



Buehl in Belgium

Dr. Michelle Buehl, Assistant Professor, Counseling, Educational Psychology and Research (CEPR), has been invited to present a seminar based on her work and participate in a workshop with a group of researchers at the Catholic University of Leuven in Lueven, **Belgium** in December, 2005. Specifically, medical education researchers with the Department of General Practice in the College of Medicine plan to develop a measure of medical students' **epistemological beliefs** and use the measure to assess changes in students' beliefs after a **planned intervention**. Dr. Buehl will share her work on epistemological beliefs with them and discuss the project they are planning. Faculty from the psychology and education departments at the university will also attend the seminar and participate in the workshop.

Fulbright Scholar

Dr. Erin Martz an assistant professor who teaches rehabilitation counseling in the department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research will be a Fulbright Scholar in **Saratov, Russia** for the spring semester of 2006. She will examine the employment barriers and accommodations for **individuals with disabilities** in 5 cities in Russia.

Her first trip to Russia was in 2004, when she began collaborating with the World Institute on Disability and Perspektiva, a disability organization based in Moscow. She will collaborate with Perspektiva for data collection of the Fulbright research project and for understanding the general employment situation for individuals with disabilities in Russia.

Erin is beginning a dialogue about possible collaboration and **official university connections** that can be made **between Perspektiva and the University of Memphis** and is planning to meet with interested university officials and professors on December 21, 2005.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!



Higher Education in Former Soviet Countries

Sharon Horne, Ph.D., an associate professor in counseling psychology in the Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Research is an **academic fellow** of the Soros Open Society Foundation for the academic year 2005-2006.

As a fellow, she is working with faculty and students in the psychology department of Central Asia American University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on **higher education curriculum reform, cross-cultural research projects and departmental development**. She visited Bishkek in September and October of this year, and will return to Kyrgyzstan in March of 2006. In addition, she and her colleagues will present their joint projects at an international forum on higher education reform in **former Soviet countries** in Tbilisi, Georgia on her return to Kyrgyzstan.

New Teacher Center

The New Teacher Center at the University of Memphis in the College of Education is recipient of the **Tennessee Board of Regents' Academic Excellence Award**. The award will be presented at the March (2006) Board meeting in Nashville.

COE Alumni Association

Thanks to our new Development Director, Dr. Gail Robinson, we are in the process of developing an official **College of Education chapter** of the UM Alumni Association.

Gail recently coordinated a wine and cheese reception for COE alums. The turnout was great; everyone was energized and ready to assist in getting a chapter organized and active.

Hovda in Hawaii

Dr. Betty Lou Whitford, Dean, the University of Southern Maine and I will present "*Approaches to Teacher Learning Communities: Linking Policy, Practice, and Research*" at the 2006 **Hawaii International Conference on Education** in early January. My focus will be on the University of Memphis New Teacher Center.