Research Opportunities Broaden Student Experience

Graduate Students Reach Out to Families

When Jamie Darling, an M.Ed. student in Counselor Education, started researching counseling models, she and the other graduate students involved in the project quickly realized that too often only children with "special needs" were targeted for help. "As we continued to cultivate our model, we began to realize that "special needs" can mean so many things," Darling said. "We also began to realize that our model was useful for any family experiencing a unique challenge," Darling added. She said that families are too often ignored as a unit when one member encounters a change. Not only did she and fellow students Breanna Carter, Betsy Zimmerman and April Miller gain experience in research methodology, they also earned spots presenting at two national conferences. "We've worked very hard to create and cultivate something that has never been done before," Darling said. The result, she said, is much more than something to put on a resume; for her and fellow researchers it has changed their thinking about their role in counseling.

Undergraduate Researchers Participate in Conferences

For the first time, research by student teacher candidates has been accepted for presentation at two regional and one national conference, said Kymberly Drawdy, associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning and one of three faculty members who developed an action research project as part of coursework in the teacher education program. The other faculty members are Associate Professor Meca Williams-Johnson in the Department of Curriculum,
Foundations and Reading and Clinical Instructor Kathleen Tootle in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

The six SPED students have been conducting a curriculum match between the School Improvement Plan at four partner schools and the student outcomes for their focus learners for edTPA. "We conducted intensive research on our schools and learned interesting information that we would not have known otherwise," said student Sarah Holt.

"Being able to conduct and use research is so important for teacher development and for preservice teachers' impact on P-12 learning," said Drawdy. "The outcomes for the students in the classroom and the preservice teachers were better than we anticipated and having the research accepted for presentation at a national conference is another indication of the value and importance of undergraduate research," Drawdy added.

Conference Focuses on STEM Issues for Educators at All Levels

From the nature of current and emerging generations of students to shaping spaces that support 21st century STEM learning, the recent Georgia Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference focused on partnership, pedagogy and performance for K-16 educators. For more information on keynote and concurrent presentations at the Georgia Scholarship of STEM Teaching & Learning Conference click here. For more on STEM initiatives at Georgia Southern, contact the STEM Institute at Georgia Southern. Click here for information.

(L-R) Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel with STEM conference keynote speaker David Pogue, anchor columnist for Yahoo Tech, and COE Dean Thomas Koballa.

COE's Instructional Resources Center Director Daniel Rivera held workshops on how K-16 students and educators can use Google Chrome, and on the applications of Google Glass in the classroom.
The College of Education hosted its annual scholarship luncheon this month recognizing students and scholarship donors. COE Board Members also were on hand to honor both donors and recipients.

Scholarship recipients Dianna Jimenez (left) and Rosa San Juan, both Goizueta Foundation Scholars, sit with COE Board Member Dr. Jody Barrow (center) and COE Goizueta Distinguished Chair Alejandro Gallard in the photo below.

Dr. Martha Cain (left), donor of the Lee & Martha Tootle Cain Science Education Scholarship poses with Dana McCullough who was awarded the Bryan Deever Memorial Scholarship.

Dr. Kathy Harrell, (photo at right) COE alumna and retired special education teacher and administrator, spoke at the luncheon about her recent gift, the Harold M. and Catherine D. Sandiford Memorial Scholarship.

For information on endowing a COE scholarship, contact Major Gifts Officer Ross Davis.

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Education majors spent part of fall semester in England gaining valuable experience in teaching and in understanding and appreciating cultural differences. The students taught at the Handsworth school. Spring semester, three students from England spent time at Springfield Elementary School and Langston Chapel Elementary, two of COE’s partner schools.

Right: COE students (L-R) Dustin Canon, Claire Wilson, Morgan Ennis and Meredith Kratofil.

They won! The Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE) won the Georgia Southern student organization competition for "Battle of the Books," to bring books to English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Bulloch County. SPAGE member Leah Ryden served as the SPAGE team captain for this year’s drive. Pictured left are SPAGE members (center) with COE faculty advisors Jim Jupp and Katie Brkich, assistant professors in the Department of Teaching and Learning.