

# School of Education Newsletter



Fall 2010

Volume 1

I consider my life worth nothing to me , if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has set before me ; the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace

-Acts 20:24

Editor: Dr. Vicki Sheaffer

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## Dean's Corner



I am so excited to start this year off with so many cheerful faces! To all of our new freshmen: Welcome to the Education family! If you are returning: Welcome Back! We are so glad you have joined us again this year. Your faculty and staff in the School of Education love their calling to LeTourneau University! As your dean, I am blessed to be a part of the Education team and look forward to working with you as God leads you in this journey we call "life". We have some pretty exciting things going on this year – so keep your eyes and ears open to the opportunities that God brings your way. Be sure to make our Academic Chapels a priority this year. We are pleased to have this great opportunity to spend time with our students and worship together.

With so many of our traditional School of Education majors involved in athletics, you could go to any game or sporting event on campus and see your classmates representing our school well! Speaking of going, let me encourage you to go to every one of our team's games you can and cheer on our teams! Both Volleyball and Soccer are in season now. Pick up a schedule in the Solheim Center or view it on the web at:

[http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/\\_Student-Life/athletics/](http://www.letu.edu/opencms/opencms/_Student-Life/athletics/).

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## Recommended Reading from the Desk of the Dean

### *Five Reminders for Boosting Your Effectiveness as a Teacher*

By Kim Taylor, PhD.

I have observed, sometimes in myself and sometimes in colleagues, a certain tendency to be ironically unaware of (or inattentive to) a crucial disconnect between what we say and what we do. In short, we're good at talking the talk, but we are not so good at walking the walk, particularly in terms of our audience awareness.

We teach students to assess the communication context and adapt their messages to respond to the audience's needs and desires. But how often do we fail to do that same thing with our teaching? If we are honest with ourselves, I believe the answer is "far too often."

## Recommended Reading from the Desk of the Dean, cont.

**1. Practice what you preach.** Students can smell a rat from the next building, so if I am insisting upon audience awareness as a basic tenet of effective communication, I'd better be showing as well as telling them how to do it. Think about it this way: how am I demonstrating audience awareness if I never deviate from the lesson plan I prepared five, 10, or even 15 years ago? How am I modeling flexibility of thought and expression if I insist upon using the same lecture notes, overhead transparencies, or PowerPoint slides even when it's clear I have lost my audience? Are you finding it hard to connect with your students? Practice what you preach: sharpen your audience awareness and adapt accordingly.

**2. Remember that "adaptive" is not a synonym for "easier."** While teachers can discuss their assignments and exercises with a level of conviction that borders on the religious, suggest experimenting with something new, something that shifts the paradigm from teaching to learning, and you're likely to experience the academic equivalent of a smack-down, cloaked in the polarizing rhetoric of "rigor" versus "dumbing down" the curriculum. Change is inherently neutral. Adaptive change is good. Just ask the dodo. Wait, the dodo is extinct. Precisely.

**3. Reflect upon the meaning of the verb "to educate," which comes from the Latin educere, "to draw forth."** We cannot "draw forth" a student's interest, awareness, and ability if we never leave our egocentric elevation on center stage. Drawing forth suggests a reaching in and a pulling out, a teacher-initiated effort to meet the student where he or she is and move forward together. It implies an other-orientation, a willingness to set our own comfort aside and risk entering the student's cerebral territory—however unsettling that prospect may be.

**4. Put yourself back in their shoes.** Do we recall how frustrating it can be to know what you want to say but find it hard to say it effectively? Were we born knowing how to develop a solid thesis statement and at least x-number of strong supporting points? Humility is an underutilized virtue. Plenty of bright people in this world could not identify the "best" thesis statement from a list of possibilities. It's helpful to reflect upon that from time to time.

**5. Try and try again.** We have all heard colleagues wax eloquent about students' inability to translate knowledge from one context to another—for example, to think about something they learned in an economics class while reading an assignment for an English class. Are we guilty of the same silo mentality? I wonder. If we only view "revision" as a topic related to writing, then we are missing the point in a serious way. Revision is a life skill. The point is that experimenting with new instructional strategies is going to be at best a series of educated guesses. Know when to cut your losses and move on to the next method. The more you try, the more likely you are to succeed now and then. And when we succeed, our students succeed.

