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“Plugging into a New Era”



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Chair's corner

Dr. Mert Thompson

Greetings!

As I start to write this I can look out my window and see the beautiful sight of over a foot of snow on this mid-November morning. While some grumble about what they see as the early onset of winter and evidence of a new era of global climate change it seems perfectly normal to me that the ground should be white and the temperature in the teens for highs at this time of year. I find a green (or brown) Thanksgiving to be almost as depressing as a brown Christmas. The theme chosen for this newsletter is **Plugging into a New Era**. But this column is not about climate change, it is more about the new era in the field of education and training.

The department is plugging into a new era with a brand new administrative assistant, Kim Rose. Kim is the permanent replacement for Tebra Petersen and began in the position in October. Although new to the position of administrative assistant, Kim brings a wealth of experience to the position and she is a very quick study. We welcome Kim to the department and look forward to many productive years working together.

Another example of plugging into a new era is the opportunity for the

department and the School of Education to partner with institutions around the world. Dean Alawiye, Dr. John Eller from the department of Higher Education and Education Administration, and I spent a week in Limerick, Ireland talking to the students, faculty and administration of Mary Immaculate College about possible student exchanges, faculty exchanges and cooperative faculty research. Mary Immaculate is the largest preparer of elementary education teachers in Ireland. The opportunity for our two institutions to work together to provide opportunities for our students and faculty looks bright.

Another example that we are living in a new era is the proliferation of 1:1 mobile technology initiatives in the K-12 world. For example, Neil Andruschak, Digital Learning Specialist in Little Falls Schools stopped by my office a few days ago. Little Falls is now 1:1 with iPads K-12. If that is not evidence we are living in a new era, I am not sure what would be. Think about how different the world of a six-year today is compared to just a few years ago and we are only 1/7 of the way into the 21st Century. I firmly believe we are finally moving education away from the 19th century factory model. I guess you could say that the 20th century was a marvelous time (speaking as a person born at the mid point of the century) and showed much change. **(continued p.2)**

For example, in the field of transportation, we went from horses as the main mode of moving about to walking (on the moon, that is!) in less than 2/3s of the century. However, not so much real change in the field of education. Maybe the 21st century is our time!

As we consider the learning environment that K-12 students are in, we also have to consider what we need to do in higher education to keep pace. I find it hard to believe that a student having spent four or more years learning in a problem based environment, with immediate access to information from around the world through a person mobile device will be willing to come to a university and sit down for a lecture of 50 or more minutes at a time to become "educated." As a small step to plugging into this new era, three faculty from the department, Kristen Carlson, Marcia Thompson and I are leading a project to assist a dozen School of Education faculty to more fully integrate new tech-



nologies and technology standards into their teaching (see article below). We will enlist the help of four K-12 technology integrationists and library media specialists in this effort. The semester long project will be launched in January and will culminate in an open house in which the faculty will showcase how they have changed their teaching/learning environments to better take advantage of the technologies available and meet the needs of the university students of this new era.

These are exciting times and it is the desire of the IM faculty to do everything we can to take advantage of opportunities available to us and fully plug into the new era. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Technology Improvement Grant

By Kristen Carlson, Assistant Professor



in SCSU teacher licensure areas. The purpose of the mini-grant is to assist faculty members in more fully integrating 21st century skills into their teaching. Faculty participants receive a stipend, technology hardware, and software for their willingness to engage.



Faculty member participants will engage with a variety of instructional technologies, the ISTE standards, and current

P-12 teachers with technology integration experience. Over the academic year, the cohort will meet a total of six half-days to allow them the experience and collaboration needed to become an innovative educator.

Faculty members within the department of Information Media have been awarded a \$14,600 technology improvement grant through the Teacher Preparation Initiative. The grant will help to create a cohort of twelve-university faculty who teach courses

IM New Graduate Assistants



Amy Arends

I grew up in Ogilvie, MN and currently reside in St. Cloud. I got married on Oct. 11th 2014 to Jon Fetting. I received my B.A in Social Studies Education, Reconciliation Studies, and History from Bethel University.

