To our College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences Family and Friends:

Welcome to this edition of The Odyssey. As you read about our faculty and programs, you will see why I am honored to once again have the privilege to serve as the dean of the College of Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Most of all, I look forward to working with you the faculty, staff, and students as we together strive to meet the many challenges we now face. As we continue to develop and grow as an academic community of learners, we must be strategic and creative in how we address low productivity program issues, low enrollment overall, and recruitment and retention. In addition, it is critical that we pursue opportunities to secure external funding needed to support activities associated with the aforementioned issues and challenges.

We faced some of these same challenges when I began my tenure as dean before some seven years ago. We were very successful in tackling them then, and I am confident that we will again realize success in addressing them now. It took teamwork, commitment, and determination then, and that is what it will take now. I know that I can count on all of you to contribute and do your part. Failure is not an option.

CHAIR SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Dr. Cassandra Sligh-Conway,
Interim Chair/Associate Professor, Rehabilitation Counseling

The Department of Human Services has a research/grantsmanship committee that was established by the interim chair, Dr. Cassandra Sligh-Conway. Sligh-Conway has been assisted by professor Julian Green, a faculty member in the social work program. Dr. Sligh-Conway and professor Green view research, grantsmanship and teaching as important; they have been successful in the committee’s mission. The ultimate mission of the research and grantsmanship committee is to provide more opportunities for faculty to conduct research, publish, and write grants successfully.

In viewing the requirements for tenure and promotion, Sligh-Conway began to initiate partnerships with faculty from different disciplines. As she spoke with faculty, she began to note that faculty needed a chance to discuss their needs for tenure and promotion. Time progressed and informal mentoring began to provide Sligh-Conway and certain faculty with motivation to work together to meet the requirements of tenure and promotion. Some of the disciplines that are a part of the research/grantsmanship committee are represented from areas such as museum education, visual/performing arts, library science, human services (social work, rehabilitation counseling, orientation/mobility, criminal justice), and educational leadership. Since the inception of the committee, the members have been successful in producing three publications. In the next year, the committee hopes to submit an additional article or book chapter for publication and a grant. The focus is to provide faculty with a publication and grant.

“I see all faculty working diligently to provide excellent service to the university. Our faculty members are hardworking, and in my interactions with them, some state that there is little time to dedicate to publishing and writing grants.” Therefore, the focus of this committee is to provide an avenue for publishing and writing grants. If we see each other as working towards the same goal, we will be successful. I applaud faculty who have assisted me and professor Julian Green in making this committee a huge success,” said Sligh-Conway.

SC State Communication Program Expands Its Offerings, Opportunities for Students

What's the keyword associated with SC State University’s Communications Program these days? Growth.

Take growth in numbers, for instance. As of October 2012, more than 130 students are taking rigorous, challenging courses, which are all geared towards preparing them for an ever-changing industry centered around media convergence with great expectations for knowledgeable, media-savvy journalists.

There’s growth in the Program’s technological capabilities. Thanks to a Title III grant and support from the Department of English and Modern Languages, the Communications Program has established a Digital News Editing Lab and is currently working on creating a temporary Television Production and News Studio using the NewTek Green Screen digital technology, both of which are housed on the second floor of Turner Hall A-Wing. Students will also be exposed to the most up-to-date
software and hardware to produce quality media convergence-related products through the revised curriculum and the new Capstone courses.

And there’s growth in outreach and cooperation between other Communications programs. Chair of the English and Modern Languages Department, Dr. Ghussan Greene and communications program coordinator, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman recently organized a statewide meeting of the coordinators and representatives of four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) with mass communications programs in South Carolina -- SC State University, Claflin University, Benedict College, and Voorhees College -- with the goal of finding ways to help each other in curriculum, internships, print and audio-video production training.

SC State’s Speech Pathology and Audiology Students Spread Holiday Cheer at Local Nursing Home

Student members of SC State University’s Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) have spread holiday cheer to local nursing home residents for more than five years. The SC State NSSLHA chapter has visited the nursing home residents every year for the past six years, bringing holiday gift items to distribute to the residents and spread holiday joy. Students spend time with residents and the visit culminates with everyone joining in to sing favorite seasonal songs.

