Among the intersection between school and home can be a challenging experience for elementary/secondary school personnel, students, and their families. An in-depth understanding of the changing school environment, as well as the impact on, and impact of, the complex backgrounds of students, requires specialized knowledge. Trained and qualified school, family and community counselors can provide a bridge to understanding the dynamics involved in the connection between school and home.

To provide trained personnel, the Department of Counseling & Student Personnel launched the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in Counselor Education and Supervision this fall. The program addresses the professional development needs of counseling and student affairs professionals who seek a Doctoral degree in order to (a) advance or enrich their careers in counseling and student affairs; (b) obtain college teaching positions in counselor education; (c) become license-eligible; (d) position themselves for supervision and leadership roles within the counseling and student affairs professions; and/or (e) upgrade and expand their clinical skills to prepare for specialized positions in advanced counseling practice.

The program emphasizes both advanced practice preparation and applied research. Course content and clinical experiences build upon the education of Master’s prepared counselors and student affairs professionals already practicing in a variety of advanced roles (e.g., educator, administrator, clinical supervisor, guidance director). The curriculum, which is structured around the Council for the...
Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards for Doctoral programs, focuses upon the development of advanced competencies for increasingly complex professional practice, faculty, and leadership roles.

Doctoral classes offer the opportunity for students to delve into the meta issues surrounding the field. “At this level the students critically analyze the research in the field,” said CSP’s Dr. Jackie Lewis. “It helps them identify gaps in the research and hopefully in this way they begin to develop an initial research agenda.”

The classes are stimulating and inspiring for the professors. “I find it very exciting to teach a doctoral class as there is a certain sense of freedom as I engage students in critically analyzing issues in the field and making them aware of the cutting edge/emerging trends and the gap in the research,” said Lewis. “Teaching at the doctoral level is more about learning with and mentoring the students into the profession. It is truly about expanding horizons and perspectives.” Dr. John Seymour agrees, “At the doctoral level, I am helping students prepare to teach and to supervise the next generation of therapists, school counselors, and student affairs professionals. So the doctoral classroom preparation, teaching, and student interactions are making me more aware of how I am doing my work as a faculty member.”

The students find the classes stimulating and inspiring as well. “The aspect of the program that surprised me the most is how enjoyable it is,” commented Leah Shanks. “I enjoy not only the content of the material, but also the faculty and the rich contributions of our cohort group.” John Seymour has noted the enthusiasm as well. “Our first group of doctoral students found it very exciting to begin this new program with us,” Seymour stated. “My first few months of teaching the doctoral level course in clinical supervision have been a wonderful opportunity to see them begin the transition to their future role as counselor educators.”

CSP is currently accepting applications for the fall 2008 school year. Look for the COE’s new doctoral program in Educational Leadership also starting in Fall 2008.
ROTC Field Training Exercise: Leadership skills for life

No program in the academic community can teach leadership like the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp. At our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) held at Camp Ripley, the cadets of the Maverick Battalion started their long process of becoming an Army leader. They participated in multiple activities like the Engagement Skills Trainer, day and night land navigation, hand grenade assault course, and confidence course. Each one of these events is set to test the cadets in their abilities to perform basic soldiering skills. Cadet John DeGreeff said it best when saying, “the more you sweat during training the less you bleed during battle!”

Each class of cadets had a different mission during the fall FTX. The freshman and sophomores (MS I’s and MS II’s) participated in each of the events during the weekend to enhance their basic soldiering skills. For most of the freshmen this was the first time they had ever been exposed to this type of training. As for the sophomores, most of them had participated in the past and were working on perfecting their skills for their junior (MS III) year.

The next class of cadets, the MS III’s, had the most important mission during the fall FTX. They were placed in leadership positions throughout the weekend in which they were tasked with leading the MS I’s and MS II’s during the events of FTX. The MS III’s filled positions like company commander, first sergeant, platoon leader, and squad leader while still participating in all of the events to also perfect their basic soldiering skills. It is important that the MS III’s receive this training because it helps them become superior leaders and prepares them for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) held at Fort Lewis Washington in the summer of 2008.

