During the conference, DeLong sends a link to the student along with instructions to set up the capability. The students log into MSU’s server connecting remotely to the system. They have a web cam and microphone system to respond to DeLong. The web cam is purchased by the student for $175. The camera is purchased through a grant funded by MnSCU and written by K-12 & Secondary Programs’ Dr. Scott Page. The program began implementation the summer of 2005.

As a result, DeLong has cut about 1,400 miles from her schedule by video conferencing. That’s what Ed. Leadership’s Dr. Loretta DeLong has found since she started video conferencing. The system can accommodate more than one user for conferencing with multiple sites at one time. “I’m still doing some site visits for those students that don’t have the technology,” DeLong notes. “The software is currently compatible only with Windows, but not with Macintosh computers.”

The ed/pb Web Conferencing application can also work for other real world applications such as real-time collaboration of a document shared by educators and/or observing students in the field. Dr. Page is piloting the use of the software in his department for conferencing and observing students.

The software developer, WireHead, has been very accommodating,” said Page. “They are helping to get this going and providing software to the students that is usable with Mac.” Plans call for the ability to interface with Mac users in Fall 2006.

The pinning ceremony comes at the end of Student IMPACT day. As part of the student teaching experience, licensure candidates prepare a research project detailing their activities designed to increase student achievement. After their research presentation, candidates do a mock interview with working professionals – usually a principal and/or human resource director. As a cap to the day, the pinning ceremony recognizes undergraduate and graduate initial teaching licensure graduates.

The profession of education is an honorable calling and pinning is a reflection of our students’ accomplishments and potential,” said Dr. Kitty Foord, Director of Clinical and Field Experiences. “It is the way the College of Education welcomes its new members into the profession.”

IMagine finding 25 extra hours in your work schedule. That’s what Ed. Leadership’s Dr. Loretta DeLong has found since she started using ed/pb – a software-based video conferencing capability that has dramatically reduced her travel time for conferences with her Educational Administration licensure candidates.

The ed/pb Web Conferencing tool is an online conferencing product designed to overcome the physical barrier users face when they need to present information, observe, or hold a meeting when others are located in different cities and cannot travel to a central meeting location. The system was purchased through a grant funded by MnSCU and written by K-12 & Secondary Programs’ Dr. Scott Page. The program began implementation the summer of 2005.

As a result, DeLong has cut about 1,400 miles from her schedule by video conferencing with her interns using no more than a web cam and speaker/microphone system. “With a minimal hardware investment, I can conference with my interns in the field,” DeLong says. “Not only does that save in drive time and travel expenses for me, it provides the students with valuable technology experience.”

Part of the academic requirements for Ed. Leadership is a two-semester long administrative internship experience at a cooperating school or district. With 15 students anywhere from Mountain Lake (55 miles) to Worthington (107 miles), DeLong was spending a significant portion of her time driving to each site. Sitting at her computer with a web cam and speaker/microphone system, DeLong can meet with her students and cooperating administrators without leaving her office.

Here’s how it works: DeLong sends a link to the student along with instructions to set up the capability. The students log into MSU’s server connecting remotely to the system. They have a web cam and speaker/microphone system to respond to DeLong. The web cam is purchased by the student for $175.

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Minnesota State University, Mankato
Spring 2006
NEWSLETTER
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College of Education
Minnesota State University, Mankato
118 Armstrong Hall
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-389-5445
Fax: 507-389-2566
http://ed.mnsu.edu/

Message from the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Welcome to the Spring 2006 newsletter of the College of Edu-
cation! We are sharing some of our particularly meaningful achievements and activities from the last few months. In this edi-
tion you will find what we have been doing as a team and what is new on campus.

You’ll hear about the new trends in Aviation teaching, from new technology to new teaching method-
s. You’ll see pictures from events and meet a COE alum who is making her mark with writing.

One of our most meaningful activities is in the area of diversity. Please take a moment to read the article about the presentation made by Dean Fernando Delgado from the College of Graduate Studies and Research. Dean Delgado notes that it is “intentional institutional action” that brought him to MSU and he highlighted the importance of this action to our faculty.

The College of Education has been “in conversation” about diversity for some time. We have a standing diversity committee and a detailed and multifaceted plan. We have engaged in many faculty development initiatives to become more informed and have “multicultural competencies” as a faculty member.

