SIVAKUMARAN NAMED DEAN OF COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Thillainatarajan (Thilla) Sivakumaran, began his duties as the new Dean of the College of Education on July 1, 2012. He replaced Dr. Greg Meeks, who had been serving on an interim basis with distinction since March 2011 when former dean Dr. Don Maness decided to step down and return to the classroom.

Dr. Sivakumaran has served in several academic and administrative capacities at Louisiana-Monroe since 2004, most recently the Associate Dean for the College of Education and Human Development and associate dean for Undergraduate Studies and Assessment and Accreditation. His responsibilities included coordinating all undergraduate programs; certification and candidacy of all teachers within the College of Education, including admissions, curricula and program evaluation; clinical and field experiences; recruitment, retention and risk management; and coordinator of online degree program. He also handled the organization of ULM’s study abroad programs and coordinated the digital media studio.

“It is a great honor to be offered the Dean of Education position at Arkansas State University,” said Dr. Sivakumaran. “I believe that the position is a good fit because my goals align with those overarching goals of the university and we share a similar vision.” He continued, “Within the College of Education, there are many opportunities to integrate technology, diversity and community outreach to make education more effective and sustainable. By leveraging these resources, I think both the university and the college students will have the benefit of a truly outstanding education.”

As an assistant professor in Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sivakumaran taught several courses, including Applied Media/Instructional Technology, Secondary Classroom Behavior Management, Professional Growth and Development and Instructional Technology and designed courses including Education in the Information Age, Evaluating Student Progress and Instructional Technology.

Dr. Sivakumaran attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where he earned a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology in 2005. His concentration was Instructional Technology, specialization was Evaluation and Curriculum, cognate as Theoretical Chemistry and he completed his dissertation entitled, “Effectiveness of a Showcase and Assessment Digital Portfolio in Teacher Education.”

He completed his Master of Science degree in 2001 with a major in Secondary Science Education and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology in 1997 from the University of Washington in Seattle.

COE MEMBERS HONORED

Two College of Education members were award recipients for 2011-2012 and were recognized at the 19th Annual Distinguished Performance Awards and Service Recognition Ceremony on May 7th, in the Reng Student Union. Mrs. Joyce Mann, Center for Excellence in Education received the Extra Mile Award and Dr. George Foldesy, Center for Excellence in Education received the Faculty Outstanding Recipient of Collaborative Efforts (FORCE) award.
FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

As part of ASU’s Convocation of Scholars week, the Faculty Achievement Awards ceremony was held April 10 at the Carl R. Reng Student Union. ASU offers four awards, presented each spring to four faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional achievement, as determined by their peers, in teaching, scholarship, professional service and advising. Only full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members are eligible for the awards. The awards are based upon faculty achievement during the preceding calendar year.

Dr. John A. Beineke, Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education/History, was this year’s recipient of the Faculty Achievement Award for Scholarship. Dr. Dixie Keyes, Associate Professor of Teacher Education, was the recipient of this year’s Faculty Achievement Award for Professional Service. Dr. Lance Bryant, Physical Education, was nominated for the Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching.

ASHLEY BUCHMAN NAMED DR. EUGENE W. SMITH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Ashley Buchman of Paragould has been named as the recipient of the Dr. Eugene W. Smith Research Fellowship at Arkansas State University. Buchman, who is working to earn her doctorate degree, is employed as the director of Student Services at the Marked Tree campus of Arkansas State University-Newport and was recently notified she has received the endowment for $500.

The Dr. Eugene W. Smith Research Fellowship is awarded for the purpose of assisting deserving students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in educational leadership at ASU. To be eligible, students must apply upon completion of the dissertation proposal with signatures of committee members; provide a written justification for requesting the fellowship; offer an itemized budget detailing expenses related to the research and deliver a description of the methodology which includes intermediate steps and timelines leading to the completion of the dissertation. Any doctoral student who has completed the proposal but has not completed the dissertation is eligible to apply for the fellowship.

