



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2010

KATY COX, 5TH GRADE TEACHER, MUNFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TALLADEGA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Instructional technology has a tremendous impact on the achievement of my fifth grade students. Last year, after implementing 21st century tools and Project Based Learning in our classroom, the percentage of my students meeting proficiency on the Alabama Science Assessment increased to 100%.

Through the use of technology tools such as blogs, classroom response systems, interactive web tools, digital storytelling software, and personal laptops, students are able to achieve success in working with grade level content standards.

For example, through the use of free web-based software such as www.mixbook.com, students work collaboratively with classmates to



create digital books related to science content standards.

One specific tool, our classroom blog, provides students with a platform to hold quality discussions related to literature, science standards, and other relevant topics in our classroom. Blogging provides students with meaning and purpose for writing by giving them an opportunity to

write for a real audience. Blogging also serves as a motivator for students who might otherwise be reluctant to share their writing with others, and it provides a powerful communication connection between school and home.

As a teacher, my goal is to provide my students with the most valuable learning experiences possible while

I have the opportunity to do so. I am fortunate to work for a school system that is focused on preparing our children for all aspects of 21st century life, and using the many tools of technology in the classroom is one way of accomplishing the goal of educating students to be successful, contributing members of society in today's technology-driven world!

DR. DARREN DOUTHITT, EDUCATION LEADER



I enrolled as a freshman student at Jacksonville State University (JSU) in 1983. My undergraduate days were filled with experiences and friendships

that continue to enrich my life. The fun of my college days ended in December of 1988, when I graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in English.

After a short period of time as an employee at a local factory, I decided to re-enter JSU to pursue teacher certification. After obtaining a teaching certificate I began working as an English teacher for Anniston City Schools. In 1996, I received a Masters of Arts degree in education from JSU. With that degree in hand I then set my sights on an administrative add-on certificate from JSU. I received

administrative certification in 1998 and was hired for my first administrative position that same year.

My career as a school administrator began in Pell City where I was hired as an assistant principal at Duran Junior High School. Four or five months after arriving in Pell City, I was back in school at JSU and pursuing an Educational Specialist degree. At the conclusion of my first year as an assistant principal, I was hired as the principal of Glenn Middle School in Birmingham. From 1999 until 2008, I worked as a principal in

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FACULTY PROFILE:

MRS. PAULA NAPOLI



Ms. PAULA NAPOLI, INSTRUCTOR OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Originally from central Ohio, Paula Napoli came to Alabama in 1992 when she began a part-time position in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Her job began as an aide in the Child Center (Dr. Cynthia H. Harper Child Study Center) to teacher and director of the center and progressed to instructor. Mrs. Napoli graduated from Ohio State University with a BS degree in Elementary Education and she received her Master's in Early Childhood Education at Jacksonville State University.

Mrs. Napoli recalls, "All of my jobs over thirty-five years have been in education, from pre-school, elementary, high school, and now university levels. I have seen so many changes in the field. I can remember when desegregation began in the school system I worked in. The first attempt was to integrate teachers, not the students. Eventually buses were introduced and students were moved to areas of town previously quite foreign to them. Another change I recall is the "open classroom" where classrooms were separated by dividers,

not walls. That approach did not last long. The most significant and long-lasting change element has been technology as an important teaching tool at all levels. Even my three and four year-old preschoolers have asked, "Ms. Paula, can we access the internet on our computers?" Technology has become a way of life and has proven to be an informational tool for so many people in addition to providing an alternate means of acquiring an education."

Since joining the faculty, Mrs. Napoli has taught all the courses in Child Development and assisted in the development of the on-line program for Child Development. The on-line program has proven to be a huge success with approximately 150 students enrolled. She advises virtually all those students. She has promoted JSU by giving numerous presentations at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels dealing with diversity in the classroom and obesity in children. She has received numerous awards for her research in these areas and serves on several college and university committees.

One of her top priorities at the Child Study Center is the playground. She feels outside play is very important for physical development and healthy lifestyles for children. In the past years she has expanded the playground, added a bike path, and obtained new equipment. Last year Dr. Nathan Wight from the music department donated a piece of equipment, a geodesic dome, which previously had been used in one of his operas. It has proven to be one of the children's favorite. Fraternities, sororities, and other groups have also donated their time to make improvements. She truly appreciates the thoughtfulness and generosity of many volunteers and donors.

