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# Southern Educator

College of Education

Georgia Southern University

Volume 16, Issue 1

<http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu>

Fall 2005



Dr. Kenneth Robbins

## Homecoming Lecture

Dr. Kenneth Robbins, novelist and Director of the School of the Performing Arts at Louisiana Tech University, will be the featured speaker for the College of Education's 2005 Homecoming Lecture Series. Robbins' presentation, *The City of Churches: Fact and Fiction*, will

be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, in the College's Lecture Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Robbins' first novel, *Buttermilk Bottoms*, received the 1986 Toni Morrison Prize and the Associated Writing Programs' Novel Award. It was published by the University of Iowa Press in 1987. His short fiction has appeared in the *North Dakota Quarterly*, the *St. Andrews Review*, the *Briar Cliff Review*, and *A Carolina Literary Companion*.

Also a playwright, Dr. Robbins' works for the stage have been produced by the New Works Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Nashville Academy Theatre, Theatre Atlanta Off Peachtree, and the Project Arts Center, Dublin Ireland. His radio play, "Dynamite Hill," was aired over National Public Radio and the BBC Radio 3.

## COE Faculty Awards Presented

Dr. Cordelia D. Zinskie received the Jack Miller Educator of the Year Award at the opening faculty meeting on August 10. Presented annually to a member of the COE faculty for exceptional overall achievement, the award is based on demonstrated excellence in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarship over the three-year period of review.

Dr. Zinskie, an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, is a dedicated and engaging teacher scholar. Over her career, she has taught all courses offered in educational research and has provided leadership in course development. She has taught classes on-campus, off-campus, WebCT, hybrid, and distance education classes and has worked on a large number of educational specialist and doctoral dissertation committees. She sets high standards for students to follow, yet leaves space for them to explore. Dr. Zinskie has excellent credentials in the area of scholarly activities. She has published refereed journal articles and made numerous presentations at prestigious conferences. Among her many service activities for the college and university, she served one-year as interim chair for the CFR Department and is Counselor of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education chapter at Georgia Southern.

Three new awards were also presented to COE faculty at the opening 05-06 faculty meeting. The Jack Miller Award for Teaching was presented to Dr. Susan Franks, associate professor of early childhood education in the Department of Teaching and Learning; the Jack Miller Award for Service was presented to Dr. Leon Spencer, associate professor of counselor education, Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development; and the Jack Miller Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity was presented to Dr. Marla Morris, assistant professor of curriculum, Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading.

Past recipients of the Jack Miller Educator of the Year Award are Amy Heaston (1994), Deborah Thomas (1995), Mike Richardson (1996), Dale Grant (1997), Wendy Chambers (1998), Marlynn Griffin (1999), Bud Pool (2000), Diane Zigo (2001), Susan Trimble (2002), Ming Fang He (2003), and William Reynolds (2004).



Dr. Cordelia D. Zinskie



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Provost Linda Bleicken plays "London Bridge" with Chinese preschool children who are learning English. In background are (r-l) Jane Hudak, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Nancy Shumaker, Associate VP; and two preschool teachers in Wuhan China.

The Georgia Southern delegation included Linda Bleicken, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Nancy Shumaker, Associate VP, Academic Affairs; Jane Hudak, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; and Cindi Chance, Dean, College of Education. With a focus on shared resources and expertise, the delegation met with faculty and administrators from the arts and the sciences as well as from the college of education. To begin this expertise sharing, Dr. Deng Meng, Dean, CCNU School of Education, has applied for a Fulbright scholarship to be at Georgia Southern for the 2006-07 year. He holds a Ph.D. in special education and has taught at Cambridge (UK) and Indiana University (USA). He will be co-teaching with special education faculty, researching best practices to share with his CCNU colleagues and partner schools, and learning about the culture of our university and partner schools. Georgia Southern faculty and our partner school colleagues, now hold an invitation to teach in Wuhan. Classes will be taught in English at both the high schools and at the University. As evidenced by the photo above, English language classes begin at pre-school (age 3) and are required every year through college.

## Georgia Southern Visits China

What do five-year-old children in Xalapa Mexico, Wuhan China, Derby England and Statesboro Georgia have in common? More than you can imagine. They sing and play games in English, they are being expected to achieve at education levels never dreamed possible when their parents were that age, and they are all part of the International Learning Community (ILC). Georgia Southern is a founding member of the ILC. In the Dean's Corner (see page 2) there is more about how the ILC is joining ideas around the globe to focus on one issue—improved teaching and learning from pre-school through doctoral programs.

A delegation from Georgia Southern was overwhelmed when their hosts at Central China Normal University (CCNU) in Wuhan China surprised them with decorations and watermelon at a July 4<sup>th</sup> dinner. This event was one of many in the two-week stay that reminded them that education and educators around the world are focusing on common educational needs and challenges instead of social and cultural differences.



Dr. Cindi Chance

As we move toward national and international academic distinction, your diploma from Georgia Southern is growing in value. Our faculty and staff lead the way in providing nationally distinct programs and leadership. We have the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal—a center focused on providing services to schools as we strive to raise education standards in Georgia. We host the nation's largest youth-at-risk conference each spring. Georgia Southern, in partnership with Screven County, has the first Professional Development District in the United States.

This spring Georgia Southern and the COE will host the International Network for Educational Transformation (iNET). The iNET is an international non-profit organization that issues invitations to institutions that promote school improvement through school/university partnerships. Thanks to the work of our faculty and staff in school renewal, Georgia Southern will be the first U.S. institution invited to membership and to host this conference. The iNET will invite school reform leaders from around the world to join us in Georgia. Together we will envision the needs of graduates of 2020 in the workplace and society. Are we preparing teachers for the changes that will be needed? Are we building schools to meet the changing needs? What will be the technology expectations? What societal needs? Will our school/university curricula support the needs? Professional futurists will provide information needed for the envisioning. We invite you to attend. Watch the COE website for details.

In order to focus more attention on the education of the whole child, in 2005 the COE Alumni Advisory Committee in conjunction with partnering P-12 schools initiated Southern's Art Extravaganza. The annual exhibit displays student artwork from public schools in Georgia and our partners in the United Kingdom. The 2006 exhibit will be unveiled Sunday, October 16, at 3:00 p.m. You are encouraged, at any time, to visit the Extravaganza in the College of Education 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. You will be amazed at the talent of these youth.

Also, focusing on the whole child, we are partnering with the University of Vera Cruz (Mexico) to host a teacher who is teaching Spanish to elementary school children. This pilot program is in conjunction with Bulloch County Schools. This is but one of several very successful programs addressing the needs of our growing diverse nation. As communications and travel shrinks the distance between nations, a more global perspective is needed.

