JUDSON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Educator

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"IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!"

In summary of our 2009-2010 academic year, the department of education could sing the words of a song title, "*It Was a Very Good Year!*" It is with pride that we recognize the outstanding work of our teacher candidates and their commitment to excellence in their personal, professional, and spiritual lives.

This school year our candidates were not only engaged in college and P-12 classroom activities that strengthened professional skills and knowledge, they were just as active in faith-based service learning opportunities that involved P-12 students. The unifying work of these experiences have been greater than either standing alone.

In this issue of *The Educator* we will give you a glimpse into our department. However, it is our hope that you will want to learn more and will contact us so that we can provide you with stories behind the headlines in this publication and with even more recent news.

We invite you to get involved in our department. If you are a prospective student, call us and make an appointment to learn more about the department's programs, recent achievements, and its commitment to high quality programs. If you're an alumna, we welcome you to become active in helping the department tell your classroom stories. Working together we can deepen the awareness of both the challenges and joys involved in working with P-12 students.

Dr. McCorquodale discusses the TEACH grant with prospective students

Teachers make a difference in children's lives, and our aim is to prepare women of "knowledge and faith" who can positively influence the future.

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ALPHA DELTA KAPPA SCHOLARHSIP

Alabama Alpha Delta Kappa, International Honorary Sorority for Women Educators awarded a scholarship in honor of the Alabama State President, Frances Revel, a Judson College graduate, to Dawn Dorr, an elementary education major.

Dawn was recognized at the Alabama Alpha Delta Kappa State Convention . At Junior Preview Day, Dr. David Potts, President of Judson College, acknowledged the contributions of Ms. Revel and her commitment to her Alma Mater.

The theme of the Alabama Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship was "Alabama Stars in Action." The Department of Education agrees that Frances Revel and Dawn Dorr are Judson STARS!

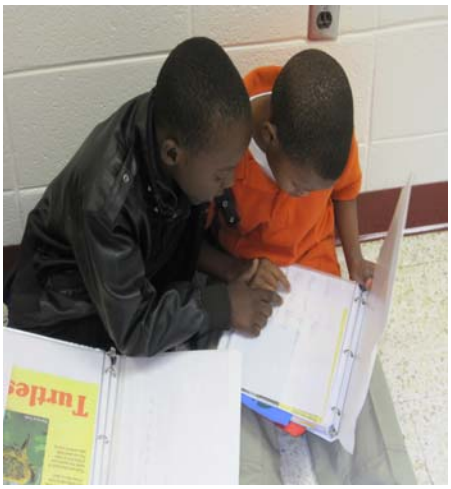
Ms. Revel awards Dawn Dorr the Alabama Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship

COLLEGE CLASS GOES TO FIRST GRADE

Through arrangements made with Perry County Schools, EDU 318 Developmental Reading, a professional education course, was taught at Albert Turner, Sr. Elementary School. Principal Walter Collins and Dr. Gwen McCorquodale coordinated this course with Mrs. Washington's first grade class.

On Tuesdays each week of the semester, Dr. McCorquodale modeled lessons to teacher candidates through direct experiences with these first grade students.

This exchange offered a unique opportunity to teacher candidates and to Dr. McCorquodale. Teacher candidates saw Dr. McCorquodale teaching, planning lessons, and modeling strategies and practices with first grade students. This was also Dr. McCorquodale's first experience in teaching first grade students. The teacher candidates were equally involved by preparing materials, gathering supplies, working with children, reading to children, creating charts and checklists, and other literacy learning activities.



In reflecting on the experience Heather Cooper, teacher candidate, commented that intentionality of Dr. McCorquodale's book choices and literacy activities matched children's wide range of interests and experiences. "I'm more confident in my ability to select books, poems and songs for learners. The students were eager to sing, to participate in choral readings, partner readings, readers theater, and echo readings."

Heather stated that the photograph is important because it shows how social collaboration enhances learning. Everyone in the group had different experiences that helped build the groups' prior knowledge. Sharing and discussing the topic led the students to exchange ideas and this helped each child learn."

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS WITH FRANCIS MARION HIGH SCHOOL

During the spring semester the Arts and Science Faculty at Judson College presented lessons to students at Francis Marion High School. The presentations covered topics from A for algebra to Z for zoology.

Dr. Judy Ransom, Chair of the Music Department, noted that the success of this event was how the "classroom teacher and I carefully coordinated our objectives and planned how we would present them in the class." Some of the highlights of the day included Dr. Ray Price, Professor of Mathematics, providing hands-on activities that aided in the understanding of formulas or proofs of theorems. "Too often students memorize math rather than really understanding it." Teaching for understanding is also what the education department stresses in math method courses to elementary teacher candidates.

"The presentations covered topics from A for algebra to Z for zoology."

Dr. Thomas Wilson, Professor of Biology, delivered an interesting science presentation related to his recent trip to Cuba.

BREEDLOVE AND COOPER RECEIVE HIGH HONORS

Honors Convocation was held on the campus of Judson College on April 13, 2010. The Department of Education presented two awards for excellence. Heather Cooper received the Outstanding Education Student Award for 2009-2010 and Jodie Breedlove received the Kappa Delta Epsilon Beta Rho Chapter Student Award for 2009-2010.

Jodie, an English Language Arts Education major, completed fieldwork experiences at Greensboro High School in the spring semester. Jodie received excellent ratings related to her teaching performance with high school seniors from her cooperating teacher and from her college professors.

