New planes, new staff and new programs have the Aviation Department soaring to new heights this year. The Department is expanding and enhancing their program to meet the constantly changing needs in the field.

One of the most visible changes is the fleet of new planes. A new service provider is giving Aviation students and faculty access to new airplanes. TAA or Technologically Advanced Aircraft is the cutting-edge technology that will keep students competitive in the aviation industry. The new aircraft redefine the idea of “complex” aircraft, a support from the community and industry and there seems to be an ongoing and growing demand for safe, point-to-point air travel.

With its focus on hands-on learning, leadership development, problem-solving and decision-making, aviation is an important and appropriate member of the College of Education program.

Dean Michael Miller says that there are a variety of reasons to focus on the future of aviation but, “mostly it is a question of responding to needs: there is strong student interest, strong

Continued on page 3
A Word From the Dean - Dr. Michael A. Miller

Once again we are excited to share an update on activities and accomplishments of the College of Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In this edition you read about our aviation program and several initiatives to become increasingly culturally and interculturally competent. These are examples about our continued optimism, scholarship, and action!

As an update, the COE has found its voice in affecting policy. We have several faculty and staff who sit on leadership groups and state boards. The COE had by far the largest contingent of faculty of any institution at the MACTE Teacher Education day on the hill — a day when we testified, visited with legislators about issues and bills of importance, and generally offered our expertise. In addition, we have distributed several issues briefs and legislative white papers that have been generated by COE learning community teams. Our reputation as a connected, scholarly and progressive institution is soaring.

Our new doctorate in Counseling and Student Personnel is set to begin in the fall. Applications are coming in and candidates are being interviewed for new faculty positions. The Educational Leadership Department has a proposed program at the front end of the approval process. Smooth sailing would have that program starting in the fall of 2008. We remain hopeful about that.

As we near the end of the year, it is clear that we have been very successful on several goals set 4 years ago. Next year it will be time to step back and consider the next 4 years. I am certain we will need to wrestle with and respond to both persistent and emerging contexts and priorities including: 1. growing need for more and increasingly diverse teachers in areas of growing importance (e.g., math, science, and foreign language), 2. dramatically different technologies that are both altering learning and learners (e.g., formal educational uses of cell phones, tying social networking systems and features to educational processes, virtual worlds and massively multiplayer gaming to advance learning, and technology enabled leapfrogging), 3. solving issues of educational disparity that lead to gaps in educational attainment, and 4. the internationalization, if not globalization, of education and schooling. Undoubtedly, the process of setting new goals will be energizing since we come to it with vigor and an expectation of success.

We hope that you will find this edition so interesting that you will send thoughts and ideas about our next set on considerations. We hope you will want to participate in conversations. We hope that you will come to visit. Finally, we hope you will offer inspired ideas about what a College of Education of the future must look like!

Legislative Action: MACTE Day at the Hill

Underscoring The College of Education’s commitment to having a voice in policies that govern the education of children, six faculty and staff members from the COE participated in the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) Day at the Hill on March 6, 2007. Dean Michael Miller, Professional Education Coordinator Scott Page, Clinical & Field Director Carol Werhan and Assistant Director Lori Bird, Center for School-University Partnership Director Ginger Zierdt and EEC Faculty (and MACTE President-elect) Maureen Prenn, spent the day visiting legislators and presenting the MACTE 2007 legislative priorities list.

“This was a fantastic opportunity to sit down with legislators and present our ideas,” said Maureen Prenn. “I was very impressed with the range of knowledge individuals had for committee issues.” The group met with Terry Morrow, Kathy Brynant, Kathy Sharan, Julie Rosen, Tony Cornish and Bob Guenther. “We discussed how we are meeting the legislative priorities,” commented Scott Page. “Our goal was to present Minnesota State Mankato as a resource for legislators seeking to know more about educational issues.”

