Message from Janet L. Gooch, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Dean

February 1, 2012….already. Hard to believe, particularly since the weather has been anything but winter-like. I am grateful for the reprieve from winter since it seems that relative to the budget and funding for higher education that we are riding into the perfect storm. Undoubtedly, this will be a difficult semester leading into a difficult future for the University. As we’ve heard, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon’s proposed budget will cut higher education funding by 12.5%. Nixon has called on Missouri colleges and universities “to continue to look for more ways to cut overhead and administrative costs and run smarter, more efficient operations.” Haven’t we done that already? Certainly, we have trimmed the periphery and there’s very little fat left to cut. A few more nickels and dimes will not be enough. As the President said in his address to the University community yesterday, it is time for major change. I’m hoping we can all appreciate the urgency of his message and the need to act. Challenging times are ahead, opportunities are ahead, all depends on how we frame it. That is my message, to view this time of impending (perhaps major) change as an opportunity. Trust in the University’s leadership, the power of the great minds and hearts that work here, and the mission of the institution and keep your mind open to change. Entertain ideas and explore options, admit that there may be a better way, have the courage to let go of what we’ve been doing if we might do it better, and vow to be a participant in change rather than an obstacle. It’s time to think big. To quote Warren Buffett, American business magnate, investor and philanthropist, “In a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks.”

Department of Communication Disorders

Ms. Melissa Passe screened 36 students in ED 608G Management of Instruction: Elementary Education for speech and hearing. Students experienced what their own students will experience in speech and hearing screening and they got feedback about their abilities.

Dr. Janet L. Gooch and Dr. Paula Cochran will present at the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association 52nd Annual Convention scheduled for February 9-11, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, Illinois. Dr. Gooch will present “Phonological Awareness and
Emerging Literacy: Beyond the Basics.” Dr. Cochran will present “Technology Update for SLPS: MeMoves, Smart Pens, and I-Pads.”

Department of Education

Ms. Caroline Haynes, a pre-MAE Special Education student, is enrolled in an independent study course with Dr. Pete Kelly. Caroline has experience teaching self-advocacy skills to individuals with developmental disabilities as a volunteer at the PACT Center. The PACT Center is a not-for-profit governmental organization that assists in providing essential resources to individuals with developmental disabilities. As a part of her independent study, Caroline will develop self-advocacy curriculum that extends existing curriculum and also implement the new curriculum through her ongoing volunteer work at the PACT Center. The outcomes of the course are twofold. Caroline will develop and refine her teaching and curriculum development skills and the PACT Center participants will learn important self-advocacy skills as a result of her work.

Students in Dr. Wendy Miner’s section of ED 608G Management of Instruction: Elementary Education class provided a science curriculum three weeks in February in the Kirksville public school.

Ms. Laura Nickelson will travel to Germany during February to site supervise MAE student teaching interns on three military bases.

Department of Nursing

Ms. Sharon McGahan has been selected to participate in a pilot project to enhance student writing. Ms. McGahan’s class, JINS 332: Death & Dying, will have two Writing Center Fellows assigned to work with students and Ms. McGahan to enhance writing. With the assistance of these "fellows," Dr. McGahan will review writing/assignment rubrics, have individual and group consultations, and possible in-class presentations regarding thesis development, scholarly research methods, and/or brainstorming.

Big Read Grant Application

Dr. Janet L. Gooch recently submitted a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts on behalf of the School of Health Sciences and Education entitled “The Big Read.” If funded, the grant will partner Truman and the Kirksville community in reading and discussing Their Eyes Were Watching God by Ms. Zora Neale Hurston during the 2012-2013 academic year. The Kirksville R-III School District and the Adair County Public Library will be key partners.
Fourth Annual Language and Literacy Conference

Dr. Deborah R. Glaser will be the guest speaker for the fourth annual Language and Literacy Conference to be held in the Truman State University Student Union Building Georgian Room, on Friday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop will acquaint teachers, administrators, speech-language pathologists, and associated professionals with the presenter’s most current work on establishing instructional routines for reading that include oral language and writing. The routines that will be presented offer efficient yet highly productive and successful procedures that ease teacher planning and boost student engagement. At the culmination of this session, participants will be able to state the importance of systematic instruction, know how to identify target skills to teach, and plan routines that can be used often to teach the target skills. Attendees will become acquainted with and experience several ready to use instructional routines designed to be adapted for a variety of learners and skill levels. The intended audience will be comprised of teachers, administrators, speech-language pathologists, and associated professionals. The content is applicable to: elementary grades K-5; small and whole group instruction; general classroom and intervention groups. Dr. Glaser is an educational consultant and professional development provider with expertise in reading assessment and a vast knowledge of instructional methods derived from trusted research. During Dr. Glaser’s many varied years in education she has experienced both classroom and learning disability instruction and served as Director of Education of the Lee Pesky Learning Center, in Boise, Idaho, where she oversaw the development of remedial programs for individuals with dyslexia. Dr. Glaser is a National Trainer of Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, LETRS. She consults with national policy institutes, assists universities with the development of research based reading curricula, and assists schools and districts with the implementation of scientifically based reading programs and strengthening practitioners’ collaborative efforts toward improved instruction and student reading abilities. Dr. Glaser is author of the LETRS Modules, ParaReading: A Training Guide for Tutors and LETRS Foundations: An Introduction to Language and Literacy co-authored with Louisa Moats. Her other books include Next STEPS in Literacy Instruction: Connecting Assessments to Effective Interventions, and Reading Fluency: Understanding and Teaching a Complex Skill, authored with Jan Hasbrouck. To register, go to the Northeast Regional Professional Development Center website at http://rpdc.truman.edu Click on “workshops” on the left side of the screen; click on “Northeast RPDC Workshop Registrations” in the middle of the screen; (do not change any settings in the search catalog box); scroll down to see the workshop offerings; click on Fourth Annual Language and Literacy Conference: Reading Instruction Routines: Let's Include Language! by Dr. Deborah Glaser and then follow the on-line directions.

Calendar

February 13, Monday – SHSE Chairs’ Meeting, 10:30 a.m., VH 2351
February 14, Tuesday – Nursing Health Fair
February 16, Thursday – University Conference
February 22, Wednesday – Nursing Advocacy Day, Jefferson City
February 29, Wednesday – First Block Classes End