2016 Fall Commencement

Fall 2016

Georgia Southern University

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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL
FALL
COMMENCEMENT
Friday, December 9, 2016
1:00 P.M.
Paulson Stadium
Statesboro, Georgia

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

FACULTY MARSHALS

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
OLIVIA CARR EDENFIELD, Ph.D., Professor, Literature and Philosophy
ROBERT A. YARBROUGH, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Geology and Geography

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
EVANS AFRIYIE-GYAWU, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Epidemiology and Environmental Health Sciences
KELLY SULLIVAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Epidemiology and Environmental Health Sciences

College of Education
MISPY BENNETT, Ed.D., Professor, Teaching and Learning
AMANDA GLAZE, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
MONIQUE A. BOS, M.A., Lecturer, Writing and Linguistics
CHRISTINE G. LUDOWISE, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Associate Professor, Political Science and International Studies

College of Science and Mathematics
COLTON MAGNANT, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Mathematical Sciences
POOJA SHRESTHA, Ph.D., Limited-Term Assistant Professor, Physics

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
ADEL ELSHAHAT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
BRIAN L. VLCEK, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Mechanical Engineering

College of Health and Human Sciences
BETH MYERS, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Human Ecology
STEPHEN J. ROSSI, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences and Associate Professor, Health and Kinesiology

College of Business Administration
WILLIAM A. AMPONSAH, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Finance and Economics
MARIANA SAENZ, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Finance and Economics

READERS

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
JOANNE CHOPAK-FOSS, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Community Health Behavior and Education

College of Education
LUCAS JOHN JENSEN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Leadership Technology and Human Development

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
DAWN TYSINGER, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Leadership, Technology and Human Development

College of Science and Mathematics
SARAH A. BIELSKI, M.F.A., Assistant Professor, Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
BENJAMIN K. DREWLOW, M.F.A., Lecturer, Writing and Linguistics
BRADLEY C. EDWARDS, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Literature and Philosophy
ELSIE T. HILL, M.F.A., Assistant Professor, Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

College of Health and Human Sciences
EDWARD B. MONDOIR, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biology
NICHOLAS CYRIL RADKO, M.S., Lecturer, Geography and Geology

College of Business Administration
RAMI J. HADDAD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
JAMES K. HARRIS, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Computer Sciences

THE PLATFORM PARTY

JAIMIE HERBERT, Ph.D., President
MIKE ROYAL, B.B.A., President, Partners Risk Services
JEAN E. BARTELS, Ph.D., Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
TERESA E. THOMPSON, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
ROBERT T. WHITAKER, M.B.A., Vice President for Business and Finance
TRIP C. ADDISON, M.B.A., Vice President for University Advancement and External Affairs
DSANA CONE, Ph.D., Associate Provost, Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
ALLEN C. AMASON, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business Administration
THOMAS R. KOBALLA, JR., Ph.D., Dean, College of Education
MOHAMMAD S. DAVOUD, Ph.D., Founding Dean, Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
A. BARRY JOYNER, Ph.D., Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences
W. BEDE MITCHELL, Ed.D., Dean, Henderson Library and University Librarian
CURTIS E. RICKER, D.A., Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
GREGORY EVANS, Ph.D., Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
MARTHA L. ABEll, Ph.D., Dean, College of Science and Mathematics
RICHARD M. FLYNN, Ph.D., Moderator, Faculty Senate
VELMA S. BURDEN, Ed.D., Registrar
DAVID DYLAN JOHN, B.S., President, Student Government Association and Graduate Student, Masters, Applied Engineering

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RAMI J. HADDAD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
JAMES K. HARRIS, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Computer Sciences

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MIKE ROYAL, B.B.A., President, Partners Risk Services
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THOMAS R. KOBALLA, JR., Ph.D., Dean, College of Education
MOHAMMAD S. DAVOUD, Ph.D., Founding Dean, Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
A. BARRY JOYNER, Ph.D., Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences
W. BEDE MITCHELL, Ed.D., Dean, Henderson Library and University Librarian
CURTIS E. RICKER, D.A., Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
GREGORY EVANS, Ph.D., Dean, Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
MARTHA L. ABEll, Ph.D., Dean, College of Science and Mathematics
RICHARD M. FLYNN, Ph.D., Moderator, Faculty Senate
VELMA S. BURDEN, Ed.D., Registrar
DAVID DYLAN JOHN, B.S., President, Student Government Association and Graduate Student, Masters, Applied Engineering
**PROGRAM**

