

College of Education *Quarterly*

Creating Opportunities For Excellence

Vol 2, No. 3 • September 2008

College Of Education Honors Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Teaching

On May 6, CSU's College of Education community gathered to celebrate faculty, staff, students, and alumni for noteworthy achievement, both during the past year and, in some instances, for decades.

Highlights of the occasion were the selection of Dr. Carolyn Cartledge as recipient of the Thomas E. Harrison Leadership Award and the induction of three alumni—Owen Ditchfield, Ann McDuffie, and Dan Trotter—into the College of Education Hall of Fame.

Other major awards went to Betsy Glisson (Distinguished Teacher of the Year), Deirdre Greer

(Scholar of the Year), and Lisa Shaw (Exemplary Service). Graduate student Pam Wetherington received the H. T. Ford Graduate Servant Leadership Award.

The 2008 Hall of Fame initiates—Ditchfield, McDuffie, and Trotter—have had distinguished and varied careers in the classroom, the principal's office, and from the coach's bench.

Ditchfield, a Vietnam veteran and former Muscogee County School Board member, is retiring from Fort Benning Schools where, most recently, he served as a media specialist. He earned his teaching certificate and master's degree in the 1970s and was among



Dan Trotter (left), Ann McDuffie, and Owen Ditchfield entered the Hall of Fame on May 6.

those carrying the Olympic torch through Columbus prior to the 1996 Olympics. An innovator, he is a board member of the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation.

McDuffie, headmaster and principal of St. Luke elementary school, served as a teacher at Rothschild Junior High School for more than a decade, then as MCSD elementary science and mathematics consultant. Her reputation for leadership was affirmed when she became principal of Edgewood Elementary in 1991. Her work at Edgewood was

among reasons she was named a Milken Foundation National Educator in 1996.

Trotter, most recently principal of Pine Ridge Elementary (Harris County) and the 2007 Georgia Elementary School Principal of the Year, graduated from CSU in 1972 with a degree in social science education. His coaching talents took him out of state to the University of Tennessee at Martin (1976-1987) and later to Cleveland State Community College. He became a school administrator in 1988 and a principal in 1996.



Deirdre Greer (left - Scholar of the Year), Betsy Glisson (center - Distinguished Teacher) and Pam Wetherington (Servant Leadership), Lisa Shaw (right - Exemplary Service)

Reminder: The Fiftieth Anniversary Convocation takes place at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 25 at the RiverCenter. Doris Kearns Goodwin will be the keynote speaker.

For more information on *The College of Education Quarterly*, contact James Brewbaker at (706) 565-3682 or brewbaker_james@colstate.edu
 For information on College of Education programs, call (706) 568-2045 or visit coe.colstate.edu

PRIME Adds Up To Pride At Math Camps

Marisa Nunez, an eighth-grader at St. Anne School, may have found her future profession while at Columbus State this June. Marisa has participated in the Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative's (CRMC) PRIME camp for the past three summers. At PRIME she learned about the field of architecture. According to Pat Nolan, her grandmother, "She's been talking about becoming an architect for more than a year now." Marisa became acquainted with the field through Columbus architect Julie Smith, who visited the camp and talked with students in 2006. Marisa predicts that, in fifteen years or so, she will be a practicing architect.

Marisa explains that she enrolled in PRIME in 2006 because she was good at math. "It was so much fun the first year," she said in a *Quarterly* interview. "I just kept coming back." To her, line art was a highlight in the 2008 camp. (We have since learned that line art is a process of creating illustrations by using straight and curved lines, usually of just one color. It was once the primary process used in print illustrations.)

Middle-schoolers like Marisa have benefited from the CRMC's math enrichment camps since 1989. Led by Hope Phillips and Ruby Tucker with the help of graduate students, the PRIME camp is for girls in grades 6-8, and POWER is a

camp for boys the same age. Graduate students who participate receive intensive training from the CRMC in best-practice pedagogy for mathematics. Kenneth Jones has directed the CRMC since 2006.

