Therapy Dog Brings Kindness with Classroom Visits

Therapy Dogs – Wanted: Dogs (and handlers) to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, mental health and long-term care facilities, schools, and those in stressful situations such as those found in disaster areas. Dogs (and handlers) must respond to basic commands (sit, stay, come, and down); be able to tolerate chaotic situations/people and remain calm; and be able to tolerate other therapy dogs in the same room. Physical beauty not required but health, friendliness and patience are necessary.

Answering the call was Murphy, a golden retriever rescued through Homeward Bound (See http://homewardboundrescue.org) by Dr. Walter Roberts, Counseling & Student Personnel. “He was terribly abused with a broken tail, injured muscle behind the eye, and some slight behavioral shyness to certain stimulus,” Roberts said. “It is clear he was previously cared for since when we obtained him in April he was housebroken and had an understanding of house rules. The vet thinks he is likely 2 years old.”

Murphy is a fully certified therapy dog that specializes in greeting everyone. “We have visited long-term and residential care facilities, schools, and mental health care settings,” said Roberts. “Murphy also accompanies me on local Red Cross responses. He LOVES children and basks in the glow of being mobbed whenever he finally gets to visit them individually in the classroom after short presentations about therapy dogs.”

Murphy is certified through Therapy Dogs Incorporated (TDInc). TDInc certifies through local observer/trainers who observe potential therapy dogs in a minimum of four settings over a 4-6 week period. “We did our basic command training at Me and My Master Canine Connection in Mankato (See http://www.meandmymastercanine.com/) and then had to wait after that until January to find a therapy dog certifier to start the observation process,” Roberts stated.

Roberts and Murphy began presentations this February. They have traveled to K-12 schools promoting second chances, the concept of never giving up, and treating people and animals kindly and fairly. Together the pair enriches the environment of the places they visit whether it be a K-12 school or an assisted living facility of any type. Murphy and Roberts plan to continue responding to requests for visits and hope to begin to gather data in behavior with individuals who have experienced Murphy. If interested in planning a visit with Murphy, please contact Dr. Walter Roberts at walter.roberts@mnsu.edu. Please include “Therapy Dog Inquiry” in the email subject line.
A Word From the Acting Dean - Dr. Maureen Prenn

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the spring 2008 edition of Minnesota State University, Mankato’s College of Education newsletter! My name is Dr. Maureen Prenn and I have been serving as Acting Dean of the College since the November 2007 appointment of Dr. Michael A. Miller to Interim Vice President of University Advancement. Serving as acting dean has given me opportunities to grow in new directions. It has been challenging, inspiring and a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

We hope you will find reading these pages an enjoyable experience also. Inside you will meet a phenomenal ROTC Cadet and elementary education candidate, Yunhui Voelker. Find out about the partnership our Aviation program has with Mesaba Airlines and what that means for our Aviation graduates. You will meet two of our alumni and find out what they are doing in the Sudan. You may also want to view our website to read the latest good news about our College of Education programs, faculty, and students at http://ed.mnsu.edu/.

You will note our focus on technology and education; the impact of new technology goes beyond the purchase of new equipment and affects the way students think and learn. Join Dr. Linda Good from Elementary and Early Childhood on her visit to South Korea; you can read about her experiences teaching at a university on our homepage. You might see a different side of faculty when they move into these kinds of experiences. One person you will get to know better is Dr. Walter Roberts of Counseling and Student Personnel who has trained his dog, Murphy, as a therapy dog to go into schools and assisted living facilities.

In addition, I am happy to introduce you to Jeff Halbur, our new development director for the College of Education. Jeff has 21 years of management experience, including running his own consulting business in grant writing as well as leading the Open Door Health Center through a challenging transition. He spent 12 years with Minnesota Life Insurance Company as a manager, case implementation coordinator, marketing specialist and supervisor. Jeff is very active in the community as a founding member of the Kiwanis Diversity Club, a member of the Mankato Area Diversity Council, a past United Way facilitator, and District Cub Scout leader. He has also been a member of the Advisory Board of the College of Allied Health & Nursing here at Minnesota State Mankato. He lives in Mankato, is married and has children.

