

SPED Talk



A Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of the UW-Eau Claire Department of Special Education

Fall 2005

Making a Difference and "Things Like That": **A Tribute to the Distinguished Career of Dr. David Franks**

"And things like that." An oft spoken phrase heard by the many who have had the good fortune to listen to David Franks in a lecture, in a meeting or during a casual conversation. The phrase is a simple one. Some might even say imprecise. But if you listen carefully, the phrase "and things like that" refers more to what has just been spoken rather than what has been left out. The phrase serves as a verbal punctuation mark, positioned at the end of a profound question or an insightful comment, allowing the listener a moment to ponder...a moment to let the significance of the message rise like yeast in warm dough. Our colleague is retiring at the end of this year and we in the Department of Special Education wish to pay homage to this great special educator who has made such an enormous difference in this diverse and challenging field.

For over 40 years, David has been contributing to the community of those with disabilities and the field of special education in many different capacities. He began his career in the field of speech pathology where he received his training from Wisconsin State University at River Falls in the early sixties. In 1970 he added a M.A. in Special Education specializing in mental retardation from the University of Missouri Columbia and two years later completed a Ph.D. from the same institution. His doctoral work brought him in contact with the field that would eventually become his life-long passion, early childhood special education. David has held many offices in the state and at the national level in his long career. He has held positions of secretary, vice-president and president since 1974 in state chapters of Council for Exceptional Children – Early Childhood Divisions. Between 1976-1978 he served as treasurer at the National Division of CEC on Early Childhood.

David joined the UW-Eau Claire Department of Special Education in 1981 from UW-Whitewater. During the last 25 years he has focused his energy and talent to the betterment of the many graduate and

undergraduate students he has taught. David has written dozens of successful grants that have helped advance the cause of Early Childhood – Special Education. He has presented at numerous local, state and national

conferences including the national convention of CEC. His leadership in the field of Early Childhood Special Education has been widely recognized. He has been invited to serve in advisory capacity on many state and local committees. He has frequently been honored for his accomplishments including the Wisconsin Federation CEC 'Outstanding Service Award' for contributions in Early Childhood Special Education in 1999 and the 'UW-EC Teacher Educator of the Year Award' in 1987. In spite of being extremely busy with his regular work, David has found the time to publish over 30 scholarly articles and reports.

This short synopsis of a long and exceedingly productive career does not adequately represent the breadth of our dear colleague's many accomplishments. The limitations of space requires us to invoke his favorite phrase 'and things like that' since there is just too much to say about this remarkable man.



FRANKS CELEBRATION

There will be a retirement celebration for David Franks in May 2006. For more information, contact Linda Brunner at brunnel@uwec.edu. Feel free to send Linda a farewell message or a fond memory of David. These will be compiled in a book and given to him.

Parents Talk about LEAP Clinic and How Their Children Benefit

Fifty area children received instruction this summer through the Learning Enhancement and Progression Clinic, a collaborative program of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire special education department and the Eau Claire School District. Special education professor in the College of Education and Human Sciences Dr. Vicki Snider, co-directs the LEAP Clinic with Laure O'Keeffe, a special education lecturer.

On the last day of the clinic, parents of seven of these children talked about what the program has meant to them and their children.

Joel Levandowski, whose daughter Kelci has been coming to the LEAP



UW-Eau Claire special education graduate student Lynn Martin, center, and undergraduate student Leah Philleo worked recently with participants in the 2005 LEAP Clinic, a program for K-12 students with special learning needs. (Photo by Linda Brunner, UW-Eau Claire special education department)

Clinic for four years, explained that Kelci has a visual impairment — hereditary optic atrophy — which renders her legally blind. According to Levandowski, he and his wife, Jane, believe the specialized attention she gets at LEAP has helped to keep Kelci from falling behind. She will be entering the
LEAP Clinic Continued on page 2

■ Special Education in Scotland

Scotland, what a wonderful experience!!! Not one of the participants will ever be the same again.