PRIME is designed to reach girls



Marisa Nunez, a three-year participant in PRIME, explains a geometry problem.

who may not have sufficient opportunities to achieve at high levels in mathematics during the regular school year. If Marisa is representative, the program must work. When asked what was the main benefit of PRIME for Marisa, her grandmother responded with one word. "Pride," she said.

As noted above, POWER serves boys in grades 6-8, and PSI is for both boys and girls too young for either PRIME or POWER. All programs were founded by Helen Purks and Professors Kitt Lumley (Mathematics Department) and Mary M. Lindquist (Curriculum & Instruction Department), a past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.



Serious Fun. PSI participants know that three heads are better than two when it's time to solve challenging problems.

Debbie Jacobs Departs, But The Melody Lingers On

Professor Debbie Jacobs, program coordinator for music education for a decade, is returning to her native Missouri this fall as Coordinator of Fine Arts for Columbia Public Schools. "I grew up there. It's home," she said at a June luncheon recognizing COE faculty moving on to other professional roles. She will fill a position that, in the 1960s and 70s, her father—Kent Toalson—held.

Jacobs, to be sure, was a member of the Schwob Department of Music faculty, but she participated tirelessly in teacher preparation activities, serving on key committees at times of reaccreditation assessment by NCATE or the Professional Standards Commission. A national search will be conducted to replace her.



Music education professor Debbie Jacobs and Dean David Rock "sing cheese" in harmony.

College of Education Promotes Hispanic Heritage Month

Most education majors know about Black History Month in February, and others can tell you that March is Women's History Month. Fewer are aware that Hispanic Heritage Month begins soon, running from September 15 through October 15, and they may wonder why September 15 launches the observance.

In fact, five Central American countries—Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua—achieved their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. Mexico declared its independence on September 16, as did Chile on September 18. Paola Machado, CSU recruiter and advisor to Hispanic students, notes with amusement that many Americans think that May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) is Mexican Independence Day. No way, Jose!

As the Hispanic population grows in Georgia, it is increasing significantly both at CSU and in the College of Education. Admissions data reveal that over a five-year period Hispanic enrollment at CSU is up by more than 18

percent. Faculty note similar increases in the College of Education.

Columbus State and the College of Education support or sponsor a number of programs that reach out to Hispanic students already on campus as well as to high school students interested in college. For the past three years CSU, assisted by members of CHISPA (Columbus State Hispanic Association), has conducted an Hispanic/Latino Youth College Conference. Both parents and teenagers participate.



Vanessa Calderon (left) and Jaime Navarro sample holiday fare from Venezuela at December's Christmas Flavors event.

CHISPA, whose faculty advisor is Dr. Jose Villavicencio, Associate Professor of Foreign Language Education, is an organization of enrolled Hispanic students. Among the group's popular events is "Christmas Flavors From Around the World."

CHISPA was formed in late 2005. Villavicencio suggested the name for the group, which in Spanish means *spark*.



Lizmarie Rivera (left), Alvaro Victoria, and Grace Florez enjoy conversing at a CHISPA monthly meeting. Florez is a DJ for VIVA 1460 AM.

Goizueta Foundation Supports Hispanic Students

For three years, the Goizueta Foundation has funded CSU's recruitment and retention efforts aimed at Spanish-speaking citizens as well as students from Central and South America residing in the US. Four students – among them Gina Hulbert (early childhood education) and Mirabell Valentin (art education) – have been awarded full scholarships at CSU from the Foundation.

Roberto Goizueta, formerly CEO of Coca Cola, was a native of Cuba. A naturalized American citizen (1969), he formed the Foundation in 1992. He passed away in 1997.

Though a social organization in some respects, CHISPA is also a support group, giving its members a sense of community and opportunities to network, to create study groups, and find tutorial services.

Cindy Zavala, a junior early childhood major, sings the praises of education faculty and their support of CHISPA and its members. "The professors and staff have given us their moral and monetary support," she explains.

