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2006 for 2006
Raising Funds for College of Education Scholarships

In Fall 2003, the College of Education's Alumni Advisory Committee was considering various types of fund raising projects it could undertake to support the College and its activities. Victoria Zwald, then coordinator for media, public relations & development and serving as the Dean's liaison to the alumni committee, suggested that commemorative bricks be sold to raise scholarship funds. That suggestion could not have come at a better time, because the University's office of Physical Plant was needing to develop a small piece of land between the College of Education classroom building and the new College of Information Technology Building.

The two projects fit together perfectly. Chuck Taylor, Georgia Southern's landscape architect and two-time merit award winner from the American Society of Landscape Architects, designed what would become Centennial Plaza and Memorial Grove. Construction of the plaza and grove began in September 2004, and by November the plaza was complete with trees, paths, and benches.

The sale of engraved commemorative bricks is now underway. The goal is to sell 2006 commemorative bricks by the year 2006, the University's and the College of Education's centennial year. 2006 bricks will fill the wedges in the center of the plaza.

The individual purchasing a brick determines the words to be engraved on his/her brick. In addition to a 4” x 8” engraved brick installed in the plaza, purchasers will receive a mini replica to keep as a memento. All brick purchases at $100 per brick, are 100% tax deductible. Commemorative bricks make great gifts for alumni, favorite teachers, an individual who has made a difference in your life, and loved ones including children and grandchildren. The possibilities are endless!

Another opportunity to honor a group or individual is the naming of one of the ten benches that sit in the plaza. A donation of $1000 or more is required for naming a bench. All funds for brick sales and donations for the naming of a bench go to the Georgia Southern University Foundation and will support College of Education undergraduate and graduate scholarships.

We hope you will help us reach 2006 for 2006. Information and order forms for this project are available online. See http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/brickcampaign.html
Salute the Past:

What are your fondest memories of your experiences at Georgia Southern University—community bathrooms, dorm curfews, beanies, the Carroll Building, tailgating, popcorn poppers, freshmen 10, sorority/fraternity parties and competitions, pizzas by the dozens, Marvin Pittman Lab School, and on and on and on? These words likely conjured up even lighter memories. We won’t go there. However, do think about the more serious side of your days at Southern. Focus on the faculty member who encouraged you when you were ready to go home—when you wondered, “Why did I ever think I wanted to teach anyway?” Remember when you said a quiet “thank you” to that Southern faculty who pushed you beyond your self-expectations to make sure you were ready for the first year of teaching, or to complete that dissertation, or to finish the program as a ‘working full time night-fighter.’ Some 3000+ currently enrolled students chose Georgia Southern for this reason—strong, committed expert faculty.

Capture the Present:

Your diploma from Georgia Southern is growing in value every year as we move toward national and international academic distinction. Our faculty and staff lead the way in nationally distinct programs in schools and educational service areas. We have opened the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal—a center focused on providing services to schools as we all struggle to raise education standards in Georgia. We host the nation’s largest Youth-At-Risk Conference each spring, bringing not only outstanding national speakers, but also faculty and administrators from ‘High Flying Schools’—schools with large numbers of low-socioeconomic students, English as a second language students, and other predictors of failure, yet the school test scores are in the top percentiles. These successful schools have beaten the odds. Their leaders are available for several days to share their success strategies with area teachers and school leaders. Georgia Southern, in partnership with Screven County Schools, has the first Professional Development District in the United States. This PDD focuses on systemic change and renewal. Other achievements can be viewed on the COE webpage at http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/partnerships.html.

Ignite the Future:

These and many other accomplishments have positioned the College of Education to reach farther and aspire to even greater goals. The University has announced its Campaign for National Distinction. You can participate in the campaign and at the same time leave your mark. Commemorative bricks make great gifts and will support students through the College of Education’s undergraduate and graduate scholarships. Visit our website at http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu or call (912) 681-0671 for more information and an order form. Other opportunities for gifts for the College are available. This is an opportunity for you to enhance the value of your diploma even further.

I look forward to seeing and meeting each of you at alumni events, homecoming, or athletic events. Please introduce yourself to me. I am also available to speak to civic groups. 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, the nation, and the world.

Are You a 2003-2004 or 2004-2005 Graduate?

The College of Education will hold an Induction Drive-In Conference on Saturday, April 23, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Fall 2003—Fall 2004 graduates from our teaching, educational leadership, counseling, and school psychology programs are encouraged to attend. Program topics are based on results of a recent survey of COE graduates. Sessions will focus on successfully transitioning to the Georgia Performance Standards, customizing instruction for every student, using concept maps for science and math from kindergarten through 12th grade, behavior management, and other topics identified by specific program areas. This is the first of what we hope will become regular induction events in support of graduates.

