



SOUTHEAST ERZ NEWS

University of Arkansas Monticello—School of Education

September 2009

Comprehensive Literacy Professional Development

August 21, 2009 the UAM School of Education faculty were privileged to have Karen Robinson and Julie Workman, Monticello Literacy Instructional Facilitators, provide professional development on Comprehensive Literacy Strategies. Being able to use experts in the public schools is a great partnership. Comprehensive literacy encompasses the following: there are no textbooks, the use of a variety of research-based professional texts to shape instruction, Literacy Coaching model is utilized, and there is job-embedded professional development. The presenters gave a wonderful overview of the Literacy Program at Monticello School District in the K-8 Literacy Program. Several UAM faculty members are now involved in book studies with the faculty at Monticello Elementary and Intermediate Schools.



News from the Director...



The fall colors are beginning to change. It is really hard to believe the end of September has already arrived. The new motto for the Southeast ERZ is “UAM & ERZ Supporting Teachers.” We are here to provide that needed support to the area schools. I am working to visit with ALL teachers in our area schools to let them know about the resources available here at UAM. Please help me reach my goal by assisting with arranging time for me to meet with faculty and staff during faculty or team meetings. Email or call to arrange a time for me to share the wonderful resources available. Also, if you have students interested in majoring in Education, please get us their contact information. We would like to recruit them here at UAM.

UAM Faculty Creates Fundamentals Course Guide

With the support of the ERZ, the faculty teaching the Fundamentals of English course at UAM recently created a course guide that includes a semester plan, weekly lesson plans, strategies and tips for reading, writing, and grammar instruction, and assessment tools. As we were working on the guide, three questions emerged: what skills and concepts do we want our students to master, how do we teach them those skills and concepts, and what do we want them to read?

Throughout the course of a year (2008 – 2009), Fundamentals teachers met several times for working lunches, and we delved into those questions. In answer to the first question, we created a master list, which we called “Essentials for Fundamentals.” To answer the second question, we shared our own lesson plans, games, and activities. Helpfully, our department had already begun to answer the third question – what do we want our students to read? – when Claudia Hartness led the way in putting together the Horizon Reader a couple of years before. We continue to discuss revisions and additions to that reader. Upon completion of the spring semester, we gathered material and had come to consensus on goals and methodologies; a course guide was born.

The course guide is valuable for many reasons. It serves as a blueprint for the teaching of the course, especially for the new, part-time, and adjunct teachers who often are responsible for the Fundamentals courses. It helps us veteran teachers to think about what we do and why, and the process by which we created it encouraged us to talk with each other about teaching. There has been discussion of using the guide in the public schools, as a supplement to the “regular” senior English curriculum.

This semester, faculty members teaching the Composition I course are meeting for working lunches and will produce a similar guide for that course. Again, the ERZ is supporting this effort by providing the lunches. I appreciate the support of the ERZ and I know that the work it supports has and will lead to improved student outcomes.

UAM Center to Offer Economics and Technology Workshop for K-12 Educators October 17

The Center for Economic Education at the University of Arkansas at Monticello will offer an economic education and technology workshop for K-12 educators October 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Babin Business Center.

The workshop will feature training in “virtual economics,” an easy-to-use teacher-friendly CD-ROM with 1,200 classroom-tested economics and personal finance lessons developed by the Council on Economic Education. The lessons can be searched by economic and personal finance concept, keyword, and national and state standards. The CD-ROM and workshop are appropriate for educators at all grade levels. The CD-ROM searches can be conducted by grade level.

Participants will receive the following: the Virtual Economics CD-ROM (a \$100 value), hands-on training in its use, a \$50 stipend, and four hours of staff development credit, including three hours of technology credit. The workshop is limited to 28 participants.

The workshop is made possible by a grant from State Farm Insurance and is sponsored by Economics Arkansas and the UAM Center for Economic Education. Interested parties can contact Dr. Marsha Clayton, center director, at 870-460-1673, or Economics Arkansas at 501-374-5692. On-line registration is available at www.economicsarkansas.org.