MACTE is a voluntary organization comprised of 29 educational institutions. Their mission is three-fold: 1) to clarify and address issues in teaching and learning; 2) to promote quality teacher preparation and development; and 3) to share the collective knowledge and data of all state-approved teacher education programs. MACTE’s 2007 Legislative Priorities list includes: High and consistent standards for all teachers; funding for new teacher induction programs; school readiness and early learning proposals and funding for closing the achievement gap in all levels of P-16 education.

College of Education awarded federal grant to improve teaching

Dr. Kitty Foord and Dr. Daria Paul Dona from the K-12 and Secondary Programs department submitted a winning proposal for over $47,000 in federal money to work with 25 teachers from middle, junior and senior high schools in St. Paul. The project activities are designed to increase teachers’ mathematical content knowledge and application of authentic data to address multiple Minnesota mathematics contents standards; increase teacher capability to differentiate math instruction with authentic data and problems; increase teacher ability to apply culturally responsive teaching and literacy strategies to mathematics content and instruction; and increase teacher ability to use student work and student work protocols to assess student performance and inform instructional decision-making through peer coaching.

“This provides an ideal opportunity for both Minnesota State Mankato and St. Paul schools,” stated Dr. Foord. “This project adds to our Urban Teacher Education Partnership (UTEP; see page 5) activities with St. Paul and deepens our relationship with them.” For St. Paul, participating teachers not only get a better understanding of data use and mathematics instruction, they also get three graduate semester credits after program completion.

Twenty-four grants totaling over $1 million were awarded to Minnesota higher education institutions and a nonprofit organization to support improved K-12 instructions in mathematics, science, civics and government, economics, history and geography. The grants were made available with federal funding from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. A priority was given to grants in mathematics designed to prepare K-8 teachers to improve the preparation of students for Algebra I and more rigorous mathematics in high school.
type of flight experience required for commercial certification, and this definition is changing the way the Federal Aviation Administration certifies new pilots. The new planes are painted in Minnesota State University, Mankato colors and feature ‘glass cockpits’, a highly sought after technological advance. “The new planes have been heavily used since their arrival in November,” Dean Miller noted. “And we have had our first new pilots using brand new planes for certification.”

Bringing new faces to the department are faculty members Craig Ruedy and Dr. Nihad Daidzic. Department Chair Craig Ruedy thinks Minnesota State Mankato’s aviation program is “southern Minnesota’s premier aviation training college” and he is glad to be back in school. “I was an Aviation Management student here and the program gave me a fantastic career. I’d like to contribute to a new generation of pilots receiving the same benefits.” Dr. Nihad Daidzic was excited by the opportunity to build onto the current program. With a Ph.D. in Fluid Mechanics and research expertise and interest in Aircraft Performance, Propulsion, and Aerodynamics, Dr. Daidzic brings a new dimension to the aviation program. “Starting this summer we will be offering a ‘Summer Adventures in Education’ that will include two new courses ‘Aircraft and Rocket Propulsion’ and ‘Aircraft Performance’. These two courses will become a part of the new Aviation concentration called ‘Aerospace and Aeronautical Sciences’”, says Daidzic.

Mirroring the teacher preparation program in the College of Education, Aviation is also concerned with standards and accreditation. The Aviation Department is gathering the materials and evidence needed to support their request for accreditation with the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). An accredited program will cover certain areas. These areas are career planning and certification in aviation; design performance and aircraft maintenance; national and international rules, airports, airspace, weather and (in particular) air safety. AABI is re-writing the standards for aviation education programs. These new standards will be “outcome” based - measuring student achievement against educational goals. “Once the new standards are in place, the department will make application for accreditation,” said department chair Craig Ruedy. “We are preparing for that application by writing syllabi and curriculum and getting the information gathering systems in place”.

In addition to the accreditation process, the department is focusing on developing a coherent program with four tracks (concentration) to include Professional Flight, Aviation Management, Aviation Safety, and Aeronautical & Aerospace Sciences. Each of these programs will train specific aviation professionals for the future giving them flexibility and background for professional growth and excellence. “In addition to developing new programs and course syllabi, we are also working on developing a proprietary flight training curriculum,” Ruedy said. “This means our program will be unique and designed to meet the needs of the students and the needs of the industry”.

