

School of Education Newsletter

VOLUME I

SPRING 2011

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Dean's Corner by Dr. Wayne Jacobs



Happy 2011! Okay, it is not even close to New Years' Day, but this is the first time this year you have read this newsletter and I want to be the first one to encourage you to find your "happy" in this New Year. Each of us makes choices every day (and sometimes every minute) to live in wonder and amazement of the great and mighty things God is doing in our lives. I choose JOY and hope that you will

make that choice every time you encounter trials in your life. Choose to make this New Year a year that you will focus on God's grace and mercy and not on your issues and problems. One of the evidences of God's grace and mercy is our students. This spring, the School of Education has 1203 students in our traditional and non-traditional programs. That is an evidence of God's direction and leading! For the sixth straight year, the School of Education at LeTourneau University produced more teachers than any other private school in the state of

Texas! Consider the impact on the next generation when all those teachers combine with professionals in Kinesiology and Psychology to change their world. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says: "However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' — the things God has prepared for those who love him." What does God want you to do this year? How can you be an impact on the people around you? Pray and ask God to open your eyes to the possibilities!

New Things in The School of Education! By Dr. Wayne Jacobs

LeTourneau University Teacher Education undergraduate students graduating with the ISE-1 (EC-6), ISE-2 (Middle School Language Arts/Social Studies), ISE-4 (Middle School Generalist), TEC6 (TEACH EC-6), and T4-8 (TEACH 4-8) now have the option of completing six additional credit hours for graduate credit during their junior or senior year (Three hours have been previously approved with the Public School Law class.). This change will help prepare students for a Master in Education program and create more knowledgeable candidates seeking employment as a beginning teacher. All of the hours are either required for the designated degrees or are offered as electives. When choosing the graduate-level courses, students would first apply to LETU graduate program through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Upon acceptance, students would register for the appropriate graduate-level course. They would be allowed to complete the course in the traditional setting with additional assignments given at the graduate level. The two new courses are: 1) **MEDU 5373 Effective Methodologies for Language Arts and Social Studies Instruction** substituted for **EDUC 4133 Methods Of Elementary Language Arts And Social Studies**; and 2) **MEDU 5213 Content Area Reading and Writing** substituted for **READ 4313 Reading And Testing In The Content Areas**. If you have questions, please see Dr. Stephens for more information. (continued on page 2)

New Things in The School of Education! (continued)

The School of Education and the School of Graduate and Professional Studies have developed new classes in the non-traditional program to help students succeed in teacher certification. The creation of EDUC 4973 Educator Preparation and MEDU 5733 Educator Preparation, will provide the necessary tools to insure students are ready to take their certification test. The courses would include Pedagogy and Professional Responsibility preparation (including test taking strategies, vocabulary, and organization of study materials), content test review (for TEACH students), integration of faith and learning strategies for classroom teachers, professional responsibilities, and other topics.



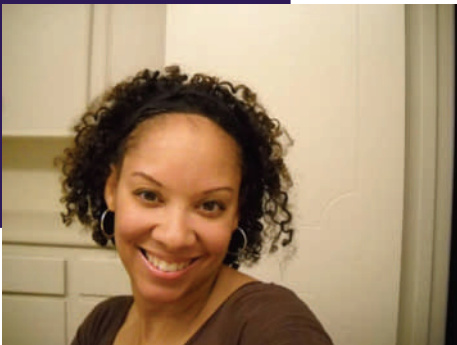
Gold Key Honor Society

The Gold Key Honor Society is the internal honor society for the traditional students at LeTourneau University. The students are elected to this society by the faculty based on the 3 L's – Learning, Loyalty, and Leadership. They must have a 3.20 GPA and 90 hours of credit, of which, 45 hours must be at LeTourneau University. At present, each year's society has 13 members (1% of the total traditional student body). There are never less than 10 members. A party is held during the spring semester and they receive a pin. Congratulations to the following School of Education students who were part of this year's Gold Key Honor Society Class: **Jessica Shook** (EDUC), **Amanda VanDoren** (EDUC), and **Carl Waitz** (PSYS).

