



**WHITWORTH**  
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Spokane, WA 99251

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# GSE Spotlight

WHITWORTH COLLEGE ♦ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

## Messy Desk Means Good Things Are Happening

### From the Director's Desk

The director's desk appears to be overflowing at this point in the new semester. I'm glad that you can't see my desk at this moment because it is filled with folders marked "Things to Do," "Decisions to be Made," "Collaborative Discussions to Set Up," "Class Sessions to Plan," "Meeting Agendas to Write," and the list goes on.

Maybe your desk looks like mine as you attempt to juggle all the parts of your lives and try to maintain some semblance of order in each area. Adding graduate courses to your already busy lives can be a real challenge. I want to encourage you that it is worth it and to tell you that all of us in the graduate-studies program are in your corner. We want to see you succeed and we believe the investments you are making now will lead to greater opportunities in the future.

In the last issue of the *GSE Spotlight*, I mentioned that a new advisory board had been formed for the Center for Gifted Education. The outstanding members of this board have met for a second time and are enhancing the outreach and the effectiveness of the center.

A second advisory group was formed this winter. The school-counseling



ACAD members are, back row from left, Gene DiRe, James Pattee, Vernice Hunnicutt, Ron Kurtz, Alan Basham, Don Roberts, Dan Jordan and Jeff Thomas. Front, from left, Lisa Koch, Margaret Jones, Erika Burden, Anna Hernandez, Diane Dempsey Marr, Sharon Mowry and Kevin Heid.

program has been well-served by the Professional Educator Advisory Board for many years, as has the principal-preparation program. These advisory groups are made up of excellent educators from the Spokane area. However, the agency-counseling program has not had the benefit of a formal system of input from practicing counselors and agency professionals.

All of that changed Jan. 18, when a number of outstanding members of the social-service network in our area attended the first Agency Counseling Advisory Board dinner meeting on the Whitworth campus. Whitworth College faculty and staff Kevin O. Heid, Diane Marr, Sharon Mowry, Roger Long and Vernice Hunnicutt welcomed the following board members: Alan Basham, EWU counseling program; Erika Burden, Cheney Middle School; Gene DiRe, Catholic Charities; Robin

Garvin, Hamblen Presbyterian Church; Anna Hernandez, Excelsior Youth Center; Margaret Jones, Intercollegiate Nursing Education; Dan Jordan, Spokane Neighborhood Action Program; Lisa Koch, Spokane Mental Health; Ron Kurtz, L.I.F.E. Counseling Services; Scott Mabee, psychologist in private practice; James Pattee, New Bridge School; Donald Roberts, Licensed Psychologist; and Jeff Thomas, Family Service Spokane.

Diane Marr, coordinator of our counseling programs, gave the board members a historical overview of Whitworth's agency-counseling program. Items discussed at the first meeting included practicum and internship placements, good communication systems between the college, the student and the on-site supervisor, job possibilities in the area, and other topics of mutual interest. Two more meetings are planned during spring semester.

On another topic, perhaps you have noticed that in each issue of the *Spotlight* we have featured one or more faculty members. If you have a favorite professor you would like to see honored, please let me know at smowry@whitworth.edu.

Meanwhile, don't worry if your desk isn't as clean as you would like. It simply means that you are doing the important work of furthering your career and keeping your relationships intact.

*Sharon H. Mowry*

## It's time to Make Your Plans for Commencement 2005

By Vernice Hunnicutt, Assistant Director

Graduates, mark your calendars! Saturday, May 14, 2005, is your day to celebrate with pomp and circumstance.

The ceremony begins promptly at 10 a.m. in Cowles Memorial Auditorium. It will be followed immediately by a luncheon/reception in honor of graduates and guests from the Graduate Studies, Master in Teaching, and Master in International Management programs. The reception will begin at 11:45 a.m. in the Hixson Union Building.

Check out Commencement information online at [www.whitworth.edu](http://www.whitworth.edu). In the Whitlinks menu, select Commencement 2005, then Master's Degree Recipients. The website provides commencement details including cap and gown information, diplomas, pictures taken during Commencement, and hotel accommodations.

### Cap and Gown Orders

Cap and gown information will be mailed in the spring to all who have applied for commencement.

Order Dates: March 9, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; March 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in the HUB at Whitworth.

Distribution Dates: May 4, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; May 5, 10 p.m.-3 p.m., also in the HUB.

You need not come to campus to order your cap and gown. You may mail your order directly to the company or order online at [www.royalpapers.com/whitworth/whitworth\\_index.html](http://www.royalpapers.com/whitworth/whitworth_index.html).

The rental fee for the master's cap and gown is \$49.50 and includes cap, gown, tassel, hood, transportation and tax. Students retain only the cap and tassel after the ceremony.

It is your responsibility to order your cap and gown for the Commencement program. Please observe the deadlines carefully on the information you receive by mail or online.

