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EAGLE EDUCATOR

FALL 2013

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



Alumna

*Jemelleh
Coes*

Georgia's 2014

Teacher of the Year

Welcome to the 2013–2014 edition of the College of Education magazine.

Our inaugural edition of the COE magazine last year was a huge success. We're building on that success by officially naming our magazine *Eagle Educator* in honor of all the great accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

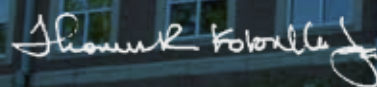
I hope you will enjoy reading about the activities of the College of Education and the kind of influence a Georgia Southern University education is having in so many areas of the field of education, not only in our region but around the world.

I am particularly proud of our alumna, Jemelleh Coes, the 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year who is pictured on the cover of this edition of *Eagle Educator*. Jemelleh received her undergraduate degree in special education in 2008 and a master's in instructional improvement in 2010, both from the COE. Of course, we cannot take all the credit for Jemelleh's success. She came to the College of Education with purpose, drive and dedication. She is truly a dynamic personality! But it was through her programs of study, and relationships and mentoring with College of Education faculty, that helped shape her as an educator and community advocate. Like a true educator, Jemelleh models what she learned, and I am proud to say she now mentors new COE teacher candidates at Langston Chapel Middle School in Bulloch County, one of the College's partner schools. Jemelleh will travel the state as an educational ambassador for Georgia public schools and act as a representative for all Georgia public school teachers and as an advocate for students.

Jemelleh's story is just one of the many inspiring stories you'll read about in this and subsequent editions of *Eagle Educator*.

I invite you to contact me and College of Education faculty and staff to learn more about the exciting work going on here.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas R. Koballa, Dean



Contents

FOCUS

Transforming Classrooms:
COE's new DIGI lab P. 4



It Takes More Than a Village to Raise a Child: New National Youth-At-Risk Center helps a broad range of people serving youth P. 6

Building Bridges: COE Partners with the Community to Bring Books to Young Children P. 8

INNOVATE

DEPARTMENT NEWS:

Leadership, Technology and Human Development P. 10

Teaching and Learning P. 10

Curriculum, Foundations and Reading P. 11

Grad Program Rankings P. 11

Thinking Globally P. 12

FACULTY BENCHMARKS

Focus on Excellence Awards P. 14

Award for Merit P. 15

Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students P. 15

Betty-Ware Wray Award P. 15

Jack Miller Awards P. 15

EAGLE EDUCATORS SOARING

Top Teacher: Alumna Named 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year P. 16

John Suddath Hall: Educational Legacy P. 17

Dr. Martha Cain: COE Alumna of the Year P. 17

A Special Need: Scholarship Supports Future Teachers P. 18

Shaping the Future: Alumna Provides Opportunity for Aspiring Students P. 19

SCHOLARSHIPS P. 20

AROUND COE P.22

EAGLE EDUCATOR

Georgia Southern University College of Education, Box 8013, Statesboro, GA 30460 GeorgiaSouthern.edu/coe

Georgia Southern's College of Education continues to grow in its national recognition for excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship and outreach. COE's mission is to prepare students to teach, lead, counsel and model life-long learning; engage in scholarship that provides new pathways to meet the needs of a dynamic, diverse society; and facilitate access to learning opportunities that are authentic, student-centered and technology-rich.

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ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION
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Center for Ed. Leadership and Service

Coastal Area Teacher Education Service
National Youth-At-Risk Center

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Transforming Classrooms

COE's new DIGI lab offers novel ways of using technology

"It touched my heart to see the students working together and assisting each other as they worked through an online animation about earthquakes," said Caitlin Lawson, an early childhood education major. "They would help each other with the technology as well as the content," she added.

Lawson knows about the importance of integrating technology in the classroom. At the COE, she was one of the first students to use the new DIGI lab, a learning environment that provides seamless integration of technology and opportunities to study and socialize in a group. During Lawson's PreProfessional Block, teachers used SmartBoards and laptops. "We didn't have as much of the technology as in the DIGI lab," she said, but what technology was available was used widely, she added. "The teacher I was placed with used her SmartBoard for every lesson whether it was to show a PowerPoint, model math problems or just to display instructions for group assignments," she said. "I am sure that in my future experiences I will see much more technological integration in the classroom and will incorporate it into the lessons in my future classroom."

There's no question that the way in which 21st century students learn is changing and so are the classrooms in which they learn. That's why COE designed and built the DIGI lab. DIGI is an acronym that represents the primary themes of the classroom design, said one of the creators, Associate Professor Julie Maudlin, Department of Teaching and Learning. "It stands for De-centeredness, Interaction with technology, Group collaboration and Inquiry-oriented instruction," Maudlin said.

"It's designed to meet the needs of Net Generation students," she added. The design offers a flexible classroom space to maximize engaging student-centered learning opportunities, and it provides a model of technology integration that COE students can ap-

The DIGI lab is a Smart Board on steroids available to everyone at the same time.

ply in their future classrooms, Maudlin explained.

What that means is that individual desks can be moved easily into different configurations to meet the teacher's needs. The surface of the desks can be used as a whiteboard allowing students to write directly on the tables solving problems together or brainstorming. Four wall-mounted projectors interact with whiteboards and individual tablet computers so instructors or groups of students can work together or individually. The DIGI lab is a Smart Board on steroids available to everyone at the same time.

Since it became operational in spring 2013, the room is being used by

faculty in every discipline. This summer, teachers from Statesboro High School, Camden County High School, Burke County High School and Ware County High School spent a week in the DIGI lab as part of a Race-to-the-Top Innovation Fund Enterprise Grant funded through the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. The teachers worked with COE faculty in creating and implementing an interdisciplinary STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), problem-based research course that engages students in applied learning through real-world grand challenges of environment and energy that are impacting their local communities.

The DIGI Lab was funded through a student tech fee proposal submitted by Maudlin and former Instructional Services Coordinator Michelle Rivera. The classroom was modeled after the "Classroom Next" at Texas Wesleyan University. The classroom accommodates 24 students. Prominent features of this classroom include:

Flexible seating for multiple configuration (small-group, group presentation and traditional lecture).

Google Chromebooks for online collaboration on Google Docs, Popplet, Wikis, Blogs, and other multi-user web applications.

Short throw projectors (wall mounted) for maximum interaction with interactive whiteboards.

Standard Level I upgrade to provide multimedia access (instructor workstation with PC, document camera, DVD).

Four wallplate monitors that can be used in conjunction with two whiteboard screens to project and display digital presentations and documents.

