Welcome to the first installment of insideEDU, the newsletter of the Department of Education at Washington University in St. Louis. Our faculty, staff and students have been busy teaching, publishing, and presenting at conferences across the globe. This newsletter showcases the amazing things happening in the department and provides news and updates for current and prospective students. Enjoy!

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FROM THE CHAIR: CINDY BRANTMEIER

It has been a very busy few months as the new chair. In 2002, Washington University hired Professor William F. Tate to take on the position of Chair of Education. Thirteen years later, I am leading a department that offers five undergraduate degrees in education, three master’s degrees for classroom teachers and researchers across thirteen academic divisions, and a Ph.D. program with three major research dimensions. Clearly, Bill’s extraordinary leadership and intellectual vision have provided the strong foundation essential for a department of education.

Our Ph.D. program allows students to pursue intellectual work tailored to interdisciplinary interests, combined with intensive time with research faculty. The Ph.D. has three areas of concentration: social contexts of educational research, science and mathematics education, and second language research. The common thread across our research agendas is that we take into account cultural contexts to make education equitable. Through our undergraduate honors program and coursework, we transgress university boundaries as we foster unique partnerships with local educators. Because of new state mandates, we are facing complex challenges for teacher education. We meet these new demands with a strong sense of mission as we are fully committed to the preparation of dynamic and effective teacher leaders for K-12 schools.

Throughout all of our programs, we are dedicated to bringing research and practice together to enhance learning, transform schools, and increase educational equity. I am a certified K-12 teacher in three different subjects and have been teaching for 25 years in the U.S. and abroad. As a professor at Washington University for 14 years, I have been actively conducting research on language, learning and cognition with scholars worldwide. I stand ready to work together with my colleagues to address the grand challenges of our time. I believe that preparation of educators, through our research, theory and practice is one of the most significant contributions we make to the state, nation and world. I am deeply honored and grateful to serve the department as the new chair.

NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

Foundations of Educational Research (EDU 503) will now be taught by Dr. Mark Hograbe. It provides graduate students an opportunity to understand and evaluate research methodologies used in education and the social sciences. Topics include major types of quantitative and qualitative research, reliability and validity, sampling, descriptive and inferential statistics, effect sizes, power, and research designs to control threats to validity.

Three courses, each taught by Professor Cindy Brantmeier, have also been added to the Educational Studies major and minor. Second Language Acquisition & Technology (ED 4023) and Second Language Reading and Writing: Theory, Research, and Practice (ED 4692) for the individual processes of education requirement; and Linguistics & Language Learning (ED 4111) for the social context of education requirement. These classes enhance available course offerings to provide exposure and understanding of the field of applied linguistics and language acquisition as it relates to educational studies. Another new course, Children of Immigrants: Identity and Acculturation (Educ 4036), will be offered by Dr. Linling Xu for the major in applied linguistics.

Professor Mark McDaniel's course, Cognitive Psychology Applied to Education (Educ 4302), has been cross-listed with Education and applied linguistics, and Professor Mike Strube's Applied Multivariate Analysis (Psych 516) is now offered to Ph.D. students in Education.
The faculty and staff of Teacher Education are pleased to welcome our newest students. Our teacher education faculty, staff and students provide pre-professional clinical and field experience observation and service to K-12 students in cooperation with their district mentor teachers in St. Louis urban, suburban, public, charter and independent school settings.

Students are involved in reflective practice activities in their preservice classroom settings to answer questions related to effective and evidence-based instructional strategies as they assess their students’ levels of learning progress.

Our Teacher Education programs also provide representative leadership at the state level in the development of new teacher preparation standards and new teacher certification requirements as outlined by the Missouri Department of Education.
AWARDS

Congratulations to Professor Michelle Purdy who was named Outstanding Faculty Leader for Aug/Sept by X Honorary. This award is dedicated to promoting and recognizing excellence in leadership in programming on campus.

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Ashley Macrander who received the Dr. Diane DeMell Jacobsen Scholarship from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Haley Dolosic who won the Outstanding Future Foreign Language Teacher award from the Foreign Language Association of Missouri (FLAM).

Congratulations to Gail Wolfe (Ph.D., 2013) who recently won the 2014 Eggertsen Dissertation Prize from the History of Education Society. Professor Mary Ann Dzuback directed the dissertation.

GRANTS

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Education has received a generous gift from Professor Bryce Hudgins. Dr. Hudgins earned his MA and Ph.D. from Washington University and was a faculty member in the Department of Education for 40 years, serving the last seven as Chair.

Dr. Hudgins taught, wrote, and did research in educational psychology. He published five books, as well as many research articles and monographs. During his teaching career, he directed more than 30 doctoral dissertations. Upon retirement, he wrote several novels and short stories and was active in the Lifelong Learning Institute of Washington University.

This generous gift will be used for summer research grants for untenured but tenure-track faculty members in the Department of Education. The grants will range between $2500 and $5000.
PRESENTATIONS

Ebony Duncan presented her research on the racial implications of charter schools at the AERA Grants Program Fall Research Conference in Washington, DC.


