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education news & events

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE DSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



The dedication of the Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research. **Dr. Lynn Varner**, Division Chair (left); **Senator Thad Cochran** (center); and **Dr. John Hilpert**, Delta State President (right), at the dedication ceremony.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

At the May 2007 graduation, there were fifty-one Teacher Education graduates, and eight candidates graduated cum laude. Four were summa cum laude, and four graduated magna cum laude.

Enrollment in the Division of Family and Consumer Sciences increased 36% during the year.

The Elementary Education Program earned national recognition from the Association for Childhood Education International.

Since 2004, the number of faculty presenting at state, regional, and national conferences has more than doubled, and the number of publications by COE faculty has also more than doubled.

The Teacher Retention Initiative, funded by a Delta Health Initiative grant, provided support to beginning teachers and their mentors in school districts served by the Delta Area Association for the Improvement of Schools.

Plans are underway for the formation of a COE alumni constituency group. If you are interested in helping support and guide this group, please contact Dr. Leslie Griffin at 662-846-4400 or lgriffin@deltastate.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS

--**Dr. Leslie Griffin** is now serving as the Dean of the College of Education.

--**Dr. Jan Haynes** was selected by the DSU Panhellenic Council as the DSU Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year.

FOND FAREWELL

--**Dr. Duke Barnes**, who is retiring from his position as Division Chair of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. **Dr. Tim Colbert** will act as the Interim Division Chair.

Delta State University Health Challenge to begin in August 2007; contact Dr. John Alvarez to sign up.

COE FACULTY NEWS

UPWARD MOTION

Dr. Jenetta Waddell is the new Chair of Teacher Ed. and Director of Assessment. Dr. Waddell served as a teacher and administrator in the Alabama Public Schools for 29 years; she has been at DSU for four years.

Dr. Corlis Snow will serve as Program Coordinator for the Undergraduate and Graduate Elem. Ed. Programs. Dr. Snow has been a faculty member for six years.

Dr. Cheryl Cummins has been named the Director of Field Experiences. A former elementary teacher for eight years in the Mississippi public schools, Dr. Cummins has been a part of the DSU family for ten years.

Left: **Dr. Scott Hutchens**

(pictured with his wife, Beth) is the recipient of the 2007 *S. E. Kossman Outstanding Faculty Award*.



SERVING OTHERS:

Dr. Tommy Taylor, Associate Prof. of Child Development, served in a position appointed by Governor Barbour on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee for Mississippi.

Ms. Leigh-Anne Gant, Instructor of Child Development, organized the second annual DSU A – Z Early Childhood Conference.

Dr. Cam McMillen, Asst. Prof. of Family & Consumer Sciences, collaborated with a DSU staff member and received a \$1000 grant from the Dreyfus Health Foundation to work with preschoolers on healthy snacks.

Dr. Milton Wilder, Prof. of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and **Dr. John Alvarez**, Associate Prof. in the same division, are currently consulting with Sunflower County Schools dealing with the assessment of health-related fitness.



CONGRATULATIONS

Above: Dr. Katherine Davis, PhD, RD (left), was recently selected *Outstanding Dietitian 2007* for the state of Mississippi. Dr. Davis currently serves as Assistant Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics and Director of the Coordinated Undergraduate Program in Dietetics in the Division of Family & Consumer Sciences at Delta State University. She is a founder and faithful organizer of the Twin Lakes Diabetes Camp for Children in Florence, MS.

NEW FACES IN THE FACULTY:

Dianne Thomas, a long-time adjunct instructor in Elementary Education, joins the full-time faculty as an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education. Ms. Thomas formerly served as an elementary teacher at Sherard Elementary in Coahoma County; she is completing her Doctor of Education degree at Delta State this summer.

Anjanette Powers joins the faculty as Instructor in Teacher Education and Assessment Coordinator. She received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in elementary education from Delta State. Ms. Powers formerly served as a teacher at Heidelberg Elementary in Clarksdale.

Alan Heines will be an Instructor in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division. He is currently completing his doctorate degree at the University of Southern Mississippi.

THE FITNESS FRONT

The Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation has entered into a partnership with the Cleveland School District to help facilitate a model comprehensive physical education program over the next three years. The partnership is part of a federal grant, Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant, which the Cleveland School District wrote in conjunction with division faculty.

COE STUDENT AND CAMPUS NEWS

Right: Anne McGraw (right), senior fashion merchandising major from Greenville, recently won first place in the Mohair Category of the Dallas Fashion Career Day Apparel Design Competition sponsored by Fashion Group International. Anne is pictured with **Dr. Jan Haynes**, DSU Professor of Fashion Merchandising and Chair of the Division of Family & Consumer Sciences, who was voted President-Elect of the MS Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.



The photos **below** show Teacher Education candidates working diligently on projects with local students and Master of Education candidates working with a multi-age group of area children as part of a practicum course.



A JOB WELL DONE

At the Mid-South Psychology Conference in Memphis, DSU undergraduate psychology students presented five research papers, and out of the 20 papers judged at the competition, the Delta State students won second place.



Above right: Cohort X began their Master's Program in Educational Leadership on June 1, 2007. The members are: Stephen Atkins, Mary Blalack, Paul Chrestman, Allyson Killough, Mary Leson, Joe Lordi, Julius Lucas, Tina Manning, Byron Sharp, Jeff Smallwood, Chris Stafford, Janie Stafford, Rick Townsend, and Sawanda Washington.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

In the 1990s, educators in the Delta led by Dr. E. E. Caston studied educational leadership programs throughout the country and reviewed research concerning successful educational leadership. The product of their research was a massive shift in the educational paradigm from a part-time traditional program to a full-time program spanning fourteen months in which a cohort participates in intensive internships and problem-based learning.

Delta State University's Master's Level Educational Leadership Program has been nationally recognized by Stanford University as one of the **top eight educational leadership programs in the country**. The study funded by the Wallace Foundation began in 2004 and was recently released. The study can be accessed at <http://seli.stanford.edu/research/sls.htm>. Since the program's inception in 1998, nine cohorts have successfully completed the program and have been licensed as school administrators in Mississippi.

Growing a Healthier Delta One Child at a Time: The Literacy Enhancement Clinic



Under the direction of the program coordinator, Dr. Corlis Snow, the Literacy Enhancement Clinic (LEC) has successfully and positively impacted and promoted the literacy skills of the students who have thus far been served. Overall, a total of 36, K-10th grade students from five counties in the Delta area received diagnostic assessments, which resulted in individualized instruction in a one-on-one setting. All of the students also engaged in health-related experiences via guest speakers and health-related partnerships.

In addition to working with children, the LEC also offers professional development opportunities for teachers. This past spring teachers were able to engage in professional development in the following areas: improving literacy skills with nonfiction text, improving student achievement, and community wellness. The LEC focuses on both literacy and wellness as it is a Delta Health Initiative Project funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. By addressing both health and literacy, the LEC equips students with the ability to make positive lifestyle choices.

SERVING OTHERS:

- The *Literacy Across the Curriculum: Institute for Grades 5 – 12*, funded by an IHL grant, provided area teachers with coursework to obtain *No Child Left Behind* highly qualified status.
- Service to the immediate community was expanded through the development of the Literacy Enhancement Clinic, which provided clinical experiences for teacher candidates and diagnostic and remedial assistance to P-12 students.
- Students in Child Development and Nutrition/Dietetics developed Healthy Toolkits as a service learning aspect of FCS 444 Child Nutrition and distributed them to the elementary school teachers.