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# Columbus State University

# College of Education News

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## Third Class Inducted into COE Hall of Fame

**D**r. Susan Andrews, Ms. Elizabeth Holmes, and Ms. Louise Tolbert were inducted into the third class of the Education Hall of Fame at Columbus State University's College of Education. The three new inductees were honored during the annual College of Education and Alumni Association Awards Banquet held Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the CSU Davidson Center Auditorium.

Dr. Susan Andrews, Superintendent of Harris County School District, earned B. S. and M.Ed. degrees in early childhood education from Columbus College and has served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, and principal in Harris County. She earned an Ed.D. degree in educational leadership from Auburn University and participated in the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement. Recently recognized as "Georgia Superintendent of the Year" for 2007, Andrews was one of four finalists for the "National Superintendent of the Year" award. Active in professional organizations, Andrews serves as the chairperson for visiting committees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and sits on the advisory board for the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory. Andrews also serves on two committees at CSU to collaborate on teaching and leadership programs.

Ms. Elizabeth Holmes, Director of the Center for Quality Teaching and Learning at CSU, received a M.Ed. degree from Columbus College in early childhood education and an Ed.S. degree from Troy State University in elementary education. Holmes has served as a classroom teacher and staff development instructor for the Muscogee County School District and

as an instructional technology specialist for the Georgia Department of Education. She also has experience as a program coordinator for the State Data and Research Center at Georgia Institute of Technology. In her present position, Holmes leads the Center for Quality Teaching and Learning to promote and facilitate regional initiatives to advance the study and practice of quality teaching and learning.

Ms. Louise Tolbert, Muscogee County School District Mentoring Program Coordinator, earned a B.S. degree in elementary education and a M.Ed. degree in middle grades education from Columbus College. She has served as a classroom teacher, math/science resource teacher, member of the technology task force for the county and state trainer for Georgia effective teaching strategies. Tolbert has authored curriculum guides, presented at national conferences, and served as a teacher support specialist.

(article continued on page 4)



*top to bottom:  
Dr. Susan Andrews,  
Ms. Elizabeth Holmes,  
Ms. Louise Tolbert*



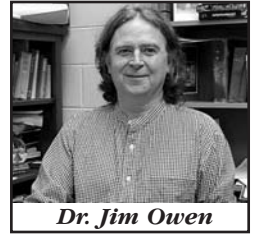
# STUDENT'S CORNER

## Owen Discusses the Role of QEP in Teacher Preparation

**S**elected to lead CSU's recently established Quality Enhancement Plan, Dr. Jim Owen, professor of English, strongly supports a focus on writing in the program of teacher preparation. The QEP plan entitled "Writing the Solution: Steps Toward Developing Competent and Professional Student Writers" works toward strengthening the focus on student writing. Owen stated, "Our goal is to ensure that students completing their core classes are competent writers and that they go on to become professional student writers in their disciplines. I see the effects that a renewed focus on writing will have for our preparation of teachers to be one of the most positive results of the program. If we graduate teachers who are confident of their writing skills, they will themselves be more effective teachers of writing."

Professional learning is one avenue mentioned by Owen to disseminate information about the QEP, and a QEP-sponsored book study was held during spring semester, 2007. Led by Dr. Vikki Collins, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, the study examined the book, *Learner-Centered Assessment on College Campuses: Shifting the Focus from Teaching to Learning*, by Mary E. Huba and Jann E. Freed (Allyn and Bacon, 2000). The book study included faculty members from the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College of Education, and the College of Science. Academic Affairs, the Servant

Leadership Program, and the Simon Schwob Memorial Library were also represented by faculty members. The 22-person study group met weekly from January through March to discuss learning outcomes, learner-centered teaching, good assessment practice, and the use of rubrics and portfolios for assessment of writing. Dr. Terry Irvin of CSU and Dr. T. E. Flateby of the University of South Florida delivered special presentations on student writing. Said Owen concerning the book study, "Getting teachers from different disciplines and colleges together to reflect on and share their teaching practices is a major step toward improving the quality of teaching on our campus. We need to be willing to bring students into that dialogue, too."