The College of Education is a rich and diverse community. As a College of Education, we have a moral imperative to be certain that all graduates leave with the perspective and exper-
ience to do well in communities and schools with all students. It is the

Minnesota Kindergarten Association Conference

Minnesota Kindergarten Association Conference

Collaborative Teaching in China

Emerging Trends in Aviation

COE Alumni and Friends Activ-

Innovations Becomes an Author

MSU and Service to Country

Camp Adventure

More information can be found at www.csu.mnsu.edu. The registration deadline is	
April 21, 2006 and cost for the conference is $75 (includes membership to MKA). Cost to register after April 21 is $85.

Inside this issue:

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Dean Miller’s Message

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Published by Corporate Communications

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Collaborative Teaching in China

Providing leadership in the use of technology in education is a collaborative effort of Dr. Ron Browne and Dr. Linda Good and the Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department. In January 2006, Browne and Good accepted an invitation from Hong Kong’s Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) to deliver a presentation and four workshops to preschool teachers in Hong Kong, China. The presentation focused on using the technology of computers and digital cameras in preschool settings, while the workshops focused on using digital photos for curriculum development, literacy enhancement, classroom management, and communication with parents. The workshops featured hands-on experiences in a computer lab and each attracted audiences of approximately twenty-five preschool teachers.

In addition to the presentation and workshops, Browne and Good toured Parkview International Pre-school in Hong Kong with members of the EMB including Andrew Poon, Principal Assistant Secretary for Education and Manpower; Miranda Liu, Senior Education Officer; Kindergartens and Support; and Conny Li, Education Officer I: Kindergartens and Support. They were able to explore Hong Kong and give a tour of a new education facility that offers supplemental services for children from preschool through age twelve. In China they toured Xi’an, the world renowned terra cotta soldiers and visited a preschool in Beijing. In addition to working, Dr. Browne and Dr. Good were able to spend one evening with Dr. Michael Jin, a graduate of MSU’s College of Business. Dr. Jin is with the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

Dr. Browne and Dr. Good have been collaborating on technology in the elementary and preschool classroom since 2004. Together they have presented at national and international professional education conferences.

Aviation Education (continued from page 4)

Research on how the brain learns new information explains why some of the teaching techniques used in the Aviation Department are so effective,” McKenzie noted. “Our hands-on and active learning techniques fit with the way that the brain acquires and retains information.”

Assistant Professor Cheri Rolfing focuses on creating and implementing problem-based learning strategies into the aviation courses that she teaches. “I’ve noticed an increase in student responsiveness, interest level, and enthusiasm.” Rolfing noted. “My work on my master’s in Experiential Education is helping my transition away from a mostly lecture-based teaching style.”

Rolfing targets two areas in her curriculum development:

- Creating flight scenarios where students are involved in deciding what tasks need to be accomplished and in what order. Activities focus on what problems need to be solved and include researching these problems, discussing the resolution and reflecting on what they accomplished or learned during that session.
- Creating curriculum around a computer-based training tool that will be implemented in a course this fall. This tool, mostly funded through a CETL mini-grant, will allow students hands-on experiences with a Flight Management System (FMS) – a system found on many airlines and corporate aircraft.

“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.msu.edu/alumni/students/mentoring.html

MSU’s Diversity Depends upon Intentional Action

“Intentional action” was the focus of Fernando Delgado’s presentation at the College of Education’s Diversity Forum on February 15. Delgado credited his presence as Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Minnesota State University Mankato with the intentional action of two middle-aged white males who met as an undergraduate. The two men! His undergraduate advisor who encouraged him to get a Ph.D. and the Chair of the University of Iowa Communications graduate program who visited California campuses to recruit students. Because of the intentional individual action on the part of his undergraduate advisor and the intentional institutional action of the University of Iowa, Delgado is one of 57 Hispanic PhD’s in Communication in the United States and one of only a dozen Hispanic faculty members here at MSU.

The focus on diversity isn’t just important to him, Delgado said, it is important to this institution. Nationwide, the number of high school graduates is shrinking, making competition for students more intense. States universities like MSU are a traditional gateway to higher education for first generation college students, many of whom can be found in populations of color. An intentional approach to diversity can be the means by which MSU weathers the coming competition for students and dollars. “Intentional institutional action” means for MSU and for the College of Education that diversity plans and initiatives need to include active recruiting for diversity. Approaching potential students through student teaching contacts, through immersion programs in urban schools and through recruitment of faculty of color and staff are all ways that the College of Education can increase the diversity of their faculty, staff and student populations. Following Dean Delgado’s presentation, faculty from each department conferred about their own intentional actions with respect to recruitment, curriculum, and their own experiences with diversity.

