The Dean’s Corner

The faculty, staff, and students of the College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences continue to address the mission and goals set forth during the period of restructuring. The publication of The Odyssey is one way to keep faculty and students aware of our active participation and involvement in teaching, research, and service. The mission of the College is to support the mission of South Carolina State University by systematically providing high quality instruction to students in an effort to assist them in developing high levels of intellectual, professional, and personal growth. The aim is to prepare knowledgeable, technologically literate, life-long learners for careers and/or advanced study. Ultimately, we endeavor to prepare people to be competent citizens and leaders in our complex and diverse global society.

The College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences consists of five departments: Education, English and Modern Languages, Human Services, Social Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. Together, the departments offer approximately 30 majors, 10 of which are offered in conjunction with departments in other colleges. The goals for the college were developed and agreed upon by faculty, staff, and students. The goals include the following:

- CEHSS will ensure effective fiscal and administrative management of the unit by conducting periodic review of University policies and procedures and applying established procedures, with accountability measures, in procuring goods and services.
- CEHSS will ensure academic excellence in teaching, research, and service through the employ of highly qualified faculty and through the provision of continuous professional development of all faculty.
- CEHSS will increase student enrollment by 5% annually and retain at least 80% of current students in each major housed in this College via the development and implementation of a recruitment program, which involves both students and faculty.
- CEHSS will secure funding for academic initiatives via successful grantsmanship.
- CEHSS will provide on-going opportunities for faculty development in the use of technology for instruction, course and program development, and records management.
- CEHSS will provide outreach academic and social services to enhance the quality of life in the community, state, and nation.

This heterogeneous group of disciplines embraces the development of critical thinking skills, fluent expression in writing and speech, sensitivity to ethical and aesthetic standards, a knowledge and understanding of history and culture, and a commitment to the preparation of certified teachers and professional personnel. The College embraces the development of evaluative and assessment initiatives that should drive the curriculum and act as a basis for change for all programs. The need for change and revisions will, therefore, be based on data that has been collected, analyzed, and used to support reflective decisions. We continue to strive to provide the richest educational experiences that influence students’ learning by promoting critical thinking and by making learning as positive an experience as possible. We respond to diversity in the creation of classroom environments in which all students are welcomed and in which there are positive expectations that all students can learn.

Teacher of the Year

by Dr. Mary Cassidy

The College of Education, Arts, and Humanities was pleased to recognize Dr. Bessie Powell as our Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008. Dr. Powell earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Thomas Edison College in New Jersey. She received her Master of Arts in Rehabilitative Counseling from South Carolina State, as well as her Masters plus 30 in School Counseling; she earned her Educational Specialist degree in Administration in 1990. She then proceeded to complete her Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Sarasota.

Dr. Powell is an Associate Professor in the Education Department; she worked previously as the Director of the CARE Center on campus. Prior to that she worked in the public schools, sending several of her top students to SC State. Asked to sum up her teaching philosophy in a sentence, Dr. Powell replied without hesitation: “If you give students respect, they will give it back to you.” Dr. Powell’s success comes from letting her students know that she is concerned and cares about their success. In turn, they work hard to meet her expectations. How well this philosophy succeeds is apparent in her record: She taught over 1,500 students at SC State, and her overall evaluations are excellent.

Dr. Powell is married to Dr. Don Powell, former head of the department of English and Modern Languages, and they are both the proud parents and the proud grandparents of five.

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Modern Languages is on the move. The expanding program recently welcomed Assistant Professor Gisela Carreras and Professor Chris Thornburg who join Dr. Rubén Silvestry and Professor Rosemarie Doucette in supporting the expected growth in the number of students interested in Spanish and French. In addition to taking the current course offerings at State, students now have the option of taking courses at Claflin University through a cross-listing agreement. According to Dr. Silvestry, the program is also investigating formal study abroad programs for students who want to immerse themselves in Spanish-speaking cultures. The program is active in the community. Three Spanish majors are currently preparing the next generation to live in a multilingual world by tutoring first- through third-graders at Felton Laboratory School in Spanish. Professor Doucette tutors Felton School students in French, and Professor Thornburg organized a day of activities celebrating Spanish last fall at the school. The program also offered its second annual Foreign Language Advantage Camp, a residential summer program for high school students interested in learning more about foreign languages. Last year the program worked with the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium to bring the Annabella Gonzalez Dance Theater to campus. The collaboration was made possible by a grant from the National Performance Network / Network of Cultural Centers of Color Artist of Color Performance. Students interested in studying foreign languages at South Carolina State University should contact Dr. Rubén Silvestry, Coordinator of Modern Languages, Department of English and Modern Languages, at 803-536-8821 or e-mail: rsilvest@scsu.edu.

