College of Education
3rd Annual Research Symposium
“Improving Rural Life and Education”

Favrot Student Union
March 26-27, 2009
Grambling State University
Grambling, Louisiana
Greetings,

Welcome to the College of Education’s 3rd Annual Research Symposium. The theme of this year’s symposium is on Improving Rural Life and Education. The field of urban education has garnered quite a bit of attention in the past two decades, as it relates to how school and human services personnel are trained. With rapid demographic, technological, and now economic changes and challenges in our society, rural education has emerged as the new area of salience in education.

This year we invited scholars, practitioners, educators, and students from both urban and rural education fields to come together to exchange and disseminate ideas from their respective points of view to inform, enhance, and explore best practice in education and social service.

Ultimately, the research symposium seeks to provide opportunities for the field of education and ancillary fields/professions to create greater meaning and insight through interchange, dialogue, and engagement. This notion is an exciting and encouraging one; it may possibly serve as a model for other symposia with aspirations of broadening its perspective or disciplinary outlook. And, at the end of the day, this is what a research symposium should be: forward-thinking, rigorous, and challenging.

So, join us as we explore new and provocative concepts and ideas aimed at improving the social and educational condition in rural settings in this our 3rd Annual Research Symposium. You won’t regret it.

Best Regards,

Sean S. Warner, Dean
College of Education
March 12, 2009

Welcome to Lincoln Parish!

On behalf of the Ruston Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau we thank you for attending the College of Education Research Symposium at Grambling State University.

We truly hope that each of you will enjoy your visit to Grambling. While you are here, we encourage you to take advantage of the many wonderful aspects of Ruston and Lincoln Parish, from the wonderful food to the attractions and some of the best shopping in the South. It is all here for your enjoyment!

Again, thank you for taking the time to visit our part of Louisiana. The CVB invites you to come back often and spend a little time soaking up the beauty and charm of Lincoln Parish.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Bush
Director of Sales and Marketing
Ruston Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau
Shannan “Akosua” Magee graduated from the University of Massachusetts of Amherst where she received an undergraduate degree from the W.E.B. DuBois Afro-American Studies Department and a Master’s in Secondary Education. In 2003, she received an Education Specialist Degree in Education Administration & Leadership and became a Fulbright Scholar. In 2006, her research provided the foundation for the opening of the Girls Institute of Science & Technology (GIST); an NGO school located in rural Agogo, Ghana. Twenty-four (24) months later GIST morphed into what is now called YIST: the Youth Institute of Science & Technology (YIST). YIST serves more than 200 students from Agogo and the surrounding areas.

YIST-Agogo is the first of several model schools Akosua and collaborators are launching in Africa. Each YIST school focuses on a different renewable energy. Students at YIST-Agogo focus on Bio Diesel where they partner with Helporg.Inc. to produce Bio diesel fuels from local Palm Fruit.

Akosua Boateng is now preparing for the launch of two additional schools in Ghana: YIST-Ablekuma, an Islamic school with a focus on Solar Energy scheduled to open in September 2009 and GIST-Ejisu, an all girls school with a focus on Rain Water Harvesting and Organic Agro-processing. On the horizon, are the 2010 openings of YIST-Abidjan in Cote Dvoire and YIST-Kampala in Uganda.

Akosua and her team are dedicated to exposing children to science at an early age, and they are providing a curriculum along with teaching practices she hopes others will adopt.

Shannan “Akosua” Magee has always been about the business of teachable moments both in Ghana, where she has been living for months at a time since founding a school in the village of Agogo, and at home in Atlanta, Georgia where she trains teachers and advises independent schools.

Additionally, Magee, serves as a consultant for Atlanta parents who have chosen to home-school their children. Her consultancy primarily focuses on developing primary and secondary resources for curricula that infuse Africa and African history.

