USA College of Education Helps Address Teacher Shortage in Mobile County Public Schools

Recognizing that Mobile County and other communities across the nation are facing a teacher shortage, College of Education Dean Richard L. Hayes has announced its pilot Mentor Teacher Program, MTP, which aims to build, support and sustain a capable teaching force.

The University’s Mentor Teacher Program will be a yearlong pilot project designed to help meet the demand for teachers, while enhancing USA’s teacher education program.

“With this new pilot program, USA will help the Mobile County Public School System achieve a long-term solution to the teacher shortage by enhancing the quality of graduates,” said Dr. Andrea Kent, director of field services for the College of Education.

The pilot program will be a collaborative effort between the USA College of Education’s Office of Field Services and the Mobile County Public Schools.

“We are pleased to announce that with the creation of this pilot program, we have identified 20 teacher education candidates who will staff 10 classrooms, affecting more than 200 children in Mobile County Public Schools,” said Dr. Phillip Feldman, associate dean of education at USA.

The MTP teacher education candidates will have intense supervision and support of mentor and master teachers, school principals and a supervisor from USA’s College of Education. The four Title One schools in Mobile identified as sites for the pilot program are Glendale, Eichold-Mertz, John Will and Spencer elementary schools.
USA Students Plan Trips to France

Three USA students have received scholarships to study abroad through the Caldwell Scholarship.

Since 1994, the James and Ivel Caldwell Scholarship has helped 18 USA students gain international training. The $70,000 endowment by the family and friends of Dr. and Mrs. Caldwell helps students in the College of Arts and Sciences travel and study abroad.

The late Dr. Caldwell was a well-known educator in Alabama and several foreign countries, including Iraq, Jordan and Indonesia. During USA’s formative years, Dr. Caldwell served as vice president for development and contracts. He also wrote, “Magic — No! Miracle – Yes! The Founding and Early Development of The University of South Alabama.”

Jim Caldwell, a son of the late Dr. Caldwell, said his father had a vision for USA and Mobile’s international presence because of its strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico.

“This University should serve its interests by educating people in international politics and culture,” Mr. Caldwell said.

After seeing scholarship winners receive the award, Mr. Caldwell said his late father was incredibly pleased and hopeful for the future success of USA students.

“It was something that was a dream fulfilled for him,” Mr. Caldwell said.

Dr. Stephen Morris, professor of political science, said the Caldwell Scholarship removes the financial hurdle that often prevents USA students from studying abroad.

“Nothing compares to a true international experience,” said Morris, who participated in a life-changing study abroad program in 1981. “It provides a real-life laboratory that brings together language, culture, politics and society. The classroom is merely a reflection of an abstraction of reality, whereas a program abroad gives the students a true taste of that reality.”

Seniors Danielle Bruhl and Caroline Lyons will journey to Dijon, France, this summer for a six-week program at Universite de Bourgogne.

Lyons, a 27-year-old Mobilian, said she would like to learn to speak French fluently in order to continue her education with a master’s degree in secondary education, concentrating on French and social studies. At USA, she is double-majoring in French and international studies.

Bruhl, a 22-year-old Mobilian, said she has always been fascinated with the French language and culture. She thinks bilingualism is increasingly important in a global economy. She is double-majoring in French and communication.

For the first time this year, a Caldwell Scholarship has been given to an incoming freshman student who is interested in language and international issues. Tania Morris-Diaz plans to double major in communication and drama.

She said international travel interests her because it tells a story of the country.

“International travel gives a different side of a story politically, culturally and historically. Each country has its own unique blend of peoples, customs, language and ideals while also holding many similarities shared throughout the world.”

The Caldwell scholarship is open to arts and sciences students with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall and 3.0 in foreign language, with at least one year of language training prior to the study abroad. Preference is given to juniors and seniors with little or no foreign experience. Students must use the award to participate in an established study abroad program and prepare a final report for the Caldwell Board upon their return.

USA College of Education Professor Receives Fulbright Scholar Award

Dr. Jack Dempsey, chair of the department of professional studies in the College of Education at the University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship grant sponsored by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Dempsey will conduct research and lecture in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during the 2006-2007 academic year. A professor in the instructional design and development program at USA, Dempsey said he is honored to receive this award.

