

CEPS IN-SERVICE EDUCATION CENTER

The College of Education and Professional Studies welcomes into its college the In-Service Education Center. The center is one of eleven regional in-service centers established by the Alabama legislature in 1985. The center was initially located in Ramona Wood Hall under the direction of Dr. Mary Jean Paxton, who also taught Biology for JSU. Dr. William D. Carr oversaw the center along with his service as the dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education, managed the center until June 2011. During Dr. Carr's tenure, the center has grown from three employees to twenty-four full time staff.

Dr. John B. Hammett II, the dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies, now serves as the director. The physical location of the center changed as it grew, from Ramona Wood Hall to Doughty Hall, Curtiss Hall and now is located in the 3181 building on the JSU McClellan Campus. Today the In-Service Center has a critical need for more office and warehouse space.

The In-Service Center is the umbrella for the professional learning and development programs that it offers as well as state programs, which include the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), The Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), Alabama Science in Motion (ASIM), and Technology in Motion (TIM).

The assistant director of the In-Service Center, Ms. Vicky Brown, is involved with eight different budgets for the center and its affiliate



Ms. VICKY BROWN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE IN-SERVICE EDUCATION CENTER

programs. The In-Service Center serves fifteen school systems: Anniston City; Attalla City; Calhoun County; Cherokee County; Clay County; Cleburne County; Etowah County; Gadsden City; Jacksonville City; Oxford City; Pell City; Piedmont City; Randolph County; Roanoke City; and St. Clair County. Most of these programs are offered at no cost to the school systems or the teachers.

The content of the programs is derived from curriculum changes by the Alabama State Board of Education or they are requested by the school systems based on needs. Biannual needs assessment helps school systems determine professional development needs. The In-Service Education Center works to provide the needed workshops. While the center exists on "soft" money (funding that requires legislative action to be continued) and the budget for the center frequently is faced with proration, the fact that it has existed for twenty-seven years

attests to its success. The sources of the funding are primarily provided by the Alabama Legislature. According to Dr. Carr, "Although the funding for the Regional In-Service Centers has fluctuated over the past twenty-seven years, the in-service programs have improved student learning through the ongoing professional development of public teachers and administrators."

The programs are governed by the In-Service Board which is populated by members of the service catchment. The board by law must be at least fifty percent classroom teachers with the remainder being school administrators and SDE representatives. The current members of the board are Ms. Gwen Baker, Administrator, Anniston City Schools; Ms. Deborah Funderburg, Teacher, Attalla City Schools; Mr. Joe Dyar, Administrator, Calhoun County Schools; Mr. Brian Pike, Teacher, Clay County Schools; Ms. Laura Brown, Teacher, Cherokee County Schools; Ms. Valerie Lindley, Teacher, Cleburne County Schools;



BUILDING 3181 AT FORT McCLELLAN



MS. TANYA A. BARNs IS THE PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR AMSTI AT McCLELLAN IN BUILDING 3170

Mr. Don Graves, Administrator, Etowah County Schools; Ms. Jonna Betterton, Teacher, Gadsden City Schools; Ms. Kristie Goodwin, Administrator, Oxford City Schools; Mr. Matt Akins, Administrator, Piedmont City Schools; Dr. Michael Barber, Administrator, Pell City Schools; Ms. Wanda Langley, Teacher, Randolph County Schools, Ms. Melissa Adkins, Teacher, St. Clair County schools, Ms. Debra Royston, Teacher, Roanoke City Schools, Ms. Lisa Williams, Jacksonville State University Representative, Dr. Gena Thornburg, Jacksonville State University Representative, and Ms. Debbie Webster, Alabama State Board of Education Representative. The members are nominated by school superintendents or Uniserve coordinators.

The In-Service Center offers the College of Education and Professional Studies a new collaborative partner base.

“From this base,” Ms. Tanya Barns said, “JSU students who receive the preparatory AMSTI information will accelerate JSU graduates into being eligible to have AMSTI materials.”

AMSTI provides learning modules to schools. The modules can consist of dried beans, millipedes, plastic cups, markers, colors, graphing calculators, and a variety of materials that empower teachers to conduct inquiry based scientific and mathematical activities. In order for teachers to be

eligible for these materials, they must attend two week AMSTI training available to K-6 teachers. Now in cooperation with the Science in Motion initiative, they provide modules to all grade levels.

