

Southern Educator

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Southern Educator

College of Education

Georgia Southern University

Volume 14, Issue 2

Spring 2004

Georgia Southern Soccer and COE in Iraq



Major Mike Smith (B.A. '89), U.S. Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom, sent a request to individuals asking if anyone had soccer balls that they would be willing to send to Iraq. The soldiers needed a way to break the ice with Iraqi families, and giving the children a soccer ball did just that.

The College of Education and the Georgia Southern Soccer Team pulled together and sent 100 soccer balls to Baghdad. The Georgia Southern Soccer Team donated the soccer balls, while the College of Education purchased a hand pump and contributed money for the postage.

Mike was very touched that his alma mater fulfilled his request. In the e-mail that was received from Mike, he said, "I can't tell you how much stuff like this means to these kids. The children would gather around and take the balls and run off to play while we could continue to work with the families in need." Mike also met with the Minister of Youth and Sports and donated some of the soccer balls to the newly emerging youth soccer teams.

PRISM Collaborative for Math & Science



Dan Hagan and Penny Sikes

The University System of Georgia was awarded \$34.6 million by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to strengthen math and science programs in Georgia, through a collaborative state-wide educational reform initiative titled Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM). Georgia Southern University in the East Central region has been funded at \$5.5 million to lead the effort in

the five counties of Bulloch, Screven, Effingham, Evans and Liberty. The five-year NSF award is the largest ever received by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The leadership for the Georgia Southern—East Central region of the PRISM project will be provided by the co-principal investigators, Daniel V. Hagan, Georgia Southern University Professor of Biology, and Penny T. Sikes, P-12 coordinator.

PRISM's goal is to increase student achievement in science and mathematics by ensuring: 1) that all students in the participating schools are taught science and mathematics by highly qualified teachers, 2) that all students successfully complete challenging science and mathematics courses, and 3) that all students develop a deep understanding of the major concepts in science and mathematics. The partnership reflects the seamless collaboration that is essential to solve systemic problems in education that span the educational spectrum from kindergarten to high school to colleges and universities. The timing of the awarding of the PRISM grant and the rewriting of the state's curriculum standards, provides a unique opportunity to make substantive positive changes to Georgia's education efforts.

Kiwanis Support International Study



Joel Vail, coordinator of international relations for the Kiwanis Club of Statesboro, presented a check from that organization to Dean Cindi Chance and Victoria Zwald, COE coordinator of alumni, media and external relations. The funds will be used to defray the costs of students who take advantage of study abroad opportunities sponsored by the College of Education.

The College of Education Receives a "Best Practices Award"

Georgia Southern's unique partnership with area schools has earned a "Best Practices Award," one of eight that were awarded by the Board of Regents. This second place award in the Academic Affairs category carried a \$10,000 prize.

The award recognizes the Professional Development District (PDD), a groundbreaking partnership among Georgia Southern's College of Education, the Screven County School System and Savannah River Challenge Program. The PDD expands the traditional model in which a college of education partners with an individual school to help train new teachers by giving them supervised experience in the classroom. The PDD increases the partnership to include the central office. Georgia Southern's training programs for administrators, counselors and psychologists are also involved with the PDD.



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Dr. Cindi Chance

How many items do you own that are increasing in value every year without exception? Very few, is the answer I would give. You, as alumni of the College of Education at Georgia Southern University, can now point to your diploma with growing pride and proclaim its increasing value. The College of Education is growing in quality while expanding its state, regional and national recognition. The *Southern Educator* has consistently highlighted our accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of only a few of them and outline ways that you as alumni can help in our efforts to continue the phenomenal growth and recognition.

Points of Pride

- Received reaccreditation of all academic programs by NCATE/PSC.
- Awarded major grants and endowments including: \$500,000 U.S. Department of Education FIPSE grant to develop Professional Development District as a national model, \$5.5 million NSF grant (via Board of Regents statewide grant) to improve P-16 math and science instruction, \$3 million from AACTE/Microsoft to showcase best practices, and \$1 million endowment from the Goizueta Foundation for an endowed professorship in school leadership as well as scholarships for Hispanic students.
- Increased our international learning experiences through the International Learning Community with student and teacher exchanges.
- Continued memberships in the National Network for Education Renewal (NNER) and in the Holmes Partnership.
- Hosted annually national conferences including the Youth At-Risk Conference and the Southeastern Conference on Cross-Cultural Issues in Counselor Education.
- Assumed a leadership role in Georgia to address teacher shortages by developing quality alternative certification routes and partnering with the Board of Regents in securing federal funds to develop certification programs with 2-year institutions.

How Can You Help?

- ❖ Encourage some of the brightest and best students you know to choose education as a career and to choose Georgia Southern University's College of Education as their first choice for preparation for this wonderful rewarding profession.
- ❖ Keep in touch with us. We need P-12 educators to provide mentorships for our students, to speak to our classes, to collaborate with faculty and staff, etc.
- ❖ Volunteer to work with the Alumni Advisory Board on its various projects, especially as it prepares for the 2006 centennial.
- ❖ Talk with prospective students about the exciting undergraduate and graduate programs at your alma mater.

We are proud of our progress, of the increasing value of your degree from Georgia Southern University and of our many successful alumni. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Information Sessions for Off-Campus Degrees

Are you interested in pursuing a graduate degree from Georgia Southern University in the Brunswick, Savannah or Dublin areas? Plan to attend an information session in your area to learn more about graduate degree offerings in early childhood, middle grades, school administration, supervision, educational leadership, and school psychology. Representatives from the graduate school, admissions office, registrar's office, and program areas will be there. Contact the center director before the scheduled date for pre-qualifying information.

Thursday, May 4, 2004

Dublin Center

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Dr. Catherine Woody

(478) 275-6750

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Coastal Georgia Center

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Dr. David Murkinson

(912) 651-2768

For information on programs in Brunswick, contact Dr. Gene Barber at The Brunswick Center on the campus of Coastal Georgia Community College (912) 264-7227.

