

DEANotes

C O L L E G E O F S C I E N C E A N D T E C H N O L O G Y

N I V E N S N O T E S

"I am humbled to learn how much you do for our students, sometimes with very few resources and even less time. I hope that CST is in a stronger and better place today than it has been previously, but, more important, I hope that under the leadership of Dr. Candidate, you and your students would flourish and achieve your professional aspirations."

The quotes above are the parting words of Dr. Jane Wong in Volume 2, Issue 4 of the 2015-2016 DEANotes. Today marks the opening of the Fall 2016 semester for our college and no one is as surprised, humbled and even a little overwhelmed to be "Dr. Candidate," as I am. It is a pleasure to return to my roots at the corner of Arts and Library Drive and have the opportunity to re-engage with my tribe! Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962) said "The characteristic of scientific progress is our knowing that we did not know." I stand to make significant scientific strides this year, as I learn what I do not know! My immediate task is to provide the College of Science and Technology with the steady leadership required to build upon our strengths in teaching, service, and scholarship; to advocate for our departments, faculty and students; and to address our challenges head-on. As a College, we cannot push our challenges under the rug and wait (yet) another year for a permanent Dean. Instead,

we must be a unified team willing to address our College's needs, both great and small, regardless of who is at the helm. Using the Armstrong and Academic Affairs strategic plans as our compass, we can continue to reach, and even exceed, the aspirations of both our faculty and students.

In the Spring, the SPARC-II committee simplified our strategic plan into three values: scholarship, stewardship, and leadership. I fully believe that CST is "the best college" in each of these areas, and here is why:

Scholarship: Did you know that 31 grant proposals, representing all departments, were submitted by CST faculty to outside agencies last academic year? Of that, ten were funded for \$590 K and five remain under review. Did you know we had 85 presentations at the Student Scholars Symposium and, from our last survey, 59 recent faculty publications with undergraduate students? We have 11 2016 GA Power Scholars, 20 2016 SRS students and 19 new CCG students? We have 8 2016 R&S awards in our college. Our own Brandon Quillian is the University Gignilliat Fellow this year, and Jeff Secrest and Sara Gremillion will be on advanced academic leave. Kudos to all! Can we do better in 2016-2017?

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NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. REBECCA RAYBURN-REEVES, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY



Dr. Rebecca Reeves has joined the Department of Psychology this Fall 2016. Rebecca earned her BS in Psychology and a minor in Philosophy from Appalachian State University. She then earned her Master of Arts degree in General Psychology from UNC-Wilmington followed by her PhD in Experimental Psychology at the University of Kentucky. After spending two years teaching at UNCW as an adjunct she conducted her postdoctoral work at Tufts University studying comparative cognition and visual perception in pigeons. Here at Armstrong, Rebecca plans to continue her investigations in cognitive processes related to timing, memory, and behavioral flexibility in rats. Specifically, her studies will focus on how time mediates the various internal and external environmental cues that dynamically compete for behavioral control. She is also interested in investigating the effect of enrichment on cognitive processing. Much of this work will be conducted using rats with olfactory cues in open-field apparatus and with spatial cues in operant chambers. This fall Rebecca is teaching Introduction to Psychology as well as Research Methods and Careers in Psychology. She is very excited about teaching these courses as well as possibly developing new upper level psychology courses such as Primate Evolution and The Evolution of Psychology. When Rebecca isn't teaching and analyzing our psyche she likes to do a variety of outdoor activities as well as shoot pool. When you see Rebecca, be sure to welcome her to Armstrong!

ARMSTRONG COALITION FOR WOMEN IN STEM

BY: SABRINA HESSINGER

In April 2016 a team of CST faculty and students gave a special forum entitled: *Women in STEM: Real Reasons and Simple Solutions to Persistent Under-representation*. This presentation was the culmination of the team's review of the literature on factors impacting the participation of women in STEM across the nation. Forum participants, a blend of students, faculty and administration, discussed their own perspectives on several issues addressed in the research literature, such as, belief in gender based differences in math ability, the relevance of stereotypes, and the reasons why girls and women are opting out of certain STEM careers.