“I have developed great relationships with a number of the international students, including Malaysian graduate students that have studied in my academic program and worked with me in the USA Online Learning Lab,” he said. “This experience has a profound and enriching effect on me as an educator and encouraged my interest in other countries.”

Dempsey is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 150 countries this upcoming academic year through the Fulbright Scholarship Program. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the Fulbright Scholar Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. The program builds mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Dempsey has an extensive background in instructional design, and has always been intrigued by Southeast Asia and wanted to travel there. He said he is grateful for the opportunity to share his expertise and learn more about Malaysia and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

“For more than 20 years, I have been involved in education and training adults at various levels,” he said. “Although the details of my Fulbright assignment are not settled at this juncture, I understand that I’ll be affiliated with Multimedia University, which is a fairly new national university focusing on the IT and multimedia industry. Also, I have proposed to work with university faculty and administrators, conduct workshops, and assist with curriculum and institutional development, particularly related to technology-based education.”

Dempsey said another primary goal is to collaborate with Malaysian academics on ongoing and future research projects related to instructional design and the use of educational technologies. He said a real plus for him is the possibility of establishing bilateral ties with Malaysian university faculty.

“Like many of my colleagues in the U.S., I had been focusing on American educational theories, American research, American practices, and American academic programs,” Dempsey said. “It is an easy thing to do because we live in a large country and there is a great deal going on. But, there is also a great deal going on in the rest of the world in higher education and, to me, it has become increasingly important to interact with colleagues in other countries.”

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange activity, has been in existence for more than 60 years. Thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have studied, taught or done research through this program.

“Dr. Dempsey’s receipt of a Fulbright Award recognizes the excellence of his scholarship and the great potential for his contribution.
to instructional design in a global society,” said Dr. Richard L. Hayes, dean of the College of Education at USA. “The College of Education is extremely proud of his selection and of his membership on our faculty.”

Recipients of the Fulbright Scholar award are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

**Engineering Faculty Present Papers at Defense and Security Symposium**

Drs. Mohammad Alam and Aed El-Saba, faculty members in the department of electrical and computer engineering at the University, presented 12 technical papers at the 2006 SPIE Defense and Security Symposium in Orlando, Fla. Ten of the papers were co-authored by USA graduate students and postdoctoral research associates in the department.

SPIE is the International Society for Optical Engineering, and its Defense and Security Symposium is the largest, unclassified international symposium related to sensors and sensor networks. Its goal is to eliminate barriers for engineers and scientists who are developing and utilizing electro-optical, digital, and microwave technologies for sensor-related defense and security applications.

Alam, professor and chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering, presented the following papers:

- “Improved Target Detection Algorithm Using Fukunaga-Koontz Transform and Distance Classifier Correlation Filter,” co-authored by graduate student Melih Seref Aslan and postdoctoral research associate Abdullah Bd.
- “Improved Clutter Rejection in Automatic Target Recognition and Tracking Using Eigen-Extended Maximum Average Correlation Height Filter and Polynomial Distance Classifier Correlation Filter,” co-authored by graduate student Muhammad Islam.
- “Fukunaga-Koontz Transform Based Dimensionality Reduction for Hyperspectral Imagery,” co-authored by Ochilov and Bd.
- “Use of Shifted Phase-Encoded Joint Transform Correlation for Class-Associative Color Pattern Recognition,” co-authored by postdoctoral research associate Nazrul Islam.
- “Non-Conventional Joint Transform Correlation Using Grating Filters and Heterodyne Scanning Techniques for Pattern Recognition Applications,” co-authored by Dr. Abdallah Cherri, professor of electrical engineering at Kuwait University.

El-Saba, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at USA, presented the following technical papers:

- “Enhanced Rotation and Scale-Invariant Target Detection Using the Fringe-Adjusted Joint Transform Correlation,” co-authored by Alam and graduate student Wessam Sakla.

