

College of Education and Behavioral Science

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Newsletter

Spring 2021

Dr. Mary Jane Bradley

Dean

Dr. Lance G. Bryant

Associate Dean

Dr. Kris Biondolillo

Chair of Psychology and Counseling

Dr. Paul Finnicum

Chair of Health, Physical Education, & Sport Sciences

Dr. Joan Henley

Chair of Educational Leadership, Curriculum and Special Education

Dr. Ronald Towery

Chair of Teacher Education

From the Dean's Desk



No doubt, educators have faced many challenges during the past year. The impact of the COVID pandemic has been unprecedented with students, faculty, educators, universities and the world trying to learn and grow during these difficult times. I say thank you to all who have worked and taught during the pandemic. This time in history will change the face of education impacting policies, instructional strategies and modalities for learning to mention a few.

The College of Education and Behavioral Science (COEBS) has accomplished and celebrated college, department, program and student activities during the Fall 2020-Spring 2021 semesters. I am pleased to share the accomplishments of faculty and students highlighted in this newsletter. Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, A-State Chancellor Kelly Damphousse as well as College of Education and Behavioral Science representatives attended the December 10, 2020 NASA In-Flight Educational Downlink. The collaborative partnership among Nettleton School, A-State, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Arkansas PBS coordinated by Nettleton STEAM School was the first ever NASA In-Flight experience for Arkansas P-12 students.

We are proud that our elementary education, middle level and secondary English/Language Arts students attended a virtual arts integration conference, "The Art of the Story," featuring speakers who consistently used arts integration in their classrooms. We are also appreciative of our twelve undergraduate and two graduate students who participated in Create@State Tuesday, April 20.

A special recognition to the faculty who served as mentors for the students who presented the research: Dr. David Saarnio, Dr. Dixie Keyes, Dr. Jessica Curtis, Dr. Kris Biondolillo and Veronika Pribyslavska. Furthermore, there are many other faculty who are highlighted in the newsletter for other accomplishments this year. I hope you enjoy reading about their successes. We conducted educational events this year with planned intent and safety as our first consideration. I encourage you to visit the college web site <http://www.astate.edu/college/education/> to view the accomplishments of our students and faculty.

Best Regards,

Mary Jane Bradley, Dean

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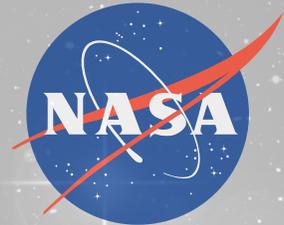
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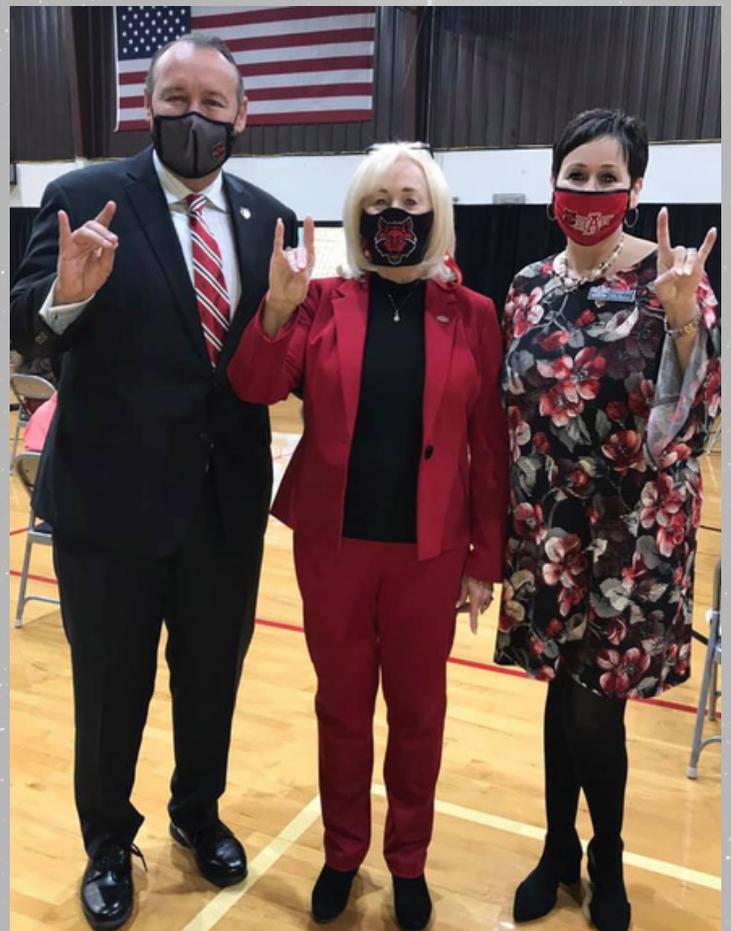
Beyond the Classroom