College of Education Enrollments

	Fall '02	Fall '03	% Increase	Spring '03	Spring '04	% Increase
Graduate	1736	2138	23.2%	1804	1868	3.5%
Undergraduate	2268	2392	5.5%	2404	2597	8.0%

NEWS FLASH



Dianne Hickman, secretary to the dean of the College of Education, received one of the eight 2003 Staff Awards of Merit at the university's Staff Awards of Excellence Ceremony in November 2003. Ms. Hickman has served the university since 1972.



Homecoming 2003 at Paulson Stadium initiated the start of an annual College of Education event. Dean Cindi Chance, faculty, staff, and friends of the College greeted alumni at Gate 4 as they entered the stadium. A drawing was held for a COE pewter plate and the winner was Peggy Spandle (BS '75, M.Ed. '85), a teacher at Claxton Elementary in Evans County. College of Education brass key chains were awarded to the following alumnae: Helen Black (B.S.Ed. '03) who teaches at Lewiston Elementary in Columbia County, Susan Lee (M.Ed. '98) who teaches at Screven County Middle School; and Joni Tippett (B.S.Ed. '78), who teaches at Snellville Middle School in Gwinnett County. Pictured is Helen Black registering for the COE drawing.



Staff Members Recognized

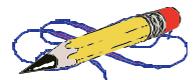
At the 2003 Staff Awards of Excellence Ceremony on November 20, 2003, the University presented awards for ten years of service to COE staff members Jackie Bedell, Instructional Resources Center; Pat Collins, Department of Teaching and Learning; and Gloria Martin, Education Advisement Center. Also, recognized among the nominees for a 2003 Award of Merit were Pauline deLaar, Education Advisement Center; Dianne Hickman, COE Dean's Office; Wanda Mathew, Department of Teaching and Learning; and Kim Rogers, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development.



Ada Williams, custodian II with Physical Plant, was recognized in April 2003 by the faculty and staff of the College of Education for all of the work she does daily to make the COE building a better work environment. Dean Chance proclaimed the day "Ms. Ada Day" and a breakfast reception was held where a copy of the proclamation and a gift from the college was presented to Ms. Williams.



(l-r) Martha Cobb (Ed.S. '91), media coordinator at Swainsboro High School, Todd Williford (M.Ed. '98), COE Alumni Advisory Committee Chair and principal of Sallie Zetterower Elementary, and Dabney Edenfield (M.S.T. '90), art teacher at Swainsboro High School, visited the College of Education to provide leadership in establishment of a rotating P-12 student art gallery in the COE building.



The College of Education's website has been re-designed, thanks to the work of Jason Parker, graduate assistant and M.Ed. Instructional Technology student, and Mary Egger, CATES Administrative Specialist. More information is now available on the website including a link dedicated to alumni information. Visit the site at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu>.

COE Soaring Into Action

Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading

After only ten years of existence, the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies has 45 graduates and a 100% placement rate. One-third of our graduates are teachers; a third are in public school administration; and the remaining third are higher education professors in colleges and universities.

Dr. Dorothy Battle—Paper presented: "What are the values of adolescents?" (with Kaneshia Robinson) at the International Conference on Civic Education Research, New Orleans, LA. (Kaneshia is an undergraduate student majoring in the area of Middle Grades Education.)

Dr. Ming Fang He—Elected: Member-at-Large to the Executive Board of the Georgia Educational Research Association (GERA) at the annual meeting in Savannah in October 2003.

Dr. Delores Liston—Paper presented: "Feminist pedagogy as a democratic response to the hidden curriculum in elementary schools," at the Curriculum and Pedagogy Annual Conference, Decatur, GA, October 2003.

Dr. Sandra Murray Nettles, Chair—Published: "Building a school community using KEYS: The Shoreview High School in Maryland," in Portin, B.; Beck, L.G.; Knapp, M.S.; and Murphy, J. (Eds.), *Self-reflective Renewal in Schools*. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Member: Research Scholars Panel, Pathways to College Network, an alliance of foundations, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, working together to improve college access and success for large numbers of underserved youth.

Dr. William Reynolds—Interviewed: WTOC News on October 30, 2003, on the topic, "Testing and Homework."

Keynote Speaker: Georgia Educational Research Association, November 14, 2003, "No Child Left Untested and Education Left Behind."

Published: "Debate, nostalgia, and resentment." *The Journal of Curriculum Studies*, 35(4), 445-451.

Dr. Rosemarie Stallworth-Clark—President: Georgia Educational Research Association.

Dr. John Weaver—Book published: *SF Curriculum, Cyborg Teachers, and Youth Cultures*. New York: Peter Lang. (Edited with K. Anijar and T. Daspit).

Dr. Cordelia Zinskie—Elected: Secretary/Treasurer of the Georgia Educational Research Association at the annual meeting in Savannah in October 2003.

Education Advisement Center

The Education Advisement Center has increased its efforts to conduct more group advisement sessions in response to undergraduate student needs. These group sessions allow for students in like majors to learn more about Teacher Education Program (TEP) requirements while preparing for classes for the next term. This approach allows the advisors to meet the demands of the increasing undergraduate enrollments in the COE.

A College of Education Student Ambassador Team is being formed to help in the areas of recruitment and retention. The team will consist of 4-6 undergraduate students who will attend various functions and work with different

programs. This will allow prospective students to talk with current education majors to see and hear what college is about and what it is truly like at Georgia Southern. The team will be fully functioning in Fall 2004.

Instructional Resources Center

For more information visit the IRC's website at: <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/irc>.

The Post-Secondary Readiness Enrichment Program PREP It Up!

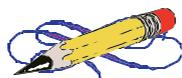


Jason Soucy, South Effingham High School leads Georgia's PREP and 21st Century Leadership event at the State Capitol.

Beginning in 1996 with a group of 7th grade students in Bulloch County, the Post-Secondary Readiness Enrichment Program (PREP) has been an academic support and outreach initiative created by the University System of Georgia in cooperation with the State Department of Education. It is designed to help students and their parents make timely, informed decisions that will adequately prepare young people to meet their higher education and career goals.

