

ST. OLAF COLLEGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT *ALUMNI MESSENGER*

Volume I, Issue #1 --October 2003

WHAT'S NEW IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT?

Greetings

On behalf of the Education Faculty, I am pleased to introduce *The Alumni Messenger*, the St. Olaf Education Department newsletter. Our intention is to provide updates on developments in our program and to strengthen our connections with alumni. Those of you who are employed in the field of education may be interested in contacting us to supervise student teachers or practicum students, mentor prospective or beginning teachers, or guest lecture in our courses. We hope that the value of this newsletter will develop and evolve in the months and years to come.

What's New?

The Education Faculty have been very active designing new courses and programs, responding to internal and external mandates and challenges, and shaping our program to produce the best teacher candidates we can. Below is a partial list of the activities and developments in our program, and we will feature these and other highlights in future issues.

- * Flaten Hall has recently become the home of the St. Olaf Education Center. This development was precipitated by the Art Department moving to the Dittmann Center. The Education Center includes the Education Department and four grant-funded Educational Opportunity Programs -- TRiO Student Support Services, Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and GEAR UP.
- * The Education Department has expanded space for our faculty, has additional offices, a computer lab, a seminar room, and a student-faculty lounge.
- * St. Olaf's TRiO programs have joined us in Flaten Hall adding twenty new staff, several new programs, and providing important connections with linguistic and ethnic minority students, urban schools, teachers, and hundreds of middle and senior high students with our program.

- * St. Olaf's Teacher Education Program was recently accredited by the National Council for Accreditation Teacher Education (NCATE) for the next five years.
- * The Education Department now has seven full-time faculty.
- * The Minnesota Board of Teaching also reviewed and approved St. Olaf's licensure program and passed St. Olaf on all licensure standards.
- * St. Olaf will begin a post-baccalaureate elementary education K-6 licensure in the summer of 2004. The program replaces our current post-baccalaureate cooperative program with the University of St. Thomas. The cooperative, for many reasons, dissolves as of 2003; hence St. Olaf's elementary program development begins in the summer of 2004. The future of the elementary program beyond 2007 will be determined this year.
- * A generous gift from the mother of a St. Olaf teacher education alumna created a new endowment, *The Opportunity Fund for Teacher Education*. The gift will fund program and leadership development and student access.



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INTRODUCING THE EDUCATION FACULTY

Myron Solid, Professor, and Director of Teacher Licensure and Post-Baccalaureate Studies

Most teacher alumni who have earned a teaching license in the past 35 years are very familiar with Myron. We are all sad that Myron will retire this June after 40 great years of teaching. However, we are excited that he and his wife Carol, who recently retired as a special education teacher from Northfield Senior High, will be able to enjoy a much-deserved retirement. Dr. Solid's career will be featured in a future newsletter edition. Currently he teaches our capstone course, Human Issues in Education, Interim courses: Hawaii and Perspectives, directs the Social Studies Education Program, is responsible for teacher licensing and reporting, supervises student teachers, and coordinates our new elementary education classroom licensure program.

Mark Schelske, Chair and Professor

Mark is beginning his 17th year in the department, coming to St. Olaf after a decade in the Minneapolis schools as a special education teacher and administrator. Mark teaches Communication in the Schools; alternates between the Hawaii and Perspectives Interim courses, supervises student teachers, and coordinates the activities of the St. Olaf Education Center.

Maria Kelly '85, Assistant Professor

Maria is beginning her 5th year at St. Olaf after more than a decade of middle school teaching in Eagan, Hopkins, Tai Pei, Taiwan, and Chicago. Maria is beginning her first year coordinating our Student Teaching Abroad Program, supervises student teachers, and she teaches Principles of Education, Methods of Teaching Social Studies, and an Interim course based in Minneapolis: Urban Schools and Communities.

