



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

The CEFS Chronicle

Upcoming Events

- May 10– Last day of classes
- May 11–Study Day
- May 12-17– Final Exams Period
- May 18– Spring Commencement

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Greetings from the Department Head

Dr. Jo Agnew-tally



Dr. Jo Agnew-Tally

The 2012 Childhood Education and Family Studies (CEFS) Chronicle features CEFS department's annual updates on our students, teacher candidates, faculty, and programs. It also highlights our school partners and field experiences. In response to our school partners' requests, we have enhanced our preparation program to include more technology and ELL training. Starting this fall, Elementary candidates on the Springfield campus will continue to have the opportunity to obtain eMINTS certification. In addition, all our Elementary candidates on the Springfield campus will be trained on SMART® Board Technology. In the near future, we are planning to extend this training to our off campus sites. Take note of Candace Fairbairn's column to learn more about this excellent opportunity for our candidates. Roberta Aram has provided an update on our ELE 500 class in which we have added training for our elementary candidates on differentiated learning for ELL students in the regular classroom. We have added an

additional Elementary degree completion programs at Crowder College's campus at Cassville, Missouri. We continue to grow in enrollment at other off campus sites located at West Plains, Neosho, Nevada, and Lebanon. In her column, Chris Combs has provided updates on the Rural Education Center at West Plains, especially, as tied to teacher preparation. Denise Cunningham writes about a new council that serves as an extension of MSU's Child Development Center, in the area of training and research as tied to children, families, and society. Deanna Hallgren, our new CDC Director, reports on the latest from the center. Deanna graduated from MSU. She served as Director of the Lighthouse and Family Development Center before joining us at MSU. Also, she has served as adjunct for OTC and as a Parent Educator for Springfield Public Schools. She is close to completing her Doctorate in Education from Lindenwood University. Joanna Cemore-Brigden talks about the growth and special projects in the ECFD

Graduate Program. Be sure to read about Sabrina Brinson and Denise Cunningham, as co-investigators on a Missouri Campus Compact Grant on early literacy and reading skills in young children. Mary Beth Mann and Kim Roam, who sponsored 15 CFD students' participation in Child Advocacy Day at the capital, report on this event. Gina Woods tells us about our collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation in providing a new emphasis area, Discover Nature Teachers. We cordially invite you to visit our department as well as our website and welcome news from our alumni and community partners to share in future newsletters.

All Elementary Education Majors Prepare to Teach English Language Learners Roberta Aram, Ph.D.

In order to prepare teachers who are effective in meeting the needs of diverse learners, we made some changes to our ELE 500 course in Spring 2012. We now offer an 8-week workshop series for all elementary majors on differentiating instruction for language minority students and English language learners (ELLs) in the mainstream classroom. Students learn the basics of teaching by the sheltered instruction observation protocol (SIOP), a research-based method highly valued by educators across the nation. We invite you to learn

more about the content of these workshops and find resources for teaching English language learners at <http://missouristate.academia.edu/AndreaHellman/Papers>.

Students' responses to the new ELL workshops were largely enthusiastic. Here are some remarks they shared. "I feel the workshops opened my eyes to a world I had not seen before. They allowed me to learn how to write lesson objectives for ELLs along with teaching me a new way to write lesson plans."

"I really enjoyed the ELL workshops. I have learned and benefited a lot. I learned how to create SIOP lessons. I also learned about instructional input and how to make my lessons more comprehensible for low-proficient ELLs."

"I enjoyed the ELL portion of ELE 500 because I know that I will have students who do not fully know how to speak English and now I feel prepared to teach them." "Before this class I was not prepared at all for an ELL student, but these workshops helped me out a lot. Honestly, I'm really excited to have diversity in my classroom now that I know how to adapt."

Interdisciplinary Council on Children, Families and Society Denise Cunningham, Ph.D. & Joan Test, Ph.D.

The Interdisciplinary Council for Children, Families, and Society is a new initiative sponsored by the College of Education through the Department of Childhood Education and Family Studies (CEFS).

The council brings together faculty, staff and students from departments and colleges across the MSU campus as well as community members interested in issues concerning children, families and society. The council hopes to raise awareness in the university and in the larger community about issues concerning children, families and society; to foster interdisciplinary research and community outreach related to children, families, and society; and to engage students at MSU in these public affairs issues. The council is open to anyone interested in and committed to furthering these goals.

Current projects include:

- a group focusing on childhood obesity, incorporating issues of nutrition in child care, the importance of play and outdoor activity to children's well-being and development, and interests in gardening with children

- a group of faculty and community agencies planning a collaborative outreach project involving students from physical therapy, social work, child & family development, and communication sciences who will assess development in foster children who often are missed in traditional screening programs, then work with families to offer activities parents can do at home with children

Future projects are currently being considered in the areas of literacy, preschool and early childhood teacher support, and child abuse.

