

# THE MAINE APPRISE

A Publication of the Maine Principals' Association

Volume XXIV, Number 9

May 2016

## *Elaine Lehnig and Allison Davis Named 2016 Secretaries of the Year*

A few years ago, the Maine Principals' Association's Secretary of the Year Award was created to recognize the outstanding work done by school secretaries throughout the state. All school administrators know in their heart of hearts that the work they hope to accomplish, and the dreams they hope to realize for their schools, are impossible without the magic of our highly skilled and accomplished secretaries, the people who really run the schools!

The criteria for selection include leadership, service, understanding, patience, and working beyond expectations as key elements among the too-numerous-to-mention qualities of our school secretaries.

The two secretaries chosen to receive the 2016 MPA Maine Secretary of the Year Award are Elaine Lehnig and Allison Davis.



**Elaine Lehnig**, Athletic Secretary for Edward Little High School, received this honor based on an enormous list of positive qualifications, including her ability to support all of the sports, the students, and the demands of the coaches and other administrators all while also helping in the main office and keeping a smile on her face and asking what else she can do to help. Her calm demeanor, professionalism, and compassion demonstrate that she genuinely cares about each of the Edward Little High School students and wants them all to succeed.



**Allison Davis**, Union Elementary School Secretary, has been at Union Elementary for eight years, where she had been known as an amazing substitute teacher prior to her current role. She is being recognized as a leader in her school: she takes on the roles and responsibilities of principal, nurse, guidance counselor, and parent when that person is unavailable or out of the building. She goes above and beyond the duties asked of her.

Allison's principal, Christina Wotton, shares, "Mrs. Davis is our local hometown

hero. Her biggest qualities are her heart and passion as well as the pride and care she puts into her job. Her kindness is never forced; it is from a place of unconditional love for our students."

*It is with great pride that the Maine Principals' Association recognizes these two outstanding school secretaries. Congratulations!*

## From the Executive Director ...

### Why the MPA?

With MPA membership continually turning over and becoming newer and younger, I am often asked why we are not just a professional service organization – why do we oversee high school athletics and activities?

I often share with others how much I enjoy my position as executive director of the MPA. I am invigorated by the variety that comes with working with both the Professional and Interscholastic Divisions of the organization.

Sometimes I am asked why we split our time as an association between principals'/assistant principals' issues and athletics, and why we don't concentrate our time, staff, and energy on the professional side alone.

First, a little history if I may. The MPA and its previous iterations have been involved in supervising high school athletics and activities since 1921. When the Maine Secondary School Principals' Association (MSSPA) and the Maine Elementary Principals' Association (MEPA) merged into the MPA in 1992, it was clear by design that the Professional and Interscholastic Divisions would be separate arms of the Association. Each would have its own budget and would fund its own services, events, conferences, etc. It was also agreed that the two arms would share officers, staff, and facilities as a cost-effective means of serving both divisions. Simply put, the approach works.

I'm often asked if other states combine

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*From the Executive Director . . . (Continued from page 1)*

operations as we do. Outside of New England, the answer is no. Within New England, our approach is somewhat common with Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont being similar to us. New Hampshire and Rhode Island have separate principal and athletic associations. All New England state principal associations are K-12 with the exception of Massachusetts.

Why is it important for the MPA to be the supervising authority for high school athletics and activities? I've already touched on the financial advantages of the one association approach. MPA professional dues are significantly lower than those of our New England colleagues operating as separate associations. Additionally, our professional development offerings are superior in both quantity and quality. If we did not share staff and facilities, the MPA Conference Center would not be a reality.

Neither division on its own could support the facility we presently reside in, the level of professional development we provide, or the legislative presence that has become so important.

There is also a sense of convenience for high school administrators to contact one office and speak with the same people, regardless of whether the purpose of the call is one of academic, athletic, or an activity question or issue.

Perhaps the most important reason for the structure of the MPA is the students of Maine. There are 153 member high schools and approximately 60,000 high

school students. In the data collected last spring, 27,600 boys and 24,045 girls participated in MPA-sponsored athletics and activities in the 2014-15 school year. With competition comes a passion that needs to be kept in perspective. Who better than principals, assistant principals, and athletic administrators to see the big picture; adopt policies designed to protect our student-athletes, actors, musicians, student council members, and national honor society members; and to prevent outside interests from taking advantage of them?

