Passport to Success

Jacksonville State University
College of Education and Professional Studies
Report 2002
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Passport to Success embodies the faculty and staff’s finest aspiration for our graduates. The education and career preparation for students in the College of Education and Professional Studies at Jacksonville State University focus on the metaphor of the “Creative Decision-Maker.” Through a combination of University-based programs and clinical experiences in contemporary business, industry, and educational settings, students are current in their fields and prepared for transitional experiences. On multiple measures of accountability and programmatic success, graduates consistently secure immediate and high employability in their fields, receive high employer satisfaction scores, and rank JSU’s programs as outstanding.

Departments in the College include: Communication; Curriculum and Instruction; Educational Resources; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Instructional Services; Teacher Service Center; Technology and Engineering, and Television Services. Education programs in the College are the largest in Alabama, 13th largest in the south, and 40th largest in the nation. Each student-centered area functions on the themes of diversity, intellectual vitality, professional community, and technology.

Dr. Janell Wilson showcased Jacksonville State University as the guest editor of Education when the Summer 2002 issue was published. Colleagues nationwide congratulated Dr. Wilson on a successful journal. How did it happen? “You just sow your seeds and eventually the harvest will come,” said Dr. Wilson.

Dr. Wilson submitted an article to the journal Education on Distance Education that she coauthored with Dr. Charles E. Notar and Dr. Karol G. Ross. Jan found the response from the editor, Dr. Russell N. Cassel, overwhelming. He wrote her a flattering letter and praised the timely nature of her work. Dr. Cassel followed up with a phone call and an offer. She could receive a plaque for an outstanding article, or she could be the guest editor and showcase the JSU Distance Education Program.

Dr. Wilson chose to be the guest editor. Education is a refereed journal printed quarterly. It is the oldest education journal published in the United States. As editor, Dr. Wilson had the honor of soliciting articles for this publication from her colleagues at Jacksonville State University. Along with Dr. Wilson, the journal showcased articles by Dr. Lawrence Beard, Dr. Kathleen Friery, Dr. Cynthia Harper, Dr. Franklin L. King, Dr. J. Gordon Nelson, Dr. Charles E. Notar, Ms. Sherri Restauri, and Dr. Sheila Anne Webb.

The issue contains six different articles from JSU and twelve photographs. Dr. Wilson stated, “I found that being a guest editor was interesting, but there was great responsibility. Not only did I work to remind people of their publication deadlines, I found myself running around campus with my digital camera taking people’s pictures. It was fun although it was not easy for me.”

Dr. Wilson has been teaching in the College of Education and Professional Studies since 1999. She received her BS from Oklahoma State University, her MS from Wichita State University, and her Ph.D. from Kansas State University. In 1977 she was selected for the All American Track and Field team and in 1993 she was chosen as the outstanding graduate at Kansas State University. She was also honored in 1994 by the Association of Teacher Educators with the Distinguished Dissertation Award in the College of Education. Dr. Wilson’s grandmother was a teacher as were her two great aunts. Dr. Wilson honored this lineage by wearing her mother’s blouse and broach in her journal cover photograph.
The Child Development Center (CDC) at McClellan will open in 2003. Renovations to the building are almost complete. With a capacity of approximately 260 children, the Center will focus on a specialized market niche. Once operations are established, the Center will seek National Accreditation.

In addition to faculty and staff, children will receive care from Jacksonville State University students pursuing degrees in Education, Physical Education, Nursing, Social Work, Business, Family and Consumer Sciences, and other areas. The building exterior and lobby are designed for adults, but the classrooms are designed in primary colors that attract children. There will be several learning centers including infant, pre-toddler, toddler, pre-school, school age, and JSU rooms. The building also contains a multi-purpose room with a stage, two indoor activity rooms, a computer room, kitchen, nurse’s station, faculty lounge, offices, and three playgrounds. The reception area houses an interior security system to prevent anyone from entering the facility without permission.

A cross-disciplinary committee, appointed by the President, has directed the renovations and strategic plans for the Child Development Center. This committee will also serve as the search committee for CDC administrators. The Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies will supervise the CDC Director.

CDC McClellan is an off-campus, full day facility. The on-campus Child Development Center, currently housed in Family and Consumer Sciences, will continue its outstanding morning program for four year olds.

