

GSE Spotlight

WHITWORTH COLLEGE ♦ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Summers Off? Not for GSE Staff and Students

From the Director's Desk

As the rest of the Whitworth campus winds down after the spring semester, Graduate Studies in Education is gearing up for a busy and productive summer.

Several students who completed the preassessment seminar last summer for their Professional Teacher Certificate are preparing for the culminating seminar this summer. They will provide evidence of their competency in the three standards and 17 criteria of this rigorous and rewarding program. Meanwhile, some members of that cohort group are taking an additional year to gather evidence and will do the culminating seminar next summer. Another set of teachers is enrolling for the preassessment seminar in July and will begin the journey toward their second-level teacher certification.

If you have a Residency Teacher Certificate – or if you have a friend who does – get in touch with me at (509) 777-4393 so that we can talk about the wonderful program here at Whitworth. We're also exploring some partnerships with districts to provide the Professional Teacher Cer-

tificate Program closer to where teachers live and work. The 10 semester credits from this program can be part of a M.Ed. in elementary or secondary education here at Whitworth.

We have also begun to implement our new Principal Preparation Program, and next year's principal interns will be the first to earn Principal Residency Certificates – also a competency-based program.

Our faculty members are continuing to grow professionally, as well. Margo Long participated in a standards-setting conference for gifted and talented programs in Washington, D.C., recently. The area of gifted education, particularly in teacher-preparation programs, has not had specific national standards. Long was invited to help design these important new standards. Her expertise in gifted education will be a great asset to the group.

Betty Williams, Ph.D., coordinator of our Special Education Program, has

submitted a large grant proposal that would further develop the partnership between the Spokane Guild's School and Whitworth. The grant would provide more purposeful links between pre-service teachers and the school and would allow Spokane Guild's School staff members to work toward graduate degrees at Whitworth.

I have been attending several OSPI-sponsored meetings and task groups in the areas of grade-level expectations in writing, professional teacher-certification procedures, and establishing common culminating products for the new Principal Preparation Program.

As you anticipate a busy summer, be assured that you are investing in your future. We're hoping that you enjoy this learning community as much as we enjoy having you with us.

Blessings!

Sharon H. Mowry
Sharon Mowry, Director

GSE Commencement 2004 Saturday, May 15



Above, the proud graduates of 2004. At left, Carolyn Cary, '97 and '04, and Kay Seidel, '00 and '04. At right, Professor Chang-nam Lee and Donn Nelson, adjunct instructor.

More commencement photos next issue!



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Pennies from Heaven?



No, it's pennies from Spokane residents for the Kids for Kids Penny Drive in April. Whitworth's GSE students and faculty were involved as volunteers. From left, Stan Smith, Betty Williams, Ph.D., and Katie Ophas, daughter of GSE student Anne Marie Ophas, '05. See the story on Page 2.

Whitworthians are Frequent Volunteers at Fund Raisers



Michele Jones, '87, does some roadside public relations for the penny drive.

Students in the Intervention for Academic Learning Problems class, taught by Chang-nam Lee, Ph.D., have been active volunteers for the Spokane Guild's School this semester.

The Spokane Guild's School is a community-funded agency that serves children from birth to age three with disabilities and their families.

In March, Whitworth students put in many hours inflating balloons, selling raffle tickets, setting up auction tables, and greeting guests at the Guild's School Auction.

In April, they and members of the Spokane 4 Wheelers car club gave their man- and woman-power to the Darigold penny collection site for the Kids for Kids

Penny Drive. Their experiences as volunteers will help them as they develop their own plans for how to use volunteers in their classrooms.

One of Whitworth's graduate students donated 44 pounds of pennies. Pennies came in by the handful or by the bucketful. The Darigold site alone collected 880 pounds of coins as well as many "paper-money" contributions. The city of Spokane gave generously, and a total approaching \$175,000 was raised this year.

The penny drive has been going since 1986, with Whitworth students volunteering each year. More than \$1 million has been collected to support the school since the penny drive began.

Willams, Lee Attend 'Wicked Hot' Boston Conference

By Betty Williams, Ph.D.

Everyone has heard of "pahking cahs in Hahvahd Yahd," but it takes a bit more than dropping your final "r" sounds to get around in Boston. Dunkin' Donuts are "wicked hot" and a "regulah coffee" comes with three sugars and three creamers. You board an "inbound" train to get down to Freedom Trail but you need to know whether to board the A, B, C, or E train when you head outbound.

During May, Boston was especially full of visiting psychologists, counselors, and special educators, many of

them with international accents, in town to attend the International Association for Behavior Analysis Conference. Whitworth professors Chang-nam Lee and Betty Williams were among the conference-goers, learning about breakthrough research in special education and psychology while also negotiating Memorial Day crowds to watch Boston's street entertainers. This year marked the 100th birthday of B. F. Skinner, the founder of applied behavior analysis, so the conference was an especially festive event.

At the conference, Lee presented his research on using the context of stories to teach vocabulary comprehension more effectively to students for whom English is a second language; and students from the Whitworth's Intervention for Academic Learning Problems course developed stories that were formatted to provide

contextual information about the meaning of targeted vocabulary words. Lee found that ESL students were more likely to master and retain vocabulary learned through these contextual stories than through more traditional instruction.

