

IUP Counseling Department Newsletter

" A s e m i

alumni and students "



Welcome to this edition of the Dept. of Counseling Newsletter. A busy and emotion-filled fall semester is winding down and as usual there is lots to report. At our Department Retreat, in early September, the faculty decided to identify as our #1 goal for this academic year, to commit to the enhancement of our caring community - this includes our caring for each other, our students, and others who are outside of the department. Of course, we had no idea of the tragedies that would happen a few days later, on September 11th, bringing much need for "caring" in our communities throughout the nation. We hope all of you have received the caring and love needed during these difficult times.

We are in the process of completing the department's five-year self-study under the leadership of Dr. LAmoreaux. Data collection was conducted during the fall semester, and external reviewers will visit during spring semester of 2002. A final report will be completed by the end of spring, with the follow-up action plan to be completed in the summer of 2002.

We have proposed to add 2.5 full-time tenure-track faculty as a result of the success of the Monroeville M.A. program, which now has enrolled 60 students. We are optimistic that our request will be approved and therefore we are continuing with recruiting efforts for a 4th Monroeville cohort for fall 2002. The 1st cohort will graduate this summer.

We hope you find this issue of the Newsletter informative, and we look forward to hearing from you about your professional and personal activities.

Hempfield Guidance Program Recognized!

Hempfield Area School District has been selected as one of the nationally recognized exemplary models of the "Implementation of the National Standards for School Counseling Programs" and has been recognized for efforts to promote excellence in school counseling.

Hempfield's Guidance Department Chairperson, **Dr. Dennis Clawson** and nine counselors from the district are graduates of the IUP Counseling Department. These individuals are: **Matt Mulvihill, Carla Livermore, Dom Vaccaro, Bill Swan, Tom McGuire, Lisa Piccar-Maloney, Carolyn Ryan, Ray Killen, and Roger Downs.**

To receive national recognition from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), Hempfield had to complete an application process that involved developing a guidance program that addressed all criteria identified by ASCA. This involved supplying the mission statement, program goals, program assessment worksheets, and role descriptions of the guidance counselors.

The program assessment worksheets expanded upon the competencies that ASCA has developed that emphasize areas of student growth and development. These areas include academic, career, and personal/social development.

Alumni Spotlight: Kathy O'Rourke
Diversity Groups (continued)

and in 2001 more than 230 students from 15 area districts attended.

I specifically chose the "Diversity Group" concept for this article because of a series of letters I received from former group members on the occasion of my retirement in July 2001. Some of the comments from these letters included, "The Diversity Group changed my life", "I truly believe I found myself as a result of the Diversity Group", "If I could touch one life in the way you touched mine, I would call my life a success." And, "The spark that lived inside me to help people has been fueled into a fire of determination." These are indeed, strong testaments to the value of the diversity group concept in our schools.

Before retiring, Kathy O'Rourke was the Counseling Dept. chairperson and Coordinator of Comprehensive Prevention/Intervention Services for the Altoona Area School District. She can be contacted for further information about the use of Diversity Groups at korourke@forspeed.com.

**A Message to Our Secondary
School Counselors
From Dr. Ed Nardi,
Associate Dean
College of Education and
Educational Technology**

It's that time of the year when we in the profession are busy assisting students in making good decisions about their future. We all recognize the importance of a quality education and of our role to instill in them a vision of higher education. I often have the opportunity to talk with students and parents about the profession of teaching as they visit during IUP Exploration Days. These are the students you have counseled and encouraged to apply to colleges. These students are among your successes in that you have opened the door and given them an opportunity to improve the quality of their life.

As we all are very much aware, the criteria to enter teacher preparation programs across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to be granted certification has been increased by Pennsylvania Department of Education. While IUP has always produced outstanding teachers, it is important that we seek to identify quality applicants who have



From left to right: Drs. Rishel, Dandeneau, Fontaine,
x, Worzbyt, and Witchel

Dr. Dandeneau Dr. Dandeneau continues her work as department chairperson and has been recently nominated to serve another three-year term as chairperson. As you recall, Dr. Dandeneau was being considered for tenure and promotion last academic year. She has great news to share. This past fall she was not only granted tenure, but she was also promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. She wishes to thank the department faculty, especially Drs. Fontaine, Witchel, & Worzbyt for all the support and encouragement that they have given to her since her arrival at IUP in 1995.

Dr. L'Amoreaux

Dr. Worzbyt recently completed a series of statewide trainings for the Pennsylvania Department of Education on risk management and driving safety. As co-author of the new *Pennsylvania Driver Education Training Curriculum*, he had the opportunity to assist driver education instructors in the use of a new risk management decision-making model that he developed. This model will be used in driver training programs throughout the state.

Other projects that are nearing completion include *Elementary School Counseling: A Blueprint for Today and Tomorrow* and *Teaching Children to Care*. Both books are slated for review and publication in spring 2002. A third project, *People Building in Five Minutes a Day* will be in final draft by summer 2002.

Dr. Worzbyt will be offering a series of one-day and half-day workshops in spring 2002 on *Caring Children Make Caring Choices* to interested elementary schools. A free 231 page curriculum binder will be provided to workshop participants. The binder can be reproduced and shared with other teachers in the same school district. A brochure describing the curriculum is available upon request. Interested elementary schools should contact Dr. Worzbyt at (724) 357-4537. Dr. Worzbyt will hope to offer a one-week workshop this summer (2002) at IUP on *Caring Children Build Caring Communities*. This program was offered for the first time last summer and was received with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Graduate Assistants

Erica Faye (M.Ed., Secondary), received a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Religion from Grove City College. As Dr. Fontaine's G.A., her duties include preparing the Counselor Link newsletter for students and helping to screen clients for the Individual Practicum class.

Chad Bender (M.A.), graduated from Widener University in Chester PA with a B.A. in Psychology. Chad is a GA at the Graduate School Admissions Office where he works with the files of domestic applicants to graduate programs, making sure they meet the admissions requirements.

Kim Stoklosa (M.Ed., Secondary) received her B.S. in Psychology from Saint Francis College. As Dr. Witchel's G.A., her duties include website maintenance and production of the department newsletter. Kim has been involved with a major overhaul of the department websites to meet IUP's new website standards.

Nicole Dunmire (M.Ed., Secondary) received a B.A. in Clinical Sociology from IUP in 1997. Nicole is Dr. LAmoreaux's G.A. and her duties include assisting with research, working with WebCT and data compilation of counseling program surveys.

Sharmeka Barrett (M.Ed., Elementary) graduated from

Alumni Feedback

We want to know what our alumni are doing – professional activities, publications, employment and so forth. We want to update our mailing list, and obtain e-mail addresses. We are interested in knowing about employment and internship opportunities for our current students. Please return this form (add additional sheet if needed):

Name _____ Year of Graduation _____ Degree _____
Address _____ Home phone _____
Work phone _____
E-mail _____
Place of Employment _____ Job Title _____
 Yes, I am interested in being added to the email list to be notified of counseling position openings.

CESA and the Advisory Board are planning a career week experience this spring.
 Yes, I am willing to participate in mock interviews or a job recruiting fair to be held on campus related to this career week experience.



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Department of Counseling