MEEKS AND BRADLEY TRANSITION TO INTERIM DEAN AND INTERIM ASSOCIATE DEAN

New leaders have been appointed in the College of Education for the academic year 2011-2012. Dr. Greg Meeks and Dr. Mary Jane Bradley will serve as the Interim Dean and the Interim Associate Dean respectively. Prior to Dr. Meeks being the Interim Dean, he served as Associate Dean of the College of Education from January 2010 until June 30, 2011. Dr. Meeks has worked at Arkansas State University since 2003 serving as an Associate Professor and Assistant Chair in the Teacher Education Department and as NCATE Coordinator.

Dr. Meeks, a native Arkansan, received his undergraduate degree in elementary education from Ouachita Baptist University and his master’s degree from Henderson State University in elementary and middle school administration. He earned his doctorate of philosophy degree from the University of North Texas in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Meeks has public school experience serving as a middle school teacher and elementary principal in Hot Springs, Arkansas in the late 1970s. Further, he served as a K-8 principal of Morrison Academy, Bethany campus, from 1982 to 1993 and as Superintendent of Morrison Academy in Taiwan from 1993-2002.

Dr. Bradley, a native Missourian, has completed twenty-four years of service at Arkansas State University. During her tenure, she taught in the Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education Department for nine years and has served as the Director of Professional Education Programs Office for fifteen years. Dr. Bradley earned her Ed.D. degree from the University of Memphis in 1992 with a major in Curriculum and Instruction. She earned her BSE in Elementary Education, her MSE in Reading and her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University. Currently, Dr. Bradley is serving as President of two state organizations, Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators and Arkansas Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. She also serves as Co-Editor of the Researcher for the Mid-South Educational Research Association. Prior to higher education service, Dr. Bradley worked as a reading teacher at Dixie Public Schools from 1975-1978. She also served as reading teacher and District Reading Supervisor at Brookland School District from 1978-1980, and as Federal Programs Coordinator, Gifted and Talent Coordinator, and Assistant Principal at Hoxie Public School from 1983-1987.
FROM THE DEAN’S DESK:

Interim Dean Greg Meeks

A college’s greatest resource is its people and we are proud of our faculty and staff and the fine work they do day in and day out. This past year, we did have a few vacancies and in most cases we were able to recruit faculty which will complement our existing faculty. In addition, there are a number of faculty members who have stepped in to fill administrative vacancies for this academic year. Dr. Lina Owens has stepped in as the Interim Chair of the Department of Teacher Education. Also, a vacancy was created with Dr. Maness stepping down as the Dean of the College at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. I was asked to assume the responsibilities of Interim Dean for the College, which left my position, Associate Dean, vacant. The domino effect continued with Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, Director of Professional Education Programs, moving into the Interim Associate Dean position and Mrs. JaneMarie Dewailly moving into the Interim Director of Professional Education Programs. The transition has gone well thus far, but we are anxious to have these interim positions filled with long-term personnel. A search for the new College of Education Dean is underway and a search for the Chair for the Department of Teacher Education will be underway soon.

In spite of a number of our key administrators being in interim positions, the work of the college continues to move ahead. In September, the Counsel for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) visiting team was on campus to validate our MSE School Counselor Program’s self-report. The visit went well and the visiting team identified some areas that will assist us in strengthening our program. Dr. Nola Christenberry and Dr. Dianne Langford are to be commended for the work that they put into preparing the self-study and for preparing for the visit.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) visiting team will be on campus looking at changes we have made to our advanced programs assessment system. Much work has gone into the overhaul of our advanced programs assessment system over the last year and a half. A task force was established in February 2010, with the charge of developing a new conceptual framework designed especially for our advanced programs. Dr. Gina Hogue skillfully commandeered this task force. Besides Dr. Hogue, members of the task force included Nola Christenberry, Deborah Owens, Dianne Lawler, Steve Bounds, Joan Henley, John Hall, Mary Jane Bradley, Ralph Ruby, and Greg Meeks as ex-officio.