Clifton Powell Visits Henderson-Davis Theatre

The students in the Theatre Department had the opportunity to meet with Hollywood actor Clifton Powell. Powell has been in over 150 movies and films. Powell joked that he has been in every African-American sitcom since Harriet Tubman. Powell was in Orangeburg to star in “3 Dimensions of a Man,” a gospel play written by former SC State student Utreña Kershaw-Johnson.

Powell grew up facing such adversity that he believes it was a miracle that he survived. He stumbled across acting while in high school and was taken under the tutelage of several theatre and dance teachers when his home life fell apart. He told the students that he wished he had had someone to tell him about the ways of Hollywood when he was young.

The students were enthralled with his lively and humorous tales of living the life of an actor. They were told to take care of themselves spiritually, financially, and physically. He encouraged them to be bold and daring. He told students that they need to make sure that they “[take] care of business” and be affable with prospective employers in order to make it in the show business field.

Mr. Powell was only slated for a 30-minute presentation, but he was so excited to talk to theatre students that his lecture lasted almost two hours. Associate Professor Ursula Robinson arranged the visit.

Rehabilitation Counseling Wins Prestigious Award

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner’s Award for Excellence in Education and Training to SC State’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

Dr. David Staten, then chairman of the Department of Human Services and director of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at SC State, accepted the award on behalf of the program at the recent National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference in Washington, DC.

Each year, the commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration presents the award to an individual in recognition of his or her “outstanding achievement and distinction in the training of qualified rehabilitation counseling personnel.” The Commissioner’s Award recognizes truly superior professional and academic programs, and it communicates excellence among state agency, educational and federal leaders.

SC State’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program is the first minority-serving institution in the nation to receive this particular award. Past recipients have included major research institutions such as Auburn University, the University of Boston, Southern Illinois University, and the University of Memphis.

Spotlight on Dr. Carol Apt

Dr. Carol Apt presented at the 30th annual Action Council Cross Cultural Mental Health Human Services Conference in Myrtle Beach on February 24, 2008. She was presented with the President’s Award by the organization for her work in support of the Action Council’s mission and the conference. In 2007, she was selected to be a member of Regional Medical Center’s Ethics Committee, Orangeburg, SC, elected to the Board of Directors of the Action Council for Cross Cultural Mental Health and Human Services, Columbia, SC, and appointed as a consultant to the South Carolina Medical Association Bioethics Committee, Columbia, SC.

In October of 2007 at the International Conference, Dr. Apt presented a book entitled, “Illiteracy in America” and attended the South Carolina Medical Association Bioethics Annual Retreat, where she made a presentation entitled, “Cultural Differences in the Doctor/Patient Relationship.”

Congratulations!

Dr. Philip M. Sreven, director of the Counselor Education Program at SC State, has received the inaugural Outstanding Counselor Educator Award at the 24th annual convention of the S.C. School Counselor Association (SCSCA).

Faculty and students conduct forums at the National Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, (BPD) in Destin, Florida. Ms. Marie H. Aris, Ms. Tameka Hughes, and Ms. Darnetta Whitaker were co-presenters at the Association’s 25th Annual Conference. The theme was “Cross Country: Culture and Color” and was based on a cultural exchange experience conducted with Edinboro University.
Dr. Loretta Leaphart presented “A Place, Not Just a Space: Environments As Change Agents for Young Children” and panel co-chaired at the Childhood Education International National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 27, 2008.

Dr. M. Evelyn Fields delivered the keynote address “Effective Teachers of African American Boys: Who Are They?”, at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Child and Family Development Conference, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner’s Award for Excellence in Education and Training to SC State’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program. Dr. David Staten, chairman of the Department of Human Services and director of the Rehabilitation at SCS, accepted the award at the recent National Council on Rehabilitation Education Conference in Washington, D.C.

Dr. M. Evelyn Fields will design a curriculum for instructors along SC Corridor of Shame. This development of this curriculum is part of a three year, 2.4 million dollar federal grant to the SC Department of Education from the US Department of Education (SC State is a partner). The grant is entitled “Bridges to Early Learning.”

