Summer 2011

The Connection, Summer 2011

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

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Greetings from the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee. I’m thrilled to introduce you to the bigger, better and technologically superior version of The Connection for your review. We will be preparing quarterly newsletters so that you, the alumni and friends of our College will be kept abreast of the many exciting and wonderful activities in which our students, faculty and staff are engaged. We will be featuring four of our academic departments in this first issue and the other four in the Fall issue. As we move into the Spring, we will move to a format that will allow us to highlight the important work of two of our outstanding academic units in each subsequent issue of our newsletter. I do hope you enjoy this new version of The Connection and will help us in making it an important conduit of information from our College to you, our family. I would be remiss if I didn’t express my gratitude to Ms. Penny Howell, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Development for her excellent work in creating this new “connection” to our constituents.

Speaking of Development, I want to publically express my appreciation to Ms. Blue Dean, who served as Director of Development for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences for the past five years. Under Blue’s leadership, the College not only achieved our capital campaign goal, but exceeded it by a significant amount. Many of you are part of the success we have enjoyed in this fundraising effort, so I thank you as well. While we will miss Blue terribly, I’m happy to announce the appointment of Mr. Randy Atkins as our new Director of Development. I’m confident that Randy will be able to pick up where Blue left off and guide our College to even more prominent status in the development arena. Please join me in welcoming Randy to the family when you have the opportunity. I will be starting my 8th year as dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences and am even more excited today than I was when I began my tenure back in 2004. I stand in awe of the incredible accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff and it’s all that I can do to keep up with all that they are doing. Suffice it to say that your investment in our College is providing a significant return; not so much in terms of financial capital, but in abundant amounts of human capital. As you know, our College motto is “Enhancing Quality of Life through Research, Outreach, and Practice” and I’m happy to say that we live and breathe this calling every day. I close by once again expressing my appreciation to you, our alums, friends, donors, and advocates for the important work being conducted here on campus, in the community and around the world. Please know how very grateful I am and honored to be the dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee!

Best regards,

Bob
**Child and Family Studies**  By Dr. Mick Nordquist

*Child and Family Studies* is fortunate to have a new addition to an already exemplary group of faculty members. Dr. Cara Moore will begin her tenure in the department on August 1, 2011. Dr. Moore received her Doctor of Philosophy degree at Temple University in May 2011. She studied Urban Education in the Department of Education Leadership and Policy Studies and was honored as a Future Faculty Fellow. Her dissertation entitled, *Why Do Teachers Quit? An Investigation of the Influence of School Environment and Teacher Characteristics on Discontent and Attrition* examined the role of different factors, such as classroom environment, school environment, school climate, and teacher characteristics on public school teachers’ decisions to transfer, stay at their current positions, or quit. Dr. Moore received her Master of Science in Education degree at the University of Pennsylvania in May, 2003 and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University in June, 2002. She studied elementary education and psychology, respectively. Dr. Moore has three years of classroom teaching experience at the primary grade level. Moreover, she has taught undergraduate and graduate education courses at the University of Maryland, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Her current research interests include teacher induction, teacher transfer, and connections between teacher staffing and student achievement. All of the CFS faculty members feel very fortunate that Dr. Moore chose our department to pursue her teaching and research interests. Welcome Dr. Moore!