The new conceptual framework, Strengthening and Enriching Learning, was presented to the Council on Professional Education (COPE) and approved on February 22, 2011. Also in the late spring 2010, the NCATE Steering Committee was established to identify common assessments, which could be aligned with the new conceptual framework. This committee consisted of Steve Bounds, Mary Jane Bradley, Kyle Chandler, Gina Hogue, Deborah Owens, Loretta McGregor, and Greg Meeks as ex-officio. With input from numerous stakeholders, their work was presented to COPE at the February meeting and was subsequently approved during the February and April COPE meetings. This new-advanced programs’ assessment system should allow us to better gauge how we are doing, thereby assisting us with our continuous improvement efforts.

In addition to our CACREP and NCATE visits, the Health, Physical Education and Sports Science Department is preparing for an accreditation visit from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Dr. Amanda Wheeler and Mr. Dennis Perky have worked hard to complete the Athletic Training Program self-study and we anticipate the team arriving in early spring for their accreditation visit. We are confident that our Athletic Training Program will continue to be recognized as one of the top programs in the United States.

I’ll mention one other additional initiative which lies outside the day-to-day operations of the College. The College of Education received Arkansas State University’s first ever Winthrop Rockefeller Grant to establish the College Preparatory Academy for the Delta. This prep academy will begin working with high school students in ninth grade who wish to go to college, but are deficient in at least one area as determined by standardized testing. Students will remain in the program for three years as we work with them on becoming college ready. If this pilot program proves effective, which we anticipate it will, we hope to expand the program across the Delta. The Academy is under the supervision of Ms. Kim Danley, the Director of ASU’s Education Renewal Zone.

I would like to thank you for your support of the College of Education as we partner with public schools, parents and their children, educational cooperatives and alumni to better prepare the next generation to be productive citizens and community members.

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength of the nation." – John F. Kennedy
DR. TOWERY, RECIPIENT OF YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD, 2011

Dr. Ron Towery joined ASU in 1988 from MTSU. He has taught a wide variety of courses at both graduate and undergraduate levels. He has a host of publications and has more than 60 national presentations to learned forums.

For more than 15 years, Dr. Towery has served in a “partnership school” as a university liaison. He has collaborated with public school teachers and administrators to ensure quality experiences and supervision of interns and field students. His dedication and commitment to the partnership school has been exemplary.

From the onset, Dr. Towery was very involved with Arkansas’ K-4 Crusade movement. He wrote grants, taught graduate courses for credit and worked in collaboration with educational cooperatives and public schools so that teachers could receive quality professional development, hands-on materials for their classrooms and develop leadership skills in working with colleagues and parents. This work in which Dr. Towery was involved has reaped benefits for many, many years through the implementation of hands-on curricular activities, increased teacher knowledge of math, science, and writing; as well as teachers working toward master’s degrees. Through this work, Dr. Towery was truly a “Crusader.”

Dr. Towery’s work with Promotion, Retention and Tenure committees, Curriculum Committees, Middle Level Area Group and NCATE Accreditation efforts have also been beneficial to faculty and students, alike. This service work has been a major contribution to the Department of Teacher Education as well as the College of Education. His contributions have allowed the Department of Teacher Education to move forward in its growth.

Dr. Towery’s students have described him as a positive role model, encouraging, supportive and helpful in improving classroom strategies in field placements and internship. Dr. Towery’s colleagues view him as a facilitator of committee work, a mentor to pre-tenured faculty and an advisor with more stored knowledge than the ASU bulletin! Dr. Towery has made a difference in the lives of students and faculty at ASU for more than 20 years and is most deserving of the Educator You Make a Difference Award.