To register, call Jessica Warnock in the Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education (912-681-5247).

Students Receive Scholarships

Our Georgia Southern University students received 2004 PAGE Foundation scholarships of $1000 each. They are: Georggee (Gigi) Mills, Ed.S. student in Teaching and Learning and 4th grade teacher at Screven County Elementary School; Advis Dell Wilkerson, Ed.D. student in Curriculum Studies and business education teacher at Creekside High School in Fulton County; Jenny Nell Tyre, pursuing a B.S.Ed. in Family and Consumer Sciences Education; and Anna Frances Griffin, pursuing a B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Information about this scholarship program is available at http://www.pagefoundation.org.
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COE Soaring Into Action

Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading

Unit News

The 16th Annual National Youth-at-Risk Conference will take place on March 6-9, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah. The theme of the conference is “Success Programs for Empowering Youth: Overcoming Poverty, Violence, and Failure.” Two departmental faculty members, Dr. Dan Rea and Dr. Rosemarie Steallworth Clark, are conference co-chairs.

For the past four years students in READ 4235 have volunteered to improve literacy in our area in various ways. Last semester’s group donated hundreds of books to a new elementary school. Last Spring’s group donated over 700 books to the children’s ward of East Georgia Regional Medical Center. This semester’s group is reading at day cares and the Boys’ and Girls’ Club. They are donating books, creating posters advertising books and reading aloud to the children.

The Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading (CFR) is linking the disciplines represented in the department through the theme, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. This pedagogy is based on principles reflected in the COE: conceptual framework and is the focus of CFR’s contribution to Georgia Southern’s goal of national distinction. Among many efforts toward this end, CFR faculty members have:

- Instructed students in best practices (for example, literacy instruction in culturally diverse classrooms);
- Integrated student components in the content of pre-service and graduate courses;
- Developed specific courses aimed at fostering multicultural theory and practice;
- Mentored graduate students (for example, 16 students will present their programs of research at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, in a symposium entitled “Developing Culturally Relevant Inquiries to Study the Life in Schools, Families, and Communities in America”);
- Conceptualized cultural contexts (for example, faculty have contributed to leading edge texts and journal articles on multicultural education, curriculum studies, popular culture, multiple contexts of literacy, narrative research in multicultural education, and community-school connections);”
- Conducted research on teaching and learning in diverse instructional settings;
- Collaborated with educators of China, Mexico, Russia, and the UK through the International Learning Community, in which Georgia Southern faculty in the United Kingdom city.

At the invitation of Rosalynn Carter, Dr. Saudra Murray Nettles, Department Chair, attended the 20th anniversary of the Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy at The Carter Center in Atlanta on November 9 & 10, 2004. The symposium’s theme was “Transforming Children’s Mental Health in Light of the President’s New Freedom Commission.” Mrs. Carter has Dr. Nettles’ book Crazy Visitation: A Chronicle of Illness and Recovery, published by The University of Georgia Press.

Department of Teaching and Learning

Unit News

The Department of Teaching and Learning has been involved in partnerships with a number of area schools. Listed below are a few of these initiatives that reflect faculty commitment to student learning in the P-12 schools.

Dr. Missy Bennett, along with Dr. Jeffrey Orvis from the Department of Chemistry, is involved in a PRISM mini-grant at Southeast Bulloch High School. This collaborative initiative created the Learning Community composed of in-service and pre-service teachers for the purpose of identifying effective teaching strategies for the science classroom.

Dr. Greg Chambline continues to work with the NER Project Office. He also was elected for the national School Science and Mathematics Board of Directors. In addition, he and Dr. Marti Schriver are being funded for a Georgia Math-Science partnership with the Heart of Georgia RESA—a three year grant.

Dr. Scott Beck and Dr. Kim Ruelbel will be offering courses leading to the ESOL Endorsement so this summer as a result of their success last summer.

Dr. Diana Hammittre, Dr. Maggie LaMontagne, and Ms. Betty Nelson will be offering up to five education courses this summer in Swainsboro as part of their efforts to provide outreach programs for paraprofessionals who will be working with special needs children.

Dr. Susan Trimmell is conducting research in the Middle School Journal entitled “Phases of Development in Teachers Using Data.” She co-authored the article with two teachers from Camden County Schools. One of the co-authors is a graduate from our Ed.S. program at Georgia Southern—Anne Gay.

A highlight of this spring is that over twenty-five undergraduate middle grades majors conducted presentations at the recent Georgia Middle School Conference in Savannah. A special presentation goes to the middle grades faculty for their efforts in organizing and sponsoring this event.

