Conferences and Professional Development Events at the College of Education

There are many ways the College of Education strives to be responsive to the changing world of education. Ongoing new course development, web conferencing, online classes and expanded professional development opportunities are some of these key activities. Another way the college endeavors to answer the needs of education is to serve as a hub for discussion on educational topics in the region. Evidence of our activity was everywhere this fall as the College hosted three conferences for educators, practitioners, students, parents and all those interested in the vocation of education.

Cultural Issues in Play Therapy
September 22, 2006
Continuing from the successful Adlerian Play Therapy Conference hosted by the College of Education in Fall 2005, the Academy for Child and Family Studies (a collaboration between the Counseling and Student Personnel Department and the Center for School University Partnerships) offered the a Cultural Issues in Play Therapy on September 22, 2006. This one-day workshop was designed to stimulate interest and find practical ways of prioritizing cultural sensitivity and skill-building in clinical work with children and their families. The workshop was based on the book Cultural Issues in Play Therapy and was presented by editors Drs. Eliana Gil and Athena Drewes. The audience included a range of professionals from locations across the state and bordering areas of the state as well as alumni and current students. The topic was chosen in recognition of the cultural changes occurring in our region and the need for professionals to be prepared to respond to those changes.

Progressive Educators Networking Conference
September 22 - 23, 2006
Facilitating the conversation on public school transformation, the College of Education along with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Educational Leadership Department, the Center for School-University Partnerships, EdVisions and Wisconsin River Academy, brought together some of the leaders in the field of progressive education. Conference participants were selected to represent a continuum extending from more traditional teacher directed project schools to non-traditional student centered project schools. Participants included:

- The Big Picture Company (MET Schools) from Rhode Island, a launching pad organization for personalized, individualized student-centered schools.
- EdVisions Schools – a grade 7-12 public charter school based in Henderson, MN.
- Expeditionary Learning Outbound – a nonprofit school improvement and teacher development network based in New York.
- Coalition for Essential Schools (CES) – a network of schools, centers, organizations and individuals that adhere to the CES Common Principles, a set of beliefs about the purpose and practice of schooling.
- Wisconsin River Academy – a field-based science and integrated curriculum charter school located in Stevens Point Wisconsin.
- Dakota Meadows Middle School – a Mankato, Minnesota traditionally based middle school implementing project-based learning throughout its curriculum.

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Midwest Regional Special Education Law Conference
October 31-November 1, 2006
Providing perspectives from legal experts, higher education, school psychology and other areas immediately impacted by the reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the nation’s top experts on Special Education law convened at Minnesota State University Mankato on October 31 and November 1, 2006. The 2004 reauthorization of this landmark legislation that provides for free appropriate public education to children with disabilities has generated confusion and concern among the state and local education agencies struggling to fully implement the law as intended.

Bradt filled the post of interim Dean of the College before the current Dean, Michael A. Miller, was hired. "Joanne was direct, honest, and possessed great integrity. She was a very strong leader," Miller said. "Her friendships were rich and deep, and she was a nurturing mentor to many."

Her nurturing side showed with her family also. She dedicated her life to her family, and loved spending time at her lake home and traveling with friends. Her survivors include Dr. Jon Kalinowski; two sons, Paul and Michael Brandt-Kalinowski and two step-sons, Thomas (Erin) and Robert (Meagan) Kalinowski.

"Joanne was an admired and valued colleague who will be sorely missed by the students, staff and faculty of the CSP department," said Anne Blackhurst, former CSP chair and acting dean of the College of Graduate Studies. "We will miss her forthrightness, her commitment and pride in the department and the students and her great laugh that brought a smile to our faces."

The Counseling & Student Personnel Department has established the Joanne E. Brandt Memorial Scholarship fund in honor of their colleague. Alumni and friends wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund may do so through the MSU Foundation. Please mail checks to University Development, 121 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN 56001. You may also call Rick Auger in Counseling & Student Personnel at 507-389-5725.

Continued from page 1

In Memory of Joanne Brandt

On August 18, 2006 the Department of Counseling & Student Personnel and the College of Education lost a close friend and respected member. Dr. Joanne Elizabeth Brandt died as the result of an accidental fall at her lake home in Hackensack, Minnesota.

