2016 Fall Commencement

Fall 2016

Georgia Southern University
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
MISSEY 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. VLCZEK, 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., Assistant 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 and Human Development

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
SARAH A. BILLIKI, M.F.A., Assistant Professor, Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

College of Science and Mathematics
EDWARD B. MONDOR, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Biology

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
RAMI J. HADDAD, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

College of Health and Human Sciences
MELISSA KAY GARRNO, Ed.D., Professor, Nursing

College of Business Administration
CONSTANCE R. CAMPBELL, Ph.D., W.E. Carter Distinguished Chair in Business Leadership and Professor, Management

THE PLATFORM PARTY

JAIMIE HEBERT, 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 L. 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
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 KOBALLA 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Academic Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BETTY FOY SANDERS</td>
<td>Doctor of Fine Arts</td>
<td>August 11, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE HONORABLE CARL SANDERS</td>
<td>Doctor of Laws</td>
<td>August 11, 1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN E. PAULSON</td>
<td>Doctor of Science</td>
<td>June 14, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE HONORABLE F. EVERETT WILLIAMS</td>
<td>Doctor of Humane Letters</td>
<td>December 8, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACKIE ANDERSON STRANGE</td>
<td>Doctor of Letters</td>
<td>June 14, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILLIAM FREEMAN</td>
<td>Doctor of Letters</td>
<td>May 8, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMMA KELLY</td>
<td>Doctor of Fine Arts</td>
<td>May 9, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUGENE M. BISHOP</td>
<td>Doctor of Letters</td>
<td>May 13, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HALA MODDELEMOG</td>
<td>Doctor of Letters</td>
<td>May 5, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUIS A. AGUILAR</td>
<td>Doctor of Public Service</td>
<td>May 11, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would like to thank the ROTC Cadets and other Georgia Southern University volunteers for their assistance with today's ceremony.
EMERITUS FACULTY

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 (1981). He received his M.S. (1984) and Ed.D. (1987) in Health and Physical Education from A&M 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 Co-Director for the MS in Kinesiology Exercise Science emphasis program for many years. He was well known as an approachable, student centered professor. Dr. McMillan co-developed the curriculum and co-taught with both co-teachers for multiple book chapters. He has 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 served as the Dean of the College of Business 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 embracing 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 Freeman Professor of the Year (2007-08), Armstrong Atlantic State University’s Arthur M. Gagnul 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 Undergraduate Teaching Award (1980). Clearly, Dr. Paul has led a distinguished career at Georgia Southern and will continue his contributions to the department, college, University, and profession by naming him Professor Emeritus of Finance.

Ms. Jocelyn Poole, Associate Professor and Head of Information Services, served in her role to December 31, 2016. Ms. Poole earned her B.S. in Library Science at Virginia State University (1979), received her M.S.M. from Hampton University (1985), and earned her M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh (1982). At the time of her retirement, she will have provided 24 years of distinguished service to Georgia Southern University. Ms. Poole joined the library in 1992 as a reference librarian. In 2003-2005, she was Acting Head of Information Services, and in 2005, became Department Head. Prior to joining Georgia Southern University, Ms. Poole was Nursing Librarian at Hampton University and was promoted to Assistant Professor/Head Librarian. Since being granted tenure in 1997, she has continued to produce numerous research publications and presentations. Her most notable accomplishments were as follows: (1) the DEDOCO presentation, placing 3rd for the American Library Association award and winning the diversity exhibit; (2) the publication of an article in the New Georgia Encyclopedia on Screven County and a (3) peer-reviewed publication "From Political Prisoner to Johannesburg Public Library Manager: An Interview with Bongisile Nkabinde" published in Journal of Pan African Studies. She holds membership with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, and the Georgia Library Association. Her university service has included membership on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges Reaffirmation Team, the International Advisory Committee, the Faculty Grievance Committee, the Strategic Planning Council, the Institutional Review Board, and the Campus Life and Enrichment Committee. In addition, she served as Vice President and then President of the African American Caucus, as the Library’s Alternate Faculty Senator and as Judicial Hearing Officer of Student Appeals. For these and other contributions to the Library, the University, and the profession, Ms. Jocelyn Poole has earned the title of Associate Professor Emerita and Head of Information Services Emerita.

