

## CTI Fellows and Faculty Collaborate Nationally at Yale This Summer



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I had the wonderful opportunity to travel with eight colleagues from Charlotte to New Haven, CT for the 2013 Yale National Initiative Summer Intensive Session at Yale University in July. This summer professional development experience brings together teachers, faculty and administrators from across the nation for two weeks to explore important questions related to teaching and learning in K-12 classrooms. This year 65 public school teachers from 16 school districts in nine states were selected to participate in the national seminars.

This year's Yale National Fellows include five CTI teacher leaders. Torriann Dooley (2nd grade teacher at David Cox Road Elementary) and Matt Kelly, (Spanish, Independence High) are both returning Yale National Fellows; Torriann also serves on the Yale National Initiative Steering Committee. CTI's three new Yale National Fellows are Gloria Brinkman (art, North Mecklenburg High), Alexandra Edwards (social studies, Bailey Middle School) and Miesha Gadsden (3rd grade, Lansdowne Elementary). Also attending were CTI Seminar Leaders Ann Fox and Durwin Striplin, professors of English and chemistry, respectively, at Davidson College; and Ralf Thiede, English professor at UNC Charlotte.

CTI's newest National Fellows recently reflected on their transformative experience at Yale:

**Gloria** – "I participated in the Invisible Cities seminar facilitated by Yale's Sterling Professor of Theater Joseph Roach and wrote a curriculum unit that aims to develop students' awareness of the virtual environments within which we act out our lives every day. Yale's intensive session was a stimulating immersion in scholarly discourse with teachers from across the country who all shared a similar passion for learning and professional growth on behalf of their students. We grew professional friendships as we shared stories of challenges faced by our urban schools while supporting each other in the design and craft of our units. It was exhilarating to walk the Yale campus, navigate its academic corridors, study in its libraries and access its wealth of resources to support meaningful instruction for my students. This intensive seminar rekindled my fervor for learning and knowledge of pathways to discovery that will be contagious in my classroom."

**Miesha** – "What a great way for teachers to collaborate with fresh ideas, gain knowledge from experienced Yale professors and have the opportunity to publish a unit that can be viewed by all teachers across the nation! When I heard about the Energy Science offered at Yale I was extremely excited. Energy is a broad topic I have never taught in depth to my students and is now a major goal/objective in our Common Core



CTI representatives at the Yale Summer Intensive session look pleased posing outside Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. From left to right are CTI Seminar Leaders Ann Fox, Ralf Thiede and Durwin Striplin; CTI National Fellows Alexandra Edwards, Matt Kelly, (CTI Director Scott Gartlan), Gloria Brinkman, Torriann Dooley and Miesha Gadsden.

*Standards. I was in a seminar with teachers of AP chemistry, AP biology, calculus, algebra and more. Despite my limited knowledge of chemistry, this was one of the best seminars I ever took. We all had so much to offer each other with our range of teaching experience. I learned so much about myself and new strategies for my classroom. The collaboration.....The learning.... The experience.....is priceless!"*

**Alexandra** – "My Yale group included 11 teachers from Richmond, Philadelphia, Chicago, Tulsa, San Jose and the Diné (Navajo) Nation, in an Interpreting Text seminar led by Dr. Paul Fry. It was an amazing opportunity for me to work with the other Fellows on interpreting texts for our students back home. As a group we developed curriculum units with lesson plans that can be utilized by any teacher in the United States. Strategies were developed and shared that will help us better serve our students. My unit focuses on teaching post-Civil War history in document-based fiction. The two week program is intensive but I would do it again in a heartbeat!"

CTI's National Fellows will return to Yale in October to share their completed units with their colleagues. The Teachers Institute Model is an effective approach because teachers are placed at the center as leaders. Alex, Gloria, Matt, Miesha, and Torriann all bring back to Charlotte the enthusiasm and knowledge gained from their national experience this summer. Meeting teachers from across the country, engaging with Yale faculty leading the national seminars, and learning more about innovative university-school partnerships sets an expectation of local leadership. Together, these Yale National Fellows will build a future for strong teacher leaders in Charlotte.

Save the Date!

**Exploding Canons:  
Sports by the Numbers**

Tuesday, October 22  
EPIC Center  
UNC Charlotte



**Thank you, Piedmont Natural Gas Foundation!**

The Piedmont Natural Gas Foundation recently awarded CTI a \$10,000 gift to support CTI's *Exploding Canons* interdisciplinary speakers series and the *Teachers as Scholars* program showcasing new curriculum produced by teachers in CTI seminars. PNG Community Relations Manager Marty Clontz announced the award saying, "Over the last four years, Piedmont Natural Gas has partnered with CTI to help arm teachers with STEM curriculum. We appreciate CTI's professors, who develop and showcase strong STEM curriculum, which is a major community focus for Piedmont's funding." PNG's generous contribution will support the *Exploding Canons: Sports by the Numbers* event Tuesday, October 22, at UNC Charlotte's EPIC Center. Mark your calendars and watch for more details about CTI's great line-up of stimulating speakers and topics for this special event related to Math and Sports – coming soon on the CTI website.