



## CUSP Staff

**PRISM Office:**

Jacalyn Willis, Ph.D., Dir.  
 Anna Mazzaro  
 Helen M. Earles, Ph.D.  
 Colette Killian  
 Rick McCollough  
 Timothy Macht  
 Adam Roth

## OUTREACH TEAM

**MATHEMATICS**

Nancy Schultz  
 Irving Barocas  
 Barbara Krukar  
 Danielle Nix  
 Karin Rupp  
 Kimlani Tanella

**SCIENCE**

Yolanda Maldonado  
 Eleanor Semel  
 Anna Mazzaro  
 Jacalyn Willis

**ADOPT-A-PROFESSOR**

Ann Marie DiLorenzo, Ph.D.  
 Reginald Halaby, Ph.D.  
 Evan Maletsky, Ph.D.  
 Mika Munakata, Ph.D.  
 George Pangalos, Ph.D.  
 Gregory Pope, Ph.D.  
 Kenneth Wolff, Ph.D.

**CUSP**

Creative University-School Partnerships  
 PRISM Office  
 Montclair State University  
 College of Science and Mathematics  
 Montclair, NJ 07043

**On the CUSP** is a vehicle for sharing program plans and events. Your contribution to **On the CUSP** is important to us. Share your school's successes! Items received by the 10th of the month will be included in the next month's issue, based upon space availability. Submissions should be identified by the district, school, principal, teacher(s), and date of event.

Send submissions to: **PRISM@mail.montclair.edu**

**Recommended reading:** "State Testing and Inquiry Based Science: Are They Complementary or Competing Reforms?" by Joni Falk and Brian Drayton in Journal of Educational Change, Dec. 2004. Case studies in six middle schools in six Massachusetts districts were explored. Science teachers, curriculum coordinators, principals, and superintendents participated in the study.

**Hands and Minds Together**

Leaving no Child Behind in Science & Mathematics  
 National Science and Mathematics Conferences  
 Montclair State University, NJ May 23 - 25 2005

Register online at [www.tlcpd.com](http://www.tlcpd.com)

**FROM THE DIRECTOR**

## Traveling Teachers Bring Wildlife Experiences Back to their Classroom

From August 2-19, 2004 a group of nine professional educators traveled to Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay to experience firsthand the natural wonders of South America while exploring Big Ideas of Science. The group was led by native Uruguayan and PRISM staffer Anna Mazzaro. Whether collecting amethyst geodes in northern Uruguay or relishing the rainbows of Iguassu waterfalls in Brazil, the group experienced the richness of the various habitats and observed a variety of wildlife. The PRISM travel course provided teachers with close-up observations of capybaras in the wetlands of eastern Uruguay and of rheas in the grasslands of Brazil and Argentina. Weighing in at 90 lbs. or more, capybaras are the largest rodents in the world. Found only in South America, rheas are large flightless birds related to ostriches and emus. As ostriches are native to Africa and emus to Australia, the existence of rheas in South America raises intriguing questions about how flightless birds spread and provide solid evidence of continental drift. Up next is PRISM in East Africa. This ecology field course will lead educators in a study of wildlife in Tanzania July 5-20, 2005. If interested please contact the PRISM office.

**RAINFOREST CONNECTION LIVE - VIDEOCONFERENCE**

On December 16th a 2-way videoconference originating from Hillside School in Bridgewater reached CUSP partners in Park Ridge in Totowa, as well as three Rainforest Connection Live! partner schools in Temple, TX. Presented by Katrina Macht and Christine Pelcak the workshop focused on videoconferencing etiquette and procedures. The purpose of the workshop was to instruct teachers on how to prepare their classes to participate in video broadcasts. Using videotape of past Rainforest Connection Live! sessions, Macht and Pelcak focused on methods to train students to participate fully in an interactive videoconference/lesson. This was a 2-way interactive telecast version of the December 11th workshop presented on the MSU campus.

**TSUNAMI FACTS**

The current disaster in Pacific coast nations can be an effective tool for teaching your students about seismology and its importance in our existence. Below are websites that students can use to find basic information that defines this phenomenon, describes its action, and offers survival techniques. Some of the sites provide pictures in motion, and compare wind-driven waves to the waves of a tsunami.

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/toga-tao/ThemePages/nws/tsunami-nws.html>

Answers frequently asked questions such as: What is a tsunami? What causes a tsunami? What is the impact of a tsunami? Are all tsunamis the same? Can tsunamis be predicted?

<http://www.geophys.washington.edu/tsunami/images/tsulg.jpg>

Graphic comparison of wind-driven waves and waves of a tsunami.

<http://wcatwc.gov/>

Information on the West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. Serves Alaska, British Columbia, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington. Brochures on Preparedness and other publications are distributed in at-risk areas of the Pacific coastal states. This literature is available in Adobe Acrobat format as a link on this website.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/c1187>

How to survive a tsunami