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Way Down Yonder On The Chattahoochee

If the College of Education has its way, future Columbusites will better understand and appreciate how valuable and important a resource the Chattahoochee River is. Through the month-long Summer Spectacular that ended July 19, 120 children from Muscogee and Harris counties were guided by early childhood education majors as they learned such things about the Chattahoochee as environmental issues, wildlife, and the river's history as a means of transportation.

The 2007 Summer Spectacular, the College of Education's first such event, served children ages 4 to 11. Each Monday through Thursday, children from Muscogee and Harris counties met at

River Road Elementary with 30 CSU early childhood majors to learn about the river. Four College of Education faculty members (Drs. Jan Burcham and Deirdre Greer along with professors Betsy Glisson and Joseph Mills) provided oversight to the program. Teacher candidates, though, designed the program and were its teachers. "Students were responsible for the decision-making," notes Dr. Burcham. Decisions made by teacher candidates included planning, implementing, and evaluating the program.

Based on parent responses, the Spectacular was a stunning success.

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Columbus State early childhood majors guide children exploring flora and fauna of the Chattahoochee River.

Rock On The Road

Dean David Rock is a man on the go. Convinced that the last place an education dean should spend his time is behind a desk, Dean Rock has set a personal goal for 2007-2008 of meeting teachers from every school in Muscogee County, Harris County, and Fort Benning. By February of the coming year, that will mean better than 35 schools in the immediate vicinity of Columbus State.

"I consider every K-12 school a partner of CSU," he notes. "I've been dean for a year. It's important for me to get into the schools now and talk to teachers about the initiatives we're putting in place in the College of Education."

Dean Rock is enthusiastic about new admission policies for graduate programs, policies which encourage fully certified teachers to seek M.Ed. or Ed.S. degrees without, as part of the admission process, submitting traditional test scores such as the GRE. He is also pleased to share information about new offerings at the graduate level, including an M.Ed. in



David Rock

Library/Media and a science endorsement for early childhood teachers. These programs were tentatively approved during an October visit by the Professional Standards Commission.

Normally, Dean Rock meets with teachers during after-school faculty meetings. He says that doing so helps clear up misconceptions about Columbus State graduate programs. "Teachers have heard that we don't have alternative payment plans at CSU, or that we don't offer weekend, evening, or on-line courses." In face-to-face meetings with teachers, he goes on, "We can dispel the myths quickly."

Local educators seem to be pleased with the opportunity to meet CSU's Dean of Education. "I visited one Muscogee County school where no one could recall a prior visit by a head of teacher education from Columbus State. That amazed me." In the future, if Dean Rock has his way, that will no longer be the case.

Sixty Faculty And Staff Participate In WALK

To promote an increase of physical activity and health in the College of Education, Dr. Ellen Martin and other faculty from the Physical Education and Exercise Science programs initiated the Cougar WALK program this fall for faculty and staff. Beginning in late August, 60 faculty and staff agreed to participate in the program with a shared goal of walking 50 million steps by the end of the academic year. This is the equivalent, according to Dr. Martin, of walking around the world. As well, the goal of 50 million steps is intended to help celebrate Columbus State's 50th anniversary.

Participants received a pedometer and report the number of steps they take each week. To make things more interesting, Dr. Martin guided the formation of five teams in order to encourage friendly rivalry so that the 50 million steps can be reached.

By late October, the program had greatly exceeded expectations, better than 30 million steps. Results for the program are displayed on the 3rd floor



(L) College of Education Walkers Janet Knight and Brenda Jenkins hit the Mall early one October morning.

of Jordan Hall, where participants can track their team's progress.

Participants have responded enthusiastically. "It is a great motivational tool to know that others in the College of Education are walking, too," notes Dr. Mary Beth Hendricks. "I feel better physically and mentally."

