

Good Stuff

School of Education & Behavioral Sciences



Spring 2010

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jennifer Dennis



Dr. Jennifer Dennis joined the staff at Cameron University in 2005. Dr. Dennis currently serves as Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Education. Dr. Dennis earned her degrees from Cameron University (B.A. Art and History), Southwestern Oklahoma State University (M.Ed. School Counseling), and the University of Oklahoma (Ph.D. Education and Administration Curriculum and Supervision).

Dr. Dennis lives in Lawton with her husband Phil Dennis, a local high school Science teacher and football coach, and their two daughters; Callie, age 6 and Cate, age 3. Spending quality time with her family is a priority, which frequently includes Dr. Dennis, Callie, and Cate enthusiastically rooting for the 'home team' with Phil as coach.

Dr. Dennis served as a junior high teacher and high school counselor for the Lawton Public School District for ten years and is active on numerous committees within the school district. For the past two years, she has served as President of the Lawton Parent Teacher Association (PTA). She also enjoys volunteer work at Callie's school.

The spring edition of *American Secondary Education* will feature an article by Dr. Dennis, titled "Overcoming Obstacles in Using Authentic Instruction: A Comparative Case Study of High School Math and Science Teachers".

When asked what advice she would give a student aspiring to enter the education field, Dr. Dennis stated "...being in the education field is a rewarding career because you are helping others achieve their dreams." She also shared that "teachers have a great influence on children and can change and help mold their lives. It is rewarding to watch as children progress."

One of her favorite quotes is from John F. Kennedy, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is *our* fundamental resource."

Community Commitment

- * Cameron faculty and staff joined SOEA and Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) for a community project to paint murals on the gym walls at Swinney Elementary school. The murals, painted over a 3-day period, focus on the benefits of nutrition and exercise in creating a healthy body and mind connection. Featured on the local KSWO Channel 7 News Melissa Price, SOEA and KDP President stated, "The teacher's attitude will transfer to the students, and the student's attitude will affect the teacher. If everyone is motivated to come and learn then it will make the day so much better for the students." Ms. Nicole Maloney, Swinney Elementary PE instructor, added, "I think if they can understand it and see it on the walls, I can explain it a lot better, so as they walk in they are going to see them and ask questions." The murals were revealed to the students at a School Assembly on Monday, February 22, 2010.

Service + Development = Success

- Hearty congratulations to the **Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA)** for being named Outstanding Chapter for the State of Oklahoma. A great achievement for SOEA and for Cameron University.
- The **1st Annual Teacher Education Preview Night** was held on Tuesday, February 2nd in the Shepler Ballroom. Although weather conditions prevented many from attending, those who braved the elements were rewarded with first rate information and assistance from the Departments of Education, Physical Education, Romance Languages, English, Math, Biology, Social Studies and Chemistry.

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."



Cameron University

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Do you have something positive to share with your colleagues or your students?

Forward your submissions to:
CC Curry, School Secretary
hcurry@cameron.edu

GO AGGIES !!

Academic Explorations

School EBS faculty and students continue in the pursuit of excellence in higher education

- Cameron University was well represented as faculty and students from the Department of Psychology and Human Ecology attended the **98th Annual Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS)** held in November 2009 at East Central University. Various topics were discussed and presentations made to the attendees. Some of the highlights included a presentation on group behavior by Dr. Mary Dzindolet along with former Cameron graduate student Ms. Brittany Wigley and current graduate student Ms. Mercedes Spencer. Dr. Justina Powers and former Cameron graduate students Mr. Jacob Slagle and Ms. Andrea Nunnally discussed the topic of gender stereotypes. Lastly, a presentation was made regarding anti-Semitism and anti-Israeli attitudes by current Cameron graduate student Mr. Carl Jackson and Dr. Lawrence Weinstein.
- Dr. Jennifer Holloway (EDU at Rogers State) was selected by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation (OCTP) to serve on the January 2010 Elementary Education Content Advisory Committee for the Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT).
- The popular **Science Detectives** summer academy will continue much to the delight of area high school students. Dr. Michelle Smith (EDU) in conjunction with Dr. Joe Langley Jr., Southwest Area Health Education Center Director along with Department of Biology faculty members, Dr. Dennis Frisby and Dr. Carla Gutheridge were awarded an extension of a three-year grant from the Oklahoma State Regents. For more information on this program, please contact Dr. Michelle Smith via phone at 580.581-2203 or via email at michells@cameron.edu.
- Cameron's 2nd Annual **Camp of Champs** will be held at Quartz Mountain from June 7-10, 2010. Camp of Champs is a camp for children with special learning needs. Cameron students serve as counselors. For additional information, please contact Dr. Ronna Vanderslice via phone at 580.581.2566 or via email at rvanderslice@cameron.edu.

AGGIE ACCESS is one of the most useful tools available to CU students. The online application provides students the ability to quickly and easily access e-mail, financial-aid status, and grades. In addition, campus news, an event calendar and course information is available.

COLLEGE CENTRAL "Your Job Search Starts Here!" This is an important website offering a complete listing of all available work study positions, other on-campus listings, as well as available community (off-campus) positions. The site offers students the ability to easily upload their resume for prospective employers.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to School EBS students for their recent accomplishments!

Mr. Wilson Rodriguez (Romance Languages), Ms. Melissa Price (Education) and Mr. J. Kyle Williams (Biology) represented CU at the **Teacher Education Program** held February 17th at the Capitol in Oklahoma City. The trio joined other state university representatives to lobby local legislators on behalf of the teacher education program. They were also treated to a guided tour of the Capitol. Department of Education faculty attending the event included Dr. Ronna Vanderslice, Dr. Jennifer Dennis, Dr. Courtney Glazer and Ms. Lorinda Rogers.

Cameron Alumni—Where are they now ?

Mr. Danny Garza, was recently recognized as Acclaimed Aggie for Spring 2010. Garza (B.S. Health & Physical Education '97; M.Ed. '98), is a former pitcher for the Aggie baseball team. He has taught in the Lawton Public School System for the past 12 years. He has earned numerous area and regional coaching honors including being named the Western Oklahoma Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2009. Congratulations Danny !!