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College of Education • Georgia Southern University

Volume 15, Issue 1 http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu Fall 2004

Reavis Heads Georgia Center for Educational Renewal

On July 12, 2004, the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal opened with Dr. Charles Reavis, Goizueta Endowed Professor in Educational Leadership, as the director. Pat Collins serves as administrative secretary for the Center. The mission of GCER is closing the gaps in minority student achievement, between the COE and public schools, and between research and practice. The GCER carries out this mission through conducting research, obtaining grants, publishing reports, and the direct provision of services.

Since opening, the Center has launched a number of initiatives: **Eagle Elite Schools**, a select group of schools that have joined with the Center to improve their practices; **AYP and Beyond!**, a program to aid schools that have not achieved Annual Yearly Progress to do so; and the **Lincoln Project**, a project to prepare electronic guides to improve teaching in technical institutes.

Of particular interest is **Parallel Studies**, a pilot study that is getting underway. The goal of this research is to identify the high impact behaviors of school leaders that renew a failing school. Of particular significance is that this study will be conducted while that school is undergoing the change from failing to succeeding. Doctoral students will participate in the research as well, applying their academic learning in a challenging environment. **Parallel Studies** will be conducted in one school in Georgia and one in England. This initiative has grown out of the International Learning Community work. Subsequent to this pilot study, a grant will be written to permit a larger study. Principals who are skilled in school renewal are in high demand. It is anticipated that this study will permit the GCER to offer training in the identified behaviors, and, most particularly, *how* they are implemented.



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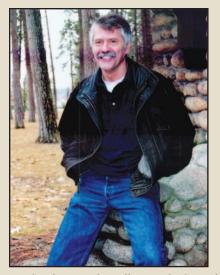
Children's Literature Collection Endowed

The Jernigan Children's Literature Collection was bequeathed to the College of Education through a \$60,000 endowment from Miss Ollie Mae Jernigan, Class of 1934. The dedication of the collection will be held Monday, October 11, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. in the Instructional Resources Center in the College of Education Building. A reception will follow in room 2148. All faculty, staff, students, area educators and the public are invited to attend.

Miss Jernigan graduated with a B.S.Ed. degree in 1934. She then started teaching at age 20 at Westside School in the Bulloch County system of rural schools. Miss Jernigan was certified to teach English, French, science, social science and elementary grades. In the 1990s, she was one of 12 teachers interviewed for the dissertation of Mary Sue Smith (Ed.D. '99), "What Did It Mean to be a Boarding Teacher in a Rural Bulloch County

Community in the 1930s and 1940s?" Later in her career, Miss Jernigan was a librarian for the Zach Henderson Library at Georgia Southern. She was known for caring for all of her students and they loved her in return. Her legacy will live on through the Jernigan Children's Literature Collection.

Chris Crutcher Lecture



Award-winning young adult novelist Chris Crutcher will be the featured speaker at the College of Education's 2004 Lecture Series. Crutcher will speak on October 14th at 7 p.m. in the College's Lecture Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public. Following his lecture, his books will be available for purchase and a book signing.

Author of eight young adult novels and one short story collection, Crutcher has also worked for many years as a therapist and child protection advocate. His concern for children and recognition of the difficulties faced by modern families appear in all his works, from his first novel *Running Loose* in 1983 to *Whale Talk* in 2001. Although they certainly contain

tragedies large and small, Crutcher's works are filled with as many loving, wise parents and supportive coaches and teachers as they are with bullies and abusers. His resourceful and funny main characters triumph over the challenges—athletic and personal—he sets for them; they emerge at the end of their stories satisfied and smarter, if not always perfectly happy.

Although he wants to show the resilience of his teenage protagonists, Crutcher does not shy away from hard truths. As he says in his recent autobiography, *King of the Mild Frontier* (2003), humans "are a trial-and-error species; we learn from our mistakes, not just our physical mistakes but our emotional and spiritual mistakes as well." Clearly, Crutcher is not afraid to show his characters making mistakes, but they—and his readers—always learn something valuable from them. The numerous awards he has won over the past 20 years, including the American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults and the *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year, attest to Chris Crutcher's ability to teach and to please his readers.



Calling All Alumni Wanted: Teachers Who Made A Difference

Do you remember a university professor who made a difference and influenced your development as a teacher? If so, we would like to hear from you. Share with us who made a difference and how they influenced you. Simply e-mail Donna Colson at dscolson@georgiasouthern.edu. Look for "Teachers Who Made A Difference" in each issue of *Southern Educator*.



Dr. Cindi Chance

As we prepare for the University's Centennial, we in the College encourage you to Salute the past! Capture the present! and Ignite the future!

Salute the Past!

We all have wonderful memories of our academic, social and personal experiences at Georgia Southern, a favorite teacher (kindergarten to doctoral) who changed our lives, or a person outside of education who encouraged, mentored and/or kept the pressure on until we achieved our goals. We want to salute these persons who were lifechanging forces in our lives.

Capture the Present!

Your alma mater is growing in quality and quantity in ways that you and others before you could never have dreamed. Some of the College's achievements

- Board of Regents' 2003 Best Practices Award
- Two major national grants
- Goizueta Endowed Professor in Educational Leadership
- Georgia Center for Educational Renewal working with school improvement efforts
- Partner School Program with our P-12 school colleagues
- Memberships in the National Network for Educational Renewal and the
- Lead institution in the International Learning Community, a partnership with international universities with a single focus—improved teaching and learning for preschool through doctoral programs
- First Professional Development District in the nation

Ignite the Future!

These accomplishments have positioned the College of Education to reach further and aspire to even greater goals. We have chosen these areas of commitment: Academic Distinction, Collaboration, Diversity, Professional Development and Regional Service. I invite you to join with us in creating a proud College of Education legacy! I am available at lchance@georgiasouthern.edu.