"Joanne was very genuine, intelligent and very human," said Rick Auger, interim chair of Counseling & Student Personnel (CSP). "She was dedicated to the success of the department and its students." Walter Roberts, a long time associate in the department agreed. "Joanne was one of the most genuine people you could ever meet," noted Roberts. "She was intuitive, could see right through fakery, and was willing to fight the good fight for what she believed in."

Bradt’s academic achievements were significant. She was a faculty member of Counseling and Student Development at Minnesota State from 1984 until present, Chairperson of the Department of Counseling and interim Dean of the College of Education. "She was an accomplished clinician," Diane Coursol (CSP) commented, "but was always down-to-earth, and never expected special treatment."

Looking for more? "Save the date" for the following conferences and events:

In-Home Family Therapy: Models & Best Practices December 15, 2006 8:30 - 4:30 Sponsored by the Center for School-University Partnerships and the Institute for Continuous Improvement. For more information contact csup@mnsu.edu

Words of Art: Capturing Story in Visual and Written Language February 2, 2007 8:30-3:30 Sponsored by the Center for School-University Partnerships, the Literacy Center and the College of Education. For more information contact csup@mnsu.edu

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 www.mnsu.edu/alumni/students/mentoring.html
Learning is Experiential

“Teacher-friendly” and “inspirational” are two phrases that Mary Jost uses when describing the Experiential Education program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. From the convenient class time (4:30 - 7:30 P.M.) to the hands-on practical class content and activities, the program is designed to provide the interested student with just a little bit more. “I started three other programs before I found this one,” Jost says. “I chose the Experiential Education program (in the Department of Educational Leadership) because it offered me what no other program did — A leadership component combined with a chance to refresh my skills in my licensure area of English and to become current in technology.”

The Master’s program in Experiential Ed is based on two fundamental assumptions: The first is that there is more to the knowing process than much of what the traditional education process assumes. Graduate students in the program are encouraged, even required, to leave the classroom and develop meaningful learning experiences for themselves. The program gives students academic credit for testing ideas and is designed for strongly self-directed individuals who want to experiment with new educational ideas.

The other fundamental assumption of the Master’s degree program in Experiential Education is that direct experience must be complemented with careful thought and reason. In this light, the core seminars are oriented toward the analysis and questioning about the fundamental theory of experiential education. In addition to the core seminar courses, students can develop their reasoning abilities by taking graduate level elective courses of the student’s own choosing. The goal of the program is to unite practical skills with scholarly abilities in the interests of the individual student.

For Jost these fundamental assumptions have led to a graduate program that fits her needs perfectly. “I had three goals for my graduate experience,” Jost stated. “I wanted to update my skills in my licensure area of English. The elective course component allowed me to do that. In addition, my graduate program had to allow me to pursue leadership training. In looking at the long-term, I may want to leave the classroom but still stay involved in education. The leadership training positions me to do that. Finally, as a Communications teacher, keeping current on technology is vital. My capstone project involves teaching iMovie (Macintosh software) to all my 7th grade students. Though the generosity of Minnesota State Mankato, I have had the opportunity to pilot this project. I wouldn’t have been able to do that in other programs.”

The flexibility of the Experiential Education program is mirrored in other Educational Leadership programs. The teacher-friendly time and format can be found in the Educational Administration and Educational Leadership offerings. What can also be found is inspiration. “Talking and learning about education inspires and informs all my teaching,” Jost says. “I have the opportunity to review and refresh my curriculum.”

Student Relations Coordinator and Cadets "Take the Plunge"

The Minnesota State University Mankato ROTC Program conducted its annual Combat Water Survival Test (CWST) on the 19th of October, 2006. Making the event even more special was the participation of Cheryl Kalakian, Student Relations Coordinator in the Office of Academic Advising for the College of Education. “Swimming in boots is not very easy,” Kalakian noted.

Donning Army boots and a combat uniform, Kalakian joined in the event with the 32 cadets of ROTC program. She completed most of the events and was pretty tired at the end of the day. “Cheryl is and continues to be a strong supporter of the Army ROTC program and has participated in the Army training in the past,” commented LTC Tom Cooper. “She attended the Army’s Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) in Fort Lewis, WA ten years ago.”

