

# College of Education News & Notes

January Issue

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## Message from the Dean

### College of Education Faculty, Staff, and Friends:

Welcome Back! I hope that you all had a nice holiday break and enjoyed your time off.

This semester has started off with a bang! We launched our new online scholarship application and evaluation process, and we already have 271 students who have entered the site and started to apply for scholarships!



The fact that we have so many applications documents that it is getting harder for our students to afford college. In fact, we know that lack of funds-and not grades-is the number one reason we are losing students at ECU. To better position ourselves for the future, we need to retain our current students by providing scholarships, honor the wishes of our donors when selecting recipients, and prove to prospective donors that many of our students are in need of financial assistance.

Thanks so much to all of you who have agreed to serve on a scholarship committee. This is very important work!

Hats off to all COE faculty and staff for a great fall semester. Let's have an even better spring semester!

— *Dr. Linda Patriarca, Dean*

## Upcoming Events

### **Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference**

The 2012 Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference (MLS Conference) is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the City Hotel & Bistro in Greenville, N.C. This year's event represents our 30th anniversary conference! This day-long conference promises to offer an excellent keynote speaker and engaging concurrent sessions on a variety of literacy-related topics. Contact Kathy Misulis at [misulisk@ecu.edu](mailto:misulisk@ecu.edu) for more information.

### **Third Annual University Awards Day/Founders Day Celebration**

The Third Annual University Awards Day/Founders Day Celebration will take place on April 25, 2012. The celebration honors and recognizes outstanding faculty, staff and students with the university's top awards for teaching, research, service, scholarship of engagement and leadership. The event will begin at 9 a.m. in Hendrix Theatre with a reception to follow. If you have not attended, it is a great opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of your university colleagues.

## Announcements

### **East Carolina University was SECOND in the NATION with 118 newly certified teachers**

North Carolina leads the nation in National Board Certification of teachers—accounting for nearly 20% of all newly board certified teachers in 2011. Nationwide there are 97,291 teachers who have gone through this process. In 2011, 6,266 teachers and counselors received National Board Certification. For the first time ever, the organization revealed the top 50 public and private institutions leading the nation in the largest number of alumni who are newly certified. East Carolina University was second in the nation with 118 newly certified teachers. This is one measure of the quality of our graduates and their dedication to the profession. [To read more...](#)

### **The ECU Teacher Network**

The Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education is now providing an ECU Teacher Network (TechNet) which is an online collaboration system for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and STEM Based AP teachers from across the eastern region to collaborate on content, resources, pedagogy, and lesson plans, as well as to communicate professional development needs and questions for the University. Using advanced social networking technology, file sharing and professional learning communities, this innovative system is designed to reduce duplication of effort and ensure that every teacher has access to the content and materials that they need to be successful. Teacher and content specialists can register for TechNet absolutely free online at [teachnet.ecu.edu](http://teachnet.ecu.edu) to begin to access the wealth of resources currently available.

## The History Educator – The History Education Graduate Research Consortium at ECU

Dr. Allen Guidry (History Education) and Dr. Larry Tise (Wilbur and Orville Wright Distinguished Professor in History) launched "The History Educator – The History Education Graduate Research Consortium at East Carolina University." This collaborative endeavor is an attempt to provide an outlet for sharing and generating discourse around creative historical research and contributive action research in history education. The consortium will hopefully serve as a source of scholarship and engagement for history educators in the field throughout the region and state. Click [here](#) to go to the consortium website.

## College of Education Holiday Toy Drive

Thank you College of Education faculty and staff! Together we donated over \$235.00 and 30 toys to the foster children at the Department of Social Services. Special thanks to Danita Dudley and the COE Social Committee for chairing and organizing the drive.



Toys donated

## Grants

### The Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education

The Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education spent much of 2011 pursuing external funding to support the mission of the Center. Grants funded and received in 2011 include a Tensor Foundation Grant, Bill Gates Foundation—Next Generation Learning Challenges, Department of Public Instruction Math and Science Partnership Award, Department of Public Instruction QUEST Award, and National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award. The \$2,076,000 in total funding will bring an array of programming to the area to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education.