2004-2005 COE Faculty and Staff



16th National Youth-at-Risk Conference

The 16th National Youth-at-Risk Conference hosted by the College of Education and The Division of Continuing Education and Public Service, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, March 6-9, 2005. Designed for all persons interested in the well-being of youth, the conference will focus on Successful Programs for Empowering Youth: Overcoming Poverty, Violence, and Failure. Conference presentations will be organized around five conference strands—Academic Achievement; Social & Emotional Skills; Safety & Violence Prevention; Mental & Physical Health; and Family & Community. High Flying Schools with high levels of achievement, poverty, and minority representation will be showcased. Keynote speakers include James Garbarino, Professor of Human Development, Cornell University, and Larry Bell, President & Consultant, Multicultural America, Inc. Chase Puckett, 2005 Georgia Teacher of the Year, will also be among multiple featured speakers during the four-day conference.

For more information visit www.nationalyouthatrisk.com or contact the Georgia Southern Division of Continuing Education and Public Service at (912) 681-5557.

NEWS FLASH



Bennett Named COE Alumna of the Year

At the Alumna Awards Dinner on April 3, 2004, Sara Neville Bennett was named Alumna of the Year for the College of Education. Dr. Bennett (B.S. '64, B.S.Ed. '64, M.S. '67) was a professor in the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern prior to retiring Spring 2004. She is the former president of the Genetics Society of Georgia and past president of the Georgia Academy of Science and the Southeastern Branch of the American Society for Microbiology. She was the co-convener for the 1990 Annual Meeting of the Genetics Society of Georgia and the 1986 Neurospora Information Conference.





On April 8, 2004, the College held its annual Honoring Student Achievement Ceremony. Both undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their accomplishments. Carla Bland (Early Childhood Ed) and Simon Newman (Music Ed) were recognized as Bell Honors Scholars; Jessica Marie Callan and Ryan Thomas Dehnert (both Early

Childhood Ed) for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges; 28 education students were recognized as University Honors Scholars; and 22 students were recognized for receiving University Honor's Day awards. Undergraduate students who were on the Dean's List during the 2003 calendar year and the 22 graduate students who had completed a doctoral dissertation in that year were applauded. Recipients of the eight undergraduate scholarships for the '04-'05 year were announced:

College of Education Memorial Scholarship: Jennifer Fowler and Sergio Hinojosa

The J.C. Hunter Memorial Scholarship: Sabrina Walker

The Herman Lee & Wordna Isabella Bogan Scholarship for Science and Math Education Majors: Dawn Zuber

The Sadie A. Fulford Scholarship: Brad Boykin

The Zach Suddath Henderson Scholarship: Amber Johns and Abby Owens

The Earl Kingdom & Nora Snider Million Scholarship: Katie Mathews

The Jim & Ruth Miller Scholarship: Angela Beyers, Kristie Marlette, Holly Harrison and Mary Spinks Goizueta Scholarship: Mirlin Henandez, Sergio Hinojosa and Luis Nunez



Advisor of the Year

In April 2004, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Linda Bleicken, presented Dr. Creighton Alexander with the 2003-2004 Advisor of the Year Award. Dr. Alexander is a member of the Department of Teaching and Learning. He advises students in the Technology Education Program and is faculty advisor for the Technology Education Club.





Convocation Held

On August 16, 2004, the College held its annual New Student Convocation. Mr. Chase Puckett, 2005 Georgia Teacher of the Year, was the keynote speaker. Over 150 students and faculty attended and heard Mr. Puckett's presentation on the first day of school and how students can enhance the quality of their time at Georgia Southern University.

COE Soaring Into Action

Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading

The Department congratulates the following individuals who were awarded the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies during the 2003-2004 academic year: Melissa Lickteig, Terry Oatts, Debra Dewitt, Melissa Akins, Nancy Brown, Patia Crump, Kathryn Harrell, Patricia Price, Paul Geisler, Dennis Gruber, and Melinda Smith.

During 2003-2004, the faculty of CFR continued its record of outstanding scholarly productivity and service to the college, the university, and the profession. For example, all of the faculty either presented papers at national and regional conferences, published articles in peer-reviewed journals, or published book chapters. Four of the faculty members published books. Three of the faculty members serve as editors of peer-reviewed journals, including *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing, Curriculum Inquiry*, and *English Education*. One faculty member was elected to serve as president of a regional educational research association.

Tenure & Promotions: The Board of Regents approved tenure for Dr. Ming Fang He at its April 2004 meeting.

Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education

The Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education (UTE) welcomes two new staff members, Ms. Niki Knight and Dr. Elaine Gore. After 17 years of committed service to COE faculty, students and field placement schools, Ms. Elizabeth Brannen found it necessary to retire for medical reasons on March 1, 2004. A search was conducted and Ms. Knight was selected to replace Ms. Brannen as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Field Experiences and Partnerships. In July, Dr. Amy Heaston was appointed as the University's Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. To fill her position, Dr. Gore, a member of the Department of Teaching and Learning faculty, was appointed to the position of Interim Director of Field Experiences and Partnerships. Also, Ms. Donna Colson, was reallocated to our staff as COE Data Manager.

UTE staff members are heavily involved in early planning and preparation for the NCATE/PSC Spring 2006 accreditation visit and with deployment and maintenance of the TK20 CampusTools student data management and assessment system. This system will help in collecting the necessary data for accreditation and will enable students to develop their electronic portfolios.



Department of Teaching and Learning

The Department of Teaching and Learning is planning a number of initiatives during the 2004-2005 academic year. A major initiative is the development and implementation of the new P-5 Endorsement in Mathematics for veteran teachers. This endorsement is linked to the state's emphasis on the improvement of mathematics instruction in the elementary schools. A similar endorsement in science is being planned for the future.

In addition, major changes will be made in the undergraduate programs in Special Education, with the planning and implementation of concentration areas in math and reading. This change will provide an opportunity for candidates who are planning to become special education teachers to gain the knowledge and skills needed to improve student learning in mathematics or reading.

These two initiatives will provide an opportunity to work closely with teachers in our service region in preparing P-12 teachers to improve student learning.