The CWST events consisted of the 25 meter swim in uniform without equipment, 15 meter swim in uniform with equipment, three meter drop (jump from three-meter diving board blindfolded, with weapon), equipment ditch (jump in from the side of the pool, take off your equipment underwater, and surface), 5 minutes of treading water, and the ten minute swim. The CWST is a commissioning requirement for cadets and can be a stressful event. Those cadets who aren’t strong swimmers often have to take swimming classes in order to improve enough to pass the event.

The Army ROTC has existed on this campus since 1981 and is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary. The mission of the ROTC programs is to commission the nation’s officer corps to motivate young people to be better citizens. The Minnesota State University ROTC program currently has 63 cadets and continues to grow.
In Step with Clinical and Field Experience

How do you produce teacher candidates who are both more effective and more likely to enter and stay with teaching? The College of Education’s Office of Clinical & Field Experiences (CFE), believes that you create a program of clinical experiences that are infused with classroom- and community-based opportunities for learning. “Our program is designed to give our candidates a broad range of experiences to bring to the classroom,” says Carol Werhan, Director of CFE. “Not only do our candidates work with students in public school settings, but they also work with students in charter schools, residents in assisted living centers and clients of Habitat for Humanity. In some instances they are encouraged to go outside of their comfort zone to ensure that they are prepared for the diverse populations they will face.”

Coordinating these experiences keeps the Office of Clinical and Field Studies a busy place. The assistant director, Lori Bird and her staff place approximately 1,000 students each semester in pre-student teaching clinicals. These clinicals are in a variety of settings designed to meet the goals of their various courses. Pat Harrington, student teacher placement coordinator, has begun the process of placing 236 students in their 16 week student teaching clinical for the spring semester.

Along with the constant activity there are some new faces. Carol Werhan began serving as the new director for CFE in August. She moved to the Mankato area last year and worked parttime in the CFE office prior to her recent appointment. Carol served as family and consumer sciences teacher educator at the University of Akron for six years before moving to Minnesota. Kris Estenson joins CFE after functioning as one of our university supervisors for student teachers for the past six years. She will be working part-time coordinating placements with Lori Bird. Also working with Lori is graduate assistant Michael Pate. Mike is a first year graduate student from Nampa, Idaho in the Industrial and Organizational Psychology program. “We’ve started the school year off running,” says Werhan. “I think it is going to be a great year.”

Meet the College of Education’s New Faculty

**Department of Aviation**

*Nihad Daidzic* received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). He obtained his PhD in Fluid Mechanics and Thermal Sciences from the Friedrich-Alexander Technical University in Erlangen-Nuremberg in Erlangen, Germany. In Europe, Daidzic worked on the rocket launcher ARIANÉ for the European Space Agency (ESA) and in 1995 he came to the USA on invitation from the Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN) and the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL).

In addition to teaching with the Aviation program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Daidzic is a visiting Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Sarajevo (Bosnia). He is a FAA certified Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) for multi-engine airplanes as well as commercial pilot for gliders, single-engine land- and seaplanes as well as a FAA “Gold Seal” flight instructor in gliders, and instrument, single- and multi-engine airplanes and has flown over 1000 parabolas (several hours of weightlessness in NASA’s “vomit comet” KC-135 (B707) microgravity simulator. Daidzic lives in Saint Peter with his Italian-born wife Roberta Zamma Gallarati and they are expecting a baby girl in January 2007.

*Craig Ruedy* received his Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from Minnesota State University, Manakato and his Master of Aeronautical Science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a concentration in Aviation Safety. Ruedy has a wide range of experience in the public and private sector and brings a strong background in aviation training to the Minnesota State Mankato program. Following his graduation from the University, Ruedy worked as a pilot for a petroleum distributor and for the State of South Dakota. After several years as a pilot for national insurance company, he worked as a commercial lines underwriter for Federated Insurance. Ruedy was recruited to work as a manager for Flightsafety International in Wichita, KS the world’s largest provider of aviation training. He worked in the Beech 1900 Airliner Program, the Super Kingair 350 Program and the Beech Premier Jet Program. He was the company Subject Matter Expert in Beech 1900 and traveled in the United States, Canada and Europe representing Flightsafety to many different governments.

