

Spring 2003

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Alumni News

Mastering Education ONLINE!

The world is becoming a smaller place. Now, teachers in search of an online master's degree in education can turn to the Internet and engage in interactive, fully accredited online courses offered through Marquette University.

"Working adults desiring convenient and flexible postsecondary education programs have traditionally had few options," says Sean Gallagher in his article *The Education Economy*. Marquette has responded to the need for a graduate program that fits with educators' busy schedules by providing its online Master's Program in Instructional Leadership. For working professionals, in particular, the convenience and flexibility of an online program can make all the difference in whether they pursue a graduate degree. Yet, in light of skepticism about the general quality of online education, some are reluctant to avail themselves of the benefits of online education.

Marquette's long-standing reputation for providing high quality education continues with its online Master's in Instructional Leadership. The School of Education brings to its online program the commitment to the "Care for Knowledge, Profession and Person" that has made the graduates of its traditional program highly regarded.

"Teachers with master's degrees from Marquette truly bring instructional leadership skills with them," says retired Oak Creek-Franklin Superintendent John Voorhees. "They've been trained as teacher-leaders; they are not just trained as classroom technicians." Voorhees says that is what is missing from most other master's programs.

Further, Marquette's online Master's program is in keeping with the principles of good practice for online degree programs espoused by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, including providing substantial interaction with qualified faculty, and appropriate student resources and support. Marquette's Online Master's in Instructional Leadership will also be fully accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Higher Learning.



There are professional and economic advantages for those who complete master's study. According to recently adopted licensure and re-certification requirements for the State of Wisconsin, all Wisconsin teachers who plan to move from the initial licensure stage to the highest "Master Teacher" level will need a master's degree, according to the Department of Public Instruction in a 2000 report. In addition to opening opportunities for professional advancement, holding a master's degree increases one's earning power. In its 2000 study of teacher's salaries in the hundred largest US cities, the American Federation of Teachers reports that, in Milwaukee, teachers with master's degrees earned almost twice as much as those without.

Marquette's online Master's degree in Instructional Leadership gives busy professionals easy access to the benefits that come from earning a graduate degree. Through this program, graduate students log on from home or work and interact with fellow students and Marquette faculty via carefully designed and facilitated discussions, debates, and interactive journals. Students also complete a variety of projects, papers and assignments, which they submit electronically. Students receive detailed and timely feedback (usually within 48 hours) to these submissions to ensure the quality and maintained momentum of student's online learning experiences.

Marquette's nationally recognized faculty are knowledgeable about teaching and learning online and skilled in providing the best experience for each student. Marquette ensures highly interactive, individual attention by limiting class sizes to about 15 students.

(article continued on page 5)

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Alumnae information and updates: Dr. Maureen Polczynski (1990) and Ms. Sue Saller (1998)

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Layout, Design and Editing: Lori Fredrich, Administrative Secretary - EDPL

If you have ideas or information for upcoming newsletters, please send your information to Dr. John Augenstein at john.augenstein@marquette.edu or call (414) 288-7376. We would love to hear from you!



MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY



EMERITUS PROFILE: Dr. Albert Thompson

Dr. Albert G. Thompson, Professor Emeritus, retired from Marquette in 1988, as an “unfinished” man. Just hours after his final grades were turned in, Al and his wife, Carolyn, *sans fils et fille*, revved up their overloaded Toyota station wagon and headed toward the unknown.

Lacking the need for a compass, they headed south for days until they finally rambled into the beautiful, historic colonial city, Antigua, Guatemala — about to embark on the educational journey of a lifetime. Had it not been for the fall of dictatorships, these *voyageurs* would have never found their El Dorado. (Cortez, eat your heart out!)

It all began in the 1980's with a Fulbright Fellowship, both in Mexico and Guatemala. Dr. Thompson and his MU colleague, Dr. Adrian “Red” Dupuis, were involved in a program called “Philosophy for Children”; their students were Mexican and Guatemalan teachers who, having been prepared under dictatorships, had to shift their pedagogy during the reconstruction to provide children with more astute critical thinking skills.

The Thompsons eventually settled in San Lorenzo el Cubo, a small village near Antigua. Continuing with their own education, he and his wife learned the science of coffee growing and transformed a garbage heap into a thriving small coffee plantation, Finca los Nietos. The finca produces over 2000 coffee trees which produce over 400 pounds of red coffee “cherries.” The Thompsons also purchase over 15,000 pounds of beans from their neighbors, adding to the product they roast for market.

The Thompsons quickly developed strong familial ties to their “trabajadores” — the young men and women who tend the gardens and process and roast the beans at Los Nietos — speaking to them

in “Spanglish” and often acting as educational advocates for their children. In a spirit of community, they also looked for ways to employ their neighbors, i.e., bagging their coffee with local *tipica* weavings, making and affixing small hand-made dolls on the bag cincture, and hiring a woman to hand-dip coffee beans in chocolate, and coating peanuts and pretzels, too.

