



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Special points of interest:

- Violence in America
- National Award

FACULTY:

Dr. Sharon-Ishii Jordan - Chair,
Coordinator of ESL Program

Dr. Timothy Cook - Associate.
Chair

Howard Bachman

Dr. Barbara Brock

Dr. Timothy Dickel

Dr. Beverly A. Doyle,
Coordinator of Special
Education

Dr. Patrick Durow,
Coordinator of Catholic
Leadership Program

Dr. Lynne Houtz

Dr. Lynn Olson, Director of
Elementary Education

Dr. Debra Ponec, Director of
Counseling

Father Tom Simonds, S.J.,
Director of Secondary
Education

Dr. Jeffrey Smith

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Dr. Ramona Bartee,
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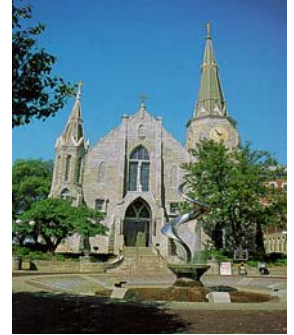
WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EDITION OF THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



We are excited to begin a new form of communication that will enable the Education Department to share information about new programs, exciting activities, the people with whom we work, and other morsels that will enrich you. We welcome readers who seek to know the “heart” of both our programs and personnel. We also welcome home our alumni, with whom we share such fond memories, so that in this newsletter you can remain informed of what has happened in your absence.

This edition of the biannual webpage newsletter includes information about new SRP courses for undergraduates, a new Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Elementary Education, new Educational Leadership program strands, a national award that we received, and alumni award winners. We hope that you continue reading and expanding your own lifelong learning!

***“The important thing is to strive towards a goal which is not immediately visible, That goal is not the concern of the mind, but of the spirit.” -
Antoine de St. Exupery***



THANK YOU COOPERATING TEACHERS

On behalf of the Education Department at Creighton University, we want to thank you for your time and effort in sharing you expertise, insights and knowledge with our students. Your gift to them is invaluable and greatly appreciated.



Creighton Received Award From National Catholic Educational Association

The award was presented by the president of NCEA at the Archbishop's Dinner for Education on September 25, 2008, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in La Vista. This local event drew more than 700 Catholic school educators and benefactors.

Creighton University President, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., and Timothy J. Cook, Ph.D., associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Education, accepted the

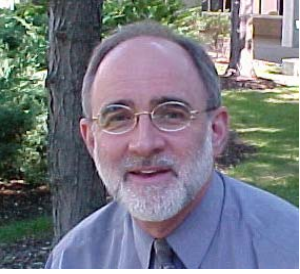
award on behalf of the University.

The Catholic School Leadership certificate is an innovative online program that is ideal for Catholic school administrators who did not attend Catholic institutions. Creighton's Department of Education and the Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic Schools Office partnered to create a framework of attributes and capabilities necessary for effective leadership in Catholic schools which resulted in the CSL certificate. The first class, which began in January 2008, filled quickly with 15 participants from across the United States. The Catholic school system is the largest network of private schools in the world. In the United States alone, 7,498 Catholic elementary and secondary schools enroll more than 2.3 million students and employ over 159,000 teachers. Historically, Catholic schools have played a pivotal role in the education and formation of American Catholics.

For more information about the CFL certificate visit:

<http://www2.creighton.edu/ccas/education/programs/endorsements/leadership/index.php>

VIOLENCE IN AMERICA



January 2008 brought some exciting initiatives involving the Education Department in the area of violence. In January, the undergraduate senior perspective course SRP/EDU 450 – Violence in America: Nature, Consequences and Personal Responses was taught by Dr. Tim Dickel, Professor of Education and Psychiatry, the author of the course. The course grew out of Dr. Dickel's research interests and his spring 2007 immersion experience in the area of domestic violence. Students in the course studied the various forms of violence in America and were required to spend at least ten hours in the community looking violence in the face. As one student wrote on the course evaluation, "I think this course is exactly what I think every SRP course should be. It truly helped integrate my coursework with the world around me and exposed me into the community so that I can begin to step out of my comfort zone and apply my knowledge where I know I can make a difference." The course is co-taught by Dr. Patricia Sullivan, Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at Creighton.

In March of 2008, Father John Schlegel, SJ, President of Creighton University, announced the creation of the Creighton Study of Violence Across the Life Span. The purpose of "the Study" is to research the many forms of violence in America. Previously, the researchers with "the Study" have done nationally and internationally recognized research in the area of violence and disabilities, and today, they are conducting research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the impact of violence exposure across the life span. "The Study" has a grant application under review at the NIH which will study violence and empowerment and the acquisition of HIV/AIDS. Future grant research will include Creighton Study of Violence Across the Life Span, and Dr. Patricia Sullivan is the other Co-Director. Father Tom Simonds, SJ, Assistant Professor of Education, is also active in the study of violence in society. He has a special interest in school violence, and this is an extension of the research that he did for his dissertation. In September of 2008, Father Simonds and Dr. Dickel presented to members of the Nebraska Counseling Association on the topic of "School Shootings: What Counselors Should Know."