Dr. Kim Ruelbel organized and received approval to begin a College Middle Level Association (CMLA) affiliated with the National Middle School Association. Our chapter is one of only a few in the country. The purpose is to promote professional growth and opportunities for education majors in middle grades education. A special thanks goes to our middle grades majors John Paul Hearn, Meredith Walker, Jennifer McClain, and Tina Clements—this year’s officers of our CMLA chapter.

Faculty in this department continue to devote their time to initiatives that recognize the need to see leaders in the state to ensure that all P-12 students receive the best instruction possible.

Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education

Unit News

The Office of Undergraduate Teacher Education is heavily involved in the activities of the International Learning Community this year. We have been fortunate to have established a very strong participation by several faculty members in a variety of international exchanges.

In October, we hosted a group of nine UK visitors—three headteachers of primary schools in East London, each accompanied by two teachers from their school. They were conducting research on our mentoring of new teachers to help them reflect on their own teacher training models. Their interviewees included Clinical Supervisors (the teachers who host our students in a school), University Supervisors, and Georgia Southern Pre-service Teachers at Claxton Elementary, Screven County Elementary, Lyons Primary, and Julia P. Bryant Elementary schools.

In February, we hosted a group of four teachers from Hayfield School in Doncaster, England. They researched our training programs and partnerships with secondary and middle grade schools, spending one complete first week with Southeast Bulloch High families and in the school. In their second week, they visited Mercer Middle in Savannah and South Effingham Middle to observe the contrast in our middle and high schools, school organizations not found in England. Hayfield School has students 11 to 18 in all one school, although teachers trend to work with only younger (11-14) or older (14-18) students in their daily teaching. The school has special recognition for their achievements as a math specialist school.

In March, Wendy Bisiker from Depotford Green School in London (which serves 11 to 18 year-olds) is here with her second group of five teachers to attend the Georgia Southern sponsored National Youth-at-Risk Conference in Savannah. After the conference, they spend four days between Screven County Middle and Screven County High. A group from Screven County will return the favor in June when they travel to England to visit several upper schools, including both Depotford Green and Hayfield.

From February 21 through March 18, 2005, five Georgia Southern student teachers are in London for our largest yet International Study Opportunity (ISO). The four early childhood majors are being hosted in the schools of our October visitors—Edinburgh Primary, Downsell Primary, and St. Joseph’s Junior. The fifth student teacher—an English secondary major—will be hosted at Depotford Green. The International Study Opportunity has been available for the last three spring semesters, but starting Fall 2005, the opportunity is available to all student teachers in both fall and spring semesters. Each semester, ISO student teachers will be hosted in a different United Kingdom city.

Georgia Southern University is paired with four United Kingdom universities and their partner schools, for teacher research exchanges and ISO experiences. Four more UK universities (two in Ireland) have asked to join the International Learning Community, in which Georgia Southern is the only United States university. These developing partnerships offer our faculty members, students, and partner schools unique opportunities for professional development through cross-cultural reflection on educational practices.

Student Success Center

Unit News

The Student Success Center has only one way to describe our report this issue—TRANSITION! The founding coordinator, Dixie Avery, retired on December 31, 2004. Dixie founded the Education Advisement Center approximately 15 years ago and has watched many changes and challenges occur. We also had our most recent coordinator, Betty-Ware Wray, retire on September 30, 2004. Many of you remember Betty-Ware as the “certification lady.” She too saw our center grow and change. Christina Thompson has been named as the new Director of the Student Success Center and Certification Officer. We are moving toward hiring two new academic advisors. There is never a dull moment in our day-to-day operations and the challenge of meeting all of our students’ needs keeps us working hard.

“We the People” Summer Institute

More than 26 million students and 82,000 teachers have participated in the We the People program since its inception in 1987. Between May 28 and June 4, 2005, Georgia Southern University will host its first We the People summer institute for thirty elementary, middle, and secondary teachers.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is an educational program developed by the Center for Civic Education. The program instructs students on the history and principles of American constitutional democracy, with the primary goal of promoting civic competence and responsibility among the nation’s elementary, middle, and secondary students. Additionally, the program is intended to enhance students’ understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and reinforce the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The program utilizes highly acclaimed curricular materials developed by the center. The culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing in which students role-play and testify before a panel of judges, thereby demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles. Students evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

For additional information contact Dr. Robert Stevens at robstev@georgiasouthern.edu.
In December 2004, a Wall Street Journal headline stated: “Influx of Hispanics in South Creates School Crisis.” Nowhere in the Southeast is the challenge of the new and rapidly growing Latino population more apparent than in Georgia. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, during the 1990s, Georgia’s Hispanic population grew by 300% and since 2000, Georgia has been home to the fastest growing Latino population in the entire nation. In fact, the second most populous radio station in Atlanta is now a Spanish language station. Drawn by our growing economy and Georgia employers’ need for industrious workers, Hispanics—especially Mexican-heritage Latinos—have resettled here and brought their children to our public schools. However, without a history of immigration or an established pool of bilingual professionals, Georgia’s schools have struggled to meet the needs of their newest students.