Instructional Resources Center

You are always welcome to visit the Instructional Resources Center. Since assuming the position of coordinator on July 1, Michelle Rivera has been networking with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members to insure that IRC resources are maximized. With the addition of 52 computers, an additional mobile teaching station, SMART boards and a Windows XP update, the Center is ready to serve students and faculty with enhanced capabilities. New initiatives include the establishment of a faculty research lab, a literacy lab, a book club, and Family Reading Night. Partnerships with the Statesboro Regional Library and other resource centers in Georgia are being planned. Physical changes in the IRC include the addition of the Jernigan Reading Corner, Jernigan Children's Literature Collection and a lighted display case to herald new books. For information contact:

michellerivera@georgiasouthern.edu

Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development

The Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development welcomes new faculty:

Dr. Paul (Mac) Brinson (Temporary Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership) continues with the Educational Leadership Program teaching administration and related courses and supervising interns. Dr. Brinson taught in the program last year moving from the Effingham County schools where he was a principal for many years.

Dr. Terry Diamanduros (Temporary Assistant Professor of School Psychology) worked as a neurodevelopmental examiner at New York Presbyterian Medical Center while she finished her Ph.D. at New York University in Spring 2004. She will be teaching courses emphasizing assessment for the School Psychology Program.

Dr. Meta Harris (Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership) joins the program in Higher Education after teaching at Georgia Southern as an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology for '03-'04. Holding both a Ph.D. from the University of Manchester (England) and an Ed.D. in Administration of Higher Education from the University of Alabama, Dr. Harris will be able to share her wealth of experience with Higher Education Program students.

Dr. Fayth Parks who previously headed the Higher Education Student Services track of our Counselor Education Program has been hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Counselor Education.

Dr. Robert Waller (Temporary Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership), a University of Georgia graduate, joins the program after a long and successful career as a teacher, principal and superintendent in schools in Middle Georgia. He will teach courses aimed at aspiring principals and supervise interns in the field.



Student Success Center

The SSC provides services to students, the College of Education, and the University. Some of these services include:

- Assisting students with course selection, program requirements and registration throughout their undergraduate careers.
- Ensuring compliance with course prerequisite policies, GPA standards, state certification guidelines, and University requirements for graduation.
- Maintaining student academic folders and documentation which help to guide students toward graduation in a timely manner.
- Communication with faculty, department heads, and the dean.
- Advocating for student concerns and problems.
- *Screening* and advising for student teaching. *Guiding* students through the Student Affairs
- Committee appeals process when appropriate.
- *Identifying* students for various scholarship opportunities.

 Providing current information on assistance with rules and regulations with regard to the American Disabilities Act.



SSC staff members (l-r) Gloria Martin, Betty-Ware Wray. Dixie Aubrey, Chris Thompson and Pauline deLaar.

Office of Graduate Studies, Research, Sponsored Programs and Development

The Office of Graduate Programs, Research, Sponsored Programs and Development is looking forward to an interesting and eventful year. Graduate enrollments are increasing and faculty are offering more on-line and off-campus courses. The College has hired a graduate assistant, Paige Sutcliff, to help with recruitment, especially in the areas of undergraduate and alternative preparation. Our graduate alternative preparation options are being expanded to best meet the needs of individuals who wish to come back for teacher certification. Expect to see some major changes over the next year as we transition to more alternative, postbaccalaureate opportunities for future teachers.

This year will be a target year for Counselor Education and Educational Leadership programs as they work to meet Board of Regents' Principles, including our move toward CACREP accreditation for the Counselor Education Program. In addition, graduate programs are finalizing their assessment plans and preparing for NCATE and PSC accreditation review which is scheduled for Spring 2006.

We anticipate the adoption of a new, totally electronic application system for graduate admissions and will be working closely with the College of Graduate Studies and the Admissions Office on this project. The intent is to create a much more efficient and student-friendly admissions system for graduate students.

The College of Education has several sponsored programs in progress. Last year the College received over \$2.4 million in grants, including major support for the PRISM project (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics, a 5-year project funded by the National Science Foundation), a Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Educatioon (FIPSE) grant to support our Professional Development District with Screven County Schools, and an on-going Microsoft-AACTE software grant to support technology integration. Many of our COE faculty have been heavily engaged in these sponsored activities. The principal investigators are Dr. Gregory Chamblee, Dr. Elaine Gore, Dr. Diana Hammitte, Dr. Amy Heaston, Dr. Alice Hosticka, Dr. Stephanie Kenney, Ms. Betty Nelson, Dr. Kim Ruebel, and Dr. Marti Schriver. Of course, several other COE faculty have been involved in this work as well as numerous faculty from other Georgia Southern University colleges and partnering P-12 school

On the international front, Dr. Scott Beck and Dr. Kelly Tharpe, Principal of Julia P. Bryant Elementary School, have been working on the Xalapa project. This project is in collaboration with the University of Veracruz and is designed to bring teachers from the Xalapa, Mexico, region to Georgia to work in partnering schools while pursuing an M.Ed. degree at Georgia Southern. We expect to welcome our first Xalapa teachers to campus in January and/or June 2005. This will be the first step to faculty and teacher/student exchanges with the University of Veracruz and other international opportunities through our International Learning Community. Visit the ILC website at: http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/ ilc/index.html.

Dr. Reynolds Receives Jack Miller Award



Dr. William M. "Bill" Reynolds, professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, was presented the College of Education *Jack Miller Award for Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Activity* at the College's opening meeting on August 11. The award, established by Jack Miller who served as dean of the College from 1986 to 1991, recognizes a full-time faculty member in the College for significant accomplishments in scholarship activities during the previous three years.

Dr. Reynolds has been a teacher and researcher since 1975 and joined the faculty at Georgia Southern in 1997. He believes that "teaching and research are inextricably

linked" and his research has always been interconnected with his teaching. Noting that his research has been consistently qualitative and theoretical, he stated that his research is "concerned with the world in which our children live and with the education they receive."

Dr. Reynolds has authored, co-authored, or co-edited six books. Two of these books were completed in 2003: Curriculum: A River Runs Through It (Peter Lang) and Expanding Curriculum Theory Dis/positions and Lines of Flight (Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers). Another of his books, Understanding Curriculum: An Introduction to the Study of Historical and Contemporary Curriculum Discourses (Peter Lang), is the major text in the curriculum studies field. It has been reprinted five times (1996, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2004), is required in graduate curriculum studies programs across the country, is cited in numerous books and articles in the curriculum studies field, and in 2002 and 2003 was translated into Korean and a two-volume Chinese edition. Among his other works, Inside/Out Contemporary Critical Perspectives in Education (1994) was written for both foundations of education and curriculum studies. It received the Critics Choice Award for Outstanding Book given by the American Educational Studies Association in 1996.