PREP is filling 2003-2004 with academic and leadership opportunities for the middle and high school students involved. After attending the PREP and 21st Century Leadership Camp, students from Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham counties have had the opportunity to attend workshops on testing strategies for the SAT, public speaking, and business and personal ethics. In November, 44 high school students attended the Leadership weekend at the Georgia Power Company's office in Atlanta. Media and public relations executives from Turner Broadcasting and CNN led work sessions. In January, two students, Jason Soucy, South Effingham High, and Casey Reeder, Effingham County High, were selected to present at the 21st Century Leader's luncheon with state legislators. The 38 students attending also enjoyed tours of the Capitol building, Centennial Park, and CNN center, a hockey game at the Phillip's arena, a night's stay in Atlanta, and an adventure through the World of Coca-Cola and Underground Atlanta (*see PREP photos on page 8*).

In addition, while at their own schools, students have been taking advantage of the PREP tutoring team's chemistry, algebra, and English literature tutorial sessions offered at Effingham High, Statesboro High, and Screven High. Middle school students at Langston Chapel have taken advantage of the homework help from Georgia Southern University PREP Team tutors and mentors from the Latino Outreach Center. Moreover, students from Southeast Bulloch Middle, Langston Chapel Middle, and McIntosh County have visited Georgia Southern University to see for themselves what their future life at a university could be.



Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development

A special program designed to serve the educational needs of practitioners in correctional institutions has been initiated by the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. Faculty from Educational Leadership and Counselor Education, working with Special Education, have created a six course (18 semester hour) Internet-based program that will provide a certificate for those who complete the course of study. This program was created especially for Associated Marine Institutes, Inc. (AMI), a Florida based company with sites in eight states, to provide education for the school leaders in their facilities. AMI students bring a variety of academic backgrounds and qualifications which provides a challenge to faculty teaching in the program. Initially, 136 students were enrolled in the program, split almost evenly between undergraduate and graduate students. Non-traditional enrollment periods were used for the first two enrollment periods (Oct 03-Jan 04 and Feb 04-Apr 04), but after those periods, AMI courses will be offered following the Georgia Southern University calendar. The first enrollment period has been successfully completed, and faculty are busy implementing changes to improve the program.

Office of Graduate Studies, Research, Sponsored Programs and Development

The College of Education's newly redesigned website now includes a link to information related to the Office of Graduate Studies, Research, Sponsored Programs and Development at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/assocdeangradedu.html>. The new "Directories" link provides a list of COE faculty with areas of research interests and expertise. This information provides Ed.S. and Ed.D. students a way to locate faculty to serve on their committees. Also, as research and service projects are initiated, it provides a way to connect faculty across disciplines who may wish to participate. A list with descriptions of funded projects currently underway in the COE is also available using the "Current Research Grants" link.

The College of Education itself has offered research opportunities and funding to its faculty and those across campus and in its Partner Schools who are engaged in educator preparation. A call for proposals was issued in Fall 2003 and issued again in January 2004. One example of a funded project is Dr. Jim Bergin and colleagues in the Counselor Education program who are initiating a pilot study this spring to examine the effects of training a school's counselor, principal, and "school council" representative to implement a comprehensive, nationally standards based school counseling program aligned with the national model developed by the American School Counseling Association.

This spring semester, one hundred and eight (108) students are enrolled in the new Ed.S. Teaching and Learning program which replaces the Ed.S. programs in the various teaching fields, including reading and instructional technology. We believe that this program provides unique opportunities for educators to

converse with colleagues across discipline boundaries and make applications in a way that will improve their practice. The program focuses on current issues and challenges faced by P-12 educators today and creates expertise in assessment, technology, and teacher-leadership.

The master's program in Student Services in Higher Education, a track in the Counselor Education program, has met national standards set by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education in Fall 2003.

In addition to growing in numbers, our doctoral programs are expanding in their ability to serve the region. This year the Ed.D. in Education Administration began four new cohort groups in Statesboro, Augusta and Savannah. The Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies' new Modified Residency Program option has provided greater access to that doctoral program. In all, we have over 255 students enrolled in doctoral programs this year.

Department of Teaching and Learning

For more information visit the department's website at: <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/randl>.

Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education

The Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education and Accreditation recently sponsored a Professional Standards Commission/National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (PSC/NCATE) **Steering Committee Retreat** as a kickoff event to begin planning for the PSC/NCATE Continuing Review visit in Spring 2006.

The PSC/NCATE **Subcommittee on Assessment**, consisting of the PSC/NCATE co-chairs Dr. Stephanie Kenney and Dr. Judi Repman, Teaching and Learning Department Coordinators, representatives of other graduate programs, the Technology Committee chairperson, the COE data manager and the Associate Deans, is continuing the work begun by 2002-2003 COE ad hoc Assessment Committee.

Plans are being finalized for our data management and assessment system (yet to be officially named). The design and building of our system will follow a gradual rollout process. This process will be guided by TK20, the organization with whom we have contracted to build our system. Currently the Advisement Center staff is designing its student data management templates. Under the guidance of the Subcommittee on Assessment, other programs will soon begin planning and designing their program assessment templates using the Program Assessment matrices they have been developing as a guide. Faculty and staff will soon receive notification of Spring 2004 and Fall 2004 system use training sessions. Training of students will begin with the Fall 2004 semester.

For further information about any of these activities, please contact Stephanie Kenney at skkenney@georgiasouthern.edu or Judi Repman at jrepman@georgiasouthern.edu.

COE will be participating in
American Cancer Society - Relay for Life
Friday, April 16 & 17, 7PM-7AM

P-16 Partnership for Teaching/Learning Renewal

In the Fall of 2003, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) awarded the College of Education a three-year, half-million dollar grant to support the work of developing the Professional Development District (PDD) with Screven County, named "P-16 Partnership for Teaching/Learning Renewal." The focus of the work is to address (a) the significant gap in the academic performance between minority and non-minority students and between low SES (socioeconomic status) students and their more advantaged peers; and (b) the need for COE candidates (inclusive of all educator preparation) to possess the knowledge, skills and dispositions that will enable them to teach (and work with) all children and to understand how 'the system' is failing some youth. The PDD model that is developed— as well as the teaching and learning practices, education intervention models, and other activities that result from this work—will be shared with all COE partnerships under the direction of the Director of Field Experiences and Partnerships with the intent that all partnerships will benefit and continue to develop their work. If you would like more information about this work, please contact Stephanie Kenney at skenney@georgiasouther.edu or Amy Heaston at aheaston@georgiasouthern.edu.