The In-Service Education Center at JSU McClellan has an office area, one large classroom, two classrooms and a large conference room. This conference room is available for CEPS departmental meetings. The center also shares a computer laboratory with other JSU departments housed in building 3181. AMSTI occupies a large warehouse across the street in building 3170. In 3181, AMSTI has offices in the front and a storage area to house the supplies for kits. Since the kits can comprise several large containers, AMSTI also has an additional storage area located in the

PX building of Fort McClellan (the McClellan Town Center). Science in Motion is located at Martin Hall on the Jacksonville State University main campus.

Ms. Tanya A. Barns is the project director for AMSTI at McClellan. She says in the CEPS In-Service region she serves fifty-six schools. She schedules the AMSTI trainers in these schools and, depending on the needs the AMSTI specialists, may work with the school for a month or semester.

The In-Service Education Center has long been a partner with the College of Education and Professional Studies. When housed in Ramona Wood Hall, the In-Service Education Center provided and shared the first computer laboratory in room 308. The lab held twenty Apple IIe computers. In addition the site served as a copy center for free software for teachers. Dr. Hammett is working toward increasing the collaboration between the In-Service Education Center and the CEPS. Because of the space shortage faced by AMSTI, he is trying to find space closer to the main campus to relocate the center. “Keeping teachers in the state of Alabama current in the use of ‘best practices’ is a role that fits the CEPS well. I see the In-Service Education Center as a way that the college will provide greater service to education in our state,” said Dr. Hammett.



A TRAINING SESSION FOR AMSTI AT McCLELLAN IN BUILDING 3170

CEPS BOARD OF VISITORS



Ms. LADONNA KINSAUL



Ms. EMILIA SMITH COPELAND



Mr. RAY BRYAN



Ms. SALLY CASH JOHNSON

The College of Education and Professional Studies Board of Visitors met on September 24, 2011. The board welcomed the newly appointed chair, Mr. Charles E. Robinson, Jr. He shared with the board, visitors, and CEPS administrators his reasons for supporting the college and his vision of how the Board of Visitors can be organized.

Speaking to the group, Dr. John B. Hammett, dean of the CEPS spoke of his vision for alleviating the space challenges that exist, especially those in Ramona Wood Hall, and the equipment and technology challenges faced by the college as a whole.

“Preparing students in technology, communication, and dietetics requires up-to-date equipment in order to be competitive. The professional programs offered through the CEPS require professional equipment. I look forward to working with this board and Mr. Robinson to ensure continued success,” said Dr. Hammett.



Dr. MARY STINSON



Dr. CHARLOTTE THORNBURG



Mr. CHARLES E. ROBINSON, JR., CHAIR



Mr. DARREN DOUTHITT



Dr. SANDRA STONE



Ms. FRANCIS MOON

FACULTY NEWS: CEPS WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

MS. JANET L. BAVONESE, THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Ms. Janet L. Bavonese joins the faculty as an instructor in Curriculum and Instruction. Mrs. Bavonese will be teaching Developing Language Arts and Reading Diagnosis. She will be serving as an advisor in the undergraduate elementary education program as well as coordinating the CEPS' Professional Development Schools Project. She joins JSU with many years of experience from Alabama and Florida. Ms. Bavonese began her career in Miami-Dade County, Florida, as a classroom teacher with a very diverse population of students, many of whom did not speak English. While employed with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, she was a district literacy leader, curriculum specialist for reading and language arts, and a reading coach at one of the most challenging and diverse schools in the district. She was primary author and trainer of Miami-Dade's Project DRAW (Developing Readers and Writers) and Passport to Reading



MS. JANET L. BAVONESE, INSTRUCTOR IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Summer Program. She also served as a professional developer for Just Read! Florida. While in Miami, Ms. Bavonese served as a facilitator at University of Miami's Zelda Glazer Writing Institute, and was a yearly speaker at University of Miami's Reading Institute. Following her career in Miami-Dade County, Ms. Bavonese joined the Alabama Reading Initiative staff as a regional reading coach. In this role, she provided technical

assistance, literacy coaching, and professional development to teachers, reading coaches, and administrators in Alabama's schools.

Ms. Bavonese has also authored and presented a variety of literacy related professional development sessions through the JSU In-Service Education Center.

She holds a BA from St. Thomas University, an MS in teaching English to speakers of other languages from Nova Southeastern University, and an MS in reading specialist from JSU.

