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Information Media News

Chair's Column: Moving Forward

Merton Thompson



There are lots of things going on in the department these days. Sometimes, as in all of life, we are not always certain which way is forward, but what else can we do but pick a direction (based upon a good needs assessment, of course!), decide that way is forward, and go for it!

As I write this, we are a bit thin on staff. Tebra Petersen, the administrative assistant we share with the HURL department, has been out on medical leave since early September. We are now working with our fourth temporary administrative assistant. Jeanne is in Alnwick, England this semester, enjoying the castle and other opportunities afforded by the British Studies program. Kristen

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Carlson, our most recent hire and replacement for Susan Sutton, has been out on maternity leave returning October 31.

We are seeing the results of our curriculum rewriting take effect. The last changes should be made early spring semester. A summary of the changes is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

By the time you read this, our technology day, entitled #ED Tech will have been held. This event was sponsored by the Curriculum and Technology Center (CTC) and the Instructional Technology Discovery Lab (ITDL), both units within the department. We had ten 30-minute presentations planned covering such topics as the Flipped Classroom, GIS, 1:1 Mobile Technology Schools, and QR Codes. This event was designed for faculty and students in education. We, along with the entire School of Education, are in the middle of preparing for the next visit by our accreditation body, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, CAEP, (formerly the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, NCATE), and the Minnesota Board of Teaching which will take place in 2015. Within the department,

this is helping us to review and assess our programs, especially the Library Media Specialist program, to determine how we can better serve the needs of P-12 students.

Finally, we are examining the possibility of entering into an agreement with Bemidji State University to provide a complete distance delivery mechanism for licensure as library media specialists for people who do not already possess a Minnesota teaching license. SCSU does not provide a distance alternative for the Standards of Effective Practice courses needed for initial licensure. Bemidji has had a distance option for many years, and we have begun initial discussion for the two MnSCU campuses to enter into a formal agreement to provide this option.

As I mentioned earlier, it is sometimes difficult in these changing times to know with certainty which way is "forward." We have decided our best option is to look at the landscape, make a calculated decision, and say "This direction is the way to Move Forward." Let's hope that we are right at least 50% of the time!!

SoE #EdTech Marcia Thompson



Wednesday, October 24, the Vera W. Russell Curriculum & Technology Center and the Instructional Technology Development Lab were filled with a flurry of activity as the second ever SoE #EdTech took place. It was a day filled with mini technology presentations, ranging from geocaching to QR codes, to displays of the newest in technology hardware and software, including a 3-D printer. Among the presenters were two IM alumna: Ryan Cox, district technology coordinator for the Becker School District, who presented on the district's 1 to 1 mobile device program, and Laura

Mackenthun, technology integration coach for the Sauk Rapids Rice School District, who presented on IOS apps. Chris Stanley of the Information Technology Services staff planned and organized the day along with Mert and Marcia Thompson.

Watch for the spring 2014 edition of SoE #Ed Tech. The 3D printer is already lined up, as well as a few new presentations. If you are interested in being a presenter, or know of someone else whom you'd like to recommend, let us know.



New Faculty

Kristen Carlson



Our new Assistant Professor this fall is Kristen Carlson. She grew up in Annandale, MN, and currently lives in Kimball with her husband, daughter, and new baby boy born on September 18. (Congratulations!) Kristen has a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Education from Concordia College. After graduation, she taught science classes concurrently at Sartell, and virtually for charter schools through K-12 Incorporated. The specific courses she taught at that time were Forensics, Physical Science, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physical Science, and Environmental Science.

After a couple of years, Kristen came to SCSU to earn a master's degree. Her initial goal was a degree in Information Technology, because as a teacher she found herself frequently helping colleagues with technology in their classroom. However, she decided to change her track to Instructional Design and Training, because she liked the

instruction design portion of it. While working on her graduate degree, she was hired to work for Continuing Studies, which worked with different corporations. At some point, she realized that she missed working with students. So when a position in the Information Media Department became available, she decided to apply for it so that she could teach and work with corporations at the same time.

Kristen likes to keep up with WEB 2.0 tools, so has attended TIES conferences, the MN E-Learning Summit, and the LERN Contract Training Conference. When teaching in the virtual setting, she found it important to use tools that would grab students' attention and keep them engaged. Kristen loves to use technology in instructional design, to create multimedia lessons, and to learn new software

or technologies she can integrate into her instruction to keep students excited about learning. She has been working on research of flipped classrooms as part of the Faculty Learning Community for the last two years. Her particular interest in this research is looking at student-centered learning activities during class, individual learning, and project-based learning – all of which she can apply to her courses here at SCSU: Exploring Digital Media; Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education; and Design for Multimedia Presentations II. In addition to teaching, conferences, working with corporations, and research, Kristen also has a book review pending with the *Performance Improvement Journal*. She is one busy lady!

Kristen does find time to relax now and then. When she does, she enjoys going to the lake, dancing (any kind), family outdoors activities, watching football, and reading. She likes to read fiction mostly, and her favorite authors are Patricia Cornwell and Jeannette Evanovich. Speaking of favorites, her favorite movies are Grease, West

Side Story, and the Muppets movies. Favorite music styles include country and classic rock.

Kristen likes to travel because of the time spent with family, the escape from work, and the general relaxing atmosphere. Most of her family's traveling is done in a motor home camper. They have been to Disney World in Florida, the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls, Yellowstone, and the Dakotas. She has also been to the Bahamas (not in the camper, obviously). Someday she would like to travel to Disney World again, and also to Ireland. Her mother's side of the family is very Irish, and they have direct descendants there.