Fifteen Special Education and Communication Science and Disorders students had the opportunity to share the lives of Scottish teachers and their students with disabilities in a three-week course during the summer of 2005. Students lived with host families, primarily special education teachers, for two weeks. During this time the UW-Eau Claire students, supervised by Rose Battalio and Lisa Hood, went into the public/private schools to experience first hand what comprises special education in Scotland. The group wrapped up the experience by venturing into the Highlands for a five-day voyage. Boat trips to the Isles, hiking Faerie Glen, and seeing Hairy Coos were only a few of the adventures they had!



■ Director of Special Education and Pupil Services Program

Stephen Dempsey is in the process of developing a graduate online Director of Special Education and Pupil Services program. The program would include 12 graduate credits including "Special Education Law," "Leadership in Special Education," "Leadership in Pupil Services," and "Practicum: Leadership in Special Education and Pupil Services." The goal is to begin offering the courses in the Summer of 2006.

■ Curriculum Changes

The faculty have been working on many curriculum changes that will take effect in the 2006-07 Catalogue. Anyone with a comprehensive major in learning disabilities or cognitive disabilities will be certified to teach middle childhood through early adolescence (1-9) and early adolescence through adolescence (6-12). Many courses

have been revised and some new courses have been created. We are also looking into the possibility of adding an undergraduate program in emotional/behavioral disabilities.

■ IDEA Revisions

In fall of 2004, the US Department of Education provided revisions to the 1997 authorization of IDEA to various stakeholders in the field of special education and input regarding the proposed changes was requested. This period of input ended September 6, 2005. During that period many issues related to the proposed revisions have been debated and suggestions have been proffered to the Department of Education for their consideration, including a substantial one from the Council of Exceptional Children. The Department of Education's ability to consolidate the suggestions it has received and 'tweak' its reauthorization of IDEA will be put to the test in the upcoming academic year. Readers should watch for emerging themes. Some of the more contentious themes are identified below.

- **Due Process** – Notification to parents/guardians regarding IEP eligibility determinations and amendments to current IEPs are expected to be more flexible. Also, IEP reporting periods are likely to be reduced. There is concern that this increased flexibility will result in less accountability.
- **Eligibility for LD** – Districts may be able to opt for an alternative to the discrepancy model. Response-to-instruction (RTI) has been suggested as the alternative but this particular approach has many layers of complexity that may make it unworkable.
- **Transfer IEPs** – Out-of-district or out-of-state transfer IDEA students may be able to carry their current special education services to their new locality without having to go through an IEP team meeting. This policy is fraught with difficulty because of district-to-district and state-to-state differences regarding eligibility criteria. For example, some states don't recognize giftedness as an exceptionality. What would a school district do if it received an out-of-state student with that label if it had no 'gifted' special education?

These are just a few of the more pertinent issues that the US Department of Education is going to have to address before the final implementation of the new regulation.

Parents Talk about LEAP Clinic and How Their Children Benefit

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fifth grade this fall.

Kelci enjoys coming to LEAP, said Levandowski, noting that she recently chose to pass up an opportunity to attend a one-week LIONS camp because it would have overlapped with the five weeks of LEAP Clinic instruction.

Myra Hayden drove her son Anthony, who will enter the fourth grade this fall, to the LEAP Clinic from Elk Mound because of the clinic's reputation.

Greg Cleveland, whose son Emmitt has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, one of the Autism spectrum disorders, sees the five weeks of consistent instruction offered by LEAP as one of its most important aspects. His son, who is going into sixth grade needs special help with social skills.

Christy Riley, mother of 10-year-old Jack, another child with Asperger's, agreed. Jack has been coming to LEAP for three years.

"For Jack, it's been amazing," said Riley. "The consistency is really important. Our kids need more structure than most kids to keep progressing. When they aren't in a program like this, we see them backsliding in terms of their behavior and achievement."

Lynn Larabee, whose son Alberto was adopted from the Philippines and has been in special education since grade three said, "One of the reasons children with learning differences struggle is that basic facts are not an automatic for them. If a problem takes too long to solve, children with learning differences can give up easily because of frustration."

