FROM THE CHAIR:

2008 has gone by very quickly and our department has undergone many changes and has many accomplishments to celebrate. The inaugural Urban Masters “Aspiring Principals” cohort is coming up to comprehensive exams and graduation in the spring. In the Inquiry-based Masters, 6 teams of candidates are working on action research projects in collaboration with schools in surrounding districts and will showcase their work at the GRASP conference in the spring. Cohorts 16 and 17 of the Doctoral program are half way through the 4 field studies that they are working on with Wichita Public Schools, Haven Schools and Maize Schools. Congratulations to Kathy Mickelson, who has successfully defended her dissertation. Three other candidates have defended proposals and we expect at least 6 candidates to graduate in the spring.

As a part of regular maintenance, the offices have been given a fresh coat of paint, which was sorely needed after about 10 years of fading to a dull, depressing grey. Each room has a splash of brighter and warmer color. With Mary Myers’ help, and a grant from the Graduate School, we have been promoting our programs at conferences and to school districts. This together with the interest in our contributions to global learning research is providing some stimulus for applications to our programs.

On that note, I had the honor of speaking to building principals and district administrators in Wichita Public Schools about how to prepare the next generation for the challenges of the 21st century. Issues such as foreign languages, intercultural communication, and awareness of world news and current affairs all feature as being important for meeting the challenges of increasing interconnectedness, interdependence and diversity. In the fall, I also had the honor of being appointed as chair of the Kansas Task Force on International Education, whose charge is to evaluate the present state of 21st century preparedness of Kansas graduates and how state standards can be modified to ensure that future citizens are not at a disadvantage in terms of globalization. We will present our report in the spring.

-- Glyn Rimmington
Department Chair

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Dr. Randy Turk was surprised on Dec. 1 with a retirement party given by his students and the department of Educational Leadership. This was Randy’s last official day to teach classes.

You’ve Got ‘Em, Now Keep ‘Em

This title was meant to catch the attention of school professionals who wanted to learn more about successful practices that help schools keep teachers in the teaching profession. This presentation was made by Craig Elliott, Senior Fellow for Educational Leadership, and Deb Elliott, the Maize Director of Human Resources, at the American Association of School Personnel Administrators Annual Conference held during October in Seattle.

Research has shown that teachers new to the profession are more likely to leave to pursue other occupations unless a sound mentoring program is in place. The participants received hands on ideas about effective mentoring for teachers that they could take to their home school districts and immediately implement.

If you would like to learn more about this topic feel free to contact Craig at craig.elliott@wichita.edu or Deb at dellott@usd266.com

Craig Elliott, Jean Patterson, and Pat Terry attended the annual conference of Great City Schools, October 22 -25 in Houston, Texas.

The Council of the Great City Schools is a national organization exclusively representing the needs of urban public schools. Comprising 66 large city school districts, its mission is to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students through legislation, research and media relations. The organization also provides a learning community for school districts sharing common problems to exchange information, and to collectively address new challenges as they emerge in order to deliver the best possible education for urban youth.

Wichita, U.S.D. 259 is a member district. Interim Superintendent Martin Libhart was in attendance along with several board of education members and central office staff members including Denise Seguine and Susan Farag, adjunct faculty members at WSU.

General session speakers included Alvin Poussaint, Erin Gruwell, Pedro Noguera, Maria Hinojosa, and Dan Rather. Conference learning sessions focused on topics of achievement, attendance, graduation rates, curriculum, and professional development in urban school districts.
Global Learning

During November, along with Dr. Alagic, Glyn Rimmington visited colleagues and universities in Japan and presented a workshop with Dr. Adair Nagata (Waseda University) at the SIETAR Japan 2008 Conference in Nagano. Nagano hosted the XVIII Winter Olympics in 1998. The workshop was about bodymindful cage painting and capturing somatic emotional and bodymindfulness states during a simulation scenario. During that visit, they managed to make many useful intercultural communication competence and global learning research and teaching contacts. Glyn then travelled on to Niigata, a west coast city in Japan with direct flights to Khabarovsk, Russia. In Khabarovsk, he opened the Global Learning Center of Khabarovsk, which is a joint initiative of several universities including the Khabarovsk State Academy of Economics and Law and the Far East University of Humanities. This center will serve as a videoconferencing hub for university and K-12 global learning connections. Glyn also facilitated a workshop on writing scenarios for the online Cage Painting Simulator with students of Intercultural Communication. There was considerable interest by students and faculty at the lectures and seminars that he presented on the 21st century graduate and global learning. The first ICCC7 Conference Organizing Committee Meeting was held and plans have started for the conference in September 2010.