These and many other accomplishments have positioned the College of Education to reach farther and aspire to even greater goals. The University is excited about the success of the Campaign for National Distinction. It is not too late to participate in the campaign and at the same time leave your mark on a commemorative brick, a named bench, or a scholarship. These contributions are 100% deductible and will support the College of Education's undergraduate and graduate scholarships. You will certainly want your name or the name of a loved one in the wheel for the Centennial events beginning December 2006. Visit our website at [coe.georgiasouthern.edu](http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu) or call (912) 681-0671 for more information and an order form. You may wish to endow a scholarship for an education major with a \$15,000 contribution. This can be a one-time donation or one spread over several years. You may also choose to take the leadership of your graduation class to provide a 'Class of (year) Education Scholarship.'

I look forward to seeing and meeting each of you at alumni events, homecoming, or athletic events. Please introduce yourself to me. I enjoy speaking to civic groups, homecoming groups, etc. I will be pleased to visit your area and share how Georgia Southern's College of Education is becoming a leader in education in Georgia, nationally, and internationally.

### COE Enrollment/Students Fall 2005

As of press time, a total of 1,655 undergraduate students are enrolled and working toward the B.S.Ed. degree. A total of 1,201 graduate students are enrolled and working on M.Ed., Ed.S., or Ed.D. degrees, certifications, or endorsements.

### Education Career Corner

Career Services offers assistance to alumni interested in making job or career changes. Career advisors can assist you with resumes, interviewing, and job search strategies. In addition, alumni can post resumes online through EagleTRAK. EagleTRAK is an on-line resume posting/job search site for Georgia Southern students and alumni. To register, go to: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career/eagletrak>. You can then create your own user name and password.

Career Services is also seeking alumni to register as mentors to current students. Many times students are undecided on a major or career, and it helps for those students to talk to professionals in the careers that interest them. Alumni can register through EagleTRAK to be a part of our Job Shadowing/Mentor Program. By doing so, you provide current students with the opportunity to talk to you more about your teaching career.

To register for the Job Shadowing/Mentor Program:

1. Go to <http://www.monstertrak.com>
2. Click on students/alums
3. Click on Georgia and select Georgia Southern
4. Your school password is gsualumni
5. Click on Job Shadowing/Mentor Program to register

Finally, if your school system is interested in participating in the Eagle Expo/Education Career Fair, the date of the fall fair is Wednesday, October 26. To register your school system to attend, please go to: <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/career/events/expo/>.

If you have any career questions or need assistance, please contact Amy Rowell at 912-681-5197 or [awilliams@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:awilliams@georgiasouthern.edu).

## NEWS FLASH



The Betty-Ware Wray College of Education Staff Award has been established by her family to honor her memory. The award will be given annually to a deserving COE staff member with the recipient's name being placed on a plaque that will hang in the College of Education lobby. During the Fall 2005 faculty/staff meeting, the first award was given to Betty-Ware Wray posthumously. The award was received by her husband Charles Wray. The award's cash prize was donated back to name a bench in Centennial Plaza and Memorial Grove in memory of Betty-Ware Wray. Mrs. Wray was a COE staff member from 1985 to 2005.



The College of Education's Board of Advisors met on June 27, 2005. Discussions and presentations covered COE initiatives including the Veracruz Teacher Program, National Youth-At-Risk Conference, GA Center for Educational Renewal's Lincoln Project, Educational Outreach and AMI Project, TK20 CampusTools HigherEd, and the University's Campaign for National Distinction. Board Members attending were: Jan Anderson, Martha Bacon, Ken Baker, June Bradfield, Al Burke, Marie Hooks (Board Chair), Shelia Hoynes, Linda Lewis, Paul Scott, Mary Sue Smith, and Diane Wood.



The first set of engraved bricks has been ordered for the Centennial Plaza and Memorial Grove. By the end of this semester, mini-bricks will be sent to those who placed an order, and the larger bricks will be installed in the center wheel. Wording selected by those who placed an order commemorates a variety of individuals and organizations including retirees, a first love, parents, graduates, a sorority, the Youth-At-Risk Conference, etc. Also, three Plaza benches have been named in memory of former faculty, a staff member, and a student. To place your order, use the order form available online at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/brickcampaign.html>



In Spring 2005, Rosanne Logan Major became Chair of the Alumni Advisory Committee. Past-chair Todd Williford continues to serve on the Committee. Both Major and Williford are charter members of the Committee which is now in its third year. Alumni interested in helping with activities sponsored by the Committee—such as Southern's Art Extravaganza and the Homecoming Welcome Tent at Gate 4—can contact Mrs. Major at [rmajor@effingham.k12.ga.us](mailto:rmajor@effingham.k12.ga.us)



On April 20, 2005, Dean Chance hosted a picnic for COE faculty and staff to celebrate the college having 100% participation in the 2004 A Day for Southern on Campus. COE students who received awards at the University's Honors Day were also invited and recognized for their accomplishments. A Day for Southern on Campus is an annual event at Georgia Southern to raise funds for scholarships and other activities from contributions given by faculty and staff members.

# COE Soaring Into Action

## Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading

This has been a time of transition and celebration for the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading. **Dr. Jane A. Page** retired in May 2005 after more than two decades of outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service. She continues her affiliation with the College and the Department as Professor and Chair Emerita. The department gratefully acknowledges her generous endowment for the Jane A. Page Distinguished Lecture. **Dr. Michael C. McKenna**, Professor of Reading Education, resigned in July 2005 and became the Thomas G. Jewell Professor of Reading at the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia. The department wishes Dr. McKenna all the best and extends heartfelt appreciation for his many contributions to Georgia Southern. The department welcomes three temporary full-time members of the faculty: **Ms. Anna Kay Hotchkiss**, **Dr. Gloria Reece**, and **Dr. Tara Star Johnson**. The department celebrates three faculty members who have received honors: **Dr. Cordelia Zinskie**, winner of the Jack Miller Educator of the Year Award, **Dr. Marla Morris**, winner of the Jack Miller Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity, and **Dr. Ming Fang He**, winner of the GSU Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarly, and/or Creative Activity Award.

## Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development

The Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development is pleased to welcome seven highly-qualified faculty members who are either new or have changed positions (see page 5 for new full-time permanent faculty).

**Dr. Pat Stewart** joins the Counselor Education Faculty as a full-time temporary. Pat has been a private practice counselor in the Savannah area and a part-time temporary for the Counselor Education Faculty.

Our new Doctoral Fellow (**Patty Tresey**) and Graduate Assistants (**Dee Andrews**, **Weke Andrews**, **Katie LaMothe**, **Wendy Salter**, and **Caroline Benton**) will add immeasurably to the department's ability to accomplish our mission.

Sadly, we regret to announce that **Dr. Patti McAfee** passed away recently. Additionally, **Dr. Fred Page** has been hospitalized for an extended period of time, but is well on the road to recovery.