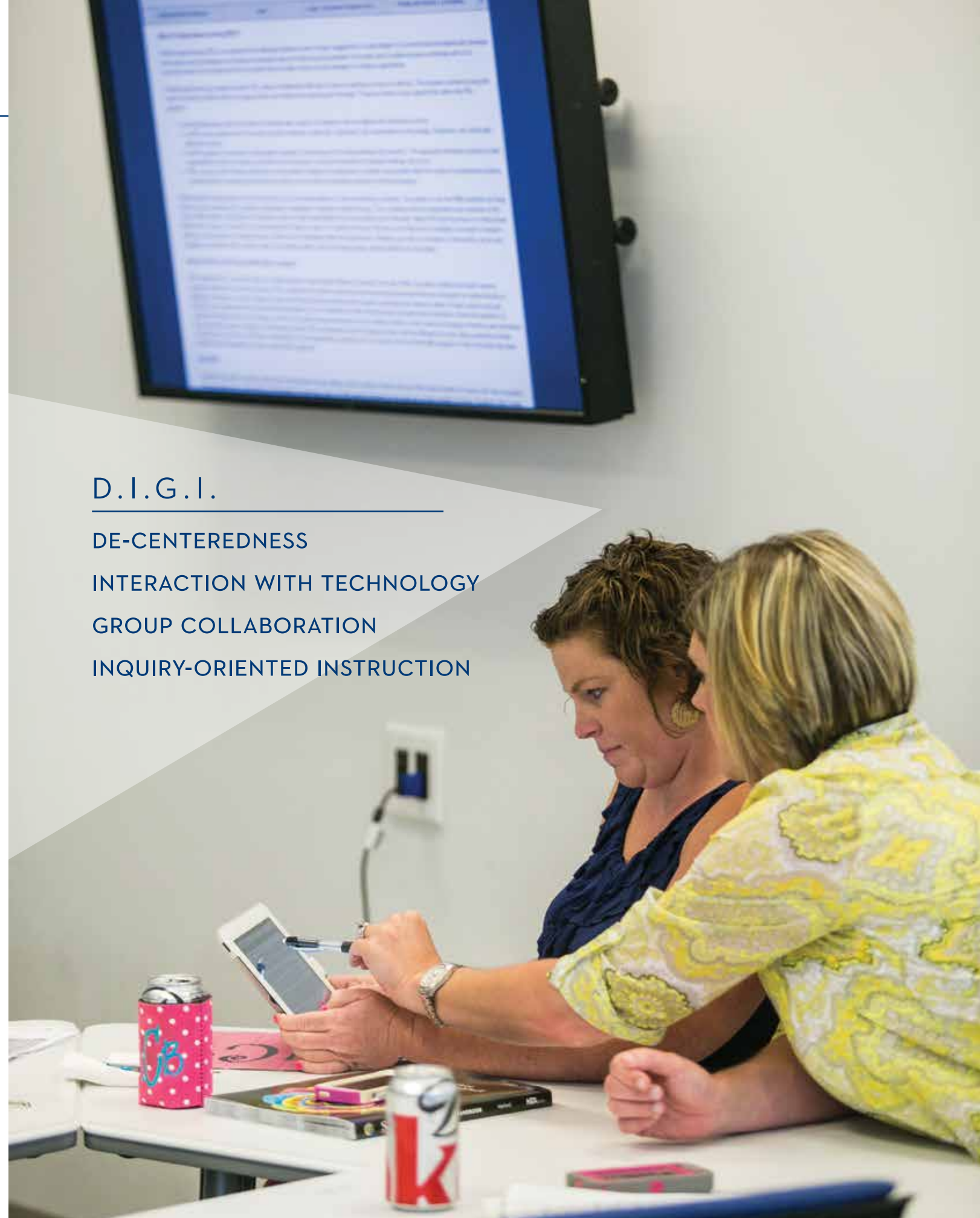
D.I.G.I.

DE-CENTEREDNESS

INTERACTION WITH TECHNOLOGY

GROUP COLLABORATION

INQUIRY-ORIENTED INSTRUCTION



“It Takes More Than a Village to Raise a Child” New National Youth-At-Risk Center helps a broad range of people serving youth

For Curriculum, Foundations and Reading Professor Dan Rea, co-director of the College of Education’s new National Youth-At-Risk Center, it takes more than a village to raise a child today. “It takes a well educated village to raise all the children,” he said emphatically. “And it takes a village that looks at the whole child, not just drop-out rates or closing the achievement gap,” he added. For Rea and Teaching and Learning Assistant Professor Eric Landers, that’s what makes the College of Education’s new National Youth-At-Risk Center unique. Rea and Landers are co-directors of the Center, which was approved in spring 2013.



The new Center takes its approach from the highly successful National Youth-At-Risk Conference, held each year in Savannah and now attracting more than 1100 national and international attendees. That the opening of the Center, housed on the second floor of COE, coincides with the 25th anniversary of the conference is purely coincidental. “We’ve been thinking about this for more than a decade,” Rea said. “With the help of the dean and the University administration, our dream has come true.”

What makes the conference and Center distinctive among other such endeavors is its “whole child” approach, taking a holistic view of fostering the intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being of youth placed at risk within schools, family and communities in Georgia and across the nation. “The conference and Center take a complex system’s view of five interacting areas of educational concerns represented by the “5H” acronym,” Rea explained. “The five “H’s” are: head (intellectual achievement and school leadership), heart (social and emotional skills), hands (safety and protection),

health (physical and mental health) and home (family and community). Youth-At-Risk signifies the urgency and seriousness of societal “risks” faced by today’s youth and is distinct from “at-risk youth,” he continued.

The NYAR Conference and new Center focuses on the “risky” conditions that threaten youth’s well-being, which include a range of factors.

The Center is up and running fall semester and will be staffed by graduate students with Rea and Landers serving as co-directors. With more than 10 years to consider a NYAR Center, both Rea and Landers are eager to get started. First on their list is to coordinate the three conferences COE sponsors dealing with youth-at-risk: the NYAR Conference in Savannah, a smaller West Coast version, and the annual Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). They also plan to publish

an annual online journal and provide monetary awards to faculty for research and professionals working with youth at risk. They are also expanding the current website “Closing the Achievement Gap for Educators” at coe.georgiasouthern.edu/nyar/gap

“Conferences are a great way to bring people together to discuss pressing issues, share research and network, but the Center’s work is so much more,” Landers said. “We want people to know our goal is to support practical, research-based strategies dealing with all aspects of youth-at-risk,” he added.

The Center is funded through proceeds from the NYAR conferences but Landers said they are also seeking corporate support. “Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation came forward immediately and are very interested in our work. I’m hoping other corporations will follow their lead,” Landers said.



25th Annual

NATIONAL YOUTH-AT-RISK CONFERENCE

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Overcoming Poverty, Violence and Failure

March 2-5, 2014

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Savannah, GA

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NATIONAL YOUTH-AT-RISK CENTER

“Helping Adults Serve Youth”

Building Bridges: COE Partners with the Community to Bring Books to Young Children

Ashleigh Wright was sitting on the floor with her six-month-old baby surrounded by books. She had just read a blog for new mothers about the importance of reading to young children and the lack of proper reading material for low income families in Georgia. "Here I was with all these books for my baby, and I thought about all the little children without books, and I said to myself, 'this isn't right. I can do something about this.'"

Wright's passion for the importance of reading is matched only by her passion for teaching and learning. She received her B.S. Ed., M.Ed. and Ed.S. from Georgia Southern. She now teaches social studies at Southeast Bulloch High School and acts as a clinical supervisor for COE's teacher candidates.