Kristen's parents have been a big influence on her life, because they have always supported her decisions to advance her education and to take on new jobs. She also has her husband to thank, for he's been very positive and willing to help – both professionally and personally. They learn from each other professionally, because they are both instructors. He is her main motivator! Welcome, Kristen!

New Adjunct Pamela Beckermann



I grew up on a family dairy farm near Sauk Centre, and currently live north of Dassel on Long Lake with my husband, Paul. We have been married for 25 years, and we have two children. Our son Bryant works in the audio technical field, and our daughter Kaysha is an art education student at SCSU. I am the Media & Digital Learning Specialist at Dassel-Cokato Middle School (DCMS), where Paul and I teach. In fact this is my 20th year teaching at DCMS.

I am a proud alumnus of SCSU, where I received both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I have Bachelors of Science degree in Business Education, and Master of Science degree in Information Media (Media Specialist). Both of my degrees from SCSU prepared me for my role as a Media & Digital Learning Specialist. My business degree provided the skills necessary to administrate the technology and media programs (manage budgets, project planning, leadership, etc.), as well as pedagogical skills related to teaching students. The Information Media degree further

advanced these skills, as well as developed skills specific to administrating the school's media and technology program, and for teaching the media and educational technology curriculum.

At the present time, my interest in the field of Information Media is related to our school district project, which is currently implementing a digital learning initiative with the goal of providing each student access to digital learning devices to increase their achievement. I enjoy working with both staff and students as we integrate educational technology to enhance instruction and student learning. In addition, my focus in the past two years has been on researching best practices related to 1:1 digital learning initiatives. Along with gathering information from others who have successfully implemented 1:1 initiatives, I have also been collecting and analyzing data on our own initiative. The collection of this

valuable information is helping guide us as we develop best practices for integrating educational technology to support instruction and student learning at DCMS.

I feel fortunate to enjoy all aspects of my profession; nevertheless, I do especially appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with my colleagues and supporting their efforts to improve student learning by capitalizing on emerging educational technology. I believe this is a revolutionary time in education where we now have more robust tools available to support best pedagogical practices (i.e. differentiation, intervention, higher order thinking, learning intelligences, formative and summative assessments, student centered learning, project based learning, etc.). In order to fully leverage this investment in educational technology tools, educators need the opportunity to develop both the skills necessary to use the tools, as well as training and support on how to effectively integrate these tools into their instruction to enhance students' learning experiences. I enjoy the opportunity to support teachers during this journey, and I am inspired as I watch them grow professionally, and their students become even more engaged and experience greater success.

I enjoy reading, and am rather eclectic in my choice of readings. I also enjoy traveling. Paul and I have traveled to various places in U.S. (Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado, Virginia, Washington DC, Boston, Florida, etc.), as well as parts of Canada and Mexico. This summer we celebrated our 25th anniversary by enjoying three weeks in Europe traveling to Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. Next summer we plan to travel northwest U.S., and hope to return to Europe soon to explore Ireland, England and Scotland. My dream destination is New Zealand.

I am fortunate to work with incredible colleagues and students at DCMS who provide me with invaluable lessons on how to become a stronger teacher. My husband Paul is my greatest inspiration both professionally and personally. He was the reason I chose teaching as a profession, and continues to be my greatest mentor. He both supports and challenges me to continue my evolution as an individual and as a professional. I appreciate the opportunity to return to SCSU as an adjunct professor, and look forward to working with SCSU students as they move forward with their learning in their Information Media courses.

New Adjunct

Paul Beckermann



I am originally from Melrose, MN, and am currently living in Dassel, MN with my wife, Pam. We have two children. Bryant is 22, lives in Saint Cloud, and works as a live sound and light technician. Kaysha, 20, is a junior Art Education major at SCSU.

I graduated with a BA in English, and a minor in Education from St. John's University. I earned a master's degree in English as well as a School Media Specialist licensure from SCSU. I am currently a Media and Digital Learning Specialist at Dassel-Cokato High School, as well as an adjunct professor in Information Media at SCSU. My SCSU education has provided me not only with an excellent knowledge and skill base in my fields of study, but also with a desire to continually strive for excellence. The courses I have taken have encouraged me to stay on the forefront of emerging technologies and best practices, as well as to ask the important questions and seek effective, real-world implementations.

I am particularly interested in effective technology integration

strategies and how these practices can reshape and improve education.

My school district is currently implementing a digital learning initiative which includes a move towards a 1:1 laptop environment at the high school, and expanded professional development in the area of technology integration. With my media specialist colleagues, I have been studying effective implementation strategies, as well as best practices for successful integration in the classroom. As a team, we are creating a digital learning program to assist teachers with successful technology integration. In fact, while a central part of my job continues to be teaching students about information literacy, much of my energy is directed at teaching teachers the necessary and effective skills and strategies for teaching in a technology-rich learning environment. I was honored to be named the 2012

Minnesota Media Specialist of the Year, and a 2013 Minnesota Teacher of the Year semi-finalist. These recognitions have allowed me the opportunity to share some of our local discoveries and successes through technology publications and state conferences. In July, I was a keynote speaker at the "Branching Out" library conference.

My greatest passion is finding ways to improve the educational process. While people will always be the center of what we do as educators, technology is opening up a new world of options, and these new opportunities are revolutionizing the art of education. I also enjoy spreading the importance of information media, an area of study which I feel continues to grow in importance each day.