Selection of the recipient is made by faculty members in the ASU Center for Excellence in Education. The Smith fellowship is a one-time award and students who have received it once are not eligible for a second award. The fellowship is named after Dr. Eugene W. Smith, who served as the eighth president of Arkansas State University from 1984-1992. He returned as the interim president from 1994-95.

ROBBIE LYLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO KEYUN J. PAYNE-ALLEN

Keyun J. Payne-Allen of Little Rock, who is a current student at Arkansas State University majoring in early childhood education, has been awarded the 2012 Robbie Lyle Scholarship, which is named after a pioneer and a staunch advocate for human rights. The scholarship is awarded annually through the Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs (AASAP).

A 2010 graduate of Little Rock Central High School, Keyun joined the ASU freshman class that August and has flourished academically since that time. She is a participant in the federally funded Student Support Services program, directed by Jerrod O. Lockhart, in University College. A former participant of the Classic Upward Bound Program at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Payne-Allen plans to graduate in May 2014.

“I am very shocked and honored,” she remarked after being notified of her selection by Michelle Hardin, chair of the Robbie Lyle Scholarship Selection Committee. She was recognized at the annual AASAP meeting on October 7 in Little Rock.
**DR. RICK HUX NAMED ERZ DIRECTOR**

Dr. Lewis “Rick” Hux, formerly of Dexter, Mo., and Director of the Southeast Missouri State University-Malden campus, has been named Director of the Education Renewal Zone (ERZ) for Arkansas State University. Hux, who has 42 years of combined public school and higher education experience, will began his new duties at the ERZ July 1.

The ERZ seeks to strengthen relationships between partner schools, educational cooperatives and ASU.

“Dr. Hux comes to this position with a rich background in education,” said Dr. Greg Meeks, interim Dean of the College of Education at ASU. “His expanded knowledge of the public school system and its relationship to all levels of postsecondary education acquired through a broad range of educational experience in public elementary, secondary schools and university level provide great depth and breadth of experience that will be of benefit to the ERZ and its partners.”

“I am looking forward to the new position with much anticipation,” Hux said. “It will be a new challenge for me. I’m looking forward to working with the ERZ member school districts in Northeast Arkansas as well as the faculty and administration at ASU.”

Prior to serving as director of the Malden campus of Southeast Missouri State, Hux was principal and superintendent of schools at Van Buren, Mo., for 10 years. He served as principal of Dexter High School from 1979 to 1990, principal of T.S. Hill Middle School from 1978 to 1979 and as assistant principal and math and science teacher at Dexter High School from 1972 to 1978. Hux also served as the off-campus site administrator for Sterling (Kan.) College from 1990 to 1992, and has experience teaching at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. He has taught physics, science and math, and a variety of educational leadership coursework at the college undergraduate and graduate level.

Hux holds a bachelor of science in education (BSE) in mathematics from Southeast Missouri State, a master of arts in teaching (MAT) in physics, an education specialist degree (Ed.S.) in educational administration from Southeast Missouri State University and a doctorate in educational leadership from Saint Louis University.

In addition to recently serving on the City Council in Dexter, Hux served as member of the Board of the Southeast Missouri Superintendent’s Association, a member of the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA), the Ozarks Foothills Superintendents and the Black River League Superintendents’ Association. He has served as a Southeast Missouri State representative to the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) State Board and is past president and past vice president of the Board of Directors for the Southeast Missouri Principals’ Association. He has held officer positions with the Stoddard County Principals’ Association, Southeast Missouri Phi Delta Kappa Chapter and the Southeast Missouri Activities Association. He was also a president of the Greater Poplar Bluff Area Superintendent’s Association.

Dr. Hux and his wife Annette, along with their son Toppy who attends Nettleton Schools, reside in Jonesboro.

