



Dean's Message

Since becoming Dean at the end of July 2009, the Morgridge College of Education has undergone a fundamental transformation. Indeed, in a little more than a year, major reforms have been initiated in the following four areas of the college:

- The rationalization of traditional and non-traditional academic programs into three domains (Educational, School and Counseling Psychology; P-20 Education; and Information Studies and Learning Technologies) and the reorganization of the Fisher Early Learning Center and the repositioning of the Institute for the Development of Gifted Education affiliated with the Ricks Center.

- The introduction of a new faculty leadership structure consisting of domain chairs and program coordinators primarily responsible for faculty, student and program evaluation and monitoring.
- The development of a more responsive, data-driven and comprehensive system of budget and planning and the redeployment of staff into new administrative units.
- The creation of a culture of collaboration, shared governance, accountability and transparency at MCE.

Collectively, these changes were designed to accomplish the following objectives: to strengthen accountability and quality control measures at MCE; to rationalize college-wide support services and curricular offerings across programs and domains; to promote systematic evaluations and monitoring of programs, courses, faculty, lecturers, adjuncts and students; and to maximize the use of available data to inform assessment capabilities and decision-making processes. Already this approach has paid dividends as MCE has identified inefficiencies, redundancies, and unnecessary expenditures, which resulted in significant yearly savings that have enhanced our capacity to leverage and strategically use additional funds.

As the college's capacity to acquire and manage large sponsored research opportunities continues to grow, MCE intends to scale up existing community partnerships as well as leverage recent grants awarded by the Ford Foundation and the Morgridge Family Foundation to expand programmatic and community-based work in DPS and Aurora and bring new district partners. These existing and potentially new partnerships are emblematic of MCE's ability to serve the educational needs of the surrounding communities as well as the University of Denver's overall commitment to the Public Good. Finally, now that we have moved into our state-of-the-art building, my plan is to extend our community outreach both by making the facility accessible to the surrounding communities in terms of the staging of events, meetings, etc., but by also expanding the virtual opportunities to connect to rural communities vis-à-vis the college's video-streaming and conferencing capacities.

As MCE continues to move forward, this year will be dedicated to accomplishing and/or furthering the following goals:

- Infusing the technology of the new building into our pedagogy, academic programs, sponsored research and grant opportunities that both enhances the college's local, regional and national footprint while also ensuring that the quality of research, scholarship and teaching is not only maintained but also enhanced.
- Strengthening and deepening MCE's research courses, standards, skills and expectations of students across the entire college and within all academic programs in both the quantitative and qualitative areas.
- Introduction of new degree programs (i.e., E.DD., MA in Early Childhood Special Education) as well as the a critical P-20 restructuring of traditional teacher education, principal preparation and curriculum and instruction and higher education programs that are in various stages of development and will be phased in the 2010-2011 as well as the 2011-2012 academic years.

I would like to thank the staff, faculty and students for their sincere engagement and hard work in supporting the Morgridge College of Education's long-term objective to be a local, regional and national force for educational change. Although change is often difficult, I trust that our collective effort as well as our inevitable growing pains will result in a college that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Anderson

community

MORGRIDGE College of Education NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010



Janet Lee

Morgridge Faces

Alumna takes skills to nation's greatest institution

When Marguerite Roby (BA '00, MLIS '08) became a graduate assistant at DU, her career path was changing trajectories. She had bartended for six years but decided to return to DU to get a master's degree in library and information science (LIS). Her experience as a Morgridge College of Education graduate assistant at Penrose Library gave her the skills that would land her at the Smithsonian Institution. *continued*

EDUCATION today

DU's Morgridge

College of Education to help K-12 private and charter schools better manage and integrate student information

New Partnership with the Morgridge Family Foundation and ActivProgress to help improve learning outcomes

training our students in this state-of-the-art data management system is to better prepare them for using these systems as they become teachers and administrators. The end result will be better student learning outcomes because teachers are receiving better information."

"For so many teachers, data is the missing link to providing students with the best education possible in a 21st Century Classroom," says Carrie Morgridge, venture philanthropist and vice president of the Morgridge Family Foundation. "We want to provide educators with technology that is user friendly, universal in its application and that gives them a leg up on helping each student reach their potential in the classroom."

Ramona Pierson, ActivProgress founder and chief science officer, says schools are traditionally good at collecting data, but not as good at sharing and analyzing the data. "The LearningQube learning space manages the information that is so critical to effectively tracking student progress," she says.

Pierson notes that the data management system allows different data systems to communicate; making data-based decision making possible. She said the system congregates information normally kept in separate systems such as classroom assignments, grades and attendance.

