

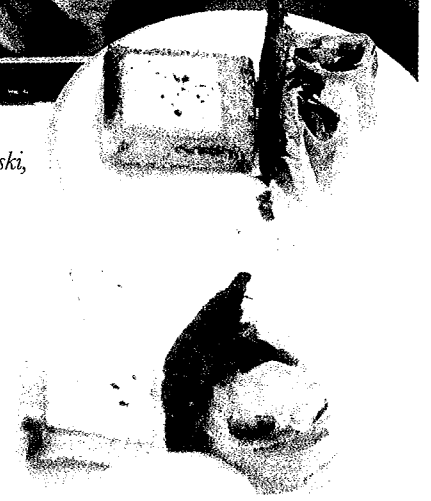
Students Savor their Experience, Win Third Place, in Buffalo Culinary Event



Culinary Arts students demonstrate a food preparation technique known as spherification at the Chefs of Buffalo Taste of Culinary Event. From left, Jon Tesch (Pembroke), John Brown (Batavia), Chef/Instructor Nate Koscielski, Brandon Williams (Batavia), Katelyn Smith (Pavilion), Nicolette Sarvis (Pembroke), Nicole Swimline (Oakfield-Alabama), Michael Wulf (Attica), Chelsea Turcer (Alexander), and Chris Laird (Batavia).

Demonstrating a technique called spherification at a major event in Buffalo, Culinary Arts students from the Batavia Campus surprised and delighted food fans and even some professional chefs. Nathan Koscielski, Culinary Arts Instructor for the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, and Teaching Assistant Ron Smith accompanied nine students to the event on April 18 at the Erie Community College City Atrium.

More than 400 people attended the fourth annual Taste of Culinary



*Deconstructed Caesar Salad with
sphere of Caesar dressing on the side.*

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New Sessions on Differentiated Instruction to be Announced

Educators in the School Improvement service are working in partnership with SUNY Geneseo and area schools to sustain the Differentiated Instruction initiative launched this school year. They hope to take it to the next level by creating a selection of professional development sessions designed for use in 40-minute blocks of time. This will allow districts to find the sessions on Differentiated Instruction they need and request them for Superintendent's Conference Days, faculty meetings, departmental gatherings and so on.

Two hundred educators from 16 school districts participated in awareness level trainings last summer. Nationally known trainer Gayle Gregory led a two-day workshop for administrators, followed by two days of staff development with teams of teachers. The trainings received excellent evaluations. Student teachers from the college are also receiving awareness level training. The Genesee Region Teacher Center supported the initiative through the first year. In March, GRTC offered free of charge Brian Mendler's workshop on Motivating a Differentiated Classroom.

The regional Curriculum Council, comprised of school administrators, curriculum directors and School Improvement staff, was involved in planning the staff development days, and that practice continues as next year's offerings are developed.

Supporting school districts' ongoing efforts to incorporate Differentiated Instruction are School Improvement staff Becky Chenaille, Sandy Kappmeyer and Jim Maginn, and SE-TASC Coordinator Rae Lynn McCarthy, along with Christina Fenton and Annemarie Urso with Geneseo's School of Education. Each is a liaison to assigned schools and available to assist upon request.

A task force of school superintendents working with Assistant Superintendent Greg Macaluso and Geneseo School of Education Dean Osman Alawiye selected the Differentiated Instruction initiative. Differentiated Instructional strategies are designed to teach and motivate all students regardless of their prior knowledge or learning style. A \$50,000 Critic Teacher Grant from the college funded the first phase of the initiative. John Williams,

Accreditation Coordinator for the School of Education, is leading the college's participation in the project. He meets regularly with the School Improvement Team and the liaisons to identify areas of concern.

One such concern is the challenge of bringing meaningful professional development and support to school districts that are in various stages of Differentiating Instruction for their students. "With three levels of professional development (awareness, skill building, and design/implementation) it was essential for us to start at the beginning stages," Greg Macaluso explained. "Our goal is to continually increase the depth of professional development over time in an effort to deeply root the work, and to do it in a cost effective manner. We hope more schools will jump in when the training becomes a fit for them."

Middle/High School Principal David Sylvester is promoting Differentiated Instruction in York classrooms. This school year he led discussions at faculty meetings, invited relevant workshops for Superintendent's Conference Days, purchased books for the faculty, and offered feedback to teachers from classroom observations.

Although there is concern that progress could be hampered by fiscal realities, all agree that the college partnership has been beneficial. Said John Williams, "Having School of Education faculty working side-by-side with the School Improvement Team and with teachers and administrators in our area schools has provided a valuable working model for future collaborations."

Safety Excellence Award

Genesee Valley Educational Partnership was again recognized for achieving the highest award level – Titanium with Honors – in the Utica National Insurance Group's School Safety Excellence Program. GVEP received \$500 for further safety improvement efforts. The insurance group's school safety program helps participating schools and BOCES enhance overall safety through measurable assessment. Schools engaged in the process are able to pinpoint and correct specific safety threats. 🐾