

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Spotlight on graduate and undergraduate students**
- **EPI Center news**
- **New Faculty**
- **Faculty in the news**
- **KDP in the news**
- **PDK at work**

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Spotlight on students 2

Dr. Hightower 3

EPI Center News 3

Kappa Delta Pi 4

Awards and other Doings 4

SARTA Scholarship 4

The Educator's Voice

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Welcome to the "Voice"

Hello and welcome to all College of Education Friends. We hope that this update from the College will reach you on a regular basis. The College is undergoing NCATE reaccreditation this fall. This process will determine if our programs will remain nationally accredited. The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education sets national standards that educator prepara-

tion programs strive to achieve. We anticipate that we will once again meet these standards that informs those in and outside of Texas of the quality of our graduates. Please look at the College web site. A new feature is the recognition of our candidates and graduates who have received awards. We wish to recognize all of our friends that have excelled. Please send us infor-

mation when you receive recognition for what you do. We want to hear from you. The best recruiters for our educator preparation programs are our alumni and friends. If we can help someone you know become an educator please contact us. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

John Miazga
Dean, College of Education

Phi Delta Kappa at work

The Concho Valley Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa recently completed a garden project for the Rio Vista Head Start Center here in San Angelo. In another service project, where members prepared a lunch for the staff at the center, it was noticed that the garden area in the front of the school was overgrown and rather neglected. Phi Delta Kappa members knew that a grant was available from the national organization for service projects and so they wrote a small grant for \$1,000 to revitalize the garden. You can see in

this first picture the bare garden



area before members went to work. Members worked over two weekends to clear the area, make the ground workable, move some plants that were there already, dig up small trees that were in the wrong place

and then build a pathway, plant new plants, and mulch the entire area. The work force of this project came from several different student organization, as well as PDK members and their spouses. The center now has a garden they can be proud of. The picture below shows much of the finished project.



Students in the Spotlight

Leigh Ann Spradlin



Leigh Ann is a graduate student majoring in counseling who will be graduating this December. Leigh Ann chose ASU because of an alumni's recommendation about the guidance and counseling program. The distance education provided the flexibility she needed to complete the course work and work full time. She states that "I have had a unique experience with

starting my career as a school counselor while still pursuing my graduate degree at Angelo State. Due to budget cuts at the state level, our school district was forced to cut positions which allowed me to step into the role as a counselor. I have never once felt like I was in a distance program because the amount of communication and attention that I have re-

ceived from my peers and my professors."

Leigh Ann lives in Round Rock, Texas with her husband and two dogs and is currently an elementary school counselor intern at Nadine Johnson Elementary School in Hutto, TX. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi and an active volunteer with her local police force, where she has won awards for her work with her community.

Chantel Jackson



Chantel is a senior who will graduate in May 2013 with a Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with EC-6 certification. She grew up in a military home, living in several different states and countries and spent her last four years, before college, in Killeen TX. She is currently the President of Rambassadors, a little sister with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in San Angelo, a Mentor for the First Generation RAMS Program, and a member

of Kappa Delta Pi. She has served as a Student Orientation Advising and Registration Leader, as a member on the Entertainment Committee for University Center Program Council, and as a member of the National Society for Leadership Success. She has presented at the 9th and 10th Annual Literacy Conferences at the Region XV Education Service Center-San Angelo, and has spoken on several student panels. Most recently she

gave a speech at the Welcome Session for "Experience ASU" in October. In spring 2012 she received the "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" Award. In 2012, she was KDP's nomination for Homecoming Queen and was part of the Homecoming Court. She is currently working as the Student Organizations Manager for the Center for Student Involvement.

WELCOME TO..... Dr. Blake Hightower

Blake Hightower is a new faculty member at ASU in the department of Curriculum and Instruction. Before becoming an administrator, Dr. Hightower spent 17 years teaching in K-12 educational settings in both public and private schools. His career includes a variety of teaching experiences, which include core content area teaching as well as special area instruction. Dr. Hightower has been an administrator in both elementary and secondary settings. He also spent 3 years working as a Leadership Development Consultant for Education Service Center 18 where he specialized in organizing school turnaround efforts. While not teaching, Dr.



