

Spotlight on...

Adina Thomas, 9th Grade Co-Teacher, English

Meredith Kane-Sobol, CFF Coach

Part II: Hatboro-Horsham



by
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Coach Mentor

In the last *Coach UPDATE*, you read about Sean DeLuca at Hatboro-Horsham. In this issue, the spotlight is on Sean’s veteran co-teacher – Adina Thomas. Adina is with the same students for the entire year; however, she co-teaches with two different teachers. In the first semester, she co-taught in a non-CFF, traditional classroom. In this second semester, she is in a CFF classroom. She has seen these kids in both environments; Adina has a unique perspective on CFF.

Collaboration with the CFF Coach

The technology and philosophy of CFF are new to Adina. She was hesitant about using the technology, so she values the contribution of her coach, Meredith Kane-Sokol. Meredith brings her years of teaching English, and a wealth of ideas and examples to the CFF teachers.

See **ADINA** on page 2

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ELEMENT OF CFF COACHING

PARTICIPATION

Second in a series about the Elements of CFF Coaching. A webinar on each Element will be conducted for those interested in further discussion.

This series aligns to the document —*Elements of CFF Coaching*— distributed at Boot Camp and available on cffcoach.org (top section, revised 4/7/2008). It is color-coded by Coach Roles. As you may remember, the Coach Log reflects that diagram. Note the new role of *Learner* has been added.

See **ELEMENT** on page 3

ADINA from page 1

Meredith says she didn't do much! At the beginning of the semester, she met with each teacher 1:1 to go over the tools on their new platform. (Hatboro-Horsham is dual-platform for CFF.) Then she did a *Meet the Mac* session for the kids in each CFF classroom. She gave them a quick run-through of the "new stuff" and explained how to do things they are accustomed to doing on the district's PC platform. After that, she encouraged the kids to play with tools like *iTunes* and *PhotoBooth* to get it out of their system! Then, just before this project, she returned to the classroom and modeled the use of the chosen tool.

Project Follow-Up

As a follow-up to the original *Odyssey* project, the students were placed into groups and assigned to one of the remaining stories from the *Odyssey*. This time the project was not as structured. The kids were given the freedom to choose *Comic Life* or *Keynote* to present their story to the class. As a team, they had to outline ten important events to chronicle. In this project, the students were taking responsibility for determining what is important in the story.

Adina says that the kids' manipulation of the content and their narratives "...blew us away," and that the grouping of quiet students with more motivated students created interesting projects with better quality than their typical individual projects.

At the conclusion of the unit, the students had finished a study guide, their group presentations, and a game. In comparison to the

previous more traditional unit, Adina noticed marked improvement in their grades. She believes that the collaborative, technology-infused activities they did in this unit helped with their processing and ability to recall information. According to Adina, their multi-sensory needs are being met, so they are strengthening their areas of weakness.

Student Work

Adina was excited about the quality of the projects, but she kept coming back to the kids. School is not their top priority. Getting them to complete a hand-written project is hard. With CFF, they come alive when typing an essay. They really focus whenever they do an assignment using the new tools. She says, "It's like they want to use this technology to do well and better their grades."

Teacher Reflection

As Adina reflected upon these kids from one semester to the next, she sensed a change in their maturity. She noted a different attitude toward their education. They used to hem and haw over everything—be it written work or group work. However, this semester, there's not as much of that. They enjoy being at school and working on their projects.

She noted that it's pretty unusual for these kids to care so much about school. With credit due to her co-teacher's enthusiasm and style, she says that the freedom the kids had to create—and the tools they had to create with—were key to their success. She believes that it makes them want to perform. They put 100% effort into the project because they want

to show their teachers they can do it!

What's Next?

In the next project, the students will script and produce a radio broadcast on *The Odyssey*. They will just happen to use technology to present it.

The Coach Reflects

Meredith talked about coaching this one teacher. "Adina was hesitant at first. She hung back. I showed *Garage Band* in first period. By second period, she was singing in the podcast! If the teacher (in this case 3 teachers) is excited, then the kids see that."

