A Message from the Dean

The School of Education is proud to present this first issue of Benchmarks. You will find information about teaching/learning, research and service initiatives that enrich the experiences of our students. The School was formed in July of 2003 to serve as a common voice for professional education programs at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Faculty and staff utilize their diverse talents, perspectives and expertise to provide a vital link between theory and practice in the educational arena. Their specific mission is to provide exemplary teaching, research and service. Their commitment to excellence motivates them to ensure that graduates of the School become successful and effective leaders and educators.

Students are guided in building the necessary knowledge to take responsibility for their learning and to acquire the skills necessary to become reflective practitioners who are competent in making sound instructional decisions.

A rich array of graduate and undergraduate programs that have achieved state, national and international prominence is provided in the School of Education. These programs have been shaped by a long history, yet have evolved to speak to the needs of our global society and allow students the opportunity to work in a wide variety of educational settings.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of Benchmarks!

Judy Jax, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education

Online Course Growth

Enrollment continues to grow in University of Wisconsin-Stout's School of Education Online Professional Development Courses. The 2005 spring semester showed an increase of 69 percent over 2004.

The program's expansion demonstrates the educators' desire for "flexible 24/7 learning," said Joan Vandervelde, online professional development coordinator at UW-Stout.

Convenience and quality interactions with students and instructors are the primary drivers for most students. That's certainly the case for Annette Mikula, the Director of Human Resources, Sun Prairie School District.

"UW-Stout's online programming gave me the flexibility that I needed to be able to go back to school on my time schedule without having to travel to campus," said Mikula. "I can continue to be a lifelong learner and work toward completion of another degree."

With 95 percent of students holding full-time teaching schedules, learning remotely is for many the only opportunity to learn and teach at the same time. In all, 55 percent of spring 2005 UW-Stout online professional development participants have previously achieved a master's degree or higher and 41 percent were seeking to renew a teaching license.

The online courses came in especially handy for Sue Schneckloth, a teacher at the International School of Prague in the Czech Republic.

"During the summer of 2005, I enrolled in an online course titled Teaching Young Adult Literature in the Classroom," said Schneckloth. "The course allowed me to schedule my learning time around my vacation and travel calendar. As an adult working abroad, it is challenging to find the time and facilities to work on continuing my education," said Schneckloth. "For me, the online course offered an excellent solution to both of these issues. I would encourage others to try them out."

The online world is often considered to be the territory of the young, yet 87 percent of UW-Stout online professional development students during spring 2005 were 31 or older and approximately 33 percent were 50 or older.

Moreover, many students report on final course evaluations that they actually learn more course content than outlined in the syllabus objectives. This is due, in part, to the content learned from interacting with classmates using the discussion board component of the online course.
Judy Herr, program director for the Early Childhood Education program at UW-Stout, has not only published books on the subject of early childhood, but has had books published in several different languages.

“One book, titled Working with Young Children, has been published in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic,” said Herr. “It was published in Arabic because Jordan’s Queen Raina wishes to introduce kindergartens to her country. Dr. Karen Zimmerman and I worked by phone with educators from Jordan and Deanna Applehans at Stout Solutions, to translate the book into Arabic.”

Herr’s interest in publishing began after a chance meeting with some former students and graduates at a national early childhood conference. “The graduates told me that it was too bad, after getting all of the handouts in classes through the years, that they didn’t have something organized,” said Herr. “They recommended that we put a book together with all of our teaching materials from the various classes.” After this, Herr developed a wrap-around series textbook containing an observation guide, a student activity guide, and a booklet that has all the information a teacher needs to conduct a class.

Herr is recognized nationally and internationally for the number of books she has authored and co-authored. “I think all professors should have to write. It makes you a better teacher,” said Herr. “I’m always revising my teaching material, because as you write, you’re learning.”

Herr directs the Early Childhood Education program at UW-Stout, one of the largest programs in the nation. She has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Midwestern Association for the Education of Young Children, been named to the prestigious Who’s Who in American Education lists, and earned the Leadership Award from the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association.