I worked with Barron County Restorative Justice through AmeriCorps. During that time I worked with schools and social services in restorative truancy prevention, teen court, and victim-offender conferencing. Recently I worked with international boarding students through the Residence Life program at St. John's Preparatory School in Collegeville and served as a substitute teacher there as well.

I've also spent the past couple summers working with Upward Bound which assists first generation and low income students with college preparation. I was surprised to find that there were only a couple schools in MN offering courses that led to certification as a Library Media Specialist.

I grew up not far from the St. Cloud area so I knew it would be a great fit. I enjoy swimming, reading, hiking, and watching science fiction. I studied abroad in South Africa and I hope to travel to Latin America and Asia. My parents were and are a big influence – my mother taught elementary for over 30 years and I got to grow up in her classroom. One of my favorite books is Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.



Melanie Howe

I am from Rockville, MN (10 miles from St. Cloud). I have two older brothers and one younger. My family and I also have a German Shorthair Pointer, named Mollie. I got my undergraduate degree in Psychological Science at Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, MN. I went to Rocori High School, and did full time PSEO at St. Cloud State University my senior year at Rocori.

I have worked at a gas station, coffee shop, athletic office, and now work for a payroll and insur-

ance company in Waite Park, MN. I am also a Graduate Assistant for the Information Media department. I am very interested in how technology is integrated into companies and how individuals utilize the technology to increase their productivity. Also I am especially interested in how companies go about to increase their productivity without technology.

A favorite quote:
"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what your gonna get."
(Forrest Gump)

I thought going to graduate school here would be beneficial because the department has great reviews, and I get to live at home for free while trying to save money. I love doing anything outdoors (hiking, kayaking, camping, rock climbing), reading, watching movies, and traveling.

The farthest I have traveled to is Australia. I studied abroad in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. I am hoping to travel to Ireland, Greece, Brazil, and Chile.

My family overall has influenced me and motivated me to continue to do things that I love and that make me happy. When it comes to movies, musics, or books I have many favorites in all the different areas, it really just depends on my mood, but I have to admit that you can't beat Forrest Gump on a rainy day and big bowl of air-popcorn.

Alumni Profile



Jason Mu

The graduate studies at SCSU are undoubtedly the foundation of what I have achieved today. Besides the knowledge and skills about the instructional design and training that I have learned in the classroom, the graduate assistantship experience gave me a great chance to understand the insides of higher education in the U.S. Furthermore, the faculty and staff at IM were kind and warmhearted, which made me feel at home in this "foreign country". Also, because of that, I was able to fully dedicate to my studies and work at SCSU.

As a doctoral student, my research interest is in educational technology, especially mobile learning. I am fascinated by the development of technologies, and am always inspired by the huge potential of utilizing mobile devices to promote educational experience, which means that people can learn anywhere and anytime. Besides mobile learning, I am also involved in the research of distance learning and online learning. Last year, some colleagues in Tianjin Open University and I have published a book investigating the status quo of distance learning in China.



"Practice and Innovation of Global Open and Distance Education"

There are many people who have influenced me a lot during my life. However, in the educational setting, my former supervisor, George Gu would be in the first place of the list. He is the one who showed me the world of business training, and paved the road for my graduate studies at SCSU. Moreover, my advisor, Dr. Fred Hill, and my mentor, Dr. Jeanne Anderson also offered me tremendous help and support, which I would never forget.

I play basketball and badminton a lot during my spare time. I'm also a big fan of "Hearth Stone", a strategic card game developed by Blizzard. I really want to visit Japan. As an Aikidoka, the Hombu Dojo in Japan is the must visit place. Moreover, I try to visit at least one attractive place in the states every year, which is helping me better understand this country and its culture. The most important thing and favorite thing in my life is to enjoy every moment with my family.

My hometown is Tianjin, one of the largest harbor cities in China. I am the only child in my family, due to the birthday control policy in my home country.

I went to Tianjin University of Technology for my undergraduate studies, and I majored in business administration. After graduation, I got an internship at Ericsson Academy in Beijing. My supervisor at that time, George Gu, introduced me to the world of training and learning. And as a former student at SCSU, George referred me to the instructional design and training program in the Information Media Department. I was admitted at SCSU in 2008, and it took me almost three years to complete it (I worked full time for ISD 279 Osseo Area Schools for one year during this period).