Mrs. Napoli's hobby is traveling. She and her husband of thirty-six years have traveled to dozens of

states and have been abroad many times visiting Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, England, France, the Netherlands and Scotland. She loves experiencing the history and the different cultures, food, architecture, and pace of life. Another love of hers is her grandchildren, Maria Napoli aged 2 ½ and Turner Jackson age 1 ½. She says, "There is nothing that can bring a needed smile to your face like grandchildren."

Mrs. Napoli states, "Children are my love and I am so lucky to have experienced them my entire profession. Jacksonville State University has truly made my dream come true. My job at JSU gives me the opportunity to work with children ages 3-5 and college students - the best of both worlds. It is a perfect job and I consider myself very fortunate to be part of JSU."



TV SERVICES COMPLETES STADIUM MONTAGE

Television Services' final version of the JSU construction of the residence hall and the refurbished Burgess-Snow Stadium video montage is posted on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buAJJXEbrIU>

The video will soon be on the JSU website: <http://www.jsu.edu/tv/expansion.html>.

JSU WELLNESS-ANNISTON

WELLNESS WALK

The third annual Calhoun County Community Wellness Walk was held at The Bridge in Anniston. This year's walk marked a major milestone in miles walked and pounds lost for the Wellness-Anniston Walkers Club. From August 2008 to August 2010, 90,902.86 miles have been walked and 597 pounds have been lost.

In conjunction with the Wellness Walk, JSU Wellness-Anniston collected canned goods and nonperishable items for the Community Enabler Feeding Program.



WELLNESS-ANNISTON THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY WELLNESS WALK TEAM LEADER WINNERS

BOYS TO MEN

Boys to Men: Promoting the Values of Positive Mentorship was the topic of the October 7, 2010, Library Lunchtime Lecture. Mr. Fred Smith and Mr. Kevin Hoult were guest presenters.

The partnering of JSU Wellness-Anniston's Boys to Men Program and the Department of University



MENTORS AND MENTEES ATTENDING LIBRARY LUNCHTIME LECTURE

Housing and Residence Life gives mentors an opportunity to encourage young men during their college years. Students will have the opportunity to interact with community mentors outside the classroom with hopes of attaining much needed guidance and direction.

CAREER DAY AT CONSTANTINE ELEMENTARY

JSU Wellness-Anniston participated in Career Day at Cobb and Constantine Elementary Schools during the month of October. During these events area agencies had the opportunity to speak with students at the two schools about their areas of service and careers. Some event participants were the Boys and Girls



JAMIE STRANGE, RICKY CLEMENS, LAPRECIOUS POWELL, MISS GARRETT AND FRED SMITH WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS AT CONSTANTINE ELEMENTARY

Club of East Alabama, Regional Medical Center, and the Anniston Police Department. Participating in this event for JSU Wellness-Anniston were Ashley Morrison and LaPrecious Powell and special guests were members of the Jacksonville State University football program.

CAREER DAY ANNISTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Fred Smith, Director of JSU-Anniston Wellness spoke at the Anniston High School Career Day. His topic was "Seven Keys in Preparing You to be Productive in Your Vocation."

Mr. Smith told the students that their first impression can be a lasting

impression. He asked them to develop a vision for their lives. He stressed that positive extracurricular activities were essential. Mr. Smith encouraged the participants to be lifelong learners. He told them, "You will never outgrow learning, no matter how much you know."



INTERNS PARTICIPATE IN CHOCOLATE ECONOMICS

Collaborative efforts once again pay off, this time with elementary and early childhood education students collecting the benefits. Through the combined efforts of Dr. Cynthia McCarty and Dr. Melinda Staubs, a workshop was provided this October for students currently doing their student teaching. Dr. McCarty, Director of the Center for Free Business & Enterprise Education and entrepreneurship and economics professor, worked diligently to obtain financing to support the implementation of the workshop. Dr. Staubs, Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction, taught the workshop to the seventy-five participants. The hands-on workshop, Chocolate Economics, centered on a fun curriculum that is designed to incorporate economic principals and higher order thinking skills into the elementary education setting. Participants not only received innovative ideas and dinner but took home the Chocolate Economics curriculum. Feedback from the students was positive. Both Dr. McCarty and Dr. Staubs were pleased to hear students sharing ways they

could incorporate the curriculum into their own teaching. Collaborative efforts are currently underway to provide more workshops next summer for teachers and education majors.



