

Clinical Schools Network News

Spring 2009

Walter and Daisy Carson Latham Clinical Schools Network

Latham Clinical Schools Network • College of Education • East Carolina University • 110 Speight Building • Greenville, NC 27858-4353

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From the Director's Desk

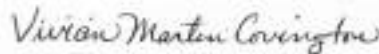
Dear Colleagues and Partners:

In these seemingly bleak budgetary times, we have a tendency to dwell on the negative aspects of our work. These truly are trying times for state agencies, businesses, communities, and families. However, I am also reminded of the faculty, administrators, school support personnel and students who get up each morning and continue to go about the work that is most important to our mutual survival and future greatness. It seems that education professionals are always the most adept at being flexible in these times. Perhaps it's because when you work in the education arena, you're used to having new initiatives thrust at you. If we couldn't adapt, we'd have perished by now!

Challenging budgetary times cause us all to look at what we do more carefully. In part, this is a good time to really take stock in what works well, what needs to be continued, and more importantly, what is not working, and what we can do differently. As we all address these issues, please remember that collaborative efforts are critical to securing grant funding, designing meaningful research, and ultimately improving teaching and student achievement.

I hope that your spring semester is a productive one, and that each of you is able to weather this financial storm with minimal, personal loss. Please know that we are very grateful for the hard work you do each and every day on behalf of the students, at all levels, in the State of North Carolina in general and in eastern North Carolina particularly.

With appreciation,



Vivian Martin Covington, Director
Office of Teacher Education

News from the ECU Campus

2009 Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference

The Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at the City Hotel & Bistro, Greenville, N.C. The theme of this year's conference was "Building Literacy Leaders for the 21st Century." Approximately 400 teachers, students, presenters, and ECU faculty members enjoyed a day of presentations and concurrent sessions on a variety of literacy topics. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Linda B. Gambrell and the Luncheon Speaker was Ms. Susie Wilde. Concurrent sessions were provided by ECU faculty members, teachers, and graduate students. All presenters and presentations were very well received! Special guests included Dr. Staton's nieces, Ms. Lois Langston Staton and Ms. Beverly Staton Stocks.



One of several sessions at the conference

The Mary Lois Staton Reading/Language Arts Conference presents an excellent professional development opportunity for educators. The annual event is sponsored by East Carolina University's College of Education and by the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. The Co-Directors of this event are Lanette Moret and Kathy Misulis with Conference Committee members: Terry Atkinson, Tom Caron, Alice Feret, Robin Griffith, Ran Hu, and Elizabeth Swaggerty.

Please check for upcoming announcements and information associated with the 2010 MLS Conference!

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News from the ECU Campus

Theatre Education – Outreach at Home and Abroad!

“The Global Classroom – Storybook Theatre – from Peru, to Russia, to Finland, to Pitt County, to Beaufort County and Home!”

Students from Patch Clark’s Theatre for Youth I class, and international students, Masha Fokina from Russia and Matti Tampio from Finland, and theatre education students “linked” with international students via the Global Classroom in Lima, Peru and Saratov, Russia during the fall semester, gathering stories and folktales to share with the children in Edgecombe (W.A. Patillo Elementary School) and Beaufort (Northeast Elementary School) counties. ECU students were also able to “link” with the children from Russia’s award-winning children’s theatre company, Tetralika.



Pictured left to right are Julie Howard and Masha Fokina.

ECU’s Storybook Theatre traveled to libraries, schools, conferences and community festivals sharing stories and language from abroad. School children learned phrases in Finnish, Russian and Spanish and delighted in seeing such stories as “The Fox and the Bear” a folktale from Finland, “The Three Shovels,” a folktale from Peru, and “Baba Yaga” and “The Turnip Story” folktales from Russia. ECU students from the United States, students from Russia, Finland, and Peru all shared in exciting discussions about culture, music, politics and education.

Best of all, everyone learned how to say, “The End!” in Russian, Finnish and Spanish and all look forward to continuing to link through the ECU Global Classroom initiative, hopefully adding Africa to the family of learners during the spring semester. So until we meet again, this is “El Fin!” as they say in Peru, “Loppu” as they say in Finland, or “Kohelz!” as they say in Russia!