Zavala, who began learning English eleven years ago and is nearly fluent, credits professors Joseph Mills and others with helping her deal with the system. Mills helped make her case that she should take the Regents' Test for international students, not native speakers. Zavala begins her first block of upper division methods courses this fall.

Hall Of Fame Inductees Recall Memorable Learning Experiences

In order to gain insight into what makes them tick as educators, the Quarterly asked 2008 Hall of Fame inductees to describe for our readers “a memorable learning experience you had as a student” and to comment on how that experience affected their teaching practice. Here are the responses of Owen Ditchfield and Ann McDuffie. In our December issue, two faculty members, Lenoir Gillam (School Counseling) and Susan Barlow (Early Childhood), respond to the same topic.

Ann McDuffie

All of us who are educators were of course first educated by a series of teachers. Some of those teachers provided us with memorable learning experiences that have stayed with us through our own time in the classroom. Some unfortunately taught us what NOT to do, and yet others modeled what good teachers do naturally and as a result created some of today's best educators and educational leaders.

My own classroom experiences were quite assorted since I attended more than eight schools before graduating from high school! I have learned so much from each experience and would not change all of that moving around for the

world. Given the task of choosing one memorable learning experience, I would have to narrow it down to the most impressionable time in most of our lives. That would be those wonderful pre-teen years.



Mabel and Owen Ditchfield at the COE's Awards Ceremony on May 6

I had a fifth grade teacher at Faith School who made me want to come to school every day. She knew us all by name before the end of the first day, gave us a challenge to meet on that same day, and even invited us all to her house right off the bat. Miss Baker called our parents to tell them what we were doing right, got out on the court or field during PE and played right along with us, and made history and geography come alive with her 3D maps and globes and her required oral reports while in costume. She was so obviously delighted to be teaching that we all caught her enthusiasm.

I now look back and realize that Miss Baker is the

teacher I remember most vividly. I hear her talking and see her standing in front of the class or running on the softball field if I just close my eyes. She truly taught me to be involved with students and staff, to set the bar high,

to remember not to take yourself too seriously, to take criticism and make something better, and to enjoy what you are doing. Miss Baker made me a better teacher.

Owen Ditchfield

One thing I learned as a student teacher was that students learn best when you plan each class with an eye to making it relevant to their world, using novel approaches and a sense of humor. At Kendrick high school, I had two supervising teachers in English classes for students graduating early by going to summer school.

Betty Smallwood was a senior teacher and all busi-

ness. One day I asked her if I could provide the vocabulary list. She agreed. The next day I brought a copy of *Mad Magazine's* “Non-slanderous Political Smear Speech.” In it, the speaker refers to his opponent as a “flagrant heterosexual whose daughter is a well-known thespian and whose wife had engaged in hortatory activities. Not only had he perambulated a child in a public park, but had performed a piscatorial act on a ship flying the United States flag.”

You get the idea.

The next morning, before students arrived, I showed Betty the speech with instructions for students to look up and learn the definitions of the words. After about 15 seconds, Betty cracked up and then struggled to regain her composure before the students saw her tears of laughter. Naturally, there were some gasps when students read the paper, but they returned the next day with an appreciation of vocabulary that is rare.

My other cooperating teacher was Claudia Bolich (now Wells), who was young and easy to work with. We took turns teaching different units. Near the end of summer school, Claudia taught poetry. After a couple of hours, the class was fighting to stay awake. It was a pretty boring routine: reading a poem, saying what it means,

See **HALL OF FAMERS** next Page

Martha Hall Keeps Cooking In Retirement

Following her retirement last spring, Martha Hall now enjoys gardening, catching fish from one of the four ponds on her Smiths, Alabama property, cooking, and living the good life. In her minimal free time, she and husband Bill Hall are remodeling her parents' home in Kinston, Alabama, near the Florida border. Bill Hall is a beverage distributor based in Opelika.