Lastly, let us not forget about the seniors (MS IV’s). These are the cadets that were tasked with generating all of the training for the Field Training Exercise. This process began almost one half year ago during the end of their junior year and culminated at the FTX. Although one step has been accomplished it is the first of many still to come. Throughout the rest of this academic year, until commissioning in the spring, the MS IV’s will continue to train and lead the Minnesota State Army ROTC program to further their leadership potential and prepare them for their careers as Army Officers.

- Martin Schimmele

ROTC Cadet Receives Legion of Valor Award

Yunhui Voelker, an Elementary Education major and a distinguished Cadet in the Minnesota State Mankato Army ROTC program, was awarded the “Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement” at the ROTC’s annual Fall Awards Ceremony. The award is presented annually to those Cadets who have demonstrated excellence in military, scholastic, and civic affairs. Cadet Voelker was one of four Cadets who received this prestigious award in a nation-wide class of 4,099 Cadets.

The Legion of Valor was organized on April 23, 1890 by a group of Civil War and Indian War Campaign veterans who were recipients of the Medal of Honor. Membership has since expanded to include recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, the second ranking Army decoration for extraordinary heroism. The Legion of Valor has maintained a consistent interest in recognizing outstanding performance. In 1957 the group created the Bronze Cross for Achievement.

Cadet Yunhui Voelker is most deserving of the award. She carries a 3.73 grade point average and is very active on campus. Besides her extensive ROTC responsibilities, she is or has been a Resident Assistant in the dormitories, a Learning Community Coordinator, and an intramural sports coach. She also participates in the ROTC Color Guard, Ranger Challenge Team, and on the Bataan Death March Team. She is the most physically fit female in the ROTC program with a 312 score on the Army’s Physical Fitness Test.

Cadet Yunhui Voelker is ranked #1 in her senior class of 20 cadets. Her goal is to be an elementary education teacher while fulfilling her commitment in the Army National Guard.
In 2006, a scholarship was established to honor Ms. Enid Smale, a professor in Business Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Up to two $5,000.00 scholarships may be awarded each semester to students pursuing a degree in Business Education who have successfully completed their coursework and are applying for student teaching. The awards will be based on Merit and/or Need and may be used to offset expenses incurred during student teaching.

The Fall 2007 scholarship was awarded to Travis Paulsen. Travis is a non-traditional student with a wife, three children, and a graduate grade point average of 4.0. On winning the scholarship, Paulsen stated “Wow, what a wonderful opportunity, what a relief to be able to just focus on student teaching and not worry about tuition and a part-time” job.

Paulsen began his career with a 2-year degree in Microcomputer Support from South Central College, continued on to earn a 4-year degree from Minnesota State Mankato in Management Information Systems, and is now completing his education courses leading certification as a Business Education teacher. He stated that “My future plans are to continue working as a Business Technology teacher for the Jordan School District in the Middle and High School grade levels. This way I will have the opportunity to work with all ages and levels of students. I hope to start coaching cross country and baseball in the next few years. Minnesota State University, Mankato has been a wonderful learning environment and the staff truly has a deep passion in working with the students. I hope to deliver that same passion into learning to my own students.”

The Department of Educational Leadership has a long history of providing graduate education in educational leadership and experiential education. The unique strength of the department is the faculty’s attentiveness to the philosophical beliefs of experiential learning and adult learning while meeting the individual needs of graduates. A component of the department’s attentiveness to experiential and adult learning is the Adventure Education Program.

The Adventure Education Program (AEP) fosters personal growth and leadership through adventure-based experiences for various clients. The program also enhances graduate education by providing facilitation experiences for experiential education students. Jean Haar, faculty member of the Department of Educational Leadership stated “The expansion of the AEP program also provides opportunities for students enrolled in our master’s and specialist programs. For instance, there has been discussion about how to increase the development of student facilitation skills as they progress through their programs, and there has been discussion about how to provide students with research opportunities through the AEP program. Both will provide students with valuable leadership skills and experiences.” New to the AEP is the addition of a full time director.

The addition of the director strengthens the AEP and the department in a number of ways. A full-time director for the program allows a more in-depth, coherent implementation of knowledge, skills and professional dispositions that support the philosophy and mission of the department. In addition, a full-time AEP director allows the department to offer a 12 month program that serves a broader audience and that increases visibility and use.