*Dr. Jim Owen*

The five-year, \$1.8 million QEP is a recent faculty response to a new accreditation requirement of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. As Owen looks forward to the continued implementation of the QEP, he remarked, "Many individual faculty members and several departments have already committed themselves to the writing initiative; the role of my office will be to assist them in accomplishing their goals." One of the most important goals that Owen has distinguished is to support a focus on writing in the program of teacher education.

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## Student Information and News

**T**he COE is offering opportunities for students to serve as graduate teaching assistants beginning fall semester, 2007. A stipend is included along with tuition assistance. Contact [hackett\\_paul@colstate.edu](mailto:hackett_paul@colstate.edu), [gober\\_deborah@colstate.edu](mailto:gober_deborah@colstate.edu), or [jenkins\\_brenda@colstate.edu](mailto:jenkins_brenda@colstate.edu) or call 706.568.2255 for more information.

Could you benefit from a professional conference or learning opportunity? The COE can furnish funds for professional development by students. Contact [gober\\_deborah@colstate.edu](mailto:gober_deborah@colstate.edu) for more information.

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## Summer Spectacular

CSU Early Childhood Faculty and Students offer:

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### SUMMER SPECTACULAR

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An exciting learning experience for young children

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This year's theme: River Works -  
Exploring Columbus and the Chattahoochee

WHO:	4 - 11 Year Olds
WHERE:	River Road Elementary School
WHEN:	June 25 - July 19* (May attend 1-4 weeks) *Will not meet on July 4th
COST:	\$20.00/week for snacks / supplies

LIMITED SPACES ARE AVAILABLE!

Positions will be filled based on order of registration.  
For information call:(706) 565-7810

Please send newsletter information to  
[collins\\_vikki@colstate.edu](mailto:collins_vikki@colstate.edu)

# TEACHER'S CORNER

## MRA 2007 Spring Literacy Conference

### The Science of Reading: What Every Classroom Teacher Should Know

**M**uscogee Reading Association hosted its spring, 2007, literacy conference on March 9th with over 100 participants attending. Special guests included Dr. Sheree Bryant, President of the Georgia Reading Association, and Ms. Kaitlin Solomon, Georgia Reader of the Year, from Columbus High School. Also in attendance were Muscogee County School District teachers, CSU in-service and pre-service teachers, CSU professors, and local children selected as district and school level readers. Accompanied by their parents, the children received certificates of honor and books compliments of Barnes and Noble and the Muscogee Reading Association.

Newly CSU Graduate Reading Endorsed Classroom Teachers were awarded the Georgia Reading Endorsement plaque. The endorsement program is designed to help preK-12 classroom teachers meet the reading needs of their students; thus, these teachers presented their classroom based reading research, best practices, and case studies. These teachers include Ms. Christi Chase of Eddy Middle School, Ms. Karen Harvey of Brookstone School, Ms. Michele Karcher of Unity Elementary School, Ms. Andrea Walker of Downtown Elementary, Ms. Beth McLeroy of West Georgia Christian Academy, graduate student Ms. Christi Nestor, Ms. Dana Thompson of Britt David Magnet Academy, and Ms. Heather Zurita of Carver High School.



*Guests at the MRA 2007 Spring Literacy Conference*

Attendees visited the research poster sessions provided by the newly reading endorsed teachers and by Dr. Sallie Miller and Dr. Vikki Collins who presented on the vocabulary development of young children. Vendors from McGraw-Hill, Lakeshore, Wright Group, Saxon, Sundance, and Educational Learning Systems were available to discuss literacy material; and donated door prizes were presented by Ms. Deirdre Brown, Muscogee Reading Association Technology Officer.

Regarding the conference, Professor Miller stated that Mr. Larry Kees, Vice President of Student Affairs and his staff continue to provide "much appreciated" support for the Muscogee Reading Association. This on-campus organization provides CSU students with an opportunity to actively participate and network in a professional learning community.

### Georgia's Outstanding English Teacher for 2006-2007

Sandra Shorey, who graduated in December, 2006, and is now teaching at Columbus High School, has been named Georgia's outstanding English student teacher for 2006-2007. The Georgia Council of Teachers of English presented Shorey this award at its February, 2007, meeting at Jekyll Island. A cash stipend to be applied to graduate study accompanied the honor.