Ultimately, Akosua is an idea-woman and she hopes that her ideas on curriculum, teacher-training, and science education inspire her colleagues and students on both sides of the Atlantic to be fervent about educating all children, particularly those of African-descent.
Guest Speaker

Janet A. Guyden

Dr. Janet A. Guyden is the Associate Vice President for Research and Dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana. She has served as a professor of educational leadership in the Department of Educational Leadership and Human Services at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida, where she was actively involved in teaching, research, grant writing, and service and served as the Principal Investigator for the FAMU Teachers for a New Era (TNE) Project from 2003 to 2005. She currently serves as a member of the National Academy of Science/Nation Research Council Leadership Summit to Effect Change in Teaching and Learning.

She received her B.A. degree in English from Howard University, her M.Ed. degree in counselor education from Worchester State College, and her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Georgia State University. Dr. Guyden has been a secondary school teacher, the coordinator of an adult education program, and a counselor in both clinical and educational settings.

At Paine College in Augusta, Georgia she served as director of the college counseling center and as dean for admissions, recruitment, and financial aid. Dr. Guyden joined the faculty in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at Georgia State University in 1992 where she coordinated the Ph.D. program in higher education. She joined the faculty in the Department of Educational Leadership and Human Services at Florida A&M University in July 1997 where she has served as interim department chair, coordinator of the educational leadership doctoral program, and the associate chair of the department. Dr. Guyden served as the interim dean for the College of Education from March 2001 to March 2003. Dr. Guyden began her work at Grambling State University in August 2005. Her research interests include the impact of organizations on individual functioning with specific interest in Historically Black Colleges and the teacher education reform.

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guydenj@gram.edu
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Fax: (318) 274-7373
Dr. Festus E. Obiakor is a Professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His research interests include multicultural psychology and special education, self-concept development, crisis intervention, educational reform/program evaluation and comparative/international education. He is a renowned scholar and has published several books and journal articles.

Dr. Obiakor serves on the editorial boards of many refereed journals, including *Multiple Voices* and *Multicultural Learning and Teaching* — he currently serves as co-editor of both journals. He has presented papers at national and international levels. In addition, he is a frequent speaker on college campuses; for example, he has served as an Invited/Visiting Scholar at Frostburg State University, Marquette University, Hendrix College, St. Xavier University of Chicago, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Hampton University, Portland State University, University of Georgia, West Virginia University, Eastern Illinois University, University of North Texas, Brigham Young University, Illinois State University, Tennessee State University, Morgan State University, Abilene Christian University, Grambling State University, and Indiana University-Purdue University. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Dr. Obiakor continues to prescribe a Comprehensive Support Model (CSM) which connects the self, the family, the school, and the community, in providing learning opportunities and choices for all students. From his perspective, “one cannot climb a tree without support.”
College of Education
3rd Annual Research Symposium
“Improving Rural Life and Education”
Registration
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pre-symposium Workshops
Thursday, March 26, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  Workshop A
Location: Lincoln (242)  Research Soup to Nuts
Janet A. Guyden, Associate V. P. & Dean
School of Graduate Studies & Research
Grambling State University
Moderator
William G. White, Professor
Grambling State University

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Roundtable Discussions

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Lunch on Your Own

2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Workshop B
Location: Lincoln (242)  Catching the Research & Writing Bug
Festus E. Obiakor, Professor
Department of Exceptional Education
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Moderator
Wilton A. Barham, Professor
Grambling State University
College of Education
3rd Annual Research Symposium
“Improving Rural Life and Education”
Roundtable Presentations
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Location: Rapides Room (234)
Recruitment of African American Male Teachers: The Missing Role Models
Sharon Ford-Dunn, Associate Professor
Grambling State University
Sherlynn H. Byrd, Associate Professor
Alcorn State University
Moderator
Marianne Giorlando-Fisher, Professor
Grambling State University