It took you a year to learn to walk. We can teach you to fly in 6 months … for college credit!

Summer Aviation Adventures!
Let’s Talk – Diversity Committee Lunches

As part of their charge to present information on issues of diversity, the College of Education’s Diversity Committee is hosting a series of lunch and talk sessions during the spring 2007 semester. Dr. Ockjean Kim from the department of Special Education is organizing the events and says that the committee decided on this format to generate discussion rather than simply present information. “We wanted an informal setting that would allow conversation to range freely within selected topics,” said Kim. “We provide pizza and drinks and faculty members present information that is centered on a diversity issue.”

The first session was “The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: Cultivating Multicultural Competency of Pre-Service Teachers through a Literary-based Strategy” and was given by Dr. Kim. She presented her initial findings on her study of the use of a non-fiction account of an immigrant family’s experience with the social service system in California.

The book, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong child, her American doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures, by Anne Fadiman, was used in the first part of the course along with some text readings. “I wanted to give us, as a class, some common language and ideas to work with,” says Kim. “This work reads like fiction and presents the ideas behind the special education concepts in a ‘real-life’ format.” The students seemed to find this a useful tool also. Kim noted that, through surveys and reflection papers, the students showed a growth in understanding of cultural issues. “There were real strides made,” said Kim. “I recommend this approach to any of our faculty.”

Other topics have discussed the challenges that new female faculty may face in acclimating to their positions and the opportunities for cross-cultural experiences in Russia. The February lunch discussed the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) a tool to measure how a person feels and thinks about, and reacts to, cultural difference. It measures how a person construes and organizes events, guided and limited by their cultural patterns. “The tool allows for individual and for group assessment,” said Dr. Daria Paul Dona, K-12 and Secondary Programs faculty and a qualified assessor of IDI results. “As a way to introduce the possibilities of the tool, the COE has ordered 25 copies of the inventory. We will assess a selected group from COE and present the results later in the year.”

The Diversity Lunches have been a hit with those in attendance. “I’ve found all of the topics to be of interest,” said Dr. Guynel Reid. “In particular, the literary-based strategy is one that I am exploring using in my own teaching.”

Getting to Know Technology

Taking a hint from the Diversity Committee, the Technology Committee will also be offering some lunch time seminars on issues of technology. “The Diversity Committee had such a good idea that we felt it was worth borrowing,” said Dr. Diane Coursol, Technology Committee chair. “The field of technology is constantly changing and there are many new opportunities to use technology in the classroom. Our goal is to introduce as many of those opportunities as possible.”

Each meeting will last approximately an hour and a half and offer a small lunch and the opportunity to raise questions and get hands on assistance. The topic for this first lunch will be “Getting to Know Technology: What’s in it For Me?”, and is scheduled for April 26 from 11:30-1:00. Topics covered will include iPod, Smart Phones, Audience Response Systems, Website Updates and Management, Videoconferencing and Distance Instruction.

Topics for next year include Debugging Web sites: An Introduction to Bugzilla It’s a Breeze: Video Conferencing Options for all Platforms. “The goal of these meetings is to generate faculty interest in using more technology in the classroom,” said Coursol. The first lunch is scheduled for April 25th and will feature presentations by Richard Kiefer-O’Donnell (Special Education) and Ted Johnson (IT Services).
One of the biggest guides to planning in the College of Education is the drive to ensure that our candidates are fully prepared for the challenges of the modern P-12 classroom. In addition to expertise in content and technology, candidates need to be current on trends in pedagogy and the impact of diversity on the classroom. “Teacher preparation makes a difference in teachers’ effectiveness,” says Scott Page, coordinator of Professional Education. “Our teacher candidates need to understand and experience what is happening in P-12 classrooms and how to design and incorporate their teaching to meet the needs of all learners.”