The NSSLHA chapter is made up of graduate and undergraduate students in the Speech Pathology and Audiology Program at SC State University. “Students collect gift items from faculty and peers throughout the fall semester, and then they bundle them up into gift packages for the residents,” said Lorraine Adcox, faculty advisor for the NSSLHA chapter for the past six years. Dr. Gwendolyn Wilson, chair of the Department of Health Sciences at SC State University shares the same sentiment. “Our students learn that our program is not an island. We are a part of a local community and that their positive efforts make an impact on people’s lives. This is an opportunity to contribute to the local community. I am very proud of our students and Lorraine Adcox, who has done an outstanding job of leading this important student organization,” said Wilson.

Students Volunteer During Annual Stuff-A-Bus Campaign

For over six years students from SC State University Speech Pathology and Audiology (SPA) Program’s Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA) volunteers in the annual Salvation Army and WLTX-TV’s Stuff-a-Bus Campaign. Students collected donations from faculty and students in the SPA Program to assist in the campaign.

“This is a wonderful event for our Speech Pathology and Audiology students. Every year it gets better and better! Everyone is excited about giving back and being able to help make a difference for the community,” said Lorraine Adcox, faculty advisor for the NSSLHA chapter for the past six years. Dr. Gwendolyn Wilson, chair of the Department of Health Sciences at SC State University shares that same sentiment. “Our students learn that our program is not an island. We are a part of a local community and that their positive efforts make an impact on people’s lives. This is an opportunity to contribute to the local community.”

Students Volunteer During Annual Stuff-A-Bus Campaign for SC State University
Social Work Program Hosts Mini Conference

BABY ALERT: A Closer Look at Substance Use during Pregnancy

The Social Work Club hosted a mini conference on teen pregnancy and substance abuse on November 9, 2012 at The STATE Room. The conference was sponsored by a mini grant from the South Carolina March of Dimes. The purpose of the mini conference was to increase the level of awareness among young females and professionals regarding the importance of maintaining drug free throughout pregnancy and the long-term effects of drug use during pregnancy.

Keynote presenters included Samantha Collins, a training consultant with the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS). Her focus was on the screening and diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome and referral for treatment. Melina Lamprecht, the director of Adolescent Services at the William J. Mc Cord Adolescent Center in Orangeburg, S.C., addressed the issues of adolescent drug use and the complications often experienced by teens that use drugs during the early stages of pregnancy. Virginia Berry White, a leader in the area of rural services to teen moms and their families and director of the Low Country Healthy Start Program, shared information on the services and current efforts to improve the health of single mothers and their families. The conference pointed out the need for additional research, outreach and knowledge of services available to this population regarding the impact of fetal alcohol syndrome in rural environments. For additional information, contact Dr. Eva Njoku, associate professor of Social Work at enjoku@scsu.edu.

SC State Criminal Justice Students and Faculty Attend State Conference

Criminal Justice students and faculty traveled to Columbia, S.C. recently to attend the 19th Annual Conference and Training Institute of the South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of the Blacks in Criminal Justice (SC-NABCJ). This year’s theme was “Renewing our commitment: Creating a Pathway to the Future.” In keeping with the theme, student members played a very active role in the conference activities. Students from the SC State University Chapter served as moderators and evaluators for dynamic and informative sessions on a variety of topics: gangs, ethics and spirituality, leadership strategies, and managing changes. They also participated in a special forum that was organized specifically for them. The forum afforded them the opportunity to have a candid dialogue with criminal justice professionals about the opportunities and challenges facing them as they prepare to make the transition from the classroom to the workplace.

During the luncheon session, Krystal Glover, a junior criminal justice major and treasurer for the SC State University Chapter was awarded a $500 educational scholarship by the South Carolina Chapter. The SC-NABCJ Educational Scholarship Program is designed to provide financial assistance to qualified applicants who are seeking an academic degree in Criminal Justice or related social science field at an accredited college or university. The award was announced by Dr. Tajuana Massie, the board member for Higher Education and chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee. Massie is also an assistant professor of Political Science in the Department of Social Sciences at SC State University.