The MPA, through its seven staff members, shared officers, 767 members, and numerous standing committees, provides a level of services to its members and the students of Maine that would be greatly diminished under any other model. No one else could do it better or more cost effectively. No one else could keep it all in perspective.

~ Dick Durost

## Interested in Becoming a Mentor for a New Principal or A.P.?

The MPA is proud to offer mentor/coaching for new principals and assistant principals in our state. The program, now in its 11th year, has four new principals working with mentor/coaches in the year two cohort and one new administrator working with mentor/coaches in the year one cohort.

The MPA will offer Mentor/Coach Orientation and Training on May 26. More information will be sent to members this spring. Give consideration to joining the cadre of trained mentor/coaches who are giving back to the profession by working closely with our newest colleagues. ([Click HERE](#))

## Follow us on Twitter!

MPA Professional—@DurostMPA

MPA Professional Division—

Holly Couturier—@HDCouturier

## "LIKE US" ON FACEBOOK!

Click on the link below to go to  
our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Principals-Association-Professional-Division/1703592959867688>



## Accelerate Your Degree

Join us on Sebago Lake this summer  
and earn credits!

### Courses for Educators include:

- Maine Special Ed Law
- Research Design in Education
- The Standards Driven Classroom

### Register Now!

Visit [sjcme.edu/summer2016](http://sjcme.edu/summer2016) or call  
800-752-4723 to learn more.



*Educating for life.*

## PRincipal Tips

Voice mail messages are more important than many people realize. Make sure all messages for your school and staff make the right impression on callers ...

- ✓ *For the main number*, identify your building first—not the name of the person who usually answers.
- ✓ *For desk numbers*, give callers your name, job title, and then the school name.
- ✓ *Give callers options*—in case of emergency, when out of town, when not at your desk, etc.
- ✓ *Consider different scenarios*. ("What happens when...") and the

needs of your callers (parents, new residents, etc.) when creating your message.

- ✓ *Write a script* and stick to it.  
  
*Recruit a good voice* to read your building's main message.
- ✓ *Smile when recording the message*. It really does make a difference.
- ✓ *Remember that every phone message makes an impression* on one of your stakeholders.  
—National School Public Relations Association,  
PRincipal Communicator,  
April 2016.

### Great Beginnings Series for New and Nearly New School Administrators

August 15, 2016; October 21, 2016;  
January 27, 2017; and April 3, 2017

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

The Maine Apprise is published 10 times a year, September to June, by the Maine Principals' Association.

The Apprise welcomes articles from its members and other representatives of the education community. Please submit them to the editor by the first day of the month preceding publication.

The material published in this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinion or views of the Maine Principals' Association.

For advertising or subscription rates, please write or call the address below.

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 Marty Bouchard, Houlton Middle/High School, President  
 Daniel Welch, Boothbay Region High School, President-elect  
 Richard Durost, Executive Director  
 Michael Burnham, Assistant Director  
 Holly Couturier Editor/Assistant Director  
 Gerald Durgin, Assistant Director

## Are You An NAESP or An NASSP Member?

*You can help support the MPA!*

For the exact same cost, you can renew your membership for NAESP and NASSP through the MPA and those associations will give a percentage of the dues back to the MPA. Questions?

Call Patty or Holly at 207-622-0217.

### Hard Conversations Unpacked: Deepening the Learning

and

### Being Generationally Savvy: Working Effectively with Colleagues of all Generations

\*\*\*\*\*

September 27-28, 2016

with Jennifer Abrams

*Two one-day workshops:  
you may attend  
one or both days.*

Designed for Principals, Assistant Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Special Education Directors, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Teacher Leaders, and Instructional Coaches

Registration material can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

## MPA Summer Leadership Retreat

MPA in partnership with Great Schools Partnership will offer the MPA Summer Leadership Retreat at Point Lookout in Northport on June 22-24, 2016.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register!

## Education Leaders Experience (ELE)

The Education Leaders Experience (ELE) program is administered by Educate Maine in partnership with Unum and the Maine Principals' Association. The ELE program: 1) Offers established educational leaders a unique experiential learning opportunity; 2) Is designed to build strong relationships between educational leaders and partners; 3) Creates a collaborative support network of leaders statewide; and 4) Provides exclusive access to key community and business leaders who provide insight on how we can prepare Maine students to participate productively in the Maine economy.