Arkansas' First Ever NASA In-Flight Educational Downlink



A-State's Chancellor, Dr. Kelly Damphousse and College of Education & Behavioral Science Dean, Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, and ERZ Director, Jill Clogston were in attendance on December 10, 2020 for Arkansas' first ever NASA In-Flight Educational Downlink, hosted by Nettleton STEAM School. The event was coordinated by STEAM Principal Cathelene Gray and STEAM Facilitator, Kelli Cochran, in partnership with A-State, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Arkansas PBS.





The downlink was a 20-minute conversation with Expedition 64 astronauts aboard the International Space Station. Arkansas PBS live-streamed the event through their various digital platforms, which allowed students from all over the state to witness this special event in real time.

Beyond the Classroom

Nettleton STEAM students had pre-recorded questions the astronauts answered live during the downlink. Governor Asa Hutchinson was in attendance and gave a brief statement. The audience also heard from former President Bill Clinton in a pre-recorded message.



Student Achievements

Graduate Reading Alum Publishes Article in State Journal

MSE Reading (2019) and Ed.S. Reading (2020) alum, Ms. Stephanie Thompson of North Little Rock, has just published an article, "Engage, Motivate, and Enhance Students: Theory, Forms, and Successful Implementation," in the Arkansas English Journal. AEJ is the peer-reviewed journal for the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts (ACTELA), which is the state-level affiliate for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Stephanie developed this manuscript while taking the course RDNG 7542 New Literacies as part of the Ed.S. Reading program. "Reading and learning about New Literacies helped me to open my eyes to more possibilities in the classroom, especially for my young ELL students," Thompson says. "The more creative that I allow my students [to be], the more they thrive, and New Literacies does that by allowing those students who are shy and not as outspoken a chance to show their understanding in a more creative way."

"Sending a manuscript to a state-level affiliate journal is the ultimate goal of this course," according to Dr. Ryan Kelly, Professor of Reading and professor of the course. "My hope is that our specialist candidates can lay out a solid foundation of theory and then identify a suitable form of classroom practice to bring that theory to life." If all goes well, program candidates identify their target state-level journal early in the course and have their paper ready to submit at the end of the course. "Most students identify more than one possible state-level journal, across a number of states in which our program candidates live."

"I have seen such growth with many of my ELL students because of their abilities to be creative using New Literacies," Thompson added. "All of the courses within the Reading Program helped me to further not only my understanding of the science of reading but also gave me new tools to try and share with my coworkers."

For students in the course, it's not just about the experience and accomplishment of the publication, which is a challenge in itself—but it's also about making an impact in their field. "One challenge about this assignment that I feel many teachers can relate to is how they can use New Literacies and modify it best for their students," Thompson says. "Working with a younger age group, you have to really think outside the box and create fun and exciting ways to keep students engaged. Making a lasting impression is what will stay with students and help them retain the information you are giving."