The Wellness Testing Center is a service of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPER). The most recent outreach program, the Gamecock Gallop 5K, was started in November of 2001 to promote fitness to the JSU and Jacksonville communities and as a fundraiser for the Department’s HPER Student Club. The inaugural event drew 70 participants and was considered a tremendous success. This year the second annual Gallop became a University-wide Faculty and Staff challenge sponsored by President Meehan and thus named The President’s Cup.

The third annual event will feature a one-mile fun run and be marketed to the local elementary and middle school systems to encourage them to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Also targeted for November of 2003 will be a challenge among the JSU student groups similar to the President’s Cup for faculty and staff.

For more information on any of the various Wellness Center programs, please visit us at: http://www.jsu.edu/depart/edprof/hper/wcenter/, or call (256) 782-5114.
Sandra Fox Sudduth is a leader, both in the city of Jacksonville and to the students at Jacksonville State University. Mrs. Sudduth attributes her leadership abilities to the integrity and courage exemplified by her parents, Theodore and Agnes Fox. Theodore Bert Fox was a soft-spoken, articulate teacher of vocational education in the Anniston City Schools. He lived in Jacksonville with his wife and four daughters. When Mr. Fox appeared before the Jacksonville City Council with a request, he developed a desire to run for a seat on the Council. His wife, Agnes, accepted her husband’s bid for elected office as a natural consequence of his involvement in the community. “After all,” she said, “he had been talking about running for office for so long.”

The 1960’s were a time when racial strife and social change were prevalent across the nation. Theodore Bert Fox, the great-great grandson of a slave, made news when he was elected to public office. He was born and reared in a house that stood just off the town square in Jacksonville, and was elected to the Council in a city with only 7% black voters. “The other members of the Council accepted me as a fellow councilman and this was what I wanted,” he once told a reporter. Fox ran unopposed in the council seat for the next three terms. The largest project undertaken by the Council during his tenure was the construction of the Jacksonville hospital. The Council also drew up plans for a community center.

Theodore and Agnes Fox sent all four of their daughters to college. The daughters collectively have earned eleven graduate and under-graduate degrees. Mrs. Sudduth believes that her mother instilled in her children an essential sense of self-worth and a commitment to compassion and responsibility that has guided them throughout their lives.

As a councilman, Fox believed that he was obligated to serve all of the citizens of Jacksonville, and he passed this philo-sophy of elected office to his daughter, Sandra. After college, Mrs. Sudduth returned to Jacksonville, and, like her father, taught in the Anniston City Schools. She helped develop the counseling program for the Anniston City School System. During this time, Mrs. Sudduth also taught at Jacksonville State University as an adjunct instructor. In 1994, she accepted a full time position in Curriculum and Instruction at JSU. Mrs. Sudduth’s political career gained momentum when she was appointed to the Jacksonville City School Board. In 1990, Mrs. Sudduth filled the council seat vacated by her father, and since 1994, has continued as an elected Council member for nearly a decade.

The hospital project that began during Mr. Fox’s term in office continued during Mrs. Sudduth’s time on the Council. In 2000, the City Council sold Jacksonville Hospital and financed a new Jacksonville High School. This year, the Council completed the Jacksonville Community Center. The legacy of service commitment to the community that Theodore Bert Fox began continues through the dedicated work of his daughter, Sandra Fox Sudduth.
I
n 1969, Jacksonville State University initiated a Teacher Hall of Fame. This program honors and recognizes the classroom teachers of the public schools in the state of Alabama. Specific criteria are used to select nominees. Nominees must be currently teaching subject matter to students at least fifty percent of each school day. Degrees held, length of teaching experience, and current teaching assignments are also taken into consideration. No preference is given to nominees who may have attended Jacksonville State University. They must maintain exemplary standards of behavior and ethics, exhibit leadership, be enthusiastic concerning teaching, demonstrate competency in subject matter, work well with colleagues and administrators, and constantly seek to encourage, inspire, and motivate students toward greater accomplishments.

Each public school system in the state is asked to nominate one elementary, one middle-level, and one secondary teacher each year to be considered for this award. School systems are urged to participate. Each school system determines the composition of the local selection committee, but JSU suggests that members of the community be represented. The three nominations from each local school system must be sent to the State Chairman by an established deadline. The President of Jacksonville State University appoints the State Chairperson. The current Chairperson is Dr. Kelly Ryan of Jacksonville State University. The Chairperson appoints a ten member Selection Committee which reviews all nominations and selects the top five finalists in each category. These five finalists are interviewed by the Selection Committee. The final selection is made by secret ballot vote. All finalists attend a Teacher Hall of Fame awards ceremony and banquet at JSU. The winner in each category is recognized and receives a certificate. Teachers who receive the Hall of Fame award are named on a plaque located in the lobby of the Houston Cole Library on campus.