**USA Violence Prevention** – An external expert advisory council meets on the USA main campus to evaluate research proposals and make funding recommendations for the University’s Youth Violence Prevention Program developed by USA faculty. From back row left are Dr. Timothy Cavell, professor of clinical training at the University of Arkansas; Dr. Robert Sigler, professor of criminal justice at the University of Alabama; President/CEO of W.R. Blount & Associates Inc. Dr. William Blount, a professor and past chair of criminology at the University of South Florida; and Dr. Keith Davis, professor of psychology at the University of South Carolina. Front row left are Robert Martin, retired administrator and chief operations officer of James T. Strickland Youth Center; Dr. David Aday Jr., professor of sociology and director of American studies at College of William and Mary; and Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, co-principle investigator of the YVPP and professor of psychology at USA. Dr. G. David Johnson, dean of USA’s College of Arts and Sciences, is the principal investigator of the $690,024 grant, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.
USA Trains Teachers to Better Prepare Students for Success in Math, Science and Technology

Hundreds of teachers from Mobile and Baldwin counties this summer attended a professional development workshop to improve ways to teach math and science to students during the 2006 Alabama, Math, Science and Technology Initiative, held for two weeks at Baker High School.

The USA department of leadership and teacher education and the South Alabama Research and Inservice Center, SARIC, in the College of Education, the Alabama Department of Education and Gulf Coast Exploreum sponsored the training.

“Each year our goal is to increase the number of teachers who receive AMSTI training,” said Dr. Phillip Feldman, associate dean of the College of Education at USA.

AMSTI is funded through the No Child Left Behind Federal Act and is the Alabama Department of Education’s initiative to improve math and science teaching statewide. Developed by a blue-ribbon committee of educators, university professors and business leaders, the program requires administrators and teachers to undergo additional specialized training.

The Gulf Coast Exploreum continues to partner with USA to implement the AMSTI program. AMSTI staff members help direct professional development and manage more than 100 science kits and 300 math kits for the program, offering teachers ready-to-teach materials.

“Test scores are indicating that AMSTI is making an incredible difference in student learning,” noted AMSTI USA Project Director Shelley Rider.

USA Holds Successful Professional Development Workshop for Teachers

More than 2,000 reading teachers attended the 2006 Alabama Reading Initiative Academies, a series of professional development
institutes designed to improve reading skills of K-12 students. The research-based training was held at seven sites in Mobile and Baldwin counties and included six weeks of weeklong workshops.

The ARI, a statewide reading training program for K-12 teachers, is managed by the Department of Education and hosted each year by the USA South Alabama Research and Inservice Center, SARIC, and other inservice centers around the state. SARIC works with ARI throughout the year.

“This initiative trains teachers from Mobile, Baldwin, Clarke, Monroe and Washington counties and Thomasville city schools in the areas of reading instruction,” said Dr. Mary Michael Campbell, associate director for SARIC at USA. Campbell was responsible for implementing the reading academies for the six school districts in southwest Alabama.

The teachers were involved in hands-on training and observed as reading coaches gave participating school children one-on-one instruction during the reading workshop.

“Teachers must diagnose each student’s reading dilemma,” said reading coach Deborah Sizemore, a teacher at Semmes Elementary. “It’s the critical content that makes good readers. As teachers of reading, we must make sure that reading is more than word calling for our students.”

More than 65 schools participated in this summer’s ARI academies.

“Our main goal is to make sure that children are reading at grade level,” Sizemore noted. “We want 100 percent literacy, which means that all children will be able to read and comprehend.”

According to Sizemore, students who are struggling readers need to be monitored on a weekly basis.

“We must identify what interferences are causing reading challenges in students and change the process if it’s not working,” she said.
Simulated Training Unit Demonstrates New Procedures at USA Medical Center

The USA Medical Center recently hosted the Boston Scientific Mobile Simulation Training Unit, a mobile operating room with a suite full of cardiovascular equipment. The 35-foot bus has a mock cardiology catheterization lab, an operating table and a patient named Simantha, a computerized mannequin.

The bus enabled USA physicians and nurses to receive hands-on experience with new cardiac devices and procedures. According to Boston Scientific, more than 3,000 physicians and nurses have trained on the bus since it opened in 2003.

USA Burn and Wound Care Center Recognizes Chaplains

The University’s Burn and Wound Care Center recently unveiled a plaque recognizing the contributions made by chaplains to the care of patients. The chaplain serves the immediate religious and pastoral needs of the patients and families in the center, which is located at USA Medical Center. The chaplain is available on 24-hour call for these services.

“We wanted to show our great appreciation to our chaplains for their tireless spiritual and moral support of our patients, their families, and our entire staff,” said Dr. Arnold Luterman, Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery and director of the USA Burn and Wound Care Center.

