Dean's Message: Vision 2020

The old proverb says, “Without a vision, the people perish.” This spring, the College of Education and Psychology’s faculty embarked on a bold new venture to create a vision for the PK-12 educational programs to be achieved by the year 2020. The document, entitled “Vision 2020,” identifies the following goals and aspirations of the College:

• Instruction. To provide instruction in an online/hybrid format (as pedagogically appropriate) that models best practices and promotes active student engagement, technological innovation, and individual differentiation.

• Technology in Instruction. To model and teach using technology as a tool to promote academic achievement.

• Innovation Academy. To utilize the Innovation Academy as a lab school for participating in innovative pedagogical approaches.

• Research Centers. To establish research centers to facilitate research that engages local school districts to address educational issues.

• New Programs. To design and implement a Master of Educational Innovation and Doctorate in Innovation and

(Cont. on page 6)

Development Update: Building the Vision

A popular bumper sticker a few years ago read, “If you can read this thank a teacher.” For graduates of the College of Education and Psychology it should read, “If you feel like you were prepared to be successful in your career, thank your University!”

Development is an important part of a University’s ability to achieve its goals. From joining the alumni association, to volunteering to assist with university activities, to donating money, each effort contributes to the University’s development. Recently the College of Education and Psychology identified a series of development initiatives. These initiatives can be found at: www.utt Tyler.edu/educpsych/CEPdevinit.pdf

To assist with development initiatives each college has established a Development Advisory Council. The College of Education and Psychology is fortunate to have the following individuals serve on the council:

Dawn Franks
Marilyn Glass
Michael Lujan
Cynthia Riter
Beth Whitney
Larry Wickham

As Abraham Lincoln said, "No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child.”
The CEP Pulse—School of Education

Meeting the Needs of East Texas

This past December, the School of Education faculty were delighted to graduate and welcome into the teaching profession over 70 new teachers! The East Texas area can be assured that the teachers coming out of the School of Education at The University of Texas at Tyler are high quality, well prepared, and caring educators.

There has been significant work taking place in the School of Education. I would like to highlight just three areas of our work and all deal with our commitment to provide strong and powerful professional development for practicing teachers in a format appropriate for busy professional educators.

First, our Special Education faculty redesigned the Educational Diagnostician program in the Master of Education in Special Education degree to align with all certification and professional standards. This revision of content and change to an online format allows us to prepare even more educational diagnosticians for Texas. Currently, there is an extreme shortage of educational diagnosticians throughout Texas. The School of Education is dedicated to addressing this need and making sure the children of Texas are correctly and appropriately diagnosed so needed services can be provided.

Second, our Literacy faculty completely redesigned the Master of Education in Reading. The content of this new degree program aligns with the International Reading Association (IRA) guidelines as well as meets all of the Texas Education Agency certification requirements for reading specialists. This degree program has also been placed online. Having dedicated and highly trained educators in the area of literacy is critical to the educational experiences for all children and the School of Education is making this happen. The online format for both of these degrees allows busy teachers to advance their craft and expand their career opportunities.

Third, the School of Education is diligently working to address one of the biggest shortages of teachers in Texas—that of certified bilingual teachers. Although this is a huge critical shortage area, it is the most demanding certification area as it involves taking multiple certification exams as well as speaking and writing exams. In order to prepare preservice and practice educators for this, we are offering a hybrid course (face-to-face on certain Saturdays and online the rest of the time) this spring. This course is designed to help these future bilingual educators.

SOE News Bits, Research and Publications

Dr. Kouider Mohktari and his co-authors Dr. Joyce Nutta and Dr. Carine Strebel’s are the recipients of the 2013 AACTE Outstanding Book Award for Preparing Every Teacher to Reach English Learners: A Practical Guide for Teacher Educators.

Dr. Larry Kraus and Dr. Robert Stevens’ manuscript, “Academic Freedom for Teachers”, was published in The National Social Science Journal.

