

Academic Calendar

April

- 4-13 Easter Recess – WC
- 10-13 Easter Recess – TC
- 17 Deadline for June Graduation Forms – TC
- 18 Spring Semester Ends – TC
- 30 Study Day - WC

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

- Henry Van Dyke, *Fisherman's Luck*, 1899

We wish for you a month of spring days!

Update Editors

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Program Updates

Celebrate Spring with SMU-Rochester

As announced in the March Update, SMU's Rochester Center is preparing for their Third Annual Celebration event. Alumni, students, staff and faculty and their families are invited to attend, Saturday, April 18, 2009, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Heintz Center Commons. This free event will include activities for the kids, SMU giveaways and prize drawings, and a Gourmet Pizza Bar. Music on Wheels Rock & Recess, presented by KROC, will be on hand for entertainment. Last year approximately 175 guests attended the event. It is a great chance to visit with Rochester Center students, alumni and faculty in a fun, casual atmosphere. RSVP's are requested by Monday, April 13 to **Laurie Roy** at lroy@smumn.edu.

K-12 Reading Teacher Program Goes to Afghanistan



The **K-12 Reading Teacher** program recently utilized a unique blended delivery format when **Elissa Hall's** EDRD 603 connected to skype to bring the class discussion to a learner stationed in Afghanistan. A Winona Middle School teacher and member of the National Guard, Rachel Ryba was deployed just after she enrolled in the program. **Denise Cichosz**, program coordinator, has maintained contact with Rachel and helped facilitate the connection. **Michelle Cochran**, assistant director, is in the process of establishing a course-related wiki page to keep Rachel up to date.

Discussion Events

Lasallian Formation Session

"What Makes Us a Lasallian Community? A Discussion with Brother Frederick Mueller" will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 10:00–11:30 am in the MTH Large Meeting Room.

Brown Bag Lunch

"Current Economic Challenges and the Response of Higher Education: A Roundtable Discussion" will be held on Wednesday, April 15, Noon-1:00 pm in the PAN Alumni Room.

Both events are open to all staff and faculty.

Faculty and Staff News

Priscilla Herbison, program director of the Human Development Program, was acknowledged in the 7th Annual W.R.I.T.E. OF SPRING, held on March 28, 2009 at the Once Upon A Crime bookstore. This independent bookstore has a long-standing history of celebrating Minnesota authors. Priscilla has written two notably successful books in the "God Knows" series: *God Knows Grandparents Make a Difference* and *God Knows We Get Angry*. Through life stories, spiritual wisdom, and a pragmatic grasp of the blessings and struggles common in people's lives, Priscilla weaves together her empathy for life challenges and her essential joy for life. Congratulations, Priscilla!

Roger Peckover, Suzanne Peterson, Pat Christiansen, and Brenda Fischer, members of the development team of the Master in Teaching and Learning Program (M.Ed.), have had their research accepted for presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Research Association in San Diego. The paper titled, *Building Teacher Capacity for "Disciplined" Self Study*, reports results of an ongoing programmatic case study of developing teachers' capacity for using principles of social constructivist learning and discipline based structures of knowledge to build transformative communities of inquiry.

Sara Wright, associate director and clinical director of the Marriage & Family Therapy programs, was invited to be the featured speaker at the annual Spring Colloquium jointly sponsored by the Psychology and Family Studies departments at the University of Saint Thomas. The Colloquium was held on March 4 on the Saint Paul campus of UST.

The School of Professional Programs has announced that transfer credit coordinator **Colleen Rubinoff** will be leaving at the end of April for a relocation to Iowa.

Jerry Briggs, director of the Industrial Technology program, is also leaving at the end of May to enjoy retirement.

Karen Fischer has also announced her retirement as director of the M.A. in Education program in Wisconsin. **Lynda Sullivan** will step into this role beginning June 1.

We will miss these colleagues and wish them well as they transition to new challenges.



Joy Rikala, faculty member in the Organizational Leadership program, has now climbed the Western Breach of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. All eight members of her climbing team successfully made it to Uhuru summit (19,340 feet) at 6:45 am, February 10th. Climbing the Western Breach (the longest, most difficult route) gave the climbers 8 nights and 9 days on the mountain and extra time to acclimatize, complete extra scramble climbs, spend time in the diminishing glacial field, and camp on the edge of a volcano crater at 18,500 ft. We congratulate Joy for her success with the mental and emotional challenge as well as the physical accomplishment.