Outside of work, I enjoy writing and recording music in my home studio, as well as playing guitar in a band. I also enjoy golfing and traveling with my wife. My other interests include photography, writing poetry and fiction, video production, playing fantasy football, and fishing. My wife and I enjoy traveling. This past summer, my wife and I traveled to Europe for our 25th anniversary. We spent 24 days exploring the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. It was an

amazing trip. We have also traveled throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada in the past. Alaska is one of my favorite places that we've visited. Some other 'favorites' of mine are: Dan Brown, Bruce Springsteen, Mumford and Sons, science fiction movies, The Voice, and these websites:

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/>
<http://www.fredmiranda.com/>
<http://www.cmleaorg/>

I am continually influenced by those I work with on a daily basis: administrators, other teachers, and, of course, my students. My education at SCSU has provided me the foundation for success in my field of study, and the faculty here have been an important part of a great professional network. Mert Thompson and the rest of the IM faculty at SCSU have been great. It's great to be part of this excellent team. Overall, my wife is my biggest influence. We are a personal and professional team, and I love working together. Because we work in the same field, we have the same goals and interests, and it is exciting to impact the educational process as a team. Finally, my parents have also had a large influence on me. They have instilled in me the importance of education, high character, and hard work.

New Adjunct

Robert Lessinger

We would like to welcome Dr. Robert Lessinger to the Information Media Department. Dr. Lessinger was born in western North Dakota and was raised in New York (the NYC area). He lives in Rockville, MN with his wife and five children, three of which are in the ROCORI school system presently. He holds a B.A. in History and a J.D. in Law. A job opening in the SCSU Computer Store brought him to SCSU, where he is now full-time staff in SCSU's Information Technology Department. He was also substitute teaching for Kristen Carlson in her two sections of IM260 during her maternity leave.

Although Dr. Lessinger has never attended an Information Media program, he has always been interested in the functional roles various software and hardware technologies play as tools in our lives, and the selection process by which we as individuals and groups choose to adopt them. He

feels that his educational path helped him develop his scientific process and critical thinking skills, which directly play into the support function that he provides on campus. Currently, Dr. Lessinger is heavily preoccupied with studying social networks, their application, and their impact in the lives of individuals and society. He is passionate about the Socratic analysis of technology, which is a fancy way of saying he really enjoys trying to understand the 'why' of human technology selection.

Lessinger's hobbies outside of work include watching science programs and reading history books (non-fiction). Douglas Adams and Isaac Asimov are his favorite writers, but nearly any philosophical or historical discussion will draw him in. He also truly enjoys helping people, playing with his children, or making his wife laugh (...yes, he said



that). He has traveled much of the USA (35 states), Canada, Mexico, UK, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, and Italy. He hopes to someday see China, Japan, Korea, and India.

Dr. Lessinger states that he could come up with a long list of famous people that have left their imprint on him. However, the

people who have had the most influence on him and driven him to be his best (besides his family) are his coworkers. Many of them may understand how their point-of-view influences him, but they very likely underestimate how much he values their opinion - even when his choices may be contrary to theirs.



Fred Hill is Retiring!

Join in celebrating Fred's almost 36 years at SCSU, Learning Resources Services, and the Library in the Miller Center.

Monday, December 9

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Miller Center East Basement

Rooms 17 & 18



If you would like to send a greeting or card to Fred, address it to

Fred Hill

Miller Center, St. Cloud State University

720 Fourth Avenue South

St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

His email address is fehills@stcloudstate.edu

Alumni Profile

Michelle Kustermann

Michelle Kustermann is a dynamic young graduate we would like to introduce. Michelle grew up here in St. Cloud, and still lives on the south end. She attended St. Cloud Technical High School, and received her undergraduate degree from SCSU in 2006, with a major in Elementary Education and minors in Elementary Mathematics and Spanish. She felt that her study here at SCSU had given her many opportunities, and that it was a quality program. In 2008 she began working on her master's degree here at SCSU in Information Media: Information Technologies (as Track I was named at that time). The staff, particularly Dr. Merton Thompson, had been very helpful in designing a plan that would blend education and media classes into her program, so that she could effectively use technology in her classroom after earning her master's degree. At that same time, her only sibling

(a younger brother) attended SCSU as well, earning his undergraduate degree in accounting and mathematics.

Michelle is in her 8th year of teaching 1st grade in St. Michael-Albertville, currently teaching at St. Michael Elementary School. She feels that her education at SCSU has really prepared her for the integration of technology in her classroom, such as developing lessons on Smart Boards, and creating multimedia projects with students using PowerPoint and MovieMaker. She is also her grade level's representative on the technology committee for her building, and helps plan staff meetings to address various technology issues.

Michelle feels that her participation in the Information



Media program has deepened her connection to books, widened the variety of books she introduces to the classroom, and increased her drive to share her love of books with her students. Her favorite authors to use in teaching are David Shannon and Jan Brett. Looking toward the future, Michelle is learning about online reading and math programs to individualize students' practice of concepts at home. She is also interested in using iPads in her classroom, and feels that this technology could enhance her students' independent work time, as well as their individual engagement during large group settings.

Speaking of "future" and "engagement", Michelle is pleased to announce that she is engaged to be married. Her fiancé's name is Adam Hinnenkamp, he lives in St. Joseph, MN, and he is a Planner & Canadian Specialist for Anderson Trucking. They are planning the

wedding for sometime in June 2014. The Information Media Department wishes them the best of luck in the future!