Dr. Jessi Rueter’s manuscript, “Early Childhood Transitions: Tips, Hints and Strategies for Parents and School Personnel” was published in both English and Spanish in Early Years.

Dr. Julie Delello’s review of the book Trends and Issues in Distance Education was published in Teachers College Record.

Dr. Teresa Kennedy was a co-author and co-principal investigator on a grant that sent a team of students from Hawkins Middle School to participate in the GLOBE Science Fair in India.

Mrs. Cindy Sherman and Dr. Nathan Smith, from the Mathematics Department, had their Teacher Quality (TQ) grant in mathematics renewed.
The CEP Pulse—Educational Leadership and Policies

Author! Author!

Traditionally, students in educational leadership programs were exposed to and became consumers of educational research. Professors would lecture on the latest research, and students would read journal articles and textbooks that were designed to disseminate best practice and research. However, students were never called upon to be the producers of research and best practice.

All of that has changed in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Under the direction of Dr. Genie Linn, each student in the master’s program engages in a Professional Investigation, which is an action research project that is typically carried out on his or her campus. In Block I of the program, students select a topic, conduct a literature review of the area, and design a research study. Then in Block III of the program, they conduct the research and write up the findings and recommendations. The Professional Investigations are compiled and published in an in-house publication and available as a research brief at www.utttyler.edu/elps/pib.php.

In the superintendent program, Dr. Wes Hickey’s students write an article and submit it to a journal for publication. Since 2011, 12 students have been published in journals such as Instructional Leader, Texas Study of Secondary Education, and Journal of Texas School Women Executives.

Students in the Educational Leadership program are not just consumers of research but also producers of research!

Journal Articles Published 2011-2012


Lee, A. W. (2012). E-textbooks: The future is now ... or is it. Techedge, 24-26.


The CEP Pulse—Psychology and Counseling

By Any Other Name...

For more than 30 years, students who want to be counselors have been coming to UT Tyler to learn how to effectively provide professional counseling services, acquire a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology, and then become Licensed Professional Counselors in Texas and elsewhere. Beginning in Spring semester, that program will become a Master’s Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. You might ask, “Why the change in name and what else is different?”

In 2011, the US Department of Defense and the Veteran’s Administration began to explore ways to significantly increase the availability of mental health services to the huge number of active duty military and veterans who may be in need of these services. Historically, only Ph.D. Psychologists, Psychiatrists and Social Workers were eligible to work in the VA health care system or to be reimbursed for their services outside the VA system by Tricare, the military health insurance entity. There are many more military members and veterans in need of mental health services than there are eligible providers to meet their needs.

In 2012, a new Federal Rule was created that will make professionals with a Master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling who have an LPC in their state eligible for VA employment and Tricare reimbursement. This opens a very large new job market for Master’s level professional mental health counselors. However, for this to work for students and graduates of the UT Tyler program, the degree title has to include the term “mental health counseling,” and the program has to be accredited by CACREP, the national accrediting agency for counseling programs.

So, we now have a degree titled, Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC), and we

(Cont. on page 6)

Research Profile: Jacqueline Evans

Dr. Jacqueline Evans joined UT Tyler’s Department of Psychology and Counseling in the Fall of 2011 with a background in cognitive and social psychology, and a focus in psychology applied to law. Since her arrival she has maintained an active research program in the area of investigative interviewing. In the fall she completed an FBI funded project on the detection of deception in non-native English speakers. She is currently working on another FBI funded project looking at the role of ego-depletion (i.e., the depletion of self-regulatory resources) in interviewing contexts. While Dr. Evans’s background is in legal psychology, much of the research she has recently been working on is intended to have applications not only for the legal and criminal justice systems, but also for human intelligence-gathering and improving national security.

