



Minnesota State University,
Mankato



College of Education
Minnesota State University, Mankato
118 Armstrong Hall
Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-389-5445
Fax: 507-389-2566
<http://www.coled.mnsu.edu/>



Congratulations to MAV ROTC!



The MSU/Gustavus ROTC Ranger Challenge Team competed this past weekend in Camp Ripley, MN. Our team placed 5th out of 10 teams. Our cadets thoroughly enjoyed themselves and competed hard. The 8 events consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test (push-ups, sit-ups, and 2-mile run), orienteering, hand grenade throw, weapons assembly/disassembly, rifle marksmanship, one-rope bridge, patrolling, and culminated with the 10-kilometer ruck (full pack) march/run.

Message from the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Welcome again to the newsletter of the College of Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato! Life is good - the College remains busy and optimistic and we have welcomed many new and inspiring new faculty members. Hum, yes, life really is good, with new students, new programs, and the high energy we all bring in the fall.

We hear from external publics that we are "important" in what we are doing. This comment means more than you might think, particularly when put in context. Three years ago I facilitated a panel of school officials discussing their experiences after being identified as "schools in need of improvement" by Minnesota's interpretation of the "No Child Left Behind" Act. These educators described a feeling of public

failure despite having worked hard to educate and support children with very different backgrounds and support systems. They were clearly very motivated to find assistance and to create a plan to regain the confidence of the public, while accomplishing the needed gains in student learning. At the end of their presentation when asked who had provided assistance to them, the panelists listed consultants from around the country, other P-12 educators from across the state, and curriculum specialists from the Minnesota Department of Education. Not one mentioned a college or university faculty person. Why no college faculty? The answer was disconcerting - "we didn't see that they had the skills to help." True or not, this was a problem.

You will find evidence in this newsletter, on our website, and in our offerings that we **do** have the skills and that we **are** helping. In this newsletter you will find articles on professional development opportunities through workshops and conferences - read the article on the Adlerian Play Therapy Conference, find evidence of our response to state mandates (Q-Comp), and read about how we are developing a sense of professionalism in our Elementary & Early Childhood candidates through dialogues on values and expectations. Finally, don't miss reading about a COE graduate's hands-on experience in Louisiana, and about the dedication and commitment of a current Military Science student.

The College of Education is living its mission fuller. The col-

lege has created centers and study groups called "learning communities" to support principals, mentors, and child and family therapists. The college is supporting advanced literacy learning and certification for districts and individual teachers. We have new programs to prepare more special education teachers, and will be bringing the Early Childhood Special Education program quite soon. We are increasing collaboration across departments, the university, and school and community partners. We have also been asked to begin planning two doctoral program proposals.

So, indeed, life is good. Please learn more about what's happening - visit us on campus or on the web, and find a way to be involved!

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Volume V, Issue I

Fall 2005

Adlerian Play Therapy Conference Hosted by Minnesota State Mankato

By Michael Cooper

Minnesota State Mankato's Academy for Child and Family Studies hosted an Adlerian Play Therapy conference, facilitated by nationally known play therapist Dr. Terry Kottman, on Friday, Sept. 23.

The conference, in the CSU Ballroom, gave Minnesota professionals the opportunity to learn about Adlerian play therapy from the originator of the discipline. Nearly 100 school-based therapists, private practitioners, social workers, marriage and family therapists, counselors, psychologists and other professionals were in attendance.

Adlerian play therapy, developed by Kottman, is an approach to child counseling that applies the concepts of Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology to techniques and approaches in play therapy. Kottman recently founded "The Encouragement Zone," a center for therapy training, counseling, coaching and "playsshops" for adults. She was a professor of counselor education at the University of Northern Iowa for eight



School-University Partnerships.

Minnesota State Mankato is the first university in Minnesota to offer both introductory and advanced graduate Play Therapy courses for counselors.

Minnesota State Mankato's Academy for Child and Family Studies is proud to announce the hosting of "Cultural Issues in Play Therapy" Conference, presented by nationally-known authors Eliana Gil and Athena A. Drewes, on Friday, September 22, 2006.



years and a professor of counselor education and director of the Child and Family Resource Clinic at the University of North Texas for five years.

She is author of a number of articles and several books, including "Partners in Play: An Adlerian Approach to Play Therapy" and "Play Therapy: Basics and Beyond."

Counseling professionals who attended earned six hours of continuing education credit through a number of organizations, including the Association for Play Therapy, the National Board of Certified Counselors, and the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

The Academy for Child and Family Studies is a collaboration between the College of Education's Counseling and Student Personnel Department and the Center for



Above: participants in the Adlerian Play Therapy Conference hosted by the College of Education.