**Dr. Leon Spencer** has spent several days in Atlanta counseling Hurricane Katrina victims. The Student Affiliate Organization of the Licensed Professional Counseling Association has sponsored Operation C.A.N. (Considering Another's Needs) where students may bring any can, toiletry, and/or monetary donations to give toward their C.A.N. drive.



Can you guess who this professor is?  
(Answer on page 7)

## Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education

The UTE is pleased to welcome back long-time colleague and friend, **Pat Parsons**, as she assumes the role of Director of Field Experiences and Partnerships. Pat's expansive responsibilities include facilitating all field experience placements for undergraduate teacher preparation candidates and ILC students, faculty and administrators. This requires ongoing communications with program coordinators, university supervisors, clinical associates, clinical supervisors, and teacher candidates. Additionally, Pat has the task of revitalizing the Partnership Council and Partner School work, a very important task which she has begun in collaboration with our faculty and school partners. Pat's office is situated in the UTE suite, room 1103E, and she can be contacted at 681-5247 or [pparsons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:pparsons@georgiasouthern.edu).

The UTE continues Tk20 CampusTools HigherEd Tools ("Tk20") development activities, under the direction of Co-coordinators **Donna Colson** and **Kent Rittschof**. As COE Database Manager, Donna currently splits her time between data and document upload for faculty, Tk20 training sessions for faculty and students, and daily trouble-shooting for all system users. As Tk20 liaison to faculty, IT, and Tk20, Inc., Kent splits his time between working with Tk20 engineers on system development and guiding the work of the COE ad hoc assessment team which is currently focused on the system requirements to address unit-level systematic assessment and accreditation needs. Tk20 is being designed and developed to serve as a systematic assessment data gathering and analysis tool for our faculty, staff, students, administrators, and school partners. We appreciate the interest and cooperation shown by faculty, staff, and students as we have implemented the first phase of Tk20 use. We expect that what continues to be a monumental task of system development and implementation will soon settle into routine, daily maintenance of an efficient and useful tool for the College of Education and its partners.

## Student Success Center

The SSC has a full staff again, and we are all very happy. Our two new advisors are **Earnestine Burns** and **Laura Saunders**. They are enjoying their "new" roles here on campus. All of our students also love having two more advisors to talk with when they stop by the SSC.

With the fall term we have welcomed a new freshman class of 348 students. We also welcomed 131 new undergraduate transfer students. Each of these students attended SOAR this past summer, met with their respective advisor, and planned for their fall courses.

The SSC is working on a new look. We have moved some furniture around and plan to paint our outer office soon. If you are on campus, stop by and check us out.

## Office of Graduate Education

This fall the College of Education is using a new software called Xtender to make graduate admission recommendations. We are hoping that this software will facilitate the graduate admissions process for students and their advisors. By Spring 2006 we expect to have all graduate advisors using Xtender, providing advisors access to advisee records. We encourage all graduate students to work closely with their advisors beginning with an initial contact after admission and continuing throughout the program to ensure that all program requirements are met.

The College of Education's new Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program will be offered beginning Summer 2006. During this fall term and the upcoming spring term, we will be developing and disseminating information for current students, prospective students, and faculty advisors. The M.A.T. will replace existing Alternative M.Ed. programs, including the Georgia TAPP program (called TIP at Georgia Southern) for persons who hold a bachelors degree and no teacher certification. The MAT will become the route that those seeking an initial certification in a secondary education field will take (grades 6-12), replacing current B.S.Ed. programs in those fields. In addition to the secondary teaching fields of English, math, sciences, and social sciences as well as the P-12 fields of Art and Foreign Languages, the MAT program will also be available for Middle Grades Education (grades 4-8) and Special Education (grades P-12).

## Instructional Resources Center

The IRC has seen a dramatic increase in usage this semester! It is wonderful to see so many students working so hard and diligently.

This fall, we are looking forward to **Children's Literature Day**, hosted by the IRC and COE, on October 18, 2005. **Dr. Josephine Demmond**, author of *Darren the Different Dragon*, will be giving two presentations: one for children at 10:30 a.m. in room 2148, and the other at 6:30 p.m. in room 1115 for future and current educators, as well as the community. We invite you to attend either or both presentations. Also, on that day, we are celebrating Flat Stanley (<http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/IRC/>). Please feel free to send us your own Flat Stanley who will be forwarded to a displaced child from Hurricane Katrina.



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth-at-Risk Conference

The 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL YOUTH-AT-RISK CONFERENCE will be held March 5-8, 2006, in Savannah, Georgia. The conference is sponsored by the Georgia Southern College of Education and Continuing Education. Presenters will share practical programs and useful strategies on how to create safe, healthy, caring, and intellectually empowering educational environments to enhance the well-being of our young people.

Over 1200 participants will attend over 100 presentations related to five strands: (a) support academic learning and close achievement gaps; (b) foster social/emotional skills and the social climate; (c) prevent violence and ensure safety and security; (d) promote mental and physical health; and (e) enhance family and community support.

The conference will showcase several HIGH-FLYING SCHOOLS that have high-achievement, high-poverty, and high-minority levels. These schools will share how they are closing achievement gaps for students in poverty and students of color.

### KEYNOTE AND FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

**WILLIAM GLASSER**, President, William Glasser Institute, California, is the founding father of world famous approaches to education and therapy including Reality Therapy, Choice Theory, and Quality Schools. He is an internationally renowned speaker and author of several best selling books including *Reality Therapy*, *Schools Without Failure*, *Positive Addiction*, *The Quality School*, *Choice Theory*, *Reality Therapy in Action*, and *Every Student Can Succeed*.

**PEDRO NOGUERA**, Director, Metro Center for Research on Urban Schools and Globalization, New York University, is a nationally recognized expert on school reform, conditions that promote student achievement, youth violence, and race and ethnic relations in American society. A prolific writer, his most recent book is *City Schools and the American Dream: Reclaiming The Promise of Public Education*. Noguera has served as an advisor and engaged in collaborative research with several large urban school districts throughout the United States.

**ANNIE WIMBISH**, Superintendent, Hattiesburg Public School District, Mississippi, is a nationally known inspirational speaker who shares her personal story of overcoming a background of poverty and her professional stories of helping several schools to close achievement gaps. She has served as a teacher assistant, teacher, and program supervisor in Virginia; assistant principal and principal in Georgia; assistant superintendent in North Carolina, and is currently serving as the first female superintendent of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

**JASON KAMRAS**, 2005 National Teacher of the Year, is a middle school math teacher in Washington, DC, who has initiated several innovative programs to help boost math scores. Consequently, his students have met the district's adequate yearly progress targets every year since the *No Child Left Behind Act* was implemented. Also, he has secured funding for an innovative after-school program in which he teaches students how to create photo-essays about their lives and communities. Currently, he is serving full-time as a national and international spokesperson for education.

