EDUCATOR

Spring 2009 Volume 5 Number 2

Special Dates of Interest
♦ May 1, 2009 Apple Pinning Ceremony
♦ May 2, 2009 Spring Commencement
♦ May 11, 2009 Session A, C Summer Semester Begins
♦ June 29, 2009 Session B Begins
♦ August 24, 2009 Fall Semester Begins

Inside this Issue
Message from the Dean...
FAMU’s Research Summit
Florida Fund for Minority Teachers Scholarship
COE Department of Workforce Education
College of Education Graduate Honored
Jungle Fever Invades the COE
Kappa Delta Pi Inductees
Faculty Accomplishments
Teachers for a New Era
FAMU’s New Multi-Purpose Center and Teaching
FAMU Professor Joins China Business Study Tour

Message from the Dean…..

As we close another academic year, we can reflect on all the accomplishments, work, and progress made during the past twelve months. This reflection will prepare us to take on the challenges of a new year. Reflecting on my own experiences as your new Dean, I am grateful for all the support given to me from faculty, staff and students.

The College of Education has a long history of excellence. Our graduates have been successful throughout the world. We are now in the process of creating a new legacy – forging a radical new design for developing knowledge, skills, and dispositions to meet the needs of a changing society and world. Our mission and goal is to continue to be the top producer of outstanding teacher education candidates and particularly those of minority groups. We believe that society should look to us if they are interested in understanding the pedagogical techniques for training good teachers. Through our teaching, service, research, and modeling we will have the capacity to impact the world.

As our graduates prepare to leave, I wish for each of you a wonderful and successful career. You have been taught by some of the best in the profession. We ask that you go forth and make an impact on the world. You have chosen a profession that is second to none. Treat it with dignity. Always remember that every child can learn. It is left up to you. Congratulations!

First Annual FAMU Research Summit

“Building Research Capacity through Collaboration” was the theme of FAMU’s First Annual Research Summit. The conference was a collaborative effort of the Teachers for a New Era (TNE), the Center for Faculty Development and Research (CFDR), and the FAMU Division of Research (DOR).

Presentations by the College of Education included, “Assessing Teachers’ Concerns About Block Scheduling” by Dr. Warren Hope, Ms. Rose Cambell, and Mr. Isaiah Brown; “High Stakes Testing: The Good and the Bad” by Dr. Ada Burnette; “College Level Premium of Black Men: Is It Worth Investing Additional Levels of College?” by Mr. Nathaniel Johnson; “Effect of FAMU Graduates on Pupil Learning in K-12 Education: A Value Added Analysis” by Mrs. Colin Anderson, Kirk Gavin, Nathaniel Johnson, and Drs. Gwanzi Lufti and Patrick Mason; “Violence in American Schools” by Dr. Tony Manson; “The Many Rewards of Mentoring” by Dr. Patricia Green-Powell; “HIV/AIDS Education” by Dr. Yolanda Bogan and Ms. Tanya Tatsumi.; “What It Was Like, The Way It Was: Images of Education in the Era of Segregation, 1940-1970” by Drs. Warren Hope and Trinetia Respress; and “High Stakes Test’s Influence on Teachers’ Beliefs” by Dr. Warren Hope.

Dr. Genniver Bell, Dean, College of Education

Newly appointed Vice President of Research, Dr. Larry Robinson, and Dr. Chanta Howard, Dean of Graduate Studies welcomed Summit participants and presenters. Break out sessions were conducted by faculty from many of the University’s Colleges, Schools, and Programs. The College of Education had several faculty and staff participate as presenters.
Ms. Kaffee Campbell and Ms. Caryn Jefferson were recognized as Florida Fund for Minority Teachers Scholarship Outstanding Scholars at the annual conference of the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc (FFMT) Teacher of the Year banquet. The awards were announced at the 13th annual event in Miami, Florida on April 4th, 2009. These future teachers are recipients of Florida Minority Teacher Education Scholarships to further their education.

Ms. Campbell is a graduating senior in English Education from Jacksonville, Florida. She was recognized for her contributions of leadership in Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in education, academic achievement, and volunteer work with at-risk youth in local communities. Kaffee is a leader and member of the FAMU chapter of Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education, and other professional groups in English education.

She demonstrated a passion for teaching and learning, and superior knowledge and best practices for the classroom during her recent student teaching experience at Wakulla Middle School.

Ms. Jefferson is an Elementary Education major from Miramar, Florida who plans to complete her teacher preparation with student teaching in fall 2009. Caryn excels academically, with a GPA of 3.90. She has been recognized as a Junior Scholar and is a member of several honor societies, notably the Golden Key Honor Society, and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. She is also a member of the FAMU chapters of the Florida Future Educators Association (FFEA) and the National Education Association (NEA).

Caryn demonstrates a strong understanding of diverse cultures and shares her personal vision for creating a caring positive environment for all students.