Location: Ouachita Room (243)
Androgogy: Using Distance Education to Balance Professionalism and Personalism
Tireka Cobb
Louisiana State University
Moderator
Andolyn B. Harrison, Professor
Grambling State University

Location: Lafayette Room (244)
Creating a positive learning environment: How not to leave rural children behind
A. K. Nur-Hussen, Associate Professor
Kathryn Newman, Professor
Grambling State University
Diseree Smith-Clark, Teacher
Rhonda Jones, Teacher
Cassandra Johnson, Teacher
Alma J. Brown Elementary School
Grambling State University
Moderator
Charles Pinckney, Assistant Professor
Livingstone College
College of Education
3rd Annual Research Symposium
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Registration
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions
Friday, March 27, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  Session A (Panel)
Location: Lincoln Room (242)  Math Anxiety: Enabling Student Numerical Capabilities
Gregory Battle, Associate Professor
Grambling State University
Kenneth Boatner
Cambridge College
Lloyd Edwards
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Frederick Gibson
Morehouse College
Moderator
Nara Martirosyan, Doctoral Student
Grambling State University

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  Session A
Location: Rapides Room (234)  Culturally Responsive College Readiness for All Students: CSI Grambling
Loretta Walton-Jaggers, Professor
Elaine Foster, Associate Professor
Nanthalia McJamerson, Professor
Grambling State University
Moderator
Caroyl Townsend, Doctoral Student
Grambling State University
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
**Session A (cont.)**  

**Location: Ouachita Room (243)**  
*Closing the Knowledge Gap through the Mass Media*

Gaylon E. Murray, Professor  
Grambling State University  

**Moderator**  
Bennie R. Lowery, Professor  
Grambling State University  

**Location: Lafayette Room (244)**  
*Contemporary Solutions: Bridging Mental Health, Business, and Technology in Rural Areas*

John L. Monroe, CEO  
Spencer Simmons  
Contemporary Services, Inc.  

**Moderator**  
Willie Daniel, Head KSLS  
Grambling State University  

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  
**Session B**  

**Location: Ouachita Room (243)**  
*The Economic Impact of the Recession on Southern Rural Schools*

Sean S. Warner, Dean-COE  
Matthew Uwakonye, Interim Dean-COB  
Grambling State University  

**Moderator**  
A. K. Nur-Hussen, Associate Professor  
Grambling State University  

**Location: Lafayette Room (244)**  
*Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Update about Infectious Diseases in Louisiana (A Book Presentation)*

Martin Ayim, Professor  
Grambling State University  

**Moderator**  
Elise Reed, Doctoral Student  
Grambling State University
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
Session C (Panel)  
Assistive Technology: What are the Best Ways to Assess Uses and Impact in K-12 Settings?

Yolen K. Lemelle, Teacher  
Joanie Lemelle, Educator-in-Training  
Advance Baton Rouge

Moderator  
Pamela Payne, Assistant Professor  
Grambling State University

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Session D  
Parental Perceptions Among Rural African-Americans: Regarding Home Internet Access

Jeananne Oldham Smith, Teacher  
Lincoln Parish Schools

Bennie R. Lowery, Professor  
Grambling State University

Moderator  
Kathryn Newman, Professor  
Grambling State University

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Session E  
Assessing the Emotional Baggage of the Hip-Hop Generation College Student

Charles Pinckney, Assistant Professor  
Livingstone College

Moderator  
Reubenson Wanjohi, Assistant Professor  
Grambling State University
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<td>Department of Educational Leadership Grambling State University</td>
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<td>Shannan Magee, Founder &amp; Director</td>
<td>Youth Institute of Science &amp; Technology</td>
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Concurrent Sessions  
Friday, March 27, 2009

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Session G (Panel)  
Location: Lincoln Room (242)  
Collaborative Initiatives in Rural Ghana: Advancing Education, Research, and Sustainable Development  
Shannan Magee  
Shaneka Davis  
Pamela Flores  
Cashawn Myers  
Youth Institute of Science & Technology  
Moderator      Limbikani Kamlongera, Doctoral Student  
Grambling State University