CFF Benefits

Meredith and Adina agree that CFF benefits every group of kids—from honors to career level. Project Based Learning has certainly benefited these visual, hands-on kids. As far as Meredith is concerned, it's proof that "we need "smart" classrooms across the board."

At the End of this Day...

The next non-CFF teacher Adina co-teaches with better be prepared. She's coming loaded with all kinds of ideas!



ELEMENT from page 1



The activities tied to the Element of CFF Coaching—**Participation**—are pretty straight forward. Any time spent *participating* in school/district, or CFF-related meetings or professional development is logged under *Participation*.

Role: Learner*Webinars*

CFF webinars are offered as a form of professional development for coaches. Your participation assists you in furthering your expertise in areas of interest.

CFF Professional Development

Boot Camp, CFF pre-conferences, vendor-provided training for teachers and for coaches all fall into the element of *Participation*. You are actively involved, but not presenting or facilitating.

School/District Professional Development

Participation in any school or district professional development is also logged under *Participation*. Working alongside faculty builds collegiality and provides you with the larger picture of the goals of the school/district and how initiatives/programs are or can be connected.

Role: Data Coach*TPR, CFF Tool*

Most CFF coaches are not the project Data Collectors.

If, however, you are responsible for collecting the data through the TPR and/or CFF tools, log this under *Participation*. You are not analyzing the data while working in this element, just collecting for analysis by the external evaluators.

CFF Coach Logs

Data from the coach log provides a picture of how CFF coaches are progressing within the coach roles and through the *Levels of Intensity*. Taking the time to complete your coach log provides accurate data to support all CFF coaches. Of course you should log the time you spend completing the activities in which you are involved and the narrative log! The narrative log is important as it provides you with a journal on which to reflect not only the journey and growth of the chosen teachers, but your growth as CFF coach.

Role: School Leader*Department/Faculty Meetings*

As a CFF coach your participation in Department and Faculty meetings may have changed dramatically. Most of you are responsible for working with teachers from all 4 Core subject areas. When you attend the Department/Faculty meetings you have taken on the role of School Leader—not teacher, not administrator, but a colleague who shares the vision of 21st Century learning. Your *participation* is required, varied, and at times, unique!

CFF Meetings

As an active member of your Leadership Team, your input and challenge of the status quo help focus on the needed changes to ensure high school reform and effective integration of technology into instruction.

Oh, do you wonder where you should log the meetings with your Coach Mentor? Well, log it here! You are *participating* in collegial discussions surrounding you as CFF coach!

Coaches from Other Initiatives

Does your school/district have coaches from other programs, such as, PA High School Literacy, Accountability Block Grant, Reading First? Many district/school leaders recognize the need for those who provide similar support to teachers to meet regularly. Learning from and with one another is a bonus!

CFF Webinar—Participation

The CFF webinar focused on *Participation* was held on April 8 at 10 A.M. To listen to the recorded webinar, go to: <http://vclass.cciu.org>. Click on Recordings and then click on April 8 on the Calendar. Listen and enjoy!

These collaborative, *put it on the table for discussion*. Coach Log webinars have provided opportunities for support through frank and collegial conversations surrounding CFF coaching!

UPCOMING CFF WEBINARS ONE-TO-ONE CFF COACH PRE-CONFERENCE

Apr. 22, Tues., 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
Ustream.tv in K-12
 CFF Coaches
 Mike Leonard & Mike Baker
<http://vclass.cciu.org>

DESCRIPTION
 Explore the What, Why, and Best Practices for use of Ustream.tv in the classroom

May 20, Tues., 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
NECC: Everything You Wanted to Know
 Carol Teitleman
 NECC's 2005 Local Program Coordinator
<http://vclass.cciu.org>

DESCRIPTION
 Carol will guide participants on how to get the most out of their time at NECC.

