

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

Department of Educational Leadership

Letter from the Department Chair.

Dear Students:

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss new graduate certificate programs the department has developed.

In the field of technology, we are offering two new graduate certificates. The first is a K-12 Educational Technology Specialist program (24 hours, 6 courses). This program was designed for teachers and administrators who are interested in learning more about integrating digital technologies into classroom teaching and learning. These six courses address the knowledge and skills required to obtain the Illinois Technology Specialist endorsement. One must also pass the technology specialist exam in order to apply for entitlement. The second graduate certificate is in Higher Education Online Pedagogy. This 12 hour program in online pedagogy was designed primarily for higher education and community college facul-

ty who would like to learn how to develop online courses and teach online. The courses will help them learn effective best practices for teaching online, build course content, and design quality assessments for their course. This certificate may also appeal to high school teachers and administrators who may be exploring the use of online learning in their courses and school.

The department has had a long-standing record of high quality with the M.A. in Teacher Leadership developed in 1999. After a 15 year run, we will officially change the name of the degree to M.A. in Education beginning in the fall of 2016. When students apply for the online degree by the summer 2016 term, they apply for a master's degree with the new degree title. Although, the courses will remain the same, we feel the M.A. in Education degree better describes the program as a whole with the many

choices in electives and endorsement programs. It is our hope the new degree title will appeal to a broader audience of educators.

If you have questions about the new graduate certificates or the degree name change, please email or call Ms. Ryan Williams, Online Coordinator, at rwillia7@uis.edu or 206-7516.

We hope you have a wonderful fall semester.

Sincerely,



Scott L. Day, Ed. D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Educational Leadership

Dr. Swan Receives Distinguished Award



Dr. Karen Swan, James J. Stukel Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership, will be recognized for her individual scholarly contributions to the area of understanding what constitutes quality online learning. She has been inducted into the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame, Class of 2015. The induction will be held in conjunction with the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education's (AAACE) 64th Annual Conference, which is to take place November 17th -20th, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Professor Swan holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Philosophy from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction from Keene State College, and Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees in Institutional Technology from Columbia University. She has been teaching at the University of Illinois at Springfield for more than six years. Dr. Swan has developed and currently teaches several educational technology courses. She also teaches MTL Capstone and Educational Research Methods.

Professor Swan has authored over 100 publications, several hypermedia programs, two books in her research area of

media, technology, and learning. Dr. Swan has also given over 200 paper presentations. Her current research interest is on the topic of online course design/redesign and the development of social presence and learning communities, learning analytics, and global computing.

Among other recognitions, Dr. Swan has acquired the Distinguished Alumnus award from Teachers College, Columbia University and 2006 Sloan Consortium award for Outstanding Achievement in Online Learning. We congratulate Professor Karen Swan for this high honor.



EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT NOW ON FACEBOOK!!!

The Educational Leadership Department now has its own Facebook page, located at: <https://www.facebook.com/UIS-Educational-Leadership-Department-1019666321400647/timeline/>, which provides updates on the college and the campus as a whole. Also check out the MTL department website for details and updates at <http://www.uis.edu/mtl/>.

Attention All Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 Graduates:

All graduates will need to complete two steps before graduating:

1. Graduates must submit an online graduation application. The deadline for Fall Graduation Applications has passed. Online applications for Spring 2016 are due February 20, 2016.
2. Graduates must also submit an approved Graduation Application Signature Form signed by the appropriate student advisor and department chair. This form will verify that the student is on track to graduate in the said semester. EDL students need to turn the Signature Form into the EDL office; then the form will be sent to the Office of Registration and Records.

Forms and instructions pertaining to the Graduation Application and the Graduation Application Signature Form can be found at: <http://www.uis.edu/registration/forms/>.

Students with questions can contact the Office of Registration and Records at registrar@uis.edu or by telephone at 217/206-7730.

EDL students with questions can also contact the EDL Office at 217-206-6306 or by e-mail: edl@uis.edu.
MTL students with questions can also contact the MTL Office at 217-206-7516 or by e-mail: mtl@uis.edu.

Spring 2016 Registration **to start soon!**

The first possible registration date for Spring 2016 is November 3. All students register at different times. Please check with your advisor so you will be ready to register when your time comes. Registration is open until January, but it is better to act quickly so your ideal classes are not full. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Records and Registration at (217) 206-6174 or by e-mail at registrar@uis.edu.

Approval Request **REMINDER—**

Please have your EDL 526, Internship Experience I and EDL 531, Masters Capstone I approval request forms turned in to Jennifer May, BRK 377, by the end of the semester if you wish to have these classes for the Spring semester. Seats fill up fast so please complete this as soon as possible. Forms can be found on the EDL website at www.uis.edu/edl/ under the "Forms" title or in the box by the office door.

