

College of Education *Quarterly*

Creating Opportunities For Excellence

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College of Education Undergrads Take Top Awards at Annual Honors Convocation

Student teachers Angela Williams and Laura Nunley earned the two most prestigious awards at the CSU Honors Convocation in April. Williams, an early childhood major, was presented with the Faculty Cup. Nunley, student teaching at Carver High School in mathematics, received the Academic Recognition Award, similar to being named university valedictorian.

Faculty Cup recipients not only excel academically, but are also very well-rounded. Service activities are among criteria weighed heavily. A spring student teacher at New Mountain Hill Elementary in Harris County, Williams' service at CSU has been

extensive. Among other activities, she was a participant in building CSU's first Habitat for Humanity home, a volunteer in the "Lunch with Santa" program, and a worker at the Halloween Carnival.

A talented speaker, Williams has made presentations to campus groups regarding her stint teaching in Orange Walk Town, Belize, as part of CSU's Study Abroad Program. She was keynote speaker at the 2007 CSU Faculty-Staff Annual Fund Kick Off.

Williams credits CSU faculty with contributing to her success. She cites Dr. Danna Gibson, who directs the CSU Honors Program, for nurturing her leadership skills and Dr. Deirdre Greer of the early childhood faculty for guiding her honors program thesis.

Greer speaks of Williams' qualities in glowing terms. "Angela's leadership style is illustrated by her willingness to go out on a limb and be an example. When other students are unwilling to answer a question and risk being wrong, Angela is the person to speak up."

Laura Nunley—From Harris County To Carver HS and Beyond

Laura Nunley, a graduate of Harris County High School, maintained a 4.0 average for her four years at Columbus State. Her academic achievements include a series of presentations at CSU's Mathematics and Statistics Colloquium. More often than not, undergraduate students do not present papers at this annual event. Nunley also presented at the Mathematics



There can be little doubt that Angela Williams and Mark, her husband, are thrilled with her receiving the Faculty Cup.

Association of America's Southeast conference in 2007. Like Angela Williams, she took part in the Belize Study Abroad Program by teaching elementary children in a rural environment.

Dr. Betty Whisnant supervised Nunley during student teaching this past spring at Carver High School. She speaks of how the math education major displayed a passion for making sure students learned. "One day, I observed when she returned a test on which students had done poorly," Whisnant recalls. "Laura told her students that she was disappointed in



Laura Nunley, a future mathematics teacher, received the Academic Recognition Award.

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Fifty Million Steps And Still Counting

On April 3, The College of Education's gang of energized walkers met for a healthy lunch and to celebrate the fact that, collectively, they had walked around the world since the beginning of the academic year. Many in the group—faculty, administrators, and staff—tallied more than a million steps since September (see Can You Guess below).

According to Dr. Ellen Martin, who spearheaded the Cougar WALK program, the 50 million plus steps that participants totaled is equivalent to 25,356 miles (and change). The total

number of steps, not by coincidence, would reach around the globe if laid out in a straight line. The goal of 50 million steps was set to recognize CSU's 50th anniversary.

Some participants have held onto the pedometers they were provided for Cougar WALK. Martin agreed to let them do so in anticipation of a new Cougar WALK program to be announced soon. The physical education professor did not reveal details about the new competition—decidedly friendly competition—but noted that the new program, slated for the upcoming school year, would have what she called a “twist.”

Martin was impressed with the perseverance of those who participated. “It’s a testament to the quality of faculty and staff in the College of Education,” she remarked. An unidentified faculty member suggested that Martin’s energized approach



Team Shaw members (Pat Duttera, Alicia Tatum, Lisa Shaw, Cynthia Benator, Deirdre Brown, and Mary Beth Hendricks) celebrate their triumph in Cougar WALK. Not pictured: James Brewbaker, Carl Dekker, Mike Regnier, Cindy Spann, and Claudia Williams



Patty Jamieson, Administrative Secretary to the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, and Professional Studies (CELPS), is acknowledged as a Million Step Club member.

to Cougar WALK made it succeed.

Can You Guess?

