Celebrations and Accomplishments for the 2016-2017 Academic Year

As we wrap up the spring 2017 semester and the academic year, I wanted to provide an update on the accomplishments of the College community.

College of Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Our new strategic plan was launched in January and outlines four strategic goals with several objectives embedded within each goal.

Our strategic goals include the following:

• Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for all people
• Increase high-impact research and extramural funding
• Recognize, improve, and expand the quality of instruction through research-based, innovative approaches to teaching and learning
• Improve the lives of people in Georgia and beyond

The College’s goal is for the strategic plan to be discussed and implemented by faculty, staff, and students in each of our departments and to align departmental efforts to help further the College’s mission and vision. The strategic plan reflects the College's existing values and helps provide a common framework for focusing our work over the next five years.

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) was created last fall and has had an amazing year!

Under the leadership of associate dean Anneliese Singh, the DEI office has launched several well-received programs including the following:

• DEI conference – 210 attendees from the university and local community heard Dr. Derald Wing Sue (multicultural and microaggressions scholar) speak about “Courageous Conversations: Engaging in Dialogues that bring People Together”
• Fall and Spring Diversity Speaker Series exploring issues of race/ethnicity, gender, and other multicultural and social justice issues
• Safe Space trainings, African-American men's group, and DEI consultation with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members

There are several upcoming trainings and events taking place this summer so please keep an eye out for future posts.

College Leadership Appointments

• Scott Ardoin, appointed department head for educational psychology
• Janet Buckworth, reappointed department head for kinesiology
• Brian Glaser, reappointed department head for counseling and human development services
• Stacy Neuharth-Pritchett, appointed associate dean for academic programs
• Anneliese Singh, appointed associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion
• Denise Spangler, appointed senior associate dean
Double Dawgs
The Double Dawgs initiative at the university represents a unique interdisciplinary opportunity for the College to partner with other academic units on campus to coordinate related undergraduate and master’s degrees. At present, five proposals coordinating undergraduate degrees from the College of Family and Consumer Science and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to College of Education graduate programs are under review by the university. These programs have an anticipated start date of fall 2017. The program will allow students to maximize the use of the Zell Miller/Hope Scholarship funding by counting four graduate courses in both their undergraduate/graduate programs while augmenting their studies through the completion of a master’s degree. Given the many Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment credits with which our undergraduates enter the program, these Double Dawg programs have great potential for assisting students to graduate with their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years.

Experiential Learning
The College is a recognized leader on campus for the number and the breadth of experiential learning opportunities available to undergraduates. Beginning with the Class of 2020, all undergraduates must engage in at least one experiential learning experience within their programs of study. With more than 45 courses that meet this requirement as well as coordination with other units on campus through service-learning, research, and study abroad, our students have many options by which to satisfy this emerging university requirement. For the academic year 2016-2017, our undergraduate students have taken part in 1,523 experiential learning opportunities!

Research Funding in COE
This last year has seen an increase in departmental research expenditures (~17%) and external proposals submitted (~14%). College faculty are supported by a wider range of federal and private agencies than in past years. These changes reflect the recent broadening and enhancement of the College’s research agenda.

Spring Research Conference
The 2017 COE Research Conference took place on April 7 at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center. Faculty, graduate students, and staff numbering 80 were in attendance. Fifty graduate students and a small group of faculty exhibited their research via posters. Research featured a range of topics and methodologies including teacher education, STEM learning, English language learner strategies, cognitive skills, data modeling and research design, education access, movement and exercise, communication and voice, disease and health, and autism.

Innovation in Teaching and Technology
The Innovation in Teaching and Technology Initiative provides opportunities for faculty to sharpen their teaching strategies and explore cutting-edge technologies throughout the year, culminating with the Innovation in Teaching conference in October.

As the conference moves into its fourth year, we are excited to expand its reach beyond the College and into institutions from around the Southeast. This year’s conference will take place Oct. 20 at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center and is free for all College faculty members.

Student Ambassadors
The College of Education Student Ambassadors had an exciting year in 2016-2017. The group hosted 42 events serving more than 2,000 COE students. Our ambassadors have represented the student body in college- and campus-wide initiatives such as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion conference, the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award Committee, and proposing a Peer Mentoring Program for College of Education students. Many ambassadors have been honored for their commitment to academics and service, including recipients of the Presidential Award of Excellence, Phi Beta Kappa, and the fall 2016 Convocation student speaker.