"I know firsthand how early reading can help students later in school," she said. With that kernel of information, she located the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, in Madison, Ga. The foundation is a non-profit organization committed to ensuring that all Georgia children from birth to age five have access to developmentally appropriate reading materials that will ensure they start school ready to learn. There is no cost to the child or family, and a book is delivered monthly by mail. If a child is registered with the program at birth, they will receive 60 books by their fifth birthday and the start of kindergarten.

Armed with information about the Ferst Foundation, Wright turned to the College of Education and Associate Professor Michelle Reidel, whom she had worked with on other projects during her time at Georgia Southern. Reidel was happy to get on board. "I LOVE to read," Reidel said. But more



than that, she said, was her belief that being a strong reader "supported my growth and development academically, professionally and personally. Some argue that reading is the core skill," she added, that leads to success inside and outside the classroom. "As a former high school teacher and teacher educator, I think it is essential to model a commitment to and passion for reading," she said.

Reidel said she knew immediately that the Ferst Foundation's goals were directly aligned with the goals and mission of the COE. Dean Thomas Koballa agreed and happily endorsed their efforts. Soon Associate Professor Christine Draper and Assistant Professors Nancy Arrington and Lina Soares, Clinical Instructor Shelley Woodward and the COE's Field Placement Director, Patricia Parsons, volunteered for the Community Action Team (CAT), the local organizing group. The first organizational meeting was held at COE and just six months later the group, composed of a cross section of the community, had

raised over \$6,000.

"The first (book) mailing began in July," Wright said. "It costs about \$28.00 per child per year to send the books, which are chosen by a highly selective board," she said. They have 56 children registered so far, but Wright said the group would like "all our children age 0-5 in Bulloch County to benefit from the program."

The CAT has held several fundraisers with the help of local businesses and members of Georgia Southern's Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi, and has received generous donations from the local Rotary and Lions clubs.

"Even though I'm busy with teaching and my many duties at school, my family and other community activities, I feel like this program is so important and beneficial for our community. I'm happy to find the extra time," Wright said.

The group is planning their next fundraiser, a registration drive and a community-based literacy event. If you would like to join or support the CAT contact Reidel at mreidel@georgiasouthern.edu.

TOP 25 BEST ONLINE GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT

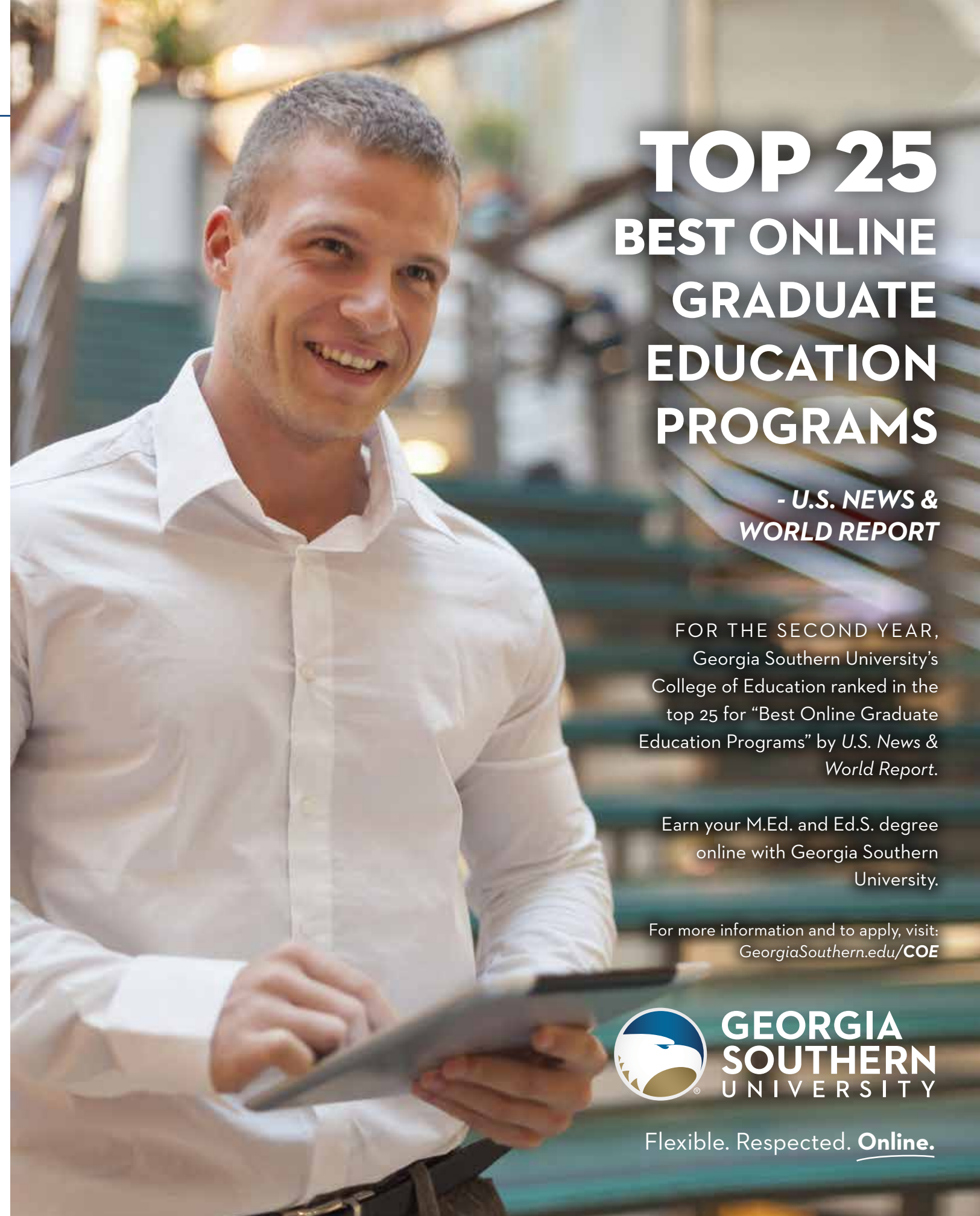
FOR THE SECOND YEAR,
Georgia Southern University's
College of Education ranked in the
top 25 for "Best Online Graduate
Education Programs" by *U.S. News &
World Report*.

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**DEPARTMENT NEWS:
LEADERSHIP,
TECHNOLOGY
AND HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT**

The Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development (LTHD) restructured the **Center for Educational Leadership and Service (CELS)**, housed within the Department,



CELS partnered with RESA on a Summer Leadership Academy.

and named a new CELS director after the retirement of Professor James Green, who led the center since 2009.

Jason LaFrance, assistant professor educational leadership, was named the new director. The Center's mission is to support the development of leadership capacity in P-12 partner schools through sponsored research and professional development activities.

First on LaFrance's agenda was a Summer Leadership Academy for school and system leaders in the First District RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency). CELS partnered with RESA on the academy, one of many collaborations planned between the College of Education and RESA designed to assist school districts in improving leadership within schools and ultimately increasing student performance.

The Department's **school psychology program** received National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) full approval for its graduate program in school psychology. NASP is one of the specialized professional associations (SPAs) of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The College of Education School Psychology Program is the only program in Georgia to earn this recognition at the specialist level.