In addition the council has begun an invited speaker series. Our kick-off event with Dr. Dan Siegel speaking on, **"How relationships, the mind, and the brain interact to shape the development of children, families and communities"** was held on April 18, 2012 with over 100 people in attendance in Carrington Auditorium and additional viewers via internet.

Dr. Siegel spoke about his work in interpersonal neurobiology and answered questions live via an online video link. In his talk he explored how

mind, brain, and relationships interact to shape who we are across the lifespan. He explained the ways in which a child's mind and brain develop from within attachment relationships, and how the communication patterns children experience with caregivers directly shape the unfolding of the synaptic connections in the brain. He hopes that by learning the science of attuned relationships, caregivers, teachers, other professionals and parents are able to use a practical understanding of how mind, brain and relationships interact to shape our development, and develop a kinder, more caring society. This was a very interesting event! You can see and hear Dr. Siegel's talk through the following link:

<http://acp2.missouristate.edu/p62564844/>

Early Childhood and Family Development Graduate Program

Joanna Cemore Brigden, Ph.D.

Our program is expanding our delivery options. Students now have the ability to take our program 100% online and to start the program early through our Accelerated Master program. Our program has been very busy creating new opportunities for students and meeting with students across the state and nationally to discuss our program.

Some of our current students are out in the community this semester doing trainings for the Child Development Center, Head Start,

and other community members that revolves around the NAEYC Code of Ethics.

We are excited to have Mandy Lee (graduate of our program) and Sally Drennan (current graduate student in our program) working together with Dr. Cemore Brigden on this Curriculum Innovation Grant project. Four of our graduating students presented their research at the Graduate Interdisciplinary Forum this April 14, 2012. Presentations ranged from topics

such as self-regulatory skills to family home visits.

Six students graduate from the MS in Early Childhood and Family Development this year. These students are going on to work at Missouri State West Plains, continuing in public school teaching positions, and continuing on to doctoral programs. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to hearing about the differences they are making in the lives of children and families.

Elementary Education Program—West Plains Christine Combs, Ph.D.

Four interconnected pillars of focus stand upon the foundation of Missouri State University and guide the efforts of the Rural Education Center. Teacher preparation within REC provides pre service teacher candidates with field service opportunities beginning in the third semester and continuing through the student teaching semester. Field experiences are coordinated by course instructors in collaboration with building principals in area schools. Three levels of field experiences direct pre service teacher candidates through activities including guided observation and reflecting on classroom practices instruction, and classroom management, preparing for classroom learning experiences, participating in

routine responsibilities, aiding instruction, tutoring, and data collection for research. Methods instruction incorporates the plan-do-review model of continuous improvement that provides pre service teacher candidates the opportunity to plan lessons, implement lessons in the classroom setting, and then reflect on the implementation of the lesson creating an interactive practicum setting coupled with instruction during methods coursework. Acculturating pre service teacher candidates in the context of rural educational settings is accomplished by embedding into school communities through field

experience placements and coordinating community services activities in these settings to enhance field experiences. Developing and maintaining collaborative partnerships with area rural schools to secure quality field experiences for pre service teacher candidates provides a basis for accomplishing the purpose of the REC of educators positively impacting student learning through effective teaching and research based practices. Area schools are embracing the efforts of the REC and the pillar of teacher preparation.

The Discover Nature Teachers Emphasis Roberta Aram, Ph.D.

The Discover Nature Teachers Emphasis is a new and popular option for Elementary majors. This project is unique to the MSU elementary education program. The course sequence includes **Nature Unleashed** (grades 3-5), **Conserving Missouri's Aquatic Ecosystems** (grades 6-8), **See how the Turkey Grows** (grades K-2) and **Project WET, WILD, Learning Tree** (grades PreK-8). These courses are loaded with hands-on activities and field trips to local ponds, gardens and streams. Students choosing this option learn how to use nature as a

teaching tool and upon completion of the 12 credit hours of courses receive Discover Nature Teachers certification. This entitles them to free teacher guides and materials, grants for transportation and supplies, free consultation from MO Department of Conservation education staff and professional development workshops.



Conservation Classes exploring local greenhouses.

eMINTS at MSU Roberta Aram, Ph.D.

In August, 2012, the 6th cohort of eMINTS students will begin their three semester coursework and field experiences in eMINTS classrooms in the Springfield and Nixa area.

eMINTS changes how teachers teach and students learn! Its instructional model provides a research-based approach to organizing instruction and can be implemented in any subject at any level. Missouri State offers eMINTS training at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Elementary undergraduate majors may

complete eMINTS training as a part of an emphasis in Instructional Technology. The eMINTS coursework and field experiences at Missouri State leads to successful qualification for eMINTS certification. In fact, all MSU eMINTS students who have applied for eMINTS certification have met the requirements and been eMINTS certified. Most have secured a position and are successfully employed as eMINTS teachers.