College of Education and First District RESA Co-Sponsor the JASON Project



A collaborative effort between two educational entities gave area students opportunities to explore real life applications of science. Working together, First District RESA and Georgia Southern University's College of Education once again brought the JASON Project to approximately 400 students from surrounding school systems. Sponsored by a Georgia Southern University Service Grant received by the College of Education, pupils from Bulloch, Bryan, Glynn, McIntosh, and Wayne county schools visited the Georgia Southern campus between January 27 and February 4, 2004. Through a live satellite downlink, area middle grade students joined JASON Project scientists and the "real-time" exploits of peers gathering data in the tropical rainforests of Panama. In addition to the telecast, students took a tour of the Georgia Southern campus and enjoyed educational activities hosted by the Planetarium, Botanical Gardens, Museum, and Wildlife Education Center.

The JASON Project was created by Dr. Robert Ballard, an oceanologist renowned for his exploration of the Titanic. In its fifteenth year of operation, students from all over the world gain first hand experience working with some of the most famous scientists and leading experts on culture, geography, and the environment. Ballard began the JASON Project out of his desire to steer students toward careers in science. Through the use of the Internet, Ballard and his associates enable students to work directly with scientists in the field. The JASON Project strives to provide proof that science is both exciting and beneficial to the world, by taking upper-elementary and middle grade students to exotic locations such as barrier reefs, rainforest, and the frozen tundra.

First District RESA (working in concert with the National Science Center) supplied teachers from surrounding counties with curriculum, online resources, and training. Working with educators as early as August 2003, RESA held classes that explained how to use project materials and related technological tools such as GPS satellite programs, handheld data probes, and Internet based resources. After their initial training, teachers returned to the classroom and inspired students to participate in chat sessions with JASON experts and supervised the collecting of data for comparison with information being discovered in Panama. The trip to Georgia Southern was the culminating experience, which provided direct interaction with scientists via the satellite downlink. The state-of-the-art technology in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building allowed the students and teachers to see, hear and question the JASON Project scientists in Panama without ever leaving southeast Georgia.

While at Georgia Southern University, middle grade students participated in hands-on science activities which applied the JASON Project's theme of bio-diversity to the local environment. Whether dissecting carnivorous plants, studying the paleontology of the coastal plain, looking at the stars, or learning about raptors' role in the ecosystem, students were actively engaged in understanding the nature of science. In addition, Georgia Southern students involved in the PREP program guided the various groups around campus and provided insight into the college experience.

An Educator's Perspective

Guidelines for Happy Teachers

After eighteen years of teaching, one might say I've "been around the block" a few times. Teaching was not my dream career when I was a child; it wasn't even my dream career my first two years of college. I chose teaching because, at the time, it was a "practical" career choice for me. Now, after eighteen years, I still become excited at the prospect of teaching something/someone new. I love teaching, and I like to believe that I didn't choose it; it chose me. While I haven't discovered some secret formula to becoming a happy teacher, I have discovered a few guidelines for our profession:

SMILE—Every teacher has heard, "Don't smile until Christmas," during your first year. Unfortunately, many keep that disposition forever in an effort to appear "stern" and "tough" so the students will not think they are pushovers. Hey! It is OK to show the students that you are content, well adjusted, and happy with your life. I know it has been a secret for quite a while, but teachers are human too.

QUIT GRIPING—We all know those teachers. These are the ones you avoid in the hallways for fear that you may hear the latest gripes about students, programs, and/or life in general. You know to NEVER ask these teachers the question, "How are you today?" The "grippers" are the reason most of us avoid the teachers' lounge. Don't let yourself become one of the dreaded "grippers." Go back to the advice in number one above and if you can only find things to gripe about in the profession, get out.

CARE ABOUT YOUR STUDENTS—Unfortunately, there are teachers who don't seem to like children very much. They appear rude, bitter, and snarl when students pass them in the hallway, while desperately trying to catch a student doing something—anything—wrong. Teachers who don't like children are, and will continue to be, a mystery. Remember that if you are going into or are in this profession, you must work with young people every day. Therefore, enjoy them. Listen to what they have to say. You will be surprised at how much you learn from them. Wonder at their naivety, and marvel at their youth. What you see before you every day in the classroom is our future. Try to help them become what we will all need.

HAVE FUN—Above all else, have fun. If you can't get up in the mornings and look forward to work, reevaluate what is happening. There will always be days, and sometimes weeks, when things go badly, but these shouldn't last forever. Enjoy this profession. I happen to believe that it is one of the greatest.

*Melissa Akins, Ed.D., Clinical Associate and Demonstration Teacher
Effingham County High School*

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI

Sheila Davis-Parson

Upon graduation last May, one of our outstanding students, special education major Sheila Davis-Parson, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Sheila had been in the ROTC program at Georgia Southern University and had the option of going into the reserves; however, she opted to serve her country by going active duty. She received orders for Iraq and expects to be deployed shortly. Sheila's assignment to a war zone brings the sacrifice of our military's young people closer to home and makes it much more personal. She is an incredible young woman. Sheila welcomes hearing from friends at Second Lt Sheila Parson/Maintenance Platoon, 143d/375th/766/233d TC CO, APO AE 09366 or e-mail her at sheila.davis.parson@us.army.mil.

Recognizing a P-12 Educator



When asked to describe Debra Miller as a teacher, her principal, Kelly Tharp at Julia P. Bryant Elementary in Statesboro, Georgia, responded with the following remarks. "Deb Miller personifies the teacher we all remember fondly from our own childhood, who cared about and challenged us and whose whole class was always something exciting, unique, and fun to look forward to. As an administrator, I know that placing a child in Ms. Miller's class will ensure that he will get exactly what he needs, whatever that may be...sometimes an encouraging word, or maybe a frank heart to heart. Children leave Deb's class at the end of the year self-confident and ready for fourth grade."