*PROCESSIONAL*  
Pomp and Circumstance (Military March No. 1, Op. 39) by Edward Elgar  
Performed by: Georgia Southern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble  
Conducted by: ROBERT DUNHAM, D.M.A., Professor, Music, Director

MACBEARER  
RICHARD M. FLYNN

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT  
PROVOST BARTELS

WELCOME  
PRESIDENT HEBERT

MEDITATION  
DEAN DAVOUD

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER  
PRESIDENT HEBERT

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS  
MR. MIKE ROYAL

RECOGNITION OF EMERITUS FACULTY  
PROVOST BARTELS

CONFERRING OF GRADUATE DEGREES  
PROVOST BARTELS

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES  
PROVOST BARTELS

CONFERRING OF UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES  
PRESIDENT HEBERT  
DEAN EVANS  
DEAN RICKER  
DEAN ARELL  
DEAN DAVOUD  
DEAN JOYNER  
DEAN AMASON

*ALMA MATER*  
MARIA SUZANNE SMART, Graduating Senior, Bachelor of Music, Performance

**RECESSIONAL**  
English Folk Song Suite, by Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Performed by: Georgia Southern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble  
Conducted by: ROBERT DUNHAM, D.M.A., Professor, Music, Director

**HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED BY GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

The Board of Regents approves the awarding of a highly selective honorary degree, which is conferred by University System of Georgia institutions to recognize individuals of notable achievement in an academic field, the arts and letters, their profession or public service. Since 1996, Georgia Southern University has been privileged to confer Honorary Doctoral Degrees to the exceptional individuals listed below.

**BETTY FOY SANDERS**  
Doctor of Fine Arts  
August 11, 1996

**THE HONORABLE CARL SANDERS**  
Doctor of Laws  
August 11, 1996

**ALLEN E. PAULSON**  
Doctor of Science  
June 14, 1997

**JACKIE ANDERSON STRANGE**  
Doctor of Letters  
June 14, 1998

**THE HONORABLE ARTHUR GIGNILLIAT**  
Doctor of Humane Letters  
December 19, 1998

**WILLIAM FREEMAN**  
Doctor of Letters  
May 8, 1999

**EMMA KELLY**  
Doctor of Fine Arts  
May 9, 1999

**EUGENE M. BISHOP**  
Doctor of Letters  
May 13, 2000

**HALA MODDELEMOG**  
Doctor of Letters  
May 5, 2007

**LUIS A. AGUILAR**  
Doctor of Public Service  
May 11, 2013

*We would like to thank the ROTC Cadets and other Georgia Southern University volunteers for their assistance with today’s ceremony.*
President Hebert has recommended to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia that the following faculty members be granted emeritus status upon retirement:

Dr. James McMillan, Professor of Exercise Science, will retire December 31, 2016. After serving seven years in the United States Navy submarine service, Dr. McMillan earned his B.S.Ed in Health and Physical Education from Georgia Southern College (1980). He received his M.S. (1984) and Ed.D. (1987) in Health and Physical Education from Armstrong Atlantic State University. At the time of his retirement, Dr. McMillan will have provided 30 years of distinguished service. Initially hired as temporary instructor at Georgia Southern College, Dr. McMillan was subsequently hired as an assistant professor and promoted through the ranks to professor. During his tenure at Georgia Southern University, Dr. McMillan taught more than 12 different courses in the physical activity program and was instrumental in developing what was to become the master's program in kinesiology. He served as the Graduate Program Director for the School of Health and Kinesiology as well as the Graduate Program Coordination for the MS in Kinesiology Exercise Science emphasis program for many years. He was well known as an approachable, student-centered professor who developed 25 peer-reviewed publications in multiple book chapters, he also presented numerous peer-reviewed abstracts at state, regional, and national conferences. Dr. McMillan had an outstanding record of service, including a total of six years as interim chair for the Department/School of Health and Kinesiology. He had many service roles for both the college and University, as well as, professional national service. For his distinguished contributions to the school, college, University, and profession, Dr. James McMillan has earned the title of Professor Emeritus of Exercise Science.