Of the 10 names below, eight walked more than a million steps in the Cougar WALK competition. Can you guess which two shouldn't be on the list?

- Cynthia Benator • Jan Burcham • Debbie Gober • Deirdre Greer
- Beth Holmes • Trevor Immelman • Mike Mangum • Clay Nicks
- John Phillips • David Rock

(answers on page 5)

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them and in herself. She told them that she knew they could learn what she was teaching.” By holding to such high standards, Nunley convinced her students that they could and would do better.

Whisnant describes Nunley as exceptionally resourceful, using games and an array of hands-on materials to enliven her classes. This was a sentiment echoed by math education faculty member, Professor Gayle Herrington. “Laura Nunley constantly looks for that activity or real world connection to show students the wonders of mathematics,” Herrington noted.



As a student teacher, Laura Nunley convinced teenagers at Carver High School that they could learn vital math concepts.



Angela Williams, seated, honed her teaching skills in the Belize Study Abroad Program in 2006.

Cartledge Receives Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award

In early November, 1975, Carolyn Cartledge, a part-time instructor for the Education Division at Columbus College, was teaching a section of graduate research methods in Howard Hall when, unannounced, in came Division Head Charlie Parker.

“Dr. Parker just showed up in my class—just like that. He said, ‘Hi, class. I need to talk to Dr. Cartledge for a few minutes.’”

As related by Cartledge recently, Parker, a towering bear of a man, asked her, “You want to work here full time?” The petite young part-timer, who’d recently completed her dissertation at the University of Georgia, reminded him that she was under contract to Muscogee County Schools and had a day job teaching math at Columbus High School. He said that he had already made a call or two about that, and that she was cleared to resign from that position to join the teacher preparation faculty if she wished. Cartledge took little time in responding in the affirmative. In the next week or two, contracts were negotiated and signed. In January, she joined the Columbus College faculty.

A native of Louisiana, Cartledge had used the GI Bill to pursue graduate studies. This, she explains, was a benefit to Vietnam era widows that she had been unaware of at first. She relocated to Columbus after meeting – and then marrying – local attorney John Cartledge.

On May 6, 2008, Carolyn Cartledge received the Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award, given each year to the one individual who, over time, has contributed



(L-R) Associate Dean Ellen Roberts, Thomas Harrison, and Honoree Carolyn Cartledge

most to the College of Education. In the years following 1976, Cartledge distinguished herself as a faculty member, department chair, director of institutional research, and assistant to the dean in the College of Education.

But a list of titles and positions hardly does justice to the multiple ways that Cartledge made her mark on Columbus State and the College of Education prior to her retirement in 2007. Among her first roles was as a member of the committee guiding teacher education programs toward national accreditation through NCATE. Gradually, she developed expertise about accreditation standards and processes and, 25 years later, still worked closely producing top-quality self-studies, assessment materials, and technology enhanced databases that helped ensure CSU’s continuing success in maintaining national accreditation.

Thomas Harrison—retired education dean and interim Vice President for Academic Affairs—comments that “Dr. Cartledge understood how data and the ways we report data can and should be used to improve what we do.” The Harrison Award is named in his honor. Regarding Cartledge’s university-wide contributions, he went on to say, “We learned a lot from her in the VPAA’s Office. No matter what the issue was, she was ready to help. She would stay honed in on that problem until it was solved.” Cartledge and her husband continue to live in Columbus while enjoying mountain getaways to North Georgia. Their daughter Lucy, a CPA, lives in Chattanooga.



Charles Ragsdale and Carolyn Cartledge catch up at the April COE retirees’ luncheon.

In The Search – Finding New Faculty

What do college professors do with all that time? They teach for maybe 12 hours a week, go to a couple of meetings and advise a few students. Then what?

True, faculty also engage in research, present papers and provide leadership in their profession. Beyond these generally well-known responsibilities, however, professors play an important role in finding and evaluating new faculty. Through what many agree is a labor-intensive search process, they exercise control over who their colleagues will be in the future.

