

# POINT S OF PRI DE



Fall 2016

*Issue #1*

***Devi Akella***

brings the ASU  
College of  
Business to the  
West Bank

***Educational  
Leadership***

prepares to  
revolutionize the  
training of principals

***George  
Thomas and  
Rani George***

remind everyone that  
"We Are One"

***Donyale  
Childs***

sheds a light on health  
disparities affecting  
Southwest Georgia



# Welcome to Points of Pride

Albany State University is the home of faculty, staff, and students all working diligently to promote the mission of the university. This publication highlights their accomplishments.

The shining performance of the Albany State University marching band at the Tournament of Roses Parade was certainly a triumph, but it represented even more than just a masterful combination of music, movement, and precision. When the band began their march through the

streets of Pasadena, California, they were the culmination of years of work involving band members, dancers, drum majors, and band director Michael Decuir. The entire ASU community got together to support the band, pitching in with donations and fund raisers to send them on their way.



This collaboration marks a core trait of the ASU personality. Faculty and staff members are in constant search of new ways to serve their students, the community, and various academic fields. In the pages that follow, you will see that work and collaboration powerfully on display.

As a result, our faculty, staff, and students are blazing trails in educator preparation, performance, mental health awareness, health disparities, and in a wide variety of other research, scholarship, grant, and service efforts.

Prepare to be impressed.

For my part, it would be a wild understatement to say that it has been an honor to serve as the

Inaugural Provost Faculty Fellow. As I learn more about how the university works, I am also learning more about how rich and productive parts of the campus are that I have not previously had the opportunity to visit. It is a humbling and rewarding experience. So, thank you for that. I look forward to continued revelations.



Kevin M. Scott  
Associate Professor of English  
Provost Faculty Fellow

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Left: Students gather as part of the College of Education's PENning ceremony (Professionals Engaging the Novice), which pairs working teachers with teacher candidates.



Above: Assistant professor of Spanish Adriana Primo-McKinley stands ready to talk about her home country, Brazil, as part of International Education Week in November.



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Left above: Fine Arts professor Charles Williams "signs the beam" as part of the Topping Ceremony marking completion of the roof structure of the new Fine Arts Center.

Left below: Dean of the College of Business Alicia Jackson presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Kevin D. Johnson, founder and CEO of Johnson Media and author of *The Entrepreneur Mind*. Johnson spoke at ASU as part of the Business Lecture Series.



Center middle: Albany Mayor Dorothy Hubbard, assistant professor of music Ken Trimmins, and others honor those who served during the Veterans Day celebration on the ASU campus on November 10.

Center bottom: Professor of math Gwendolyn Campbell-Williams prepares students for college-level work during the Holley Summer Bridge Program.

# College of Arts and Humanities

The university's most diverse college has been busy. Faculty engaged in a multitude of research activities, often involving their students. As well, instructors across the college created compelling educational experiences designed to enhance and enliven student learning.



## Academic Success Unit

For the past two summers, the unit has sponsored the J. W. Holley Summer Bridge Program for students seeking full admission to the university. While the 2015 program was a pilot, the 2016 summer program made every attempt to bring students into the university who had excellent GPAs and who were close to admission standards with their test scores. As a result of the program, 14 students are currently attending ASU.



## We are One

Left: George Thomas and a student practice Tai Chi as part of the “Walk Away from Stigma” activities, part of the “We Are One Albany State University” grant funded by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Above: ASU First Lady Karen Baynes-Dunning relaxes with some Walk Away from Stigma participants.

## Criminal Justice

### Grants resident in the Department:

- Drs. George Thomas and Rani George: GLS Campus Suicide Prevention “We Are One Albany State University” grant funded by SAMHSA (2013-2016). Amount: \$ 304,746
- George Thomas, Sandra Handwerk, and Rani George: MSI- CBO “Project STOP” grant funded by SAMHSA (2015-2018)

- Dr. Glenn Zuern- Project Manager, Project Integrate CPTED. Amount: \$50,000 for 2016 and \$50,000 potentially for 2017. This grant is in collaboration with the Albany Housing Authority and the City of Albany.
- Dr. Charles O. Ochie, National Summer Transportation Institute. Amount: \$45,000 for 2016. This has been a continuous service grant since 1995.

## English, Modern Languages & Mass Communication

- The Department of English, Modern Languages and Mass Communication hosted its nationally recognized Annual Poetry Festival on November 7-10, 2016, featuring writers of national acclaim who will contribute poems to the Department’s publication, *The Pierian*.
- Dr. James L. Hill, Chair, serves as Vice President of the Georgia Council of Teachers of English and is Associate Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, which was held in Atlanta in November 2016.