Kathryn Kennedy won the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) Online Learning Innovator Award for Outstanding Research in K-12 Online Learning for her co-authored work exploring preservice teacher preparation for K-12 online and blended learning environments. Kennedy is now with the International Association for K-12 Online Learning.

In spring 2013, LTHD co-sponsored the 12th Annual **Cross-Cultural Issues in Counseling and Education Conference** and initiated the inaugural **Rural Based HIV Education and Training Conference** now held each year in September.

The first cohort of students in the College of Education's newly redesigned **Educational Leadership Ed.D.** program began fall 2013, with a focus on preparing senior-level administrators who use their knowledge of educational theory and research as a basis for taking on the contemporary challenges of education and to leverage change in P-12 and higher education institutions. The newly redesigned Ed.D. was modeled after the recommendations by the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate to create a "stronger and more relevant degree for the advanced preparation of school practitioners and clinical faculty, academic leaders and professional staff for the nation's schools and colleges and the learning organizations that support them."

**DEPARTMENT OF
TEACHING AND
LEARNING**

The Department of Teaching and Learning continues to improve the performance of initial teacher candidates in field and clinical practice **experiences and assessments**. As part of this effort, faculty, along with colleagues from the CFR, began an initiative to increase the number of undergraduate students involved in research. The University's Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs funded one such project, Research to Practice, that partners four Bulloch County schools with COE undergraduate education candidates to give them hands-on research experience and help the partner schools evaluate their school improvement plans as they relate to outcomes for specific learners. Associate Professor Kymberly Drawdy; CFR's Associate Professor Meca Williams-Johnson and Teaching and Learning instructor Kathleen Tootle are the grant administrators.

The department once again hosted, in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education, a summer **"Clinical Camp"** (Coaching,



Clinical supervisors discussed best practices at "Clinical Camp."



Katie Brkich teaches middle schoolers about the science of bubbles during the Migrant Education Program's first middle school summer intensive.

Assessing, Mentoring and Planning) for clinical supervisors to discuss and refine best practices for mentoring teacher candidates.

Faculty served in leadership roles in implementing service learning projects in area schools, worked with schools addressing the needs of English language learners and conducted numerous summer teacher quality workshops designed to improve science and mathematics instruction in area schools.

Teaching and Learning faculty expanded student learning opportunities by revising two degree programs, the **M.Ed. in Special Education and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education**. Both programs are online and designed to be completed in one year.

Assistant Professor **Katie Brkich** led a group of students participating in the Migrant Education Program's first middle school summer intensive. Brkich used hands-on explorations of human body proportional reasoning and data graphing for her mathematics class and ran a week-long investigation in the science of bubbles with her students for science/engineering.

Associate Professor **Christine Draper** and Assistant Professor **Lina Soares** published the spring 2013 issue of the *Georgia Journal of Reading*. This is the first hard copy of the journal to be published since Draper and Soares brought the journal to the College of Education last year. Their first issue in fall 2012, was published online.

**DEPARTMENT OF
CURRICULUM,
FOUNDATIONS AND
READING**

Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading (CFR) **faculty** chaired 102 Ed.D./Ed.S. committees, and served on 203 Ed.D./Ed.S. committees, increased its emphasis on integration of technology into instruction and focused on social justice issues in teaching, scholarship and service. The department also hosted a successful second annual Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative in Savannah, Ga.

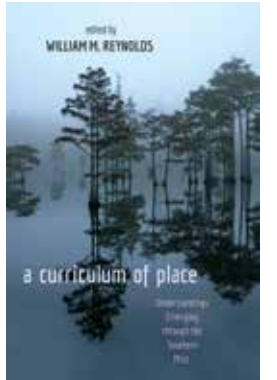
The reading education program reactivated its **Ed.S. degree** and is now also offering both M.Ed. and Ed.S. as fully

online programs.

Associate Professor **Wendy Chambers** authored the newly published, *Cognitive and Language Development: The Child's Journey*. The cover photograph is also by Dr. Chambers.

Associate Professor **William Reynolds** edited the newly published *A Curriculum of Place: Understandings Emerging through the Southern Mist*.

Reynolds and three additional CFR faculty (Robert Lake, Ming Fang He and Sabrina Ross) contributed essays as did Teaching and Learning Associate Professor Julie Maudlin. CFR faculty Wendy Chambers contributed the cover art.



Associate Professor **Robert Lake**, co-edited with Tricia Kress, University of Massachusetts, *We Saved the Best for You: Letters of Hope, Imagination and Wisdom for 21st Century Educators*. In addition to well-known writers such as Mike Rose, Nel Noddings, Bill Schubert and Sonia Nieto, other COE faculty contributing to the book include James Jupp, Julie Maudlin, William Reynolds and Associate Professor Wendy Chambers who created the cover photograph.

**GRAD PROGRAM
RANKINGS**

For the second year, the COE ranked in the top 25 for "Best Online Graduate Education Programs" by *U.S. News & World Report*. The 2013 rankings looked at such factors as faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, student engagement and admissions selectivity. This was the first

INNOVATE

time programs were given an overall ranking. At number 21, COE was the only Georgia school to earn a spot in the top 25 online graduate education programs.

"The ranking is just one indication of our commitment to COE's online graduate programs and our work to continuously improve and expand the options available to best serve our students," said COE Dean Thomas Koballa.

In 2012, rankings were separate for each category. COE ranked in the top 15 for student services and technology, in the top 35 for faculty credentials and training, in the top 20 for teaching practices and student engagement, and in the top 20 nationally for admissions selectivity.

For the 2013 survey, 208 regionally accredited institutions met the definition used by *U.S. News & World Report* and the U.S. Department of Education for online education. More information on the rankings and methodology is available at the following website www.usnews.com/education/online-education/education

THINKING GLOBALLY

The arrival of 11 teacher candidates in Sheffield, England, this spring marked a special anniversary for the COE. For a decade, the College has been a part of a student exchange program that has given nearly 100 teacher candidates the opportunity to gain valuable teaching and life experiences. In spring 2003, the first group of COE students went to Derby, England; for three years thereafter, the students were placed in schools in East London. Since then, the students have been in Sheffield and Doncaster at Rainbow Forge Primary, Reignhead Primary, Ballifield Primary (Sheffield) and Hayfield School (Doncaster). In the fall, Sheffield Hallam University hosts and places our students in schools.

"We value our partnership with UK schools and the experience it provides both students from COE and England," said Dean Thomas Koballa. "Living and



Sheffield-Hallam students (l-r) Ashleigh Coombes, Fran McKay, Megan Leese, Adelaide Okrah.



COE exchange students (bottom row, l-r): Rebecca Skowronski, Drew Christopher, Shelly Morgan, Rebekah Beaty (middle row, l-r): Ashley Clay, Catherine Bruner, Sydney Cronin, Caroline Cooper, Jessica Kirkland (top row, l-r): Ashley Favors and Jacqueline Kelly.

teaching in another country provides so many unique opportunities for learning and growing," he continued.

Deborah Thomas, associate dean of undergraduate teacher education and accreditation, and Pat Parsons, director of field experiences and partnerships, travelled to England in summer 2013 to further develop an international studies summer abroad course. "Our approach is to give our students as many and as varied opportunities as possible to experience teaching in different settings," Thomas said. "It is our hope that the next 10 years brings even greater opportunities," she added.