For more information about registration and the conference call (912) 681-5556 or (912) 681-5557 or see the conference website: <http://www.nationalyouthatrisk.com>

## First Annual Eagle Quest



From June 26 through June 30, 2005, the College of Education hosted the first annual Eagle Quest Summer Institute for Math and Science Education. Under the leadership of 2005 Georgia Teacher of the Year and Georgia Southern alumnus Chase Puckett and seven newly certified teacher alumni, seventeen students from seven area high schools enjoyed real world applications of math and science, as well as the creation and teaching of lessons for fifth graders from the Bulloch County Boys and Girls Club.

The Bulloch County Fire Department, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and Georgia State Patrol involved the institute participants in the physics of firefighting, the chemistry of a mock homicide scene, and the actual crash of two cars in front of Paulson Stadium during four-hour morning sessions. The students cheered when the driver who caused the accident emerged from his car unscathed, then they worked with the Accident Reconstruction Team to collect and analyze data from the scene. The day before they had collected evidence from the Instructional Resources Center mock homicide scene and analyzed hair, fibers, blood, and DNA in the chemistry lab of Dr. Michele McGibony.

Each afternoon, students worked in small groups with math professor Dr. Yingkang Hu, physics professors Dr. Clayton Heller and Dr. Delena Gatch, chemistry professors Dr. Jeffery Orvis and Mrs. Jessica Orvis, and biology laboratory supervisor Mrs. Elizabeth Elliott in their campus labs. Each group created a one-hour hands-on lesson that the high school students then taught on the final morning of the institute. Their students, a small group of fifth graders from the Boys and Girls Club, were pleased to discover that they just might have what it takes to someday become a Georgia Southern University student.

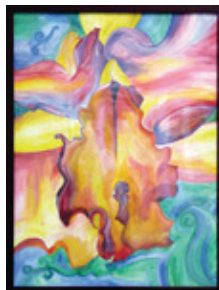
The seventeen Eagle Quest participants were selected by their math or science teacher, reviewed by the high school counselor, and approved by their principal to attend. All were rising juniors or seniors, both able and interested in math or one of the sciences, and considering a possible career as a teacher. The residential institute was made possible by a state PRISM Satellite grant and private donations. Mr. Puckett hopes to double the number of participants next summer and we look forward to seeing some of the Summer 2005 group as new Georgia Southern University freshman in Fall 2006. If you should wish to view a fifteen-minute highlights video of the institute, please contact Dr. Elaine Gore at 912-681-5614 or [ecgore@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ecgore@georgiasouthern.edu).



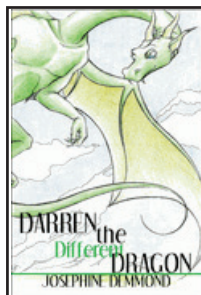
**Dr. Ming Fang He**, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, was one of six members of Georgia Southern University's faculty who were recognized at the Fall 2005 Convocation Ceremony with awards for excellence. Dr. He received the **Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity** which recognizes individuals who excel in their research efforts in addition to fulfilling full-time teaching responsibilities. The Faculty Awards for Excellence were presented by University President Grube and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Linda Bleicken on Wednesday, August 10, in the Performing Arts Center.

## COE HOMECOMING 2005

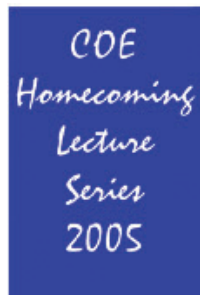
October 16-22



**16th • SOUTHERN'S ART EXTRAVAGANZA • 3:00-5:00p.m.**—Gallery Opening and Reception—Room 2148 in the College of Education Building. Sponsored by Georgia Southern University's College of Education Alumni Advisory Committee to highlight the works of exceptional P-12 art students in the region, many of whom are taught by Georgia Southern University alumni. SOUTHERN'S ART EXTRAVAGANZA will remain on display until September 2006.



**18th • Children's Literature Day •** Featuring Dr. Josephine Demmond, author of **DARREN THE DIFFERENT DRAGON**—Two Lectures: 10:30a.m.—Room 2148 in the College of Education Classroom Building—Dr. Demmond will read excerpts from her book and provide storytelling for the children in attendance. 6:30p.m.—Room 1115 in the College of Education Classroom Building Lecture Hall—Dr. Demmond's lecture will be geared to educators, literature students/educators, and all interested parties.



**20th • College of Education Homecoming Lecture Series •** Featuring Dr. Kenneth Robbins, Novelist and Director of the School of Performing Arts at Louisiana Tech University 7:00p.m.—Room 1115 in the College of Education Classroom Building Lecture Hall—Dr. Robbins presents **THE CITY OF CHURCHES: FACT and FICTION**



**22nd • College of Education Alumni Advisory Committee Homecoming Activity • 1:00 p.m. to Kick-Off—Gate 4 at Paulson Stadium.** See you at the stadium as the Eagles take on the Citadel Bulldogs, with kickoff at 3:30 p.m. **GO EAGLES!**



CHINA, Continued from page 1

CCNU President Ma Min and Provost Bleicken signed a Memorandum of Understanding to allow students and faculty exchanges, joint research and teaching projects, and the development of jointly offered graduate education programs. Presently we are hosting one CCNU exchange student—a freshman English education major. One Georgia Southern student is presently enrolled at Central China Normal University in the two-way exchange. Another part of the agreement includes a long range plan for the two universities to co-sponsor an education conference focused on improved teaching and learning.

After visiting CCNU's partner schools, the delegation returned with enthusiastic invitations from school administrators for our teacher education candidates to complete part of their in-school experiences in Wuhan schools. These schools are some of the best in China. In fact the middle/secondary partner school is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest performing (academic, athletics, and arts) school in China. Discussions will continue to allow both pre-service and in-service teachers opportunities to exchange and learn.

Our colleagues in China, both school and university, are more like us professionally than the media and stereotypes suggest. We are all struggling to: 1) meet demands from external agencies, 2) minimize the impact of social and cultural changes that have lessened education support, 3) provide education at levels and in ways never imagined until the dawning of the information/technology age, 4) retain quality teachers in school and university classrooms, 5) provide school/university leaders with skills and dispositions needed to move education outcomes to higher and higher levels, and 6) do all this with the same or fewer resources. Central China Normal University is a willing participant, eager to bring a different cultural expertise as we seek solutions to these challenges.



Deans exchange university gifts. (l-r) Dr. Deng Meng, dean, CCNU School of Education; Cindi Chance, dean, Georgia Southern College of Education; and associate dean of the CCNU School of Education.

