

Proposal for Research Scholar Program

Illene C. Noppe, Human Development

Project (s) Narrative

Project 1: Organization and development of a special issue of the journal, *Death Studies*, focused on death education.

As the demand for more information and training in death and dying (particularly for mental health professionals) has increased, it has become imperative that strong theoretical and empirically based scholarship be presented to as wide an audience as possible. The Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) considers death education to be a significant aspect of the thanatological “Body of Knowledge,” and thus knowledge of this topic is required for passing the certification exam in thanatology. ADEC has published the *Handbook Thanatology* (2007) and I was privileged to contribute several articles on death education for this important book. In my research for these articles, I learned that although there are a number of journal articles and book chapters devoted to death education, there are many topics that are inadequately addressed or are outdated. In addition, there is no one publication that pulls together a number of aspects of death education.

Thus, the purpose of this project is to create a special issue on death education for the journal *Death Studies* which is considered to be one of two major journals in the field of thanatology (the other is *Omega*). The proposed topics for this special issue include: “Death Education and Evidence Based Practice through the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning,” “Interdisciplinarity and Death Education,” “International Efforts

Towards Death Education,” “Graduate Education and Degree Programs,” “Medical Education,” “Death Education and Diversity,” “Death Education and Ethics,” “The Use of the Internet in Death Education,” “The Media as a Death Educator,” “The History of Death Education,” “Life Span Death Education,” “Community Outreach and Death Education,” “Certification Programs and Death Education,” “Mentoring the Next Generation of Death Educators.”

I have already spoken to the Editor of *Death Studies*, Dr. Robert Neimeyer, and he is most interested in my developing this project. I will serve as the guest editor, contracting authors for this issue, writing the introduction and first two articles, and editing and revising the work as it comes in. All articles will be peer-reviewed, and it will be my responsibility for organizing these reviews of the 125 page issue.

In addition to work on this special issue of *Death Studies*, I have two additional projects that would see completion as a result of the release time granted by the Research Scholars program:

Project 2: Manuscript on College Student Bereavement.

This project involves my work on *College Student Bereavement*. I am currently working on a manuscript of this study, where data was collected last year on the UW-Green Bay campus. I have presented the findings in a number of venues, ranging from on-campus presentations, the 2008 ADEC conference in Montreal, CA, and to Lawrence University. In addition, several of my colleagues from ADEC are planning on using our survey at their institutions (e.g., Purdue University, Oral Roberts University) so that we may eventually pool our findings into a national sample. A parallel study of

faculty attitudes regarding college students and grief is in the planning stages and hopefully will be ready to implement during Spring 2009.

Project 3: Prospectus on graduate level textbook on Death and Dying.

Finally, I would like to begin work on a book prospectus on death and dying written for graduate students. I have been approached by Routledge publishers for this project and they have been most receptive to framing this book from an interdisciplinary perspective. I had an extended discussion with the book representative at the 2008 ADEC conference, and we tentatively mapped out a book that would look at thanatology from an interdisciplinary perspective. Currently, there are no graduate-level textbooks available.

Given that thanatology is my major field of study and a focus of my teaching, the above projects would be a wonderful integration of the two for my development as a thanatological scholar and teacher. Furthermore, these projects would fulfill my desire to further interdisciplinary education and the promotion of SoTL based research in death education. The work on college student bereavement has become a new passion of mine, not only because of the scholarly interest, but because it is my belief that understanding the prevalence and outcomes of this experience would aid the UW-Green Bay community to develop guidelines for helping our bereft student body. We have recently created a student-led chapter of National Students for Ailing Mothers and Fathers, which is a grief support group for students who have lost a loved one. Thus, I hope that my scholarship would not only benefit my own research program

and teaching, but lead to an effective community service program on our campus that could serve as a model for other campuses.

Thus, the final product from the Research Scholars program would be the first draft of the special issue of *Death Studies* on Death Education, a manuscript on college student bereavement, and a first draft of a graduate level book prospectus on Death and Dying. Although this may be rather ambitious, I have recently finished my term as editor of *The Forum*, the major publication of ADEC, which open up the time and mental space to work on the above projects.

Time Line for Research Scholars Project

Special issue on Death Education for *Death Studies*

January 2009 (August 2009):

- 1) Contract authors to write articles.
- 2) Write article on Evidence Based Practice, SoTL and Death Education (based on presentation to ADEC, 2007) for special issue on death education for *Death Studies*.
- 3) Write manuscript on College Student Bereavement.
- 4) Submit IRB proposal for Faculty Survey on College Student Bereavement

February (September):

- 1) Write article on Interdisciplinarity and Death Education (based on presentation to ADEC, 2008) for special issue on death education for *Death Studies*.
- 2) Edit and finish manuscript on College Student Bereavement.
- 3) Begin data collection on Faculty Survey
- 4) Outline for book prospectus

March (October):

- 1) Edit incoming articles.
- 2) Data analysis on Faculty Survey
- 3) Work on book prospectus.
- 4) Write introduction to special issue for *Death Studies*.

