

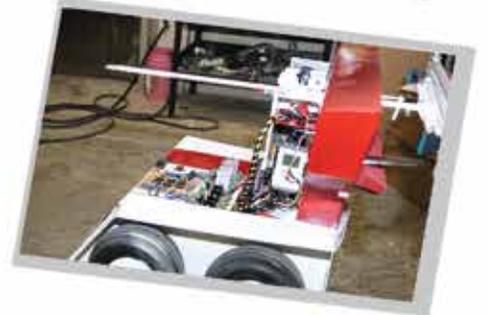
# Passport to Success



**The 2012 Annual Report of the  
College of Education and Professional Studies**



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



## CONTENTS

Dean's Message.....	2
Robotics Team.....	3
JSU Graduates the First Elite Scholar .....	4
Mr. Jerry Chandler.....	6
Campus Videos .....	6
JSU Teacher Hall of Fame .....	7
T/LC turns Thirty .....	8
Dr. Glacio Scremin.....	10
Grant for Both TCEN and the In-Service Center.....	10
Dr. Jeff Chandler's Textbook .....	11
CEPS Alumnus Wins Award from Alabama Power.....	11
Dr. Denise De Vito Named Head of SecEd.....	12
WLJS receives FCC Renewal .....	12
Ms. Matthews Named Employee of the Month .....	13
Ms. Townsel Awarded Grant.....	13
Retirees.....	14
Plays with Thoughtful Humor.....	15
Educational Resources .....	16
Co-Teaching Pair's Workshop .....	25
Get Healthy JSU.....	26
A Challenge from HPER.....	26
Dr. Tommy Bice Speaks to Educators .....	27
CORE .....	28

## CONTACTS

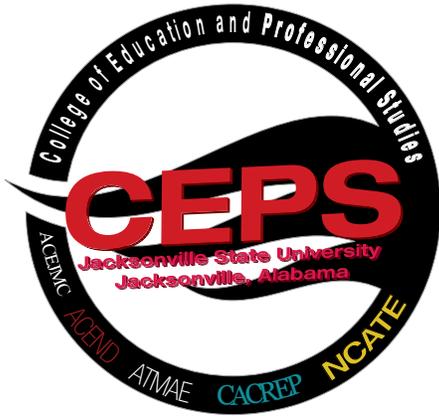
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Thanks to Mr. Steve Latham and Ms. Angie Finley for the photos that they shared. Also, thanks to Ms. Mary B. Smith and the JSU Marketing Department.

The readers and text editors were Dr. Patsy Lowry and Mr. Bill Hubbard  
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## Dean's Greeting



John B. Hammett II, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Education & Professional Studies

Welcome to the 2012 publication of the *Passport to Success*. As the dean of the College of Education & Professional Studies, I want to take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration in the faculty, staff, and students who make up the college. Our students are excelling in their programs of study; our faculty are continuously improving academic programs; and our staff work very hard to provide effective support for both faculty and students. When I sit back and think about what all the faculty and staff do for JSU and its students, I am truly amazed. When I talk to employers of our graduates, it is obvious to me that the professionals we are developing are making a difference in society. Those of you who are alumni and friends of the CEPS have a right to be proud of the educational quality provided in YOUR college.

This year has been extremely busy with national accreditation/reaffirmation self-studies. Two of our departments, Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) and Technology and Engineering (TCEN) conducted reaffirmation, self-studies for their

national accreditation bodies in 2012. FCS was also reviewed by the American Association for Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) for initial accreditation. Each site review was successful, so we are expecting full accreditation from all three organizations.

In other accreditation news, the Department of Communication is currently working on their reaffirmation self-study for the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). In addition, Dr. Jordan Barkley (associate dean) is leading education faculty in preparation for reaffirmation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Both site visits will occur in fall 2013. I am confident each visit will result in full re-accreditation.

I want to share with you one final piece of information regarding program quality. *US News & World Report* recently ranked our Online professional educator preparation programs 75th in the country among all Online educator programs. Only one other university in

Alabama made the top 100, and that was Auburn University.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the faculty achieving promotions and/or tenure in 2012. Dr. Noureddine Bekhouche professor, Department of Technology and Engineering; Dr. Kory Hill, associate professor and tenure, Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; Dr. John Ketterer, professor, Department of Educational Resources; Dr. Linda Mitchell, associate professor and tenure, Department of Secondary Education; Dr. Charlie Notar, professor, department of Secondary Education; and Dr. Gena Thornburg, professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Congratulations to all of these most deserving professionals.

I hope you enjoy this publication of the *2012 Passport to Success*.

John B. Hammett II, Ph.D.  
Professor & Dean

# Robotics Team: Winners in National Competition

At the 2012 conference of the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) in Nashville, Tennessee, the JSU ATMAE Robotics Team won first place in the nation with a perfect score during the robot competition. The team members were Mr. Sam Thompson, Ms. Jessica Civitello, Ms. Tina Civitello, Mr. Jonathan Thompson, Mr. Benjamin Ledbetter, Ms. Aimee Montgomery, Mr. Morgan McDonald, and Mr. Slayton Acker. The faculty sponsors are Mr. Phillip Dean and Mr. Earl Bonds.

The team was made up of students from different academic majors. Students majoring in design and applied manufacturing engineering and applied electronics engineering took care of the robot building and programming, while there was an art student who made the poster. The students presented their posters to the judges, and also had to provide a detailed write-up documenting their project.

The task for the ATMAE Robot competition was to remotely drive the robot into a ten foot circle in the conference hotel ballroom, then autonomously (without human control) go to a table and pick-up thirty-six Ping-Pong balls (red, green, blue, and yellow) and back out of the circle. The team received one point per ball. The robot, sorted the balls by color as it backed-out of the circle. Last, the student controller reestablished remote control and drove the robot to four different drop off points. The team received two points for each ball correctly dropped off in the designated color area. Blue balls dropped off correctly were worth four points.

This was the third year JSU's team had entered the robotics contest. The first year the robot won its first round of competition but was disqualified in the second round due to complications following a battery failure. Last year the team was second. This year's winning robot was

By Dr. Dana Ingalsbe,  
Associate professor in the Department of Technology and Engineering

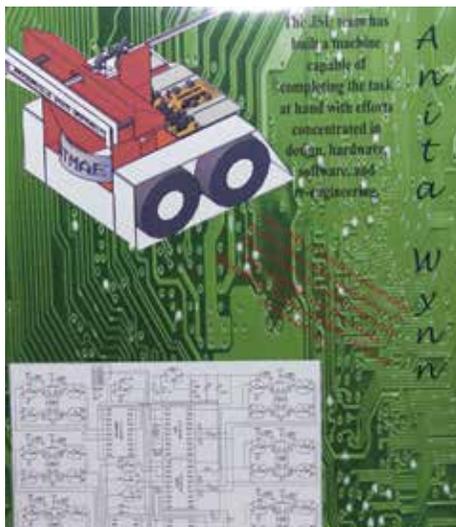


appropriately named "Anita Wynn."

At the conference, the students had the opportunity to participate in professional development and sit in on several of the breakout sessions where they learned about current trends in applied engineering education.

The JSU Robotics Team won for best electronic controls, best fabrication, and had a perfect score during the competition phase.

To see the competition phase go to <http://youtu.be/TX4dX9hc6Ag> or <http://youtu.be/cDQ8Xb59bOs>.



**“ I'M PROUD OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR ROBOTICS TEAMS. WE FIELDED OUR FIRST TEAM IN 2010 AND HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE SOME EXTREMELY TALENTED AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS INVOLVED EACH YEAR SINCE. THE EXCITEMENT GENERATED BY THOSE FIRST TEAMS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SUCCESS WE HAD THIS YEAR IN WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**ONE THING I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH IS THAT THE JUDGES CONSISTENTLY POINT OUT THE FEATURES IN OUR ROBOTS THAT INCORPORATE INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS. IT'S JUST ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS IN OUR PROGRAMS WITH THE SKILLS NEEDED BY INDUSTRY.”**

MR. TERRY MARBUT, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING.

## JSU Graduates the First Elite Scholar



Ms. Allison L. Clark in 2012

Ms. Allison L. Clark is the first person to graduate from Jacksonville State University's Elite Honors Program. Clark, a secondary education major, received her Bachelor of Science in Education—Mathematics on December 14, 2012, and earned *summa cum laude* honors. A graduate of Clay-Chalkville High School with an Advanced Academic Diploma, Ms. Clark said from the time she was in middle school, she knew she wanted to be math teacher. "I am very blessed to be the first Elite Honors Scholar to graduate and to be doing what I love. I am eager to begin teaching and changing the lives of my students. I hope to get a job teaching middle school in a small town."

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Timothy King, believed that to attract academically gifted high school students, JSU needed to offer a scholarship and an honors program that was extremely attractive. This was part of JSU's five-year plan overseen by Dr. Alicia Simmons. Dr. Earl Wade, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was instrumental in initiating the new JSU Honors Program.

The JSU Honors Program provides support for students from a variety of majors. Dr. Steven

Whitton serves as the director of the JSU Honors Program and is professor of English, and Ms. Janet Whitmore serves as the JSU Honors Program coordinator. As director, Dr. Whitton coordinates courses among the participating academic departments. He chairs the Honors Board consisting of faculty, staff, and administrators. The current members of the board include Dr. Aaron Garrett, assistant professor of computer science; Mr. Andrew C. Green, director, Enrollment Management; Dr. Gordon Harvey, department head, History and Foreign Languages and professor of history; Dr. Teresa Reed, professor of English; and Ms. Lisa Williams, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences; as well as Dr. Whitton and Ms. Whitmore. They established all aspects of the program, from the mission to the objectives to scholarship and service opportunity requirements. The newly established JSU Honors Program began accepting students for the 2009 Fall semester, including eight Elite Honors Scholars. The Elite Honors Scholarship recipients receive tuition, room and board, textbook funding, and a laptop computer.