Title: Project Headware

Date: April 28, 2008

Location: Days Inn, State College, PA

Audience: *Classrooms for the Future* coaches

Time: 8:30-4 with an hour for lunch

Presenter: Bernajean Porter, Consultant

This workshop will explore student work that uses technology and will help coaches learn how to work with teachers to craft lessons that increase student thinking and the quality of their work.

Topics: It's ALL About the Content

All Technology Uses are NOT Equal

- * To distinguish between modes and types of communication
- * To identify 5 hierarchies and 16 types of communication
- * To rank content communication and craftsmanship of communication
- * To use dialogue for reflection and collaboration with others

Presenter bio: Bernajean Porter is a featured speaker and facilitator at national and international events sharing strategies for using technology to rediscover and accelerate joyful learning. She is author of *Evaluating Digital Products: Training and Resource Tools for Using Student Scoring Guides* and *DigiTales: The Art of Telling Digital Stories*.

Registration:

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/pattan/cw/showcourse.asp?1065>

Try Not to Miss This!



PDE WEBINAR

May 27, Tues., 10:00 – 11:00 A.M.
nUG-GET netTrekker Users' Group Free Training
 Dawn Crawford

DESCRIPTION
nUG-GET is the netTrekker d.i. Users' Group - GettingEducated Together.

Dawn Crawford, PA's Customer Relationship and Training Specialist, will be online to answer your *netTrekker* how to questions and to facilitate the exchange of best practices. Membership is open to every PA educator using or supporting *netTrekker d.i.*

Discussion may include:

- Summer Usage Ideas - Teachers & Students
- 21st Century Skills Channel
- Professional Development from the IUs - What is working? What isn't? How can *netTrekker* help you?

REGISTER: www.pdewebinars.org.

STUDENT CAPITOL DAY—MAY 12—EAST WING ROTUNDA***Congratulations!***

As you know CFF teachers/coaches were invited to submit a proposal to participate in the 2008 *Classrooms for the Future* Student Capitol Day on Monday, May 12, 2008 from 10am—2pm in the East Wing Rotunda of the State Capitol.

Forty-nine proposals were accepted. Teachers, CFF Coaches, students and parents will proudly present their entries which address effective uses of technology to support student achievement. Project selection was based on clear connections to PA Academic and ISTE standards, 21st Century Skills, and higher order thinking skills—Bloom's taxonomy (2001).

Please Join Us!

Consider joining us even if your school did not submit an entry. This is a wonderful opportunity to see and discuss 21st Century teaching and learning, to witness the pride and enthusiasm of CFF students for their work, and to provide the legislators with a glimpse into the creative and innovative ways in which CFF students are engaged!

COACHES' CORNER— EDUCATIONAL PODCASTS

Art Wolinsky, former NJ HS teacher and creator of *3DWriter*, a simple HTML editor, recently asked for subscribers to the *wwedu* listserv to post their favorite educational podcasts. Gotta minute? Take a listen!

Grammar Girl
<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/>

TED talks
<http://www.ted.com/talks>

Tech Chicks Tips
<http://www.techchicktips.net/podcast-episodes/>

WOW Tech Minute
<http://www.wowtechminute.com/>

Teachers Teaching Teachers
<http://www.teacherteachingteachers.org>

Princeton Vocab Minute
<http://www.princetonreview.com/vocabminute/default.asp>

Revision 3
<http://revision3.com/pixelperfect/>
Video Conversations with Authors
<http://www.stenhouse.com/html/videoconversations.htm>

Audio Conversations with Authors
<http://www.stenhouse.com/html/podcasts.htm>

National Geographic Video Shorts
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/shorts.html>

Discovery Channel Video Podcasts
<http://www.discovery.com/radio/podcasts.html>

Ideas and Thoughts
<http://ideasandthoughts.org/>

Moving at the Speed of Creativity
<http://www.speedofcreativity.org/>

November Learning
<http://nlcommunities.com/podcasts/default.aspx>

Bit By Bit
http://bobsprinkle.com/bitbybit_wordpress/



Women of Web 2.0
<http://www.womenofweb2.com/weeklychats.htm>

Media Snackers
<http://mediasnackers.com/focus/podcasts/>

TechTeacher
<http://thetechteacher.libsyn.com/>

Terry Freedman's Educational Technology
<http://terryfreedman.podomatic.com/>

Edtech Possee
<http://edtechposse.ca/>

PASCD: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

What: PASCD's 58th annual conference—*Connecting Learners to the Global Community*