For more information or to request Storybook Theatre in your school please contact Patch Clark at clarkp@ecu.edu or 252-328-1196.

“From Russia With Love”

Theatre Education international student from Saratov State University Russia, Masha Fokina, visited North Pitt High School’s Drama class and their teacher Mrs. Julie Howard, and presented information about her award-winning children’s theatre company, Tetralika. She shared a recorded version of their latest production of *The Ugly Duckling* (which won top awards in Russia), and not only showed unique approaches to producing the classic fairy tale, but Russian symbolism for Stalin, incorporating scarves and pop music. North Pitt students were also keenly interested in Russian culture, education, and customs. All of the students wanted to see their names written and hear their names pronounced in Russian which Ms. Fokina was very happy to demonstrate for them.



Storybook Theatre

Update from the ECU NC Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars Programs

The Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars Programs are enjoying a busy and productive spring 2009 semester. One of the goals of the NC Teaching Fellows program is to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession. High school seniors apply each fall and the scholarship process is two tiered: there is a local level and a regional level. Over 2,200 students from NC applied for the scholarship this year – a record number. Of those 2,200 – 900 students were selected as regional finalists. The regional finalists had one final interview at their nearest Teaching Fellow campus in February and the final list of all 500 recipients and alternates is announced on March 25, 2009. Each campus can accept forty-five students each year, and ECU looks forward to learning who those special incoming forty-five Pirates are in March. Additionally, interviews for the Maynard Scholarship take place in April 2009 and the program received over sixty strong applications this year.

The ECU Teaching Fellows hosted an Open House Recruitment Day in January for regional finalists and their families. This day allows prospective students a firsthand look at the uniqueness of the

program at ECU and allows prospective students the opportunity to meet many current faculty and students, learn more about our teacher education programs through faculty advisors and understand more about the ECU Teaching Fellows program through the campus staff and current Teaching Fellows. This year, the program hosted over 100 students and their families.

Meanwhile, the current 203 Teaching Fellows and 25 Maynard Scholars are actively attending monthly seminars, tutoring each week with nonprofit programs or in the public schools and participating in committee work. Two committee highlights include our Service and Pirate Tutoring Center committees. The Service Committee sponsors a Relay for Life team – this year called “Cancer Got Schooled.” They are eager and working hard to raise money and encourage support among their peers and the community. To date, this group of 45 committee members has raised \$3,500 of their \$5,000 goal and they will not stop until they reach their goal! Additionally, our students began working with a new peer tutoring campus initiative this year called the Pirate Tutoring Center. One of the TF/MS committees

News from the ECU Campus, *continued*

serves as tutors for a variety of subject areas. The Pirate Tutoring Center provides free tutoring to ECU students at Joyner Library two nights each week.

Finally, the sophomore Teaching Fellows and Maynard Scholars enjoyed an educational day trip to Wilmington in February. The group visited the Fort Fisher Aquarium, took a brisk walking tour of historic downtown Wilmington with a legendary tour guide and ended the day with dinner at the Oceanic Restaurant.

For more information about these programs, please visit our websites at www.coe.ecu.edu/teachfel and www.coe.ecu.edu/maynardscholars.



The sophomore class of TF/MS in front of the Fort Fisher Aquarium.

News from the Office of Clinical Experiences

The Mentoring Role of the Clinical Teacher

Clinical teachers play a significant role in the growth and development of the interns they host in their classrooms. The time an intern spends under the guidance of a clinical teacher helps to shape the skills and knowledge of the intern who is growing as a beginning teacher. The New Teacher Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz has done extensive research on high quality mentoring and induction practices of beginning teachers. The practices they suggest are also relevant to the clinical teacher and intern relationship.

Clinical teachers are chosen because they have demonstrated evidence of outstanding teaching practices. They have knowledge of their subject matter, good classroom organization and planning skills, and a positive rapport with their students. Clinical teachers have strong intra- and inter-personal skills which have enabled them to gain the respect of their peers. All of these traits are characteristics that are displayed in effective mentors.