Others agree. Math Collaborative staffer Janet Knight often walks before work at Peachtree Mall. "It's funny," she says, "how something as simple as a pedometer will give one a get-up-and-go mentality." Brenda Jenkins, secretary to the dean, is another early morning mall walker. She reports that she's up by 5:30 each morning, ready to walk 45 minutes before work. Lisa Shaw, Director of the SAFE Office exclaimed, "It is a dangerous sport - whew!" when the team she captains took the lead after seven weeks.

Dr. Martin has attempted to quell rumors that some faculty members have worn their pedometers while sleeping. "We don't want them so attached to their pedometers that they lose them in bed, the shower, or hot tub."

Dr. Williams Named As Faculty Writing Fellow

Dr. Bonita Friend Williams, Professor of Reading Education, has been selected as one of the six 2007-2008 CSU Faculty Writing Fellows. As a Writing Fellow, Dr. Williams will meet regularly with other Fellows to discuss the most effective ways to teach and to respond to student writing, a major emphasis at Columbus State beginning a year ago.

According to Dr. Jim Owen, Director of the Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, Writing Fellows "will take on leading roles in faculty forums on the teaching of writing at CSU." Competition among faculty to be named a Writing Fellow for 2007-2008 was keen. Those selected receive a stipend of \$2,000.

Dr. Williams' project, "Enhancing Writing Development with Digital

Storytelling," will focus on ways in which digital storytelling can be used to expand the literacy experiences of teacher candidates enrolled in her fall and spring reading education courses. Dr. Williams believes that, by extending the writing process beyond the print publication stage, digital storytelling adds voice and visuals to make stories come alive for both the writer and the audience. By introducing teacher candidates and graduate in-service teachers to this literacy technology application, the project has the potential to impact the PK-12 pupils they will or already do teach.

In addition to disseminating her project results on campus, Dr. Williams and colleague Dr. Paulina Kuforiji plan presentations at professional conferences in November (Georgia Educational



Dr. Bonita Friend Williams

Technology Conference) and in February (Kennesaw State University College Teaching and Learning Conference).

Leadership Faculty Revises Program

College of Education faculty are putting the final touches on proposed revisions to Columbus State's programs preparing educational administrators. This action is in response to the University System's move to "sunset" all existing Educational Leadership programs as of the beginning of fall semester, 2007. Revisions have been made in response to new standards of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) and are consistent with the conceptual framework of the College of Education.



Tom Hackett

"We were already moving in the direction that the PSC is now requiring," explains Dr. Tom Hackett of the Educational Leadership program. New programs, according to Dr. Hackett, will be more performance-based than those of the past, with more school-based assignments and assessment. "We were well positioned for these changes. What we'll be doing in the near future to prepare educational leaders is similar to what our counseling program is already doing. This will be a challenge for both faculty and students, but should make a real difference in what our graduates will know and be able to do."

Mark Your Calendar!

March 18-19

Andrea Peterson, National Teacher of the Year, will visit Columbus State on March 18-19, 2008.

This will be the nineteenth consecutive year that the College of Education has hosted the Teacher of the Year.

School Library-Media And Early Childhood Science Programs Taking Off

College of Education administrators are optimistic that a fall developmental review of two proposed programs—one in School Library/Media, the other a P-5 Science endorsement—will lead to their implementation in 2008. As detailed by Dr. Deborah Gober, who chairs the Teacher Education Department, a team representing the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) visited CSU in September to assess the institution's capacity for initiating these two graduate programs.



Paulina Kuforiji

The PSC team found that various NCATE/PSC standards were met for these programs; thus, they will be eligible for developmental approval if confirmed by a review panel

next spring. Once notified of a favorable outcome of this review, Dr. Gober indicates that CSU may admit students into these programs and recommend completers for certification.

Dr. Deirdre Greer, in early childhood, and Dr. Paulina Kuforiji, in technology, coordinate the programs. They played key roles in preparing for the onsite visit. Dr. Gober observes that "we know of many professionals in the counties CSU serves who want to come here for advanced training in these fields in one or the other of these two areas. We think the visit went well and are hopeful that these programs will be in place a year from now."