“We take our fun seriously”, exclaims Dr. Jimmy Griffin, the new coordinator of JSU’s academic program in Recreation Management. Dr. John Hammett, Department Head for the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department (HPER) laid down the charge for Dr. Griffin to “revamp the Recreation program, bringing it up to current national standards”.

Recreation is a legitimate profession marked by an identified need in society, an expansive knowledge base, and a host of professional organizations for accountability, standards, and certifications. One of the goals of the Recreation Management program is to move toward national accreditation within the next three years. Curriculum Development focusing on current trends in the field will likely offer three concentrations: Community Recreation, Camping and Outdoor Education, and Youth Development.

Strengthening the roots of JSU’s academic Recreation program prepares graduates for immediate employment in Local Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Service agencies. Graduates will be prepared to provide recreation programs to all age groups.
The Thornburgs

JSU is about family, quality, and tradition.

That’s what brought Dr. Roland Thornburg, Jr. home twenty years after receiving his B.S. and M.S. at JSU. Dr. Thornburg’s mother and father, Dr. Roland and Dr. Charlotte, as they were affectionately known on campus, taught at JSU from 1962 until 1990.

“At home, we talked about teaching and education at breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Growing up, I spent much of my time at the Ramona Wood Hall where mom and dad had adjacent offices. While at JSU, dad served as Department Chair of Education, Dean of Education, Dean of the Graduate School, and Director of Student Teaching. Mom spent her time in the area of Curriculum and Instruction and served as Department Chair for Guidance and Counseling. They exemplified and instilled in me a passion for my faith, family values, and a love for JSU and the teaching profession.”

Dr. Thornburg, Jr. received his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi in Physical Education. He accepted his first teaching position at Livingston University in the Physical Education Department in 1986. He also worked in Georgia where he coached, taught middle school Physical Education, and was an administrator at the elementary level for 8 years.

In North Carolina, he taught School Administration in the School of Education at Gardner-Webb University.

“I believe God has a plan, and He opened another door for me when I got a call from Dr. John Hammett in the HPER Department at JSU regarding a teaching position. I always wanted to teach at JSU, and after twenty years it became a reality. I definitely believe the experiences I’ve had over the last 20 years have prepared me for the position at JSU.”

“I hope to instill in students the same passion for teaching that my mom and dad gave to me and to students they taught during their tenure at JSU. Whenever I’m in area schools, it is common for teachers or administrators to stop and share with me the impact mom or dad made on their lives while they were at JSU. I’m proud of the family atmosphere on campus, and of the tradition and quality of the teacher education program at JSU. It was a dream come true for me to come home and give back to the community, church, and school that had such an influence on my life.”
College of Education and Professional Studies

Awarded Grants for 2001-2002 Year

The Alabama Literacy Collaborative: Advanced Professional Development for Alabama Reading Initiative Reading Specialists

The grant provides advanced professional development for reading specialists employed by the Alabama Reading Initiative’s (ARI) Literacy Demonstration Sites (LDS). These efforts reflect the state’s commitment to provide long-term, sustained, high-quality professional development to Alabama K-12 teachers of reading.

Goals of the grant included:

• Building upon and improving the professional development provided to the 27 Reading Specialists employed in the JSU service region
• Strengthening the public school/higher education partnerships that serve as the foundation for ARI and are valued by JSU’s Teacher Education Program
• Providing (indirectly through the ARI Reading Specialists) sustained high-quality professional development for Alabama K-12 teachers who work directly with the 27 Reading Specialists in the JSU service region
• Improving curriculum and instruction in the preservice and Class A Reading Specialists programs in the College of Education and Professional Studies at JSU
• Monthly professional development sessions for grant participants targeted struggling readers.

Struggling readers were defined as children who cannot read text materials with sufficient comprehension to meet grade level demands for achievement. As part of the professional development provided in the grant, reading specialists identified struggling readers, including children from under-represented groups. Specialized instructional techniques and strategies were designed for dissemination to participants as a whole with the idea that information learned would be shared with teachers in the public schools. Dr. Cynthia Harper served as project director and Dr. Carol Uline was project facilitator.