Currently, I work for the Academic Technology Services at the University of Delaware (UD). My job is about the operation and maintenance of the learning management system at UD. At the same time, I am also the instructional design consultant and/or educational technology specialist for the staff and faculty.

Brenda's Misadventure

If you are in licensure classes, you may have taken classes with Brenda Brusegard. Brenda, an undergraduate alum of SCSU and formerly a middle school teacher and technology integration specialist in Minneapolis, has a curiosity for life and a love of travel. In the fall of 2014, Brenda started a two-year stint teaching 7th grade science at the American

School of Quito in Ecuador. We have just recently heard from Brenda that she, along with three colleagues, was involved in a serious coach accident at the end of October. We thought you might be interested in reading about her "misadventure" as she calls it. She has blogged about the accident at: <http://tinyurl.com/p8xo3jn>

All the best to Brenda as she recovers and returns to the classroom in the New Year.

Children's Literature Workshop... The End of an Era

By Marcia Thompson, Assistant Professor

When June, 2015 arrives, there will be an empty spot on the calendar in the Information Media Department. After much consideration, it has been decided that after 35 years, the annual Children's Literature Workshop will be discontinued. The CLW has struggled to maintain attendance over the past several years. It reached the point that in order to continue the CLW, there would have to be a significant cut in the quality of the programming. That was not a compromise that anyone involved with the CLW was willing to make, thus the decision to discontinue.



Started in 1980 under the direction of the late Doreen Keable and now retired LRS librarian Jerry Westby, the CLW has hosted a long list of notables in the world of children's literature. These include Patricia Polacco, Richard Peck, Jack Prelutsky, Jerry Pinkney, Rosemary Wells, Tomi dePaola...the list goes on and on. In addition to the notable authors dozens of talented practitioners have conducted workshop and booktalk sessions. Sandra Williams joined Jerry Westby as a coordinator in 1987 and Chris Inkster joined as a coordinator in 1989. Jerry retired in 1996. Sandra and Chris continued to coordinate until 2011, when Merton and I assumed leadership.

Over 35 years, the changes in the world of children's literature, education, and librarianship have

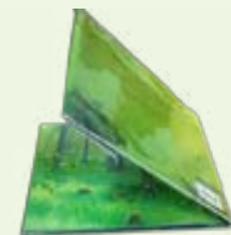
been many. The decline in attendance started with the general economic decline in 2008, and it never recovered. With so many school districts today doing professional development totally "in-house," there is little in the way of professional development funds available for external events such as the CLW. There also appears to be a loss of interest in engaging with authors on a personal basis, perhaps because it is so easy to find author interviews and other information on it delivered via a medium such as



YouTube or to have been conducted via a medium such as Skype.

It is difficult not to feel a sense of personal defeat in this announcement. But I honestly believe that

we exhausted every reasonable avenue for continuing the CLW. I must be content with the fact that 35 years is a good run, and as my daughter told me, it takes vision to be able to let go of the past.



Hurl /IM Student Workers



Akouvi Deborah

My name is Akouvi Debora Victoire Ocloo, but I go by Debora. I was born in Togo; however, my family is originally from Ghana. My Mom, my sisters, and I moved to St. Cloud eight (almost nine) years ago to join our Dad. I currently live in St. Cloud with my family. I attended Madison Elementary school, North Junior High School, and I graduated from Apollo High School. I am currently a junior at SCSU studying Criminal Justice. Right now, I am a full time student, and I work part-time as an Office Assistant for the Human Relations and Multicultural Education Department and Information Media Department. My passion is helping and serving people, the reason why I am studying Criminal Justice.

Outside of work and school, I love being outdoors/indoors. I love going to Church, and I am also involved in church activities. I love spending time with my family. I also love reading, watching soccer,

football, gymnastics, swimming, hockey... Besides traveling back home to Togo and Ghana, I have also traveled to Ivory Coast. In the states, I have been to Wisconsin. I really love traveling and I would love to one day get the opportunity to travel to many countries in six of the seven continents. My dream would be to visit Canada, Caribbeans, Hawaii, Australia, India, Brazil, South Africa, etc... I would also love to take a road trip through the states.

