ELPA ALUMNUS INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF VHCC

Dr. Gene C. Couch, Jr., an ELPA alumnus, has become the 6th president of Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) as of July 1, 2015, and will be inaugurated October 23. Prior to his appointment at VHCC, Couch was the executive vice president at Alamance Community College in Graham, N.C.

Couch has an impressive resume of administration in the community college arena. In his appointment prior to Alamance, Couch served as vice president for instruction and student services at Southwestern Community College in Sylva, N.C. from 2005-2010. Previous to this position, he served as vice president for instructional services at Southwestern from 1999-2005, which followed his service there as both chair of the health sciences division and program director for radiography.

Dr. Couch received his associate degree from Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, a bachelor’s degree from Mars Hill.

SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST

- November 9—Registration for Spring 2016 begins
- November 9—Last day to upload approved dissertation for December graduation
- December 9—Commencement
- January 19—Spring Semester Begins
- January 21—Last day to add Spring classes
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING AND ADMINISTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

BY MEGAN OWENS

On May 20th-22nd, 2015 a wide range of researchers, administrators, and faculty members from around the country joined together in Nashville, Tennessee to engage in social and intellectual dialogue. The International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education (ICLAHE) provides a platform that encourages the sharing of information from a variety of fields and nontraditional paradigms.

Presenters representing East Tennessee State University and the Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Department included: Dr. Josh Davis, Dr. Virginia Foley, Dr. Don Good, Dr. Pamela Scott, Dr. James Lampley, Dr. Stephanie Tweed, Dr. Priti Sharma, Megan Owens and Jenny Lee.

ICLAHE prides itself on providing a quality venue open to a wide range of research topics related to learning and administration in higher education.

One advantage to presenting at this conference is the chance to have papers published in one of two journals associated with the conferences, The Journal of Learning in Higher Education and The Journal of Academic Administration in Higher Education. Papers submitted for the conference are reviewed by a panel and accepted into one of the journals if they meet the specific criteria.

Megan Owens, a Doctoral Fellow in the ELPA department, presented on two different areas of research this past spring at ICLAHE. The presentation entitled, What Information are Prospective Graduate Students Seeking? revealed interesting results from a survey distributed to ELPA students regarding their experience with the program’s website. Owens reported that the findings of the research lead to many changes and updates to the website.
Some of the changes made were adding a tuition calculator for cost information, an “apply now” button for easy application, better organization of materials for easier readability, and more detailed information on the residency and qualifying process.

Owens’ second presentation at ICLAHE included a co-presenter and researcher, Jenny Lee. For their presentation, *Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis Support and Encouragement Study*, Owens and Lee sought information on the amount of support and encouragement doctoral students in the department receive from a variety of areas. The researchers examined family, workplace, academic, and program support. The findings showed that men and women experience similar levels of support and encouragement from all dimensions, and the majority of respondents received “total support” in most areas. From their findings, Owens and Lee recommended that online doctoral programs in particular must create opportunities for building community, check in with students frequently, and ensure that students are aware of online and on-ground resources that are available.

Owens described her experience presenting at ICLAHE as illuminating and thought provoking, and maybe a little nerve wracking. The chance to network with a diverse group of researchers and faculty from around the country was one of the best experiences she has had in her time with the ELPA department. As a result of attending and presenting at ICLAHE, both presentation papers were accepted and will be published in *The Journal of Academic Administration in Higher Education*. Owens highly encourages any interested student to seek more information and attend next year.

While the information for the 2016 conference has yet to be posted, attending ICLAHE is a tremendous opportunity for any ELPA student at any stage in their coursework or dissertation. Check with your advisor for residency activity potential if you have re-

### INTELLECTBASED INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM

The Intellectbased International Consortium provides professionals in the field of academia opportunities for presentation at conferences as well as publication in reviewed journals. In May 2015, several ELPA faculty and students presented at the Intellectbased Academic Conference in Nashville, TN. During this conference, the following presentations (listed by title and author) were made.

