Greetings From The Director

As another active year ends and the quiet halls of summer school echo in our ears, we begin to reflect on our program at East Carolina University. We pose questions to each other here in the office in an attempt to determine what is successful and unique about us and what features are not as fruitful. As we pose these questions, we remind each other to think about all of our stakeholders - students, office staff, faculty, families, public school teachers, counselors, and the community at large.

The most successful aspect of our program continues to be the students who participate. Teaching Fellows continue to be some of the best and brightest students in the state and this is evident as they maintain academic excellence in a university environment. Not only do our students maintain high academic success but do so while actively participating in program events as well as many other campus organizations. This is a group of students who likes to be involved.

Beyond the students, another successful aspect of our campus program is the dedication of our office staff including our graduate assistants. Is it because we enjoy our students so much? Is it because we feel more invigorated as we spend time with them? Is it because we believe we cannot ask anything of our students that we would not do ourselves? For whatever reason, the office staff continues to show extreme dedication to the quality of the program and the relationships with all students in the program.

Faculty and administration continue to be large supporters of the program. Activities such as Interview Skills Workshop for prospective candidates (held in late October/early November); committee events; socials; service drives; and To Be A Teacher day (held in late April) are all examples of opportunities where faculty and administration beyond the program request to participate. The benefits of this cross-campus collaboration is evident as the quality of activities continually increases.

Our program alumni are such a successful part of our program and we continue our efforts to reach out to you all. First and foremost, there is an alumni survey inside of Chalkdust. We ask that you return this hardcopy OR go online and complete the survey under “Alumni Corner.” Martha Parrish has created this link on our website as well as a discussion link for former students. The “Have you seen this Teaching Fellow?” link has done very well in tracking down graduates. Please visit the website at www.coe.ecu.edu/teachfel if you have not already done so.

We are planning the first Teaching Fellows reunion this coming October 20-21 (ECU’s Homecoming). On Friday, October 20, there will be a guest speaker and staff development opportunities (with renewal credits) for participants. There will be a social Friday evening at Brook Valley Country Club, parade viewing on Speight’s front porch Saturday morning and block seating for the ECU-SMU football game.

School systems and non-profit agencies in eastern North Carolina partner with our program and allow our students to gain crucial experience in the classroom. Because of this, we believe our Teaching Fellows are even more prepared to enter the classroom upon graduation.

The state office continues to play a factor in the success of our campus program. Support and encouragement for students, office personnel, and quality programming remains high. These programs would not be what they are without Jo Ann, Gladys, Sherry, Danny, Lynne, and Lara.

Reflections allow us to acknowledge and build upon our successes as well as decrease what might limit us. Our program continues to accept the challenge to be the best it can be for all stakeholders. Whether a current student or an alum, we ask that you accept the challenge with us!

Have a great summer!

ECU Junior Class in New York City’s Central Park
On February 22nd the Teaching Fellows had a meeting with some of the faculty of the College of Education to receive instructions as to what our role was going to be within this reaccreditations process. This process will continue to guarantee that graduates from ECU will be able to be certified in their particular subject areas and find some of the best jobs. The meeting that night took about thirty minutes after dealing with some minor difficulties getting into the room. The following Friday, February 24th, the communications committee met at 9 in Speight and began replacing the coverings on all the bulletin boards. The paper was replaced with new purple paper in order to present a clean and fresh image within the College of Education for the visitors from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education or NCATE for short. The committee also organized tables in the work rooms for the visitors to use. The next day, Saturday, the Social committee went in and placed displays out for the NCATE visitors. On Monday and Tuesday, February 27th and 28th, select Teaching Fellows worked as assistants to the people doing the reaccreditations process. They helped show the visitors around, answered questions, made copies, and just helped out as much as possible. The whole process ended when we all received an email from Dean Sheerer informing us all that we, East Carolina, had received our reaccreditations. Big thanks goes out to all the Teaching Fellows who went out and helped in any way through this whole process and did an excellent job helping to make East Carolina University one of the best schools in the world.

-- Eric Pullen, '08

One Friday afternoon in early March a bus load of Teaching Fellows departed for Charleston, South Carolina. A mixture of freshmen, sophomores, and juniors had the chance to bond on a five hour bus ride to Charleston and back. We stopped for dinner just on the other side of the South Carolina border and arrived in Charleston at our hotel, the La Quinta Inn, around eight o’clock that night. After getting our stuff to our rooms we once again loaded the bus for a ghost tour downtown. Once there we split up into two groups and went with our respective tour guides visiting different graveyards in the center of the city. Using our digital cameras as well as cell phone cameras we took some very strange pictures at these graveyards. This was a very interesting experience; however I think some of our group found the ghost idea to be a bit far fetched.

The next morning we departed the hotel around nine in the morning and headed downtown to the City Market to explore the city and its many attractions. We split up into a few groups and for the next six hours toured the city of Charleston. We visited the many small shops in the city as well as the big name chains on the main strip. This gave us the opportunity to enjoy the company of our friends as well as take many pictures to remember our trip. For lunch we stopped wherever was convenient along the way. My particular group stopped at a local restaurant called The Noisy Oyster which all of us thoroughly enjoyed. The food was good and the atmosphere was very laid back. Around three that afternoon we loaded the bus and headed back for Greenville. We stopped briefly for dinner and made it back just in time to catch the Duke/Carolina basketball game. Whether we left Greenville just because we needed a break, to shop in downtown Charleston, or just because we had never visited Charleston before, I think as a whole our group had a wonderful time and we thank everyone who made the trip possible.

-- Robbie Johnson, '08
On February 18, the sophomore Teaching Fellows class trekked to Raleigh to see the sights. The trip was a day trip and consisted of tours of the North Carolina History Museum, Natural Science Museum, Mordecai Historic Park, NC Legislative Building, and the North Carolina Art Museum.

