Education Grad Heads Off to Med School

When many students first enter MSU as freshmen, they are undecided about a major and wander through their first two years exploring options. In some cases, they know their options but struggle with trying to decide between two majors about which they are passionate. With Chelsea Gettel, an elementary education spring graduate from the College of EHHD, those passions were two quite distinct options—elementary education and pre-medicine.

“I started in pre-med, but switched to elementary education after the first semester,” said Gettel, a native of Great Falls, Mont.

With a mother who was a second grade teacher and a father the former superintendent of the Montana School of the Deaf and Blind, education seemed like a natural choice, but Gettel still felt the pull toward medicine. While spending two semesters with study abroad programs in Costa Rica and Ireland, she took both medical classes in tropical health care and Spanish, and core classes for elementary education.

She continued to explore both options when she shadowed a pediatrician in Great Falls and volunteered at the urgent care in Big Sky. In education she was involved with practicum classes and ultimately student taught at Montfortan School in Gallatin County.

After several advising sessions with former education advisor, Jennifer Clark, Gettel decided to take her time (six years) and complete a degree in elementary education, while also taking the required courses for medical school.

This spring she was notified that she was accepted into Michigan State University’s medical school and the WWAMI medical education program, the partnership between MSU and the University of Washington School of Medicine. While she liked both programs, she chose Michigan so she could gain valuable experience with a much larger population base outside of Montana.

“I was ready for a change and to branch out,” said Gettel.

One might think a degree in elementary education is an unusual path to medicine, but Gettel said more and more, schools are looking for a well-rounded person, not just one with a lot of science and biomedical classes on a transcript. Even the MCAT test for medical school admittance includes more social and behavioral questions, not just science.

“My education degree made me look at life experiences and provided me with good communication skills, “ she said, “and a lot of those skills are applicable to medicine.”

Eventually, Gettel would like to return to Montana, but for now she is leaving her options open for wherever her career path takes her.
EHHD Service Learning Grant Supports After School Project

On a spring day in April, eight enthusiastic elementary students from the Stevens Youth Center, an after school program in White Sulphur Springs, Mont., arrived on campus to meet education students from MSU that they had been corresponding and Skyping with during the semester. With funds from the MSU Alumni Foundation and the EHHD Dean's Office for community based service learning projects, education professors Joe Hicks and Sarah Schmitt-Wilson collaborated to design a program that brought together both MSU students and children in White Sulphur Springs.

Sarah Schmitt-Wilson, assistant teaching professor, and Lori Brockway, adjunct instructor, teach educational psychology classes, which incorporate a seven hour service learning component. While students mostly create their own service learning projects, several volunteered to participate in the after school programs in Livingston and White Sulphur Springs.

MSU students who traveled to White Sulphur Springs spent time with the center’s children playing educational games and getting to know them.

“One student, an MSU football player who volunteered this spring, was from a large inner city center and he enjoyed hanging out with the kids in White Sulphur Spring,” said Schmitt-Wilson.

The children later sent a questionnaire asking the class questions about what it was like to be in college. “Do you eat a lot of ramen noodles?” “How big is your lunch room?” “Do you like Transformers?” were some of the questions fielded by MSU students.

Youth center students shared a little about themselves—they have 15 ukuleles, they are bookworms, they sew, garden in the summer, and they want to “attend a college class, but not have to do any work.”

They got their wish in April. When the children arrived on campus, they attended adjunct professor Rose Valor’s science education class where MSU students hosted “genius hour,” using power point presentations to share their science passions. Brian Kassay, a junior from Colorado, took the group outside for some hands-on learning involving an egg drop (not really work).

Bethany Steinken, director of the Stevens Youth Center, said it “was great to give the kids a peek into college life at such a young age and to broaden their world view in general.”

Joe Hicks, director of the After School Initiative and assistant teaching professor, treated the visitors to lunch at MSU Miller Dining Hall, where the children were in awe of so many food choices, and helped coordinate a tour of the Museum of the Rockies before their return trip home.

Brian Kassay challenges students in an egg drop contest.

Stevens Youth Center students sit in on a science education class and learn about why dogs tilt their heads when people talk to them.
From the central Asia country of Uzbekistan, known as the country of hospitality and peace, Dildora Kasimova was the latest J.E.E.M. scholar to spend six weeks visiting MSU, the Department of Education, and the greater Bozeman area.

The Joint Exchange in Educational Methodology (J.E.E.M.) Scholarship was established in 2012 by Yvonne Hauwiller to honor the memory of her husband, former MSU professor in curriculum and instruction, James G. Hauwiller. Both he and Yvonne shared an interest in international education from their time in the Peace Corps to Jim’s time as director of several educational exchange programs at MSU.

