



CONNECTIONS

October
2007

College of Education and Human Services

• Awards/Recognition

The new Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program at MSUM has been awarded a grant for a period of five years, totaling approximately 1.35 million dollars. The money comes from the U.S. Department of Education's National Professional Development Program, and the purpose of the program is to enhance the abilities of all teachers to work with English Language Learners. This funding will support three projects at MSUM. The first project is an initiative to provide professional development for teacher education faculty of all licensure areas in understanding matters that relate to English Language Learners (ELLs) and to revise the curricula of the teacher education programs to include the training of pre-service teachers on ELL issues. The second project is the development of a regional conference on issues relating to teaching ELLs. The third project of the grant is an initiative to encourage secondary content area teachers to enroll in MSUM's graduate courses in TESL.

Dr. Marie Swanson was nominated and awarded the STAR (A System of Technology to Achieve Results) Award for Excellence in Assistive Technology. She was invited to attend an award ceremony at the Capitol rotunda. STAR is located within the Department of Minnesota Administration. STAR's mission is to help all Minnesotans with disabilities gain access to and acquire the assistive technology they need to live, learn, work and play.

Jessica Trautwein, a two-sport letterwinner (track and basketball) and a math education major at MSUM, has earned one of 58 post-graduate scholarships valued at \$ 7,500 each, offered to student-athletes in all NCAA divisions who participated in spring sports this year. Trautwein graduated in May with a 4.0 GPA. To qualify for a NCAA postgraduate scholarship, a student-athlete must have an overall GPA of 3.2 and must have performed with distinction as a member of the varsity team. The student-athlete also must intend to continue academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree.

• New Faculty

Boyd Bradbury, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Educational Leadership: Bradbury earned his B.S. at Bemidji State University. From Minnesota State University Mankato, he completed a M.A. in Teaching Spanish and an Educational Specialist's degree. He received his Doctorate in education at Capella University. Bradbury taught Spanish at two public schools in Minnesota, and later earned principalship and superintendency licensure. He served as principal of Benson High School in Benson, MN for five years. Since 2000, he has served as superintendent of Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Public Schools. Bradbury has presented recently at national meetings of the American Educational Research Association and American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and state meetings of MASA and MACTE.

Roy Thurston, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Special Education: Thurston grew up in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. he received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. from University of Calgary. He has most recently worked at California State University - San Bernardino in Educational Psychology and Special Education. Thurston is a member of The International Neuropsychological Society, The National Academy of Neuropsychology, The Council for Exceptional Children and Learning, and the Brain Society. His research interests are in the area of traumatic brain injury, memory processes in

Donna Brown, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Counseling and Student Affairs: Brown received an Associate of Science degree from Sitting Bull College in 1984. She earned her Bachelor of Science in education in 1991, Master of Arts in counseling in 1995, and Doctor of Education degree in 2002, all from UND. Donna Brown comes to MSUM with 15 years experience developing and implementing programs and services designed to increase retention of students in college. She has published and presented nationally on retention and student services for American Indians. She is a former Bush fellow and is a member of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Brown was most recently employed at the University of North Dakota as Assistant Director of American Indian Student Services.

Tracy Wright, R.N., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Nursing: Wright was born and raised in Cresco, Iowa. She earned a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Nursing from University of North Dakota. Wright has been working in nursing education for approximately 10 years. She has served on various local, regional, and state-wide committees as well as functioned as the director of nursing and health division chair at institutions of higher education. Her career in nursing education has included extensive online and web-enhanced training as well as delivery of nursing curriculum.

Learn Online!

Educational Leadership

Contact: Dorothy Suomala
suomalad@mnstate.edu

Special Education

Individuals wishing to add an additional area of special education licensure to a current licensure.
Contact: Britt Ferguson
fergub@mnstate.edu

Foundations/Math

Individuals who have a Math degree & want to become Math teachers
Contact: Tim Harms
harms@mnstate.edu

New Program Approved!

K-12 Teachers of Reading,
For more information
contact:
Peggy Rittenhouse
rittenps@mnstate.edu

Kristina Peterson, Counseling and Student Affairs: From NDSU, Peterson received her B.S. in Psychology and M. Ed. in Counseling. She is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in Counselor Education at NDSU. Her areas of specialty and interest include Counseling Children and Adolescents, Multicultural Counseling, Supervision in Counseling, and Grief and Trauma Counseling. Peterson has counseling experience in private practice, agency, and school settings, working primarily with children and adolescents and their families.

• **Events**

Gregory Michie, a visiting scholar, will give presentations to MSUM students and the community on November 6th (Tuesday). Michie is the author of *Holler If You Hear Me: The Education of a Teacher and his Students* (Teaching for Social and Justice Series). In his book, he shares what he found as a teacher in an inner city school. Several big issues such as segregated schooling, police brutality, drugs, gangs, sexism, racial bias, and childhood sexual abuse are included. *Creative Loafing* calls this book “one of the season’s most fascinating, albeit under-publicized books.” And it is “full of passionate writing and is of immediate interest to anyone concerned about children and/or education.” Michie’s 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. presentations in the CMU Ballroom are open to the public.

• **News**

Student Teaching Abroad – Six student teachers successfully completed student teaching in Europe during Spring 2007. During Fall 2007, three student teachers will travel abroad. Prior Weston Primary School in London will host one. Two students will be student teaching in Basel, Switzerland at the award winning International School of Basel. Beginning Spring 2008, an additional opportunity will be available for students at the Peterson Schools in Mexico City. Another site is being developed in Spain, with plans for placing students during Fall 2008.

MSUM and the White Earth Indian Reservation plan to find ways to help American Indian children achieve. They are working on a comprehensive study of education and related services. The study will examine factors that impact the success of American Indian children, including education, family, the justice system, employment, and services related to well-being. “Ultimately what we need to find is which factors out there impact achievement negatively or positively,” says Boyd Bradbury, professor and coordinator in Educational Leadership at MSUM, “Too often we try quick-fix type items without taking a look to see what the actual issues are.” Attention is given to children and applicable services from birth through post-secondary education.

***Reminder**

The Alumni Foundation will begin the annual Phonathon in October. Please consider telling the caller that you would like your pledge directed to the College of Education and Human Services. Pledges from donors who do not indicate a recipient will go to the general fund managed by the Foundation.

The College of Education and Human Services of Minnesota State University Moorhead is dedicated to providing the best education possible to our students. If you would like to know more about our College, please visit our website at www.mnstate.edu/edhuman.

Learn how you can help ensure the College’s future by visiting www.mnstate.edu/edhuman/legacy.html.

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