

EDUCATION MATTERS

The Official Newsletter of The College of Education and Behavioral Science



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FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

BY DR. MARY JANE BRADLEY

I am pleased to share the advancement and recognition of several COEBS faculty and staff. Dr. Lance Bryant has assumed the position of Associate Dean, Dr. Kris Biondolillo as Chair of Psychology and Counseling and Dr. Paul Finnicum as Chair of Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences. Dr. John Hall was named as one of the recipients of the James and Wanda Lee Vaughn Endowed Professorship. Dr. Audrey Bowser was named the 2017 Strong-Turner Outstanding Alumnus on October 14.

During the Homecoming Celebration in October the following four alumni were recognized: Dr. Roy Aldridge, Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Special Education; Ms. Amanda Turner, Health, Physical Education & Sport Sciences; Dr. Amy Pearce, Psychology & Counseling; Ms. Sandra Lindley Hurst, Teacher Education. Dr. Kelly Damphousse and Dr. Susan Hanrahan joined us in celebrating the accomplishments of our alumni.

Several faculty members of the COEBS participated in A-State's inaugural "Red Wolf Rising" recruitment dinner Tuesday, October 17 at the Chenal Country Club to connect with high school seniors and their parents. On November 14, we had a second "Red Wolf Rising" event to host students and parents in Jonesboro. We told our stories and sold our programs to 304 students and 381 parents for a total of 685 guests that night.

We are proud of our many programs in the college that demonstrate high standards for our outstanding students.

Every Red Wolf Counts!



Vaughn Professorship



Dr. John Hall, Vaughn Endowed Professor

Dr. John Hall, professor of psychology and counseling, was named the recipient of the 2017 Vaughn Professorship. The estate of James E. and Wanda Lee Vaughn provided a gift of \$250,000 to establish the Vaughn Professorship in the College of Education and Behavioral Science. Earnings from the endowment allow Dr. Hall and future recipients to conduct research, create special learning opportunities for students, and support other facets of their academic pursuits.

"What an unbelievable act of kindness to this institution. It is true when they say, 'learning never ends,' even for professors" Hall said.

Hall joined the faculty at A-State in 1991. He completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at A-State, then another master's and Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati. Hall is coordinator of the nationally approved school psychology track of the educational specialist degree program in psychology and counseling.



Dr. John Hall, Vaughn Endowed Professor; Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, COEBS Dean; and Dr. Lance Bryant, COEBS Associate Dean

First Year Convocation

Incoming students, faculty, and administration celebrated First-Year Convocation on Sunday, August 20, 2017. First-Year Convocation is an annual tradition and part of the First Year Experience Program at A-State. The ceremony resembles graduation and notes an important milestone in students' academic career.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Ron Towery, Ms. Jill Clogston, Dr. Nicole Covey, Dr. Kelly Damphousse, Dr. Beverly Gilbert, Dr. Heloisa Cursi Campos, Dr. Kris Biondolillo, Dr. Mary Jane Bradley

Homecoming 2017

Outstanding COEBS Alumni



Educational Leadership, Curriculum & Special Education
Dr. Roy Lee Aldridge



Health, Physical Education & Sport Sciences
Ms. Amanda Turner



Psychology & Counseling
Dr. Amy Pearce



Teacher Education
Dr. Sandra Lindley Hurst

Strong-Turner Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Audrey Bowser is the 2017 Strong-Turner Outstanding Alumnus Award Recipient. Dr. Bowser serves as the Director of Professional Education Programs for the College of Education and Behavioral Science at Arkansas State University. She is a three-time graduate of A-State and holds four certifications in the areas of Business Education, Curriculum Specialist, Secondary Principalship and District Administration.

Her professional career began as a business teacher at Blytheville High School. Upon completion of her doctoral program, she joined the faculty at A-State with the responsibility of teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Educator Preparation Program (EPP) until her appointment as the Director of Professional Education Programs in 2016.

Dr. Bowser is an active part of Strong-Turner. She presently holds the positions of S-TAC treasurer and Homecoming Chairperson. She has served as S-TAC Secretary, assisted with the first Black Alumni Reunion, co-chaired past homecoming and Black Alumni Reunion. She is a phenomenal part of S-TAC serving in many other capacities. Dr. Bowser is also a member of the Kappa Nu Omega, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Black Professionals' Network of Jonesboro and many other community organizations. While a student at ASU Dr. Bowser was awarded Linal Cameron Memorial Scholarship.

