Spotlight on Dr. Kristin Rainville

Kristin N Rainville, Sacred Heart University

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Dr. Rainville’s official start date as Assistant Professor of Education in FCE was August 2015. She was so excited to join us that she moved into her office on July 1st to work on her research and plan her courses. She commented, “I was pretty thrilled to be joining such great faculty and a wonderful University!”

She was born and raised in Stamford, CT; her parents are Thomas and Noel and she has four siblings (Kristin is the youngest). Her father, who served in the army as a Major during Vietnam, is a retired pediatrician, who practiced in Stamford for over 30 years. Dr. Rainville says her parents “worked hard and instilled a strong work ethic, deep family values, and for my sister and I- they ensured that we would be strong independent women.” Her siblings; Michelle, Tom, Paul, and Matt live across the U.S. but still remain close. Her brother Matt is a cancer survivor, so the entire family is deeply committed to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They raise money by walking together annually in Manhattan in honor of his courageous battle.

Dr. Rainville also has an amazing mother and father in law (Alicia and Joe DeSabia Sr.), and brother and sister-in-law, Danny and Chrissy, who all pitch in to help raise her children - because it really does take a village! Dr. Rainville said she is lucky to have met her husband, Joe, when she first started college at Saint Bonaventure University—they have grown into adulthood together. She has three remarkable and curious sons—Joey, who is six and going into first grade; Dylan, who is four; and Tyson, who is two and a half. Dr. Rainville is expecting a baby in September and the gender will be a surprise!

Dr. Rainville obtained her Master's Degree in Literacy Education from the University of Bridgeport in 1999. She did her internship at The International School at Rogers Magnet (where she attended as a child) and was subsequently offered a first grade teaching position at the school. She stayed busy while teaching: she attended Fairfield University for her Certificate of Advanced Study in Special Education (2001); switched to teaching third grade; and annually attended the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project institutes, which transformed her teaching. During this time, she also started her doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University. While working on her doctoral degree, she left the classroom to join the New Jersey Department of Education as a Reading Coach. The coaching program was supported by the governor and Dr. Rainville became coordinator for the Office of Early Literacy, overseeing the department’s work throughout New Jersey. While completing her doctoral work, Kristin also became an Instructor at Teachers College. “The experiences at TC helped me realize that I really enjoyed higher education and teaching both pre-service and in-service teachers within a formalized educational program.” Before joining Sacred Heart, she was an assistant professor and chair of the literacy department at Manhattanville College.
Her research is connected to literacy leadership and literacy teaching and learning. She has coauthored two books, written several journal articles and has numerous articles and book chapters coming out later this year. Dr. Rainville is also on the Board of Directors for the non-profit organization, Give More HUGS; its mission is to unite giving souls to help all students develop a lifelong love for learning, reading, and creativity.

Dr. Rainville’s favorite pastime is enjoying her family. They love the outdoors and can be found exploring the woods and beach in Fairfield or the mountains in Vermont.