Finally, new for this issue is an Alumni Notes section – read about what has been going on in the lives of some of your classmates. Please think about sending in a note to us yourself – you can follow the link on our Web site at http://www.mnsu.edu/alumni/update/. We would love to hear what you are doing.

Web site and Newsletter Upgrades

If you have stopped by our offices since summer, you may have noticed that we have a new look. New cherry-finish desks and cubicle walls as well as new carpet and paint in olive tones have transformed our space. We plan on a rotating exhibit of student art on our walls.

For those that haven’t made a personal visit to the office, you can see a new look when we update our Web site and newsletter. Starting with the COE home page on the web, we will add an RSS feed to provide our audience with a constantly rotating series of stories and events. Interested members can sign up for the feed by clicking on the RSS logo at the top of the page. If you need help setting up the feed, please go to http://www.semiologic.com/resources/blogging/help-with-feeds/ for some simple directions. If those don’t work for you, give Judie a call at 507-389-5445 and she will help you get started.

The newsletter too, is undergoing some changes. We are changing to produce a hard copy twice per year and an online version in the summer. As always the hard copy will be available on the Web site under the COE Quick Links at the bottom of the left navigation panel. The online version will also be available as a pdf on the Web site. We are working on a new look for the hard copy – look for it in November 2008.
Officials from Minnesota State Mankato’s aviation program announced a new partnership with Mesaba Airlines in December 2007. The “Bridge” program will allow students to intern with Mesaba Airlines, not only providing those students with pilot training but also providing an opportunity to become future Mesaba Airlines pilots. “Our students are guaranteed an interview after graduating from our Aviation program,” Department Chair, Craig Ruedy said. “It bridges a person from collegiate education into the cockpit of a regional airline.”

In addition to the new partnership, Minnesota State Mankato is at the cutting edge of the industry and recently purchased six new planes. Students are also able to take advantage of having the Mankato airport very close to campus. “The airport can do anything that we need it to do for the region, for the university and for the program,” Ruedy said. There are 165 students in Minnesota State Mankato’s aviation program this year. Faculty members hope the new program will make that number grow.

Also helping the program grow is the Reaching for the Stars Aerospace Summer Camp for high school juniors and seniors. The camp introduces the principles of airplane and rocket flight and other general engineering and science areas using brief lectures, extensive experimental exercises, and two major hands-on team projects. Camp activities expand over two weeks, starting on June 9 and ending on June 20, 2008. Students will tour several Minnesota State Mankato engineering laboratories (wind tunnel, etc) and the Mankato airport; fly a flight simulator, see jet and propeller-driven airplanes and will be given airplane rides in North Star Aviation’s twin-engine Piper Seminoles PA-44-88. The camp is run by Dr. Nihad Daidzic from the Aviation Department and Dr. Vojin Nikolic from the Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering. For more information on the camp, please visit the Web site at http://ed.mnsu.edu/aviation/reachstar/index.html or call Dr. Daidzic at 507-389-6116.
Collaboration and Exchange: Meet a Dean from Russia

For the month of March, the College of Education hosted a visiting scholar from North-Eastern State University in Magadan, Russia. Olga Victorovna Klypa is the Dean of Education at her university and is here as part of the official exchange agreement that Minnesota State Mankato and the College of Education have with North-Eastern State University. “She was here to get acquainted, to plan joint early education curricula, to plan joint research and publication, and to give some lectures about education in Russia,” said visit coordinator, Dr. Elizabeth Sandell, chair of Elementary and Early Childhood Education. “She stayed with Vera Azarova, a graduate student from Magadan, with Ginger and Jonathan Zierdt and with me and my husband for the duration of the trip.”

