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College of Education, Georgia Southern University

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Faculty from various disciplines on Georgia Southern University’s campus participated in the fall 2017 STEM Experience hosted by the College of Education’s Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i2STEM®) on Nov. 3.

Lisa Stueve, Ed.D., the Institute’s outreach specialist, explained that STEM Experiences are “interactive hands-on lab experiences for K-12 students in STEM situations campuswide” with faculty often participating from many of the University’s colleges.

“We are hopeful that the experience will support STEM career engagement for students; encourage the state’s best and brightest to pursue opportunities at Georgia Southern University; and expose young scholars to STEM industry standards and best practices through practical application models,” said Stueve.

For the fall STEM Experience, i2STEM® hosted students from the Effingham College and Career Academy. Participants attended interactive sessions on topics including: anatomy and physiology, Arduino Programming with MATLAB, scientific studies in the herbarium, robotics, exploration of the Georgia Southern Museum, chemistry and an introduction to the College of Education’s Innovation Studio.

“This year’s STEM Experience was engaging and enriching for our students,” said Michelle Thompson, Ed.D., director of scientific research and Advanced Placement (AP) chemistry at the Effingham College and Career Academy.

“Students left Georgia Southern yearning to learn more about programs such robotics and dreaming of having an Innovation Studio of our own,” continued Thompson. “Without hesitation I would recommend this experience to other schools. There is a variety of topics presented that do not always find a way to intersect into the typical curriculum taught in schools.”

Faculty hosting sessions in the November event included: Diana Sturges, M.D., Rami Haddad, Ph.D., John Schenk, Ph.D., Rocio Alba-Flores, Ph.D., Fernando Rios-Gutierrez, Ph.D., Brent Tharp, Ph.D., Lucas Jensen, Ph.D., Eric Johnson, Ph.D., Jim LoBue, Ph.D., and Ria Ramoutar, Ph.D.

STEM Experiences are hosted once per semester (spring and fall). The events are open to any school in the state for participation, however limited space is available for each event. Schools are charged a fee of $35 per student. The fee covers all activities in the event including lunch, admission to the University’s Museum, Botanic
Gardens and Center for Wildlife Education, and consumables for lab experiences.

Students attending STEM Experiences must be accompanied by a school system appointed chaperone, and a minimum of one chaperone per 10 students is recommended according to Stueve. There is no limit or charge for chaperones.

Stueve says that sessions vary each semester based on the availability of faculty, however they can attempt to tailor sessions to a school system's requests.

"Historically, we have had a great number of sessions and opportunities thanks to our partnering faculty across campus," said Stueve. “The school system can have the flexibility to schedule their students according to their interests in the sessions that we are offering each semester.”

The next STEM Experience is scheduled for Friday, March 30, 2018. For more information about the spring STEM Experience, contact Stueve at lstueve@georgiasouthern.edu or visit http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/stem/

Instructional technology faculty member Lucas Jensen, Ph.D. (right) demonstrates one of the sound functions of LittleBits with student in the College of Education's Innovation Studio.
Five graduate students represented Georgia Southern University’s College of Education (COE) at the Georgia College Personnel Association (GCPA) and Georgia Housing Officers (GHO) Joint Conference hosted at Armstrong State University on Nov. 9-10.


The theme of this year’s joint conference was, “Chart Your Course Towards Best Practices.” A practitioner-based event, presentations centered on professional development and organizational techniques for both the higher education and housing arenas.

Brown, a graduate assistant in the First Year Experience office at Georgia Southern, presented “Being *Blank* Isn’t a Risk Factor.” She discussed and encouraged attendees to brainstorm ideas about ways to empower students with marginalized identities on college campuses. Brown also presented current research that examined external influences, such as the media, and the impact they have on these populations.

Green presented, “Breaking Barriers: Accommodating Learning Obstacles in the Digital Age.” The presentation examined the continued lack of accessibility in instruction despite advances in technology. Green serves as an academic degree programs coordinator at Emory University. Using her experiences as both a professional in the higher education field and current graduate student, she examined ways to adequately accommodate the needs of students, ensuring that students with disabilities have the same access, opportunities and privileges as their peers.

Tier I candidate in the doctorate of educational leadership program, Davis shared discoveries made within her position as associate director of residence life and housing at College of Coastal Georgia (CCGA) to help formulate her presentation. “How to Deconstruct Silos: Managing Growth and Supporting Student Success” discussed the separation that is often present in higher education institutions where departments, offices and divisions do not collaborate within a campus. Davis and co-presenter Allison Lyon offered solutions they have used at CCGA to deconstruct and formulate growth within the institution.

Banter and Egan, both tier II candidates in the doctorate of educational leadership program, co-presented, “The Collaboratory: Designing a Leadership Living-Learning Community to Tackle Wicked Social Injustices.” Their presentation offered suggestions for engaging students in the design thinking process of problem-solving through results shown in a leadership living learning community hosted on Georgia Southern’s campus called the “The Collaboratory.” This initiative was crafted to teach students how to creatively tackle challenges facing our global community and have them engage in social work. Banter and Egan are both employees of the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement at the University. The presentation also included undergraduate student Zachary Lemons, a community leader at Georgia Southern University.

“It was so exciting to see so many of our higher education leadership students representing the COE and Georgia Southern at this conference,” said Dan Calhoun, Ph.D., associate professor and coordinator of the M.Ed. Higher
Ed.D. Educational Leadership Candidates John Banter (left) and John Egan

Education Administration program at Georgia Southern. “I think it says a lot about their leadership abilities to have been selected to present such high quality programs at a professional conference where student affairs professionals representing 32 institutions from the state of Georgia were present.”

GCPA is a state affiliate of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and serves as an advocate and professional support network for high education professionals and the development of students. For more information on GCPA, visit http://ga.myacpa.org/

Since forming in 1989, GHO seeks to serve as an association of college housing officers advancing the professionals as a resource for collaboration, networking and communication within Georgia. For more information on GHO, visit http://georgiahousingofficers.org

To learn more about the higher education administration graduate degrees offered at Georgia Southern, visit http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/edld/

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