COE Alumna Gets Hands-On learning

Students in COE programs are encouraged, and in some cases, required, to leave the classroom and develop meaningful learning experiences for themselves. COE alumna Paula Christensen found herself elbow deep in a meaningful learning experience when she responded to a call from a friend to help with Hurricane Katrina victims.

A Wells native and COE graduate, Paula is an

education professor at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. A friend knew that volunteers from Mankato were headed their way with busloads of donated items. Paula was called to help translate Minnesota and Louisiana accents.

More than 3,000 refugees packed the town's facilities and more were housed in churches and private homes.

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College of Education: Providing relevant professional development

Taking the lead on providing relevant professional development, the College of Education and the Center for School-University Partnerships (CSUP) has hosted two workshops for area educators on Teacher Evaluation Systems. Held on September 26th and October 12th, the workshops offered nine hours of professional development time on developing and implementing teacher evaluation systems. Included as part of the discussion were two sessions on Quality Compensation for Teachers, or Q-Comp.

Designed to help with the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers for Minnesota classrooms. Q-Comp was enacted by the Minnesota legislature in July 2005. The Q-Comp program has five components (1) career ladders for teachers, (2) job-embedded professional development, (3) Instructional observations and standards-based assessments, (4) measures to determine student growth, and (5) alternative teacher compensation or performance pay. Q-Comp is based on a national program called Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) that has been implemented in states across the country and piloted over the past

year in Minneapolis and Waseca school districts.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Education is recommending the implementation of Q-Comp in a series of stages. After submission of an application (letter of intent) from interested districts, Stage 1 is a transition year with development of a program and evaluation and assessment tools. Stage 2 is approval of the program and hiring of teacher leaders, forming instructional leader teams and developing a calendar of Q-Comp focused professional development. Stage 3 is full implementation with job-embedded professional development sessions and teacher observation.

In addition to providing the September and October workshops to assist districts in addressing the Q-Comp application, the College of Education and CSUP offer course work and customized professional development designed to compliment Q-Comp staff development requirements. Check out our fall schedule at <http://devweb2-ed.its.mnsu.edu/csuf/qcomp/coursework.html>.

There are lots of ways to stay connected! Stop in and see us at www.coled.mnsu.edu!

COE Alumni and Friends Activities



COE Summer Celebration

Perfect weather complemented a great event. COE Summer Celebration on Sunday, August 21 was hosted by Ken Pengelly, '72 alumnus, faculty emeritus, advisory council, foundation and alumni board ambassador. The twenty-eight people who attended included COE emeriti, faculty, staff, board and council members, alumni, donors, friends, parents and students.

Front row: Jeet Sausen, Antusa Bryant, Diane Berge, Bea Moosally

Back row: David Engen, Karen Williams, Nikki Griensewic, Virjean Griensewic, Ken Pengelly, Vice President David Williams, Doug Ganss, Dean Mike Miller, Joe Moosally, Mary Bents, Ben Bryant

Not pictured: Frank Birmingham, Rosemary Doescher, Max Griensewic, Marilyn Montgomery, Bill Olszewski, Sheila and Jim Schmitt, Bill and Lou Schroeder, Cecelia Shaw, Maxine Shaw and Lucette Wildt

Alumni and Friends update... Where are they now? Bill and Lou Schroeder

Former student Thelma Lou Schroeder ('76) and emeriti faculty Dr. William Schroeder have been longtime friends and supporters of MSU. Bill and Lou divide their time between Coon Rapids, MN and Lake Havasu City, AZ. Avid readers, they also spend their time with family and friends playing bridge, seeing movies and going out to dinner. Annually, the Bill and Lou Scholarship helps students in both the College of Education and the College of Allied Health and Nursing. Generous contributions like theirs allow students to concentrate more on their education and less on their financial burdens. Thanks, Bill and Lou, and all of MSU's alumni and friends! You're making a difference!



7th "Conversations Over Coffee"

On September 16, Dean Michael Miller sponsored the College's seventh "Conversations over Coffee" at Normandale Community College. All COE alumni, emeriti, donors, and friends are welcome to attend these events held periodically at various locations in the Twin Cities and on the MSU campus. Please refer to the COE's home webpage for upcoming Conversations. We hope to see you there!