Ms. Bavonese is currently pursuing an EdD in Curriculum and Instruction from The University of Alabama. Her research interests include new literacies, instructional coaching, and teacher education. She writes a blog: TALENT: Teaching and Learning Every Day: a Network for Teachers.. <http://teachandlearneverydaynetwork.blogspot.com/>.

DR. JAMES MCGAHEY, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Dr. James McGahey is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources. Most of his previous work and education was completed in Georgia.

Dr. McGahey is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he received his BA. He then went into his family's construction business. He returned to college at Augusta State University receiving a MEd and teaching certification. He began his teaching career as an English teacher at Brentwood Academy. He then earned his EdS in counseling at



DR. JAMES MCGAHEY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Georgia Southern University and EdD at Auburn University. He has conducted research on "house call counselors," where a school counselor travels to client's homes to provide more insight and information to enhance counseling. He also hopes to pursue research in South America looking at the role of school counseling internationally.

Dr. McGahey is looking forward to his transition into higher education.

Recreationally, he enjoys tennis and outdoor

recreational activities especially those that involve the ocean, rivers or lakes.

MS. ANDREA RAINS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION

Ms. Andrea Martin Rains is an instructor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. She is from Blountsville, Alabama. She has two degrees from JSU, a BS in exercise science and a minor in nutrition and a MS in physical education. While she attended JSU, she served as an assistant athletic trainer with JSU Sports Medicine. She was on the sidelines for athletic events from 2002 to 2004. After graduation she taught at Gadsden High School where she taught Physical Education and Health. She also coached girls' basketball and softball. Her next teaching assignments were at Wills Valley Elementary in Fort Payne and the Caldwell Elementary School in Scottsboro. At both schools she taught Physical Education and coached softball. "While it was very engaging to refine young women's softball skills and compete, the real challenge was to start students in a sport," said Ms. Rains.



MS. ANDREA M RAINS, INSTRUCTOR IN HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION

Ms. Rains is married to Mr. Chad Rains. They have two boys, Aidan, three years old, and Avery, who is one year old. The boys keep them both very busy. Ms. Rains is very interested

in the role of nutrition in developing athleticism. "With two boys to raise, my research will have a practical value," said Ms. Rains.

DR. PRISCILLA WILSON, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



DR. PRISCILLA WILSON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Dr. Priscilla Wilson is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources. She is from Anniston, Alabama, where she attended Anniston High School. She earned her BA from Tulane

University, her MS in counseling at JSU, and her PhD in Counselor Education from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She began her career at Family Services Center of Calhoun County, served as a CED

Mental Health Center therapist, and at Covenant Services where she was also a therapist. While she was at The University of Alabama, she worked with the Juvenile Mentoring Program as a Mentor Match Coordinator and as a graduate research assistant. She also worked at Indian Rivers Mental Health Center Assertive Community Treatment Program as a therapist. After her graduation from The University of Alabama, she worked in Anniston at the Northeast Alabama Center for Community Initiatives.

Dr. Wilson says, "I hope to continue my research on HIV/AIDS prevention in the African American community, and sexual identity construction while here at the university." Dr. Wilson relaxes through drawing, painting, and playing the piano.

DR. JENNIFER M. TRONCALE, THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION



DR. JENNIFER TRONCALE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Dr. Jennifer M. Troncale is an assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She completed a BS degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from The University of Alabama. She began her teaching career in Etowah County. As a classroom teacher Dr. Troncale says that she has gained valuable experience working with students of diversity in grades first through fourth. During her time in the elementary

classroom, she worked on her MEd, EdS, and then PhD. Dr. Troncale was the District Teacher of the Year in 2005, as well as a Jacksonville Teacher Hall of Fame Elementary School Finalist.

In 2003, Dr. Troncale became a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) which helped her to develop her knowledge, skills, and commitment to the teaching profession. As an NBCT, she found

there was little research regarding the instructional strategies used, and the curriculum delivered by National Board Certified Teachers. Her doctoral dissertation examined the role of family and community involvement in social studies. She investigated how early elementary National Board Certified Teachers described the ways in which they engage families and communities in social studies based on the guidelines found in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Dr. Troncale served five years as a university supervisor and adjunct instructor at JSU. As a teacher of science and social studies methods courses, Dr. Troncale believes her role as a professor is to guide while making knowledge accessible and to enable the students' natural curiosity to direct their learning. To Dr. Troncale, providing students with access to hands-on/minds-on activities and allowing students adequate time and space, creates an opportunity for individual discovery and individual construction of knowledge.