*Her article can be found at the ACTELA website: <http://actela.weebly.com>
And also, via the subsequent link with the current edition of the Arkansas English Journal:
<https://arkansas-english-journal.weebly.com>*

Stephanie currently teaches 1st Grade at Ridge Road Elementary School in North Little Rock, Arkansas. "Being published is an exciting honor to have and my excitement when I received word has blown me away" Thompson added. "Being able to share ideas with others that can hopefully inspire them is what I wanted to do."

Student Achievements

The 11th Annual Create @ State Symposium is Virtual for Spring 2021 due to COVID-19 precautions.



Tralee Ellington, a Middle Level Education major presented her research project at the Spring 2021 Create at Astate. She presented her topic: "Teaching Writing Processes in Middle School"

SUMMER CAMPS



The College of Education and Behavioral Science is pleased to announce that the A-State Summer Camp Academy will continue in 2021 with a variety of camps for children and youth PK – 11th grade.

Watch our website www.astate.edu/youth for complete information and scholarship opportunities as well. Also, as a reminder, most of our camps provide for the children and grandchildren of faculty, staff, and students to receive a 20% discount and that is calculated in the system upon registration with entry of A-State ID.



If you need further information please contact Dr. Beverly Boals-Gilbert at bboals@astate.edu or office phone – 870-680-8358 or cell, 917 902 1957.

2021 ARTful Teaching Conference

The Art of the Story

Students (preservice teachers) from the Elementary Education, Middle Level Education, and Secondary ELA Education programs attended a virtual arts integration conference sponsored by the University of Arkansas Center for Children and Youth. The "ARTful Teaching Conference" was held on March 29-30, and has been recognized by the Governor's Arkansas Arts Council. About 100 Preservice teachers and their university instructors from across the state usually gather on Petit Jean Mountain's Winrock Lodge for the conference; however, this year they organized it to be a virtual offering.

The theme for 2021 was "The Art of the Story," and featured nationally renowned speakers like Dr. Linda Humes, Storyteller, Folklorist and Founder of Yaffa Cultural Arts Inc. in New York City. Other speakers included educators who consistently used arts integration in their classrooms and multiple arts experts from Crystal Bridges Museum.

Faculty Organizers included



Dr. Dixie Keyes



Dr. Nicole Covey



Dr. Robert Lamm

Keyes' Research Looks at Epitext Benefits

An article by Dr. Dixie K. Keyes, Professor of Education, has been published in the journal *Voices From the Middle* for middle school literacy educators. The article recounts the outcomes of an inquiry assignment for preservice teachers. They learned how to find epitexts (textual and digital materials derived from published works like video games or music albums), then determined how they deepen user understanding in reading and literacy encounters.



Dr. Dixie Keyes also presented a session at the JOLLE (The Journal of Language and Literacy Education) Annual Conference on February 7, 2021. The title of the presentation was "Bibliotherapy and Student-Developed Text Sets: Developing Social Consciousness Through Curating Texts."



Stripling Co-Presents and Serves as Panelist for National Conferences

Dr. Rick Stripling Director/Associate Professor College Student Personnel Services was Co-Presenter at the National Association of College Student Personnel Services Conference. Dr. Stripling presented with his colleagues Dr. Ashley Buchman (Faculty Member Ed Leadership), Vice Chancellor Student Affairs at the ASU Newport Campus and Dr. Brad Patterson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at Henderson State University. The conference session titled: *Advancing in Student Affairs: How to use Continuous Quality Improvement to Guide Your Professional Development Plan.* National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference, Virtual, March 2021.



Dr. Rick Stripling was also a panelist for an online National Association of Student Personnel Administrators briefing series for student affairs professionals. His presentation focused on how branding in student affairs translates to student success from the community college, undergraduate and graduate level. He and other presenters also discussed developing strategies for strengthening internal and external partnerships to build a strong student affairs brand.