In addition to his books, Dr. Reynolds has published chapters in edited books and nineteen articles in refereed journals. During his career, he has made numerous presentations at international, national and regional conferences. In November 2003, he was the keynote speaker for the Annual Conference of the Georgia Educational Research Association presenting "No Child Left Untested and Education Left Behind." This address focused on the No Child Left Behind legislation.

Previous recipients of a COE award are Amy Heaston (1994), Deborah Thomas (1995), Mike Richardson (1996), Dale Grant (1997), Wendy Chambers (1998), Marlynn Griffin (1999), Bud Pool (2000), Diane Zigo (2001), Susan Trimble (2002), and Ming Fang He (2003).



Parsons Provides FIPSE Leadership

Pat Parsons, (M.Ed. '78, Ed.S.'93), has been hired as the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Grant Project Director and began work in May 2004. This three-year, half-million dollar grant will address systemic causes for the gap in the academic performance between minority and non-minority students and between low SES (socioeconomic status)

Ms. Pat Parsons, Project Director minority students and between low SES (socioeconomic status) students and their more advantaged peers in the Screven County Professional Development District (PDD).

Since starting in this position, Ms. Parsons has guided the development of a timeline for addressing the goals of the grant, provided orientation for all stakeholders, and implemented the addition of instructional coaches at all four sites participating in this work. The instructional coaches are Carole Counts at Screven County Elementary, Gilda Rackley at Screven County Middle, Joyce Jamerson at Screven County High, and Terry Patton at Savannah River Challenge.

This grant has a professional development focus that will be addressed through professional learning communities throughout the PDD. The professional learning topics are: *Understanding the Framework of Poverty, Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Differentiated Instruction.* All faculty and administrators will be divided into expert groups that will attend workshops on one of the topics and return to their school to redeliver the content and develop an implementation plan for changes within each school. Other partnerships as well as College of Education faculty will be invited to participate in the professional learning workshops. If you would like additional information about this work, please contact Pat Parsons at pparsons@georgiasouthern.edu.

COE Students - Fall 2004

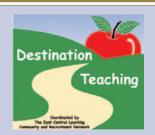
As of press time, a total of 1,615 undergraduate students are enrolled and working toward the Bachelor of Science in Education.

A total of 1,276 graduate students are enrolled and working on M.Ed., Ed.S. or Ed.D. degrees, certification or endorsements.

A Day on Campus With Teachers of Tomorrow

The 2nd annual program for future teachers will be held at Georgia Southern on November 10, 2004. High school students involved in Future Educator, Teacher Cadet, and Teacher Apprenticeship programs will be hosted on campus by the College of Education. The event will introduce the campus to many students and focus on the topic "We're Wild About Southern." For more information, contact Chris Thompson at cjthomp@georgiasouthern.edu or Paige Sutcliff at catherine_p_sutcliff@GeorgiaSouthern. edu.

DESTINATION TEACHING: Customized Pathways to Get You There



The Destination Teaching program is a federally funded Teacher Preparation Recruitment Initiative. The mandate of this program is to develop creative methods of training individuals to meet the standards for highly qualified teachers and to meet the teacher shortages in critical areas. The Destination Teaching program at Georgia Southern University includes two cohorts: Paraprofessional Track to Teaching and Career Path Changers. The Destination Teaching program is completing year two of a five-year grant.

The Paraprofessional Track to Teaching cohort is preparing to begin their two-year teacher education program at Georgia Southern University in Summer 2005. Eleven of fifteen participants will have earned their associate degree at East Georgia College. A similar paraprofessional cohort from the Dublin Center is working on their associate degree from Middle Georgia College. The cohorts will merge into one as they begin at Georgia Southern University. The coursework will be offered at East Georgia College and/or the Dublin Center. The College of Education's Special Education faculty is embracing this non-traditional format to train quality teachers for the special education field. Without their commitment, this paraprofessional program could not be successful.

The second Destination Teaching cohort, Career Path Changers, is comprised of persons entering teacher education from non-education degrees or careers. These individuals already hold at least a four-year degree. The design of this program meets the PSC-approved Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program. Ten participants completed their certification requirements in Spring 2004. Nine participants are in their second year of teaching as interns and will complete their certification requirements in Spring 2005. In Summer 2004, fourteen persons took the summer courses preparing them to be in the classroom in the fall.

We are pleased to offer these programs which allow entry to the teaching profession while upholding the academically challenging standards for which the College of Education is known. Susan Cason, Career Counselor/Project Coordinator, can be reached at (912) 486-7841 or by e-mail at scason@georgiasouthern.edu.

In Memory

Dr. John Adler Hulsey, Jr. Associate Professor Emeritus of Secondary Education

Dr. Hulsey died Friday, July 9, 2004, while visiting family in Millbrook, Alabama. He was a College of Education faculty member from 1970 to 1989 and served as Coordinator of the Coastal Area Teacher Education Service (CATES) and Outreach Services during that time

Dr. Cathy S. Jording Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership

Dr. Jording died Tuesday, August 31, 2004, at Owensboro Medical Health System. She was an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Technology and Human Development from 1999 to 2004. She taught in the Educational Leadership Program and served as coordinator of that program and as acting department chair during her tenure.

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Statesboro, Georgia

A Unit of the University System of Georgia Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution

Local Kappa Delta Pi Chapter Celebrates 53rd Year

The Georgia Southern University chapter (Eta Gamma) of Kappa Delta Pi is holding its Fall Initiation Ceremony on Sunday, September 19, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the College of Education Lecture Hall. Kappa Delta Pi, an International Honor Society in Education, is dedicated to honoring scholarship and excellence in education. The society offers many benefits to its members in addition to recognizing its members' scholarship. These benefits include its highly regarded publications, *The Education Forum, KDP Record,* and the *New Teacher Advocate*. Conferences, scholarships, and a variety of teacher resources are also available to its members. Many of these are designed to support members who are beginning teachers.