Dr. Robert W. Fernekes, Associate Professor and Information Services Librarian in the Zach S. Henderson Library, will retire on December 31, 2016. Dr. Fernekes holds degrees from the University of San Francisco (B.S., Sociology) and George Peabody College for Teachers (M.L.S., Ed.D. in Library Science, and Ph.D. in Education). At the time of his retirement, Dr. Fernekes will have provided 16 years of distinguished service to Georgia Southern following six years at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and a short stint at the Aiken County Public Library. Dr. Fernekes began his career as an academic librarian upon retirement from the U.S. Army, as a Lieutenant Colonel, with 20 years of experience in training, operations, logistics, and joint service communications interoperability. During his tenure at Georgia Southern, Dr. Fernekes served as the Library’s liaison with the College of Business Administration, and other units on campus, including Campus Recreation and Intramurals, and the Office of Career Services. Dr. Fernekes has been active in professional associations at the state, regional, national and international levels. He traveled extensively during his career, with over 40 presentations and training sessions on college library standards and their use in assessing library services and collections in meeting faculty, student and staff needs, and extending the library’s outreach. In support of this effort, Dr. Fernekes co-authored a workbook and several articles. In addition to his departmental duties, Dr. Fernekes has served as a Freedom Flier instructor since 2009 and was elected or appointed to serve on numerous library, university and ad hoc committees, notably chairing the University Program Review Committee for the 2010 and 2011 comprehensive program reviews. Other university service includes Faculty Senate, Senate Executive Committee, serving as a member of the Academic Standards, Faculty Development and Grievance committees, and as the chair of the Graduate Committee for five years, and the Faculty Research Committee for one year. For these and other contributions to the Library, the University, and the profession, Dr. Robert W. Fernekes has earned the title of Associate Professor Emeritus.
Georgia Southern University, located in Statesboro, Georgia, is the largest and most comprehensive research institution in southeast Georgia. The residential campus of nearly 20,000 students attracts the best and brightest, and is a premier choice for the state’s 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 so 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 Juan-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 green space 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 surround a tree-lined circular drive known as Sweetheart Circle. Beyond the traditional Circle, contemporary buildings blend into the existing landscape to showcase the continuing growth and expansion of facilities on the 900-acre campus. The most recent construction projects include a 33,000-square-foot Military Science Building, the $8.5 million Health Services Center, and the Shooting Sports Education Center.

GA 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 GridDaddy 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 rifle.

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 Moddelmog, 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Point Average</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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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 work and experiential learning. The diplomas of graduating University Honors Program Scholars are distinguished by the Honors designation.

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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. Bachelor's 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 tab 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 ornamental 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.

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 embossed in the final base of the shaft representing the foundation of the institution.

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.

Regalia

Banners

Regalia

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.

Double Eagle

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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 Southern 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 Pharmacology 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.S.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., University of Alabama, 1978
M.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 1998
Ed.S., Georgia Southern University, 2005
Dissertation: Building a Better Baby
Major Professor: Delores D. Liston, 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.

- **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: Marla Morris, Ph.D.

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

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - Neshika L. Conley-Divine
  - B.S.Ed., Georgia Southern University, 1999
  - M.S., Fort Valley State University, 2001
  - Major Professor: Sabrina N. Ross, Ph.D.

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

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

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - Aviva 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.

- **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 Muses to Mythopets
  - Major Professor: John Weaver, Ph.D.

- **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.

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - John Parker Cott
  - 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.

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - 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.

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - Andrea Regina Williams-Baugh
  - B.S., Augusta College, 1993
  - 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: Sabrina N. Ross, Ph.D.

- **Curriculum Studies**
  - 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.

- **Education Administration**
  - Tenora J. Simonez
  - B.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.

- **Education Administration**
  - Farrah Rachele Senn
  - B.S., Armstrong Atlantic State University, 2005
  - Ed.D., Georgia Southern University, 2012
  - Dissertation: Exploring the Relationship between Mission and Finance at Christian Colleges
  - Major Professor: Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.

- **Educational Leadership**
  - 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.

- **Educational Leadership**
  - Farah Rachelle Senn
  - B.S., Armstrong Atlantic State 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.

- **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. AVERTT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Doctor of Education
Educational Leadership
Jami Kuhns Hall
B.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 Thomson 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 Psychometrix 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 Kibbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Sarah Ashley Mello
B.S., Clemson University, 2009
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: Perfectionism and Eating Disordered Psychopathology: Examination through a Stress Generation Perspective
Major Professor: Jeff Kibbert, Ph.D.