"This year I get to cheer on all



Dr. Steven Whitton, professor in the Department of English and director of the JSU Honors Program



Ms. Allison L. Clark in 2009

honors graduates, including our first group of Elite Honors Scholars who started as freshmen four years ago. The Honors Program continues to leave its mark through contact with JSU students and extracurricular activities. Even as the first group of Elite Honors Scholars departs, the Honors Board will be reviewing applications for next year's group of incoming freshmen. The JSU Honors Program membership increases each academic year, as does enrollment in campus-wide Honors courses," said Dr. Whitton.

Ms. Janet Whitmore works very closely with the Elite Honors Scholars, too. She says, "Their dedication to personal and academic growth is admirable. The excitement with which they approach their educations is contagious. Part of my job is to track their academic progress, and I am never surprised to see them on the Dean's List or the President's List each semester. As a part of their scholarship requirements, they select and carry out a major service project each year. They continually go above and beyond what is expected of them by giving back to the university and the community."

The academically gifted students accepted into the JSU Honors



Program have an enriched educational experience and even in many regular courses are offered an Honors component. Current JSU students may also apply for admission to the JSU Honors Program (see [http://](http://www.jsu.edu/cas/honors/index.html)

[www.jsu.edu/cas/honors/index.html](http://www.jsu.edu/cas/honors/index.html)).

When Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tommy Bice, spoke to faculty of the CEPS in October 2012, he challenged the CEPS to bring into the teaching profession the most gifted teachers. Through the JSU Honors Program, academically gifted students have an incentive to come to JSU and prepare for their chosen professions.

The JSU Honors Program attracted Ms. Allison Clark, nonetheless she lists three factors that helped her to choose JSU.

- My grandparents graduated from JSU.
- JSU has an excellent teacher education program.
- I was blessed with the highest scholarship available.

While the students in the JSU Honors Program work toward their individual degrees, they take a

diverse range of courses that foster independent, critical thinking, and effective communication. The JSU Honors Program has been designed to support students fulfilling their potential in their chosen fields, while preparing them to meet the challenges and responsibilities of becoming citizens with global perspectives.

In the Fall 2012 semester, over 400 seats in Honors classes were spread over 13 departments. There are currently 144 members of the JSU Honors Program. Each year, 32 of those members will be awarded the Elite Honors Scholarship, JSU's top academic scholarship. In the Spring of 2013, two more CEPS students from the first group of Elite Honors Scholars are working towards graduating, Mr. Jansen Harmon in secondary education with a concentration in history and Ms. Kristin Hays in early childhood and elementary education.



Ms. Janet Whitmore, honors Program Coordinator

## Jerry Chandler: Recognized Expert on Air Traffic Safety

By Mr. Keith Thomas  
Production coordinator in the Department of Television Services

Television Services recently hosted visitors from *National Geographic*. Story Editor/ Associate Producer Ms. Claire McNabb, Cameraman/Director of Photography Mr. Mark Caswell, and Sound Recordist Mr. Adrian Tucker traveled to Jacksonville State University from Canada to interview Assistant Professor of Communication, Mr. Jerry Chandler.

Mr. Chandler was chosen to be interviewed by *National Geographic* because of his vast experience, publications, and expertise concerning air travel safety. The program is called "Air Crash Investigation." Mr. Chandler was questioned concerning the ValuJet story. The interview was taped in the Self Hall studio.



Mr. Jerry Chandler, assistant professor in the Department of Communications

## The Department of Television Services Source of Campus Videos



JSU's BIBB GRAVES HALL BY MR. STEVE LATHAM, CAMPUS PHOTOGRAPHER

The Department of Television Services completed thirteen new videos for Distance Education. These videos will be used to enhance the capability of the JSUMobile app for iOS, Android, and Blackberry mobile devices. The video clips will lead the application users on a virtual tour of the campus, where they both see and hear about the main campus buildings and become acquainted with campus services. Television Services will be including additional campus buildings in the near future.

Television Services has been creating a documentary-style video about JSU to submit to the Ohio Valley Conference. The video will highlight the strengths of JSU. The video will be built around a mix of interviews, scenic shots of JSU's campus and action shots or footage to be used in conjunction with the interviews.

## JSU Teacher Hall of Fame Banquet



Ms. Katherine Pickens, inductee in the JSU Teacher Hall of Fame Middle School Division, Dr. Tommy Bice, Superintendent of Alabama Schools, Ms. Stephanie Matthews, inductee in the JSU Teacher Hall of Fame Secondary Division, and Ms. Katie Oliver, inductee in the JSU Teacher Hall of Fame Elementary Division

The forty-fourth Annual Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame banquet was held on May 11, 2012, to honor the fifteen nominees and three inductees into the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame.

The speaker was the Alabama Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tommy Bice. Dr. Rebecca O. Turner, provost of Jacksonville State University, announced that a \$1000.00 stipend for use by the inductees to enhance their professional development was mailed to the principal of their respective schools.

Mr. Jerry Burfitt, president of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Alabama made a presentation of a certificate of recognition by that organization and also indicated that a check would be mailed to the inductees.

The Jacksonville State University

Teacher Hall of Fame was founded in 1969 by then university president, Dr. Houston Cole. Dr. Cole created this award to honor teachers, who not only teach, but also exemplify the profession. Jacksonville State University and Dr. William A. Meehan, the current president, are proud to carry on this legacy.

The process of selecting the candidates involves every school district in Alabama. Each school system may nominate teachers from three divisions: elementary, middle, and high school. From all the nominations, fifteen candidates are interviewed by the selection committee in Birmingham, Alabama. Here the selection is narrowed to the three inductees.

The selection committee members were: Mr. Lamar Sims, vice president of Cheaha Bank,

Jacksonville, Alabama; Dr. Jeff Goodwin, superintendent of Oxford City Schools in Oxford, Alabama; Dr. Gena Riley, professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Kelly Ryan, director of the Teacher Service Center; and former Teacher Hall of Fame inductee, Ms. Dilhani Uswatte (2008-09).

The 2011-12 inductees were: in the Elementary Division, Ms. Katie Oliver, Memorial Park School, Jasper City Schools; in the Middle School Division, Ms. Katherine Pickens, Greenville Middle School, Butler County School System; and in the Secondary School Division, Ms. Stephanie Matthews, White Plains High School, Calhoun County School System.

# The Teaching/Learning Center Turns Thirty

By Ms. Andrea MacArgel  
Coordinator of the Teaching/Learning Center



2012 marked the thirtieth year of operation for the Teaching/Learning Center (T/LC). The T/LC is an on-campus, after-school, one-to-one tutorial site housed in Jacksonville State University's College of Education and Professional Studies in the Department of Instructional Services. Established in 1982 by Dr. Elsie Wright, the T/LC provides students in the College of Education and Professional Studies an opportunity to work with children in a supervised setting. Area school students in grades K-12 can benefit from the assistance of JSU education pre-service teachers as one-to-one tutors. One parent, Tracy Champion, stated that her son "has gained so much confidence since coming to the T/LC. All the tutors have been great and have exceeded [her] expectations!"

Prior to the founding of the T/LC, the only pre-service experience for teachers was student teaching/internship, which occurred

during the last semester of the senior year. In 1982, the Alabama State Department of Education increased the number of hours required for teacher certification. The T/LC was part of the response by Jacksonville State University to meet the requirement.

The T/LC's continuing goal is to aid the College of Education and Professional Studies in providing qualified teachers who are creative, reflective decision makers. The practicum student experiences being an instructor through tutoring and develops the capacity for self-direction. The tutoring practicum supports a change in the practicum student's frame of reference through reflection about the tutoring sessions. The tutoring practicum promotes personal self-improvement for both the tutor and the tutee. All of which occurs through the social action of a tutorial.

"The tutoring practicum provides an experience that requires the

tutors to demonstrate their passion for teaching, learning, and problem solving. It helps them develop insight into what it is to teach. It allows the practicum tutors to develop a work ethic, that includes patience, open-mindedness, willingness to listen, to follow up tutee academic questions, and other attributes that help them prepare for the teaching profession. The tutors guide the activities and keeps the focus on the teaching process. It differs from whole class instruction in that if they have a problem it is with only one student," said Mr. Mike Zenanko, director of the Instructional Services Unit.

The T/LC has been called the "Center for Two Learners" because local school students and JSU pre-service teachers make significant academic and personal progress. Katie Atkins, an elementary/early childhood education major and former T/LC tutor remarked, "My tutoring experience has made a great impact on me. At first, I didn't expect for it to have helped me as much as it has. It has tested me, challenged me, and encouraged me. There were times I was not sure if I could teach a whole classroom of children. There were also times I felt overwhelmed, tired, and at the end of my rope. However, all of these feelings are worth experiencing in the end. There is nothing better than knowing you've helped children with one of the most important things in their life."

JSU classroom concepts are put to use daily as the prospective educator prepares to become a creative decision maker. The T/LC is an invaluable practicum, as it provides a close replica of service learning within a College of Education and Professional Studies framework. Local legislators have proclaimed this to be one of the community's greatest "natural resources" and community outreaches.