Changes have occurred in the program since Herr’s arrival in 1969. “We did have an early childhood program on campus in the 1920s, but its funding at some point was cut for public school kindergartens,” said Herr. “The program was revived in the late 1960s and grew significantly in the late ’80s.” “UW-Stout’s early childhood majors are fortunate that the program is large enough so faculty can become experts,” said Herr. “As specialists, each time they teach they become better and better by concentrating their effort in teaching a few courses.” Moreover, courses and practicums allow students to work with young children early in the program. This interaction continues throughout the course work and culminates in student teaching.
Online Reading Teacher Certification Begins

UW-Stout's School of Education began offering online reading certification courses with the fall 2005 semester. Participants completing a sequence of courses and who have two years of successful teaching experience will receive a Wisconsin teaching license in reading through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

A reading teacher certification (WI 316) is required for the following assignments:

- A reading assignment for more than one class per day
- A reading assignment in a Title I program identified as a reading program
- A reading assignment in a reading recovery program, if not part of a self-contained classroom

Requirements may be completed as a certification-only student, or as a component of the Master of Science in education online or on-campus degree program.

Participants will learn how to assess K-12 students' reading skills along with designing and implementing individualized instructional strategies to help students who are experiencing reading difficulties.

The courses help fill a need in K-12 schools to provide qualified reading teachers as mandated by the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Ultimately, the goal is to increase reading achievement for all students.

The reading certification requires 18 credits, and courses can be completed in five semesters. Students will complete a practicum experience in their local school setting.

Special Education Degree Now Offered

As of the fall 2005 semester, the School of Education began a new Bachelor of Science Degree in special education. Graduates will receive a Wisconsin teaching license in cross-categorical special education and be able to teach students with learning, cognitive, and emotional behavioral disabilities from approximately ages 6 through 21.

“Due to the extreme shortage of special education teachers throughout the nation, this is a highly needed program,” said Mary Hopkins-Best, the coordinating chair in UW-Stout’s School of Education.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook, “employment of special education teachers is expected to increase faster than the average through 2010, spurred by continued growth in the number of special education students needing services, legislation emphasizing training and employment for individuals with disabilities, and reforms requiring higher standards for graduation.”

While there is a shortage of teaching personnel in all disability areas, there is an even greater demand for cross-categorical teachers.

“Graduates of the special education program at UW-Stout have enjoyed 100 percent placement for many years,” said Hopkins-Best. “It is fully anticipated that the 100 percent placement rate will continue with the new major.”

Because cross-categorical certified teachers work with students who are best served in an individualized general curriculum, the teachers must possess a working knowledge of all general education curriculum subjects. The new program requires 46 credits of general education and 78 credits of professional studies. Students will complete a variety of field experiences beginning at the sophomore level, culminating in a full semester of student teaching.
Hometown
I was born in Spokane, Wash., and have lived in the Eau Claire area for more than 35 years.

Academic goals
I will graduate in May 2006 with a degree in Career, Technical Education and Training (CTET) with a human resource specialization. My focus has been on obtaining the Wisconsin Technical College System certification that I'll need to teach the adult population.

What brought you to UW-Stout
The Education Outreach Center at UW-Eau Claire was a great help in guiding me to UW-Stout for the CTET program that suits my end goal.

Activities involvement
My plan is to work among an inmate population. During the summer of 2005 I worked at the Eau Claire County Jail and obtained my human resource specialization. I helped update handbooks for inmates and a brochure for friends and family of inmates. My spring 2005 semester theater practicum was a lot of fun! I continue to be active in our church quilting group when time allows.

School of Education Influences
Several of my instructors have left great impressions. Dr. David Johnson, Dr. Hector Cruz, Lynn LaVenture, Dr. Melanie Fagert, Juli Taylor, Jill Stanton, Dr. Howard Lee and Dr. Carolyn Barnhart, who was instrumental in my applying for the three different scholarships I received.