My Christian faith has had a lot of influence on my life and I don't know where I would be without it. My family has also been a great influence on my life particularly, my parents. My family has taught me to never quit no matter how hard things get. The teachers I have had over the years from elementary through High School have had a lot of positive impacts on my life. Counselors and advisors I had, have also inspired me.

Some of my favorite's authors would have to be Sarah Dessen, Meg Cabot, Stephanie Perkins, E. Lockhart, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Paul Langan, Anne Schraff, D. M. Blackwell, etc... These are just several of the authors I really like and whose books I absolutely love. My favorite topics would probably be culture and languages because I like learning about other cultures and traditions, and I would also love to learn other languages. But in general I just like talking about whatever comes up to talk about when I'm having a conversation with someone. My favorite websites are probably Google because it's my go to search engine, Twitter because it's better than Facebook, YouTube because I use it to watch a lot of videos and do homework sometimes.

Trip to Ireland



From Left to right: Mert Thompson, Osman Alawiye, Councillor Michael Sheehan, & John Eller

Hurl /IM Student Workers



Mai Kaying Yang

I am from the Twin Cities and live in Brooklyn Center with my family. My parents are from Laos and Thailand. It was a long journey for my parents to have me here today. Also, English is my second language and Hmong is my first language. I'm a second year student at St. Cloud

State University. I came to SCSU because it is a small campus, and staff have been very helpful in guiding me through my first year of college. I am currently working as a Student Office Assistant in Human Relations & Multicultural Education/ Information Media. I enjoy working in the office because I get to interact and assist students and faculty with their questions. I may not have the answers to their questions right way but I provide them with the best resources available.

My parents are my biggest influence because they are the ones who brought me here to the US to get an education and have a better life.

The weather, working out, listen to music, play sports, and hanging out with friends are some of the things that I am interested in outside of school. I've traveled to California, Michigan and Wisconsin. I also hope to travel to other states, as well as to Laos/Thailand next year in the fall semester. My favorite book is "The Late Home-comer", by Kalia Yang. Also my favorite websites are YouTube, Facebook and my Email.

Hurl/ IM Administrative Assistant



Kimberly Rose

I have lived in St. Cloud and now Sartell, MN (originally Melrose, MN). I have one son that is in

high school at Sartell. My educational background is a graduate of Melrose High School and a graduate with a Clerical Degree from St. Cloud Vocational School. I have spent most of my career working for the paper mill in Sartell. I went through several name changes for the mill from St. Regis to Champion to International Paper to finally Verso Paper until the time that the mill started struggling. After the paper mill struggles I needed to find another job and looking at doing something different other than manufacturing.

An opportunity came for a job in Records & Registration at SCSU so I was in that position for a little over two years before being hired as the office manager for HURL and IM Departments. My hobbies are as follows: like sports, watching movies, traveling and spending time with family and friends. My travels have taken me to a lot of states within the United States including Hawaii. I have also been to the Virgin Islands, Bahamas, and about 8 trips to Mexico.

IM Graduate Offering Plan 2013-2017*

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

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

Information Media Spring Schedule, 2015

Undergraduate/Graduate Classes

IM Class	Sec	Course ID	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
260	1		Exploring Digital Media	Anderson	3	TR	9:30 – 10:45	MC 206	32
260	2		Exploring Digital Media	Carlson	3	TR	11:00 – 12:15	MC 206	32
260	3		Exploring Digital Media	Carlson	3	TR	12:30 – 1:45	MC 206	32
404	1		Instructional Design I	Thompson, Me	3	R	5:00 – 7:30	MC B17	6
404	2		Instructional Design I	Thompson, Me	3	R	5:00 – 7:30	MC B17	6
404	504		Instructional Design I Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Me	3	R	5:00 – 7:30	MC B17	7
421	2		Information, Technology, and Learning for Elementary Education	Thompson, Ma	2	MW	10:00 – 11:50	EB A124	24
521									1
422	1		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Carlson	2	TR	9:30-10:45	EB A124	24
522									1
422	2		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Thompson, Me	2	TR	12:30-1:45	EB A124	23
522									2
422	3		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Thompson, Me	2	TR	2:00-3:15	EB A124	23
522									2
456	56		Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations II	Carlson	3	W	5:00 – 10:00	EB A124	12
556			First class meeting in North Branch, remaining classes meet through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.				March 18 – May 13 (No Class April 1) North Branch Cohort		13