The Spring forum also served as a kick-off event for a new student-faculty organization, the **Armstrong Coalition for Women in STEM**. This group's goals are to create a more formal Armstrong community in support of women in STEM, to assess campus climate, and to implement research-based solutions both on campus and in the local community. We will be engaged in a range of activities to support and to raise the participation of women and girls in STEM fields. For more information please contact Sabrina Hessinger, Sarah Zingales, Bill Baird, or Sara Gremillion.

STEM SUCCESS CENTER UPDATES

BY MATT BROWN

The STEM Success Center's best resource for student success is our **FREE tutoring** by student tutors in Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, General and Organic Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, and Mathematics. The tutors are upper level students recommended by professors, who have excelled academically with the courses they tutor.

Other resources include over 30 A&P models, brand new **microscopes** with A&P slides, a new **calculator checkout program** available to students and faculty (30 graphing, 30 scientific), Organic Chemistry models, Current textbooks, lab manuals, and computer workstations loaded with .pdf versions of textbooks, Wolfram Mathematica, MATLAB, Maple, NetBeans, ChemDraw Ultra, newly added **Spartan Chemistry Software**, as well as links to online homework websites, STEM related career possibilities and scholarship opportunities.

If you have any other resources or potential tutors that you feel would benefit our students, or would like to schedule me for a short classroom visit to tell your students about our services, please contact me.



NIVENS' Notes (Cont'd from Page 1)

Stewardship: As stewards of the curriculum, did you know we have a new Cybersecurity track within the IT degree? We also made significant changes to our mathematics with teacher certification program and added courses in physical science to support the College of Education. This year, we will be taking a fresh look at our DFW rates as a part of Complete College Georgia and a USG-STEM Education Improvement Grant. We have been awarded three Teaching and Learning Grants for 2016-2017. Many of us are involved in the local schools, through the Engineering Design Challenge, or by developing professional learning communities or serving as science coaches. What can you do to help modernize of our curriculum this year? How can we stay on the cutting edge or develop niche programs? Do you have high impact teaching methods to share with your colleagues? Do you have an idea for a major, track or minor? Do you have an opportunity to improve STEM education in our local schools to help us grow our pipeline of qualified majors?

Leadership: The Faculty Senate President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian are members of our college. We have permanent leadership in the Department of Psychology, a faculty member certified (Elcoro) to lead our Applied Behavioral Analysis program and Directors for the Centers for Applied Cyber Education and the Sustainable Aquaponics Research Center. We have faculty who serve as Vice Presidents, Presidents, Past-Past Presidents, Councilors, Treasurers, Coordinators, members of Boards of Directors, Chairs, General Chairs, Technical Chairs, Board Members and many other roles in national, state and regional organizations. I am confident that permanent leadership will be found this year for the Department of Biology and the Dean's Office. Perhaps you will find a new leadership opportunity this year? How can the Dean's office support your growth as a leader? Please, let us know!

You might see other ships sailing around our college this year, those of citizenship, lectureship, fellowship, friendship, ownership, or even a starship or two in our astronomy courses. Each and every one of these "ships" will serve to build our community of scholars and make this a stellar year in the best college at Armstrong!



August 12th – First Year Student Convocation – 9:45 AM

August 12th – 12:30 CST Lunch and Meeting – SC 1405

August 15th – First Day of Class

August 15th – 19th – Drop Add

August 20th – 26th – Attendance Verification

August 31st – SRS Reports Due

September 5th – Labor Day

September 12th – SPARC Proposals Due

September 16th – T&P portfolios due to
DH

September 28th – Science on Tap
Bill Baird at the Landings – 6 PM

October 5th - Midterm

October 28th – Academic Leave
Applications Due