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# Columbus State University College of Education News

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## Hunter Lecture Series Welcomes Author Carmen Agra Deedy

College of Education students and faculty are avidly awaiting the visit of Carmen Agra Deedy, the award-winning story-teller and children's author, to campus on April 10, a Tuesday. Deedy was selected as the 2007 Hunter Lecturer early last fall.

Deedy will speak twice on campus that day. In a mid-morning session, she will discuss her work as a story teller and writer with a select group of early childhood and middle-school majors as well as others interested in children's literature. At 12:30, Deedy will address several hundred CSU students and faculty in the Fine Arts Hall. Special guests for the lecture will be fifth-graders from Fort Benning and Harris County Schools.

Following the lecture, the Cuban-American writer will autograph books, with proceeds from book sales to benefit a local or campus non-profit activity. All of her in-print children's books will be available.

Deedy, born in Havana in 1960, emigrated from her homeland as a child during the Cuban Revolution, a move that continues to color her life and her work. Her family settled in Georgia, where they slowly acclimated to cultural differences. Her audio-book,

*Growing up Cuban in Decatur, Georgia* (Peachtree Press, 2004) captures her experiences as a child and teenager through a series of engaging narratives.

Deedy has shared her stories with hundreds of thousands of children and adults at festivals, schools, and theaters. She has performed at the National Book Festival, the Kennedy Center; the Folger Shakespeare Library (all in Washington, D.C.), and on Broadway. Her stories have also aired on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*.

Her most recent book, *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark* (2001), is the winner of numerous awards including the 2001 International Reading Association Notable Book for A Global Society and the 2001 Jane Addams Peace Association Honor Book Award.



**Carmen Agra Deedy**  
Author and Storyteller

## David Rock Takes Over As College Of Education Dean

Dr. David Rock comes to Columbus State University from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where he served as Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Department of Education. He served previously at the University of Mississippi as Coordinator of Secondary Instruction. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University, an M.A. in Mathematics Education from the University of Central Florida, and also from UCF an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Rock has received recognition from numerous entities for outstanding teaching; grant writing; innovative excellence in teaching, learning, and technology; and research. He also serves as a member of the Board of Examiners for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and is the co-author of 15 books.



**David Rock**  
Dean, COE



**COLUMBUS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

## Internet Mathematics Contests Begin At CSU

[www.colstate.edu/mathcontest](http://www.colstate.edu/mathcontest)

The internet has a wealth of educational resources, especially for mathematics. The Problem of the Week Contests at Columbus State University are designed for children and adults of all ages. This student-centered website's goal is to increase mathematical communication, problem solving, and enthusiasm. The central address for these contests is [www.colstate.edu/mathcontest](http://www.colstate.edu/mathcontest).

Each site presents a different mathematics problem each week: The Elementary Brain Teaser (designed for elementary school students and under), Middle School Madness (designed for middle school students and under), Algebra in Action (designed for grades 6 and higher), The Problem of the Week Contest (open to everyone of all ages).

After viewing a contest problem, students submit a solution to the contest site. A return message is sent to each individual answering a problem indicating whether the respondent's solution was correct or incorrect. If the answer is correct, the student's name and school address is listed on the contest site. Students love the international recognition for doing a math problem. At the end of the week, the current problem is retired to a page labeled "Past

Problems." Teachers, students, and parents can then access and use these problems for mathematical enrichment and fun! These contests are viewed by thousands of students from around the world each week. Participants come from thousands of schools from more than 5000 cities in 85 different countries as well as all fifty U.S. states.

In addition to these contests, Dr. David Rock, Dean of the College of Education, maintains four math contests for multiple grade levels on the educational site operated by the White House. The address is [www.whitehouse.gov/kids/math](http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/math). The explosion of electronic mail (e-mail) and the internet has created a new medium of mass communication. E-mail is a wonderful tool, but the user must have a strong command of written language, which only amplifies the need for students of the present and the future to increase their ability to communicate mathematical knowledge.

Have some fun! Take a tour of our new site and submit an answer to one of the contests at [www.colstate.edu/mathcontest](http://www.colstate.edu/mathcontest). These problems will stretch your mind in places they have never been stretched before!

