

CFS Welcomes Dr. Alice Maday



CFS Notes

When speaking with Professor Maday it is similar to opening an undiscovered treasure chest filled with unique experiences as a student and teacher in the field of Early Childhood Education.

Alice Maday began her education journey at Mankato State Teacher's college, now known as MN State University, Mankato. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education with a specialty in Kindergarten. Professor Maday continued her studies where she received a M.S. degree in Early Childhood Education at Butler University in Indianapolis. At that time, the only colleges that offered this type of program were Stanford, Columbia, and Butler. Professor Maday received her Ph. D. in Early Childhood Education from the University of MN-Twin Cities in May of 1999.

A precious jewel to professor Maday was the opening of Children's Express Preschool in Fairmont, MN. It was created in 1987 by Professor Maday and her late husband, Jack. She states that the school was "on track for learning". The idea came from her love of trains. The school later closed in May of 2000.

Another gem stone in the 1980's was their purchase of a local ice cream shop in their hometown. She states that the months of May and Sept. were chaotic with the beginning and ending of her preschool along with all the duties at the shop. The ice cream shop was sold in 1995 but Professor Maday assisted with the transition of the new ownership until 1996.

Professor Maday has two adult children who are "one year, six days, and one hour apart." She states that her son is musically talented and her daughter is pursuing her masters in special education with an emphasis in autism. By the sound of professor Maday's voice when talking about her children, one can hear the love and admiration for them.

In curriculum and program development, Professor Maday is actively involved. She states that she is a consultant for Lerner publishing where she is currently reviewing a series of eight books on phonics for emergent readers. Professor Maday also states that she is a consultant for an Ethiopian project called "Tefsa" which is an African word meaning

hope. This project began with one kindergarten in a community which now currently has five.

"A claim to fame" according to Professor Maday was her title of Kindergarten specialist at the U of MN- Twin Cities where she taught the kindergarten endorsement class prior to her

retirement in January of 2006. Professor Maday states "who has time for hobbies" she continues by stating that her work is her hobby because after retiring, she keeps coming back to teaching.

Professor Maday is also an advocate for changing the compulsory age of 7 to age 5 for children entering Kindergarten in MN. She states that she was asked to testify in front of the State Senate. Currently, this discussion has been tabled. However, she will also be testifying in front of the House of Representatives in the near future. Her goal is to "level the playing field for all children entering school".

When questioning Professor Maday about what strengths she brings to the CFS department, her initial response is "I do not know, I do not have any muscles". As she continues, she states that her connections to the field in the metro school districts, her expert knowledge of kindergarten, and her experience as a teacher are assets that she enjoys sharing.

Professor Maday reports that she is the first one in the parking lot on Tuesdays and Thursdays with her Introduction to Education CFS 200 class. You can also find Professor Maday teaching CFS 223, Educational Strategies for Infants and Toddlers and CFS 260, Children in a Changing World. She states that the CFS department is very supportive and she is always able to get answers.

If interested in learning more about what is in Professor Maday's treasure chest, her office is located in the Education building, A120-G.



Dr. Alice Maday

Inside this issue:

Chair Reflections	2
Study Early Childhood Care and Education in Italy	2
AEYC	3
CFS Scholarships for Undergraduate Students	3
Upcoming Events—Important Dates	3
MN Early Intervention Summer Institute—2007	4

Written by Lisa Thomsen

Chair Reflections by Glen Palm

This fall has been another season of change in the CFS department as we welcomed another new faculty member. We have been delighted to welcome Dr. Alice Maday to our department. Dr. Maday comes to us from the University of Minnesota and brings a wealth of experience working with young children and their families. You can read more about Alice (if you haven't already) on the front page of the newsletter. At the same time we are preparing to say good-bye to Pamm Minden who created the CFS department 30 years ago. Dr. Minden had the foresight to design a Child and Family Studies department that integrated our three different licensure areas into one interdisciplinary department. This foundation has allowed us to grow into a strong, independent department focused on the early childhood years that prepares students to work with young children of all ability levels in the context of their families. We will be celebrating Pamm's contributions to the department with a retirement event early next semester.

Our department continues to evolve as we prepare for another NCATE and Board of Teaching review. It is clear that CFS faculty members have worked diligently to improve our programs over the past 5 years. Most of the preparation for the program review process is slow and tedious but there are also important insights that we have gained into our courses, programs, and our students that will lead us to new ways to organize and deliver our classes. For example, we have learned that many CFS majors begin the program and never complete it and some of the reasons why they don't finish our program. This should help us to better advise our students and try to get them assistance early on in the program (early intervention is important at the college level as well).

The department recently completed another round of interviews

with our Early Childhood major candidates. Twenty-seven students completed this process on October 30th. Twice a year we interview major candidates with the help of our Advisory Committee which is made up of community Early Childhood professionals. Students complete a writing sample, an interview with two member teams, and a self-assessment of professional dispositions. The cohort that completed the process this fall impressed our faculty and Advisory Committee members with their level of maturity, previous experience with young children and their commitment to the field. This process provides us with a glimpse into the future of early education and the next generation of Early Childhood professionals. We see a bright future as our program continues to attract energetic and idealistic individuals who will be better prepared than ever to face the current and future challenges in our field.

Our department is also embarking on an exciting new initiative in partnership with District 47 (Sauk Rapids-Rice) to explore Early Childhood Mental Health needs and services in our community. This will be a three-year process that is funded by the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. Our project will be one of six in the state. This is an important interdisciplinary field that is rapidly growing around the country. We are looking forward to the opportunities to work with community professionals from mental health, education, health care and social services as well as our colleagues in the college of Education and across the University on this new venture. Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education and Parent Education all play a central role in promoting positive social-emotional growth and mental health in young children. We are planning a couple of new classes in this area that will be offered this summer and will be exploring the possibility of a certificate program in the area of Infant Mental Health as this project develops.