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**DR. JOHNSON-LESLIE APPOINTED CO-CHAIR, ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Dr. Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Secondary Education, was recently elected co-chair for the Research and Evaluation Special Interest Group (SIG) at the Society for Technology in Teacher Education (SITE) annual international conference held in Austin, Texas. The Research and Evaluation SIG has concentrated in recent years on gathering credible evidence for the effective use of technology in education. Members convene annually at the SITE conference to brainstorm proposed group projects and then break into electronic community subcommittees to implement these ideas. In addition, Dr. Johnson-Leslie was selected from a pool of more than 100 applicants for associate editors of the Journal of Technology and Teacher Education (JTATE) as one of the 3 newly appointed associate editors joining the editorial board.

**MISSISSIPPI DELTA GRASSROOTS CAUCUS EVENT**

Dr. Deborah Owens represented Arkansas State University May 3-4, 2012, at the Mississippi Delta Grassroots Caucus event at the Clinton Center in Little Rock. Dr. Owens participated in a panel discussion regarding initiatives to address illiteracy in the Delta region, discussing her research regarding poverty’s impact on early literacy development and the linkage between economic and community development and literacy. She also discussed the Department of Teacher Education’s Graduate Reading programs and efforts to develop literacy leaders in the Delta Region through the MSE and Ed.S. Reading Programs.
PRESENTATIONS

Drs. Steve Bounds, Mitch Holifield and Joe Nichols, all of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, presented the paper “A Large-Scale Online Educational Leadership Program: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” at the August 2012 meeting of the National Council of Educational Administrators in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Mitch Holifield, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education presented the paper “The Diplomatic Thumb: Dealing with Opposition without Becoming Oppositional” at the June 2012 meeting of the Forum for Innovative Leadership sponsored by the Urban Education Center and Memphis City Schools at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, TN.

Dr. Irina Khramtsova, along with P. Glascock and J. Owen presented The effects of mindfulness, biofeedback, and healing music in individual versus group settings: A pilot study. Paper presented at the Sixth European Conference on Positive Psychology, Moscow, Russia, in June 2012.


Dr. Dianne Langford, Coordinator for the School Counseling Program, and Carol Little, M.S.E., a former student and practicing K-12 school counselor in Weiner, Arkansas, recently presented at the National Conference of the Association of Creativity in Counseling (ACC). The ACC is a division of the American Counseling Association.

Presentations at National Council of Professors of Educational Administration 66th Annual Conference:

Dr. Joe Nichols, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, presented Educational Leadership Programs: Candidate’s Evaluations of Courses and Professors in Traditional vs. On-Line Instructional Format.

Dr. Steve Bounds, Dr. Mitch Holifield and Dr. Joe Nichols, all of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education presented A Large-scale Online Educational Leadership Program: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly.

Dr. Jackie McBride, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, presented Quality with Quantity - Developing and Maintaining Quality in Online Educational Leadership Programs with Increasing Student Enrollments.

Dr. Jackie McBride, Dr. Julie Milligan and Dr. Joe Nichols, all Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, presented Cyberslacking in the Classroom: Teachers and Principals Respond.

Dr. Jacques Singleton, Dr. Annette Hux, Dr. Gwendolyn Neal and Dr. Audrey Bowser, all of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education presented Managing the Online University Programs.

Dr. Gwendolyn Neal, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, presented We Can Do This: Educator – Paraprofessional Collaboration, at the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE) 59th Annual Conference

Dr. Gwendolyn Neal, Dr. Annette Hux and Dr. Jacques Singleton, all of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education presented 20 Ways to Collaborate: Speech-Language Pathologists, Special Educators, and Classroom Teachers at the Arkansas Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children: Annual Fall Conference

Dr. Robert D. Johnson, Psychology and Counseling, presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, which was held in Orlando Florida. The title of his presentation was, “Political Orientations as They Relate to the Threat of Terrorism.”

Presentations at the National Social Science Association (NSSA) Conferences, July 30-August 1, 2012 at Lake Tahoe, NV:

Dr. Lina Leatherwood Owens, Teacher Education, Beverly B. Gilbert, Gina Hogue, Gale Yates and Mark Hoeting presented Collaborative iPad Project Between a University and Concurrently Enrolled High School Social Studies Students.