In order to complete her research here at UT Tyler, Dr. Evans has been fortunate enough to have the help of quite a few dedicated graduate and undergraduate research assistants who take on various tasks. These tasks range from recruiting and scheduling participants, to interviewing participants, to transcribing interview recordings, to entering data. Currently she has 12 students working with her. Students also play another role in her studies: often UT Tyler students serve as the study participants. The research Dr. Evans has conducted here at UT Tyler, with the help of UT Tyler students, will be presented at the American Psychology-Law Society conference in Portland, OR this spring, and at the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition conference in the Netherlands in June. In addition, her first paper on deception detection in non-native speakers was recently accepted at the Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition.
The CEP Pulse—Recent Books

Dr. Kouider Mokhtari: Preparing Every Teacher

All educators need a basic set of knowledge and skills that promote and support English learners’ (ELs) achievement. But that’s where many teacher preparation programs stop.

In our new book, *Preparing Every Teacher to Reach English Learners*, my co-authors Joyce Nutta, Carine Streb et and I describe a professional learning model for incorporating a focus on English learners in courses and clinical experiences that prepare educators of different subjects, grade levels, and roles.

Our model stresses that some educators, such as academic subject teachers, need more preparation to work with ELs, and others, such as language arts teachers, need even more. More doesn’t mean “more of the same” but rather information specific to the subject taught and to the role of the educator. For example, high school counselors need to recognize different levels of English proficiency to help ELs enroll in appropriate courses. Literacy coaches also need to recognize levels of English proficiency, but in addition they should be able to analyze language data from ELs at different levels of English proficiency to be able to support language development. We named our model *One Plus* to denote this type of layered approach to preparing educators for their specific role regarding ELs.

Included among the 17

(Cont. on page 7)

Dr. Robert Stevens: Master Robert

Life is unpredictable. Like a hurricane that descends without warning wreaking havoc, destroying fields and property, an event over which we have no control will dramatically affect our lives. Amos and Amelia, surrogate children of Robert Stafford, a wealthy planter from Cumberland Island, Georgia, grow from youth into adulthood during the Civil War. Master Robert is eccentric. He has northern sympathies yet lives in the South, marries his mulatto slave, sires six children, and creates a “peculiar” society. His slaves have more freedom than any plantation in the South. The precipitous events of the war threaten his plantation and life. Amos and Amelia witness the evacuation of Fernandina, the largest naval invasion in history, the burning of Master Robert’s cotton shed, carry a message to a blockade runner, celebrate Jonkonnu, a slave holiday, and grieve at their mother’s funeral. *Master Robert* captures the life and spirit of plantation society during the Civil War. It is also a microcosm of our country’s history.

*Robert Stevens* taught Georgia science and social studies teachers for 11 years on Cumberland Island, Georgia through a collaborative grant between Georgia Southern University, Georgia Youth Science and Technology program, and Cumberland Island National Park. *Master Robert* is the result of his experience, teaching and living on the island for 11-12 weekends a year in all seasons where he witnesses the changes in weather that included lightning strikes, torrential rains, bracing winds, a hurricane evacuation, and dry spells that reflected the conditions that existed during the setting of the novel.
The CEP Pulse—Odds and Ends

Dean’s Message (cont.)

(Cont. from page 1)

Education degrees.

- Bilingual. To offer bilingual certification programs to pre-service and inservice teachers.
- Marketing. To market the programs in the college regionally, statewide and nationally as appropriate.
- Research. To encourage and support research opportunities for faculty and students.

- International Experiences. To provide international experiences that will complement programs within the college.

As a college, we are already working to operationalize some of these goals. In subsequent years, strategic plans will be designed to achieve all of the goals.

It is an exciting time to be in the College of Education and Psychology!

As Buzz Lightyear says, “To infinity... and beyond!”

Best Wishes,
Ross Sherman, Ed.D.
Interim Dean

SOE — Meeting the Needs of East Texas (cont.)

(Cont. from page 2)

certificated teachers to pass all the required examinations. We hope to offer similar courses in the future to increase the number of highly certified bilingual educators in Texas!