Williams presented research that she and Whitworth Professor of Chemistry Don Calbreath had done on the search for biomedical causes of autism.

Increasing rates of autism in the United States and throughout the world have fueled an urgent search for the cause of autism and resulted in a great deal of funding in this area. Williams and Calbreath presented promising research in genetics and brain chemistry but also cautioned against claims made by media about causes of autism that have little scientific merit. To date, no specific cause of autism has been identified.

Financial Aid: Registration Is Required

Students who use financial aid to assist with their tuition costs must be registered in order for 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.

New students borrowing from the Federal Direct Stafford Loan Program for the first time are required to complete a Stafford Loan promissory note and Stafford Loan entrance counseling; both are web-based processes. The websites are: www.dlenote.ed.gov for the promissory note and www.ed.gov/directloan for loan-entrance counseling.

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

Whitworth's Winterfest Gives GSE Student a Chance to Show His Stuff

By Doug Edmonson, '04

The photo at right was taken during an art show called Winterfest, held at Whitworth on the first Friday in December. This is a wonderful event for artists like me, who are just starting out, to show their artwork to the Whitworth community.

I did all the work of preparing my ceramic pieces for display in the ceramics room in the Fine Arts Building. I fired my ceramic pieces using a technique called raku, an ancient technique that allows the artist to withdraw the piece from the kiln while it is red hot. The ceramic piece is then placed into a barrel of combustibles (sawdust, pine needles or shredded paper). It is a hot process, but it is exciting to view the entire process.

My wife, Sarah, and I recently took an 18-day trip to Italy. Since I am an art history major, it was exciting to see in person most of the artwork I studied while obtaining my undergraduate degree.

Having the opportunity to view Michelangelo's *David* with my own eyes was breathtaking, as was realizing that the artist was only 26 years old when he started carving away at the solid block of marble that became this timeless treasure.



Doug Edmonson poses with some of his raku pieces at Winterfest.

I felt a sense of amazement to view a masterpiece that was created in 1501-1504 and awed people then and still inspires people today. The *David* is not the chief masterpiece to see in Italy, but it is one that can't be missed.

It was a wonderful trip, and we are hoping to go back again soon.

Your Program May Require (gasp!) a Comprehensive Exam

By Joelle Neiwert, GSE student

Now that the semester has ended, and many of us look forward to graduation this year, next year, or in the hazy future, some updates and reminders about comprehensive exams might be useful.

Graduation requirements vary among the graduate-level programs, and comprehensive exams are required in several, but not all, of these programs. Some do not require a comprehensive exam. For instance, students in special education are expected to complete an exit project, which is the formal preparation of an experimental research project for purposes of presentation or publication.

Some graduate programs offer other options. The Agency Counseling Program allows students to choose either (1) thesis and oral exam (master of arts

degree) or (2) internship research project and comprehensive exam (master of education degree). Effective fall 2004, all M.A. and M.Ed. agency counseling students will take the national comprehensive exam.

Other programs require one or more comprehensive exams. The School Counseling Program requires one comprehensive exam while the School Administration Program (degree or certification only) requires one comprehensive exam, as well as a portfolio to be compiled during the internship period. The general administration, elementary education, gifted and talented, and secondary education programs each require three comprehensive exams. Exams can be chosen from a list available in the Graduate Studies Office.

To be eligible for the three comprehensive exam programs, students must

Congratulations!

Dean of the School of Education **Dennis Sterner** was appointed to the Committee on Quality and Accountability for the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Maile Aden, '96, M.Ed. '02, and **Jeff Aden, '97, MIM '02**, welcomed a new addition to their home. Their son, Jonah Keoni Aden, was born on March 9.

Katie Wisenor, '93, M.Ed. '03, opened her private practice at Marycliff Institute in Spokane in January. She sees children, adolescents and adults and works in the areas of attachment relationships, trauma and abuse, depression and anxiety, life transitions, grief and loss.

A group of Whitworth graduates has founded L.I.F.E. (Living in Fullness Every Day) Counseling & Consulting Services, located in the Tapio Office Center in Spokane. They are: **Donald B. Fuller, M.Ed. '03** (Wash. Registered Counselor), **Ronald C. Kurtz, M.Th., M.Ed. '02** (Wash. Registered Counselor), **Marilyn Marshall, M.Ed. '01** NCC (Licensed Mental Health Counselor), **Bonell McLeish, M.Ed '00** (Wash. Registered Counselor), and **Mary Murphy, M.Ed. '99** NCC (Licensed Mental Health Counselor).

have unconditional admission into the program and must have completed 18 semester credits of the program. Grades for these courses must have been posted on each student's transcript. A student ready to take the exams should consult with his/her academic advisor, then complete and submit an application form, including a \$50 fee, to the Graduate Studies Office. Only one exam or retake is allowed per test date. All comprehensive exams must be completed one month prior to the posting of a student's degree.

Comprehensive exams will be offered on the following Saturday mornings: July 10, Sept. 11, and Nov. 13, 2004. Jan. 8, March 12, May 14, July 9, Sept. 10, and Nov. 12, 2005. For a \$10 fee, students may retake portions of the exam not passed initially. Please register by Friday of the prior week for retakes.

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