Since January 2009, the COE began a reciprocal exchange and hosts teacher candidates from Sheffield-Hallam University. These students spend a month in



Students teach an English language reading lesson in a Taiwan classroom.

COE partner schools learning about education in Georgia.

A student exchange pilot program is helping to extend COE's global reach. In fall 2011, COE partnered with the National Taipei University of Education in Taiwan for student placements facilitated by the principal at Tainan Municipal Tu-Cheng High School. Associate Professor Hsiu Lien Lu, Department of Teaching and Learning, said teacher candidates feel they are much better equipped to teach English language learners after their Taiwan experience. Lu and Lina Soares, assistant professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, coordinated the placements. Lu travelled to Taiwan in fall 2013 to negotiate an on-going exchange program. Talks are underway for a similar exchange in Mexico.

Join Dr. Golden...



A leading educator in the state of Georgia, *Dr. Barbara Christmas Golden* has paved the way for many in her profession, working in various roles as a high school English teacher, a principal and the president of three statewide educational organizations. Throughout her career, she has also built a steady network of support for the University around the state.

"I believe in Georgia Southern. The University prepared me well, and the real-world experience coupled with what I learned from my professors has played a strong role in my educational career," she said.

The recipient of the Alumna of the Year for the College of Education as well as the University's Alumna of the Year, Golden earned the first of her three degrees from the University at the age of 20. "My heart is with the College of Education," she added.

Golden encourages others to join her in supporting the talented students and innovative faculty in COE by making a gift today. "We're on the brink of a new day at Georgia Southern. This is a critical time to support the University as we become more ambitious in our mission and serve a diverse student population."

Your gifts strengthen education now and for the future

At the COE we deeply appreciate the support received from alumni and friends like you. Whether through endowed giving, annual giving or planned giving, every gift makes a difference and helps us continue our leadership role in preparing those who will teach, lead and serve future generations.

If you're thinking about making a gift, you can designate your dollars to support a program or department that is meaningful to you, or you can give to the college's general fund, which allows us to put the money where it's needed most.

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/give

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INCREASE RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY through graduate research assistantships, undergraduate research support, endowed research faculty, college faculty research grants and centers and institutes.

FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE AWARDS

It's an honor for faculty to receive Georgia Southern's university-wide "Focus on Excellence" awards. The annual awards are given to two faculty in each of three categories: (1) contributions to research/creative scholarly activity; (2) instruction; and (3) service. While it might not be unusual for a college to have more than one award winner in a year, few can claim more than two winners, and even fewer can claim multiple winners from the same academic department.

But that's exactly what the College of Education has done. Its faculty has distinguished itself among an already highly distinguished field of nominees to claim the two awards in Excellence in Contributions in Service and one in Excellence in Contributions to Instruction. All three of COE's award winners are from the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Excellence in Instruction: Scott Beck

Associate Professor Scott Beck isn't worried about the impression he makes on his students if they should find him in class under a table meowing like a cat locked inside one of Edward Thorndike's puzzle boxes. In fact, it's the students' reaction he's after. "I spend most of my professional life in and planning for the classroom because I want to make memories," Beck says. "Memories that endure. Memories that transform," he continued. For Beck, it's these memories that his students will use when they themselves become teachers. For that reason, Beck is an eccentric, eclectic and energetic teacher, creating learning experiences that challenge and endure.

Beck's research interests are in representations of diversity in children's and young adult literature and migrant and immigrant ESOL education in the rural South. In 2012 he won COE's Jack Miller Award in teaching. "This is my job: to do whatever it takes to help today's pre- and in-service teachers become better teach-



(l-r) Yasr Bodur, Julie Garlen Maudlin and Scott Beck represented COE well, taking home three out of six Focus on Excellence Awards.

ers than they themselves had in school," Beck said.

Excellence in Service: Yasr Bodur and Julie Garlen Maudlin

Service, by definition, is work done by someone for someone else as a job, duty, punishment or favor. For Associate Professor Yasar Bodur, service is definitely not punishment. In fact, for Bodur, service is like being on a team. "I have always approached service with a team player attitude," Bodur said. "All team members have to play their roles for the success of the team. Some of the roles are big, some are small. Ultimately, what we do is teamwork," he added.

And the team Bodur works for is large, comprising his Department, College, University, profession and outside community. Within each, Bodur has given willingly. "I always welcomed service," he said. And while that has added considerably to his work load, he says that there are many rewards. "One aspect of service that I really like is that it allows me to work with people with whom I may otherwise never get to work with," he said. "It helps you feel part of a larger community." And, Bodur said, being asked to serve is an affirmation of his

colleagues' trust in him. "They have confidence in the quality of work I will produce," he said. Bodur's research interests include multicultural teacher education, diversity, field-based teacher education, reflective practice and classroom management. In 2011, Bodur won COE's Jack Miller Educator of the Year award.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." While everyone may not share Gandhi's concept of service as a life-affirming experience, Associate Professor Julie Garlen Maudlin has certainly found this to be true. "We tend to think of service as an obligation; another item on our tenure to-do list, but I've come to see it as an opportunity to learn about yourself through the act of helping others."

After joining the College of Education faculty in 2007, Maudlin's initial service activities began at the departmental level. "I started small," she explained. "I volunteered for a few committees to get an idea of what kinds of service I was interested in and to get to know my colleagues." Soon, however, Maudlin expanded her service to include responsibilities at the College, University and

professional levels. "I accepted nominations for various committees and ended up getting elected to several of them at once," said Maudlin.

"It was a busy time," admits Maudlin, and sometimes it was difficult to maintain balance with her other responsibilities, she said, "but I learned a lot about organizational leadership, both within the University and beyond. But the greatest benefit of those diverse service experiences was that I realized that where I really wanted to focus my time and energy was within my own program." Toward that end, Maudlin stepped up in 2012 to serve as the program coordinator for the early childhood education program. "It's almost like I came full circle," she explained. "I came to recognize that preparing teacher candidates for successful, meaningful careers in education was the most important part of what I do, and now my service focus reflects that."

Since the awards began 26 years ago, only 162 have been presented. In 1988, Georgia Southern Professor Emeritus, Sculpture Pat Steadman was commissioned to create a special medallion that is presented to each award winner.

AWARD FOR MERIT

Mary Egger won the University-wide Award for Merit sponsored by Fidelity Investments. Her award, for Outstanding Performance, was given for "improving the working environment, exhibiting excellent customer service and showing true character and dedication to the mission of Georgia Southern." Egger is the Coastal Area Teacher Education Service (CATES) administrative specialist.

OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Chris Thompson, director of the Student Success Center, was named the



Earnestine Burns, an academic advisor in the Student Success Center, received the Betty-Ware Wray Staff Award.

Georgia Southern University 2013 Staff Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students. In supporting her nomination, COE Dean Thomas Koballa said Thompson "works tirelessly to support the success of first-year students" and engaged the Center's staff in "professional learning that targets strategies to support first-year students."