Wait a minute! What does eMINTS

stand for? Enhancing Missouri's Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies, of course. eMINTS strives to enrich teaching to dramatically improve student performance, engage students in the excitement of learning and inspire educators to use instructional strategies powered by technology. For more information on MSU's eMINTS program, please visit <http://education.missouristate.edu/ele/eMINTS/default.htm> or visit <http://www.emints.org/> for more information on the eMINTS national program.

Child Development Center Deanna Hallgren, M.S.

It has been a busy year at the CDC, beginning with healthier changes to the menus. The CDC is pursuing the Eat Smart guidelines set by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The goal for fiscal year 2012-2013 is to become a state recognized Missouri Eat Smart Center. Dr. Joanna Cemore-Brigden wrote and received the Child Care Development Fund Grant (Block Grant) for the CDC. This

grant has funded professional development opportunities for teachers, as well as new materials and supplies for the Infant/Toddler/Two's floor. In addition, this grant has funded playground equipment for the preschool playground. By the end of 2012, all infant cribs that do not comply with the new US Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines must be replaced. With the help of the Dean of the College of

Education and the Provost office, the CDC is able to buy sixteen brand new cribs that meet the new safety standards. Great things continue to happen at the CDC. Be sure to watch for the updated website. (Deanna Hallgren is new to MSU in her role as CDC Director this year. Read more about her in the Department Head column.)



Community-based Advisory Board for the Child and Family Development Program Denise Cunningham, Ph.D.

The primary purpose of the Community-based Advisory Board is to provide ongoing support as the CFD strives to make their program a flagship model of teaching, research, and service, on the behalf of children and families. The annual meeting with the Community-based Advisory Board for the Child and Family Development Program (CFD) focused on community engagement. It included an interactive discussion to heighten awareness about various community-based issues, collaborations, and projects that respective members from the

board and CFD faculty members were involved in such as the Missouri Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference (a CFD faculty member is the president, and some CFD faculty members presented papers); the Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Tea sponsored by the NAACP that was attended by representatives from institutes of higher learning, medical and social agencies, and professional organizations-free examinations were available to participants (a CFD faculty member is a member of the NAACP); and Showing How

Opportunities Work (SHOW), a support group for parents transitioning back into the community (a CFD faculty member is an advisor to the group).



Denise Cunningham, Ph.D.

Update on SMART® Training Candace Fairbairn

SMART® Interactive Whiteboard training was provided to volunteer groups of elementary pre-service teachers with two pilots. The first pilot consisted of fifteen candidates trained in SMART® Level 1 in the Fall of 2011. The second pilot trained twenty candidates in SMART® Level 1 and 2 in the spring of 2012. Feedback solidly supported initiating a proposal to incorporate SMART® training for elementary and SPED undergraduate candidates. A collaborative effort among CEFS, RFT, CLSE, and GLS partners ex-

panded the proposal with the goal of enhancing recruitment and retention of these candidates and adding an in-service training component. SMART® Interactive Whiteboard training centers on teaching and technology that is geared to *student learning outcomes* in the areas of student engagement, inquiry learning, enhanced concept development, implementation and fluency, higher order thinking skills and problem

solving, all resulting in student achievement. The proposal was supported and in the fall of 2012, SMART® training will be available to all undergraduate Elementary and Special Education student teachers.

Dr. Sabrina A. Brinson & Dr. Denise Cunningham are Co-principal Investigators of a Missouri Campus Compact Grant: Project Title, “*Flattering Mirrors and Complimentary Windows - The Making of Great Readers with Culturally Responsive Books.*”

There are an alarming number of students who are reading below grade level, and an even greater number of students who can read, but are not motivated to do so. Therefore, focused attention should be on increasing reading strategies to facilitate early literacy and reading skills of children in community settings. As a result, the purpose of

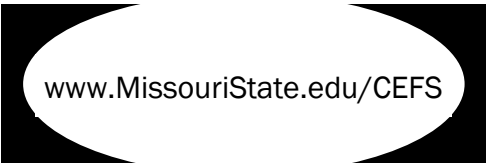
the project was to set up a reading nook with culturally responsive children's books (e.g., *Honda-The Boy who Dreamed of Cars*, *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no Combina*, *Tallchief-America's Prima Ballerina*, and *The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby-The Story of Jimmy Winkfield*) in the Boys and Girls Club of Springfield, Missouri. The books are utilized

during culturally responsive activities, as well as free time, to engage and empower children from ethnically-, culturally-, and linguistically diverse populations to become competent readers.

