

# SEIDEL SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



## International Perspective

Dr. Dennis Pataniczek (above), dean of the Seidel School of Education and Professional Studies, and SU faculty were invited to present at the fourth annual International Symposium on Teacher Education at Huzhou University, China. This year's theme was "Teacher Education: International Horizons and Local Practice." Along with the University of Alabama, SU was one of only two U.S. institutions — and one of only four non-Chinese schools — represented at the event. Joining Pataniczek were Drs. Deborah Mathews, Social Work Department; Douglas DeWitt, Education Specialties Department (making his third consecutive conference appearance); and Hongzhuan "Sam" Song, director of SU's English Language Institute. Mathews spoke on "Teaching in a Blended Environment: Bringing the University to Students Rather Than Students to the University." DeWitt presented "Issues in Rural Education: Learning From the Past; Dealing With the Present; Looking to the Future." Song spoke on "Transforming Education in the Internet Age: Going From 'Being' to 'Becoming.'" Following the conference, the SU group traveled to Anqing, China, to visit SU students studying abroad through a partnership between SU and Anqing Teachers College. While there, Pataniczek spoke to Chinese students on the process for becoming a teacher in the United States. DeWitt and Song repeated their conference presentations for students and Mathews talked about what it is like to be a social worker in the United States.



## Teacher Ed. Honor

The Seidel School earned national kudos for its teaching partnerships with Worcester County Public Schools. SU was honored with the 2011 Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement Award from the National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS). Only five campuses across the country were recognized. For over a decade, SU's PDS network has enabled University students to improve their practice by working with students in public schools across the region. Currently, some 34 schools in seven counties partner with SU to help train teachers. The Worcester Cluster includes Snow Hill Elementary, Snow Hill Middle, Berlin Intermediate, Showell Elementary and Buckingham Elementary. According to Dr. Jon Andes,



Superintendent of Worcester County Public Schools, the active role his teachers play as mentors, site coordinators and adjunct instructors is excellent professional development experience. The NAPDS award recognized SU for "creating and sustaining genuine collaborative partnerships" with pre-K-12 schools and for meeting nine essential PDS criteria. Specifically, some of SU's noteworthy accomplishments cited by the award include the establishment of a co-teaching model for internships and the dissemination of this model nationally, the exceptional buy-in by Worcester County teachers to the SU education program, and the strong linkage of intern involvement with student achievement. Also noted was SU's visibility at the NAPDS national conference, evidenced by 18 presentations in the past five years. The achievement award was given at the 2011 conference in New Orleans in March. Some 900 professionals attended, including Seidel School Dean Dennis Pataniczek; Stacie Siers, PDS coordinator; Dr. Keith Conners of the Teacher



Education Department; Drs. Joel Jenne and Ron Siers of the Education Specialties Department; and Merisa Booth and Michelle Brown, SU teaching interns at Snow Hill Elementary. SU is one of only three universities to ever receive both the achievement award and the Spirit of Partnership Award, which it earned at the 2009 NAPDS conference. SU is the third largest producer of teachers in Maryland. During the 2010-11 academic year, some 240 SU education majors were teaching interns.



## Environmental Literature Honored

SU welcomed authors and illustrators, including winners of the Newton Marasco Foundation's (NMF) 2011 Green Earth Book Award, during its annual Children's and Young Adult Literature Festival. Writer and illustrator Henry Cole delivered the keynote lecture. He is best known for his work on the popular Katy Duck series, as well as *Oink*, *Shiver Me Letters* and

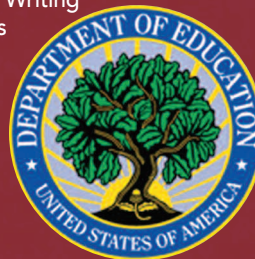


*On Meadowview Street*, a past Green Earth honor book. This year's recipients were: *The Earth Book*, a *New York Times* bestseller by Todd Parr (picture book); *Not Your Typical Book About the Environment* by Elin Kelsey and illustrator Clayton Hanmer (nonfiction); *Mallory Goes Green* by Laurie B. Friedman and illustrator Jennifer Kalis (children's fiction); and *Boys, Bears and a Serious Pair of Hiking Boots* by Abby McDonald (young adult fiction). NMF founder Amy Marasco Newton (above right) was honored by *Washingtonian* magazine for her sustainability efforts during the publication's annual Green Awards presentation. SU is an NMF Sustainable Corporate Partner. The Green Earth Book Award is the nation's first to honor environmental stewardship in literature for children and young adults.



## Area Principals Race To The Top

A \$1 million, federal, four-year Race to the Top grant to train "Great Principals for Maryland" allows SU and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) in Princess Anne, sister institutions in the University System of Maryland, to offer classes at a new and collaborative Lower Eastern Shore School Leadership Institute beginning summer 2011. Planners say their institute is designed to train aspiring principals to lead schools in the 21st century. A focus of the program is reducing the achievement gap between different student groups. The institute is partnering with Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester and Talbot county schools to identify potential candidates. The two campuses previously have been honored with the prestigious Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for collaborative programming. The institute is also partnering with New Leaders for New Schools (NLNS), a nationally recognized non-profit that has a strong track record of recruiting and training highly effective principals for challenging schools. NLNS is providing expertise and support in the selection of participants and help with their professional development. Writing effort for the grant was led by Dr. Douglas DeWitt, director of the SU Educational Leadership Program, and Dr. Derry Stufft, coordinator of the UMES Educational Leadership Doctoral Program.



## Creating Peace In Play

Is it possible to "find peace in play" in Uganda? Dean Ravizza, Health and Sport Sciences Department, discussed this question with a reporter for *World Ark* magazine. He has used sports to rehabilitate and reintegrate former child soldiers and other victims in war-torn regions. His story was featured in the "Asked & Answered" section of the magazine's fall 2010 edition. Ravizza explored the inspiration for his research, the situation in Uganda, and the next steps for his project. He also shared some of his interactions with the children and some of his findings that support the idea that sports can effectively build peace and promote conflict resolution to help the children avoid poverty and become successful members of their communities. *World Ark* is published by Heifer International, a humanitarian organization dedicated to ending poverty and hunger worldwide, and raising awareness about caring for the Earth.

