Guest editorial
Challenges are part of teaching climate

Colleges of Education and Teacher Programs are continuously faced with the challenge of preparing teacher candidates for the changing world of K-12 education. Just as the demands of the classroom change, teacher preparation must also change. It is important to prepare teacher candidates for the real world of classroom teaching.

The Teacher Education Program at Adrian College combines on-campus instruction with parallel field experiences and clinical observations. In this way, it is hoped that theory and practice will become linked for the teacher candidates as they prepare for their careers.

Following his degree in journalism from MSU, Jeffrey Plum enrolled in Adrian College to pursue secondary teaching certification. As part of the preparation, he completed more than 400 hours of experience working with secondary students prior to his associate (student) teaching. As an assignment for TED 330: Teaching Learning Processes, Mr. Plum conducted an interview with the principal of an area high school. This interview helped the students see the theories behind the classroom. Following the responses to general questions such as “What are your administrative responsibilities?” and “What would you say about your school’s curriculum?” he probed with questions about the school’s mission statement and its relationship to curricular and extracurricular offerings.

The results were a lengthy, in-depth interview which reflected both Mr. Plum’s insight in the current issues of secondary education, but a paper which reflected his background and professional preparation in journalism as well.

The English teacher, under whom Mr. Plum completed part of his associate (student) teaching, has written that Mr. Plum was particularly effective in the teaching of writing and in working with students in developing their own writing and editing skills. She also reported that students responded to Mr. Plum in a positive manner, recognizing his own expertise and insights into the writing process. The journalism teacher with whom he also worked reported that Mr. Plum often used his own experiences to help motivate beginning reporters.

Given his professional experience in journalism combined with this academic preparation, including field experiences and associate teaching, I believe Mr. Plum is an ideal candidate for a teaching position in journalism or in English courses which provide an emphasis on the teaching of writing. His talent, interest, and creativity should be obvious.

Dr. Donald Cellini is a professor in the teacher education and foreign language departments at Adrian College. The Teacher Education Department of Adrian College contributed to this article.

What’s so great about education?

Jeffrey R. Plum

What’s so great about education?

Respect comes from applying yourself and wanting to become a better person. Too many times, we forget what’s important, and sometimes, I think the students do, too.

If teachers apply themselves in the classroom, their students will pick up on it, and, I believe, apply themselves as well. I believe it’s important for a teacher — young or old — to assert the knowledge and experience in a fun and creative way. Yes, respect is earned. But it’s earned through positive work habits, dedication, determination, and want.

What’s so great about education? A lot, and I am more than willing to accept the challenge it offers.

Jeffrey R. Plum is a journalist who is looking for a career in high school teaching & coaching.

Letters to the Editor
Shows genuine interest in students

I have known Jeff for over three years as I am pastor of the church he attends here in Addison. I have watched Jeff relate well to middle and high school students. While observing him involved in his current employment (reporting sports news for local papers), I have seen Jeff show genuine interest and provide encouragement for the young people with whom he comes in contact.

Jeff has been active with our church softball team as both a member and coach. Jeff’s enthusiasm and leadership were greatly appreciated the three years that I have been in contact with the team. Jeff has been prompt, efficient and faithful in his execution of leadership positions within the team.

In my contact with Jeff, he has always proven to be kind, personable and courteous. He shows good people skills and seems to be able to relate to just about anyone.

I know that Jeff has a heart for education, especially the education of high school students. And even more specifically, educating students in the area of writing and journalism.

I would like to recommend Jeff Plum for a position in the area of teaching, especially if he could be involved with writing and journalism because he has expertise, both in the realms of knowledge and experience.

Pastor Keith Porter
Addison United Church

An asset to any school system

Jeffrey Plum would make a good teacher in your school system as he is young, energetic, and enthusiastic. He has worked part-time as a sports writer with The Daily Telegram, as well as gone to college for at least the five years that I have known him.

In that time, Jeff has earned my respect and admiration by his thoughtful and knowledgeable reporting and in-depth articles that I have seen him research, develop and write. Jeff would be an asset to any school system that cares about teaching values, morals, and discipline to their students as he has touched on those virtues in several of the articles and stories that I have read.

Jeffrey Plum has taken it upon himself to develop and learn by asking questions and attending numerous workshops so that he would be knowledgeable in the latest ideas and innovations. I have seen Jeff use these new and old ideas on numerous occasions with many positive results.

Jeff has learned by trial and error that students have to be treated differently, and he has adapted to each situation as it has risen.

I believe that Jeffrey Plum would make an excellent teacher, and I would highly recommend him for your school system.

Al Navarro
Michigan State Trooper
Blissfield Girls Cross Country & Track Coach

Please see LETTERS, page 4