As chair of the Department of Aviation, Ruedy is working on developing new classes and subjects to pass on the department’s considerable base of industry, technology, and flight experience to the students. He lives in southern Minnesota with his wife Nina.

**Department of Counseling & Student Personnel**

*Jennifer Pepperell* received her BS from Whittier College in California, her MS from Avila College in Missouri and her PhD from Oregon State University last spring in Counselor Education. Before getting her doctorate, she spent several years working as a clinician in both schools and shelters. She has primarily worked with children and adolescents.

Pepperell’s primary area of interest is in the social and emotional development of girls. She moved to Mankato in the summer with her husband Peter, who is a computer programmer, and two children ages 5 and 2 1/2.

**Department of Educational Leadership**

*Elia Dimayuga-Bruggeman* received her BS in Business Ed. and Spanish; and earned her MS in Spanish from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She completed her post-graduate degrees in Education Administration: K-12 Principal and Superintendent also from the University. Dimayuga-Bruggeman has been involved in education for 22 years; she has 12 years of teaching experience across secondary and college level,
and has been a high school principal for 10 years. She has been a local, state and national speaker on migrant education, a recipient of the Clarence E. Harris Humanitarian Award at Minnesota State Mankato, and in 2001, Dimayuga-Bruggeman was appointed by the Governor to the Chicanos Latino Affairs Council to advise the Legislature on Chicano/Latino issues where she is currently active and involved.

Presently, Dimayuga-Bruggeman is pursuing her Doctorate, having just received a fellowship from Minnesota State Mankato. She and her husband Mark, have four children: Venessa, Erica, William, and Brianna and a grandchild named Natalie.

Department of Elementary & Early Childhood

Lillian Duran is a Doctoral Candidate in Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota. She has a MA in Early Childhood Special Education from The George Washington University in Washington D.C. and a BA in Elementary Education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH. Duran worked as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher in Prince George’s County, MD and in rural southcentral Minnesota both as an Infant Home Visitor and Preschool Teacher for a total of ten years. Duran’s research interests include early bilingual language development and designing early childhood programs that best support young English Language Learners.

Duran and her husband live on a farm near Hanska with her three children ages 17, 11, and 4 and four horses, eight barn cats, six ducks, two geese, one rogue chicken, and a little rat terrier named Bear.

Department of K-12 & Secondary Programs

Anne Dahlman received her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Minnesota. She has earned three Master of Arts Degrees: Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) from Colorado State University; German from Colorado State University; and Swedish Education from the University of Joensuu, Finland. Her teaching experience consists of teaching adult ESL (both in the US and in Finland) and foreign languages at the secondary and post-secondary levels in Fort Collins, CO and in Finland.

Dahlman teaches a variety of courses in the department of K-12 and Secondary Programs: Multicultural Communications, Middle and High School Philosophy and Testing and Assessment. Her research is on the integration of ESL and mainstream education and standards-based instruction. Dahlman lives in Eden Prairie with her husband and two primary-school aged children.

Kitty Foord joins the KSP department from Clinical & Field Experience Office where she served as director for 2 years. Kitty is focusing on the Master of Science in Teaching & Learning (MSTL) program and Professional Development.

John Solis received his AA degree from Palo Alto College in San Antonio, TX; his BA and MA from the University of Northern Iowa and his PhD in Education with a specialization in Instructional Technology from the University of Wyoming. He has 6 years of teaching experience in higher education in Iowa, Wyoming and Minnesota, particularly with preservice teachers focusing on effective utilization and integration of technology to support teaching and learning. In addition, Solis, has “just-in-time” mentoring experiences with K-12 public school teachers focusing on integrating technology to support classroom activities for specific content areas and to promote active learning.

His current teaching emphasis with the K-12 & Secondary Programs department is educational technology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Solis moved to Saint Peter from Laramie, Wyoming with his wife, Sara this summer.

Department of Special Populations

Karen Hurlbutt received her BS from the State University of New York (SUNY), Brockport, in Art for Children, with Elementary Education certification. She received her master’s degree in Special Education from SUNY Genesco and her PhD in Special Education from the University of North Dakota. Hurlbutt has worked with students and adults with autistic spectrum disorders, developmental-cognitive disabilities and emotional/behavioral disorders.