Established in 1981, the USA Burn and Wound Care Center is nationally recognized for leading-edge burn and wound care treatment and research. For more information, please visit www.southalabama.edu/usamc/centers.html#burnwound.

Imaging Center with Open MRI and Digital Mammography Coming to USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital

USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital has begun construction on their new Imaging Center, which will feature an open MRI, magnetic resonance imaging, system adaptable for very large patients and newborns alike.

The Siemens Magnetom Espree MRI will combine the open MRI design most patients find comfortable with the powerful
magnetic field strength usually associated with more confining imaging machines. Scans can be performed faster with more precise results and less patient repositioning.

The Imaging Center will also offer digital mammography, which has the ability to detect breast cancer earlier in more women than the film mammography units at most hospitals.

Being built adjacent to USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital, the Imaging Center’s design will feature a calming, low-stress environment within a comfortable, relaxed and private atmosphere. Patients will enter the new Imaging Center directly and conveniently without having to register within the main hospital or pass through hospital hallways when moving from one imaging procedure to another.

The Imaging Center at USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital is expected to be completed by the first of next year.

Expectant Parents Extravaganza Returns to USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital

A large and enthusiastic turnout of expectant parents and families visited USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital this summer for the second Expectant Parents Extravaganza.

The free community event offered tours of the hospital’s Labor and Delivery, Newborn Nursery, Neonatal Intensive Care and High-Risk Obstetric units. In addition, numerous health care vendors were present with informational displays and free product samples for expectant parents.

Career Services Holds Fall Career Expo

USA students and alumni are invited to speak with representatives from more than 70 companies during the 2006 Fall Career Expo, which will be held from 8 a.m.- noon, Tuesday, Sept. 12 in the USA Mitchell Center Arena.

The job fair, sponsored by the USA Career Services Center, is the largest employment event of the year. It provides students and alumni with information about current job openings and career fields. Undergraduate students can also learn about co-ops and internship opportunities.

Prior to the expo, students and alumni can attend two workshops designed to prepare them for the event. A resume writing workshop will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5 in Room 214 of the Student Center. The “Career Expo Success” seminar will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7 in Room 212 of the Student Center.

For more information, contact USA Career Services at 460-6188 or visit their Web site at www.southalabama.edu/careerservices.

USA College of Medicine Holds Successful Research Program

The 33rd annual Medical Student Research Day was held in the Charles M. Baugh Biomedical Library featuring oral and poster presentations by USA medical students and a keynote address by Vice Chair Dr. Alan Wells, Thomas J. Gill Professor of Pathology and medical director of section and laboratory medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

His presentation was on “Endothelial Cell Functionality During Wound Repair: CXCR3 Chemokines in Wound Resolution.”

Wells is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Association of University Pathologists. He has been a guest editor for Seminars in Cancer Biology and Microscopy Research and Technique.

USA International Studies Club Has Successful UN Meeting

The USA International Studies Club and Model United Nations Club hosted the High School Model United Nations on the USA main campus, according to Dr. Stephen Morris, club advisor and professor of political science and criminal justice.

Students from McGill-Toolen High School, Ocean Springs High School and Murphy High School participated. They represented a wide-range of countries on three United Nations committees: the Security Council, the World Health Organization and the UN High Commission on Refugees.

During the two-day conference, participants debated and passed resolutions on such issues as the avian flu, the right to food, internally displaced persons, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The award for best delegation went to Ocean Springs High School, which represented Russia.
New Fall Orientation Process — Dr. J. David Stearns, associate vice president for enrollment services, and Scott Smith (top left), manager of new student orientation, greet new students and parents in the Mitchell Center. During the new two-day orientation process, students attend Southbound Orientation, which provides information on academic advising, registration, housing and campus life. Each program is designed to give new students a smooth transition into university life.

Organization Presents Donation — The Alabama Fire Sprinkler Association presents a check for $13,500 to the USA Burn and Wound Care Center. From left are USA Burn and Wound Care Center Team members Dr. Arnold Luterman, Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery and center director; registered nurses Becky Pomrenke and Rigg Curtis; nurse manager Angela Duffy; and AFSA members Leland Moore, Joy Willis, Danny Dunaway and Greg Willis.
START YOUR JOB SEARCH NOW...