Degree Audits:

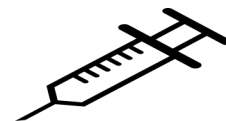
It is recommended all students review their degree audits with their respective advisor before they graduate. This is a quick and simple way to track your progress through the program. The online Degree Audit system can be accessed by visiting (www.uis.edu/registration) and entering the DARS web for Students link under the "Graduation/Degree Audits" heading.



Student Immunization Reminder:

Important! Every college requires their students to have the proper records of immunizations for preventable diseases. A **\$35 late processing fee** will be charged to your account unless you provide the proper docu-

mentation to the **Health Services Office located in BSB 20**. Immunization records must be submitted and in compliance by the 5th day of classes in the summer or the 10th day of classes in the fall/spring



semester to avoid the charge. Without the proper documentation, you will not be able to register. If you have any questions, the Health Services Office can be reached at **(217) 206-6676**.



Mr. Matt J. Rhoades is the Principal and Athletic Director of the Athens Junior High School in Athens, Illinois. He originally taught 1st grade there for one year and then 3rd grade for 8 years. During that time, Matt went back to school and obtained his Master's degree from UIS in the Educational Leadership Department and pursued an Elementary Principalship in the Jacksonville School District at Mur-rayville-Woodson. He was the Elementary Principal there for 4 years, when an opening occurred back in Athens, so he returned to serve as their Junior High Principal, and has been there for the past 5 years. Now, he has decided to further his education yet again and is in the Superintendent Endorsement program taking his 5th class. Besides being an educator and an administrator, Mr. Rhoades also wrote and published the book, "Tough Luck Tim and the Toilet Twister," which is about bullying.

Tell me some about your personal life, i.e. married? Children? Where'd you grow up?

Mr. Rhoades is married and has two daughters. He grew up in White Hall, Illinois, which is in Greene County, where he graduated from North Greene High School and attended Illinois College to obtain his Bachelor's Degree. Shortly thereafter, a temporary 1st grade teaching position opened up for him in Athens, Illinois. While teaching in Athens, he met and later married his wife, who also was and still is an elementary teacher there. Matt's wife has a Master's Degree from UIS, as well. She is an Educational Reading Specialist for the Athens/Cantrall School District. He states it can be most helpful having a spouse who understands the role of an educator and the stressors and commitment that come with the field.

What did you want to be "when you grew up" and why? If it changed, how and why?

Matt stated he "always wanted to be a teacher." Even as a child at play, he and his siblings would set up school classrooms, as though they were the teachers/students. He further explained that his mother is a junior high teacher and his grandmother was "in education for 35 years," as well as other family members. However, Mr. Rhoades said it was not necessarily pressed upon him as a career. It is just something he knew he "wanted to do."

How did your education at UIS prepare you as a Principal?

The Principalship pedagogy at UIS has been very instrumental to Matt by providing him a "foundation for the position as a principal." He stated the courses offered by UIS such as, Organizational Dynamics, School Law, and leadership teachings, as well as many others, helped by providing him not only with new knowledge but with an understanding of the various facets involved in such a position.

What advice, knowing what you do now, would you offer other Master's students in the program?

"Ask as many questions of your mentors and leaders at UIS as you can to give yourself the best chance to succeed." Mr. Rhoades further explained that many of his well-respected leaders from the Educational Leadership Department "are just a phone call away." He has still maintained contact and open communication with several in the department, which has been very beneficial to the day to day different aspects as a principal that he encounters.

What is the most difficult part for you in being a Principal?

Although Matt clearly appreciates and enjoys his position as a Principal, he admits that sometimes it can become frustrating in trying to find the right way to help motivate the students, especially those that might be harder to engage. He feels one of the most important parts to motivating students is parental involvement. Mr. Rhoades stated he realizes when the educators and the parents work together the students have the best chance to meet their potential.

What is the most rewarding or what do you enjoy the most about being a Principal?

Matt feels he is in a crucial role, at the Junior High level, to help students who are in a pivotal time in their youth. This is a time in the maturation process when many of them are having to make choices, choices which can affect their future, both personally and academically. He relishes the opportunity to be a positive influence and to have the ability to help guide them to make better decisions, instead of negative ones. In being a part of this bigger picture, he has occasions to help give them every chance to succeed in life, which will then enhance their educational opportunities, too. As a Principal, Mr. Rhoades' main objective is to "build relationships with the students, to help them when they have a need, and to educate them to their fullest potential."

As the author of the book, "Tough Luck Tim and the Toilet Twister," what inspired its creation?