## Commissioner Marsha Moore Visits CSU

Ms. Marsha Moore, Commissioner of Bright From the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, was the featured speaker at a luncheon hosted by Child Care Resource and Referral of West Georgia on Thursday, January 4, 2007. The purpose of Commissioner Moore's visit was to identify and discuss issues and challenges in early care and learning for the Columbus region. CSU representatives that were present at the luncheon were Dr. David Rock, Dr. Ellen Roberts, Dr. Deborah Gober, and Dr. Vikki Collins. Local representatives from Children's Friend, Child Care Network, St. Luke Early Learning Center and St. Luke School, and Safe Kids, Head Start, United Way, the Georgia Cooperative Extension, and Muscogee County School District also attended. Regional personnel from Bright from the Start: Child Care Licensing Division also enjoyed the informative luncheon held at the Davidson Student Center on the CSU campus.



*Marsha Moore*

## School Counseling Program Offers Practicum/Internship

Each semester, excluding summers, the School Counseling Program offers an orientation for students planning to enroll in practicum or internship the following semester. The purpose of the orientation is to gather input from students about their desired choices of placements and to review expectations and application procedures pertaining to counseling field experiences. Since the integration of the School Counseling Program into the COE Partner School Network (PSN), this orientation has helped to facilitate coordination of placements in the PSN between the School Counseling Program Coordinator and Director of the College of Education Services and Field Experiences (SAFE) Office.

While students' application procedures vary depending on whether or not a student will be placed inside or outside of the Network, the School Counseling Program Coordinator's follow-up procedures are consistent across placements once applications are submitted to the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, and Professional Studies. Given the time required in the administrative aspects of the practicum/internship placement process once applications have been received (including follow-up contact with prospective site supervisors and course scheduling), it is imperative that the orientation sessions be held early in the term each semester. Students who are not eligible to begin field experiences during the next academic term are invited to gather information and ask questions as they anticipate their course of study in the School Counseling Program.

# EVENTS

## CSU Student Teachers Present At GCTE Conference

Student teachers Missie Tidwell and Tracy Green were co-presenters with Dr. James Brewbaker at the winter conference of the Georgia Council of Teachers of English on February 9. The threesome presented "National Poetry Month: Are You Ready?" a workshop that focused on how middle-school and secondary teachers can celebrate poetry in April.

Jekyll Island hosted the GCTE conference.

"Our emphasis is on celebrating, not studying poetry," pointed out Missie Tidwell, student teaching at Hardaway High School this spring. "Teenagers get enough terminology and such already. Students enjoy poetry more when the emphasis is on engagement and sharing." Tidwell reported that the workshop demonstrated at least two poetry writing activities, "Exquisite Corpse" and "Powerfully Poetic Scavenger Hunt." Playing "Exquisite Corpse" is among thirty ways to celebrate poetry suggested by the Academy of American Poets ([www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)).

Dr. James Brewbaker noted that the workshop emphasized six Georgia poets. "Georgia literature is increasingly important in the curriculum," he stated. Under new Georgia Performance Standards policies adopted in July, 2006, teachers are obliged to introduce significant Georgia writers and their works.

The six poets highlighted in the workshop were David Bottoms, Judith Ortiz Cofer, James Dickey, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Byron Herbert Reece, and Alice Walker, half of whom are living. Brewbaker observed, "We believe that poetry is alive and well, so—when we introduce Georgia poets to adolescents—we want them to know about those who are still writing as well as the dead ones."

Tracy Green, student teaching at Richards Middle School, took the lead is

preparing "poetry one-liners" to distribute at the conference. These were colorful and memorable short quotes—one-liners—from an array of poets, both from Georgia and elsewhere. Among the one-liners were these:

*"The heart of a woman falls back with the night."* Georgia Douglas Johnson

*"I shall lift my arms and my roots will set off to seek another land."*  
Pablo Neruda

*"Though aimless as the sun or wind observe how agile is the mind."*  
Byron Herbert Reece



**James Brewbaker**

Three other secondary English language arts majors (Brooke Bowden, Kathy Honea, and Amanda Averett) will co-present a similar workshop with Dr. Brewbaker at Kennesaw State University in late March. "I love working up presentations to do with students," he commented. "Getting involved professionally is an eye-opening experience for our students, and presenting with them keeps my on my toes."

## Partridge Inducted Into Doctoral Program At Oxford

Mr. Ronald Wayne Partridge, M.Ed. English Education, 2004, has been formally inducted into the program of doctoral study at the University of Oxford. The oldest university in the English-speaking world, the University of Oxford is located in Oxford, England. Mr. Partridge is currently an English teacher at Baconton Community Charter School, Baconton, Georgia, where he also serves as cross-county coach.