GAPS Corner

Red Ribbon Week by Tisa Smith (GAPS intern)

One thing that we have done as a class was participate in the community effort, Red Ribbon Week (talk about a tongue twister!). A few weeks prior, we received an invitation to participate in a contest with other fourth grade classes in the area to write a 50-word (or less) essay titled "I am Drug Free Because..." We talked about good and bad drugs and we even discussed any experiences the students possibly had – from taking medicines for a cold or flu to knowing someone personally who has been affected by drugs. We talked about the many things that we can accomplish if we are drug free and also the bad things that can happen if you try drugs even one time. Each student wrote an essay, and I selected the three that were most encouraging to me and submitted them in the contest along with three from each of the other fourth grade classes at our school. We were so surprised and delighted to learn that the three from our class were selected as South Ward Elementary's grand prize winner, 1st and 2nd runners up! We were also very grateful to be able to attend the luncheon during Red Ribbon Week for each of the grand prize winners from the various schools. This was a great experience for me to be able to encourage my students to be drug free.



Kinesiology Corner

American Kinesiology Association Conference

Dr. Duane Trogon participated in the American Kinesiology Association round table discussions at the Leadership Workshop January 30-31, 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas. Topics presented by the leaders in Kinesiology included: 1. Managing Growth in KINE Programs led by Dr. Phil Martin of Iowa State University, 2. Allied Health: Boon or Threat to Kinesiology led by Dr. Chodzko-Zajko of U. of Illinois and Dr. Zelazink of Purdue University, 3. Marketing Physical Activity Teaching and Research presented by Dr. Rudisill of Auburn University, 4. Case Studies in Management of Kinesiology Departments presented by Dr. Rizzo of California State University-San Bernardino and Dr. Morrow of North Texas University. The Leadership Conference brought together the chairs and deans of departments from all across the country to present and plan for the future of Kinesiology. There are currently 862 departments of Kinesiology in colleges and universities across the United States. A survey of the growth in Kinesiology majors in the last two years has found a growth of over 40% in these departments, with growth continuing into the near future.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Corey & Bevin Thomaston on the birth of their daughter Ellie Jordan Thomaston. She was born on December 13, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs 1 oz and was 19 ¼." Ellie joins big brother Cooper who is 4. Coach Thomaston is the Women's Basketball Coach and an instructor in the Department of Kinesiology.



ACS Honors Phillips, LeTourneau University Athletic Training



RICHARDSON, Texas – The athletic training staff at **LeTourneau University** was named by its peers as the East Division winner of the American Southwest Conference Athletic Training Staff of the Year awards for the 2009-10 academic year. LU was honored on December 15 during the annual ASC Athletic Trainers meeting in Dallas. LeTourneau took the East Division award for the first time. LETU's head athletic trainer is **Portia Phillips**, who began her eighth season at the university in Fall of 2010. Phillips, who has nearly 20 years of athletic training experience, began her career at her alma mater, East Texas State University, as the Assistant Athletic Trainer. In 1997, she was one of two African-American women credited with becoming the first to be nationally certified as athletic trainers in the state of Texas. After four years as the Assistant Athletic Trainer at East Texas State, she became the Head Women's Athletic Trainer at Louisiana Tech University. She was awarded the LETU Shining Star Award in 2006 as the award was voted on by the university faculty and staff members and awarded for care, service and relationship building with university students. Phillips graduated from East Texas State in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology and Sports Studies. A year later, she earned her Masters of Science Degree in Health.