## Welcome New Faculty/Staff



**Dr. Linda Arthur** moved from part-time instructor status to holding an assistant professor in educational leadership appointment with the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development effective August 1, 2005. She completed her Ed.D. at the University of Georgia in 1993 after earning an Ed.S. at Georgia State University, and an M.Ed. and B.A. in English at Valdosta State. Prior to joining the LTHD faculty full-time, she served as assistant superintendent for instruction and personnel with the Charlton County School System in Folkston, Georgia. She holds L7 certification covering the areas of Leadership, English, Gifted, P.E.C.E. (vocational), and Data Collecting.



**Ms. Earnestine Burns** joined the staff of the Student Success Center in Summer 2005. She holds a BBA degree from Georgia Southern and worked in the Registrar's Office before moving to Atlanta to be an advisor at Georgia Tech. In her new position at the COE, she advises pre-Early Childhood Education majors, upperdivision students in Middle Grades Education, as well as all Technology Education and Business Education majors.



**Dr. Terry Diamanduros** returns for her second year in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development having been appointed assistant professor of school psychology, effective August 2005. Dr. Diamanduros received her Ph.D. in school psychology in 2004 from New York University. She also earned the M.A. at NYU, her B.S. in microbiology at Clemson University, and an A.S. at the University of South Carolina-Lancaster. Her recent work experience includes a clinical research appointment at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.



**Dr. Jerry Galloway** is assistant professor of instructional technology in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, effective August 1. He holds an Ed.D. in instructional technology/teacher education from the University of Houston, completed two years at South Texas College of Law, Houston, and holds a B.A. degree in logic/philosophy from the University of Houston. Before moving to Statesboro, he held faculty positions at Indiana University Northwest for 16 years and at University of Houston. His research interests include helping pre- and inservice teachers to understand and implement computer technology and multimedia; the use of concept development methods to improve what teachers learn and understand in educational computing; and examining the impact of the latest technology on teachers' instructional strategies and opportunities.



**Dr. Kimberly A. Harris** was appointed assistant professor of special education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, effective Fall 2005. She holds a Ph.D. (2004) and M.Ed. (1998) from The University of Alabama, a B.S. in secondary education from Athens State University, and a B.A. in political science from the University of Alabama-Huntsville. She has held faculty positions at University of West Georgia and has experience as program director, lead teacher, and researcher at residential treatment facilities for incarcerated juveniles.



**Dr. James Klein** joined the Counselor Education Program in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development as assistant professor beginning Fall 2005. He completed his Ed.D. in Counseling at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb in August 2005. His doctoral dissertation was on spirituality and counseling, and his master's degree research focused on transition issues related to student-athletes. His undergraduate work was in elementary education with a sociology concentration. Dr. Klein is a national certified counselor and a licensed professional counselor.



**Dr. Barbara J. Mallory** was appointed assistant professor of educational leadership in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, effective August 1. She holds an Ed.D. degree from East Carolina University (2002) and has work experience in public schools as principal, associate principal, media coordinator, and English teacher. Among the many honors she has received, she was selected as North Carolina Principal of the Year by the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association in 2000.



**Dr. Betty J. McKinny** has joined the Department of Teaching and Learning as Clinical Instructor. She holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and her doctoral studies focused on educational policy analysis. Her M.A. in secondary education is from Oregon College of Education and her B.S. in secondary education (English and Social Science) is from Southern Oregon College. She has worked for the State of Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development as a quality school consultant/facilitator, was on faculty and coordinated the Secondary Teacher Education Program at the University of Alaska, and for many years taught and worked with all facets of gifted and talented education in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.



**Ms. LaDawn Mohr** joined the COE this fall as Assistant to the Dean. In this staff position, she will be responsible for COE media and public relations and alumni affairs, and will assist Dean Chance in the area of development/capital campaign. She has nearly a decade of experience working with Cox Communications and has over 24 years of diversified marketing, public relations, and sales experience. In addition to working with the COE Board of Advisors, the Alumni Advisory Committee, the External Relations and Accreditation Committee, and Homecoming and other events, the editors of *Southern Educator* are very pleased that she has joined them in publishing this and future issues of the newsletter. Ms. Mohr can be reached at [lfmohr@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:lfmohr@georgiasouthern.edu).



**Ms. Pam Powell**, who previously was a temporary instructor, was appointed as Clinical Instructor in the College's Department of Teaching and Learning effective August 1, 2005. Ms. Powell earned her B.S.Ed. at Georgia Southern and completed the M.Ed. here in 1980. Her areas of interest include early childhood language arts and children's literature



**Ms. Laura Saunders** is a new advisor in the Student Success Center. She has a B.S.Ed. degree in Middle Grades Education and a Master of Public Administration. Her prior experience on campus was in the Admissions Office as the international student recruitment coordinator. Laura now advises College of Education pre-Middle Grades Education majors, Dublin education students, and all secondary and P-12 majors (other than Technology Ed, Business Ed., and Special Ed.).



**Dr. Marvin Smith** was appointed assistant professor of early childhood mathematics education in the Department of Teaching and Learning beginning Fall 2005. He received his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction (mathematics education) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000. He also holds an M.B.A. and B.S. degree from Brigham Young University. His work experience includes elementary and secondary mathematics teacher, project assistant for the National Center for Research in Mathematical Sciences Education (UW-Madison), and curriculum consultant for the Brigham Young University Bilingual/ESL. Endorsement through Distance Learning Education.



**Ms. Beverly Strauser** was appointed Clinical Instructor in the Department of Teaching and Learning effective August 1. She had previously been a temporary instructor for the department working with early childhood, middle grades, and secondary education majors. Ms. Strauser completed her undergraduate work at SUNY Albany and completed the M.S.Ed. at SUNY Fredonia in 1990. She has previous teaching experience in grades P-12.



**Dr. Abebayehu Tekleselassie** is assistant professor of educational leadership in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development beginning Fall 2005. He received his Ph.D. in educational administration at the University of Buffalo in May 2005. His prior experience includes secondary school principal, administrative and lecturer positions with Addis Ababa University, and research and teaching assistantships at University at Buffalo. Articles from his research have been published in journals including the *International Journal of Educational Development*.



**Ms. Shelley Woodward** is beginning her second year with the Department of Teaching and Learning and, effective August 1, 2005, holds an appointment as Clinical Instructor. She earned her B.S. (2001), special education certification, and M.Ed. (2004) at Georgia Southern.



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# SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



## Expanding the Collection

*The pupil who is never required to do what he cannot do, never does what he can do.*

*John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)*

This notable quote is a definite reminder to all who educate of the importance of our calling. As a library media specialist, I feel that this is especially true of my position. Although I do not have a self-contained classroom of twenty children, I have a classroom of four hundred. The library media specialist has the privilege of touching each child in the school. With this awesome responsibility, it is my duty to always encourage students, support learning, and require the pupil to do what he feels he cannot.