Ms. Sandra Hawkins, Teacher Education, Dr. Lina Leatherwood Owens, Teacher Education and Beverly B. Gilbert presented A Penny for Your Thoughts: Exploring the Values of Linking Historical and Present Events Though Children’s Literature


Dr. Amy Pearce, Psychology and Counseling, F. Odorcykt and Swapnali Halder, ASU students, and J. M. Lynch presented Bottle preferences and estrous cycling during exposure to a high concentration of oral nicotine by the multiple bottle approach at the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience Social at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA, October 15, 2012.

Dr. Amy Pearce, Psychology and Counseling, Swapnali Halder, ASU Student, and S. Trauth, presented Long term oral nicotine exposure is associated with changes in sera cotinine and uterine histology but not the estrous cycle in female rats at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, New Orleans, LA, October 14, 2012.
**PUBLICATIONS**

**Dr. Dixie Keyes,** along with co-editors and fellow narrative inquirers, Drs. Vicki Ross and Elaine Chan, completed a research methodology book for Emerald Publications’ Advances in Research on Teaching series. This volume (16 in the series) is titled, Narrative Inquirers in the Midst of Meaning-making: Interpretive Acts of Teacher Educators. The book illustrates interim narrative field texts of identity as “teacher educator stories” and demonstrates how researchers utilize common places of temporality, sociality, and place in analyzing narratives. Additionally, it illuminates meaning and develops connections between narrative understandings of teacher educator identity in relationship to scholarship in teacher education and identity. Dr. Keyes also co-authored three chapters in the volume.

**Dr. Joan Henley,** Department of Teacher Education, has an article that is “in press” entitled “Using a Voice Output Communication Aid to Facilitate Language Development in Young Children with ASD” – to be published in Journal of Modern Education Review.

**Dr. Jeonghee Choi** and Mi-Hyun have published “Beyond dualistic gender identity: How to embrace gender variances in students” in the eJournal of Literacy and Social Responsibility.

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**DR. KEYES ATTENDS NCTE LEADERSHIP MEETING**

Dr. Dixie Keyes, as Vice-President of the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (ACTELA), Arkansas State National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) affiliate, traveled to St. Louis, Missouri on July 13-15, 2012 to participate in the NCTE Regions 2, 4, 5 and 6 Affiliate Leadership Meeting. The theme of the meeting and workshop was “Our Second Century: A New Vision for our NCTE Affiliates.” The focus was on collaboration with other state affiliate leaders to consider ways in which teachers can strengthen their schools, the national organization and the profession to become a central voice in the national conversation that affects the lives of English language arts educators across the country. As a result of this regional meeting, Dr. Keyes and other affiliate leaders recently traveled to the Arkansas Department of Education to confer with ADE curriculum leaders about the services provided to state teachers by ACTELA and by the state’s National Writing Project sites.

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**STUDENT PRESENTS POSTER**

Jordan Fust, Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences student, presented a poster at the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association (SWATA) Meeting in Addison, Texas in July 2012. The poster was a representation of her research project funded by an internal Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF).

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**RADIOACTIVE 2! SUMMER CAMP TO BE HOSTED**

In summer 2013, Drs. Amy Pearce and Ann Grippo will host a camp entitled Radioactive 2! A Summer Camp for Elementary Students Focused On Radiation for junior high students. Students will have the opportunity to learn about Marie Curie’s life and work through a talk and visit with a Curie biographer; participate in two hands-on science activities focused on radiation; tour the radiologic science facilities in the ASU College of Nursing and Health professions; participate in an art activity using fluorescent paints and blacklight; and tour the ASU Museum, including its extensive Arkansas history displays, which, surprisingly, includes a link to Marie Curie. This project is based off of the success of a previous event hosted in February 2012 called Radioactive! Scientists and Artists Celebrate Marie Curie’s Legacy. The continuation was awarded in July 2012 from the Arkansas Community Foundation.