An important characteristic of a mentoring clinical teacher is serving as an advisor to the intern. Clinical teachers who offer ongoing support to their interns are effective advisors. The support comes in many forms. Interns need emotional support and encouragement as they work to complete their assignments, their internship, and seek employment. Clinical teachers who are advisors also assist interns with short term and long-term lesson planning. The effective advisor keeps an open line of communication with the intern to ask and receive advice about lesson plans, classroom management strategies, and questions about the curriculum. The relationship that develops between the clinical teacher and the intern is based on trust.

Assessment is another key piece in mentoring. Clinical teachers should continuously assess the intern's growth and development. There are many opportunities to assess. Reviewing lesson plans that the intern has written, conferencing after the intern has taught a lesson, and completing disposition forms are all examples of assessment. Clinical teachers need to be intentional about making time to assess. Specific time should be set aside each week for the clinical teacher and the intern to conference. The goal of this ongoing assessment is to improve the skills and practices of the intern.

Clinical teachers are called upon to model effective teaching standards and appropriate knowledge of the content area. Clinical teachers who are mentors to their interns focus on concrete steps to help interns improve their teaching practices. Feedback given to interns should be specific and gathered from classroom observations, student work, and teaching strategies. Clinical teachers who use the

professional teaching standards, document conversations with their interns, and collect data on the intern's practice and student outcomes, are demonstrating the traits of a mentor and are helping the intern to focus on their own personal growth as a teacher.

The relationship between a clinical teacher who is an effective mentor and the intern is that of a partnership. This partnership allows for collaboration between the clinical teacher and the intern. Clinical teachers need to view the intern as a colleague in the classroom and in turn share the role of authority in the classroom. Effective mentors maintain a balance of control in the amount of independence they allow the intern to have in the classroom. Each partner, the clinical teacher and the intern, are also accepting of the differences they each might have in teaching strategies. Accepting these differences can be a time of professional growth and discovery.

As mentors, clinical teachers should aim not only to help their interns become effective teachers, but help them to develop as professionals in the field of education. Interns need to know how to teach, how to reflect on their progress, how to work effectively with their colleagues, and how to maintain a passion for teaching. Clinical teachers are invaluable professionals who utilize guiding, reflecting, and coaching in their work with interns.

References:

Glenn, W. (2006) Model versus mentor: Defining the necessary qualities of the effective cooperating teacher. *Teacher Education Quarterly*, 33(1), 85-95.

The New Teacher Center at the University of California, Santa Cruz website: <http://www.newteachercenter.org>

Opportunity for K-12 AIG Licensure!

Would you like to obtain K-12 AIG (Academically/Intellectually Gifted) licensure? This can be accomplished by taking 4 graduate-level courses online (with only 1 week face-to-face) each summer at East Carolina University.

The following courses are offered in this sequence and will begin at the end of June (2009):

- SPED 6104: Introduction to Gifted Education
- SPED 6401: Methods & Materials in Gifted Education
- SPED 6402: Differentiated Curriculum for the Gifted
- SPED 6403: Practicum in Gifted Education

Registration will be in March and April. If you are interested in getting this licensure and would like to know how these four graduate courses can count toward a Masters degree, contact Dr. Katie O'Connor at oconnork@ecu.edu or by calling 252-328-5323.

News from the ECU Campus, *continued*

News from the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach

The 7th Annual Spring Clinical Teacher Conference was held at the Hilton of Greenville on March 24, 2009. Approximately 300 clinical teachers from across eastern North Carolina attended the conference and heard Dr. Shirley Carraway, former superintendent and current Director of Special Programs at ECU, give a keynote address about the role of Teachers as Leaders. Sessions highlighted leadership activities in many of the teacher education programs at ECU and throughout eastern North Carolina. All clinical teachers were reminded of their role as recruiters of future teachers to the profession.

The Spring 2009 MS AVID Day will be held on April 20, 2009 in conjunction with the College of Health and Human Performance.