While working on her master's degree, Michelle had the exciting opportunity to study British Children's Literature and



England's Alnwick Castle

Photography when she traveled to England in the summer of 2010 with Dr. Merton Thompson and Dr. Marcia Thompson. She had a fabulous time visiting places most of us just read about, such as Beatrix Potter's Farm, Longstone Lighthouse, Alnwick Castle, Wild

White Cattle, and Chillingham Castle. Visiting these sites made the stories and history come to life! This experience developed into a keen interest in photography, modifying graphics, and using effects in PowerPoint – all of which she uses in the classroom to create memorable lessons for her students. Besides photography, she is also interested in cooking, baking, crafts of various sorts (spurred on by Pinterest), spending time with family, and traveling. She took a recent trip to Chicago, touring Wrigley Field and eating on the 95th floor of the Hancock Building. (Now that's a high brow dinner!)

The greatest influence on Michelle's life has been (and still is) her parents, Mary and Ron Kustermann. Mary is an Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for District 742 Schools, and Ron is a Customer Operations Manager at AmeriPride Services. They have always been supportive of her endeavors, and have placed a strong emphasis on the importance of a good education. One of the first influences on Michelle's professional life has been her cooperating teacher,

Gayle Berthiaume, under whom she student taught. Gayle was an Apple Distinguished Educator, and has demonstrated how engaging technology can be for even young students. In closing, here is a quote from Michelle: "Technology is always changing, but working with colleagues to brainstorm projects and new ways to connect technology and the curriculum makes things more fun and a lot easier!"



WELCOME!

Eleanna Renee Yanke arrived on the evening of November 7th. Coming in at 7lbs 13oz and 19.5 in tall, she is currently the smallest person associated with the IM Department. Congratulations Angie and Eric!

(Angie Yanke is our CTC graduate assistant.)



Sabbatical Reflections

Marcia Thompson



I have returned to my IM faculty world after the fastest year of my life! As I wrote in my sabbatical report, I viewed my sabbatical as a precious gift of time for reflection and professional development; time which is impossible to find during a day-to-day academic schedule. And for those of you who know me, it will come as no surprise that I devoted a lot of that time to reading in the field of children's and young adult literature. The world of literacy and literature is integral to the graduate classes that I teach in the field of library media, and keeping current with new literature, both fiction and information books, is difficult. I can say that for one year of my academic career, I felt relatively current in the field where several thousand new titles are published each year. My reading will inform two new classes that I will be teaching in the licensure area, one which deals with young adult literature selection and usage, and one which deals with children's literature selection and usage. An additional result of my reading has been the start of a St. Cloud "Chapter & Verse" Book Club that meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm in room 262 of the Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud. The Chapter Verse Book Club is the brain child of Vicki Palmquist, co founder of the Children's Literature Network. It currently has eight chapters nationwide for adults who like to read and to discuss children's and young adult literature. The December selections are *The Real Boy* by Anne Ursu and *Journey* by Aaron Becker. Hope you can join us on December 19!

In closing out the sabbatical corner, I would like to thank my IM colleagues who took on extra duties in my absence. In a small department it is always a hardship to have a person absent. I appreciate your support.

MEMO Outstanding Media Specialist for 2013

Karin Bernal

(Editor's note: Karin is the recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Media Specialist award from the Minnesota Educational Media Organization. Since Karin completed her licensure coursework through the IM program, we asked her to share a little bit about herself.)

I was a high school English teacher from 1995 till about 2008, when I took a job as a Media Generalist at a middle school in the Spring Lake Park district north of the Twin Cities. During this time I enrolled in the SCSU program to obtain my Media Specialist licensure (under the fantastic tutelage of Mert and Marcia Thompson, and other great teachers). I started at Richard Green Central in the fall of 2011, and am now in my 3rd year there. This was a *much* different demographic from Spring Lake Park. My students are about 18% HHM (Highly Homeless

and Mobile), about 65% Hispanic, 30% African American, and 5% Native American/Asian/Caucasian. They are also 97% free and reduced lunch. As such, the position holds both incredible challenges (it's a K-8, has lots of behavior issues, has been in the serious RED for math and reading, and going steadily downhill), and great rewards (I get lots of hugs from kids who really love the idea of books - both physical and digital!).

I found out about the nomination quite by surprise in early September, and was given a week (literally) to pull together some recommendations and fill out paper work to be eligible. A fellow Media Specialist, Emily Hope-Hopfer (who works at a different district, but has been to my school and knows the kinds of kids I work with), originally nominated me. She was someone I had

interviewed for an assignment for one of our classes, and we became good friends. She was a great "unofficial" mentor for me. Here is some of what she said:

I nominated Karin Bernal for the Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO) Outstanding Media Specialist Award because I admire her perseverance in working with a grueling fixed-schedule, and still being able to collaborate with teachers, bring in a famous author (Tim Green), get increased funding for the media program, and support reading programs and the use of technology. Her prowess and advocacy in juggling all of these aspects of a vibrant and effective school library program with grace and optimism is extremely impressive. I see Karin as a huge asset to her school, her district, and to our profession.

It has been a rough few years; I won't lie. That first year (2011-2012) at Green Central I just wanted to throw in the towel. I came home almost every night feeling like I had just been thrown under a steamroller. I was put on a fixed schedule and had anywhere from 4 to 5 classes a day for which I had to cover preps. I had no staff at all, which meant I had to somehow manage the kids, help them find books, and be at the circulation desk at the same time. This was not pretty. I so desperately wanted to do the job of collaborating with teachers for meaningful activities, get the library running more efficiently, and get more books in their hands, I was working from 7:00 a.m. till about 6:00 p.m. almost every night. I opened the library for checkout in the morning, which apparently hadn't been done before. Our circulation went from 12,430 that first year I was there, to just over 16,000 by the end of my second year. The principal was new as well, but was a huge advocate for libraries; so I was able by some small miracle to convince her to take me off the prep specialist schedule so I could collaborate with the teachers. What a difference that made for my

second year there (2012-2013). I went off Prozac (just kidding ... but man was I close to going on it)! I was able to schedule all the teachers at the K-5 level to visit the library at least once every two weeks, carve out some actual administration time, and still collaborate with the middle school teachers for research projects.

