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Wendt siblings carry on tradition of teaching

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 3:15 pm

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When setting out to carry on a family tradition, siblings Julie Wendt Baker and Jeremy Wendt took the right steps. Baker and Wendt are the children of Jim and Jenny Wendt of Coalfield, and the teaching tradition can be traced back to their great-great grandmother, Ida Sexton of Scott County and their great-grandmother, May Sexton McGlothin of Coalfield.

Dr. Jeremy Wendt graduated with his Doctorate in Administration and Supervision from Tennessee State University in 2007. Dr. Julie Baker graduated with her Ph.D. in Exceptional Learning and a concentration in Literacy from Tennessee Technological University in 2010. Both Drs. Baker and Wendt, graduates of Coalfield High School, are professors at Tennessee Technological University. They currently reside in Cookeville with their families, and both spouses are also in the education profession. Drs. Baker and Wendt teach in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Wendt's course load includes both intro to teaching and instructional technology classes. Dr. Baker teaches in the area of secondary education English, as well as graduate courses in research design and analysis.

Drs. Baker and Wendt have recently written several research grants, including a \$70,000 grant that was funded by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to support secondary English teachers with iPad technology. The project will help teachers create online, standards-based activities for their students. This most recent grant, which includes 30 English teachers across 7 TN counties throughout 2011, extends to Morgan and Roane counties, a purposeful move to impact schools closer to home. Also playing an integral role in the development of the iPad grant is Baker and Wendt's aunt, Janet Isbell of Coalfield, who also teaches for TTU and is completing her Ph.D. this spring. Another current project initiated by the brother-sister team is a research proposal for SMART Technologies, which proposed to place interactive SMART tables in 2 kindergarten classrooms in Putnam County. These tables will be the first in the county and their classroom effectiveness will be investigated upon implementation. In addition to these research projects, Drs. Baker and Wendt have presented at numerous state and national conferences, as well as written scholarly publications, working closely with local education agencies.

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Julie Wendt Baker and Jeremy Wendt

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