Dr. Chris Wesley Paul II, Professor of Finance, retired July 31, 2016. Dr. Paul received his B.S. degree in Economics from Missouri State University (1972). He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Texas A&M University (1979). At the time of his retirement, Dr. Paul had provided 16 years of distinguished service to Georgia Southern University, including service as department chair (five years) and as director of the Center for Banking Excellence (two years). Prior to joining the Georgia Southern community, he also served at the University of Georgia, the University of Alabama-Huntsville, and Armstrong Atlantic State University. At Georgia Southern, Dr. Paul initially served as professor and chair of the Department of Finance and Economics before assuming the role of full-time faculty member. In 2012-13, he was called upon again to serve as interim department chair, demonstrating the trust that both his colleagues and the administration had in him. In addition to his administrative service, Dr. Paul is a prolific author, publishing approximately 50 peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals, presenting at countless conferences, and authoring four book chapters. His research expertise lies in corporate finance, financial services, and public finance and public choice. He has received several professional recognitions, including the Georgia Southern College of Business Administration's Freeman Professor of the Year (2007-08), Armstrong Atlantic State University's Arthur M. Gignilliat Jr. Distinguished Professor (1999-2000), University of Alabama-Huntsville's UAH Foundation Award for Research and Creative Achievement (1998), University of Alabama-Huntsville's College of Administrative Science Research Award (1995); University of Alabama-Huntsville's UAH Foundation Award for Teaching (1999); University of Georgia’s Swift Teaching Award (1981); and the University of Georgia’s Outstanding Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award (1980). Clearly, Dr. Paul has led a distinguished career at Georgia Southern and honors him for his many contributions to the department, college, University, and profession by naming him Professor Emeritus of Finance.
Georgia Southern University, located in Statesboro, Georgia, is the largest and most comprehensive research institution in southeast Georgia. The residential campus of nearly 20,500 students attracts the best and brightest, and is a premier choice for HoPE Scholars. Our students come from 49 states and 86 countries, resulting in a vibrant and dynamic campus of diverse backgrounds, interests and talents. A member of the University System of Georgia, Georgia Southern is classified as a doctoral/research institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The University’s hallmark is its renowned undergraduate experience, which emphasizes academic distinction and excellence in teaching, research and student success. We focus on students and what they value: a well-rounded collegiate atmosphere, a faculty whose first priority is teaching; and a safe, attractive campus environment that encourages learning, discovery and personal growth.

Georgia Southern is known for offering all of the benefits of a major university, but with the personal feel and individualized attention of a much smaller college. The University takes great pride in providing an educational environment where students can engage in scholarship, research and service to others as they prepare for lifelong success.

Our students have access to 125 degree programs at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels through eight colleges: the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, the College of Business Administration, the College of Education, the College of Health and Human Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the College of Science and Mathematics, the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies and the Jean-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Students pursue careers in education, the arts, business, law, fashion, medicine, government, the ministry and many more.

The University continues to expand graduate and online offerings that challenge students and meet growing demands. Georgia Southern is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and has earned special accreditation from professional and academic associations that set standards in their fields.

Founded in 1906, Georgia Southern is one of the most beautiful campuses in the state. The University grounds are a greenspace treasure featuring gently rolling lawns, scenic ponds and soaring pines. The historic core of campus is the quintessential college portrait — Georgian-style, red brick buildings with white columns, surrounded by a tree-lined circular drive known as Sweetheart Circle. Beyond the traditional Circle, contemporary buildings blend into the existing campus to showcase the continuing growth and expansion of facilities on the 900-acre campus. The most recent construction projects include the 36,000-square-foot Military Science Building, the $8.5 million Health Services Center, and the Shooting Sports Education Center. Georgia Southern location in a classic All-American Main Street community of approximately 30,000 residents, is just an hour from historic Savannah.

