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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

ow that our spring 2018 semester is underway, let me welcome our faculty, staff, and students back to our beautiful campus. As I reflect on the multitude of experiences these past six months at ETSU, the reflections of Mark Twain in *Roughing It* come to mind. In it he relates his adventures as he travels from St Louis to Carson City, San Francisco, and the Sandwich Islands in the 1860s. He describes his journey as exciting, unpredictable, colorful, entertaining, and educational. Since joining the Clemmer Community, I relate better to Twain’s journey, and I am both energized and enriched for the experience.

We will soon begin sending out a memo to faculty, staff, and students on Mondays, and this memo will include news, upcoming events, and achievements from each department so that we can stay more informed about our distinguished community. In addition, we will be using the hashtag #clemmercommunity on our social media platforms, and I encourage you to use this hashtag as well so that we have a unified presence on social media. Follow the CCOE on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up to date and informed about our community and to interact with your fellow faculty and staff, students, and alumni. The Clemmer Community is full of wonderful people, and I'm excited for the opportunity to improve our communication and bring us together.

Thank you to everyone for such a warm and positive welcome. As I've shared with the many who emailed, texted, or spoken to me with words of support and encouragement, I welcome ideas that will continue to improve our college. The work you all are doing to make our students outstanding leaders in their fields is important, and I am honored and privileged to lead such a talented and dedicated group of educators. Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not give a special thanks to Tiffany Delias and Dr. Pam Mims for making this newsletter possible.

I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Dr. Greg Aloia,
Welcome to POP Arts: you’re going to see things you’ve never seen before,” said Dr. Cynthia Chambers to the crowd at the POP Arts Veterans’ Day showcase. Every year, something unexpected happens, whether it’s an off-the-cuff joke or a moment of extreme expressiveness. These little surprises are simply a part of POP Arts, which stands for the Power of Performing Arts. POP Arts is an inclusive performing arts program for people with and without disabilities, and the power of this program lies in its ability to empower.

The philosophy of the POP Arts program is that no matter who you are, no matter your background, and no matter your ability level, you have something to contribute. This philosophy has enabled cast members to make huge gains. One cast member with autism who experienced difficulty appropriately communicating his needs when he first started with POP Arts seven years ago has continued to participate in POP Arts, and his mom can proudly report that he is the “biggest ham” in recent performances. “It’s nothing for him to sing solo performances in front of crowds!” she says happily. “This program has become his purpose in life.”

POP Arts inspires purpose by setting expectations of growth for every participant. At the beginning of the semester, the leadership team gives each cast member a goal. All participants, including the interns, are considered cast members, and are expected to work toward their goal and contribute in some way to the POP Arts process. “By seeing the abilities in all that we do, we make everyone feel included and make them want to be unique,” says Human Services major Anthony Walls, who directed this year’s Veterans’ Day Showcase. “There is a reciprocal relationship of support and encouragement between volunteers and participants,” agrees Dr. Chambers, “POP Arts is a place for all to grow, and we grow together in partnership.”

Over 100 ETSU service-learning students or interns grow together with POP Arts yearly. Students from any major can serve in this unique community to experience an inclusive perspective that they can share in their own fields.

Dr. Chambers, who started the program seven years ago with College of Education alumna Kathleen Buttolph, looks forward to each showcase, for it is here that each cast member gets a time to shine, a time to show their progress. “Everyone grows at different rates,” she explains. “One performance that particularly touched me at the Veterans’ Day showcase was the
singing of ‘You’re a Grand Old Flag.’ One of our performers walked across the stage carrying a flag with her head held high, which might seem like a small accomplishment to someone who didn’t know her, but those of us who worked with her this semester know how far she’s come to be able to do that in front of a crowd of people.”

At the showcase’s grand finale, Anthony led the full cast in a call and response to a Muhammed Ali quote: “I am America. I am the part you won’t recognize, but get used to me.” The entire cast proudly shouted ‘Get used to me’ in a triumphant declaration of uniqueness that encompasses the beauty of POP Arts. “Bringing people together inclusively and empowering them to be unique is an indescribable experience,” Anthony explains. “The world can get used to us.”
The Center of Excellence for Sport Science and Coach Education hosted its 12th annual Coaching and Sport Science College in December. Topics ranged from velocity based training, sport nutrition, NCAA athletic administration, variations in strength programming, and the current state of NCAA athletics. The conference was a two day event with poster presentations, a banquet, guest speakers, and roundtable question and answer sessions.