Mark Hogrebe co-presented a professional development course at the 2014 AERA annual conference. “Mapping Your Educational Research: Putting Spatial Concepts into Practice with GIS” is available on the AERA Virtual Research Learning Center.


RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement, Leah Merrifield, invited Professor Cindy Brantmeier to join a team of Washington University scholars who will facilitate a year-round college prep program for St. Louis area high school students with limited financial resources. The selected high school students, who will live in campus residence halls, will take rigorous academic credit and learn about the college application process for three consecutive summers. Cindy is developing a criterion referenced self-assessment instrument and skills based measurement that will be used to evaluate achievement for this program. Interested colleagues and students who want to get involved should contact Cindy.

INTERVIEW W/DEAN TATE

After 12 years, William Tate has stepped down as Chair of the Department of Education. But luckily he’s not going far. Professor Tate is now Dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and Vice Provost for Graduate Education. insideEDU caught up with Dr. Tate to talk about his time in the department and to learn more about his new position.

insideEDU: What were your greatest accomplishments as chair?
WT: In fall 2002, I assumed the position of Professor and Chair with great enthusiasm. One goal was to move the department into the top echelon of graduate programs in the United States. At that point, the department had not been ranked or honorably mentioned in comparative ratings for many years. To reach this goal, we secured significant external funding from grants and development efforts. We reorganized our doctoral course of study around a core set of concentrations. This collective act provided not only a transparent indicator of program strengths but also provided an opportunity to build interdisciplinary connections within and beyond Arts & Sciences. We refocused our commitment to quality graduate mentoring and created opportunities for students to publish articles and to present papers at national and international conferences. These changes, along with aggressive recruiting, resulted in first-rate graduate applicants and improved learning conditions for continuing and entering graduate students.

insideEDU: What are your fondest memories?
WT: I enjoyed meeting with the doctoral students to discuss our research projects and to encourage them to serve. It was great to watch our students grow as intellectual leaders. We desire to produce scholars who are leaders prepared to build quality academic programs and, where appropriate, to link their research to social problem solving and policy. To achieve this outcome, we encouraged our students to serve in leadership roles both on campus and in professional societies.

insideEDU: What most excites you about your new position?
WT: I firmly believe graduate education plays at least two significant roles that impact society. One role of graduate education is to develop a talent pool able to both support and lead the discovery process within and across disciplines with an aim on the most pressing problems. A second role is more custodial, yet equally as important. Graduate education involves not only supporting discovery, but serving as the forum for engaging that which was once known but is at risk of oversight. My passion is to support the advancement of these two roles.

http://education.wustl.edu
In October, we welcomed the latest members to our local chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society dedicated to scholarship and excellence in education. New members include (l to r) Hannah Sher, Kimberly Grundel, Brett Hendricks, Ayla Kelley, Ben Overby, Hannah Bakker-Arkema, Kaylie Dahl, Stephanie Farber, Cindy Brantmeier, and Samuel Forman.

Each spring, our chapter creates a service project that enriches a local public school in need. 2014’s project, Literacy Alive, traveled to Holman Elementary in Ferguson, MO, a school with a large percentage of free and reduced lunches. We combined literacy instruction with movement and expression and each child received a book of his or her choice. The 2015 service project will take place at Oak Hill Elementary School in south St. Louis.

TECH CERTIFICATE

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring that all our Teacher Education students are expert in instructional technologies. In 2008, we created the Certificate of Merit in Instructional Technologies program to train students in Notebook for Smartboard, digital video, and Web 2.0. Individuals who demonstrate proficiency in each are awarded a Certificate of Merit to include in their professional portfolio. To date, over 75 certificates have been awarded to new teachers heading into the field.

Updates to the certificate program include incorporating research and theory that drive the use of technology for learning. With funding from the Dean of Arts & Sciences, we recently purchased six state-of-the-art video rigs to ensure our students train on the best equipment available and comfortably satisfy all state technology requirements.
RECENT GRADS AT A GLANCE

Grace Barlow (MAT, 2013) is currently a 7th grade History teacher at MICDS (Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School) and is the assistant coach to the dance program.

Kevin Crouch (BA/Ed Studies, Spanish & Applied Linguistics, 2014) is currently dedicating a year of service to City Year, a non-profit organization that provides specialized academic support and mentorship to at-risk elementary students in South Central LA. Next, he will pursue an MA at Columbia University.

Jamal Harley (BA/Applied Linguistics & Psychology, 2014) is currently pursuing the Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at Portland State University in Oregon.

Anna Stern (BA/Secondary Education & History, 2014) is currently teaching 9th grade history at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, WI.

Elizabeth Thorne-Wallington (Ph.D., 2014) successfully defended her dissertation, “Thinking geospatially: How context effects on reading achievement test scores in the state of Missouri vary by geospatial location” and was awarded the Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

Natalie Wasserman (MAT, 2013) is currently teaching 9th grade history at the Whitfield School in St. Louis.

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