MS. EMILY SIMS, THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Ms. Emily Sims is an instructor in the Department of Secondary Education. She received both a BS and a MS from Jacksonville State University. Ms. Sims taught in Alabama public schools for eight years. In 2004, she earned National Board Certified Teacher status. After deciding to pursue a PhD full-time, She concurrently taught at Gadsden State Community College in the English Department and at JSU in the Department of Secondary Education.

Ms. Sims has served on various local, state, and national committees. Her most recent service is as a national consultant for the National Board of Professional Teaching

Standards, English Language Arts Standards Committee. This committee is charged with revising and transforming the current English Language Arts standards into a document that will maintain relevancy in theory and practice for the next ten years.

Ms. Sims research interests include areas of social justice and the use of technological tools to enhance classroom learning. Ms. Sims will defend her dissertation on a study involving first-year composition students' perceptions of using classroom blogs to improve their writing.



MS. EMILY SIMS, INSTRUCTOR IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

DR. JOSEPH AKPAN, THE DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Dr. Joseph Akpan, joined the CEPS as an associate professor in the Department of Secondary Education. Dr. Akpan received his BS from Lane College, a MA from Drake University and his PhD from Iowa State University. Dr. Akpan was born in Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria and has lived in the United States for over fourteen years. He is a member of the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association for Research in Science Teaching.

One of Dr. Akpan's areas of expertise is the value and philosophical positions involving animal dissection in the middle school. He has worked with classroom teachers in a study that has compared the students conducting dissection on a real animal with those using virtual dissection software. The resultant data will be used to assess students' performance and their attitudes toward dissection, virtual



DR. JOSEPH AKPAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

learning, science classes, and school in general. In addition, addressing these debates effectively will require careful reflection on the school community's ethical values and review of the policies and practices that uphold those values.

Dr. Akpan travels to Nigeria to give back his services to help the people there. He is the chairman of the School of Excellence at the Akwa Ibom State Organization of Nigeria

USA, Inc. This association provides information on HIV/AIDS prevention and environmental health risks, provides scholarships to needy students, provides clean drinking water to schools, and brings in medical doctors to treat illness including HIV/AIDS. Recently he served on the committee to develop a multi-year strategy for education in Akwa Ibom State. To see how you can help please visit <http://www.akisan.org/>

Dr. Akpan is committed to individual students' intellectual development through emphasis on excellence in teaching, advising, researching, and caring for his students. His hope is that, this will enhance current academic programs at JSU while ensuring higher levels of significance and impact in the future of American children taught by his students.

"He who learns, teaches," African Proverb

MR. BOBBY BURNS NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

MR. BURNS WAS HONORED AT JSU HOMECOMING 2011

Mr. Bobby Burns earned his BS degree in elementary education from JSU in 1978 followed by his MS in 1979. He began his career in 1978 as a teacher at Webster's Chapel Junior High School. Mr. Burns served as a teacher and assistant principal in Pleasant Valley Schools, Chapter I resource teacher, federal programs director, and professional development director. Mr. Burns went on to serve as deputy superintendent and federal programs director for the Calhoun County Board of Education until his retirement in 2011.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Phi Delta Kappa Chapter #0211

at JSU, the Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools, and the Alabama Council for School Administration and Supervision. He has served as president for the Alabama and National Associations of Federal Education Program Administrators (NAFEPA). Even after his retirement, Mr. Burns is actively working with NAFEPA.

Mr. Burns is a likeable man and a great storyteller. He was known to the Calhoun County Board of Education as a supporter of the staff and a hard worker. He has a national reputation as an expert in Title I grants.



TV SERVICES PRODUCES VIDEOS ON CAPTIONING BY KEITH THOMAS, PRODUCTION COORDINATOR OF TELEVISION SERVICES

The Department of TV Services produced eight videos for the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP). The DCMP is funded by U.S. Department of Education and is administered by the National Association of the Deaf. This is the second time TV Services has collaborated with DCMP. The first project was an updated promotional PSA which was produced approximately two years ago.

Cindy Camp, Disability Specialist in Deafness for Disability Support Services at JSU, was the script writer and production coordinator for the project.