*Kim Taylor, PhD is an instructor at Trident Technical College, SC.*

Excerpted from Talking the Talk, but Not Walking the Walk: A Meditation on Irony, May 2008, *The Teaching Professor*.

## Admissions Corner

*Admissions Update! By Meredith Foley, SOE Admissions Counselor*

Recruiting the class of 2011 is off to a great start already! It's only the beginning of September, and we already have 16 new applicants to the School of Education here at LETU. These students know that LETU offers them hands-on learning experiences, while challenging them to be transformed into men and women who will reach the world with the Love of Christ.

Watch for our number of applicants to grow significantly over the next few months, as I'll be spending significant time teaching more students about LETU during my "fall travel." Dallas will be my home for two weeks in September, as I meet with students and their families in the metroplex, spreading the LETU reputation. My travels will then take me to the Sunshine State: glorious California! In Cali, I'll be hitting the road, traveling from one So Cal city to another, delving into college-focused convos with our future LETU West Coast families!

Not invested in Dallas or California? Don't despair! LeTourneau Admissions Counselors will be dotting the map from coast to coast, cool North to warm South. Our counselors will be traveling to Anchorage, Chicago, Atlanta, San Antonio, etc. So if you're interested in sending a prospective LETU student to a Christian College Fair, have them check out the NACCAP locations at this link: <http://nccf.us/fair-locations.php>.



# Psychology Corner

Volume 1

## *Dr. Vicki L. Sheafer Named Selby Scholar*

LETU chair of the Department of Psychology and Professor of Psychology, Dr. Vicki Sheafer was presented the 2009-2010 Robert H. Selby Teaching Scholar Award for exemplifying the highest standards of teaching excellence. Recipients are nominated and selected by faculty vote. The Selby Award is the highest recognition the university offers for effectiveness in teaching, dedication to LeTourneau University and Christian education, helpfulness to students, spiritual leadership, scholarship and professional development. Selby taught history at LETU in the 1970s and died at an early age of pancreatic cancer. Congratulations to Dr. Sheafer!



## *Inspire Others By Kate Gronewald, Photographed by Randy Mallory, excerpted from NOW LeTourneau University Summer 2010*



Dr. Melanie Roudkovski loves change. As an associate professor of psychology in LETU's School of Education, her brain is always buzzing with new ways to broaden her students' academic experiences and make them exceptional. Her latest efforts include curriculum development for two new graduate degree programs in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies: a Masters in Counseling and a Masters in Psychology. Both will be offered entirely online and will launch in early 2011, pending approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). "This is an opportunity to be a leader in online education, in being innovative and using our ingenuity to provide quality online instruction and train students for the counseling profession," Roudkovski said.

Whether she is crafting graduate course material or teaching counseling courses in LETU's traditional program, Roudkovski infuses her professional clinical experiences into the classroom. She stays fresh in the field by maintaining a small, private counseling practice and actively researching behavioral topics. Roudkovski's primary research is in family health, specifically 14 factors found to be indicative of healthy family functioning. She applies her findings in courses such as marriage and family and in the community, through family retreats and parenting seminars, where she draws the connection between family and faith.

"I enjoy seeing the practical side of my research," Roudkovski said. "We first and foremost need Christians researching family—and not have just anyone telling us what makes a good family. The things that make families healthy are biblical principles. That's what works." Roudkovski has published an assessment for clinicians to measure family health. Her book on family health, specifically among multicultural families, is set for publication this summer.

Roudkovski's interest in marriages between different ethnic identities began with her own family. Her husband, Dr. Viktor Roudkovski, is Russian. The two met while attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and both are now on faculty at LETU. The other Dr. Roudkovski is an assistant professor of biblical studies.

*Continued on page 4*

*Inspire Others, continued*

In January, LETU awarded Roudkovski Title III grant funds to contribute to her research proposal on the global experience “An Australian Adventure: Taking LeTourneau Down Under.” Roudkovski coordinated a three-week academic and mission trip to Australia in Redcliffe, Queensland, a coastal town outside of Brisbane. This summer, 13 students made the trip Down Under with the Roudkovski family and two additional LETU faculty members— Dr. Vicki Sheaffer, psychology, and Dr. Pat Mays, Christian ministries. Working with Mueller Community Church and its private Christian school, ministry training facility and retirement village, LETU students shared devotionals, led chapel services and even participated in “sport” (the Aussies’ version of physical education class). For a more complete cultural immersion, students were housed with church families during their stay and accompanied church members on their annual mission trip, a 10-hour drive inland to minister to aboriginal communities. Roudkovski’s enthusiasm for initiating new experiences makes even more than a global impact. Her love of change inspires the lives of her students. “I never got to do things like this when I was younger, so to offer kids and families an opportunity they wouldn’t get otherwise is thrilling,” Roudkovski said. “I grew up in a single parent home. My mom always said ‘Education is not optional. You do it, and you do it to the best of your ability.’ Beyond that, anything is possible.”