In addition to supporting current students and campus efforts, these amazing students play a crucial role in recruiting prospective students at our First Friday and other admissions events, and building relationships with alumni and donors at career panels, networking events, and awards banquets. More than 200 students applied to be 2017-2018 ambassadors this spring, and we are thrilled to welcome 37 dynamic new ambassadors for the upcoming academic year.
Convocation
Twice a year, we honor our graduating students at the College of Education Graduation Convocation. This is an opportunity for soon-to-be alumni to celebrate the conclusion of their collegiate journey with classmates and close friends. At convocation, each student is recognized by name, and receives a special College of Education gift as family and friends celebrate from the audience. All graduating students in the College are invited to attend.

Spring convocation took place at the Classic Center on May 4. More than 3,100 family members, friends, faculty and staff attended to honor the 489 students who graduated this spring. Of the 489, 425 received a BSEd, 61 received a master’s degree and three received an EdS. You may watch the convocation ceremony on our YouTube channel.

Development and Alumni Relations
As of May 5, FY17 dollars raised is $2,918,685; a 51% increase in total giving from FY16.

The college launched a new donor celebration event in the fall honoring our most loyal supporters while also raising thousands of dollars for need-based aid. It was a great success with more than 200 attendees. Our recent alumni awards celebration in March recognized 10 outstanding individuals in their fields. We express our deep appreciation to those who, through their research, service, contributions, and accomplishments, bring distinction and honor to the College of Education and beyond.

New Extramural Grants and Contracts Awarded in FY17 (greater than $50,000)

- Mary Atwater, Mathematics and Science Education, was awarded $229,061 from the National Science Foundation
- Kevin Ayres, Scott Ardoin, and Joel Ringdahl, Center for Autism and Behavioral Education Research, received $322,006 from the Clarke County School District for the Three Columns Proposal
- Jeffrey Barker, Georgia Center for Assessment, received five contracts from the Georgia Department of Education totaling $1,241,893
- Laine Bradshaw, Educational Psychology, was awarded a $475,565 subcontract from Indiana University for her work on a project funded by the National Science Foundation
- Jarrod Call, Kinesiology, was awarded a $64,900 subcontract from the University of Pittsburgh for his work on orthopedic combat casualties funded by the National Institutes of Health
- Dan Capps, Mathematics and Science Education, was awarded $449,849 from the National Science Foundation
- Diane Cooper, Counseling and Human Development Services, received a $97,648 subcontract from Emory University on a project funded through the Templeton Foundation
- Bonnie Cramond and Sarah Summers, Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, were awarded $208,304 through the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture for their work with gifted K-8 education
- Elizabeth DeBray, Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy, received a $120,332 subcontract from the University of California, Berkeley for a project funded through the W.T. Grant Foundation
- Kathleen deMarrais and Sheneka Williams, Lifelong Education, Administration and Policy, received $277,361 from the Technical College System of Georgia
- Amanda Ferster, Georgia Center for Assessment, received a $307,559 contract from the Georgia Department of Education
- Amy Ellis, Mathematics and Science Education, transferred her CAREER grant, awarded from the National Science Foundation. UGA received $55,812 of the total $730,417 award.
- Logan Fiorella, Educational Psychology, received a $319,808 subcontract from the University of California, Santa Barbara for a project funded through the National Science Foundation
- Roger Hill, Career and Information Studies, AnnaMarie Conner, Mathematics and Science Education, Timothy Foutz, and Sidney Thompson, College of Engineering, received $76,784 from the Jackson County School System for a Math-Science Partnership program funded by the U.S. Department of Education
- Katherine Thompson, Educational Theory and Practice, received $1,537,651 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Improving Teacher Quality grants program
• Cynthia Vail, Jennifer Brown, and Rebecca Lieberman-Betz, Communication Sciences and Special Education, received $60,947 from the Georgia Department of Public Health

New Hires in 2016-2017

This fall we will welcome eight new faculty members to the College.

• R. Philip Chalmers, assistant professor, educational psychology (York University, Toronto)
• Collette Chapman-Hilliard, assistant professor, counseling and human development services (College of Staten Island, City University of New York)
• Marian Higgins, clinical assistant professor, counseling and human development services (started January 2017)
• Sherell McArthur, assistant professor, educational theory and practice (Boston University)
• Christopher Modlesky, professor, kinesiology (University of Delaware)
• Steven Salaga, assistant professor, kinesiology (Texas A&M University)
• Tarkeshwar Singh, assistant professor, kinesiology (Medical University of South Carolina)
• Walker A. Swain, assistant professor, lifelong education, administration, and policy (Vanderbilt University)

As you can see, this has been a great year for the College of Education! There are, of course, many additional accomplishments to celebrate in the College and in the work we do in various communities. As our academic year winds down and we look toward the summer, please remember what a great year it has been and that we all look forward to an even greater year next year.

Best regards, Craig

Craig H. Kennedy, PhD
Dean and Professor