Collaborative Teacher State Improvement Grant

The grant increases collaboration between special education programs, local education agencies, and parents of students with disabilities. Representatives from Anniston, Calhoun, Jacksonville, Oxford, and Piedmont School Systems participated in all grant activities. In addition to addressing parental awareness and needs of students with disabilities, specific courses in the Collaborative Teacher undergraduate and graduate programs were targeted as areas to receive attention from funding provided. Priority was given to legal, medical, and ethical issues and concerns.

Program goals included:

• Review Collaborative Teacher Programs K-6 and 6-12
• Review current placement practices for students with disabilities ranging from the continuum of services to inclusion in the general education setting
• Review and consider parental responses to programming for students with disabilities through the Collaborative Teacher model
• Identify additional practicum/internship placements for students seeking degrees in Collaborative Teacher K-6 and 6-12
• Investigate various assistive technology used by students with disabilities

Drs. Cynthia Harper and Patricia K. Lowry served as grant directors.
The Appalachian School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies began as a dream of Dr. Kathleen Friery, Department Head of Educational Resources, and Mr. Ricky Naugher, Director of the Counseling and Career Services at JSU. For two years, Dr. Friery and Mr. Naugher worked on ideas for a school to be located at JSU to provide training for area counselors, social workers, nurses, pastors, teachers, and law enforcement officers in the area of addictions. “There is a tremendous need for current information to be provided for professionals in the areas of prevention and treatment,” states Dr. Friery. After many area counselors requested a school of this nature to be offered at JSU, the First Annual Appalachian School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies began in July 2001, with the Second Annual conference held in July 2002.

Participants came from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida to attend the conferences. A few of the core courses offered included Psychopharmacology for Counselors, Spirituality and Recovery, and Reality Therapy. The faculty and keynote speakers have been outstanding. Many have authored numerous books and continue to be in demand as speakers at conferences across the nation.

ApSADS has been an outstanding success. This is in part due to ApSADS collaborative effort with the State Department of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, JSU, and state and private organizations. The school offers participants college credit. Mr. Naugher noted, “We needed a conference that would provide intense training in a specific area. Participants have been highly complementary of this structure.”

June 24th – June 27th of 2003, JSU will host the Third Annual ApSADS Conference. Three additional courses are planned for this year including the Assessment of Addictions, Reality Therapy in a Group Setting, and Domestic Violence. Now is the time to begin planning to attend the Third Annual Appalachian School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies Conference. Interested participants should visit the website, http://www.apsads.org, or contact Dr. Kathleen Friery or Mr. Ricky Naugher.
About four years ago, Pam Hill’s doctor warned that if she continued to work industrial jobs she might lose her ability to hear. At the time, she was a single parent supporting three children by working at an area plant. Ms. Hill’s vocational rehabilitation counselor offered a solution: go to college. The Weaver resident was skeptical. A teenage pregnancy and a bout of mononucleosis derailed Ms. Hill’s high school graduation. Still, she had come back and proven herself, earning her GED (General Educational Development certificate) six months before the rest of her high school class graduated. At age 30, Ms. Hill enrolled at Jacksonville State University as a Communication major with a concentration in New Media. Concerned that her hearing loss would affect the accuracy of her work in print journalism, she opted for new media. Now, three and a half years later, her goal is almost complete. December 2002, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree.

“I got an A and she got a B,” Ms. Hill said. “She was mad.” But she described the 17-year old Cassie as “brilliant.” Cassie finished high school in three years and is now a freshman at the University of Alabama, with a double major in philosophy and anthropology. Fifteen-year-old Michael is “the man in my life,” Ms. Hill said. He checks on his two sisters and their boyfriends. Ashleigh, at 14, is Ms. Hill’s youngest and plays three instruments in the band — the flute, piccolo, and oboe. All three children are in honor societies. Ms. Hill holds up her own grades as an example to them. “If I can do it, so can you.”

Graduating this December was important to Ms. Hill — she wants her father to see her walk on Dec. 14, since she couldn’t do so at her high school graduation. Stricken with a rare blood disease, her dad is in failing health. Until now, Ms. Hill was afraid that he wouldn’t live to see her graduate. It was for that reason that Ms. Hill asked for and received permission to do a required internship early.