Since graduating with academic distinction from Georgia Southern in 1992 with a degree in Early Childhood Education, Mrs. Miller has dedicated her career to the welfare of young children. As Julia P. Bryant Elementary's yearbook editor, her determination and hard work resulted in a yearbook which the publisher selected as an exemplary model distributing 1000 copies nationwide. Beyond the school day she has served for the past three years as Statesboro Service League's chairperson for the Boys and Girls Club of Statesboro.

Mrs. Miller has continued to stay actively involved with the College of Education. She has been a Demonstration Teacher with the Teacher Support Specialist endorsement since the inception of the DT program six years ago and has supervised many field experience preservice teachers. She has been a featured speaker at Early Childhood Education seminars, guest lecturer for college courses, member of two search committees, representative on SACS committees, and a facilitator at a Demonstration Teacher workshop. In October 2003, Mrs. Miller was an invited speaker at an International Learning Community seminar for educators from the United Kingdom, and she also served as their host at Julia P. Bryant.

Mrs. Miller's class collaborated with Dr. Mary Ann Nelson's and Mrs. Victoria Zwald's Introduction to Special Education class from Georgia Southern in December to support a local family with gifts during the holiday. Her tireless efforts on behalf of children at her school and in the community were recognized as she was named Teacher of the Year for 2003 at Julia P. Bryant Elementary School. She has also recently been nominated for the national Disney Teacher of the Year.

On behalf of the College of Education, we salute the career of Debra Miller and are proud to recognize her as an alumna of Georgia Southern University!

Georgia Teacher-of-the-Year Top 10 Finalists: Back-to-Back

by Lawrence Smith, Clinical Associate & Demonstration Teacher, Screven County Middle School



Superintendent Whit Myers and Barbara Brown

A little bragging rights are in order for two of our Screven County Middle School Georgia Southern University Demonstration Teachers. In the consecutive years, Barbara Brown and Chase Puckett have not only been selected as Teacher of the Year for our school, but each has gone on to represent our county and then become a top-ten finalist for state recognition. Not only is this a rare and honored event, but also consider this: these teachers both teach on the eighth grade hall, are on the same team, and are back-to-back hall neighbors. What are the odds of that happening?

Here are some of the achievements and honors of **Barbara Brown**, a top-five state finalist for the year 2004. Her educational achievements include the B.S.Ed., M.Ed., Ed. S. and a gifted endorsement from Georgia Southern University, and she is completing her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. Her teaching responsibilities include teaching special education at Screven County Middle since 1979, teaching at Georgia Southern University since 1990 and being a Demonstration Teacher for Georgia Southern University. At our school she serves as the special education chair at our meetings, guides us through our School Council meetings with grace and promptness, and is a co-director of "A Walk

Through Time." Other honors include: 1995 Avon's top performance recognition, 1997 SMILE Mentor Program Recognition, 1997 GLRS/ SC Special Education Educator of the Year, and 2001 Georgia Department of Education (GDOE) Innovation Program Award. She has been published as co-author in national, state and local articles, books, Georgia School of Excellence document, and curriculum guide for "A Walk Through Time." She has been a major presenter at 50 (and counting) national, state, and local conferences and groups. For our system, she has helped acquire over \$300,000 worth of educational grant monies from the following: Georgia Middle School Association, Annenberg Rural Trust, GDOE Innovative Programs, Learn and Serve, GDOE School Improvement Grant, Council for Exceptional Children, and local agencies. Lastly, she is a member of the following: PAGE, Phi Delta Kappa (president), Council for Exceptional Children (local and state officer, and serves on several national committees), Pi Lambda Theta, and the GMSA.

Chase Puckett, a top-ten state finalist for the year 2005, has come far in his six brief years at our school. Chase student taught with us in David Buie's 7th grade social studies class and substituted for another half year before he began working with us full time [so we feel he's been family at least seven and one half years]. He has a B.S.Ed. and M.Ed., and Gifted endorsement from Georgia Southern University. His future plans include an Ed.S. in Administration, but he has no plans to leave the classroom in the near future. His other school duties include Reading Chair, yearbook sponsor and head photographer of school events. He has mentored students and for four students became a big brother mentor. Chase is also co-director of "A Walk Through Time." He

volunteers regularly with local churches and organizations, and acts as chaperone for numerous overnight field trips.

I have seen the dedication of these teachers first hand through the pride and enthusiasm that Barbara Brown exhibits as she reads the names of the top spellers during Honors Day, and as Chase Puckett proclaims the school's top readers all year long during the Friday announcements. During our fall "Walk Through Time" Living History Project, the students' professionalism exhibits the intense work these teachers have given them. In the spring, during "Sci-Fi" week, both teachers come as Star Wars characters leading the students into an infectious period of learning about war, prejudice, and power. Both teachers are very serious about their work and often stay in the late afternoons preparing, grading papers, etc. Most importantly, they share their energy, drive, and good humor. If you step into either of their rooms, you get an immediate sense of each teacher's unique personality and warmth. I am honored to know these great teachers and hope you get a chance to meet them in the future.

Photos courtesy of Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone



Student and Chase Puckett



Southern Educator Class Roll

1953

Dr. Robert C. Pickens (B.S.Ed.) and **Betty (Brannen) Pickens** (B.S.Ed.) reside in Palm Springs, Florida. Robert retired in 1994 after a long career as a teacher, administrator, county office evaluator (Palm Beach County), and SACS Director. Betty retired in 1994 too after a career of teaching, homemaking and being a stay-at-home mother. The couple has 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

1957

Jennings Williamson (Science) taught full time and coached girls' basketball for 39 years. He retired in 1968 after several years in the ASE Office.

1958

William R. Wells "Bill" (B.S.Ed. Industrial Arts) is married to Ginny Griffin from Douglas, Georgia. They have two children (Craig, a teacher and Suzanne, a homemaker, wife and mother) and two grandchildren. He published a book, *Tifton, Georgia in Vintage Postcards*. He and Ginny are members of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, APIC, D56 Club and Mid-Georgia Miata Club, and they travel a lot.

