

GSE Spotlight

WHITWORTH COLLEGE ♦ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Whitworth Plans for Growth of Graduate Programs

From the Director's Desk

Winter is over, and warm weather and flowers are all around us. It's a time for rejoicing that spring semester is complete. Some of us have completed our degrees or certification programs (hallelujah!), and some of us are entering the summer semester in our ongoing quest for a graduate degree.

This spring the Whitworth College Board of Trustees adopted a five-year strategic plan for the college. Several new buildings that will enhance the campus are part of that plan. Additionally, one of the goals for the next five years is that graduate programs will grow by 5 percent each year. This makes sense in that graduate classes typically take place in the evening, when classroom facilities are available. Also, some graduate courses are taught by adjuncts who are practicing professionals in the various fields of study who can relate real-world applications to the theories being studied.

In studying our marketing results for the past several years, we have discovered that our best source of advertising is you – our students. When you speak highly of the education you are receiving at Whitworth, your friends and colleagues are more willing to find out if Whitworth

is a good fit for them, as well.

At a recent principal-intern seminar, two area superintendents of schools spoke highly of the quality of students from Whitworth. One even said when she sees a Whitworth transcript, she knows that this is a person who has had excellent training and who is likely to have fine character. Although this reaction is especially reflective of school districts in our area looking for teachers, principals and counselors, it is also true of social-service agencies and other businesses that may hire our agency-counselor or administrative-leadership graduates.

One exciting initiative that the School of Education has been involved with for the past two years is a grant from the Character Education Partnership titled "Future Educators for Character." Many faculty members have been revising course syllabi to include issues of character in appropriate ways for various content areas. Some natural connections have been made in classroom-

management courses, methods courses, assessment topics, literature and history classes, and other areas where ethical issues are covered. Leadership courses are also fertile ground for developing ethical decision-making frameworks that will stand administrators in good stead in their future careers. Our goal is to prepare all of our graduates to be people of integrity who make a difference in the world. So many of you are already doing that with enthusiasm!

We've had lots of changes this spring in the Professional Teacher Certificate Program, and in our School Counseling Program. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has come out with new standards and guidelines for both of these programs. Feel free to call if you want information on any of our programs for yourself or a friend. And have a wonderful, growing summer.

Sharon H. Newry

Henjum: Success Is All in Attitude, Organization, Focus

by Roger Long

In summer 2003, Cheryl Henjum, '05 M.Ed. elementary education/M.Ed. school administration, enrolled in the first courses in her double master's-degree program. Carrying a full course load for the next two years, she also incorporated her professional teacher certificate requirements into her elementary degree and completed her principal internship while teaching first grade at St. George's School, in north Spokane.

Born and raised in Rosalia, Henjum had taught in Florida and Guam before returning to Washington state. The Deer Park resident jogs daily and ran in the 2005 Bloomsday race. In her



free time, she helps her husband and best friend, Chris, owner of Hydrafab Northwest, a customized stainless-steel welding/fabrication business.

When asked how she does it all, she replies, "It's all in the attitude. I just keep myself focused and organized."

An excellent example of the highly capable students in Whitworth's graduate programs, Henjum is the first GSE student to complete two master's-degree programs concurrently.

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Whitworthians Collect Pennies for Spokane Guilds' School Students

Smiling all the while, students in Whitworth's special-education program endured cold winds and rain on Saturday, April 16, as they worked at the penny-drive collection site at Inland Northwest Dairies (DairyGold), near Division and Francis. The pennies they collected will help support students with disabilities (ages birth to 3) through the Spokane Guilds' School. The money will also help support the children's families. This year the DairyGold site took in 489 pounds of coins and about \$1,000 in bills. Many thanks to all of you who contributed and to those students who spent the day waving down traffic "for the kids!"