I think I was nominated for my perseverance in a very difficult school environment, and my ability to make the best of it, and raise the interest in reading and information literacy among the students. I have also done staff training on technology, and helped roll out iPad cart use at our school. We are now currently without a full-time technology coordinator this year, and so we have yet one more job to take on. This year, unfortunately (another new principal), we have gone back to using the media specialist as a prep, which is disheartening; but I still hope to make some changes. They at least hired another media specialist to work with me to share the burden and still try to provide some services to our staff and students.

Excerpt from the letter from my assistant principal, Patty Fetter:

I am honored to recommend Karin Bernal for the Outstanding Media Specialist Award through the Minnesota Educational Media Organization. This is my third year as an administrator at Richard Green School in Minneapolis and as a supervisor of Karin's work. Karin is innovative, intelligent, hard-working, always willing to help, and has a tremendous sense of humor.

Since starting at Richard Green, Karin has turned a mediocre media center into an area rich with resources, and one where students enjoy checking out books of interest to them. The media center has now become a place where both students and staff can take pride. Karin has coordinated multiple book fairs to encourage literacy and fund

library programs. The direct result of these book fairs have been additional resources for our library, as well as increasing the number of books in our students' hands.

Karin had done a wonderful job of connecting with our teachers for the benefit of students. She has collaborated weekly with classroom teachers to integrate digital and media literacy into their work with students. She has also assisted with integrating technology into the classrooms. Students have become adept at using iPads for their research and coursework. Karin is knowledgeable of most things technical, and in addition to overseeing the media center, she has become our 'go to person' for questions about technology.

I want to add that I hardly feel worthy of the award. I believe that

among the reasons I did receive it is that the media cohort at Minneapolis Public is so great and supportive. They make some very concerted efforts to get together at least once a month to work as a PLC (Professional Learning Community) and share ideas and information. There is so much I've been able to take from the Media people with which I currently work. The IT department is also very supportive of Media, and I couldn't have done many things without great tech support. Even though we are spread out in so many different schools, at least MPS is still supporting Media - maybe not always in the best way, but they aren't cutting Media in half, like St. Paul did. I appreciate that! :)

Sincerely,

Karin Bernal
Media Specialist, Green Central



Meet the New Graduate Assistants

Diane Mulanga



My name is Diane Mulanga, and I currently live in St. Cloud, Minnesota with my husband and my two and half years son. In 2005, I graduated from high school with a state diploma in early childhood education. After high school, I moved to the United States to pursue my undergraduate studies in Business Administration Management at Henderson State University in Arkansas. At the present time, I am pursuing a Master's of Science in Instructional Design and Training.

In the field of Instructional Design and Training, I am interested to learn how to integrate virtual reality worlds for training purposes at the classroom level and corporate level. As a result of my interest in virtual reality as a training medium, I have researched and written papers on the subject. At the present time, I do not have any of my work published, but I hope that one day, in the near future, some of my works will be published.

As of my work history, when I was in high school, I taught different classes at the primary level (1st grade to 6th grade). In addition, during my undergraduate years, I held a Student Worker position at Henderson State University. And, as of right now, I am a Graduate Assistant in the Information Media Department.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading in particular African literature, and my favorite author is Calixthe Beyala. Besides African literature, I love reading biography, history, business, and current events books. In addition, I like to socialize with my friends and family. I also like to explore other cultures through books, watching documentaries, and cooking or tasting their foods. Besides my other hobbies, I love to travel; it feels so good to discover new places. As a matter of fact, I have lived and traveled to a few countries in

Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and Central America.

I am passionate about the welfare of human beings, especially that of women in developing countries because they are mostly the breadwinners (mainly in D. R

Congo) of their households. Therefore, one day, I would like to run a non-profit organization back home whose goal will be to microfinance micro-entrepreneurs, and to train them on how to operate efficiently and effectively a business.



LaDonna Larson



LaDonna comes to the IM Department via the field of education. Having taught music for over 8 years in the United States, Honduras, and the Ivory Coast, she then took some time off to raise her children (including triplets). When she returned to teaching as a substitute, she found that she greatly enjoyed helping students in the schools' media centers, but she needed more technology skills to be of greater assistance.

Seeking to obtain a master's degree in Information Media, she applied for the graduate assistant position at SCSU, and was thrilled to be accepted. She has found the professors and staff to be very helpful and encouraging. Upon completion of her degree, she hopes to find a position as a K12 media

specialist, and to continue the wonderful journey of inspiring and helping students in their educational endeavors.

LaDonna lives in Cambridge, MN with her husband, Steve, her four children, her husband's elderly parents, and three Shih-tzus. She enjoys playing piano, composing, hiking, gardening, reading, cooking, going to soccer games, attending local theatrical productions, and visiting with family and friends. Her husband is a math teacher and soccer coach at St. John's Prep School, and they hope to some day go back into international teaching.

Annual Children's Literature Workshop

Marcia Thompson



The Children's Literature Workshop Needs YOU

The 34th annual Children's Literature Workshop (CLW) was held on June 17 & 18, 2013 at Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University. The conference program featured Avi as the keynote author, and Laura Purdie Salas as the Minnesota author. Workshop sessions featured Minnesota authors Debra Frasier and Sheila O'Connor, media specialist Laurie Conzemius, and Children's Literature Network co founder Vicki Palmquist.