“I first heard of the scholarship from a colleague who had been part of the MSU’s Teaching Excellence and Achievement program (TEA),” said Kasimova. “I had to fill out an application with my objectives, my project, and how this scholarship would influence the teaching experience.”

During her home stay in Bozeman, where she lived with Hauwiller, she observed classes at Bozeman High School, elementary schools, MSU, and the adult learning center. She also attended the “ESL: Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse K-12 Students”, taught by associate professor, Jioanna Carjuzaa. From these observations, she collected information and is writing an article on curriculum design and how to improve writing in English for teachers in other countries. She hopes to publish in an international journal.

“In Montana, teachers are skilled in using up-to-date technology,” said Kasimova. “At home, we are working on improving technology to implement in the classroom. We still write on paper and teachers use white boards.”

In Uzbekistan, Kasimova is an elementary school English teacher at a specialized boarding school for children with spinal diseases. She is also a teacher trainer working with teachers to improve methods for teaching English, and she tutors individual students who want to attend university where proficient English is required. If that doesn't keep her busy enough, she is a single mother with two young daughters who spend time as a family watching movies, going to parks and enjoying long dinners.

“In our country, dinner with the whole family lasts a long time,” said Kasimova.

While in Bozeman, she ate her first American pizza, McDonald’s hamburger, and Kentucky Fried Chicken, and she attended events like the MSU Pow Wow, the rodeo, and toured Helena and Yellowstone National Park. In Helena, she got to meet Governor Steve Bullock and helped him celebrate his 50th birthday with a cake.
The first ever EHHD student/faculty forum was organized and hosted by the college's student senators as a way to increase the lines of communication between the two groups. Lauryn Windham, an elementary education major from Billings, Mont., organized the event around the topic of teacher education in hopes of having a “constructive, professional, and scintillating discussion.” A number of education faculty fielded questions ranging from how the accreditation process works to how sequence of classes are structured.

Two Faculty Present at Outstanding Lecture Series

Jioanna Carjuzaa, 2014-2016 recipient of the Distinguished Faculty in the College of EHHD, and Joe Hicks, 2016 Outstanding Service Award from the Department of Education, were featured faculty for the college's Outstanding Faculty Lecture Series for the spring semester.

Carjuzaa, associate professor and executive director for the Center for Bilingual and Multicultural Education, presented “Keeping the Power of Books in Mind: Evaluation and Selection of Classroom Resources about American Indians.” She began the presentation by asking the audience how many breaths they had taken that day. People don’t really think about it, and bias in literature is the same—“we don’t really think about it, but it’s there.”

Carjuzaa’s research centers around how to increase critical literacy skills and how to teach in a cultural way, not teach the culture.

After sharing the five dimensions of multicultural education and reviewing the guidelines for evaluating resources, she had attendees look through a variety of educational materials used in classrooms across the United States and evaluate stereotypes and bias.

“A book can serve as a catalyst for meaningful whole class discussion on different topics,” said Carjuzaa. “A good book is anti-biased and challenges stereotypes.”

She provided hand-outs with resources of lists of good books.

Carjuzaa was selected as the college's first distinguished faculty in recognition for her outstanding work in teaching, research, and service.

Hicks, an assistant teaching professor and the director of MSU’s After School Initiative, partners with many organizations around the Gallatin Valley, like United Way, Bozeman and Belgrade schools, and several schools in Park County, to provide after school programming that involves MSU education students. In a Pecha Kucha presentation, “MSU’s After School Initiative: A Transformative Community Partnership,” he explained the functional aspects of the program, as well as shared at how the program is transformative to both MSU students and the children in the after school programs.

“Over 3,250 children were served with at least one lesson since program inception in 2011,” said Hicks.

In addition, Hicks shared remarks from MSU students on how the program has affected their impressions of teaching and what they have learned about themselves by participating in the program.
At the 93rd Day of Student Recognition ceremony in April, six EHHD students and one staff member were recognized for leadership, service, and scholarship at MSU. Congratulations to—

- Luke Shealy (nutrition)—the Earlene Hart Memorial Scholarship;
- Kailey Grover (health and human performance)—Septemvirii;
- Levi Birky (secondary education social studies broadfield)—Septemvirii and the Newman Civic Fellows Award;
- Shannon Steinmetz (community health)—the Ethelyn C. Harrrison Award;
- Sierra Ely (elementary education)—the Val G. Glynn Award;
- Shannon Bangen (early childhood education)—the ASMSU Peer Service Award.
- Kathryn Will-Dubyak—student organization advisor of the year for Kappa Delta Pi, the education honorary society, and director of Field Placement and Licensure.