Graduate Only Classes

IM Class	Sec	Course ID	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
554	1		Developing Skills for Online Teaching and Learning Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Carlson	3	M	5:00 – 7:40	MC B17	25
608	1		Research Methods in Media	Anderson	3	R	5:00 – 7:40	MC B18	12
608	2		Research Methods in Media Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Anderson	3	R	5:00 – 7:40	MC B18	13
625	1		Reading, Listening, Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Young Adults	Thompson, Ma	3	T	5:00 – 7:30	MC B17	10
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 – 7:30	MC B17	15
638	1		Organizational Training and Media Management	Anderson	3	T	5:00 – 7:30	MC B18	12
638	2		Organizational Training and Media Management Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Anderson	3	T	5:00 – 7:30	MC B18	13

Graduate Internship and Practicum

IM Class	Sec	Course ID	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Enrollment Cap
680	1		Internship in Media Permission Required: Please contact the dept. for more information	Staff	2-6	Arr.
681	1		Internship in Technology Integration Permission Required: Please contact the dept. for more information	Thompson, Me	2-6	Arr.
682	1	002405	Library Media Specialist Practicum Permission Required: Please contact the dept. for more information	Thompson, Ma	1-6	Arr.

Summer Session I, May 18 - June 26

IM Class	Sec	Course ID	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Dates	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
260	1		Exploring Digital Media	Carlson	3	5/18-6/18	MTWR	12:30-2:30	MC 206	30
422	1		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education. Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Carlson	2	5/18-6/18	MTWR	10:00-12:00	EB A124	24
522	1		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education. Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Carlson	2	5/18-6/18	MTWR	10:00-12:00	EB A124	1
455	1		Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I	Staff	3	5/18-6/18	MW	5:00-9:15 pm	EB A124	4
455	2		Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I. Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Staff	3	5/18-6/18	MW	5:00-9:15 pm	EB A124	4
555	1		Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I	Staff	3	5/18-6/18	MW	5:00-9:15 pm	EB A124	8
555	2		Design and Preparation of Multimedia Presentations I. Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Staff	3	5/18-6/18	MW	5:00-9:15 pm	EB A124	9

Vera W. Russell Curriculum Technology Center



Summer Session II, June 29 - August 7

IM Class	Sec	Course ID	Course Title	Instructor	Credits	Dates	Days	Time	Room	Enrollment Cap
414	1		Technology Integration	Thompson, Me	3	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	MTWR	7:30-9:25	EB A124	4
414	2		Technology Integration Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Me	3	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	MTWR	7:30-9:25	EB A124	4
422	2		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Staff	2	6/29-7/30	MTWR	10:00-11:55	EB A124	24
486	1		Seminar: Digital Photography	Staff	1	6/26, 7/10	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12
486	2		Seminar: Web Design	Staff	1	7/17, 7/24	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12
486	3		Seminar: App and Game Design	Staff	1	8/1, 8/7	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	12
514	1		Technology Integration	Thompson, Me	3	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	MTWR	7:30-9:25	EB A124	8
514	2		Technology Integration Course meets through distance technology. Some synchronous meetings required.	Thompson, Me	3	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	MTWR	7:30-9:25	EB A124	9
522	2		Information, Technology, and Learning for K-12 and 5-12 Education	Staff	2	6/29-7/30	MTWR	10:00-11:55	EB A124	1
586	1		Seminar: Digital Photography	Staff	1	6/26, 7/10	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	13
586	2		Seminar: Web Design	Staff	1	7/17, 7/24	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	13
586	3		Seminar: App and Game Design	Staff	1	7/31, 8/7	F	8:00-4:30	EB A124	13
612	1		Technology in the Workplace Face to face class 7/7, North Branch Education Center Room 126. Remaining class meet through distance technology. Some synchronous meeting required	Thompson, Me	3	7/7-7/30	MTWR	12:30-3:00	MC B17	25
621	1		Reading, Listening, & Viewing Guidance and Selection of Resources for Children	Thompson, Ma	3	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	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	6/22-7/30 No classes 6/29-7/2	MTWR	10:00-11:55	MC B17	13



What's New in the CTC

By Amy Fettig, Graduate Assistant



Greetings from the Curriculum and Technology Center!