Hurlbutt’s main areas of interest are in developmental-cognitive disabilities (DCD), autistic spectrum disorders, and the transition to adult life. She will be the coordinator of the DCD collaborative program between Minnesota State University, Mankato and Normandale Community College. She lives in Chaska, Minnesota and has one college-aged daughter, Amanda, who is pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy.

Also new this year are John Moore in Military Science and Ann Schmitz in The Children’s House.

Taking Leadership in the State

Leadership at the state and national level is a focus of College of Education activities. Dr. Maureen Prenn, faculty member in Elementary and Early Childhood Education and former Coordinator of Professional Education is playing an active part in her role as President-Elect of MACTE, the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. MACTE is the Minnesota state chapter of the national organization AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education). MACTE advocates for fully licensed teachers in every classroom, full access for all students to a high quality education and to promote high and consistent standards of accountability for programs to serve the needs of all learners.

Dr. Prenn’s term as president starts in the spring of 2007 when she takes the reins from the current president, Mary Bents, Associate Dean at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. As president, Dr. Prenn will serve on the Board of Teaching’s Standards and Rules Committee, co-chair the Congress Planning Committee and is part of the Legislative Committee which works to promote the MACTE agenda in the state legislature.
PUBLICATIONS

Counseling and Student Personnel
• Dr. John Seymour had a journal article titled "Principles, principals and process (P3): A model for play therapy ethics problem solving," co-authored with Dr. Larry Rubin of Saint Thomas University, Miami, accepted to be published in the next issue of the *International Journal of Play Therapy*, the peer-reviewed journal of the Association for Play Therapy.

Elementary & Early Childhood
• Dr. Ronald Browne has completed work as a Content Consultant with Capstone Press, Mankato, MN, for four volumes in a children’s book series written by Margaret Hall: *Patterns in Nature: Hibernation; Day and Night; Phases of the Moon; and Seasons of the Year*.

K-12 & Secondary Programs
• Dr. Anne Dahlman had a paper accepted. "Second Language Pre-Service Teachers’ Accessing of Background Knowledge and the Role of Context" will appear in *Working Papers inTESOL and Applied Linguistics* published by Teachers College and Columbia University.

PRESENTATIONS

Counseling & Student Personnel
• Dr. John Seymour gave two presentations at the Immune Deficiency Foundation’s Volunteer Training Conference in Los Angeles in May 2006.

Elementary & Early Childhood
• In October 2006, Virginia Maldonado, Pre-Doctoral Fellow presented to the Minnesota State Mankato chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) about her trip to Northern International University, Magadan, Russia.

• Linda Good and Beth Sandell presented "looking at Early Childhood Education through Different Cultural Lenses" at the annual Child Care Conference of the Minnesota Valley Association for Early Childhood Education, Saturday, October 7, 2006, at South Central College, North Mankato.

• Assistant Professor Lillian Duran presented at the National Division of Early Childhood Conference (DEC) in Little Rock, Arkansas in October 2006.

• Several EEC faculty members presented seminars related to teaching English as a second language for 14 visiting educators from Thailand on October 23 & 24. Those professors are: Ron Browne, Lillian Duran, Linda Good, Sandra Jessen, and Beth Sandell.

• Assistant Professor Lillian Duran will be going to Connecticut to train Early Childhood Special Education teachers at a statewide conference about best practices with culturally and linguistically diverse populations in December 2006.

K-12 & Secondary Programs
• Dr. Anne Dahlman presented at the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) on October 26, 2006 and at the Minnesota Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (MinneTESOL) on November 4, 2006.

• Dr. Patti Hoffman presented at Education Minnesota on October 19, 2006. The title of the presentation was "English Language Learners and Culturally Responsive Teaching".

• Dr. John Solis presented on October 12, 2006 in Dallas TX at the Association for Education Communications and Technology 2006 International Convention. His presentation was entitled "A Perspective of Instructional Design as..."
a Concept and Application/Model: Building on contemporary Views of Instructional Design as a Systematic Process and Product”.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FACULTY AND STAFF

Counseling & Student Personnel
- Dr. John Seymour was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty as a Marriage and Family Therapist Member of the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, for a term continuing until January 4, 2010. Dr. Seymour was also appointed as a National Board Member of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, headquartered in Baltimore. The Foundation provides professional education, research support, family/patient education, and advocacy for people with primary immune deficiency disease.