The new Director selected was Sam Steiger. Jean Haar stated, “Having Sam Steiger join the Department of Educational Leadership as a full-time AEP director has been wonderful. The AEP team (Sam and three graduate assistants) has a wealth of knowledge, skill, and experience in facilitating experiential learning for organizational development. The opportunities for various groups who take advantage of the program are endless. Add to that the fact the program is now available year round and there really isn’t a reason for any group to miss out on the experience.”

- Margy Wentzel

(Take a look at the back cover of this newsletter to see a group in action)
Welcome Our New Faculty...

Karin Lindstrom Bremer
Department of Counseling & Student Personnel

Karin Lindstrom Bremer received her BA from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. She earned her graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota, including an MA in Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology, an MA in Sport Psychology, and a Ph.D. in Family Social Science. In graduate school she worked with academic physicians and nurses, teaching them research skills and coordinating their projects. In that capacity she worked with the life cycle of the research enterprise, including grant writing, research design, database management, project coordination, statistical analysis, and writing and editing presentations and publications. Her research interests are youth athletes and family systems, and college student-athlete adjustment. Her current teaching emphasis with the CSP department is research methods and statistics, focused on developing the doctoral students’ research skills. Lindstrom Bremer and her husband Joel are renting in the area while trying to sell her home in Pine City, MN.

Heeyeon Lee
Department of Special Education

Heeyeon Lee received her BA in special education from Ewha Woman’s University in Seoul, Korea; her MED in curriculum and instruction from Boston College in Boston, MA with a specialization in mild/moderate special needs. She is a doctoral student in the special education DCD (Developmental and Cognitive Disorders) program at the University of Minnesota and she is currently working on her pre-dissertation research. She has 4 years of student teaching and practicum supervising experiences in Twin cities areas with pre-service teachers in special education DCD program at the University of Minnesota. Her current teaching emphasis is with behavior management and differentiation for students with exceptional needs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She teaches classes at Normandale and Eden Prairie program sites. Heeyeon lives in Woodbury, MN with her husband, Yohan and 8-year old son, Joseph.

Holly Breitkreutz
Department of Counseling & Student Personnel

Holly Breitkreutz received a BS in elementary education and an MS in College Student Personnel Administration from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Higher Education Administration with a minor in continuing, adult, and vocational education. Holly began her career as an elementary teacher before moving on to graduate studies and continuing her career in higher education. She has held a variety of administrative positions in both student affairs and academic affairs and has experience working in 2-year liberal arts, 4-year comprehensive, and Research 1 institutions as well as system level administrative offices. Her areas of interest cover both ends of the college preparation and access spectrum including working with under-represented groups at the elementary and middle school level and returning adult students. She and her husband, Steve, currently have 2 ‘four-legged children’ in the household. Holly also has 3 grown stepchildren and 3 grandchildren.

Steve Robinson
Department of Special Education

Steve Robinson has held a variety of teaching and academic positions in education and executive positions in business settings. He has focused on special education and the development, implementation and evaluation of effective teaching and learning with 1:1 technology. He received his BA in Psychology and MA in Special Education from San Diego State University and his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology/Special Education from the University of Minnesota. Steve's research interests are in formative assessment in K-12 settings for children with disabilities and in the use of technology for at-risk and special education populations. He currently teaches courses in the Department of Special Education.

Sam A. Steiger
Director, Adventure Education Program
Department of Educational Leadership

Sam Steiger received his MS in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University, Mankato; his BS from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Resource Management: Environmental Education and Interpretation with a minor of study in Youth Summer Camp Administration and Youth Programming. He has lived in Wisconsin, Florida, California, Alaska and the U.S. Virgin Islands teaching Outdoor Education and Adventure Education. He has 12 years of experience as a Teambuilding, High Ropes and Challenge Course Facilitator. His position is as the Director of the Adventure Education Program, with emphasis in developing the AEP to serve the University and surrounding community with educational, adventure-based programming.
College of Education Good News Report
November 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Aviation

Center for School/University Partnerships
> Ginger Zierdt’s article, “Women in History: Maria Montessori” was published in the July 2007 issue of the Journal of Women in Educational Leadership.

Educational Leadership
> Jean Haar & Jerry Robicheau had an article “Being Attentive to the Changing Student Demographics: Minority Leaders and Multi Cultural Environments” published in the 2007 NCPEA Yearbook.