Department of Childhood Education and Family Studies

901 South National Avenue
Springfield, MO 65897

Phone: 1-417-836-8915
Fax: 1-417-836-8900
E-mail: JAgnewTally@MissouriState.edu



Hill Hall

Articulation Agreement

Denise Cunningham, Ph. D.

The CFD program is working on an articulation agreement with Crowder College to provide a streamline transfer for students interested in the Child & Family Development major at Missouri State. The CFD program is looking at other two year institutions to partner with for recruitment purposes.



TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (TPA) FIELD TEST

Candace Fairbairn

DESE is currently reviewing a Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) for all its teacher education candidates in state institutions. CEFS agreed to field test the TPA this spring with the Nixa Academy cadre of ten student teachers. The TPA assesses the student teachers' knowledge and skills in implementing teaching processes identified by research and best practices as fundamental to improving student learning. The TPA was developed by a team of Stanford researchers and has been supported by a consortium of more than 25 states, their state departments of education, licensure boards, and institutions of higher education, as well as the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education. It focuses on student-teaching experiences over a 3-5 day learning segment where candidates organize and submit evidence of their teaching (e.g. video clips of instruction, lesson plans, student work samples, teacher assignments, daily reflections) to create their own personal Teaching Event portfolio which is then assessed by trained external reviewers. DESE is receiving feedback to determine if it will adopt the TPA in Missouri for teacher candidate certification.

Child Advocacy Day Mary Beth Mann, Ph.D.

Ms. Kim Roam accompanied Dr. Mary Beth Mann and 15 CFD 532 Family Advocacy Class students to participate in Child Advocacy Day on March 28th, 2012 in Jefferson City. While they were there, they met with Representative Sara Lampe, of the 138th District, who invited them to sit in the wings on the House floor. Later, she introduced the students to the House of Representatives.

The purpose of this educational experience is to give students the opportunity to advocate about children's issues; to observe the legislative process; visit their legislators; and become better informed on issues impacting children, youth and families.



CFD Faculty and students visited the State Capitol for Child Advocacy Day

NEW FACULTY & STAFF 2011-2012

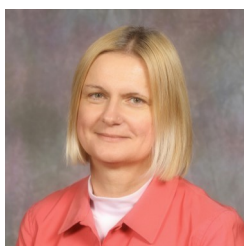
Our new faculty bring over 150 years of service in the field of education.

113 of those years at MSU!



Candace Fairbairn

She is starting her 20th year at MSU with over 10 years as the supervisor of the Nixa Academy; she has a Master's in Education from the University of Virginia and has taught in the public schools before joining MSU; she is one of our eMINTS teachers and recently was awarded certification as a Smart® technologies trainer. She will be telling you more about this and how this certification will benefit all of our ELE students.



Andrea Hellman

We have a new faculty member this year who comes to us with a doctorate from Boston University in Language, Literacy, and Cultural Studies; she completed 3 years as an Assistant Professor in Teacher Education at MSSU and has experience in teaching and coordinating ELL programs and ECE. Her passion is ELL and we are delighted she decided to join us. Welcome, Andrea!



Mary Lou Toth

Mary Lou has been with MSU for 24 years; she has degrees from NYS University and KSU at Pittsburg. She moved to SGF in 1973 and has taught both in NY and MO in the public schools. She treasures her career as an educator at MSU and is inspired by our student teachers.



Myrna Walker

Myrna has been with MSU for 25 years; 18 of those years as a clinical supervisor for the COE; she has a degree from SW Baptist University and MSU; she taught ELE school for 9 years before joining MSU as supervisor of the academies at Willard and Westport. Like all our clinical instructors, she brings outstanding expertise to our program.



Joretta Wilcox

Joretta is completing 20 years at MSU as an academy supervisor—she has degrees from MSU and Drury; she has 12 years of teaching experience in the public schools—2 years in GA during desegregation in the South; 8 years in the SGF schools. She is highly valued by our students and faculty alike.



Amanda Keeter

Amanda is our new Administrative Assistant II in CEFs. She has her masters in psychology from MSU and over 6 years of experience in working with MSU; most recently, she worked for Dean Helen Reid who highly recommended Amanda. We are very glad to have this student/faculty centered professional join our office.



Sally Burkholder

Sally is our new Administrative Assistant I in CEFs. She has had extensive experience for many years as an administrative assistant with Springfield Public Utilities. She is actively involved in professional organizations in her field and has been recognized for excellence in these organizations. She is a very welcome addition to our front office!



David Brown

David has served as a professor and administrator in the COE at MSU for over 20 years. His doctorate is from OSU; he has worked as both a teacher and principal in the public schools; David's passion is teaching, and has been a very welcome addition to the CEFS tenured faculty and department.