The University is recognized for providing a wealth of enriching opportunities for people of all ages. We extend educational opportunities to professionals, scholars and individuals at our off-campus center in Savannah and our City Campus in downtown Statesboro. In addition, we benefit the region and state through research and by providing public services that offer creative solutions to regional challenges.

Georgia Southern fields 17 NCAA teams with a storied program that has achieved national accolades on and off the field. In addition to six FCS national football championship flags flying at Allen E. Paulson Stadium, Georgia Southern teams and individuals regularly compete for conference and national honors. In 2014, Georgia Southern moved to the Football Bowl Subdivision Sun Belt Conference, claiming the Sun Belt crown in its first season in the Conference. In 2015, the team won the 17th GritDaddy Bowl in its first season of bowl eligibility. The University’s athletics teams include football, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, volleyball, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, swimming and diving, softball, men’s and women’s soccer and women’s rugby.

The University also has an active alumni program serving more than 75,000 alumni around the world. Some of the University’s prominent alumni include country music star Luke Bryan, Mike Davis, executive director of the U.S. Golf Association (USGA); Hala Moddelmoog, president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber; and Dan Cathy, chairman, president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A.

For more information, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Graduation with Honors
Undergraduate students, who accomplish a high level of academic achievement, as reflected by their grade point average, receive distinction as follows:

Grade Point Average:

- 3.9-4.0 Cum Laude
- 3.7-3.89 Magna Cum Laude
- 3.5-3.69 Summa Cum Laude

Students graduating with honors are distinguished at commencement exercises by a blue and white honor cord attached to the left shoulder of their gowns. Their distinction is recognized by notation on their diplomas and in their academic transcripts.

NOTE: Since programs are prepared in advance of the receipt of final grades, the listing of candidates and honor recipients may, in some instances, be inaccurate. Also, in addition to GPA, there are other requirements to qualify for graduation with honors. After graduation and all final grades are recorded, and all degree requirements are complete, honors are re-calculated and will be added to diplomas and transcripts, if honors are achieved.

University Honors Program Scholars
The University Honors Program offers a special Honors curriculum to a select group of academically talented students. In addition to high academic standards, the program requires a substantial commitment to community service and experiential learning. The diplomas of graduating University Honors Program Scholars are distinguished by the Honors designation.

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THE SYMBOLS OF ACADEMIC TRADITION

The Mace
Leading the Processional of faculty and administration is the Macebearer, the Moderator of the Faculty Senate at Georgia Southern University.

The Mace is a two-and-one-half foot shaft and sphere of cast Everdur Bronze and carved American walnut. This representation of the ceremonial symbol of office and authority was designed and crafted in 1988 by Thomas P. Steadman, Associate Professor of Art. Its angular forms and low-gloss finishes are reminiscent of the medieval battle mace from which the more sceptor-like academic mace evolved.

The design of the Mace blends forms suggested by native flora of South Georgia. The magnolia leaves and stems encircling the head of the mace in a double helix symbolize Georgia Southern’s link with its region. A small ballast rock, found on the Georgia coast and traced to probable British origin, is embedded in the final base of the shaft representing the foundation of the institution.

Academic Colors

Banners Banners representing each of the eight Colleges and the University Library are displayed at Commencement. Representation of the Banners signifies the colors of disciplines in the Colleges, and celebrates the University’s academic programs.

Regalia
The history of academic attire is also traced to the Middle Ages when it may have been necessary for scholars to wear gowns and cloaks for warmth in the unheated halls of academe of the period. The robes and hoods have evolved as ceremonial garments signifying level of degree, academic field, and the awarding institution.

Today’s gowns for baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral degrees are made of a rayon blend, always black. Bachelors gowns have pointed sleeves and are worn closed. The gowns for the masters and specialist degree, also worn closed, have an oblong sleeve with a base that hangs open at the wrist. The doctoral gowns have bell-shaped sleeves which may be worn open or closed. It is the tradition of Georgia Southern to reserve hoods for masters and education specialist degree candidates. These hoods are black, three and one-half feet long, lined with the official colors of the institution, and trimmed in velvet in the color of the degree field.