The department is particularly excited about the success that several CFS faculty had this past year securing external funding to support their research. Dr. Brian Barber has two awards from the Jacobs Foundation in Switzerland to study the effects of conflict on Palestinian and Egyptian youth. Dr. Mary Jane Moran received continued funding to develop and implement a teacher certification program for Head Start Teachers as well as donor funding to support an on-going comparative research project in Milan, Italy. She and a group of CFS students are collaborating with faculty and students at the University of Milan, comparing similarities and differences in best early childhood teaching practices in Italy and the U.S. Dr. Moran also is the Director of the Child Care Resource and Referral Center and was instrumental in securing additional funding to keep the Center operating this coming year. Dr. Hillary Fouts and Dr. Carin Neitzel learned in July, 2011 that a grant they submitted to the National Science Foundation has been funded and will support research that they plan to conduct this coming year in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. They are collaborating with faculty and students in the college’s Department of Public Health as well as their counterparts at the University of Kenyatta. The hope is that initial findings will lead to a much larger NSF grant next year. Dr. Heidi Stolz who is the Co-Director of the Center for Parenting along with Dr. Denise Brandon in the Agricultural Institute secured three contracts this past year to support various Center projects. Taken together, all of these grants and contracts total several million dollars and all of them include CFS graduate students who are engaged either in thesis or dissertation research.

**Educational Leadership & Policy Studies**  By Dr. Vince Anfara

*Educational Leadership and Policy Studies* (ELPS) will start the 2011-2012 academic year with our annual retreat on August 15 and our Graduate Student Orientation on August 16, 2011. We are excited to welcome two new faculty members: Dr. J. Patrick Biddix who is Associate Professor of Higher Education and Dr. Mary Lynne Derrington who is Assistant Professor of Educational Administration and Supervision. We are also anxious to welcome a number of new graduate students who will begin their academic work culminating in M.S., Ed.S., and Ph.D degrees.

We admitted our second cohort of Leadership Academy Fellows who will be undergoing an intensive, 15-month period of professional preparation and development. The Leadership Academy is a part of the Center for Educational Leadership (CEL) which focuses on the preparation and professional development of school and district-level administrators. Those interested are asked to visit the Center’s website at [http://cel.utk.edu](http://cel.utk.edu).

Finally, I am pleased to highlight two of Dr. Ernest Brewer’s federal grant projects that brought over 200 students to campus this summer. The *Math and Science Center* (MSC) is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of low-income Tennessee high school students who demonstrate a high degree of interest and aptitude in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. The goal of the project is to assist participants in recognizing and developing their potential and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in the fields of math and science. Exposure to university-level STEM activities provides needed motivation and knowledge to guide students toward the ultimate goal of careers in STEM professions.

The *Pre-College Upward Bound* (PCUB) Project reaches out to Tennessee high school students in Blount, Knox, and Sevier Counties in an effort to enrich their academic opportunities and experiences. Participant services include development of skills leading to success in their pre-college performance and assistance in all facets of the college admissions process. These services focus on such areas as college selection and financial aid. Participation in academic and cultural activities, along with service learning, helps to prepare students to successfully complete secondary education and to pursue a postsecondary degree, regardless of their field of study.

**A Hearty Welcome Aboard**

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new Director of Development, Randy Atkins. Randy comes to us from the Development Office in the College of Arts and Sciences. He graduated from UT in 1990 with a degree in biology.

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**Educational Psychology & Counseling**  By Dr. Steve McCallum

*Educational Psychology and Counseling* (EPC) kicks off Fall Semester 2011 with a faculty/staff retreat on August 15 followed by a New and Returning Graduate Student Orientation that afternoon. The Retreat is a time to introduce new faculty, orient and welcome new students, review new and old processes, and plan for the coming academic year. Joining the faculty is Associate Professor Dr. Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, who will work with the Instructional Technology Master’s and Ed.S. programs and the Learning Environments and Educational Studies doctoral concentration. Her research interests include activity theory and social network analysis. The Student Orientation, coordinated this year by doctoral students in Adult Learning, will have a technology focus with a virtual tour of campus for the 119 new graduate students who were admitted from a pool of 400+ applicants.

Several new developments are in the offing for EPC this year. One of the exciting new developments is the move to an online applications process. Beginning August 1, applicants will be able to apply to both the Graduate School and the department online. Both rating forms and transcripts will be online as well. EPC is one of 15 university departments that are moving to an online format this year under the guidance of the Office of Graduate Admissions. Another new addition to the EPC offering this year is a Distance Education (DE) version of our MS in Applied Educational Psychology. It will begin in Fall with two DE courses, and takes two years to complete, two courses per semester.

