

### College Pre-service Teachers Plan An Instructional Year Based on the Oklahoma Priority Academic Student Skills

Submitted by Dr. Marty Pennington

In Oklahoma, the academic knowledge and skills that teachers must teach for the year are known as the Priority Academic Student Skills (PASS). Pre-service teachers in Dr. Marty Pennington's Science and Language Arts methods courses were given the opportunity to plan out a school year based on Oklahoma's PASS standards. Using a school calendar, students worked in small groups to block out holidays and other major events for the year. Then, each group had to decide when each of the PASS standards for that content area would be introduced, practiced and/or mastered during the school year. Opportunities for special units of study, such as a first grade unit on frogs during Earth Day celebrations in April, were revealed as the students brainstormed and piggybacked on each others' ideas.



#### Comments:

**Laci House:** "This exercise really opened my eyes to how many days you actually have to teach the material you need to... I learned that even though a year seems like a long time, when you actually break it down, you really have to get to work to accomplish your goals as a teacher."

**Allie Plunk:** "This assignment was very beneficial to me as a future educator. It helped me gain a more thorough understanding of the demands and expectations that will be placed on me once I enter the classroom."

**Brandi Marsh:** "This activity just helped me see the whole overview of setting up the year in a new perspective."

**Hillary Miller:** "Planning out the year the way we did in class was a great idea because it makes you aware of all the holidays and how much time you have between breaks. In general it shows how many weeks you have to cover what needs to be covered before testing and the end of the school



### Faculty Recognized

Three Education faculty have significant accomplishments this year. First, Dr. Carolyn Thomas received a Library Media grant that allows ECU to take that program to the western counties of Oklahoma. Secondly, Nanette Schmitt completed her Doctorate. Finally, Martha Pennington has received an Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education grant for the creation of an "East Central University Science Spectacular" event that will bring area elementary school students and high school students on East Central's campus to stimulate interest in becoming a teacher. Congratulations to each faculty member!