

End of Semester Is Bittersweet, Exciting

From the Director's Desk



Another great year has come to an end. The spring semester seemed to come and go in a whirlwind with the flurry of activities that took place in GSE, including incorporating new technologies into some of our courses, reviewing and making modifications to our programs, and acquiring new equipment for our counseling suites.

This spring we also conducted a search to fill the position that Sharon Mowry, Ph.D., held prior to her retirement. We were very fortunate to have several strong candidates apply, and we are pleased to announce that Alison Olzendam, Ph.D., was selected and will join the GSE faculty. Olzendam has a doctorate from Gonzaga University and master's and bachelor degrees from Eastern Washington University. She has served as a middle school principal and assistant principal in the Mead School District and Spokane Public Schools, and has taught in school districts in the region. She is currently the co-president of Leadership Innovations Team, a consulting company that provides leadership train-



Olzendam

ing and executive coaching to principals and superintendents throughout the region. In addition to teaching in the GSE program, Olzendam will help us redesign our Educational Administration and Elementary and Secondary Education programs. Olzendam brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new position and we are excited to have her join the GSE leadership team.

The end of the spring semester is always a bittersweet time of the year. We are proud of all the accomplishments of our students, but we have to say goodbye to many students who have completed their programs. We are thrilled that they have achieved their professional goals, but we're sorry to see them leave; they have become such an integral part of our GSE family. This year was particularly significant because Sharon Mowry retired after 10 years of service and Bill Robinson gave his final Graduate Commencement address as president of Whitworth University. His address, "Synchronizing Your Watch," inspired our graduates as they ponder their next steps in their personal and professional lives.

We were also pleased to have our first two students complete the specialty endorsement in gifted education, and our first student

to complete her master's program entirely online. This year's graduation was personally special for me, because my husband received his master's degree in administrative leadership.

To all of our graduates, I say congratulations for a job well done and I wish you much success in all of your future endeavors. To those of you still in the process of completing your graduate work, be encouraged, knowing that those who have just graduated are living proof that it can be done and that there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel.

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.

- Les Brown

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

- Tom Brokaw

Roberta J. Wilburn
Roberta J. Wilburn, Ed.D.

Success Is Spiritual

By Roberta Wilburn, Director

Helen Keller was deaf and blind, yet she achieved greatness despite what some would consider insurmountable disabilities. She earned her bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, from Radcliffe College, and she went on to become a political activist, a lecturer, and an author who wrote numerous articles and books. According to Helen Keller, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial

and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

It is important as you continue on your journey to success that you remember to not underestimate the value of difficulties and problems in your life - they serve as important building blocks of your character. Romans 5:3-4 (NLT) emphasizes this point: "We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they

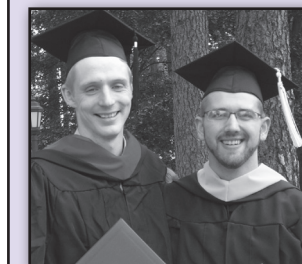
help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character..."

Sometimes it takes problems and obstacles in our lives to cause us to step back and reassess our goals and objectives. Self-reflection assists us in staying on the right track needed to fulfill our purpose in life and use our God-given gifts and talents effectively. Having a clear vision is a major key to success because, "where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18 KJV)

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Celebrating Commencement 2010!



More photos to come in our fall issue.

Graduate Assistants Lend Talents to Support GSE

By Cheryl Lewis,
currently MAT Gifted and Talented

The work of graduate assistants is critical in helping to keep the machine of a university well-oiled and running smoothly. Read on to learn about our great group of GSE graduate assistants and the work they do:

For the past two-and-a-half years **Andrea Diaz** has been Roberta Wilburn's "right-hand woman." Andrea's many tasks have included conducting research for classes and articles, entering grades, and ordering textbooks. Andrea holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and criminal justice, and is the mother of two boys, ages 4 and 6. Andrea is stepping out of the assistantship position to focus on the practicum phase of her M.Ed. in community agency counseling degree and to work with Family Service Spokane.