1963

Norris Kemp Mabry (M.Ed. Counselor Education) a Georgia Southern University Professor Emeritus, taught in the School (now College) of Education for 22 years. He retired in 1988. He is active in community service, was named Kappa Delta Pi's Living Treasure, and received the Governor's Award in Humanities in 2001. He received community service awards from the Georgia Retired Educators Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Kemp was named one of four Honorary Altamaha River Pilots for service to Georgia Southern's Project R.A.F.T. He also received the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2002 he was named Statesboro Citizen of the Year and Marietta High School's Distinguished Alumnus. He is an ordained deacon of Bethel Baptist Church and writes a weekly human interest column for the *Statesboro Herald*.

1967

James A. Goolsby (B.S.Ed. Business '53, M.Ed. '67) taught for 20 years and held administrative/supervision positions for 18 years in Lowndes County School System, Valdosta, Georgia. He retired to the family farm to work on a small restoration project of longleaf yellow pine and forest restoration for all wildlife.

1970

Susan L. Powell Arnold (B.S.Ed. Elementary Education) lives in Huntsville, Alabama, with her husband, Steve ('70). The couple met at Georgia Southern and married in 1969. They have three children and three grandchildren. Susan teaches first grade in the Madison City School System. She received her M.Ed. in Elementary Education from UNA in 2000. She is the head of the SACS committee, on the leadership team, and a grade level chairman at her school.

Donna Parker Terry (B.S.Ed. Elementary Education) retired after 30 years from the Muscogee County School District. For the past three years she has taught InTech at Columbus State University. She earned M.Ed. and Ed.S. degrees from Troy State University. She and her husband of 31 years live in Harris County. She enjoys volunteer work through her church and at Callaway Gardens.

1971

Emma Gay Sisk (B.S.Ed.) is retiring after 34 years of teaching in metro Atlanta. She has two sons, Jon ('98) and Ted ('99).

1978

Susan Bush Cross (B.A. Political Science '70, M.S.T. Social Science '78) taught Georgia history from 1970-73 for the Dublin City School System. From 1976-86 she taught American government, American history, world history and economics for the Emanuel County School System. In 1989 she became the Director of Adult Education at Swainsboro Technical College. She works part time for East Georgia College teaching American history. Susan has one daughter, Nena, who plans to enter Georgia Southern next fall.

1985

Rebecca S. Napier Masters (B.S. Sociology, M.Ed. Special Education) has been teaching in Screven County at Ogeechee Psychoeducational Services for 11 years. She taught 10 years in Bulloch County as a special education teacher. Her husband, Tony, a former UPS manager, is now a local business owner. They have two sons, Jeremiah (14) and Joshua, a sophomore at Georgia Southern. Rebecca received the honors of 1991 Staff Members of the Year at Ogeechee Psychoeducational Services and Teacher of the Year in 1999 at Julia P. Bryant.

1986

Craig Blades (B.S.Ed. Health and PE) taught for four years at Easton Middle School. He has worked for 13 years in the financial services industry at Bank of America as a financial advisor managing the Richmond Office. He and his wife, Candace and their two children live in Richmond, Virginia. He loves to play golf!

1988

Rita Thomas Stephenson (B.S.Ed. Elementary Education) substituted at the Marvin Pittman Lab School after graduation then moved to Richmond Hill, Georgia, and taught for 2 1/2 years. She and her family moved to Alabama where she attended Auburn University to work towards Alabama certification. Her husband, Tim, was moved with Union Camp to Virginia where they have lived for seven years. Rita is teaching at Nansemond-Suffolk Academy in Suffolk, Virginia. Her oldest son, Ashton, is a freshman at Georgia Southern. Her other son, Drew, is a junior in high school. Both of her boys attended the preschool program and the Family Life Center and then attended the Marvin Pittman Lab School. She has been married almost 25 years and her husband, Tim, runs his own business.

Lynda Mathis Yawn (B.S.Ed., M.Ed. Middle Grades) taught 5th & 6th grades for five years and she worked in middle school administration for five years. From 1997-1999 she worked in Institutional Effectiveness & Planning at Ogeechee Technical College. Presently she is Vice President of Student Services at Ogeechee Technical College.

1992

Christopher L. Sumner (Ed.S. School Psychology) is currently a school psychologist with C-F RESA and serves four school systems, R-YDC and Camp E-Tu-Nake Therapeutic Camp. He and his wife, Sheila, a math teacher with gifted certification at Blakely Middle School in Early County have three children, Christopher, Catherine and Chandler.

Zalie Annora Allen Williams (B.S.Ed. Science) is in her 10th year of teaching chemistry at Fayette County High School. She and her husband, Ric ('91), live in Hampton with their three children, Tristan (6), Rachel (4), and Logan (2).

1993

Syette Denise Roberts Rivers (B.S.Ed. Special Education) resides in Lithonia with her husband. She taught special needs kindergarten for seven years in Cobb County and earned an Ed.S. in special education. She is now teaching in DeKalb County and working on her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

1994

Wendi Adkins Varvel (B.S.Ed.) is a full-time graduate student after teaching for eight years. She is attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and pursuing a M.Ed. with an emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology. She serves as the chapter president of the National Student Speech Language Pathology Association. She also volunteers at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter. Wendi and her husband, Todd, have two children, Alex and Jule. Todd is an officer in the United States Navy.

1996

Hollie Nell Heath Beale (B.S.Ed. English '95, M.Ed. English '96) is a high school English teacher at West Laurens High School in Dublin, Georgia. She completed requirements for a reading endorsement from Georgia Southern this past summer. She is married and has a three year old daughter, Anna Claire.

Roger T. Ivey (B.S.Ed. Industrial Arts '86, M.Ed. Technology '96) has worked for three school systems since graduation. He taught industrial arts for one year at Turner Middle School in Douglas County. He then taught industrial arts and technology at Lilburn Middle in Gwinnett for nine years. He is currently working as the Coordinator of Technology and Career Education for Rockdale County Public Schools.

Edward A. Shaner (B.S.Ed. Health & PE) is currently an assistant principal at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He coaches high school football. He completed his MA in School Administration at Gardner-Webb University in August 2003.