Pictured: Ken Pengelly, Christopher Rasmussen, Dean Michael Miller, and MnSCU Board of Trustees Chair Robert Hoffman

Not pictured: Debra Fincham and Lucette Wildt



Military Science & Leadership: Living Core Values - Selfless Service

Captain Greg Miller, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Department of Military Science & Leadership

Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These are the Seven Core Values of the United States Army. Taught in Basic Combat Training, these values are what being a soldier is all about. I was once asked, "What is selfless service?" It took me many years to truly understand the gravity of these two simple words. Selfless service is an act of duty, honor, courage, and giving your all to the greater good while expecting nothing in return.

The cadets in the Maverick Battalion Reserve Officer Training Corps live this value everyday but one of our cadets is truly outstanding. His name is Cadet Hayato Kikuchi who is a native of Japan. Hayato Kikuchi, a junior in the Military Science & Leadership Department was so eager to join the US Army that he moved to the United States and completed three years of ROTC training at his own expense. He came to the US on a student visa because he "wanted to be a part of the best Army in the world" but cannot enlist in the Army without a green card and Pentagon regulations bar non-citizens from becoming officers.

Cadet Kikuchi came into the MAV Battalion three years ago. Hayato was progressing very well, overcoming the barrier of language and coping with the newness of military life. Last semester, Hayato was looking at commissioning this year with his peers until the issue of citizenship arose. Hayato was not a legalized US citizen and this prevented him from commissioning as an Officer in the US Army.

Hayato never lost focus on his dreams and kept in a positive frame of mind as the year passed. This past summer, Hayato attended the Leadership Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, WA with all of his peers from around the US and did very well. As Hayato entered his senior year at MSU, the answer of commissioning was still unresolved because of naturalization issues. Although his timeline of



Hayato Kikuchi is determined to become an officer in the U.S. Army

commissioning may not be aligned with his peers, he is willing to enlist in the United States Army until his naturalization is completed.

Selfless Service is a value Hayato has embodied and set an example for all of us to follow. Hayato's dream to be a commissioned officer in the United States Army may become reality due to his hard work and the support from his faculty and staff at MSU, and Congressman Gil Gutknecht.

Hayato Kikuchi – a native of Japan – is selflessly giving time, effort, and money to pursue his dreams of being a commissioned officer in the United States Army.

Be a Mentor – Help support students by signing up to be an Alumni Mentor, serving as a resource to current students who are exploring career and job opportunities. Visit <http://www.mnsu.edu/alumni/students/mentoring.html>

Elementary & Early Childhood: Developing professional teachers

Student teaching can be compared to medical school residency, student teachers practice under the guidance of a veteran and they enter the experience with expertise to share and are expected to make a contribution in their environment. Medical students undergo a series of courses and experiences to familiarize them with the field they intend to practice just like education students immerse themselves in methods courses and classroom practice. This analogy is the insight of Dave Johnson from the College of Education's Professional Development School partner Le Sueur-Henderson, and COE's Laura Bemel agrees. "We'd like our students to step into their clinical experiences with the same intention of making a professional contribution," says Bemel, a professor in Elementary & Early Childhood education. "Many of them do already, and we want to create more conversation about becoming professionals."

To facilitate this conversation, the Elementary & Early Childhood program has developed a series of professional development seminars for their undergraduate elementary education majors as they begin their experience in Block I. Immersed in methods courses, most of these students are just two semesters away from their student teaching experience. "We want our students to think of themselves as professionals as they enter the elementary classrooms of our partner districts," said Bemel.

To foster dialogue and develop a sense of shared respect and

support, EEC created opportunities outside of regularly scheduled class time where all 50 students enrolled in Block I gather to learn and discuss an issue related to their professional growth. This year, the seminars were kicked off with a session with Dean Michael Miller and Department Chair Peg Ballard encouraging the students to set high standards for themselves. Students have participated in an interactive seminar on the Domains of Teaching. Just before they go into their clinical experience they will have a seminar with Ginger Zierdt, director of Center for School-University Partnerships, and Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) who represent our partner districts. Zierdt and the TOSAs will give some perspective on what cooperating teachers and districts gain and expect when MSU students step into the classroom. Concluding this semester's seminars is a presentation by Virginia Maldonado, a predoctoral fellow and expert on collaboration between families, community and schools, particularly in diverse environments. "She'll encourage our students to look for and reflect on opportunities for these three entities to better understand each other and work together," Bemel says.

These professional dialogues will continue as students move into the next phase of the elementary education program. Student will have a chance to influence the topics and direction of future seminars with a focus on becoming part of a school community.