*Academic Chapel by Dr. Vicki Sheaffer*

The Department of Psychology was responsible for planning the first Academic Chapel for the School of Education 2010-2011. Students (Emily Aitken, Caleb Misegades, and Dano Fowler) and faculty members (Drs. Roudkovski and Sheaffer) from the School of Education shared stories from their trip “Down Under.” Thirteen students and four faculty members

from LeTU spent time in Redcliffe, Queensland, Australia from May 9 through June 2, 2010. The SOE team shared through stories, pictures, and song and dance about how God had touched them during the trip. The audience also had the chance to get up and dance and learn some Aboriginal dance moves (see picture at right).

*Come worship with us each month in the Belcher Gym. Academic Chapel meets three times a semester.*



*Psychology Club By Candyce Braker*

I am excited about serving as the President of Kappa Psi Delta for the second year. I get to work with a great group of officers and we have some awesome events planned for this school year. Our focus is to involve as many people as possible in club activities, especially new students. We are aiming to build up the club and create support systems that continue to grow in their time here at LeTourneau. Make sure to keep an eye out for community service projects, like Heartlight Ministries in Hallsville, TX, seminars to help grow every aspect of your life, and awesome social events! This year we will not just learn in the classroom! We’re going to learn from each other by sharing life together! If you have ideas for events, service projects, or speakers, feel free to email me at: [CandyceBraker@letu.edu](mailto:CandyceBraker@letu.edu).



As most of you know, LeTourneau University is in the process of launching a graduate program for the discipline of psychology. Specifically, we will be offering a Master of Arts degree in Counseling with licensure tracks for LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) and LMFT (Licensed Marriage & Family Therapy). Additionally, students who seek the degree but do not wish to pursue licensure can complete the Master of Arts in Psychology. This is a very exciting time in the life of our university, the School of Education and, more specifically, the De-

partment of Psychology. We have been aware for many years that most of our psychology students will graduate with LeTourneau degrees and seek graduate degrees from other institutions. We now have the opportunity to provide an option for those students who desire to study with the same emphasis on integration, but at a level that will prepare them for the licenses and positions they seek that require graduate level education. We are very excited about this move forward and cannot wait to see the program in place. At this time, Dr. Roudkovski is work-

ing with the School of Graduate & Professional Studies to complete the prospectus required for accreditation approval. The program is expected to begin in March of 2011. We will keep you posted as the launch date approaches.

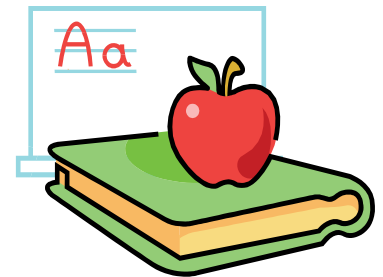


## Educator Certification

The new TEA state reporting requirements have gone into effect as of September 15, 2010 which is the due date for submission for all reporting requirements. After SB174 went into effect, Educator Preparation programs across the nation are required to report information to TEA in many different areas. These areas are all tied with program accreditation or consumer information that will be published on the TEA website for the public to view. The following are the new reporting requirements.

1. All reporting is for the academic year between 9/1 – 8/31 of the reporting year.
2. Report the required Reading, Writing, and Math proficiencies scores for every student starting the Educator Preparation program during the noted academic year which is required prior to acceptance into a program.
3. Report overall GPA and subject specific GPA for every student starting the Educator Preparation program during the noted academic year.
4. Report all observation visits for students that are completing an internship during the noted academic year with dates, specific times and comments from supervisors.
5. Report all students to the state as “Finisher”, completed coursework/degree and student teaching/internship; “All but clinical”, completed coursework/degree; or “other enrolled”, having completed nothing. Test scores will be tied to all of these areas for program accreditation.
6. Submit a report showing our student numbers according to Applied, Admitted, and Retained status for our students including gender and ethnicity breakdowns.