In 1991, JSU developed a five

### ***One Mother's Experience***

***We have been involved in tutoring for several years with my older daughter at one point and now, my younger son. As a working mom, the tutoring services at Jacksonville State University have been so helpful and I only have positive things to say about our experiences. My son loves going because the tutors really take the time to help him study for tests, finish homework, or answer any questions that he may be having some difficulty in. Jackson loves to go and get his homework done and out of the way, so this program has worked out so well for us, I never hear "Mom, I don't want to go," which tells me that this program really is a positive tool for him. All of the tutors that he has had have been so helpful and extremely kind. It certainly is a blessing to know that this is an available source in Jacksonville and we have had the best experiences with the program. I'm very thankful that this was something that my children were able to utilize and I'm very glad that Jacksonville State University offers this program to our children. It means so much to me as a parent to know that this was available and it was an extremely huge help for us! Thank you for all you do!***

***Thanks,  
Stacey Burell***



level Clinical Experiences Program. In the Level I experiences, micro-teaching, project/unit development, subject matter portfolios, group research, and presentations are the main focus in the classroom coursework. Level II provides opportunities for one-to-one tutoring and mentoring through the T/LC and the JSU Child Development Center for JSU students and area children. The College of Education in collaboration with area schools provides the Level III block practicum experiences. Level IV is student teaching. Level V provides support services for first year teachers. The College of Education and Professional Studies clinical experiences meet requirements of accrediting agencies that include SDE, SACS, and NCATE.

Community children in grade K-12 receive approximately twenty hours of free, one-to-one tutoring in academic areas designated by their parents and/or teachers. JSU students work in collaboration with the student's parents and teachers to diagnose learning needs and identify age and subject-level appropriate materials for use with students in an individual instructional setting. Upon successful completion, JSU students demonstrate understanding of the appropriate skills and knowledge required to work successfully in an individual instructional setting.

As of Fall 2012, the T/LC has supervised over 13,000 JSU education students who provided the community with more than 135,000 hours of free tutoring. More than 8,000 students from area public, private, and home schools have participated in the tutoring program. The T/LC is the only free afterschool tutoring program in Calhoun County.

For more information on the Teaching/Learning Center, you can visit its website at <https://sites.google.com/site/jsututoring/> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jsututoring>.

## Dr. Glacio Scremin Receives Recognition from BlackBoard

Dr. Glacio Scremin's course, Law and Ethics in Physical Education and Sport Management, received a 2012 Blackboard Exemplary Course Letter of Recognition. Along with this letter, received a complimentary conference pass to BbWorld'12, and he was also invited to take part in the Blackboard Catalyst Awards Luncheon for winners and evaluators.

Dr. Scremin was recognized at BbWorld'12 as an Exemplary Course winner. BbWorld'12 is the annual Blackboard user conference. The conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in July. Dr. Scremin joined a select group of faculty and course designers from around the world whose courses have earned this designation.



Dr. Glacio Scremin is shown here receiving the 2009 Outstanding Teacher Award from Dr. William A. Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University

## JSU Receives a Grant that Involves Both The CEPS' Department of Technology and Engineering and the JSU In-Service Center

The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) at JSU's In-Service Center received \$235,936 from the Mathematics and Science Partnership grant program. The grant award period is from October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2013. The AMSTI initiative is funded through the Alabama State Department of Education. The goals of this project are to:

- Expand math and science professional development opportunities and instructional support services provided within the AMSTI JSU In-Service Region;
- Provide experiences in in-service education that model effective teaching strategies to be used by teachers in grades K -12, and to promote an awareness of and an interest in current educational research;
- Provide a strong collaboration and instructional involvement between colleges/departments of education and with individuals from the science, technology, engineering

and mathematics (STEM) faculty

- in-service activities with teachers of math and science;
- Improve and expand training of math and science teachers, including training such teachers in the effective integration of technology into curricula and instruction; and
- Mentoring instructors as they begin to use this technology in their lessons.

AMSTI JSU will collaborate with school personnel to determine specific instructional needs and develop a framework for addressing these needs through mentoring, professional learning teams, and/or professional development designed to improve and sustain instructional skills. AMSTI JSU will use videoconferencing to bring STEM faculty and math/science teachers in Grades K-12 together to increase the teachers' subject matter knowledge and improve instructional skills. AMSTI JSU will provide math professional development that provides experiences in

effective teaching strategies and provides opportunities to read and study current research. The math professional development will focus on implementing strategies from the Ongoing Assessment Project (OGAP). Math teachers from partnering schools will participate in additive reasoning, multiplicative reasoning, and fractional reasoning or proportional reasoning sessions according to their grade level.

The first year of the partnership will focus on eighth grade students at high needs middle schools and will be open to all schools wanting to participate in a robotics program. The goal of the program is to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, technology, and math through participation in a sports-like science- and engineering-based robotics competition. Student interns from JSU's Technology and Engineering Department will be paired with teachers as the eighth grade students learn about building robots.

## Dr. Jeff Chandler's Conditioning Book in Second Edition

T. Jeff Chandler, EdD, CSCS\*D, NSCA-CPT, FNSCA, FACSM serves as a professor and department head in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. He has served JSU as a faculty member and administrator since 2006. When he teaches Advanced Anaerobic Conditioning, he uses a text that he and a colleague, Dr. Lee E. Brown, co-edited.

The second edition of *Conditioning for Strength and Human Performance* has been cited as being a clearly written text on strength and conditioning filled with special instructional features. The work includes multiple decision-making and hands-on training activities. The purpose of this text is to provide the



Dr. T. Jeff Chandler, professor and department head of Health, physical Education and Recreation

strength and conditioning professional everything needed to train athletes for maximum performance. The book also prepares the reader for certification by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

The book covers the basic science underlying strength and conditioning training. It also contains practical application chapters on how these concepts can be implemented in practice. The book provides examples and instructions on testing, assessment, exercise technique, and program development. *Conditioning for Strength and Human Performance* also provides guidance on injury prevention and rehabilitation. Additionally the book contains resources including video laboratory assignments and case studies.

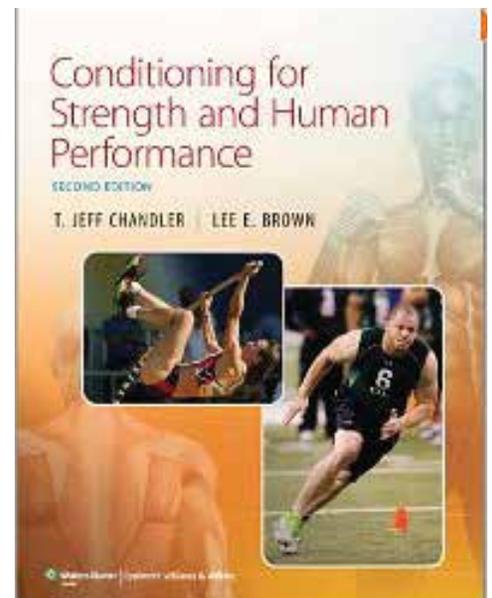
“With the second edition we have incorporated new findings and techniques that not only keep this as the most comprehensive, but the most up-to-date text available. New chapters in the second edition include topics such as evidence-based practice, the female athlete, and periodization of training,” said Dr. Chandler. The book is published by Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins as a hardcover textbook.

*Conditioning for Strength and Human Performance* second edition is available from the publisher at <http://bit.ly/L5OkUz>. For other sites that carry his book to purchase as an e-book, to rent, or to purchase

new, please see: for e Books <http://bit.ly/K38tY4>; for purchase or rental <http://bit.ly/JYTCjp>; or purchase. <http://amzn.to/L4EEuh>.

Dr. Chandler received his BS in recreation administration from Auburn University; his MEd in exercise science from Georgia State University; and his EdD in exercise physiology from Auburn University. His other publications include “The squat exercise in athletic conditioning: A position statement and review of the literature” and “Tennis Training: Enhancing On-court Performance.”

Lee E. Brown, EdD, CSCS\*D, FNSCA, FACSM is director of the Center for Sport Performance and a professor of strength and conditioning in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University, Fullerton.



## CEPS Alumnus Wins Award from Alabama Power

Ms. Jakea “Jake” Griffith was awarded a grant from the Alabama Power Service Organization (APSO). APSO awards grants to new public school teachers who attended a four-year state funded college. The 2011-2012 winner, who attended JSU, was Ms. Jakea Griffith. She received a \$1,000 grant to buy

classroom materials and supplies. This was presented at the March teachers meeting at John Jones Elementary in Rainbow City.

“The Alabama Power Service Organization prides itself in helping to make our state better,” said Carla Roberson, manager of Education and Volunteer Services for Alabama Power.

Leigh Perry, president of the Alabama Power Foundation said, “The Alabama Power Foundation believes that a good education is essential to continued growth and improving the quality of life in Alabama. Students will be well prepared for the future because these teachers are in the classroom.”

# Dr. Denise De Vito New Head of Secondary Education

Denise De Vito, PhD, is the head of the Department of Secondary Education in the College of Education and Professional Studies at Jacksonville State University. When asked what she was looking forward to most at JSU, she responded “I am impressed with the CEPS’s fifth year program as alternative education programs are gaining national recognition. Most of all I am looking forward to having colleagues and discussing with secondary education faculty the challenges that face today’s secondary teachers.”

Dr. DeVito says that she has a passion for secondary education. “Lots of people I speak with don’t like the adolescent students and I thoroughly enjoy them.” She taught in the fifth largest school district in the United States for eight years. She recalled that one semester she faced having eighty-four students in a tenth grade honors class. Luckily, as the semester went on the number dropped to around forty. She has also taught college at the University of Maine, where she worked primarily with first generation college students.

Currently, her research interest examines young adult literacy acquisition with graphic texts. Sequential art, or graphic fiction links both prose and graphic representations to unfold a narrative. She explained that for many nations in South America, the Mid-East, Asia, and Europe, the sequential art form maintains a more respectable presence than it does in the United



Dr. Denise Devito, department head of Secondary Education

States. “There is a long history of dismissing anything viewed as ‘comic’ in the United States,” said Dr. De Vito. “Since sequential art contains both prose and pictures, vocabulary acquisition may be increased when reading.” Dr. De Vito has completed a quantitative study to measure vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension utilizing graphic fiction. She said, “The research participants were eleventh graders and the text was *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Yang.”