Dominique Wade, a Speech and Theatre major in Eve Graves Acting II class, performs a scene from Euripides’ *Medea*.

## Fine Arts

- After an extensive fund-raising campaign, Albany State university Marching Band director Michael Decuir led the band to a rousing performance in the Tournament of Roses Parade in January 2016.
- Dr. Mimi Noda (Music) completed the summer term in Japan as a part of the ASU Study Abroad Program and developed a reciprocal program for Japanese students.
- Dr. Florence Lyons (Speech and Theatre) developed relationships with several Universities (UCLA, Gordon, and University of Pittsburgh), that has afforded ASU students opportunities to internship at their schools with the opportunity for future graduated study.
- Dr. Marcia Hood, (Fine Arts, chair) served as guest conductor for the Heritage Festival in Macon, Georgia. The Heritage Festival is comprised of high school choirs from the Macon school system and feature African American Spirituals.
- The ASU Concert Chorale is planning a concert tour of the Dominican Republic in May. The Chorale will present three concerts and visit historic sites.
- Art professors Charles Williams and Scott Marini worked with faculty from Darton State College to organize the South Georgia College Art Competition, held at the Albany Area Arts Council's Carnegie Library headquarter. ASU students took home several first- and second-place awards.



## Public Administration

- Dr. Veronica Adams-Cooper and Dr. Peter Ngwafu, along with the Lois B. Hollis Center for Public Deliberation and Participation in the Department of Public Administration, initiated the introduction of the national Public Service Recognition Week to the community during the May 4-10, 2014 observance period.
- Dr. Robert Dauphin has published a book titled "Organizational Technocratic Personality: An Ideal Pure Type" and has also published in journals such as "The One Voice International Collection of Scholarly Works" and the "International Journal of Research in the Academic Disciplines in Higher Education."
- Dr. Peter Ngwafu has served on the DARTS Lee County Citizens Transportation Committee since 2009 and in January 2016, he was unanimously elected as its Chairperson
- Dr. Valerie Adams-Cooper was principal investigator of the grant-funded research, "The Effect of Experience with Public Deliberation on the Political Efficacy of College Students." The research was





Chair of the Department of Fine Arts Marcia Hood leads the ASU Concert Chorale and Chamber Singers in a performance of Christmas music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

ASU Professors Stephanie Hankerson and Jeffery Mack (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from left) with poets L. Lamar Wilson, Douglass Kearney, Kwame Dawes, and Kalamu ya Salaam at the 2016 Annual Poetry Festival.



- supported by the Charles F. Kettering Foundation Joint Learning Agreement with Albany State University.
- Dr. Bruce Neubauer also received the Social Equity Curriculum Award for his collaborative work with Dr. Thomas Sinclair of the State University of New York at Binghamton, at the 2013 NASPAA Conference in Washington D.C., in October 2013
- Sandra Handwerk, along with professors Rani George and George Thomas, in Criminal Justice, received a \$769,165 grant from SAMHSA to support HIV/AIDS prevention as part of Project: STOP (Students Taking on



Dr. Peter A Ngwafu (center) holds a proclamation issued by Albany's mayor and city commissioners celebrating national Public Service Recognition Week. With him are Ms. Shelena Hawkins, City of Albany Director of Community and Economic Development, and Ms. Phyllis Brown, Compliance Officer for the City of Albany Department of Community and Economic Development.

## History and Political Science

- Approximately 80% of students who graduate from this department are admitted into law schools, while a significant number continue onto graduate schools. Notable among our graduates are recipients of full scholarships from Vanderbilt University and UCLA Law Schools.

# College of Business

## Awards, Honors, and Recognition

- Dr. Amaechi N. Nwaokoro received a National Excellence in Research Award from Clute Institute, Spring 2016. His article, "Exploratory Study of the Relationship between Poverty and Crimes in Albany/Dougherty County Georgia," was the most referenced article connecting poverty and crime.
- Dr. Devi Akella worked at Birzeit University in the West Bank for a month on a Fulbright Specialist Grant. The Fulbright Specialist was required to review the curriculum, faculty and staff, research and professional experience and suggest steps to overcome any existing limitations which might come in way of AACSB accreditation. The objective was to minimize the risk of accreditation failure in future. The Fulbright Specialist had to work with the Dean, Program Heads and faculty to assess where the college stood on each of the fifteen standards of AACSB and suggest processes to overcome the areas of weaknesses.
- MBA team members earned a participation certificate and a \$400 cash award and the team leader Debra T. Wiley was awarded the Best Presenter Certificate and a \$250 cash award during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual KeyBank Foundation & The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, Minority MBA Student Case Competition, Spring 2016.



