

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ACADEMIC ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2006-2007

I. Unit Title: College of Arts and Sciences

Unit Administrator: Collier Parker, Dean

II. Data and information for department

2006-2007 Bulletin

DSU Website <http://www.deltastate.edu>

III. Departments/Divisions/Institutes/Centers

Department of Art, Bill Lester, Chair

Division of Biological and Physical Sciences, John Tiftickjian, Chair

Center for Geospatial Information Technologies, Talbot Brooks, Director

Delta Music Institute, Tricia Walker, Director

Department of History, Bo Morgan, Chair

Division of Languages and Literature, Bill Hays, Chair

Department of Mathematics, Rose Strahan, Chair

Department of Music, David Schubert, Chair

Division of Social Sciences, Albert Nylander, Chair

Department of Social Work, Alinda Sledge, Chair

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Gloria Brister, Chair

The mission of the College of Arts and Sciences is to provide learning opportunities, in which students may increase knowledge, develop creativity, communication skills, critical thinking, and problem solving abilities; and deepen their understanding of themselves, their society, and the environment. Through programs in the humanities, fine arts, mathematics, social sciences, and natural sciences, students are prepared to demonstrate competence in their chosen fields of study. Additionally, the College provides a strong liberal arts foundation for all degree programs through the general education core, defining for society what it means to be an educated person.

Majors in the College of Arts and Sciences may earn the **Bachelor of Arts** degree, the **Bachelor of Science** degree, the **Bachelor of Science in Education** degree, the **Bachelor of Fine Arts** degree, the **Bachelor of Music** degree, the **Bachelor of Music Education** degree, the **Bachelor of Social Work** degree, the **Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice** degree, and the **Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies** degree. Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Education degree for the Secondary School Teacher in the subject areas offered by the College of Arts and Sciences are considered as majors in their respective departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Paper copies of the reports providing data on goals, performance results, assessment of performance, and use of the assessment data in planning for each of the major functions

within the various departments and divisions are available in the Institutional Research and Planning office and on-line at the IR&P web-site.

Planning and assessment within the College takes place at the department/division level. Each department/division has standing committees that meet regularly to evaluate curriculum, assessment procedures, and make recommendations for program improvement. The committees rely on a variety of assessment methods including portfolio reviews, standardized tests, exit exams, minimum grade requirements in pre-requisite courses, student evaluations, capstone courses, employer surveys, and PRAXIS scores as ways of measuring performance. Department committees use the results of these assessment methods to make recommendations for improvement. Recommendations that include curriculum changes and new or revised courses are submitted to the Academic Council for review and approval after endorsement by the department faculty.

The College dean convenes a Council of Chairs each month to discuss departmental issues and directions as they relate to the college and university. Information and decisions made by the Council are passed to departments by the chairs for consideration and action.

Several departments are accredited by discipline specific accrediting agencies. The Department of Art is in good standing with the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and is scheduled for re-accreditation in 2008-09. The Department of Music is in good standing with the National Association of Schools of Music. The Division of Biological and Physical Sciences has been continuously accredited by the American Chemical Society since 1979. The Social Work program was granted re-affirmation of accreditation for eight years with no contingencies. All of the programs that offer teacher education training are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

IV. Curriculum Changes and improvements as a result of Planning and Assessment. Some Examples:

- Art – Based on feedback from the student art show juror/visiting artist the department made several facilities improvements including a new projection system in the gallery, an improved critique area, and eight new individual painting cubicles for thesis students. Other upgrades include a courtyard cover and bronze-casting facility equipment.
- Biology and Physical Sciences – Based on results from a senior exam the curriculum committee has recommended changes to the first year biology sequence designed to introduce majors to core concepts in a more cohesive way.
- History – Developed an examination for U.S. history since 1865 and administered to all students in upper level history in the spring of 2007. Results were disappointing and the curriculum committee recommended a similar assessment instrument for U.S. history to 1865.

- History – Reviews of history major portfolios resulted in the construction of a standard departmental rubric for assessment of portfolio material and development of uniform procedures for maintaining portfolios that will facilitate both more reliable assessment of individual student progress over time.
- Languages and Literature – Based on reviews of student portfolios the number and type of essays in the portfolio will be increased to reflect a more comprehensive view of student skill level and the rubric used for this process is being revised to reflect more comprehensive NCTE standards.
- Mathematics – General Education: Gives a final exam to determine student mastery of basic knowledge of college algebra topics. The exam is analyzed each semester and revised to make it reflect more specific content knowledge. Low scores and poor content mastery have led to the adoption of a new text book and a new approach to teaching college algebra using a computer component to help enable students to learn the concepts.
- Music- A review of the B.A. music core coursework led to a plan to include a final project such as a recital, lecture/recital, or portfolio in the senior year.
- Music – B.M.E.: MDE assessments of first year teachers led to the implementation of a plan to place MUS 388 students in area elementary music classrooms to complete 7 hours of observation and field experience prior to student teaching.
- Social Science– Assessment of student portfolios led to the creation of an Assessment Course (SSC 499) to monitor student progress from introductory courses through the upper-level courses.
- Social Science – B.S.E.: Added a new special program area student teacher evaluation for the NCSS that assesses Candidate learning for teaching learning and planning.
- Social Work- Have begun administering the BEAP National Standardized sixteen page test to assess the department’s first learning outcome – “students should be able to apply the values of the social work profession with an understanding of and respect for the positive values of diversity.” Results will be available in Summer 2007.
- Speech and Hearing – The text for Neuroanatomy was changed to focus on neurologic functioning directly related to Speech-Language Pathology.

V. Major Accomplishments:

- There were no fewer than 60 publications and presentations state and nation wide by A&S faculty
- A&S faculty chaired faculty development events like the ROMEA and Arts in April programs
- 1 state award recognition
- 4 Faculty prize awards
- 18 faculty participated in the “Research and Scholarship Symposium,”
- In 2006-07 over \$1.2 million dollars were raised through grant efforts such as the \$95,000 IHL grant for the math department “Algebra and Geometry

Institute,” \$600,000 grant for GIS software as well as \$200,000 in private support for the Excellence in Science fund.

- After a year of planning by faculty and architects and 14 months of construction the renovation of Kethley Hall was complete in August 2007 in time for the fall semester. The renovated building has state of the art “smart classrooms” student engagement areas, a GIS technology suite, and larger faculty offices.
- Faculty, architects and lab design specialists are finalizing the plan to completely renovate the math and science building, Caylor/White/Walters. This building will have state of the art modular labs, smart classrooms, and other improvements to help serve the next generation of math and science students. Funding for this project has become DSU’s top priority.
- The Art department held the second International Delta Film and Video Festival. Festival was advertised internationally and included submissions from several US states and from around the world including France, Germany, and Australia thus raising the profile of the DSU Art Department.