“Unlike comic books, graphic novels follow conventional prose novels by being formatted spatially or chronologically. Graphic novels have a beginning, middle, and end. The main character in a graphic

novel develops throughout the plot. The story is complete in itself and does not need several successive parts published separately to complete the action,” explains Dr. De Vito.

*Maus*, a Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novel, is an example of this narrative form. Art Spiegelman, the author, uses animals to represent different human races as he shares the holocaust survivor experiences of his parents and his experiences as a resident of present day New York. Some of Dr. De Vito’s articles on sequential art have been published in the *Arizona Reading Journal*, *MiddleLink*, and in the international journal *Fonelex*. “Some of my favorite graphic texts are anything by Chris Thompson or Guy Delisle, *City of Glass*, *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, *Golem’s Mighty Swing*, *Persepolis*, *American Born Chinese*... I could list so many.”

Dr. De Vito holds a BA, MA, MEd, and a PhD from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. She holds a dual undergraduate degree in English and philosophy and a PhD in curriculum and instruction with cognates in technology and in ethics. She taught secondary English eight years in the Clark County School district in Las Vegas, Nevada. She served two years at the University of Maine, at Farmington, Maine and six years as an assistant professor and secondary education master’s program director at the University of Arizona South in Tucson, Arizona.

## WLJS Receives FCC Renewal

Ever since it first signed on the air in 1975, Jacksonville State University’s radio station WLJS has been required to renew its broadcast license with the FCC. The FCC officially renewed WLJS’s broadcast license for another eight years.

“We’re glad to continue the station’s tradition of serving the

university and the surrounding community,” said Mike Stedham, manager of student media at JSU. “We’ve got great things planned with the help of our WLJS Board of Advisers.

As we say in the radio business, stay tuned for more details.”



## Ms. Kathy Matthews Named JSU Employee of the Month



Ms. Kathy Matthews, secretary in the Department of Technology and Engineering

Mrs. Kathy Matthews has been named JSU Employee of the Month for June, 2012. Ms. Matthews works in the Department of Technology & Engineering. She has worked in the Department of Technology and Engineering since August, 1992. Ms. Matthews is originally from Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she attended Western Kentucky University. She is married to Mark Matthews, Acting Director of Telecommunications, and they have one daughter, Kelsey. Kelsey will be a senior at Jacksonville High School this fall. Ms. Matthews and her family are very active at Jacksonville First United Methodist Church.

“Ms. Matthews could be employee of the month every month. She fosters a cooperative,

efficient atmosphere for departmental operations. Her abilities and attitude are outstanding. She is well respected and genuinely liked by students, faculty, and co-workers. Our technology students know and rely on her. Her knowledge of the department and our programs is a real asset,” said Mr. Terry Marbut head of the Department of Technology and Engineering.



## Townsel Awarded PDK Grant

Ms. Kim Holdbrooks Townsel was awarded the Past President Emery Stoops Graduate Scholarship 2012 from PDK International Fellowships for Graduate Programs. The application required letters from supervisors and colleagues, as well as a statement of research goals and proof of a high GPA. For more information, visit <http://www.pdkintl.org/awards/graduate.htm>

Ms. Townsel’s interests in research are centered on pre-service teachers and education professional development. As a lover of film, Ms. Townsel believes that film can be used as a vicarious experience to help teachers develop sensitivity to diversity issues, explore variety in teaching strategies, and examine the emotional and social issues affecting both teachers and students. Ms.

Townsel conducted a brief survey to find out if a movie has ever increased sensitivity in diversity. An astounding percentage of respondents indicated that movies had, and specific movies were frequently mentioned. She used that information to conduct a small interview set to collect data on how and why movies might help teachers better understand their students. The results and her conclusion led to Ms. Townsel collecting data on how three specific film clips about real-life teachers from the South who were teaching “out of their comfort zone” dealt with issues as perceived by pre-service teachers. Ms. Townsel hopes to turn one of the initial studies into a dissertation and will continue with this line of research during her career.



Ms. Kim H. Townsel, instructor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

## Retirees



Dr. Patricia K. Lowry, professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction

On May 31, 2012, Dr. Patricia Kramer Lowry retired from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the College of Education and Professional Studies, and Jacksonville State University. She had served the university for more than twenty-five years as an assistant professor, associate professor, department head, and professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She had taught most of the courses, both undergraduate and graduate, in all areas – social studies, science, mathematics, and general methods – except those in reading and language arts.

She was assigned to the basement of Ramona Wood the first several years. The joke was always when you needed Dr. Lowry she would be in the basement. Of course that is where most of her classes were taught in Ramona Wood Hall.

Her favorite years of teaching came during the time that she taught the undergraduate science methods courses and the graduate mathematics methods courses. She loved to be up walking around the classroom, setting up experiments for the science class, or demonstrating how to use specific math manipulatives in teaching. Toward the end of her career, she taught general methods



Dr. Ronnie Harris, professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

courses for both undergraduates and graduates in the EED program area. Those are the courses she ended with upon her retirement.

In almost every elementary school she enters today, there is at least one teacher or several teachers that she has taught. A smile comes to her face when they remember something special from her classes.

Dr. Ronnie Harris has retired from Jacksonville State University after forty-six years of service to the university through the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. Dr. Harris started as a JSU student in 1960 where he earned his BS and MS. As he worked at JSU he also completed his EdD at the University of Alabama.

Dr. Harris started teaching in the Department of Health and Physical Education in 1966. After teaching for five years, Dr. Harris became department head in 1971. He served as department head for seventeen years.

Dr. Harris has taught subjects that he loved and his guidance has touched thousands of students. It is not unusual to see him running, riding a bike, doing the martial art of Aikido, and teaching line dancing, folk dancing, square dancing, or swing dancing. He has participated



Ms. Paula Napoli, instructor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

in thirty-seven Peachtree 10K Road Races held in Atlanta, Georgia, on the Fourth of July. “It is amazing to be running with sixty thousand other runners down the middle of Peachtree Street in Atlanta,” said Dr. Harris.

Dr. Harris says. “JSU has been wonderful for me. I received an education where I experienced great teachers and coaches. Now I am ready to enjoy the grandchildren and serve as taxi service for Raine, Ryleigh, and Carson. I will also do some adjunct teaching.”

After twenty years of service to Jacksonville State University, Ms. Paula Napoli, director of the Dr. Cynthia H. Harper Child Study Center, has retired. Ms. Napoli came to the JSU Child Center in 1992 and was promoted to director in 2002. During her tenure, Ms. Napoli taught over two hundred pre-school children and instructed more than two thousand college students. Ms. Napoli will truly be missed but her influence and contributions in the area of child development will continue through decades. She and her husband Vince, avid travelers, plan to spend some of their retirement time with their three young grandchildren, Maria, Turner, and Helena.

## Plays with Thoughtful Humor



Mr. Mike Stedham, instructor in the Department of Communication, Full-time Manager of JSU Student Media, Part-time Instructor, Communication & English

During the week, Mr. Mike Stedham is manager of student media at JSU, serving as faculty adviser to the campus newspaper and radio station. On the weekends, he's involved with murders.

These murders take place as part of the murder-mystery dinner theater production he has been writing and directing for local charities and other organizations since 2006. So far, he's written five scripts, each of which has been produced several times throughout Calhoun and Cleburne counties.

"I started directing dinner theaters for the Anniston Junior League about ten years ago," Mr. Stedham said. "They were buying the rights to scripts that weren't very funny, so the cast and I had to add a lot of jokes and physical humor to make the shows enjoyable."

The Junior League was making a lot of money from the productions, but Stedham said he knew they could be doing better.

"I told the Junior League that I could write a script for them that would be twenty-seven percent funnier than the ones they had been using. That led to my first play, *A Brush With Death*." Each year since then, Stedham has produced a play for the Junior League. The scripts have also been used by other local organizations such as the Red Cross, the Homebuilders Association, and two area high schools.

All of the shows follow a traditional murder-mystery pattern: A group of eccentric characters is introduced, one of them is murdered at the end of Act 1, and the suspects are questioned by police in Act 2. The audience gets a chance to solve the case, and the guilty party is revealed at the end.

"My most recent script is *Parole Models*, which takes place at a halfway house for women who

have murdered people," Mr. Stedham said. "Each of the suspects in that show is already a murderer, so that makes it harder to solve the case."

This summer, two of Mr. Stedham's plays are being produced. The Heflin Arts Council is reviving *A Brush With Death*, and the Community Actors Studio Theater is producing *Murder On The Set* at Garfrerick's restaurant in Oxford. Stedham plans to have a new script ready for the Junior League by next spring.

Mr. Stedham is setting up a web site in an effort to market these scripts to theater groups and charities that want to produce them.

"I hope other folks can have as much fun with these shows as we have," Mr. Stedham said.

From: ***Parole Models***  
by Mike Stedham

ACT 1

---

Percy, a state psychologist, is introducing Honey to the halfway house where she will be living for six months. It's designed for women who have been convicted of murder and who are nearing the end of their sentence

PERCY:

Welcome to your new home, Honey. I bet you'll like it a lot better than the state prison.

HONEY:

Don't call me Honey. Everybody in the joint calls me Killer.

PERCY:

Forget your prison nickname. This is a halfway house – a place of change, a place of second chances, a place for new lives to be forged from the broken wreckage of the past. We believe everyone who comes here can make something of herself, and you don't have to be trapped by your old labels. (Pause) Besides, we already have two other women here named "Killer."



## Department Profile: Educational Resources



The Department of Educational Resources (EDRS), housed in the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) seeks to do exactly what the name implies: provide cutting-edge programs and other support for the entire educational enterprise. EDRS seeks to model collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking to students, partner schools, local agencies, as well as to the entire CEPS and to the university community at large.