Another part of the new Accountability requirements for EPPs across the state started this year as well. Surveys went to all Principals of first year teachers to evaluate their performance during their first year of teaching. These surveys tied the teachers to their EPP for accountability purposes to check for appropriate preparation for teaching students. Another piece has gone into place for these first year teachers. Their student achievement will be tracked for three years to watch for student growth in their academic abilities. This will also be tied to the EPP that they attended to prepare them to teach. This has been a huge increase of reporting responsibilities for our office and other offices across campus to gather all of this information. We would like to thank all of the departments involved in this huge task. We want to continue to make sure that LeTourneau University stands above other programs across the state in providing the very best



## News from SOE and GAPS by Vickie Fontaine, *Coordinator of Educational Field Experiences*

\*Jodie Hilburn is now serving as the Field Supervisor for the East Texas Educational Center.

\*Dr. Judy Thompson is now serving as the Field Supervisor for the Houston Educational Center.

\*Dianne Elkins and Kate Dean are continuing in their roles as Field Supervisors for the Dallas and Austin Educational Centers (respectively).

\*We have 5 new University Supervisors:

-Dr. Charles Thompson/Longview

-Mr. Charlie Franklin/Longview

-Dr. Patricia Echols/Houston

-Dr. Calandra Pervis/Houston

-Dr. Vernon Stokes/Midland

We just completed enrollment and orientation of Fall 2010 Student Teachers/Interns. Students began student teaching on Monday, August 30, and we have student teachers and interns in 58 school districts around the state.

Dates and times for Student Teaching/Internship Information Meetings have been set for each educational center site. These information meetings serve to give prospective student teachers and interns additional

## Welcome Two New SOE Faculty Members!

### *Sarah Anderson, Instructor, Teacher Education*



Sarah grew up in Atlanta, GA. She attended The University of Georgia and graduated with a BS Ed in Early Childhood and then a Masters of Education in Reading Education. Before coming to LeTourneau, she taught 16 years in public school at the elementary level. She is happily married to Clif Anderson, and has two boys, Caleb (6 years old) and Will (3 years old). The Andersons have lived in Longview for almost 6 years. As a family, they love spending time together and making memories. Their family enjoys sports and the outdoors. This past summer they traveled to Omaha, Nebraska for the College Baseball World Series, took several trips to Rangers games (including one to Minute Maid Park in Houston where they met Josh Hamilton), and spent a week at Fort Morgan Beach in Alabama. Sarah says, "I am honored to have been given the opportunity to join the amazing group of faculty here at LeTourneau University and look forward to this new journey in my professional career. God is so good!"

### *Darla Underwood Baggett, Online School of Education Faculty (Austin)*



Darla was born in Roswell, NM and grew up on a farm outside of Dimmitt, TX. She was saved and baptized in First Baptist Church, Dimmitt TX when she was 9 years old. Darla has known that God wanted her to be a teacher since she was 15 years old. Darla loves crafts of all kinds (card making is latest), fishing, shopping, cooking and entertaining, computer games, and going to movies. She received her BA from Baylor University in Elementary Education and a MA in Education from Stephen F. Austin in Educational Leadership. She received her Ed.D. from Texas Tech, also in Educational Leadership. She has several certifications, including: Teacher 1-8, Supervisor K-12, Reading Specialist K-12, Principal K-12, Superintendent, and ESL K-12. She retired from public education with 31 years of experience. She began working at LeTU in October 2004. She has had many previous roles at LeTU including: Adjunct and Supervisor for Student Teachers and Interns, PACT Coordinator for Austin, PACT/TEACH Coordinator for Austin, Education Career Specialist for Austin, Education Career Specialist Team Leader, GAPS Education Liaison, and now, GAPS Full-Time Online Education Faculty (Asst. Professor)/Education Program Director. Darla says, "I love teaching for LETU online and on-ground and I love being involved in course design and writing courses. I am so blessed to be able to be so open in my faith after being in public education for so long."