“Where there’s a will, there’s a way,” said Ms. Hill.

This article was originally published by the Jacksonville News in the “Town and Gown” column written by Dr. William A. Meehan.
The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences offers a Didactic Program in Dietetics providing students an opportunity to complete academic requirements to become registered dietitians. The program has enjoyed accreditation by The Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of The American Dietetics Association. Accreditation is based on program quality standards for curriculum, instruction, facilities, and available resources, meeting standards set forth by CADE.

The mission of the Didactic Program in Dietetics provides students with the knowledge, skills, standards, and ethical awareness necessary for entering approved, supervised, field-based programs and for productive and satisfying careers in the areas of dietetics, nutrition, and food services. Exciting career opportunities for registered dietitians include clinical and administrative positions in health care, community health, school nutrition programs, industry, and institutional foodservice operations. During the past ten years, more than one hundred students have completed the requirements of the didactic program earning a B.S. degree in Family and Consumer Sciences. The program is proud of the number of graduates who are accepted into graduate school and internships across the country. Dietitians are involved in health care, community health, school nutrition programs, education, private practice, industry, professional sports consultation, commercial food service operations, military food service, and other areas. Also, several graduates of the JSU Didactic Program in Dietetics are employed in the Northeast Alabama region, which provides students opportunities for applied learning experiences in the field. Additional information on the dietetics program may be obtained by accessing the JSU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences website at http://www.jsu.edu/depart/edprof/fcs.
Pam Jumper, Recognized by JSU

Pam Jumper is the department secretary for Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) in the College of Education and Professional Studies. She is also the JSU employee of the month for October 2002. All sixteen of the full-time faculty of Curriculum & Instruction wrote letters in praise and support of Mrs. Jumper’s nomination. They also organized a surprise breakfast to announce her award.

Mrs. Jumper has worked in Curriculum & Instruction since 1998. She has also worked in the Dean’s office of the College of Education and Professional Studies. As the Curriculum & Instruction department secretary, Mrs. Jumper helps with the programs of Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education and over one thousand students.

Mrs. Jumper is also appreciated by those outside her department. As Deb Bearden, Certification Specialist, said, “Pam is an asset to the entire College. She is always available to faculty, staff, and students and is willing to help in any way she can.” Mrs. Jumper, a lifelong resident of Piedmont, married her high school sweetheart, James Jumper. They have two sons, four year-old Tanner and six year-old Logan. With two young children time is often at a premium, but in whatever spare time she can manage, Mrs. Jumper enjoys reading, shopping, canoeing, snow skiing, and other family activities.

Mrs. Jumper looks forward to a long and enjoyable future at JSU in Curriculum & Instruction. Her willingness to help, enthusiastic attitude, and congenial disposition make her a significant resource to Curriculum & Instruction, the College, and Jacksonville State University. Mrs. Jumper is truly an employee worthy of recognition.

Technology Fair

For the past several years, the Department of Technology and Engineering has hosted the Central East/North East Regional Technology Fair for the Alabama Council for Technology in Education (ACTE). The fair is designed as a student showcase for children spanning grades 3 through 12. Nine different competition categories are judged with winners advancing to state competition. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are presented to winners in an awards ceremony at the end of the day. From a modest beginning of around eighty students in 1998, the fair has more than tripled with over two hundred and fifty students participating in the 2002 fair.
The Teaching/Learning Center (T/LC) is an on-campus, after school, one-to-one tutorial site. The T/LC was established in 1982 by Dr. Elsie Wright to provide the students (preservice teachers) in the College of Education and Professional Studies a practicum working with children in a highly supervised tutoring program. Before the T/LC, it was common that the only time prospective teachers actually worked with children was during student teaching, which usually occurred during the last semester of the senior year. In 1982, the Alabama State Department of Education (SDE) increased the number of preservice hours required for teacher certification. The SDE instituted new technology guidelines in 2002 for teacher preparation programs. Some of the requirements are met through the tutoring practicum.

The T/LC practicum received the 1987 Innovation in Education Award given by the Southeastern Regional Association. Nationally, this program was recognized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities with the Christa McAuliffe Showcase for Excellence Award in 1988. The T/LC was recently cited in the book Tutor Quest, a 2002 publication of Phi Delta Kappa Education Foundation written by Edward E. Gordon. In the book Mike Zenanko, the Coordinator of the T/LC, says, “The tutoring program helps them recognize the importance of reaching the individual learner.”