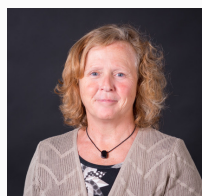


Dr. Kelly Damphousse, A-State Chancellor with
Dr. Audrey Bowser, Strong-Turner 2017 Outstanding
Alumnus Award Recipient

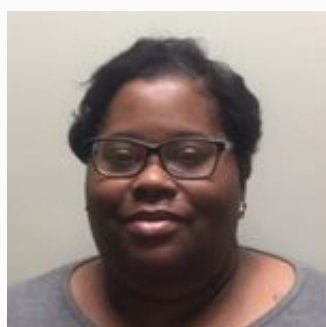
College, Department & Program News



Dr. Annette Hux, associate professor of special education, along with **Dr. Alicia Shaw** and **Dr. Rob Williams**, assistant professors of education, co-authored an article published in the National Forum of Teacher Education Journal. Through a survey of Northeast Arkansas educators, they assessed the relative level of acceptance held by various constituencies toward full inclusion in the classroom, respective of its effect on students' academic performance and social confidence. The full article can be accessed through www.nationalforum.com.



Dr. Kris Biondolillo, professor of psychology, assumed duties as the chair of the Department of Psychology and Counseling, effective July 1, 2017. Biondolillo joined the A-State faculty in 1991 and has been serving as interim chair. She continues to teach and supervise students in the Bachelor of Science in psychology and Master of Science in psychological science programs.



Ms. Nichole Parks, Quality Rating Improvement System Coordinator, served as a panel judge for the 2017 Leading for Children Innovative Ideas Award. Parks has 23 years in early childhood education in direct care and as Director of a NAEYC and state accredited program, and mentor for directors leading their programs through quality accreditation.

Dr. Lance G. Bryant, professor of physical education, became associate dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science July 1, after serving as interim. Previous positions include interim department chair of HPESS, undergraduate PETE program director, and HPESS graduate program director. He has published numerous papers on social and cultural contexts that shape education, including applications of social media for teacher preparation.





Dr. Dixie Keyes, professor of education, is co-editor and a co-author of several articles in *Crossroads of the Classroom: Narrative Intersections of Teacher Knowledge and Subject Matter*, vol. 28 of the "Advances in Research on Teaching" series by Emerald Publishing. The editors use teacher narratives to examine the complexities of subject matter knowledge and teacher knowledge.

Dr. Paul Finnicum, professor of physical education, serves as chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences (HPESS), effective July 1, 2017. Finnicum has a doctoral degree from Oklahoma State University and joined the A-State faculty in 1988. He has been serving as interim chair for HPESS.



Dr. Natalie Johnson Leslie, associate professor of secondary education, and Dr. H. Steve Leslie, instructor in business communication, are co-authors of a book chapter in the peer-reviewed Handbook of Research on Technology-Centric Strategies for Higher Education Administration. The chapter, "Technology in Higher Education Administration: 25 Years of Leveraging Changes to Content Delivery," examines a variety of factors impacting change, including technology, leadership strategies and policy.

Mr. Christopher Mellor is a new instructor of physical education in HPESS. Having completed his master's degree at the University of Wyoming, his next goal is a Ph.D. He should have extra time to devote to that pursuit, given he will not have many occasions in Arkansas to enjoy his favorite pastime, snowboarding. His primary research interest is teacher socialization issues.



Ms. Veronika Pribyslavska is a new instructor in exercise science. A Czech Republic native, she came to the U.S. to play soccer at Murray State. Most recently she was a graduate teaching assistant at Middle Tennessee State, where she expects to complete her doctoral degree in health and human performance later this year.



Dr. Lacy Overley, assistant professor of counseling, has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Play Therapy. Her paper is titled, "Exploring the Experiences of Play Therapists Working with Children Diagnosed with Autism". Overley is co-director of the Play Therapy Certificate Program and the Center of Play Therapy Education, which was recently approved by the Association for Play Therapy.

Mr. Scott Doig, is a new instructor of physical education in HPESS. Doig completed his master's degree in educational leadership at Loyola University in Chicago and will soon complete his Ph.D. in physical education and administration from Springfield College. His research interests include physical literacy, fundamental movement, physical activity and cognition.



Dr. Heloisa Cursi Campos, assistant professor of psychology, has been awarded the COEBS Faculty Scholarship for Fall 2017. Campos is using the three semester-hour teaching release to study symbolic behavior. Symbolic behavior refers to how a person reacts to words or other symbols as if they are the things or events they refer to. Campos, along with twenty students, are researching how faculty can teach symbolic relations that are part of the skills students learn in college.