Ms. Ashley Fort, a Department of Communication student, and a

student worker for TV Services was the moderator of the series.

TV Services created the eight videos to respond to frequently asked questions concerning captioning of video media. The eight titles are: “What is captioning?”; “What is the difference between closed captions and subtitles?”; “Why do movies, TV shows, digital media, and such need to be captioned?”; “What are the legal mandates related to closed captioning?”; “How do the captioning laws apply to educational institutions?”; “Does it matter what the captions look like or how they are displayed?”; “How can I get media captioned?”



Ms. Ashley Fort, CEPS Department of Communication Major.

PIEDMONT PARTNERSHIP

Jacksonville State University and the College of Education and Professional Studies have joined in a partnership that involves providing JSU interns technological equipment to facilitate their ability to integrate into the programs in the Piedmont City Schools.

The CEPS created a computer loaner program to allow JSU practicum students and interns to better serve the Piedmont City Schools by having technology that will easily integrate into instructional programs.

Last year Piedmont City Schools began providing teachers and fourth through twelfth grade students with laptops for instructional purposes. Mr. Matt Akin, superintendent of Piedmont City Schools worked with the CEPS in helping create a policy for JSU students to use JSU provided laptops and also input into the choice of computers to use at the schools.

“CEPS practicum students are



guests in the schools where they are placed. It is important that the CEPS provides the skills and the technology needed to support their success in their practicum,” said Dr. John Hammett, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Dr. Rebecca O. Turner, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs at JSU, provided the first ten Macintosh Airbooks for student use. The CEPS practicum students will use the laptops all year to download textbooks, create classroom

presentations, access educational resources, and report through a journal to their practicum supervisors.

“The practicum students were not only eager initially to have the laptops, they are enthusiastic about learning how technology improves student engagement,” said Ms. Ronda Ray, director of clinical experiences. “Currently Dr. Alicia Simmons, director of the Office of Institutional

Research and Assessment, is working with us to create an assessment to measure the impact of technology on the intern experience through a survey that compares practicum students participating in the Piedmont project to a random group that did not have the same tools. This data will allow us to evaluate the different programming and to make decisions that will enhance our student teaching experiences.”

PREPARING FOR EXTENDED STANDARDS

Dr. DaLee Chambers of the Alabama State Department of Special Education Services spoke to an audience of CEPS undergraduates, graduate students, students serving practicums, and local teachers concerning extended Standards Based IEPs. Dr. Gena Thornburg, department head of Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Lynetta Owens, instructor of special education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction hosted the event. Dr. Chambers works as an education specialist on standards and excellence for the Alabama State Board of Education. Her work takes her around the state providing information to teachers.

Dr. Chambers' presentation covered Extended Standards based IEPs. These standards are for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The standards are provided to allow these students to access the general education curriculum.



In her talk she offered students career advice. "What I thought as I entered my undergraduate program of studies and what I am now as a working professional for the State

materials, working with committees to develop rules and standards, and continually training people to successfully implement the outcomes." She went on to encourage her



DR. DALEE CHAMBERS, ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES,
DR. GENA THORNBURG, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, AND
MS. LYNETTA OWENS, INSTRUCTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION,

Department I did not predict," said Dr. Chambers. "I find myself developing

audience to be open to the changes in their career paths. Dr. Chambers also explained that most of the standards placed on teachers were not federally mandated nor are they from a national association, she said that the standards had come from committees composed of classroom

teachers and SDE employees. Dr. Chambers then presented a PowerPoint showing how to correctly implement the Alabama Extended Standards. The PowerPoint covered the SDE extended standards for reading, mathematics, and science. The presentation is available on the SDE web page at http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/doc_download.asp?section=65&id=14591&sort=16. Other resources that Dr. Chambers presented are available at <http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/documents.asp?section=65&sort=16&footer=sections>.



SINGLE PARENT SEMINAR PROGRAM



SEATED IN FRONT OF CORPORATE SPONSORS AND PERSONNEL FROM JSU ARE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS (FROM LEFT) BETHANY CROOK, LISA CRIBBS, KANESHA WILLIAMS, AND DEANNA GERRITSEN. (ANGIE FINLEY/JSU PHOTO)

On June 30, 2011, the JSU Wellness-Anniston Single Parent Program awarded four scholarships through its Single Parent Scholarship Program. The Single Parent Scholarship Program goals are to offer empowerment, education, encouragement, recognition, and support. JSU Wellness-Anniston would like to thank the following corporate sponsors for the 2011 scholarship awards and partnership: Alabama Power represented by Mr. Jim Friend, the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama represented by Miss Susan Waldron, and Walmart Foundation represented by Mr. Kevin Smith.