Study Early Childhood Care and Education in Italy

This short-term program is offered over spring break, March 1—11, 2007. The program is open to all majors, but is primarily geared towards Child and Family Studies majors. Undergraduate students will take CFS 405 for 4 credits, while graduate students will take CFS 505 for 3 credits. Prior to traveling to Italy, students will attend some on-campus classes before and after the travel as well as orientation meetings and a group debriefing afterwards. All events and classes are in English and led by SCSU professors.

Application packets are available at the Center for International Studies office or online at www.stcloudstate.edu/studyabroad. Submit the completed application with the non-refundable \$75 application fee to the Center for International Studies by the **December 15th** deadline. For additional information, contact the program directors:

Cheri Gilman, Child and Family Studies
320-308-5331
cgilman@stcloudstate.edu

OR

Ming-Chi Own, Child and Family Studies
320-308-3037
meown@stcloudstate.edu



“Going on this trip I had ideas of what I would learn, as with life there was a vision of how things would go and work out, but my vision was not always fulfilled, creating an experience all of its

own...Italy was an imaginary land...but became a reality. The reality of Italy emphasizes community and realization that the future is literarily within our hands through our children. The value you place in the children now, will forever affect the value they place in themselves and within others later in life, through trust and responsibility...”

AEYC—A Student Organization for CFS Majors

Interested in making a difference or wanting volunteer opportunities? The Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) may be the place for you. Their mission is to educate and support adults who educate and care for young children, so all may develop to their fullest potential.

There are many reasons to join AEYC:

- It is a great way to meet and socialize with other students interested in early education.
- It provides a connection to the Scholastic Book Club.
- There are numerous volunteer opportunities with community groups/agencies—Anna Marie Women’s Shelter, the Salvation Army and Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).
- It is an opportunity to learn leadership and advocacy skills.
- You can learn about AEYC as a professional organization.
- Learn about early childhood education, conferences, workshops and professional development opportunities.

Membership is open to anyone interested in early education. Meeting dates for fall semester are October 5th and 26th, November 16th, and December 7th. The meetings are held in At-

wood at 6 pm. The room location will be posted in Atwood. Membership dues are \$7 per year with additional volunteer hours required.

The organization raises funds by selling shirts and tote bags throughout the year.

For further information, please check the bulletin board located in the north hallway of the Education Building.

This year’s Co-Chairs are Amy Van Helden and Nathan Hulstrand.

Secretary: Heather Sawyers

Treasurer: Carrie Smieja

Advisors: Dr. Ming-Chi Own and Dr. Alice Maday

Anyone interested in the education of young children is welcome!!

Questions or comments regarding AEYC or if interested in purchasing items please contact Amy Van Helden at vaam0402@stcloudstate.edu or Nathan Hulstrand at

huna0301@stcloudstate.edu

CFS Scholarships for Undergraduate Students

Golden Rule Scholarship

Size: \$500 (1 per year)

Eligibility: Juniors or Seniors majoring in Early Childhood Education with a 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA and planning to teach B-3rd grade using music theory as a literacy base.

Jack Mayala Scholarship

Size: \$300 (1 per year)

Eligibility: Juniors or Seniors majoring in Early childhood education with preference given to single parents who have financial need and a 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA.

Kathryn Kelly Scholarship

Size: \$500 (1 per year)

Eligibility: Juniors or Seniors majoring in Early Childhood Education with a 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA, are from rural Minnesota, have a financial need, and are not a recipient of athletic grants

or scholarships.

Olga B. Satre Hart Mem. Scholarship

Size: \$1000

Eligibility: Juniors or Seniors majoring in Early Childhood Education with a 2.75 or higher cumulative GPA and have established a financial need.

Application Checklist for all

Scholarships: scholarship application, essay, resume, transcripts—copies are acceptable, and letter of recommendation from SCSU faculty.

If interested in applying, you may pick up an application in the CFS Office, EB B109.

****ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE CFS OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 1ST****

Upcoming Events—Important Dates

- Spring 2007 Registration—Begins November 13
- MN Council on Family Relations Annual Conference—”The Impact of Media & Technology on Parenting”—December 1 @ the Continuing Education and Conference Center, University of MN Campus, St. Paul. Details: www.MCFR.NET
- Fall 2006 Final Exams Begins—December 14
- Graduate Hooding and Commencement—December 17 (morning)
- Undergraduate Commencement—December 17 (afternoon)
- The MN Fathers & Families Network presents the 4th annual MN Fatherhood Summit—January 22 & 23 @ St. Cloud Civic Center. Details: www.mnfathers.org/summit.html
- Spring 2007 Classes Begin—January 18

We're on the web!
www.stcloudstate.edu/cfs

**ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY—
CHILD & FAMILY STUDIES**

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Becoming the Best!

SAVE THE DATE—MN Early Intervention Summer Institute

July 30-31 & August 1 2007

Recommended Practices:

Linking Assessment, Intervention and Outcomes

Early Intervention Summer Institute 2007

St. John's University, Collegeville

Monday morning through Wednesday noon

July 30,31 & August 1

Watch for Information on St. Cloud State University's web page

GO TO: www.stcloudstate.edu/cfs/summerinstitute

And on web sites of the collaborating institutions of higher education:

University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

University of Minnesota—Duluth

Minnesota State University: Moorhead

Minnesota State University: Mankato

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota Early Intervention Summer Institute

Campbell Meeting Management

651-646-5060