Mr. Eric Scudamore, is a new instructor of exercise science in HPESS. He completed his master's degree in health and human performance at the University of North Alabama and completing his Ph.D. in health and human performance with a specialization in exercise science from Middle Tennessee State University. His research interests include tactical athlete/military performance, blood flow restriction, acute and chronic external loading, and movement quality and injury.



Dr. Amy R. Pearce, professor of psychology, was honored as the Outstanding Alumnus for the Department of Psychology and Counseling during the COEBS 2017 Homecoming festivities. Pearce received her undergraduate degree at A-State and Ph.D. from Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. She returned to A-State in 2001 and specializes in teaching physiological psychology, statistics, evolutionary psychology, and science communication. Pearce is also co-director of the Arkansas Science Festival, an annual event engaging participants of all ages in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Meeting and Greeting

Red Wolf Information Fair

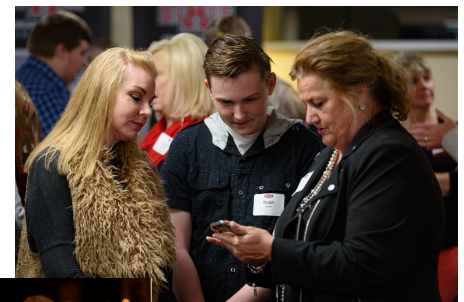
The faculty of COEBS met high school seniors from around the region at the Red Wolf Information Fair on October 7th. This kick-off event began a series of Senior Preview Days to provide high school students with opportunities to see our campus, meet faculty and mingle with current students.



Left: Dr. Ron Towery and Dr. Kris Biondolillo pose with Scarlet. Center: Dr. Joanna Grymes meets interested students. Right: Dr. Sandra Hawkins chats with a guest while Dr. Joan Henley looks on.

Red Wolves Rising!

Red Wolves Rising is a new initiative to make personal connections with prospective students. The first event was held at the Chenal Country Club in Little Rock on October 17. COEBS faculty, along with faculty and staff from all the colleges, meet 129 students, along with their parents, and shared information about our programs and success stories. The second event was the Chancellor's Dinner held on November 14 at the Student Union. Faculty and staff met 143 students, and their parents, and again shared information about our programs and student experiences. Red Wolves Rising is a powerful initiative by the Office of Recruitment and the Chancellor and we are excited to continue in Spring 2018!



2017 Arkansas Science Festival



The 4th annual Arkansas Science Festival was held October 19 - 21, 2017. Over 1500 attendees participated in a variety of fun and hands-on events that focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Dr. Irina Khramtsova, Assistant Professor of Psychology, and members of the Positive Psychology & Mindfulness Club led participants in a mindfulness workshop. A short mindfulness exercise introducing body awareness was followed by physically tensing and relaxing muscles. Afterward each participant was connected to a biofeedback device and practiced mindful breathing.

Teachers, students and parents attended performances at Fowler Center by Arkansas resident Kevin Delaney. Kevin's talent for science communication landed him a recurring role on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" as the resident science presenter, performing demonstrations with Jimmy and celebrity guests as lab assistants. Elliot McLaughlin, a second grader from Jonesboro, said his favorite part was "when they poured liquid nitrogen over cheese puffs and he ate them and it looked like smoke was coming out of his nose!" While waiting for the show to start, members of the A-State Herpetology Lab revealed several BIG snakes and shared information about their habits.

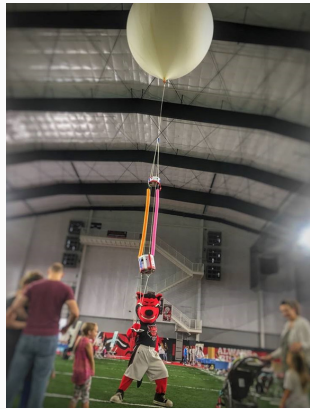
The ASU Museum got in on the fun as well. "Crazy Science" was led by Dr. Marti Allen, Museum Director, Ms. Jill Kary, Curator of Education, and Ms. Michelle Friend, Psychology student alum. Over 300 attendees, assisted by freshmen STEM majors, were engaged in science activities, such as building their own circuit and extracting iron from cereal.

The festival ended with the Science Expo on Sat, Oct 21. Over 40 exhibitors, including representatives from A-State, NYIT, UAMS, ASU Mid-South, local businesses, and community groups presented a wide selection of interactive topics, ranging from robotics, neuroscience, marine biology, astronomy, meteorology, and more. Visitors met medical and STEM professionals, jugglers, Howl, and took lots of science selfies.

