

Best Practices Conference Held in Bozeman



In September, 24 people attended a mini-conference titled “Best Practice, Collaborative Partnership Models for the Education and Well-being of Native American Children, Families, and Communities” at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. The conference brought together six early childhood partnership models from across the country that are currently addressing the needs of Head Start teachers, aides, and program staff

working in or with Native communities. Presenters included **Dr. Laura Massey** and **Dr. Joanne Erickson** from Montana State University; Dr. Debra Chadwick, Arizona State University; Darleen Bear Killer and Lynnea Bouhenguel, Oglala Lakota College; Brenda Azure, Stone Child Community College; Patty Brown, Karuk Head Start in northern California; and Ruth Allery, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. The two-day conference was designed as a working conference that allowed for the presentation of models and the task of identifying accomplishments, current challenges, best practices, and recommendations to strengthen teacher education programs and build Native American Head Start programs. Also attending were academic deans and department heads from MSU and Montana Tribal Colleges, Montana Tribal Head Start directors and education managers, program leaders and instructors from universities and tribal colleges from around the nation, Montana Head Start teachers, and current and former students and mentors from the ECEDP program. Brian Richmond, the director of the National American Indian & Alaska Native Head Start Collaboration Office (NAIANHSCO) and conference co-sponsor, also attended.

Laura Massey (associate professor in early childhood education and director of the ECEDP program), **Christine Lux** (adjunct instructor in early childhood education and director of the Child Development Center), and **Rebecca Croghan** (spring 2010 early childhood education graduate and current master’s degree student) have submitted a white paper to the director of NAIANHSCO for review and will be subsequently submitted to the U.S. Department of Education, the National Head Start office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Research Conference Held in Big Sky

This year’s Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association’s (NRMERA) conference was held in September in Big Sky, Mont. Almost 100 higher education faculty and graduate students from nine states attended the regional meeting to present their latest research findings or learn from other research presentations. Montana State University was well represented with nine education faculty and 12 education graduate students presenting.



Art Bangert, associate professor of education at MSU, served as president of NRMERA this past year and was in charge of organizing the conference. The mission of NRMERA is to “encourage quality educational research and to promote the application of the results in public schools.”

When noting the number of graduate students who presented, Bangert said, “The conference is a good place for grad students to get started in presenting their research. It’s not as intense as a national conference such as AERA.”

Jen Clark, Jayne Downey,
Mike Redburn, Art Bangert, and
Catherine Johnson at NRMERA.



Fenqjen Luo comes to MSU from the University of West Georgia and is an assistant professor of math education K-8. Originally from Taiwan where she was an elementary teacher, Luo moved to the United States in 1994 to pursue a master's and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. She returned to Taiwan, but moved back to the U.S. in 2003 to teach at the university level in Georgia.

"There is a shortage of math educators," said Luo, "so I decided to teach at a university and focus on teaching math to pre-service teachers."

She was interested in the math education position at MSU because she wanted a change and liked the strong research emphasis at MSU. Her research centers on pre-service teachers' knowledge of math content in the United States and Taiwan and pre-service teacher use of online manipulatives for upper elementary education math students.

Luo has two young daughters who are attending Bozeman schools, and her husband is a computer engineer in Taiwan and hopes to move to Montana in the future.

Since graduating from MSU in 2005, **Sarah Schmitt-Wilson** "has always dreamed of teaching at her alma mater." This fall, Schmitt-Wilson, an MSU alumna in adult and higher education, got the chance to return to MSU as a full-time adjunct instructor in educational psychology, teaching EDCI 208 and 209. She began her educational career at Chadron State College in Nebraska where she grew up and received a bachelor's in psychology. After graduating from MSU, she worked in Wyoming for a GEAR-UP grant, developing curriculum "from the ground up" for at risk/lower socio-economic students in grades seven through twelve. She is currently finishing her doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado where she is looking at the role of family and educational expectations in the career development of adolescents, specifically the compromise of career expectations. While at MSU, Schmitt-Wilson not only worked on her master's, she also worked in numerous departments on campus--career services, athletics, university studies, and family and graduate housing. Her husband Chris, a Billings native, is also an MSU alum from the College of Engineering, and both are glad to be back in Bozeman.