Klypa spent the month touring the campus and Mankato area, visiting COE classes and meetings, giving presentations on Russian language and culture; attending cultural events in Mankato and the Twin Cities and visiting early childhood, elementary and secondary education classrooms in the area. The Mall of America and the Museum of Russian Art, as well as the State Capitol and the History Center all made the list of spots to see. Following her stay in Mankato, Klypa flew with Sandell to the Association of Childhood Education International conference in Atlanta, Georgia and left for Russia on Sunday, March 30.

The College of Education and North-Eastern State University plan to collaborate on research projects between faculty, provide short-term study tours, and faculty and student exchanges. “We hope that this will continue to be a long, positive relationship,” stated Dr. Sandell. “This opportunity to exchange information about best practices is an exciting one for both institutions.”

For her part, Dr. Klypa is looking forward to extending the relationships she developed with Dr. Sandell and Ginger Zierdt, Center for School-University Partnerships director, last March on their two-week tour of Russia. “We have many possibilities for research and joint teaching and learning. It has been my pleasure to get to know many Minnesota State Mankato faculty members and Mankato area leaders. Minnesota State Mankato students and faculty representatives will join in a conference in Magadan in June, 2008. ‘We will welcome you to Magadan!’”

Journey to South Africa

Dean’s Office student employee Kadie Neuharth is spending the semester in South Africa on an internship. “Cape Town is very action-packed and vibrant so just being downtown is a lot of fun,” she writes. “I am in charge of putting on a trader’s market downtown and also working on some networking sessions. The people here are all very friendly and I generally feel pretty safe. There is a group of 45 interns, so we are always traveling in groups too.” Following the internship, she toured a “garden route” along the southern coast and went on a safari and was back in the States on April 1.

Interested in an international connection yourself? The College of Education sponsors student teaching opportunities in Australia; short term learning experiences in Thailand and brings scholars from China, Thailand and Russia to visit. Visit our website at http://ed.mnsu.edu. In addition, Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Office of Alumni Affairs and Special Events travel the world providing international experiences available to all alumni. This year’s trips include Copenhagen and Stockholm; Germany, China, Switzerland & Italy. Please visit http://www.mnsu.edu/alumni/travel/ for more information.
Abroad in Africa

Hard work, interesting places and constant learning are the key components of Liz and Jon DenHartigh’s life abroad as teachers. Liz and Jon both earned their MAT’s at Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2005 and have been on the road since teaching in the Sudan. “We are currently midway through our second year at the Khartoum American School in Khartoum, Sudan, Africa”, Jon writes. “We are also involved in a volunteer program located about 3 hours north of Khartoum in a place called Merowe. The program is aimed at jumpstarting a group of public schools that have been struggling in the last 10-20 years.”

Liz and Jon met overseas in 1998 while teaching English in Tianjin China. Except for a break to earn their Master’s degrees, they have been teaching together since 2000. “We both love working overseas because we are constantly learning about other people and other cultures,” Jon stated. “It is great working with students, teachers and parents from around the world.” In Khartoum, John is teaching K-12 art and Liz is teaching elementary ESL. “Teaching is easier this year, compared to last year,” Liz writes. “I have been so thankful for my great students, and parents are very supportive. Our school is going through accreditation which has meant that we have had to do a lot of extra work and spend extra hours in school.

Outside of teaching, the DenHartghs spend time with the new teachers who are around their age. Their work with the Merowe schools includes a group of teachers and involves teacher training meetings held on the weekend. “This is a new project, but the government is supporting the efforts and the teachers are very eager to receive English training,” Liz writes. “We are excited to finally be able to help out fellow teachers.” While visiting the schools, the DenHartgh’s were able to go into some ancient archeological sites, walk around some Sudanese pyramids and ride a camel. The DenHartghs spent the Christmas holidays in Thailand with her brother Chris and cousin Joe. They toured Thailand and Laos and visited a teacher job fair. “Currently there are about 10 schools which need ESL and Art teachers,” said Liz. “We will be sad to leave our Sudanese students and friends but we feel we need to move to a place that is greener and offers more opportunity to travel freely.”