The Diversity Forum was part of a larger focus that the College of Education has on diversity. In addition to the forum, the COE is planning a workshop on Culturally Responsive Teaching on March 22, 2006. Other activities this year have included a search committee plan that recruits faculty using journals and periodicals aimed at particular audiences of color; continuation of the Family as Faculty group that provides input and advice on diversity issues; and participation on the College of Education Diversity Committee, Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Diversity Commission and on the Greater Mankato Diversity Council.

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.msu.edu/alumni/students/mentoring.html

COE Alumni and Friends Activities

2005 Education Minnesota


2005 MSU Foundation Gala

Dean Michael A. Miller, Mary Berens, Antusa and Ben Bryant. During the 2005 MSU Foundation Gala, Antusa and Ben Bryant were recognized in the Purple and Gold Society for the Dean’s Circle for their lifetime giving of $25,000 to the College of Education.

2005 Education Minnesota

Jesi Sassen, ’05 and Lucette Wildt, ’98. Jesi was student teaching at Southview Middle School in Edina, Minne- sota, and stopped by the College of Education’s Education Minnesota booth. Jesi is a College of Education Scholarship recipient.

Volunteer your time and talent. Recruit a prospective undergraduate or graduate student. Attend a Conversations over Coffee event.

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.
**College of Education Alumna Becomes a Published Author**

“Camp Adventure: A Learning Experience Away From Home

“‘There’s nothing better than a good book,’ said Mary Johnson, a College of Education alumna, as she looked through her first novel, Lambs Dancing. “You have that sense of accomplishment, and you really don’t care if anyone else is wildly crazy about it or not.”

Lambs Dancing is a fictional story about a young school teacher, named Jennifer Naiden, who embarks on an adventure of independence in a small town she has never before seen. Through Jennifer’s eyes, the reader experiences four decades of life in rural Minnesota. The story is loosely based on Johnson’s mother, who took a teaching job, aged shameless in a small school in a cornfield. Initially, her mother was disappointed, but the job turned out to be a memorable life experience.

The book and its author are gaining popularity regionally. Besides selling 1,000 copies since its publication in May, 2004, Johnson has won a Midwest Independent Publishers’ Merit Prize and has been invited to speak at book clubs and other gatherings.

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**MSU and Service to Country -- A Family Tradition**

CPT Amy L. Swanson, Assistant Professor of Military Science and Department of Military Science and Leadership

Leadership and education go hand-in-hand. These two attributes are exemplified in the life of Cadet Yurhru Yoelker.

Yurhru Yoelker is in her second year as an Elementary Education major and ROTC cadet. Being involved with the ROTC program has given Yoelker the confidence to lead. However, the ROTC program is more than just a course on leadership and patriotism. “ROTC has become my home away from home,” states Cadet Yoelker.

With her family over 6,000 miles away in South Korea, Yoelker has learned to depend on others and has come to love her second home.

Her role as an Elementary Education student has allowed her to delve into areas outside of her comfort zone. As part of a service learning component, she will be working with Leisure Education for Exceptional People (LEEP), an organization that provides recreational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. These experiences will serve as a foundation for her various leadership roles, whether in the Army or in the education field.

Leadership is the core component of who I am as an educator. As a future teacher, I will need to be a role model and exemplify leadership. ROTC gives that to me.” She goes on to say, “My confidence in who I am as a person and as a leader has grown.

The Yoelker family has a strong and proud tradition of serving education and service to the United States of America. This tradition began with her grandfather and continues today with Cadet Yurhru Yoelker. Yurhru’s father serves in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is a MSU alumus. Following in the footsteps of her father gives Cadet Yoelker great pride. Her younger brother Bruce will carry on the tradition upon graduating from Seoul American High School in June. Bruce has been awarded a four year Army ROTC scholarship and plans on joining his sister here at MSU, Mankato.

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**Aviation Education: Facing Challenges and Changes**

Pat McKenzie, chair of the Aviation Department is focusing on the new certification requirements driven by the development of Technologically Advanced Aircraft (TAA). “Developments in the new aircraft challenge the definition of ‘complex aircraft,’” said McKenzie. “Throttle controls and flight display systems are just two of the factors that call for a change in the way the Federal Aviation Administration certifies commercial pilots.”

McKenzie attended the Council on Aviation Accreditation/University Aviation Association joint conference hosted by Alabama’s Auburn University in February 2006. Featured at the conference were workshops and forums on aviation education and technology, and a special seminar on brain-based learning. This

(continued on page 5)