Phillip Sisk (B.S.Ed. '71, M.S.T. '72, Ed.S. '96) taught 30 years in metro Atlanta. He was named Teacher of the Year at East Paulding High School in 2002, Focus on Abilities Teacher of the Year in 2002 and received Radio Shack National Teacher Award in 2003 for Technology Education. He has also refereed Division I basketball.

1998

Brenda Ann Dent Bilbrey (M.Ed. Math Education) resides in Odum, Georgia. She teaches at Wayne County High School and is the senior sponsor for Key Club. She was named Advisor of the Year for Georgia. She is very active in the community as a member of Kiwanis, student leadership training and service projects.

1999

Stacey O'Neil Kitchens (B.S. Sociology '95, M.Ed. Counselor Education '99) left Statesboro two days after graduation in 1995 and headed to Zhirtomir, Ukraine as a Peace Corp volunteer. She served for two years. She

returned to Georgia Southern and completed her master's in Counselor Education. She is a high school counselor. Her husband, son and she live in Social Circle.

2001

Christine E. Catto McLaughlin (B.S.Ed. Math) taught high school math for two years. She married Lt. Michael McLaughlin in February 2003 and they reside in Waegon, Korea at Camp Carroll, United States Army.

2002

Patty V. Cox (B.S.Ed. Middle Grades) is teaching at Wrens Middle School in Jefferson County. She is completing her M.Ed. in Middle Grades and can not wait to work on higher degrees.

Richard H. Horah (M.Ed. Instructional Technology) joined the Lane Library faculty at Armstrong Atlantic State University in December 2000 as a library media specialist. He received a promotion in July 2003 to Instructional Technologist/Assistant Professor.

Diane McNeely (M.Ed. Counselor Education '92, Ed.S. Administration/Supervision) is the assistant principal at Jenkins County High School. She received her Ed.S. from the University of Sarasota in 2002. She will complete her Ed.D. in Administration/Supervision in May 2004 from Argosy University in Sarasota, Florida.

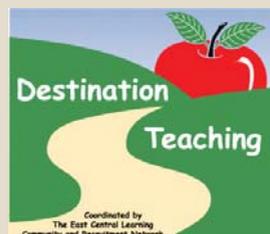
Shameka Cha'net Milton (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) is currently teaching first grade in Jacksonville, Florida. She is also working on her master's in Educational Leadership at the University of North Florida and should graduate in December 2004. She is coaching middle school basketball and JV basketball at The Bolles School. Shameka plans to relocate to the Atlanta area sometime in 2005.

Amanda L. Thomas (B.S.Ed. English) is teaching high school English and sponsors the BETA Club in Baxley, Georgia. She resides in Vidalia, Georgia where she also works at the Sylvan Learning Center teaching reading, writing and study skills. She is planning a move to the Gwinnett area in June 2004.

2003

Leah K. Baker (B.S.Ed. Business) is working at Lithia Springs High School teaching computer applications and marketing principles to students in 9th-12th grades. She is also assisting with the FBLA and DECA clubs.





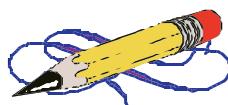
DESTINATION TEACHING: Customized Pathways to Get You There

The Destination Teaching program is a federally funded Teacher Preparation Recruitment Initiative. The mandate of this program is to develop creative methods of training individuals to meet the standards for highly qualified teachers and to meet the teacher shortages in critical areas. The Destination Teaching program at Georgia Southern University includes two cohorts: Paraprofessional Track to Teaching and Career Path Changers.

The first cohort, Paraprofessional Track to Teaching, is comprised of individuals currently working as paraprofessionals in special education classrooms and who have expressed a desire to become special education teachers. This is a good target group due to their existing commitment to the community in which they are currently serving. Special Education is a high-needs field, and these persons already have knowledge and experience of what is required in the special education classroom. Georgia Southern University is partnered with East Georgia College where these paraprofessionals will earn their Associate in Arts in Special Education degree. They will continue their teacher education at Georgia Southern University where they will earn their Bachelor of Science in Special Education degree. The challenge of the Destination Teaching program is to design a program of study that will meet the high standards of teacher preparation while providing a course structure that will meet the needs of these working paraprofessionals. Courses will be delivered via distance learning, on-line, by weekend college and in evenings.

The second Destination Teaching cohort, Career Path Changers, is comprised of persons entering teacher education from non-education degrees or careers. These individuals already hold at least a four-year degree. The design of this program meets the PSC-approved Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program. These participants begin their course work in the summer with four rigorous courses to prepare them to begin teaching in a classroom in the fall. The teacher education training continues while they are in their first two years as intern teachers. Upon successful completion of the two-year program, these participants are then eligible for clear renewable certification. Again, the delivery of courses is designed to meet the needs of these in-classroom participants. Courses are offered on-line, via weekend college and in evenings. While students are not required to complete a master's degree, many will be able to do so during their two-year internship.

We are pleased to offer these programs which allow entry to the teaching profession while upholding the academically challenging standards by which the College of Education is known. Susan Cason, Career Counselor/Project Coordinator, can be contacted at (912) 486-7841.



College of Education Board of Advisors Fall Meeting



The COE Board of Advisors met on November 12, 2003. **Back row** (l to r): David Wood, Microsoft Senior Manager; Al Burke, Bulloch County School Board Chair; Charles Bonds, College of Education Professor Emeritus; Ken Baker, Executive Vice President of Western Natural Gas Company of Jacksonville; Paul Scott, President of Altamaha Technical College; **Middle row** (l to r): H.F. Johnson, Appling County Schools Superintendent; Kay Brown, Board of Advisors Chair; Marie Hooks, Principal, Saxon Heights Elementary; Linda Lewis, Executive Director of First District RESA; Robert Winter, Superintendent, Glynn County Schools; **Front row** (l to r): June Bradfield, Executive Director of Heart of Georgia RESA; Mary Sue Smith, coordinator of the Boys and Girls Club After School Tutoring Program; Sheila Hoynes, retired teacher and past Georgia Southern Alumni Association President; and Martha Bacon, Statesboro business person.