The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) is one of the nation’s fastest growing criminal justice professional organizations. Membership to NABCJ is open to all, regardless of race, creed, or nationality, and to those who share the concern to improve the criminal justice system and lessen the negative impact of African-Americans and other minorities. In January 1995, a charter was granted to SC State University, making it the first student chapter to be chartered in the state.


Dr. Shafiqu Rahman, communications coordinator in the Department of English and Modern Languages (EML) gave a live United States Presidential Election commentary for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) located in London, England, for its BBC World Service Radio in Bengali Language for 350 million Bengali speaking listeners worldwide and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to assist in the establishment of a new Department of Television and Film Studies at Dhaka University in Bangladesh.


Dr. Margaret Morris, associate professor of Spanish presented a paper at the College Language Association (CLA) meeting entitled “The Spirit of Sakofa in Selected Afro-Uruguayan Writers,” in Atlanta, Ga. On October 4, 2012 at the Eleventh Claflin University Conference on Contemporary English and Language Arts in Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions Conference, she presented “Making Culture a Reality in the Modern Languages Classroom.”

Dr. Reginald H. Williams, assistant professor of Education was awarded an 1890 Research Summer Research Enrichment Opportunity Grant in the amount of $10,000 in order to compare socialization and teacher/student interactions in preschool classrooms among university laboratory child development programs in South Carolina. He also co-authored an article with Dr. Kevin Swick (University of South Carolina (USC-Columbia), Dr. Herman Knopf (USC-Columbia), and Dr. M. Evelyn Fields (SC State University) entitled “Family-School Strategies for Responding to the Needs of Children Experiencing Chronic Stress,” which will be published in the Early Childhood Education Journal in the Fall 2012/Winter 2013 issue. Additionally he authored an article entitled Assessing Social and Relational Factors in African American Children from a Family Ecological Systems Theoretical Perspective that was published in the 2012 National Association for African-American Studies Monograph Series. Lastly, Williams authored a book review on Why Do My Feet Say Yes When My Head Says No?, for the Southern Early Childhood Association’s “What’s New in Children’s Books in 2013,” a series due out in Fall 2012.

Dr. Carol Apt, professor of Sociology presented Female Sexual Satisfaction: Influences and Outcomes at Gendered Perspectives: Recent Scholarship on Culture and Social Justice conference sponsored by Xavier University of Louisiana’s Women’s Studies Program October 19 - 21, 2012.


Dr. Stanley Harrold, professor of Political Science served on the Gilder-Lehrman Lincoln Prize jury, evaluating over 100 books to determine the winner of a $50,000 award for the best book published in 2011 on Abraham Lincoln and/or the Civil War era at the Union League Club in New York City June, 2012. Dr. Harrold also presented a paper, “Reform and Its Discontents: Perceptions of Abolitionist Success and Failure from the Civil War to the Present,” at Kent State University. In July, he served as chair and commentator for a session entitled “Slavery, State, and Society in the Borderlands 1760-1860,” at the annual meeting of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, at Furman University’s Freedom Stories Symposium in Baltimore, Md. In August, Audiobooks published an audio version of his book Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War (2010). A paperback edition of “Border War” will be published next February by the University of North Carolina Press.

Ursula Robinson, assistant professor of Theatre planned the SC Theater Association 2012 Convention and was elected as the second African-American vice president. Guest artists included Nickelodeon stars and an L.A. actress; Ms. Robinson also won the Humorous Speech Competition for the Toastmaster District 58 organization and worked with a Film Camp with underprivileged youth in Columbia, S.C., a story that was featured on WLTX.

Shannon Jones, assistant professor of Drama won an 1890 Research summer grant through a partnership with Felton Laboratory School and provided Creative Drama lessons and Yoga services; additionally, she acquired national Yoga certification and presented an original children’s theatre piece, Grimms Family Reunion and 10th annual Storytelling Competition at SC State University in November 2012.