Psychology Corner

National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology (NITOP) Conference

Dr. Sheaffer attended the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology Conference held January 3-6 at The Trade Winds Island Grand in St. Pete Beach, FL. She presented two poster presentations, "Enriching Multiple Psychology Courses with the Use of an Extra Credit Assignment" and "The Psychology Club as an Integral Part of the Undergraduate Experience." She also benefitted from attending workshops on teaching and technology in psychology. Some of the topics included using iPads in the classroom, using images in power point presentations, teaching as a form of communication, and the use of active learning exercises to energize the classroom.



Alumni Spotlight: Kelli Donnelly (PSYS, 2006)



2006 Psychology
Alumni, Kelli Donnelly

"Upon graduating from the greatest Psychology program in the South housed within grand ole' LETU, I began my psychology career by working as a full time Special Education Teaching Assistant at a school for children with psychological disorders and also took a part-time position as an Institutional Probation Officer working with juvenile delinquents. Working for two years in each position provided a great deal of experience working with young people who presented challenging behaviors. Soon, I accepted a full time position as a Psychiatric Technician at a county hospital and worked in both the Psychiatric Emergency and Psychiatric Adolescent Inpatient Units for a year. While I enjoyed the work and additional experience gained, the facility was physically dangerous, and led me to take a position as a Membership Specialist for Girl Scouts of Texas. Here I was able to work with underserved youth in the inner city of Fort Worth. Much of the time I spent working with the children while they were at school. Working closely with school administrators and observing the needs of children and faculty within the schools led me to seek my specialist's degree in School Psychology. Last January I was accepted into the School Psychology program at Texas State University and have completed my first year, with two more to go. The field is fascinating and I am learning a great deal. I am excited to graduate and begin work in a school district soon. I am truly indebted to the knowledge and experiences I gained through the teaching and leadership of Dr. Sheaffer and other psychology professors such as Dr. Roudkovski and Dr. Hetzel. Infinitely more valuable was the Christian guidance and support that they provided me throughout my years at LETU and continue to provide to this day. The wonderful thing about the Psychology program that Dr. Sheaffer has created is that you are able to develop a personal relationship with your professors. They provide one-on-one advice and counsel and genuinely care about each of their students. I owe much of my academic and professional successes to Dr. Sheaffer and the LETU Psychology program."

Emotional Intelligence



On February 9, Dr. Melanie Roudkovski presented a workshop for the Achievement Resource Center on the topic of Emotional Intelligence. The topic seems to be of great interest these days, especially in the world of business and in the social and behavioral sciences. Dr. Roudkovski discussed briefly the context of emotional intelligence since it is such a hot topic currently, but her main emphasis was on the practical side of the issue. She spent the majority of her time in the workshop covering a few significant components of emotional intelligence: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, and relationship management. Students were given opportunities to discuss their thoughts and concerns, and many asked

questions or made comments on the topic. Additional time was spent discussing skills of the emotionally intelligent. People who are thought to be *emotionally intelligent*, meaning they have the ability to monitor their own and others' feelings and emotions, discriminate among them and use the information to guide thinking and actions (Salovey & Mayer, 1990), are able to do the following:

- reduce stress rapidly
- connect to their emotions
- communicate effectively nonverbally
- use humor and play to deal with challenges
- resolve conflicts positively and with confidence

To be sure, one hour was not enough to explore exhaustively the concept of emotional intelligence. Truthfully, time constraints did not allow the group to scratch the surface. But students were able to get a very minimal understanding of what emotional intelligence is and the complexities involved. Maybe in a Part 2 workshop, all the students could take an emotional intelligence test and we could do group therapy!

Psychology Club Social by Candyce Braker, President, KPD

Kappa Psi Delta is known for hosting educational seminars, service or volunteer opportunities, and social events every semester. For a social event each year, Dr. Sheaffer opens her home to members of the psychology club for an evening of fun, food, and games. This is one of the most attended events that KPD hosts. Students are able to come together outside the classroom get to know each other and our professors in ways that formal classroom lectures do not allow. One of the best things about events like this is that non-psychology students attend. Kappa Psi Delta is open to anyone that wants to join so there was a good mix of students from different backgrounds and fields of study. Probably the most entertaining part of the evening is when the board game Battle of the Sexes comes out. It's become a tradition to play Battle of the Sexes while at Dr. Sheaffer's and for the second year in a row, the women have come away victorious! It's one of my favorite events and I know a lot of students look forward to coming together in a relaxed atmosphere and to spend time with friends.