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

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Danae Elizabeth Seal
B.S., Northwestern State University, 2007
M.S., Northwestern State University, 2010
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: Examining Cognitive Vulnerability Models to Borderline Personality Features in a Sample of Emerging Adults
Major Professor: Jeff Kibbert, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Jeremy C. Gay
B.A., Augusta State University, 2005
M.S., Augusta State University, 2008
Dissertation: The Effects of Construal Level on Stigmatizing Attitudes toward Individuals with Mental Illness
Major Professor: Karen Naufel, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Erin Elizabeth Lawson
B.S., Georgia Southern University, 2011
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: The Effects of Injunctive and Descriptive Normative Influence on Stigmatizing Attitudes toward Individuals with Mental Illness
Major Professor: Karen Naufel, Ph.D.

Doctor of Psychology
Clinical Psychology
Sean Mareon Fowler
B.A., East Carolina University, 2009
M.S., Georgia Southern University, 2014
Dissertation: The Relationship between Traumatic Events and Psychological Symptomatology and the Moderating Role of Mentalization
Major Professor: Irene Yancey, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Biostatistics
Viral Vijaykumar Panchal
B.S., The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda 2007
M.P.H., Georgia Southern University, 2013
Dissertation: Bayesian Multivariate Regression for High-Dimensional Longitudinal Data with Heavy-Tailed Errors
Major Professor: Daniel Linder II, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Biostatistics
Yang Huang
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 Variables
Major Professor: Hani Samawi, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Biostatistics
Theophile Swembwa Ditta
B.S., Kennesaw State University, 2010
M.S.A.S., Kennesaw State University, 2011
Dissertation: Missing Data in Clinical Trial: A Critical Look at the Proportionality of MNAR and MAR Assumptions for Multiple Imputation
Major Professor: Robert Vogel, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Public Health Leadership
Kiowendra Aida Madine L. Sawadogo
B.B.A., High Institute of Management, 2008
M.P.H., Georgia Southern University, 2012
Dissertation: Universal Coverage in Developing Countries: A Summative Evaluation of Maternal Policies in Ghana and Burkina Faso
Major Professor: Betty A. Apenteng, Ph.D.
JACK N. AVERITT COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Doctor of Public Health
Public Health Leadership
John Powell Sheahan
B.S., Mercer University, 2008
M.P.H., Georgia Southern University, 2008
Major Professor: Gerald Ledlow, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Public Health Leadership
Saroyi Chandler Morris
B.S.B., California University of Pennsylvania, 1992
M.H.S., Armstrong State University, 1997
Major Professor: Gerald Ledlow, Ph.D.

Doctor of Public Health
Public Health Leadership
Donna Leigh Webb
B.S.H.S., Georgia Southern University, 2003
M.P.H., Armstrong State University, 2006
Dissertation: "An Examination of the Effect of Socioeconomic Status on Patient Navigation in Breast Cancer Patients"
Major Professor: Yelena Tarasenko, Dr.P.H.

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Education Specialist
Sheri Ann O'Allen
Megan Marie Baker
Calvin Barkley
Lauren Cheyanne Boyd
Keiyya September Bragg
Melissa Brown
Misty Coleman
Catherine Theresa Frey Deck
Paul Ryan Garland
Kimberly Danielle Griner
Jordan Styron Sull
Erin Christine Hancock
Baria Hicks
LeToya Desdemona Hill
Chase Elizabeth Hogan
Jacob Clinton Hyers, Jr.
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Donna Vaughn Kessler
Jessica Brittany Lewis
Ceilaa A. Nix
Shane Pack
Latalsha M. Quarterman
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Susan Brynner Shraly
Valencia Latrice Stramis
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Alise F. Tadao
Brittney Alisha Summerville
Morgan Ellison Tyrie
Kelly Segraves Tyson
Alexis Monet Woodford
Demetria Michelle Wright
Jessica Danielle Yeomans