The Arkansas Science Festival is organized annually by Drs. Amy Pearce and Karen Yanowitz, Professors of Psychology, and Dr. Anne Grippo, Interim Dean, College of Sciences and Mathematics. Campus, school and community partners are invited to become involved by hosting a STEM event in October.



Left: Fun with "science selfies".



Right: Howl's successful BalloonSAT experiment.

Below: Arkansas Science Festival Volunteers!



Always Educating

Tech Take Over

The Arkansas State University Education Renewal Zone (ERZ), in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Facebook hosted a "Tech Take Over" Day at A-State on September 27th in the Student Union. Close to 300 students from around the area and state were in attendance. TechStart, a Facebook education initiative in collaboration with high schools, helps students explore computer science through technology. Students were welcomed by A-State Chancellor Dr. Kelly Damphousse and Anthony Owen, Computer Science Education Director for the ADE. Last year, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announced an agreement with Facebook to launch the company's TechStart program in Arkansas high schools. The program, developed by Facebook, aims to give students access to high quality computer science and virtual reality education in order to generate interest in computer science careers and provide instruction for students. Facebook donated 500 Virtual Reality (VR) classroom kits, including computers, cameras and the Oculus Rift equipment necessary to administer the TechStart program.



Anthony Owen, ADE; Jill Clogston, ERZ; Facebook team members; and Dr. Kelly Damphousse



Maynard high school students in small work group

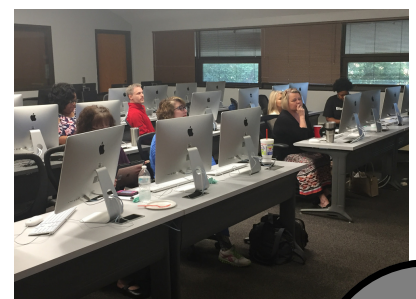
AR-CEC Annual Conference



The Arkansas Council for Exceptional Children held their annual conference October 25-27 in Little Rock. Dr. Kimberly Davis accompanied her students, Lauren Boreani and Regan May as they presented a poster. Honors were given to Lauren Boreani, John Prewitt Scholarship recipient, and Laura Beth Grissom, Rose Merry Kirkpatrick Scholarship recipient. Davis was also honored for serving as immediate past president of AR-CEC from 2015-2017.

Apple Professional Learning Day

Faculty and staff participated in the Apple Professional Learning Day hosted by the COEBS on September 29th. Josh Mika, Apple Instructor, provided fun and informative sessions using Keynote, iMovie, and much more. This is part of Tech Days, twice monthly technology training offered by COEBS.



Connecting in our Community



JHS Academy. Pictured from left to right: Ms. Jill Clogston, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, Dr. John Hall, and Dr. Shannon Lewis



Panel on Child Advocacy. Pictured from left to right: Dr. John Hall, Dr. Joe Olmi, Dr. Kris Biondolillo, Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, and Dr. Kristin Johnson

Ready2Teach

Ready2Teach is an annual summer institute for high school students interested in the field of teaching. COEBS sponsored the institute on July 20 with 50 students from area high schools attending.



Summer Camp Academy

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) was the theme for the 2017 Summer Camp Academy. Camps included the A-State Global Youth Academy, Young Chef's Academy, Robotics, Photography, Art Design, Coding, and much more.



Financial Gifts

The Mission of the College of Education and Behavioral Science is to generate and disseminate knowledge through teaching, research and service; and to apply that knowledge to improve education and the quality of life for all individuals in a pluralistic and democratic society. We accomplish this within student-centered, intellectually challenging environments with faculty and staff dedicated to excellence.

We in the College of Education and Behavioral Science would like to sincerely thank each and every alumnus and friend who recently made financial gifts. If you would like to be a part of the exciting things that are happening in the College, you can do so by making a donation. The donations are tax-deductible and provide important support for college-wide initiatives and faculty development. If you would like to help us fulfill our missions, please send your donation to: ASU Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1990, State University, AR 72467. In the memo line indicate the account name for donation. Please include your name, address, phone and email address.

Do you work for a matching gift company? If so, please enclose a completed Matching Gift form from your company along with your gift.

If you are aware of grant opportunities in which the College of Education and Behavioral Science might become engaged, please let us know in the Dean's Office by calling 870-972-3057.

Contact Information

Education Matters is the Official Newsletter of the College of Education and Behavioral Science at Arkansas State University and is published biannually (Spring and Fall). If you would like to be notified when a new edition is available, please call 870-972-3057 and will add your name to our email mailing list. Email addresses will be used only for that purpose.

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