*Sandra Shorey*

Regarding Shorey's performance in the classroom, Professor James Brewbaker observes, "Sandra displays a level of creativity that truly engages students. When she was teaching about American tall tales," he explains, "Sandra brought in her grandfather's branding irons and shared his experiences in West Texas." With Romeo and Juliet, she and her students went outside the classroom and dramatized Capulet's feast.

At CSU, Shorey was a non-traditional student with college-age children of her own. A minister's wife, she earned a 4.0 average and was president of Sigma Tau Delta (English honorary).

### Dramatic Increase in Graduate Enrollment

According to Dr. Tom Hackett, Director of Graduate Studies in the College of Education, revised admission criteria have led to dramatic increases in graduate enrollment. Effective December 2006, admissions standards for M.Ed. and Ed.S. programs were changed to allow proof of teaching licensure. Now candidates are able to submit a copy of a teaching certificate to the Graduate Admissions Office in lieu of scores from the Graduate Record Examination. As of April 30, 2007, applications for M.Ed./M.S. programs in the college have risen 48%, and applications for Ed.S. programs have soared 233%. Hackett stated, "This dramatic increase indicates that the college is meeting the needs of field practitioners. All of us in the college welcome new and returning graduate candidates and look forward to assisting them as they work toward advanced degrees."

For more information, please contact Dr. Hackett at 706.568.2301 or visit the recently updated COE website at <http://coe.colstate.edu> for specific graduate program requirements.

## CSU and LaGrange College Professors Collaborate for SECA

**C**SU faculty members Dr. Vikki K. Collins and Dr. Sallie Averitt Miller collaborated with LaGrange College professor Dr. H. Marguerite Yates for a presentation at the Southern Early Childhood Association annual conference held in Jacksonville, Florida, on March 29-31, 2007. The team presented “Healthy Learning: Food and Fitness for Young Children” to address the creation and application of developmentally appropriate lessons for healthy learning by incorporating good nutrition and physical activities for young children with and without disabilities. Attendees from elementary schools and other settings throughout the nation participated in the interactive session. Following a brief discussion concerning the elements of good nutrition and appropriate physical activities for young children, the educators were furnished opportunities to design individualized lesson plans. Said one participant, “It is very helpful for my students to be actively involved. Because physical education time is so limited now, we must stay active in the classroom.” Another teacher remarked, “Junk food is

everywhere in children’s lives. They need to learn healthy choices.” Dr. Miller who facilitated the interactive session remarked, “Teachers are working to organize appropriate lesson plans to integrate good nutrition and physical activity for children. Because these topics can cross the curriculum, teachers are able to integrate valuable ideas into all their lesson plans.”

With the theme of “Embracing the Joy of Southern Children and Families,” the SECA conference included sessions on assessment, curriculum, creative arts, and instructional strategies.



*LaGrange College professor Dr. H. Marguerite Yates with CSU faculty members Dr. Vikki K. Collins and Dr. Sallie Averitt Miller*

### CCR&R sponsors “Week of the Young Child”

**T**he Child Care Resource and Referral Agency of Columbus held its annual “Week of the Young Child” celebration on April 20, 2007, at the CSU Lumpkin Center. Over seventeen hundred young children from Head Start, the Muscogee County School District prekindergarten classes, and local child care centers attended. The music and movement performance was led by The Learning Station, and the participants received inspirational bracelets from the

CCR&R staff. Several CSU early childhood candidates assisted with this very successful event.



*Leaders and Children at the Celebration*

### COE Hall of Fame (continued from page 1)

In her present position, Tolbert is responsible for mentoring each of the school district’s new teachers. She has developed a team of more than 375 peer leaders to offer sustained support for beginning teachers. Tolbert also works with Teacher Alternative Preparation Program students at CSU.

As members of the 2007 class of the COE Hall of Fame, Andrews, Holmes, and Tolbert join five previous inductees. The first class of 2005 included Dr. Dell McMullen and Ms. Raymechia Smith. In 2006, Dr. Tom Hackett, Ms. Jan Hyatt, and Ms. Leslie Robertson were inducted.

Said Mr. Roger Hatcher, Coordinator of the COE Partner School Network, who was responsible for organizing the induction into the Hall of Fame, “We think it is altogether fitting and proper that we honor individuals who have contributed so much to our profession.”