Reviews of the 34th CLW by attendees were very high. However,

workshop attendance in general has fallen sharply over the past five year and it is reaching a level that is not sustainable. In order to move forward, we need to see YOU at the CLW as a participant. If you are reading this as an IM alum that works in a school, take advantage of the group registration rate of \$175 per person for groups of 5 or more from one organization. If you are a student at St. Cloud State University, take advantage of the student registration rate of only \$100. Several years ago, the IM department stopped scheduling class on the days of the CLW so that students could easily attend the Workshop. This past summer, I was very disappointed in student attendance. In addition to attending the conference, attendees can also enroll for either one SCSU undergraduate or graduate credit

which counts as an elective. CEUs are also offered with the basic conference registration rate.

Looking to the short term future...

The 35th Annual CLW will be held on June 16 & 17, 2014. The program is still being filled, but I can tell you that the 35th will offer something never before seen at the CLW. You heard it here first: internationally awarded British author David Almond (Skellig among many other books) has tentatively agreed to do a virtual author visit, complete with a Q&A session. I met David in 2010 when I arranged for him to speak to the British Children's Literature and Photography students at Alnwick Castle, and you are in for a treat!

Also at the 35th, the first ever recipient of the Gertie Geck Joy of Reading award will be recognized. The Joy of Reading award winner will receive complimentary conference registration plus \$100 to spend at the CLW book vendor



store. Applications will be available in February, 2014 and due by the end of April, 2014.

Looking to the long term future...

We need you to support the CLW in order for it to continue. If we do not get a minimum of 125 participants in 2014, I believe that the future is doubtful. If you are fortunate enough to receive

professional development funds, think of the CLW in your planning. If you don't receive any professional development funds, look for financial assistance. For example, I know that in our region, the Central Minnesota Library Exchange gives scholarships and I believe that other multi-type cooperatives do as well. Or apply for the Gertie Geck Award. And if all else fails, consider investing in yourself and paying your own registration. I can guarantee that you will find it a worthwhile investment. If you don't currently receive information about the workshop but would like to, just send me your e-mail address (mthompson@stcloudstate.edu)

Meet the CTC New Student Worker Kuechang Vang



Hi, my name is Kuechang Vang. I was born in St. Paul, MN and raised in Blaine, MN. I graduated from Blaine High School, class of 2013 and currently looking to major in Accounting. In my free time I like to play sports, video games, and I really enjoy my aquarium hobby. Basically anything sports I will enjoy playing; I strive to be good at everything I do or try my best at it. I used to play a lot of video games, thus I need to wear glasses to drive..., but I do not play as much now as I used too. I really enjoy being an aquarist because I find it entertaining and find much joy in being able to have kept many different species successfully. I am hoping to meet a lot of new people and make a bunch of new friends!



Scholarships and Awards

The Information Media department is proud to offer *scholarship and award* opportunities to students as they pursue their educational degree.

- Scholarships are a way to help students pay for their education.
- Unlike student loans, scholarships do not have to be repaid.

Please go to [this website](#) for more information on the scholarships/awards opportunities and applications. Scholarship applications are due **February 1, 2014**.

Graduation Reception

School of Education Fall 2013 Commencement Graduate Reception is going to be held on Saturday, December 21st, 2013 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Education Building open area.



Curriculum Changes

Merton Thompson



As mentioned last year and in the spirit of Moving Forward, the faculty has been heavily involved in updating our curriculum and programs to better meet the needs of our students. This was undertaken, in part, based upon feedback we have received from our Advisory Committee. A quick summary of the changes includes:

Undergraduate

- Revising the list of required classes for the Instructional Technology certificate.

Graduate

- Refocusing the Information Technologies (Track I) master's program to one of Technology Integration, including the creation of new courses.
- Updating several courses in the Educational Media (Track II) master's and licensure program to place more emphasis on children's and young adult literature and renaming the

program Library Media.

- Updating the requirements for the Instructional Design and Training (Track III) master's program to include more in the area of online learning.
- Eliminating two-credit graduate courses by combining content of related courses and creating three-credit courses. This was done without increasing the total number of credits for programs.

We have a couple more changes still in the works, including the creation of a Technology Integration certificate program, that should be completed by the end of the semester.

Excellent Educator: Jenny Hill

Congratulations to IM alumnus Jenny Hill upon receiving an award from WCCO Television on Thursday, November 7 as an Excellent Educator. Jenny is a library media specialist at St. Michael Elementary School. The segment aired on Friday, November 8 and a link to it is found at [this website](#).



BYOT It's so ExCITE-ing!

by LaDonna Larson

I won't insult your intelligence by launching into all the possibilities BYOT could represent (even though some are borderline humorous). Instead, let me introduce you to a new technology initiative taking place in many schools. As educators strive to teach 21st Century skills despite ongoing budget cuts, schools are taking advantage of the tools some students already have (and frequently take out in class - with or without permission). BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology), also known as BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), is a trend making its way from the industry world into the classroom. A "device" might refer to any number of mobile technology devices, such as smart phones, minis, Android Tablets, as well as iPads. It is an attractive alternative for schools that can't afford to put a computer or iPad in front of every student, but want to prepare students for today's technology-filled world.