"Even as students move from school to school or event district to district, the information travels with them building a comprehensive portfolio spanning their learning career and helping teachers meet individual student needs because they are aware of them," Pierson explains. "Teachers and administrators have easy access to real-time data that informs teaching and improves learning."

The system will launch in 2011.

The University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education will implement a new data management tool to help private and charter K-12 schools and school districts better manage, store and retrieve student data to improve the learning process from teacher to the learner.

Through a \$96,000 gift from the Morgridge Family Foundation's 21st Century Classroom Collaboration Grant Program, the Morgridge College of Education will create a data warehouse with the learning management tool LearningQube, developed by ActivProgress, LLC. Not only will Morgridge students learn how to use it, but the College will be able to offer the technology to smaller districts and schools which financially could not afford their own system. According to Gregory Anderson, dean of the Morgridge College of Education, this tool is changing how teachers and schools manage the information so critical to effectively tracking student progress.

"Teachers have a lot on their plates and DU is committed to transforming how teachers are being educated for long-term improvements in learners," he says. "The goal of

Marguerite's job at the Smithsonian is highly technical and required a person with specialized skills. "Marguerite was chosen from over 150 qualified applicants," says Sarah Stauderman, collections care manager for the Smithsonian Institution Archives. "We realized she already had a taste of [the project] with her work at the University of Denver."

The project at the Smithsonian is massive. Roby's job is to figure out how to establish intellectual and physical control over three million photographs and make them accessible to the public. Most are stored in a cold, climate-controlled vault. It's a trend going on at libraries and museums everywhere as people expect to search for information digitally. Organizing that digital information is also a very specific skill-set, one needed by the Smithsonian.

"There is a great opportunity to share the kind of institutional memory not on display to the public in our museums," says Roby, photograph archivist for the Smithsonian Institution Archives. "I'm confident that my time at the University of Denver has prepared me for the task."

"The Smithsonian is one of the most prestigious places you can work," says Mary Stansbury, Program Coordinator of the LIS program. "Our graduates work there and in so many other institutions and are making a difference."

MORGRIDGE FACES

Marguerite Roby

continued from front

THAT COUNTS

Scholarship

Dr. Cyndy McRae and DU Students' Parkinson's Research Continues to Provide Insights into the Disease

Dr. Cyndy McRae and DU students Emily Fazio, Gina Hartsock, Livia Kelley, Shawna Urbanski, and Iowa State University's Dan Russell recently published a report on loneliness experienced by caregivers of patients with Parkinson's Disease (PD). The study found that caregiver characteristics were more predictive of loneliness than patient characteristics. These results suggest that it is important for caregivers of persons with Parkinson's Disease to be mindful of their own physical health and to find ways to increase their sense of self-efficacy, or confidence related not only to caregiving, but to developing or retaining some activities apart from their role as caregivers. Because loneliness and depression are often strongly related, finding ways to ameliorate loneliness will probably also affect symptoms of depression.

In addition, participants who went to caregiver support groups reported less loneliness and more perceived support than those who did not attend. This study can be regarded as an initial step toward learning more about loneliness among PD caregivers. McRae and colleagues published their study in *Parkinsonism & Related Disorders*. "This project was a great example of the value of student participation in research. I couldn't have done it without them, and we all learned a lot together," notes Dr. McRae.

Parkinsonism & Related Disorders,
2009;15(8):554-7).

Please visit <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2749069/> for the full-text article.

EVENTS



Carrie and John Morgridge Celebrate the Faculty and Staff in the Morgridge College of Education

About 85 faculty, staff, and friends of the Morgridge College of Education attended a party on September 21st to celebrate the future of education with longstanding and generous contributors, John and Carrie Morgridge.

"Tonight is about celebrating the future and the success of the faculty," said Carrie Morgridge. "In this beautiful and technologically-advanced new building, we've just raised the bar again! Now is the time to show our community why the Morgridge College of Education is the hub of innovative education in the country."

"Both Carrie and I feel such a sense of pride when we meet students and alumni from the Morgridge College," said John Morgridge. "We are so grateful for this opportunity and for Dean Greg Anderson's leadership and vision."

Provost Gregg Kvistad, Dean Greg Anderson, and Former Dean Virginia "Ginger" Maloney also spoke at the reception to thank Carrie and John Morgridge for their leadership and commitment to 21st century teaching and leadership in education.

The Morgridge College of Education moved into its new state-of-the-art home at the corner of Evans and High Streets in June 2010.

SAVE THE DATE **1.28.2011**
4-6 p.m.

Partnering for Social Change: Innovations in Mutual Planning, Teaching, and Research

The kick-off community engagement event at the new Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall.

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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