The Department of Education will launch its BRIDGE II Program this summer. The BRIDGE II program is an outreach program designed to increase the number of African-American students choosing teacher education as a major. 100 students will be chosen from six school districts: Orangeburg Consolidated 5, Allendale, Hampton 2, Williamsburg, Clarendon 1, and Dillon II. The students will spend two weeks on SCU’s campus this summer engaging in various activities including prepping for PRAXIS I. In the fall of ’08, the students will be allowed to take dual credit courses in Math and English. The Project Coordinator is Dr. Gail Joyner Fleming, Interim Dean of the CEHSS.

Professor Leslie Rech presented “Alternatives: Installation and Performance Art in the Community,” at the South Carolina Statewide Arts Conference, in Newberry, SC. Solo exhibition, Delaplaine Center for Arts Education, Fredricksburg, MD, Fall 2008.

Harlem on My Mind, Part II, is a groundbreaking visual arts exhibition that has only been seen once in nearly 40 years, it was displayed at the Stanback Museum and Planetarium from March 1 to June 15, 2008. This photographic display ran concurrently with Habbit Space Telescope: New Views of the Universe.

Dr. Julia Quick, performed with the Florence Symphony Orchestra, Long Bay Symphony (Myrtle Beach), and South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra Master Concert Series.

Professor James Orlick performed “Reverie for 8 Timpani and Electronics” (symphony), Julliard Professors Orlick and James M. Orlick performed with the American Composers Orchestra Master Concert Series in Spring 2008.

Four Score & Forever More:

Assistant Professor of Social Work, Professor Marie Artis, Remembers the Orangeburg Massacre

The Feb. 8, 1968 incident resulted in the killing of three students and the serious wounding of 28 others by state police following student unrest related to picketing at a segregated bowling alley.

O: What was it like here on the ground that night?  
MA: Although the actual event occurred forty years ago, the experience was life-changing. When I remember it, I don’t think about the shooting. I think about the fear. Telephone lines were not operative, and army tanks surrounded the campus. There was the daily routine of eating in the cafeteria during your appointed time, moving around in groups, going to White Hall [the main auditorium on campus] to hear the roll call of the ones fortunate enough to be able to leave, and the fear of a nightfall, which brought a dead silence and the lights of police cars. We couldn’t get in touch with our families on an individual basis. It was overwhelming.

O: Please describe how you actually left campus and got home in the midst of these events.

MA: I will be forever grateful for the NAACP members who collected funds and coordinated the removal of students from campus. My cousin was a student here, too. When it came time to leave, we had just thirty minutes to pack our bags. We were escorted to the bus station where our names, rather than money, were enough to get us on a bus and on our way.

Upon arrival in Columbia, S.C., we waited with a crowd of other students for the next bus. Who would have imagined that a white bus driver would be the one to provide us assistance? He approached me and asked where I was going. I replied, with some hesitation, that I was going to Pendleton, S.C. He let me know that he knew which exit to take, he would slow down and let me get off if I was not afraid. We sat on the seat directly behind the driver. As we approached exit 19 B in Anderson, S.C., my cousin and I moved quickly and jumped off of the still moving bus. We walked to the gas station, called home, and waited to be picked up.

O: Were you able to get information about what was going on here once you returned home?

MA: When we got home, we kept up with the situation on the television. After students finally returned to campus, there was an economic boycott of downtown stores and several meetings between campus officials and the City of Orangeburg. Students marched on the Capitol, some riding the bus, while several athletes ran from Orangeburg to Columbia. The legal outcomes were not as desirable as we wanted, but they were reminders that equality is not always a reality in America.

O: What lessons do you want members of this community to take from what you experienced all those years ago?

MA: The current campus community should be reminded that the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center is not just the “SHM”: Rather, it is a monument to those whose lives were lost in the process of seeking positive change for us all.

The necessity for change continues although the level and process may be different. There is another reality that is still true as well, and that is the positive impact this campus can have on the growth and prosperity of Orangeburg. The challenge presents itself yet again for those of us who do remember. We can’t become angry. Instead, we have to become active in the boards, organizations, and decision-making process in the total community. Four score is a long time, but we must remember the real significance of the massacre forevermore.