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**BOOK SELECT FOR 2012 CRITICS CHOICE BOOK AWARD**

Dr. John Beineke was informed that his book, Teaching History to Adolescents: A Quest for Relevance, has been included in the list of books for the 2012 Critics Choice Book Award of the American Educational Studies Association (AESA). His book was nominated by a member of the organization and over the summer it was reviewed by a committee of AESA members for consideration for the award. In the committee’s judgment, his work makes an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the Social Foundations of Education field.

There will be a ceremony to honor all recipients at the AESA annual meeting on October 31, 2012 in Seattle, Washington. In addition to the ceremony, his book will be displayed in the conference book exhibit, and it will appear in the conference program and the association’s website.
NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Asher Pimpleton has joined the Department of Psychology and Counseling. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2012 with a concentration in Counselor Education and Clinical Mental Health. She received her M.A. in Professional Counseling from Central Michigan University and her B.S. in Journalism from Central Michigan University with a Minor in Political Science. Her research interests are STD’s, African Americans and cultural factors relevant to sexual decision-making.

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Spence is the Assessment and Grants Coordinator for the College of Education. She received her Bachelor’s in Biological Science from ASU in December 2007, and her M.S. in Toxicology from the University of Florida in December 2010. She has been in the Professional Education Programs Office since August 2010.

Dr. Ahlam Lee received her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis in 2011. Prior to coming to Arkansas State University, Dr. Lee received Post-Doctoral Training at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Graduate courses she teaches include: Advanced Educational Statistics, Educational Research and Evaluation, and Research Methods and Procedure. Dr. Lee’s recent publications include her work on The Effects of Computer Based Learning Activities and School Contextual Factors on Student Math Achievement, and her work on The Effects of Technology-Based Activities on STEM Major Choices.

Ms. Ashley Thomas is an Administrative Specialist II in the office of Professional Education Programs. She received a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Sociology from ASU in August 2012 with hopes to attend graduate school in spring 2013. Ashley is married to Dannie and they have two children, Dannie III who is three and Arianna who is one. She enjoys spending time with her family and is excited about working and continuing her education here at ASU.

Ms. Sandra Hawkins is the Coordinator for Teaching Internships and Field Experiences for the ASU Campuses for Mid-level and Secondary Education. For the past 4 years she has served as full time Instructor and University Supervisor of Interns, Field II, and Field III Teacher Education students on the various ASU campuses and Site Coordinator for Teacher Education Program, Title III, on the ASU at Mid-South Community College Campus. Sandra received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Education from Arkansas State University with Postgraduate studies in Higher Education Law. Prior to ASU, Sandra served as Instructor at Williams Baptist College and as the Director of Teaching Internships and Field Experiences for 6 years. Her past educational experiences include teaching in the Arkansas public schools and as the Southwest Regional Education Consultant for Addison-Wesley Publishing Company in Dallas, where she piloted K-12 programs in diverse school settings such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools in New Mexico, inner city schools in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso and New Orleans. Additionally she served as the Addison-Wesley Corporate Liaison to the Departments of Education for Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Sandra enjoys family time with her daughter and son-in-law and two grandchildren, music, art, theatre, the Red Wolves and traveling with friends.

DR. PEARCE APPOINTED COORDINATOR OF THE ANU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dr. Amy R. Pearce, Psychology and Counseling, was recently appointed as South Coordinator of the Australian National University’s (ANU) Alumni Association in the USA. She serves the states of Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION GRADUATE TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jill Simons who completed her dissertation, A National Study of Student Early Alert Models at Four-Year Institutions of Higher Education has been asked by Academic Impressions to be the keynote speaker at an upcoming national conference on Early Alert Programs in February 2013. Dr. Simons is a December 2011 graduate of the College’s Doctorate of Education Program.
ARKANSAS DELTA WRITING PROJECT RECEIVED VERIZON GRANT

Representatives from Verizon Wireless presented a grant check for $20,000 to faculty members of the College of Education in the lower lobby at the Cooper Alumni Center. The check was presented to Cristian Murdock, ASU vice chancellor for University Advancement and Dr. Dixie Keyes, associate professor of Middle Level Education and director of the Arkansas Delta Writing Project in ASU’s College of Education. The money is going toward the Arkansas Delta Writing Project, a literacy program headed by Dr. Keyes.