EDRS is composed of nine graduate degree programs in three primary areas. Master's degrees are offered in Instructional Leadership, Library Media, School Counseling and Community Counseling. Sixth-year degrees (Educational Specialist) are offered in Instructional Leadership, Teacher Leader, Library Media, School Counseling, and Community Counseling. In addition to these degree programs, the department offers a significant number of courses in Instructional Media (technology) required of various programs across the college. The department is responsible for a number of foundations courses, such as Research, Principles of Learning, Leadership, and Diversity.

The Educational Resources

Mission Statement particularly emphasizes educational technology and school improvement. In response to that mission, and in response to the international trend toward distance (online) educational opportunity, all of the degree programs in EDRS except the Master's in Counseling are offered in a totally online format. Students continue to be attracted from our primary service area in Northeast Alabama and West Georgia, but also from more distant locations throughout the Southeast and beyond.

Just a few years ago, the Alabama State Department of Education required a re-design of traditional educational administration programs, effectively eliminating new enrollees from those programs. Enrollment went from over four hundred at the peak, to an enrollment of zero in just a few months. Under the leadership of the program faculty, Dr. William Kiser, chair of the master's program in Instructional Leadership emerged first, and the Educational Specialist programs in Instructional Leadership and Teacher Leader followed. These totally online programs are project-based, with immediate application required in the real world of local schools. Enrollment in all three programs is building momentum. It

is not insignificant that all faculty members in the instructional leadership area must have had local school administrative experience (*e.g.*, principal, superintendent, other school administrator) since the implementation of No Child Left Behind.

The newest EDRS degree program, the Educational Specialist in Library Media, is also totally online, and has a heavy emphasis on contemporary technology applications in the school setting. All media specialists in the public schools have at least a master's degree. School media specialists are often the go-to persons when it comes to technology know-how in the school. Both of these factors make the EdS in Library Media especially attractive.

In seeking to model 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, faculty members from EDRS have collaborated not only with each other in a variety of ways, but also with faculty across the college, providing educational resources in a number of areas of expertise and experience. Teaching modules on bullying and classroom management, assertive leadership and advocacy, law and ethics, have been shared in a number of courses.



Ms. Deanna Bohannon, secretary in the Department of Educational Resources

Ms. Deanna Bohannon has been employed at JSU thirteen years. She has more than twenty-eight years of secretarial experience. She received an associate’s degree from Gadsden State Community College and a secretarial/stenographic degree from Ayers State Technical College. Her earlier work experience includes fourteen years with USDA/Rural Development as a loan technician and two years with BellSouth Mobility as an administrative assistant.

Ms. Bohannon views her position as secretary in EDRS to be that of a problem-solver for students and faculty.

Ms. Bohannon explained, “In addition to assisting faculty and the department head, I work with students to resolve problems with registration and basic questions regarding programs in Educational Resources. If I don’t know the answer myself, I typically know who to call to get the answer. I don’t like to see students transferred from office to office to get assistance. If I can’t solve their problem, I try to determine who can before sending them in another direction. Sometimes it just takes a phone call ... thirty seconds of my time. I also want students to know we are happy to see them when they walk through the door of our office. A student should never feel we are too busy to assist them. Students are why we exist in the first place.”

Ms. Bohannon was selected JSU’s Employee of the Month for November, 2005, and she feels she works in the best department on campus. “Our faculty and students are high quality. I enjoy my job and the people I work with.”

Ms. Bohannon and husband Gordon live in Anniston and have three grown children. Being proud parents of a U.S. Army veteran with one tour in Iraq, they are fierce supporters of our military and wounded warriors and are members of the Patriot Guard Riders. ([www.patriotguard.org](http://www.patriotguard.org)).



Ms. Kristen Magouirk, graduate assistant in the Department of Educational Resources

Ms. Kristen Magouirk received her BA degree in Psychology with a minor in Human Development from The University of Alabama. She then worked for Project Rebound as a Crisis Counselor for those affected by the tornado in April, 2011. She serves as the graduate assistant for the Department of Educational Resources. Ms. Magouirk is a graduate student in the Counselor Education Program with a focus on Community and Agency Counseling. She plans on receiving her EdS in Counseling Education and one day becoming a licensed professional counselor.

**“WHILE IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IS POSITIONED TO GROW INTO THE FUTURE AND MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ALL CONSTITUENTS, IT REMAINS COMMITTED TO REMAIN ‘AHEAD OF THE CURVE’ IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERS AND COUNSELORS WHO CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF TODAY, AND WILL BE ABLE TO MASTER THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW. THIS WE WILL DO!”**

DR. TOMMY TURNER, DEPARTMENT HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

## Educational Technology and Library Media



The Library Media Program at JSU is part of the Educational Resources Department in the College of Education and Professional Studies. Two degrees are offered as part of the program: a master's level degree and a EdS Degree.

The program has been innovative in changing the delivery of content since it began. In the last six years the master's level program has gone from teaching traditional courses, to hybrid (meaning part face-to-face and part online) and then to teaching all online courses in 2011. The program expanded its offerings by implementing an online EdS program, Library Media & Educational Technology in Fall 2012.

The library media courses are taught primarily by Dr. Betty J. Morris, program chair; however, the EdS program is taught by core education faculty, Dr. Donna Herring, Dr. Jimmy Barnes and Dr. Betty Morris. Adjunct faculty are asked to teach when there is faculty overload. The faculty works hard to offer technology innovations to students taking the programs because their jobs as media specialists require

them to be technology savvy leaders in their schools. For that reason, students in the program learn to use spreadsheets for budgeting, design library media facilities, use Shelfari® to encourage student reading, work within iTunes™ university to access videos for the program, plan videos using Evirx®, prepare PowerPoints® showing research in the library media field to share with administrators, study new technologies that are appropriate for media centers, and use the virtual library as a mentoring tool. Courses are delivered on Wimba® and Livetext® is used to store artifacts of assignments completed by students.

The master's level curriculum is designed to allow media specialists to be leaders in working collaboratively with classroom teachers, to be instructional designers through assisting teachers to design best practices teaching strategies, to be leaders in curriculum development, and to be strong administrators in managing the media center, evaluating automation systems, and integrating technology into classroom instruction.

The EdS curriculum allows library media specialists who already

hold a master's degree in library media to become more proactive leaders in their school districts, to be technology innovators, and to be designers of Online instruction for classroom teachers. A future projection of the jobs of media specialists in schools predicts that they will become online instructional designers for K-12 schools.



**Dr. Jimmy Barnes** began his career in education immediately after graduating from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, in November of 1976 with a BA in mathematics and a minor in secondary education. He accepted a position with the Chattooga County Schools as a math teacher where he taught all levels of high school math and physics for fourteen years. While at Chattooga High School, Dr. Barnes continued his education earning his MEd in mathematics from West Georgia College and then his EdS in secondary education math from Jacksonville State University.

In 1987 Dr. Barnes enrolled in the doctoral program at Nova

University located in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He earned his EdD in the summer of 1990 and began teaching at Floyd College located in Rome, Georgia. At Floyd, Dr. Barnes taught math and computer courses at the community college level. He was solely responsible for designing and implementing the college's Information Technology Program which he chaired for five years. During this time he not only served as the program chair but also taught courses in computer programming, network design, web design, project management, and database administration.

Dr. Barnes came to Jacksonville



Dr. Jimmy Barnes, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources

State University in 2007 as an assistant professor of instructional technology in the Educational Resources Department.



**Dr. Donna Herring** serves as the program chair for instructional technology. She has degrees from Auburn University, West Georgia College, Jacksonville State University and NOVA Southeastern. She spent sixteen years as a high school mathematics/gifted education teacher before leaving the classroom to serve as a technology and mathematics consultant with Northwest Georgia

Regional Educational Service Agency. She also served as the director of technology for Calhoun City Schools in Calhoun, Georgia before becoming the director of the Educational Technology Training Center in Rome, Georgia. She retired from Georgia public education after thirty years and is in her eleventh year with Jacksonville State University.

Dr. Herring has spent the last two years implementing a robotics program in grades three, five, six, seven, and eight in the Chattanooga County School System as a result of a STEM grant. She provides professional development for teachers and helps facilitate robotics education



Dr. Donna Herring, associate professor in the Department of Educational Resources

in classrooms. She presents frequently at international, national, regional, and state conferences. Dr. Herring teaches the graduate EIM classes at JSU, provides LiveText support to faculty and students, and assists professors with online course design.



**Dr. Betty Morris** is a professor in library science at JSU where she serves as the program chair for the Library Media Program. The courses in the program have changed from traditional classrooms, to hybrid to totally Online since her arrival on campus. She holds PhD, EdS and

MLS degrees from the University of Alabama and a BA degree from University of North Alabama. Under her leadership as program chair, an EdS degree program in Library Media and Educational Technology was offered for the first time in Fall 2012.

Her educational career began as an elementary librarian at Eastwood Elementary School and later she moved to Decatur High School in Decatur City schools in Alabama. Prior to working at JSU, her higher education teaching career included the Palmer School of Library & Information Science at Long Island University (C.W. Post Campus) and the University of West Georgia.



Dr. Betty Morris, professor in the Department of Educational Resources

She served as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama and Florida State University.

Additionally, she worked with thirty-five Dade County schools in Florida as the Library Power Director to bring school reform to over three hundred schools in the school district. This national initiative, funded by *Reader's Digest* and the Wallace Foundation, was designed to promote collaboration as a team approach between library media specialists, classroom teachers, and principals to increase student achievement.