Congratulations Jodie and Heather!

Heather, an elementary education teacher candidate, completed fieldwork experiences at Albert Turner, Sr. Elementary School in a first-grade classroom. A classroom evaluation stated, "Heather's use of art and poetry connections provided multiple ways for students to express their learning. "

KDE HOSTS REGIONAL MEETING

Back row from left to right: Jean Massey (co-advisor), Laura Liddell Philpot, Bethany Rush, Heather Cooper, Anna McCray (vice-president), Nesha McGriff, Dr. Lesley Sheek (advisor) Front row from left to right: Brandy Strickland (secretary), Bailey Glassco, Jodie Breedlove (president).

Judson College Beta Rho Chapter of Kappa Delta Epsilon hosted the South Regional Meeting in Birmingham in February 2010. Dr. Lesley Sheek serves as the advisor and Certification Officer Jean Massey serves as co-advisor of the educational honor fraternity. The regional meeting was held on the campus of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. KDE chapters from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana travelled to Birmingham for the professional development opportunities provided. Judson's Beta Rho members, including Jodie Breedlove, Anna McCray, Brandy Strickland, Heather Cooper, Bethany Rush, Nesha McGriff, and Bailey Glassco, guided the group of 50 educators in the activities of the day. Judson graduate and first year teacher Laura Liddell Philpot shared interview and teaching tips. Melissa Strahan, from the University of Alabama, led a session on outdoor classrooms. Dr. Sandra Rasberry, from Belhaven University, shared tips for enhancing reading and language arts projects. Drs. John and Fran Carter gave a presentation entitled "Rosie and her Paratrooper" providing personal historical accounts from the WWII era. The event was a wonderful leadership opportunity for Judson's education students.

TEACHER CANDIDATES RESEARCH MARION'S RICH HISTORY

Students enrolled in PSY/SOC 275 Multiculturalism enjoyed exploring the history and culture of the town they call home throughout their college years, Marion, Alabama. The students took advantage of the Dial and Discover Historical Tour of the town provided by the Perry County Chamber of Commerce. Each community boasts its own cultural traditions and heritage which it passes along to its citizens.

"It was valuable to research the town because as a student teacher, I now understand my students better. I learned more about where they are from and their past, so I can understand them in a better way."

Teacher candidate Ryan Dowling

During the exploration of Marion, students encountered beautiful homes, working plantations, diverse schools and their histories, civic buildings, churches, gravesites of famous Marion citizens, historical markers, highlights of the Civil Rights Movement, Judson's history, plans for the future of Marion and much, much more. In addition to the rich curriculum this project provided, students gained an appreciation of the community and discovered opportunities to make a difference here in Marion.

EDUCATION STUDENTS ATTEND REGIONAL AND

Continuous professional development is critical in the life of a teacher. Judson strives to offer many opportunities to our students and faculty throughout the year. This year, students and professors logged hundreds of hours of professional development.

- Educate Alabama Training
- Association for Childhood Education International National Conference
- Lifetime of Learning: Service-Learning, Civic Responsibility & Higher Education
- KDE Regional Meeting
- Alabama Reading Association State Conference
- Florida Association for the Education of Young Children Conference
- Alabama Math, Science, Technology Initiative Training

Students Anna McCray and Jodie Breedlove with Drs. John & Fran Carter at KDE regional

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302 Bibb Street
Marion, Alabama 36756

Phone: 334-683-5140

E-mail: gmccorquodale@judson.edu

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Check out these children's books for summertime reading…

Big Words for Little People by Jamie Lee Curtis

Don't Worry Bear by Greg Foley

Twelve Terrible Things by Marty Kelley

Country Kid, City Kid by Ted Rand

The Donut Chef by Bob Staake

I Vivaldi by Janice Shefelman

Sort It Out by Barbara Mariconda

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson

Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale by Vivian French

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Last January Ryan Dowling, an Education student, recognized the need for a GED program in Marion, Alabama. After months of planning and decision making, Dowling began the program. With help from student volunteers and members of KDE, the program started on September 22, 2009.

The program is funded through Judson College's Office of Faith-Based Service Learning and local church donations. Classes are free and open to the public, and all people at any level of education are welcome to attend.

GED candidates work from a book designed to prepare them to take the GED examination. When the candidates complete this program they will be given the opportunity to take the GED free of charge.

Dowling said, "My hope is to help participants gain confidence in life that will help them better themselves for the future through obtaining their GED."

Freshman Sarah Watson and senior Jodie Breedlove spent time during the spring semester working as mentors at Francis Marion High School. A group of Judson students teamed with The Alabama Poverty Project to form a program entitled BluePrints.

These students spoke with juniors about the importance of higher education and presented students with options and ideas of how to get into college. Students also learned about how to create a resume and how to behave during a job interview.

"It was also a humbling experience because it's one thing to hear a statistic about how poor a county is, but I witnessed that Perry County is one of the poorest counties in Alabama. A lot of the students have children and jobs just to get by, and I never had to deal with that growing up," said Watson.

The Kappa Delta Epsilon is currently collecting used textbooks in order to promote literacy in developing countries. At the close of the spring semester, KDE members placed boxes in each of the dorms and in the student union.

The boxes filled up quickly and the members were excited to see that over 100 books were donated. The books will be sent to Better World Books, a company that promotes literacy in impoverished regions. The KDE members hope that this will be an annual service project.

By: Jodie Breedlove