

GSE Spotlight

WHITWORTH COLLEGE ♦ SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

Graduate Students Prepare to Meet Challenges of Change

From the Director's Desk

Fall semester is well under way and graduate students are facing the usual challenges of classes, readings and papers, day jobs, families and myriad other demands. However, I often hear comments from students about how what they are learning applies to their jobs and to other areas of their lives. That is our goal in graduate studies: to develop the minds and hearts of our students and to provide both theoretical and practical applications of what they are learning.

I have been in many schools in our area recently while visiting principal interns and professional teacher-certificate candidates. I'm reminded as I walk through the halls – sometimes dodging students, and seeing teachers and administrators interacting with children and youth – of the tremendous energy and commitment it takes to do this job well. Schools are in the midst of making great changes in order to meet the academic and social needs of young people. Teachers, principals, counselors, specialists and parents are learning to work together in new ways to help students find success. I'm proud that Whitworth's graduate programs can

be part of that renewal by preparing teachers, administrators, special-education teachers, counselors, gifted-and-talented teachers and ESL practitioners, using research and "best practices" as our guide. We also provide ongoing professional development for many educators through our summer institutes, master's programs and certification programs.

Recently we had the first meeting of the Advisory Group for the Center for Gifted Education and Professional Development. A group of 12 professionals, including teachers, administrators, parents of gifted students and community members, met for dinner, conversation, learning from one another, and strat-

egizing. This group will meet three times each year and is interested in programs and practices that support the learning of our most able students. In an era of reform, when the focus is on reaching all students, gifted young people have been somewhat ignored. This board will help us reflect on Whitworth's role in bringing more attention to this great resource and also in preparing educators to meet the needs of gifted learners.

Enjoy the holiday season and enjoy the learning and collegiality that come as we all strive to become better at helping children and young people learn and thrive.

Sharon H. Mowry

GSE Launches First Online Program

By Roger Long

Nineteen teachers from Brewster, Wellpinit, Prescott and several other somewhat isolated Washington communities are now enrolled in the Graduate Studies in Education Department's first online program. The 16-credit English as a Second Language Endorsement Program commenced in October and will conclude the last week of June 2005. Successful completion will qualify these teachers for their ESL endorsements, and they will have qualified without having to leave the convenience and comfort of their homes and schools to fulfill the requirements.

Taught by Howard DeLeeuw, Ph.D., and Susan Stannard, M.A., the teachers learn strategies to assist their bilingual and immigrant students in becoming more academically successful. DeLeeuw serves as an instructional coach for Spokane Public Schools. Prior to retiring from SPS, Stannard taught and facilitated ESL programs. Both are previous instructors at Whitworth and bring much practical experience to this endorsement.

The program brings teachers together to share their ideas and experiences via the Internet and computer technology.



Susan Stannard is one of two instructors for the new online ESL class.

Students work from home on their own time; one might participate in the discussion board at 2 a.m. while rocking his fussy baby to sleep, while another will join the discussion board during her preparation period or lunch break at school. As in most college courses, students work in small groups and do many of the same activities that take place in on-campus courses. After completing the program, these teachers will have developed a strong statewide professional ESL network that will last for years to come.

For information, contact Roger Long at rlong@whitworth.edu or 509.777.4609.

GSE Orientation

by Erma Hultman

Think you know your way around the college? Whitworth graduate students who attended the fall new-student orientation do!

Director of Graduate Student Education Sharon Mowry hosted the orientation event, where presenters included representatives from throughout the Whitworth campus. They included speakers from the business office, media services, the library, the bookstore (which features extended hours at



Jeff Bruno, '10, and Lisa Pakrul, '09, chat at orientation.



Career Services' Sandy Nowack, '99, '02, at right, talks with Lisa Beal, '10, during orientation.

the beginning of each term), educational certification and career services, add-on endorsements, the registrar's office, security (get your parking permit at no charge), and financial aid (fill out the FAFSA so you can apply for scholarships).

The two-hour presentation was very informative, and we were able to meet our fellow grad students. Don't miss the next orientation!

♦ IN THIS ISSUE ♦

From the Director's Desk.....	1
GSE Launches Online ESL Class	1
Endorsement Exam.....	2
Attention, 2005 Grads!	2
Congratulations!	3
GSE Orientation.....	4

Cramming for the Final: Endorsement Exam for Special Education after Aug. 31

By Betty F. Williams, Ph.D.

