

Departmental Spotlight: Communication

You can't say that Dr. Jamye Williams doesn't dream big. Years ago, when the TSU Department of Speech and Drama was primarily known for its fine theatre productions, Dr. Williams dreamed of adding a mass communications curriculum.

The theatre program has remained strong, but the department has undergone a name change and has expanded to include speech pathology and audiology, as well as mass communications.

The Department of Communication now offers the bachelor's and master's degrees in Speech Communication and Theatre and in Speech Audiology and Pathology. Undergraduates can major in the former area with an emphasis, also, in mass communications.

The first move toward equipping a mass communications program came in 1975 when U. S. Steel donated \$5,000 for such an effort.

An opportunity to fund the entire program developed in 1976 when TSU applied for a Federal Advanced Institutional Development Program

(AIDP) grant. The Department of Communication became one of the components, and Dr. Williams submitted a proposal for a mass communication program. The grant was approved and nearly \$165,000, to be spent over five years, was designated for mass communications.

The money is to be used for salaries, equipment, travel and other expenses. The mass communication staff includes two faculty members, Dr. Donald Page and Mrs. Karen Brown; a secretary, Mrs. Mary Luster, and engineer, Clinton Hooper Page, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is program coordinator.

"We've been in full swing for about a year now," he said. "I think we're starting to get organized as a curriculum." Courses are offered in broadcasting and journalism.

Page, who is a former television cameraman, directed the construction of a television and a radio studio in the Women's Building. About \$27,000 worth of equipment for the studio was donated by local television and radio

stations.

"WTVF was most supportive of us," Page said. They contributed a news desk, camera, pedestals, lighting equipment and other items. WNGE donated a switcher, WSM gave lighting equipment, and WWGM provided an audio board, turntables and cart machines.

Page estimated the value of the studio was \$70,000. Efforts are being made to develop a simulated news room for journalism classes.

"I think we have the potential to be one of the country's best mass communication programs," Page said. "We are in a definite media center. We are an ideal center for guest lecturers, and a good place for student intern experience. We have a campus radio station (WTSU directed by Daniel Owens), a campus newspaper (The Meter), and we will have a program on cable television when it comes to Nashville."

TSU Communication students are also seen, once a month, on the show, "Taking Care of Business." The program is coordinated by Dr. Williams and broadcast on WNGE.

"We are trying to build our reputation," Page said. "We want employers to feel that TSU graduates are competent people.

"We emphasize writing skills very strongly for all students," he continued. "We try to provide immediately useful career skills and broad liberal arts training. It is important for the student to know, not only how to communicate, but what he is trying to communicate."

The mass communications program is not the only success story in the Department of Communication. In 1972, Dr. Harold Mitchell was appointed director of the area of Speech Audiology and Pathology. Their program now includes teaching, research, lab experience for student clinicians and the city's only speech and hearing clinic that serves the public without charge.

The T. E. Poag Players Guild continues to draw praise for its productions each year. According to Dr. Williams, TSU acting groups have made more government-sponsored overseas tours than any other black university.

Graduates of the department range from Dr. Granville Sawyer, President of Texas Southern University, to actor Moses Gunn. Other graduates are Dr. Allen Counter, Associate Professor at Harvard University; Dr. Alphonso Sherman, Dean of Fine Arts at Gover-



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nors College; Dr. Singer Buchanan, Associate Professor at Bowling Green University; Dr. Edward Moore of the National Institute of Health; Dr. Katie Lawrence at Norfolk State University and Alger Boswell, a teacher in the Gary, Indiana public schools and drama critic for the newspaper, *Infor*.

Dr. Williams also pointed out that four members of the department's faculty are graduates from the department. They are H. Devereau Brady, Mrs. Karen Brown, M.S., W. Dury Cox and Mrs. Sandra Holt. Mrs. Brown acquired the bachelor's degree at Michigan State University.

In spite of all this, Dr. Williams is still dreaming.

"We need a theatre," she said. "We are the state's oldest drama department and the only one without a theatre." Productions are presented in the Administration Building Auditorium.

"I'd like to see a School of Communication," she continued, "with a building that includes a theatre, a television studio, a radio station and a speech and hearing clinic."

She smiled and added, "Wouldn't that be beautiful?"

Engineering Students Visit Oak Ridge Laboratories

In its constant endeavor to provide excellent education to its students, the School of Engineering and Technology believes that the classroom theoretical instruction should be supported with first hand knowledge of its practical applications in industry and research organizations. This is especially important for engineering education. Most of the students receive this knowledge through practical work experience during summer and/or their co-op work assignments. In order to provide this experience during the school year, the school has organized student trips to various engineering and manufacturing facilities every year.

