



Minnesota State University,
Mankato



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2005 Pinning Ceremony



Jeremy Steffensmeier and EEC's Dr. Linda Good at the December 2005 Pinning Ceremony. The ceremony includes a welcome from the College of Education's Dean Michael A. Miller, introduction by Student Relations Coordinator, Cheryl Kalakian, and greetings from each of the College of Education's Department Chairs. Each program's faculty and student teaching supervisors recognize and pin the students graduating from their program.

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."

Message from the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Welcome to the Spring 2006 newsletter of the College of Education! We are sharing some of our particularly meaningful achievements and activities from the last few months. In this edition you will find what we have been doing to further our teaching with technology through e/pop software and digital cameras. You'll hear about the new trends in Aviation teaching, from new technology to new teaching methods. You'll see pictures from some 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 competence". Our faculty regularly review curriculum and teaching practices to be certain we are teaching what and how we should, and we continue to commit to new ways to recruit and retain a richly diverse faculty and student body.

It is right that our college commit the time and the re-

sources to diversity initiatives. Our region of the world is becoming increasingly diverse and we must provide educational access and empowerment to all members of our society. Solutions to achievement gaps for specific subsets of our population are not easily remedied, and we have a responsibility to help everyone to succeed and thrive. Diversity of thought, experience, culture and language deepens the quality of our educational considerations and outcomes for all students. Indeed, education within a richly diverse community is a richer education.

As a College of Education, we have a moral imperative to be certain that all graduates leave with the perspective and expertise to do well in communities and schools with all students. It is the

mission and the deliverable that all the people living in our region expect and deserve. I urge all of us to start intentional individual action to further the positive impact of diversity in our lives.



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Educational Leadership: E/POP

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

The e/pop 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 server and software were 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 webcam 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 student 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 e/pop. The students have a web cam and speaker/microphone system to respond to DeLong. The web cam is purchased by the student for



During the conference, the participants can share documents and PowerPoint presentations. 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 for Macintosh computers."

The e/pop Web Conferencing application can also work for other real world applications such as real-time collaboration with document sharing, training and/or observing students in the field.

Dr. Page is piloting the use of the software in his department for conferencing and observing student teachers. "The software developer, WiredRed, has been very accommodating," said Page. "They are helping to get this project going by rewriting software to MSU specs and are working on making sure this is usable with Mac." Plans call for the ability to interface with Mac users in Fall 2006.

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Minnesota Kindergarten Association Conference

MSU's College of Education and the Center for School and University Partnerships (CSUP) is proud to sponsor and host the 2006 Minnesota Kindergarten Association's annual conference. Scheduled for May 5 & 6, 2006 in MSU's Centennial Student Union, the conference is designed to bring well-known speakers, authors, and illustrators together to discuss and reflect on the kindergarten experience.

The conference opens Friday, May 5 with registration from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. The welcome address from Dr. Michael Miller, Dean of the College of Education begins at 6:00, followed by music from Dennis Warner. At 7:00 the featured speaker, Rosemary Wells, presents *Celebrating the Wonder of Literature: an Evening with Rosemary Wells*. Wells is a well-known author and leader of a national literacy campaign aimed at encouraging parents to read with their children.

Saturday, May 6 opens with a general meeting led by the president of the Minnesota Kindergarten Association (MKA). Featured presenters in the morning include author John Archambault and musician David Plummer, sponsored by the Childcraft

Education Corporation. Also speaking in the morning is Peggy Campbell-Rush, an author and staff developer who focuses on kindergarten education. The afternoon is devoted to breakout sessions, workshops and exhibits.

"Kindergarten teachers from 8 school districts met at MSU over the past year to plan for the conference," said Susan McWilliams, Chair of the 2006 Conference. "We are very grateful for the sponsorship of MSU's CSUP office to assist in planning." Events and speakers were planned to address Minnesota's kindergarten teachers' needs and interests, but the conference is open to students from MSU and other Minnesota colleges and universities as well as local early childhood and primary-grade teachers and kindergarten teachers from Iowa and South Dakota.

More information can be found at www.ed.mnsu.edu/mka. 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.



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 Mankato with the intentional action of two middle-aged white males who he 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 Ph.D.'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. State 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 this 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.mnsu.edu/alumni/students/mentoring.html>

COE Alumni and Friends Activities



2005 Education Minnesota

Jeet Sausen, '05 and Lucette Wildt, '98 Jeet was student teaching at Southview Middle School in Edina, Minnesota, and stopped by the College of Education's Education Minnesota booth. Jeet is a College of Education Scholarship recipient.



