

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

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Faculty News

Dr. Rose Battalio has been appointed as the new chair of the department. She is excited about working with such a great faculty. Any recommendations or ideas that you may have for future development activities for the department, feel free to send them her way.



Mr. Art Brandt's past year was filled with the teaching of new and old classes and the excitement of seeing all grads that chose to seek teaching positions find them. One of the highlights of the year was having the opportunity to travel to New York City to attend the Sprout International Film Festival. From this trip Art brought new and exciting ideas and current media resources back to be used in classes by him and his colleagues.

Dr. Angela Dalhoe is currently teaching SPED 200, 331, and 416. She is also co-advisor of the Student Council for Exceptional Children and member of the Teacher Education Strategic Planning Council.

Dr. Stephen Dempsey was selected as one of UWEC favorite professors for the second consecutive year. He continues to serve on The Higher Learning Commission accreditation teams and will be visiting a college in West Virginia next spring. Additionally, he coordinates the Director of Special Education and Pupil Services program and serves on the editorial board Rural Special Education Quarterly. He was reelected chair of the Chippewa Area Mentor Program Board of Directors.

Dr. Joe Morin is beginning his 10th year in the department. He is currently teaching Assessment of Students with Disabilities (SPED 401/601) and representing Special Education in the Human Development Center. His scholarly interests continue to be preventing failure in mathematics through early, well-designed interventions. He is in the midst of developing a Counting Curriculum for PK-3. This curriculum is intended to provide a strong foundation in number sense for younger learners.

Dr. Vicki Snider participated in the Author's Celebration in October 2007, which was hosted by the Office of University Research and Sponsored Programs at UW-Eau Claire. Her scholarly work supports her never-ending crusade to set high expectations and provide effective instruction for all "hard-to-teach" students. She developed activities to systematically extend vocabulary knowledge within the context of basal reading stories and pilot tested them in a 3rd grade classroom. She also worked on designing a remedial written language curriculum for middle and high school students, parts of which she piloted in the LEAP Clinic.

Dr. Todd Stephens will be returning to full-time teaching this fall after serving as Chairperson for five years. During this academic year Todd will also be working on research and service activities and will return to serve on the Faculty Senate and the Senate Executive committee. Todd extends his heartfelt thanks to the best darn department and group of students a person could hope to work for.

Ms. Cathy Thorsen spent eight years as teacher education faculty at institutions in both Central Illinois and Chicago prior to coming to UW-Eau Claire. Currently, her time is unequally divided between dissertation completion, teaching, and getting acquainted with the area and the people of Eau Claire.

Course Assignments

Assignments from spring and summer courses will be kept until December 19, 2008. After that date they will be shredded. This includes Gate 1, 2, and 3 portfolios. Contact Linda Brunner to pick up your papers.

Spring Registration

Please plan ahead and meet with your advisor to discuss your spring courses so you are ready when your registration date/time arrives. Be sure to obtain your PAC code from your advisor. The following categories of students are required to have a PAC to register: (1) freshmen and sophomores who will have earned fewer than 60 credits by the end of the fall semester; (2) all transfer students and new freshmen; (3) classified graduate students in active status who have not yet filed an approved degree program plan.

Introducing Two New Faculty



Dr. Angela Dalhoe – Assistant Professor

I am a native of the Chippewa Valley and have recently moved back to Wisconsin after completing my Ph.D. in Special Education at Michigan State University. I have experience teaching students with both cognitive and learning disabilities in Wisconsin and Minnesota. While in Michigan, I worked for the MI Department of Education developing an alternate assessment program for students with cognitive impairments. This experience led me to my current research interest in the area of assessment, state standards, and students with disabilities. I am very excited to be back in Wisconsin and am looking forward to my time at UW-Eau Claire!



Cathy Thorsen, ABD – Assistant Professor

When I describe myself, I use one word—ordinary. I grew up in Central Illinois and lacked athletic skill, musical ability, and fashionable clothing, but I was nice to people. For this reason, I became the class tutor for students struggling to learn or who had disabilities. These interactions developed compassion and a desire for working with and befriending children and adults with cognitive disabilities. This desire was satisfied through positions in a group home and as a paraprofessional before acquiring my teaching certificate.

What began as an ordinary life has evolved into something extraordinary and given me years of experience that have aided my professional development. I began my university experience when my children were in school full-time. I graduated from Illinois State University with a BS and an MS in Special Education, and I have taught in two primary classrooms; one with children with significant/multiple disabilities and the other with children with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities.

My transition to college-level teaching happened by accident. My family relocated and I began working at a small college as support for adult learners returning for degrees but who had academic skill deficits. As a result, I began teaching a few education methods classes and then was hired as full-time faculty teaching early childhood education. In 2005, I began my doctoral program in early childhood education at Concordia University Chicago where I have taught the last two years and coordinated the comprehensive special education program.