Participants will join 25 colleagues from across Maine selected for their leadership skills, talents, and life experiences. All share a core commitment to helping Maine kids reach their full potential. The *ELE Epsilon Class* will be eligible for contact hours (not CEUs) as well as graduate level credits. The opening session will be August 1-2 at Sugarloaf.

To apply for the *ELE Epsilon Class*, please click [HERE](#) to complete the application.



**WANTED**

**Fall Conference Proposals**

**November 17-18, 2016** ~ Double Tree, South Portland

Consider such timely topics as:

Effective Communication ~ Data-driven Decision-making ~ Professional Learning Communities ~ Leading and Sustaining Change ~ Implementing the Common Core ~ Coaching Teachers ~ Proficiency-based Education ~ Supervision/Evaluation of Staff ~ Technology: Implications and Practices ~ Wellness for Administrators ~ School Culture and Climate ~ Hot and Timely Topics Related to the Conference Theme

Consider collaborating with district and regional colleagues, teachers, and/or students to design and present a session.

Click [HERE](#) to download the Concurrent Session Request for Proposal (RFP). Due: June 1, 2016

### CALL THE MPA HELP LINE

207-622-0217

*We are here to help you and answer questions!*

#### Extensions:

24 = Dick Durost

25 = Mike Burnham

26 = Holly Couturier

41 = Gerry Durgin

22 = Tammy McNear

27 = Diane Patnaude

30 = Patty Newman

## Observances

### \* May 1-31

- Asian/Pacific Islander American Heritage Month
- Better Hearing and Speech/Healthy Vision Month

### \* May 1

- School Principals' Day
- Law Day

*Recognizing the courts and their role in ensuring justice for all*

### \* May 2-6

- Public Service Recognition Week
- Be Kind to Animals Week

### \* May 3

- National Teacher Day
- World Freedom of the Press Day

### \* May 5

- Cinco de Mayo

### \* May 8

- Mother's Day

### \* May 11

- School Nurse Day

### \* May 18

- International Museum Day

### \* May 21

- National Learn to Swim Day
  - Armed Forces Day
- Honoring those serving in the military*

### \* May 23

- Victoria Day

### \* May 30

- Memorial Day

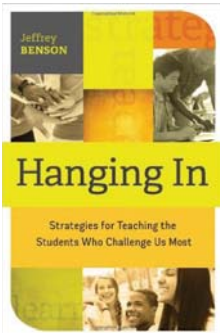
### MPA Mission Statement

To assure a quality education for all students, the Maine Principals' Association will:

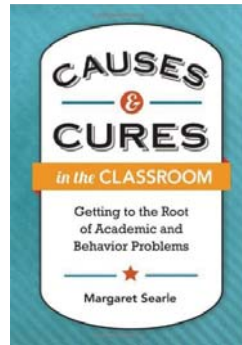
- (1) promote the principalship;
- (2) support principals as educational leaders; and
- (3) promote and administer interscholastic activities in grades 9-12.

# Professional Reading Suggestions

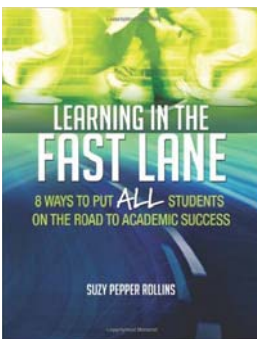
**Hanging In** by Jeffrey Benson. "Many students arrive at school with unique mixtures of family histories, traumatic experiences, and special needs that test our skills and try our patience. *In Hanging In: Strategies for Teaching the Students Who Challenge Us Most*, veteran educator Jeffrey Benson shows educators the value of tenacity and building connections in teaching the students who most need our help. Just as teaching the students who challenge us is among our most frustrating experiences as educators, sticking with students until they finally "get it"; is among our most rewarding. *In Hanging In*, you'll find the inspiration and field-tested ideas necessary to create a patient and supportive environment for even the most demanding cases in the classroom."