- *The relationship between growth scores and the overall observation ratings for teachers in a public school system in Tennessee*. By Dr. Josh Davis, Dr. James Lampley, and Dr. Virginia Foley
- *Anachronistic Education: One room schools in 1950s and 1960s East Tennessee* by Dr. James Lampley and Jenny Lee. This presentation was recently accepted for publication by *the Review of Higher Education and Self-learning*.
- *Organizational structure and resources of alumni associations at public senior universities in the southeastern United States* by Dr. Don Good and Robert Plummer.

### FACULTY
- Dr. John Boyd
- Dr. Bethany Flora
- Dr. Bill Flora
- Dr. Virginia Foley
- Dr. Catherine Glascock
- Dr. Eric Glover
- Dr. Don Good, chair
- Dr. Hal Knight
- Dr. James Lampley
- Dr. Jasmine Renner
- Dr. Pamela Scott

### STAFF
- Betty Ann Proffitt
- Joanna Wicker
MAY GRADUATES DISSERTATIONS

Congratulations to our most recent ELPA graduates! Listed below are their dissertation titles, all of which are accessible at http://sherrod.etsu.edu/research/theses

Dr. Charles Corwin, “EXPLORE Test and Ninth grade Success in English 9 and Algebra 1 on both the End-of-Course Exam and Final Average in a Rural Tennessee High School” Faculty chair: Dr. Foley

Dr. Amy Doran “TVAAS Rankings and Teachers’ Perceptions of Data-Driven Professional Learning in Northeast Tennessee Title 1 and Non-Title 1 Elementary Schools” Faculty chair: Dr. Foley

Dr. Angela Elkins, “Student Satisfaction in Hybrid Courses at a Community College in Southern Appalachia” Faculty chair: Dr. Good

Dr. Lesley Fleenor “The Relationship between Student Perceptions of Classroom Climate and TVAAS Student Achievement Scores in Title 1 Schools” Faculty chair: Dr. Scott

Dr. Gayle Gragg, “Lived Experiences of Six High School graduates Who Received Assistance from Graduation Coach Facilitation” Faculty chair: Dr. Glascock

Dr. Kimberly Graybeal, “A Comparison of principals’ and teachers’ Scores on the Leadership Practices Inventory” Faculty chair: Dr. Lamplsey

Dr. Bethany Hall “A Comparative Study of Dual Enrollment Student Achievement in Various Learning Environments and Non-Dual Enrollment Student Achievement” Faculty chair: Dr. Knight

Dr. Sherry King, “Elementary Educators’ Perceptions of Practices that Contribute to Literacy Achievement” Faculty chair: Dr. Scott

Dr. Kyle Loudermilk “Teacher Perceptions of leadership and Student Growth in Reading and Mathematics in Northeast Tennessee” Faculty chair: Dr. Scott

Dr. Mike Ramey, “Examining Differences in Statistical Reasoning Abilities through Behavioral-Cognitive Combinations of Videos and Formative Assessments for Students in Undergraduate Statistics Courses” Faculty chair: Dr. B. Flora

Dr. Dusty Sayers, “A Study of the Relationship between Career and Technical Education and High School Success in Tennessee” Faculty chair: Dr. Scott

Dr. Laurel Stanley, “Perceptions of Elementary Educators toward Inclusion” Faculty chair: Dr. Scott

Dr. Prita Sharma, “Organizational Communication: Perceptions of Staff Members’ level of Communication Satisfaction and Job Satisfac- tion” Faculty chair: Dr. Lamplsey

Cohort Links

Want to learn more about ELPA students? Introduc- tions are available at the following websites that were put together by Dr. B. Flora:
elpa6872fall2014.weebly.com
elpa6872spring2015.weebly.com

Faculty News

Dr. Bethany Flora was named ETSU Presidential Fellow

Dr. Don Good serves as Executive member, Bristol Motor Speedway Fan Advisory Board

Dr. W. Hal Knight was named as TDOEs Implementation Work Group, worked with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparers (CAEP) by chairing four site visits in 2014-15 and training under new CAEP standards, and testified before the Joint Tennessee House and Senate education Committee regarding the continuance of the Tennessee Board of Education’s Advisory Council in Teacher Education.