"I feel blessed to have the opportunity to teach and work with college students every day, for I love my job," said Schmitt-Wilson.

Holly Bolton has been teaching in the school counseling program since the summer of 2009. She recently has taken over the program leader position from Mark Nelson, who became HHD department head this year. Bolton is no stranger to the program, as she was a student in MSU's school counseling program several years ago. She said she has been able to use her personal experiences as a student and apply them as an instructor in the program. At the college level, Bolton has been given the opportunity to present and attend a professional conference and found the experience to be "so invaluable" to her development in counseling.

A native of Louisiana, Bolton earned a Bachelor of Science in Family Relations and Psychology from the University of Southern Mississippi. After receiving her master's from MSU, she worked for three years at Ophir School in Big Sky, Mont., spending a lot of time in the classroom teaching developmental guidance. She is also no stranger to Big Sky. Since childhood, her family has been vacationing there. In her spare time, she and her husband, a construction manager in Big Sky, enjoy exploring Montana and spending time with family and friends.





As a new full-time adjunct professor in the Department of Education, **Christine Rogers Stanton** teaches courses that parallel many of her research interests. This fall, Rogers Stanton is responsible for teaching two sections of multi-cultural education, a section of literacy for established readers (grades 4-8), and is also a coordinator for the in-school experience for education majors.

In August 2010, she received a Ph.D in education/curriculum and instruction from the University of Wyoming where her dissertation focused on the experiences of Native Americans in reservation border town schools. She used community centered research to tell and interpret the stories of Native students. After receiving two bachelor degrees in English and geography from Augustana College in Ill., and a master's in English education from the University of Iowa where she specialized in teaching Native American Literature for young adults, Rogers Stanton began teaching in Wyoming. Her teaching background includes six years of teaching English in Lander, Wyo., and four years as an off-site teacher for a virtual school in Ft. Washakie, Wyo.

In addition to teaching, Rogers Stanton is co-authoring a book on multi-cultural education and working on several articles on curriculum and innovative practices in teaching English using alternative literacy to connect to Native students.

She and husband Brad, a grad student at MSU in snow science, are excited to be in Bozeman.

"I'm excited about the commitment to Indian education at the university and the college level," said Rogers Stanton. "Being in Bozeman allows me to work with many different Native populations and reservation border towns, yet makes it possible for me to maintain the relationships that I have with the Wind River reservation."

Meet our Student Workers in the Dean's Office

If you have called the Dean's Office recently or have stopped by, you probably have visited with one of our three new student workers. **Leslie Fouché, Sam McDowall, and Simone Schulthuis** are the friendly voices and smiling faces that greet you. Not only are these three students at MSU, they are also students in the College of EHHD. Leslie is a sophomore from Avondale, Ariz., and is majoring in family and consumer sciences. Before moving to Montana with her eight-year-old daughter, she worked for the Maricopa County attorney's office in Arizona. She moved to Montana in July 2009 with her best friend. Simone is working on a master's in mental health counseling and is originally from Ontario, Canada. She received a bachelor's degree in social work from Dordt College in Iowa and spent several years in northwest Montana working at a therapeutic boarding school. Sam has plenty of experience meeting people at MSU. For the last two years, he has worked at the Ask Us desk in the SUB and has also served as an orientation leader. A Miles City native, Sam is a senior majoring in English education and minoring in Japanese. In his spare time, he loves to write fiction and is currently working on a mystery novel.



Leslie Fouché (L), Simone Schulthuis (R), and Sam McDowall (front)

Awards and Honors



At the first home football game in September, Le Gaub with Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers (TTT) and his wife Sheila were presented the Montana Adjutant General's Distinguished Patriot Award. Le was honored because of his success in managing TTT since 2004 and helping 162 service men and women transition from the military to the field of education in 64 school districts. In January of 2008, Sheila started the Montana chapter of Quilts of Valor, which presents wounded military personnel with hand-made quilts. To date, 114 quilts made in Montana have been presented to military "wounded warriors" nation-wide and 40 have been presented to veterans in eastern Montana. To read more about TTT and the quilt project, go to www.montana.edu/ttt and www.qovf.org

Katie Bark of Montana Team Nutrition was awarded the 2010 Montana School Food Service Professional of the Year from the Montana School Nutrition Association in June at their state conference in Helena. This award is given to one person each year that has made a substantial contribution to the field of school nutrition.