WHAT’S NEW

Dr. Loretta Leaphart, Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Jennifer Cash, physics, is piloting a grant at Felton entitled Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences: Mentoring and Research Modeling for Middle and University Students, funded through the National Science Foundation.

The Interdisciplinary Research Committee inaugurated the Brown Bag Faculty Lecture Series in Spring 2008. Speakers for the series for the months of January through April included Professor Giselle White-Perry, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, Dr. Angela Shaw-Thornburg, and Dr. Cassandra Slight DeWalt.Dr. Charlotte Hamilton and Professor Giselle White-Perry organized the series.


Ms. Margie Ballard-Mack and Ms. Giselle White-Perry serve on the Orangeburg Gang Intervention Council, established in March 2007 to combat the growing gang problem in Orangeburg County. They were recognized at the November 19, 2007 monthly meeting for their dedicated work on the Council for the previous eight months.


Presenting at the College Language Association Conference were Dr. Thomas Cassidy, “Promiscuous Hybridity.”

Cassidy reviewed Diana Abu-Jaber’s Origin and Margaret Dribble’s The Sea Lady and The Salem Press.
The Class of 1957 recently donated a $100,000 endowment to South Carolina State University for teacher education scholarships.

Dr. Howard Hill, Visiting Professor of Education and Dr. Clemmie Hill, Professor of Health Sciences, have established a $1000.00 annual scholarship for the Department of Education to be awarded to an education major selected by the department’s screening committee.

Performing Arts Major
The Department of Visual and Performing Arts has proposed to offer our students a Bachelor of Arts degree in Performing Arts with Concentrations in Drama and Music Performance. The proposed new degree will offer South Carolina State University students a unique opportunity to explore music and theatre as separate but interrelated art forms in an innovative environment where they can express themselves creatively, study the performing arts in their historical and cultural context, and participate in departmental programs and productions. The degree is centered on student performers using studio training to develop the talents of each member. Each student will be involved in production and rehearsal work for public performances each semester. This new degree program is especially useful if students would like to develop an interdisciplinary major and concentrate work in more than one department.

The program must now go before the University Board of Trustees and the Commission on Higher Education for final approval.

Odyssey Newsletter
Committee Members
Arah V. Pinson, Chairperson
Marie H. Artis
Mary L. Cassidy
Marion C. Robinson
Ursula O. Robinson
Angela Shaw-Thornburg
Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Interim Dean
College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Bulldog Tenacity!

Bulldog Tenacity Pays Off

• Mr. Antonio Wilson, December 2007 graduate of the Criminal Justice Program, was recognized as Student of the Year at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Training Conference, sponsored by the South Carolina Correctional Association, Myrtle Beach, SC, November 5-7, 2008.
• Ms. Margarie Ballard-Mack chaperoned 12 SCSU students (including four criminal justice students) to Gulfport, Mississippi, to help with clean-up in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The students were hosted by Dr. Gail Joyner-Fleming, Interim Dean.

Career Opportunities

Angela Burton was offered two jobs and an invitation to graduate school at the University of Louisville.

• Pre-service teachers Darius Krider and Andre Moss presented at the ACEI Conference in Atlanta on March 26th—28th. The title of their presentations was “Preparing Culturally Relevant Materials for Unmotivated Students.” The session was designed to expose participants to several motivational activities using various styles of teaching and learning for hard to reach students across the content areas.
• Sigma Alpha Iota, the Honorary Music Fraternity, elected Ms. Yvonne Williams as President.
• Associate Professor Ursula Robinson successfully lead Professional Theatre majors and theatre interested students to participate in The South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association Competition! This year was their first year of participation, and The SCSU team was ranked #3 Over-All.

1st Place Duet Acting
Elijah Corley and Lawrence Nelson

1st Place After-Dinner Speaking
Jennifer Melton

2nd Place Audition Monologues
Christopher Brown

3rd Place Audition Monologues
Elijah Corley

Finalist Audition Monologues
Angela Burton

1st Place Poetry Interpretation
Jennifer Melton

2nd Place Storytelling
Latoya Heyward

3rd Place Impromptu Speaking
Jennifer Melton

Students from the Henderson Davis Theatre Area at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association Competition! This year was their first year of participation.

Darius Krider, Pre-service Teacher, was the featured speaker at the Black History Program at Denmark Middle School. His speech was entitled “Fulfilling the Dream.”

1st Place Stor...