Grubbs is among presenters at UAM Professional Development Week

Nat Grubbs (right), owner of South Arkansas Rehabilitation in Monticello, recently conducted a workshop for health and physical education faculty at the University of Arkansas at Monticello as part of the School of Education's Professional Development Week activities. Pictured with Grubbs is Dr. Kathy King, associate professor of health and physical education.



UAM sets enrollment record for seventh straight year

The University of Arkansas at Monticello has set a new enrollment record for the seventh straight year, according to preliminary figures released today by Dr. Debbie Bryant, registrar.

UAM reported a fall enrollment of 3,483 students at its campuses in Monticello, Crossett and McGehee, surpassing last year's record of 3,302, an increase of 5.48 percent. According to the registrar's office, UAM's enrollment has increased 11 straight years since 1998.

"Obviously we are very pleased with these enrollment numbers," said UAM Chancellor Jack Lassiter. "I want to congratulate Mary Whiting, our director of admissions, and her staff for the long hours they put in recruiting students to each of our three campuses and I want to commend the recruitment staffs at both the Crossett and McGehee campuses for their efforts as well. We are excited that more and more students are taking advantage of the opportunities we are offering to attain a higher education. I think it's appropriate that we are achieving record enrollments while we are, as our centennial slogan says, celebrating a century of opportunity."

UAM's enrollment in 1998 was 2,094 students and has grown every year since then. The largest increases came in 2003 when the university added technical campuses in Crossett and McGehee, and in 2006 when enrollment jumped 7.4 percent and surpassed 3,000 students (3,179) for the first time in school history.

Lassiter pointed to increased retention rates as another reason for enrollment growth, citing increases in the availability of financial aid and scholarships for helping students stay in school. "The faculty is also to be commended for their efforts in encouraging our students to remain in school," he said.

"This is an exciting time for the campus," added Lassiter. "The institution's growth is, I believe, a positive reflection on our faculty, our academic programs, and the realization that UAM has much to offer to the people of this state and region."



Southeast Education Renewal Zone

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The Southeast ERZ is a state-funded collaboration among the University of Arkansas Monticello, Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, and 14 school districts in southeast Arkansas. The Southeast ERZ offices are housed in Willard Hall as a part of the UAM School of Education.

The legislative mandates that are to be focused on include:

- Develop meaningful collaboration and communication among partners
- Assist with developing a comprehensive professional development plan that includes pre-service teachers, public schools and higher education
- Support the use of distance learning among partners
- Develop and support a means for faculty to mentor and partner with public schools
- Develop a strategy to recruit and retain highly-qualified teachers with particular focus on hard-to-staff schools
- Develop meaningful community and parental involvement opportunities
- Collecting data to support the progress of each participating public school and ERZ in its entirety

2009-2010 Scholastic Audit Training

Scholastic Audit Training was held on September 20-23, 2009 in Little Rock. Southeast Arkansas is well represented by Scholastic Auditors. Mr. Norman Hill, Ms. Linda Goodwin, Dr. Janice Warren, and Ms. Tracie Jones are all returning auditors. Dr. Peggy Doss, UAM Dean of Education is joining the group this year for her first set of audits.

Southeast Arkansas Science and Math Alliance: SEASTA/SEACTM

Gather with other teachers from the southeast region of Arkansas for an evening of fun, food, and professional development. <http://seasta.pbworks.com/FrontPage>

Meetings 2009-2010

Sept. 15, 2009	Oct. 15, 2009	Nov. 19, 2009
Dec. 10, 2009	Jan. 21, 2010	Feb. 18, 2010
April 1, 2010		

AP Chemistry Class

Dr. Morris Bramlett is the guest instructor in Ms. Lonnie Davis's AP Chemistry class at Hamburg High School. Dr. Bramlett has been speaking on oxidation numbers and balancing red-oxidation reactions by the half-reaction method. He is going back for a second week to cover chemical reactions and net ionic equations. Hamburg School District was a recipient of an AAIMS Grant. This is the first year for Ms. Davis to teach AP Chemistry and Dr. Bramlett has volunteered to mentor both her and her students this year. Thank you Dr. Bramlett for going the extra mile for students in southeast Arkansas.

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