Faculty Spotlight



Davis Co-Presents at National Conference

Dr. Kimberley Davis, Associate Professor of Special Education and Assistant Department Chair, co-presented with a University of Arkansas colleague during the National Council for Exceptional Children virtual conference. In “Setting precedence in education: An examination of culturally responsive teaching self-efficacy beliefs,” they studied teacher education candidates’ culturally responsive teaching self-efficacy and its potential impact on student engagement, instructional strategies, and classroom management that leads to special education referral.

Baker Publishes Work on Dissertation in Practice

Dr. Timberly Baker, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, is co-author of a new journal article in collaboration with Dr. Joy Howard, a colleague from the University of Southern Indiana. They examined how EdD programs can work toward community-engaged scholarship that supports a dissertation in practice. Their work, titled “Activating activism within the EdD: Connecting DiP Research and the community,” was published in *Impacting Education*.



Benavides-Amb Joins Team at National Center

Dr. Claudia Benavides-Amb, Associate Professor of Sport Management, has joined the coaches at the National Center for Faculty Diversity and Development, which is dedicated to helping individuals with transitions throughout their academic careers. With an interest in advancing diversity in academia and the community, she has chaired the Diversity and Affirmative Action Shared Governance Committee and serves on the Jonesboro Public Schools Diversity Committee.

McGregor Featured in Psi Chi Magazine

Eye on Psi Chi, the magazine of the International Honor Society in Psychology, featured an interview with Dr. Loretta Neal McGregor, Professor of Psychology, as part of its Black History Month coverage. McGregor shared her views on several subjects, including her work in experimental psychology, mentoring students effectively, challenges for women of color, and leadership in the academic discipline. The article is available [online](#).



Article by Curtis and Johnson to be Published

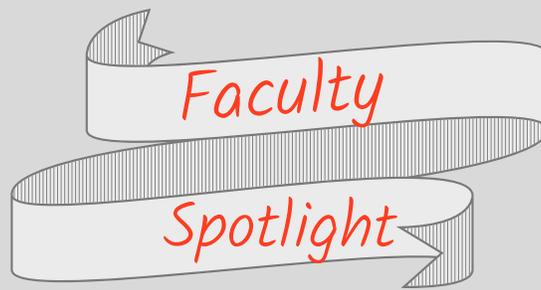
Congratulations to Dr. Jessica Curtis (left), Assistant Professor of Psychology, and alumna Emily Johnson, M.S. in Psychological Science, who have co-authored an article, "A multi-site preregistered paradigmatic test of the ego depletion effect." The research on which they collaborated has been accepted for publication in the journal Psychological Science, the flagship journal of the Association for Psychological Science.



Davis, Saarnio and Weaver Co-Author Article

Dr. Sharon Davis (right), Professor of Counseling, Dr. David Saarnio (left), Professor of Psychology, and Clinical Mental Health Counseling Student, Emily Weaver are the authors of an article recently featured in Counseling Today, which is published by the American Counseling Association. Their [article](#), "DXM: A drug in plain sight," examines the potential dangers and abuse of a drug commonly found in over-the-counter cough medicines.





Wilkinson and Alumni Publish in Journal



A research article by Dr. Wayne Wilkinson, Associate Professor of Psychology, and three co-authors who are A-State psychology alumni, was published in the Journal of Homosexuality. The alumni are Stephen Berry (MS in Psychological Science), and Lauren DuBar and Zacharey Garner (BS in Psychology). The article, titled “Throwing Shade at Cyrus: Willingness to Censor Teen Homosexuality in Disney’s Andi Mack,” is available [online](#).

Hance’s Rejection Research is Published

Dr. Margaret Hance, Assistant Professor of Psychology, whose empirical research report is in press in the journal *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*.



The article, “The impact of rejection sensitivity on self-disclosure within the context of online dating,” is co-authored by Elizabeth Wilson, a student in the master’s degree program in Psychological Science. Hance joined the A-State faculty in 2019.