ADE APPROVES INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITATOR ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) approved the proposal submitted by Arkansas State University for a program of study to prepare candidates for the Instructional Facilitator (IF) licensure endorsement for grades P-12. The work of Dr. Julie Grady and Dr. Mitch Holifield, department chair, was vital in the development of the proposal and presentation to the review panel. The program is designed to provide practicing classroom teachers the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to serve as an instructional facilitator/coach. Teachers will be prepared to enhance classroom instruction by providing instructional support in the elements of research-based instruction and methods, in aligning instruction with curriculum standards, assessment tools and individual needs of students.

An Instructional Facilitator is an individual holding a valid Arkansas teacher’s license meeting the criteria for a highly qualified teacher who facilitates continuous improvement in classroom instruction by providing instructional support for teachers while serving in non-administrative leadership position. In the near future, the Arkansas Department of Education will be requiring teachers to have the IF endorsement to be hired as Instructional Facilitators. ASU is one of five institutions in Arkansas to be authorized to offer this endorsement program. The 15 credit hour endorsement curriculum meets the ADE’s expectations to prepare facilitators to be skillful in collaboration, curriculum implementation and evaluation. After completing the courses required for IF endorsement, a teacher leader will be eligible to hold an Arkansas Instructional Facilitator Licensure Endorsement for grades P-12.

Educators who successfully complete the Instructional Facilitator endorsement program may continue their graduate work at ASU, using the 15 credit hours earned during the IF program as credit towards their Masters of Science in Education Curriculum and Instruction Program, an existing graduate program in the Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education.

With the appointment of Dr. Audrey Bowser as coordinator, this new program of study was implemented immediately during the fall 2011 semester. For more information, contact the Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education at (870) 972-3062.
NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Dr. Annette Hux is serving as Assistant Chair in the Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education Department. She received her M.S.E. from Southeast Missouri State University in administration and her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from Saint Louis University. Dr. Hux has taught at the elementary level, special education cross categorical, and served as an elementary principal, special education director and superintendent of schools. Dr. Hux is married to Rick and they have one son, Toppy, who attends Nettleton Schools.

Dr. Gina Hudson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling for the School Psychology Program. She obtained her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Alabama in 2010. She completed her undergraduate studies at Penn State and is a native of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining the faculty at ASU, Dr. Hudson was a school psychologist for the Richmond County School System in Augusta, Georgia. While in this position, she worked with the PK - 12 population in numerous schools and held various leadership roles. Her research interests are in the areas of motivation, diversity, and academic achievement. Dr. Hudson is married to Kevin and they have one son, Garrett, who is three months old.

ASU DELTA STEM EDUCATION CENTER

The ASU Delta STEM Education Center (notice the new name!) had a very busy summer! We provided the following graduate courses and professional development trainings for teachers across the state:

- Electrophoresis Biotechnology for High School Teachers (2 days in Forrest City)
- Plant Based Biofuels for High School Teachers (2 days at ASU)
- Questing: Podcasting, Vodcasting, & Screencasting in the Classroom (1 day at ASU)
- Teaching Algebra I in the 21st Century (7 days in Melbourne and 7 days in Forrest City)
- GK12: Biodiversity in the Mississippi River Embayment (8 days at ASU)
- Using Library of Congress Primary Sources (Maps) to Integrate Science, Math, & Social Studies (5 days at ASU)
- Using iPad II APPS in Instruction (1 day at ASU)
- Using Web 2.0 Tools in Science Instruction (1 day at Marianna)
- Using FLIP Video in Science Instruction (1 day at West Memphis)
- Using Web 2.0 Tools in Science Instruction (1 day at West Memphis)

In addition to providing personal development, Dr. Cynthia Miller, Delta STEM Center Director and her math specialist, Dianne Bounds, visited the University of Arkansas for two days of Reformed Teacher Observation Protocol (RTOP) training. RTOP is the classroom observation instrument currently favored by funding agencies such as the U.S. Dept. of Education and the National Science Foundation. They plan to use this quantitative instrument in their continuing classroom mentoring visits.