Parenthood and Graduate School Can – and Do – Mix

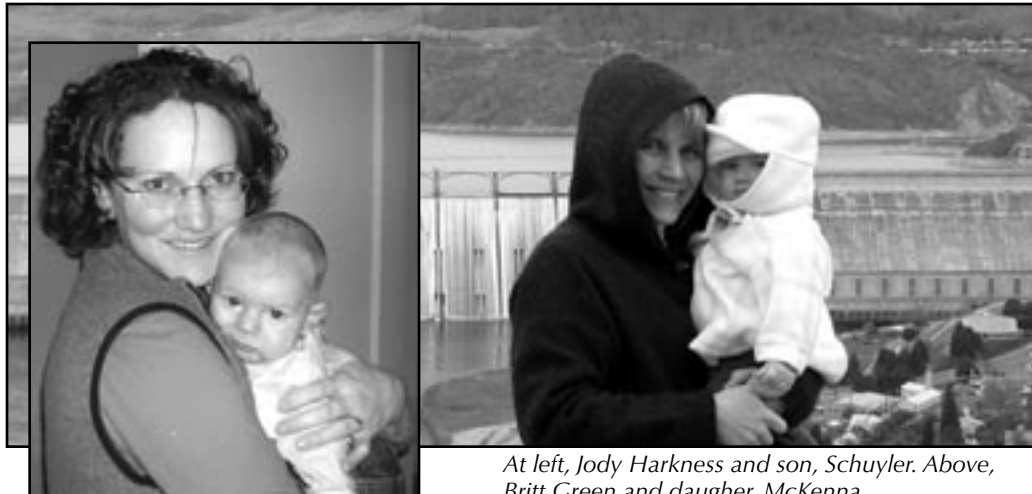
by Joelle Neiwert, '05 M.A.T.

Many students in Whitworth's graduate programs have learned to juggle full-time jobs and families in order to pursue master's degrees. Several have become parents in the past year and have shared some thoughts on the challenges of taking care of a baby while attending school.

McKenna, daughter of Britt Green, '06 school administration, just celebrated her first birthday. Green says, "One of the most challenging things to do is learn how to juggle time with an infant, toddler or preschooler. In addition to daily chores, errands, making meals, etc., little ones need time, attention, and love. Add to this equation carving out time to study, research, and write papers!"

Jen Roberts, '06 M.Ed, says, "When I entered graduate school I was pregnant with my second child, so I don't know what graduate school is like without children. I do know that I have taken the art of multi-tasking to a whole new level. Everyone says to me, 'I don't know how you do it' but I wouldn't have it any other way."

Schuyler, son of Jody Harkness, '06, arrived the day she was to start her Jan Term class. "Needless to say," she says, "I didn't make it to the first night of class nor the next. I wondered how I was going to make it through Jan Term when I didn't feel comfortable leaving my one-week-old baby. Without the support of my husband, friends, family and professors I don't think I would have continued with the program. My husband came to class



At left, Jody Harkness and son, Schuyler. Above, Britt Green and daughter, McKenna.

with me, along with Schuyler, and hung out in the student lounge while I attended class." She adds, "I wouldn't do a thing differently. Schuyler is an absolute joy in my life, and obtaining my master's degree is a goal I have had for a long time. It's not a question of if I'll finish school but when I'll finish."

Matt Fechter, '05, says it's exciting for him to come home not only to a smiling wife but also to a smiling baby. According to him, the challenge has been balancing working full time, completing his school-counseling internship, applying for jobs, being with family and attending classes. "Every day is an adventure," he says.

Ray Ricks, '05, says this year has been an excellent year: intense, challenging, and very rewarding. "I'm a first-year elementary principal at Northwest Christian, finishing up my administrative internship, coaching a high-school varsity basketball team, welcoming a new baby, Josiah Roger, and remodeling our home have stretched me, to say the least." He continues, "My wife, Shawna (Lucas, '94), and my other boys (Ryan, 6, and Lucas, 4) have been a tremendous team and a wonderful support and source of strength."

It's no surprise that Ricks says, "My prayer life has greatly increased this year, and I have been reminded often during both the rewarding and challenging times to count it all joy, enjoy the process, and live life to the fullest (and also to remember that summer break is just a few short weeks away)."

Other graduate students balancing graduate studies and babies are Cheyenne Kelling, '05, and Kathleen Law, '07. I, too, recently joined the ranks of new mothers. My son, Joshua Tillman, was born April 10. I agree with the other contributors of this article in that I also have found my professors and fellow students to be extremely helpful and understanding.

Attention: Counseling Students without Teacher Certification!

Beginning in fall 2005 a new course, EDC 515: Orientation to Schools, will satisfy the 100 hours of pertinent-work-experience requirement. It will combine class time and observation in a public-school setting. Registration details: 1 semester credit; class meets Wednesdays, 6:30-8:15 p.m.