The 2002–2003 school year marks the 20th year of the tutoring program. The practicum has provided the setting for 9,925 JSU students to contribute 95,661 hours of free tutoring to 5,630 area students in grades 1–12. Over the years, students from 56 area schools in grades K–12 have participated and benefited from the work of the tutors. The T/LC has been called the “Center for Two Learners”, since both the local school students and JSU preservice teachers make significant academic and personal progress. Many JSU graduates look back on the practicum as a basis for their teaching paradigm.

Local legislators have proclaimed this to be one of the community’s greatest “natural resources” and community outreaches. The tutoring practicum is a valuable public service of this College to the community and an equally valuable practicum for preservice teachers.
Through funding of the State Improvement Grant, JSU has been able to help improve public school education in the region. One of these improvements included the training of JSU personnel in the area of assistive technology (AT) for students with disabilities.

Dr. Larry Beard, along with 28 other professionals from seven states, attended a weeklong training session in New Orleans. This training included sessions on selecting and developing AT for all individuals, but focused on school-aged students with physical, sensory, and learning disabilities and the use of both high-tech (electronic) and low-tech (over-the-counter, more cost effective) devices. Particular attention was given to a multi-disciplinary assessment process and to the philosophy that any device used should adapt to the individual needs of the student.

Special Education students at JSU will use state of the art techniques by incorporating the emerging field of AT. Dr. Beard is one of only two university professors in the state of Alabama to earn a certificate in AT through California State University-Northridge. This AT training not only permits JSU to introduce both preservice and in-service teachers to a specific area in the expanding field of special education, but also strengthens the assistive technology component in the special education curriculum. Dr. Beard’s certification will be an asset to the College. He will guest lecture in programmatic areas outside special education. He will also be speaking on assistive technology at the Alabama State Council for Exceptional Children Superconference. AT professional development workshops are periodically offered to the local school districts at no cost.

The Department of Technology and Engineering offers teaching field courses for secondary education majors that are preparing to teach Career Technologies. This is a relatively new certification option at JSU in a non-traditional teaching field. Career Technologies is designed primarily as a middle school program of career exploration, although the program can extend into the high school. Since the students progress through technology modules at different rates, the potential career technologies teacher serves as a facilitator. The courses in Technology provide potential teachers with a broad background in technology and hands-on experiences working in lab-based instruction.
Industry partnerships have always played important roles in the Technology and Engineering program at Jacksonville State University. The latest partnership with North American Bus Industries (NABI) is a prime example. This partnership provides exciting opportunities for Technology and Engineering students. Major contributions to the program by NABI and the National Automotive Center have assisted JSU in establishing a Manufacturing Design Laboratory. This lab provides students with the opportunity to create manufacturing designs utilizing advanced 3-D solid modeling and assembly techniques. Selected students are also gaining valuable industrial experiences through cooperative education with NABI. Future additions to the design lab will allow students to create prototypes of their designs. The lab was officially dedicated on October 23, 2002. Representatives from NABI participating in the ceremony included Pat Rona, Chief Executive Officer; Mike McCullars, Chief Financial Officer; Bob Zeaton, Vice President of Engineering; Herb Clark, Director of Human Resources; Mike Wallner, Information Technology Manager; and Rodney Snider, Senior Systems Administrator.
Christy Hamilton, Reading Expert

To say that Christy Hamilton’s job is multifaceted is quite an understatement. However, saying that she is outstanding in her field is an accurate portrayal of this JSU student and graduate.

Ms. Hamilton, a native of Jefferson County, finished her dual certification from JSU in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education in 1994. Upon graduating, she began her teaching career at Dearmanville, where she taught a split class of fifth and sixth graders for three years. After leaving Dearmanville, she taught second grade and third grade at Alexandria Elementary School.

Ms. Hamilton received her Masters in Early Childhood in 1997 and applied for the Reading Specialist job with the JSU Inservice Center. She actually was on loan to JSU from the Calhoun County School System for two years, but now she is employed at the JSU Inservice Center as an Alabama Reading Initiative trainer. As a resource person, she continues to work with the ARI Schools that are on caution or alert status. She leads workshops, faculty meetings, grade level meetings, and demonstrates the teaching of reading as she serves 39 ARI schools in the state of Alabama. She also serves on the recertification/retooling team for the State Department of Education.