Faculty Development

New Faculty Orientation on March 14 was attended by 39 individuals. This was the largest-ever group for the orientation which is held three times per year. SGPP continues to benefit from the services of high-quality adjunct faculty, hiring 124 during calendar year 2008.

Master of Education in Teaching and Learning Conference, “Growing by Giving” is the thematic focus for this annual conference at Champlin Park High School on April 18-19, 2009. Approximately 600 learners in the M.Ed. program from across the state of Minnesota and Wisconsin will come together for two days of shared learning. The conference provides an opportunity to deepen participants’ understanding of their practice, explore ways to use classroom-based action research, and to develop instructional habits of mind that improve student learning and promote the well being of all learners. Anyone who may be interested in more information about the conference or who may wish to attend should contact **Suzanne Peterson**, Program Director, at ext. 6615 or at speterse@smumn.edu.

The Teaching and Learning Series entitled “Technology Enhanced Learning” was offered on two Saturday mornings, March 21 and 28. Approximately 50 SGPP faculty members arrived each morning for lively sessions helping them to “tech-up.” Session topics included Web 2.0, Teaching with Blackboard, Clickers, Discussion Board, Tegrity, Powerpoint, Online Resources and Copyright Issues.

Participants used an online registration process created by Jane Littlefield. Thanks to key leaders **Sue Hines, Bob Andersen, Jane Littlefield** and **Becki Warnock**, and to additional presenters **Elizabeth Childs, Kathy Hanson, Chad Kjørliien**, and **Nykol Johnson**. **Cheryl Prentice** and **Rachel McGee** created Browsing Stations about the Writing Center and Library, and were available for questions. The Twin Cities Helpdesk was well-represented by **Chad Colt** who supplied a large number of laptops, manned a roomful of browsing stations and fielded many questions from faculty members.

Faculty Development Committee members **Becky Brodin, Priscilla Herbison, Jack McClure, Susan Moore, Lora Setter**, and **Mary Louise Wise** (co-chair) extended their creative energy and support to all three Saturday events.

The M.A. in Education program’s faculty meeting, coordinated by program director **Claudia Risnes** and associate director **Diane Steffen**, drew 60 people from around the state (as far as 245 miles away) on March 28. This Saturday morning event gave faculty members a chance to connect with one another in ways that are not possible during their day-to-day teaching.

“Course-Alike Sessions” brought instructors together for sharing, reflection and growth in their approach to parallel courses taught in different locations. Emphasis was placed on preparing our students to develop Culturally Responsive Classrooms.

Community Connections

Kitchen Connection

On March 21, **Valerie Fitzgerald, Alison Block, Tina Koecheler, Donna McKenna** and Donna's daughter Morgan took part in the Kitchen Connection, a program of La Conexion (<http://www.citysouthcluster.org/Programs/LaConexion.dsp>). La Conexion offers walk-in referral services to the Latino community. Some of the services offered include legal assistance, English classes, medical insurance, employment help, and affordable housing. La Conexion always welcomes volunteer groups to the Kitchen Connection. If anyone is interested in spending a Saturday afternoon cooking authentic Latino food, contact Val at vfitzger@smumn.edu.

Recognition of Beauty

Carlos Hernandez and the maintenance staff of the Saint Mary’s Twin Cities campus are to be congratulated for receiving a 2008 Minneapolis Garden Award from Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization commissioned by the City Council to encourage urban beautification. This year for the first time, our gardens have been included in the “First Place” category.

Neighborhood Clean-up

Phillips West Neighborhood Organization in cooperation with Community Partners & Residents, invites the Saint Mary’s community to help with the *Phillips West Spring Clean-up 2009*, Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. A free breakfast will be served. The meeting place is Messiah Lutheran at 2504 Columbus Avenue South, for a morning of litter pick-up, block by block. At noon a free volunteers’ pizza lunch will be served. Contact Crystal Trutnau with questions [612/879-5383 or pwno2005@yahoo.com].