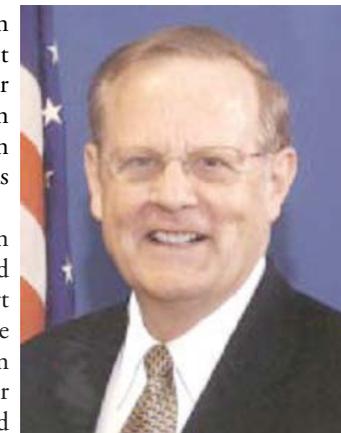
Colonel Robert Guy



The Destination Teaching Program was privileged to host Colonel Robert Guy, 2004 Georgia Teacher of the Year on February 10, 2004. He spoke on the topic, "Classroom Teachers Learn Too." Colonel Guy chose teaching as a second career after his successful career in the military.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from West Point, the United States Military Academy. He served in command and staff positions in Vietnam, Germany, Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Fort Stewart, Fort Polk, and the Pentagon. His military teaching assignments prompted him to choose education as a second career. He holds a Master of Science degree from Purdue University. He also attended the University of Virginia and the University of Georgia to satisfy requirements for teacher certification.

He teaches eighth grade science and reading at Oconee County Middle School. He and his wife Jodie, a staff member in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia, live in Athens, GA.



A Glimpse of the Future

Approximately 300 high school students visited the College of Education on November 12 as part of A Day on Campus with Teachers of Tomorrow.

Professors Who Have Made A Difference

In the fall issue of *Southern Educator*, the editors requested alumni to send in remembrances of faculty who had made a difference and influenced their development as a teacher. One submission praised several former faculty—Dr. Tully S. Pennington, science; Dr. William B. Moye, math; Dr. W. S. Hanner, science; Ms. Frieda Gernant, art education; Henry L. Ashmore, education; Dr. Zach Henderson; and Dr. Paul Carroll. Also noted was Ms. Sophia Johnson, dean of men during the Georgia Teacher College years, who was a "mother to many" and gave "guidance and encouragement to all."

When you posed the question about a teacher at GSU who made a difference in my development as a teacher in a recent edition of *Southern Educator*, I immediately thought of the impact that Dr. Ronnie Sheppard had on me. Our association began many years prior to GSU when I had the privilege of receiving my preservice training in middle grades language arts under his careful guidance and later as a graduate student at GSU. My love of adolescent literature and writing began in his classes. Every time I explore a new novel or writing assignment with my students, I always remember Dr. Sheppard's instruction. Early on, I learned the importance of making personal connections to reading and writing for my students and using graphic organizers to assist in accomplishing these goals. Techniques and strategies that I learned from him many years earlier are now being hailed as "best practices" throughout the nation! Even years ago, Dr. Sheppard was embracing these "practices" in his instruction and making lasting impressions on many fledging educators, including me! His influence has always encouraged me to seek excellence and reach for higher levels in my professional career. Thanks, Dr. Sheppard, for making an impact in my life! — Jerry Snider, Ed.D.

Please continue to share with us those who made a difference and how they made a difference to you. Contributions can be a maximum of 300 words in length and e-mailed to dscolson@georgiasouthern.edu.

Partnering with the UK



Group Leaders, Judy Barcham and Ike Garson



Two groups of educators from the United Kingdom visited the College of Education, Georgia Southern University, and the surrounding area from October 26 through November 4. The group from Derby investigated raising standards in rural schools, specifically in the area of literacy. The Oxford group looked at inclusion. Public schools involved in some aspect of the visit included: Brooklet Elementary, Julia P. Bryant Elementary, Langston Chapel Elementary, Langston Chapel Middle, Mattie Lively Elementary, Mill Creek Elementary, Nevils Elementary, Portal Elementary, Sallie Zetterower Elementary, Southeast Bulloch High, Southeast Bulloch Middle, and Statesboro High School. Great connections were made between the UK and US teachers.

United Kingdom-Georgia Southern Student Teacher Exchanges. In Fall 2003, President Grube welcomed three student teachers from the University of Derby, United Kingdom, to the Georgia Southern campus. This semester, two Georgia Southern middle grades student teachers will spend four weeks of their student teaching experience in the United Kingdom. Dana Lewis and Jessica Warnock will be based in London for their experience. Pictured with President Grube are (l-r) UK student teachers, Helen Smith, Heather Bostock, and Emma Cooper.

Faculty/Staff Retirements

Dr. Jackie Bedell retired at the end of January 2004 after ten years as Instructional Services Coordinator for the College of Education's Instructional Resources Center (IRC). During her tenure, Dr. Bedell was instrumental in expanding the center's resources to include both PC and MAC computer labs and a multi-media classroom.

Dr. Synnove Heggoy retired September 1, 2003. She served as a Professor of Exceptional Children in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, and as Director of the Regents' Center for Learning Disabilities.

Dr. Fred Page plans to retire at the end of spring semester 2004. He currently teaches in the educational leadership program and holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. Dr. Page joined the university in 1973 and has served in various capacities in the College of Education including Director of Student Teaching and also Associate Dean for External Relations.

Dr. Jim Stephens retired at the end of Fall 2003 having served the university since 1994. Dr. Stephens, Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning (formerly named the Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education), taught in the middle grades education program.

PREP Students Attend 21st Century Leadership Activities

See story on Page 3



Pictured (l-r) Christian Gordon, Screven County High; Monica Williams, Portal High; LaTisha Chavers, Portal High; Joyce Ann Williams, Portal High; and Jenifer Foster, Statesboro High.



Pictured (l-r) Statesboro High students: Huy Li, Michael Cooper, Juan Salazar, Felipe Salazar, and Georgia Southern Goizueta Scholar Sergio Hinojosa.



ALUMNI: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

Name: _____
First Middle Last Maiden

Address: _____
City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____
 Check if okay to publish

Graduation Date: _____ Degree/Major: _____

What have you been doing since graduation?

IN MEMORY

Ardena M. Carter
 1979-2003
 M.Ed. student in
 Science Education

Return to: Southern Educator -- P.O. Box 8013 -- College of Education -- Georgia Southern University -- Statesboro, GA 30460-8013