Rosie Pfarr-Baker '92, Director of Field Experience and Assessment Coordinator

Rosie joined the Education Faculty in 1999 after seven years as a math teacher and school counselor in Tucson, Arizona, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. Rosie is responsible for our field experience and student teaching programs. She teaches Urban Education, Technology and Assessment, and supervises student teachers.

John Welckle, Associate Professor

John began teaching part-time at St. Olaf over a decade ago while he was a Social Studies teacher in Burnsville. After 35 years of public school teaching level K-12, John joined St. Olaf's faculty full-time. John teaches Philosophy of Education, Social Studies Perspectives, Education Psychology, and he supervises student teachers.

Martha Harris, Associate Professor

Martha joined our faculty in 1999 after 28 years of teaching English in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Martha teaches Principles of Education, Methods of Teaching English, and she supervises student teachers.

Ann Leming, Instructor

Ann is beginning her 20th year of teaching The Exceptional Child course and supervising student teachers. Her K-12 background includes classroom and special education teaching in Utah and Minnesota alternative and mainstream education schools.

Dan Forstner, Instructor

Dan joined our faculty last spring after more than a decade of teaching middle school English and intermediate elementary classes in New York City, Fargo, and St. Paul. Dan teaches Education Psychology, Teaching of Reading, and he supervises student teachers. Dan is also involved designing and teaching courses for our post-baccalaureate summer elementary education program.

Linda Berger, Associate Professor of Music and Education, Director of Music Education

Linda joined St. Olaf's faculty six years ago and is in the final year of her tenure review. She has 25 years of experience as a K-6 elementary education teacher. She teaches music methods courses and supervises student teachers.

Maggie Broner, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Education

Maggie has been teaching at St. Olaf since 1997, and she is in the final year of her tenure review. Maggie teaches Foreign Language Methods and supervises student teachers for the Education Department as well as courses for the Spanish Department.

Tim Mahr, Professor of Music and Education

Tim is beginning his 9th year at St. Olaf and 20th year in higher education. He has extensive experience in high school band direction. Tim teaches music methods and supervises student teachers for the Education Department.

Martha Wallace, Professor of Mathematics and Education

Martha is beginning her 26th year on the St. Olaf Faculty. She is a leader in mathematics education in Minnesota and nationwide. Martha teaches mathematics methods and supervises student teachers for the Education Department.

The teacher education program also employs many adjunct faculty who will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

FALL UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIELD EXPERIENCES
Rosie Pfarr-Baker

This fall semester we have 35 Oles student teaching in Minnesota schools, four who are doing their student teaching with the ACM Urban Education Program in Chicago; two in Kona, Hawaii; one in Hong Kong; and two in Kodai Karal, India. By all reports, from supervisors and the student teachers themselves, they are off to a strong start and doing very well. The music and art students who have split placements will be finishing up at their first school the first week of October and moving on to new challenges at their second school.

The local student teachers have placements as far south as Byron High School near Rochester and as far north as Anoka High School. We conduct monthly student teaching seminars take place at two sites: St. Olaf College and St. Paul Central High School. About 50% of the student teachers are placed in suburban schools, 30% in urban schools, and 20% in rural schools. The student teachers are pursuing teaching licenses in the following areas: vocal and instrumental music, social studies, visual art, communication arts and literature, biological and physical science, mathematics, and French.

We are thankful for all of our host teachers who take on the important responsibility of mentoring a teacher candidate, and were especially grateful to alumni who volunteer for hosting student teachers. I want to extend a special thank you to the following alumni who are hosting a student teacher this fall: Melissa Blandin at Burnsville High School, Katherine Norrie at Northfield High School, Marie Dymit at White Bear Lake High School, John Lace at Anoka High School, Kari Lace at Jackson Middle School, Sara Lyons at Kennedy High School, Doug Strandell at Pine Island High School, and Jennifer Thomas at Jackson Preparatory Magnet School.