Every sophomore Teaching Fellow class is required to take a day trip. The trip can be to any place of interest; however the trip must have educational merit. This year the sophomore class voted to go to Raleigh.

The trip was headed up by the Travel Committee including committee co-chairs Alex Parrett and Rebecca Fletcher. The travel committee created the itinerary for the trip as well as travel brochures that were provided for each Teaching Fellow in attendance.

The highlight of the trip was supper at Winston’s Grille, an upscale restaurant in Raleigh. There, Teaching Fellows got to choose from various entrees. After dinner, Teaching Fellows then returned back to ECU.

-- Hayley Flynn, '08

The annual Teaching Fellows Talent Show was held on Thursday February 23 at 7:30 pm in the Fletcher Recital Hall. The talent show gives Teaching Fellows in all classes an opportunity to showcase their talents in front of their colleagues. Every act in the show featured a lot of talent and all performers had a lot to be proud of at the end of the night.

The host and master of ceremonies was the ever-funny Gordy Beverly. Gordy is known for his stand up comedy and demonstrated his wit throughout the entire show. Josh Griffin sang “Santa Fe,” a song from the Disney movie “Newsies,” and was accompanied on the piano by Allen Amos. Next in the show was Marc Demiter performing as a motivational speaker. His character was a spoof on motivational speakers and had an influence from the Saturday Night Live skit that featured Chris Farley. Anna Hopkins followed Marc singing “Something About My Praise.” After Anna came Marina Bonner as she signed to “Can’t Live A Day.” Following Marina a concert-like performance came. Jackson Hayes provided his own music on an acoustic guitar and sang “What Went Wrong.” To follow up Jackson’s performance Precious Clements shared her poem “Don’t Hate Me Because I Teach,” which was an inspirational and unique poem for teachers. Kristen Hales next performed the 2nd Movement from Mozart’s Concerto in D for Flute. After Kristen, Carla Robinson shared her love for the theater as she performed a dramatic monologue. Next was the senior Scotty Williams, who also played the acoustic guitar, as he sang “Pull Me Up.” Amanda Beecher and Hannah Murphy followed Scotty with another theatrical performance from “Teach Me How to Cry” Act II, Scene III. The last act of the night was Marisha Wallace singing “I Believe.”

The acts were all quite amazing and definitely showcased the talent that resides from freshman to seniors within the ECU Teaching Fellows. Special thanks to the Student Activities Committee for organizing the Talent Show and to all of the performers who all did a great job. Special Thanks was also given to Ms. Corbin, Ms. Parrish, and Ms. Dixon for all the work they do for the Teaching Fellows on a daily basis.

-- Zach Nall, '07
Alumni Corner

Please send any news and achievements, personal or professional, for our Fall edition of Chalkdust to parishm@ecu.edu. As always, please let us know of any mailing address changes, and we would like any email addresses as well.


Susan Gregg Wallace, Class of 1999: Earned National Board Certification in November 2004. Ms. Wallace currently teaches Kindergarten at an elementary school outside of Atlanta, GA.

Jennifer Davis - Class of 2004: Teaches Current Affairs, AP Psychology, and sponsors National Honor Society at 71st High School in Fayetteville.

Maxine (Taylor) Geil - Class of 2000: Moved to Illinois for husband's Head Pastor position, and they welcomed a baby boy to their family in January 2005.

Greg Singleton - Class of 1993: Assistant Principal of PS Jones Middle School in Washington, NC.

Jill Hastings - Class of 2002: Named Teacher of the Year for Noble Middle School in New Hanover County. Congratulations Jill.

Pam McLemore Kelter, Class of 1998: Married and living in Kansas for the past two years. Pam and her husband have one son and a baby due in October 2006.

Samantha Dassler Barlow, Class of 95 Currently teaching Middle School Science at the Oakwood School in Greenville and is a Science Education Instructor at ECU.

Mary Meadows: Class of 1991: Currently an Instructional Resource Teacher at Brooks Museums Magnet Elementary in Raleigh. Also, Mary graduated in May with her Masters in School Administration from NCSU as part of the Wake Leadership Academy Cohort.

Charity Cayton: Class of 1992: One of the four teachers selected as a finalist for the 2005 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation’s highest honor for K-12 teaching in these fields. Charity is a Mathematics teacher at DH Conley High School in Greenville. She has her National Board Certification and is now working on her MAEd graduate degree in Mathematics Education at ECU.

Rising sophomore Teaching Fellows, Emily Jackson and Candi Raines, arrive at ECU following their first day on Discovery.

Ten Reasons to Become a Teacher

Senior Middle Grades Teaching Fellow, Martina Graham, was the guest speaker at the "Why Teach Day?" event held at ECU on May 9, 2006. The audience consisted of elementary, middle and high school students interested in pursuing careers in education. Ms. Graham presented a "Top Ten" to introduce the advantages to being a teacher.

1. Having a teacher was in my blood. I was born into a family of teachers.
2. I had influential teachers in my life. These teachers encouraged me to be the best student I could be and did not except failure.
3. I wanted to make the world a better place. Teachers have the power to make things happen!

7. I get my holidays and summers off!
8. No other professions would be possible without teachers.
9. I wanted to share my love of learning with others and to get others excited about learning!
10. Seeing the sparkle in a student’s eye when they have understood a concept! The feeling is indescribable!

3. The Teaching Fellows Program!
4. In the world of teaching, no two days are ever a like!
1. Prepare students for the future. Teachers have the power to help students succeed.

Although teachers don't have high salaries or drive fancy cars, we are rewarded by knowing that we have made a difference and have touched someone’s life.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you in October at the ECU Teaching Fellow Reunion!