



**GRADUATE  
EDUCATION**

**matters**

For more information on the MU Graduate School, please go to the website at <http://gradschool.missouri.edu>

## MU's Graduate Education Programs Strengthen Missouri's Educational System

Prepared by the University of Missouri - Columbia Graduate School

### MU GRADUATE ALUMNI EDUCATOR PROFILES

#### **Roberta Hunter** Winner 2004 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Roberta Hunter is a professor of nursing at East Central College. A teacher for 19 years, Hunter also serves as coordinator for first level nursing at the college.

"I'm basically an introvert until I'm in a classroom," Hunter says. "The drama queen/comedian takes over and I get to be anything I want to be to help stimulate the 'understanding light bulbs' to click on with the students. The fact that over 50 percent of the registered nurse staff at our local hospital is comprised of East Central College graduates is amazing to me. Knowing that I had even a small hand in their success gives me such a rush. When I get to work with them-one registered nurse to another-their ability and expertise is astounding to me."

Hunter received a master of science in nursing from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

#### **Lori Mathys** Winner 2004 Milkin Educator Award

Lori Mathys teaches 4th grade at California Elementary School in California, MO. She's been teaching for almost 10 years and has won several awards in addition to being a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

"My favorite subject to teach is science," Mathys said, "As a child, I hated science classes, since my teachers always taught them out of textbooks. I enjoy teaching my students with a hands-on, inquiry based approach. My greatest joy is to open my student's eyes to a love of science!"

Mathys received a master of education and an educational specialist degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

K-12 teachers with graduate degrees have command of advanced knowledge and the cutting edge teaching skills that will allow all of Missouri's children to master the skills needed for successful, productive lives.

Ninety-seven percent of Missouri's Milkin Educator Award winners surveyed have a graduate degree from a Missouri college or university - 6 of which are from MU.

School administrators with advanced degrees are better equipped to respond to growing class sizes, budget cuts, and other challenges to the public school system. Of the 424 administrators in Missouri school districts, 156 have doctoral degrees, 54 of which came from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Graduate education prepares university and college faculty and administrators to transmit cutting edge knowledge and sophisticated critical thinking skills to students. Forty-five percent of the 2004 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Performance in Education recipients (given to university and college faculty) have graduate degrees from Missouri institutions. Twenty-eight percent of the faculty at 13 of Missouri's major universities have advanced degrees from Missouri institutions.

The MU Graduate School's campus-wide responsibility is to promote, encourage, and support graduate education, faculty and graduate student research, scholarship and creative achievement. With more than 5,000 graduate students enrolled in master's, doctoral and educational specialist degree in more than 90 programs, graduate students comprise nearly 20 percent of the MU student population.

For more information, please go to our website at <http://gradschool.missouri.edu>

# MU Graduate Alumni Educator Profile: Larry Henneke

Larry Henneke sees his challenges and knows how to rise above them. As a teacher of Agriculture education at the Columbia Career Center, he pushes his students to put in the extra time to get the most out of their education. As a veteran advisor of the student chapter of Future Farmers of America, Henneke has a winning track record of coaching state and national champions. When asked what his motivation is, Henneke simply replied "student success."

"I love working with students who want to stay after school and work weekends to prepare for contests or other FFA activities," Henneke said. "My students know that I expect an all out effort from them, but I also believe they have fun doing it."



Henneke checks measurements of a student project. In addition to Agriculture education, Henneke teaches the Advanced Welding and Metal Fabrication class for high school students.

Watching Henneke in the classroom, it is easy to see that he loves to teach and truly cares about his students. As he walks across the shop floor, he visits each of his students in his advanced welding class to check on their progress and provide encouragement. As he does he jokes around with his class and gives students a congratulatory pat on the back when they have done a good job.

Henneke earned his Master's degree in Agriculture Education in 1987 from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He said his graduate education helped sharpen his teaching skills and really prepared him for the classroom.

"Most of my graduate courses were more directly linked to subject areas that I needed further knowledge in," Henneke said. "Many of these also related to how to balance a work load between all the different opportunities with the FFA."



A student seeks Henneke's advice on his assignment. Students must pass a welding skills and safety test to certify to use shop equipment.

all 18 years of his service in the organization.

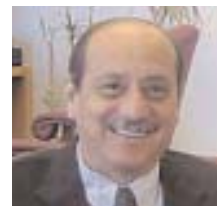
Henneke lives in Fulton with his wife Susie, his daughter Jamie, and son Kody. He has passed his love for farming onto his children who are also very active in agriculture activities such as FFA and 4-H. His family belongs to the First Baptist Church in Fulton where Henneke extends his trade to teaching Sunday School.

## Graduate Alumni in Educational Leadership

**Diana Garland**, Associate Director of Distance Learning, Missouri State University.

"The Statewide Cohort program provided by the University of Missouri has given me countless opportunities. Professionally the program enabled me to better understand how the education system works from kindergarten to doctoral level. And now because of this understanding I am able to work with other educators to strengthen Missouri's education system."

**Sonny Castro**, Assistant Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Central Missouri State University.



"My course work in leadership, team development, organizational theory, and assessment at MU have facilitated the development of responsive student programs at CMSU, particularly with freshmen."

## Southwestern Bell Science Education Center

The Southwestern Bell Science Education Center offers a state-approved alternative certificate program for graduate students to learn advanced methods in science teaching. The graduate programs in science education prepares its students for everything from classroom teaching to leadership positions at all levels of education. SBSEC offers science education curriculum for master's, doctoral and educational specialist degrees. The programs of study are individually planned with a faculty committee, and are based on the candidate's background, experiences and professional goals.



Graduate students in the Advanced Teaching of Elementary Science course show kids how fun science can be at the 2005 Summer Kids Inquiry Program (SKIPS).