



Minnesota State University,
Mankato



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Message from the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Greetings to the friends of the College of Education! Much has happened since our last newsletter – a very successful accreditation visit, several grants awarded to the college and its faculty, much financial support from donors for scholarships and faculty development, graduation for many fabulous new alums, many articles and books published by faculty, funding received for a new and refurbished ropes course, the development of a network of diverse community leaders and parents to inform our programs, and much more! You will read about some of this excitement in this edition of the

newsletter.

I'd like to call attention to the growing voice that we have as a college in state policy conversations. On January 7th the Minnesota department of Education held a summit at MSU regarding the Teaching Commission Report and issues pertaining to the Governor's education policy and budget recommendations. Attendance from the region was outstanding and we provided and facilitated strong input to the process. MSU has emerged as an innovator of new programs focused on the most pressing needs for schools – providing initial pro-

grams for persons already teaching without a license in high need areas (special education, science, math, etc.), developing highly needed certificate programs and customized professional development to districts (ELL, differentiated instruction, data analysis for the improvement of learning, etc.), and developing principal academies and leadership development for rapidly changing school and accountability contexts. The COE is represented on several state boards, work groups, and legislative action teams. We are called upon frequently to provide expertise in the form of research reports and testimony at the legislature re-

garding such topics as early childhood programming, alternative licensure programs, leadership preparation, and developing rules regarding teacher licensing.

We hope that you will read our newsletters and web pages, and that you will come to our events with anticipation. Please communicate your thoughts and ideas about the college via e-mail (michael.miller@mnsu.edu), telephone, or personal appointment. "Conversation over coffee" is starting again and we will be communicating with you in other formats soon.

Recent Faculty Publications within the College of Education

USING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM: PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR ALL EDUCATORS

Scott D. Wurdinger

While research and common sense tells us that experiential learning is more effective than more traditional teaching formats such as lecture, high school, college, and university teachers continue to use paper and pencil tests as the primary tool to measure intelligence. Many students fail to see any relevance with these tests and are bored with passive methods of learning. This book explains what experiential learning is, why it works, and how it can be used in both high school and post secondary settings. Tools for assessing experiential learning are also provided.

THE INNER CURRICULUM: CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOPMENT EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Andrew Johnson

This book points out the one-dimensional nature of education within K-12 education and pre-service teacher education programs. Here education consists of simply adding prescribed bits of knowledge and skills to students as if they were cogs traveling down a conveyor belt. This book demonstrates that we can address the full dimension of our human students by attending to emotions, intuition, imagination, creativity, hopes, and dreams, as well as knowledge and logic. By doing this we are able to maintain an academic focus as traditionally thought, and learn more deeply as learning becomes more meaningful.

THE COOLEST SCHOOL IN AMERICA: HOW SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES ARE CHANGING EVERYTHING in *Democratic Circles in Learning*.

Darrol Bussler

Restorative Measures, commonly referred to as Restorative Practices, was introduced to Minnesota New Country School by the author. One restorative practice is the circle process for a variety of uses such as learning, discipline, and decision making. Restorative practices are being used in a number of charter schools around the country for which Minnesota New Country School is the model in project-based learning.

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The information in this newsletter will be made available in alternative format, such as large print or on cassette tape, upon request to the College of Education 507-389-5445 (voice), 800-625-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).

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MSU College of Education Newsletter

Minnesota State University,
Mankato

Volume IV, Issue 2

Winter 2005

Reaching Other Professionals: Minnesota Teacher Alternative Preparation Program

Dr. Scott Page, Professor of K-12 & Secondary Programs

The Department of K-12 and Secondary Programs at Minnesota State University, Mankato recently received a \$100,000.00 grant from MnSCU to develop and implement an alternative pathway into teaching. As a result, the Minnesota Teacher Alternative Preparation Program (MN TAPP) is currently being designed for mid-career individuals and middle-age retirees from other professions who hold at least a college degree, and are steeped in relevant content to transition into teaching without

the hardship of leaving the paid workforce. Instead of requiring participants to follow a traditional approach for teacher preparation (academic course work and supervised student teaching) before taking over a classroom, MN TAPP will move candidates into their own classrooms after a short period of intensive training. Candidates will continue their studies on-line and through seminars, while receiving structured mentoring and support as they teach.

MN TAPP will implement a two-phase approach. Phase I will begin in the summer with candidates taking an intensive course, "The Nuts and Bolts of Effective

Teaching," based on Charlotte Danielson's framework and the Standards of Effective Practice. During this phase, candidates will be introduced to best practices, information about professional roles and responsibilities, professional and ethical responsibilities of educators, parent communication, the inclusive classroom, and technology. Phase 2 will have the candidates taking full responsibility for the classroom supported by intensive mentoring and supervision, along with monthly seminars.