"LEAP does a great job of helping kids feel better about themselves and what they can accomplish," said Janet Driever, whose son Peter is attending LEAP for the second time.

"Running the clinic requires a great deal of hard work and effort from the directors, the teaching staff and the students," Snider said. "As a teacher educator, the clinic is where I practice what I preach. Effective instructional practices and skilled teachers can make a difference in children's lives. For me personally, it's where the rubber meets the road."

Excerpted from Summer Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 8 • Aug. 1, 2005

FACULTY Notes

Dr. Rose Battalio had a great 04-05 academic year including several publications in *Beyond Behavior* and *Kappa Delta Pi Reader* and a presentation at the CEC conference in Baltimore. The highlight of last year was her involvement with the Special Education in Scotland program. Rose was able to spend three weeks in Scotland observing and experiencing the Scottish culture.

Mr. Art Brandt taught Intro to CD over the summer and has returned this fall to supervise student teachers.

Mrs. Renee Chandler, M.S.E., is teaching courses for the department and has also been accepted into a doctoral program at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Renee is pursuing a degree in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Special Education.

Dr. Stephen Dempsey attended the Higher Learning Commission of The North Central Association Conference in Chicago. He is a consultant-evaluator for the organization, which accredits institutions of higher education throughout 19 Midwest states. Dr. Dempsey serves as a student mentor in the Chippewa Falls Area School District and is also a member of the Chippewa Valley Methamphetamine Task Force.

Dr. David Franks continues to coordinate the teacher education programs in early childhood special education. Efforts to work across university system campuses and the technical colleges are taking up some of his time. He has recently been increasingly involved in using two-way television and conference telephone mediums to deliver instruction across west central Wisconsin. He is eager to get all of these practices in place before retirement planned for May 2006.

Dr. Joe Morin has recently earned tenure and has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. His interests continue to be delivery models for teaching mathematics to pupils with mild disabilities.

Mrs. Laure O'Keefe, M.S.Ed., has been promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer. In August, she had the opportunity to work with students in River Falls who are completing the UW-System Cooperative Teacher Education Program in Early Childhood Education. She continues her work on the advisory board of WCATY in an effort to improve programming for students who are or could be identified as Gifted.

Dr. Vicki Snider is returning to the department after spending a year on sabbatical completing her book, *American Teaching Myths*. She continues to serve as coordinator of the program in learning disabilities.



Back: Renee Chandler, Todd Stephens, Stephen Dempsey, Art Brandt, Linda Brunner. Front: Joe Morin, Rose Battalio, David Franks, Vicki Snider

Dr. J. Todd Stephens traveled again to Japan in the fall of 2004. During this trip he was able to meet with special education teachers who had visited Eau Claire to learn about our public school special education programs. Dr. Stephens helped arrange a visit during October by Mr. Osamu Satoh who was researching health related and special education issues in the United States.

■ Snider Returns from Sabbatical

Vicki Snider is returning fulltime to the department after spending a year on sabbatical.

Dr. Snider spent the year writing a book entitled *American Teaching Myths: Unexamined Beliefs*, in which she examines popular beliefs about teaching that prevent many children, especially those with risk factors or mild disabilities, from reaching their full academic potential. The six myths that she explores are the myth of process, the myth of fun and interesting, the myth of the good teacher, the myth of eclectic instruction, the myth of learning style and the myth of disability. She also explores the historical and sociological origins of the myths and ponders how to move from myth toward a science of teaching. Her book, which will certainly stir up the chalk dust, will be available in 2006 from Rowman & Littlefield Education Publishers.



ALUMNI News

Laura Boston ('03) and Patric Meyer are engaged to be married and are planning an August 2005 wedding. Laura lives in Minnetonka, MN.

Lisa (Huston) Jelenic ('96) and husband Michael Jelenic, Jr. were married Nov. 1, 2003, in De Pere. Lisa teaches sixth-grade special education in Seymour. The couple live in Green Bay.