Within my first week as a new media specialist, I had a student "browsing" for a book. After quickly looking on a shelf, he approached me to ask for help finding a book. When I asked, "What do you like to read?" the response was "4.2" not a title of a favorite book series, an author's name, subject, topic, or genre of fiction or mystery, just 4.2. When prompted further, I received the response of, "Any 4.2. I just can't find one on this shelf."

After having this conversation, I was concerned there was a problem. After hearing this several more times, I knew there was. While going through the Instructional Technology Program at Georgia Southern University, I had been involved in class discussions about the growing popularity of computer based reading programs, but was not aware of their impact until becoming a media specialist. Students are losing the ability to browse and choose a book for pleasure reading. It has become a game of how many points a book is worth and judging them by specific levels instead of content and interest. If all certified educators read at a grade-level equivalent, we would all be lugging around college textbooks instead of best sellers during that hard-earned relaxing day at the beach. With days at the beach so far and few between, I'd rather be reading something a little more enjoyable! Just as students would like to read what they enjoy. When in the classroom as a third grade teacher, I had the experience of a student who stumbled through reading stories out of our basal reader but thoroughly enjoyed the Star Wars Series of books that were written on a sixth grade level. As a reader, wouldn't you have better comprehension when reading things that you find interesting? Strong comprehension is key to reading success. So, what to do about this issue?

Over the last few weeks, I have joined other schools in our county and begun a "Liberated Library" program. With this program, students are able to checkout books using the ever popular Five Finger Rule instead of working around limitations placed on reading through book selection as determined by a point value or book level on the spine. Now, all appropriate materials are available to every student. Although this program has just begun, I've already noticed a difference in the enthusiasm among the students and staff. One student commented, "We can checkout any book that we want if we do the Five Finger Rule?" Wow! The true purpose of a library as a place for reading and learning has been conveyed to a generation of AR'ers. By opening our students to a vast array of books and topics and allow for true pleasure reading, we will promote lifelong readers in turn creating lifelong learners.

*Five Finger Rule: The students find a book that they would like to read, open to the middle of the book (a full page of text), and read. Each time that they have trouble reading or understanding, they put up a finger.*

*0 Fingers — too easy, put it back*

*1-3 Fingers — just right*

*4-5 Fingers — too hard for now, put it back for later*

*Lynn Brooke Morris, Bryan County Elementary, Media Specialist  
B.S. Early Childhood 2002, Masters Instructional Technology 2005*



**Jan B. Anderson** (B.S., '61) was recognized as Alumna of the Year for the College of Education, at the Georgia Southern Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 2, 2005. Ms. Anderson is a retired educator who lives in Statesboro. She taught readiness first grade and was selected to teach a math class that was aired on Public Broadcasting System Channel 9. The library at Calvary Day School in Savannah was named for her in 2004. She has been a church pianist, choir member and Sunday school teacher for more than 40 years, and she sings in the women's trio Boundless Love.



## Shuman-Riley Named 2006 Georgia Teacher of the Year

Dr. Brenda Shuman-Riley was named the 2006 Georgia Teacher of the Year. An alumnae of Georgia Southern University, Dr. Shuman-Riley earned her Ed.D. in educational administration in 1996 and the Ed.S. in school administration and supervision in 1992, both from Georgia Southern. Having served as both an assistant principal and principal,

Dr. Shuman-Riley returned to the classroom to be closer to her students. When nominated for the award, she was a ninth-12th grade English teacher at Dublin High School in Dublin. Dr. Shuman-Riley began her career in 1972 and says that her greatest accomplishment has been "pushing my own personal envelope." Believing that she could impact education as an administrator, Dr. Shuman-Riley pursued her advanced degrees and later became an assistant principal, principal and educational consultant.

"I returned to the classroom because I have been first and foremost a teacher," she says. "I love my students the way my mother loved me – with high expectations, discipline and pride."

Dublin High School Principal William Nisbet describes Dr. Shuman-Riley as a teacher's teacher. "She is a teacher who works with all students and one who has the ability to get her students involved, interested and most importantly, gets them to learn and understand the material being taught."

Dr. Shuman-Riley has discovered innovative ways to challenge her students. One unique project had students research and design time capsules. Students have also created Memory Books, personal narratives of 16 chapters that include artifacts and anecdotes tracing their lives from birth to graduation.

The veteran teacher says her greatest rewards come when "parents welcome me as their child's teacher because they heard I was a good teacher, or when a colleague asks to observe my classroom, or when I have a yearbook dedicated to me in just my second year at the school. Then I know my mother was right; there is no higher calling than to be a teacher."

The Georgia Teacher of the Year is an educational ambassador for all Georgia public schools. The winner advocates for all school systems, students, and teachers. Dr. Shuman-Riley will be on a one-year sabbatical during which she will speak throughout the state. She will also conduct staff development activities for teachers and parents, serve on statewide committees, and participate in a number of statewide conferences. Dr. Shuman-Riley is available to speak to groups and promote education. She may be contacted at [bshumanr@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:bshumanr@doe.k12.ga.us) or 478-275-3025.



Ed.S. student, Paige Sutcliff, was invited to participate in the College of Graduate Studies' 2005 Scholarship Day. Graduate level work of Georgia Southern students in all five colleges was on display. Participants discussed their findings with faculty and other students who attended the event. In addition to being a graduate student, Mrs. Sutcliff is a mother of four active boys and teaches statistics at Statesboro High School.

James W. Kennedy gave an informative speech to an overflowing crowd as the speaker for the 2005 *Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series*. Mr. Kennedy is the director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Mr. Kennedy is an alumnus of Georgia Southern University. The College of Education hosted this event which was well attended by faculty, staff, and students on September 20.



James Kennedy  
Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture  
Georgia Southern University  
September 20, 2005

## Eagle Club Events

Greater Savannah/Chatham Eagle Club meets at Johnny Harris Restaurant at 1:00 pm on October 24, 2005, January 26, 2006, February 23, 2006 and March 23, 2006. For other Eagle Clubs please go to: <http://alumni.georgiasouthern.edu>

# Southern Educator Class Roll

**VanNorte, Harriet K.** (B.S.Ed.; B.B.A. 1969). Served as chief of Mental Retardation Placement Officer for Georgia Department of Mental Health; Served as Director of Consumer Affairs for the Georgia Public Services Commission; Retired in 2000, travels with husband, Robert.

## 1953

**Johnson, Shirley Elizabeth Smith** (S.A.S. 1986; M.A. 1982; Ed.S. 1975; M.Ed. 1962; B.S.Ed. 1953). Taught elementary grades K-1 in Bulloch County, and grades 2-5 in Richmond County (15 years); taught Gifted Students in Grades 4-7 (12 years); Assistant Principal (1 year); Principal (4 years) North Columbia Elementary; Retired in 1986 after 21 years in Columbia County. Her husband of 52 1/2 years, Forest Leon Johnson, died 2/19/05.