From left; Barbara Walker, Verizon Wireless Foundation Director; Cristian Murdock, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement; Ginger Daril, Verizon Wireless Communications Manager; Dr. Dixie Keyes, Director of the Arkansas Delta Writing Project; Tom Zimmerman, Verizon Wireless B2B Director and Derek Bowman, Director of University Development.

ETA DELTA CHAPTER HOSTS ANNUAL BANQUET

The Eta Delta Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) hosted its annual membership banquet on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at the Fowler Center on the campus of Arkansas State University. The special guest speaker for the night was Dr. Don Maness, professor of education and former Dean of the College of Education. Dr. Lina Owens, Department Chair of Teacher Education, was presented with the “Educators Make a Difference” award. LeAnn De La Hunt received the “Outstanding Early Childhood” award, and Courtney Thomas received the “Outstanding Mid-Level” award. KDP was pleased to welcome 90 new members to the Eta Delta Chapter.

“Study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing that it takes in.”

Leonardo da Vinci
Summer Scholars is designed to advance the creative thinking skills of participants who ranged in age from 4 to 12. More than 60 students participated in the week-long camp at the Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies elementary magnet school in Jonesboro under the direction of Dr. Julie Lamb-Milligan, associate professor of gifted and talented and creative education at Arkansas State University.

Lori Nicholson and Desiree Beard, both teacher interns working on their master’s degrees in gifted and talented and creative education, served as instructors as part of their program.

The theme of Summer Scholars was “Flowering Minds Grow on STEMs” (science, technology, engineering and math), and Nicholson said the youngsters got involved in hands-on activities in studying ecosystems, including tundra, grasslands, deserts, oceans and forests.

In one exercise, children identified flashcard pictures of plants and animals as flora or fauna. They also considered probability as they caught plastic fish with a small net from an inflatable pool with their eyes closed and they designed paper plates with colored markers and stick fish to resemble an ocean.

Beard added that participants had made desert survival kits, built model houses on ice and used the school’s kitchen and garden for other activities, such as picking garden herbs and identifying them by smell.

Nicholson said the children used computers to create their own ocean and devise an animal that could live and survive there. They also studied land forms and made their own land-to-ocean formations using salt and dough in small pizza boxes.

Thursday night the youngsters were exposed to a hot air balloon. They had a small replica they had made from balloons, construction paper and yarn, and they carried it from one learning station to another.

Plans already are in motion for a Summer Scholars program to be held summer 2013.
READING PROGRAM STUDENTS EXCEL

Five MSE Reading Program graduate students, who studied literacy leadership and coaching in their Spring 2011 Practicum II course with Dr. Ryan Kelly, collaborated to deliver “Lights, Data, Action: Take a Lead Role in Literacy Reform” at the 2011 Arkansas Curriculum Conference. This engaging presentation covered a full span of areas and teaching levels, from early childhood literacy leadership to adult education. In this presentation Dr. Kelly overviewed the course and various literacy coaching models, and five graduate students—Melanie Hodges (Campos) of Mountain Home, Ginger Baltimore of Manila, Carmen White of Nettleton, Straley Owen of Marion and Margie McCollum of Marion. Each outlined a full reading program analysis they conducted in their schools and shared the results of professional development they delivered to their colleagues in support of identified goals.

Furthermore, this presentation was delivered at the Graduate Reading Program’s Second Annual Graduate Reading Coffee and Seminar, Literacy A la Carte, on March 9, 2012 in the ASU Student Union. This event featured presentations by MSE-Reading and Ed.S.-Reading students, past and present; a variety of topics were the focus of graduate presentations from the effective use of technology in literacy instruction to research projects and literacy leadership activities in public school settings. At this spring event, Hodges, Baltimore, White, Owen and McCollum shared their literacy coaching work and served to further inspire the next cohort of students, who currently have three similar presentation proposals under acceptance for the upcoming 2012 Arkansas Curriculum Conference, and 2012 ARA Conference. Presenters at Literacy A la Carte also included Debbie West, Teri Spillman and Donna Dillahunty. Dr. Kelly and Donna Dillahunty are additionally scheduled to present “New Literacies for Today’s Teachers” at the 2012 Arkansas Curriculum Conference.