**Causes & Cures in The Classroom: Getting to the Root of Academic and Behavior Problems** by Margaret Searle. "Whether students leave the classroom confident and goal-directed or frustrated and aimless depends on our ability to do two things: diagnose their needs and deliver support. This challenge can be daunting when students come to school with weak vocabulary, poor planning and organization skills, and problems with memory, impulse control, and attention span. *Causes & Cures* reveals new neurological research about the root causes of these obstacles and lays out a comprehensive five-step protocol designed to help all educators identify and address common student academic and behavior issues."



**Learning in The Fast Lane: 8 Ways To Put ALL Students On The Road To Academic Success** by Suzy Pepper Rollins. "Too often, students who fail a grade or a course receive remediation that ends up widening rather than closing achievement gaps. According to veteran classroom teacher and educational consultant Suzy Pepper Rollins, the true answer to supporting struggling students lies in acceleration. *In Learning in the Fast Lane*, she lays out a plan of action that teachers can use to immediately move underperforming students in the right direction and differentiate instruction for all learners—even those who excel academically. Students deserve no less than the most effective strategies available. These hands-on, ready-to-implement practices will enable you to provide all students with compelling, rigorous, and engaging learning experiences."



*We should seize every opportunity to give encouragement. Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.*

~ George M. Adams

**Sometimes intently listening with eyes and ears will speak volumes to one of your students.**

~ Anonymous

## What Can We Do About Bullying?

NEW DATE



NEW DATE

**October 26-27, 2016**

with Stan Davis

**Two one day workshops: you may attend either one or both days.**

Designed for Principals, Assistant Principals, Deans of Students, Counselors, Social Workers, Nurses, Educational Technicians, Special Education Directors, Special Education Teachers, Teachers, and Athletic Administrators.

Registration material can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

## Looking Ahead

- \* *MPA Summer Leadership Retreat* with Great Schools Partnership, June 22-24, Point Lookout, Northport. ([Click Here](#))
- \* *Special Education Law Summer Institute* with Drummond Woodsum, July 12-15, Thomas College, Waterville (**Session Full to Capacity**)
- \* *Maine School Law Finance Institute* with Drummond Woodsum, July 19-22, Drummond Woodsum, Portland ([Click Here](#))
- \* *Maine School Law Summer Institute* with Drummond Woodsum, July 26-29, Point Lookout, Northport ([Click Here](#))
- \* *"Great Beginnings Series,"* August 15, 2016; October 21, 2016; January 27, 2017; and April 3, 2017, MPA Conference Center, Augusta ([Click Here](#))
- \* *"Hard Conversations Unpacked and Being Generationally Savvy,"* September 27-28, 2016, MPA Conference Center, Augusta ([Click Here](#))
- \* *"Building Supportive, Connected Schools: Preventing Bullying, Preventing Harm"* with Stan Davis, October 26-27, MPA Conference Center, Augusta ([Click Here](#))

## Featured Regions!

Each month, the *Apprise* is going to feature at least three schools from each of the eight regions in Maine. There are many great things going on in our schools that people don't know about, and it's time THEY ARE spotlighted! The May *Apprise* features the Downeast Region. Next month we will feature the Kennebec Region. If you would like to have your school spotlighted, please send Holly Couturier an e-mail stating your interest and at least one great thing about your school. She will contact you and make arrangements for an hour long visit. During her visit, she will not only speak to you and take a picture of you and the school, she would also like to talk to students in your school and get their perspective of "What makes their school and principal great?" Enjoy!

### ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Alexander Elementary School is a grades pre-K through grade 8 school in Alexander, Maine. They have 39 students who are taught by five teachers and one educational technician. They have a 51% free and reduced lunch and a 7% special education population.

When speaking to teaching principal Trevor Flood, he discussed the family-style environment of the school. "We have really great kids. Our multi-age classrooms allow for our older students to practice leadership skills and the younger students model the great behavior." The staff and the students stay connected well after the students graduate from Alexander Elementary. "Many high school students come back to do community service with our school. They volunteer to help in many ways including coaching the students. They join other alumni of AES in the annual Alumni Basketball game – which is a highlight of the community!"



The staff and community work closely together to make sure that the students receive a well-rounded education. "The staff want to do more for the school. They all volunteer their time to stay after school and either coach different sports, help with homework, or provide transportation for students so they can participate in activities in surrounding towns." AES was a former CIPS school. As a team, the entire staff came together and in a short amount of time, turned the school around so it is identical as a Title One High Performing School.

