COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION

By Amy Schweinle, Ph.D.

All three of our programs, Counseling, School Psychology, and Human Development and Educational Psychology, have had exciting years.

Counseling faculty have been busy publishing research with topics including school counselor burnout, American Indian acculturation, and refugee displacement. Drs. Kathleen Brown-Rice and Seth Olson continue their different projects with the USD School of Medicine and Drs. Kelly Duncan and Gerta Bardhoshi continue their work with the South Dakota Department of Education. Dr. Brown-Rice and doctoral student, Tracie Erdmann, collaborated with the USD Department of Theatre in their production of Next to Normal. The musical covers the life of a wife and mother who struggles with bipolar disorder and how her life affects her family. Dr. Brown-Rice and Ms. Erdmann provided guidance to the actors and directors about the nature of mental illness and its effects. They held a discussion with audience members after the show.

The School Psychology Program welcomed a new faculty member to the program this semester. Dr. Sarah Wollersheim-Shervey received her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University and previously taught at St. Norbert College. She has interests in prevention, health and wellness, and classroom climate. Dr. Nicholas Benson earned tenure and promotion to associate professor. In other news, our Ed.S. and Ph.D. programs were recently reaccredited by the National Association of School Psychologists.

Eliann Carr, a doctoral student in Human Development and Educational Psychology, is one of less than a dozen Ph.D. candidates from around the world who will participate in the second Haruv Institute Ph.D. Workshop on Child Maltreatment in Jerusalem this October. The Haruv Institute, part of The Hebrew University, is Israel’s leading authority on child abuse and neglect. Established by the Schusterman Foundation—Israel in 2007, its mission is to become an international center of excellence contributing to the reduction of child maltreatment; and to create and nurture a capable and skillful community of professionals dedicated to the welfare of children who have suffered from all types of abuse—psychological, physical, and sexual, as well as neglect.
The 2014–2015 academic year began with energy and excitement generated by the new leaders in a few key positions in the School of Education. Dr. Mark Baron stepped in as Associate Dean and has taken over the oversight of unit-level assessment, compliance and accreditation reporting, and program evaluation among others. As you are aware, Dr. Nick Shudak began his appointment as Chair of Curriculum and Instruction (C & I) last June. He has brought a wealth of experience and new ideas from his prior position as Chair of the Education Department at Mount Marty College. Dr. Robin Wiebers has taken over Student Services as Assistant Dean, overseeing all of its roles and functions, including the Professional Development Center. The student services center has been humming with creative energy.

With the new leadership in place, the focus has been on the effectiveness of the training and field experiences our programs provide for students and various partners such as PK–12. Using the data retreat last August, we have initiated school-wide research efforts to examine program effectiveness across the board. All of our programs both at the undergraduate and graduate levels collect a variety of data on an on-going basis and, yet, we have not done a good job of utilizing the data to conduct research to inform our practice. We hope that research based evidence will guide us in improving the quality of learning experiences for our students through refining our signature initiatives, including a year-long residency, as well as candidate selectivity and the scope and sequence of our curriculums.

Undergraduate enrollment in the School of Education continues to be strong. However, graduate enrollment has been essentially flat, if not on a downward trajectory. Thus, concerted efforts have begun to market our graduate programs more effectively through strengthening the recruiting collaboration with the Graduate School and targeting venues specific to graduate recruitment.

In addition to the aforementioned unit-level efforts toward excellence, this is another banner year for our faculty and students. They have been very active in terms of scholarship and service, garnering many accomplishments and accolades. So, please read on and celebrate their successes with us. As always, thank you for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION WELCOMES THE MATOUSEKES

The School of Education welcomed Bill and Bob Matousek over the D-Days weekend. We were excited to be able to show them improvements that had been made to the USD Vucurevich Childcare Center. Children from the center were especially thrilled to show them the new sign for the Matousek Preschool, housed at the center, installed in honor of their mother. The children also enjoyed singing songs they had prepared and presenting them with a large thank-you banner they had made. The center’s director, Dawna Andersen, guided them on a tour of the center, including the baby room and the new cribs purchased by the Matouseks to increase the babies’ safety. They visited the well-designed outdoor space that includes a garden planted by the children. The center is currently working toward accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) as a way of validating the high-quality care and education they provide for children of USD students, faculty, and the community.
This is an exciting and busy time for the Division of Curriculum and Instruction. We have a few new faces to introduce, new projects and accomplishments to boast about, and updates on continuing projects.

Curriculum and Instruction has four new faces to introduce. My name is Nick Shudak. I am the incoming Chair of Curriculum and Instruction. I come to USD via Mount Marty College where I was the Department Chair of Teacher Education, college-level Division Chair of Education, and Director of the Master of Education program. My Ph.D. is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I studied teacher education from philosophical, historical, and sociological perspectives. Cori Steele is our new senior secretary and is the person who meets and greets all visitors to the C&I suite in Delzell 115. As both Cori and I are brand new, it has been wonderful learning side by side with her. We appreciate how supportive everybody has been. Dr. Jing An is our new and passionate social studies educator. She firmly believes that social studies education impacts every aspect of life, and she openly seeks collaborations linking social studies education to all possible disciplinary areas. Last but not least, we are fortunate enough to have Dr. Monica Iverson step in this year to help teach in our special education programs. Throughout Dr. Iverson’s career, she has taught at the Crow Creek Tribal Schools, Vermillion Public Schools, and the East Dakota Educational Cooperative. She has also spent the last 14 years as the Special Education Coordinator of the South Dakota Human Services Center in Yankton, SD.

