Counseling Programs Stay Busy Through the Summer

The master’s in counseling program welcomed 22 new students to the program in June. These students are a combination of all three counseling options (marriage and family, mental health, and school counseling) and will take face-to-face classes during the summer. Second-year counseling students act as mentors to the new cohort, in addition to providing counseling to the community through their practicum course.

“The 17 second year students are all starting their internships this fall where they will be working in different agencies around the community providing counseling under supervision,” said Wendy Morrison, summer director of the Human Development Clinic and an instructor in the program. The clinic provides low cost counseling services to 60 clients and facilitates a Parenting through Divorce session offered every two weeks.

Children’s Room at Human Development Clinic

Sometimes the lessons I need to learn are not planned and preferably not repeated! For some time, I have known that there were many things I needed to learn in order to serve as Dean of the College of Education, Health and Human Development. Obvious things come to mind such as patience, persistence, humility, conflict resolution, human resource management, budgets, institutional practices, and the changing faces and names of students, faculty and staff. However, I would have never predicted that learning to crochet would prove to be such an important, unplanned lesson.

Recently a colleague informed me of being diagnosed with cancer. We talked of fears, frustrations, and adjustments that would have to be addressed over the coming year. The humbling conversation of surgery, chemo, and possible radiation proved to be an emotional one. As the news of the diagnosis passed to faculty and staff in the college, a group of seasoned crocheters came together during a lunch hour to propose the creation of an afghan as a gift of “love and support” for our colleague. Each member of the group agreed to contribute a 5 inch square to form the afghan. It took very little time for them to assemble the yarn and patterns. On the spur of the moment I volunteered to contribute a square or two, in spite of the fact that I knew nothing of crocheting. How optimistic and overly confident could I have been?

I received lots of instruction of “how-to” and after many starts, stops, and redoes, I finally leaned a basic stitch. The chain-stitched patterns proved quite challenging. After several weeks a square emerged. Then in a shorter time frame a second one was completed. I discovered that a great deal of emotion and reflection could be invested in a 5 inch square of yarn. My contributions were small in comparison to the final project. Yet, the pieces that I had contributed fit comfortably in the pattern. Perhaps the most important reminder was that our efforts were for our colleague, where the person is far more important than the professional.

We have begun Fall Semester 2010. The second decade of this century approaches rapidly. And I need to remember the importance of each student, faculty and staff member in the College of EHHD.

Have a great year!

by Dr. Larry J. Baker

Dean’s Corner

by Dr. Larry J. Baker
First, let me say that I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as our department head. I am committed to doing my best for our department as we go forward. It looks to be an exciting year with many new initiatives and activities. We will be conducting searches for tenure-track positions in nutrition and community health. We plan to have major renovations in the Herrick Hall Foods Lab and the Child Development Center. So, we will have new faculty and renewed facilities – lots of changes. This looks to be MSU’s largest enrollment in history. It will be a while before we know what the numbers look like in our college and department, but it is very likely that our numbers will be higher than in the past. We are sincerely committed to enriching human well-being through teaching, research, and outreach. It lies at the center of our work and our programs. It is our hope that our students and graduates will also embrace this commitment to improve the lives and performance of people as they take up their work and careers.
Laura Massey and ECEDP students attended the Montana Behavior Initiative workshop held at MSU in June.

Jill Thorngren, Greg Holdeman, and Mark Nelson enjoy EHHD’s summer picnic for faculty, staff, and graduate students.

Anna Urschel from Troops to Teachers helps fill Hero Packs, which are given to Montana children who have a deployed military parent. Youth from 4-H groups across Montana collected donated items for the packs as part of Operation Military Kids.

Joan Cook and her husband, along with Marilyn Lockhart, attend the EHHD summer picnic.

Dr. Lynn Kelting-Gibson and Bill Ruff, (education department) used jellybeans to teach workshop participants about different assessment techniques. The workshop called “Rubrics & Jellybeans” was attended by professors from across campus.

EHHD Operations Manager Sara King and husband Jeff rode bikes from Billings to Red Lodge and back in support of Montana National MS Society’s fundraiser. Personally, Sara and Jeff raised $1000 in donations, and the final total for the event was $148,000.
The Child Development Center celebrates Independence Day with a parade on campus.

Fenqjen Luo and Elisabeth Swanson check the education website during the department’s annual fall retreat.

Cheryl Ehresmann and Tracy Krushensky help pack up the foods lab in Herrick Hall. The lab, which was last remodeled in the 1960s, is getting a new look this fall.

Kate Hallowell, program coordinator with NPTT, presented a program on bears at a 4-H summer camp at Hyalite Lake.

Big Sky Science Partnership teacher leaders attend a workshop to learn how to enhance science education in their own districts.

Educational Leadership students attend a picnic while on campus for face-to-face classes.
W hen Joan Cook first started as a teaching assistant in instructional technology at MSU 23 years ago, she taught on Apple 2E computers. As technology rapidly changed, Cook examined emerging trends—blogs, wikis, video, podcasts—to see how they might be used to enhance student learning. Now, she finds herself helping teacher education students learn to incorporate cell phones, Flipvideos, and Twitter into their teaching methods. Cook also has taught numerous computer courses for women over the age of 70 (CyberChicks) and adult education workshops. In 2005, she taught 86 practicing teachers from Montana school districts in an online class called “Integrating Technology into the Curriculum.” She is most proud of her outreach to teachers around Montana.

“I’ve had the chance to work with people all over the state to get technology into the hands of students,” said Cook.

Cook, who has received an Excellence in Teaching Award and two Awards for Excellence, announced her retirement as a full time adjunct assistant professor at the end of May. However, she will stay involved in teaching as new opportunities arise.

“I’m honored to have had the opportunity to teach at MSU. It is indeed a privilege,” Cook said. “I’ve learned that it is those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular and rewarding.”

For the last three years, Jeanette Hall has been the director of the Child Development Center in Herrick Hall. Hall retired this summer after spending many years as an advocate for young children and serving on several state associations and councils. During her time as director, she was involved in expanding and enhancing the center’s curriculum to meet accreditation standards set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Hall said the most rewarding thing about her time with the CDC was “working with young children and with MSU students.” Even though she retired in June, Hall will continue to work with the Bozeman Public Schools and Head Start to create a grant funded community-wide developmental screening, which will take place in October, for the area’s young children. In her new found free time, Hall plans to garden and travel.