Academic Chapel by Dr. Melanie Roudkovski

On February 4, the Psychology Department sponsored Academic Chapel. Shawn Brasher, Child Life Specialist Coordinator with Sutton Children's Medical Center in Shreveport was scheduled to speak about how his faith impacts his work. He also planned to share how many of the children he has worked with over the years have impacted his life in a very personal way. Because of the weather, he was unable to be with us.



In texting with Shawn on Friday morning, and after realizing he was not going to be able to drive and spend the morning with us, I began wondering how we would fill the time. Honestly, we had already considered the possibility of bad weather and I had a "back up plan" in mind. You see, I'd been toying with this all semester anyway: the concept of *impact*. It has been the theme of class devotionals and conversations with students. It has just been on my mind. It seemed to make sense to stay with the topic in chapel so, I did what any good professor does: I "recruited" students to participate.

During the class prior to chapel, I shared stories of people throughout my life that God used to teach me and draw me to Him. (I had the students write down the stories and present them in chapel in the form of a timeline.) Some were teachers, Sunday school teachers, mentors, family members; others were bullies and kids at school who weren't very friendly. God used them all. They each made an impact, positive or negative, each in their own way. God allowed me, as an adult, to reflect on specific memories and learn important lessons from interactions with each of them.

We all have people in our lives that have left their mark. Some good. Some bad. The truth is, we are making our mark on the lives of others. Some good. Some bad. The lesson that is standing out in my mind is that someone is always watching. The people who impacted me didn't all know the degree to which they would affect my life. You won't always know who is watching, or the degree to which you are affecting someone's life. But sometimes, we can be more intentional. We can be more aware. Set the example. Be Jesus to the people around you. Smile. Be the positive force in the room, not the cynical or pessimistic one. Be the light on the hill that guides others out of the darkness. Minister to those in need, even when you don't know them well. Even if they don't look like you. Even if others aren't willing. When you minister to them, you minister to Him.

I wish I could go back sometimes and tell people how much their tiny investment meant to me. Who impacted you? Who invested in you? Tell them. Now, who are investing in? At the very least, invest in yourself. God thought you were worth it; so should you.

Teacher Education Corner

Letters from the Unfinished Conversation

A new book, *Dear Maxine: Letters from the Unfinished Conversation with Maxine Greene* was published in November 2010. Dr. Bob Lake invited Dr. Julie Teel to include a “letter” chapter in this book. (This was the second chapter Dr. Teel has written and contributed to the work of Maxine Greene.) The Teachers College Press book jacket states: “This collection brings together a prestigious group of individuals who have wondered, looked at, revised, acted, questioned, and changed their world because of their connection to American philosopher Maxine Greene. Over 75 teachers, students, colleagues, artists and others, such as Gloria Ladson-Billings, Herb Kohl, Mike Rose, Deborah Meier, and William Ayers have written edgy, thoughtful letters addressed to Greene about her work, their own, and the spaces in between. Rather than just thanking this master philosopher/ teacher, each sets out to discover some of what they have learned from Maxine Greene to discuss the continued relevance of her work in aesthetics, education and social imagination. “

On Friday, February 4, 2011, Dr. Julie Teel joined approximately 100 guests and contributing authors for the book release in New York City. Maxine Greene was honored at this event which was held in Lincoln Center. The first photo is of Dr. Greene talking to Dr. Teel as she signs a copy of the book. The second photo is of Dr. Teel “enjoying” the winter weather in New York City.