Dr. Morris was invited to work at Libraries Unlimited as

an acquisitions editor and later at Linworth Publishing where she sought authors to write books in the school library media profession. As a result, over 160 professional books were published. She serves as a peer reviewer for *Teacher Librarian*, *Library*

*Media Connection*, and *School Libraries Worldwide*. Dr. Morris was one of the writers for the QEP proposal that was chosen to be implemented at JSU.

Dr. Morris was invited in 2011 to participate in the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University in

England. Recently, she received an invitation to attend and present a paper at the Belize Symposium on Education in January of 2013 at Belize City, Belize.



## Instructional Leadership



The Instructional Leadership Program at Jacksonville State University offers three Online degree programs of study. The MSEd and EdS programs in Instructional Leadership are designed to prepare candidates to become effective principals, superintendents, and other district leaders. The EdS Teacher Leader Program prepares candidates for teacher leadership, preparing reading coaches, academic coaches, instructional leaders, grade-level lead teachers, department heads, and other roles in teacher leadership within the school or district. All courses are project-based to provide students with authentic activities connected to their schools.

The program's mission is to prepare effective leaders of learning through the development of a broad knowledge base grounded in theory, reflection, and applied leadership. Professors and Local Education Agency (LEA) partners seek to

encourage a professional commitment to collaborative democratic and inclusive models of practitioners who are creative decision makers.

The program's vision is to develop leaders who are able to improve the quality of education for all stakeholders based on moral and ethical practices.



**Dr. Linda Allen** began her career as an elementary teacher after completing her BS in elementary education (1-6) from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. She worked as a third grade teacher in Dade County, Georgia, for four years. She continued her education by earning a MS in elementary education from Alabama A & M and then added certifications in library media and instructional leadership from JSU.

Dr. Allen continued her career as a teacher and media specialist in Jackson County, Alabama, for

the next six years. During this time, she obtained an EdS in instructional leadership from JSU.

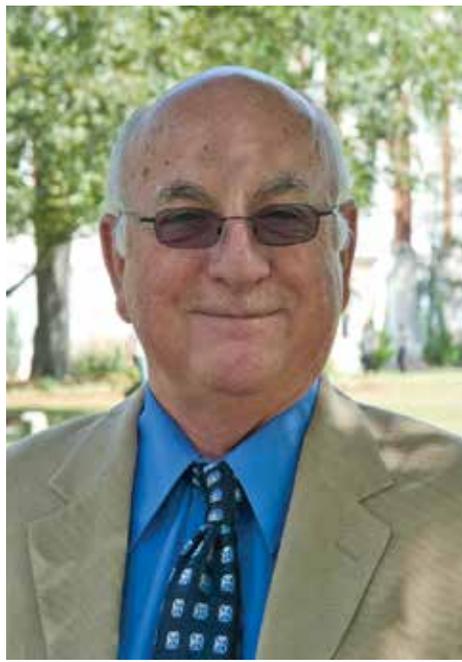
Upon the completion of her EdS, Dr. Allen accepted a position as an assistant principal in Jackson County and began working on her EdD in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama. She accepted her first principalship at a K-8 school in Jackson County. Several years later, she was offered a K-4 school and she worked there for four years before coming to JSU as an assistant professor in the Instructional Leadership program.

Dr. Allen commented on her time at JSU, "I am so happy to be at JSU and working with such an outstanding group of people in the CEPS. It is my joy to be a part of the JSU faculty."

Dr. Allen has been married to her husband, Dennis, for forty years. They reside on the Tennessee River in Scottsboro, Alabama. They are blessed to have two daughters, Ms.



Dr. Linda Allen, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources



Dr. William Kiser, associate professor in the Department of Educational Resources



Dr. Mary Montgomery-Owens, associate professor in the Department of Educational Resources

Barbara Kilgore and Ms. Mandi Allen-Bell. Ms. Kilgore teaches online and blended courses in art for two colleges while raising her two sons, Christian and McGee, with her husband Travis. Ms. Allen-Bell is a family medical physician in Scottsboro. She and her husband, Jason, are very busy raising their son, Bryce.

Dr. Allen said, “You are rich if you have a family that loves us, faults and all, and a profession that is fulfilling and challenging. I am fortunate to have both.”



**Dr. William A. Kiser** is an associate professor of instructional leadership and serves as chair of the Instructional Leadership program. He received a BA degree in speech and theatre from LaGrange College in 1969; a MEd degree in guidance and counseling from West Georgia College in 1974; and an EdD degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 1991. Prior to joining the faculty at Jacksonville State University in 2005, he retired from Bartow County Schools in Cartersville, Georgia, after completing thirty-six years as a high-school speech and theatre teacher, guidance counselor,

director of performing arts, assistant principal, and principal. After retiring in 1999, he became the director of the Woodland Performing Center in Cartersville, Georgia, where he served as artistic director and taught theatre arts in the International Baccalaureate Program until 2005. He has directed over fifty theatrical productions and performed in more than twenty plays in college, community, church, and summer stock theatrical companies

In addition to chairing the Instructional Leadership Program at JSU, Dr. Kiser serves as lead evaluator for school and district SACS/CASI accreditation external teams for AdvancED. He has chaired school visits and served on district teams for schools and districts in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Virginia.

Dr. Kiser received several awards for outstanding teaching during his career. He was STAR Teacher for Cass High School, and STAR Teacher for the Bartow County School System. In 2000, Dr. Kiser received the Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award for Exemplary Dedication to the Field of Education presented by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.



**Dr. Mary Montgomery Owens**, Associate Professor in Instructional Leadership, began her teaching career in junior high English at the age of nineteen in Richmond, Virginia, after graduating *summa cum laude* from Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia. Her father signed this first contract, promising to report to teach if she did not. She continued teaching literature and writing in public schools in Florida and Indiana, earning an MS in English from Indiana State University.

In Boston, she entered school administration, becoming a co-director of a learning center serving learning disabled students who lived on Boston’s North Shore. She continued her career as an adjunct professor of language development for the College of Grayslake, Illinois, and finally as consultant for the State of Illinois in developing literacy materials for Adult Basic Educational and GED preparation. Her family was then transferred to Valencia, Spain, for three years.

In Spain, Dr. Owens first became interested in English as Second Language research and instruction, and taught ESOL college students at Georgia Institute of Technology (Southern Tech campus) and

Georgia State University while earning her PhD in management and school administration at Georgia State University. Before moving to Jacksonville, Dr. Owens served for twenty years in public education in Georgia first as a consultant for the State of Georgia in developing its beginning teacher support programs and finally as an administrator in the

Lamar County Schools, Barnesville, Georgia. She ended her career in public education as Lamar County Superintendent of Schools.

As a JSU faculty member since 2000, Dr. Owens has collaborated with colleagues to develop new programs within educational and instructional leadership, incorporating technology and research in best

practices for developing educational leaders. She presents at regional and national conferences frequently and was invited to the Oxford University Round Table in the summer of 2011. She plans to continue to collaborate with this group of thirty-five international colleagues again in the spring of 2013.



## Counselor Education



The Counselor Education Program at JSU was initiated in the late 1960s. Hundreds of alumni are successfully serving across the southeast and beyond, as school counselors and in many and varied agencies and institutions, including private practices. The prognosis for vocational opportunity as a counselor continues to be very good. Overall employment of counselors is expected to increase by twenty-one percent between 2006 and 2016, which is much faster than the average for all occupations (see <http://job-outlook.careerplanner.com/Counselors.cfm>).

After many years with a high quality program that equipped graduates for productive careers, the master's programs in School Counseling and Community Agency Counseling were submitted for

accreditation in October, 2009. In January of 2010, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and other Related Educational Programs (CACREP) gave unqualified, maximal accreditation to both programs. CACREP accreditation is a great accomplishment and recognition, and provides additional opportunity and benefit to graduates.

Excerpts from the Mission Statements of the Community Agency Counseling and School Counseling Programs underscore the primary goal and focus of each: The mission of the Community Agency Counseling program "is to prepare graduate students from the Jacksonville State University service area for success as they move toward:

- counseling positions in community agencies;

- LPC licensure application in Alabama and Georgia; and/or
- continued progress toward a terminal degree in Counselor Education.”;

The mission of the School Counseling Program states “the focus is to educate school counselors and enable them to address elementary and secondary students’ needs in the areas of academic, career, and personal and/or social development.”

An educational specialist degree is also offered in both school counseling and community counseling. As of Fall, 2011, both of these 30-semester-hour programs are available in a totally online format.

The department has a goal of enrolling an average of fifteen to twenty new students each term, totaling forty-five to sixty per year.



**Dr. Jerry D. Kiser** received his BA degree in psychology and secondary education from Christopher Newport College, his MS Ed degree in secondary school counseling from Old Dominion University, and his EdD degree in agency counseling from The College of William and Mary. Dr. Kiser serves as a professor in the Department of Educational Resources, and teaches a variety of counseling courses within the counseling program. However, his favorite course to teach is the theories of counseling class. Dr. Kiser has worked in private practices that specialize in marriage and family counseling. He has experience from his work for the Commonwealth of Virginia Attorney's Office in cases involving rape, child sexual abuse, and domestic violence. Dr. Kiser also has counseled the families of murder victims.

Dr. Kiser taught at Montana State University Northern before joining the faculty of Jacksonville State University in 1997.

Dr. Kiser's research interests include ethical reasoning regarding physician-assisted suicide, career counseling, uniting spirituality and sexual counseling, and uniting spirituality with counseling theory.

Dr. Kiser is grateful that the Graduate Counseling Program at Jacksonville State University is Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accredited.

"The program has provided me opportunities for research and teaching with excellent colleagues and students," said Dr. Kiser.