As Jonathan P. Costa Sr. started:

*"BYOD policies are public school's last best chance to make the needed immediate leap to a digital learning environment."
(Education Digest, April 2013)*

One example here in Minnesota is Cambridge-Isanti School's ExCITE initiative, which stands for Exemplary Cambridge Isanti Technology for Everyone. This initiative began with pilot projects that placed iPads in the hands of groups of teachers and administrators, followed by a summer ExCITE iPad Tech Academy in 2012 meant to train all teachers in iPad use and integration. This year classrooms have been installed with AppleTVs on which teachers can project their iPad screens, and integrate their iPad technology into their instruction.



Teachers have also been trained to use various Google apps, as well as Moodle. This fall was the start of the next step in the ExCITE initiative: BYOT.

In interviewing Ray Sperl, Technology Coordinator & Secondary Integration Specialist concerning BYOT, he reports that student engagement in class has increased as a result of the use of new technologies in class. The challenge of classroom management

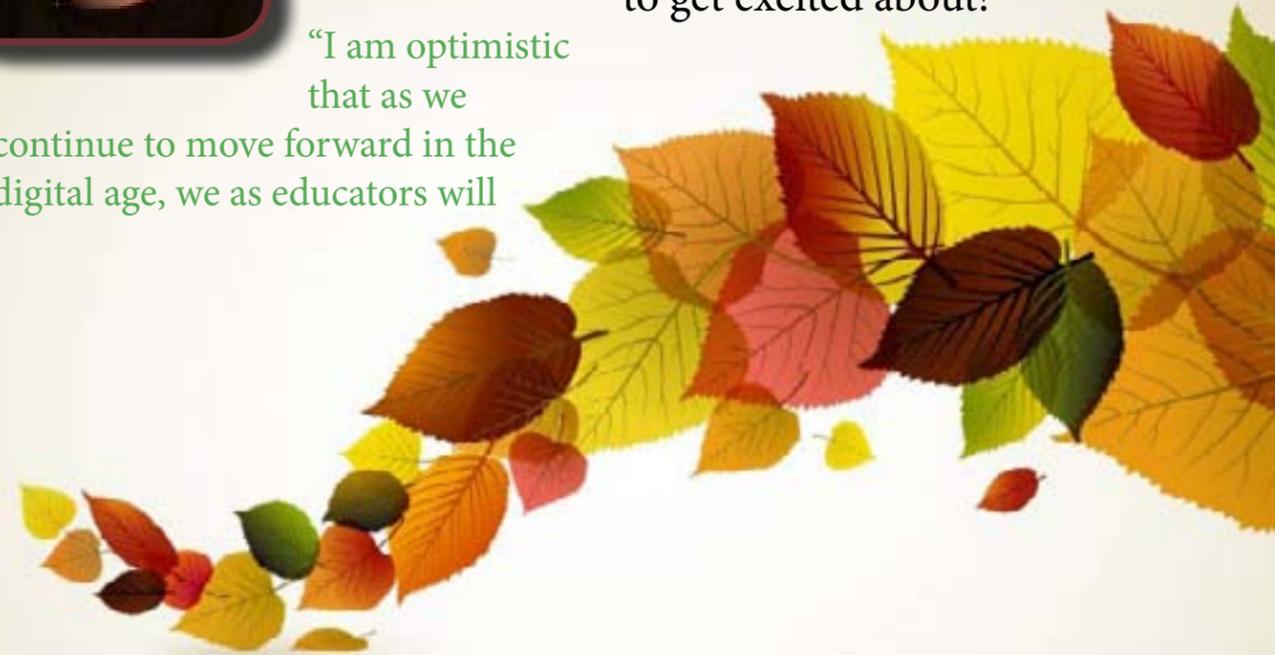


while using individual devices will require further training and adjustment in instructional practices, but

"I am optimistic that as we continue to move forward in the digital age, we as educators will

develop and provide the skills and resources necessary to help students to become successful 21st Century learners. The use of technology in the classrooms will become more purposeful and focus in ways that help teachers and students be more effective and efficient in their learning."

Cambridge Isanti School District hopes to explore further applications of technology in classrooms in the next few years, such as flipped classrooms (video/reading instruction at home, and practicing skills in school), blended instruction (part online, and part face to face), applications for social media technologies in instruction, and more. It is definitely something to get excited about!



IM Recent Graduates Spring/summer 2013

Graduation Semester	First Name	Last Name	Degree	Major
Spring 2013	Charlene	Hopela	Graduate Certificate	Instructional Technology
Spring 2013	Wendy	Paul	Graduate Certificate	Library Media Specialist
Spring 2013	Noel	Schumacher	Graduate Certificate	Instructional Technology
Spring 2013	Janet	Szczzech-Johnson	Graduate Certificate	Design for E-Learning
Spring 2013	Kathryn	Beck	Master of Science	Educational Media
Spring 2013	David	Bissonette	Master of Science	Instructional Design and Training
Spring 2013	Laurel	Cobb	Master of Science	Educational Media
Spring 2013	Tama	Exsted	Master of Science	Educational Media
Spring 2013	Holly	Groebner	Master of Science	Educational Media
Summer 2013	Sherri	McGillivray	Graduate Certificate	Instructional Technology
Summer 2013	Tamatha	Minter	Graduate Certificate	Design for E-Learning
Summer 2013	Tracy	Shantz	Graduate Certificate	Instructional Technology
Summer 2013	Erika	Weiler	Graduate Certificate	Instructional Technology
Summer 2013	Erin	Schaefer	Master of Science	Information Technologies

IM Graduate Offering Plan 2013-2017

Course	F 13	S 14	SS 14	F 14	S 15	SS 15	F 15	S 16	SS 16	F 16	S 17	Required in Program
502		X			X			X			X	I, II, III, LMS
504	X			X			X			X		I, II, III, IT, LMS
514			X			X			X			I
515												
545			X			X			X			
554	X			X			X			X		I, II, III, IT
555		X			X			X			X	I, II, III, IT, LMS
556	X				X			X			X	III, EL
562				X			X			X		I, III
608					X			X			X	I, II, III
612			X			X			X			I, II, III, LMS
620	X			X			X			X		II, LMS
621			X			X			X			II, LMS
625		X			X			X			X	II, LMS
626				X			X			X		II, LMS
628	X			X			X			X		II, LMS
632				X						X		III
634		X					X					III
638							X					III
646		X			X			X			X	III, EL
656		X		X			X			X		III, EL
680		X			X			X			X	III
681					X			X			X	I
682	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X	II

*This plan is subject to change based upon student demand and resources available.