The community shares in this pride. Many community members volunteer their time to teach the students trades such as: homesteading, leather work, sewing, art, gardening, and support the library program. The library houses over 15,000 books, 80% of which have been donated by the community. It is completely run by two volunteers who not only give of their time during the school year, but also created a community summer library program where parents and community members can come with the students to hear a story, work on a project, and take books home to continue their love of reading over the summer.

I had the pleasure of speaking with 8th grader Kyle and 4th grader Maygin about what makes their school amazing. They both indicated there were too many things to just point out one or two things that are great. "There are a lot of great people here. There aren't many kids so we all know everybody." The teachers listen to what they have to say and because of this, next year the school is going to create a student government program for students in grades 4-8. "Students come up with ideas that the adults don't think of. We can make our school better." This is demonstrated by the first ever student-led talent show taking place later on this year.

If you want to learn more about how to involve the community with your everyday school life, I highly encourage you to visit this beautiful little school!

#### **Contact Information:**

Alexander Elementary School, 1430 Airline Road, Alexander, ME 04694 ~ 207-454-2623

Principal: Trevor Flood ~ E-mail: [principal@alexanderelementary.org](mailto:principal@alexanderelementary.org)



# Calais Middle/ High School

Calais Middle/High School is a grades 7-12 school in Calais, Maine. 282 students are taught by 22 teachers and six educational technicians. They have a 54% free and reduced lunch rate and a 13.5% special education population.

Principal Mary Anne Spearin glowed with pride as she spoke about her school. “When the year began, we had a new principal, new superintendent, new secretary, and a new guidance counselor – we were a little nervous, but these kids, staff, school board, and community were amazing with the transition. Together we were – and still are – very positive and supportive with the changes that have taken place. The school board is so supportive, there is at least one member of the board at every school event!”



“Earlier this year, the staff recognized the need for a Civil Rights Team. Without hesitation, four staff stepped up to the plate and volunteered their time to make sure that a team was created, trained, and prepared to support the rest of the students in the school. That’s just one example of how the staff go above and beyond for our kids.”



St. Croix Technical Center is attached to Calais Middle/High School. This provides an amazing opportunity for students to see what options are available in different trades: culinary arts, early education, truck driving, and industrial arts are just a few of the examples of what is offered to the students. Across the street from the high school is Washington County Community College. This allows for a partnership between the two educational institutions and the students have the opportunity for dual enrollment.

While visiting Calais Middle/High School, I had the distinct pleasure of speaking with 12th grader Madison, 11th grader Jack, 10th grader Kylie, and 9th grader Dylan. All of these students spoke eloquently about the amazing things that take place at their school. “We have a lot of groups that work together like NHS, Student Council, and JMG who together raised \$1,145 in a community fundraiser, ‘The Hunger Games.’” All of these groups were fully supported by the staff and students of Calais Middle/High School. All money was donated to the local food pantry.



“We also have a very active Civil Rights Team and a ‘Blue Crew,’ a group of student volunteers who come together and do community service.” They also have a club called “The Dead Poets’ Society.” This group of students have a passion for poetry and any student who wants to join, can. Not only do they get together to talk about poetry, they are also working with students in grades 5 and 6 to share their love of poetry. “Every organization gives back to the community. We couldn’t do half of what we do if it wasn’t for their support.”

If you want to visit a middle/high school that is completely student-centered, I highly advise you check out Calais Middle/High School!



### Contact Information:

Calais Middle/High School, 34 Blue Devil Hill, Suite 2, Calais, ME 04619  
Phone: 207-454-2591  
Principal: Mary Anne Spearin ~ Athletic Administrator: Randy Morrison  
E-mail: [mspearin@calaissschools.org](mailto:mspearin@calaissschools.org)



## Rafferty (Beatrice) School

Beatrice Rafferty School is a grades K-8 school in Perry, Maine. This incredibly unique school houses 131 students who live on the Sipayik Reservation. 20 teachers and five educational technicians teach these incredible students. They have an 88% free or reduced lunch rate and a 14% special education population.