Initial Findings from the Educational Leadership Survey

In an attempt to learn more about the needs of the educational leadership program a four question survey was distributed to select practicing administrators. The questions were designed to elicit responses about the relative merit of the Wichita State Educational Leadership program compared with competing programs.

Specifically, the questions were: 1) If you were to encourage a teacher to enter an educational leadership program, rank in order the institutions into which you would encourage them to enroll; 2) If Wichita State was not your first choice, please provide your reason(s) for not selecting it; 3) Regardless of where you ranked Wichita State, what are some things that could we do to make Wichita State a more appealing option; and 4) If all of the institutions had district level licensure and/or doctoral programs, would your rankings still be the same?
At the October meeting of Wichita Public School administrators were surveyed. Seventy-two administrators completed all or a part of the survey. The response to the first question was no surprise. The majority cited WSU as their first choice. Recommendations correlated with where they had received their previous degree(s).

The answers to questions two and three provided helpful feedback on improvements that will further increase the attractiveness of WSU programs. Six themes emerged from the narratives provided. They include Marketing/Recruitment, Customer Service, Administration/Enrollment, Curriculum Issues, and Quality of Instruction. These suggestions will be used to make the Educational Leadership programs even more competitive.

Dr. Jean Patterson presents at AESC

Dr. Jean Patterson presented the paper, *En*countering middle class white assumptions: Memories of community and parent involvement in a segregated Black school at the American Educational Studies Conference held October 30-November 2, 2008 in Savannah, GA.

SPRING SCHEDULE

**Masters – Inquiry Cohort:**
- EL 823 21590, 26008 Changing Culture Environment Collaboration/Partnership; 4:30-6:55 PM, Monday, HH 228
- EL 825 21593 Building Level Leadership Practicum 2; 7:05 pm – 9:45 PM, Monday, HH 226
- EL 825 21596 Building Level Leadership Practicum 2; 7:05 pm – 9:45 PM, Monday, HH 226
- EL 825 21599 Building Level Leadership Practicum 2; 7:05 pm – 9:45 PM, Monday, HH 104
- EL 843 21688 Curriculum & Learning Theory; 4:30 – 6:55 pm, Monday, HH 229
- EL 845 25720 Bldg Level Leadership Practicum 4; 7:05 – 9:45 PM, Monday
- EL 845 21602 Bldg Level Leadership Practicum 4; 7:05 – 9:45 PM, Monday
- EL 845 23072 Bldg Level Leadership Practicum 4; 7:05 – 9:45 PM, Monday

**Masters – Urban Cohort:**
- EL 823 21586 Changing Culture Environment Collaboration/Partnership; 4:30 – 6:55 PM, Monday AMAC 307
- EL 845 24989 Bldg Level Leadership Practicum 4; 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Tuesdays AMAC 307
  - Jan. 27; Feb. 10 & 24; Mar. 10 & 31; April 14 & 28; and May 12.
- EL 845 24990 Bldg Level Leadership Practicum 4; 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Tuesdays AMAC 307
  - Jan. 20; Feb. 3 & 17; March 3 & 24; April 7 & 21; and May 5.

**District Level Certification Program:**
- EL 963 25336 Politics/Power in Education; 4:30 – 6:55 PM, Monday, Westside Campus, 01/20-03/11
- EL 964 25342 Admin/Supr Special Education; 4:30 – 6:55 PM, Monday, Westside Campus, 03/12 – 05/11
- EL 992 21557 Superintendency/Internship; 4:30 – 6:55 PM, Wednesday, CE 159 (class will meet online by appointment the first 8 weeks, and as a group on campus the final 8 weeks)

**Doctoral Program:**
- EL 971 21696 ConTemp Policy/Org Theories; 3:00 – 6:00 PM, Wednesday, HH 104C
- EL 982 24991 Intro Field Based Research 2; 11:30 – 2:30 PM, Wednesday, HH 219
- EL 982 25786 Intro Field Based Research 2; 11:30 – 2:30 PM, Wednesday, HH 220
- EL 987 25945 Adv Field-Based Research 2; 11:30 am – 2:30 PM, Wednesday, HH 104
- EL 987 25943 Adv Field-Based Research 2; 11:30 am – 2:30 PM, Wednesday, HH 104
- EL 989 22736 Research Design; 3:00 – 6:00 PM – Wednesday, HH 105C
- EL 999 Dissertation
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