Ms. Hamilton completed her Reading Specialists Degree from JSU this past August and plans to pursue an administrative add-on. Although her life sounds too busy to have other interests, she is the happy mother of three children, ages 3, 4, and 6.

Dr. Marvin Jenkins, Honored

Dr. Marvin Jenkins recently received the “Counselor Educator of the Year” award from Chapter V of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA). It was presented to him at the fall conference of the ALCA, which was held in Mobile in late November.

Dr. Jenkins began his association with Jacksonville State University in 1977, serving as Director of Counseling and Career Services. He returned to JSU in 1987 and reassumed his previous role as Director of Counseling and Career Services.

Dr. Jenkins made the transition from student services to full time instruction in 1997. When asked what he most enjoys about his work as a counselor educator, Dr. Jenkins remarked, “The faculty and students are the best! Coming to work is truly a pleasure.” While Dr. Jenkins is dedicated to his profession, he also has many hobbies which include spelunking, flying, photography, and camping. Dr. Jenkins has been recently appointed to the Alabama Board of Examiners in Counseling by Governor Don Siegelman.
Television Services has undergone a major revitalization with additional staff. Mike Hathcock, Acting Director of Television Services, hired two new employees to help fulfill the numerous requests the department receives. Keith Thomas returned to JSU as the Production Coordinator. Mr. Thomas produced several award winning videos at JSU from 1989-2000. He left his position as Director of TV Services at Elon University in North Carolina to return to JSU in 2002. Ted White, hired as Assistant Engineer, brings to TV Services twelve years experience in broadcast production with Harvest Media, along with a background in industrial electronics, computer repair, and networking.

Television Services is a department in the College of Education and Professional Studies housed in Self Hall. State of the art video hardware and software are used to produce television programs for educational and/or broadcast use. Television services provides support to numerous areas of JSU including the Department of Communication, WLJS-FM 92J, Promotions and Advertising, Distance Education, the JSU Sports Network, and WJXS-TV 24. In 2002, a new antenna that increases the broadcast area for WLJS was erected on Chimney Peak with the assistance of Television Services. JSU’s scenic road to the Chimney Peak Tower is now open to the public. The department furnishes instructional and technical support to faculty and students, and also coordinates and engineers support of shared facilities and resources. Television Services also provides opportunities for communication students to work on productions. All activities of TV Services are designed to positively impact JSU’s public image and the University’s instructional mission. The staff of television services is strongly committed to providing service to the University, students, and the community.
The Teacher Service Center piloted Supervisory Cluster Seminars in Fall 2002 for the student teacher interns. The seminars were held on the main campus of JSU in the Houston Cole Library, Leone Cole Auditorium, and Ramona Wood Building. All student teachers and supervisors were required to attend.

The seminars, conducted by the Teacher Service Center and facilitated by the University supervisors, were designed to parallel the student teaching experience in order to provide an opportunity for reflection, professional growth, and the exchange of ideas. Each session lasted an entire day and consisted of a guest speaker presentation, small group discussion, and student teacher presentations on assigned topics.

Opportunities were provided during these sessions for interns to participate in group analysis and evaluation of their personal student teaching experiences. These activities included a discussion of daily experiences, sharing ideas regarding classroom instruction, analysis of problem situations and possible solutions, and a comparison of teaching methods and techniques observed during the internship.

Student teachers had the opportunity to devote attention to aspects of professionalism that included work ethics, confidentiality, personal qualities, instructional competency, initiative, and motivation. They also shared ideas about classroom management and discipline techniques.

Interview skills were developed as interns participated in mock interviews. Students gained insight into the types of questions they might expect during the interview process. Each student teacher developed an electronic portfolio to use as an interview tool.

Student teaching is the culmination of a student’s work in the College of Education and Professional Studies. The internship is the fourth level of the Clinical Experience program.