This element, in fact, distinguishes higher education from, say, the business world. A faculty has a degree of ownership over who is hired and, in time, given tenure at Columbus State University or elsewhere. This is very unlike processes at corporations such as Synovus or AFLAC.

This past winter and spring, five searches for new faculty have been under way in the College of Education: in special education, early childhood, history education, physical education, and middle-grades. Two new faculty—Dr. Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert in physical education and Dr. Gregory Blalock in special education—have been hired for the 2008-2009 academic year.



Dr. Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert

Fittipaldi-Wert, who has taught both elementary and middle-school physical education in Pennsylvania and Alabama, completed doctoral studies at Auburn in 2007. Blalock, who is finishing his Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico, has extensive experience in special education, especially with intermediate care



Drs. Mary Beth Hendricks and Tom Hackett, together with Assistant Professor Gayle Herrington (right) review applications for an opening in Middle Grades Education. As Spring semester drew to a close, the Middle Grades search was still in progress. Four other College of Education searches were conducted since late in 2007.

facilities serving individuals with various cognitive disabilities.

Though faculty members review applications and determine finalists who come to campus for a day or two of interviews, the dean makes the final selection of new professors. Search committees send forward the names of candidates they find acceptable.

“Dean Rock wants search committee members to affirm that they would be happy to work alongside any candidate they recommend,” notes Associate Dean Ellen Roberts. Dr. Roberts coordinates searches, corresponds with applicants and maintains detailed records of search activities.

As of May, the middle-grades education search was still under way.

Who Is This Man? Why Is He Behind Bars?



(See page 7)

Rite Of Passage For Teacher Education Chair

Dr. Deborah Gober isn't the same teacher she was in 1982 when, fresh from earning a bachelor's degree at Asbury College in Kentucky, she took her first job teaching high school mathematics. She explains, "At that time I fell into teaching in ways similar to how I had been taught—mostly direct instruction, teacher demonstration, followed by student application and practice."

Gober's growth as a teacher was the focus of her spring presentation at the Rite of Passage Convocation, an event during which faculty promoted to the rank of Professor share with faculty, students, and acquaintances key events in their evolution as faculty members. The major change she notes in her own development is toward helping adolescents see mathematics as an inquiry-based discipline. "All students need experiences in mathematics out of which they build both understanding and skills." This is also true, she points out, for future mathematics teachers. "Teachers need the same sort of experiences with mathematics before they see the value in those experiences for their own students."

Gober taught high school mathematics in North Carolina for eleven years, then began advanced studies in her field. She joined the College of Education faculty in 1998 after earning her doctorate in mathematics education from the University of Georgia. She has been chair of the Department of Teacher Education for two years.

An expert in national and state accreditation issues, Gober coordinates COE activities related to NCATE standards and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission. She was recognized for her outstanding contributions when she received the CSU Faculty Service Award in 2004. The next year (2005), the College of Education presented her with the first Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award.



Dr. Deborah Gober (right) and graduate student Sarah Foor enjoy refreshments at a recent Teacher Education Symposium.

For the past several years, Gober has been among those assessing teacher preparation programs in Georgia. Serving as a program examiner for the Professional Standards Commission involves campus visitations and evaluating what other institutions do as they train the next generation of teachers. She describes this work as "affirming"—that is, she learns on other campuses that Columbus State has dealt effectively with some of the problems others still need to address. From time to time she picks up good ideas at other institutions that can be useful at CSU.

For all her accomplishments, Gober isn't one to toot her own horn. This may be one reason why she is so highly regarded among her colleagues. Dr. Betty Hipps, a new faculty member in early childhood education, sees Gober as relaxed. "This helped me be more comfortable. She makes a point of getting to know new people—and she is very much on top of things we need to know." Cynthia Benator, Coordinator

of Student Teaching, observes, "To me, Dr. Gober defines the term, professional. Her organizational, interpersonal, and academic skills are unsurpassed."

Can You Guess?

(from page 2)

John Phillips and Trevor Immelman shouldn't be listed among the million step walkers.

Phillips is Superintendent of Muscogee County Schools. Immelman, who won the Master's Golf Tournament in April, may have taken a million steps, but wasn't a Cougar WALK participant. His brother, Mark, coaches the CSU golf team.