Celebrating Excellence in Service Awards at MSU

The 27th annual MSU Employees of the Year award reception was held in April in the SUB Ballroom to celebrate employee excellence in service to the university. From the College of EHHD’s Field Placement and Licensure Office, (photo) Kathryn Will-Dubyak, Jackie Bergstedt, and Gini Mohr were nominated in the “Team of the Year” category.

Big Sky Retired Educators Award Scholarship

Each year, the Big Sky Retired Educators Association works with the College of EHHD to offer a scholarship to an education student. This year, the association offered two $1000 scholarships in memory of retired teacher, Clarice Walters, who was an MSU alumna and taught in Great Falls and at the University of Montana—Dillon. This year’s recipients are Rylee Mathews, a junior in elementary education from Helena, and Jesus Gomez, a junior from Washington.

Rylee Mathews (with flowers) and members of the Big Sky Retired Educators
Teacher Appreciation Reception at MOR

To honor all the area teachers who support education students from MSU, Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education, hosted a spring appreciation reception at the Museum of the Rockies in April. The event thanked school administrators and cooperating teachers who offer their time and service to MSU pre-service teachers. Without the dedication of these educators, the Department of Education would not be able to offer mentoring and quality clinical classroom experiences to future teachers.

Education Symposium

Graduate students in the Department of Education showcased their research at the fifth annual Education Research Symposium in April. Students participated from all three degree programs, including educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, and adult and higher education.

Professional Issues’ Students Learn about Life in the Classroom after MSU

At the end of semester, a group of education students who have been out in the field teaching, returned to campus for five days of “Professional Issues” classes. Taught by assistant teaching professor, Joe Hicks, students heard from career coaches on how to get a job, from Bozeman School District mentors on available resources, from the Thrive non-profit organization on how to engage parents, and Bozeman superintendent of schools, Rob Watson, on legal issues, teacher contracts and the evaluation process. Also included in this year’s activities was a panel of recent graduates who are now teaching in the Gallatin Valley. They shared their experiences on being new to teaching, as well as answering questions from soon-to-be teacher candidates, including “What were you most unprepared for?” “What was your first day of school like?” and “What did your school do to get you involved in the community?”
The 2016 outstanding faculty members honored from the Department of Education: Lynn Kelting-Gibson, the Outstanding Teaching Award; Tricia Seifert, Outstanding Research Award; and Tena Versland, Outstanding Service Award.

Faculty members honored from the Department of Health and Human Development: V. Mitch Vaterlaus, Outstanding Teaching Award; Selena Ahmed, Outstanding Research Award; and Christine Lux, Outstanding Service Award.

Renee Lineback, personnel officer for the college, received the award for EHHD Outstanding Classified Employee and Kathryn Will-Dubyak, director of Field Placement and Licensure, received the Outstanding Professional Employee Award.

Graduating seniors receiving outstanding awards are listed below by area of study:

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Michael Robbins, technology education; Andrew Staub, elementary education; Dietrich Perchy, secondary education science broadfield; Courtney Burns, secondary education social studies broadfield; Joe Hilpert, health and human performance; Zach Minter, family and consumer sciences; Maggie Jacobson, early childhood education/child services; Kahlee Dalton, health enhancement K-12; Grace Schulz, community health; Mariah Scott, food and nutrition; and Kendra Teague, sustainable food and bioenergy systems.

Outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students in Health and Human Development

Outstanding graduating seniors and graduate students in the Department of Education

Outstanding graduate students recognized were: Mary Ulrich, adult and higher education; Marie Judisch, educational leadership; Nigel Waterton, curriculum and instruction; Amy Foote, counseling; John Halvorson, exercise and nutrition sciences; Christine Martin, food, family and community health sciences; and Minette Jessup, family financial planning.
Returning alumni from the classes of 1946, 1956, and 1966, as well as MSU graduating students, celebrated commencement weekend with receptions and ceremonies. Alumni had fun modeling the hats of former home economics professor and dean of women, Marjorie Paisley.

The end of the academic year concluded on Monday, May 9, and the college celebrated successes and achievements with a garden party lunch in the Hall of Fame room in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. Department heads, Jayne Downey (education) and Deborah Hayes (health and human development), and interim dean, Alison Harmon, shared end-of-the-year updates and announced the outstanding faculty and staff awards.

Christine Lux
Outstanding Faculty in HHD for Service

Renee Lineback
Outstanding Classified Staff