## 1957

**Walton, Ralph Dee** (B.S.Ed. 1957; Ed.S. 1965). 1957 Class President; working in education for past 45 years; Service Teacher, Department Chair; Science/Math Consultant; Elementary Principal; Secondary Principal; Director of Curriculum; College Professor; Director of Educational Field Experience; Director of Student Teaching; Private School Headmaster; counselor; retired from school administration; currently teaching chemistry. 68 years old.

## 1961

**VanNorte, Robert O.** (B.S.Ed. 1961; 1965 DR.) Served on active duty USAF as a JAG; retired 1988 as a LT. Colonel; Served as an Administrative Law Judge to hold mental health hearings under an appointment by the Georgia Supreme Court; Retired with travel as chief hobby.

## 1962

**Williamson, Jennings D.** (DT-5 Life 1962). Taught school 38 years in Appling County Schools in Baxley, GA. During that time ran a bus route part-time. Ran a girls' basketball team full-time and worked with county A.S.C. office part-time. Now fully retired.

## 1970

**Hayes, Betty Anne Smith** (B.S.Ed. 1970; M.Ed. 1976). Taught Home Economics/Consumer Science for 31 years in Atkinson County School System; served as FHA/FCCLA adviser for 31 years and yearbook sponsor for 10 years. Selected as 1999 Atkinson County Teacher of the Year. Is a survivor of cancer (Hodgkin's disease in 1985) and open heart surgery to remove a tumor in 1998. "I am thankful for each day that I attended GSC because it helped me to have a job I enjoyed. I was able to retire from and still be able to enjoy daily whatever I want to do.

## 1973

**Byrd, Charles Frederick** (Ed.S. 1973). 1988 retired from Richmond County Schools. 1988-94 Substitute Teacher in Henderson County, NC; 1990-94 Motorcycle Safety Instructor for NC; 1994-1998 Educational Consultant with Rape Crisis in Henderson County, NC. 2001-Present Volunteer with National Parks Service- Interpretive Guide at Carl Sandburg Home, National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC.

**Elmore, Jeanne Frances Davis** (M.A. Ed. 1997; B.S.Ed. 1973). Taught art in Virginia and Maryland from 1974-84. Son, Chris, was born in 1975, and son, Carter, was born in 1978. 1995 started with U.S. Government at Ft. Belvoir, VA. Now manages Development of E-Learning for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC. Resides with husband Roger, in Woodbridge, VA. Also received M.A.Ed. from the George Washington University, in 1997, in Ed. Leadership Technology.

## 1978

**Cochran, Cindy Gail Herndon** (Ed.S. 1983; M.Ed. 1980; B.S.Ed. 1978). Who's Who among America's Teachers 2003-04; National Board Certification 2004. Who's Who among America's Teachers 2004-05. Presently employed by Alabama State Department of Education as a Peer assistant.

## 1981

**McInarnay, Susan P.** (M.Ed. 1982; B.S.Ed. 1981). Teaching Special Education in Clay County Schools for 23 years. Master's degree in Special Education from University of Florida in 1982. National Board Certification in 2002. Enjoys traveling; has visited Europe, England, and Ireland as well as Alaska several times.

## 1983

**Beaver, Deanna Harrell** (M.Ed. 1985; B.S.Ed. 1983). Teaching K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and multiage 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; currently teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Voted Teacher of the Year, 2005-2006, at Mountain View Elementary School in Cobb County.

**Preisung, Twyla Sharise Humphrey** (Ed.S. 1988; M.S.T. 1984; B.S.Ed. 1983). Taught for 15 years in Callahan, FL, West Nassau High School; taught for six years in Scottsdale, AZ, Chaparral High School. Now married to Dean Preisung and living in Phoenix.

## 1993

**Boyett, Cindy Lanier** (B.S. M.Ed. 1993; M.Ed. 1997). I taught Middle Grades Math at Claxton Middle School for ten years. Currently teach 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math at Collins Middle School in Tattnall County. I am currently pursuing my Ed.S. degree in Ed. Leadership.

## 1997

**Trexidor, Jr., Manuel A.** (B.S.Ed 1997). 1997-1999 Police officer at Peachtree City Police Department; July 30, 1999 got married to Kimberly McClung; 1999-2001 attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary studying Church Planting; 2001-present, Spanish teacher and varsity girls soccer coach at Chapel Hill High School. Children: Oliva Joy Texidor (5/17/03).

## 1998

**Osbourne, Ashlea Melissa** (B.S.Ed. 1998). Currently teaching history and special education at McEachern High School in Powder Springs, GA, Cobb County School System. Living in Kennesaw, GA.

**Harley, Tracy Rhodes** (B.S.Ed. 1998). Since graduation has been teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Blakeney Elementary School in Burke County. Received Master's degree in Ed. Leadership from Troy State. Has two sons Trenton Harley, 5 years and Chase Harley, 4 months.

## 1999

**Cooper, Alicia Cochran** (B.S.Ed. 1999). Taught LD Special Education at Elementary School for two years in Snellville, GA. Then taught three years of MIID self-contained at Berkmar High School in Lilburn, GA. Now teaches ESOL Language Arts and IRR collaborative world geography.

## 2000

**Benton, Amy J. MacCartney** (B.S.Ed. 2000). Was a corporate trainer for three years. Now team teaches at an Elementary School in Marietta.

## 2002

**Price, Amanda Leigh Thomas** (B.S.Ed. 2002). Taught two years (including student teaching) at Appling County, GA. Married Shawn F. Price of Tybee Island, GA, and moved to Atlantic Beach, NC. Currently teaches English at Havelock High, Havelock, NC.

## 2003

**Cochran, Nick Scott** (B.S.Ed. 2003). Was married in July 2004 and teaches Health and P.E. at Southeast Bulloch Middle School.

*The page 3 picture is "Dr. Robert Martin (1970)," professor of school psychology.*

## Memorial for Betty-Ware Watson Wray

*Good bye friend.*

*You will be missed more than we can ever say.*

*BW, as we all affectionately called you.*

*The Cert Lady at GSU as educators from the area knew you.*

*Momma to Walt and Carter.*

*Beloved wife to Charles.*

*Sister to Mille.*

*Daughter to Doe and Walter.*

*Loved by all of her family and friends.*

*Betty-Ware always was so put together and professional looking.*

*Her knowledge of GSU, certification and the business of education was great.*

*Warrior, hero, fighter, courageous battler, never complained, always fought until the end.*

*You will be missed more than we can ever say.*

*Good bye friend.*

Mrs. Betty-Ware Watson Wray, age 44, died early Thursday, July 14, 2005, in Statesboro under the care of Ogeechee Area Hospice and surrounded by her family. A native of Macon, Mrs. Wray worked for 20 years at Georgia Southern University where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English. She was the teacher certification officer and coordinator of the Education Advisement Center for many years after serving as administrative assistant to the dean of the College of Education. She represented the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and served on several committees at the college, university, and state levels.