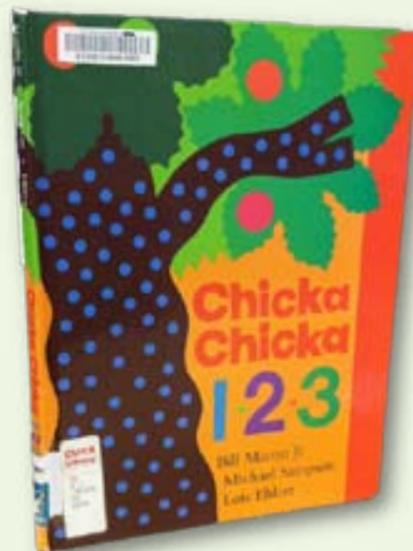
If you have not spent time in the CTC recently we've got exciting news. We are continuing our transition to a new circulation system – Follet Destiny. This means that you can search for books and other resources online by title, keyword, author, and more.

Just follow this link to get started: www.bit.ly/scsuctc Currently, all of our children's literature is available to search in Destiny and we are working hard to import all of our curriculum and professional development materials as well. Using this new library management system means more efficient check-out and check-in processes and it simplifies our cataloging, inventory and reporting practices.

Destiny also allows us to take a closer look at which resources are utilized and which are our most popular. A couple of our top children's titles from this past semester include: The Color of Home by Mary Hoffman, Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3 by Bill Martin, and Pete the Cat and his four groovy buttons by Eric

Litwin. If you have books or other materials you'd like to see added to our collection– drop a note in our suggestion box out front or chat with any of our staff. We'd love to hear from you!

Don't forget we also have great technology resources to check out like iPads, iPods, cameras, GPS, digital microscopes and more.



Follet Destiny Screenshot

Adjunct Faculty Profile



Marlene Miller

I am originally from the St. Cloud area. I have traveled extensively and lived in a few other states, but I presently live in the country near St. Cloud with my husband, Scott and my twin children, Mitch and Malea who are in 7th grade. We also have an 18 year old daughter, Mariah, who is a sophomore at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California.

I attended St. Cloud State University (SCSU) for my undergraduate education where I studied education and information media (IM). My graduate and post-graduate work was through SCSU, University of Saint Thomas and Saint Mary's University. My areas of study were in the fields of education, information media, technology and communication studies.

I was employed as a media specialist and technology educator for District 742 Schools for a number of years. During that time, I also assisted in the development and teaching of several graduate level technology classes for working educators in order to provide them with the skills needed to incorporate technology into their classrooms. These classes were offered through SCSU as well as the University of Saint Thomas. Another position which I have held in the past includes serving as a regional and national trainer for some of the nation's largest companies.

I traveled extensively throughout the United States to train and inspire new employees, as well as assist in the launch of new products and departments. I currently work as an instructor at St Cloud

Technical and Community College as well as SCSU. I teach for a number of departments: Information Media, Communication Studies, Business, Administrative Support and Computer Science / Technology.

When I was an undergraduate work-study student for the SCSU IM Department, I was impressed with the knowledge, as well positive impact that the faculty had upon the students. At that time, I set a future goal of becoming a faculty member for the department. When offered a position, I was thrilled to accept!

I attend the electronic media conference in Las Vegas, Nevada which is always an interesting event with cutting edge technology. I attend this annual event on a regular basis. I also have attended countless technology, educational, as well as business related conferences.

Greg Bruestle (retired school media specialist and college educator) influenced me. He is a great role model for collaboration, communication, entrepreneurship and empathy. I enjoy all different types of music. My choice at any particular time depends on the situation, as well as my mood. However, if I am concentrating on something, I like total silence. I prefer educational, motivational, self-improvement books, to nonfiction books. I am truly a life-long learner. When I read, I always have the goal of improving myself or learning something. On that same note, I rarely watch TV or a movie, but when I do, I prefer educational or shows based on real situations.