Washington, D.C. Briefing



Last September, Dr. Jimmy Ames attended an invitation-only briefing hosted by Secretary of Education Duncan and the Office of Non-Public Education in Washington, D.C. The meeting was held at the Department of Education just down the street from the Capital. This is a picture of Dr. Ames with Secretary Duncan at the conclusion of the meeting.

Teacher Education Student Adventures

Presidential Advisory Committee by Jessica Shook

A life of service. As believers, it is what we are called to in our friendships, professions, and faith. On February 7th I was given the opportunity to share just how LeTourneau has instilled this virtue into my professional career as a teacher. Reading buddies, reading interventions, Wesley McCabe visits, practicums, and research team invitations are just a few of the experiences that encompass the whole idea of Christian education servants. As I reflected back on the four years of growing and learning in the area of education, I noticed how much my education really was connected with my growth in faith. As I grew in knowledge, He also grew me in my faith. The growth in both areas supported one another to put me in the position that I am in right now as a graduating senior who is enjoying student teaching. Presenting before the Presidential Advisory Committee was a chance to let the committee see the result of all the hard work and prayer that went into these past few years. Yes, it was a speaking engagement that I was asked to participate in, but in reality it was more than that. It was a chance to shine my light yet again and tell others about the greatness that life will be when you put God first and let him lead you in your faith, your education, and your career.



Honduras by Matthew Bradley

This Christmas break I had the opportunity to travel to Honduras with Pine Cove Christian Camps. Pine Cove has taken the approach of teaching the local Latin American staff members *how* to do camp, instead of coming in and *doing* camp for them. This aspect of Pine Cove—called Commission Camping—has partnered with Christian Camping International—Latin America to find promising Christian camps throughout all of Latin America. Once a year, teams travel to various countries in order to model a well-run camp for the local staff members. I was on the Honduras team.

This was actually my first over-seas mission trip, and I cannot describe how faithful God was while on this trip. From our luggage not arriving in Honduras—it was either stuck on a random flight or still in the U.S.—to protecting us from drug cartels—I am not joking!—God unmistakably showed Himself. Our team bonded with the Honduras team in order to conduct two sessions of camp. While

the first session of camp was incredibly frustrating, the second session was one of the sweetest times of my life. Satan made it abundantly clear that he did NOT want Christ's Love to be shared with the kids. However, one of the verses God gave us was Hosea 10:12 that says God will rain down His righteousness. We held to that promise, and many of the kids were saved at camp. (The seeds were planted for the others, and God's Word does not return void!)

I have never been a big promoter of overseas missions. However, after being a part of what God is doing—it makes you crave it that much more. It makes you crave to be a part of God's plan—whether that is here in the states or overseas. Since I am a senior, about to go out "into the world," I rest in the knowledge that God will guide me into what He is doing. My encouragement both to myself and to anyone who reads this is to be willing to jump into the middle of God's work—it may be here or there, but God will go before us and make a plan! We can trust in that.



China by Danielle Culver

My name is Danielle Culver and I studied abroad last semester in China. My heart longs to tell you everything I learned and all the wonderful experiences I had. However, I do not have enough time or space in this news piece to tell you all about it. However, I will tell you a little to satisfy your curiosity!

We traveled to 5 cities in four months. The cities we visited were Hong Kong, Xiamen (Sha-men), Xi'an (She-an), Beijing, and Shanghai. While I was there, I took classes such as Chinese 1, Chinese History, Intercultural Communication, Contemporary Society, and a couple other classes. For the last three weeks, I was able to take Tai-chi, Chinese cooking, Chinese painting, and Eastern Philosophy and Religion. Also, during our time abroad we had to complete a service project. Our group project was in Xiamen, and we taught at a YMCA school in one of the poorest areas. We also got to see some of the most amazing sites such as the Terracotta Warriors, The Great Wall, Forbidden City, and Summer Palace.