Live from South Korea

EEC’s Linda Good on teaching and living at the University of Daegu

Dr. Linda Good, left on February 26 to begin a four-month teaching role in Korea at the Catholic University of Daegu where she will be teaching two early childhood education courses. “The college year starts in March,” she writes. “They have two semesters. Full load for faculty is 3 courses for 9 credits; advisee load is 15. No required office hours, just accessibility. The offices are huge—big enough for a desk, several bookshelves, and a conference table. I have already been offered a position here!”

Dr. Good has been keeping the COE community informed on the happenings at the University and her comments are on our Web site at http://ed.coe.edu. Read her thoughts and observations on holidays, dining and cultural conventions. “Remember that these are my impressions,” she writes. “They may not be a true picture from a Korean’s point of view.”
Technology Changing the Process of Education

Sneak a peek into an education class in Armstrong Hall and you’ll see a process at work that is fundamentally transforming teacher education. That process is technology integration and while the setup of desks, tables and chairs may look the same, if you look a little further you will notice some differences. SMART boards, touch screens, laptop hookups and document cameras (see sidebar) are just some of the hardware that is converting the traditional classroom to a technologically integrated classroom.

But further than appearances and equipment, technology is altering the fabric of the pedagogical process. Thirty years ago, students and teachers came to the class with approximately the same level of technological expertise – teachers would perhaps be skilled at the office machines but rarely was the student. The classroom of today is very different – not only is the technology in the classrooms, rather than just the office, the students and teachers have different (at times, vastly different) levels of experience and skill with technology. And, unlike the past, when the teachers were the experts, now generally it is the students who have the experience and skills. “Both our teacher candidates and the students they will be teaching have had years of experience with technology,” notes Dr. Steven Robinson, faculty with Special Education and former educational technology development and training specialist. “IPod, Game Boys, laptops and cell phones are a part of the life experiences of these students from their earliest years. The do not consider the use of technology, they expect and assume it.”

For the College of Education, technology becomes an issue when addressing the standards for teacher preparation programs and making the program relevant to our students to ensure our candidates are effective educators. And relevance starts with the idea of communication. “The research of Wilbur Schramm (1954) says that for communication to take place, the fields of experience of the sender and the receiver must overlap,” notes Don Descy (K-12 and Secondary Programs). “The message, designed under the influence of the sender, must elicit accurate and appropriate meanings in the receiver. The decoding (understanding) of the message depends on meanings that reside in the field of experience of the students.”

Instructional media, or technology, serves as a bridge between the fields of experience of the teacher and the fields of experience of the student. “The more accurately the media reflects the experience of both teacher and student, the better the communication,” Descy stated (see related story on Descy, page 3). For teacher preparation programs, with differing fields of experience, and the weight of experience on the side of the student, the problem becomes distinct: What constitutes an effective method of teaching the use of technology to teacher candidates? In addition, how can we (as teacher educators) remain current in technology while keeping up with all the other changes in educational methods and pedagogy – particularly as new technologies transform the way our teacher candidates are interacting with the world?

One answer might be found in the approach used by Aaron Doering, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, Learning Technologies. Doering, who holds the Bonnie Westby-Huebner Endowed Chair of Education and Technology, came to Minnesota State Mankato in January to present his approach to infusing technology in the curriculum. One means to technology integration Doering uses is to have the students bring the technology into the classroom. For example, instead of a content professor going to a workshop to learn concept mapping and bringing that information back to the students; have the students use concept mapping or other technologies (something they are probably already familiar with) to showcase their knowledge to the class while fulfilling an assignment requirement.

Technology use in this way serves two purposes. First, it transforms the instructional method, the students’ learning processes and/or the subject matter – the technology learning becomes content-specific and fits the needs of the teachers and students. Second, it moves the instructional model from teacher-centered to student-centered; involving the students and teachers on a deeper level. “Learning technology has the possibility of being a change agent for teachers to be metacognitive about their teaching,” Doering remarked. “This could then lead to changes in their teaching.”

