

The MONDAY REPORT

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May 16, 2005

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NOTES FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

The story below about the restored one-room schoolhouse seeking a wood stove brought back a lot of memories. I spent my first year in school among the last group of students attending kindergarten in the building that had been the community's one-room schoolhouse. In my memory, it looked very much like the schoolhouse that graces EMU's campus, but with slightly updated furniture and a swing outside. I loved my days there.

I also have a lot of experience with woodstoves. Many years ago—when heating oil prices were too high for country teachers' salaries—I started every winter morning by piling wood in my household stove. Thankfully, our school had central heat!

Thinking back, it seems such a different world. I could hardly have imagined my house today—with microwave, DVD player, computer and even air conditioning. Similarly, there are some things about teaching today that would have been hard for me to imagine then. Certainly the technology, the abundant visual imagines, and the wealth of information resources would have astounded me. But even so, as I reminisce for a bit, it strikes me that the things at the core of the teaching/learning exchange haven't changed.

The best of all teaching has always occurred when a teacher with passion for a subject shared that passion with a student he or she knew and cared deeply about. How strange to think that so many of the needs of our most challenging schools today—some in impoverished urban centers, some in places not so different than my first rural teaching job—parallel those that shaped

the activities in the century-old school next door.

Teaching is a rigorous act of faith.—Susan Ohanian

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.—Albert Einstein

The test of a good teacher is not how many questions he can ask his pupils that they will answer readily, but how many questions he inspires them to ask him which he finds it hard to answer. —Alice Wellington Rollins

CRIS SPONSORS LESSON STUDY WORKSHOP

The Center for Research on the Internet in Schools (CRIS) invites teachers from across the state to attend a conference on lesson study in math education. The conference, to be held June 24-25 at the Wayne County RESA, is free for practicing and preservice teachers. All attendees will receive a \$50 gift certificate. EMU is sponsoring this event under a grant from the Michigan Department of Education. For more information and registration information, see <http://www.emich.edu/cris/lessonstudy> or contact Joanne Caniglia (jcaniglia@emich.edu) or Ellen Hoffman (ehoffman@emich.edu).

2005-2006 BREHM SCHOLARS ANNOUNCED

The 2005-2006 awardees of the Brehm scholarships have been announced. The Brehm endowed scholarships, provided through the generosity of Dee and Bill Brehm, support prospective teachers of special education. They represent the largest single scholarship gift donated to Eastern Michigan University. Needless to say, we continue to be abundantly grateful for the Brehms and their generosity. The Brehm Scholars for the coming year are:

Julie Brehmer, from Brighton, MI, a major in

the area of Cognitive Impairment
Heather Castle, from Algonac, MI, a major in the area of Hearing Impairment
Arielle Foust, from Findlay, OH, a major in the area of Speech/Language Pathology
Melissa "Missy" Heuker, from Dayton, OH, a major in the area of Cognitive Impairment, and in the area of Learning Disabilities.
Mae-Yong Ogletree, from Livonia, MI, a major in the area of Cognitive Impairment.
Megan Papke, from Allen Park, MI, a major in the area of Visual Impairment
Adam Shahin, from Ann Arbor, MI, a major in the area of Emotional Impairment.
Marliese Temme, from Casper, WY, a major in the area of Cognitive Impairment.
Rajshree Thakore, from Novi, MI, a major in the area of Cognitive Impairment.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Two COE alumni were recognized at the 44th Annual Alumni Association Awards Ceremony, April 30. **Annette Sabo Johnson** was presented with the Alumni Achievement Award, a recognition given to alumni who "have achieved distinction in their chosen field, clearly demonstrated the value of their college education and maintained a continuing interest in Eastern Michigan University." Johnson has worked for the Olathe, KS schools since 2005, serving, among other things, as facilitator of the district's International Studies 21st Century Curriculum. She is an active volunteer, both for EMU and community service organizations.

The John W. Porter Award Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Rick Ross**. This award is given to "individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Eastern Michigan University or the Alumni Association of Eastern Michigan University." Ross has had a 30-year career with the Lincoln Consolidated Schools, serving as a teacher, counselor, coach, and administrator. As an alum, Ross was the co-founder and first vice president of the EMU Black Alumni Chapter and has served on EMU Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

SEEKING A STOVE

One of the noteworthy fixtures on the EMU landscape is the Town Hall School, a one-room

schoolhouse. The school is site to college classes and numerous groups of school children learning about schools long ago. Built in 1895 for a cost of \$677.50, Town Hall School was moved to campus in 1987. Since that time, Friends of the Schoolhouse have worked to gather original and period pieces to furnish the building. The original bell was located and returned to the school several years ago. Now the Friends are seeking to locate or replace the original Round Oak wood stove. If you know of an individual with such a stove who might be willing to donate it to a loving home, please call 734-487-1414.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

According to the *Ann Arbor News*, alum **David Gibson**, a middle school teacher in Tecumseh, is a school board member in the Clinton district. He is running for re-election.

Alum **Jennifer Fontenot** was featured in a recent story in the *Garden City Observer*. A teacher at Henry Ruff Elementary School, Fontenot was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award from the American Legion Department of Michigan for her work in teaching the state's Core Democratic Values. The award recognizes the work she has done in producing student DVDs on such topics as diversity and patriotism.

One project that caught the judges' attention was a "diversity project," that emerged from a negative comment made by one child to another. "I felt I needed to do something," Fonenot said, "It was a perfect place for the students to take a stand and defend it."

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

On April 22, **Ron Williamson** gave the keynote address at the Association of British Columbia Middle School Conference in Vancouver. The topic was "Creating and Sustaining High-performing Middle Schools."

Irene Allen (emeritus) presented "The Importance and Use of Nonfiction Trade Books in the Primary Curriculum" at the 50th Annual International Reading Association Conference held in San Antonio, TX.

Jerry Robbins, former dean, conducted a concert of the Ypsilanti Community Band on May 3. In addition, using a guest conductor, he

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played the solo part for a concerto for trombone and band on this program.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The College of Education Fall Conference for the 2005-2006 academic year will be held Tuesday, September 6 8:30-1:00 in the Porter Building. Classes begin Wednesday September 7.

OPPORTUNITIES

4th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education January 6 - 9, 2006 Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu Hawaii, USA
Proposal Deadline: August 18, 2005

THEME STATEMENTS

Caring professional educators for a diverse and democratic society. (CPED²S) (Initial program)

Inquiry, advocacy, and leadership in education for a diverse and democratic society. (Advanced programs)