

GSE Spotlight

WHITWORTH COLLEGE ♦ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Summer Programs Wind Down. Are You Ready For Fall?

From the Director's Desk

On a warm Wednesday afternoon recently, we had to get more chairs for the conference room on the third floor of Dixon in order to accommodate all the new and returning members of the Graduate Student Advisory Board.

This group includes at least one representative from each of the Graduate Studies in Education programs. Representatives serve as liaisons between students and the administration and provide great insights into how the programs are working for graduate students and how they might be improved.

The GSAB has been instrumental in initiating several productive programs and changes, including Graduate Student Orientation Night (scheduled this fall for Wednesday, Sept. 1, 6-8 p.m.), online registration for returning GSE students, and streamlined parking-sticker distribution (coming this fall!). In the accompanying photo, note the GSAB members and the programs they represent. Contact one of these representatives if you have a kudo or a suggestion.

Summer school is rapidly coming to

a close, with just one or two courses scheduled in August. Many students have invested in their professional growth this summer and are eager to apply what they have learned in the fall. Principal and counselor interns are gearing up for their field experiences, and 19 professional teacher-certificate candidates are completing their professional-growth plans for implementation this fall. (See article on Page 3.)

The Admissions Committee met several times this summer to review application packets submitted by potential students. Some excellent prospects have chosen Whitworth for their graduate studies. We welcome these new students as they become an important part of our GSE family.

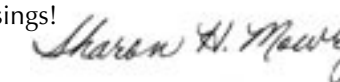
Enjoy the rest of your summer, and spend quality time with family and friends. The more structured pace of fall



Graduate Student Advisory Board members. Front row, from left, Joelle Neiwert - Gifted & Talented; Darla Freeborn - Alumni; Lezlie Aano - General Administration; Erma Hultman - Elementary Education; and Jennifer Roberts - School Counseling. Back row, Dave Lundgren - Agency Counseling; Melinda Keberle - School Administration; Dale Keiser - Secondary Education; Steve Burns - Secondary Education; and Linda Anastasio - Special Education.

will soon be upon us, with the inevitable juggling of work, classes, reading, papers, and family. I remind you that this is but a season of your life and that you and your family are investing in your future for all. It is our goal to make that investment one that will pay great dividends for you, both personally and professionally. Thank you for all you share with us and with your colleagues as you complete this chapter of your life.

Blessings!



Educators Gather at Whitworth for Character Mini-Conference

By Sharon Mowry

Whitworth's School of Education was the recipient last year of a national grant from the Character Education Partnership; the grant program is designed to prepare teachers, principals and counselors to be advocates for moral and character education in public and private schools. Only three of the grants were awarded nationally.

As part of the grant activities, a mini-conference was held on campus in late spring. The purpose of the conference was to inform faculty members about ways in which character education is being implemented in local districts. Educators from Mead, West Valley and Coeur d'Alene school districts presented break-out sessions regarding elementary, middle- and high-school

programs, including some from alternative schools. Teachers, principals and counselors were members of the presentation teams.

Pam Pratt, principal of Skyway Elementary School, in Coeur d'Alene, was the keynote speaker at a luncheon held for all participants. Whitworth Theatre Professor Rick Horner, '70, also presented a session on teaching character through theatre.

Evaluations from the workshop were very positive, with an average of 4.8 on a scale of 5 for the conference overall. Evaluation forms included feedback such as "Tremendous! Well planned; the skilled professionals spoke with passion"; "It was a wonderful day!"; and "These were wonderful sessions—very exciting models and motivating for integration."

Based on the information they received at the conference and at other grant activities throughout the year, 14 School of Education faculty members have submitted proposals to revise and infuse issues of character into their education courses.

In the fall, faculty members will share their work with one another. The grant continues for one more year. At the end of the grant cycle, we plan to make it possible for educators to have the knowledge, strategies and understanding necessary to address issues of character in their K-12 settings.

Whitworth will also share its process with other higher-education institutions at the October CEP Conference in Houston, as well as at the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Conference next year.