## *Student Teacher Professional In-service Day by Elaine Solano*

The 2011 Student Teachers got off to a good start a week before LeTourneau class began. They participated in local school district's teacher in-service days as well as their own Student Teacher Professional In-service Day. They kicked off the morning with delicious breakfast tacos and muffins and continued on to creatively learn how to survive the coming year. Students had to navigate blindfolded through a field of "landmines" (rubber circles) with many voices

shouting directions; a situation that parallels the actual student teaching process. The topics turned more serious as the meeting continued. Professors discussed the Texas Administrative Code and proposed changes to it regarding the rules governing teacher candidates. Next, Dr. Julie Teel, Dr. Kathy Stephens, Dr. Wayne Jacobs, and Dr. Jimmy Ames formed an ethics panel. Dr. Teel questioned whether or not students and teachers should text. Dr. Stephens

reminded the student teachers of appropriate attire to be worn. Dr. Jacobs talked about social networking and the effect it has on teachers and students. Dr. Ames finished the meeting up by addressing being a Christian in our culture. Currently there are 10 EC-6<sup>th</sup>, 1 Middle School, 9 Secondary, and 2 Kinesiology student teachers placed in local school districts.



## *International Community of Christian Teacher Educators (ICCTE) Conference*

The biennial conference of the International Community of Christian Teacher Educators (ICCTE) was held on the campus of LeTourneau University, May 26-28, 2010. ICCTE is an organization of Christian schools, colleges, and universities with teacher education programs. The biennial conference focuses on relevant professional interests that are shared by all Christians involved in the preparation of the next generation of teachers. The theme of this conference is to focus on igniting the enthusiasm and passion for teaching while maintaining the emphasis on caring and professional competence. It is our belief that Christian teachers in any setting should be the best qualified teachers and the most compassionate teachers. The theme of the conference is based on Colossians 3:23-24. <sup>23</sup> Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters, <sup>24</sup> remembering that it is the Lord Christ who is going to pay you, giving you your full portion of all he owns. He is the one you are really working for (TLB). Over 60 educators from around the world attended the conference. This event gave the attendees an opportunity to develop professional networks and share research. Many of them had never been to Texas so we treated them to unique Texas cuisine, bluegrass music, and alligators. Thanks to all of the faculty, staff, students, and volunteers who worked hard to make this event happen. A special thanks to Dr. Ames' wife, Annita, who prepared the linens and baskets for those who stayed in the dorms and to Tommy Phillips, Angele Blick, and Jessica Shook who worked long hours in support of the conference.





### *Longview PKD Walk by Dr. Kathy Stephens*

The Longview Walk for PKD (Polycystic Kidney Disease) will take place on October 2. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. and the walk starts at 9:00 A.M. You can register at the LeTU flagpole. There will be door prizes and food. Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) is the most common of all life-threatening genetic diseases, affecting 600,000 Americans and 12.5 million people worldwide. In fact, it affects more people than cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, and Down's syndrome combined and yet, few people know about it. There is no treatment and no cure. Together we can change this! Because our family has been affected so personally by PKD, it is our desire to work to fund research! Thank you for walking with us in this endeavor.

**To help:**

- 1) You can join our team, the **Stingers** on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and / or raise funds .....OR
- 2) You can make a secure donation online .... OR
- 3) You can form your own team and join us on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For information on how to join, participate, or form a team, click on the links found at the bottom of this message. Thank you for helping us help find a cure for PKD! Your support is always greatly appreciated.

Our **Stingers** team web page:

<http://www.pkdcure.org/Default.aspx?TabId=1182&Type=1&ParticipantID=6848&frid=144>

For additional information concerning PKD:

[www.pkdcure.org](http://www.pkdcure.org)

## Summer Adventures from School of Education Faculty

### *Africa through the eyes of a spoiled American by Dr. Jacobs*



I was privileged to travel to Korr, Kenya this summer as part of the LEGS Visual Literacy team. The team went to evaluate the literacy skills of the Rendille tribe in Korr and compare them to other norms (like students in the United States). Here are some insights from my trip: "The Rendille people in Korr number approximately 30,000. They call themselves the "Holders of the Stick of God" and traditionally live in one of the most unforgiving regions of Kenya. The schools we visited included the community school in the central village area for early elementary and secondary grades, a location near a village well for upper elementary grades, and a remote area for nomadic children. Each of these schools had unique needs and challenges, but the one I will remember the most is the school for nomadic children. Their "classroom" was under a tree in the dirt. Teachers would use portable chalkboards and teach like in any other classroom. The early elementary grades at both campuses used both native language and English for teaching purposes. The children at this school had only known this way of learning and did quite well. Despite the distractions of the weather, bugs, camels, and the uncomfortable surroundings (sitting in dirt all day), the students participated with enthusiasm. It would be good for our students in the United States to see what these students' experiences in education were before complaining. These students had no busses, no computers (no electricity), no cafeteria (they were served a meal – but they ate it on the dirt in the sun), and no bathrooms. Nonetheless, the students learned and had great attitudes. All education students should have the opportunity to not only visit places like Africa, but serve the Lord with their gifts and strengths in places like Africa."