Career direction
My goal is to teach/assist an inmate population to gain their GED or HSED and go on to achieve additional schooling in a field of their choice.

Faculty members at UW-Stout are working to improve technology and engineering education with the help of a five-year $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The money awarded to UW-Stout's School of Education is part of a $10 million NSF grant to establish a National Center for Engineering and Technology Education (NCETE). The center will enhance technology and engineering education by linking educators in both fields. UW-Stout was selected as a member of the partnership, which is based at Utah State University.

The goal is to bring engineering, along with design, problem-solving and analytical skills, into high schools and their technology education programs. The NCETE will link four research universities with five technology education institutions—including UW-Stout, several K-12 school districts and three education-related societies.

“...were trying to better prepare high school students for engineering and technology careers,” said Brian McAlister, professor and co-principal investigator for the project at UW-Stout. “We also hope to better prepare college students to become classroom teachers and classroom teachers to better educate through this grant.” Kenneth Welty, professor, is the other co-principle investigator for the project.

The nation is losing a number of its teachers to retirement each year. Teachers are especially in high demand in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The center hopes to help ease many of these national trends.

There are four university research partners involved in NCETE, including Utah State, the University of Illinois, the University of Georgia, and the University of Minnesota. Their aim is to produce 20 Ph.D. graduates — five at each institution — who will seek faculty positions in teacher training programs. The graduate students trained will be connected with engineering faculty on their respective campuses.

As a research partner, the University of Minnesota is matched with UW-Stout, the largest producer of technology education graduates in the United States. The other four teacher education partners are Brigham Young University, California State University-Los Angeles, Illinois State University and North Carolina A&T State University.

This partnership provides an opportunity to strengthen technology education programs across the country. UW-Stout is in a leadership position with this effort.
Urs Haltinner, an assistant professor in the School of Education, was the recipient of the 2005 Jax Teaching Excellence Award.

The award goes to UW-Stout faculty who are strongly committed to teaching and learning, who use extremely effective teaching strategies to enhance student learning, who have a significant impact on students' intellectual development and who have spent a minimum of five years at UW-Stout. A description of Haltinner fits all of the above. "Urs exemplifies what a good teacher is," said School of Education Dean, Judy Jax. "He truly loves working with students." This is Haltinner's 16th year of teaching, and seventh year teaching in the Marketing and Business Education program at UW-Stout. He is a graduate of the UW-Stout program and is currently in the dissertation phase of his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

"Being recognized for what I love to do — teaching — is an honor," said Haltinner. "I appreciate this award since it represents an investment in supporting and developing the person that teaches and facilitates learning."

Haltinner is the program director for the Marketing and Business Education program.

"I am humbled by what I get to learn from my students on a daily basis," said Haltinner.

The Stout-Minnesota Articulation is a program designed to assist individuals, who reside outside of the metropolitan area, but within commuting distance of the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota, in completing a doctoral program. Students within the program have access to special Friday-Saturday offerings of required core doctoral courses in St. Paul and/or Menomonie and special advising and informational opportunities.

The degree requires the completion of at least 36 semester hours of graduate credits beyond the master's degree. See http://www.uwstout.edu/programs/edscte/ for more information on the Ed.S. degree in Career and Technical Education.
Invest in a Stout Education

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest," - Benjamin Franklin

A UW-Stout education graduate will probably teach 25 children each year for 20 years. That's 500 young minds placed on a life-long path of learning and accomplishment. Currently, more than 1500 students are enrolled in education programs.

Built on a foundation of promoting excellence established by James H. Stout, more than a century ago, the School of Education sets high standards in attracting undergraduate and graduate students, supporting faculty and staff in the areas of teaching, research and service and providing the best-possible learning environment for students and teachers.

Those who care deeply about education are called to align themselves with educators seeking professional development opportunities and with UW-Stout's School of Education, by making a financial commitment.

Your support is critical to the school's ability to provide quality classroom and laboratory experiences, including the Child and Family Center.

