

Taking Teaching Seriously

Betty L. Siegel, President

When we selected "Taking Teaching Seriously" for this year's campus theme, none of us could have predicted the challenges that would beset our campus, nor the professional responses you have had to those challenges.

To me, it demonstrated clearly that the folks at KSC—faculty, staff and administrators—do take their jobs very seriously.

We have looked at teaching—formally and informally, individually and as an institution—from a number of angles this year. We have hosted the highly successful Sixth Southern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology, so ably developed and managed by Bill Hill and our psychology department.

We hosted the first statewide Conference on College and University Teaching that brought an overflow crowd of teachers from 25 different system colleges to discuss teaching innovations and issues.

We hosted a visit by Neil Merrell, a nationally known expert in service learning who conferred with faculty and students about taking the classroom into the community through projects and internships with non-profit agencies.

And Kurt Daw has been awarded a summer stipend to develop a regional conference on teaching theater arts.

On a more personal level, I have had the opportunity to visit with 30 classes this year, talking with students about their aspirations and anxieties. Although they had serious concerns in many areas, the one universally positive aspect students identified was the quality of teaching they receive here. Students were eager to share the names of their favorite teacher, and almost all had stories of faculty who had made a difference in their lives.

Teaching is getting harder. Demands by students, as well as restraints of budget, space and time all

place increasing pressures on an already maximized faculty. But you keep going—keep providing what I modestly believe is the best education in the University System. And I believe you do it because you are committed to your profession—because you take teaching seriously.

Although we will address other themes in years to come, please don't

think that our resolve to take teaching seriously will diminish. We must build on our sterling reputation for teaching excellence and focus on "value-added" education, where teachers become mentors, reaching out to students in more dramatic, more influential ways.

As this year comes to a close, know that my admiration for you and the job you do continues to grow, because I have seen just how seriously you take teaching.

To A Dean, Who Will Be Missed

When I came to KSC six years ago, I met Dean George Beggs. At first, I was overwhelmed by his adherence to formality and his "larger-than-life" aura.

Since then, he has become for me a role model, a guide and a champion. In his own, inimitable way, he has allowed me to

experiment—to try and sometimes fail. But always, he has been there to point me in the right direction. All of us in Humanities and Social Sciences will miss his leadership. Some of us will simply miss "The Dean." Thanks.

Richard Welch

REACTING

THROUGH TEACHING

Contributions from KSC faculty are solicited. Please submit articles to CETL on a 5.25" or 3.5" disk in WordPerfect. Preferred length of articles is 900 words. Deadline for the Fall, 1994 issue is October 5.

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