*Australian Adventure by Dr. Melanie Roudkovski*

Our Australian Adventure was amazing! God did great work in us and around us during our time down under. I think my favorite part of the journey was getting to share it with my family. Traveling with our children, ages 6 & 2, to other parts of the world was special to me--I want my kids to have opportunities I never had. But beyond that, our kids saw people who had never heard the story of Jesus--if they had heard it, they didn't get it. I think the experience that stands out the most to me was Nikolas's ability at the age of 6 to grab the attention of kids who did not understand the role of authority. In Woorabinda, an aboriginal community with extremely high levels of truancy (among other things), kids were on their own. They were not made to attend school, and they certainly did not follow the directives of the American visitors in their midst. There were times we could not even set up the puppet stage without the children coming right behind us to tear it down. I will never forget the images of Nikolas dancing and singing, acting completely silly, and seeing the native children redirect their negative behavior just to watch him and be entertained. God used Nikolas as a tool to get the attention of children so that we, the grown-ups, could present the Gospel message. It is pretty common to hear people talk about the way God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things, but we--or maybe it's just me--I don't typically give Him enough credit to use a 6-year-old. Sure, we explored the beautiful coast of Australia together as a family and it was a transforming experience. But watching our students and my young children get it--watching them understand that God is so much more creative and more powerful than words could ever express--was priceless.

*Australian Adventure by Dr. Vicki Sheaffer*

Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This passage is always my challenge when I think about mission trips. I had the privilege of being able to spend three and a half weeks in Australia this summer as part of a team of students and faculty from LeTU. We did so many wonderful things during our time there, but the time that meant the most to me was the middle week when we went into the bush country to minister through puppets/magic tricks/song and dance/testimony to both Caucasian and Aboriginal communities. This is where we learned about "treasure." The challenge of short-term missions is that you typically miss the "harvest." For those of us who live in a very performance oriented world, being the "seed planter" can be less than glamorous. It stretches your faith and forces you to give the results to the Lord. Pray for the Christians in Australia as they reach out. Pray for the communities of Gin Gin and Woorabinda. Pray for Martin and Rose Ebel, the missionaries serving in Woorabinda and other Aboriginal communities. What a privilege to be called and sent to tell the children about Jesus.



From left to right: Kayla Kerns (KINE), Dr. Roudkovski, Dr. Sheaffer, Caleb Misegades (PSYS), Marcita Bowie (PSCD), Dano Fowler (ISBS).



### *Summer FITness Academy 2010 by Mr. Mark McElroy*

Ten brave LeTU faculty (pictured left) met on June 15 & 16, 2010 for the final Title III FITness (Faculty Integrating Technology training) Academy on the Longview campus. Their goal was to get an early start on Bb 9.1 training. Earlier in the year the decision was made to move to the latest version of the Blackboard learning management software. Applications were accepted in May and ten faculty members were approved for the one-day online, two-day face-to-face academy.

The overall goal of the FITness Academy was to create a peer mentor group of faculty who would be prepared the first few weeks of classes to help other faculty in their respective disciplines overcome the initial hurdles of learning a new version of the software. This year's academy was led by Mr. Mark McElroy, Faculty in the School of Education and Director of Instructional Technology Services (bottom left). The School of Education was represented by Dr. Melanie Roudkovski (bottom right).

### *IPad Training for SOE by Dr. Vicki Sheaffer*

The School of Education, under the leadership of Dr. Jacobs, invested in the purchase of iPads for all of its interested faculty members. A training meeting was held on August 19, 2010. The training was led by Mr. Matthew Henry, Chief Information Officer at LeTU. He shared his knowledge of the iPad and tips for educational applications and possible classroom uses of the technology. All of the SOE faculty are having fun learning about their new "toys" and brainstorming ways to use the technology in the classroom setting.

