Warner Building Approved, Design Phase Begins

The Warner School of Education is one step closer to having a new home on River Campus. At its October meeting, the University’s Board of Trustees approved the Warner School’s Strategic Plan, which includes plans to build a facility that will serve as an academic home for the School’s faculty, staff, students, and research and reform projects.

“This is such a very exciting opportunity for the Warner School,” says Raffaella Borasi, dean of the Warner School. “Our growth in recent years, as well as the needs of our students and programs, really calls for us to create this unified teaching and learning space specific to Warner.”

The Board’s approval allowed the School to launch the design phase of the project. The Building Committee, under the leadership of Steve Uebbing, assistant professor of educational leadership, who has extensive building experience in his previous position as superintendent of the Canandaigua Schools, is in the process of selecting architects with whom to work.

The building, tentatively planned as a 50,000 square foot facility, will include classrooms, research facilities, administrative and faculty office space, conference rooms, casual gathering places, and space to hold events. Actual construction will not commence until additional funding is secured through donors and other sources.

Once the architectural firm is selected, which should happen by the end of December, work will get underway with the architects to better understand the programmatic needs for the building, including both practical space needs for the facility and our values in terms of the ways that the space will create a healthy and vibrant learning community. The planning phase of the project will engage the entire Warner School community beginning next semester in a series of meetings and workshops.
News Around Warner...

Hazan Receives Distinguished Service to Higher Education Award
Logan Hazen, director of student services and visiting assistant professor at the Warner School, was the 2008 recipient of the College Student Personnel Association of New York State’s Distinguished Service to Higher Education Award. The award honors an educator who has given distinguished service to higher education and whose ideas show considerable promise for improving the quality of the learning climate in post-secondary institutions. Hazen was recognized for his numerous contributions to the field of higher education. Visit warner.rochester.edu/news-events for more on Hazen’s award.

Fredericksen Receives Recognition
Warner doctoral student Eric Fredericksen, received special recognition in November at the Annual Sloan International Conference on Online Learning for serving as chair of the Excellence in Online Teaching and Learning Awards Program for the past five years. Fredericksen has been an active national leader in online education and was a PI on three multi-year, multi-million dollar grants on Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALN) from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Fredericksen teaches a course in educational leadership at Warner and currently serves as the associate vice provost in University Information Technology for the University of Rochester.

Marquis Publishes in Journal of Psychotherapy Integration
Andre Marquis, assistant professor in counseling and human development, published a co-authored article with author/philosopher Ken Wilber titled, “Unification Beyond Eclecticism and Integration: Integral Psychotherapy,” in the Journal of Psychotherapy Integration, Volume 18, Issue 3, pages 350-358. The article examines integral psychotherapy as new, unifying meta-paradigm of psychotherapy. Recognizing that multiple theories and techniques are important in the “integral forest” of psychotherapeutic practice, integral therapists do not devalue any of the existing approaches, but rather emphasize the need to acknowledge and attend to as many dimensions of patients’ being-in-the-world as possible, contextualizing them on a person-to-person basis.

Warner Graduates, Students Present at Science Teachers Association of NYS Convention
Warner School science education graduates and current students collectively presented their work at the Science Teachers Association of New York State Convention, held in Rochester in early November. The four-day event gathered about 1,100 science teachers from around the state. Warner graduates and students who presented their work were Michael Occhino (doctoral student), Greg Hart ’06 (M.S.), Orlando Marrero ’06 (M.S.), Alpa Khandhar (advanced certificate), Sarah Hurley ’04 (M.S.), Jennie Peck ’01 (M.S.), Jeff Paradis ’04 (M.S.), Scott Michel ’05 (M.S.), Vince Mancuso (doctoral student), Pete Saracino (doctoral student), and Joe Henderson ’03 (M.S.). The presentations were the result of systematic, in-depth action research projects, which spanned the disciplines and secondary grades, considering what it means to implement reform in science teaching.

Warner Doctoral Student Inducted in Athletics and Recreation Hall of Fame
Susan Penepent, doctoral student in the accelerated Ed.D. program in educational leadership, was inducted into the Athletics and Recreation Hall of Fame at the Annual Meliora Weekend festivities on Friday, October 17. Penepent is a University of Rochester alumna ’88 (B.A.), currently working as an Inclusive Education Teacher in the Greece Central School District. She was a four-year letter winner in basketball from 1984-1988 under Coach Joyce Wong.

Doctoral Student Edward Foote Named Tech & Learning Leader of the Year
Edward Foote, a student in the Ed.D. program in education leadership, has been named Leader of the Year by Tech & Learning magazine for his innovative work and use of technology in his teaching. Foote is a special education teacher at Jefferson Avenue Elementary School in the Fairport Central School District. Visit warner.rochester.edu/news-events for more on Foote’s award.

Cassata-Widera Presents at Conference on Concept Mapping
Amy Cassata-Widera, doctoral candidate in human development, presented at the 3rd International Conference on Concept Mapping held in Estonia and Finland in September. She began her work using concept maps to access changes in undergraduate science learning over a semester in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In 2004, Cassata-Widera joined Lucia French on the Early Reading First grant, which uses science-content curriculum with preschoolers.