Caps in the form of mortarboards are made of cotton poplin or a similar material. The tassel is the color which reflects the degree. The ornamented braided cord draped over the left shoulder of some of the baccalaureate graduates is called a fourragère. The design follows French military tradition and signifies special recognition of baccalaureate students graduating with honors.

Double Eagle
The Double Eagle Society is an incentive program and a joint initiative between the College of Graduate Studies and the Alumni Association of Georgia Southern. This initiative was created to recognize our alumni who have earned two (or more) degrees from Georgia Southern: one undergraduate degree and one graduate degree or two graduate degrees.

College of Business Administration

Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Economics
Bachelor of Business Administration

College of Education

Bachelor of Science in Education

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

Bachelor of Science
Science Gold Computer Science
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Construction
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

College of Health and Human Sciences

Bachelor of Science
Maroon Child and Family Development
Maroon Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design
Maroon Interior Design
Maroon Nutrition and Food Science
Sage Green Recreation

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts
Science Gold Anthropology
Brown Art
Crimson Communication Arts
White English
White History
Aquamarine International Studies
White Modern Languages
Pink Music
Dark Blue Philosophy
Dark Blue Political Science
Brown Theatre
White Writing and Linguistics
Brown Bachelor of Fine Arts
Gold & White Bachelor of General Studies
Pink Bachelor of Music
Silver Bachelor of Science
Silver Communication Studies
Aquamarine International Trade
Crimson Journalism
Crimson Multimedia Communication
Dark Blue Political Science
Citron Psychology
Crimson Public Relations
White Sociology
Orange Bachelor of Science in Graphic Communications Management
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Justice Studies

College of Science and Mathematics

Bachelor of Arts
Science Gold Biology
Science Gold Chemistry
Science Gold Geography
Science Gold Geology
Science Gold Physics and Astronomy
Science Gold Bachelor of Science
Science Gold Geology
Science Gold Biology
Science Gold Geology
Science Gold Mathematics
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Biology
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
Science Gold Bachelor of Science in Physics