Back row: Dr. Jimmy Ames, Becky Birdsong, Dr. Vicki Sheaffer, Dr. Kathy Stephens, Matthew Henry, Mary Beth Trogdon, Dr. Duane Trogdon  
 Front row: Mark McElroy, Sarah Anderson, Dr. Julie Teel, Dr. Melanie Roudkovski



### *School Supply Train by Mrs. Sarah Anderson*



I served on a team that organized/ran the "School Supply train" to assist those in our area that were in need of school supplies and other attention before school started. Through a joint effort of the Jr. League of Longview, First Baptist Church, Longview, and Buckner Child and Family Services, we conducted our annual back to school "School Supply Train" August 13 & 14th at First Baptist, Longview. We passed out over 3,200 backpacks filled with school supplies to children whose families qualified as having a financial need. Students were also able to receive free immunizations, haircuts, and dental screenings thanks to local businesses that donated their time and services. In addition to the backpacks, we also supported teachers by distributing 150 teacher bags filled with supplies for their classrooms. The event is designed to help support our local schools and give those in need a "hand up" in getting ready to return to school in the fall. Through providing these basic needs, thousands of children were able to go back to school with a new backpack filled with school supplies. It is a huge blessing to be able to serve those in need!



During the month of July, Dr. Melanie Roudkovski (picture, far right) was honored to attend the CCCU sponsored President-led Symposium on Spiritual Formation. As a Christian institution, LeTourneau is very intentional and very bold in our statement that Jesus Christ is the center of all we say and do. For the past few years, the CCCU has watched closely as groups, many of which have been antagonistic toward the Christian faith, have challenged the Christian university's religious liberties. As a result, Dr. Paul Cortis (President of the CCCU) decided to take a proactive approach to the topic and, through grant funding, developed this event. Universities within the CCCU were invited to apply to take part, and LeTourneau was one of only 11 schools invited to the symposium in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. There, symposium participants worked to define spiritual formation and were left to the task of taking the definition home and applying it on our campuses. At this

time, LeTourneau is considering the lessons from the symposium and is working to identify the best ways to implement the information gleaned. What did we learn? That LeTourneau is doing a lot of things right! Our students have many opportunities to grow in their faith, academic and otherwise. Our goal is to create an environment, academic and otherwise, that encourages students to explore their faith and see how having a Christian education can make a difference in the world.

## Summer Adventures from School of Education Students

### *Smile Africa Ministries by Christine Bedford (PSYA)*

This summer I was blessed to be able to go on a month long mission trip to Tororo, Uganda with Africa Inland Missions (AIM). I was on a team of 6 girls (who became like my sisters!), and we partnered with Smile Africa Ministries in Uganda. At first I thought three of the girls would minister to the children in the day care program and three of us (including me) would minister to the widows. God had a different plan though, and in hindsight I am so glad that he did! Our first day at Smile Africa (the day care ministry) we all knew that God meant for us to work as a team with the children who were there. We thought it would just be under 50 kids, but it turned out to be over 300 street children ranging between the ages of 6 months to 17 years. They would come on Monday through Saturday between 8 am and 4 pm to get two meals and to have a place to stay during the day. At first our team faced many challenges trying to figure out what God wanted us to do and how we were supposed to do it. After praying every day, getting to know the 7 teachers who were there, and getting to know the kids, God showed us what he wanted us to do. He wanted us to love these kids like he loves them and show them that they matter to someone, though their current life situation showed otherwise. We were able to act out Bible stories about God's love, teach them Bible verses, hand out Bible's to the older kids who didn't have them, do crafts, read to them, and play games with them. Though these children barely had any possessions, except for the clothes (if they had any) they were wearing and maybe some random toys (like bottle caps), they had so much joy!! Every day they would come up to me with huge smiles and long hugs. God used them to show me what it means to really love, to really have joy, and to really have hope in my life. He showed me that I didn't need all of my material possessions, but that He had given me more so I could bless others. He revealed to me how He truly provides and loves his children around the world.



### *STEMCO Internship by Candyce Braker (PSYS)*



For the past two months, I have been privileged to work with STEMCO, an international manufacturing company based here in Longview. I am responsible for identifying areas of possible improvement in different segments of their organization. I am working under the Vice President of Human Resources, and have been able to learn a lot just by being in an office setting. The most important thing I've learned about incorporating psychology into the workplace is that it won't be accepted at first by everyone. Earning employees trust is an important factor in any business venture and in life. I feel very fortunate to be able to have this opportunity. If it wasn't for the psychology department and Dr. Roudkovski's initial contact, I would not be in the place where I am today. STEMCO has been a great influence on my educational experience and given me tools that I wouldn't have been able to receive in the classroom. I would definitely recommend every student experience what it is like to use your education in the workplace.