Dr. Jasmine Renner was named as the 2015 Carnegie Africa Dispora Fellow and continues to serve as the Fulbright Scholar and on the review board for the Journal of Instructional Pedagogies.
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Professional development occurs across all professions and is delivered through many different platforms, but it is rarely seen in the form of online gaming. Mindy Thomas-Fulks, an ELPA student in the Post-Secondary and Private Sector Leadership concentration, is currently creating a continuing legal education online game designed to promote legal analysis and reasoning skills as they are applicable to supreme court rulings. The game has been designed using the rapid authoring tool, Storyline by Articulate, and is currently in the testing phase. Thomas-Fulks reports that the goal of the game is to make continuing legal education more engaging and interactive. In addition to having support from local members of the legal profession, the game has reached the attention of Supreme Court Justices, who are pleased with this innovation. The game is expected to be rolled out later this year. You can preview the demo at the following website:

ELPA’S WORK AND MISSION

ETSU’s Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis department offers challenging curricula in degree programs designed to develop strong leaders in both the public and private sector. Students can choose to concentrate in Administrative Endorsement, School Leadership, or Post-Secondary/Private Sector Leadership and pursue a Master’s, Educational Specialist, or Doctor of Education degree.

The ELPA department is dedicated to advancing educational quality and opportunity through:

- Creating
- Integrating
- Exchanging
- Applying

Our primary purpose is the graduate preparation of individuals who will serve as educational leaders in K-12 schools, community/technical colleges, four year colleges and universities, and organizations/ agencies.

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FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

There is always more space for educational leaders at the top. Help us spread the word about ELPA. We are accepting applications for the Master of Education, Educational Specialist, and Doctor of Education degrees. Contact the following program coordinators for more information about a specific concentration:

- **Counselor Leader Concentration** (Ed.S.)– Dr. Janna Scarborough: (423) 439-4191; scarboro@etsu.edu
- **Post-Secondary and Private Sector Concentration** (M.Ed., Ed.D.)– Dr. James Lampley: (423) 439-7619; lampley@etsu.edu
- **School Leadership Concentration** (Ed.S., Ed.D.)– Dr. Bill Flora: (423) 439-7617; floraw@etsu.edu
- **Student Personnel Concentration** (M.Ed.)– Dr. Don Good: (423) 439-7621; gooddw@etsu.edu
- **Teacher Leadership Concentration and Administrative Endorsement Concentration** (M.Ed., Ed.S., Ed.D.)– Dr. Virginia Foley: (423) 439-7615; foleyv@etsu.edu

One important reminder for potential applicants, is that Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores must be submitted prior to admission into any of our programs, except the Master’s of Education.

Cohorts Beginning Spring 2015

- M.Ed. in Administrative Endorsement (ADMN)
- Ed.S. in Administrative Endorsement (ADMN)
- Ed.D. in Administrative Endorsement (ADMN)
- Ed.D. in School Leadership (SCOL)

The next cohort leading to an Ed.D. in Post-Secondary and Private Sector Concentration will begin May 2016.

The next cohort leading to an M.Ed. In Student Personnel will begin August 2016.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES & DATES

The Ryan Fellowship

The Ryan Fellowship is a one-year, paid fellowship for aspiring principals, followed by two years of advisory support. The Fellowship is currently looking for individuals with formal adult management experience and strong instructional backgrounds for their regions in Memphis, Baton Rouge, New York City and Chicago (financial support for relocation is available for Memphis and Baton Rouge). The next fellowship will begin July 2016, so apply early. For additional information, please visit https://v3.rivs.com/47-90-26/ or email Stephanie Shear at sshear@accelerateinstitute.org

Key Fall Dates

- November 9 – Registration for Spring 2016 begins. Check your goldmail for an email from your advisor regarding what courses to take.
- November 9 – Last day to upload approved dissertation for December graduation
- December 9 – Commencement
- January 19 – Spring Semester Begins
- January 21 – Last day to add Spring classes