The popular Associate Professor of Educational Leadership leaves two voids in the faculty: first, her contributions as a strong teacher, scholar, and colleague;

second, her food contributions to the College of Education's occasional potluck meals.

Dr. Hall left her garden briefly in June to talk with the *COE Quarterly*. Our reporter wanted to know about her mother's layered dessert. "Mother [Mary Danley Courson] made her layered dessert for reunions and other family events," she explained. Now Hall does so as well. Ingredients, she went on, may vary based on what is available and on personal preference. Keeping that in mind, here is the version she shared with us—and now with you.



Ed leadership professor Martha Hall and Mary Beth Hendricks, special education professor, enjoy the COE's retirement cook-out.

HALL OF FAMERS

and going on to another.

During the morning break, I mentioned to Claudia that she was having a problem engaging students. She admitted that poetry was always a difficult area to teach. "Let's try something different," I suggested. "Let's have a big disagreement in front of the kids. That should wake them up."

"I'll try anything," she replied.

The poem we read after the break could be interpreted several ways.

After the student read it and gave an obvious explanation, Claudia complimented him and was getting ready to continue.

From the back of the room I spoke up and said, "Excuse me. I know I'm only supposed to be observ-

ing, but any fool can tell that this poem means...."

Claudia jumped in and said, "Now just a minute...." I replied, "No, you just listen." After I gave my alternate interpretation, the class erupted in a passionate discussion of the poem, reaching depths



Ann McDuffie

never imaginable in most high school classrooms. Claudia and I sat back and smiled, as students who liked her the most defended her explanation, while ones

who favored me took my position.

The next day students claimed they knew what we had done, but they didn't, and I've been stirring up things in the classroom for the past 36 years.

Mary and Martha's Layered Dessert

Ingredients

- One cake (the cake may be angel food cake or pound cake; Dr. Hall's mother preferred a lemon cake)
- Blueberries (canned blueberries for pie filling may substitute)
- Strawberries (canned strawberries for pie filling may substitute)
- Canned pineapple, drained peaches – fresh, canned, or frozen
- Coconut, canned or frozen
- Pecans, crumbled
- 1 large vanilla pudding mix
- 1 large cool whip
- 1 small cool whip

Procedures

- Prepare the vanilla pudding according to the recipe on the box; fold in the large cool whip.
- Crumble the cake and divide into 4 piles. Similarly, divide fruits, coconut, and pecans into four piles.
- In a trifle dish or glass punchbowl, put 1/4 of the crumbled cake. Then add 1/4 of fruits, coconut, and pecans, topping with a layer of pudding/cool whip.
- Add a second, third, and fourth layer until all ingredients are used and the bowl is nearly full.
- Add a topping of plain cool whip and decorate according to taste. A combination of cut strawberries, raspberries, or blackberries is one possibility.

Chill overnight. Serves 18-24.

Whatcha' Reading? Members of the College of Ed Extended Family Share Their Summer Favorites

Summer is a busy time at Columbus State. Even so, many of us find time for reading, both for professional growth and pleasure. Here is a sampling of the books that students, faculty, retirees, and others were enjoying in the last month or two.

Laura Nunley, CSU Recipient of Academic Recognition Award for 2008

Black (Thomas Nelson, 2008), the first book in Ted Dekker's Circle Trilogy (*Black/Red/White*), is a captivating work of fiction featuring Thomas Hunter, a man who, for reasons unknown, lives in two worlds. The intriguing part is the manner in which he toggles between them. When he sleeps in one world, he wakes up in the other. One is the world as we know it. The other is an alternate reality that he soon discovers is closely linked to his own in a way I refuse to divulge. Since both worlds seem real, he assumes both are true and acts accordingly. As Thomas tries to save one world from the impending disaster he predicts from his "dreams," he ends up using his knowledge from both worlds to try to save them both.