When asked how they felt about contributing to such a worthy cause Susan Waldron, director of Board and Donor Relations stated, "Partnering with JSU Wellness to

award two scholarships to deserving single mothers seeking advanced education in a healthcare field is a great opportunity for the Walmart Foundation to promote its major interests — healthcare and education." Mr. Jim Freind, division area manager for the Alabama Power Company stated, "At Alabama Power we believe in giving back and making a difference in the communities that we serve. We are impressed with the success of the Single Mom Seminar program and we are pleased to be able to invest in a program that will produce tangible change in the life of a single mom and her family."

"Walmart is happy to support the single parent initiative at Jacksonville State University and its efforts to help students succeed. Jacksonville State is helping students graduate and become the next generation of leaders in

our community and we're proud to support its efforts," stated Mr. Kevin Smith of Walmart

The 2011 scholarship recipients are Miss Bethany Crook, Miss Lisa Cribbs, Miss Deanna Gerritsen and Miss Kaneshia Williams. Miss Crook and Miss Cribbs will be studying in the Medical Billing and Coding program, Miss Gerritsen will be studying for an EKG Certification, and Miss Williams will be studying in the Pharmacy Technician program.

The JSU Wellness-Anniston scholarship committee is comprised of Mr. Fred Smith, director of JSU Wellness-Anniston, Miss Rebecca Turner, director of Career Services, Miss Linda Shelton, Career Services counselor, Mrs. Debbie Taylor, assistant director of Student Life, and Dr. John Hammett, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

RED CHAIR VIDEOS

For over a year the New student Population Committee, chaired by Ms. Robbie Boggs has worked on creating recruiting videos for the College Of Education and Professional Studies. With the help and support of Mr. Tim Garner, executive director of

the Department of Marketing and Communications, Ms. Mary Smith, coordinator of publications and Ms. Lee Miller, marketing specialist coordinated the video shoots by Big Advertising. Big Advertising, creators of JSU's current logo, took the

footage and created a total of twelve videos that the CEPS can use for recruitment.

To view the videos please see <http://www.jsu.edu/edprof/testimonials/index.html>

LESSONS FOR TEACHERS FROM A DESERT ROCK OF AGES

BY CHRIS WADDLE, AYERS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR



They call the place “Sin City.”

Las Vegas struck me more like the capital of clichés.

I came away a winner, because my whole purpose consisted of improved teaching through educational technology.

Blackboard, the outfit that furnishes JSU’s course management system, plopped its big, annual conference down in the desert amid the crapshoot and showbiz junkies.

Frankly, I preferred the reptiles in the nearby Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area to the lounge lizards.

But that’s a cliché. As someone who teaches clear communication, I’m the sworn enemy of the dull thinking that produces stale, formulaic results.

How do you separate pedestrian writing (or teaching) from pedestrian brainwork? You start with a mind open to innovation and the excitement of fresh expression.

The criticism I hear about Blackboard supports the flat earth theory of education. You know – the old way works best, my scholarship is what counts, so students should come to me instead of my reaching out with some razzle-dazzle.

I’ve heard a professor say technology would ruin education.

Ah, what a familiar refrain: In my former work of professional journalism, editors thought online information would ruin the industry.



THE ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR WELCOME SIGN IS AN OVERUSED STOCK-IMAGE COMPARED WITH ANCIENT MOJAVE DESERT DWELLERS’ CLARITY OF EXPRESSION, PHOTOGRAPHED BY THE AUTHOR, SHOWN IN RED ROCK CANYON.

(LAS VEGAS WELCOME SIGN PHOTO REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF DREAMTIME).

And it did, in the old ink-on-paper sense, wherever journalists failed to embrace technology.

We newsies and teachers alike all live in the information economy. The consumers of our product demand delivery when they want it, where they want it in the lifestyle format they choose, usually mobile.

Oh, it's tempting for me to resist. With years of news experience and now seated in an academic chair with a prestigious name, I could fool myself into believing today's students can't wait to sit at my feet and listen to dry bloviation (to talk at length, esp. in a inflated or empty way) long past their fifteen minute attention spans.