THE INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM



DR. ISREAL EADY, DR. CHAROLETTE EADY, MS. LISA LIGHT, AND DR. WILLIAM KISER

The Instructional Leadership team consisting of Dr. Isreal Eady, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Dr. Charolette Eady, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, and Dr. William Kiser, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, along with Instructional Leadership alumna, Ms. Lisa Light, presented a paper entitled “Building a School’s Leadership Capacity: Mentoring That Works!” at the 51st Annual Conference of the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration in Savannah, Georgia.

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four different school districts. In 2008, my administrative experience and solid education afforded me an opportunity to serve as an assistant superintendent for Lee County Schools. This position gave me the confidence that one day I might fulfill the life-long dream of being a school superintendent. My first interview for a superintendent's position occurred on March 13, 2010. During this interview I learned on lessons learned at Jacksonville State University. Needless to say, in May of 2010 I accepted the position as

superintendent of Butler County Schools.

I am a living example of how a good education, hard work, and perseverance can change one's life. My diplomas from Jacksonville State University are some of my most prized possessions. These diplomas are displayed in my office to remind me of the people who helped me reach my goals. I owe a debt of gratitude to JSU for giving a poor kid from Ohatchee an opportunity to pursue a college degree. None of

the aforementioned opportunities would have been possible without the world-class education I received at JSU. My instructors and professors at Jacksonville State University thoroughly prepared me for success in life. Their influences, and those of my elementary and high school teachers, guided me into a career as an educator and I have no regrets. Every day I strive to give my all as a superintendent with hopes that I might be as influential as the educators who equipped me.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN PROMOTES UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



This fall, the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) partnered with the Jacksonville State chapter of Pi Kappa Phi to support children with special needs. The SCEC and Pi Kappa Phi organized the students of The Learning Tree and the The Little Tree.

The Learning Tree, Inc. is a non-profit for people with significant educational, medical, and behavioral challenges. The Little Tree is a program of the Learning Tree, Inc. that is focused on improving the services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities.

The JSU students and the children participated in JSU's homecoming parade. The students made a banner, walked, drove, and threw out candy to the crowd with The Little Tree

students. The SCEC and Pi Kappa Phi are hoping this starts a tradition of walking in the parade with the students of The Little Tree.



The SCEC helped sell tickets for Pi Kappa Phi's annual Pancake Breakfast for their national philanthropy, PUSH (People Understanding the Severely Handicapped) America.

SCEC and Pi Kappa Phi are also getting together to help the Faculty of The Learning Tree celebrate the holidays. SCEC and Pi Kappa Phi helped decorate the building for their thanksgiving dinner and are working together to help make and design the decorations for the Christmas pageant for The Learning Tree Students.



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY CHAPTER #0211 OF PHI DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL INDUCTS 73

On December 2, 2010, The Jacksonville State University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International set a record for induction of new members by inducting seventy-one JSU undergraduate students and two JSU faculty.

The ceremony was held on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. Dr. Roland Thornburg, President of PDK opened the ceremony by commenting that it is not every induction ceremony that has a parade to welcome new members. The ceremony occurred as the Jacksonville City Christmas Parade was also taking place.

Dr. Debra Weingarth, the Chapter Historian introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Goodwin, Superintendent of Oxford City



**DR. ROLAND THORNBURG, DR. GENA RILEY, DR. DEBRA WEINGARTH, AND
DR. JEFF GOODWIN**

students exchanging ideas

- * Teachers mingling with students
- * Students questioning each other
- * Multiple groupings of tables or desks
- * Technology used for problem solving.

Schools. Dr. Goodwin delivered a presentation called "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century." In the presentation he said that he expected to see a teacher using 21st century teaching strategies:

- * Multiple activity centers featuring different Structures and group work
- * You should hear a low level hum of interaction featuring

Dr. John Hammett, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies and advisor to the chapter lead the initiation ceremony. Dr. Gena Riley, Vice President for Membership of PDK Chapter #0211 presented the Graduation Medallion to Ms. Emily Suzanne Reece.



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