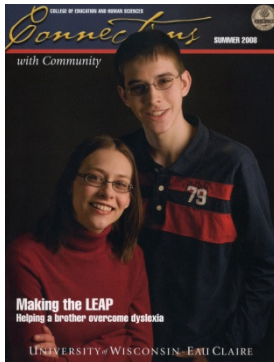
What continues to drive me professionally is my interest in early childhood special education, particularly the prevention of risks developing into disabilities in young children. What drive me personally are my family and hobbies. I love to cook and bake, enjoy sailing with my husband, visiting my children, and enjoying a good cup of coffee, chocolate, and quiet conversation or a movie and popcorn with butter.

2007-08 Graduates

They say that special education is a field in high demand. Well that is definitely the case for our graduates! Not only did we have 100% of our students get jobs fairly rapidly, they have ventured all over the country such as Alaska and Colorado. The world was wide open for finding jobs wherever their hearts took them. Congratulations to our latest new teachers!

Name	Job Location
Megan Dhein	12 th Grade Resource, Hudson, WI
Laura Eppert	LD Math, Minneapolis, MN
Lisa Fisher	6 th Grade LD, Schofield, WI
Caitlin Hammer	Special Education, Estes Park, CO
Tawny Johnson	Resource, Eau Claire, WI
Amy Kimmes	1 st Grade, Black River Falls, WI
Stephanie Krebs	CDM/CDS, Anchorage, AK
Heather Manzanares	HS Resource, Ashland WI
Lindsay Michalski	4 th Grade Special Ed, Wausau, WI
Mallory Molnar	Elementary EBD, Schofield, WI
Erin Nance	Eau Claire Academy, Eau Claire, WI
Melinda Olson	Resource, Milwaukee, WI
Sheila Runge	3 rd Grade Special Ed, Minneapolis, MN
Kelly Schilling	EBD/LD, Grantsville, WI
Becca Smith	9 th Grade Resource, Hudson, WI
Emily Steward	5 th Grade, Chippewa Falls, WI
Derrick Thompson	EBD/LD, Barron, WI
Kathleen Ward	ECSE, Brighton, CO
Kirsten Weckin	Resource, Eau Claire, WI
Shannon Wallraff	ASD, Forest Lake, MN
Michael Wendland	CDM/CDS, Anchorage, AK
Michelle Wilson	CD, Apple Valley, MN
Sarah Zboralski	Resource, Manitowoc, WI

Connections



This past summer the College of Education and Human Sciences sent out a new magazine called *Connections*. Our department's LEAP Clinic was the focus in the article "Making the LEAP: Helping a brother overcome dyslexia." It featured Lindsay Michalski, who recently graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a degree in learning disabilities, and her brother AJ, who participated in the 2007 LEAP Clinic. For full text of the article, please visit our website at <http://www.uwec.edu/sped/info/Connections.pdf>.

Winterim

SPED 205 and SPED 400/600 will be offered during Winterim (January 5-23). Registration is in progress.

First Year Teaching Experience



My name is Jennie Helleen and I graduated from UW-Eau Claire's Special Education Program (K-12 CD/LD/EBD) in the spring of 2007. I am a second year teacher at Chippewa Falls High School as an EBD teacher. I teach ninth-twelfth graders and have grown tremendously over the last year not only from my first year experience but also from the help and expertise of the professionals from the University. I have learned that a degree is only half of what teaching is all about.

My first year as an EBD teacher was eye opening and made me appreciate all teachers much more. I was inexperienced, naïve, and thought that everything (curriculum, managing the classroom, rules, etc.) would be laid out for me. Through lots of late nights developing curriculum, calling professors for behavior management help, and looking through the many binders I thought I wouldn't need again from classes I survived (barely). I learned more about what an IEP was and laws than I even knew were out there. It was a journey into the unknown, but I came out of it alive and motivated to teach and learn more.

One of the most important things that I have learned as a special education teacher is that you DON'T need to be their friend. I think that there is a very fine line between teacher and friend and it has taken me a year to figure that out. Students respect authority and I have learned to be an educator in every sense of the word. Another important lesson I have learned in education is you are not "just" a teacher. You are a parent, counselor, AODA consultant, tutor, health teacher, lunch lady, custodian, and much much more. You need to be able to leave your job at the door and have a life outside of the school. Get involved with the school, eat lunch with colleagues, and don't complain about things you can't change. It is a career that will change your life for the better, make you appreciate all you have, and learn more from your students than you could ever teach them. I have found the career that drives me and I'm thrilled to be where I am today.

Scholarships

All eligible students will receive an email in December about the upcoming scholarship application process. All students are highly encouraged to apply for scholarships that they meet the requirements for. Check your email for further details and deadlines.