George Stanton, CSU Vice President for Academic Affairs

The World Without Us (Picador, 2008) by Alan Weisman offers an ecological prediction of what planet earth would probably be if humans were suddenly removed. For some, these projections might be quite surprising as he illustrates how quickly earth's ecosystems would probably obliterate much of the evidence that we (humans) were ever here.

The Biology of Belief (Mountain of Love Productions, 2005) by Bruce Lipton, a cell biologist and medical

school professor. Finding himself depressed, Lipton resigned his tenured faculty position and took a position at a Caribbean medical school. Working outside the academic mainstream, he started thinking in unconventional ways. He began to think that genes did not control life, but that the environment, by influencing genes, controlled life. This led him to challenge many of his beliefs. He writes to encourage us to discover that many of the beliefs that guide our lives are, in fact, false.

Bob Henderson, Professor Emeritus of Education

I am always reading books on food and wine. Most recently that included *Thomas Jefferson on Wine* (University Press of Mississippi, 2006) by John Hailman, and *Red, White, and Drunk All Over* (Bloomsbury USA, 2007), by Natalie MacLean.

For light reading, I always await the next episode of Alexander McCall Smith's "No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" and have just finished *The Miracle at Speedy Motors* (Pantheon, 2008). The adventures of Mma Romatswe and Mma Makutsi are never



Our readers are interested in a world without human beings, Thomas Jefferson, and cross-country bus trips.

The latter is essays and photos of sections of Paris which no longer exist.

To avoid the charge of hedonism, I always read a few books of a more academic nature. Right now it's Alan Ryan's *John Dewey and the High Tide of American Liberalism* (Norton, 1963). It signals, I hope, a revival of the thought of America's foremost philosopher.

Michelle E. Jones, Assistant Professor of Library Science, Simon Schwab Library

This summer I read *Commanding Your Morning* (Strang, 2007) by Cindy Trimm. The book focuses on Christian life and spiritual growth. Written by a renowned motivational speaker, preacher, life coach, and success mentor, its purpose is to help individuals realign or rejuvenate their spiritual life. The focus is on recognizing the power of positive speech, thought patterns, and actions in order to claim all that life has to offer.

The freedom to read what and when one wants, without the need to take notes, is the great joy of retirement.

**Bob G. Henderson
Professor Emeritus**

deeply sinister but are always delightful.

Since the exchange rate has postponed a return to France, I enjoy it vicariously. I have just finished *Metro Stop Paris: An Underground History of the City of Light* (Walker & Company, 2008) by Gregor Dallas and *Walks Through Lost Paris* (Shoemaker and Hoard, 2006) by Leonard Pitt. The former is a series of historical essays associated with twelve Paris Metro stops.

Though easy to read, this book contains both pertinent and extraordinary truths. There is great potential to become more conscious of reactions to life circumstances and claim victory everyday.

**Susan Andrews, Superintendent,
Harris County Schools**

Jonathan Mooney learned to read at age 12. He was diagnosed with severe ADHD and dyslexia. In *The Short Bus* (Holt, 2007), he describes how school made him feel, how being in special education made him think that he was not normal. As an adult, he turned a “short bus” into a camper and traveled across America interviewing others labeled as outside the confines of “normal.” It questions what is “normal” and how individuals learn to cope.

Teachers are working hard to understand and implement the Pyramid of Intervention and the Response to Intervention that are required prior to recommending a student for special education. We must now prove through the use of data that we have used research-based strategies to teach all children in the regular classroom. The question from many is why is this necessary?

I have invited Jonathan Mooney to speak at our school system convocation in August to tell his story. I hope that his story will make us more reluctant to

give students labels that make them feel inferior.

**Walter Breaux, III, Assistant
Professor of Counseling**

I received *The Art of Teaching* (Oxford University Press, 2005) by Jay Parini as a gift and added it to my “must read” titles. In this guide to newer professors, Parini shares his 30+ years of teaching in a conversational style full of candor and insight. Parini suggests that teaching is like a performance where we must captivate, illustrate to, and motivate our audience. *The Art of Teaching* is written to accomplish these three goals. I agree: we teach stu-

dents correct content and skills, while modeling the personage of an academician. Parini entitles teaching as an art in that it is most potent when sourced of and infused with passion. Education is an inspirational process that reinforces the learner’s receptiveness rather than an intimidating experience students must “academically survive.” Jay Parini reminds me why I choose to teach and how to nurture passion for this invaluable skill and art.

