UW-Whitewater Preparing Teachers for Gifted and Talented Programs in Wisconsin

After attending a Challenging Advanced Learners Academy at UW-Whitewater, an administrator at the Baraboo District approached Drs. Scott Peters and Pam Clinkenbeard (Educational Foundations) to develop a model for a cohort of 25 teachers in their elementary and middle schools to complete a gifted and talented supplementary teaching license. The program consists of four courses which are delivered in a hybrid format - online and face-to-face in Baraboo schools during district-wide in-service days. Clinkenbeard has just finished teaching the first course in the sequence for the Baraboo cohort. UW-Whitewater collaborates with UW-Stevens Point to offer this licensure program and a variety of educational opportunities related to challenging advanced learners in PK-12 schools.

Districts and universities are collaborating to find ways to meet teachers’ needs in a time of limited resources and new licensing requirements. "Teachers have lost their incentive for training, which is forcing us in higher education to be more flexible and entrepreneurial in our training professional development offerings," Peters says. "Programs like this allow us to work with districts to give teachers an incentive to participate and meet the individual needs of schools in their area." Peters and Clinkenbeard are currently working with other districts throughout the state regarding future cohorts.

Students Give Back to Area Veterans and Community

Last fall, groups of students in Sue Wildermuth's Cross Cultural Communication class engaged in semester-long service-learning projects with local partner organizations. Jarred Donlon, Katelyn Klepper, Ashlee Lamers, Carolyn Larsen, and Travis OGallagher worked at Fairhaven Senior Services to collect the oral histories from four World War II veterans as part of the Fairhaven Veteran's History projects. They filmed interviews with the veterans, which are featured in a documentary produced as the final project for the class.

On April 21, the students' documentary "The Co-Culture of American War Veterans" premiered at Fairhaven as part of the Spring Fairhaven Lecture Series. Donlon, Klepper, and Larsen presented and accompanying lecture about collecting the oral histories, the process used to create the film, and the impact this service learning project had on their experience as students. "Being able to be a part of these veterans' stories gave me a firsthand 'field experience,'" Klepper said during the presentation. "It was an honor to be a part of this." Sue Wildermuth will be teaching the service learning course again in fall 2014, where she plans to continue the Fairhaven Veteran's History Project.
Over the past year, the LEARN Center has been supporting UW-Whitewater faculty in incorporating community-based and service learning into their classes. In addition to Wildermuth (Communication), Angela Harlan (Mathematical and Computer Sciences), Giuliana Miolo (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Ellie Schemenauer (Women's Studies), Gautam Wadhwa (Art), and Jim Winship (Social Work) were UW-Whitewater's pilot group in the Community Based Learning Fellows program. Participants in this faculty development program explored best practices in community-based research and developed service learning courses for the academic year.

The documentary and student presentation can be viewed on the Fairhaven Lecture Series website.

Carolyn Larsen and Katelyn Klepper.  
Jarred Donlon

**Grandchildren's University Returns in June**

This summer marks the third annual UW-Whitewater Grandchildren's University. On June 27-28, grandparents and their grandkids will come to campus to learn together from faculty, stay and play in Starin Hall and the UC, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Many of this year's participants are returning from previous years' programs. One grandparent wrote "I hope you continue this program as I have five younger grandchildren who hope to come someday." Seth Meisel, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education notes, "we are very happy to create a new alumni tradition."

This year Grandchildren's University will introduce a new "major" in creative writing with Professor Erin Celello (Languages and Literatures). Celello is a successful novelist and instructor who has worked closely with veterans on campus. "Erin has designed a wonderful program around grandparents and grandchildren working together to narrate their family histories," Meisel says. Majors returning from last year include art metals, biology, communication, forensic science, geology, and media digital arts.
Registration open for music and athletic camps!

UW-Whitewater's summer athletic and music camps are filling up fast. "Five of our tennis camps are already full, and our gymnastic camps were full even before the 'early bird' deadline," says Ryan Callahan, Director of Continuing Education Services. UW-Whitewater offers camps from basketball and bowling to flute and percussion. New this year is Jazz Camp in July. Each camp has its own Facebook page for campers to stay connected and share photos. For a full list of camps, check out the Camps & Conferences website.