When: November 23-25, 2008

Where: Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Consider submitting a Presenter's proposal! To find out more, go to:

<http://www.pascd.org/annualconference.cfm>



FLIP THE SWITCH EVENTS

Please invite your local legislators to your *Flip the Switch* events. Check with your local legislators' offices before choosing the day/date of the *Flip the Switch* since the legislators may be in session in Harrisburg—most often Monday through Wednesday. Please know, as much as Governor Rendell would like to attend each CFF *Flip the Switch* event, his busy schedule prevents this from happening. You are respectfully asked not to send an invitation to him, as this sets up a chain of events which requires someone else to attend. We all know the Governor supports CFF as it is in his budget!

The CFF team would like to track districts' *Flip the Switch* events. If you have already hosted or are planning to host a *Flip the Switch* event, please e-mail Kara Thomas, CFF Secretary, at c-kthomas@state.pa.us. Please include the date of your event, and list any Pennsylvania Senators or Representatives who will attend or have attended.

Flip the Switch Toolkit

Have you considered what you might do for your *Flip the Switch* event? Look for the *Flip the Switch* document on EdHub.

Point your browser to:

<http://www.pde.state.pa.us/EdHub>

- Click on <Administrators>
- Then, look on the right side of the page for the link to <PR Toolkit>.

Additional ideas on hosting a *Flip the Switch* event are available through the January 4 webinar on <http://vclass.cciu.org>. Click on the date and the *Recordings* button to listen/view the webinar.

Also, in the General Q&A discussion forum on cffcoach.org, there is a *Flip the Switch* thread. What are your ideas for *Flip the Switch*? Did you make a great invitation? Flyer? Handouts? Share your files when you post to the forum.

Cohort 1 districts are encouraged to also host an event for your Senators and Representative. You might want to show them how effective the program is since it was launched. You have many more opportunities to share your successes than you did at your original event!

IN THE NEWS?



When the press covers a CFF story, make sure the reporter knows to mention CFF in the report. Also, please inform your Coach Mentor of your *Flip the Switch* events and any CFF press coverage. Forward press clippings, pictures, etc., to:

c-kthomas@state.pa.us

eMBEDDED Learning: 2008-09 COURSE REQUIREMENT SUMMER OPTION

Districts have the option to offer the 2008-09 eMBEDDED Learning blended course required for their district either:

1. During the next grant year (2008-2009 school year)

OR

2. This summer (summer 2008)

Any district that plans on beginning or completing the blended version of a course for next year's requirement this summer should send an e-mail **no later than May 31, 2008** to:

jgeary@learningsciences.net

The e-mail **must** contain

- your district's name,
- the course you will be offering in the summer to count toward the 2008-2009 CFF grant year requirements, *and*
- your anticipated start date

Please e-mail Jessica Geary at jgeary@learningsciences.net with any questions.

**eMBEDDED Learning Customer Support**

PLEASE CONTACT CUSTOMER SUPPORT FOR ANSWERS TO
YOUR QUESTIONS: 724-459-3180

NECC 2008 Pre-Conference

The PDE is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a PA pre-conference meeting at the annual NECC conference in San Antonio, Texas on **June 29, 2008** in the San Antonio Grand Hyatt Lonestar E Ballroom from 2 - 4:30 PM. All Pennsylvania attendees are welcome!

Network with those from *Classrooms for the Future*, *TIMs*, *Keystone Integrators*, as well as PAECT members.

Please join us for a productive session, to get helpful tips and strategies for getting the most out of the conference and to plan your conference strategy. See you in San Antonio!