This year twenty-nine (29) engineering students visited the Union Carbide Corporation facilities at Oak Ridge, Tennessee on November 9, 1978. They visited the High Flux Isotope Reactor and the Fusion Energy Division of the Y-12 plant. The students were very impressed by the leadership role provided by the Oak Ridge Laboratories in meeting the challenges faced by modern day engineers in solving the environmental and energy problems. The students learned first hand the advances made in the area of nuclear energy and the on-going research in the area of Fusion Energy. They also learned about the role an engineer plays in the development of

RISBY NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD

"Despite the lack of institutional funds, we will try to improve the department," says newly appointed Biology Department head, Dr. Edward L. Risby.

Formerly an associate professor of microbiology at Meharry Medical College, Dr. Risby's interest lies in improving student quality to produce a higher number of students who are qualified to enter professional schools such as dentistry, graduate and medical.

Few of the graduates want to teach when they graduate. Although the present curriculum has had a tremendous amount of success in the past, Dr. Risby feels that the graduates "have not scored nearly as high as they should have on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and the Dental Admissions Test (DAT).

Other problems such as space and obsolete equipment are a greater challenge. Some of the paraphernalia used dates as far back as 30 to 40 years. "About 80 percent of the microscopes need repairing," said Dr. Risby.

He hopes that by; 1) revising the curriculum to allow for the production of better qualified students, 2) revising examinations given in the department to reflect standardized styles and 3) giving mini-pre examinations review courses, (GRE, MCAT and DAT) some of the obstacles will be removed. The department will use acquisitioned research grants and

a process from experimental stage to its practical application. This tour was organized by the Tennessee State University student branches of professional organizations and financially supported by the Union Carbide Corporation.

Earlier in the month of October 1978, twelve (12) students from the Electrical Energy Conversion class visited the small motor manufacturing facilities of General Electric Company at Hendersonville, Tennessee. The tour provided them a better understanding of the electrical machines. The students learned the importance of communication and interaction among various disciplines required for the successful operation of a manufacturing plant. Dr. S. S. Devgan, Director of Division of Student Services accompanied the students on both of these trips.



funds to help restore the damaged microscopes.

The merger could, in fact, have a great impact on the department. "It certainly could increase the number of biology majors and faculty," he commented.

Working with other institutions such as, Southern University, Lane College and Meharry Medical College, Dr. Risby is aware and familiar with the situation, and says there will definitely be changes within the Department of Biology in the next four years.

Dr. Norman Addresses Spencer Grads

Dr. Roland Norman, Acting Dean, School of Agriculture and Home Economics delivered the principal address during graduation ceremonies at Spencer Youth Center on Friday, November 10. He challenged the boys, and asked them not to look downcast on the past because misbehavior committed has been compensated for by the changes brought about by their tenure at the Center.

"Remember Spencer Youth Center only as the place that provided you with a new lease on life," he said. "Set goals and objectives high above the pitfalls that once obstructed your pathways and work continuously to achieve them," he urged.

News Briefs

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The University-Wide Tutorial Program provides academic assistance to all students enrolled at the University. If you are experiencing difficulty in your subject areas, please stop by the Center, first floor, middle section of the Old Martha Brown library, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Arrangements for tutorial assistance will be made at your convenience.

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The HPERMOTS (Health Education, Physical Education and Recreation Majors of the University) club meetings are held every Monday at 5:00 p.m. in Room 116 of Kean Hall. Club membership is open to all HPER majors. Applications may be picked up in the department's head office, Room 102, of Kean Hall or contact Ronald Ashley, 320-4150, president.

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Dr. Prem N. Narula and Dr. James A. Campbell, along with ten students in the Department of Biology, attended the 88th Annual Professional Meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science, Inc., November 17-18 at Lambuth College in Jackson, Tennessee.

Through the efforts of Dr. Narula and the generosity of the Academy, the expenses of the department were absorbed by the Academy.

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The Psychology Department now offers concentration in mental health at the undergraduate level. The concentration consists of 17 semester hours of mental health courses, many of which focus on the development of skills which have marketability in a number of human service areas. In addition to psychology majors, students in disciplines such as Health and Recreation, Social Welfare, Sociology, Special Education, Health Care Administration, Public Administration, Nursing, and Criminal Justice, may elect to take some of the courses or the entire core of courses as a minor.

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The Department of Psychology will offer three mental health courses next semester. They are, Psychology 234, Introduction to the Delivery of Mental Health Services; Psychology 339, Methods in the Delivery of Mental Health Services; and 460C, Community Therapy, The How to of Social Skills Training.

Next semester the two special topic courses in the Department of Psychology will be Psych. 360B, Contemporary Sex Patterns and Psych. 460C, Community Therapy. Both courses have the potential for being dynamic, enjoyable and an absorbing experience. Contemporary Sex Patterns will cover such topics as sexual behavior and expressions, sex and morality, and changing sex roles. Community Therapy will introduce students to the development and implementation of programs designed to enhance people's effectiveness in coping with our everyday social worlds. Skill in the design and implementation of such programs would be useful for any student planning a career in any of the human services.