Deidre Greer

Kappa Delta Pi Initiates Twenty-Seven

Kappa Delta Pi, the national honor society in education, initiated 27 outstanding graduate and undergraduate students in ceremonies last April. Kappa Delta Pi promotes excellence in scholarship, high personal standards, improvement in teacher preparation, and contributions to education.

Undergraduates establish eligibility for Kappa Delta Pi membership by completing 60 semester hours and maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or better. Those invited to membership as graduate students complete at least 20 graduate hours with a 3.96 GPA or better. Members comprise the top 10 percent of those entering the field of education.

Kappa Delta Pi officers for 2007-2008 are Felecia Johnson, President; Sherree Hatcher, Vice President;

Galo Andrade, Secretary/Treasurer. Advisors to the organization are Professor Betsy Glisson (early childhood education) and Dr. Clay Nicks (educational leadership).

New inductees are Veronica Evetta Allen, Elizabeth Ann Paine Bjorklund, Emerald Bushong, Shelley I. Cape, Susan L. Dubois, Rebecca Duncan, Laura E. Englebert, Shelly Edwards, Taneshia T. Fitch, Bethany S. Getz, Brittany L. Goodson, Christina P. Gowen, Sadie R. Helton, Amber A. Hurley, Angel I. Jackson, Sean L. Jackson, Jacqueline McGraw, Jennifer L. Parker, Danielle Perry, Heather Smith, Pamela Y. Steele, Amy L. Szarenski, Constance A. Thornton, Joanna R. Tinsley, Kristin C. Turner, Heather S. White, Angela G. Williams, and Lindsay B. Zachary.

First Tuesday Forum: Ten Years And Counting

Fall 2007 marked the beginning of the eleventh year for the College of Education's First Tuesday Forum (FTF). The Forum is a monthly gathering addressing topics of interest to educators, an opportunity to consider recent research, and a means of examining emerging trends affecting both teacher preparation and P-12 schooling.

First Tuesday Forums are scheduled the first Tuesday of each month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Jordan Hall 132 and are open to all interested persons. The fall 2007 lineup of topics is as follows:

- October 2 – “Brain-based Research and Its Implications for Teaching,” facilitated by Jim Brewbaker
- November 6 – “Documenting Teaching Effectiveness,” facilitated by the College of Education Committee on Teaching Effectiveness

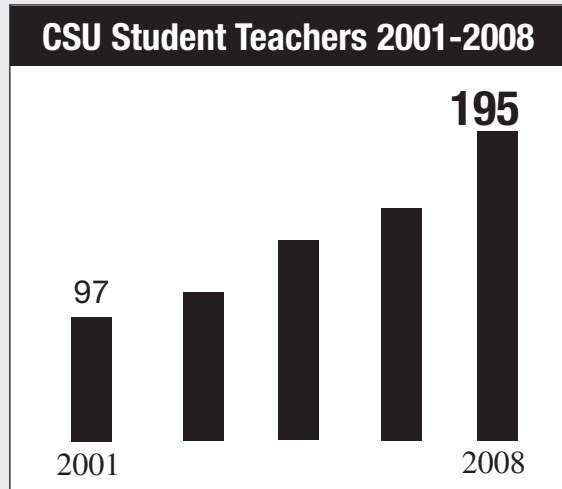
- December 4 – “Diversity Issues in Education,” facilitated by the College of Education Diversity Committee

The First Tuesday Forum began in 1997. “We were in a count-down preparing for an NCATE accreditation visit the following fall,” notes Dr. James Brewbaker, who initiated the forums with the backing of former College of Education Dean Thomas Harrison. “Thomas Harrison realized that we needed a way to keep faculty informed of how we were getting ready for the visit as well as to communicate with one another in a relatively informal setting.” At the time, Brewbaker was NCATE/PSC Coordinator.

Brewbaker comments, “By tradition, the forum is more about talk among colleagues than listening to talking heads.”

