

5.6.2011



Alumni Signature Event

Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall

Showing of "Dead Poets Society" followed by a panel discussion featuring educators and film makers.

www.du.edu/education

community MORGRIDGE College of Education NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011



Jamie Helgren

Morgridge Faces

Paper or electronic?

LIS student Jamie Helgren answers in her "Booking to the Future" article in American Libraries. In her second year of the Master's program in LIS, Jamie is a research fellow at the Library Research Service (LRS) in the Colorado State Library and is a recipient of the LEADers scholarship.

Jamie's article, "Booking to the Future," was selected as the cover feature for the Jan/Feb 2011 issue of American Libraries. The article is a report

MORGRIDGE FACES

Jamie Helgren

continued

of a project to which Jamie contributed as a fellow of the LRS. The American Libraries article grew out of Library Research Service's 60-Second Survey "The Future of the Book." These surveys are meant to be a snapshot in time of what library staff are thinking about a current topic of interest, and the high number of responses the survey received indicated that book formats was indeed a hot topic. Jamie's boss, Nicolle Steffen, Director of LRS and a DU alum, and then-Assistant Director Zeth Lietzau, also a DU alum, thought it would make a good article for publication in a national journal, and they asked Jamie to take the lead on it. Jamie started writing the article and eventually submitted it for publication, receiving the coveted feature cover story! Jamie's focus has always been on public libraries and she has recently become increasingly curious about data and research, and how they contribute to the public library setting. After graduation, Jamie would love to find a position in a public library in Colorado. Of course, she's open to relocating, but would be disappointed to leave the network of talented colleagues she's built in the last year.

To view the article, please visit: http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/11302010/booking-future.



DU works to improve children's health in rural Colorado

DU's Morgridge College of Education is part of a project aimed at improving children's health in Colorado's San Luis Valley and other rural communities in the state. The project, "Healthy Eaters, Lifelong Movers" (HELM), will increase student access to healthy meals, physical activity opportunities and quality physical education. DU is partnering with the Colorado School of Public Health's Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center on the implementation of the HELM project, which is estimated to reach more than 11,200 elementary, middle and high school students by the grant's end in October 2013. The partnership received a \$1.8 million grant in October 2010 from the Colorado Health Foundation, which says Colorado is one of the leanest states for adults in the nation but ranks 23rd out of 50 for childhood obesity. The project is designed to reverse this trend and encourage healthy habits.

Nick Cutforth, a MCE professor of research methods and statistics and former physical education teacher, and Elaine Belansky, an assistant professor of community and behavioral health at the University of Colorado-Denver, are lead project designers on the effort. The staff also includes a San Luis Valley-based project director and three site coordinators. "I taught physical education for 10 years in England, Chicago and Denver," Cutforth says. "Physical education has always been close to my heart. This program combines physical education with my interest in community-based research — it brings together those two strands of my work."

The funding includes support for one Morgridge doctoral student who will assist the project director with field research in the San Luis Valley and eastern Colorado. Other opportunities for graduate students — including assistantships, internships and practicums — are likely to arise during the project. Cutforth anticipates bringing doctoral students into the field by fall 2011. Facilitators will be hired to work with schools to address policies, practices and environmental features that contribute to the area's health issues using a 12-step process called Adapted Intervention Mapping (AIM), which Belansky says is a tool for school health teams to assess, implement and sustain strategies to increase access to nutritious foods and physical activity. The San Luis Valley Physical Education Academy will reinforce AIM by providing physical education teachers with workshops, equipment and on-site mentoring to deliver more evidence-based physical education programs.

During the first year of the project, the research team will begin work with 19 elementary schools in the San Luis Valley and 10 elementary schools in Eastern Colorado. They will expand the program to middle and high schools spanning 14 school districts in the San Luis Valley in winter 2012. By 2013, the project will have reached 57 schools across both regions. "During this period, we will work with the schools to increase the quality of physical education as well as opportunities for physical activity and health eating. Sustaining these increases is a crucial part of the program," Cutforth says.

Cutforth, who has worked in the San Luis Valley for five years, says the Colorado Health Foundation encouraged program staff to include eastern Colorado as part of the grant. The area is underserved and lacks resources, according to Cutforth. "For 18 months we engaged San Luis Valley teachers, principals and superintendents in a planning process to answer the question, 'What would it take to improve the quality of physical education in the San Luis Valley?' and are delighted that the Colorado Health Foundation has recognized our efforts to work with schools to increase student opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity," Cutforth says.

Praising what he called grassroots education reform, President Barack Obama lauded Denver's Bruce Randolph School in his January 2011 State of the Union speech for its educational reform. He noted that Kristin Waters, MCE alumna PhD '06, played a pivotal role in this transformation. Obama commended Waters for spearheading a metamorphosis that resulted in the turnaround of one of the state's "worst" schools –with intense gang rivalries and on the verge of being closed—to a model school.

He noted that 97 percent of seniors at Denver's Bruce Randolph School received their diplomas last year and that most of the students will be the first in their family to attend college. The overall graduation rate for Denver Public Schools is 76.9 percent.