These future teachers, model pre-professional educators, bring great pride to Florida A&M University and the College of Education.
Mr. John Garman Jr., a 2002 graduate in elementary education from the FAMU College of Education, was honored as the recipient of the first annual Florida Fund for Minority Teachers, Inc (FFMT) Teacher of the Year. The award, which includes $1,000, was announced at the 13th Annual FFMT Conference in Miami, Florida on April 4th, 2009. He was a past a recipient of the Florida Minority Teacher Education Scholarship while a student at FAMU.

Mr. Garman is the lead math teacher at Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School in Jacksonville, Florida. His major achievement for this award was his school’s selection as the nominee for Duval County School District Teacher of the Year, and his influence on significantly improving the FCAT scores for his students for the past 3 years.

To quote his Middle School Principal, “Mr. Garman has a passion for teaching and learning, he demonstrates superior math knowledge and best practices for the classroom, and his classroom is a place where mediocrity is not accepted.”

Mr. John Garman demonstrates a strong understanding of diversity and shares his personal vision to create a caring, positive environment for his students, parents, and peers.

Announcing...... the Department of Workforce Education!

It is official! The College of Education’s Business and Technology Education Program is now the Department of Workforce Education. The name change allows faculty and staff to maintain current program offerings, while exploring new career education programs. In addition, the Department will provide training workshops in the community.

On May 16 from 1:30–3:30 FAMU DRS and the Department of Workforce Education 1:30 – 3:30 will be hosting its first community training. The event is scheduled to take place at the new FAMU DRS facility on Wahnish Way. This class is designed for parents who want to improve their computer skills.

More classes will be offered that are based on a survey that was facilitated to obtain information in regard to needs of the community.
If you have been by Room 201(A) GEC(B) lately you may have noticed some changes. The students enrolled in EDE 3940 for Spring 2009 were studying learning environments.

When these pre-service teachers were asked to look around their own classroom, they saw none of the things they were learning about. The walls were bare, and there was nothing in the room to stimulate or motivate learning. There was broken furniture, faded bulletin boards, and outdated advertisements posted on the walls. They saw that it was not a very exciting place to learn and the inspiration for a class project was born.

Applying the things they had learned in class, the pre-service teachers in EDE 3940 took it upon themselves to transform the classroom into a stimulating and inviting learning environment. The first thing they did as a class was to brainstorm a possible theme around which to focus their work. The class chose the theme of “The Jungle.” Next, each student signed up for projects to be undertaken. These projects included a Welcome Back bulletin board, a door decoration, ceiling and wall displays, a bulletin board on the importance of reading, a mathematics board with functions and operations, and a spelling display of vocabulary words related to the jungle theme and more. The students created, designed, and implemented these changes all at their own expense!

“It was a fun way to demonstrate what we had learned,” said one student in the class. “It makes it much nicer for us everyday to come into a classroom that is an inviting place for us to learn,” said another. The students have been receiving many compliments for their efforts.

“One of the unexpected outcomes of this project has been the sense of community that has developed among the students,” avers Dr. Gail Bauman, the course instructor, “The students are proud of what they have accomplished!”

Jungle Fever” Invades the College of Education

Six new students were inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Society for Education on April 27, 2009. The new inductees are: Miss Andrea Daniels, Elementary; Miss Whitney Golden, Educational Leadership; Mr. Dunwoody Mirvil, Music; Ms. Kamesha Payne, Elementary; Ms. Velranee Pye, Educational Leadership; and Ms. Lekeisha Pittman, PreK/Primary.

Welcome, Dr. Endya B. Stewart, New Faculty Member

Dr. Endya B. Stewart, formerly from Florida State University, has recently joined the faculty of the College’s Department of Secondary Education and Foundations. Dr. Stewart hails from Ft. Valley, Georgia and has a B.S. Degree from Ft Valley State University, an M.S. from Auburn University, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. Dr. Stewart will be the lead professor in Measurement and Evaluation and Educational Research.

We welcome Dr. Stewart to our faculty!
After months of planning, Teachers for a New Era has opened an Induction Center that will serve new teachers, and significantly impact the learners they teach in a positive way. Pre-service teachers will be able to extend their knowledge before beginning the Student Teaching experience. The FAMU TNE Induction Center, located on the campus of Nims Middle School, in Tallahassee, will provide service to the Florida A&M University Developmental Research District (DRS) and Gadsden, Jefferson, and Leon County Public Schools.

The center held its inaugural “Professional Development Day” on Friday, April 17th. Five new teachers from FAMU DRS. Participating school districts were invited to attend the event, along with ten pre-service teachers from Flagler College and Florida State University College of Education. Dr. Genniver Bell, Dean of the FAMU COE; Dr. Gwendolyn Trotter, Director of TNE; and Dr. Marvin Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Leon County, offered greetings. Mrs. Maggie Lewis, Vice Chair of the Leon County School Board also brought words of encouragement on behalf of the board. Mrs. Kay Collins, Principal of Nims Middle, welcomed the Induction Center to her school. Leon County Schools’ Superintendent Jackie Pons and Mrs. Joy Bowen, Chair of the Leon County School Board, were also in attendance.

Training facilitators included Dr. Brenda Jarmon from FAMU’s School of Social Work; Ms. Joyce Hobson from the FL DOE; and Mrs. Shirley Proctor-Paul, National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). The featured speaker of the day was Dr. Robin Fogarty, internationally known author, who presented a session entitled “Data Dialogue.” The overall response from teachers and students in attendance was that the day was extremely helpful and motivating.