Blackboard and related technology irrigate the desert of words.

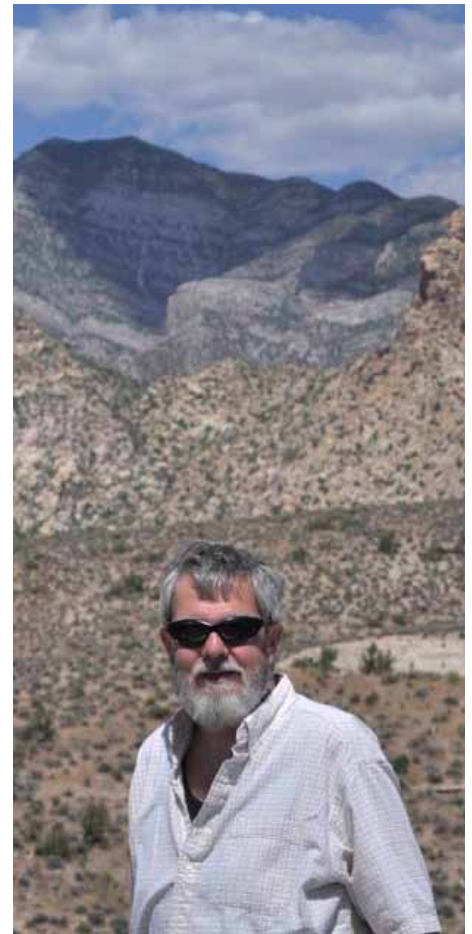
Media – and every other profession – have gone high tech.

network of educators entwined with tech experts expands exponentially. If you think of resisting the wave, prepare for inundation like my old journalism colleagues who failed to innovate.

Meanwhile, the possibilities of Distance Learning beckon. Why should enrollment-hungry universities endure limits of class size, of geography limits and of delivery methods in this on-demand info-economy?

Yet my personal goal is better classroom teaching. So I conclude more emphasis should go to hybrid courses, using technology to enliven face-to-face learning. Small, digital packets of active learning break up long streams of lecture.

My advice is to broaden and intensify the use of Blackboard on campus for hybridization. Outreach to



MR. CHRIS WADDLE, AYERS CHAIR OF COMMUNICATION

What a mirage!

How natural to teach the successor generation of communicators and other learners with technology. Digital tools create an environment where students can do that learning, often in collaboration with each other or with the teacher.

So, what did I take away from the tables of Las Vegas where 2,600 attended the conference about digital teaching and learning?

First, educational technology is advanced, worldwide and intense. The

greater distances will follow naturally.

I saw Red Rock Canyon petroglyphs that communicated from prehistoric Nevada. The technology consisted of transferring paint from aboriginal hands onto a rock wall to leave imprints – an advanced (for its time) and lasting way of declaring to the ages, “I am here!”

No cliché in that expression, compared with the Elvis impersonators, phony-fantasyland hotels, the painted showgirls and

bored croupiers raking in the casino's moolah.

I don't mean to brag, but I contributed three whole dollars to the slots. Yet the conference itself was risk-free.

What I came away with is a greater appreciation for Blackboard's potential to imprint Information Age petroglyphs on the minds of students.

Our technology will empower them to communicate over the ages to come.

No sin in that.



Please visit <http://ceps.jsu.edu>

E-mail at edinfo@jsu.edu

Phone 256.782.5445

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Ms. VICKY BROWN, Ms. TANYA BARNES, DR. WILLIAM CARR, Ms. JANET BAVONESE, DR. JAMES MCGAHEY, Ms. ANDREA RAINS, DR. PRISCILLA WILSON, DR. JENNIFER TRONCALE, MR. FRED SMITH, MR. KEITH THOMAS, AND MR. CHRIS WADDLE

THE CEPS PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ms. ROBBIE BOGGS, Ms. ABBY FLEETWOOD, DR. DONNA HERRING, DR. DANA INGALSBE, MR. KEITH THOMAS, MR. MIKE STEDHAM, DR. SHEILA ANNE WEBB, AND MR. MIKE ZENANKO

TEXT EDITORS: DR. PATSY LOWRY AND MR. BILL HUBBARD

EDITOR: MR. MIKE ZENANKO