For the College of Education, technology integration is an ongoing concern. COE Faculty know that it is critical for our graduates to be proficient in the use of technology. Several departments have already greatly infused technology into the curriculum (see related story). Other departments are in the process of redesigning curriculum now to move technology from an add-on role to one that integrates pedagogy and content for greater understanding by learners.

Interested in learning more? Try these Web sites for more in-depth information.
Critical Issues and Supporting Materials links for classroom teaching - http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/te0cont.htm
Web 2.0 video – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gmP4nkOEoE
The Knowledge Gap - http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2008/01/23/3leadership.h01.html
One example of a technology integration project is in Counseling and Student Personnel Department (CSP). CSP is proposing a laptop requirement for students in the Community Counseling track. These laptops would be used for a variety of courses for students in the Community Counseling track that include: Introduction to Community Counseling, Appraisal Techniques for Professional Community Counseling, Intervention Treatment Planning and Evaluation, Family Counseling, Practicum Professional Community Counseling, and Internship in Professional Community Counseling. Dr. Diane Coursol, Community Counseling Professor, comments “As a department we infuse technology throughout the curriculum. In most classes, students are required to access software and create projects that they must present to their peers. Ultimately these projects are included in the electronic portfolio.” In addition, the laptop program supports what the students will be doing in clinical practice. “Personality assessment instruments, diagnostic software and client record-keeping are some activities that our student will be doing in the workplace,” Coursol noted. “Students are expected to leave our program capable of managing and utilizing appropriate software.”

Technology as a Tool to Communicate

Technology is fundamentally important as a communication tool for Don Descy. Descy is co-author (with R. Forcier of Western Oregon State) of The Computer as an Educational Tool: Productivity and Problem Solving. The text is designed for pre-service and practicing teachers to become proficient at applying the computer to solve problems, infuse the computer into the curriculum in order to help students do the same, to integrate technology into their professional, academic and personal lives in useful and meaningful ways.

“The idea was to provide a current, comprehensive look at the computer’s role in education as well as the application of the computer as a tool of the mind,” Descy said. The text covers issues in information technology, learning theory and instruction as well as strategies for computer use such as word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, databases and the internet. “We included actual teachers from around the world discussing how they are using the technologies in their classrooms. Many experts in the field (including Kathy Schrock, David Warlick and District 77’s Doug Johnson) have written pieces for it,” Descy noted.

The Computer as an Educational Tool is the number two book in the field right now. “It is used in over 90 colleges and universities in the US, Canada, and several other countries… and in my KSP and EEC classes,” Descy stated. In addition to the issues, tools and techniques covered, Descy says that this book is tied to technology standards. “It is the first book in the field to be based on and tied to national educational technology standards for teachers (NETS-T) and the national educational technology standards for students (NETS-S), produced by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).”

Want to know what some of the new technology items are?

Document Camera – a video camera designed to display documents and three-dimensional objects on a screen, projector or monitor. The image is displayed through an LCD projector.

Laptop connections – any of a group of USB or other connecting cords to hook up a faculty or student laptop to the document camera, smart board or touch screen.

SMART Boards – a large touch-screen white board hung on the wall, connected to a computer and digital projector. The projector throws the computer’s desktop image onto the interactive whiteboard, which acts as both a monitor and an input device. The interactive whiteboard is usually mounted on a wall.

Touch Screen – a video screen showing equipment in text or images. Control of the displayed equipment is done by touching images/text on the screen.
The National Association for the Education of Young Children held its annual conference at McCormick Place in Chicago, Illinois from November 7-10, 2007. Dr. Elizabeth Sandell and Dr. Linda Good accompanied twelve undergraduate early childhood education majors, one elementary education major, and two graduate students in early childhood education on this professional development trip. This is the largest early childhood education conference in the world; over 20,000 people were in attendance. The conference had over 800 sessions focused on topics related to policies and practices for educating and caring for children from birth to age eight.