One of the partnerships the COE is hoping will provide our teacher candidates with knowledge and experiences is the Urban Teacher Education Partnership (UTEP) with St. Paul Schools. UTEP offers St. Paul teachers and Minnesota State Mankato faculty the opportunity to build a collaborative relationship that serves the needs of P-12 students, teacher candidates, public school teachers and university faculty. St. Paul schools offer the opportunity for our teacher candidates to work in classes with highly diverse populations, increasing their understanding of the impact of diversity on the educational environment. “The achievement gap between students of color and disadvantaged students and their white counterparts is alarming,” noted Dr. Maureen Prenn (Elementary and Early Childhood). “Closing this gap is a major challenge that we must prepare candidates to meet.”

The UTEP collaboration is aimed at developing a relationship with culturally diverse schools. “The first thing we did was a two-day immersion experience in October 2006 in elementary and high school classrooms in the St. Paul schools,” said Prenn. “A group of Minnesota State University faculty from the elementary and secondary programs came into St. Paul classrooms, observing and assisting with classroom activities, and allowing us the opportunity to get to know students and teachers.”

In addition to classroom experiences, some faculty visited the production studio at Cherokee Elementary School. “The students produced a news show each morning on ‘Cherokee News Network’,” said Dr. Prenn. “The show gave news, weather, and the school’s daily message. The show was also a vehicle to introduce us to the students outside the classroom context.”

All in all, the visit was a resounding success. “This visit gave us real insights into the climate of the classrooms and the challenges faced by St. Paul teachers and learners,” remarked Carol Werhan, director of Clinical and Field Experience. “Actual, hands-on, face-to-face experiences give more information about the classrooms into which we are sending our teacher candidates than any amount of reading materials.”

The immersion experience from October allowed for a common language and reference point for both teachers and faculty. “The October immersion experience was extremely valuable in building relationships and led to a meeting in March with St. Paul teachers and university faculty,” said Dr. Scott Page. “At the meeting, we discussed the needs of the teachers and of the teacher candidates (student teachers). We also talked about how teachers and faculty can learn from each other to make the teacher candidates better prepared for their future classrooms.”

This focus on teacher preparation, diversity and closing the achievement gap is right in line with legislative priorities in Minnesota as well. “The educational priorities of legislators are viewed through key ‘lenses’,” noted Dean Miller. “Closing the achievement gap, improvements to early childhood and high school learning and alignment of P-12 and higher education to improve student learning are the lenses through which educational institutions and priorities will be judged.”

The UTEP collaboration provides a valuable experience for teacher candidates, university professors, public school teachers and public school learners. Diane Driscoll, Coordinator of the UTEP program for St. Paul Schools encourages this to continue: “The March meeting was an excellent example of PreK-12 and university educators coming together for the benefit of all students we serve,” she said. “The idea of collaborative professional development is the heart of partnership and a fundamental goal of the Urban Teacher Education Partnership. This is a compliment to the vision and leadership of the participants involved in the MSU-Saint Paul immersion experience.”
**Advising**

- Cheryl Kalakian, Sheila McCallum, (GA) and Maureen Prein (EEC) presented “Enhancing Access, Retention and Accountability through Writing Assessment and Support” at MACTE’s Winter Congress in Minneapolis, February 13, 2007.

**Aviation**


- Cheri Rohlfing, along with Aviation students, Katrina Avery, Ken Kessler, Brian Krueger and Megan Mueller attended the 18th Annual Women in Aviation conference in Orlando, FL, February 15 - 17, 2007.

- Karla Worden attended “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

**Center for School/University Partnerships**


- Center for School University Partnerships co-sponsored “Words of Art: Capturing story in Visual and Written Language” conference with the Literacy Center on February 2, 2007.


- Ginger Zierdt and Beth Sandell (EEC) traveled to Russia in March to explore opportunities for partnerships in research, teaching and service.

**Children’s House**

- Sandi Jessen presented “Advocating Your Value on Campus” to the National Coalition of Campus Children’s Centers annual conference in St. Louis, MO, March 12-16, 2007.

- Kathy Hoffman attended “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

- Sandi Jessen was re-elected for a 3 year term on the National Coalition of Campus Children’s Centers governing board.