SUMMER SRP 470 COURSE

Last summer five seniors and I set off for West Virginia for a pre-session course called "Poverty in America". The experience exposed us to living in a community committed to simplicity, sustainability, service and prayer. The days were spent rehabilitating homes, working with students in a school. Evenings and weekends were spent learning the issues inherent with an impoverished population.

One of the people we worked with was an elderly gentleman. He had lived in the area all his life, and had raised six children while working in the paper mill. He was a quiet man, but humbly told us of his life during impoverished circumstances. He spoke fondly of growing up and living in the mountains, of the others there, of having "never met a stranger". He had nothing, but his hospitality was a priceless gift to us. We provided him with a roof and insulation for his home, (no more than a little shack) but we walked away warmed by his generous spirit.



There were many experiences that opened our eyes, challenged our thoughts, broadened our horizons and strengthened our beliefs. We came away with a taste of the starkness of poverty and the richness of relationship. If, as Mother Theresa so succinctly stated "to serve is to honor the holiness in each other," we served; and we were served. At the end of pre-session we ventured back, six of us in a mini-van. Different people, deeper people, happy, tired, humbled people. We came back craving that sense of solidarity, of simplicity, of the richness in relationships... and knowing the peace that comes from chasing that craving. Alice Smith, Adjunct Faculty, is the instructor for this course

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP NEWS



The mission of the Creighton University graduate Educational Leadership programs is to equip qualified candidates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to serve schools as teacher-leaders or administrators.

The graduate Education Department faculty recognizes that leadership roles are filled in schools by both teachers and administrators. Therefore, two Educational Leadership Stands have been devised to meet the varied needs of prospective students.

The **School Administration Strands** (elementary and secondary) meet the requirements of state and regional accrediting agencies and the state of Nebraska (and most other states) for certification as a school principal. Completion of the program earns the candidate the degree of Master of Science. Creighton graduates are employed as school principals in public and private schools in urban and rural settings, as directors of curricular or special programs, and in central office positions. Candidates already holding a Master's degree may attain certification as an administrator by completing the same program as degree candidates but are allowed to transfer up to twelve hours of applicable course work from their previous Master's degree.

The **Teacher Leadership Strand** is composed of seven key courses from the School Administration program, which are designed to prepare teachers for non-administrative, school leadership roles such as department head, curriculum supervisor, or technology director. Completing the remaining five courses in electives in this program earns the candidate the Master of Science degree, but no additional certification or endorsement. Course work and field service for students intending to be Catholic school administrators and teacher leaders focuses especially on leadership in the spiritual, religious dimension. **Dr. Barbara Brock**, Professor of Education, will serve as Educational Leadership Program Coordinator during the spring and summer terms of 2009 while regular Coordinator, Dr. Patrick Durow, is on sabbatical.

<http://www2.creighton.edu/ccas/education/programs/graduate/edleadership/index.php>

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



Our current elementary education program would look familiar to our graduates, but continuous updates and changes are going on within the major courses. Dr. Houtz is taking students in the Science and Math Block to some elementary classrooms around Omaha where they see the newest technology being used as part of daily instruction. Our education Classroom (HC8) has a "new" Smart Board and we are eagerly learning how to incorporate its use into our instruction.

Remedial Reading has become a part of Liberty Elementary School's after school program. We are providing one-on-one literacy tutoring each semester during this course.

We have added a Master of Education degree to the Elementary Education program. Its main focus is earning teaching certification, so our graduates will probably not be interested in it. Please remember to tell the people who mention that they always wanted to be a teacher about this new program. It begins in late May each year and can be completed in as little as nineteen months. It does include many late afternoon courses, but there are some offered only during the day. There is a tuition reduction that makes the program cost comparable to other universities in the area. Please keep in touch through this newsletter, email, or in person. We love to hear what you are doing with your many talents.

<http://www2.creighton.edu/ccas/education/programs/graduate/medelementaryeducation/index.php>

CONGRATULATIONS to the following award winners from EDU programs:

Ilka Oberst - Graduate School's Maureen Hamilton Award for Outstanding Female Graduate (May 2008)

Beth Katz - College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Merit Award (October 2008)

Beth Balkus Fink - Graduate School Alumni Merit Award (October 2008)

**We wish you all a blessed and holy
Advent and Christmas Season**