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## Poverty and Crime

*The twin issues of poverty and crimes are mortgaging the lives of especially the younger ones. If we expect the future of the younger ones in particular to be brighter than that of the current generation, we have to confront poverty and crimes by leading the younger ones particularly to self-select market norms like education, and shared values, instead of poverty, crimes, and incarceration.*

*Dr. Amaechi Nwaokoro*



**Dr. Devi Akella spent more than a month in the West Bank as part of a Fulbright Specialist grant. She worked with Birzeit University to prepare its business program for AACSB accreditation.**



**Dr. Amaechi Nwaokoro presents National Excellence in Research Award from the Clute Institute.**

## Papers Published

- Akella, D. (2016). "Workplace Bullying: Not a Manager's Right", *Journal of Workplace Rights*, Jan-March Issue, pp. 1-10.
- Akella D. (2016). "Dialogue for Fostering Participation or Manipulation: A Phenomenological Study of a Healthcare Company," *Journal of Workplace Rights*, April-June Issue, 1-11.
- Washington, S.; Akella, D. & Bennett, C. (2016). "A Study on Mentor-Protégé Assessment in Healthcare Industry", *International Journal of Business, Humanities and Technology*, 6 (1), 11-23.
- Johnson, S. (2016, March). Information Technology and Health Administration Education. *International Journal of Education and Human Development*, 2 (2), 12 – 17.
- Johnson, S. (2015, Fall). Post-Tenure Review: E-ssentials for Business and Other Faculty. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, Volume 19, Issue 3, ISSN 1096-1453.
- Johnson, S. (2015, Fall). "Post-tenure Review: E-ssentials for Business and Other Faculty." *Scholarship of Teaching & Learning*. Editor, Pec, Steve C., Volume 7, ISBN 0-9709895-1-7. (Chapter in Book).
- Park, M. & Clark, S. (2015). "A Reduced Form Model for Valuing Bonds with Make-Whole Call Provision", *Applied Mathematical Finance*, 1-23.
- Quaye, F. (2016). "Effects of Multiple Risks on Farm Income and Willingness to Pay for Agricultural Insurance: A Case Study of the Greater Accra Region in Ghana", *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 8 (6), 1-12.
- Nwaokoro, Amaechi (May 2016), "Survey of Free Market Principles for Encouraging Market Participation of African American and the Economically Challenged", *International Journal of Economics and Finance*. *Accepted for Publication*.
- Nwaokoro, Amaechi and Abiodun Ojemakinde (January-March 2015), "Purchasing Powers Disparity Faced by African Americans: Emphasis on Albany Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Of Southwest Georgia", *Journal of Poverty*, 19(1).
- Washington, S.; Akella, D. & **Bennett, C.** (2016). "A Study on Mentor-Protégé Assessment in Healthcare Industry", *International Journal of*

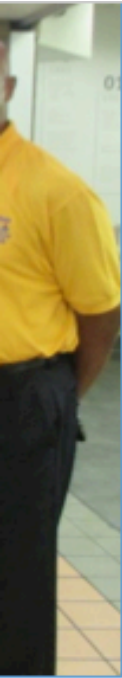


## The BYE and the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute

Professor Cynthia Bennett directed the 33<sup>rd</sup> Celebration of Black Youth in Entrepreneurship, a program funded by University of Georgia Office of Minority Business Development and the Georgia Council on Economic Education. Student participants took a field trip to the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute near Atlanta. ABOVE: Bennet, professor Maurice Eiliard, and a student present Chick-fil-A CEO Wayne Blessitt with a Certificate of Appreciation for presenting at the Institute. RIGHT: Student and staff participants in the Allen Institute trip.

## Teaching

- Bennett, Cynthia and Washington, Sandra (March, 2016). Jamaica Study Abroad Initiative. During their 2016 Spring Semester Break, Drs. Bennett and Washington self-sponsored a trip to Kingston, Jamaica--in order to initiate and do pre-planning for a study-abroad program with the University of West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica. The pre-planning consisted of a one-day workshop that included budgeting, curriculum planning, and a complete campus/community tour.