When in meetings or discussions, I enjoy topics regarding how something can be improved. I constantly seek ways to better myself or how I can contribute in a positive manner to the organization to which I belong. If the organization welcomes my input, I am a great "brainstormer" and am good at "thinking outside the box." I enjoy new projects as well as refining existing ones. I enjoy whitewater rafting, skiing, reading, spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy finding time for a rare relaxing day or evening at the lake.

I have traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, France, the Caribbean Islands and almost all of the 50 United States. I would like to go to China at some point in the future and have my twins serve as my interpreters.

"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out"
John Wooden

Adjunct Faculty Profile



Gwen Toppe

I was fortunate to be able to live in Oregon, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Illinois before moving to Minnesota, but I consider myself to be from Portland, OR. I currently live in Big Lake, Minnesota with my husband, Tim. We have two adult children, our daughter Amanda lives in St. Cloud, and our son, Garrett lives in Blaine.

I completed my undergraduate work at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville with a BS in Education. I then earned my MA in 1998 from SCSU in Information Media. I enjoy continuing my education any chance I get and have taken many technology related courses at several area colleges and universities.

I started my career teaching physical education and art at the high school level. After my family relocated, I then taught physical education and technology classes at a private elementary school in central Illinois. When we moved to Minnesota in 1996, I needed to further my education and I decided to attend SCSU and earned my MA in Information Media as a Library Media Specialist. I am currently a Media Specialist at Big Lake High School and have been an adjunct instructor at a couple of area institutions.

I have a passion for technology and enjoy assisting others in learning new technologies that will help them in their chosen field. Professional development and technology integration are areas that I like to pursue. Also, my graduate research was on Internet safety.

Fortunately, I have been able to attend the

MEMO and TIES conferences on a regular basis. I've presented at the TIES and MEMO conferences on the transition program we have developed for incoming freshmen at Big Lake High School. One main focus of our program is a web based goal setting program called Tel.A.Vision. In addition, last year I gave a presentation at the TIES conference on Thinkfinity and how it can be used to find educationally appropriate materials that are aligned with state and national standards.

I am very passionate about reaching out to a wide variety of students to help them have a successful educational experience. I use my love of technology to promote programs that will get students involved. At Big Lake High School we've partnered with Webcast America to allow students the opportunities to experience the broadcasting field. Students also have other video and broadcasting opportunities with our in-house Hornet Broadcasting Network.

I'm also very passionate about providing professional development opportunities for staff members at Big Lake Public Schools. There is always something to learn and my goal is to provide a wide range of opportunities for staff to learn about new tools and instructional methods so they can integrate more technology into their curriculum.

I've traveled all across the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean and hope to travel to South America. I also, enjoy experimenting with all kinds of creative photography.

I have had many teachers, coaches, professors and colleagues that have influenced me throughout my career. They have all played a part in who I am today and motivated me to work hard to meet my goals and to help others along the way.

My favorite authors are James Patterson, Janet Evanovich and Will Hobbs. Sister Act and Ghost are my all-time favorite movies. Pink, Shakira, Bruno Mars and Adele are some of my favorite musical artists.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to be an adjunct faculty member at SCSU. Working with future teachers is proving to be a very rewarding experience.

Upcoming Events

- ISTE International Society for Technology in Education
June 28- July 1, 2015, Philadelphia, PA
<https://www.isteconference.org/2015/>
- TIES Conference
December 6-9, Minneapolis, MN
<http://ties2014.ties.k12.mn.us/>
- ASTD American Society for Training and Development changing to ATD, Association for Training Development, ATD TechKnowledge Conference
January 14-16, 2015, Las Vegas, NV
<https://www.td.org/Events/Techknowledge-Conference>
- SCSU Spring Classes
January 12- May 8, 2015
- SCSU Summer Session I classes
May 18- June 26, 2015
- SCSU Summer Session II classes
June 29- August 7, 2015
- AASL, American Association of School Librarians
November 5-8, 2015, Columbus, OH
<http://www.ala.org/aasl/conferences>
- ALA, American Library Association Conference
June 25-30, 2015, San Francisco, CA
<http://ala14.ala.org>

If you would like to read previous issues of the Information Media Newsletter, please go to:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/im/news/default.asp>

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.