Besides a high graduation rate, nearly 95 percent of Bruce Randolph's graduating seniors were admitted to college.

Waters, who received a PhD in educational administration from DU's Morgridge College of Education in 2006, told the Denver Post, "It is an inspiring story and shows that with the focus in the right places, kids can be successful."

Waters left Bruce Randolph in 2009 and now serves as an instructional superintendent with Denver Public Schools guiding other high school principals in becoming better leaders.

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piano DEDICATION



community works

On January 28th, the MCE Community Engagement Committee presented "Partnering for Social Change: Innovations in Mutual Planning, Learning, Teaching, and Research." The event was an opportunity for guests to tour the new Morgridge College of Education (MCE) building, Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall, and see demonstrations of the new technology available in the MCE.

Faculty and staff in the MCE presented four different "stations" for participants. In station one, Interactive Technologies for Classrooms and Group Work, participants learned about interactive white boards and collaboration sites such as GroupSite, GoogleDocs and Wikis. In station two, New Directions in Distance Meetings, participants were able to view and interact with a live person via a video conference at a far site location. In station three, Demonstration Learning through Digital Storytelling, participants were introduced to concepts of narrative, social change, and digital media. Demonstrations of digital stories and getting started were discussed. In station four, Community Services at the MCE Clinic, participants observed how the MCE Clinic space is utilized for training graduate students from multiple disciplines simultaneously to provide services to the community.

The MCE and the Community Engagement Committee would like to thank the participants for attending this wonderful event. Future events are planned!

A Decker Brothers piano was a gift to the Morgridge College of Education from Shirley Ann Sheets (BA education '56) and her brother, Robert Newman Sheets (BA social science '61), in honor of their parents, Shirley deSpain Sheets (BA music '30) and her husband, Newman Lloyd Sheets.

The piano was dedicated during a celebration Nov. 9. More than 100 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the event, which featured Native American music and a blessing by Calvin Standing Bear, a Lakota, and James Torres, a Chiracahua Apache.

"My sister and I inherited this historic treasure and - having both graduated from the College of Education - wanted to honor our parents, especially our mother, who was a professional opera singer and music teacher," Robert Sheets says of the gift. "Much of the inspiration we all received in our lives began at the University of Denver, and we wanted to give back by giving the gift of music to DU and the students of the Morgridge College of Education. This instrument will continue the song of learning and beauty in all our lives."

The Nov. 9 event was part of the Alumni Signature Events series, sponsored by the Morgridge Alumni Board. The event featured a question-and-answer session with Morgridge College Dean Gregory Anderson.

Alumni Signature Events are a series of informal presentations and interviews conducted by the alumni board. They are meant to create a dialogue with distinguished DU alumni, faculty and constituents who help connect the academic and professional worlds for the benefit of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Dr. Patton Davis receives ASHE award for scholarship

Lori Patton Davis is an Associate Professor in the Higher Education Program. Lori received the ASHE Promising Scholar/Early Career Award. According to the ASHE (Association for the Study of Higher Education) website, the award is "given for a significant body of scholarship or a single extraordinary research achievement by a higher education scholar, and in recognition of potential for future research. This award may also call attention to significant work in progress that has won praise from senior colleagues and support from foundations or government agencies. The Early Career Award is reserved for individuals who are no more than six years beyond the receipt of the doctoral degree."

Prior to her appointment at DU, Dr. Patton Davis was a faculty member at Iowa State University in the Educational Leadership & Policy Studies Department. Her research agenda broadly examines racial injustice in the academy and the experiences of minoritized populations in higher education. Recent studies have placed a particular focus on African American students with regard to gender and sexual identities; experiences at historically Black colleges, and involvement in racial/ethnic culture centers. Dr. Patton's work has been published in a host of prestigious venues including the Journal of Higher Education and the Journal of College Student Development. She is nationally known and actively involved in a host of professional associations. Dr. Patton Davis has also been recognized by the Association for the Study of Higher Education among others, for exemplary scholarship. Dr. Patton Davis received a PhD from Indiana University (Higher Education Administration), an MA from Bowling Green State University (College Student Affairs), and a BS from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (Speech Communication).



Lori is passionate about many things, but as a HED scholar, she's most passionate about using her research and writing to serve as a venue through which silenced voices can be heard. Lori doesn't pursue research for the sake of research, but instead thinks more reflectively about how the research will contribute to how people think and how programs and policies are implemented. Lori is passionate about her work having relevance to practice. Some of her areas of research include LGBT populations at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), campus environments and the role of culture centers and multicultural affairs offices, theoretical perspectives that inform student affairs practice, and social justice education.

Keep In Touch

To keep up-to-date with the Morgridge College of Education's many programs and initiatives, bookmark our Web site and make frequent visits. While you're there, meet some of our students, learn about our many community-engagement efforts, and catch up with some of the professors who are breaking new ground in their disciplines.

And don't forget to update your contact information so we can stay in touch. Visit us online www.du.edu/education or write to us at:

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Scholarship THAT COUNTS