Your gift will allow us to continue to raise the bar; training the best teachers and providing high quality professional development programs that will show a strong return on your investment.

Designate your donation to the School of Education on the enclosed envelope and return it with your contribution.

Contact the Stout University Foundation if you have questions, ideas or suggestions at 866-716-6685 or email suf@uwstout.edu.

Dean Judy Jax presented Peg Medcraft, Art Education Cooperating Teacher at Oseola High School with the 2005 PK-W art Wisconsin Teacher of the Year award on September 22.

Kari Merritt was nominated to participate as a member of the writing team for Advisements, a publication of the National Education Association.

Mary Hopkins-Best is a member of the Wisconsin State Superintendents Advisory Council on Special Education and the Department of Public Instruction planning committee for the Institute of Higher Education Forum on Inclusive Education for the 21st Century.

Dianne Klemme and Karen Zimmerman planned and hosted the Family and Consumer Science Education conference September 29. More than 276 FCSE teachers from Minnesota and Wisconsin attended.

Brian McAlister hosted a Technology Education conference on campus October 14.

Judy Herr was invited to Paichai University in Daejon, Korea, as the Invitational Distinguished Foreign Scholar, where she presented to faculty, students and alumni. Her keynote address was titled "Understanding Brain Development: Helping Children Reach their Full Potential."

Matthew Poppe, Technology Education student was invited to serve on the SOE Foundation Advisory Board.

Photographs created by Assistant Professor Woody Haid were featured in an exhibit titled, "Different Wavelengths," on display at the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center Gallery.

Howard Lee and Orville Nelson co-authored Instructional Analysis and Course Development, an integration of theory and application to guide instructors and trainers in building efficient and effective instructional courses and programs.

Alan Block, Debbie Stanislawski and Julianne Taylor participated in the Student-Centered Summer Institute that focused on engagement in the classroom.

Jane Becker, guidance and counseling student, was chosen as the recipient of the Mike Troy Graduate School Scholarship from Wisconsin School Counselor Association for 2005.

Brian McAlister will be featured in the March issue of The Technology Teacher in the "Leaders to Watch" section, which identifies outstanding individuals in technology education.

Sharon McElmeel, adjunct online professional development instructor, was named to the 2007 Randolph A. Caldecott Award Committee where she will represent the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) in selecting the recipient of the prestigious Randolph A. Caldecott Award for the most distinguished illustrated book for children.

Family and Consumer Science Education student, Kim Hart, is the national first vice chair for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. Other FCSE students with state offices include. Stephanie Love, state Pre-Professional/graduate student president and Crystal Bradwell, second vice chair of Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.
Golf Tour to Ireland

June 16-25, 2006

Dean John Wesolek, the inspiration for the Golf Enterprise Management degree at University of Wisconsin-Stout; Steve Terry, Stout’s Athletic Director and golf instructor; and Stout Solutions extend an invitation to golfers and non-golfers alike to join us as we host a magnificent vacation to the Emerald Isle.

Golfers on the tour will tee off for 5 rounds of championship golf at 5 destination courses in Ireland’s sunny South East including renowned Mount Juliet, Faithlegg, and Waterford Castle Golf Courses. Non-golfers can enjoy 5 sightseeing trips to the area’s finest art and historical attractions.

Package price for golfers: $3,795  Non-golfing package price: $3,495

For more information and/or to make a reservation:
Visit our Web site at: http://www.uwstout.edu/solutions/conf/golf_ireland
Or contact: Susan McClelland • (715) 232-2694 • e-mail mcclellands@uwstout.edu
University of Wisconsin-Stout • 140 VOER • Menomonie, WI 54751

Space is limited. To guarantee your reservation, you must complete the registration process on or before January 6, 2006. Reservation requests received after this date will be processed on a space available basis.

If you want to be notified of future golf activities: Please provide your name, mailing address, and/or e-mail address. Send to conference-solutions@uwstout.edu or call (715) 232-2793.

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