TNE is planning its next induction program, which will be held on May 29-30, 2009 at the Tallahassee Leon County Civic Center. For information regarding this event, contact Hodgetta Huckaby or Malinda Jackson at 850.412.7210.

Faculty Accomplishments

♦ On January 28, 2009 Dr. Bell attended the Capital Area Community Action Agency’s Annual Awards Dinner where Dr. Patty Ball Thomas was presented with the “Outstanding Education Partner Award.” Dr. Thomas has also published a book, entitled, Preparing Young Children To Enter School Ready to Learn.

♦ Dr. Patricia Green-Powell has been appointed as a Reviewer to the Editorial Board of The Journal of College Student Development. She also was a featured guest speaker at the November, 15, 2008 Special Program Series sponsored by the American Association of University Women and gave a presentation on The Impact of Community Relations and Partnerships on Low Performing Schools at the National Association of African American Studies Conference, held on February in Baton Rouge, LA.

♦ Dr. Charles P. Ervin, Jr. Chairman of the Department of Secondary Education and Foundations, was selected as the Leon County Public School District Volunteer of the Year for his work as a mentor at Bond Elementary School. Dr. Ervin will be honored at the District Honoree Banquet on May 11, 2009. Dr. Ervin stated that he was surprised by his nomination and subsequent selection for this honor. He feels that he has had a positive impact on the students who really needed support.

♦ Dr. Nancy Fontaine, Associate Professor, Department of Elementary Education, PreK/Primary Education Program has submitted a pre-application for an early reading first initiative in local elementary schools, and a letter of intent for a proposal entitled, “Specific Teacher Education Competencies within Professional Preparation Programs that Impact Children’s Development of School Readiness Skills.”

♦ Nine faculty members (Drs. Steve Chandler, Barbara Thompson, Maria Okeke, Gaynell Sherrod, Janet Sermon, Brian Hickey, Melissa Noland, Newton Jackson, and Mr. Jorge Olaves) and retired professor, Dr. Virden Evans, from the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation attended and presented at the 2009 American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance National Convention and Expo, March 31- April 4 in Tampa, FL. Fourteen students from the Department were able to accompany them and benefit from the information presented.

FAMU’S NEW MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER AND TEACHING GYM

The College of Education Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) will soon move into its new home in the new FAMU Multipurpose Teaching Gym (MCTG) on Wahnish Way. The stylish new facility took approximately two years to construct and cost $35 million. It is a 135,000 square foot multipurpose facility that, along with housing HPER, will serve the Men’s and Women’s Basketball Programs. In addition to its academic and athletic purposes, the MCTG will host FAMU graduation and convocation ceremonies and is also available on a fee-for-service basis for a variety of University and community events. The building will seat approximately 9,500 spectators with portable floor seating and the fixed seats around the arena.

The MCTG houses four classrooms, a dance studio, a banquet room and kitchen, a human performance laboratory, a fitness center, computer lab, and HPER and Basketball Coach offices. The arena area has four basketball courts when the bleachers are fully retracted, and can serve as either a tournament basketball arena or concert stage facility with different staging configurations.

The MCTG hosts its first Commencements on May 3rd with an all-star cast of guest speakers, a room full of proud graduates, and their equally proud families. This building inspires awe and pride in the visitors who have checked it out. It is sure to delight the commencement crowd and the thousands that attend its variety of events in the future.

FAMU Professor Joins China Business Study Educational Tour

From March 12-14, 2009, Dr. Teresa Shotwell, Professor in the Department of Business and Technology, had the privilege of traveling with sixteen faculty and students from Austin Community College (ACC), for its annual China Business Studies trip, coordinated by Dr. Reed Peoples, Director of International Studies. The province and cities visited were Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhou, Shanghai, and Pudong.

Dr. Shotwell strongly believes, there is no better way to expand one’s awareness of the world than to experience another country and culture firsthand. The China Business Studies provided an unsurpassed opportunity for students and faculty to learn a new language, become familiar with a diverse culture, and begin to understand an economic system in a country vastly different than the U.S.

After applying with ACC, Dr. Shotwell learned that the FAMU School of Business & Industry’s faculty and students had experienced the China Business Studies for several years. She was pleased to learn that FAMU has reaped the rewards of a global and individual perspective. With her own experience, Shotwell was able to learn about how other educational institutions address international business issues in their programs of study. It is her goal to expand this Chinese study opportunity to the faculty and students in the FAMU College of Education.

Shotwell visited and heard presentations at three educational centers during the China Business Studies. These included the University of International Business & Economics in Beijing, Beijing University, and the School of Chinese Studies in Xi’an.

Most Chinese professionals in China have English nicknames. During Shotwell’s visit, a couple of tour guides, Bing and Jasmine, thought it was only fitting that Shotwell should have a Chinese name. Dr. Shotwell adopted the name “Ti’an Shu,” which means “angel.”

Dr. Shotwell (center) and the 2009 China Business Studies Delegates