← 2005 Education Minnesota
Dean Michael Miller, Stomper- Cheryl Kalakian, Sandra Jessen, Ginger Zierdt, Susan McWilliams, Loretta DeLong and Kitty Foord at Education Minnesota in the St. Paul Rivercenter in St. Paul. Not pictured: Rick Auger, Peg Ballard, Ron Browne, Patricia Hoffman, Chris Mickle, Scott Page, Walter Roberts, Linda Underwood and Lucette Wildt



← 2005 MSU Foundation Gala
Dean Michael A. Miller, Mary Bents, 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.

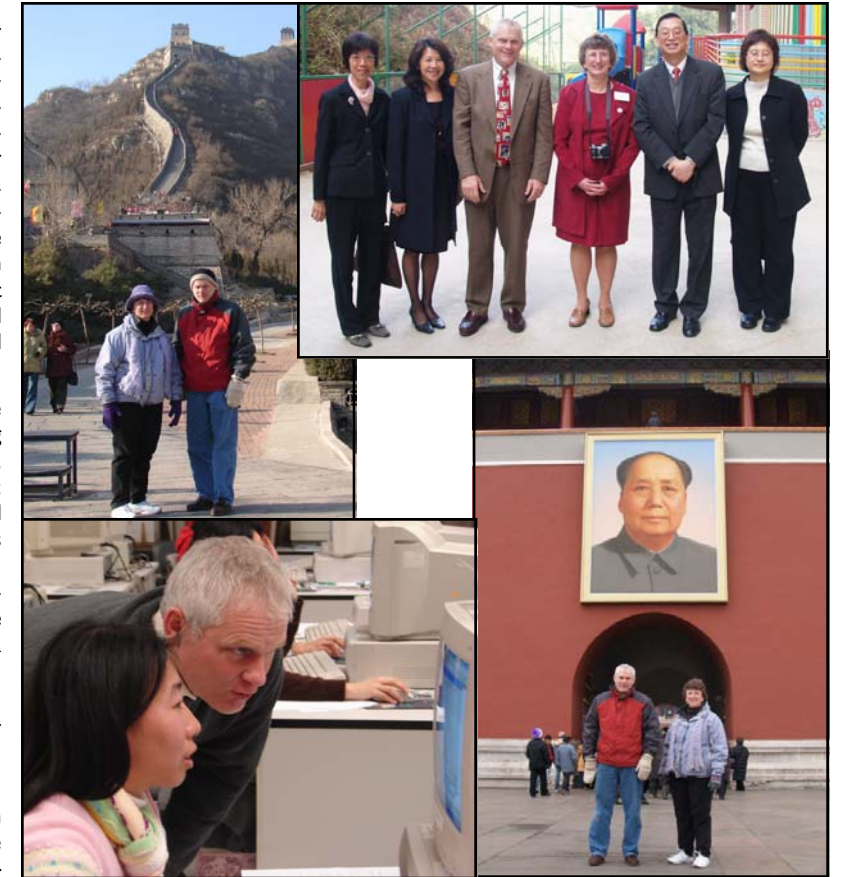


Collaborative Teaching in China

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, literary 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 Preschool 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 given a tour of a new education facility that offers supplemental services for children from preschool through age twelve. In China they toured Xian's 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.



Clockwise from top left: Good and Browne at the Great Wall; Education and Manpower representatives; Browne and Good in the Forbidden City; and Browne during a workshop.

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 Roling 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," Roling noted. "My work on my master's in Experiential Education is helping my transition away from a mostly lecture-based teaching style."

Roling 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 airline and corporate aircraft.

"I believe that because of this approach, our graduates will be better qualified and more confident as they start their careers as professional pilots," Roling said.

In addition to exposing her students to this new approach, Roling is hoping to present the results of these changes, along with the philosophy and elements of experiential education, to the University Aviation Association conference this fall. She has submitted a proposal to lead an education session on this topic and looks forward to the opportunity if selected.

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.
Attend a Conversations over Coffee event.



College of Education Alumna Becomes a Published Author

"I've found it's a wonderful way to empty your cup," Mary Johnson, a College of Education alumna said regarding her first novel *Lambs Dancing*. "You have that sense of accomplishment, and you don't really care if anyone else is wildly crazy about it or not."

Lambs Dancing is a fictional story about a young school teacher named Jensine Neilson, who embarks on an adventure of independence in a small town she has never seen before. Through Jensine's eyes, the readers experience four decades of life in rural Minnesota. The story is loosely based on Johnson's mother, who took a teaching job, sight unseen, 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 have been 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.



"One of the biggest perks I get from all this," she said, "is all the different book clubs I've talked to and all the interesting people I've met. It's such a joy."

Born in Ocheyedan, Iowa, in 1938, Johnson and her five siblings were raised on a small farm near Round Lake in southwestern Minnesota. She attended a small school much like the one in *Lambs Dancing* and went on to graduate from Mankato State University. She taught middle school and high school English in the Buffalo School District for 29 years. Formerly Monticello residents, she and her husband, Carl, now live on Lake Pulaski. They have five children, and eight grandchildren.