Information Media Spring Schedule, 2014

Undergraduate and Undergraduate/Graduate Classes

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Days	Time	Room MC	Enrollment Cap
204	1	Research Strategies	Anderson	3	TR	12:30 – 1:45	MC 207	30
260	1	Exploring Digital Media	Park	3	TR	9:30 – 10:45	MC 206	32
260	2	Exploring Digital Media	Park	3	TR	11:00 – 12:15	MC 206	32
260	3	Exploring Digital Media	Carlson	3	TR	12:30 – 1:45	MC 206	32
260	4	Exploring Digital Media	Anderson	3	TR	2:00 – 3:15	MC 206	32
421 521	1	Information, Technology, and Learning for Elementary Education	Thompson, Ma	2	MW	8:00 – 9:50	EB A124	24 1
421 521	2	Information, Technology, and Learning for Elementary Education	Thompson, Ma	2	MW	10:00 – 11:50	EB A124	24 1
422 522	1	Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Carlson	2	TR	9:30 – 10:45	MC B43	24 1
422 522	2	Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Staff	2	M	6:00 – 8:45	EB A124	24 1
422 522	3	Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Staff	2	T	6:00 – 8:45	EB A124	24 1
423 523	1	Information, Technology, and Learning for Early Childhood Education	Carlson	3	TR	2:00 – 3:15	MC B43	24 1
455 555	1	Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I	Anderson	3	R	5:00 – 7:35	EB A124	6 6
455 555	2	Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Anderson	3	R	5:00 – 7:35	EB A124	6 7

Graduate Only Classes

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
502	1	Information Media: Theory, Research, and Practice	Thompson, Me	3	M	5:00 – 7:45	MC B17	12
502	2	Information Media: Theory, Research, and Practice Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Me	3	M	5:00 – 7:45	MC B17	13
625	1	Reading, Listening, Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Young Adults	Thompson, Ma	3	T	5:00 – 7:35	MC B17	12
625	2	Seminar: Reading, Listening, Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Young Adults Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Ma	3	T	5:00 – 7:35	MC B17	13
634	1	Instructional Design II	Park	3	T	6:00:35	MC B18	12
634	2	Instructional Design II	Park	3	T	6:00:35	MC B18	13
646	1	Facilitating and Administering E-Learning Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Anderson	3	M	6:00 – 8:45	MC B18	25
656	1	Computer-based Authoring	Carlson	3	W	6:00 – 8:45	EB A124	12
656	2	Computer-based Authoring	Carlson	3	W	6:00 – 8:45	EB A124	13

Graduate Internship and Practicum

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits		Enrollment Cap
680	1	Internship in Media	Park	2-6	Arr.	
682	1	Library Media Specialist Practicum	Thompson, Ma	1-6	Arr.	

Information Media Tentative Summer schedule 2014

Summer Session I, May 19 – June 27

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Dates	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
260	1	Exploring Digital Media	Carlson	3	5/19-6/19	MTWR	12:30-2:30	MC 206	30
422 522	1	Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Carlson	2	5/19-6/19	MTWR	10:00-12:00	MC B31	24 1
445 545	1	Children's Literature Workshop	Thompson, Ma	1	6/16 6/17	MT	9:00-4:30 8:30-3:00	At-wood	30 30

Summer Session II, June 30 – August 8

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Dates	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
404 504	1	Instructional Design I	Staff	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	7:30-9:25	MC B18	6 6
404 504	2	Instructional Design I Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required	Staff	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	7:30-9:25	MC B18	6 7
414 514	1	Technology Integration Face to face class 7/14, North Branch Education Center Room 126. Remaining class meet through distance technology. Some synchronous meeting required	Staff	3	7/14-8/6	MW	1:00-5:50	EB A124	5 20

** Continue on the next page

IM Class	Sec	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Dates	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
422 522	2	Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Staff	2	6/30-7/31	MTWR	10:00-11:55	EB A124	24 1
486 586	1	Seminar: Digital Photography		1	6/27, 7/11	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12 13
486 586	2	Seminar: Web Design		1	7/18, 7/25	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12 13
486 586	3	Seminar: App and Game Design		1	8/1, 8/8	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12 13
608	1	Research Methods in Media	Anderson	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	12:30-2:25	MC B17	12
608	2	Research Methods in Media	Anderson	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	12:30-2:25	MC B17	13
612	1	Technology in the Workplace	Thompson, Me	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	7:30-9:25	MC B17	12
612	2	Technology in the Workplace Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Me	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	7:30-9:25	MC B17	13
621	1	Reading, Listening, & Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Children	Thompson, Ma	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	10:00-11:55	MC B17	12
621	2	Reading, Listening, & Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Children Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Ma	3	6/30-7/31	MTWR	10:00-11:55	MC B17	13

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Information Media News



Information Media

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