Middle school AVID students will participate in sessions about finding a career path, while exploring the programs in the College of Health and Human Performance and touring the athletic facilities.

The Spring 2009 Teaching Career Day will take place on April 23, 2009. Sonya Rinehart, 2008 NE Region Teacher of the Year, will deliver the keynote speech, "Pay It Forward." Potential future Pirates will have the opportunity to meet with faculty at the program fair, attend break-out sessions, and tour of the campus.

Legislators' School for Youth Leadership Development

High School Session – June 14-20, 2009

Middle School Session – June 21-27, 2009

News from Wachovia Partnership East

Teacher Academy Program (TAP) Growing Teachers from a High School

In a unique collaboration between Wayne County Public Schools, Wayne Community College, and East Carolina University's College of Education; a high school Teacher Academy Program (TAP) began its pilot year in the 2008-09 school year at Southern Wayne High School. This unprecedented effort was launched to attract young people into the career of teaching through a Teacher Academy Program (TAP). TAP is designed to prepare high school students for careers in education and to support them as they move through the postsecondary education system on their way to becoming teachers. Currently, 55 students participate in the Southern Wayne High School TAP Pilot.



1st Row: Denise Cashwell, Derek Whitman, Amanda Edwards; 2nd Row: Semaya Price, Renita King, Whitney Grantham, Taylor Reaves, Christina Williams, Stephanie Bellefeuille; 3rd Row: Victor Najera, Megan Roberts, Brittney Hall

In order to reverse the current and predicted future teacher shortage in North Carolina; more young people, especially those from diverse backgrounds, need to be recruited into teacher education programs. The Teacher Academy Program's mission is to encourage a diverse group of students to enter teaching as a profession by providing students with the support and training necessary to explore teaching as a career while attending high school. Furthermore, the Teacher Academy participants take an honor's level course known as the Teacher Cadet curriculum. Part of this curriculum includes the opportunity for students to serve in field experiences at local schools during the school day as part of their TAP experience. The integration of the Teacher Cadet curriculum with the classroom-based activities prepares high school students to enter teacher education upon graduation from high school.

The TAP program exposes the students to the career of teaching by offering them many opportunities to interact within the college environment and to take general education college level courses while enrolled in high school. Through the Learn and Earn Program and the Jump Start Program, the students have the opportunity to earn all courses needed to complete their General Education Core Diploma; thus, providing the students with free college tuition while in the dual enrollment programs offered by Wayne Community College. After

graduation from high school and completion of the general education coursework through the community college, the students may transition into one of the ECU College of Education Wachovia Partnership East degree completion distance education programs in elementary education, special education, or middle grades education; thereby, earning a B.S. degree in teaching while remaining in the community. In addition, the students may transfer to any of the 16 public universities in North Carolina as the general education courses earned at the community college while attending high school transfer by the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement already in place.

East Carolina University provides many opportunities for the TAP students to interact with the ECU Teaching Fellows and

Maynard Scholars, the instructors in the College of Education, and other university personnel from departments such as admissions and financial aid. Furthermore, the Office of Teacher Education at ECU is providing a Wachovia Partnership East advisor to collaborate and work directly with the TAP program to serve as a liaison between the school and the university. TAP is teaching-focused, comprehensive, and allows students to get a jump start on their college career.

In a recent interview with TAP students, several students indicated that the field-based experiences in local schools along with the Teacher Cadet curriculum had confirmed in their minds the desire to teach. Stephanie Bellefeuille stated, "I was on the fence but now I know without a doubt that I want to be a teacher". All of the students interviewed indicated that they had experienced great personal growth and had become more aware of their own feelings as well as the feelings of others. In addition, the students noted that being a part of the TAP program had led to higher grade achievement in other subjects. Ashley Cashwell stated, "I learned a great deal about what it takes to be a teacher in TAP, and I am more sure of my decision to pursue a teaching degree than before". Speaking about personal growth, Amanda Edwards commented, "I found it very exciting to work with teachers and students at the local elementary school, and I am glad I had this opportunity to explore teaching as a career". One theme that was repeated in the

News from the ECU Campus, *continued*

interviews with TAP students was that they all enjoyed the experience and they all had built more self-confidence through the TAP activities. Not one of the students interviewed had decided to choose another career path other than teaching after participating in the Teacher Academy Program.