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Ted Jones, Chairman, of the Department of Art, has been selected to exhibit a drawing entitled "Super-Patriot" in the American Drawing II Exhibition in Portsmouth, Virginia, through December 29.

Fifty drawings will be selected from this exhibition to travel under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

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An invitation has been extended to Ted Jones of the Art department to exhibit in the upcoming exhibition entitled "Black Artists/South, 1800-1978, in Huntsville Museum of Art and the First Annual Creole Feast Invitational Print Show in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Ms. Nina Lovelace of the Art Department won a fourth place honorable mention in Graphics at the Eighteenth All-State Artists Exhibition, being held in Centennial Park at the Parthenon Galleries, November 19-December 19. Also showing in the exhibition was Ms. Viola Wood, ceramicist, of the Art Department; Senior student, Doris Scott; Associate Professor, Greg Ridley and one alumnus of the University, Bill Johnson, Head of the Art department at McGavock High School.

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Greg Ridley, Associate Professor in the University's Art Department, will open a one-man showing of his recent brass, copper, and leather repousse work at the National Baptist Publishing House, December 3. The exhibi-

tion will last through the month of December. It will be sponsored by the Seigenthaler Agency with Bob Holmes and John Seigenthaler representing the agency, and T. B. Boyd, III and Brenda Boyd representing the Publishing House committee.

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Dr. Dorothy Grandberry-Stewart recently coordinated a successful two-day workshop for mental health agency personnel. The workshop was a cooperative venture between the Mental Health Concentration in Psychology and local mental health agencies. There were approximately 100 participants.

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During the latter part of October, three Psychology faculty members, Dr. Dorothy Grandberry-Stewart, Douglas Simpson, and James Stewart attended the annual meeting of the Tennessee Psychological Association in Chattanooga.

Bureau of Public Relations

Accent is published each Monday through the fall and spring semesters for the faculty and staff at the University. Deadline for inclusion is 10:00 a.m. each Tuesday.

WTSU

A LOOK AT BOOKS

Wednesday: 2:30 p.m.

58 (AM)



Ms. Uche Egbunine and brother Onii, present Dr. Evelyn Fancher, Director of the Library, with a Ivory tusk, in appreciation for the vital role the University has played in assisting their education. University president, Dr. Frederick Humphries, was on hand for the occasion. The tusk is valued over \$3,000.00.

The Black Rural Landowner—Endangered Species

A new book, *The Black Rural Landowner—Endangered Species: Social, Political and Economic Implications*, which is designed to illustrate Black landownership and Black migration spanning a 50 year period is being co-authored by Robert Boone, Tennessee State University's director of Public Services.

The 208 page book scheduled for publication in March, 1979, takes the black landowner of the South through the exodus from the South to Northern urban areas after World War II and through the northern urban area economic stagnation in the 70's.

According to Boone, the book covers the new reverse trend by many Blacks, who because of these depressed economic conditions, are mi-

grating back to the South in large numbers, and who are beginning to buy back land in rural Southern areas.

"We are attempting to show that over a period of time there have been significant economic, political and social phenomena which caused Blacks to sell land they once held in the South and the efforts they are undertaking to become new landowners," Boone said.

Co-authored by Leo McGee, an Assistant Dean for Continuing Education and Public Service at Tennessee Technological University, the book includes essays that examine efforts to aid blacks in acquiring and keeping southern land; and the authors speculate on the uncertain future of the Black landowner.

The book is being published by Greenwood Press of Westport, Connecticut.

VA Widows To Get Extra Benefits

The Veterans Administration is making a special effort to acquaint a quarter of a million surviving spouses of veterans as to their possible eligibility for an additional monthly benefit payment just authorized by Congress.

VA chief Max Cleland said the new added payment of \$45 a month will go to widows or widowers now on VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation rolls who are so disabled as to be confined to their homes or immediate premises yet not so ill as to require nursing home care or the aid and attendance of another person.

Cleland said VA's problem is that, although the agency knows the identity of those receiving DIC and aid and attendance payments, it has no way of knowing how many of the DIC recipients are sufficiently disabled to be eligible for the new benefit.

"Prior to passage of this new benefit, these individuals were not covered for a confining disability that did not require nursing home care aid and attendance, so they have never applied," he said.

To alert potential beneficiaries, Cleland said agency has enclosed a notice of the new benefits category with its November DIC checks.

The VA chief also said he is asking national veterans organizations to assist the agency in locating widows and widowers of veterans who may be eligible for the housebound benefit.

Cleland urges any surviving spouses of veterans who have further questions concerning eligibility to contact the nearest VA office or a member of one of the veterans organizations in their community.

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