BETTY-WARE WRAY AWARD

The Betty-Ware Wray Staff Award went to Earnestine Burns, academic advisor in the Student Success Center. The award annually recognizes a COE staff member who has excelled in job performance and University service. The award was established in memory of Betty-Ware Wray by her in-laws. She was a loved and respected member of the COE family for many years.

JACK MILLER AWARDS

At its annual faculty and staff meeting kicking off the 2013-2014 academic year, four College of Education faculty received Jack Miller Awards. The Jack Miller Faculty Awards are given annually to recognize and reward faculty for demonstrated excellence in the areas of teaching, service and scholarship/creative activity. The awards are determined by a faculty member's perfor-

mance based on specific criteria. This year, awards were made in all areas as well as the Jack Miller Educator of the Year Award.

Jack Miller was a former dean of education at Georgia Southern and in 1994 endowed the award. He is now President of Central Connecticut State University.

Greg Chamblee, Jack Miller Educator of the Year award winner, is a professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning. He was cited for his scholarship, grant writing and his many leadership roles within his department, college, University and professional area. Chamblee's expertise is in technology, integrating technology in P-12 mathematics and using differing strategies to teach mathematics.

The award for Scholarship and Creative Activity was given to Assistant Professor Sally Brown, Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading. Brown's interests are in English language learners, Latino immigrants, K-3rd language and literacy development, classroom discourse analysis and sociocultural and critical perspectives on education.

Associate professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, Terry Diamanduros is the recipient of the Jack Miller Award for Service. She is active within her department and program area and within the community. Her areas of research are childhood trauma, the psychological impact of trauma on boys, mental health consultation in schools, neurodevelopmental and psychoeducational assessment, the role of school psychologists in school and outside school settings, early intervention and infant development.

The Jack Miller Award for Teaching went to Sabrina Ross, assistant professor in Curriculum, Foundations and Reading. Ross' research centers on critical pedagogy, teaching for social justice, black feminist and womanist epistemologies and issues of power in schools.

Top Teacher Alumna named Georgia's 2014 Teacher of the Year

When Jemelleh Coes ('08, '10) began her first year as an undergraduate at Georgia Southern University, she originally planned to pursue a career in nursing. "My maiden name was Nurse, and I always wanted to help others," she said. "I really thought I would be a Nurse."

Until she thought about the occupational hazards. "After I realized that nurses had to deal with a lot of blood, I changed my major," she laughed.

Coes instead opted for another career: teaching. Today, her focus remains on helping others as a special education English language arts and reading teacher at Langston Chapel Middle School in Statesboro, Ga. Although Coes is a relative newcomer to the teaching profession, having entered the field just five years ago, she was named Bulloch County Teacher of the Year last year, and was recently named the state of Georgia's 2014 Teacher of the Year.

Coes' expertise in co-teaching techniques led to her selection as Georgia's top teacher, and its' positive impact on students has become a model for learning at Langston Chapel. "Co-teaching is an amazing way to include students with disabilities in the classroom," said Coes. "Once I got into the field of special education, I discovered that every student could learn. I just needed to find out what their unique gifts were and tap into those gifts to help them learn," she said.

Coes teaching accomplishments also include her participation in the Delta Academy program, where she has volunteered her time two Saturdays each month since 2008. At Delta Academy, Coes mentors a group of 30 middle school girls by encouraging their interest in science, technology, engineer-



ing and math (STEM). "What makes this program so interesting is that I teach them about science in unconventional ways. For example, we create key chains and purses, and I teach them the science behind making those items," she added.

"Jemelleh is so good at what she does because she has taken her passion for life and helped other people succeed. She represents what it takes to teach students who are struggling and to help them become successful," said Charles Wilson, Bulloch County school superintendent.

Coes is also the site coordinator for the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Langston Chapel, an after-school program that serves 100 of the school's most at-risk students. "This enrichment program provides students with hands-on activities such as experiments in math and language arts," she added.

Coes has found that teaching has

been an especially rewarding career. "The most important thing is your students, and as educators, we need to adapt to them. Educators need to reflect on what we can improve upon every day. I always tell my students: you have a choice. Your choices have consequences and rewards. And, I always tell them that failure is not an option."

During the next year, Coes will leave the classroom and travel around the state and nation, serving as an ambassador for education. "It means a lot to me to be named Teacher of the Year, and I feel that I can be the voice for south Georgia," she said. Coes will represent Georgia teachers by speaking to the public about the teaching profession and conducting programs and workshops for fellow educators. "The message I will be communicating is community, students and engagement," she said.



Dr. Jane Crawford, pictured with her family, holds a photo of her father, John Suddath Hall.

John Suddath Hall: Continuing an educational legacy

John Suddath Hall always valued the opportunity of earning an education. As a young boy growing up in Port Wentworth, Ga., he was the first member of his family to graduate from high school, and the only one to graduate from college.

"John was mentored as a student by coaches when he played baseball, football and basketball," said his wife Gertrude, a retired middle school teacher.

In later years his love for education led him to become a positive role model for student-athletes in his work as a coach and physical education teacher in Columbia, S.C. Although Hall was a man of few words, his quiet determination impacted the lives of thousands of students. "He had a great sensitivity for kids who were struggling, and he shared a common bond with them on the athletic field," Gertrude added.

The Hall family is continuing his educational legacy by making a difference in the lives of elementary education students at Georgia Southern University with the endowment of the John Suddath Hall Memorial Scholarship.

Georgia Southern was an important part of Hall's life. He earned a master's degree in education from the University in 1966, while simultaneously working as an elementary school principal.

"John enjoyed his work at Georgia Southern and it was very satisfying and challenging to him. He earned a small scholarship while he was studying there, and it meant so much to him and our family," said Gertrude. "Our family wanted to help students and give back to the University," she said about the scholarship.

"He had a great sensitivity for kids who were struggling."

-Gertrude Hall

The Halls' daughter, Dr. Jane Crawford, says that her father always encouraged her to achieve the most from her education. The general practitioner graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina and now practices in the Scottish village of Fochabers. "My father viewed education as a stepping stone," said Crawford. "He really valued an education, because a lot of the people he grew up with didn't have that opportunity," she said.

Dr. Martha Cain COE Alumna of the Year

Dr. Martha Cain graduated in 1950 from what was then Georgia Teachers College as one of 115 students in the graduating class with a B.S. Ed. in Science Education. She earned her master's degree from the University of Colorado in 1955 and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Connecticut in 1963.

Cain then returned to Georgia Southern where she taught chemistry until 1988. Cain and her late husband, Lee, established the Lee C. and Martha Tootle Cain Science Education Scholarship given to incoming freshmen who plan



to major in science education. In addition, she established a scholarship in honor of her parents at Troy State University and an education scholarship at the Methodist Seminary in Slovakia. She was recognized as the Biology Alumnus of the Year in 1981 and received the Arthur J. Moore Award.

A Special Need Scholarship Supports Future Teachers

NEEDED: Special education teachers. The unimaginative, timid or easily discouraged need not apply. Or, in the words of Kathy Sandiford Harrell, “These are the kids who need powerful teachers.”

