

■ *Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department*

TO: Cynthia Benton, Chair, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
FROM: Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee
DATE: October 14, 2005
RE: Reappointment of Dr. Kimberly Rombach

After reviewing Dr. Kimberly Rombach's web-based, professional portfolio, the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department's Personnel Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend her for a two-year reappointment.

TEACHING

The evidence presented in her portfolio reveals Dr. Rombach to be an excellent teacher. For each semester during the past academic year (2004-2005), she has taught three different courses, spanning three different programs. During her first semester as a faculty member in this department, she taught EDU 375 (Teaching Elementary Social Studies) in the undergraduate Childhood Education program, and EDU510 (Inquiry into Teaching Technology and Research) and EDU 514 (Teaching Elementary Social Studies) in the graduate MST in Childhood Education program. During the Spring 2005 semester, she taught EDU 375 and EDU 510, plus EDU 647 (Social Education in the Digital Age) which is in the MSED in Childhood Education program. This semester (Fall 2005) she is teaching EDU 375, EDU 510 and EDU 657 (Elementary School Practicum and Research Seminar) in the graduate MST program. This teaching assignment has required five different preparations over the course of her first year and a half in the department.

Her classroom teaching evaluations for courses taught during the 2004-2005 academic year are very high, with average scores on most items falling between 4.3 and 5.0 with an adjusted mean score of 4.76 for CTEs overall. Written comments on the CTEs indicate that Dr. Rombach connects well with her students, models student-centered instruction, and maintains high expectations of her students. Overall, the committee was impressed with the high praise students give Dr. Rombach's teaching.

In addition, Dr. Rombach has shown herself to be an innovative teacher. During her second semester at SUNY Cortland, she integrated a trip to Raquette Lake for her undergraduate students in EDU 375. With one of her colleagues, she is developing a learning community entitled "Educating for Social Transformation" which will connect Block I methods courses around the theme of social justice and equity. She has also established extensive websites for student use in each of her courses.

Dr. Rombach also documents that she is a reflective teacher and states that she is "interested in learning about ways to utilize effective teaching strategies to maximize student outcomes by using a social constructivist approach to teaching." To that end, she provides evidence that she uses a variety of teaching strategies and in-class and out-of-class activities to promote the learning of her students. In general, Dr. Rombach appears to be an outstanding teacher.

SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Rombach presents evidence that she will be a productive scholar. In her first year as a faculty member, she gave two on-campus presentations in undergraduate seminar classes and one international presentation in Montreal, Canada, for the American Educational Research Association. She currently has three presentations accepted for presentation during the spring semester and one more under review.

Dr. Rombach also demonstrates that she has done significant writing in the past year. She has three manuscripts under review for publication, including one submitted to the *American Educational Research Journal*. She has an additional manuscript in preparation. The committee looks forward to seeing these articles in print.

In addition, Dr. Rombach's grant writing suggests she is developing a focused research agenda. She received three on-campus grants, one each from the Faculty Research Grant Program, UUP's Individual Development Awards Program, and the Provost's Summer Institute Grant Program. She states that she is working on a Summer Faculty Fellowship award for submission later this fall and is searching for external funding sources to support her work.

SERVICE

In addition to her accomplishments in the areas of teaching and scholarship, Dr. Rombach has already established a strong record of service. At the Department level, she served on two faculty search committees (Social Studies Education and Lecturer searches), the Maxwell and Myrtle Park Education Award Committee and participated in reviewing Early Childhood Education portfolios. Currently, she serves as chair of the Department's Research and Technology Committee. At the College and School levels, she served as School of Education representative on the search committee for Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and presently serves as an SOE representative to the Faculty Senate. In addition, she is a member of the College Scholarship Committee, the Multicultural and Gender Studies Council, and the Faculty Development Committee. At the National level, she serves as an Annual Meeting Proposal Reviewer for AERA. Dr. Rombach also serves the local community by giving presentations at the Cortland Children's Museum.

Given Dr. Rombach's well-documented record of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service, the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department's Personnel Committee enthusiastically recommends she be reappointed for a two-year term.



Andrea Lachance, Chair



Thomas Lickona



Elizabeth Klein



Gail Tooker