Master of Accounting
David Garrett Alexander
Stephen C. Allen, Jr.
Theophilius Askanah
Olivia Rigdon Conner
Morgan Elizabeth Crowley
Thomas Farrau
Sometra Triona Laughton Garmen
Cody RuDaniel Givens
John Michael Hayes
Laura Emmaline Henry
Adrian Dauntell Johnson
Monisha Melodie Johnson
Justin A. Joiner
Courtney Brooke Kelly
Rebeza Khalid
Ryan Longsworth
Cassandra Denise Moncrief
Macey Brooke Morrison
Melissa Erin Puckett
Kiara LeShay Ramsey
David Ramos
Eric Richard Rimes
Adhil Foy箐haunda Ann Ryan
James M. Simons
Victoria Brooke Sims
Charlene Koren Singleton
Joshua Landon Sinton
Jordan Lynn Thompson
Marc Tucker
Daniel Stephen Womack
Christian Patrick Woodberry
Logan Worsman

Master of Arts
Katrillyn Elaine Bostick
Danielle Nicole Bostick
Sandra Titulano Brown
Rachael Victoria Cohan
Katherine Leigh Conner
Kelsi Elizabeth Cunningham
Jennifer Leigh Pennington Downs
Vicka S. Flowers
William Chason Freeland
Jessica Renn Hicks
Lilith Akasha Logan
Sara Ann Longmberger
Heidi R. Moye
Dielano Javon Marques Rodrigues
Elisa Purvis Stevens
Anna Elizabeth Stone

Master of Arts in Teaching
Ditora Quanet Garrett
Che Marie King
Allison Marie Lawrence
Joy Ann Nethern
Andrina Salinas
Taylor Screws
Rachael Lee Tharp

Master of Business Administration
Zhera L. Buckridge
LaShai Evelyn Campbell
Kenneth Paul Carden, Jr.
Ian Chappin
Timothy Coleman
Morgan Dure Eddins
Taylor Anne Fraz
Joshua Martin Gunnann
Jasmine Holy
Joshua Brook Hall
Richard L. Hampton
Dongyup Han
Steven Eugene Hought
Steven Samuel Holbander
Garrett Carl Houghton
Raymond O'Connor Johnson, Jr.
Jacob Lee Jones
Robert Knarr
Christine Marie Koppell
Martin Aron Lincoln, Jr.
Adam Zachary Mauldin
Meagan Ashley Maynard
Alexandra Nathan Meltzer
David Adam Metcalf
John Thomas Myers
Jonathan David Nastov
Principe Chimeremeze Ogbonna
Steven Patrick Pecko
Trenton Phillips
Sarah Poppell
Kristen M. Ruhland
Sarah Poppell
Rachel A. Goodman
Charles Ashley Glover, Jr
Rachel A. Goodman
Kylie Marie Gress
Rachelle Renee Grubbe Hall
Kerrica LaShawn Hammonds
Kerrick Christopher Hampton
Pamela Swint Hargrove
Kranna Harris
Kortle Mariiah Harsha
Sierra Denise Harvey
Daniel James Haskett
Darragh D. Henry
Ralph Perkins Herndon
Steven Andrew Hill
Quincy Hilly
Heather Nicole Hobbs
Shelly Monique Hodges
Andrea Vinnett Holloway
Zanetta Y. Hornbuckle
Santerria Houseworth
Michael Robert Howard
Juliana Walker Hudson
Donita Terrell Ingram
Kafay Mache Jackson
Kimberly Bennett Jackson
Brooke Sanders Jernigan
Joseph Donald Johnson
David Levi Karas
Melanie C. Knight
LaShai Evelyn Cardwell
Dana Amanda Lasseter
Kimberly Bennett Jackson
Brooke Sanders Jernigan
Joseph Donald Johnson
Karrius Savery Jones

Doctor of Public Health
Public Health Leadership
John Powell Sheahan
B.S., Mercer University, 2008
M.P.H., Georgia Southern University, 2008
Major Professor: Gerald Ledlow, Ph.D.
“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 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 Matheu

1. From hum-ble farm be-gin-nings Sprung up from sand-ly earth A-
2. Through tri-u-mphs and through tri-al-s Our Al-ma Ma-ter's stood as

mong the tow-ning pine trees stands a trea-sure of great worth. Her price can not be
so-lid as the oak trees for jus-tice and for good. As through these gates we

mea-sured in sil-ver or in gold but in the love and loy-al-ty that
tra-vel and though our ways must part our Geor-gia Sou-them mem-ries we'll

Chorus

man-y hearts en-fold, Georgia Sou-them U-ni-ver-si-ty. On eagles wings you

soar. We pledge to you our loy-al-ty and love for ev-er more.