**Dr. Todd McGahey** holds a BA from the University of Georgia, a MED from Augusta State University, an EdS from Georgia Southern University, and an EdD from Auburn University. Dr. McGahey's research focus centers on emotions and the oceans, four-day school weeks, home-based counselors, and immigration laws and education. He spent several years teaching English and psychology, and then seventeen years as a high-school guidance counselor in various Georgia public schools. He spends time volunteering for mentoring and relief organizations.



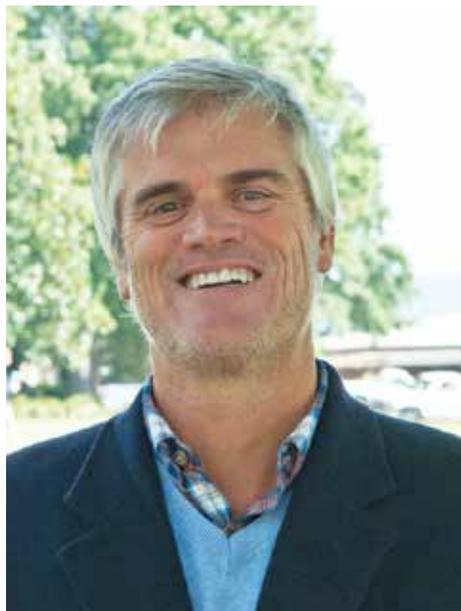
**Dr. Tommy E. Turner**, head of the Department of Educational Resources, came to Jacksonville State University in the summer of 2003. Dr. Turner states: "I had come

to the campus to pay a brief visit to long-time friend, Dr. Marvin Jenkins. During that brief visit, Dr. Jenkins asked me to remind him of my educational background. I did; then he told me about a posting for an assistant professor in counselor education. I was immediately interested, applied, was interviewed, and began teaching in the summer of 2003. Having been brought up in Jackson County in northeast Alabama, most all my teachers in grade school were JSU graduates. I thought of JSU as a teaching institution, and I knew I could teach and wanted to be in an institution that placed the greatest priority on teaching."

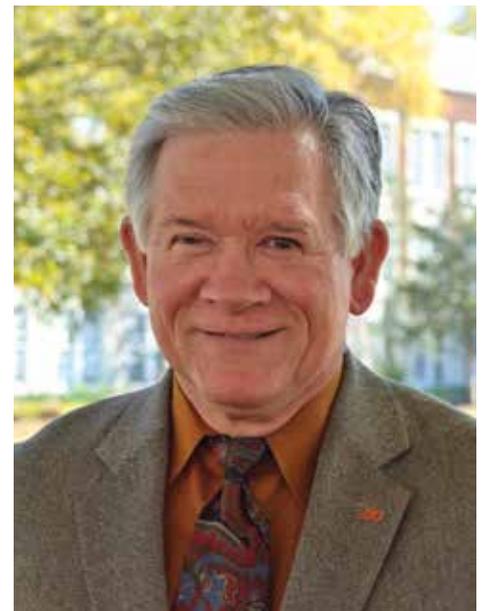
Dr. Turner graduated from Pisgah High School in Pisgah, Alabama. He attended North Florida Junior College in Madison, Florida, on a basketball scholarship, then transferred to Samford University in Birmingham. He received his undergraduate degree from Samford with a double major in mathematics and religion. He also received a MA from Samford in religion and philosophy. Still later, he received a master's of divinity degree from New Orleans Theological Seminary, and eventually gained the PhD in educational psychology, community counseling, and statistics, from



Dr. Jerry D. Kiser, professor in the Department of Educational Resources



Dr. James T. McGahey, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources



Dr. Tommy Turner, department head and associate professor, in the Department of Educational Resources

the University of Alabama. His dissertation and early research was in the area of classroom management and adolescent psychopathology. He lives in and commutes from Boaz, where he lives with his wife, Linda, a pharmacist.

Dr. Turner's interest and connection to education has continued over the years. He originally taught secondary math in Birmingham after graduating from Samford, while serving a small church in DeKalb County as a bi-vocational pastor. Later, he moved to Pell City, serving a church there for seventeen years, but also serving a five-year term on the local school board, including two years as chairman. In the following years Dr. Turner taught as an adjunct at Central Alabama and Snead State Community Colleges, Samford University, and the University of Alabama.

Since coming to JSU, Dr. Turner has been active in the Alabama Counseling Association, serving as chair of the Professional Standards Committee. His professional presentations at the local, state, and national levels, include subjects ranging from bullying to childhood grief to mentoring. He has co-authored published works on the union of spirituality and sexual counseling.

Dr. Turner says, "I find a great deal of satisfaction in serving on college and university committees that deal with vision and growth – the Strategic Planning Committee, the Graduate Recruitment Committee, and others. JSU is a great place to work and serve!"



**Dr. Melanie Drake Wallace** has been an assistant professor in counselor education since 2007. Dr. Wallace served as the clinical coordinator for counseling practicum and internships until 2012 when she became the program chair for school and community counseling programs. With a background in music, Dr. Wallace strongly believes in the



Dr. Melanie Wallace, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources

healing power of the creative arts. To that end, she employs a variety of expressive arts modalities in both teaching and working with clients.

Dr. Wallace's professional involvement has been extensive at both the state and national levels of the American Counseling Association (ACA). Currently she is serving as the 2012-2013 past president of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA) and president elect of the Alabama Association for Counselor Education & Supervision. Dr. Wallace cites the most valuable lesson learned during her ALCA presidential tenure in 2011-2012 was the fundamental importance of professional advocacy. The absolute necessity of acquiring legislative literacy skills necessary to effectively communicate with elected officials at the state and national levels is vital in establishing professional credibility.

Areas of research interest include clinical supervision, wellness and wellbeing, the study of hope theory, and the role of emotional intelligence in training future professional counselors. Outdoor photography is one of Dr. Wallace's passions and she is always on the lookout to capture fleeting moments of natural beauty.



Dr. Priscilla Wilson, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Resources

**Dr. Priscilla Wilson**, received her BA from Tulane University and her MS in counseling from Jacksonville State University. Dr. Wilson received her PhD in counselor education from the University of Alabama in May of 2009.

Dr. Wilson worked in the field of social services starting in 1996 working at Family Services Center of Calhoun County, Inc. as a community enabler developer. She then worked in the mental health field beginning in 2001 working as a child/adolescent therapist at CED Mental Health Center in Gadsden, Covenant Services in Anniston, and Indian Rivers Mental Health Center. She served as the mentor match specialist with the Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) at the University of Alabama and as a project coordinator/counselor with the School-Based Student Drug Testing Program in St. Clair County.

Dr. Wilson's research focus is on sexual identity construction and what factors shape how individuals formulate their identity. Dr. Wilson is also applying for a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. The proposed project will focus on beliefs about HIV/AIDS prevention methods on the variables of age, gender, race, and sexual orientation.

# Co-Teaching Pairs Workshop

By Dr. Nina King  
Associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction



Jacksonville State University's College of Education and Professional Studies held a Pairs Workshop at the Houston Cole Library on September 27, 2012, as the last phase of training in a new JSU initiative: The Co-Teaching Institute.

Co-teaching as an instructional methodology is not new. It has its roots in special education but has recently been receiving recognition as best practice among general educators, as well. Last spring, a group of CEPS instructors, local school faculty, and administrators took part in a two-day training workshop on co-teaching held in Stadium Towers and led by workshop founders Nancy Bacharach and Teresa Washut Heck from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

The JSU CEPS has begun piloting this method of instructional delivery in some practicum placements in the Fall, 2012 semester and will continue into spring internship. In preparation, training has been ongoing for all college faculty as well as participating practicum students and cooperating teachers. The initial phase of instruction shared the theoretical foundations, research findings, and information about each of the seven strategies of the co-teaching model. The second phase,

the Pairs Workshop, is an important element of training because it matches the intern and cooperating teacher in role-playing and planning for effective collaboration and communication, both essential skills for achieving success in this pedagogical model.

Ninety-six practicum students and cooperating teachers were invited to participate in the Pairs Workshop. Some activities brought laughter while some required quiet discussion, but it was evident that serious work was going on here. These interns and

teachers were beginning to form relationships that would clearly pave the way for better understanding and cooperation in teaching together this semester. For both the seasoned classroom teacher and teacher candidate, this is a very good thing.

The CEPS, always on the leading edge of teacher education, continues to find and implement best practices in preparing candidates for the challenges of teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## Get Healthy JSU

By Mr. Keith Thomas  
Production Coordinator, Television Services



Get Healthy JSU is a collaborative project aligning voice/opera students from the Music Department; students from the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; and students from the Family and Consumer Sciences nutrition program to encourage each other in making and sustaining healthy choices. The project involves a commitment to meet, assess, and follow through with nutrition choices, strength, flexibility,

and physical activity. This unique project allows students from these varied disciplines to assist each other while meeting course objectives. TV Services visually documenting this process. Hopefully the research and documentation will allow for future exposure of JSU's success in wellness ideas and open opportunities for grant funding.

So far, TV Services has produced an introductory video featuring Ashley Cofield, Morgan Cox, and Kevin Ward. These student leaders in their disciplines were videotaped doing a spoof of crime/spy thrillers where a student presses a tape recorder to listen to "You have been selected as

peer leaders in the new initiative. Your mission is to involve students, staff, and faculty to get healthy."

This introductory video was played before an estimated eighty students involved in this collaboration. All students (from nutrition, opera/voice, and Health, Physical Education and Recreation) met on September 14, 2012, in the Performance Auditorium at Mason Hall to formally start this event. TV Services visually documented the program.



## A Challenge Opportunity from Health, P. E., and Recreation

By Ms. Abby Fleetwood  
Instructor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Up for a Challenge? Look at the JSU Challenge Course, located on campus between the Stone Center and Rowe Hall. The Low Ropes Challenge Course has been a part of JSU for the past four years and has been very popular among various groups on campus.