The Eta Gamma Chapter at Georgia Southern University is celebrating its 53rd year on the Georgia Southern campus. For many years the chapter focused its membership on graduate students and practicing educators. Now the chapter also encourages undergraduate students to join, recognizing the need to acknowledge their scholarship through membership in this honor society. Membership qualifications for the local chapter of Kappa Delta Pi include the following: Undergraduates—junior or senior standing with at least a 3.25 GPA; Graduates—GPA of 3.50 or higher and 12 or more graduate credit hours. The chapter counselor is Dr. Cordelia Zinskie and co-counselors are Dr. Susan Franks and Dr. Jennie Rakestraw.

For more information on this organization, please visit the website (www.kdp.org) or e-mail Dr. Cordelia Zinskie (czinskie@georgiasouthern.edu) with Kappa Delta Pi in the subject line.

Meet Dean Chance At Eagle Club Events



Pictured at the Jacksonville Eagle Club event April 29 are (l-r) Dean Cindi Chance, Kitty Masson Crawford (B.S.Ed. '97, M.Ed. '98) and Victoria Zwald, Department of Teaching and Learning.

2004

Friday, September 24 Georgia/Tennesse Valley Football Weekend

> Tuesday, November 9 Bulloch/GSU Basketball

2005

Tuesday, March 1—Atlanta Tailgate

Tuesday, March 15—Screven County

Thursday, March 31—Greater Augusta

Friday, April 22—Greater Savannah

Tuesday, May 10—National Capitol

Contact the Alumni Office at http://alumni.georgiasouthern.edu (912) 681-5691

Professors Who Have Made A Difference

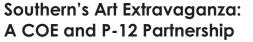
As I read the article "Professors Who Have Made A Difference" in the spring issue of Southern Educator, Dr. M. I. ElLaissi, a retired Georgia Southern professor, immediately came to my mind. I first met Dr. ElLaissi when I was an undergraduate student studying to teach secondary English. His classes were the toughest and most demanding I had encountered in the education department. After teaching for three years, I enrolled at Georgia Southern to work on my Master's of Education. Dr. ElLaissi was my advisor. While working toward my Master's and Education Specialist degrees, I took all of Dr. ElLaissi's courses and even some independent studies with him. I still remember how enlightened I became in my favorite class "Comparative Educational Thought." Since I had lived and taught only in Georgia, Dr. ElLaissi was able to open my eyes to different educational practices that took place around the world. At the time he was my professor, I didn't recognize how ahead of the times he was in cuttingedge educational thought. Now thirty years later I'm a graduate student again; I'm reading many of the same authors he assigned and even new authors who've adopted those same educational doctrines and philosophies I studied all those years ago. Dr. ElLaissi was always totally devoted to his students and to his profession. He instilled a love of language and teaching in me, and his enthusiasm for and dedication to education were contagious. Above all, he is a man of integrity. The lessons I learned from him many years ago continue to influence me as a teacher today.

—Lindy Mulligan Holloway (Ed.S. '86)

Dr. Jane Page was my advisor and dissertation chair as I pursued the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies at Georgia Southern University. Always a nurturing and caring individual, as well as a greatly respected scholar. Dr. Page inspired me to pursue excellence in my studies, in my writing, and in my teaching. Her ability to motivate, her expertise in the theory and practice of education, her sense of humor, and her loving nature definitely make her the very best type of mentor. I will always be grateful for Dr. Page's guidance, support, and friendship.

-William O. Lacefield, III (Ed.D. '99)

COE HOMECOMING EVENTS 2004



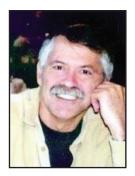
Gallery Opening 3-5pm, COE 2148 Sunday, October 10



Dedication of the Ollie Mae Jernigan Children's Literature Collection

11am, COE 2148 Monday, October 11

> Homecoming Lecture Series Author - Chris Crutcher 7pm, COE Lecture Hall Thursday, October 14



Welcome Tent at Gate 4

Paulson Stadium, 10am to kickoff Saturday, October 16



Barbecue Tailgate Meet the Deans of the University10am to kickoff, \$5.00 per plate
Paulson Stadium Tailgate Area
Saturday, October 16



SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

The Process of Change for One School

Change, truly, makes us feel how Linus feels when his blanket is in the dryer—a bit scared, a bit uncertain, and yet, change can bring about positive results for students.

Springfield Elementary School (SES) has made strategic changes to our instructional program over the last three years. SES focused on changes to the reading, math, and special education programs. I could write a book about all of the strategies we have implemented, but this brief article is about the change process.

As we engaged in this change process, I, as a principal, made many mistakes. However, while certainly not experts, we have learned some valuable lessons. A few of the more notable ones follow:

Know the current educational research.

An Educator's Perspective

- Find out what works in similar, successful schools.
- Pull all of your school's data and statistics together into one notebook or file and use it to drive your school's decisions.
- The principal must be one hundred percent involved and immersed in all change efforts. This may require a complete organizational change for a school's leadership team for this to occur.
- There must be a core group of believers.
- Take the time to talk to small groups of staff members about the reasons for change. Give staff time for questions and discussion.
- Accept that there will never be one hundred percent of the staff on board when your train leaves the station. Some staff members may move on.
- If your leadership team is not committed, then wait. Change will not work without passion.
- Change is best implemented in the way we now prescribe professional development: teach one skill; practice one skill.
- Administrators must inspect what we expect. Teachers want and need feedback. Teachers are working hard in their individual classrooms, mostly behind closed doors, and they need support and encouragement to make effective changes.
- Parents need to know about changes.
- Change can be and is painful. When schools change, traditions change.
 Try and preserve the essence of your school's history and identity.
- Every change you make in a school affects something else.
- There are many ways to approach school improvement. Choose yours and stick with it.

Effective change requires outside help. As school personnel, we tend to develop tunnel vision. Our school benefited in numerous ways from the staff at Georgia Southern University and the First District Regional Educational Services Agency (RESA). Both institutions helped us to narrow our focus.

Change has been most difficult for our classroom teachers and paraprofessionals because of the pressures they already face on a daily basis. Those individuals are the **true heroes** of our school's story of growth.