## Destination Teaching Celebrates Success of Participants

The Destination Teaching Program, a federally funded initiative to increase the number and diversity of highly qualified teachers prepared through the University System of Georgia, is completing the third year of a five year plan.

Georgia Southern University partnered with East Georgia College to assist paraprofessionals in special education classrooms to earn their Associate Degrees. Eight of these individuals graduated in June 2005 from EGC and one graduated in August 2004. Three persons were added to the program from a similar grant program which began at the Dublin Center. One of these decided to begin the traditional Teacher Education Program at Georgia Southern University in Fall 2004 while the others began in Summer 2005 an alternative program designed to meet their needs as working paraprofessionals. Several of these participants shared their thoughts concerning the program.

"I get to take my classes and do my student teaching without having to quit my job. I am not sure how far I could go on my own because I couldn't afford to lose my income or my health insurance."

"It has not been easy working full-time and going to college at my age (19 years as classroom paraprofessional), but it has been rewarding."

"Being accepted into the program boosted my self-confidence and gave me the courage to keep trying."

"I will be the first person in my family to graduate from college since my great-grandmother in the early 1900's."

All of them gave appreciation to their families for the support given to them during this process. Many also expressed the support and development of "family" among the cohort as they strive together to reach their goal of becoming teachers.

The Destination Teaching Program also consists of a group of Intern Teachers who already have an undergraduate degree but not an education degree or teacher certification. They have chosen to begin the process of certification by taking four courses during the summer prior to beginning to teach in the classroom. They continue to take courses and teach as they move through the required steps toward certification. There are currently 23 Intern Teachers working in surrounding counties as classroom teachers. Six persons completed their Internships in Spring 2005 and will soon complete their M.Ed. One of those completers shared his thoughts on the program. "One of the most beneficial elements of the program was being able to learn through immersion, or learn by doing. I have learned a lot and have had a lot of support over the last two years. The Destination Teaching Program was a great way to start my [teaching] career."



Front: Bonnie Deal, Crystal Hodges. Back: Esther Godbee-Hosey, Patricia Davis, Shannon Glover, Gail Hopkins, Missy McGowan, Susan Hopkins



### Partnering for Portal

Partnering for Portal is completing its third and final year of a National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) Developing Networks of Responsibility to Educate America's Youths initiative. The goal of the initiative is to bring together community members, K-12 representatives, and university educators to determine and help a community solve its education-related needs. Partnering for Portal is one of eight funded settings across the United States of America.

Partnering for Portal consists of Portal-area community members, Portal school representatives, and university educators dedicated to determining and helping the community solve the education-related needs of the Portal-area community. Partnering for Portal has adopted as its mission: "Empowering Portal and the surrounding community to achieve their goals, dreams, and visions through social, physical, educational, and spiritual development."

Over the past three years, Partnering for Portal has held community listening sessions with various Portal-community groups to determine community needs and assets. A community meeting was held August 24, 2004, to discuss the findings and determine community priorities. The *Statesboro Herald* published an article August 26, 2004, regarding the meeting. Since the meeting Partnering for Portal has been working on helping the community accomplish its priorities.

Partnering for Portal presented at an NNER conference June 16-18, 2005, in Seattle, Washington, regarding how the project has impacted the community, schools, and university and how the group intends to continue the project. Eight Partnering for Portal members were able to attend the Seattle meeting. The *Statesboro Herald* published an article discussing the Seattle trip and upcoming Partnering for Portal priorities August 10, 2005. The group has decided that project work will continue after grant funding ends.

### Georgia Center for Educational Renewal First Year Report—Winning Grants and Awards, Reviewing Research, and Developing Instructional Materials

G CER opened on July 12, 2004, with the focus of "Committed to Closing the Gap." Three gaps were identified: (1) the gap between research and practice, (2) the gap between the university and the public schools and (3) the gap in achievement between minority and white students, K-16. In pursuit of this mission, the Center attained \$800,000 for scholarships for minority students. Another \$45,000 was attained for the development of interactive computer-based training materials for improving instruction at technical institutes. An additional \$6,100 was granted for the development of instructional materials for school leadership. Center staff conducted a literature review of research on improving the achievement of minority males and one on increasing teacher efficacy (both available on the GCER web site in late September). This latter interest was identified after an analysis of the responses of 16 schools to the on-line survey, "What Works in Schools." A monthly research bulletin, "Research You Can Use, NOW!" was initiated to bring to the attention of local school superintendents emergent research and how it might be applied in their districts.

Projects anticipated for 2005-2006 include the following: (1) extending the interactive computer-based training to both business applications and the teaching of Chinese, (2) conducting research on effectiveness of the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement, (3) initiating PAR (Practical Applications of Research) awards, (4) sponsoring a high school essay writing contest on "What Would a School Be Like That Motivated Students to Study Harder?" (5) continuing to write grants to support the work of the Center, (6) conducting a study of the first year of implementation of the Georgia Performance Standards, and (7) supporting school efforts to improve the learning of minority males and the improvement of teacher efficacy. The Center continues to pursue its mission of contributing to the closing of the achievement gap, K-16, and welcomes ideas and project possibilities that may contribute to that end. Resources are available online at [coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gcer](http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/gcer).

### 2005-2006 COE Faculty and Staff



In Memory of  
Dr. Beverly A. Stratton  
Professor Emerita of Reading and Chair Emerita  
Department of Early Childhood Education and Reading

Dr. Stratton died on May 24, 2005, at her home in Statesboro. During her 22-year career at Georgia Southern, she taught students how to effectively teach reading to elementary-aged students, achieved the rank of professor, and served as chair of the Department of Early Childhood Education and Reading.

### Faculty Retirements

Dr. Mike Allen retired at the end of spring semester 2005 having served the university since 1990. Dr. Allen, Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, taught in the middle grades education program.

Dr. Alice Hostika retired at the end of summer semester 2005. She held the position of Professor in Teaching and Learning, and taught courses in early childhood education mathematics since joining the university in 1987.

Dr. Jane Page, retired at the end of spring semester 2005 having served the university since 1979. She taught in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading (formerly the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Research) and served as chair of that department for many years. She held the rank of Professor.



### ALUMNI: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
first middle last Maiden

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check if okay to publish

Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/Major: \_\_\_\_\_

What have you been doing since graduation?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Southern Educator -- P.O. Box 8133 -- College of Education -- Georgia Southern University -- Statesboro, GA 30460-8133