The Delta STEM Education Center hosted a STRIVE teacher for 8 weeks this summer; Amanda Herring who teaches Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Science at Hoxie High School. The STRIVE Program has provided high school math and science teachers this summer opportunity for the past 12 years, and is funded by a UALR National Science Foundation grant. Amanda’s research project was on the Plant Based Biofuels grant project Cynthia Miller led with Dr. Maureen Dolan and Mr. Shea Harris of the ASU AR Biosciences Institute.

Along with the Interactive Teaching and Technology Center (ITTC) and the Rural STEM Education Center, the Delta STEM Education Center has been very busy this summer developing the ASU SMART Lesson Portal which is a depository of hundreds of STEM lesson plans, with lesson plans in literacy and social studies to be added. The lessons are aligned to both the AR Curriculum Frameworks and to the National Common Core State Standards. An on-line lesson plan submission should be available by the time this newsletter prints, so please consider having your students submit their lesson plans to this site. Delta STEM Center Science Specialist Linda Kellim is leading the site development.

Finally, after the U.S. Army conducts inspections of the recently vacated Army Reserve Facility on Caraway Road, it will be given to ASU for use as a STEM Academy sometime in 2012. For those of you who have visited our offices, and the 206 Driver Street Teacher Access Center, you know how welcome this additional space will be!

"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."  
– C. S. Lewis
On July 29, 2011, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a new Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree in Reading offered by Arkansas State University’s Department of Teacher Education. This degree is the first of its kind offered by the Department of Teacher Education. The Educational Specialist degree offers certified teachers who already hold a masters degree in education the opportunity to take additional courses and earn a higher degree.

According to Dr. Dixie Keyes, Associate Professor in the Department of Teacher Education and Director of the Arkansas Delta Writing Project, “The new program offers core courses such as Writing Pedagogy, Advanced Studies in Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative and Qualitative Literacy Research, all designed to open spaces for deepening teachers’ cognition about literacy.”

The new Ed.S. offers two tracks that will serve both teachers who are already certified by the Arkansas Department of Education as Reading Specialists and educators with different masters degrees in education who want to attain a Reading Specialist licensure.

Since the redesign of ASU’s MSE in Reading in 2008, the program has experienced exciting growth which led to inquiries from teachers about the offering of an Ed.S. degree in reading. Members of the Reading Graduate Faculty were ready to obligate. Reading Graduate Program coordinator, Dr. Deborah Duncan Owens, led the group of professors in a year-long process of creating the rationale, courses, syllabi and bulletins necessary for the Ed.S. program to be built. Once in the pipeline, the program quickly moved through all avenues of approval. The new program began this fall and already has teachers who have enrolled for the first courses. Dr. Deborah Duncan Owens, along with Drs. Lina Owens, Dixie Keyes, Patricia Murphy, Ryan Kelly and Mrs. Jane Marie Dewailly created the courses and teach in the program. The professors represent a range of expertise and research universities across the country, from Mississippi State to the University of Houston to Iowa State University.

Interim Dean of ASU’s College of Education, Dr. Greg Meeks, commented about the new program, “We are pleased that this new quality advanced level Ed.S. Reading Program has been approved by the state and will be available to teachers and reading coaches who are interested in improving their professional practice in the area of reading instruction. Over the last few years, we have been able to increase the number of our reading faculty, and as a result have been able to add quality and diversity to the faculty—two assets that will make for an exemplar learning experience for our Ed.S. Reading candidates.”

Over the last two years, the MSE in Reading program graduated almost 20 students who are now licensed reading specialists. Recent graduates, such as Ginger Baltimore from Marked Tree, are now literacy coaches in their school districts after attaining the degree. The MSE Reading program was awarded nationally recognized status from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in 2011. Carmen White, a sixth grade writing and history teacher from Nettleton School District in Jonesboro and a recent graduate from the MSE Reading program commented, “The amount of knowledge that I have learned about teaching reading is amazing! I also gained a wealth of confidence as a teacher. I am well prepared to help my students attain success in literacy achievement.”