Dayle Weinkauf Burns, B.S.Ed. '76, M.Ed. '84, Ed.S. '90 Principal, Springfield Elementary School Effingham County Schools

Art Educator Develops Young Rembrandts, Picassos and Monets



Dabney Edenfield is pictured with the mural she painted for Sallie Zetterower Elementary School.

A nationally certified art educator, Dabney Edenfield (M.S.T. '90) has lent her time and talent to the College of Education to develop a master plan to showcase student artwork from Georgia Southern University's P-12 partners in the public schools

In February 2004, the COE's Alumni Advisory Board decided to bring student artwork to the Education building. Board

member Martha Cobb (Ed.S. '91) suggested inviting a colleague at Swainsboro High School to provide guidance and help bring the idea to fruition. Ms. Edenfield agreed to provide leadership for the project and with her characteristic high energy and enthusiasm has helped make the plan a reality. *Southern's Art Extravaganza* will open on Sunday, October 10, 2004, from 3:00-5:00p.m. in the College of Education classroom building.

During her career, Ms. Edenfield's students have created artwork that has been chosen for exhibition in various venues including the Capitol Art Exhibit, Georgia National State Fair, Georgia Farm Bureau, Canoochee River Design, and Georgia Manufacturing contests. In addition to teaching art, she is actively involved in the fabric of her school as a member of the Design Team for School Improvement. She is also involved in her community with development of the Swainsboro Children's Community Outreach Art Program.

Recognition of her teaching accomplishments include Swainsboro Star Teacher (2003), Swainsboro High School Student Council Teacher of the Year (2001), Swainsboro High School Teacher of the Year (1997), and Swainsboro Star Teacher (1996). These awards reflect the passion Ms. Edenfield has for the teaching profession. The College of Education gratefully acknowledges Ms. Edenfield's commitment to a continued relationship with Georgia Southern University.

Superintendent Michael Moore Named Georgia's Top School Administrator



Dr. Michael Moore (B.S.Ed. '73, M.Ed. '75, Ed.S. '80) began teaching at Effingham County High School in the fall of 1973. His third year at ECHS he was appointed assistant principal. Then, opting to seek what was an elective office, Moore ran for and won the job as superintendent of schools. He is now the longest-serving superintendent of schools in the state—more than 27 years.

"Upon learning that I was named 2005 Superintendent of the Year, I, of course, was very happy and yet, I was very humbled," he said. "I also feel that I share this award with my family, the Board of Education, my staff and especially the people of this county, because being successful as a superintendent requires support and commitment

from each of these groups. I have had a wonderful career as superintendent, and I believe that a career in any field of education is very worthwhile and meaningful," he added.

Georgia Southern University provided Moore with a strong foundation for his education career. He returned to complete his M.Ed. in school administration and supervision in 1975 and his Ed.S. in 1980. "I am very proud of the education that I received from Georgia Southern and it has served me well," he said. "It adequately prepared me for my chosen profession—teaching high school mathematics and school administration. I feel that I could not have been successful at either without the outstanding preparation that I received."

Chase Puckett Named 2005 Georgia Teacher of the Year

"No boundaries" is not just an old advertising slogan to Georgia Teacher of the Year Chase Puckett.

It is how he wants his students to view their futures. "I hope my students—regardless of background experiences, personal challenges, or future obstacles—will leave my classroom with a feeling of optimism and mutual respect for each other and themselves," said Puckett (B.S.Ed. '97, M.Ed. '01). "I want them to take the knowledge and skills learned in my classroom and couple them with a belief that they can succeed and go further in life than maybe they would have ever imagined before entering my classroom.



Puckett recently completed his sixth year teaching eighth-grade language arts and reading at Screven County Middle School in Sylvania, Georgia. "On my hall alone, I teach alongside several nationally certified teachers, a former Teacher-of-the-Year finalist and some of the most experienced and dedicated teachers."

Over the next year, Puckett will be on a year's sabbatical as a representative for Georgia's more than 100,000 teachers. He will be serving on committees, presenting at state conferences and working with other teachers in workshop settings. "My overriding priorities are to promote the issues and needs relevant to teachers in Georgia, build greater avenues for communication between schools and community organizations across the state, and emphasize the need for mentors and role models for students. I also want to raise the level of awareness in the community and across the state for the overwhelming, underpaid and often underappreciated miracles that teachers are working day in and day out," he said.

Southern Educator Class Roll

1954

Janice Simmons Chastain (B.S.Ed.) has been married 49 years with three children. She taught elementary, homebound and hearing impaired children for 30 years, covering areas in Albany, Athens and Homerville, Georgia. Her husband was the Middle School Assistant Principal in Albany. She earned her Master's degree at the University of Georgia and homebound certification from Georgia State University. Presently she is enjoying a wonderful life of retirement

1955

Parah Lee Joiner (B.S.Ed. Elementary Education) taught school for 36 years. She worked as a substitute teacher in Wheeler County, her home county, for 10 years after that. She resides in an assisted living home in Mt. Vernon, Georgia after having some problems with her muscles and knees.

1965

Daphne Ann Chambless (B.S.Ed. Elementary Education) is retired from the Department of Family and Children Services. She is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association for Georgia Southwestern University in Americus, Georgia.

1967

J. Charles Greene (M.Ed. Social Science Education) resides in Leesburg, Georgia. He worked at Valdosta High School, Kansas State University and Stephens County High School. At Central Thomasville he was the head football coach and athletic director. He retired in 1993 and began working at Brookwood, a private school in Thomasville, as the assistant coach for girls basketball and the athletic director in 1996. Charles also ran for State Senate (Republican). Currently he is the head football coach at Westwood High School in Camilla, Georgia.

1973

Dolores Stokes Minshew (B.S.Ed. Exceptional Child) taught a self-contained EMR class in Albany, Georgia for two years. She received her M.Ed. in Learning Disabilities at Valdosta State University. She also taught LD/BD Resource for five years in public school, two years in Christian School and third, fourth and fifth grade regular education classes. She stayed home for eight years to raise her four daughters. Currently she is employed as an early intervention specialist at Babies Can't Wait in Valdosta, Georgia.