If you are adding an endorsement in special education to your teaching certificate and will not complete your program course and practicum requirements until after Aug. 31, 2005, you will be required by the state of Washington to pass a subject-knowledge exam in special education. The Praxis Series Exam on the Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge has been selected for this licensure testing.

This test is a 60-question multiple-choice exam designed to assess knowledge of exceptionalities, legal issues, and services to students with disabilities. Questions may address disabilities ranging from mild to profound, but won't expect extensive knowledge in specialty areas such as low vision or hearing loss. You will need to know about the characteristics of students with cognitive, social, genetic, medical, motor and sensory

problems. You'll also need to understand how a student's age and gender, as well as cultural and socioeconomic factors, might affect learning. You will need to demonstrate knowledge of the legal definitions of categories of disabilities, public laws that relate to special education, historical movements in special education, and how schools connect to families and the community. It will be essential to understand the parts of the IEP process and appropriate ways to individualize instruction. You will need to know how to use assessment and technology in planning instruction as well as how to implement curriculum approaches like direct instruction.

The Praxis test is a paper-and-pencil test that will be offered multiple times during the year. The 2005 exam will be administered on Jan. 8, March 5, April 16 and June 11. Be sure to schedule your exam at a time convenient for adding your endorsement before a new school year.

Attention, All 2005 Graduates!

Master's Degree Commencement 2005 is Saturday, May 14, a date we hope you have marked on your calendars. As you begin planning family celebrations, also notify the Graduate Studies Office of your intention to graduate by turning in a Declaration of Intent form and an Application for Graduation.

The gold Declaration of Intent form can be obtained in the Graduate Studies Office or from the stand in the Dixon student lounge. If you have turned in

an intent form to indicate intention for a practicum, research project or thesis, you will not need to turn in another. Special-education students should turn in the form as soon as possible.

Application for Graduation forms are available in the Graduate Studies Office or from the Graduate Studies stand in the Dixon student lounge. Carefully complete the form and return it to the Graduate Studies Office so that you are on the list of candidates to receive your master's degree in 2005. Please submit your application by Jan. 15. Additional information on Commencement Weekend will be mailed to you in the spring. You can also view current information on Whitworth's web site: www.whitworth.edu.

The test will be given at seven locations during this year. The closest will be in Spokane, at Gonzaga University. The exam costs approximately \$60. You may register for the test through The Praxis Series 2004-05 Registration Bulletin, which can be obtained by e-mail at praxis@ets.org or by phone at 800.772.9476. You can also register online by visiting the Praxis Series homepage.

More information and sample questions for the Praxis test are available online at www.ets.org/praxis/taags/0352index.html. Tests at a Glance includes content outlines, sample questions in each area with rationales for the best answers, and test-taking strategies. You can also purchase a study guide to help prepare for the test. Special Education: Core Knowledge Study Guide (Praxis Study Guides), by Educational Testing Service, can be purchased through Barnes & Noble or through www.Amazon.com.

13 SOE Alums Take Top Spots in Schools

A recent article in *The Spokesman Review* about new principals in Spokane-area schools listed 16. Notably, 13 are products of Whitworth's School of Education.

High-school principals include Erik Ohlund at Ferris, Carole Meyer at Havermale, Herb Rotchford at Shadle Park, Tom Gresch at Cheney, Bruce Olgard at Mead and Pete Arthur at Mead Alternative. Elementary-school principals include Kevin Peterson at Bemiss, Lou Haymond at Browne, Mike Cosgrove at Cooper, Valorie Chadwick at Lidgerwood, Brent Perdue at Madison, Mike Crabtree at Stevens and Bridget Monahan at Lake Spokane.

Graduate Studies Spotlights Ron Prosser

By Patsy Marshall

So often we hear the poetic image of the single stone tossed into a pool of water, quietly sending ripples throughout the pond. That image is an apt representation of the impact that Ron Prosser has had on the school-counseling community not just in the Spokane area, but throughout the region.



Prosser

Prosser has been a guiding influence in Whitworth's counseling program since 1976, when he began teaching in the graduate program. The breadth and depth of his knowledge are rooted in the classroom, where Prosser began his career in education as a fifth-grade teacher at Spokane's Wilson Elementary School, in 1967. After completing his master's degree in counseling from Whitworth, Prosser began working as a school counselor in 1970. In 1974 he took a sabbatical in order to work on a doctorate in counseling, which he completed in 1976, at the University of Arizona. At that time, he began teaching graduate courses as an adjunct instructor for both Whitworth and Gonzaga while continuing to work as a counselor in Spokane schools.