Mackie Honored for Leadership in School Counseling
Karen Mackie, assistant professor in counseling and human development, was awarded the 2008 Career Achievement Award by the New York State School Counseling Association (NYSSCA) in November. The Career Achievement Award recognizes a school counselor or counselor educator whose contributions to his or her students, place of employment, colleagues, and community have been substantial and ongoing. Mackie was honored for her high level of leadership, advocacy, and collaboration in her work with school districts and in training school counselors at the graduate level. Visit warner.rochester.edu/news-events for more on Mackie’s award.
If there is such a thing as a rock star in the field of education, Harold Munson is it. The 86-year-old Professor of Education Emeritus served under all five Warner deans; founded and then chaired the Warner counseling programs for 26 years; taught at Warner for 38 years; secured more than $1.5 million dollars in sponsored research activities; and published 55 articles, bibliographies, and books including two textbooks. And that doesn’t include the countless number of students and colleagues inspired by his knowledge, vision and enthusiasm.

But in talking to the soft-spoken Munson, you would never know it. A self-professed “farm boy,” Munson was raised on his family’s cattle farm in Windham, New York in the Catskill Mountains. “I grew up working on the farm,” he says proudly. “Even during high school, I would help with the milking—until I got on the basketball team. Then practice became a reason to not help. It was a good reason to make sure I made the team,” he laughs.

Munson says he was always attracted to education and history and studied the ladder at Hobart College after serving in the U.S. Navy as a combat air crewman. It was also while he was in college that he began dating Evelyn, his wife of 62 years. “We grew up on the same street,” says Munson of his bride, who graduated from Ithaca College as a music teacher. “My aunt was married in 1928 and I was a ring bearer and my wife was a flower girl, so that’s how we met.”

From Hobart, Munson went to The State University of New York at Albany for his master’s in education and then New York University for his doctorate in guidance and counseling. Throughout those years, Munson held a handful of teaching and counseling jobs before settling at the University of Rochester. “It was great working with thoughtful, capable people—academic, staff and, above all, the students,” says Munson of his time at Warner. “I’d do it all over again.”

Today, the retired Munson—a father of two and grandfather of three—lives with his wife in Mendon, New York, where he continues to write and publish. Only now, the subject has changed. His book The South Street Story (Mercury Print Productions, 2008) is a historical account of the street on which he grew up. And The Land in the Sky (Mercury Print Productions, 2004) is a collection of ten short stories based on some of his personal experiences and community memories.

“Having accomplished my academic writing, especially with two textbooks, The Land in the Sky and The South Street Story, made for an enticing change of effort,” says Munson.
Warner Graduate Students Help Develop Science ‘STARS’

Middle school girls from Wilson Foundation Academy are studying the real science behind launching rockets, feeding yeast, stimulating water fleas, and shooting off rocket cars, as part of an after-school program led by graduate students at the Warner School.

Devoting their after-school time to exploring science, four groups of young scientists in training have developed and conducted a series of original scientific investigations. Conducting hands-on experiments in biology, chemistry and physics, the teams worked to answer the following questions: What are the factors that affect the flight of a water bottle rocket? How do yeast use different sugars for energy? How do energy drink ingredients (caffeine and ginseng) affect heart rate? What combination and amounts of chemical reactants will make the rocket car go the furthest?

“Girls in the seventh grade still know that they can do anything and I hope that we can keep that thought alive in them as they continue through school,” says Heather Bradstreet, a master’s student in the biology science teacher education program at the Warner School. Bradstreet also states that, “Learners actively involved in constructing personal meaning is at the core of guided inquiry laboratory activities.”

Science STARS (Students Tackling Authentic and Relevant Science) is an initiative developed by April Luehmann, assistant professor at the Warner School, and is also part of the Get Real! Science teacher preparation program. “Pre-service teachers learn first-hand about the power of open-ended inquiry to lead to rigorous and engaged science learning and teaching” explains Luehmann. “In addition, these new teachers develop a rich sense of the unique skills and interests urban middle school girls can bring to their science learning and how to capitalize on these.”

The STARS program supports beginning science teachers in learning a radically different approach to science teaching. Simultaneously, the program offers seventh and eighth grade girls the opportunity to participate in scientific learning experiences, with the hope that these experiences will help them to become capable science learners, while giving them an appreciation for the role that science plays in our daily lives.

The STARS unveiled their results to the community through interactive poster sessions on Saturday, December 6 in Rush Rhees Library.

For more information on any of the Get Real! Science programs, visit warner.rochester.edu/getreal.

Warner Professor’s New Book Dedicated to University

The sixth edition of Professor Emeritus Tyll van Geel’s book, Understanding Supreme Court Opinions, was recently released by Pearson Longman publishers. Among the updates are a new chapter detailing the new Supreme Court case, Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1, in which the Court barred two school districts from using race as a criterion in admitting students to schools.

“I feel fortunate that the book has continued to find an audience,” says van Geel. “It seems to continue to serve the purpose it was designed to serve—to encourage students to engage their minds in seeking to understand the rule of law as exemplified by the ongoing efforts to interpret and apply the U.S. Constitution.”

Having worked at the University of Rochester for 34 years, van Geel dedicated his book’s latest edition, which reads: For my colleagues and friends at the University of Rochester.

He says, “The dedication helped me express my strong feelings of affection for colleagues I left upon retiring, thus to let them know I continue to think of them even as I and my wife, Katy, move into a new phase of our lives.”

Professor Emeritus van Geel is also the co-author of Educational Law: An Introduction for Administrators and Policy Makers (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates), whose 4th edition is expected in 2009.