Regarding accomplishments and projects, Dr. Gera Jacobs recently published a standard setting volume for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This book, Supporting Students, Meeting Standards: Best Practices for Engaged Learning in First, Second, and Third Grades, written in concert with local kindergarten teacher Kathy Crowley, is a “resource for first, second, and third grade teachers that describes best practices for promoting learning and development while helping students meet standards.” Not only is this a research-based resource for helping teachers meet standards through rigor, but Jacobs and Crowley are keen on helping teachers foster the socio-emotional needs of children while learning in school settings. This volume subsequently led to Dr. Jacobs being invited to speak with the Council of Chief State School Officers meeting of state department specialists about standards implementation in grades K–3.

Dr. Garreth Zalud was an invited featured speaker at the Mid Atlantic Reading Recovery Conference in October. His presentation was on selecting and orienting struggling readers to text. Regarding his work with Reading Recovery, Dr. Zalud is currently working with 16 teacher leaders in five states and 42 teachers across South Dakota. In terms of impact, 2,700 reading recovery students in 214 elementary schools are being served. Dr. Zalud was also recently elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the North American Trainers Group (the group that administers implementation of Reading Recovery in USA and Canada). Our USD training center is involved in three national studies in which Dr. Zalud will be responsible for the data management—the i3 Scaling Up Reading Recovery Grant; the National Book Leveling Project; and the Cost Study of Reading Recovery.

Dr. Lisa Hazlett has been nominated for and has accepted a two-year term to become a policy analyst for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Policy Analysis Initiative. According to NCTE, Dr. Hazlett will work with other professionals to “analyze policy developments in [South Dakota] that impact English language arts, literacy, and the humanities in preschool through high school education.”


The Teacher Education Re-design efforts through the Bush Grant’s year-long residency initiative is in its fifth year. The Bush Team is intent on working with faculty on ways we can continue reconceptualizing year-long student teaching in ways that address our uniquely rural context. At this point it is important to help establish a developmental vision with residency in a way that complements the students’ first three years in teacher education. As the incoming Chair, I can say with confidence that C&I is positioned to do some powerful things in the realm of teacher education over the next few years.
On June 17, 2014, official groundbreaking occurred for the new arena that will house the Division of Kinesiology & Sport Science along with the Department of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Athletics. The KSS Division will be the first group to move into the new facility within the next 18 months if weather and construction stay on task. This will be exciting for the students, faculty, alumni, and community.

KSS welcomed its largest class this fall with more than 90 new freshmen declaring Kinesiology & Sport Science majors. KSS is working toward a goal of 100 freshman.

Based on increasing enrollment figures within the KSS major, the Division was able to hire an additional faculty member. Dr. Brett Comstock earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Denison University, Granville Ohio. He completed his Master of Arts in Kinesiology from the University of Connecticut and earned a doctoral research fellowship at UConn as the Laboratory Coordinator for the Human Performance Lab. He has published over 33 research articles in various refereed journals and is a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist with the National Strength & Conditioning Association. His dissertation title, “Effects of Loading Characteristics on Tendon Properties” was completed this past summer. He brings additional clinical experience that will add breadth to our existing research collaborations with the Medical School at USD.

The School of Education’s Student Services provide support to future, present, and past USD students. The fall semester has been extremely busy.

The recruitment team, Chad Pinkelman and Joy Korman, has been designing graduate and undergraduate advertisements in order to ensure future students are informed of the outstanding education degrees offered at USD. School of Education advertisements are highlighted in area athletic event programs, South Dakota Magazine, 605 Magazine, Coyote Radio, Future Educators Association’s website, and in SD Council of Math Teachers and SD Science Teacher Association newsletters.

The advisory team, Dr. Sherrie Bosse and Joy Korman, are currently advising education majors for spring classes. The advisors will support over 300 students in registering for spring classes.

Donna Tucker, Praxis testing and certification, has been working with other universities to coordinate the 30th Annual Teacher Job Fair. The fair is for certified teachers looking for career opportunities in education. It will be held in conjunction with BIG (Business, Industry, Government) Job Fair on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, 1201 N. West Ave, Sioux Falls, SD. The fair hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Candidate registration is free if they pre-register by Feb. 15 (pre-registration is through the candidate’s institution). School district registration is via the website http://www.getgrads.com

Please contact Chelle Kirkpatrick (chelle.kirkpatrick@usd.edu) for questions concerning undergraduate School of Education programs. Contact Kathy Peckham (kathy.peckham@usd.edu) for graduate School of Education programs.
EDAD DIVISION NEWS

By Mark Baron, Ph.D.

EDAD Faculty Member, Susan Santo, Offers Unique Experience through Honors Seminar

Senior lecturer Susan Santo, who customarily teaches graduate-level courses in the Adult and Higher Education program, has had a fascination with dreams throughout most of her life. She is offering Exploring Your Dreams as an honors course for the first time this semester.

Dr. Santo has researched dreams extensively through her reading and subscriptions to publications about dreams. She also is a member of the International Association for the Study of Dreams, which has dream-related journals, a newsletter, and annual conferences.

Dr. Santo has 16 undergraduate students in her honor’s course along with a graduate student who is auditing the course and a graduate assistant. According to Dr. Santo, the class is going very well and the students are enjoying the opportunity to study a subject that is of personal interest to them. The students appear interested and remain actively engaged in the course.

Publications and Presentations