Dr. Lina Owens, Interim Chair of the Department of Teacher Education shared, “We believe in the excellence of teachers in our region and across the state. We situate ourselves and our program in the context of advocating for the continued education of teachers, which includes research and writing and which can only benefit the students with whom they interact and inspire.” The department’s involvement in organizations such as the National Writing Project, the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts, the Arkansas Reading Council, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents and the International Reading Association allows them to provide multiple opportunities for MSE Reading students to present and publish for educated forums. “This kind of reflective practice, embedded in authentic learning environments and expert mentorship,” continued Owens, “can only be found at flagship institutions like ASU.”

The members of the graduate reading faculty are active in state education policy and consistently publish scholarly articles and book chapters. They also present across the country to learned forums and serve as reviewers for national and international literacy journals. The College of Education supports its literacy graduate programs by providing Student Travel Fund monies for graduate students to participate in scholarly presentations at conferences such as the annual Arkansas Curriculum Conference and the Arkansas Reading Association Conference. ASU is also the university partner for one of the four National Writing Projects in the state, the Arkansas Delta Writing Project, directed by Dr. Keyes.
COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY FOR THE DELTA

Arkansas State University has teamed up with Arkansas Northeastern College (ANC), Blytheville School District, ASU Education Renewal Zone and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation to establish the College Preparatory Academy for the Delta. The College Preparatory Academy for the Delta (CPAD) is a grades 9-20 collaborative initiative. The CPAD will provide intensive educational services for 48 at-risk youth to enable academic success. The Academy is a data driven program focused on individual student achievement, improved high school graduation rates and reduced college remediation rates. The Academy determined eligibility by deficiencies in one or more academic areas (using ACT’s Explore Examination) and the student’s desire to attend a college or university. The CPAD consists of eight Saturday experiences during the academic year and a two-week summer camp, held on the ANC campus. Students enter the Academy as ninth graders and continue through the eleventh grade, with a new cohort of 48 ninth graders beginning each year. CPAD teachers will use student-centered, hands-on learning experiences in math, English, science reasoning (reading), and study skills/career awareness. Over 80 Blytheville ninth grade students were invited to participate, but only 48 students will be selected. A parent/student information night was held at ANC on September 27, 2011. The Academy will hold its “CPAD Opening Ceremony” celebrating selection of the inaugural class for the College Preparatory Academy for the Delta on October 25, 2011. This is the first Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation grant ASU has received. Ms. Kim Horrell Danley, ASU ERZ Director, will also serve as the director for the Academy.

Ms. Kim Danley, Academy Director

MSE READING COFFEE

The MSE Reading Coffee was held in the Grand Hall of the Fowler Center on Feb. 19, 2011. This is expected to be an annual event for all Graduate Reading candidates and Alumni, including both MSE and Ed.S.

Graduate Reading Faculty from left, Dr. Ryan Kelly, Dr. Patty Murphy, Dr. Deborah Duncan Owens, Dr. Dixie Keyes and Dr. Lina Leatherwood Owens

Dr. Deborah Owens, Graduate Reading Coordinator and Straley Owen, a graduate student who completed the MSE Reading program and is now in the Ed.S. Program

MSE Reading graduate students (front row) from left, Melanie Campos, Teri Spillman, and Carmen White
PUBLICATIONS

Dr. John Beineke, Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education, published “Teaching History to Adolescents, A Quest for Relevance,” Peter Lang Publishing.

Dr. Julie Grady, ASU Rural STEM Education Center, co-authored a book: Welcome to Nanoscience: Interdisciplinary Environmental Explorations, Grades 9–12 which was published by the National Science Teachers Association Press.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Karen L. Yanowitz, Psychology and Counseling and Dr. Jennifer L. Bouldin presented a poster, “The Impact of a GK-12 Program on Middle-School Students’ Attitudes Toward Science,” at the Association for Psychological Science conference in May 2011.