*Focus Leadership Institute by Millie Chapman (PSCD)*



Millie (far right) and friends in downtown Manitou Springs.

When you hear the name “Focus on the Family”, the first word associated with them is “conservative”. So when God let me know that Focus Leadership Institute was where He was taking me this summer, I was not impressed. Don’t get me wrong, conservatism has its good points, but as an individual who has strong anti-legalism and pro-free expression views, it seemed like I was about to be tossed into the middle of a foreign land. Of course I put up a token resistance to God, but (as always) I accepted that He knows what He’s doing much better than I do and the beginning of June found me moving into an apartment in Colorado Springs.

From the very first day I knew God had put me right in the center of something big. Thirty-four of us came together for the summer, and as far as diversity goes, you couldn’t have picked a stranger crew. It was the perfect setting to watch love for Christ and love from Christ unite us across our differences, which is something rare and profound. God took me in hand and brought me face to face with His truth, unchangeable. He did this through the girls I lived with, through the way the boys of the group (there were six of them and twenty eight of us) took care of us like we were their sisters, and especially through the classes. We had two classes over the course of the summer, one dealing with culture and one dealing with (you guessed it) family. We had a variety of teachers, all of them extremely laid back and willing to talk with you, to meet and pray with us individually, and to answer any and all of our questions to the best of their ability. Oh, and they loved God with all their hearts, souls, minds and strengths. That was where the biggest impact lay. There was no political agenda, no legalism, and no judgment. Instead I encountered a lot of love and a whole lot of truth, and an environment that made me question and put to rest my doubts and misgivings about God, what He intends for me and what He intends for the world.

Focus Leadership Institute was amazing, simply because it made room for people of all different walks to come together and learn more about the only thing that matters in any of us, and that is the fact

*Australian Adventure by Emily Aitken (PSYA)*

In May of this year, 2010, I went to Australia for the first time. The trip was a mission trip, but I was glad to find that the people we were working with would not allow us to be in Australia without enjoying the beauty of God’s creation there. I loved enjoying the sights of Australia. I was awestruck by the beauty of God’s creation. One of the most breathtaking experiences was seeing the vast southern night sky. The stars were innumerable. The best place to see the night sky was when we went inland to bring the gospel of Jesus to the Aboriginal communities in Gin Gin and Woorabinda. The scenery there was beautiful and untouched by modernity.

On the other hand, the communities of Gin Gin and Woorabinda were full of poverty and spiritual depravity. The children craved attention. Most of the youth in these communities raise themselves and their siblings. Their parents are caught up in addictive behaviors such as alcoholism, gambling, and drug abuse. They needed to hear the good news of the great love of Christ. We worked with a missionary couple in Woorabinda. Martin and Rose Ebel’s hearts cry out for the community and they so desire for the community to turn to Christ. They have been working in Woorabinda for nine years and have seen some progress, but they ask for continued prayer for Woorabinda to turn to Christ.

I found so much joy in working with the children in these aboriginal communities and seeing them so interested in Jesus. The children both in Gin Gin and in Woorabinda, loved to see the puppets and skits and hear us talk about our faith in Jesus. I know I have been changed for the better because of this trip. God has given me a deep desire to help children in need, and I am willing to follow Him wherever he may take me.



*Australian Adventure by Caleb Misegades (PSYS)*

I will never forget the times that we did puppet shows for children in the different schools, chapels, and in Woorabinda the aboriginal community we stayed at for three days. It was really cool to play with puppets, get wet sponges thrown at us in order to find parts of a bible verse to memorize it, and dress up as pirates and superman (even though the superman costume was way too small and I'm pretty sure it was for a 10 year old). It was awesome to hear the kids yell JESUS whenever we would ask "them who is the way to heaven?" Over all, it was an unforgettable trip and if you want to go on a mission trip or even vacation, I would strongly recommend going to Australia.



This is a picture of the LeTU crew after two days of traveling and arriving on the campus of Mueller College in Redcliffe, Queensland, Australia. Four LeTU faculty members, 13 students, and the Roudkovski children responded to God's call and took the challenge of taking LeTU "Down Under" from May 9 to June 2, 2010.