MSE-Reading Graduate Students continued to share their work at additional ASU forums. Teri Spillman was awarded 1st Place Panel Presentation in the Social Science, Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Graduate division at the Create@StAte Symposium of Research, Scholarship & Creativity. Teri’s presentation was entitled “A Tale of Two Twins: The Need for Systematic and Explicit Instruction in Kindergarten,” which described research she participated in with Dr. Deborah Owens, while working as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Teacher Education. Ed.S.-Reading candidate Melody Mooney also shared “Reading Levels of Healthcare Textbooks and Student Reading Levels in a Physical Therapist Assistant Program” and was awarded 1st Place Poster Presentation in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate division.

Mooney is scheduled to present her emerging Ed.S. thesis work at the 2012 Arkansas Curriculum Conference.

Graduate Reading was proud to induct its first cohort of graduate reading students into the newly formed Literacy Guild at Arkansas State University, an honor society for literacy leaders in Northeast Arkansas and graduates from ASU’s graduate reading programs. Literacy Guild inductees include Sarah Bohrman, Ginger Baltimore, Straley Owen, Jennifer Pepper, Carmen White, Melanie Hodges, Marjorie McCollum, Stephanie Nixon, Olivia Stone and Debbie West, pictured below.

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“The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.”

— Mark Twain
NEWS FROM THE RURAL STEM EDUCATION CENTER

The Rural STEM Education Center (Director, Dr. Julie Grady; Administrative Specialist II, Lara Buford; Science Specialist, Debby Rogers; and Mathematics Specialist, Wallace Brewer) was awarded $418,578 worth of grants since January 2012:

Common Core Boot Camp Year 2: Geometry, Data and Measurement is funded by the U.S. Department of Education Title II Part B Mathematics and Science Partnership Program through the Arkansas Department of Education. With support from these funds, 21 mathematics teachers (grades 3-7) in NE Arkansas will be engaged in over 100 hours of professional development focused on Common Core Mathematics Standards, mathematics content, pedagogy and classroom technology applications.

Smart Start Science and Smart Start Mathematics grants is from the Arkansas Department of Education and will fund the Science Specialist and Mathematics Specialist positions for 2012-2013. The Specialists support science and mathematics in-service and preservice teacher education at ASU and in 35 school districts (98 schools) in Northeast and Northcentral Arkansas.

Weaving Together Science and Common Core Mathematics and Literacy Through Project-based Learning is funded by No Child Left Behind: Improving Teacher Quality: P-16 Partnerships through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. With support from these funds, 21 science teachers (grades 5, 6 and 7) from NE Arkansas will be involved in over 60 hours of professional development focused on science content and pedagogy, and integrating Common Core State Standards mathematics and literacy into a project-based learning scenario to facilitate with their students.

Enriching Biotech-in-a-Box Learning with Interactive Visualization Tools and Environments was awarded by the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority, the ASSET Initiative and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. These funds supported the partial development of an interactive visualization toolbox to enhance student use of the Strawberry DNA Biotech-in-a-Box activity, a pilot study of the effectiveness of the toolbox in a local high school, and a one-day workshop for teachers targeting classroom use of the Strawberry DNA kit and the visualization toolbox.

Science Curriculum & Instruction Support for Arkansas’ Rural Students was awarded by the Arkansas STEM Coalition. Funds were used to purchase needed science equipment and materials for science programs (grades 3-6) in three schools in NE Arkansas, and to provide professional development for the teachers regarding relevant science content and pedagogy.

