



Faculty Development

Music department chair Michael Jorgensen (at left in photo below) is pictured with internationally acclaimed bass-baritone Simon Estes following the performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's The Death of the Bishop of Brindisi at the College's Nobel Concert on October 5 in Christ Chapel. Jorgensen sang the bishop's part in Menotti's cantata, a role that Estes also has sung on several occasions, including with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. The Menotti work was performed at Gustavus by the Gustavus Symphony Orchestra, the Gustavus Choir, and the Mankato Children's Chorus Concert Choir, with soloists Jorgensen and fellow faculty member Rebecca McConaughy, all under the direction of Gustavus Choir conductor Gregory Aune. Estes, an Iowa native who has been artist-in-residence at Wartburg College since 2002, had learned of the performance and made the trip to St. Peter to attend.

Educational research with real consequences

Associate Professor of Education **Carolyn O'Grady** asked students in her fall-semester "Human Relations" course to engage in educational research that had "real" consequences. The students conducted an analysis of the English Language Learners (ELL) Program at St. Peter High School, a project O'Grady had developed over the summer in con-

sultation with **Noreen Buhmann**, director of the Community Service Center at Gustavus. O'Grady's work was funded by the Faculty Development Program's Service Learning for Social Justice Program. Gustavus students researched ELL and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, interviewed 16 teachers and administrators in the school district,

talked with all high school ELL students, and observed classes at the high and middle schools. At the end of the course, O'Grady's students presented their report to the St. Peter high school administrative team, with the hope that their project might lead to an analysis of what is effective about the ELL program and where change might be needed.

Cultures in e-dialogue

For his course "Cultures in Dialogue: France and Africa," **Pascal Kyoore**, associate professor of French, enlisted the expertise of Belgium-based Dr. Alexis Tengan. Tengan, who is the chair of the Foundation for Rural Education, Empowerment, and Development (FREED), headquartered in Ghana, held weekly conversations with students via e-mail, answered questions from students about course readings, and served as a resource for class projects. Kyoore and Tengan's partnership, supported by the Global Faculty Program, takes advantage of the Internet and supports the College's aim to internationalize the campus.

The art and science of nursing

The challenge of preparing nurses to be effective professionals is enormous. Recognizing the need to maintain high educational standards and effective pedagogy, the Department of Nursing, including professors **Jane Coleman**, **Judy Gardner**, **Paula Swiggum**, **Barbara Zust**, and **Angelynn Grabau** and emerita professor **Kay Moline**, recently assessed their program with the help of a consultant from the University of Minnesota and with support from the Faculty Development Program. Then, using the assessment findings, they worked with each other to strengthen their teaching and assessment of student learning. The health arena

changes continually, Coleman notes, "causing the curriculum to continually evolve and necessitating intentional control" over how faculty members approach their student learners.

Researching research

Student researchers have to navigate their way through an increasingly complex hybrid print-electronic environment. **Barbara Fister**, professor and librarian, is interested in learning how students negotiate libraries, databases, and the Web. Fister interviewed students about their research process: how they found a focus, located sources, made critical choices about their potential sources, and used the sources in writing. "Every student I spoke to," Fister comments, "had healthy skepticism about the reliability of websites," although they were "less sophisticated about detecting bias or credibility in print sources." Such findings will assist Fister and her colleagues to better focus their teaching and better plan the workshops they conduct for faculty and students.