1974

Rebecca Morgan Dorminey (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education) received her Masters degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern University. She completed 29 years of teaching, 25 of those years in Cordele, Georgia, her hometown. Rebecca fell at school last year which resulted in rods, bolts and screws to rework the lower three discs in her spine. She has applied for Disability Teacher Retirement.

1975

James L. Henry (B.S.Ed. '68, M.Ed. '72, Ed.S. '75) taught high school math for three years and was the principal of Jenkins County Elementary School for 28 years. He retired in 1999. In 2003 he was elected to the Jenkins County Commission and was elected chairperson in 2004.

1981

Susan P. McInarnay (B.S.Ed. Special Education) earned her Masters from the University of North Florida in 1982. She is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher (2002) and has been listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers (2004). Susan has been teaching special education in Clay County, Florida for the past 23 years. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

1987

Scott Newbern (B.S.Ed. Trade & Industry) works as a machinist and heavy equipment operator. He resides in Brunswick, Georgia.

Angela Smith Roberts (B.S. Biology '83, M.Ed. '85, Ed.S. '87 Science Education) teaches anatomy and biology at Camden County High School. She is presently working on her doctorate degree in education through the University of Sarasota (Argosy University).

1988

Louie Edmund Bond (B.S.Ed. Trade &Industry Education, '87, M.Ed. Adult & Vocational Education, '88) taught at Brunswick College from 1981 through 1983. He was employed by General Motors from 1984 through 1988. From 1989 through 2000 he taught at Gwinnett Tech. Currently he is an adjunct instructor of electrical construction and maintenance at Ogeechee Technical College and a retired Georgia teacher.

Twyla Humphrey Preising (B.S.Ed '83, M.S.T. '84, Ed. S. '88 Social Science Education) taught social studies in Callahan, Florida for 15 years and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona and taught for five more years. She currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

1996

Anthony Pack (M.Ed. Administration & Supervision) was an assistant principal from July 1997 through June 2001. He worked with the Georgia Department of Education/Northwest Georgia RESA from July 2001 through March 2004 with school improvement as Georgia's Choice Math Specialist and Team Leader. In March 2004 he became the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Middle and High Schools for the Liberty County Board of Education.

Rickey Bernard Weston (B.S.Ed. Social Science Education) is teaching at Greenville High School in Greenville, Georgia. He is also the assistant basketball coach, with a record of: Georgia AA Sweet Sixteen 2002 (29-4), Georgia AA Sweet Sixteen 2003 (15-14) and Georgia AA Elite Eight 2004–Region 4-AA Champions (25-5).

1997

Ileka Leaks (M.Ed. Counselor Education) worked as a mental health therapist for 1-1/2 years. She currently is working for a small liberal arts college as the Director of Career Services. She resides in Boiling Springs, South Carolina.

Adrienne D. Mayfield (B.S.Ed. English Education) taught high school English for six years and was an assistant principal at a middle school. She also has taught English at a technical college. Currently she resides in Hartwell, Georgia.

1998

Christy Cox Casher (B.S.Ed. English Education) received her M.Ed. from Cambridge College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She taught for five years at the Academy of Richmond County High School in Augusta where she was the 2002 Teacher of the Year. In 2003 she earned National Board Certification in Adolescent Young Adulthood & English Language Arts. Christy is currently teaching English at Pacelli Catholic High School in Columbus, Georgia.

Shawna M. Harlin-Cliffon (M.Ed. Community Counseling) is working as a therapist with children and adolescents at Gateway CSB in Savannah, Georgia. Currently she is the site manager providing services for over 600 consumers. Shawna is attending Walden University and working on her Ph.D. She is married and has one son.

1999

Jennifer Sherrod (B.S.Ed. Special Education) is teaching at Southeast Bulloch High School in Brooklet, Georgia. She resides in Statesboro, Georgia.

Julie McMurrain Watkins (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education) resides in Wrens, Georgia and is teaching at a local elementary school.

Vanessa Youmans Wilkes (B.S.Ed. Health & PE) taught Health and PE at Swainsboro High School for one year before moving to Athens where she taught Pre-K for two years. She married Wes Wilkes ('99) and resides in Swainsboro. She is currently teaching special education at Swainsboro High School.

2000

Heather Fowlie Chamberlain (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education) married her high school sweetheart Justin and moved to Rutledge, Georgia. She taught first grade for two years in Covington, Georgia. Their daughter McCall was born in August, 2002. Heather has quit teaching to be a stay-athome mom

Jenny Kea (Certification-Social Science Education) is currently teaching honors world geography and U.S. History at Coffee County High School in Douglas, Georgia. She is working towards completion of her gifted certification and her Master's degree through Nova University.

Heather Autumn O'Neal (B.S.Ed. Interrelated Special Education) started teaching at Cherokee Ridge Elementary in Chickamauga, Georgia in August 2003. In February 2003 Heather became an Educational Diagnostician in Walker County. She resides in Ringgold, Georgia.

2001

Ellen Loraditch Hotchkiss (B.S.Ed. '97, M.Ed. '01, Learning Disabilities) taught one year at Middle Ridge Elementary in Covington, Georgia and then taught one year at Claxton Middle School. For the past five years she has been at Greenbrier High School. All of her positions have been as the interrelated resource teacher. Ellen has two children, Daniel (2002) and Tess (2004).

Josephine Johnson Harrison (B.S.Ed. Middle Grades Education) has worked for the McCormick County School System, Greenwood County Corrections as a counselor. Currently she is employed at the Greenwood County Department of Social Services as a Human Service Specialist II in Child Protective Services. Josephine plans to go to graduate school. She resides in Plum Branch, South Carolina.

2002

Susan Moore Frawley (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education) is teaching first grade at Sallie Zetterower Elementary School in Statesboro, Georgia.

Rebecca Howell Griffin (B.S.Ed. Mathematics Education) has completed her second year at Wayne County High School teaching geometry in Jesup, Georgia. As a graduation treat, Rebecca and her husband traveled to Europe for three weeks visiting friends in Denmark, England and Sweden. She resides in Blackshear, Georgia, with her husband and daughter, Natalee Jasmine.