Lambs Dancing is now also available online through Amazon Books, Ingram, Baker and Taylor, Barnes & Noble and at Beavers-PondPress.com.

Left: Mary Johnson, author of "Lambs Dancing," at home on Lake Pulaski. (Photo by Katie Friedman)

MSU and Service to Country -- A Family Tradition

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

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

Yunhui Voelker is in her second year as an Elementary Education major and is a ROTC cadet. Being involved with the ROTC program has given Voelker the tools she needs to be a confident leader; however, the ROTC program is more than just a course on leadership and patriotism. "ROTC has become my home away from home," states Cadet Voelker. With her family over 6,000 miles away (Seoul, Korea), Voelker 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. Her multicultural classes give her a better understanding of other ethnic groups. These classes, combined with her Korean heritage and her time in Korea, make her less apprehensive of deploying to other countries and working alongside people from different ethnic backgrounds. These experiences will serve as a foundation for her various leadership roles, whether in the Army or in the education field. She explains, "ROTC 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 Voelker family has a strong and proud tradition of valuing education and service to the United States of America. This tradition

began with her grandfather and continues today with Cadet Yunhui Voelker. Yunhui's father serves in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is a MSU alumnus. Following in the footsteps of her father gives Cadet Voelker great pride. Her younger brother Bruce will carry on the tradition upon graduating from Seoul American High School in June, 2006. Bruce has been awarded a four year Army ROTC scholarship and plans on joining his sister here at MSU, Mankato.

Cadet Voelker looks forward to earning her degree and being commissioned as an Army officer. She currently serves as the Learning Community Coordinator for other Elementary Education students, participates in several intramural sports, volunteers for the ROTC Color Guard, and competed in the Army ROTC's rigorous two-day Ranger Challenge Competition.

Cadet Voelker plans on serving in the Active Duty Army after graduation. After serving in the Army, she hopes to continue to work for the Department of Defense (DOD), but in a different capacity from a military officer. Her long term goals include teaching in the DOD school system on military bases. This is a highly competitive field, but Cadet Voelker is already showing the confidence, competence and compassion needed to influence the next generation as an educator and a leader.



Camp Adventure: A Learning Experience Away From Home

Wanted: Education students to spend a semester or summer working forty to forty-five hours per week in a military child care center. Opportunities exist in Germany, Italy or the Florida Keys. Students must provide their own passports and purchase a uniform for \$75. Transportation, housing, a living stipend of approximately \$616 per month, and twelve credits from the University of Northern Iowa are provided.



Since spring semester 2005, nine students from MSU's Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department have answered this call. The job is with Camp Adventure, a unique opportunity for education students to assist in childcare centers that serve the children of soldiers and their families who are granted 30-day vacation periods before and after tours of duty in Iraq. As Early Childhood Education major Jackie Scholz says, "It is the best experience to live in a country overseas. You meet people your age, and get paid for it. Plus it is a resume builder."



Participating students have been housed in army barracks, in apartments or in hotels. On their free weekends, students have opportunities to travel. "It is a great opportunity to see Europe and save a lot of money doing it," said Abby Dumdie. Students have traveled to Paris and other parts of France; to Frankfurt, Berlin, Rothenberg, Heidelberg, Ulm and Cologne in Germany; Venice, Florence, Rome and other cities in Italy; Prague in the Czech Republic; Austria, Croatia, Poland, Belgium, Amsterdam and Switzerland.

The benefits of such a program are enormous: students receive a paid work experience, free college credits, and the opportunity to travel. Students make new friends among the other students working at Camp Adventure, the soldiers and their families and the people they encounter on their travels. "It was a wonderful experience," Jackie Vagle said. "After I came back, I had a better perspective on so much in my life. This experience should be a requirement for education majors. I was able to learn so much about myself and others."

Camp Adventure is one way the Minnesota State University, Mankato's College of Education facilitates international experiences for their students. Serving as an intern in the Camp Adventure program broadens their knowledge base and better prepares them for the global economy. For students who have completed their sophomore year and have a minimum 2.3 GPA, Camp Adventure can open new doors. "Before we left, the Army offered all interns that wanted to stay, full-time jobs with housing paid for," said Elementary Education major Amanda Kappes. "This experience opened my eyes to the possibility of working in another country in the Department of Defense schools."



There are lots of ways to stay connected! Stop in and see us at <http://ed.mnsu.edu>

Aviation Education: Facing Challenges and Changes

The high cost of fuel, an extremely competitive business environment and rapidly changing technology are hallmarks of the Aviation field. Learning to adapt in a changing business and technological environment is key to long-term success in the industry. To meet these challenges, MSU's Department of Aviation in the College of Education is changing what students learn and how they learn it.

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 chal-

lenge the definition of 'complex' aircraft," said McKenzie. "Throttle controls and flight instrument displays 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)