

Mary Bevel

Professor Mary Ballard Bevel is an Associate Professor of Webster University where she serves as Chair of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies in the College of Education. She received her bachelor's degree from Webster College in Art and Psychology, her Masters of Arts in Teaching with a specialization in the Social Sciences from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, and her doctorate from the University of Missouri – St. Louis in Educational Leadership with certification in Educational Administration. Her other certificates are Principal, Special Education, Learning Disabled, Mentally Handicapped, and Emotional/Behavior Disorder. Her teaching was recognized when she was nominated for the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. Before becoming a university professor she served as a curriculum coordinator, a teacher of learning disabled students, and as an assistant principal.

Dr. Bevel has been active in grant writing, and she has been awarded grants by the Missouri Family Literacy Initiative, the Governor's Special Literacy Grant for "Adults with Learning Disabilities," the Governor's Special Literacy Grant "Learning to Work – Goodwill," and by Briarcrest Accelerated School for "Accelerating Literacy for All Students: Building a Community of Learners." She has been active in the national and international professional association of Special Education for many years and has made presentations at juried meetings of these groups in Nova Scotia, Antalya Turkey, Quebec, Vancouver, and the United States. Members of the Society of Philosophy and History of Education have enjoyed her thought-provoking presentations for many years. In addition to her research in Special Education Dr. Bevel has published on a wide variety of topics including bigotry, narrative, literacy, collegiality, and biography. Her articles have been published in the *Journal of Philosophy and History of Education*, *Goodwill Workplace Curriculum*, and by *Literacy Investment for Tomorrow*, and the *Universite de Sherbrooke* as well as other venues. Dr. Bevel has memberships in the Society of Philosophy and History of Education of which she is the current President-elect, the International Society for Educational Biography, the Foundations of Education Society, Missouri State Teachers Association, Missouri Professors of Educational Administration, and AERA.

Dr. Bevel has been active in her community serving on committees for school districts, the Mappaville State School, on the Board of the Missouri Learning Disabilities Association, as a proposal writer for a charter school, and on the Vestry of Epiphany Episcopal Church.

Mary, who is of Cajun heritage, and her husband of forty-one years, Vance, are from Louisiana. They have two married sons, John whose wife is Monica, and Brian whose wife is Diane. Mary, Vance and Cookie, their twenty-one year old cat, live in an idyllic woodland setting in the country in the hills about forty miles south of St. Louis in a development she describes as "in the woods with a lot of silence, wildlife, trees and bright stars. Vance enjoys golf

and motorcycling while Mary says that her main outside interest is living her yoga practice which she says “keeps me sane. I always do several things at once; yoga cleans out my mind. In another stage of my life, I was a potter, a photographer, and a painter. Color and composition fascinate me.” We welcome this Renaissance woman as William E. Drake Lecturer for 2008.