**Clinical & Field Experience**

- Carol Werhan and Lucette Wildt (Development) visited the Aldine School District in Aldine TX and attended the Houston Texas Alumni and Friends Gathering from February 20-22, 2007 hosted by alumnus Dr. Nathan Boughton.

- Lori Bird gave a one-day training “Introduction to A Framework for Teaching” on Monday, April 2, 2007 for the Center for Mentoring and Induction.

- Pat Harrington attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

**Counseling & Student Personnel**

- Diane Coursol, Jackie Lewis, Jennifer Pepperell and John Seymour attended the North Central Association for Counselor Education and Supervision in Kansas City, MO in October 2007.

- Betty Busby and Bev Raimann attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

**Dean’s Office**

- Gail Orcutt, Valerie Roberts and Judie Ziemke attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.
Faculty and Staff Good News

- Gail Orcutt attended a workshop on teacher licensing conducted by the Minnesota Department of Education as part of the MACTE conference, February 13, 2007.
- Valerie Roberts and Lucette Wildt are participating in Minnesota State University’s Leadership Institute.
- Lucette Wildt and Judie Ziemke are on the Mankato State Teachers College 50th Reunion planning committee.

Educational Leadership

- Elia Bruggeman and Daria Paul Dona (KSP) presented “Developing Multicultural Responsiveness in P-16: Introduction to Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and Other Tools” to the Diversity Committee’s “Let’s Talk” lunch series, February 19, 2007.
- Julie Carlson presented “New to Minnesota State Mankato: Navigating with Grace or Tumbling through the Turbulence” to the Diversity Committee’s “Let’s Talk” lunch series, March 19, 2007.
- Jean Haar presented “Does a Change in Student Demographics call for a Change in School Leadership” at the International Academy of Educational Leaders in Las Vegas, NV, January 26-27, 2007.
- Diane Siebert attended “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

Elementary & Early Childhood

- Maureen Prenn, Cheryl Kalakian (Advising) and graduate assistant Sheila McCallum presented “Enhancing Access, Retention and Accountability through Writing Assessment and Support” at MACTE’s Winter Congress in Minneapolis, February 13, 2007.
- Beth Sandell and Ginger Zierdt (CSUP) traveled to Russia in March to explore opportunities for partnerships in research, teaching and service.
- Carol Skorr attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

K-12 & Secondary Programs

- Anne Dahlman and L. Basford presented “They have not gone through my war: Understanding the resiliency and academic success of three refugees from limited/interrupted formal schooling backgrounds.” At AERA 2007 in Chicago, April 11, 2007.
- Daria Paul Dona and Elia Bruggeman (Ed Leadership) presented “Developing Multicultural Responsiveness in P-16: Introduction to Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and Other Tools” to the Diversity Committee’s “Let’s Talk” lunch series, February 19, 2007.
- Vicky Hudson attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

Military Science

- Jean Andresen and Lori Olinger attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.

Special Populations

- Ockjean Kim presented “Spirit Catches You: Cultivating Multicultural Competency of Pre-Service Teacher through a Literacy-based Strategy” to the Diversity Committee’s “Let’s Talk” lunch series, January 30, 2007.
- Jan Gostonczik attended “Diversity”, “Dress for Success” and “A Mirthful Spirit: Embracing Laughter for Wellness” staff development sessions.
Military Science

The Military Science and Leadership Department is enjoying a banner year. Cadet enrollments are at their highest levels since 1999 and the quality of students at Minnesota State Mankato continues to amaze the cadre. The department needs to retain these students to commissioning. One successful tool in this effort has been the ROTC Learning Community.

The establishment of the learning community came from the need to keep freshmen cadets in the program. For the school year 2005/2006, Minnesota State Mankato ROTC offered three 4-year scholarships. For various reasons, all three cadets dropped out of school after one semester. Disenrollments such as these can greatly effect the department’s commissioning in the out years. After several brainstorming sessions, and having talked with other Minnesota State Mankato faculty, the idea of having an ROTC Learning Community was born. In 2006 spring, paperwork was submitted and approved for the 2006/2007 school year. For this school year, we had ten cadets enrolled in the learning community. After the first semester, we have retained nine of those cadets. This is a tremendous accomplishment and sets the department up for future success.