Elementary & Early Childhood

K-12 & Secondary Programs
> Patti Hoffman & Anne Dahlman had an article “Together We Are Better” published for Complete Links, the online complement to the Essential Teacher magazine.

Special Populations

PRESENTATIONS

Children’s House
> Sandi Jessen will be presenting “Articulating the Value of Campus Early Childhood Programs to Administrators and Community” to the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s 2007 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, November 7 - 10, 2007.

Clinical & Field Experience
> Carol Werhan attended and presented at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National Conference held in Reno, Nevada this past June 2007. She facilitated a session on current issues for FCS education.

Educational Leadership
> Ronald Weiss will present at the Hawaii International Conference on Education, January 5-8, 2008. The title of the presentation is “What Happens to Students Who Are Adjudicated Delinquent by the Legal System and Placed at the Red Wing, MN Correctional Facility”.

Elementary & Early Childhood
> Linda Good (currently on sabbatical leave) presented “Looking at Early Childhood Education through Different Cultural Lenses,” September 2007 at the first annual conference for Global Connections.
K-12 & Secondary Programs

Special Education
> Todd Busch, Hall, T., Shapiro, E, Safer, N., McInerney, M. presented Student Progress Monitoring Takes the Guesswork Out of RTI at the 2007 OSEP Project Director’s Conference in Washington D.C.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FACULTY AND STAFF

Advising
> Cheryl Kalakian, received the Minnesota State University Outstanding Service Award Academic Affairs Division 2006-2007 at the Fall 2007 University Fall Convocation.

Aviation
> Pat McKinzie has been appointed FAASTeam Representative. FAASTeam is the Federal Aviation Administration’s Safety Team developed to improve the Nation’s aviation safety record by conveying safety principles and practices through training, outreach, and education.

Center for School/University Partnerships
> Ginger Zierdt was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society - University of Nebraska Chapter.

Children’s House
> Kathy Hoffman is co-chair of the COE’s Staff Professional Development Committee for 2007-2008.

Clinical & Field Experience
> Lori Bird and Carol Werhan were awarded Faculty Improvement Grants that provided funds to research partnerships with colleges of education in Australia. Following their trip in May 2007, a draft agreement has been developed between Minnesota State Mankato COE and Queensland University of Technology to facilitate student teaching on one of the QUT campuses.

Dean’s Office
> Michael Miller is serving as the Federal Government Relations Representative and on the Executive Board of TECSCU.
> Valerie Roberts has completed the Minnesota State Mankato’s Leadership Institute for 2007-2008.
> Judie Ziemke received her Master’s degree in Urban Studies, Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management in May 2007.

Elementary & Early Childhood
> Steven Reuter will serve as Member at Large on the Executive Council of the Minnesota Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators for the next year (2007 - 2008).
> Amy Vizenor, adjunct faculty member, passed her oral defense of her dissertation in September. Congratulations, Dr. Vizenor!

K-12 & Secondary Programs
> Vicky Hudson is co-chair of the COE’s Staff Professional Development Committee for 2007-2008.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STUDENTS

Military Science
> Cadet Yunhui Voelker received The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement. This is awarded to one in every 1,000 senior cadets. It is awarded for demonstrated excellence in scholastic, military, and civic affairs.

There was too much good news to show it all! Go to ed.mnsu.edu to see the Good News Report under Announcements.
Like many Minnesota State Mankato grads, I used to think about how happy I would be to shake the dust from my shoes as soon as I graduated and take off to start the great journey of life, and also like many of you, I’ve been blessed with a thrilling journey so far. But I have learned the hard way that there are experiences that anchor us in life; experiences that we need to have to ensure a successful journey the rest of the way. They mold us and hopefully make us better or stronger in many ways. And the experiences we have while at college can be some of the most compelling of our lives - and can provide us with a foundation for everything that comes later.

There are 105,000 alumni from Minnesota State Mankato. Our University provided a key part of the foundation for each and every one of us and we have already built something strong. As alumni you are part of the alumni association whose mission is to “engage alumni, friends and students in ways that benefit its members and Minnesota State Mankato through opportunities that stimulate a lifetime of interest, loyalty and support.”