## **P**resentations and Grants

- Bennett, Cynthia (June 2016). Awarded \$10,000 in Grants. Directed the 33rd Annual Black Youth and Entrepreneurship Program (BYE), June 6-9, 2016. BYE is for high school students in the Southwest Georgia area who are interested in small business ownership and management. Emphasis is also placed on personal development and career planning.
- Bennett, Cynthia (September 2016). Presented at the Annual Retreat for the Georgia Council on Economic Education: *"The Progression of the ASU Black Youth and Entrepreneurship Program."* Bennet also arranged a congratulatory reading (from BYE Founder) at the Retirement Reception of Dr. David Martin, Executive Director of GCEE.

## **S**ervice and Faculty Development

- Bennett, Cynthia (June 2016). Escorted 28 high school students to the Allen Entrepreneurial Institute, Mr. Leicester "Bill" Allen, Founder. Students were involved in leadership, etiquette, and entrepreneurial training.
- Bennett, Cynthia (April, 2016). Served as college representative and classroom facilitator at the Dougherty Comprehensive High School Career Week. Bennett also chaired/presided at the DCHS Business Advisory Board--met once per semester (fall and spring).

# College of Education

The program in Educational Leadership will participate in a \$47-million-dollar grant intended to improve the preparation of school principals.

Thomas Thompson, the dean of the College of Education, said that the project will be an important part of making sure Southwest Georgia has enough quality principals.

*The Educational Leadership program in the the Wallace Foundation in New York City. The Professional Standards Commission to redes*

“With the high level of poverty and diminishing opportunity in this region, particularly among our population of teenagers, access to high quality public education via effective elementary and secondary schools is crucial; and it all starts with the quality of leadership provided in children’s schools.”

Albany State University is the only Georgia school, among the grant. Moving forward with the initiative over the next year, we will partner with school systems in Dougherty County, Pelham

According to Dr. Deborah Bembry, the chair of the department of Educational Leadership and principal investigator in the grant, “We have a performance based where we take the training out of the classroom and into school systems where our students will be paired with mentors to allow them to apply the principles of excellent school leadership.”

(Quotations originally published in *The Albany Herald*.)



*College of Education received a grant of more than six million dollars from The purpose of the grant is assist ASU, partner districts, and the Georgia sign the principal preparation program that will become a model for the*

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Professors Janis Carthon and Deborah Bembry hold the symbolic check presented at Wallace Foundation event on the ASU campus on October 13.

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*Educational  
Leadership and the  
Wallace Foundation  
Team Up to  
Revolutionize  
Principal Training in  
Southwest Georgia*

In four years, our redesigned principal-preparation program will be an exemplary, evidence-based leadership program which will be used as a model across the state and nation.

--Dr. Janis Carthon

## Counseling and Educational Leadership

- The master's in Educational Leadership (Tier I) has been approved by the Georgia Professional Standards commission to offer the master's in leadership at ASU.
- The School counseling program was approved for accreditation by the Board of Directors of the Council for Accreditation and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) through October 31, 2022.
- The May 2016 issue of Top Counseling Schools Best Value listed Albany State's counseling program in its ranking of top six "Value Counseling Master's Degree in Georgia". Albany State is ranked fourth.
- Angie Gardner, the new principal of the new Commodore Conyers College and Career Academy is a 2015 graduate of the educational leadership specialist program.

## Teacher Education

- Drs. Rhonda Porter, John Williams, Louise Wrensford, and Li Feng were awarded a grant of nearly \$650,000 to study the impact of placing students in a cohort community in relation to persistence and perseverance in STEM.
- Dorene Medlin was named a Georgia Governor's Teaching Fellow. The fellowship provides a select group of educators expanded opportunities to develop leading edge instructional practices.
- Dr. Tiffany Pogue participated in the Social Justice Learning Community, and Dr. Patricia Jenkins participated in the Digital Divide and Conquer Learning Community.
- Dr. Tiffany Pogue coordinated the 2016 CREST-Ed grant at ASU. The program is designed to prepare students to teach in high-needs urban and rural areas.



CREST-Ed at Albany State University: ASU was visited by its CREST-Ed partners at Georgia State University. Pictured Dr. Debra T. Wiley, ASU Teacher Education, Dr. Tiffany Pogue, Coordinator for Education Foundations and CREST-E Takeebie Jefferson, Director of Online Learning for the College of Education, and Ms. Terry Magaro, CREST-Ed Coordinator for Georgia State University and the Clayton County School System.





Assistant professors Dorene Medlin and Tiffany Pogue, left, and Erica Decuir, right, pose with a class of participants in the 2016 Summer Learning Academy.