Dr. Rosetta Dingle, assistant professor of Music (VAPA) presented Arts Integration Models: Implications for the Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series at SC State University. In March she presented Relationships between Adolescents’ Motor Skill Agility and Adolescents’ Music Aptitudes at the National Music Education Conference in St. Louis, MO. In January 2012, Dingle presented two arts papers at the Hawaii University International Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii with Dr. Tolupe Filani, associate professor of Art.

Dr. Robert Grenier, assistant professor of Art presented La Messe Folklorique Haitienne and Unexpected Inculturation at the Petrie School of Music at Converse College in January 2012. He also presented Ella Fitzgerald versus Sarah Vaughan, the Columbia Museum of Art in May 2012. He received an online revised commission for The Tradition of Western Art Music in Haiti, by The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians in spring 2012. In August 2012, Grenier was honored by the performance of his composition, The Seraphim from The Book of Angels, for solo organ premiered by B. Szafron at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville, S.C. and contributed to Crossing Borders Music Collective.

Dr. Jacob Clark performed Hartley’s Concerto #2 for the Piano and Wind En-
semble in conjunction with the SC State Wind Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Eddie Ellis in Columbia, Orangeburg, and Charleston. He also presented recitals and some master classes at the University of Texas at Arlington, Northern Virginia Community College, and the historic Church of the Epiphany's noon time concert series and SC State University and served as piano adjudicator.

Dr. Thomas Dempster, assistant professor of Art had compositional works premiered at the Seamus 2012 National Conference in Appleton, WI and the College Music Society conferences of the Mid-Atlantic, South, and Rocky Mountain. Dempster had an interactive compositional work installed at the Columbia Museum of Art and was featured on the February 2012 Arts and Draughts night; he also had a compositional work, “Can on Fanfare,” commissioned by SC State’s Brasswind Quintet, directed by Dr. S. Reid, and premiered in Atlanta, Ga., for the Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) Band Directors’ Convention.

On April 16, 2012, Jay Ware offered a jazz improvisation performance clinic entitled “Catching the Vibe” for faculty and students in the Department of Music at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. In June 2012, Mr. Ware was invited to offer clinics as a guest artist/clinician for the North Carolina Governor’s School (East), hosted at Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. Professor Ware is the Director of Percussion at SC State and also serves as founder/clinician for the bi-monthly Percussion Studio Sessions in the Music Unit of SC State University.

Student Achievements

Claflin University’s Eleventh annual Conference on Contemporary English and Language Arts Pedagogy in Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions

The Department of English and Modern Languages presented the 2012 Presidential Election and Civic Engagement on April 16, 2012 in Staley Hall located on the campus of SC State University.

Art

Malaika Collins, president of Kappa Pi International Honorary Arts Fraternity, and other students assisted with the side walk chalk art project for Domestic Violence Awareness at SC State during the month of October 2012.

Felton Laboratory School Achievements

Dr. Emma Caldwell, curriculum coordinator of Felton Laboratory School has been awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant entitled, “School and Community Learning Cooperative – Investing in Bright Futures.” Caldwell reported that the grant will truly reach and teach the whole child; the inclusion of the arts is essential. Therefore, the 21st CCLC Program sponsors drama, graphic design, dance, step teams, Ujimaa dancers and drummers, and choral music for students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Through this program, Felton’s students are learning the intricacies of art production and performance.

In recent months, performances included the Prince of Orange Mall Felton Showcase, the SC State University International Awareness Month Parade of Nations activities and the Homecoming Day Parade performance with Ujimaa of African Dances and drumology. The Ujimaa ensemble sponsors a cadre of students during the 21st CCLC Program one hour each week and pledged to continue that sponsorship throughout the year.

Rosetta Dingle, assistant professor of Music Education, has organized a middle-school chorus and provides instruction in choral music to students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade for three hours a week. Shannon Jones, assistant professor of Drama and her students from the Children’s Theatre used children’s literature to present creative drama lessons with grades kindergarten through second grade students during the month of October. The Drama Club plans to present a play in the spring of 2013 with volunteer sponsors from SC State University and Claflin University.

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