### Free Child Care by Reservation

The Graduate Commencement ceremony will last approximately 1.5 hours, and we want you and those around you to enjoy this special time. If you have children ages 0-8 who would enjoy being with other kids, please consider bringing them to Dixon Hall, Room 206, for quality fun with loving caregivers. This service is free. Child care is available by reservation and is staffed by Whitworth adults and helpers who truly enjoy being with children. They also provide art materials, videos, and puzzles. A convenient feature is that you can leave your child before you line up for graduation and then pick him or her up right after the ceremony. Dixon Hall is next to the auditorium.

Make reservations by mailing in the form on the Commencement Weekend brochure, mailed to your home.

For more graduation information, contact Cheryl Rich at 509.777.4360 or e-mail [crich@whitworth.edu](mailto:crich@whitworth.edu).

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### Core Scheduling Change

There has been a change of schedule for EDU 550, Core: Milestones in Education. Effective summer 2005 Milestones will be offered Summer and Fall Terms, but not Spring Term. Students who were planning to take Milestones in spring 2006 need to consult with their advisors to see how this change affects their program.

# Dynamo Margo Long Enlightens, Energizes Students

By Dale Keiser, '05

If you've been to Grand Coulee Dam, you probably took the nickel tour: the spillways, the laser show, the interpretive center. For the curious few, a trip into the heart of the dam shows its real working elements – the dynamos. Down in the heart of the concrete, the turbines spin, creating light and heat and power for countless people. Few even know the dynamos are there.

Dynamo — not a bad description of Whitworth's Margo Long.

Coming to Whitworth as an undergraduate from U.C. Santa Barbara, Long never looked back. She earned a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree, and she now directs the only center in the state that addresses teaching the gifted student.

Chris Huss, program assistant for the Center for Gifted Education & Professional Development, describes Long as modest. Co-workers agree. Then other adjectives begin to flow. Huss comments on Long's skill in following through on challenging tasks. Many students mention the word "eclectic." Sharon Mowry, director of the Graduate Studies in Educa-

tion program, describes Long as having "a passion for helping teachers and parents of gifted children meet the needs of those children."

Long's journey to her current role at Whitworth began in the 1970s. A bright student from a family of educators, she graduated from Whitworth and secured a middle-school teaching position in the Central Valley School District, a position she says she loved. Her search for challenging activities for higher-level students led her into contact with other like-minded professionals in the country. A federal grant led to Long's involvement in a multi-state cadre exploring gifted education. Out of that work came her dream for a place where teachers of talented kids could get special training. The result: Whitworth's one-of-a-kind center. She accomplished all this in addition to raising a family and living a busy life.

When asked about the way all the elements combined to place her in the right place at the right time, Long demurs about her special abilities. She says that pieces and forces "coalesced" around her. Mowry has no such illusions; she praises Long's professionalism and tenacity in making sure that the right things happen for her students. Describing Long as an encourager, Mowry mentions how she "always pulls people into projects and lifts them

up." In a recent Jan Term class surveying current trends in gifted education, Long made sure the Dixon classroom was filled with highly trained experts in the field, autism specialists, district directors of gifted ed, and the latest research hot off the presses.

Long stays busy. As a professor in the School of Education, director of the center, and an ad hoc consultant for teachers and parents, she says she loves Whitworth and has "tremendous respect for the system." Huss notes Long's energy, generosity, humor and wisdom. She speaks wryly of her boss's favorite question: "You know what else we could do?"

Whitworth students, Huss says, love Long's classes and are often surprised how she can make difficult material become real and useful. She treats her students as if they were her own children, often attending to many of their various needs. Mowry adds that students look after Long in return: students on campus who see her office lights on late into the night e-mail her, telling her to "Turn off the lights and go home!"

Still, the lights stay on. Like the turbines down deep in Coulee Dam, the dynamo continues to spin, generating light, warmth and energy long into the night. Says Mowry, "It wouldn't be Whitworth without her."

## New to WhitNet: Account Balances Now Available

You can now view your account balances on WhitNet! Follow these easy steps:

- Log into your WhitNet account.
- Choose Account Statement from the menu.
- Enter a date from which to begin your statement, or leave this field blank to select the past 90 days automatically.
- Choose an account type or leave blank to select your regular student ac-

count (type "01") automatically.

If you need assistance with anything pertaining to Whitworth's student-accounts policies, tuition, contacts, or other information, visit the Student Accounting Services website at [www.whitworth.edu/studentaccounting](http://www.whitworth.edu/studentaccounting) services. Your comments, questions and concerns are welcome. You can also e-mail [stuacct@whitworth.edu](mailto:stuacct@whitworth.edu) or call 509.777.4324.