Elementary & Early Childhood
- Virginia Maldonado, Pre-Doctoral Fellow, was taped for a cable television program, "Know your Community", (on local channel 13) shown in September 2006.

- Dr. Ronald Browne has been appointed to a three-year term as the higher education representative to the board of the Minnesota Middle School Association.

- Seven EEC faculty members are involved in PDS Learning Communities for SY 2007: Laura Bemel, Lillian Duran, Sandi Jessen, Marla Mastin, Maureen Prenn, Steve Reuter, & Elizabeth Sandell.

- Two EEC faculty members, Ron Browne and Steve Reuter, Completed the Twin Cities Marathon on October 1, 2006.

Military Science & Leadership
- SFC John Moor completed the Combat Lifesaver Course I camp Dodge, IA. The combat lifesaver is a nonmedical soldier trained to provide lifesaving measures beyond the level of self-aid or buddy-aid. A properly trained combat lifesaver is capable of stabilizing many types of casualties and can slow the deterioration of a wounded soldier’s condition until medical personnel arrive.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STUDENTS

Military Science & Leadership
- Cadet Eric Lewanski finished as the Minnesota State Mankato ROTC “Top Cadet” at the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, WA over the summer. He finished #1 out of 45 in his platoon.

- Cadets Jon DeGreef, John Honeyman, Brian Lovig, Martin Schmmele, and Jacob Juendes completed the Army Airborne School. This is a three week course designed to teach soldiers about unit cohesion, discipline, and supervision while providing quality paratroopers throughout the force. Students parachute five times from an aircraft during the course to earn the coveted “jump wings”.

- Cadet Ross Puffer completed the Cadet Field Training (CFT) at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He earned the "Recondo Badge" for his excellence in physical fitness, land navigation and leadership. The CFT is an 8-week program providing military and physical training and moral, ethical and professional development.
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, 2005 and June 30, 2006. We extend our sincerest gratitude for every generous gift. Because there are approximately 1,100 donors that give at the Friend level of $1 to $99, we are unable to list them all in the space provided. We do have all donors listed on the college website at http://ed.mnsu.edu/donors

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Meet Lucette Wildt

Lucette Wildt joined the College of Education as half time Director of Development in December of 2004 after seven years as Assistant Director of Annual Giving and then Director of Annual Giving at Minnesota State Mankato. Although her major was English with a concentration in Technical Communications, Wildt has found her niche in the fundraising world. “I really enjoy talking to alumni and friends and matching their interests with the needs of the University, College and students”, she says. As a first generation college student, Wildt enjoys connecting with the students though her work with the annual giving call center and continues as half time Director of Annual Giving. “Being a part of seeing student dreams come true is very important and fulfilling for me.”

As the development officer for the College of Education, Wildt has the task to engage and sometimes reconnect with alumni and friends while talking about supporting the College. “It is always wonderful to talk with alumni and hear where they are living and working and what paths they have traveled from their college experience.” Wildt says. She works with donors in setting up scholarships, endowments or planned gifts to ensure the future of students at the University. In addition, with Dean Miller, Wildt makes visits to alumni and friends to bring them updated information about the College, determine how they might get involved with the College, and talk with them about their support. There are 22,000 alumni and friends of the College of Education. Often Wildt encourages people to come back to Mankato to see the changes, and she offers personalized tours of the campus.

As a self-described “Air Force brat”, Wildt lived on military bases all over the U.S. and overseas and has lived in Mankato the longest. She has additional reasons to call Mankato home—she is married to Mark Wildt ‘90 a systems manager in the IT Division at Minnesota State Mankato, and they have a daughter, Jade, born May 2006.

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 in memory of a friend or loved one. Gifts can be made in a variety of forms, including cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, planned legacy gifts, and bequests. You can pledge a gift to be paid in installments or take advantage of a company match. You may contact Lucette at 507-389-5279 or by email at lucette.wildt@mnsu.edu

Notes from the Alumni Foundation

Calling all College of Education Alumni! Did you know that the number of our Minnesota State University, Mankato alumni has reached over 100,000 people? Did you know that all of those 100,000 alumni are members of the Alumni Association?