If the TAP model proves successful, it could be replicated and allow school systems to grow their own teachers from the local high school population. The TAP program is an academic program within a larger high school with a focus on education as a career path. The various opportunities for postsecondary students to enter K-12 teaching as a career aligns with the objectives of the community college and university systems to produce more teachers for North Carolina.

CONTACTS:

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(252) 328-2156 or covingtonv@ecu.edu

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(919) 735-5152, ext. 385 or gradyde@ecu.edu

Anne Millington, *Wayne Community College/Wayne County Schools Liaison*
(919) 735-5151 or annemill@waynecc.edu

Dr. Sandra McCullen, *Associate Superintendent for Wayne County Schools*
(919) 731-5900 or smcullen@wcps.org

Crystal Whitfield, *Southern Wayne TAP Teacher*
(919) 705-6060 or crystalwhitfield@wcps.org

Alumni Spotlight

Retired Pitt County Schools teacher, Milt Sherman (ECU '74, '79), has written a young adult novel, *Wrestling Spoken Here*. The story follows the main character, Robbie, and his friend Matt through Robbie's first season as a high school athlete. Readers will enjoy the combination of humor and drama.

Mr. Sherman served as a clinical teacher for 34 years prior to retiring. He has been a university supervisor and teaches part-time at ECU. Mr. Sherman can be contacted at miltsherman@hotmail.com.

News from the Network

Craven County Schools

Craven County offers a wonderfully **COMPETENT** mentoring program for its Beginning Teachers!

C raven County's
O utstanding
M entoring
P rogram
E ncourages
T eaching
E xcellence for
N ew
T eachers



The mission of Craven County Schools Mentoring Program is to provide a performance-driven framework of ongoing beginning teacher support, as a pathway to continuous improvement, in order to prepare beginning teachers with the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to promote a lifetime commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Through intensive support, the district will enable beginning teachers to effectively transition from a clinical intern to classroom teacher. Through support, new teachers are better able to facilitate learning, collaborate with other professionals and create dynamic learning systems in which all students are successful.

Full-time District Lead Mentors support beginning teachers in reaching high levels of performance excellence while assuring that every child and every classroom has a highly qualified teacher prepared to meet the challenges of education in the 21st century. Through classroom visits, Winter Connection Meetings, and Professional Development activities, beginning teachers gain tips and strategies to implement in their classrooms. Craven County helps each beginning teacher become a confident, **COMPETENT** educator. Supporting new teachers is a priority, thanks to the district's emphasis on the transition of clinical interns into the role of full time teacher.

So what do recent ECU Graduates say about our Mentor Support?

"As a new teacher in Craven County Schools, I have been thoroughly impressed with the amount of quality support I have received through the mentoring program. My mentor has been a presence at my school each week for the last two years, offering resources, giving feedback, answering questions, helping with the completion of important forms, taking pictures, leaving gifts, or just stopping in to say "Hi, how are things?". As a new teacher it has been great knowing that someone else is watching my progress and is there for me when I need them. My transition from ECU to Craven County has been very smooth thanks to the warmth and support of Craven County Administration and the Mentoring Program."

Marcus Green
East Carolina University Graduate 2007
Math Teacher, Craven Early College High School

Gates County Schools

Krystle Wiggins is completing her ECU Senior II Internship at Buckland Elementary School in first grade with Mrs. Jo Jo Nichols. She has attended staff and committee meetings with Mrs. Nichols, as well as student-led conferences hosted by her clinical teacher. Each week Krystle has been teaching subjects selected by Mrs. Nichols and herself, leading up to her three weeks of all day teaching, which will take place before Spring Break.

On February 2, Buckland hosted a special ribbon cutting ceremony as a dedication for the new building that has recently been completed. Krystle attended the ceremony with Mrs. Nichols, and assisted Mr. Gregory, the principal, with technical details surrounding the ceremony.