Besides being an educational experience, students also experienced urban life including using public transportation like commuter trains or buses and experienced the two hour daily one-way commute from the suburbs to Chicago’s Loop. Because of the shared experiences and living together for several days, the students established new relationships with one another and with the professors.

The College of Education supported this opportunity for students by funding the use of vehicles from Minnesota State Mankato for travel to and from Chicago. Dr. Good’s niece, Michele Vikartofsky, hosted the students in her suburban home. Student Cassie Schmit, stated: “This trip has helped me understand the importance of strong and passionate teachers in our education system and that they truly are helping to shape the future.” “I not only learned about teaching young children from professionals from all over the country, but had the opportunity to establish meaningful relationships with other Minnesota State Mankato students,” said student Karli Wobschall.

Interested in student teaching in Australia? Visit the Office of Field Experience in 119 Armstrong Hall or call 507-389-1517 to find out more about this experience.
Yunhui Voelker, an Elementary Education major and a distinguished Cadet in the Minnesota State Mankato Army ROTC program, was selected to represent the university at the 31st George C. Marshall Award Seminar. Cadets are selected by the cadre of their college or university Army ROTC Detachment as the outstanding Army ROTC cadet for the year. On April 15, 2008, 276 senior cadets from colleges and universities with ROTC detachments and cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point, will gather in Lexington again for the 31st annual George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar.

Cadet Voelker is most deserving of this selection. She carries a 3.78 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 19 cadets. Her goal is to be an elementary school teacher while fulfilling her commitment in the Army National Guard.

About the Award: In November 1976, then Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Bernard Rogers and Marshall Foundation lifetime trustee retired General Maxwell Taylor agreed to “the establishment of an annual George C. Marshall Award for outstanding members of the Army ROTC.” Since that time, the Marshall Foundation, in partnership with the United States Army, has brought close to 9,000 outstanding college seniors to the Foundation in Lexington, Virginia to receive the Marshall ROTC Award and participate in the Marshall Seminar on the National Security of the United States.

Summer Academy for Educators and Leaders

The second-annual Summer Academy for Educators and Leaders at Minnesota State University, Mankato promises three days of powerful, research-based learning with hundreds of other committed professionals to increase achievement for all learners. Extend your learning on key issues such as: data-driven decision making, assessment, differentiated instruction, coaching and mentoring, culturally responsive teaching, literacy, learning communities, building teams and partners, social and emotional wellness, and technology. A variety of keynote speeches, concurrent sessions, courses, and “time for teams” will enhance your skills for teaching and leading.

Save the dates for July 29 – 31, 2008 and join us for an engaging, exciting, and educational three days this summer. Register online at http://ed.mnsu.edu/summeracademy/.
Jeff Halbur joined the College of Education as full-time Director of Development in January, 2008. Jeff is an Alumni of Minnesota State Mankato (class of ’86) with a major in Business Administration. “I’m proud to be a Maverick and even more proud to be working with my alma mater”, Halbur says with Maverick gusto. “I look forward to working collaboratively with the faculty, staff, Emeriti faculty and friends. I really enjoy having the opportunity to meet alumni and friends of Minnesota State Mankato and learn how their experiences here prepared them in a very special way to be successful in their careers and lives,” Halbur said. “I will be focused on reconnecting with many of the alumni who may not have remained connected with the University for some time.” Part of his task will be to work with donors to establish scholarships, endowments or planned gifts and ensure the next generation of students is afforded the best educational experience possible.