According to principal, Mike Chadwick, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Funding provides all of the funding for the elementary school on the reservation. That being said, there is still local control of how these funds are used. They have a local school board who works with administration when making decisions about what is best for the school and students. One of the largest projects in the making is the building of a new school within the next two years. The Passamaquoddy Tribe donated the land on which to build the new school. An interesting fact in the funding of the new school~ the BIE will fund the school based on the number of students on the Tribal Census – NOT the actual enrollment (only 105 of the 131 students are on the census)

as part of the building process in what is known as the “TERO” tax. In order for a student to be counted on the Tribal Census, the student must be 25% Passamaquoddy.

Although the school has an identified 88% free/reduced lunch rate, 100% of the students eat at no cost. In addition to the students, elders from the reservation are also welcome to come join the students on a daily basis to have lunch with the students at no cost.



Walking through the halls of Beatrice Rafferty School, you can see a sense of history and tribal pride throughout the building. Large framed pictures of their former chief Melvin Francis, who was tragically killed in a car accident, hangs on many of the walls throughout the school. The students learn in self-contained classrooms and are expected to take Passamaquoddy for a language in each of the nine years that they attend the elementary school. The “Culture Building” is a separate building with a kitchen area where everything is labeled in both Passamaquoddy and in English and taught by a fully certified Passamaquoddy language teacher, who not only teaches the language, but also the rich history of the tribe to each of the students.



The school participates in an Island Reader Workshop. This allows the school to bring in authors and illustrators who share their books, offer writing advice, and talk to the students about literature. All of the students have the opportunity to get a book from each of the visiting authors and illustrators.

In order to fully support their students, Beatrice Rafferty School has a full time guidance teacher, math coach, reading coach, and they hire high school students to help tutor students in the after school program that is open to all students after school (with full transportation home).

Regardless of the number of years a person may have worked in education, you will be amazed at just how different – and incredible - a tribal school is from most public education systems. I highly advise anyone who has not had the opportunity to see this extraordinary school, contact Mike and take a tour to learn about the history of the school and Passamaquoddy Tribe. You will be glad you did!



### **Contact Information:**

Beatrice Rafferty School, 22 Bayview Drive, Perry, ME 04667 • 207-853-6085

Principal: Mike Chadwick ~ Assistant Principal: Dana Mitchell

E-mail: m\_wchadwick@yahoo.com



# MPA Photo Album

## Secretaries' Conference

April 6, 2016 ~ Hilton Garden Inn, Bangor  
and  
April 7, 2016 ~ Harraseeket Inn, Freeport

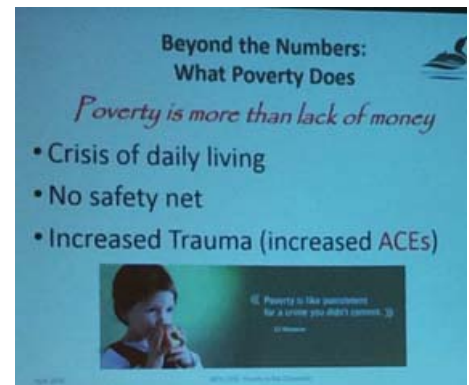
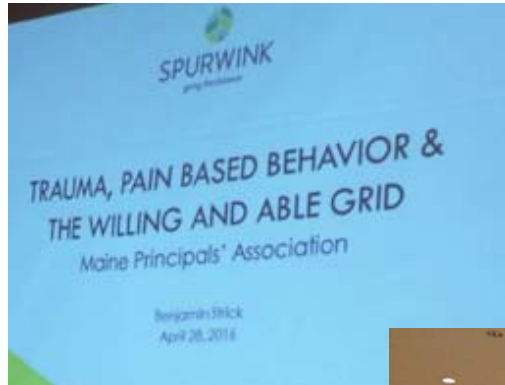


*(Jill loves her "Peeps")*

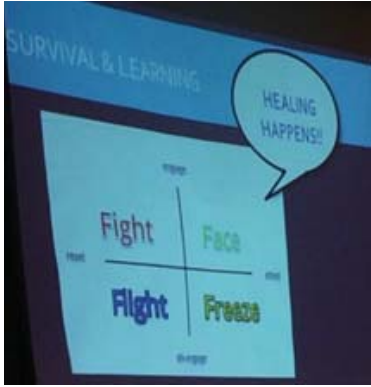


# MPA Photo Album

## MPA SPRING CONFERENCE April 28-29, 2016



# MPA Photo Album (Continued)



## MPA SPRING CONFERENCE