Dr. Karen L. Yanowitz, Psychology and Counseling and Dr. Jennifer L. Yanowitz, with Psychology students Kristy Liles, Tonya Witt, and Lauren Tyler presented a poster, “Perceptions of Stalkers’ Personality and Motivations as a Function of Stalker Gender” at the Association for Psychological Science Conference in May 2011.

Dr. Robert Johnson, Psychology and Counseling, recently presented his research, “The Influence of Justifications on the Acceptance of the Use of Torture,” during a poster session at the annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science held in Washington, D.C.

MAT PROGRAM

Fall 2010 saw the launch of the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree offered by ASU’s College of Education, Department of Teacher Education. The program provides a path to teacher licensure for individuals with a baccalaureate degree and created much interest. At this time, only Mid-Level and Early Childhood Education options are available. The first group of candidates is doing their internship this fall. Two interns have been hired as the teacher-of-record and are completing their internship in their own classroom supervised by their Praxis III mentor. The others are spread out in our service area, from Piggott to West Memphis to Hoxie. The Department of Teacher Education is looking forward to assessing the performance of these candidates in their internships and gathering feedback from them in order to improve the program for later candidates. Individuals interested in more information about the MAT program should contact Dr. Joanna Grymes at grymesj@astate.edu, or 870-680-8430.

"Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." – George Bernard Shaw

STUDENT NEWS

MSE Reading program graduate Melanie Campos presented research findings from her thesis, Post-Secondary Reading Instruction for Students Enrolled in College Preparatory Reading Courses at the Create at State Symposium of Research and Scholarship and received the second place award in the Social Science, Behavioral Sciences and Humanities Graduate division for her Panel Presentation. Melanie’s research focuses on effective assessment and instruction to meet the needs of secondary and post-secondary students with reading difficulties and emphasizes the use of literature and technology. She will present her research findings at the 2011 Arkansas Curriculum Conference in November and is currently enrolled in ASU’s new Ed.S. Reading program.

Krishna Bista, an Ed.D. graduate student in the Center for Excellence and graduate assistant had several achievements:

Peer Reviewed Articles:
- Learning-centered community colleges and English as a Second Language program. The Southeast Asian Journal of English Language Studies, 16(3).

Articles/Non-peer-reviewed papers:
- How to create a learning-centered ESL program? Journal of English for Specific Purpose World, 10(31).
- Why are foreign students silent in the U.S. classroom.” Faculty Focus. (2011, June 23). Magna Publications.

Presentations:

Award:
- McFarland Academic Freedom Scholarship: Arkansas State University/American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
SUMMER SCHOLARS

Summer Scholars 2011 was another huge success! Children came from near and far to participate in Passport to Fun: A Journey through Critical and Creative Thinking. The Summer Scholars program serves as a portion of the internship for teacher candidates who are working on their master’s degree or a program of study in Gifted Education. During the month of July, 18 teachers and approximately 95 students ages 4 - 13 engaged in a variety of learning experiences associated with Japan, Egypt, Italy and Germany. The children put their creative and critical thinking skills to work daily as they built structures, constructed castles, wrote poems and stories, created origami, went on archeological digs and attended various learning experience trips. The children, parents and teachers reported that the experience was both beneficial and fun!
DR. KHRAMTSOVA VISITS BASHKIR STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Dr. Irina Khramtsova, Psychology and Counseling, traveled to Ufa, Russia, in May 2011. She was invited to visit Bashkir State Pedagogical University by her colleague, Dr. Chuikova, who visited ASU in the previous year. Dr. Khramtsova received a very warm welcome there and also at Bashkir State University. She made several presentations on positive psychology and mindfulness research for students and faculty of both universities, was an invited speaker at three conferences, and started collaborative research with Dr. Chuikova on biofeedback.

In September 2011, Dr. Khramtsova visited Rovaniemi and Satakunta Universities of Applied Sciences, Finland, as part of the Magellan Exchange Program. She hopes that her presentations and meetings with students and faculty will lead to more active exchanges and collaboration between ASU and universities in Finland.