Much of the success of the learning community can be attributed to the coordinator, Yunhui Voelker. Cadet Voelker is a student in her junior year and is majoring in Education. Her efforts have greatly influenced our younger cadets to not only stay in the ROTC program but to enjoy their college experience as well. Some of the events she has coordinated include rappelling, the low ropes course, and intramural sports teams to instill leadership and teamwork into her learning community. Says cadet Voelker, “It’s not easy to come up with events that challenge the cadets not only as students but as future officers of our Army”, said Jeremy Milstead, a freshman in the learning community. “I’ve really enjoyed my first year experience. I was unsure what the college life would entail but the learning community has really helped in my transition”.

Will these students stay four years until commissioning? We can only wait and see but the learning community has gotten these cadets off to a good start.

CSP’s Dr. John Seymour Appointed to State Licensing Board

Counseling and Student Personnel (CSP) department’s Dr. John Seymour has been appointed to the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy for a four-year term running until January 2010. The board is made up of seven members appointed by the Governor, and is responsible for licensing and disciplining marriage and family therapists. “I am honored to have been appointed to the licensing Board,” Seymour said. “I see it as an opportunity to apply my professional interest in family therapy ethics through service on the Board.” Seymour’s participation on this Board provides one of the outlets through which CSP and the College of Education maintains a presence in state dialogues and policy development.

Seymour, a marriage and family therapist for over 20 years has been with the College of Education’s Department of Counseling and Student Personnel since 2001. “Early in my career, I became very aware of how crucial family involvement was in successfully providing mental health services to children and adolescents,” Seymour noted. “That led me to pursue additional graduate work in family therapy.” In his work as a marriage and family therapist, Seymour has worked in a variety of settings including hospital-based treatment programs, day treatment, agency outpatient services and private practice. In addition to his Minnesota licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist, Seymour is an Approved Clinical Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

Seymour has been active professionally in the field of marriage and family therapy, presenting at conferences and serving in leadership positions such as his recent three years as a board member of the state professional association, the Minnesota Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (MAMFT). In that role, he helped encourage the improved availability of clinical supervisors and ongoing professional training for areas of the state beyond the Minneapolis metro area.

Over the past year, Seymour along with Dr. Coursol and Dr. Lewis in the CSP department has been partnering with the MAMFT and the licensing Board on a pilot project to provide clinical supervision to these underserved areas through online video conferencing. The Marriage and Family Counseling Certificate Program in the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel was designed for persons with a master’s degree in a helping profession who want to complete the coursework and clinical training to become Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs). The certificate program meets current coursework requirements for the Minnesota Board of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. Most other states and all Canadian provinces follow similar standards.
Meet the Chairs

Educational Leadership Chair Jerry Robicheau received his Bachelor’s Degree in History from Moorhead State University; his Master’s in Educational Administration and Special Education from St. Cloud State and his Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Administration from the University of Minnesota. Robicheau holds license as a teacher of History, Social Studies, and Special Education and his teaching experiences include both rural and suburban schools. He taught elementary emotional disturbed students, Jr. High social studies/history, and secondary special education. His administrative experiences include Regional Educational Consultant, Director of Special Education, Assistant High School Principal, Elementary Principal, Assistant Superintendent and a Superintendent of Schools. He was elected Department Chair July 2006 and was honored to accept the confidence of a highly competent department. “Working on the development of an Ed.D. proposal over the last months has shown me the strong, collaborative nature of the decision-making process here,” Robicheau remarked. “It is rewarding to work with such effective and dedicated leaders in the field of education.”