Looking Ahead: 2005-06 Calendar

Term Dates

Summer: May 16-July 28
Fall Term: Sept. 7-Dec. 15
Jan Term: Jan. 3-24, 2006
Spring Term: Jan. 31-May 13

Literacy Center Summer Program: June 20-July 28

Comprehensive Exam Schedule

2005 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.

Time to Update That Placement File!

The 2005-06 hiring season has begun. Job postings arrive daily to recruit applicants for next year. Now is the time to create or update your placement file. These files include documents that you create online, along with your letters of recommendation.

If you have previously created a placement file, simply update the documents that you saved on your computer/disk and send to nfahlgren@whitworth.edu as an e-mail attachment. Be sure to change the date at the top and re-save for future updating. If you haven't created a placement file, or if you've lost your saved copies, please contact our office and we will help you create or recreate your placement file.

When asking for a letter of recom-

mendation, be sure to provide a stamped envelope addressed to our office: Educational Certification, MS 0701A, Whitworth College, 300 W. Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA 99251. Letters may be written on school letterhead.

June 30 is the universal expiration date for all educational certificates. Be sure to check your certificate to see when it will expire. If you need to renew an initial or to apply for your continuing, residency, or an add-on endorsement, our office can help you with this process.

Our office is located in Room 303 of Dixon Hall. Contact either Cathy Muzatko, director, at 777.4405 or cmuzatko@whitworth.edu, or Nancy Fahlgren, certification specialist, at 777.4406 or nfahlgren@whitworth.edu.

Counseling Conference Draws 500

by Jen Roberts, '06 M.Ed.

The 16th annual Washington School Counselor Association Conference was held in Seattle March 17-19. This year's conference theme was *Impacting Student Success: Remembering the Past, Embracing the Future*. More than 500 school counselors, graduate students and teachers were in attendance – a significant increase over recent years.

Conference participants had the opportunity to celebrate counseling's rich past, explore various counseling themes, and pay their respect to those who have made outstanding contributions to our field. Workshops were also offered that gave attendees a chance to embrace the

future by learning about current research, understanding components of the national model, and learning how to use data to make decisions.

Workshop themes included healing interventions for the grieving child, learning to deal with child-abuse issues, legal and ethical issues in working with minors in schools, and data-based decision-making and program evaluation. This is an exciting time for the WSCA, which has grown tremendously in the past two years. If you're interested in becoming a member of the Washington School Counselor Association, or for information regarding the next WSCA conference, please contact Jen Roberts, Whitworth WSCA representative, at daleandjen@sisna.com.

National Board Certification: A Worthy Destination

by Shari Farris, '99, '03 M.A.T., '05 M.Ed.

In light of today's high expectations and demands for rigorous learning opportunities, it is often difficult for teachers to define "best-practice instruction." Educators must seek professional-development opportunities that encourage reflection, research, and collaboration. National Board Teacher Certification is one opportunity for teachers to explore all of those components.

The discussion about NBTC is often centered on the 200+ hours it takes to complete the portfolio portion of this

experience. What is often overlooked is the impact on a teacher's craft. Those navigating this process comment that it can be both affirming and humbling. It challenges the teacher to read, collaborate, and reflect on instructional practices and evaluate student engagement and assessment. Most participants comment that they are more focused and intentional about their instruction during and after the process. It has given me the opportunity to examine the practices I choose and to ensure that those practices are research-based and student-centered. Through this process, I have made changes and

Congratulations!

- **Jodi Kinzel, '01, '05**, received word that a lesson from her research project on reading comprehension was published in a magazine, *The Mailbox*. The lesson focuses on comparing story elements from two stories in a Venn diagram for first-grade students.
- Congratulations to **Stan Smith, '05**, whose research was presented in Chicago at the International Association for Behavior Analysis. Stan and his partner, **Lindy Andres, '05**, successfully documented their special-education intervention to teach driver's-licensing information to a teenager with learning and retention problems. The study will be presented as a poster, *Independence Day: The Use of Flashcards to Improve Retention of Driver's Licensing Material*. (And their student later passed the written test for his driver's permit.)
- **Ray Ricks, '05**, and wife **Shawna (Lucas '94)** had a third son, Josiah Roger (7 lbs., 3 oz.), Feb. 15.
- **Matthew, '05**, and Tiffany **Fechter** had a daughter, Serena Lynn (8 lbs., 2 oz.), on Feb. 15.
- **Tamara Kennedy-Gibbens, '99, '07**, and husband, Atahn, had a son, Elijah Lee (8 lb., 13 oz.), April 29.

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