You’ll also notice in our News Bits, Research and Publication section of the CEP Pulse that our faculty continue to improve the profession through working in our community, writing grants and manuscripts to help advance the field of education, and providing professional development experiences to help inservice educators advance their craft. Due to space limitation in the CEP Pulse, we can’t share everything taking place in the School of Education so please keep in touch with us by exploring our website at www.uttyn.edu/education.

By Any Other Name... (cont.)

(Cont. from page 4)

have begun the process for seeking accreditation by CACREP. The good news is that our program curriculum has always been aligned with Texas LPC course requirements, which have always been aligned with the CACREP standards. So we did not have to change a lot of program requirements. The main changes are to extend students’ supervised practicum/internship training from one 300 hour semester to two for a total of 600 hours of supervised experience. There are also some course title changes, and an additional course requirement in measurement and testing.

Through the self-study process required to submit an application for accreditation, we have also created the opportunity to do a very thorough review of our program and its strengths and shortcomings, which will be used to strengthen the training experiences we provide to our students.

While the M. A. Counseling Psychology degree is now a degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, it still retains the specialization in Couple/Family Counseling, and we are still offering the M.S. degree in Clinical Psychology, with specializations in Neuropsychology and School Psychology, and the M. A. in School Counseling. We also continue our thriving undergraduate B.A. and B.S. programs in Psychology.

Our goal is to achieve accreditation of our M. A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling by the time the new Federal rules for the VA and Tricare take effect in 2015.
The CEP Pulse—Odds and Ends

A New Face in School Counseling

We want to welcome Dr. Karl Witt to the College of Education and Psychology. Dr. Witt, who joined us this semester, will be the Coordinator of the School Counseling program.

Dr. Witt has a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and received his master’s degree and doctorate from Texas A&M – Corpus Christi. Dr. Witt has served as a classroom teacher and as a public school counselor and most recently was a faculty member at Delta State University.

Dr. Witt’s duties will include coordinating the School Counseling program as well as advising students and teaching courses.

It is a pleasure to welcome Dr. Witt and his family to the university.

Farewell to Jacqueline Evans

We want to bid Dr. Jacqueline Evans a fond farewell. She has accepted a position with Florida International University.

Dr. Evans has been with The University of Texas at Tyler for two years, and during that time has contributed six articles to her field of study and obtained two grants. In addition to her research, she taught courses in psychology. She has been a valuable member of the UT Tyler family and we will miss her greatly.

Dr. Evans, whose PhD is from Florida International, will be working in the Department of Legal Psychology, which is her area of expertise. We want to wish Dr. Evans well in her new position.

Kouider Mokhtari: Preparing Every Teacher (cont.)

(Cont. from page 5)

featured courses and the faculty who infused them, Dr. Nazan Bautista, a science education professor at Miami University of Ohio, revised her demonstration of an inquiry-based science activity to include two versions: the first in her native language, Turkish, and then the second repeating the same lesson in English. Putting pre-service educators in the position of non-native speakers of the language of instruction helped them understand the importance of modeling and hands-on instruction for ELs to learn science.

It’s time for educator preparation to move beyond teaching the basics about English learners and infuse on-going professional learning that is targeted to grade level, content area, and professional roles. Fine-tuned, high quality EL-focused training has a place at every level of pre-service coursework and professional development.
CEP Quick Facts: Did you know…?

College Units:
- Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- Department of Psychology and Counseling
- School of Education
- Ingenuity Center

Degrees and Certifications:
- Three bachelor’s degrees
- Eight master’s degrees
- Six post-master’s certifications

Students 2011-12:
- 728 Undergraduate
- 519 Master’s and post-graduate

Degrees Awarded 2011-12:
- 211 Bachelor’s
- 78 Master’s

Selected Collaborators
- Tyler Independent School District
- Salvation Army
- Andrews Center

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