**Connie Ussery, Library
Media Specialist,
Northside High School**

I was disappointed when my “Readers Anonymous” group selected a romance for their first book, Maureen Johnson’s *Suite Scarlett* (Point, 2008), about a sixteen year old who lives in a seen-better-days hotel in Manhattan. Her brother is an actor; her older sister is a gorgeous sales clerk, and her younger sister is bratty.

I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves. (1993)

**Anna Quindlen,
Novelist and *Newsweek* columnist**

Everyone pitches in with cleaning the hotel because money is tight.

A mysterious new guest, Mrs. Amberson, checks into the suite that Scarlett has taken over as her rooms to clean. She points out Scarlett’s many talents, puts her in some risky situations, and helps her hook up with her brother’s co-star. Everybody gets educated about friendship and family and loss and renewal and several herbal remedies Mrs. Amberson practices. In fact, the book highlights many of the best features of New York.

I liked it—the history of the old hotel, the lure of New York luxury, the



Student teaching coordinator Cynthia Benator samples “The Short Bus.”

awkward kid falling for her older brother’s friend—all of it was fun. And it made me remember that good romances aren’t just her-lips-said-no-but-her-eyes-said-yes drivel.

**Pam Wetherington, Fourth-Grade
Teacher and recipient of the 2008
Ford Graduate Leadership Award**

When I think of summer reading, I immediately think of pleasure reading. Since I will be teaching children in the fourth grade, I committed to reading Newbery Award winning books. Can you believe that I have never read these wonderful children’s books?

My favorite is *Number the Stars* (Random House, 1998) by Lois Lowry. *Number the Stars* is a fictional story about a ten year old girl, her Jewish best friend, and their families in Denmark during the German (Nazi) occupation. The story reminded me of the horrible events/circumstances each family endured, not just the Jewish people, but also non-Jewish families. It also reminded me of the sweet freedom each of these families experienced even though they had all suffered such tragedies. *Number the Stars* is a must-read for all ages!



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Does this man have time to read?



New father Dr. Walter Breaux, Assistant Professor of Counseling pictured here with wife Julee and daughter Jabeir, still found time to read this past summer. See pages 6-7.

Fall Calendar of Events

Sept. 15 - Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

(See story on page 2)

**Sept. 30 - Oct. 3
2:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

Banned Books Read-Out (Schwob Library on the veranda) Faculty, staff, and student readers will share their favorite banned books in this event that, by implication, makes the point that censorship has no place in a free society.

November 13: Mix-It-Up at Lunch Day, sponsored by *Teaching Tolerance* magazine. Nationwide, participation in Mix-It-Up Day has been growing for several years. There are many barriers in our schools that isolate children and adolescents into cliques based on ethnicity, gender, and other factors. To find out more (and to get started in planning Mix-It-Up day at your school) go to www.tolerance.org.

Enter Fall Foto Contest – Deadline October 15

The COE Quarterly seeks pictures of teachers, children and adolescents, families, and others engaged in learning. Photos should be taken after September 1, and those in a school setting may receive priority. Winning entries will appear in the December issue.

Send up to three digital photos to Brewbaker_james@colstate.edu no later than October 15. Judging will be blind. First prize: \$10. (Other winners will

have the thrill of seeing their Fall Fotos in the next issue.)

*** In the June issue, we failed to give credit where credit was due for winners of the Spring Fling Foto Contest. Winners were Susan Barlow (first place for “Jase and the Cougar”), Dutchie Riggsby (second place for “Eli Gives a Toot”), and Ellen Roberts (third place for Alex’s “Darn Good Cupcake”).