FACULTY NEWS

Mrs. JaneMarie Dewailly was reappointed as the Southwest Regional Coordinator for the International Reading Association’s Teacher’s Choice Project. The IRA Teachers’ Choices Project is sponsored by the International Reading Association and publishes a list of approximately thirty new trade books that have been field tested by teachers. These are quality literature selections which might not be discovered or fully appreciated by children without introduction by a knowledgeable educator or other adult. Books chosen reflect high quality in style, content, structure, beauty of language and artistic presentation and have potential for enriching the curriculum. Due to her participation in this program there have been over 1,000 books distributed to teachers across Arkansas.

Dr. Julie Grady, ASU Rural STEM Education Center, co-authored with Dr. Erin Dolan and published “Recognizing students’ scientific reasoning: A tool for categorizing complexity of reasoning during teaching by inquiry” in the Association of Science Teacher Educators Journal of Science Teacher Education, and it was chosen by the National Science Teachers Association as one of the top ten research studies from 2010 identified as worth reading for NSTA members.

Dr. Julie Grady and Jannie Trautwein were awarded a $146,000 Arkansas Department of Education Mathematics and Science Partnership Grant, Common Core State Mathematics Boot Camp, to provide professional development experiences for mathematics teachers of grades 3-7 to help prepare them for implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

The Arkansas State University Museum sponsored an evening with two local authors in October whose books highlight the human side of the American Civil War in letters written home by Civil War soldiers. They were “Duty Bound,” by Van Hawkins and “Do They Miss Me at Home?” by Dr. Donald C. Maness and Dr. H. Jason Combs. Maness was formerly Dean of the ASU College of Education and is currently a professor in the Department of Teacher Education. The volume contains more than one hundred Civil War letters written home by William McKnight, Seventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

Dr. Deborah Owens, Teacher Education, had her article “Commercial Reading Programmes as the Solution for Children Living in Poverty,” nominated for the UKLA/Wiley-Blackwell Research in Literacy Education Award for 2011. Dr. Owens’ article was originally published in Literacy, the journal for the United Kingdom International Association (UKLA). This award is given annually for research published in each of UKLA’s journals, Literacy and Journal of Research in Reading. The award goes to research judged to be exemplary in terms of criteria applied in both journals.
CSI GRANT

Dr. Karen Yanowitz, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Dr. Ann Ross, Department of Teacher Education and Dr. Tanja McKay, Department of Biological Sciences have been awarded a new National Science Foundation grant entitled CSI: Classroom student investigations, for $1.04 million dollars. The Northeast Arkansas Regional Partnership for Science/Math Education, as well as faculty from the College of Education and the College of Sciences and Mathematics will also be integrally involved throughout the project. The grant was funded by the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program, which received over 350 proposals for funding. The ITEST program responds to current concerns and projections about the growing demand for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals in the U.S. and seeks solutions to help ensure the breadth and depth of the STEM workforce.

The goal of the grant is to impact classroom students in the mid-South by equipping their teachers with the necessary skills and resources to implement inquiry-based forensic projects in their classrooms. The targeted recruitment area consists of primarily rural, high-needs school districts. Teachers will participate in a summer institute designed to teach STEM content knowledge and to develop their laboratory skills using forensic science as an integrative theme. A workshop for area students will provide teachers with the experience of organizing and implementing an inquiry-based forensic unit. Teachers will be expected to include forensic science lessons in their own classrooms and implement a forensic family science night, thus positively impacting many families and students in the mid-South.

CHEER CAMP

For four days last summer, 258 cheerleaders, 40 dancers, 24 coaches and 23 schools/teams descended upon the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences for the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) and National Dance Alliance (NDA) sponsored camp. Stan Tabor, the State Director for the National Cheerleaders Association said “It was a big success and the HPESS staff was awesome!!”
ADVANCED PLACEMENT SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Institute at ASU sponsored through the Department of Educational Administration provides practical training for AP and Pre AP teachers. The AP program gives high school students the opportunity to participate in classes that are invariably more rigorous and in-depth. These classes provide students the opportunity of intellectual responsibility to think for themselves. Students in AP classes learn to reason, analyze and understand. Such intellectual training inevitably helps them succeed in college. Hundreds of school teachers from Arkansas have been trained. The Institute has attracted many teachers from other states as well as from several international schools. The consultants/trainers come to Jonesboro from throughout the United States with superb classroom skills. Consultants are selected based on their skills that lead to exemplary student success.