Prosser is considered by many to be the anchor and heart of Whitworth's school-counseling program. His process courses always pack a punch. Prosser's teaching style is relaxed and conversational, but his class activities and assignments are deeply practical and educational, effectively "marinating" his students in the basic concepts of counseling theory and practice.

Prosser has also personally supervised the practicum and internships of every school-counseling candidate. Consequently, he is well known and respected in the region's school districts. The number of Whitworth school-counseling graduates working throughout the region is impressive. One of the most often-heard comments from our alumni

is how well prepared they were to do their jobs and how much Prosser's caring and support meant to them. Mike Uphus, principal at Trent Elementary School and a Whitworth counseling and administration graduate, says, "Ron is really an inspiration. He carefully guides people through the program, and he has such a wonderful way of listening to people and asking them questions that peel away the layers to help them solve their own problems." Kyle Storm, '74, a counselor at Glover Middle School, says, "It has been my privilege to take classes from him and benefit from his tutelage. I consider him a mentor who has taught me and modeled for me how a true professional counselor helps others."

Those who have been privileged to have Prosser as instructor and mentor consider him guide, cheerleader, and security blanket. No one knows how to make you believe in yourself better than Ron Prosser. When asked for a comment about his years of teaching at Whitworth, he says, "Attending Whitworth as an undergrad and graduate student, I was impressed by the connectedness and the close relationships the faculty and staff always had with the students. I was inspired by Pat MacDonald (professor emeritus of psychology) and the late Alvin Quall (professor emeritus of education), who both made a sincere effort to find the special qualities in each person." He attributes the relational focus in his teaching to their influence.

As Joyce Cranford, a current student, comments, "Ron is always willing to go the extra mile for his students. He's flexible and always works with students to make sure the program works for them. Because he is easy-going and fun, he really gets to know you and creates a bond with you. He knows what your needs are and tries to be flexible. You're not a number with Ron."

Someone once said, "Give not only what you have, but what you are." Ron Prosser is one who lives and works by these words. We at Whitworth are most fortunate to have him among us and to call him colleague, teacher, mentor and friend.

Patsy Marshall is a current counseling student as well as administrative assistant for field placement in the School of Education

Congratulations!

- **Debbie Ogden, '01, '04**, is a special-education teacher at Chattaroy Elementary School in the Riverside School District (erroneously reported as the Mead School District in the last issue).
- **Doug Edmonson, '02, '04**, is the new drawing, painting and photography teacher at Mead High School.
- **Julie Riegel, '81, '04**, was recently promoted to dean of students, grades 7-12, at Newport High School.
- **Molly Hurley, '04**, is a part-time school counselor at Madison Elementary in the Spokane Public School District.
- **Anne-Marie Ophus, '05**, is a teacher-helper at Freeman in a part-time position for the first semester; she will be a full-time employee in the high-school resource room for the second semester.
- **Joy Lynn Arnold, '04**, was hired by Sprague School District to work full time in K-12 special education.
- **Mark Stedman, '71, '78**, is the new superintendent of the Sprague School District.
- **Jamie Goodman, '04**, who was teaching at Spokane's Rogers High, is now a full-time action-learning community counselor at Rogers.
- **Steve Burns, '01**, teaches ESL and English at Rogers High School.

Ed. Certification, Career Services Office Can Help

The Educational Certification and Career Services Office, in Dixon Hall Room 303, can help students and graduates to:

- renew an initial certificate;
- add a special education-endorsement to an existing certificate after completing the Special Ed. master's-degree program;
- complete the certification process for professional teachers, initial educational staff associate, and initial administrators' certificates;
- create or update placement files and help with job searches.

Contact Cathy Muzatko, director, at 777.4405 or cmuzatko@whitworth.edu, or Nancy Fahlgren, certification specialist, at 777.4406 or nfahlgren@whitworth.edu.

Graduate Studies in Education Office

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WHITWORTH
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Looking Ahead: 2005 Calendar

Term Dates

Fall Term: Sept. 8-Dec. 16, 2004

(Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 24-26)

Jan Term: Jan. 3-25, 2005

(Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday: Jan. 17)

Spring Term: Jan. 31-May 13

Spring Break: March 14-18

Good Friday: March 25 (no classes)

Master's-Degree Commencement: May 14

Comprehensive Exam Schedule

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

**Both counselor and administrative exams are offered on these dates.*