Diaz

Heather Phillips is taking over as Roberta Wilburn's graduate assistant. Along with her general G.A. responsibilities, she will help coordinate Roberta's busy speaking schedule. Heather holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and criminal justice from Gonzaga University, and she just completed the



Phillips

Chemical Dependency Program at SFCC. She also interned with Bethel AME as a program specialist in the development of the Emmanuel Family Life Center. Heather is now earning her M.Ed. in administrative leadership degree, and she is employed as a family support advocate at Transitional Living Center, where one of the highest joys of her life is providing support for women and children in transition. Heather is training for a half-marathon this summer in San Diego to raise funds for leukemia and lymphoma research, and is looking for sponsors.

Along with her graduate assistant responsibilities of grading and research, **Mary Love** coordinates the Host Family Program and Parent Panels. These programs allow for master's students in special education to have "hands on" encounters with families of children with disabilities. Mary's undergraduate degree is in institutional management and dietetics. She is the mother of five children, ages 17-21, and she returned to school a few years ago to obtain her teacher certification and reading endorsement at Whitworth. Mary works 30 hours per week at Mountainside Middle School as a para-educator in special education while pursuing her MAT in special education.



Love

As the Whitworth University Computer Assessment Tool (WUCAT) administrator, **Aaron Ruff** coordinates and facilitates the WUCAT for the School of Education, Graduate Studies in Education, and the Evening Teacher Certification and Master in Teaching programs. Aaron pro-



Ruff

tors the WUCAT test and schedules re-take sessions. He also supports the use of LiveText by giving presentations and study guides, and he tutors those who need assistance with any technology issue. No matter what your computer abilities are, Aaron is understanding, accommodating and helpful. In addition to working toward his M.Ed. in secondary education, Aaron teaches general music at St. Charles and St. Thomas Moore schools; he also plays soccer and works in his church.

While working 40 hours a week at Pine Lodge as a classification counselor and raising her three sons (now ages 10-16), **Jamie Clark** completed her bachelor of liberal studies degree in social services at Whitworth in 2008. Jamie is now earning her M.Ed. in community agency counseling, and works as a graduate assistant with the WUCAT program; she really likes computers and enjoys being a part of the orientation process in assessing and tutoring students.



Clark

After earning an undergraduate degree in communications from Cedarville University, in Ohio, **Katlyn Hiteshew** is pursuing her M.A. in community agency counseling. Katlyn's graduate assistantship entails working with Dr. Dennis Sterner, dean of the School of Education, and other professors to help further their research projects. Katlyn enjoys developing relationships with the professors and gaining insights into their research topics. She also appreciates that her assistantship takes care of a big chunk of her tuition costs. Katlyn works 30 hours per week for the Fulcrum Institute as a visitation supervisor for the courts and foster care system.

If you are interested in being a graduate assistant, call Vernice Hunnicutt at 777.4398.

GSE

At its best

Shakesha Costict
M.Ed. Community Agency Counseling Program

By Carla Van Heerden,
currently M.Ed. Community Agency Counseling

Shakesha Costict, currently in the M.Ed. Community Agency Counseling program, was born in Mobile, Ala., and lived in Virginia for about 10 years before moving to Washington state in 1997. She is the oldest of her siblings and has two brothers and a stepsister.

Shakesha, who is known as Kesha by her classmates and friends, says her desire to enter the counseling field began in high school, when she took a psychology class. During her senior year in college, Shakesha enrolled in the Multicultural Counseling Program at The Evergreen State College. "That was the defining moment in my life and the moment in which I decided to turn my focus to counseling," she says.

In May, Shakesha performed in an original production of "My Color Is Love," a musical that was staged at the Bing Crosby Theater in Spokane. "Shakesha has passion and commitment to do all things well. Her recent appearance in 'My Color Is Love' was just one more way that she has stretched herself to try new things," says fellow classmate Kenna Joner, who describes Shakesha as "a dynamic woman in a petite package."