The four day institute will be expanded during the summer of 2012. With the regular offerings of AP English Literature, AP English Language, AP Calculus, AP Chemistry and AP American History along with several Pre AP sections; the Jonesboro campus has scheduled AP Statistics, AP World History, AP U.S. Government and two sections of AP Biology (one for new AP teachers and one for experienced AP teachers). This Institute, endorsed through the College Board, will provide the largest number of course offerings in our eight years of service.

A note of thanks to the many colleges and departments at ASU for helping to make our Institute such a success.
The Mission of the College of Education is to generate and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research and service; and to apply that knowledge to improve education and the quality of life for all individuals in a pluralistic and democratic society. We accomplish this within student-centered, intellectually challenging environments with faculty and staff dedicated to excellence.

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.

- Do you work for a matching gift company? If so, please enclose a completed Matching Gift form from your company along with your gift.
- If you are aware of grant opportunities in which the College of Education might become engaged, please let us know in the Dean’s Office by calling 870-972-3057.

Gifted Education Program

The Gifted Education program is now online. During the 2010-2011 academic year, approval was granted by ADE and ADHE to offer a Program of Study for licensure in gifted education through distance learning. Program candidates must possess a teaching license in any area to pursue the P-12 Gifted Education Facilitator/Teacher license, which is eighteen hours of coursework. Internship activities begin as soon as a program candidate begins coursework and are incorporated into each course. There is a capstone experience, or practicum, which is the last course taken. Each of these experiences occurs within the natural setting of the candidate’s school district with the mentorship of a gifted education specialist. The master’s degree can be achieved in 30 hours of coursework, which includes two internship experiences, practicum and advanced practicum.

The first course began August 15th, and already some students have shared positive testimonials for the opportunity to learn online. One student indicated that having this online experience has better prepared her to teach gifted learners since she was hired on an Additional Licensure Plan. Otherwise, she would have had to do a summer residential program since there is no nearby university that offers a gifted education program. This would have required her to teach this year with no knowledge or expertise in the field. Others have provided unsolicited positive feedback about the opportunity to engage in internship activities within their schools. One wrote, “It (the stakeholder project) may lead to a needed change in our talent development program. I am really enjoying how I can use our assignments in my teaching now. That is what I was hoping for when I signed up for the class.”

College of Education Contact Information

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<th>College of Education</th>
<th>Interim Dean: Dr. Greg Meeks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(870) 972-3057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Communication - 329</td>
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<th>Center for Excellence in Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director: Dr. George Foldesy</td>
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<tr>
<td>(870) 972-3943</td>
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<td>Eugene Smith Hall - 404</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair: Dr. Mitch Hollfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>(870) 972-3062</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Dr. Jim Stillwell</td>
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<td>(870) 972-3066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Dr. Loretta McGregor</td>
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<td>(870) 972-3064</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim Chair: Dr. Lina Swans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Chair: Dr. Joanna Grymes</td>
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<td>(870) 972-3059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim Director: Ms. JaneMarie Dewailly</td>
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<td>(870) 972-2099</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director: Ms. Jo Ann Nalley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Director: Ms. Diana Courson</td>
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<td>(870) 972-3055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cindy Bode</td>
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<tr>
<td>(870) 972-3323</td>
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The Mission of the College of Education is to generate and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research and service; and to apply that knowledge to improve education and the quality of life for all individuals in a pluralistic and democratic society. We accomplish this within student-centered, intellectually challenging environments with faculty and staff dedicated to excellence.