Preface

Every spring the Faculty of Education has the honour of hosting our Graduate Student Symposium. Current and recently graduated students from our M. Ed and Ph. D programs have the opportunity to present their own research to other students, faculty members, educators and the public. This public review and discussion of one’s research is a hallmark in the life and work of a scholar. Participants help create new knowledge and comment on the implications of their work for educators, schools, and students.

The theme of this year’s symposium was *Schools Today: Promoting Educational Success*. Though the original theme of the 2005 Graduate Symposium was not "change" or "reform," as we read the paper submissions, it was clear that all of the papers were promoting educational success through change and reform in the educational system. While change is often taken for granted in education (There is always some "new" program being promoted.), real change is often very slow in both educational administration and curriculum.

One of the goals of graduate education, we believe, is to foster change in the system–not just change for the sake of change, but progress through systematic study of the field and assessment of present practice in terms of *improvement* and *innovation*.

The eight papers presented here represent thoughtful and considered calls for change in the system, in administration, and in classroom practice. The first section addresses change in the administration of schools, with a particular emphasis on the principal of the school as a primary change agent. Jerome Cranston discusses how principals can transform schools into professional learning communities, communities that serve as supports and environments for change. Brenda St. Hilaire discusses teachers’ concepts of social justice and how those concepts can be used to engender school improvement. Tammy MacDonald describes how one important educator, Celia Reynolds, has contributed to reform and change in educational administration. The last paper in this section by Jennifer Lawson returns to the principal as change agent and examines the challenges of leading a school in the inner city.

The second section of the volume focuses on change in curriculum. Using one school as a case study, Maria Bonan discusses how change is needed in order to sustain French Immersion. Craig Blagden presents an innovative approach to teaching mathematics to middle-years students through cross-age tutoring. Collen Podaima examines parental attitudes towards the use of medication to change the behavior of children diagnosed as having emotional and/or behavioral problems. The last paper in the volume by Debra Abraham Radi, Phyllis Hildebrandt, Joan Martin, and Beryl Peters is a discussion of a collaborative narrative research project investigating the ArtsSmart program where artists visit schools and help teachers promote change in classrooms.

This will be the sixth volume of symposium papers we have published. We are proud of the work our graduate students have carried out and agreed to have published in this series.

And we are extremely pleased to offer this 2005 collection of papers for your consideration.

Stanley Straw and Zana Marie Lutfiyya
Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba Publications

The series of Graduate Student Symposium publications sponsored by the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba provides a venue for graduate students to publish their work in a fashion that makes it accessible to other graduate students, faculty, and educational professionals.

This volume is the 5th in a series of publications. Four of those years are available on line:

“Sharing our Work and Findings: Moving into the Mosaic” - March 17-18, 2000
(Edited by Zana Marie Lutfiyya & Karen E. Smith)

“Research, Curriculum and Pedagogy: Exploring Applications” - March 8-9, 2000
(Edited by Zana Marie Lutfiyya, Karen E. Smith, & Stanley B. Straw)

Both are available at:

Available at:
http://www.umanitoba.ca/education/symposium03/index.shtml

“Educational Research Opportunities” - March 5-6, 2004
Available at:
http://www.umanitoba.ca/education/symposium04/index.shtml

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