2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Session G  
Location: Rapides Room (234)  
Improving Education in Rural Areas Through Technology Usage  
Reubenson Wanjohi, Assistant Professor  
Grambling State University  
Nara Martirosyan, Doctoral Student  
Grambling State University  
Moderator      Olatunde Ogunyemi, Head EDL  
Grambling State University

Location: Ouachita Room (243)  
Childhood Neglect and Its Impact on Student Violence  
Mildred Delozia, Assistant Professor  
Grambling State University  
Christine Crowder, Doctoral Student  
Grambling State University  
Moderator      LaKeisha Jenkins, Instructor  
Grambling State University
2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Session G (cont.)  
Location: Lafayette Room (244)  
Stimulating Rural Education  
Brett Sims, Head-Mathematics  
Grambling State University  
Moderator  
LaWanda Sykes, Instructor  
Grambling State University

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
Session H (Panel)  
Location: Lafayette Room (244)  
The 2005-2008 LA GEAR UP Summer Learning Camps: The Impact of the GSU LA GEAR-UP Preparation/Training Model on Positive Camper Outcomes  
Loretta Walton-Jaggers, Professor  
Ronnie Davis, Professor  
Elaine Foster, Associate Professor  
Nanthalia McJamerson, Professor  
Grambling State University  
Moderator  
Shem Beroo, Master’s Student  
Louisiana Tech University

3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Session H  
Location: Ouachita Room (243)  
The Challenges of Preparing Educational Leaders for Rural Educational Contexts  
Patricia P. Johnson, Assistant Professor  
Vicki R. Brown, Professor  
Grambling State University  
Moderator  
Nicole Boatswain, Master’s Student  
Grambling State University
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3rd Annual Research Symposium
Selected Models of Developmental Education Programs in Higher Education
Vernon L. Farmer and Wilton A. Barham, Editors


Notes About the Editors

Vernon L. Farmer is professor of Educational Leadership at Grambling State University and was Acting Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Grambling State University. Dr. Farmer was also Head of the Department of Educational Leadership and Director of Doctoral Programs in the College of Education at Grambling State University. He earned the A.B., A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Wilton A. Barham is professor of Educational Leadership and Arlynne Lake Cheers Endowed Professor of Education in the College of Education at Grambling State University and was Head of the Department of Educational Leadership and Director of Doctoral Programs in the College of Education at Grambling State University. He earned his B.S. in secondary mathematics from the State University of New York at Oneonta; the M.P.H. in biostatistics and the Ph. D. in educational research methods and statistics from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
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Tuesday  2:00a - 5:30p
Wednesday  9:00a - 5:30p
Thursday  Closed
Friday  9:00a - 5:00p
Lunch  12:00p - 2:00p
Dr. Doris Williams-Smith
Head of the Curriculum & Instruction Department
&
Director of NCATE

Salutes
The College of Education
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III John 2 “Beloved, I wish all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thou prosperth.”
Dean Sean Warner
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Shem Beroo                           A. K. Nur-Hussen
Nicole Boatswain                     Olatunde Ogungbeyi
Willie Daniel                        Pamela Paye
Marianne Giorlando-Fisher            Charles Pinckney
Andolyn B. Harrison                  Elise Reed
LaKeisha Jenkins                     LaWanda Sykes
Limbikani Kamlongera                 Caroyl Townsend
Bennie Lowery                        Reubenson Wanjohi
Nara Martirosyan

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Rudolph Ellis                        Gabrielle Jones
Victoria Gibson                      Limbikani Kamlongera
Latisha Hall                         Nyomi Lytle
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Theodora Henry                       Leah Smith
Yufeng Huang                         Samyra Spivey
Kendra Johnson                       Christopher Wiggins
Shakeydra Johnson
3rd Annual Research Symposium

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