Would you Believe?

In 2007-2008, the College of Education will place twice as many student teachers as it did in 2001-2002. In 2001-2002, the COE worked with 97 student teachers. For 2007-2008, the total will be 195, each placed in the expanding Partner School Network.



Grogan Receives Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award

Jan Grogan received the College of Education's Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award in April, 2007. Thomas Harrison was dean of the College of Education from 1997 - 2005. In her nomination of Ms. Grogan for this, the COE's most prestigious recognition, Dr. Deirdre Greer wrote the following:

"Jan Grogan has led the faculty and staff at Brewer Elementary School through many curricular and instructional changes . . . which have resulted in Brewer's removal from 'Needs Improvement' status. Her efforts have included a deliberate strengthening of the partnership with Columbus State University . . . She has opened Brewer to CSU students and faculty and has actively sought feedback from CSU regarding ways to improve the academic environment and instructional practices for the good of the children."

Jan Grogan loves to welcome visitors to Brewer Elementary School. She knows that what is going on there is good for children, and she enjoys explaining how and why. She has been with the school, named in honor of slain civil rights activist Thomas E. Brewer, since its doors opened in 1991, serving first as assistant principal, then becoming principal in 1994.

With the advent of No Child Left Behind legislation, Brewer's test scores placed the school in a "needs improvement" status, where it remained for years. Ms. Grogan, tired and frustrated with various reform models and their inability to deliver, decided that "We've got to do something to change this." As it turns out, Georgia's Choice standards were just the change that Brewer needed. The school is now in its seventh year under the Georgia's Choice reform model. Grogan and her faculty believe strongly that the program has been all but overwhelming. For three consecutive years, in fact, Brewer—a school serving low-SASE children—has met Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals.

To adopt the Georgia's Choice model required a complete transformation in the way instruction at Brewer took place. Ms. Grogan led this effort. A colleague describes the principal's philosophy in these terms: "Jan believes that change only happens when it is supported." In many schools, principals have been viewed as building managers more than educators. Ms. Grogan, however, sees herself as first and foremost an instructional leader.

She explains that the key to Brewer's success has been a two-tiered approach to intervention—targeting both children and their teachers. Concentrating heavily on issues that she can control, she has used staff development activities to create

a professional learning community among her teachers and support staff. Among vital developments at the school has been the hiring of three full-time academic coaches to work closely Brewer's teachers.

Another key change at Brewer under Georgia's Choice is the creation of the Data Room. Teachers collect formative data on each child's learning every nine weeks. This information is then analyzed by Grogan, academic coaches, and teachers. As a result, formative data helps determine what adjustments need to be made to the curriculum to ensure that each student will achieve at the desired level.

Under Grogan's leadership, Brewer has also implemented a common planning hour for each grade, thus allowing teachers to meet with one another about ongoing progress and new strategies. This is a rarity in elementary schools, where teachers

too frequently have little or no time for conferencing, planning, and discussing the needs of children they teach. Twice a week, teachers meet with academic coaches to discuss progress in the classroom. Though this reform effort has required some additional work from teachers, Grogan's skillful scheduling and time management have not caused teachers to extend their workday. The low teacher-turnover rate at Brewer is a strong indication that its faculty embrace these changes.

As noted by Dr. Deirdre Greer's nomination, Jan Grogan has strengthened the partnership between Brewer and CSU. Dr. Greer visits Brewer almost every Friday to discuss strategies

for math intervention. On occasion, she models lessons for Brewer teachers. As well, Ms. Grogan created the Math Island, a classroom staffed with a full-time faculty member providing math tutorials for students. Each class visits the Math Island at least once per week. Dr. Greer points out that "the Math Island is unique to Brewer" and is yet another example of how Jan Grogan has combined creative leadership with innovative approaches to learning to help improve student performance.