Chair of Elementary and Early Childhood Beth Sandell received her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Welfare and Child Development; her Master’s in Educational Administration and Child Development and her Ph.D in Education/Early Childhood and Psychological Foundations all from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. She comes to Minnesota State Mankato with a wide range of experience in teaching and research including experiences in public and private schools, nonprofit and state agencies and as faculty in Minnesota, Alaska and Russia. She has provided staff and program supervision for parent and nutrition education programs; developed in-service training programs for early childhood teachers, parent education, home visitors, educational assistants, teaching assistants, bilingual liaisons and community outreach workers. Her current focus is on developing opportunities for partnering in research, teaching and service with colleges and universities in Russia. “Although I am only in my second year here at Minnesota State Mankato, I was honored to accept the position of chairperson for the Department of Educational Studies: Elementary and Early Childhood,” said Sandell. “This role is another way to work on my personal mission statement: ‘to lead, organize, and teach people in transition, so they grow in faith and hope, control their own decisions and resources, and use their gifts and talents.’ I hope I contribute this to the department, the College, and Minnesota State Mankato.”

Dr. James Nickerson Publishes Book

COE alumni, friends and emeriti gathered at Old Main Village on December 14, 2006 to celebrate the publication of Dr. James Nickerson’s book Out of Chaos: Reflections of a university president and his contemporaries on Vietnam-era unrest in Mankato and its relevance today. An anonymous donor contributed to a special reception honoring Dr. Nickerson and funding the purchase of books given to some COE alumni, friends and emeriti. Pictured here are (l to r) Joe Moosally, Dr. Nickerson and Bea Moosally with signed copies of the book.

James Nickerson was the driving force behind the book which came out in September about the turbulent time on the Mankato State College campus during the Vietnam War. Nickerson, who turned 96 in December, was the college’s president at that time, and is widely credited with preventing things from getting violent, such as the tragedy at Kent State University in Ohio that left four students dead. Mary Anderson of North Mankato sent the following message upon receiving her book.

College of Education,

I received the invitation and the Dr. Nickerson “Out of Chaos” book. I wasn’t able to attend the wonderful reception but I thank you so very much for both. I found the book very interesting having been a graduate of the 2-year Mankato State Teachers College in 1935. Dr. McElroy was the president then. There were 500 students then - barely enough men for a football team. I was lucky enough to get a good teaching position (4th grade) in a relatively large system (consolidated). I have such fond memories of those days! I am 91 years old (have lived most of my life in Mankato) - have lots of good help, friends and family.

Sincerely,
Mary Anderson
News From the Alumni

Nancy Kluck

College of Education graduate in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership, Nancy Kluck has been honored by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) with the 2007 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Nancy is the principal of South Elementary School in St. Peter, Minnesota. The award honors principals whose exemplary leadership and sustained efforts have made noteworthy contributions to the operation of effective school learning programs — improving education, their communities, and their profession.

Nancy has been in the principalship since 1987 and this is her eighth year at South Elementary School. Her leadership achievements include: Bush Leadership; Springfield leadership; and Transformational Leadership Program participant. She served as member of the Minnesota State University, Mankato Educational Leadership Advisory Committee and the College of Education’s Professional Education Advisory Council. She has received several educational honors: MESPA Distinguished Service Award 1993; Minnesota Principal of the Year, Kid Voting 2004; MVAL PDA participant and trainer; MESPA Institute co-chair.

MESPA is the professional association of Minnesota’s elementary and middle level principals. With the vision to “be the premiere resource for preparing today’s principals for tomorrow and a strong leading voice for public education” and a statewide membership over 950 principals, MESPA has represented Minnesota’s principals since 1950. MESPA Members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2007 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. The awards were presented on Feb 8, 2007, at the association’s 52nd Institute, its annual state wide convention.