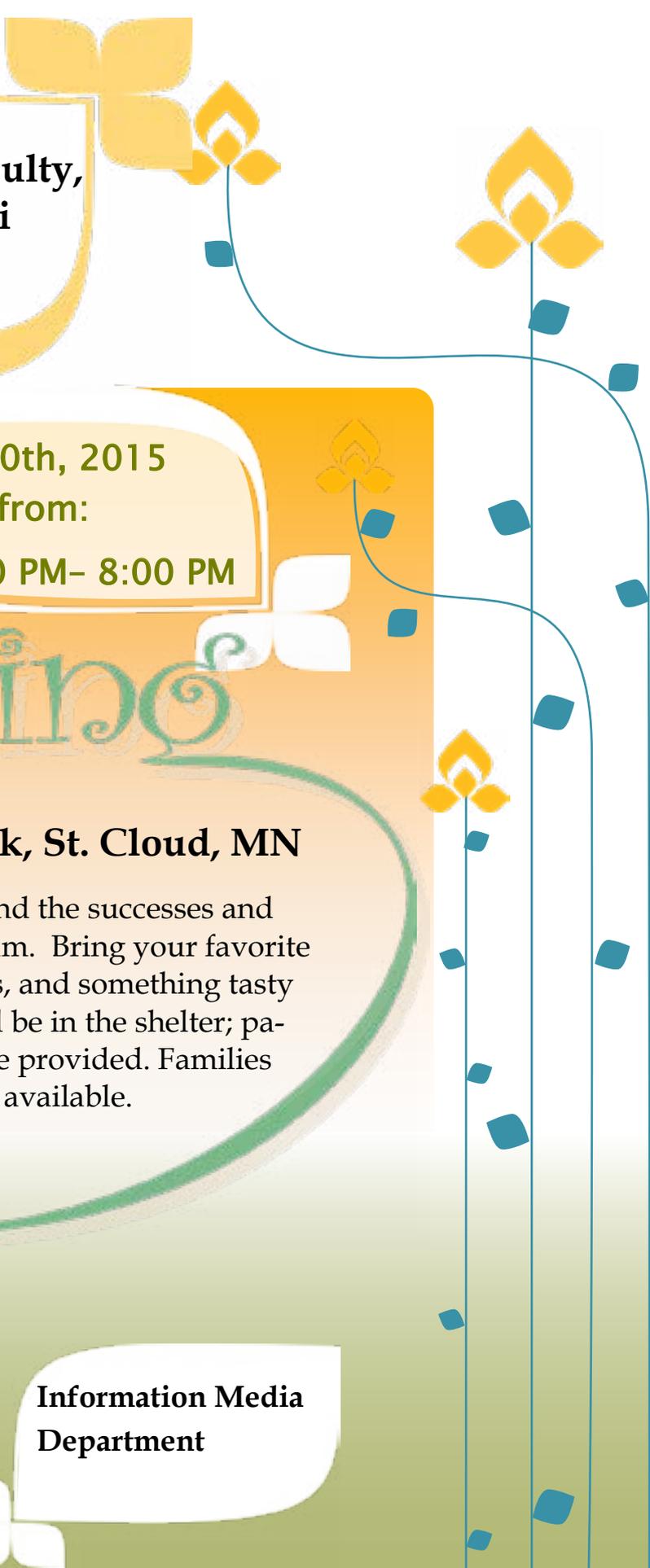
Please go to [this website](#) for more information on the scholarships/awards opportunities and applications. Scholarship applications are due **February 1, 2015**.

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The organization formally known as the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) is changing their name to Association for Training Development (ATD)




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**First Annual IM Faculty,
Student and Alumni
Potluck Picnic**

**April 30th, 2015
from:
4:00 PM– 8:00 PM**

Spring

Riverside Park, St. Cloud, MN

We will celebrate spring and the successes and longevity of the IM program. Bring your favorite stories, your old memories, and something tasty to share. Picnic dinner will be in the shelter; paper goods and plastic-ware provided. Families are welcome. Playground available.

**Information Media
Department**

Contact Information

The Information Media Department faculty and staff welcome news of events, issues, and current and former students. To forward news items or change of address information, please contact:

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