A C A D E M I C  C O L O R S
COLLEGE OF READING EDUCATION

JACK N. AVERITT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Kathleen M. Crawford
B.S., Georgia Southern University, 1997
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 1998
Dissertation: Developing the Whole Teacher: A Phenomenological Case Study of Student Teachers' Emotional Experiences in One Teacher Education Program
Major Professor: Yasar Bodur, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Mary Virginia DeLaigle
B.S.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 1999
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2002
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2007
Dissertation: A Phenomenological Study of Teachers' Perceptions of Kindergarten Retention: Are Standards to be blamed?
Major Professor: Yasar Bodur, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Julie Kimble
B.A., Brigham Young University, 1983
M.Ed., Georgia State University, 2006
Dissertation: Dystopian Identities: Exhuming the World of Zombies through the Camera's Eye: A Documentary
Major Professor: Daniel E. Chapman, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Mary E. Joseph
B.A., Augusta State University, 1987
M.Ed., Columbia College, 2005
Dissertation: The Pharmakon of Educational Reform
Major Professor: Julie Garlen, Ed.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Casey Owens McNeely
B.S.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2005
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2007
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2009
Dissertation: Lost in Politics and Standardization: The Standards for Mathematical Practice in a Postmodern Classroom
Major Professor: Julie Garlen, Ed.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Nicole Emma Curtis Nolasco
B.A., Loyola University, 2008
B.S.Ed., Loyola University, 2010
M.Ed., Armstrong State University, 2012
Dissertation: "We're in the Business of a Good Education": Schooled to Profit or Educated to Create?
Major Professor: Ming Fang He, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Michael Gerald Williams
B.S., University of Alabama, 1994
M.S., University of Alabama, 1996
Ed.S., Liberty University, 2010
Dissertation: Becoming Opianchoctalirican: A Black Man in a Multiracial World
Major Professor: Ming Fang He, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Patty Thomas Bradshaw
B.A., University of Georgia, 1978
M.Ed., Augusta State University, 2001
Ed.S., Augusta State University, 2010
Dissertation: Creating Spaces of Imaginative Engagement for Gifted High School Honors and Advanced Placement English Students
Major Professor: Robert Lake, Ed.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Donna Lee Haselden Howell
B.S., Jacksonville University, 1978
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2005
Dissertation: Building a Better Baby
Major Professor: Delores D. Liston, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Christopher Bertaud Guters
B.A., Georgia State University, 2004
M.Ed., Georgia State University, 2007
Ed.S., Georgia State University, 2008
Dissertation: From Boys to Men: The Influence of Commercialized Hip Hop on Masculinity in Black Male Adolescents
Major Professor: Kimberly Harris, Ph.D.
JACK N. AVERITT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Latoya Demita Jenkins
B.A., University of Georgia, 2006
M.A., Georgia Southern University, 2008
Major Professor: Delores D. Liston, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Matthew P. Carney
B.A., San Diego State University, 1998
M.A., California State University, 2003
M.Ed., Atlanta State University, 2007
Dissertation: Teaching through the Myths: Comets, Dragon and the Gods Within
Major Professor: Marta Morris, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Deborah Ann Bowers
B.S., Jones College, 1991
M.A.I., Augusta State University, 2009
Ed.S., Augusta State University, 2010
Dissertation: “At Risk” Seventh-Grade Students’ Perceptions of Problem-Based Learning in Mathematics
Major Professor: Dan Rea, Ed.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Neshka L. Conner-Devine
B.S.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 1999
M.S., Fort Valley State University, 2001
Ed.S., Cambridge College, 2008
Dissertation: From Tangled Roots to New Growth: Narratives of the Experiences of Black Women Who Have Embraced Their Natural Hair While Navigating the Workplace
Major Professor: Sabrina N. Ross, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Demetria Delores Dunn
B.S., Austin Peay State University, 1997
M.S., Georgia State University, 2003
Dissertation: Moving Past Dis awakening: The Experience of Resilience in African-American Male College Graduates
Major Professor: Sabrina Ross, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Andrea Yvonne Kinney
B.A., Georgia State University, 2003
M.Ed., Georgia State University, 2009
Dissertation: To Whom It May Concern: The Displaced Existence of Special Educators Longing to Connect
Major Professor: Sabrina Ross, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Avira Goodman Rice
B.S.Ed., Wayne State University, 1998
M.Ed., Wayne State University, 1998
Dissertation: Teacher Empowerment Through Instructional Coaching: A Qualitative Study on the Theory and Application of Partnership Principles
Major Professor: Sabrina N. Ross, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Kathy L. Avery
B.A., Wesleyan College, 1986
M.Ed., Georgia College & State University, 2006
Ed.S., Georgia College & State University, 2007
Dissertation: From Man to Mythopetica
Major Professor: John Weaver, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
Stacey Tucker Brown
B.A., Augusta State University, 1999
M.Ed., Southern Wesleyan University, 2007
Ed.S., Augusta State University, 2009
Dissertation: Seeking Space for Solitude in a World of Commodification
Major Professor: John A. Weaver, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Curriculum Studies
John Parker Cook
B.A., Armstrong Atlantic State University, 2005
M.A.T., Georgia Southern University, 2011
Dissertation: The Posthuman Curriculum and the Teacher
Major Professor: John Weaver, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Anissa Heath Johnson
B.A., Spelman College, 1991
M.A.T., Piedmont College, 1998
Dissertation: Dancing with the STARS: Assistant Principals as Effective Administrative Leaders
Major Professor: Meca Williams-Johnson, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Andrea Regina Williams-Baugh
B.S., Augusta College, 1991
M.Ed., Columbia College, 2006
Ed.S., Augusta State University, 2007
Dissertation: The Impact of Middle School Teacher-Student Relationships on Future Academic Decisions of African American Males
Major Professor: Yasar Bodur, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Roschelle Demetres Miles
B.B.A., Georgia Southern University, 2003
M.B.A., Troy State University, 2005
Ed.S., Augusta State University, 2011
Dissertation: Perceptions of the Effectiveness of the Communities in Schools Model at One Rural Georgia Performance Learning Center
Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Tenora J. Simonez
B.A., University of South Carolina, 1996
M.A., University of New Mexico, 1999
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2011
Dissertation: Remedial Education Programs and Student Success: Perceptions of Faculty and Administrators at HBCUs
Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
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Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Marian L. Mullrow
B.A., University of West Georgia, 2004
M.Ed., University of West Georgia, 2007
Ed.S., University of West Georgia, 2008
Dissertation: An Explanation of the Impostor Phenomenon and its Impact on Black Women Administrators in Higher Education in the South
Major Professor: Brenda Martin, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Jenny E. Cotton
B.S., Kennesaw State University, 2005
M.B.A., Southern Polytechnic State University, 2011
Dissertation: In Search of Financial Literacy: A Qualitative Analysis
Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Leadership
Farrah Rachel Seun
B.S., Georgia Southern University, 1998
M.P.A., Georgia Southern University, 2002
M.A., Georgia Southern University, 2012
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2012
Dissertation: “Exploring the Relationship between Mission and Finance at Christian Colleges”
Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Leadership
Janet L. Poole
B.S.Ed., Armstrong State University, 1998
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2005
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2008
Dissertation: Characteristics of Effective Alternative Schools in Georgia: Leaders’ Perceptions
Major Professor: James Green, Ph.D.
JACK N. AVERITT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Doctor of Education
Educational Leadership
Jami Kuhns Hall
B.A., Georgia College and State University, 2002
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 2005
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2011
Dissertation: The Complex Dichotomies of Student Affairs Practitioners’ Competencies: A Quantitative Evaluation of Self-Awareness
Major Professor: Brenda Marina, Ph.D.