Sandy Bailey was selected to present research at an international conference sponsored by the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June. Bailey used data from her sabbatical for the presentation entitled "Transnational Adoption Challenges: Through the Eyes of Youth from Eastern Europe Who Are Experiencing Problems." Presenters attended from around the world, but Bailey was one of the few from the United States. Bailey's interest in the topic of transnational adoption is a personal one, as she adopted a daughter several years ago from Russia.

Teacher Education Advisory Council Meets at MSU

On September 28th, 2010, the Department of Education and the Office of Field Placement and Licensure co-hosted the second meeting of the Teacher Education Advisory Council. The Advisory Council brings together K-12 teachers, administrators, education professors, and field supervisors from seven Montana districts to examine critical issues and relevant to improving teacher education at MSU. The group met for the first time last spring and provided observations, ideas, and recommendations to the MSU Teacher Education program. At this fall's meeting, Jayne Downey, education department head, presented evidence as to how the Advisory Council's recommendations had been implemented and used to inform and improve program practice. The Advisory Council also had an opportunity to examine the findings from the past year's data collected with the Program Assessment System. Small table groups discussed the results of the analysis, participated in a collaborative revision of the program's Conceptual Framework, and constructed strategic directions for future growth of the Teacher Education Program at MSU. The Teacher Education Advisory Council will meet annually each fall to review the findings of the Program Assessment data and engage in reflective conversation that will foster ongoing program improvement.

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1st Annual President's Field Day

On October 1, **President Cruzado** joined students at Towne's Harvest Garden to participate in harvesting and sorting fall crops, some of which were distributed to CSA members or sold at the Garden's food stand. **Alison Harmon**, assistant professor of sustainable foods and bioenergy systems, said the annual event involved the president so "she could see firsthand the learning setting that Towne's Harvest provides to our students."

Chas Holt, production manager for the garden, organized workers as they picked pumpkins, corn, and carrots on the three-acre farm located west of the university. The smaller pie pumpkins, as well as salad mixes, carrots, and onions, were sent to the restaurant at Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park for a regional dinner for park managers. Holt said the Garden has a working relationship with Western Sustainability Exchange, which the park hired to find local produce for the dinner's chefs, who were from Maryland and Washington, D.C.



Also on October 1, Friends of Local Foods, an MSU student organization, hosted the "Culinary Cabaret—A Play on Food" at the Emerson Cultural Center. The tapas-style dinner featured produce from Towne's Harvest Garden prepared by local chefs from Montana Epicurean, Sola Cafe, and the Emerson Grill. Starky's Deli donated dessert made with Flathead cherries.

"It truly was an event with local produce," said Alison Harmon.

Approximately 120 people enjoyed food and sustainability-based scenarios by Equinox Theater Improv and music by Jawbone Railroad.



1st Sustainable Food Seminar of the Year

Graduate students **Aubree Durfey** and **Lyra Leigh-Nedbor** gave a presentation for the first Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems Seminar Series of the year entitled "Reflections on a Year of Service as an AmeriCorps Food Corps." Both spent a year serving with VISTA, which requires that all positions address poverty issues. Durfey, from Gardiner, Mont., worked for a year with the Gallatin Valley Farm to School program, organizing a fundraiser, conducting workshops for teachers and parents, and working with Bozeman Schools to set up four Farm to School events. She said she had "a high level of independence, but still had lots of support and resources through the organization."

Leigh-Nedbor from Vermont served a year in 2008-2009 with the Montana Made Program where she helped with the Montana Fest Dinner that served 2000 people, set up a local foods fair, and worked with Montana State University's Food Service to set up Montana Mondays using local foods in menus at the SUB. Leigh-Nedbor cited several advantages to working with VISTA—community contacts, opportunities for training, and opportunities to attend conferences.



Durfey (left) and Leigh-Nedbor (right) are both current graduate students in the Sustainable Food Systems degree.