Ways to Support Minnesota State Mankato

> Recruit a student to attend Minnesota State Mankato
> Visit www.mnsu.edu to stay connected and informed
> Give to Minnesota State Mankato www.mnsu.edu/advance/giving

Don Helmstetter

Minnesota State Mankato graduate, Don Helmstetter, superintendent of Spring Lake Schools has been named 2007 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Helmstetter holds a doctoral degree in education administration from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; a licensure in educational administration, a master’s of education degree in secondary counseling and guidance and a bachelor of arts in English and Psychology from Mankato State University. Before becoming Superintendent for the Spring Lake Park Schools, he was Superintendent for the Blue Earth, Trimont and Martin County West Schools, a High School Principal with the Trimont Schools, a Counselor and Chemical Education Coordinator for the Fairmont Schools, and a High School Teacher and Coach for the Fairmont, Pipestone and Herman Schools.

The Superintendent of the Year award is given annually by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA). Superintendent of the Year nominees are evaluated on how each candidate demonstrates:

- Leadership for learning—creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system.
- Communication skills—strength in both personal and organizational communication.
- Professionalism—consistently upgrading his or her administrative knowledge and skills, providing professional development and opportunities for other members of the education team, and motivating others.
- Community involvement—active participation in local community activities and understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

As a Minnesota honoree, Dr. Helmstetter is a candidate for National Superintendent of the Year to be announced at the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) conference in March.
Elementary and Early Childhood department chair Dr. Elizabeth Sandell and Center for School-University Partnership director Ginger Zierdt along with Mathematics professor Pavel I. Kitsul, took a two-week trip to Russia in March. The focus of the trip was on developing collaborative opportunities with post-secondary institutions in Russia. “We met with faculty and staff from Northern International University, Saint-Petersburg State University, Moscow Pedagogical University and Moscow State University” said Dr. Sandell. “We also visited Magic World Kindergarten in Moscow.”

Northern International University (in Magadan, Russia) and Minnesota State University, Mankato have a two year agreement that paves the way for collaborative research among faculty, short-term study tours and student exchanges. “We hope that this is the beginning of a long, positive relationship,” said Dr. Sandell. “This opportunity to exchange information is an exciting one for both institutions.”

Fourteen teachers from Thailand visited Minnesota school districts, Minnesota State Mankato and other post-secondary institutions. “The teachers were here to learn methods of teaching vocabulary and language” said Dr. Elizabeth Sandell (EEC). “They all teach English at basic levels and wanted to expand their teaching to include active learning methods.” While the teachers were here they attended seminars in oral and written methods for teaching English as a second language as well as a seminar on technology applications and leadership in educational change. They also toured The Children’s House and attended an early childhood class.

Dr. Michael A. Miller, Dean (L) receiving a certificate of appreciation for hosting the visit of the teachers.

Thai visit – Dr. Elizabeth Sandell (2nd from left) with teachers from Thailand.

Thai visit – Dr. Elizabeth Sandell (2nd from left) with teachers from Thailand.
A rich celebration of the university’s history and alumni will take place this summer. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event that you won’t want to miss.

Alumni of the Mankato State Teachers College, spanning the years 1921 to 1957 fanned out across the state, region and country to be the teachers, administrators and superintendents of the baby boom generation. If you are a graduate from those years, you are cordially invited to return to Mankato and take part in a memorable day on “upper” campus. On Friday, July 13, 2007, every graduate from the Teachers College is invited to participate in an all-classes reunion, marking the 50th anniversary of the change from “Teachers College” to “College.”

Get ready to see familiar faces, relive stories you thought were long forgotten and revisit stomping grounds like Old Main and the residence halls of Cooper and Minnesota State Teachers College 50th Reunion

A rich celebration of the university’s history and alumni will take place this summer. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event that you won’t want to miss.

Alumni of the Mankato State Teachers College, spanning the years 1921 to 1957 fanned out across the state, region and country to be the teachers, administrators and superintendents of the baby boom generation. If you are a graduate from those years, you are cordially invited to return to Mankato and take part in a memorable day on “upper” campus. On Friday, July 13, 2007, every graduate from the Teachers College is invited to participate in an all-classes reunion, marking the 50th anniversary of the change from “Teachers College” to “College.”

Get ready to see familiar faces, relive stories you thought were long forgotten and revisit stomping grounds like Old Main and the residence halls of Cooper and