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Newbies: Orientation Eases the Road Ahead

By Darla Freeborn

Are you a new student? Feeling lost and alone? Do the terms "Blackboard," "WhitNet" and "Whitworth e-mail" inspire fear in your soul? Come join us at Graduate Student Orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 6-8 p.m., in Dixon Hall, Room 206. Meet your professors, converse with fellow students, and hear from helpful people who work on campus.

You will learn about our bookstore and library facilities; find out about your tuition and fees and learn how to acquire financial aid to help with expenses; see a

demonstration of WhitNet and information about registering for classes; learn to access your e-mail account; and become proficient at checking Blackboard for assignments and grades; you'll also discover how to gain other important information.

Whether you're a new student or one who has already taken classes, we invite you to join us. We'll provide you with helpful information, refreshments and good conversation. RSVP by calling the GSE office at 509-777-3228. We look forward to seeing you there!

Families Celebrate Accomplishments at Commencement

By Vernice Hunnicutt

Saturday, May 15, was a milestone for Whitworth graduate students as they were granted their masters' degrees at the graduate commencement ceremony in Cowles Auditorium. Proud family members, friends, faculty and staff gathered in support of graduates from Graduate Studies in Education, the Master in Teaching Program, and the Master of International Management Program. Thirty GSE students received the following degrees:

- master of education (secondary/elementary education), administration (school and general), counseling (school and agency);
- master of arts in teaching (gifted and talented, special education);
- master of arts (counseling, agency).

The commencement address by Whitworth President Bill Robinson, *Seeking and Dwelling*, was an outstanding example of his inspirational leadership.

Student speakers represented each of the three graduate departments. Graduate Studies in Education speaker Carolyn Cary (M.Ed. secondary education) spoke of her family's educational heritage, paying them and Whitworth tribute for her professional growth. Darla Freeborn (M.Ed. general administration) read the New Testament scripture.

Following the ceremony, students and their families gathered in the HUB's Lied Square for a reception lunch. The day was filled with hugs, words of congratulations,

and celebration. Janet McDonald (M.A. school counseling) says she was glad she participated in the graduation ceremony, since her family's effort on her behalf also deserved recognition.

"I was reminded that my whole family was, in a sense, graduating; it wasn't just me," she says. "The ceremony allowed all of us to celebrate our accomplishment – and since my goal for my children is to see them graduate from college, the commencement service set a great example."

When you're ready to graduate, we hope you will participate in your commencement ceremony and reception. If 2005 is your graduation goal year, mark May 14 on your calendar!



Janet McDonald and her family pose proudly at graduation. From left, Sean, Janet, Logan and Patrick.

Whitworth Certifies 'Second-Level' Teachers

Whitworth's first two professional-teacher certificate candidates recently presented highlights of evidence of their teaching competency; following the presentation, their final papers were signed, and a celebration reception followed.

Attendees included family members, friends, Professional Growth Team mem-

bers, School of Education faculty and staff, and students just beginning their professional-teacher certificate process.

The candidates were Deborah Palfenier, a fourth-grade teacher at Ponderosa Elementary School, in Central Valley School District, and Carolyn Cary, an eighth-grade science teacher at Deer Park Middle School, in Deer Park School District. These two outstanding educators completed the requirements for Washington state's new "second-level" certificate.

The certificate is competency-based, meaning that evidence of student learning and of targeted student and teacher behaviors must be presented in order for the candidate to be recommended to receive the certificate. This summer, 19 new candidates began the certification process by completing the preassessment seminar. (See story on Page 3.)



From left, Carolyn Cary, '97, '04, and Deborah Palfenier, '04.

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Looking Ahead . . . 2004 Calendar

- **Orientation:** Wednesday, Sept. 1, 6-8 p.m., Dixon Hall, Room 206
- **Intent forms for spring practicums and research projects due:** Sept. 15
- **Counselor and school PEAB interviews for spring practicums:** Oct. 25
- **Term Dates**
 - Fall Term:** Sept. 8-Dec. 16 (Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 24-26)
 - Jan Term:** Jan. 3-Jan. 25, 2005 (Martin Luther King holiday: Jan. 17)
 - Spring Term:** Jan. 31-May 13, 2005 (Spring Break: March 14-18) (Good Friday: March 25)
- **Commencement:** May 14, 2005

Comprehensive Exam Schedule

2004 Sept. 11, Nov. 13
2005 Jan. 8*, March 12*, May 14, July 9, Sept. 10, Nov. 12
2006 Jan. 14, March 11, May 13, July 8, Sept. 9, Nov. 11

* Counselor exam and administration exam offered on these dates.