April (November):

- 1) Edit incoming articles.
- 2) Data analysis on Faculty Survey.
- 3) Book prospectus.

May (December):

- 1) Complete first draft of special issue.
- 2) First draft of book prospectus.

Signature Page

I have been informed of the submission of the Research Scholar proposal for Illene C. Noppe, Human Development and consent to her release time for either the Spring, 2009 of Fall 2009 semester.

Regan Gurung, Chair of Human Development 11/24/08

Illene Noppe, Human Development 11/24/08

****If you wish a hard copy with the actual signatures, I would be happy to provide this. I have Dr. Gurung's permission to type in his name.**

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Education

1974-1979 Ph.D. Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Department of Educational Psychology

1972 B.A. Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois

Teaching Appointments

1990-Present Professor with tenure, Human Development/Psychology/Women's Studies,
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI

1984-1990 Assistant Professor, Human Development/Psychology/Women's Studies
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI

1979-1984 Assistant Professor, Psychology, Lawrence University, Appleton, WI 1974-
1979 Teaching Assistant, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA,

1973-1974 Teaching Assistant, Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Selected Recent Publications

Noppe, I.C. (in press). Continuing bonds, attachment and grief: Food for thought. *The Forum*, 34, October 2008.

Noppe, I.C. & Noppe, L.D. (in press). Adolescent accidents and homicides. To be published in Balk, D. & Corr, C. (Eds.). *Adolescents and death*. Springer Publishing Company.

Noppe, I.C. (2008). Death education. In C. Bryant & D. Peck (Eds.). *Encyclopedia of death and the human experience*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Noppe, I.C. & Noppe, L.D. (2008). When a friend dies. In K. Doka (Ed.), *Living with grief: Children and adolescents*. Washington D.C.: Hospice Foundation of America.

Noppe, I.C. (2007). Historical and contemporary perspectives on death education. In Balk (Ed.). *Handbook of thanatology*. Northbrook, IL: Association for Death Education and Counseling.(pp. 329-336).

- Noppe, I.C. (2007). Life span issues and death education. In Balk (Ed.). *Handbook of thanatology*. Northbrook, IL: Association for Death Education and Counseling. (pp. 337-344).
- Noppe, I.C. (2006). Terrorism and resilience: Adolescents' and teachers' responses to September 11, 2001. *Death Studies, 30*, 41-60.
- Noppe, I.C. (2004). Death education and the scholarship of teaching: A meta-educational experience. *The Forum, 30*, 1, 3 – 4.
- Noppe, I.C. & Noppe, L.D. (2004). Adolescent experiences with death: Letting go of immortality. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling, 26*, 146-167.
- Noppe, I.C. (2004). Gender issues in end-of-life care. In J. Berzoff & P. Silverman (Eds.), *Living with dying. A handbook for end-of-life healthcare practitioners*. New York: Columbia University Press. pp. 206-225).
- Noppe, I. C. (2002). Children and death. In Neil Salkind & Lewis Margolis (Eds.), *Child Development* (Volume One, Macmillan Psychology Reference Series).
- Noppe, I. C. (2000). Beyond broken bonds and broken hearts: The bonding of theories of attachment and grief. *Developmental Review, 20*, 514-538.
- Noppe, I.C. & Noppe, L.D. (1997). Evolving meanings of death during early, middle, and later adolescence. *Death Studies, 21*, 253-275.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- Noppe, I.C., Linzmeir, E., Martin, R., & Wisneski, M. (May 2008). *Forging a pathway through college during bereavement and grief: Preliminary findings of the National College Student Grief Study*. Presented to the 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Montreal, Quebec, CA.
- Noppe, I.C., Servaty-Seib, H., Noppe, L.D., Tedrick, S., & Wisneski, M. (May 2008). *Electronic sampling method's snapshot of the inner world of bereaved adolescents*. Presented to the 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Montreal, Quebec, CA.
- Noppe, I.C. (May 2008). *Teaching that matters: Interdisciplinarity and death education*.
 'Contemporary Themes and Issues in Death Education. " Symposium at the 30th Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Montreal, Quebec, CA. (Note: I organized the symposium).
- Noppe, I. C. (April 2007). *Bridging research and teaching*. Symposium on "What we have learned from death education." 29th Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Indianapolis, IN. (Note: I organized the symposium).