For additional information please contact Scott Page at 507-389-1607 or scott.page@mnsu.edu.

Full-Day Field Experiences Offer Students a True Taste of a Teacher's Day in the Classroom

Dr. Karl Matz, Professor of Elementary & Early Childhood

The Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education began providing students with full-day field experiences for the first time during Fall Semester 2004. This is a change from half-day experiences and is the result of considerable efforts by Dr. Peg Ballard and the faculty that teach in the Elementary Education Major. Students who are pursuing degrees in Elementary Education at MSU complete their methods classes in two blocks. Among the courses students take in Block I are Social Studies and Literacy Methods. Block II includes Math and Science Methods. The bridging of theory and practice occurs during an intensive three week field experience in each Block.

With the reorganization of the Elementary Education Major, field experiences became more structured and the time students spent in the classroom became more consistent. But it was felt by the faculty as a whole that students often began their student teaching experience with only a partial understanding of the teacher's day.

The solution was an all day experience. Scheduling these all day experiences has been a challenge. However the benefits have been immediately evident. In effect, the students now have two mini student teaching experiences prior to their actual student teaching. They will have had a wealth of teaching experience and will have designed, planned, prepared and presented numerous lessons prior to student teaching. In addition they form stronger and more enduring professional relationships with their cooperating teachers

during field experiences and have the opportunity to observe, interact with and understand children in ways that were never possible before. Finally, and perhaps most beneficial, many students entered their student teaching in the past with little or no teaching experience in one or more of the subject areas. Literacy is often taught in the morning. If a student had had only morning field experiences that student might never have observed or taught Science, Math or Social Studies. The full day field experiences provide all students with teaching experiences in all of the subject areas in the curriculum.

Inside this issue:

<i>Governor Tim Pawlenty Appoints Dr. Jean Haar to State BOA</i>	2
<i>Jeet Sausen receives McCarthy Scholarship</i>	2
<i>The Korean Connection: Second Generation Student at MSU, Mankato</i>	3
<i>2005: Promising Year for PDS</i>	3
<i>In Gratitude to Our Benefactors and Donors</i>	4-7

New Aviation Scholarship



Stephen Klick of Dairyland Healthcare Solutions in Glenwood, Minnesota contributed \$1,000 toward an aviation scholarship. This is the second year that Mr. Klick, an MSU alumnus and father of one our recent aviation graduates, contributed this scholarship. His contribution shows dedicated support of the program that offered flexibility in meeting the educational needs of his son Casey who graduated in the Spring of 2003. The program views the success of its recent graduates, such as Casey, as one of the most telling advertisements of the benefits offered by MSU Aviation.

Not only will the scholarship help current students defray the extra costs associated with entering an aviation career, but it will also perpetuate the line of successful aviation graduates.



Governor Tim Pawlenty Appoints Dr. Jean Haar to the State Board of School Administrators



Dr. Jean Haar of the Department of Educational Leadership

"I am honored and appreciative of the opportunity to serve our profession and the state of Minnesota," was Dr. Jean Haar's reply to her appointment to Minnesota's Board of School Administrators (BOA). Dr. Haar's talents and dedication to education were recognized on January 26th when Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed Dr. Haar, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, to the BOA.

The BOA consists of ten members, all of whom are appointed by the governor. As a member, Dr. Haar will partici-

pate in decisions on the licensing of school administrators, approving higher education programs and continuing education courses for school administrators, and enforcing the code of ethics for school administrators. Speaking of her responsibilities, Dr. Haar said, "I view my position on the Board of Administrators as an opportunity to be actively involved with the promotion of quality school leadership for all Minnesota schools."

Dr. Haar has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Minnesota State University-Mankato since 2002. Her

career in K-12 education included working as a classroom teacher in Rutland, South Dakota and as principal of Deuel High School in Clear Lake, South Dakota. Haar received a B.A. in English and a M.A. in Educational Administration from South Dakota State University in Brookings, and a Ph.D. in Administration, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is appointed to the Board position as a higher education faculty member and will serve a term which ends January 5, 2009. Dr. Haar replaces Kenneth LaCroix on the Board.

Recipient of the McCarthy Scholarship Aims High to Serve Others

Jeet Sausen, a senior who is double-majoring in Social Studies Education and Political Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato, neither backs down from civic involvement nor opportunities that further her desire to teach and aid the community.

This year Jeet is the selected recipient of the Agnes and Rhea McCarthy Scholarship, the largest scholarship offered annually by the College of Educa-

tion. The scholarship criteria include the applicant's academic standing, financial need, and community and campus involvement. Jeet's community and campus involvement is admirable. She is a member of both Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, a volunteer with Girl Scouts, one of two Assistant Managers at the MSU Annual Fund, and Program Coordinator for Public Achievement at Da-

kota Meadows Middle School in North Mankato.