The mission of the Minnesota State Mankato Alumni Association is to engage alumni, friends, and students in ways that benefit its members and the University through opportunities that stimulate a lifetime of interest, loyalty and support.

Our objectives are simple and based around getting our alumni connected and reconnected with the University in many different ways. We strive to have meaningful contact with all our alumni. We are working to increase alumni participation in events involving the University, and we work with the student in many different ways to enhance their college experiences. We want the students to know that they will be members of the Alumni Association when they graduate. The Alumni Office has a staff dedicated to assisting you in maintaining relationships that have been important to you. Whether you are seeking a fellow classmate, searching for volunteer opportunities or if you have a question, we want to help. We also sponsor a myriad of events, alumni travel opportunities, and sell alumni mementos.

See the following website, www.mnsu.edu/alumni/ for more information on the Minnesota State Mankato Alumni Association activities.

Allan Bohlke, Class of 1986, President, Minnesota State Mankato Alumni Association Board

Looking to have a lasting impact on Minnesota State Mankato College of Education?

We have donation opportunities for scholarship, annual giving and Leave a Legacy.

Contact Lucette Wildt, Director of development at 507-389-5279 or online at https://secure.mnsu.edu/advance/.
Summa Society

The Summa Society is a new honor society initiated by Ken Pengelly, ’72 alumnus, faculty emeritus, and COE Development Advisory Council Executive Committee member. Membership in the Society is limited to those COE students who graduated summa cum laude. In recognition of their achievement, Pengelly hosted a breakfast for the graduates and their families on the morning of Spring 2006 graduation. Pictured below are (l to r) Dean Michael A. Miller, Victoria Gregus, Jamie Lyman, Victoria Russell, Sarah Smith, Erica Lorenz (back), Christine Leach, Ashley Osberg & Joan Roca, Dean of Library Services. Not pictured: David Daniels, Lucas Eaton, Sarah Moran, & Ken Pengelly.

Family Weekend

The College of Education participated in Family Weekend during October 13-15, 2006. Dr. Michael A. Miller hosted a reception to honor Dean’s List recipients and new students and families on Saturday, October 14 in the Centennial Student Union at 10:30 am. The program included remarks by the Dean and recognition of faculty members, alumni, legacy families and Learning Communities. Along with receptions held by each college the weekend featured events such as a 5K fun run/walk, theater productions, movies and football, volleyball and hockey games.
A Message from the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Each autumn we start the school year with renewed energy, optimism and spirit. The College of Education began this year with that energy and then suffered a horrible loss - the sudden death of Joanne Brandt, a known and trusted colleague and leader. As a college, we are not the same since her death but are working to regain our energy, committing ourselves to the work of education and helping children, families and communities to succeed. Joanne’s loss allows us the opportunity to reflect on the contributions she made and to re-dedicate ourselves to continuing her work as well as the good work of the many others who have committed so much to Minnesota State University Mankato.

This year we continue our innovative work of meeting the professional and leadership development needs of schools in Mankato. On the cover of the newsletter you can read about the conferences we’ve hosted and mark your calendars for two that are fast approaching. We have a long list of new faculty who have joined us this year bringing new perspectives, talents and enthusiasm to our programs. Read about how one of our programs in Educational Leadership has inspired a long-time Dakota Meadows Middle School teacher and take the plunge with the ROTC and COE’s Academic Advisor Cheryl Kalakian for the Combat Water Survival Test (CWST). We’ve included a list of faculty “Good News” showing their accomplishments and show you some pictures from some special events. We have a special note from Alan Bohlke, the president of the Alumni Association, introduce you to our Director of Development and provide a listing of the very generous donors from 2005-2006.

As so it continues. The COE is moving along the path to excellence, importance and prominence. Please take a moment after reading this edition to check out our website. There are more activities and developments there than we can ever put in a newsletter. We hope that you will find the newsletter and the website so interesting that you are inspired to act - to communicate with us via phone or email, to attend an event, to stop by for a visit or to send a question. We value our connection to our partners and alums - to you - and want to know what you are thinking.