Medley Appointed to Praxis Committee

The National Association of School Psychologists has selected Dr. Meagan Medley, Assistant Professor of Psychology, to serve on the Praxis® National Advisory Committee (NAC) for the school psychologist test. The 12-15 NAC members will develop or revise the test in their licensed or certified specialty area. The exam is a required component of nationally recognized graduate programs, many state certifications and licenses, and for Nationally Certified School Psychologist designation.





***Hawkins attended inaugural
Faculty Appreciation Day as
KaRon Coleman #27 guest***



"We certainly enjoyed the first look at the outstanding fall forecast for the Arkansas State Red Wolves Football. You are an exceptional student and I am honored to have been your guest." said Sandra Hawkins, Instructor, Teacher Education. They were fortunate to meet the new football Coach Butch Jones and the new Athletics Director, Tom Bowen who both shared their common vision for the athletics and academics at Arkansas State. Hayden McClain, Director of Football Operations, facilitated their tour and shared in-depth information regarding the amazing facilities, private donation results for the athletes training, health, and recovery wellness. They were able to watch a scrimmage game from both the field and the stands.

Staff Accomplishments

Wyatt-Salehi co-presented research at Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference



Kirstyn Wyatt-Salehi, A-State Coordinator of Teacher Internships & Ed.D. candidate at University of Arkansas, and colleague Jessica Enderlin Nadzam, Biology Teacher at Jonesboro High School & Ph.D. candidate at Texas Tech University, presented their research entitled, "Arkansas Teachers' Attrition Predicted by Increased Job-Demands and Mediated by Self-Efficacy during the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic" at the Association for Education Finance & Policy 46th Annual Conference on March 18, 2021. Salehi and Nadzam surveyed Arkansas teachers regarding their jobs-demands before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and compared that data to teacher self-efficacy to see if there was a link between them. The paper can be accessed via Oxford Abstracts through the AEFPP website: <https://aefpweb.org/>

Kirstyn was awarded a W.E. Manning scholarship for her doctoral studies at the University of Arkansas. She is studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on teacher attrition in Arkansas to lay the groundwork for her dissertation research.

A-State ERZ Hosts Webinar Series

Standards Based Learning

The A-State ERZ is sponsoring a webinar series this year, based on a book written specifically for K-12 teachers, *A Teacher's Guide to Standards-Based Learning*. This resource details a sequential approach for connecting curriculum, instruction, assessment methods, and feedback through standards-based education. Jan K. Hoegh, an Author of the book and Facilitator of each session, is providing practical advice, real-world examples, and answers to frequently asked questions about this relevant topic. The first of the (6) session webinar series started in September, 2020. Each session is being held from 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. There are two sessions remaining with the first of these two scheduled for April 29, 2021 and the last webinar will be conducted on May 13, 2021

Those interested in participating in the last two webinars can register via the links provided below. You can also contact Jill Clogston, Director, A-State ERZ for additional information at jclogston@astate.edu.

Webinar #5 (4/29/2021) - Using Proficiency Scales With Exceptional Learners-

https://www.escweb.net/ar_ade/catalog/session.aspx?session_id=419539

Webinar #6 (5/13/2021) - Communicating Grades to Students and Parents-

https://www.escweb.net/ar_ade/catalog/session.aspx?session_id=419542

Jan K. Hoegh is an author and associate for Marzano Resources and Solution Tree. She has been a classroom teacher, building-level leader, professional development specialist, assistant high school principal, and curriculum coordinator during her 30-plus years in education.



RED WOLVES ON THE RIDGE



Red Wolves on the Ridge was a drop-in event for admitted students at the First National Bank Arena Saturday April 17, 2021. Dr. Hoyeol, HPESS Bow Hendrix, Professional Advisor and Dr. Wilkinson, Psychology and Counseling were on hand to connect with student's and assist with any questions they had.

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