**Ronald Wayne Partridge**

## Community of Aspiring School Leaders Begins

The Community of Aspiring School Leaders (CASL) was organized fall semester, 2007, to promote, encourage, and model a professional development learning community for aspiring school leaders in the College of Education. Members, graduates, and faculty members are encouraged to join to establish networking relationships and collaborative support groups. Other membership benefits include organizational mentoring, retaining a connection to the college after graduation, and accessing available leadership positions. By modeling lifelong learning, CASL seeks to foster the professional development of school leaders through a professional organization for aspiring leaders. For more information, contact Dr. Martha Hall, CASL adviser, at 706.565.7826 or at [hall\\_martha@colstate.edu](mailto:hall_martha@colstate.edu).

Please send newsletter information to  
[collins\\_vikki@colstate.edu](mailto:collins_vikki@colstate.edu)

## Important Changes in Graduate Admissions

Effective December 2006, the admissions standards for the Master of Education Degree at Columbus State University have been changed to allow proof of teaching licensure for admission into programs in lieu of the Graduate Record Examination. Previously, candidates for M.Ed. and Ed.S. programs were required to take the GRE. Now, candidates are able to submit a copy of a teaching certificate to the Graduate Admissions Office rather than GRE test scores. Another change in effect spring semester, 2007, includes a payment plan (three payments during a semester) developed by Graduate Admissions in order to distribute the cost of graduate studies across a semester.

For more information, contact Dr. Tom Hackett, Director of COE Graduate Studies, 706-568-2301.

# Literacy Focus For Graduate Reading Program

Professor Sallie Miller, Coordinator for the Graduate Reading Endorsement Program, and area teachers worked with the community to improve reading skills. Miller explained that the first step to improve a child's reading is to conduct a diagnosis. Why? If the teacher does not identify the child's reading strengths and weaknesses, the instruction provided may or may not target weaknesses; for the struggling reader, this could easily result in more frustration and failure.

Teacher participants in the 2007 Reading Endorsement Program will learn how to answer questions about why some children struggle with reading. This year's cadre of teachers will conduct reading assessments using the latest diagnostic technology, as well as a systematic battery of informal and formal assessments. The teachers will:

- participate in an in-depth study about reading, reading research, and the reading process.
- receive clinical training in tests administration –both the equipment and a battery of assessments to measure reading ability.
- conduct case studies working one-on-one with a child in exercises designed to train the teacher to diagnose and effectively treat the child's reading deficiencies; e.g., visual, auditory, memory, vocabulary, etc.
- complete a diagnostic report and suggested intervention strategies and activities.

Miller said that parents contact her months in advance of the assessment sessions to have their children placed on a list for a reading diagnosis. If a child is selected to participate, the parent receives a diagnostic report and suggested intervention strategies and activities.



Dr. Sallie Miller works to help improve elementary student's reading skills.

The program encourages a community of learners both online and during traditional class settings; thus, colleagues work together in learning how to best address literacy issues in their classrooms.

In addition, area teachers utilized state-of-the-art technology in the process. The new Visagraph III includes computerized goggles in an eye-movement recording system that helps to diagnose a student's difficulty in following text. Another piece of equipment, the Keystone, detects visual hindrances such as eye coordination dysfunctions, usable vision and intermittent central suppression.

## Dr. Susan Andrews Vies For National Superintendent of The Year

Dr. Susan Andrews, CSU Alumni and Harris County Superintendent of Schools, was named one of four finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year Award. Winner of Georgia Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Andrews recently traveled to Washington D.C. for a three-day trip of interviews by a panel of judges. While Dr. Andrews did not receive the final award at the presentation in New Orleans during March 1-3, she was grateful for the recognition shown to her and the Harris County school district.

She, like all four of the finalists, was nominated for this honor by the members of her local board of education. In supporting her candidacy, the Harris County Board cited her leadership as the system achieved SACS accreditation, implemented a Junior ROTC program, successfully passed a SPLOST referendum, and opened a state-model Performance Learning Center. The Board's nomination emphasized Dr. Andrews's professionalism and people skills, and board members described her commitment to the schools and com-

munity in her native Harris County as "unmatched."

With her continued focus on students and their success, Dr. Andrews has integrated the work of such educational leaders as Mike Schmoker, Bill Daggett, and Phil Schlecty into the instructional program of the schools; as a result, Harris County's children have thrived. She has identified barriers to school change and improvement and has led the way in overcoming any barriers for the children in her system. According to school board members, Dr. Andrews has developed into a strong, effective leader for the Harris County School District.