Jessica (Briggs) King ('99) and husband Daniel announce the birth of daughter Amelia Pearl on Dec. 17, 2004. Amelia was welcomed by sister Rose and brother Samuel. Jessica is taking a break from teaching to stay home with the children until they are a little older. The Kings live in Luck.

Tara (Dallman) Korth ('98) and husband Patrick were married Oct. 23, 2004. The couple live in New London, where Tara is a special education teacher for the New London School District.

Kathy (Kestly) Krause ('94) and husband John announce the birth of third child Emma Abigail on March 14, 2005. Emma joins siblings Maegan, 15, Isaac, 5, and Grace, 4. The family lives in Green Bay, where Kathy is a special education teacher at Bay Port High School.

Erica (Fowler) Lane ('95) and Jeff Lane finalized the adoption of daughter Sofia Nichole in December 2003. Sofia was born April 24, 2003, in Duluth, Minn., and arrived home June 13, 2003. Erica is an elementary school counselor. They live in Land O'Lakes and can be reached by e-mail at elane@npsd.k12.wi.us

Angela (Gunkel) Mangold ('95) and James Mangold joyfully announce the birth of daughter Delaney Marie on April 9, 2005. Delaney joins big sister Addison Ela, 2. The family lives in Burlington.

Lisa (Mellum) Pomazal ('03) and Jeffrey Pomazal were married July 31, 2004, and are expecting their first child in October 2005. They teach in the Eau Claire Area School District and live in Eau Claire.

Jessica (Brown) Sterba ('99) and husband Scott Sterba have been blessed with a son, David Scott born September

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15, 2004. Jessi is a Birth to Three teacher for St. Croix County. The family lives in New Richmond WI.

Amy (Core) Washburn ('00) and husband Shawn were married Sept. 25, 2004, in Lannon. They spent their honeymoon in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in December 2004. Amy is a special education and learning disabilities teacher for first- through third-grade students in Hartford. She can be reached by e-mail at coreshortie@msn.com. The couple live in Merton.

Jennifer (Jones) Zachek ('94) received a master's degree in educational leadership from UW-Oshkosh in December 2003. She teaches early childhood special education for the Appleton Area School District. Jennifer, her husband and two stepdaughters live in Appleton and can be reached by e-mail at drcjdds@yahoo.com

Alumni Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed the alumni survey that was included with the 2004 edition of SPED Talk. Your feedback is important to us!

Early Childhood Special Education

Many of our graduates who have earned the 808 certification endorsement (Chronological Ages 0-6) are currently seeking the 809 certification endorsement (Chronological Ages 0-8). Former students who have graduated during the last ten years are able to usually do this by completing SPED 331, 431 and either participating in the summer LEAP Clinic (SPED 335) or completing a student teaching experience with children ages 6-8 that is designed to meet their needs and employment responsibilities.

Some graduate students are also presently enrolled in our dual certification program with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls earning Pre-K-3 general education certification endorsement as well. These students are completing their studies through asynchronous and real time course work via the internet and two-way television from communities across the State.

If you are interested in these learning opportunities contact David Franks (715-836-5740 or franksdj@uwec.edu).

Support Your Alma Mater

The Department of Special Education invites contributions to its Advancement Fund. This fund is especially critical to the department because it provides the greatest flexibility in funding projects, programs, and activities that are not in the department's regular budget and/or cannot be covered by state funds. The department will help fund recruitment expenses for prospective faculty, activities for students, travel, special publications, etc. All contributions should be directed to the Special Education Department's Advancement Fund, UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Box 4004, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004. Your gifts are tax deductible and will be recognized as contributions to the Foundation for tax and recognition purposes. Thank you for your support.

SPED Talk is published annually and edited by Linda Brunner. Send news about your location, job, educational endeavors, and family as an email through our website at www.uwec.edu/sped or email Linda directly at brunnel@uwec.edu. Use the subject line "alumni news." We'd like to keep in touch.

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