Finally, faculty and students are also looking forward to a November 4 workshop with Dr. Ted Remley, attorney and Professor and Batten Endowed Chair in Counseling, Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. The topic of Dr. Remley’s presentation is “Ethics and the Helping Professions in a Technological World.” For more information, contact Dr. Joel Diambra at jdiambra@utk.edu.

**A Sad Good-bye**

It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Blue Dean, who has led our Development Office for nearly five years. Blue did a phenomenal job while she was with us and we know that she will continue the same high standard in her new endeavors at Duke University. In the meantime, we know her absence is temporary because we will see her again at future alumni events. She will forever be one of us!

**Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies**  By Dr. Dixie Thompson

*The Department of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies* (KRSS) enjoyed a productive and busy 2010-11 academic year. We are a large, diverse department with over 400 undergraduate students and more than 200 graduate students. The faculty and staff take great pride in the many accomplishments of our students. KRSS students excel in scholarship (six were recognized at the 2011 Chancellor’s Honors Banquet), research (students authored papers, won awards for their work at conferences, and were awarded research grants), and service (many are involved in projects that impact lives and help improve our community).

The KRSS faculty members are also making news. In addition to the excellent teaching and mentoring KRSS faculty members perform, they are also securing grants and contracts, publishing research and writing books, and making important contributions through their service. Space does not permit a list of all the faculty contributions, but here are a few highlights: (1) Dr. Clare Milner and Dr. Steven Waller received tenure and were promoted to Associate Professor. (2) Dr. Craig Wrisberg has retired after more than three decades of exceptional service to UT. To honor his many contributions, the Craig Wrisberg Endowment will be established to support continued work in the area of applied sport psychology. (3) KRSS will be adding two new faculty members in fall 2011. Dr. Becky Zakrjasek will be an assistant professor specializing in sport psychology. She received her doctoral training from West Virginia and has been teaching at Indiana State. Dr. Ashleigh Huffman, who recently graduated from our doctoral program, will join us as a clinical assistant professor. She will lead our department-wide service-learning program in which KRSS students use sport, exercise and recreation activities to reach out to communities in need.

An important aspect to the education of our students is experiential learning. All undergraduate students have practicum and/or internship requirements that give them opportunities to put their knowledge into action. Many of our graduate students have assistantships or internships directly linked to their career goals. Other examples of KRSS students’ experiential learning include: sport management students working at major sporting events like the Super Bowl and the SEC basketball tournament; therapeutic recreation students staffing events for individuals with special needs; and students from across the department using sport as a way to reach out to Iraqi refugee families to promote peace and understanding.

This is only a snapshot of the good things happening in KRSS. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming academic year.

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**Knox Kicks World Cup**

Knox Kicks World Cup, planned and staffed by KRSS students, was a fun-filled day of family activities. This event brought together people from various backgrounds and used sport as a way to promote peace and understanding.

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**Camp Koinonia**

Camp Koinonia is a camp for children with special needs. This camp directed and staffed by UT students and faculty provide recreational opportunities for many who otherwise do not have access to such activities.
Save the Date

College of Education, Health and Human Sciences
2011 Dean’s Board of Advisors Fall Meeting

- Thursday, September 8th from 3:00 – 5:30pm
  Dinner reception to follow
- Friday, September 9th from 8:30am – 4:30pm
- Saturday, September 10th: UT vs. Cincinnati, kick-off TBA

For questions, please call 865-974-3968

Educators Hall of Honor 2011

Over 100 people attended this event to celebrate the induction of our six honorees: Dr. Mary Ann Blank; Dr. Joan Creasia; Dr. W J Julian; Knox County Imagination Library; Dr. Bob Kronick; and Dr. Margaret Perry.

Projects and Updates
Submit to:
Penny Howell
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865-974-3968

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