Dr. Andrews stated, "Words cannot express how much this means to me. This honor is an accomplishment for everyone in the system. It is a reflection of hard work and dedication from many, many people. I am grateful to each and every one of them."



*Susan Andrews*

# NEW FACULTY

**Dr. Larry Beaty** is a temporary Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and returns to the Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership, and Professional



**Larry Beaty**

Studies, having served as a full-time faculty member from 1999-2004. He obtained a B.S.E. in Mathematics from Troy State University and an M.Ed. and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Auburn University. Dr. Beaty brings with him extensive administrative experience, having served as a public school superintendent and President of both Opelika State Technical College and Wallace Community College.

**Ms. Betsy Glisson**, temporary Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, received her BS in Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southern University and her MEd and EdS in Early Childhood Education and Leadership and Supervision from Troy State University. She has extensive teaching experience in Georgia public schools and received National Board Certification in 2004. For the past twelve years, she has taught in a multi-age and looping classroom setting in Harris County. Ms. Glisson is currently pursuing a PhD in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University.



**Betsy Glisson**

**Dr. Mike Hall**, temporary Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, comes to the College of Education from the Georgia Department of Education, where he has been serving as the State Deputy Superintendent for Information Technology. He received a BS in Physical Education from Georgia College, an M.Ed. and Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision from the University of Southern Mississippi, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Sarasota. Under his leadership as principal of Houston County High School, it was named the Best of the Best Technology School in the Nation. Among other honors, Dr. Hall has received recognition from the Blue Ribbon Schools Foundation as one of the top 10 high school principals in the nation.



**Michael D. Hall**

**Dr. Bonita Flournoy**, associate professor and program coordinator of science education, earned her BS in Chemistry from Bishop College, MA in Science Education from Atlanta University, and Ed.D. in Science Education from the University of Georgia. She



**Bonita Flournoy**

comes to CSU with over 20 years of higher education experience holding positions as a teaching faculty in science education, coordinator and program manager for teacher education and science related programs, chairperson, and principal investigator/director of six federally funded science and mathematics projects. She has published research about the professional development of science and mathematics middle and secondary teachers in various science and teacher education journals. A member of many professional organizations, Dr. Flournoy was appointed for a three-year term as a member of the College Committee for the National Science Teachers Association.

**Ms. Gayle Herrington**, temporary Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education, received her formal training at Spelman College and North Carolina State University where she earned a BA in Mathematics and MEd in Mathematics Education, respectively. Ms. Herrington taught high school mathematics in Virginia and Georgia. She was also an Aerospace Education Specialist for two years for the NASA Aerospace Education Services Program and traveled across the country doing staff development workshops, lecture-demonstration assemblies, and hands-on lessons in P-12 classrooms. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in Mathematics Education at Auburn University.



**Gayle D. Herrington**

**Ms. Ann Klinkenborg**, temporary Assistant Professor of Physical Education, received her BS in Elementary Physical Education from Vanderbilt University and her MEd in Health and Human Performance from Auburn University. She has taught in Auburn City Schools for the past sixteen years as an elementary physical educator. She also has eight years of experience as a developmental coach for Auburn Aquatics. She currently teaches adult swimming lessons and Swim for Fitness classes at Health Plus Fitness Center. Ms. Klinkenborg is pursuing a doctoral degree in Health and Human Performance at Auburn University.



**Ann Klinkenborg**

**Mr. Joseph Mills**, temporary Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, received his BSEd and MEd in Early Childhood Education from Columbus State University. He taught eight years in Muscogee and Fulton County schools. In 2001, he was named the Muscogee County Teacher of The Year and was given the Outstanding Alumnus award by the CSU College of Education. Mr. Mills will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Early Childhood Education at Georgia State University.



**Joseph Mills**

**Dr. Alicia Tatum** has been appointed Assistant Professor of Physical Education and will serve as the coordinator of the Wellness Program in the College of Education. Dr. Tatum received her BA in Psychology and her MA and Ph.D. in Exercise Science from the University of Alabama. She has worked as a group fitness instructor, cardiac rehabilitation intern, and medical assistant. She also taught courses in exercise science and coordinated the Human Performance Lab at the University of Alabama. She is interested in promoting fitness within the aging and African-American populations.



**Alicia Tatum**