## Looking Ahead . . . . 2005 Calendar

### • Term Dates

May Term: May 16-June 17

Summer: June 20-July 28

• Master's-Degree Commencement: May 14

• Literacy Center Program: June 20-July 28

### Comprehensive Exam Schedule

2005 May 7, July 9\*, Sept. 10, Nov. 12

2006 Jan. 14\*, March 11\*, May 13, July 8\*, Sept. 9, Nov. 11

\* Counselor exams are offered on these dates.



Long

## Graduate Studies in Education Office

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## Education in the Evening

# An Alternative Approach to Certification

By Debbie Tully

Through a collaborative effort between the School of Education and Whitworth Continuing Studies, the college is now offering the Elementary Teacher Certification Program, which enables working adults to pursue teacher certification.

- Individuals can earn a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education with their teacher certification.

- Candidates who already have a bachelor's degree may add elementary or secondary certification.

- Adults who already work in the schools may complete the field-experience components of the program within their current school building with their

administrator's permission.

Whitworth understands how important it is for adult students to be able to complete a degree and/or certification program within a reasonable time frame. That's why we developed the innovative accelerated-course format for students who want to pursue a program on a fast track. Classes meet one night per week and two Saturdays of each six-week term, allowing for completion of certification requirements within two years.

It's what people have been asking for: teacher certification, in the evening, in an accelerated format.

For more information, please contact Sandi Bennett at 509.777.4490 or Debbie Tully at 509.777.4369.

## Literacy Center Program Is Ready to Go

By Betty F. Williams, Ph.D.

The School of Education is piloting an exciting new program this summer with the opening of the Whitworth College Literacy Center. The center, located in Hawthorne Hall, is a community outreach program that will provide summer instruction for children with special needs while training graduate and undergraduate students earning endorsements in special education through Whitworth. The Literacy Center will provide assessment of academic skills as well as individualized and small-group instruction for elementary-aged students who have academic goals on their IEPs, who are learning English as a second language, or who are at risk of academic failure.

Melva Pryor, a certified special-education teacher, will manage the classroom activities, and Chang-nam Lee, Ph.D., will supervise practicum and advanced-practicum students working in the classroom. The curriculum focuses on reading, spelling, handwriting, language, expressive writing and mathematics, using Direct Instruction curriculum materials and positive-motivation systems.

The 2005 Literacy Center Summer Program will run June 20-July 28. Student fees are \$50 per week for six weeks. Children ages 6-9 will attend morning sessions, Monday-Thursday, and those aged 10-12 will attend in the afternoons. Parents must provide transportation and

snacks for their children.

Application and advance registration are required, and enrollment is limited to 15 students per session. For application materials, call 509.777.3228 or 509.777.3229. Whitworth must receive applications and deposit fees by May 6.

If the summer program is successful, we hope to expand it to an after-school program, providing an opportunity for Whitworth's reading and ESL students to work with students throughout the year.

## Certification & Placement Office

# Spring Career Fairs on the Horizon

By Nancy Fahlgren

Career fairs offer unparalleled opportunities to speak in person with school hiring officials. For teachers and administrators, the job search requires an assertive round of contacts with school districts. Career fairs offer the chance to meet the people who can answer your questions and who will make the hiring decisions.

The Washington School Personnel Association and Washington State Placement Association are sponsoring two April 2005 career fairs for teachers, administrators and educational-staff associates.

- April 12: Tacoma Career Fair at the Tacoma Dome
- April 19: Spokane Career Fair at the

## Congratulations!

- **Julie Riegel, '04**, dean of students for grades 7-12 at Newport High School.
- **Jody, '06**, and Nick **Harkness**, on the birth of a baby boy, Schuyler Payton, on Jan. 4. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 8 oz.
- **Kathleen, '07**, and Richard **Law**, on the birth of their son, Jayden Richard, on Nov. 6. Jayden tipped the scales at 9 lbs.
- **Ronda Barnes, '06**, who was awarded the Katherine Parker Randall Scholarship.
- **Cheyenne Kelling, '05**, on the birth of her son, John Michael, on Nov. 21, 2004. He weighed in at 6 lbs. 9 oz.

- **Andrew Porter, '04**, who was hired by East Valley School District as an EDDTIDE teacher, working with K-3 students with behavior and academic challenges.

Our apologies to **Jeff Breno, '10**, for misspelling his last name in the caption under his picture in the GSE orientation article in the Fall 2004 *Spotlight*.

Spokane Convention Center

Whitworth College will have a booth at both career fairs to provide moral support and guidance for you. For more information and to register, visit [www.wspsa.net/home.html](http://www.wspsa.net/home.html).

Pre-registration is not required, but those who register early may enter the fair at 9:30 a.m. while those who register on-site will enter at 10 a.m. Also, pre-registration is \$15 for each fair, \$20 at the door. The pre-registration deadline is March 30 for Tacoma and April 5 for Spokane.

An additional career fair will be held March 30-31 at the Oregon Convention Center, in Portland. For more information and to register, visit [www.teachoregon.com](http://www.teachoregon.com).