FALL CAREER EXPO

8 a.m.-noon
Tuesday, September 12
Mitchell Center Arena

All students and alumni welcome.

- Meet employers from 70 local and national companies
- Discover co-ops, internships and career opportunities
- Explore career options
- Enjoy company exhibits

Job Shopping?
Dress Professionally • Bring Resumes

Just Curious?
Come as You Are • Bring a Friend

Prepare for the Fall Career Expo
- Resume Development Workshop, September 5
- Career Expo Success Seminar, September 7

Call USA Career Services to sign up for workshops, or visit online for a complete list of Expo exhibitors.

USA Career Services • (251) 460-6188
www.southalabama.edu/careerservices
USA Hosts Leadership Program for Principals – Guest speakers for the "Charting a Leadership Course for Success" session join USA College of Education faculty following a series of workshops to motivate school principals as they prepare for a new academic year. From left are Alabama National Distinguished Principal Ramona Robinson of West Elementary School; Dr. David Gray, chair of leadership and teacher education at USA; Alabama Secondary Principal of the Year Richard Brown of Bearegard High School; Dr. Agnes Smith, associate professor of leadership and teacher education; and Dr. Mary Michael Campbell, director of the South Alabama Research and Inservice Center.

Summer Teacher Training – More than 700 teachers from Mobile and Baldwin counties participate in the opening ceremony of the 2006 Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative. AMSTI-USA Director Shelley Rider welcomes the crowd of educators as she prepares them for a fun workshop, which will improve their teaching strategies and provide tools for teaching math, science and technology.

AMSTI Makes a Difference – Science trainer Becky McCoy shows teachers an exercise on water evaporation. Participating teachers received professional development, equipment materials and on-site support during the two-week training sessions.
USA Honors Retirees

USA Bookstore sales clerk Dorothy Taylor reflects on her 35 years of service to the University during her retirement celebration. She will enjoy traveling and spending time with family.

Dr. Joseph Newman, professor of leadership and teacher education, receives gifts and best wishes from College of Education faculty and staff during his retirement reception. From left are Linda Cooper, word processing specialist; Newman; Marie Entessar, secretary IV; and Gail McLean, word processing specialist. Newman served the University for 28 years. He will reside in Asheville, N.C.

Dr. Linda Haynes, assistant professor of professional studies, celebrates 25 years of service at USA. Upon retirement from USA, she will take on a new position at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. A reception was hosted for Haynes by the College of Education faculty and staff.
The University Library and Program for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, PETAL, is offering a workshop for faculty on “Grade Book in Excel” from 10 a.m.-noon in the PETAL Lab, Room 123, in the University Library. Faculty will create a personal grade book that automatically assigns average, maximum and minimum scores for the individual student and the whole class, automatically adds bonus points on an individual basis, calculates the student’s final grade using a weighted scale, and assigns a letter grade. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Dr. Alla Zakharova at 461-1563.

The Mobile Arts Council is hosting a theatrical exhibition from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 318 Dauphin St. on Cathedral Square. The design work of USA drama faculty members Rebecca Britton, Lyle Miller and Constance Smith will be featured along with technical work of USA theatre students. For more information call 432-9796.

The USA Faculty Friday Workshop "Using a Web Based Course Management System for Online Course Development" begins at 4 p.m. in the College of Education Computer Lab. This workshop is a course management system for faculty members using eCompanion for Web-enhanced and fully online courses.

USA Fairhope Film Series for the fall semester begins with “The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill.” This documentary is rated PG and begins at 7 p.m. A donation of $4 is requested. For more details call 928-8133.

USA students and alumni are invited to speak with representatives from more than 70 companies during the 2006 Fall Career Expo, which will be held from 8 a.m.- noon in the USA Mitchell Center Arena. The job fair, sponsored by the USA Career Services Center, is the largest employment event of the year. It provides students and alumni with information about current job openings and career fields. Undergraduate students can also learn about co-ops and internship opportunities. For more information call 460-6188.

USA Fairhope Film Series continues with “The Squid and the Whale.” This comedy/drama is rated R and begins at 7 p.m. A donation of $4 is requested. For more details call 928-8133.

The Office of the President invites USA employees to attend the Employee Service Recognition Ceremony at 11:30 a.m. in the USA Mitchell Center.