When not working, Halbur enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, camping and just spending time with his family. Another one of Jeff’s passions is celebrating diversity. He has been an active member of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council for over three years. Additionally, Jeff and his two sons, Andy (14) and Brad (10), are very active in Boy Scouts. Jeff and his wife Bonnie have called Mankato home for over 5 years and have come to really enjoy the friendships they’ve established here. Feel free to contact Jeff directly at (507) 389-5327 or at Jeffrey.halbur@mnsu.edu. Also, go online at http://ed.mnsu.edu/ to find out the latest happenings within the College of Education.

Alumni, Ruth Holzhueter (’89 & ’91) – received a Master’s in School Counseling. She is currently a non-public school guidance counselor with ISD 77. Arians was inducted into the Loyola Hall of Fame for Career Achievement in October 2007, and developed a Web site for students and counselors with free career/college prep curriculum. In addition she has donated a kidney to her brother. Ruth is married to Richard Arians, a regional sales manager with Alltel.

Braun, Betty Jo Roselius (’84 & ’02) – received a Master’s in Secondary School Counseling. Married to David Braun, VP of Braun Farms, Inc, she says “I have been a school counselor at Cleveland for the past 23 years, adding elementary licensure and responsibilities in 2001. My focus with students has been in the area of career education and helping them find ways to follow their dreams. My own three children are all in their twenties; one an engineer married to a media specialist, one in a divinity school, and one finishing an econ/business management major next year. We’re very proud of our kids, who have taught us so much along the way. As a vocation, I’ve followed my musical dream by serving as church organist/pianist for 33 years.”

Carlson, Tanya (’07) – received a Master’s degree in Professional School Counseling. Carlson is working as a school counselor in the BOLD School District in Olivia, Minnesota.

Davis, John E. (’98) – received a BS in Corrections and is a teacher for the Milwaukee Public Schools. He is married to Nichole Kirksey-Davis (’96), who also teaches at the Milwaukee Public Schools.

Johns, Dianne (’89) – received a BS in Physical Education. She writes “I have been teaching and coaching in the Mankato school district since my graduation in 1989. At the present time, I teach at Franklin Elementary School in Mankato and coach B-squad basketball and C-squad softball at Mankato West. In the fall, I also officiate varsity volleyball matches around the Mankato area. Last fall, the 1985-1986 Minnesota State Mankato basketball team, which I was a member, was inducted into the Minnesota State Mankato Hall of Fame.

Oestreich, Leah (’05) – received a Master’s degree in Professional School Counseling. She is working as a school counselor for Willmar Public Schools in Willmar, Minnesota.

Reinert, Roger J. (’94) – received a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction and is serving as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota – Duluth and Lake Superior College. Reinert was recently elected President of the Duluth City Council. This is the second time he has served as Council President in the past three years. Reinert is an At-Large member of the council. He was last re-elected in 2005 and his current term runs through 2009.
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, 2007 and March 31, 2008. We extend our sincerest gratitude for every generous gift. Because there are approximately 650 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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Bridges-Pahl

David and Mary Peterson

Joanne and Dan Phillips

Vivian Pinney

Maureen Prenn and Michael

O’Connor

Owen and Margaret Putman

Dale and Nancy Redetzke

Elaine Reseller

Douglas and Dorothy Richards

Mary and Darwin Rieck

Dean Risius

Paul Roberts

Walter and Laurie Roberts

Jean and Joseph Rodriguez

Barbara Rogers

Katherine and Dan Sallstrom

Ronald Sandell

Michelle and David Schultz

Charles Schwartz

Travis Schweiss

Carolyn and Marvin Sharp

Geraldine and Milan Skarphol

Tami Staloch-Schatz and Mike

Schultz

Leatrice and Wendell Suzuki

Beverly A. Thompson

Terrence Thompson and Lynn

Rathke

Mary Lou and Steven Thureson

Jeff Tollefsrud

James Torgerson

C. Robert Utermohlen

Rosemary Vetsch

Ruth and Tim Vetter

Richard Wagman

Lois and Forrest Walters

Cynthia and William Weart

Diane and John Weaver

Richard and Kari Whitaker

Joyce Wiechert

Marjorie Zimmerman