“Coaches College is learning intensive but fun because of the people,” says Emily Brockelman, who coordinates this event. “It’s the one time a year that we have current and former students come back and all network together.” One alum brought eight students in a van all the way from Wisconsin!

The annual banquet is always one of the highlights of the weekend. Many guests bring their families for this time of fellowship with alumni and old friends. This year, Dr. Denise Wood was the guest speaker. Dr. Wood is an educator, coach, and sport scientist who has worked with Olympians, coaches, and athletes for over 40 years. Dr. Wood spoke about the power of a sport-driven life. Integration Sports: Taiwan sponsored this year’s banquet.

The Center of Excellence was able to provide 7 travel grants for student poster presenters. ETSU students Alex Wetmore, John Wagle, and John Abbott won prizes for their poster presentations. Totten Training Systems sponsored prizes for the poster winners.

The keynote speaker Dr. Hiroshi Hasegawa from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan presented on velocity-based training. “My peers and mentors that spoke are some of my biggest inspirations,” says conference attendee Tara Whiton. “We are sure to make change and differences in the athletic world after this program!”

The Center of Excellence uses the revenue from
Coaches College to fund research for doctoral students. “It’s also a great way to get word out about our programs,” Brockelman adds. “Many undergraduates who attend become interns or graduate students.”

“Our faculty and students never cease to amaze and impress me with their work ethic and passion for sport science and coaching.”

“Our faculty and students never cease to amaze and impress me with their work ethic and passion for sport science and coaching,” concludes Brockelman. “Our sponsors were outstanding in their genuine spirit of support, and our speakers incredible in experience and expertise in their fields.”

DID YOU KNOW?

The Center of Excellence in Sport Science and Coach Education at ETSU is a designated U.S. Olympic Training Site through the United States Olympic Committee. The three national governing bodies (NGB) the Center of Excellence has contracts with are USA Weightlifting, USA Canoe/Kayak, and USA Bobsled and Skeleton.
The Department of Counseling and Human Services has partnered with Sevier County schools to offer a Family Support Center for Special Education students and their families.

The economic opportunities in Sevier County have created an intersection of traditional Appalachian culture with people from all over the world, which has changed the student population. “The problems Sevier County faces as a result of population growth,” says Dr. Stephen Cockerham, Program Coordinator for ETSU Human Services, “are both rural and urban, which creates a unique set of challenges for educators.” This partnership seeks to bring in resources that can address these challenges to benefit both Special Education students and their families.

Dr. Cockerham is hopeful about the ability of the Family Support Center to positively impact the Sevierville community. “After facing the challenges of rapid change and a major disaster,” Dr. Cockerham says, “Sevier County needs a place where families and students with special needs can grow, learn, and share in their positive development.”

Dr. Jack Parton, Superintendent of Sevier County School System, and Dr. Sandy Enloe, Director of Special Education in Sevier County, have been particularly supportive of this partnership. Dr. Enloe, who has taught as an adjunct professor at ETSU for many years, wrote the grant to help secure funding for this initiative.

“Sevier County School system has had a long and successful relationship with ETSU,” explains Dr. Enloe. “And ETSU has an existing educational program that offers the resources, knowledge, and strategies our teachers require to better address the needs of our students and families.”

The Family Support Center will provide workshops for parents and activities for students. They hope to be a comprehensive center to funnel resources such as parent skill training, job training, substance abuse counseling and prevention, mental health counseling, crisis care services, violence prevention, and housing assistance.

"By supporting, strengthening, and stabilizing the home environment, children will feel more secure in their school environment."

The Family Support Center will be located at the Sevier County campus of ETSU. Human Services Masters students will get field experience working at the Family Support Center. The cohort program will offer classes that complement the work at the resource center.

Dr. Cecil Blankenship, who helped spearhead this project, believes that “by supporting, strengthening, and stabilizing the home environment, children will feel more secure in their school environment.” The Family Support Center will be open to the public within the year.
When I ask my students, ‘What does social studies mean to you?’” reflects Dr. Lori T. Meier, Associate Professor for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, “They rarely consider science, they rarely consider technology.” Dr. Meier is out to change that perception.

At the National Council for the Social Studies in San Francisco, she delivered “Blastoff! Social Studies as Seeds for STEM and Space Exploration,” an impassioned bid for the relationship between social studies and STEM, a connection that has always seemed natural to Dr. Meier. “At the heart of any STEM initiative is a social studies rational, value, or purpose informing the scientific work,” advocates Dr. Meier. “This connection is often overlooked in today’s educational discourse, but nearly all chemistry, engineering, physics, and mathematics initiatives have meaningful and fundamental roots in the social studies: geography, global connections, agency, societal improvement, human-environment interaction, advancement, and technological change.”