Student teaching is a rewarding time for student teachers because their CE&PS coursework has prepared them for success. The fifth level of the Clinical Experiences program provides graduates support during their first year of teaching. The entire Clinical Experience Program is a developmental period that helps students make the transition from student to teacher, ready for their own classroom and students. Supervisory Cluster Seminars are a way to facilitate and tie together these experiences.
Dr. Kingsley Harbor is the new Department Head of Communication. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in electronics engineering technology from the University of Houston Central Campus; his master’s in broadcasting from Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College, Baton Rouge; and his Ph.D. in journalism from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Dr. Harbor comes to JSU from Mississippi Valley State University where he worked for eight and half years. He began the university’s first broadcasting program and later became Founding Chair of the MVSU Department of Mass Communication. Before he left, the department was scheduled for accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC). Areas of research pursued by Dr. Harbor include international communication, freedom of the press, and national development. He serves on national committees of the ACEJMC and holds membership in numerous professional organizations.

Dr. Harbor’s plans here include increasing the visibility of the Department of Communication regionally and nationally; leading the department to accreditation by the ACEJMC; and, as a long-range plan, bringing a graduate program in communication to JSU.

Since arriving at JSU, he has worked toward establishing an annual Communication Week and received a grant from the Alabama Press Association to set up a Journalism Institute that will begin in summer 2003.

“I am indeed excited about the future of communication at JSU,” Dr. Harbor says.

Dr. Augustine Ihator is a new Associate Professor in Communication at JSU. Dr. Ihator received a doctorate in mass communication from Howard University and has extensive professional, academic, and research experience. He also speaks fluent French.

As a communication specialist, he resolved public affairs problems for the World Bank and the United States Department of the Army headquarters, among others. He recently participated in the training of journalists from Indonesia and Cambodia and in internationalizing a university campus through federal grants.

Dr. Ihator published his research work in national and international journals. Dr. Ihator is currently reviewing JSU’s public relations curriculum, creating a public relations organization for communication majors, and is instituting a program that will bring industry professionals to campus to train students.

Dr. Ihator is also one of the founders of the JSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, an honor society, member of the JSU Communication Board, and the Faculty Senate.

“I plan to include my students in both professional and research aspects of communication and in global affairs,” Dr. Ihator said.
Over 60 service and preservice teachers participated in ESTEEM (Exploring Scientific Truths Environmentally to Enhance Mathematics). Participants worked with the concept the interrelation of mathematics and sciences for K-12 students in a Summer Institute and Fall Follow-up Workshops. Curricular enhancement offered through ESTEEM utilizes the interrelationship of sciences and mathematics. The two courses of study complement each other in the areas of observation, discovery, prediction, problem solving, and theory usage. ESTEEM incorporates these elements into other areas of emphasis such as appreciation of the natural world and a fascination with mathematical and scientific quests. A very simple example uses Fibonacci numbers to explain symmetry and asymmetry in nature. Many activities including calculating biodiversity indices, weather monitoring, and water chemistry and quality combine the sciences and rely on mathematical processes such as grouping, calculating, predicting, or using logarithms and statistics. Some workshop topics, such as eutrophication, the natural aging process of streams and lakes due to sedimentation and nutrient loading over time, and teratology, the study of materials that cause birth defects, require usage of higher order mathematics.

Utilizing the Little River Canyon yields various combinations that are interrelated such as life science and physical science. Example programs offered by Little River Canyon staff use the mountain, forest, and waters of the canyon as a classroom, touching on issues related to ornithology, ichthyology, microbiology, geology, watershed and waterways, ecology, herpetology, archaeology, zoology, astronomy, and entomology. Historical topics addressed include the Civil War, the iron industry, and Cherokee folklore. Future issues such as living with toxins were also covered. These experiences provided a basis for teachers to interrelate scientific and mathematical concepts from the Alabama Course of Study into application-based curriculum and provide opportunities for their students to extend the problem solving situations and dimensions of multiple variables found in nature into inquiry-based reasoning.

The primary goal of building curriculum based on scientific literacy and mathematical power stems from providing an enriched, highly motivational approach for students to solve problems in a realistic environment that reflects the interrelationships found beyond the study of discrete disciplines. This approach dovetails with the Courses of Study.

ESTEEM values and acknowledges diverse cultural contributions to the fields of sciences and mathematics. An example offered by the Little River Canyon field school includes Native American folklore regarding nature. ESTEEM participants seek a variety of diverse cultural and historical contributions to the fields of sciences and mathematics and incorporate them into their curriculum.

The program was directed by Dr. Sheila Anne Webb, coordinated by Dr. Janell Wilson, evaluated by Dr. Barbara Yunker, and advised by an interdisciplinary steering committee.
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