Just down the road, in San Antonio Aguas Calientes, is the Hermano Pedro Catholic School of 700 students (K-9). Here, the Thompsons spearheaded a scholarship fund that is helping 8 girls complete a basic education through the 9th grade. Also, in collaboration with Ann Reiser, (MU '82), a Catholic school teacher at St. Clement, Chicago, and Jim Litzau of Glendale, WI, Hermano Pedro School has a new carpentry shop classroom. True to Thompson's philosophy of helping people help themselves, the school has learned to become entrepreneurial in order to generate its own income.

Meandering the maze of rugged stone pathways under the shade of lush tropical vegetation, over 4000 visitors have come since 1996 to enjoy Al's “coffee class”. Visitors have included a Senator, a Starbucks rep, cartoonist Dan Piraro, and myriad MU grads. They learn of soil composition, harvesting, processing and roasting coffee. They observe the fine art of orchid growing and witness gardens with over 150 different flowers, bushes and trees — all the creation of a man and wife who truly love their work/play.

Dr. Thompson loves hearing from his former students — even better, a ring at the gate of Finca los Nietos would bring good cheer. He is available through e-mail at losnietos@conexion.com.gt and on the web at <http://www.geocities.com/losnietosfinca>. The next chapter of his adventure is yet to be written. But you can bet it will have something to do with teaching and learning!

—Maureen Polczynski (Ph.D., 1990)

COEP Graduate Student Organization Celebrates Sixth Year

The Marquette University Counseling and Educational Psychology Department Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is currently celebrating its sixth year as a student organization at Marquette University. The GSO was founded by several COEP alumni and Dr. Todd Campbell to provide all students in the department with academic, professional and social support as they progress through the program and to actively contribute to improvements in the department.

Since its inception, the GSO has evolved into a strong graduate student organization with influence at both the departmental and university levels. The GSO has two members on the Marquette University President's Diversity Task Force and has had input in regard to departmental course sequencing, new faculty hires and in new student interviews.

The GSO sponsors a variety of activities including a) new student mentoring program, b) professional brown bag presentations on topics like securing a practicum placement, c) community volunteerism, and d) numerous social activities. The GSO also fosters professional development by facilitating attendance at professional conferences like the American Psychological Association annual convention and through organizing the COEP GSO Mini Conference and Research Exchange and the COEP GSO Diversity Scholarship Gala, the organizations two major events.

In its 5th year, the Mini Conference and Research Exchange is an in-house conference modeled after the American Psychological

Association Conference. The event allows students and faculty to exercise their presentation skills and to remain abreast of the research being conducted within the department.

The Diversity Scholarship Gala, in its 3rd year, is a formal gathering to recognize and celebrate diversity; raise funds for the student initiated and supported diversity scholarship; and award the scholarship. The evening includes a silent auction, raffle and a Keynote address given by a leader in promoting diversity. Eugene Kane from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel will provide this year's address. Dr. Darnell Cole from Marquette University's School of Education, and Wisconsin State Representative Johnnie Morris provided past Keynotes. The GSO was able to provide \$1500 in scholarships at last year's Gala and plans to award the same amount of scholarship money at this year's Gala.

The students and faculty in the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology are thankful to those who have laid the foundation for the GSO and are proud of the continual growth in the organization during the past six years. The success of the organization would not be reality without the hard work of the faculty and students, past and present, whose dedication, support, and effort have made the GSO what it is today.

If you would like to learn more about the GSO activities or to provide support for GSO activities, please contact Michael Madson, GSO President at michael.madson@marquette.edu.

—Mike Madson, COEP GSO President

FOCUSING ON THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

Recently we've had two great pieces of news. First, Dr. Heidi Schweizer has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. Heidi works with the School of Education and Marquette's Electronic Learning Center. She has taken a leadership role in developing our online courses and our online master's degree in Instructional Leadership. Second, the School received a grant from the Provost's Office to expand three of our graduate programs. The Instructional Leadership area will introduce a post baccalaureate strand leading to an alternative teaching license for second career persons. (Current undergraduate programs cannot meet the demand – 2.4 million by 2010). Again because of demand, the school counseling program will expand by establishing a new cohort in its master's program next fall. And finally, the Educational Leadership and Counseling programs will jointly initiate a new strand in College Student Personnel work.

The faculty, administrators, and staff continue working to strengthen the School's dedication to the Jesuit tradition. Additionally, the School's programs, courses, and related activities are permeated with a strong commitment to social justice so that our graduates will indeed be "women and men for others".

School's Alumni group continues its effort to endow a School of Education Alumni Scholarship Fund. We need your contributions to reach the \$25,000 goal. As you plan your giving for 2003, please put this among your priorities.