Doctor of Education
Educational Administration
Jennifer Carolina Thompson Topper
B.S., Auburn University, 1989
M.Ed. Auburn University, 1991
Ed.S. Nova Southeastern University, 1998
Dissertation: The Relationship Between Secondary Schools’ PLC Characteristics and Literacy Achievement
Major Professor: Jason LaFrance, Ed.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Stephanie Chastang
B.A., Hampton University, 2011
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: The Influence of Normative Feedback and Expectancy Violation on Attitudes Related to Sexual Assault
Major Professor: Amy A. Hackney, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Lisa Camille Watson
B.A., Wheaton College, 1998
M.P.H., Emory University, 2008
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: Exploring the Psychometric Properties of the Acceptance of Modern Myths about Sexual Aggression (AMMSA) Scale
Major Professor: Amy A. Hackney, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Mel W. Judd
B.A., University of Toledo, 1995
M.A., Marietta College, 2009
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: The Moderating Effects of Positive and Negative Automatic Thoughts on the Relationship between Positive Emotions and Resilience
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Sarah Ashley Mello
B.S., Clemson University, 2009
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Dissertation: Perfectionism and Eating Disordered Psychopathology: Examination through a Stress Generation Perspective
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Laura Elaine Miller
B.S., Louisiana State University, 2009
M.S., Northwestern State University, 2011
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2012
Dissertation: Intrapsychic Examination of Individualization and Emotional Intelligence: Longitudinal Associations with Positive Psychology and Multicultural Psychology
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Danielle Elizabeth Seal
B.S., Northwestern State University, 2007
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M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: Examining Cognitive Vulnerability Models to Borderline Personality Features in a Sample of Emerging Adults
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Jeremy G. Gay
B.A., Augusta State University, 2005
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Dissertation: The Effects of Construal Level on Stigmatizing Attitudes towards Individuals with Mental Illness
Major Professor: Karen Naufel, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Kisswendsida Aida Madine L. Sawadogo
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Dissertation: Perfectionism and Eating Disordered Psychopathology: Examination through a Stress Generation Perspective
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