## Faculty Accolades

Due to the leadership of **Dr. Diana Lys**, **Dr. Mark L'Esperance**, and **Dr. Ann Bullock** on the TPA pilot, the North Carolina Teacher Performance Assessment Team asked our College to host the North Carolina Teacher Performance Assessment site visit on December 5, 2011. The purpose of the site visit was to discuss the National Pilot of the Teacher Performance Assessment instruments (TPA) in North Carolina and the TPA implementation at ECU. Approximately 25 to 30 people attended which included ECU faculty, as well as faculty from UNC Pembroke, Winston Salem State, North Carolina Central University, UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Greensboro.



**Mark L'Esperance presenting to TPA training participants**

**Dr. Diane Rodriguez** was chosen by The Catholic University of Eastern Africa to present her work at the forum titled Improving Education with Special Educators which was held in Nairobi on January 19, 2012. Dr. Rodriguez shared her expertise and work in the field of culturally responsive instruction, second language learners, and students with disabilities.

**Dr. Catherine Schwartz's** article entitled, "Counting to 20: Online Implementation of a Face-to-Face, Elementary Mathematics Methods Problem-Solving Activity" was included in the latest issue of the journal, *TechTrends*.

### Staff Recognition

With the help of **Laura Bilbro-Berry** and **her staff**, the College of Education honored twenty eastern North Carolina Teachers of the Year on December 6, 2011 with a celebration of outstanding educators and their impact in the region. Billed as "Each one, teach one," the event included brainstorming sessions in which the honored educators discussed how to better promote the profession of teaching. Participants noted the need to portray positive images of education and recruiting young people who have the characteristics of good teachers. Click [here](#) to read more about this successful event.



**Laura Bilbro-Berry presenting to NC Teachers of the Year**

## Student Accomplishments

**Lindsay Stump**, a Special Education major, has been selected for a 2012 Student North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children scholarship award. Her scholarship will be awarded during the 2012 North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children conference which will be held on February 9-10 in Winston-Salem, NC.



**Lindsay Stump**

**Dedra Davis**, a graduate student in Instructional Technology, wrote an article entitled, "What I Wish My Teachers Had Known About Students With Physical Disabilities," and it has been published in a recent issue of *Encounter*. Dedra was also invited by the international president of Delta Kappa Gamma Society to do a break-out presentation on her topic at the international conference in New York City this July.

Current doctoral student, **Angie Adams**, is the recipient of the Richmond Community College (RCC) Foundation Outstanding Faculty Award for 2011. In announcing the award, RCC Vice President Johnnie Simpson said, "She has a love for teaching that is evident in the classroom. She is creative and forever coming up with new ideas. One of her students said there are those people who leave footprints in your heart, and Angie is definitely one of those people." [To read more...](#)



**Angie Adams**

## Alumni Stories

**Dr. Terri Cobb '10** was recently appointed as the new Superintendent of the Pender County Public Schools. Dr. Cobb began her new leadership responsibilities on January 1, 2012. Before moving into this leadership role with Pender County, Dr. Cobb served as the Chief of Staff for the Wake County Public School System. Among Dr. Cobb's most recent recognitions was her selection as the recipient of the Glatthorn Dissertation Award from the Department of Educational Leadership. [To read more...](#)

**Lisa Staats '97, '10** was named Beaufort County Teacher of the Year and then Regional Teacher of the Year for Region 1. She will compete at the state level in May. Lisa received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education and holds a master's degree in Mathematical Education from the College of Education at ECU. [To read more...](#)

Several College of Education alumni were named Teacher of the Year at the local level. Congratulations to these individuals who were recognized: **Jason Griffin '02, '07** for Perquimans County Schools, **Pam Sutton '96** for Whiteville City Schools, **Alta Allen '76, '91, '07** for Hertford Gramar School, **Theresa Pierce '79** for Rowan-Salisbury School System, and **Flora McLain '09** for Lillian Black Elementary School.

**Dianne Boseman '95** received the 2011 J. Edgar and Peggie T. Moore Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Lela Chesson '84** received the 2010-2011 Barry Gaskins Award presented by the N.C. School Public Relations Association for

outstanding leadership in school public relations and communications.

**Rebecca Pate McLawhorn '53** received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for her lifelong contribution to education.

**Karen Gardner '85** was recognized as Media Coordinator of the Year at the NC School Library Media Association Conference in Winston Salem.

**Morgan Reece '10** was named Media Program Specialist for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District.



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