Teacher education candidates will continue to have the opportunity to student teach in Chicago through the ACM Urban Education Program; unfortunately the popular Dimensions of Multicultural and Global Awareness Interim course will no longer be offered, as it has been moved to May term. Currently students are applying to participate in the following education Interims that include extensive field experiences: Urban Schools and Communities in Minneapolis, Perspectives on Teaching in a variety of locations, Multicultural Education in Hawaii, and the Urban Education Practicum in the Twin Cities.



The St. Olaf Education Department is currently conducting a search for a **tenure-track position**. For more information, visit <http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/education/PositionOpenings/PositionOpeningsIndex.html>.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? THREE EDUCATION PROFESSORS FROM THE RECENT PAST

Debra Anderson (St. Olaf: 1984 – 1999)

Debra Anderson left St. Olaf in May, 1999 to return to her alma mater, Minnesota State University, Mankato, where she is the chairperson of the Department of Educational Studies: K-12 and Secondary Programs. Mankato serves 400 undergraduate and 200 graduate students with 14 full-time, five part-time, and 18 adjunct faculty. In addition to administrative responsibilities, Dr. Anderson teaches graduate courses in the M.S. Teaching and Learning degree program and in the Specialist in Curriculum and Instruction program both on- and off-campus. She has had St. Olaf alumni/alumnae enroll in her graduate courses and reports that she enjoys teaching beginning and veteran teachers alike. Debra still reads the St. Olaf Magazine and looks forward to reading the alumni news.

James Holden (St. Olaf: 1994 – 2001)

Jim Holden will never lose his interest in teaching and learning. He has been a teacher and coach for all his professional life, and that may not stop now that he is retired because, as Grandpa of two grandchildren and, within a few months, two more, he will informally continue to coach and work with young learners. Jim has been busy since he retired, publishing a book (Inquiry and the Literary Text, co-edited) and working on another (this time, the subject is tennis). He developed and taught a course for the Elder Collegium, a community based organization for education. A sojourn to Norway was a highlight of the summer for Jim and Caroline. And his passion for fishing, particularly fly fishing, has not waned at all. As this is being written, Jim is painting his house in Northfield. He welcomes anyone with a desire to fish to accompany him to the streams, or, a desire to hold a paintbrush to accompany him on the east side of his house.


Lawrence (Larry) Zimmerman (St. Olaf: 1990 – 2001):

After retiring from St. Olaf, Larry and Marian began a life of spending much of the year at their new residence on Hutchinson Island in Jensen Beach, Florida (Atlantic side) and summers at their lake home in central Minnesota. In 2002 they sold their Minneapolis home where they lived for forty-two years.

True to his nature, Dr. Zimmerman remains busy. He is preparing an addition to their lake home next Spring. He continues to be an active volunteer in the YMCA and Loaves and Fishes. This past summer they enjoyed hosting their 10 year old granddaughter and were kept busy with almost non-stop fishing, boating, swimming, basketball, baseball, yard and house projects, Mall of America, Twins and table games.

Larry and Marian enjoy traveling throughout USA; last summer, spent a month in Australia and New Zealand. Larry is active with walking-jogging, a little golf, some boating and fishing in Minnesota and Florida, and "some great mini trips to Key West and the Everglades by air-boat."

Dr. Zimmerman continues to be an avid reader. Probably because their son is deployed in Afghanistan, the last two books he has read are: *The Lion's Grave - Dispatches from Afghanistan* by Jon Lee Anderson, and *Forbidden Truth: U.S.-Taliban Secret Oil Diplomacy and the Failed Hunt for Bin Laden* by Jean-Charles Brisard and Guillaume Dasquie.



If you'd like to receive an electronic copy of the Alumni Messenger, or if you have some stories or news to contribute, please contact Jo Olson in the Education Department, olsonjc@stolaf.edu

ST. OLAF COLLEGE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

"WHAT GREATER OR BETTER GIFT CAN WE OFFER THE REPUBLIC THAN TO TEACH OR INSTRUCT OUR YOUTH?" - CICERO

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