If you think I’m setting you up for a donation you would be right. If each ‘alum’ gave an hour of their time each year to re-connect with each other, to reach out to current students, to speak well of our university, we would be richer in resources than we’ve ever been. Connect with us. Please log on to www.msugrads.com and offer your advice on how—together—we build a groundswell of alumni involvement. Because Minnesota State Mankato is the beginning - it is the foundation that we offer for our students to build their lives on.

Cynthia Vlasich, ’78
President, Alumni Association

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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, 2006 and June 30, 2007. 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 Web site at http://ed.mnsu.edu/donors

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**Collaborative Partnership wins funds from Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund**

Minnesota State University, Mankato Area Public Schools and St. Peter Public Schools are collaborative partners in a community-based initiative that won them $10,000 in funds this fall from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF).

St. Peter’s “Family School Partnerships for Academically At-Risk Youth,” is designed to increase the likelihood that at-risk students will have post-secondary choices upon graduation by involving parents. The project will focus on building trust with families, provide resources on getting students on-track academically, and interact with families through Community Education style venues, home or corporate visits.

Minnesota State University, Mankato will play a role by hosting various campus visits for pre-K-16 students. Minnesota State Mankato Office of Cultural Diversity will host an Ethnic Heritage Summer Institute for middle and high school students. In addition, the College of Education for School-University Partnerships will continue to host campus visits with schools.

SMIF, a donor-supported foundation, invests in economic growth in 20 Minnesota counties. The Foundation has provided over $36 million in grants and loans within the region during the past 21 years.

“As part of our workforce strategy, we are interested in supporting partnerships that help youth bridge the gap between high school and post secondary education and careers,” noted Tim Penny, SMIF President/CEO. “The “At-Risk Youth” project is an example of an asset based collaborative approach to an issue that will directly impact economic growth in our region.”

- Margy Wentzel & Judie Ziemke

**Inspiration Software Stimulating Three Generation of Learners**

Inspiration Software is providing a tool for learning that spans three generations of learners. For the third time Dr. Don Descy of the K-12 and Secondary Programs Department has received a software license grant package from Inspiration Technology Software, Inc. Descy received the software package from Inspiration’s Laura Gallagher, Educational Development Manager - Technology at the National Educational Computing Conference in Atlanta, Georgia this past summer.

“Inspiration Software is the number one software used in schools today, and Inspiration’s Kidspiration is the number two software,” Descy said. “Inspiration has been very generous, providing us with software twice this year.” Inspiration Software is for learners in grades 6 - 12 and lets students create graphic organizers and expand topics into writing. Kidspiration, for the K-5 grades, allows students to build graphic organizers by combining pictures, text and spoken words to represent thoughts and information.

Having access to K-12 software programs is part of ensuring our candidates are proficient when they enter the classroom. “It is vital that our teacher candidates remain current with the software that their students will be using in the classrooms,” Descy stated. “As professors, it is equally vital that we remain current in these technologies also. Inspiration Technology Software has been an important partner for us keeping up to date in software advances.” The College of Education has received software licenses for all three of Inspiration’s products, Inspiration Software, Kidspiration and InspireData.

- Judie Ziemke
College of Education at the Homecoming Parade - October 13, 2007

COE's Homecoming Court member Paul Johnson, Cheryl Kalakian (Academic Advising) and Homecoming Queen, Beth Larson

EEC major Priyah Zakrajsek and mom Barb Zakrajsek at Family Day.

Alumni Legacy Maria Howe and parents Ann ('85) and Bill Howe at Family Day, October 20, 2007

EEC major Amy Eichten and aunt Marie Worrell from University Development (and Educational Leadership grad '07) at Family Day, October 20, 2007
Taking a Walk in the Adventurous Side

On September 9, 2007, members of the Minnesota State Mankato’s first Leadership Institute joined in a fun-filled day out on the Adventure Education Program (AEP) Ropes and Challenge Course. The focus of the Course was commitment to the community, constant pursuit of challenge both for each participant and for the group as a whole, and also the safety of all participants involved. The group was challenged to reach new heights (see picture) and also trust other members of the group throughout the activities. This was the first year that the Leadership Institute used the course as a training tool.

- Margy Wentzel

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