Seeing all those wonderful cities was amazing! I felt that I learned so much about the Chinese people, culture, and language. I really tried to see what life was like through the eyes of the Chinese people. I'm not going to lie, it was frustrating at times. However, with the help of my group and my Professor in the program, I worked my way through it. In the end, I grew so much academically, spiritually, and socially. My encouragement to you would be to go on a study abroad trip! It will change your life forever and God will work wonders through it!

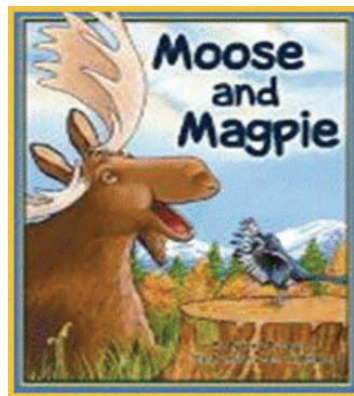


Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR) Conference



The TAIR conference will be held on the campus of LeTourneau University Friday, March 25, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration will start at 8:00 am. The keynote address will be delivered by Bettina Restrepo, author of *Moose and Magpie* (available March 11, 2011). Pre-registration is \$45.00, late registration is \$55.00. The conference will include lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments, drawings for Door Prizes, exciting breakout sessions, and a half-price Book Fair. For information contact Dr.

Kathy Stephens at kathystephens@letu.edu. This year LETU Teacher Education students will attend the TAIR conference sessions at no charge. To attend the luncheon session with speaker, students will pay a fee of \$12. Admission to the luncheon will be by ticket only.



Tutoring to Teach: Improving Mathematics Instruction for Pre-service Teachers by Dr. Kathy Stephens



On Thursday, February 3, 2011 at SERA (Southwest Educational Research Association) Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Judy Taylor (right) and Dr. Kathy Stephens (left) gave a presentation. The state of Texas has taken steps to ensure that graduating high school students are fully prepared for an ever-changing complex world. The College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) were developed then adopted by the State Board of Education (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board). The project was designed to address the CCRS Mathematics Standards while improving

math skills of developmental students. Pre-service teacher tutors interacted with students from intermediate algebra classes as part of the computer-based mathematics lab known as ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces), an online self-paced, mastery course. Developmental university students worked through the algebra standards which prepared them for college level mathematics courses. A faculty mentor guided pre-service teacher tutors to provide effective feedback to mathematics students.

Certification Corner

Changes by Becky Birdsong

The Texas Education Agency was required to make changes to the accountability for all Educator Preparation programs in the state of Texas for the 2009 – 2010 school year. The first report submitted to the state was due on October 15, 2010. Some of the items that programs are required to gather and report are the following for each student in the program:

- Overall GPA – there is a minimum requirement that students must meet prior to acceptance into a program for overall and content as well.
- Content GPA for each subject area, for example and EC-6 Generalist person, we are required to report an English, math, science, social studies, fine art and PE GPAs.
- Test scores such as ACT, SAT, Accuplacer, etc. for the following areas: reading, writing and math...every student in an EPP have to meet the minimum requirements for each area prior to being accepted into a program.



Changes (continued)

- All supervisory visits during student teaching/internship. We are required to report the date, the university supervisor, the time the observation begins and ends, and the results of each visit. There are a minimum number of observations that must be held each semester.
- Finishers for each year. A Finisher is a student that has completed coursework requirements and either student teaching or internship. When a student becomes a Finisher for that particular year between 9/1 and 8/31 of that particular year is when their state test scores begin the accountability for a program. It is imperative that a student pass their content and PPR exams by 8/31 of the year that they become a Finisher so that the program will not get a hit for their test scores. One of the ways that a program is held accountable is through test scores. These scores are published on the TEA website for everyone to see.



School Of Education

**“Shaping a Destiny
for His Service.”**

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's
mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due
time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he
cares for you.**

1 Peter 5: 6-7