2003

Melanie Walden (B.S.Ed. Business Education) has been a long-term substitute at Johnson County Middle School. She also is teaching baton-twirling classes.

2004

Annie Burton Colaluca (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood Education) is residing in Boulder, Colorado with her husband. Annie writes, "Colorado happens to be one of two states that does NOT have a teacher job shortage so I have worked this year as a substitute teacher. What an experience it was to work as a sub!" She and her husband have been living the "outdoor life" of skiing and hiking. In September they had their first child-a white Jack Russell Terrier, named Hunter.

Heather Roach (M. Ed. Counselor Education) is a full time counselor at R.W. Groves High School, after seven years of teaching science at the same school. She resides in Savannah, Georgia.





Dr. Chris Garretson (M.Ed. '89, Ed.S. '97 and Ed.D. '03), principal at Snelson-Golden Middle School in Liberty County, spent the day on the roof of SGMS with two assistant principals and the Language Arts Department Head when SGMS students read over 6,000 Accelerated Reader Books earning over 25,000 points.

International Study Opportunity



Jessica Warnock and Dana Lewis

Georgia Southern University offers many great opportunities for students, and one such opportunity is the International Study Opportunity (ISO) offered by the College of Education. When we heard about the possibility of completing part of our student teaching in London, England, we were immediately interested. In order to be eligible to take part in the ISO experience, we were required to complete an application, go through an interview process, and fulfill our responsibilities of student teaching. While in Georgia, we taught for eight weeks in a public school to satisfy the requirements to be eligible for certification in Georgia. The remainder of the semester was occupied with teaching in England and completing presentations for peers, faculty, students, and community leaders upon our return home from teaching abroad.

Throughout the entire month of March, we were in London, England. During this experience, we were placed in a secondary school setting with students ranging from ages 11-18. We each spent our time completing observations, assisting teachers, and teaching lessons in the school. We learned a great deal about the British education system and how it compares to the system in the United States. We were exposed to a variety of cultures, behaviors, and situations that have enhanced our knowledge and preparation to enter the field of education. This experience helped us grow not only as educators, but as individuals as well. Our participation in the ISO program gave us an opportunity to meet new people, boost our confidence, and develop teaching skills such as classroom management.

Although teaching was our main concentration, who could go to London without touring the city? After school and on the weekends, we saw several famous landmarks including Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's Cathedral,

and much more. We even had the opportunity to spend a weekend in Paris, France! The adventures of sightseeing combined with the teaching experience created a once in a lifetime opportunity as well as memories never to be forgotten. The deadline for ISO Applications (available in the Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education) is October 1, 2004.

–Jessica Warnock (B.S.Ed., May '04) and Dana Lewis (B.S.Ed., expected December '04)

Welcome New Faculty/Staff



Dr. Meta Y. Harris was appointed as Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development beginning

Fall 2004. During the previous year, she taught at Georgia Southern as a temporary assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Dr. Harris earned her Ph.D. in Sociology: Women's Studies ('03) at The University of Manchester, Manchester, England, and she holds the Ed.D. in Administration of Higher Education ('94) from The University of Alabama. Her other degrees are the M.A. in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages ('98) from The American University, Washington, D.C.; the M.A. in Women's Studies ('92) from The University of Alabama; and the B.A. in Print Journalism ('74) from Howard University. Among her publications and presentations is "Why Are Black Women Still Asking, 'Ain't I a Woman?' in the 21st Century? Locating Black Women in the US," presented at the Southeast Regional Women's Studies Association Conference, March 2004.

Niki Knight is the Administrative Assistant in the College of Education's Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education. Ms. Knight has worked on



campus since 1997, most recently as an administrative assistant in the Office of Admissions. Among the many duties in her COE position, she works with student teaching applications, field experience placements and assists the Interim Director of Field Experiences and Partnerships. She also provides services as a notary public.



Dr. Fayth Parks, who has been a temporary assistant professor for two years in the College's Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, was appointed as Assistant

Professor of Counselor Education effective August 1, 2004. Dr. Parks received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology ('96) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and both an M.S. in Student Personnel Services and Counseling ('80) and the B.A. in Psychology ('77) from Upsala College in East

Orange, New Jersey. She has many years of experience working as a clinical counselor and, prior to joining Georgia Southern's faculty in 2002, was Counseling Psychologist and Outreach Coordinator for the Counseling and Human Development Center at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Her research interests include mental health, folk idioms, spirituality, cultural competency in counselor education, and student services in higher education.



Ms. Michelle Rivera became Instructional Services Coordinator for the Instructional Resources Center (IRC) effective July 1, 2004. She holds a B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood

Education ('99) and the M.Ed. in Instructional Technology ('04) from Georgia Southern. Ms. Rivera served as interim coordinator of the IRC from April through June 2004.

Dr. Dana Sparkman joined the Department of Teaching and Learning as Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education in Fall 2004. She holds a Ph.D. in Elementary Education from the

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University of Alabama ('04), an M.S. in Special Education from Syracuse University ('89) and the B.S. in Special Education from the University of North Alabama ('88). Dr. Sparkman has experience teaching at the university level as well as in elementary and high schools. Her dissertation was a qualitative study that examined the mathematics instruction in two special education resource classrooms, and the special education teacher's implementation of the recommendations made by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Principles and Standards for School Mathematics (2000). Her current research interests focus on elementary mathematics and also the student teaching internship experience.



Faculty/Staff Retirements

Ms. Elizabeth Brannen retired March 1, 2004, after working in the College for 17 years. She served as Administrative Assistant in the Office of Undergraduate Education (formerly the Office of School and Community Relations) working with student teachers and internship placements.

Dr. Cathy Jording retired in May 2004 having served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development (LTHD) since 1999. During her tenure, Dr. Jording provided leadership as coordinator of the Educational Leadership Program and for two years served as Acting Chair for the LTHD department.

Mr. Paul Moller (B.S.Ed. '74, M.Ed. '79), retired at the end of spring semester 2004. Mr. Moller joined the faculty in 1993 as Instructor of Early Childhood Education and Reading. Prior to that appointment in what is now the Department of Teaching and Learning, he had been an elementary teacher in the University's Marvin Pittman Laboratory School.

Zip