The 2003 School of Education Alumni Reception will be Thursday, April 24th in the Alumni Memorial Union from 4:00-6:00 PM. If you live in or will be visiting the area at that time, join us.

Thanks for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Augenstein".

John J. Augenstein, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS RECEPTION

On March 6, 2003 the following School of Education faculty were honored for their achievements:

Book Authors & Editors

- ❑ **Dr. William Pink**, Co-author, *Cultural Matters: Lessons Learned from Field Studies of Several Leading School Reform Strategies*. Creskill, NJ: Hampton Press, 2003.

Editors of Professional Journals

- ❑ **Dr. William Pink**
 - Editor, *Educational Foundations*. 2002
 - Editor, *The Urban Review*. 2002

Grants & Contracts 10K (Active Fiscal Year)

- ❑ **Dr. John Augenstein**
 - Helen Bader Foundation
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - Joyce Foundation
 - Corporation for National and Community Service
 - Department of Public Instruction - *Transition to Teaching*

- ❑ **Dr. Todd Campbell**
UW-Milwaukee Center for Addiction and Behavioral Health Research

- ❑ **Dr. Robert A. Fox**
Child Abuse Prevention Fund

- ❑ **Dr. Lauren Leslie**
Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation

- ❑ **Dr. Heidi Schweizer**
 - U.S. Department of Education - *Preparing Teachers for Tomorrow's Technology*
 - AT & T (with Jon Pray)
 - Department of Public Instruction - *Transition to Teaching*
 - Technology Literary Challenge Fund

- ❑ **Dr. Joan Whipp**
U.S. Department of Education - *Preparing Teachers for Tomorrow's Technology (PT3)*

Other Scholarly Activity

- ❑ **Dr. Ellen Eckman**
Selma Greenburg Dissertation Award from the Women in Education Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association

Larry Siewert: Catalyst for Positive Change



Larry Siewert (B.S., 1963, M.Ed., 1972) is a proud Marquette University graduate nearing his 40th year in Jesuit education. A highly respected educational leader with a special place in his heart for social justice issues, his vita includes 28 years (1964-1992) at Marquette University High School performing varied roles, including teacher, dean of students, academic assistant principal, and principal. In 1992, Larry was ready for a new challenge, and became the

co-founder of Nativity Jesuit Middle School. Located on Milwaukee's near south side, Nativity serves inner city Hispanic boys. After starting Nativity, Larry served as its principal for six years, and is currently acting as the director of graduates.

Larry has significantly impacted education – both nationally and locally. While principal of Marquette High, he was elected to serve two terms on the national Jesuit Secondary Education Association Board of Directors. His work on the board included the development of innovative strategies for Jesuit high schools; the most notable is a program for teachers called the Colloquium on the Ministry of Teaching. This national initiative helped underscore that working in a Jesuit school transcends the traditional expectation of a teaching job through inherent ministerial, spiritual, and collegial facets. The colloquium united Jesuit educators with the establishment of a common language, resulted in greater awareness of the Jesuit mission, and created renewed enthusiasm to go forth and teach.

His impact on education close to home is also notable. In addition to being the first layperson to serve as principal, Larry accomplished many things during his Marquette High years. In the turbulent sixties and early seventies, he took a proactive approach as dean of students — helping students to make choices resulting in positive outcomes. In the eighties,

Marquette High's goal of greater diversity was realized under his leadership. His work at Nativity is a testament to the legacy of learning he continues to build for future generations.

As Nativity's director of graduates, Larry guides students as they set and meet their goals in attending and graduating from local Catholic college preparatory high schools and pursuing college degrees. Larry closely mentors these young men, many of them the first in their families to graduate from high school. His dedication to the futures of all students is evident: "When they persevere and cooperate with all of the help being offered them, and most do, it's a wonderful thing. When it doesn't work, it breaks my heart."

Always a visionary, Larry constantly works to increase the educational opportunities available to his students. He believes that "Education is power, and unfortunately many in our society have not had the opportunity of a good education, and therefore, large communities end up with little or no power. This must change if our way of life is to survive and grow." The partnerships he builds with the high schools the students attend have resulted in innovative approaches to best meet the Nativity graduates' academic needs. His current objective is to work with colleges and universities to design supportive services to assist students and their families as they go through the application and admissions process.

It's safe to say that the work of Larry Siewert has effected a great deal of change during the four decades he has been educating and supporting young people. But it is also apparent that many things — including his love of children, his dedication to the Jesuit mission, his commitment to social justice issues, and his pride in being a Marquette University graduate *will never change!*

—Susan (Corfeld) Saller (M.Ed., 1998, ADSU) is currently working for the superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools.

Don't forget to mark your calendar!