Alumni And Retirees Help Celebrate CSU's Fiftieth

In April, the College of Education received guests at an array of special events in conjunction with CSU's 50th anniversary. On April 5, a campus-wide open house for alumni drew a number of College of Education graduates from the 1970s to Jordan Hall to tour new facilities and meet with current faculty. The following Tuesday retired faculty and staff lunched with Dean David Rock and a dozen faculty members.

Among alumni visitors on April 5 were Dan Trotter, Bill Gaddy and George Gastright. Each had been scholarship athletes in the early 1970s. Gaddy, who taught social studies at Spencer High School for many years, was a pitcher under CSU's legendary baseball coach, Charles Ragsdale. Gastright and Trotter played on Cougars varsity basketball teams of the era. All three were pleased to reconnect with Ragsdale, who also enjoyed taking a look at recent improvements to Jordan Hall. (Until 2005, the College of Education shared Jordan Hall with the College of Business.)

Retired faculty also visited Jordan Hall on April 5. Among them were Dr. Jack Stewart, Coach Sonny Clements and Professor Rosa S. Stanback. Stanback commented that she had not been in Jordan Hall for several years, and that changes were impressive.



George Gastright, Coach Charles Ragsdale, Bill Gaddy and Dan Trotter recall the good old days at a Jordan Hall open house on April 5.



Coach Sonny and Franny Clements (left) reconnect with old faculty friend Rosa S. Stanback at the open house.

On April 9, numerous retired faculty and staff lunched in the President's Room of the Lumpkin Center. Coach Mary V. Blackmon, Dr. Arthur Land, and Dr. Carolyn Cartledge joined with senior staff retirees Kitty Stringfellow and Dianne Fredrick. At the luncheon, catered by Country's, Dean David Rock acquainted guests with recent initiatives in the College of Education, including its first annual fund drive.



It was like old times for retirees Administrative Secretary Kitty Stringfellow and physical education Professor Mary Blackmon at lunch on April 9.

Spring Fling Brings Out Fanciful Photographers

The Man Behind Bars (see page 4) is Dean David Rock, moments before the first of numerous dunkings at the College of Education Spring Fling on April 25. The COE welcomed several hundred participants to campus for an afternoon of food, fun, and photos. Numerous local businesses contributed to the festivities.

As part of the event, the *COE Quarterly* sponsored a Fling Your Fotos contest. Contributors submitted up to three pictures of “children, families and others enjoying themselves” at the Spring Fling.

Here are the top three entries.



First Place: The CSU Cougar and Jase Barlow exchange a high five.



Second Place: Music education major Hazel Geissenger introduces Eli Gonzalez to the tuba.



Third Place: Dr. Sallie Miller and Alex Hero enjoy a cupcake.

The generosity of the following businesses helped make the Spring Fling a success. Many thanks to them from the faculty, staff and students of the College of Education

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In case you're wondering, there will be a Fall Foto contest. Stay tuned.

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Summer Spectacular Earns Innovation Award

Early childhood faculty who poured blood, sweat, and tears into the Summer Spectacular were rewarded on May 6 when they received the Dean's Award for Innovation. Presented each year to faculty, staff, or even programs, the innovation award recognizes those who bring fresh thinking to old problems, who create quality experiences for teacher education candidates, or who enrich the learning of children and adolescents.

The Summer Spectacular qualifies on all three counts: for one, the Spectacular opens up much-needed settings for field experiences in the summer term. Otherwise, many junior and seniors in the early childhood program, by far the COE's largest, would find their schedule for graduation delayed. In addition, early childhood majors both design the experiences of children and teach the lessons; they have far greater leeway to be creative in the summer than would be the case during the school year. Finally, the Spectacular serves children who profit significantly from high-order educational enrichment. In its second year, the program will now begin to serve—in addition to local youngsters—50 children from rural Talbot County.



Innovative quintet: Jan Burcham, Susan Barlow, Betsy Glisson, and Dee Greer. Not pictured: Joe Mills