Meet the College of Education's New Faculty

Department of Aviation

Cheri Rohlfing

Cheri is a graduate of Minnesota State University, Mankato with a Bachelor of Science degree. She is a furloughed DC-9 First Officer from Northwest Airlines. Currently, she is a Captain on a Falcon 200 and flies part-time during the school year. In addition, she is working on her Master's Degree in Experiential Education and is very active with the MSU aviation student organizations. She is the Director and Chairperson for the Minnesota Aviation Career Education (ACE) Camp. In 2004, Cheri married another MSU aviation graduate and they have three sons.

Department of Elementary & Early Childhood:

Kasee Page

Kasee received her BA from MidAmerican Nazarene University and her M.Ed. from the University of Nevada. She has ten years of teaching experience across elementary grade levels, first through sixth, in Kansas (USD 243), Nevada (Washoe County), and Minnesota (ISD 77) public schools. After completing her leadership degree and administrator's licensure in Nevada, Kasee was acting administrator for Washoe County Schools. Her teaching emphasis with the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood is reading and literacy methods. Kasee moved to Mankato a year ago with her husband, Jonathan Page who is an assistant professor in Psychology for MSU. They have three children who attend Mankato Area Public Schools.

Virginia Maldonado

With a BA from St. Cloud State University and a MA from Concordia University, Virginia Maldonado is a licensed, Certified Family Life Educator through the National Council of Family Relations. She is currently working on a doctorate through Hamline University and is a Pre-Doctoral Fellow at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Virginia's current research is focused on understanding and creating school, family

& community partnerships. She is the Director of the Family as Faculty group at the College of Education engaging in discussions with education systems and communities to dialogue, problem solve and celebrate the unique situations experienced by families and educators in the 21st century.

Department of K-12 and Secondary Programs:

Dr. Daria Paul Dona

Dr. Dona received her doctorate from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and for the past five years has been researching and identifying variables that are correlated with the overrepresentation of minority students in special education programs. Dr. Dona is currently involved in an initiative, sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Education, to develop and deliver training for teachers aimed at increasing awareness of students' mental health needs and competencies in addressing those needs at classroom, district and community levels. Dr. Dona recently married and now has four wonderful children; three of which are in high school and the oldest attending law school.

Dr. Lara W. Kessler

Dr. Kessler received her doctorate from the University of Virginia, where she examined the relationships among and between teachers' decision-making abilities, their in-class behaviors, and pupils' gains in achievement. Dr. Kessler brings to the department a diverse perspective on instruction, having taught in a variety of locations around the world: Guayaquil, Ecuador through a service-learning experience, Hungary while in the Peace Corps, and Japan, as a Fulbright Memorial Scholarship recipient. In her spare time she enjoys reading novels, playing Scrabble, and spending time with her son, husband, and two dogs.

Check our next issue for our other new faculty!

Clinical & Field Experience: Welcome to our new Assistant Director



Lori Bird has joined the College of Education faculty as the Assistant Director of Clinical & Field Experience. Lori is responsible for placement of all students who have clinical experience requirements for their education courses. During any given semester, the number of placements made in public schools and area agencies approaches or even exceeds 800! In addition, Lori will be developing coursework and other opportunities regarding mentorship and induction programs for new teachers.

Lori comes to MSU with many years of service to public schools, including teaching experience in special education, elementary education, and district-wide mentoring and staff development programs. Lori was a supervisor of student teachers as well as a Teacher on Special Assignment with MSU's Center for School-University Partnerships.

Watch for exciting information about a new Mentor Network, for which a kick-off event will be held at MSU on Saturday, January 21st, 2006, from 9 am-3 pm. This

event, *Celebration of Mentoring 2006*, will be open to students, faculty, teachers, administrators, and other individuals interested in hearing about the national and regional perspective of teacher induction. Keynote address will be presented by author and practitioner, Annette Breau, nationally known for her work in induction and mentoring.

Additional details regarding breakout sessions and registration are forthcoming. Questions can be directed to lori.bird@mnsu.edu

Looking for ways to help the College of Education?

Make a donation.

Volunteer your time and talent.

Recruit a prospective undergraduate or graduate student.

Share this newsletter with family, friends and colleagues.



Counseling & Student Personnel: Local Community Partnering

In keeping with the mission of the College of Education, the Counseling and Student Personnel Department is committed to helping children, families, and communities succeed. This commitment is realized not only through the department's preparation of skilled helping professionals who serve educational and mental health organizations, but also through the department's partnerships with local schools and community agencies. Three current partnerships allow CSP faculty and students to apply their interests and expertise to address important community needs.