Jeet says she has wanted to teach since she was young, but her interest in political science began with her Civics class in 9th grade and grew when she was a page with the Minnesota State Legislature and participated in Girls State.

She applied her education and skills at Dakota Meadows Middle School. As Program Coordinator for Public Achievement, she has not only taught middle school students about current events, but leads them in activities that inform the general public and provide relief for international disasters. "This position has really made me appreciate the work the coaches do with their teams," she says. "In the 'real world,' teachers are to the point where they are getting approval for their projects, and they are putting their knowledge for both their team's topic and interest in civic involvement to work. It makes me want to be a coach again!"

Jeet is enthusiastic

about her education at MSU, Mankato. "Being a double major has really encouraged me to look outside of Social Studies," Jeet stated. "Taking different political science classes has opened my eyes to different perspectives, and has also allowed me to learn more about my personal interests of behavior and participation in politics worldwide. These are great tools for me to use when I am in a classroom."

Although a native of Richfield, Minnesota, Jeet's goal after student teaching this fall is to move to the east coast where she can be near the seat of our nation's history and future. Jeet credits those teachers whose classes were dynamic for her career interests today. "It is because of my high school social studies teachers and their classes that I am sitting where I am today. We watched videos, ran mock campaigns, wrote papers, played the stock market game--a little bit of everything to keep kids like me interested. I want to make that same impact and share my passion for social studies with kids today."



Senior Jeet Sausen received the Agnes and Rhea McCarthy Scholarship for her involvement in the community and on campus.



Individual Donors

The generous support of our many individual, corporate and business donors makes possible the significant accomplishments of the College of Education. This edition of the newsletter acknowledges contributions made between July 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005. We extend our sincerest gratitude for every generous gift. Because there are approximately 1,000 donors that give at the Friend level of \$1 to \$99, we are unable to list them all in the space provided. We do plan to have all the donors listed on the college website.

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**The Korean Connection: Second Generation Student of Minnesota State University, Mankato**

Major (P) Douglas Goodfellow, Assistant Professor of the Department of Military Science and Leadership

Anyway you look at it, South Korea is a long way from Minnesota. 12 hours by air, 15 time zones away and 8,000 miles to the west. Time and distance didn't stop one student from attending the college of her choice. Yunhui Elisabeth Voelker began her first year of college in the fall of 2004. Pursuing a degree in elementary education, a member of the elementary education learning community, and of the Maverick Battalion Army ROTC she has excelled both in and outside the classroom. But what else would you expect from the daughter of an MSU alumnus?

Like her father, David Voelker, Yunhui chose to attend MSU. Her dad, Major Voelker, who is currently stationed in South Korea, grew up in the nearby town of Faribault, Minnesota. David, a 1991 graduate with a BS in Psychology and the number one cadet in his ROTC class at the then Mankato State University, can be credited with influencing his daughter to attend his alma mater. As he mentioned when visiting the campus this past summer, "I wouldn't trade my experiences at the college for anything."

Yunhui, who is pursuing a career

as an Army officer through ROTC, has had many experiences that reflect her father's career as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers. Over the course of the last 18 years, she has lived in Colorado, Washington, Kansas, Missouri and, of course, Korea, the place where she was born and still calls home. She has had the unique experience of attending 10 schools between Kindergarten and 12th grade. Some were public schools and others were Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools. Yunhui admits that of the two, the DoDEA schools have been more academically challenging. Her last school in Yongsan, South Korea helped hone her



competitive edge where almost one-third of the seniors graduated with a GPA of 4.0. While attending school as a senior, she tutored Korean students in English. She says, "this sparked my interest to be an elementary school teacher." She hopes to teach at a DoDEA school in the future.

While attending MSU, Yunhui is also pursuing a minor in social studies. Her many accomplishments in her first year include being offered an ROTC scholarship, currently being ranked the number two cadet in the ROTC class of 2008 and making the Dean's list. Yunhui speaks Korean and is currently working on Japanese. Like most young adults, she enjoys listening to music and watching movies. An accomplished softball player, she will again play for the Army Women's Slow-pitch team in Yongsan, South Korea this summer. She is also active in Bible study and attends church on a regular basis on campus.

There is a strong possibility that the Korean connection will continue. Yunhui has shared the fact that her brother Bruce, who is 17 years old and a junior in high school, is considering MSU in the fall of 2006. Who knows, her 10 year-old brother David may also carry on the family tradition.

2005: A Promising Year for the Professional Development School

Ginger Zierdt, Director of the Center for School-University Partnerships (CSUP)

Professional Development School (PDS) Initiative – Painting a Vision!

