998. As an Associate Professor of Secondary Education in the College of Education, she focuses on preparing anti-racist, pro-justice teacher candidates for the 21st century. As a scholar activist, she is involved in various community and faith-based entities to empower parents and students to be advocates for quality public education.

#### Roberto Clemente

Roberto holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education with a minor in Mental Health which he received in the US. His undergraduate degree in Counseling was received at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio. Roberto served as an associate professor at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls and is currently conducting the same duties at Roosevelt University, Schaumburg. He serves as a visiting professor at the Universidad del Valle, Guatemala, has taught at the Herzen Pedagogical University, St. Petersburg, Russia and has lectured in Mexico,

Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Prague, Czech Republic, and in various U.S. regions.

#### Stephanie Farmer

Stephanie Farmer holds a PhD in Sociology from State University of New York – Binghamton and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Roosevelt University in downtown Chicago. Her current research examines the ways in which neoliberalism and global city building policies shape Chicago's public transportation system. Stephanie has also had the privilege of instructing the Social Justice Summer Institute through the Mansfield Institute.

#### Steven Meyers

Steven Meyers is a Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Psychology at Roosevelt University. He is also the Mansfield Professor of Social Justice and leads efforts to incorporate transformational service-learning into the curriculum across Roosevelt University. His research and outreach efforts address resilience in at-risk youth; the prediction and enhancement of parenting behaviors; and how children's social contexts affect their well-being.

#### Tana McCoy

#### Tammy Oberg De La Garza

Tammy Oberg De La Garza, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Language & Literacy at Roosevelt University College of Education. Her experience and research in diverse, urban populations of Chicago is aimed at improving literacy instruction and opportunities for all students, teachers, and schools

#### Vince Cyboran

Vincent L. Cyboran, Ed.D. is an associate professor in the Graduate Program in Training and Development. He has over 20 years experience in curriculum design, development, and implementation. He focuses both his practice and his research on fostering inclusive curricula in non-profit organizations.

#### Alfred DeFreece

Alfred DeFreece holds a B.A. from Hunter College - City University of New York, and an M.A. from the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, where he is currently completing his doctoral degree. Specializing in race, youth cultural production, and urban education, he teaches courses on race and ethnicity, research methods, sociology of education, and urban sociology. He hopes to inspire

conversation about the meaning of education and work in the contemporary US as a means of promoting humanizing educational experiences for all youth.

Sheldon Walcher

Sheldon Walcher is an assistant professor in the Department of Literature and Languages, and serves as Director of the Composition Program at Roosevelt University. He earned his Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition from the University of Utah, and his research interests include writing program administration, critical discourse analysis, the history of rhetoric, and composition studies. Specifically, he is interested in how various "rules" (often unspoken) in communities function to regulate who gets to write, about what, when, and how; and how "unconventional" discourses can challenge social, political and cultural boundaries.

Judy Gouwens

Rick Uttich

Rick Uttich is the University Librarian. Rick came to Roosevelt in July 2009 after serving as Asst. Dir at the SUNY-Oneonta campus and as the Head of Public Services at the City College of New York. Rick's interests include Critical Theory, the philosophy of the social sciences, human rights and civil rights, copyrights and fair use.