Mr. Allen Gilbert is the challenge course coordinator and has done an excellent job with the design and upkeep of the challenge course. Mr. Gilbert and his team work with group leaders beforehand to identify the desired goals and objectives for their groups and create a series of activities that enable participants to succeed in meeting them.

Mr. Gilbert says often times members get frustrated with each other when working to complete a

challenge. "Groups come," he says, "to learn how to work together by coming up with strategies that ultimately help them to complete the challenges they face as a team."

If you would like to learn more or how your office, department, or group organization can take

part in the challenge course, please contact Mr. Allen Gilbert at (256) 782-8012 or [agilbert@jsu.edu](mailto:agilbert@jsu.edu). You can also find some great video of the JSU Challenge Course on YouTube by clicking the video link under Challenge Course on the HPER homepage.



## Dr. Tommy Bice Speaks to Educators



Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tommy Bice, spoke Tuesday, October 30, at JSU for two addresses, the first to education majors, potential teachers, and local school administrators, and the second to CEPS faculty, additional local administrators, and members of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Bice was Alabama's deputy state superintendent of education for instructional services; superintendent of the Alexander City School System, high school principal, career tech director, alternative school teacher/director, special education/residential school director, early childhood teacher/parent trainer; and began his career as a teacher at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. In both addresses at JSU he alluded to his experiences in the education profession—he can share experiences from a bus driver to state superintendent—as helping him to develop a unique perspective on education. Dr. Bice said, “I learned from my past experiences and I will build on those to shape the future of education in Alabama. I am open to any change in the current system that can answer one question adequately. What value does your request bring to the children of Alabama?”

He credited his willingness to

listen to a three-year experience working at an alternative school in Birmingham. There he listened to students that had no security in basic care (food, shelter, and clothing), students that were denied social services because of bureaucracy, and students who had no voice in their education. This experience helps him keep his perspective of the diversity of student needs. He said he hoped that each school year teachers would take the time necessary to get to know the challenges that their students faced before they began to focus on a student's academic growth. Dr. Bice indicated that he travels to an Alabama school every week to see the approaches and successes of Alabama schools.

Dr. Bice said that this was an exciting time as he forecasts that the teaching profession will experience a retirement bubble. To future educators this increases their employment opportunities and to the education profession this is an opportunity to shift the way things are done. His goal is for the educational system to unlock the potential of Alabama children through these change agents. Dr. Bice said that testing and graduation rates did not necessarily mean that every child was prepared to the best of his/her intellectual capacity for their next step in life. Whether it was trade school, vocational school, two-year or four-year college, he wants Alabama students to possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to succeed in a credit bearing curriculum without the need for remediation. Students should also be able to apply core academic skills learned, to collaborate, and to problem solve—with precision, punctuality, and the desire to learn.

The legislative move last year to approve charter schools in Alabama, he felt was a learning experience with some very valuable takeaways. He said that there was no reason that the current Alabama schools cannot

be as flexible and as innovative as any charter school, if we are willing to create a policy and budget environment that promotes such an approach. He said that if there was any current rule or regulation that stands between a student and his or her success then he wants to know about it so it can be addressed. The current state school board and legislative leadership are keenly interested in creating such an environment. The only rule he held was the six and a half hour school day and 180 days or equivalent to the school year. The time of day, the meeting place, and the days of the week can all be adapted to meet student needs.

The vision that Dr. Bice has for the Alabama State Department of Education is for every Alabama child to graduate and every child to be prepared. As superintendent, he has reduced the Alabama State Department of Education's staff sections from twenty-four to four. He is forming teams with customized support to handle challenges. He expressed that the schools were here to serve the children not a system. He said that when he spoke with business leaders they were looking for employees that can work collaboratively, be responsible, be problem-solvers, and be critical thinkers; and that these expectations were in line with his goals.

Dr. Bice wants the Alabama State Department of Education to provide teachers with resources, support, and effective professional development. He would like to see four-year college scholarships provided to the brightest students, who are willing to commit four years to the teaching profession. He would like for each of the one hundred and thirty-four Alabama school districts to provide mentoring to first and second year teachers. He is also looking at creating professional pathways for current teachers to continue their life-long learning.

# CORE

Dr. William A. Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University welcomed the participants to the CORE Partnership Building Workshop on November 1, 2012. He said that the goal of creating a seamless partnership of P-20 schools to educate students will be a change that can only benefit students.



all the time and everywhere, and communication to and by the students through visual and written media. For students this implementation gave them permission to think critically, to think on their own, and to find different ways to an answer. They expressed that technology was not the focus, learning is, and that technology is just the current tool to facilitate learning.

Dr. Rebecca O. Turner, JSU provost and vice President for Academic Affairs, then spoke about how partnerships like this one fit directly into the Red Balloon strategic plan outcomes of JSU. The Red Balloon project asked that JSU faculty and staff think about what we can do differently, do more of with less, and do better to meet the needs of today's students. The Red Balloon project members gave time and thought to understand and research what students bring to a learning centered campus. The CORE project she felt was a logical part of JSU's strategic plan.

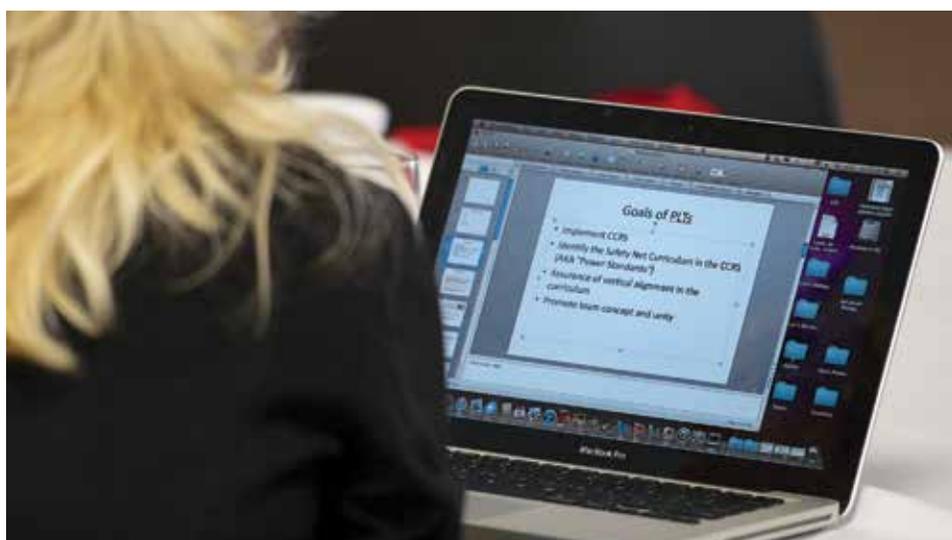
for Aid to Education, The School Superintendents of Alabama, St. Cloud State University, Blackboard, Pivot Point, and Apple Computers.

The first speakers at the CORE Partnership Building Workshop were Dr. Billie McConnell and Mr. George Saltsman, from Abilene Christian University. They spoke from experience and helping other implementations of iOS in schools. They had data from the restructuring at ACU that occurred when the ACU became an iOS university four years ago and have used iPads since 2010. The restructuring affected the formal learning on campus as instructors took on a facilitator role, the informal learning as the technology allowed students to learn

Mr. Matt Akin explained to the audience that CORE meant Collaborate Regional Education. His goal was for CORE to hold four workshops a year, where local systems get support for their one to one technology initiatives, and provide a forum to discuss solutions and challenges that the schools faced.

Dr. Alicia Simmons, executive director of Institutional Planning and Research, shared how Mr. Matt Akin, superintendent of Piedmont City Schools came to her asking for JSU's help in transitioning to a different teaching paradigm gave birth to the CORE project. Since then Dr. Simmons has worked to fund through grants the project and structure the first year activities. The CORE Partnership Building Workshop is the first CORE event this year. Three more workshops are planned as well as a state-wide CORE Academy conference for teachers and administrators. She said that currently seventeen school systems are involved along with JSU, ALSDE, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Council

Dr. John Hammett, dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies stated, "CORE is an exciting way that JSU through their resources and grantsmanship can effect a positive change in the education of many students from preschool through graduate studies. The CEPS is proud to be a partner and a facilitator incorporating new agreed upon teaching methodologies and strategies into the preparation of teachers."



# You Can Support the CEPS Through Your Donations

Be part of the future—let your name live on while you contribute to the growth of the College of Education and Professional Studies. Ramona Wood Hall has served the college for many years. Improvements will ensure the needs of future graduates of Jacksonville State University are adequately met. It is not about money, it is about what you choose to do with your money. An investment in the CEPS affects JSU students and the students that they in turn have. Your action will be making a difference globally.

Today your College of Education and Professional Studies encourages your direct support to continue preparing students. Challenges that the CEPS faces include in the demanding space and technological demands that are needed. The CEPS can offer naming rights that acknowledge a generous donation. There are computer laboratories, a library, classrooms, even classroom chairs, that can be purchased and hold a placard acknowledging your gifting.

Here are some specific needs for your consideration, and your name if desired.

- (Insert your name here) clinical counseling laboratory estimated cost \$150,000.
- (Insert your name here) classroom equipped for teaching methods of science education, \$79,000.
- (Insert your name here) classroom equipped with the current teaching technologies, \$55,000.
- (Insert your name here) video editing classroom, \$83,000.
- (Insert your name here) WJSU radio broadcast booth, \$100,000.
- (Insert your name here) robotics training laboratory, \$175,000.
- (Insert your name here) special/collaborative education classroom, \$164,000.
- (Insert your name here) student scholarship \$20,000.
- (Insert your name here) building renovation \$890,000.
- (Insert your name here) College of Education and Professional Studies building replacement \$52,000,000.

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