Join us for the 2003 School of Education
Distinguished Alumnus/Young Alumnus Reception
Honoring Rev. Thomas R. Maikowski & Dr. Timothy M. Riordan

April 24, 2003 4:00-6:00pm
Alumni Memorial Union, Henke Lounge

FACULTY PROFILES: Dr. Rebecca Bardwell and Dr. Ellen Eckman



This is Rebecca Bardwell's 25th year at Marquette University. During this time, she has been interested in using evaluation processes to promote school reform, igniting students' drive for quality and professional ethics.

Her major interest is promoting the growth and improvement of schools that reflect the needs of the communities they serve and

Implement best practices in instruction and curriculum. She has developed a collaborative, participatory school-focused model, Transformational Assessment, designed to raise questions, harness data and move schools toward improvement. The process takes school personnel through a series of steps that identify qualities, measures and their presence and develops strategies to reach the goals identified by the school.

In addition to her work at Marquette, she presently serves on the Board of Trustees at a local private school and on the Governance Council as well as the Learning Committee at her daughter's school. She has one daughter, a freshman in high school, and in her free time she loves to spend her time sailing.



Ellen Eckman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Policy and Leadership. She first joined the faculty as a visiting professor in the fall of 1998 and became a tenure track faculty member in the fall of 2001. Ellen came to Marquette with over 20 years of teaching and administrative experience in high schools in the Milwaukee area.

Ellen earned her Ph.D. in Administrative Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2000. Her research interests include women in leadership positions and in particular women as high school principals. At Marquette, Ellen teaches undergraduate courses in the teacher education program and graduate courses for aspiring administrators. She has focused on the principalship and school law courses for students working toward their Principal Certification. In addition as part of a School of Education grant, Ellen has served as the Faculty Liaison to a Milwaukee Public School.

Ellen demonstrates her commitment to women in leadership through her own position as a Village Trustee in Shorewood. In her spare time, Ellen is an avid bicyclist, swimmer, and walker.

Mastering Education ONLINE! (continued from p 1)

The interactions between students and professors are all asynchronous, meaning they do not have to be available at the same time, which allows the learner the flexibility and convenience of planning when and where they "come to class."

The online Master's Degree in Instructional Leadership, designed for teachers and corporate trainers interested in improving their understanding of teaching and learning, is a 30 credit program. Twelve of those 30 credits can be taken in elective areas, such as Literacy or Instructional Technology.

Sue Budisch, a sixth grade teacher from Hartland, Wisconsin, and one of the first teachers enrolled in the online master's program, sums up the program well in relaying her experience with Marquette's online program, "The rigor of the classes has been tough but worth it! The professors helped me brainstorm meaningful project topics that benefited me as a teacher and my school as a whole. I looked for an online master's degree — and since taking courses at Marquette, have never looked back."

Additional information about Marquette's ONLINE Master's Degree is available online at www.marquette.edu/online, or by calling Heidi Schweizer at (414) 288-1423 or the School of Education at (414) 288-7375.

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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



Marquette University

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*Educating in the spirit
Of Cura Personalis*

Where are they now . . . ?

Susan Mountin (Ph.D. in Educational Foundations) is currently serving as the director of the Manresa Project at Marquette University. The focus of this five-year, \$2,000,000 grant is *Theological Exploration of Vocations*. This unique program shows students how God is calling them to use their gifts and talents to serve the world. Prior to working with the Manresa Project, Susan dedicated many years to campus ministry at Marquette.

During the years spent earning her Ph.D., Susan valued the collegial interaction among the education students. The small classes conducted in seminar fashion allowed for the sharing of ideas and in-depth discussion of the research process. Susan has experienced many rewards as both a student and employee at Marquette, finding the university environment stimulating on many levels. She has especially enjoyed the opportunity to work with young people and observe their growth as they process new knowledge.

Matt Flynn (B.A. in English/Education, 1995) is a sixth grade language arts teacher at South Milwaukee Middle School. Matt's desire was to become the kind of teacher that he once needed in his formative years and he was drawn to teaching through his love for writing. Though he has experienced the tough times all teachers face, he says that "the smiles, friendships, and successes far outweigh those difficult periods."

Matt has truly made a difference in the lives of many students, and this keeps him motivated to continue to work hard as a teacher. Some of the manifestations of this include his success in making learning fun, exciting, and relevant to his students' lives. He excels in motivating and challenging his students to prepare them for future academic and professional experiences. In addition to his teaching duties, Matt has been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, including coaching basketball and moderating a weight training club.

WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR ALUMNI

Alumni/ae from the School of Education are encouraged to submit news items and/or updates (e.g. promotions, marriages, job changes, awards/honors) to be published in the **ALUMNI NEWS**. To submit an update or article, please contact Dr. John Augenstein, Dean of the School of Education:

john.augenstein@marquette.edu

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Don't be shy! We'd love to hear from YOU!