Since January, Krystle has been working closely with the first grade teachers to produce the play "Go Fish!" that took place on February 12, with all of the first grade students. She helped assign parts, create costumes, and assisted during play practice each day.

Krystle's positive attitude has had a wonderful effect on the students and climate of Buckland School. Ms. Wiggins is readily available to help wherever she is requested to do so. The children enjoy her working with them and it is obvious that Krystle enjoys working with the students.

News from the Network

Johnston County Schools

Johnston County Schools is thrilled to be hosting 25 Senior I and 26 Senior II interns from East Carolina University this spring. We are happy that so many students from ECU chose to complete their internship with us and we hope that they will make Johnston County Schools their professional home once they graduate.

One individual who did make that choice is Bryan Holley, North Carolina's winner of the Milken National Educator Award for this year. Bryan earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Carolina University and is in his sixth year of teaching at Corinth Holders School in Johnston County. Bryan is known for his calm presence in the classroom and his ability to differentiate instruction for his diverse student population. His principal, Betty Bennett, believes that his passion for teaching leads Mr. Holley to research and study until he finds a way to reach every student.

Bryan was presented the award at a surprise ceremony on October 29, 2008. Those in attendance included Superintendent of Public Schools June Atkinson and Congressman Bob Etheridge. At the ceremony, Mr. Holley was presented with a check for \$25,000 for his personal use. In a testament to his unassuming nature, as the announcement of the honored teacher was about to be named, Mr. Holley had his camera up, ready to take the recipient's picture. But it is his picture that will be displayed as the only North Carolina winner of this prestigious award for this year.

Jones County Schools

STARBASE

STARBASE Team came to Trenton Elementary School in Jones County the last week of January. The mission of the North Carolina STARBASE is to add value to America through youth programs that provide innovative, educational outreach focusing on science, math, technology, positive personal goal setting, substance abuse prevention, and teamwork skills.

This five-day program, conducted at the school, involves lessons and activities based on NC fifth grade objectives. Students abound with excitement as they prepare flight plans for a journey across the US, test Isaac Newton's three laws of motion, and build individual rockets. These and many other hands-on activities stretch their minds and allow their imagination to soar.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

Angela Paige-Jones has received her National Board Certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. National Board Certified Teachers are highly accomplished educators who meet high and rigorous standards. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. Ms. Paige-Jones teaches Health Occupation courses at Jones Senior High School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JONES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL!

In the December 11, 2008 edition of *US News and World Report*, Jones Senior High School was awarded a Bronze Medal. The article titled *America's Best High Schools*, was a result of an analysis of 21,069 public high schools in 48 states and only 1,900 schools made the list.

Onslow County Schools

GOVERNOR PERDUE AWARDS NEW BRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL AS A REAL D.E.A.L. WINNER

Then Governor-Elect Beverly Perdue announced on Thursday, December 4 that New Bridge Middle School is one of 15 Real D.E.A.L. (Dedicated Educators, Administrators & Learners) awards for 2008. The schools were selected for the honor on the basis of excellent teaching and learning conditions and outstanding student achievement.

"Six years ago, we administered the first Teacher Working Conditions Survey to make sure when educators speak, North Carolina listens," Perdue said. "Staff at the Real D.E.A.L. schools have taken a leading role in using survey feedback to create a better environment for teachers and students and they have set an example for schools across the country to follow."

Formerly Jacksonville Middle School, New Bridge Middle School opened in 1998 as the school system's first magnet school. Its instructional focus is math, science and technology and is under the leadership of Principal Brent Anderson.

The winners were recognized at the North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Conference in Cary. The conference is funded by the National Education Association and AT&T. At the conference, staff from the 15 Real D.E.A.L. schools made presentations about best practices and successful strategies employed in their school to more than 400 teachers, school administrators and education leaders from across the country. More information about each Real D.E.A.L. school is available on the Governor's Teacher Working Conditions web site at www.ncteachingconditions.org.