Hightower enjoys reading classic literature, discussing philosophy, playing guitar, and swimming. His favorite activity, however, is spending time

with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Dr. Hightower holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Sul Ross State University, a Master of Education Degree in Educational Technology from the University of Texas at Brownsville, a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration from Sul Ross State University, and a Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Leadership from Texas Tech University. He holds Texas certifications in the following areas: Self Contained Elementary Education 1-8; Physical Education 1-8; Driver Education 6-12; Technology Applications 8-12; and Principal EC-12.

EPI Center in the news



The EPI Center provides academic advising services to undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Education, as well as certification advising for students on certification degree plans across the Angelo State University campus. The EPI Center advising staff works closely with faculty and other support services to provide academic and career path advising.

EPI Center Staff attended the following trainings:

The Association of Teacher Educators' (ATE) Summer Conference
The National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) Annual Conference
The Consortium of State Organizations for Texas Teacher Education (CSOTTE)
The 2012 CREATE Research Conference on Teacher Education

They placed 295 students in field experiences, 62 students in student teaching, 51 in practicum placements and 10 in intern placements.

As well as the above, *EPI center staff organized and hosted group advising*. A total of 220 candidates attended Group Advising Sessions. (164: EC6/4-8, 56: 8-12/All Level).

Plus, they advised over 140 students in one-on-one sessions.

Awards and Other Doings...

- Dr. Christine Purkiss was awarded a \$403,000 grant from NOAA for teacher professional development on Climate Literacy.
- Dr. Marva Solomon had an article published in a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) journal, Talking Points, in October, 2012. The title was "Why can't you just say, 'It's cute?'"The role of audience in First Graders' digital storytelling.
- Dr. Marva Solomon received an NCATE SEED grant that continues the Pearl of the Concho Writing Project as a mini-conference. The mini conference takes place in the summer of 2013.
- Dr. Marva Solomon had a short piece published in NCTE's Language Arts journal in September 2012 titled: "Would your students enjoy writing their own graphic novels? You bet they would! "
- Dr. Sandra Maxedon has joined in a partnership with the Head Start/Early Head Start in SAISD, to provide field work opportunities at Rio Vista Head Start.
- Jennifer Lilly Engle, past Pearl of the Concho Writing Program participant, received the Affiliate Newsletter Award at the fall annual meeting of NCTE. She is currently a high school English teacher in Eldorado.
- Christine Pruitt (pictured below left) won the Ram Star Staff Award for October 2012.
- Wendy Storms (pictured below right) won the Alumni Associations Outstanding Staff for 2012 Award that was presented at Homecoming.



The Educator's Voice is published twice a year.
If you are interested in receiving future copies of the Educator's Voice, please contact Dr. Amy Williamson to join our newsletter listserv: amy.williamson@angelo.edu.

Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, initiated 50 new members on October 30th at their fall banquet. To be a member of KDP, undergraduate students have to have a 3.0 overall GPA, be a sophomore and have at least 50 hours towards their degree. Graduate students have to have a 3.25 GPA and at least 6 hours of educational course work. All students have to attend an initiation ceremony to be a mem-

ber. KDP officers are currently looking at the possibility of an online arm to the chapter so that our graduate students can be included without having to attend the initiation ceremony. New officers for the 2013 year include Nelson Thomas, President; Tabitha Rivera, President Elect; Jessica Hicks, VP for Membership; and Brandi Brosh, VP for Programs.



SARTA

Scholarships

San Angelo Retired Teachers' Association recipients for scholarships for Fall 2012 were Britany Vaughan, a 4-8 Mathematics specialist, and Kimberly Jones, an EC-6 with Special Education specialist. Candidates who are currently student teaching are eligible to be considered for the SARTA scholarship. Contact Dr. Sandra Maxedon for more information.