Spending time with Jan Grogan and members of her faculty is an energizing experience, leaving a visitor with a sense that what is wrong with American schools can be remedied with energy and intelligence. Not content with what has been accomplished at Brewer, Ms. Grogan intends to focus on sustaining its improvements and on cultivating new leaders to strengthen the professional learning community that she and other educators have established at Brewer in the last several years.



Thomas Harrison and Jan Grogan

FACULTY NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Sallie Averitt Miller, Professor of Reading Education, presented a workshop to the Georgia Reading Association's Reading Leadership Forum in September. Dr. Miller's workshop focused on a Fast Track Reading Assessment and Intervention Cycle, a model she designed that provides teachers with an efficient and effective way to address the needs of struggling readers.

Dr. Thomas J. McCormack joined the Educational Leadership faculty in August. Dr. McCormack received his terminal degree in Educational Administration in 1980 from Auburn. He has retired from the public school arena where he served as teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent. He brings extensive experience to the Educational Leadership program.

Dr. Larry Beaty has returned to the Educational Leadership program after a one-year absence. Dr. Beaty has been superintendent of Barbour County, Alabama, schools.

Dr. Elizabeth Hipps has joined the early childhood faculty in the Department of Teacher Education. Originally a music educator, Dr. Hipps retired as principal of Downtown Elementary School.

Dr. Dutchie Riggsby, Professor of Education, was honored for 35 years service to Columbus State at the opening meeting of the CSU faculty and staff in August.

Dr. Jan Burcham, Moselle Worsley Fletcher Chair in Early Childhood Education—together with professors Betsy Glisson and Joseph Mills, and Pam Wetherington, a CSU graduate student—presented “Summer Spectacular: A Model

Summer Laboratory Experience” at the annual meeting of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) in Chicago in November.

Dr. Jan Burcham serves on the editorial board for NAECTE's international journal, the *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*.

Dr. James Brewbaker, Professor of English Education, will conclude a five-year stint as poetry editor of *English Journal* in January, 2008. In this capacity, he has selected poems for 30 issues of *EJ* between 2003 and 2008. A bi-monthly publication of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), *English Journal* has a national circulation of about 30,000 members and libraries.

Representatives of the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative--director Kenneth Jones and math specialists Hope Phillips, Cynthia Voltz, and Shannon Lewis--attended the annual meeting of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Rock Eagle on October 17-19.

Lisa Shaw, Director of the office of COE Services and Field Experiences (SAFE) was among five Columbus State personnel attending the fall conference of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in Baltimore on October 18-21.



Jan Burcham

SUMMER SPECTACULAR *Con't*

One hundred percent expressed an interest in having their children take part in a second such event in 2008.

In step with Georgia Performance Standards, teachers in five classrooms offered instruction dealing with different aspects of the central theme, the Chattahoochee River. Children chose whether they wanted to concentrate on the environment, transportation, the history of the river, or other related topics. As explained by Dr. Burcham, allowing children to choose the subjects that they studied gives them a degree of empowerment and contributes meaningfully to their experiences.

Youngsters were not the only ones to gain a sense of empowerment. Though involvement in the Summer Spectacular required hard work on their part, CSU students reported a deep sense of accomplishment and satisfaction by the end of the program. Through it, early childhood majors had an opportunity to put into practice teaching strategies they had learned in classes on campus.

A highly desirable by-product of the Spectacular was the fact that many CSU teacher candidates who participated will be able to graduate earlier than would have been possible in the past.

The Spectacular cost \$20 per child per week. Funds from the Moselle Worsley Fletcher endowment to the College of Education paid for program materials.

River Road Elementary School, a key partner of the College of Education, hosted the program, a factor that minimized operational costs of the program. Principal Molly Hart was enthusiastic about what she perceived as “an amazing transformation of our building, where students were immersed in learning at many different levels. It was fun for the children and fun for us to watch,” she said.

Dr. Burcham and her colleagues hope to have started a tradition in 2007 that will continue in 2008 and beyond. A theme for next summer has not yet been determined.



CSU students create watershed scenery at River Road Elementary School.