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Dissertation: Choosing the Function of Baseline Run-in Data for use as a Covariate in the Analysis of Treatment Data from Phase III Clinical Trials in Hypertension
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M.S., Rutgers, 2011
Dissertation: Choosing the Function of Baseline Run-in Data for use as a Covariate in the Analysis of Treatment Data from Phase III Clinical Trials in Hypertension
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Doctor of Psychology
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Dissertation: Evaluating the Efficiency of Treatment Comparison in Cross-Over Design by Allocating Subjects Based on Ranked Auxiliary Variable
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Doctor of Psychology
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Kiswendsida Aida Madine L. Sawadogo
Clinical Psychology
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Dissertation: Perfectionism and Eating Disordered Psychopathology: Examination through a Stress Generation Perspective
Major Professor: Jeff Kilbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
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B.S., Niger Delta University, 2008
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Dissertation: Choosing the Function of Baseline Run-in Data for use as a Covariate in the Analysis of Treatment Data from Phase III Clinical Trials in Hypertension
Major Professor: Karl E. Peace, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Dr. Yi Zhang
B.A., Sichuan University, 2007
M.P.H., Georgia Southern University, 2011
Dissertation: Evaluating the Efficiency of Treatment Comparison in Cross-Over Design by Allocating Subjects Based on Ranked Auxiliary Variable
Major Professor: Hani Samawi, Ph.D.

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies

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"Freedom" is a non-releasable American Bald Eagle permitted to Georgia Southern University’s Center for Wildlife Education & Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center

Today, Georgia Southern University acknowledges the remarkable achievements of our graduates and celebrates a popular and enduring commencement tradition with the appearance of Freedom, our American Bald Eagle mascot. Freedom’s flight during the singing of the Georgia Southern Alma Mater signifies the conclusion of the commencement ceremony. He serves not only as an ambassador for wildlife, but as an iconic reminder of the strength and majesty of our nation.

Freedom is a male Southern bald eagle that was found knocked out of the nest in Maitland, Florida. Only weeks old and appearing like a “brown ball of fuzz,” it was discovered that the young eagle had an injury to his beak and suffered from an infection. Rushed to the Florida Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Freedom made a complete recovery from the infection, but the injury to his beak was permanent, preventing his release into the wild. With the permission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Southern acquired Freedom in 2004.

Through the Georgia Southern University Center for Wildlife Education and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center, thousands of visitors young and old are embraced by the power of Freedom. Freedom is one of three American Bald Eagles housed at the 18-acre sanctuary, located in the heart of Georgia Southern’s campus. The Center also contains numerous species of native raptors, reptiles and amphibians.

For more information, visit: www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/wildlife.

Did You Know?

• The bald eagle is found only in North America.
• The bald eagle became the official symbol of the United States of America in 1782.
• Georgia Southern University adopted the eagle as its symbol in 1960.
• The bald eagle owes its name to the Middle English term “balled,” meaning “shining white.” The adult bald eagle’s head and neck feathers are all white, giving it the name “balled eagle,” meaning “white eagle.”
• The bald eagle has a wingspan of 6–8 ft., and makes its home along coastlines and large bodies of fresh water.
• Eagles are mature at five years of age.
• Eagles require a 25-mile hunting territory and appear to mate for life (can live as long as 50 years).
• Forty years ago, the bald eagle was nearing extinction with just 417 nesting pairs of birds known in the United States. Today, the bird has made a remarkable comeback and is now off the Endangered Species List.
• In 1983, no nesting pair of eagles could be found in Georgia. Today, Georgia has more than 177 known nesting pairs throughout the state.
Georgia Southern University
Alma Mater

Caryl Cain Brown
David Mathew

1. From humble farm beginnings Sprung up from sandy earth A
2. Through triumphs and through trials Our Alma Mater stood as

among the towering pine trees stands a treasure of great worth. Her price cannot be
solid as the oak trees forever and for good. As through these gates we

measured in silver or in gold but in the love and loyalty that
traveled though our ways must part our Georgia Southern memories we'll

Chorus

many hearts enfold. Georgia Southern University. On eagles wings you

soar. We pledge to you our loyalty and love forevermore.