## Summer Learning Academy

*Erica Decuir directed the 2016 Summer Learning Academy, The academy is a STEM-based summer enrichment program that teaches advanced concepts in math and science to rising third, fourth, and fifth graders (ages 7-10). It promotes creative and active learning through science experimentation, math manipulatives, and modeling. The week-long summer program culminates with a science-themed field trip to the GO FISH Education Center in Perry GA to learn how STEM concepts come alive in the real world.*



# College of Science and Health Professions

## Health Disparities Conference

Professors, health professionals, and students gathered in September 2016 to address the issue of health disparities in Southwest Georgia. The research suggests that individuals in the region experience significantly different health outcomes based on a variety of factors.

According to Dr. Donyale Childs, assistant professor of nursing and coordinator of the conference, "One of the things that we focus on that we like to bring attention to especially for the young populations are the things that affect them most. Our first presenter focuses specifically on STD's, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and that nature which is something at this age in the young population, especially college-age students that think they're invincible."



## *Tackling Health Disparities in Southwest Georgia*

Far left: Dr. Donyale Childs poses with student participants of the Health Disparities Conference. Left: Sandra Handwerk presents research at the conference. Below: Dr. Joyce Johnson and others listens to a student present research on health disparities.



Dr. Joyce Johnson, Dean of the College of Sciences and Health Professions, developed the theme further. "There's a great disparity in the number of incidences of HIV between the black population and white population. That there are different strategies that can be used and that using evidence-based strategies is the best approach."

"Basically, what we do is showcase the research that is conducted by partner organizations, institutions, and our faculty members, along with their students about different health problems and health disparities that we find within our district."

The conference covered a wide variety of topics. "One of the major things that we've been dealing with for a period of time and is ongoing is cardiovascular disease. We've been working to try to narrow those and to try to find strategies where we can help with prevention and, if not prevention, then management. So that you have less mortality, less morbidity."

(Quotations originally published on WXFL.com.)



## **M**ath and Computer Science

- Georgia's Board of Regents awarded the department \$20,000 for its STEM Education Improvement Plan.
- The department continues to run the HBCU-Up grant, worth \$1.75 million over four years.
- The Board of Regents has approved the department's prospectus for a Master of Science in Applied Math.

## **N**atural and Forensic Science

- Dr. Ashok Jain participated in BPViz'16, the "Bridging Science, Technology, and the Arts through Visualization" workshop at Purdue University.
- Dr. Ghislain Mandouma worked with students at the Brookhaven national Laboratory on a Summer Research Grant sponsored by the National Science Foundation in August 2016.
- In the summer of 2016, Amir Saheb collaborated with researchers at Georgia Tech University on the DNA Microelectrode Sensor Project.
- Dr. Seo Seong, in August, attended the 2016 Threat Agent Toxicology and Enabling Science Project-Level Science and Technology (S&T) Review.

Drs. Uzoma Okafor (left), Zachariah Oommen (center), and Oluseyi Vanderpuye (right) pose with students at the Delta Delta Epsilon—National Forensic Science Association Induction Ceremony on December 1, 2016.



Dr. Ojo Olabisi presents students at the Forensic Epidemiology Conference at ASU in April, 2016.

## **N**ursing, Health & Human Performance

- Dr. Donyale Childs earned her Doctorate in Public Health from Walden University.
- Ms. Catherine Hall received certification as a Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner from Columbus State University.
- Ten graduate family nurse practitioner students presented post presentations of their theses at the Florida Nurses Association (FNA) North Central Region Conference.
- Department of Nursing has received accreditation for its undergraduate and graduate programs from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing until December 2021.
- Dr. Donyale Childs served as chair in organizing and coordinating the 2016 Health Disparities Conference.

## **M**ilitary Science

- Developed partnerships with local high schools.
- Organized training at Fort Benning, Georgia and other sites for cadet training.
- Provided support for Veteran's Day celebration and Dr. Arthur Dunning's Investiture as the new Albany State University President.

## *Provost's Message*



I read these pages with pride. I believe that, like me, you will see the Albany State University community at its best here. The stories and information in this newsletter reveal our faculty, staff, and students bringing their knowledge, creativity, and service not just to the campus but to the city, region, state, and world.

Innovative teaching, groundbreaking research, society-changing service. ASU continues its tradition as a force for development and change. With over 3,500 students, four colleges, and dozens of world-class programs, ASU leads the way in Southwest Georgia. As we consolidate with Darton State College, our two schools will become the "New ASU," and I can only imagine that the combined initiative and energy of these great institutions will lead to ever-more-impressive editions of this newsletter.

So stay tuned!

Tau Kadhi  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

