

March 4, 2011
For Immediate Release

Campbellsville University participates in Read Across America Day

By Ariana Johnson, student news writer

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. – It's been said you're never too old, too wacky or too wild to pick up a book and read to a child. On March 2 -- Dr. Seuss's birthday -- Campbellsville University students read to children at Taylor County Elementary School to celebrate the National Education Association (NEA) Read Across America Day.

Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens and books.

“The whole experience was terrific,” said CU senior Whitney Vaughn of Canmer, Ky. “To see children enthusiastic about books is a great thing for teachers to witness.”

A total of 38 readers from students from the classrooms of Dr. Beverly Ennis, associate professor of education; Dottie Davis, instructor in education; Marilyn Goodwin, instructor in early childhood education; and Dr. Colleen Walker, assistant professor of education, were registered to read in different classrooms.

Faculty members such as Dr. Brenda Priddy, associate professor and dean of the School of Education; Dr. Carolyn Garrison, professor of education; Brittany Hahn, a CU graduate of Campbellsville, president of Kappa Delta Pi; Walker and Ennis participated in this day by wearing the traditional Cat in The Hat attire.

Bruce Garrison, former teacher in the Taylor County School System, wore the full Cat in the Hat costume (loaned by Kentucky Education Association – Student Program) and paraded around with wife Carolyn Garrison and distributed the gift of Seuss books

(donated by KDP and KEA-SP).

He read in two classes and the students responded to the Cat in the Hat hugging him, shaking his hand, requesting his autograph, waving, laughing and wanting their photos taken with him.

Several students addressed the couple as Mr. and Mrs. Cat in the Hat. One little girl was so excited, all she could think of to say was, “Merry Christmas!” Many classes chimed, ‘Thank you,’ when they were presented with the new book.

“The adults we encountered in the hall were also quite entertained,” said Dr. Garrison. “That is one of the perks of getting older; you aren’t worried by those sidewise glances any longer.”

“We estimate we read to at least 930 students,” said Dr. Garrison. “We are convinced this day was a success and met the intention of the KDP Literacy Alive and NEA Read Across America goals.”

Campbellsville University is a widely acclaimed Kentucky-based Christian university with over 3,000 students offering 63 undergraduate programs, 17 master’s degrees and five postgraduate areas. The website for complete information is campbellsville.edu.