Pamlico County Schools

There are great things happening at Pamlico County High School. Our intern, April Barnett, has done a fabulous job getting in the "trenches" and working with our students. She set up a table at our curriculum fair for parents and students that needed to ask questions about the EC program. Little to say, we had students who wanted to "sign up" for our classes. We thought that brought a smile. April has been a hard worker and with experience, she will be an excellent EC teacher. She does many hands on activities with the students with whom she has personally gotten to know. The students receive her very well. Hats off to Ms. Barnett! Keep up the great work!

Submitted by:

Ms. Jacqueline Boyd-EC Teacher
Pamlico County High School

Pitt County Schools

GINA BEAMON NAMED REGIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Gina Beamon, fourth grade teacher at Creekside Elementary School and Pitt County Schools' Teacher of the Year, has been selected as the Northeast Region Teacher of the Year. She is one of nine regional finalists who will now compete to become the North Carolina Teacher of the Year.

"Having the character traits of both a perfectionist and a competitor," Beamon stated in her portfolio, "I am a teacher striving for excellence!" Reflecting upon her 19 years in education, Mrs. Beamon also stated, "How was I to know that MY classroom would become such a needed nest, a safe haven, a place of faith, love, integrity, and value for third and fourth graders of Pitt County!"

AYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES MATCH GRANT

The NC State Board of Education has awarded \$20,100 to Ayden

News from the Network, *continued*

Middle School to implement the Motivating Adolescents with Technology to Choose Health (MATCH) pilot program. MATCH is a data driven, interdisciplinary approach to Student Wellness combining physical activity, nutrition education, and technology. MATCH lessons are delivered over a 16-week period and are designed to parallel the 7th grade NC Standard Course of Study, during regular school hours, across all courses using a team approach.

"I am very excited to be working with the MATCH program," commented Jani Bendle, MATCH coordinator at Ayden Middle School. "It is an excellent way for our students to become more aware of healthy behaviors and how the food and exercise behaviors they choose affect their lives."

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION DAY

The following teachers earned their National Board Certification in 2008: Shannon Smith, Ayden Elementary School; Katherine Dosser, Belvoir Elementary School; Kimberly Barclift, C. M. Eppes Middle School; Shani Smith, C. M. Eppes Middle School; Leigh Swinson, C. M. Eppes Middle School; Erwin Blanchard, Creekside Elementary School; Amy Boyd, D. H. Conley High School; Cynthia Brown, D. H. Conley High School; Joseph Moss, D. H. Conley High School; Lee Jenkins, E. B. Aycok Middle School; Lucinda Letchworth, Farmville Central High School; Dennis Roberson III, Hope Middle School; Ashley Hutchinson, J. H. Rose High School; Paul Scruggs, North Pitt High School; Sonia West, Pactolus School; Hannah Butler, South Central High School; Tammy Cyrus, South Central High School; Mandy Smith, South Central High School; Gerald McNeill, Sam D. Bundy School; Karen Minor, Wahl-Coates Elementary School; Allison Mallison, Wintergreen Primary School; and Sara Mitchell, Wintergreen Primary School.

In addition, the following teachers have renewed their certification: Dawn Everett, Ayden-Grifton High School; Jeffrey Bell, C.M. Eppes Middle School; Terri DeCresie, A. G. Cox Middle School; Michelle King, Creekside Elementary School; Sharon Kinsley, Creekside Elementary School; Angela Egerton, Ridgewood Elementary School; and Barbara Ayers-Best, retired and serving as a substitute.