Harrell (’71), a longtime special education teacher and administrator and her husband, Dave (’71), have made a perpetual commitment to serving special education by endowing the Harold M. and Catherine D. Sandiford Memorial Scholarship. The award assists aspiring special ed teachers within Georgia Southern’s College of Education.

She didn’t realize it at the time, but Harrell’s career path was underway by the time she arrived on the Georgia Southern campus. It began as a part-time job with, at the time, one of the rare institutions in Georgia serving children who were mentally challenged or who had serious behavioral problems.

“Outside of Augusta was Gracewood State School and Hospital,” she said. “My middle sister was in college and worked summer internships there. My older sister is a nurse and ended up working full-time. I began working there the summer before my senior year in high school, and I did that for four summers.

“I got very attached to several of them,” Harrell said, about working in the cottages with the kids. “Because of my work there, it drew me to special education.”

Special education is a challenging field and chief among the challenges is getting and keeping enough qualified good teachers. Too often, she said, there are not enough efforts to recruit and retain special education teachers, with school systems hiring teachers who have no training or experience in dealing with the field’s unique issues.

Meanwhile, the need to train, hire and retain good teachers is growing,



and Georgia Southern is helping to meet that need. “I spent 20-something years in special ed and then six as a special ed director in Wayne County, and knew the challenges that the field is facing,” said Harrell. “I also knew that I would like to do something for Georgia Southern because I had a good experience there.”

“I said to Dave that at some point I’d really like to look at somehow impacting this field. Honestly, these are the kids who need the powerful teachers and it’s not an easy field for longevity,” she said. “We need to encourage folks to stay the course. We were in a position where we could do something, and he supported me in that.”

Neither of Harrell’s parents finished high school. Her mother was a homemaker who would occasionally take on part-time jobs to help meet bills. Her father, who worked in sales for a railroad, wanted their daughters to be able to do what they loved and would often tell

them to “find your passion and do what you love,” said Harrell.

When it came time for her to attend college, she took out an education loan. When she was done, her father took it upon himself to repay the loan – an expression of parental love she has never forgotten. “When it came time to pay that back, my dad told me he wanted to take care of it because it was important for him to do that for his baby,” Harrell said.

The choice to name the scholarship after her parents was Dave’s idea. “My mom and dad were a team and missed hitting their 50th anniversary just by a few months. They were so adamant that my sisters and I fulfill our dreams and they made sure we had the opportunity for an education that they didn’t have,” she said. “They both worked very hard at making sure we had the opportunity, so to continue that in their names is something I felt like I wanted to do.”

Shaping the Future

Alumna Provides Opportunity for Aspiring Students

Sheila Garvin Hoynes (’71) realizes that attending college is a wonderful opportunity that many students do not have. The Statesboro, Ga., native was the first person in her family to graduate from college, and she spent her 30 year career in the classroom as a first grade teacher. She feels a debt of gratitude not only to her parents, but to the University.

“Georgia Southern gave me the opportunity to fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a teacher, and I want to be able to help other students who are pursuing the same dream,” said the 2011 College of Education Alumna of the Year.

Sheila and her husband Spence shared a vision of providing an opportunity for aspiring students to afford a college education, but were unsure how they could make this a reality.

“We knew we wanted to establish scholarships, but we also knew we lacked the financial means to adequately fund the scholarships up front without creating economic hardship for ourselves,” said Spence. “It was when we learned about deferred giving that we found a way to accomplish our goal,” he added, about the establishment of the Spence and Sheila Garvin Hoynes endowed scholarships.

“With Sheila’s dedication to education and our devotion to Georgia Southern athletics, it was obvious that we needed to establish two scholarships; one in education, and one in athletics,” said Spence, about their deferred gifts for future students.

After raising their son, the Hoynes became reacquainted with the University and have been actively involved with Georgia Southern for more than two decades. Sheila launched an Eagle Club in their hometown of Conyers, Ga., organized several additional At-



“We knew we wanted to establish scholarships, but we also knew we lacked the financial means to adequately fund the scholarships up front.”

-Spence Hoynes

lanta area clubs and served as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She also served as a member of the Athletic Foundation Board of Directors and as a charter member of the College of Education’s Alumni Board of Advisors.

“Georgia Southern is our passion,” Sheila explained about the couple’s will bequest. “The University was important to me as a student, and it is so nice to continue our involvement many years later.”

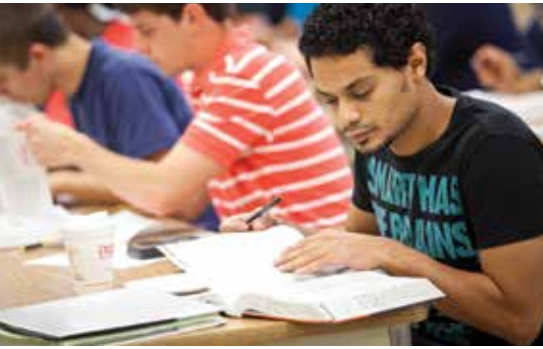
SCHOLARSHIPS

ANNE WATERS RAMSEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND *Est. 1982*

Scholarship is available to any student in any major field at any class level of the COE in good standing.

BILLY LAMB & CURRY COLVIN MEMORIAL MATH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2005*

Scholarship is available to a full-time student entering the junior year and is enrolled to earn teaching certification to teach math at the high school level.



The Goizueta Foundation Scholars assists Hispanic/Latino students.

BRYAN DEEVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2001*

Scholarship is available to graduate students pursuing an Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 1986*

Awarded to any full-time student majoring in a teacher education program with an overall 3.5 GPA and has been at Georgia Southern at least one year.

DR. MALCOLM KATZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2002*

Scholarship is available to graduate students pursuing a degree in Public School Administration.

EARL KINGDOM & NORA SNIDER MILLION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 1981*

Scholarship is available to full-time undergraduate students majoring in education.

GOIZUETA FOUNDATION SCHOLARS *Grant from Foundation received 2001*

Scholarship is available to provide need-based scholarship assistance to Hispanic/Latino students whose families reside in the United States. Preference is given to students entering the COE.

HERMA LEE & WORDNA ISABELLA BOGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCIENCE OR MATH EDUCATION MAJORS *Est. 1996*

Available to Science or Math education majors who are rising juniors or seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference will be given to non-traditional students.

JIM AND RUTH MILLER SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 1986*

Scholarship is available to education students majoring in early childhood, middle grades or secondary education. Must have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA.

JOHN SUDDATH HALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2011*

Scholarship is available to a graduate level education student seeking a degree in Educational Administration.

LEE & MARTHA TOOTLE CAIN SCIENCE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2005*

Scholarship is available to full-time freshman enrolled as an Education major to earn certification to teach science at any grade level, K-12.

MARY & DUNCAN JAMES MEMORIAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2006*

Scholarship recipient must be a Pierce County resident, a full-time student majoring in education and have a 3.0 GPA. Consideration may be given to descendants of A. W. James and Norris B. Strickland.

ROSE MAE BOGAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR SCIENCE OR MATH EDUCATION MAJORS *Est. 2000*

Available to Science or Math education majors who are rising juniors or seniors with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference will be given to non-traditional students.

SUDIE A. FULFORD SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 1991*

Scholarship is available to Elementary Education students.