In the production, Shakesha played a woman who is in a traumatic relationship with her live-in, unemployed and abusive boyfriend, which is pushing her to the extreme. The production conveyed an important message about how we are never alone during times of trouble, and that God is there for those who allow him to be.

"Now that I have done a bit of acting, I have a better understanding and a greater respect for actors and actresses, especially those in the theater," Shakesha says. "If this is an avenue I would like to continue in, I will take the necessary steps that any actress would take to become better at the craft. However, my passion overall is in counseling."

Shakesha not only performs well in her classes to maintain a strong academic record, she also excels in her life outside of school. In addition to her love of stage acting, "Shakesha lights up any time she talks about her love for her church and dancing," says classmate Jamie Clark. This fall Shakesha will serve on the Graduate Student Advisory Board as the student program representative for Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

Get a Jump on Your Career

Are you thinking about starting a new job search? Do you need assistance with understanding the online application process or writing that stellar résumé and cover letter? The Educational Certification & Career Services Office can help. We have résumé examples and job search tips available on our website. Visit www.whitworth.edu/soe and choose the Educational Certification & Career Services link on the left-hand side of the page.

Our office frequently sends out e-mail announcements about job openings for teachers, counselors and administrators. If you aren't already on our e-mail list, send your e-mail address to certification@whitworth.edu. We'll keep you on the list as long as you like.

If you're adding an endorsement to your

certificate or if your certificate is due to expire soon, please contact our office. We'll be happy to answer your certification questions and provide help processing your application.

The Whitworth Office of Educational Certification & Career Services is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, excluding the noon hour, to answer your certification and career questions. We are located in Dixon Hall, Room 303. For assistance, please e-mail us at certification@whitworth.edu, or call or e-mail the following staff members:

- Cathy Stephens, director: 509.777.4405 or cstephens@whitworth.edu
- Nancy Fahlgren, certification specialist: 509.777.4406 or nfahlgren@whitworth.edu
- Katherine Smith, certification specialist: 509.777.4403 or ksmith@whitworth.edu

Congratulations!

- **Robert Miller, '10, M.Ed. Community Agency Counseling**, is a mental health counselor at Sacred Heart Medical Center.
- **Krista Clegg Johnson, '03, and currently M.Ed. School Counseling**, and her husband are the proud parents of Avlynn Kay, who was born March 11.
- **Holly Kegel, '10, M.Ed. Community Agency Counseling**, is employed as a DMHP counselor at Othello Community Counseling in Othello, Wash.
- **Nicole Greer, '05, '10, M.Ed. Elementary Education**, and her husband, Sammy, proudly announce the arrival of their son, Sawyer James, who was born Feb. 16.
- **Katie Davenport, currently M.Ed. Elementary Education**, and her husband welcomed their daughter, Audrey Marie, on April 17.
- **Heather Phillips, currently M.Ed. Administrative Leadership**, received her CDP license for the Washington State Department of Health and can now practice as a chemical dependency professional.
- **Nicholas Hamm, '09, M.Ed. Educational Administration**, is the new assistant principal and athletics director for Riverside School District.
- **Sean Mulcahy, '09, M.Ed. Administrative Leadership**, has accepted a job as assistant director of student life and housing at Dakota Wesleyan University, in Mitchell, South Dakota.
- **Timothy Hilsen, '10, MAT Special Education**, was hired as a middle school BESST (basic education social skills teacher) and 8th grade baseball coach at Enterprise Middle School, in West Richland.

Graduate Studies in Education Office

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WHITWORTH
AN EDUCATION OF MIND AND HEART

Looking Ahead

New-Student Orientation.....	Sept. 7
Fall Term.....	Sept. 8-Dec. 16
Graduation Applications Due.....	November
Thanksgiving Break.....	Nov. 24-26
Jan Term 2011.....	Jan. 3-25
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.....	Jan. 17
Spring Term.....	Jan. 31-May 12
Spring Break.....	March 21-25
Graduate Commencement 2011.....	May 14

**Remember to check
online just before your
class starts each term
for any last-minute room
assignment changes.**