Wayne County Schools

STUDENT INTERNS

For the Spring semester Wayne County welcomes our new Senior I interns – Mindy Lane at Northwest Elementary, Lesli Odom at Grantham, Kimberly Rosario at Meadow Lane Elementary, Tina Smith and Heather Wilson at Rosewood Elementary, Leigh Ann Horton and Lisa Harris at Northeast Elementary, Jessica Winders and Leslie Sasser at Tommy's Road Elementary, Jason Buchtmann at Eastern Wayne Elementary, Anna Stoppelbein at School Street Elementary, Deloit Best at Eastern Wayne High and Jennifer Fricks at Brogden Primary. In addition to our Senior I interns we also welcome our twenty-eight Senior II interns.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Congratulations are extended to Terry Butler, Coletta Campbell, Darrell Coston, Michael Daughtry, Amy Howell, Debbie Turner, Emily West, Erlene Brogden, Robert Jones, Amanda Barnes, Christy Collins, Stephanie Yelverton, Mary Capen, Stacie Fail, Gail Mason, Karen Morgan, Vickie Tilman and Tammy Wallace. These teachers were recognized for their accomplishments at the Wayne County Board of Education meeting Monday, February 9, 2009.

TEACHER'S CHILDREN'S SCRIPT PUBLISHED FOR "READER THEATER"

Congratulations to Mr. Gregory Brown, a Reading Recovery teacher at North Drive Elementary, who is working to help boost literacy nationwide.

His work has been published for the third time by an educational publishing company. After nearly two decades in public schools he feels like there's something new to learn and accomplish every single day. Mr. Brown is a graduate of East Carolina University, receiving both Theater Arts and Masters in Elementary Education degrees in 1982 and 1991, respectively.

Gregory states, "Having been insecure about my own reading abilities as a young boy, I now live out a childhood dream by helping all kids feel more comfortable with books." He credits his loving family and friends for encouraging him to "follow the rhymes in his heart."

Mr. Brown's play, "The Great Rhyme Travel Machine Presents: African American Heroes" is part of Playbooks Inc.'s "Readers Theater" series which promotes fluency and vocabulary growth. This script, which is a sequel to his last script "The Great Rhyme Travel Machine", introduces students to the great American Legends, George Washington Carver and Shirley Chisholm. The pair are brought to the future through a time machine to help encourage a student running for class president who has become discouraged to find that no United States presidents have been female or shared her skin color.

Wilson County Schools

There are a lot of "WOWs" happening in Wilson County Schools (WCS). The campaign of Whose World Will I Make Exceptional? (WWWiME?) was launched at the convocation in August 2008, and has been a huge success. Faculty, students and parents are encouraged to make someone's world a better place through kind words and actions. A. J. Rightway, the Character Education Mascot for WCS, has always played a vital role in the promotion of good character traits within the school system and county. This new character education initiative has been well received and implemented across the district. One can visit the WebPage at www.wilson.k12.nc.us and post comments under the WWWiME? link.

P.S. Jones Elementary School will open its doors to students in K-5 for the first time in August 2009. A lot of hard work goes into building a new school, securing the necessary materials, employing the staff and re-districting students. Many hours have been devoted to the transition process to make it efficient and effective for students, parents and the faculty.

SummerSALT: Study and Learn Together, will be held June 15-20, 2009. This weeklong summer institute is in its fourth consecutive year and consists of numerous workshops offered free to all WCS employees. Previously, the system also offered a free separate weeklong Technology Summer Institute for any interested employee. For the first time this year, the two Institutes will merge into a new, one-week conference offering a multitude of workshops. Many sessions are offered based on on-line survey requests completed by district employees.

Numbers are important and WCS proudly boasts employing seventy-five NBCT, which includes eight teachers who recently earned this national certification. Thirty student interns from ECU and Barton College are currently doing their student teaching in our schools and there are approximately one hundred and fifty-five teachers who are clinically trained to work with these students. Partnerships are equally important, and WCS recently employed four former WCS teacher assistants who had been through the Wachovia Partnership East Program to earn their degrees in teacher education. This brings the total of WCS paraprofessionals earning a teacher education degree through the WPE program to seven.

We Want to Hear from You

Alumni, we want to be informed of professional accomplishments you have made since graduation. If you have received a professional award or honor, a promotion, or a new job, contributed to your community in a significant way, or if you have experienced a personal triumph, please drop us a line at the College of Education so we can share that news with fellow alumni and the readership of **Clinical Schools Network News**. Simply complete the form and return it to the address below, or e-mail your information to **williamsonki@ecu.edu**.

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