VICTORIA ZWALD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2007*

Scholarship is available to a full-time undergraduate education major in Early Childhood or Special Education. Recipient must be a rising junior or senior who has at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA. First preference shall be given to students who participate in their communities through extracurricular activities associated with children.

ZACH S. HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 1985*

Scholarship is available to full-time education majors entering the junior year.

BAZEMORE-FETZER-HAGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2000*

Applicants must be Georgia residents, holding a current teacher certificate and pursuing a graduate degree in education. Preference is given to applicants teaching in the public schools of Screven, Effingham, Bulloch, Jenkins, Evans, Candler, Tattnall, Liberty, Bryan or Long counties.

CENTENNIAL GRADUATE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2008*

Applicants must have full-time admission to the College of Graduate Studies as a degree seeking education major in any teaching, leadership or service field. They must have an active membership in a professional education organization. And they must have a GPA of 3.50 or higher on a 4.0 scale at the time of application.

J.C. HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2001*

Scholarship is available to a mathematics education major with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

JOSEPH EUGENE (GENE), SR. & PEGGY MARSH WEATHERFORD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2007*

Applicants should be rising juniors who have declared a major within the College of Education.

VIRGINIA WILSON RUSSELL ELEMENTARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2001*

Applicants should be elementary education majors with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and non-traditional students at the junior or senior level.

ANGELYN B. AND CHARLES W. SIMS SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2008*

Applicants must be teachers seeking a graduate degree or certification and admitted to the teacher education program and to graduate school. They may be part-time or full-time students and maintain a "B" average.

THE BILL CARMICHAEL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2007*

Applicant must be a resident and a graduate of a public high school in Emanuel County. Must be a major in Education, Civil Engineering, Criminal Justice or Public Relations. Student must be enrolled full time and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

HAROLD M. AND CATHERINE D. SANDIFORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP *Est. 2012*

Recipient must be a junior or senior and be accepted and enrolled as a student pursuing a degree in Special Education. Preference shall be given to first generation college students and students from Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Screven, Tattnall, Toombs and Wayne Counties. Student must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AND RECIPIENTS

Anne Waters Ramsey Scholarship **Bethany G. Carman**

Billy Lamb/Curry Colvin Scholarship **Rachel Anne Walker**

Bryan Deever Memorial Scholarship **Lisa K. Huesel**

College of Education Scholarship **Amanda K. Arasmith**

Dr. Malcolm Katz Memorial Scholarship **Laurie B. Mascolo**

Earl Kingdom & Nora Snider Million Scholarship **Brittany S. Mikell**

Goizueta Foundation Scholars **Shnita R. Camps, Vanessa C. Chapple, Jose I. Jimenez, Dianna M. Jimenez, Meredith A. Kratofil, Laura V. Pedraza, Krystal M. Ramo, Rosa I. San Juan, Claudia Torres-Rodriguez**

Herma Lee & Wordna Isabella Bogan Scholarship for Science or Math Education Majors **Sharol L. Miller**

Jim and Ruth Miller Scholarship **Kirsten E. Brodmann, Whitney B. Grantham, Hannah L. Pressey, Taylor M. Roberson**

John Suddath Hall Memorial Scholarship **Jennifer N. Dunbar, Audrey M. Walters**

Lee & Martha Tootle Cain Science Education Scholarship **Christopher E. Rodriguez**

Mary & Duncan James Education Scholarship **Bradley H. Davis**

Rose Mae Bogan Scholarship for Science or Math Education Majors **Desherra E. Gilchrist**

Sudie A. Fulford Scholarship **Caitlyn M. Evans**

Victoria Zwald Memorial Scholarship **Courtney R. Smith**

Zach S. Henderson Scholarship **Christina J. Phucas**

AROUND COE

ART EXTRAVAGANZA

State Sen. Jack Hill was on hand to congratulate young artists at COE's annual "Art Extravaganza: A Georgia Southern and P-12 Partnership" sponsored by COE's Alumni Advisory Committee.



TEACHER QUALITY GRANTS

COE's Teacher Quality grants gave teachers hands-on experience to help improve student learning by incorporating real life examples of scientific methodology, inquiry and technology into their curriculum.

STUDENT TEACHER ORIENTATION

The beginning of the semester is a busy time for COE's student teachers. This fall, more than 100 students were placed in partner schools. Before meeting with their University supervisors during orientation, 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year Jemelleh Coes offered words of encouragement.



Students listened intently during fall 2013 Student Teacher Orientation.

POVERTY SIMULATION

About 70 students and faculty from COE's Department of Teaching and Learning experienced the virtual realities of poverty in a unique poverty simulation conducted by the First District RESA. The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) was designed to help people better understand the realities of families living at or below the poverty line.

CLINICAL CAMP

More than 100 clinical supervisors



Students in the middle grades education program completed a challenge course.

and 20 College of Education faculty discussed best practices for mentoring teacher candidates at a day-long "CAMP" (Coaching, Assessing, Mentoring and Planning) coordinated by COE's Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education. In addition to discussions on development of the teacher candidate and how to be a successful clinical supervisor, educators received updates from faculty and staff on edTPA, the recent NCATE accreditation review and advances in technology in the P-12 classroom.

CHALLENGE COURSE

Associate Professor Christine Draper, Teaching and Learning, took modeling effective teaching practices to another level when she and Associate Professor Michelle Reidel completed a challenge course at Southern Adventures with middle grades education program students. The idea was both to get to know the students and build community by "disrupting the traditional classroom hierarchy on the first day of class," Draper said. The result: "We began the semester from a very different perspective," she said. "All participants worked together, laughed together and learned together," she added.



LEFT: Georgia Southern Investigator Danny Garrigus role plays arresting negligent parents played by middle grades students Kathryn Mannes (with baby) and Lindy Humphrey.

BELOW: "Donuts with the Dean" gives students, faculty and staff a chance to meet with COE Dean Thomas Koballa informally. "Donuts" is held several times throughout the academic year.



ABOVE: Here a teacher holds an Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, part of a grant entitled "Blue Bloods and Red Knots of Sapelo Island: an Investigation into Inquiry."



RIGHT: COE hosted a tailgating party for alumni, faculty and staff before cheering the Georgia Southern Eagles on to victory.



B.S. Ed.

Early Childhood Education
Health and Physical Education
Middle Grades Education
Special Education

Ed.S.

Counselor Education
Early Childhood Education / ONLINE
Educational Leadership
Instructional Technology / ONLINE
Middle Grades Education / ONLINE
Reading Education / ONLINE
School Psychology
Secondary Education / ONLINE
Special Education / ONLINE

M.Ed.

Curriculum & Instruction - Accomplished
Teaching / ONLINE
Counselor Education
Early Childhood Education / ONLINE
Educational Leadership / ONLINE
Higher Ed. Administration / ONLINE
Instructional Technology / ONLINE
Middle Grades Education / ONLINE
Reading Education / ONLINE
Secondary Education / ONLINE
Special Education / ONLINE

M.A.T.

Secondary Education
Middle Grades Education
Special Education / ONLINE
SPANISH

Ed.D.

Curriculum Studies
Educational Leadership



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