In partnership with the Mankato YWCA, Dr. John Seymour and Dr. Anne Blackhurst are conducting research that will help improve conditions for girls in District 77. This partnership is a direct result of the 2004 summary of Minnesota Student Survey data, which indicates that girls in the district are at risk for feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness, as well as suicidal ideation and behavior. Summary data indicate that girls in the Mankato area are at greater risk than boys in Mankato and are also more vulnerable than girls in rest of the state. At the request of the Mankato YWCA, Drs. Seymour and Blackhurst will analyze the raw survey data to identify factors associated with psychological distress and risky behavior among District 77 girls. Findings will be shared with the Mankato YWCA and other community organizations, which will use the data to improve programs and services for girls in the Mankato area.

In another partnership involving the Mankato public schools, Dr. Rick Auger and Dr. Anne Blackhurst are in the midst of a 10-year longitudinal study of children's educational and career aspirations. The intent of this study is to learn more about how students make decisions about their careers and their postsecondary educational plans—and how factors such as gender expectations, family influences, and knowledge about careers and college impact these decisions. The first wave of data was

collected during the 2000-2001 school year, when students in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades were interviewed about their career and college perceptions and plans. Students were re-interviewed during the 2002-2003 school year, when they were in the 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades, and again during the 2004-2005 school year, when they were 5th-, 7th-, and 9th-graders. Follow-up interviews will be conducted every two years, through the students' 11th grade year. In addition to adding to the knowledge base in career guidance, the study seeks to provide information that will help Mankato educators assist District 77 students in making sound decisions about their postsecondary plans.

A final partnership involves both CSP faculty and students with assisted living and nursing home facilities in the Mankato community. Students in Dr. Joanne Brandt's course on Counseling the Older Adult will augment their classroom experiences by spending time with older adults who live in the facilities. Each student will develop an ongoing relationship with an older adult, with whom the student will meet weekly throughout the semester. Students will also lead weekly group sessions to assist residents with adjustment and transition concerns, feelings of isolation and loneliness, and the development of meaningful relationships and activities. The course—and the partnership with local facilities for older adults—acknowledges the importance of understanding and responding to the needs of the growing older adult population.

Together, these partnerships reflect the missions of the College of Education and the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel—as well as Minnesota State University's commitment to service. They provide an opportunity for the CSP department to serve the local community while enriching the educational and professional experiences of students and faculty.

K-12 & Secondary Programs: Professional Development Options

Professional development is an essential component in the lives of today's K-12 teachers, and research indicates that fully 73% of surveyed teachers cite the desire to improve student achievement as the main reason for engaging in continued professional growth. In response to the needs of teachers at varying points in their professional lives, the Department of K-12 and Secondary Programs (KSP) has begun tailoring programs to meet the needs of teachers at a variety of places in their professional lives. The following two examples illustrate some of the ways in which we are supporting practicing teachers in their efforts to improve student learning.

KSP has embarked on an exciting collaborative project with the St. Peter Public Schools. Together we are supporting the work of a cohort of 14 St. Peter teachers as they seek advanced professional certification through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). It was the enthusiasm and foresight of Superintendent Jeffrey Olson, and High School Principal, Paul Peterson, which sparked this process. In meetings with KSP faculty, a ten-credit NBPTS academic support program was designed and implemented in Summer 2005. Consisting of three credits of summer seminars, two three-credit academic-year courses, and a one-credit capstone, the program is facilitated by adjunct faculty member, Dr. Ruth Heilman, an NBPTS-certified teacher. Informal assessments at the close of summer term indicate that teachers, administrators and faculty are highly pleased with the program's effectiveness.

The redesigned Master of Science in Teaching and Learning is up and running with five courses offered this fall semester. KSP faculty have been visiting area K-12 schools, inviting teachers to join us for a course, a

3-credit option or the entire program. On 26 October, we will host an information/registration session from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Normandale Community College for interested Metro-area teachers. We are looking forward to Spring 2006 with the following course offerings:

KSP 609: Research Methods (3 cr.)

KSP 610: Scholarly Writing (3 cr.)

KSP 611: Action Research to Improve Student Learning (3 cr.)

KSP 619: Technology Integration for the K-12 Teacher (3 cr.)

KSP 629: Communicating Electronically with the Learning Community (3 cr.)

KSP 641: Classroom Learning Communities (3 cr.)

KSP 644: School, Family and community Partnerships (3 cr.)

KSP 663: Curriculum Management

For further information on either the NBPTS Certification program or the Master of Science in Teaching and Learning, contact:

Scott Page, Graduate Coordinator
313 Armstrong Hall, Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: (507) 389-1965

Fax: (507) 389-5751

Toll Free: (800) 722-0544

Email Inquiries: scott.page@mnsu.edu