Rural STEM Science Initiative for Middle School was funded by the Arkansas Community Foundation to fund the purchase of science equipment and related professional development of science teachers (grades 5 and 6) integrating science content, science literacy and pedagogy.

Teachers from Blytheville and Piggott School Districts build a balloon car from which to inductively learn about Newton’s laws of motion (Weaving grant).

Shea Harris (ABI) leads science teachers (Brookland, Piggott, Riverside and Weiner) in extracting DNA from strawberries (Enriching Biotech-in-a-Box grant).

Teachers from Nettleton Intermediate School and Ridgefield Christian Academy test a toy car and ramp from which to inductively learn about Newton’s law of motions (Weaving grant).
Do you like using science to solve mysteries? So do we! Teachers and students from around the state came to ASU last June to participate in the CSI: Classroom Student Investigations program. Participation was made possible by funding received from the National Science Foundation (Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers - ITEST). The program, developed by Dr. Karen Yanowitz (Principal Investigator, Psychology and Counseling), Dr. Ann Ross (co-PI Teacher Education) and Dr. Tanja McKay (co-PI Biological Sciences) focuses on rural high-needs school districts, and its goal is to encourage STEM career choices for students by providing teachers with valuable skills and resources they can use to implement inquiry-based forensic science instruction in their classrooms.

Arkansas State University faculty, assisted by Ms. Renee Carroll, Program Manager, organized the CSI Summer Institute, which took place from June 11 through June 22, 2012. Using real life forensic science techniques, teachers learned how to utilize crime solving techniques including geocaching, robotics, soil analysis, microbiology, forensic entomology, DNA blood typing and trace evidence. During the second week of the institute, teachers designed their own lesson plans based on what they learned the first week, then used their lesson plans to teach students how to use the same crime solving techniques. We will be continuing to work with teachers during the academic year on providing support for them to incorporate CSI into their classrooms and to develop family science nights.

Teachers and students had a great time at the program. One of the teachers commented “The amount of content broken down for me to be able to reuse in my classroom is invaluable. I love new ideas and approaches. Each year I find that students learn individually and what works for one group of kids may not work for another. Therefore it is always great to have an array of ideas and options.”

Olivia Huey, an 8th grade CSI participant, said, “You get to meet a lot of new people, and you have a lot of cool equipment and it’s kind of fun to kind of like solve the crime because you’re not just learning stuff like in school. You’re still learning, but you’re trying to solve something, too.” The overall consensus was that there is something for everyone at CSI Camp.

For information about the program, please contact the Project Manager, Renee Carroll, at (501) 492-9274 or e-mail them at csi_science2@yahoo.com. You may also visit their website at http://altweb.astate.edu/csiscience or like them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ASUCSI. For those of you who are or know someone interested in applying for next year’s camp, applications will be available on the website soon.
PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH PROJECT

A group of dedicated psychology undergraduates are collaborating with two laboratories at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. The project, which is being led by Brett Himmler, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Neuroscience at Lethbridge, investigates the impact of developmental play on subsequent sensitivity to nicotine. The project involves the combination of methods established by Drs. Sergio Pellis and Bryan Kolb at Lethbridge and those used by Dr. Kris Biondolillo’s lab here at Arkansas State University. Psychology students have played an integral role in this project which is currently still in the data collection phase. Brett Himmler was an undergraduate student researcher in the Biondolillo laboratory and he has been critical in combining the methods used by these two research programs. He will visit the ASU research team in October. Students shown in the photograph are ASU undergraduate psychology majors Jon L. Taylor, Trevor Cline and Michael Cerrato.

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We in the College of Education would like to sincerely thank each and every alumnus and friend who recently made financial gifts. If you would like to be a part of the exciting things that are happening in the ASU College of Education, you can do so by making a donation. Donations are tax-deductible and they provide important support for college-wide initiatives and faculty development. If you would like to help us fulfill our mission, please send your donation to: College of Education, Dean’s Office, P.O. Box 940, State University, AR 72467-0940. Please include your name, address, phone and email address. Make checks payable to ASU College of Education.

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