Congratulations!

- **Leslie Lynn Smith, '04**, has accepted a position in Newport, Ore., as half-time principal and half-time resource teacher, 3-5 level.
- **Jaime Valenzuela, '04**, school-counselor program, has been hired by Lake City High School, in Coeur d'Alene, as a full-time freshman counselor.
- **Kevin Peterson, '01**, is the new principal of Spokane's Bemiss Elementary.
- **Pat Schmidt, '97**, works at Kamiak High School, in the Mukilteo School District, as vice principal for curriculum.
- **Ken Russell, '94**, an administrative graduate, is the new assistant principal at Spokane's Mead High School.
- **Debbie Ogden, '04**, is a special-education teacher at Chattaroy Elementary School, in the Mead School District.
- **Monica Bouten, '02**, has moved from teaching to counseling at Mead High School.
- **Kimberly Lefler, '03**, and Matthew Lefler welcomed a son, Carter Matthew, to their family May 23.
- **Dale and Jennifer, '06, Roberts** are the proud parents of a daughter, Isabella, born July 1.
- **Tom Gresch, '97**, is the new principal at Cheney High School.
- **Jennifer Heib-Dexter, '04**, is a full-time counselor for the Aberdeen School District elementary school.
- **Jesse Hardt, '01**, is assistant principal at Spokane's Shaw Middle School.
- **Matt Flieger, '04**, is a high-school counselor in the Bonners Ferry School District.
- **Linda Anastasio, '03**, has been contracted by Central Valley School District to teach special-education pre-school/Pre-K.
- **Betty Williams, Ph.D.**, is the 2004 recipient of the Washington Award for Excellence in Teacher Preparation. The award includes \$2,500 for professional development and will be presented to Williams at the state board meeting in August.



Students in the summer '04 Professional Certificate Pre-assessment Seminar course taught by Sharon Mowry

Attention, Teachers with Residency Certificates

By Joelle Neiwert

Educators with residency teacher certificates must complete a professional-teacher certificate program within five years in order to keep their certification current and to progress to the second-level professional-teacher certificate. Nineteen teachers recently completed the pre-assessment seminar, which is the beginning of the professional teacher certificate program at Whitworth.

The program is designed to help teachers set and reach educational and career goals that align with the standards required by the state: effective teaching, professional development, and leadership.

I (and more than a few of the other teachers) came into this pre-assessment seminar wondering if it would be just another layer of work on top of everything else we are required to do. But as I worked through the assessment rubrics identifying areas where I could improve and have a positive impact on student learning, I felt more and more positive about the process. Effective teachers know that they need to be thinking constantly about their work and refining their instruction, keeping what works in their classrooms and changing what does not. This program is a more formal process of accomplishing these goals.

The program includes 10 credits and can be completed in one or two years. The three-credit pre-assessment seminar is held in the summer. Four credits for the professional-growth-plan imple-

mentation are spread out through the fall and spring semesters (two credits each semester for completion in one year, or one credit each semester for completion in two years). Participants receive three credits for the culminating seminar held in the summer.

For teachers who would like to improve their practice and receive a professional certificate, this is a great program. The 10 credits can also be included in a master's-degree program. For more information, contact Sharon Mowry at Whitworth's Graduate Studies in Education Dept., 509-777-3228, or at smowry@whitworth.edu.

Financial Aid Recipients: You Must Be Registered

Students who use financial aid to assist with their tuition costs must be registered in order for that financial aid to transfer to their student accounts. A student must register at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the term to assure timely transfer of financial-aid funds to his/her student account.

Students expecting to receive a credit check after their loan funds have transferred and their tuition costs are covered should be able to pick up checks in the Student Accounts Office after they have attended their first class.

Please visit the Financial Aid Office's updated website at www.whitworth.edu/financialaid for more information.