"*Tough Luck Tim and the Toilet Twister*" came about while Mr. Rhoades was a third grade teacher and was toiling to think of ways to inspire his young readers. During many restless nights, Matt started writing down his ideas, which lead to its creation two years later. His book deals with the themes of bullying, sibling rivalry, and self-esteem, which Mr. Rhoades admits he could relate to as a youth. He feels very passionately about others taking bullying as a reality to the student, regardless of its face value, so much so that he travels to other schools to present its message. He has been honored to speak at 20 schools in the last year and was even asked to present at one as far away as Chicago. He expressed his gratitude to his district in allowing him these outings to share the message of self-worth. One school even asked him to spend additional time there engaging with their students. He recalled how some students had personally shared their "bullying" stories with him and seemed more at ease just by doing so. Ultimately, Matt wants to share the message about the impact of bullying and "to teach students to believe in themselves."



As you are a student of the Superintendent program, what is your career aspiration?

Mr. Rhoades is pursuing his Superintendent Endorsement to someday become a Superintendent; however, he states it would have to be in an area that works for both him and his family. He further explained that having been an elementary teacher and now a junior high principal, if the opportunity presents itself, he would also like to possibly have experience in interacting with high school students. He feels this would help him to be an even more-rounded, cognizant administrator.

What does self-actualization look like for Mr. Matthew Rhoades?

Ultimately, Mr. Rhoades feels that he will have reached self-actualization when he sees the fruits of his work, not only as a teacher and an administrator, but as a parent. Most fulfilling for Matt will be to see his own two girls as responsible, caring adults, being shown by their actions and behaviors, as well as the goals that they set and accomplish for themselves. Mostly though, he says, it will be through seeing them "be a positive influence on others."

EDL Faculty Scholarship Highlights 2015

- Schroeder, R., Cook, V.S. (2016). *Why New Modes are Not New Bottles for Old Wine*. In *Change We Must: Deciding on the Future of Higher Ed.* (Due to be released January, 2016)
- Schroeder, R., Cook, V.S., Gribbins, M. (2015). *Alternative Models of MOOCs*. In *MOOCs and Open Education Around the World*. New York: Routledge.
- Cook, V.S., & Schroeder, R. (2015). *Online Continuing and Professional Education: Current Varieties and Best Practices*. In *Centennial conversations: Essential essays in professional, continuing, and online education*. Washington, D.C.: UPCEA
- Cook V.S. (2015) . *Is Online Learning A Good Institutional Fit?* Evolution.
- Swan, K. (2015). Technology transience and distance education in the second machine age. *Quarterly Review of Distance Education*, 16(2), 139-145.
- Swan, K., Vahey, P., van 't Hooft, M., Kratcoski, A., Rafanan, K., Stanford, T., Yarnall, L., & Cook, D. (2015). *Preparation for Future Learning: Exploring the efficacy of problem-based learning and cross-curricular experiences*. In H. Leary (Ed.). *Essential Readings in Problem-Based Learning*. West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press.

- Phillips, William. *Mandated Consolidation/The Second Time Around/1985-86*. Aug. issue of *Leadership Matters* from Illinois Association of School Administrators.
- Schwartz, B. & Day, S. (2015) "*Illinois Law in the School Office: The Essential Desk Reference*" (Second Edition). Illinois Principals Association, Springfield.

Grants

- Outside Evaluator (K. Swan), US Department of Education. National Center for the Study of Distance Education and Technological Advancements. University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. 2014-17. UIS Principal Investigator (K. Swan), **WCET/Gates Foundation**, "Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR)," \$50,000.00, 2011; \$100,000.00, 2013-14.

Department of Educational Leadership Faculty and Staff

Scott Day, Ed.D.
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Kathy Massey, Ed.D.
Assistant Clinical Professor

Daniel Matthews, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

William Phillips, Ed.D.
Associate Professor

Karen Swan, Ed.D.
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Professor

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Important Dates and Information

Fall Semester 2015

November 23-27, Monday - Friday - Thanksgiving Recess

December 12, Saturday - Last Day of Classes

December 14-19, Monday - Saturday - Finals Week

December 19, Saturday - Semester Ends

December 23, Wednesday (Noon) - Final Grading Deadline

Spring Semester 2016

January 18, Monday - Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance,
Campus Closed

January 19, Tuesday - Classes Begin

February 19, Friday - Deadline for graduation application
for Spring 2016

March 14-18, Monday - Friday - Spring Recess

March 27, Sunday - Easter

May 7, Saturday - Last Day of Classes

May 9-14, Monday - Saturday - Finals Week

May 14, Saturday - Semester Ends/Commencement

May 18, Wednesday (Noon) - Final Grading Deadline

Summer Session 2016

June 6, Monday - Classes Begin

July 30, Saturday - Semester Ends

August 3, Wednesday (Noon) - Final Grading Deadline