**Registration:**

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/pattan/cw/showcourse.asp?1082>

Please Note: PAECT will also be hosting a reception for PA attendees—details forthcoming.

I live a day at a time. Each day I look for a kernel of excitement. In the morning, I say: "What is my exciting thing for today?" Then, I do the day. Don't ask me about tomorrow.

The Late Honorable Barbara Jordan
American Congresswoman and educator

CFF Vendor Reports

A vendor installation survey has been set up for districts to report their experiences with their vendor. The feedback form can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.caiu.org/c4feedback>. Both Cohorts 1 and 2 are encouraged to fill out this survey, relevant to the 2007-08 school year. This is a great opportunity for districts to share any issues, either equipment or installation related, they may have experienced. Both positive and negative feedback is welcome. Clicking on the **done** button at the bottom of the page will automatically submit your report. Thank you in advance for taking the time to fill out this one-page survey.



Experiencing Technical Issues?

Please Note: The following information is for Technology Directors and designed to provide support for issues that have not been adequately addressed by the vendor. Please pass along.

When you run into any equipment and/or service issues from the contracted CFF suppliers (Apple & CDWG), your first step should be contacting your vendor account manager. If you need further support, please contact either Dennis Fellin or Susan Rojas at the Pennsylvania Department of General Services. They are helping to work with technical and service issues.

Contact Information

Dennis Fellin: defellin@state.pa.us or (717) 346-2675
Susan Rojas: srojas@state.pa.us or (717) 346-8187

For Your Clipboard/Address Book

Consider the following a list of those contacts that **MUST** be in your Address Book. Contacting the appropriate support person will save you time!



Contacts!!!

- ✓ **Your Coach Mentor** —your first stop for **ALL CFF related** questions...See contact info on page 9.
- ✓ **Embedded Learning**
Any and all inquiries, including troubleshooting issues.
 - ★ Tech Support Phone: 724-459-3180
 - ★ jgeary@learningsciences.net
- ✓ **TPR Support**
 - ★ Tech Support e-mail: tpr@casenex.com
 - ★ Phone: 866.817.0726
 - ★ Tools and information available... <http://tpr.casenex.com>
- ✓ **CFE Survey**
 - ★ Robin Clausen, rlc237@psu.edu
- ✓ **PaTI Survey**
 - ★ Tech Support e-mail: support@metiri.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Westmoreland IU
Technology Integration Expo**

April 24, 2008

Details

Contact:

Tim Hammill

hammill@wiu.k12.pa.us

**2008 One-to-One
Coach Pre-Conference
Days Inn Penn State**

April 28, 2008

8:30 – 4 P.M.

Details

cffcoach.org

**2008 Annual One-to-One
Computing Conference
April 28 – 30, 2008
Penn Stater, State College,
PA**

Details

cffcoach.org

**Librarians & Coaches' Meeting
PSLA, Hershey**

May 1, 2008

9:00 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Details

cffcoach.org



Student Capitol Day

May 12, 2008

10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

*View student projects & meet with
Legislators*

**Penn State Great Valley
Classrooms for the Future: Best
Practices Institute
The Great Valley Campus of Penn
State University**

Thursday, October 30, 2008

Details

www.gv.psu.edu/cff

**Legislative Day
Wednesday, June 18, 2008**
Details forthcoming



**National Educational Computing
Conference (NECC)
San Antonio, TX**

**PA NECC Pre-Conference
San Antonio Grand Hyatt
Lonestar E Ballroom**

June 29, 2008

2 – 4:30 PM.

Pre-Conference Registration.

[http://www.solutionwhere.com/
pattan/cw/showcourse.asp?1082](http://www.solutionwhere.com/pattan/cw/showcourse.asp?1082)

NECC

Full Conference

June 29 – July 2, 2008

Registration.

[http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/
NECC2008/](http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008/)

PA NECC Post-Conference

July 1, 2008

Details forthcoming

**April Showers—Bring May
Flowers!**



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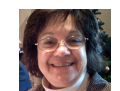
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