January 4, 2005 brought in a very "Happy New Year" with the unanimous approval of the PDS 3-Year Action Plan by the PDS Governance Council. With great thanks to the P-16 stakeholder input, "Serving the Whole Learner to Bridge the Achievement Gap" will be our working mission for the next three years. This mission is supported by three strategic priorities: 1. Early Childhood/School Readiness, 2. English Language Learners, and 3. Family-School-Community Connections. The strategy for addressing the strategic priorities will be through the creation of Professional Learning Communities. These learning communities will provide our partners a "transformational learning experience" – deepening the under-

standing of the issues, transforming beliefs and assumptions, and the creation of a stream of continuous actions that change habits and affect practice. Ultimately, "key ideas" from these professional conversations result in better teaching practices that will improve student achievement.

If you would like an electronic copy of the PDS 3-Year Action Plan and implementation timeline, please email: ginger.zierdt@mnsu.edu.

PDS Learning Community Kickoffs

During the first week of February, a grand total of five PDS Learning Communities "kicked off" their adventure in "serving the whole learner to bridge the achievement gap!" Participants from PDS districts, "friendship" districts/agencies, and the MSU-Mankato community are forming their "neighborhoods" to address the three strategic priorities: 1. Early Childhood/School Readiness (ECSR), 2. English

Language Learners (ELL), and 3. Family-School-Community Connections (FSCC).

Rick DuFour describes learning communities as "an environment created that fosters mutual cooperation, emotional support, and personal growth as the members work together to achieve what they cannot accomplish alone." Six characteristics describe a learning community: shared mission, vision, and values; collective inquiry; public reflection, shared meaning, joint planning, and coordinated action; collaborative teams; action orientation and experimentation; continuous improvement; and finally, results orientation.

Currently, there are two neighborhoods each for ELL and FSCC – 9-11 am and 4-6pm gathering times, while there is one ECSR neighborhood which meets from 4-6pm. Neighborhood meeting times may change to meet the needs of the participants.



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Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is a great time to be working for MSU. It is especially exciting to be involved with the College of Education's outstanding leadership, faculty, staff, and high caliber students. As the Director of Development, I'm proud to be an alumna and honored to be able to work for these tremendous students. I have a deep passion for MSU and the importance of preparing students to obtain skills and knowledge for leadership roles in the state, the nation and the world.

For the past decade, I have been working at MSU and have so many wonderful memories. I will never forget the individuals that mentored and supported me when I was a student here at MSU and I'm so grateful for the scholarships that I received. I will always work hard for MSU students to ensure them that the dream of a college education can become a reality.

On behalf of the students in the college, I express sincere gratitude to the donors who make all of our scholarships possible. Our students are fortunate that alumni and friends want to help them pursue their educational goals. The scholarships were established by people who care about education, and who want to make a difference in the lives of students. Often times, I have the opportunity to hear the wonderful stories of our alumni and their experiences at MSU. Many of these stories include memories of financial hardship; these memories are often the inspiration for today's scholarships.

Take a moment to reflect on your years as a college student, and how others may have helped you achieve your goals. Consider making a gift to the students who follow in your discipline, or in the discipline of someone you admire. Gifts may be made in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Your support may be the determining factor that allows a student to complete a college degree. Gifts can be made in a variety of forms, including cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, planned legacy gifts, and bequests. You can also pledge a gift to be paid in installments or take advantage of a company match.

If you have any questions about giving to the MSU College of Education, please feel free to contact me. If you just want to chat and find out what's happening at MSU or request a personalized tour of campus, it would be my pleasure because it is always great to hear from alumni and friends of the College of Education. Also, I'm currently working with the dean to assemble the College of Education development advisory council. I can be reached by e-mail at

lucette.wildt@mnsu.edu or by phone at 507.389.5279.

Gratefully,

Lucette Wildt

Director of Development

Want to make a gift now? Click on the "Give to MSU" link at <http://www.mnsu.edu> and support students in the College of Education. Prefer the mail option? Please make checks payable to the MSU Foundation; attention Lucette Wildt, Director of Development, 126 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN 56001.

Want to volunteer? Stay connected at <http://www.mnsu.edu/alumni/volunteer/>



Heritage Members

MSU Heritage are individuals that have left a planned legacy gift to MSU. The group shares a common mission and commitment to build strong academic programs which will enable MSU students to obtain skills and knowledge for leadership roles in the state, the nation and the world. We are deeply grateful to the members listed and hope their leadership will inspire others.

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| Ogden and Elizabeth Confer | Veda Halvorson | Frank and Ann Korth |
| Ruth Cook | Lois and Alfonso Hand | Robert and Clare Kreuser |
| John and Marcia Copeland | Francis and Evelyn Hatfield | Gladys Krosch |
| Diane Coplan-Donohue and Michael Donohue | Homer and Virginia Hauke | Ervin and Geneva Kurth |