“STEM does not happen in isolation,” emphasizes Dr. Meier. “Social needs are the seeds for STEM. So the question becomes, ‘What can elementary teachers do to integrate these areas?’” At the conference, she explored student-centered, social studies-connected classroom activities, and she shared various primary sources and materials, many from NASA, that teachers can use in a K-6 classroom to engage students with spaceflight, space history and exploration, and aeronautics.

Her longtime interest in space history and space travel has fostered her interest in the integration of elementary social studies and space exploration. Last year, she was granted Non-Instructional Leave (NIA) for the Fall 2016 semester to pursue scholarly projects applicable to her fields of curriculum theory and social studies teacher education. One of these areas focused on the continued development of pop-

Dr. Lori T. Meier at the Kennedy Space Center
ular-culture influenced, primary source artifacts that would be meaningful for use in her teaching of elementary social studies methods courses. She was able to spend some of her NIA time in her Florida hometown where she collaborated with education colleagues at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. Using the lens of social studies, she began to explore the many ways in which the social studies curriculum can be integrated and elevated using space related biographies, space exploration histories, STEM initiatives, global connections, and innovative technological changes.

“I’m fortunate to be able to merge my personal passion for space with my love for social studies.” Dr. Meier concludes. “I hope to continue to interest educators in creating curious and engaging learning opportunities for social studies and STEM both in and out of the formal classroom.”

As a natural extension of her research, Dr. Meier has applied to be a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, a volunteer public-engagement outreach program. If accepted, she would host and conduct NASA educational outreach opportunities for our ETSU teacher candidates, students, and local community.

Inaugural Community College Leadership Cohort Graduate

On Friday November 17, 2017, the Center for Community College Leadership celebrated the inaugural cohort completion of the Graduate Certificate in Community College Leadership.

This cohort of students began the newly offered graduate certificate in Fall 2016. The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis (ELPA) designed the 15 credit hour program to professionally equip both current and potential community college leaders with up-to-date skills needed to effectively function in instructional or administrative community college leadership positions.

“I'm proud of this cohort of students,” says Dr. Bethany Flora, online program coordinator. “I hope that this graduate certificate will help our cohort graduates as they seek positions of increased responsibility or leadership in their fields.”

According to Dr. Flora, one particularly compelling reason for ELPA to establish the Center for Community College Leadership is to increase the number of well-prepared individuals for leadership positions at Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) institutions. The program attracted faculty and staff from community colleges in the area, including Nashville State, Chattanooga State, and Volunteer State. TBR Chancellor Dr. Flora Tydings came to the ceremony to address the students and award the certificates. The center aims to be the preeminent source in Tennessee and the Southeast for community college leadership development.
The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the largest professional association for early childhood educators. Every year over 10,000 early childhood educators and other professionals in the field gather to learn, share, collaborate, and network at their annual conference held in the fall.

ETSU was represented well at the recent 2017 conference held November 15-18 in Atlanta, Georgia. Six professors, Dr. Kathryn Sharp, Dr. Jane Broderick, Dr. Alissa Lange, Dr. Ruth Facun-Granadozo, Dr. Pamela Evanshen and Ms. Ann Disque; three Child Study Center teachers, Ms. Stephanie Stephens, Ms. Rebecca Dison, and Ms. Ann Marie Cornelison; and 13 undergraduate and graduate students were in attendance. Both professors and students participated in multiple tracks as presenters and attendees. Professors and students presented a total of 11 sessions at the conference. Topics of presentation included: Creativity, STEM, Literacy, Engagement, and Emergent Curriculum. Several ETSU attendees also took part in different interest forums and discussions. Such interest forums provided opportunities of connection and collaboration for early childhood educators on common interest areas throughout the year.

Held at the same time with NAEYC each year is the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) conference. NAECTE is the nation’s organization for Early Childhood Teacher Educators. Their one-day fall conference is held on the first day of the NAEYC conference. At the recent conference, Dr. Pamela Evanshen, the Early Childhood Department Chair, was inducted as the new Vice President for Conferences for NAECTE. Doctoral student, Randa Dunlap, presented and several early childhood faculty and students attended NAECTE sessions, the membership meeting, and the organization’s awards ceremony.

Among the students who attended NAEYC and NAECTE in November, were four students from the early childhood education undergraduate program. They attended several sessions and became interested in presenting in their future careers. All conference attendees returned with valuable information to share with their peers. Everyone returned inspired and excited about meeting and networking with new people in our field.