In response to this situation, Georgia Southern’s College of Education has begun an initiative, the Veracruz Teacher Project, to bring bilingual and bicultural expertise from Mexico to Southeast Georgia to help in our local schools and in the education of teachers on campus.

The history of this project began a couple of years ago when a collaboration between Georgia Southern and Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Mexico lead to a cooperation between Dean Cindi Chance, Nancy Shumaker (Director of Georgia Southern’s International Studies Center), and the Rector of Universidad Veracruzana about the possibility of exchanging students, faculty and teachers to meet the needs of universities and schools on both sides of the border. Associate Dean Jennie Rakestraw, Julia P. Bryant Elementary School Principal Kelly Tharp, and Assistant Professor Scott Beck were charged with the task of making this vision a reality. With the support of the University of Veracruz’s School for Foreign Students, the Veracruz State Ministry of Education, the Georgia Southern University Graduate School, Statesboro’s Rotary Clubs, and especially the Bulloch County Schools, the first participant in the project, Maria Teresa “Mayte” de Jesus Mendoza arrived in Statesboro in early January 2005.

Ms. de Jesus is a certified teacher in Mexico with seven years of experience teaching English at the middle grades and university levels. She is originally from the big port city of Veracruz, but has studied and taught in the college town of Xalapa for the past decade. She has traveled and studied in the United States before, but this will be her longest stay in our country.

During the next 18 months, Ms. de Jesus will be serving our community and university in a number of roles: she will be teaching schoolchildren about the Spanish language and Mexican culture at Julia P. Bryant and Langston Chapel elementary schools; she will be helping to raise awareness in our local schools about Mexican educational norms and the Mexican culture at Julia P. Bryant and Langston Chapel elementary schools; she will be bringing her unique perspective to graduate courses within Georgia Southern’s College of Education as she pursues a Master’s degree in Instructional Technology; and she will support our college’s efforts to prepare educators to address the needs of our diversifying school-age population by meeting, both formally and informally, with Georgia Southern students and supporting our other Latino outreach efforts.

It is hoped that Ms. de Jesus is just the first of many participants in this project who will share their knowledge with Georgia Southern faculty and students and our region’s teachers, administrators and school teachers. ‘Bienvenidos Mayte!’

**The Future is Looking Bright**

The College of Education hosted approximately 300 high school students on November 10, 2004, for A Day on Campus with Teachers of Tomorrow. Each student participated in workshops to strengthen their understanding of the profession of teaching.

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**Comprehension and Caring: Mayte de Jesus and the Veracruz Teacher Project**

Scott A. L. Beck & Jennie Rakestraw

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**Professors Who Have Made A Difference**

Di o remember a university professor that made a difference? In truth, I know very few that did not in some way change my view of the world, my view of myself, or what I wanted to do. I was a very inquisitive person, and the professors were there as points of reference to which I would conform or rebel. In this process I learned about life. There is a hallmark that I know had to be the best in the world at what they did. I draw from their memory daily now as I teach.

Donna S. Dowius, B.S., M.Ed.

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**Beinvenidos Mayte!**

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**Texas Southern is known for its College of Education and, moreover, for its excellent faculty. As I have read the 'Teachers Who Made A Difference' articles and I have been very impressed. I have always been interested in the idea of becoming a good teacher. However, the professor that has yet to be highlighted in this special corner of the Southern Educator—Dr. Kim Ruebel—to speak to the fact that is an outstanding professor is a vast understatement. Dr. Ruebel works in the Department of Teaching and Learning, where she teaches, advises, and inspires students each day. He is Ruebel in my undergraduate and graduate level classes, in each one she continues to fascinate me. Part of being a good teacher is demonstrating appropriate instructional deliveries as well as classroom management, personal skills, and relationships with students. Dr. Ruebel exhibited each of these to a level on a level I can only dream to achieve one day. Dr. Ruebel goes above and beyond for her students. She is always on call and willing to do whatever it takes. Not only is she top-notch in a professional manner that she allows her students to really know her. I enjoyed each and every class with her. Any student that walks into her classroom or office is very fortunate and will walk away a stronger teacher.

Patty C. Kay, M.Ed. 2003

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**Using my final year at Georgia Southern (Fall 1998), I signed up for Multicultural Education taught by Dr. William Reynolds. I took this class as a requirement to fill my credits and had no idea what an impact this class would have on the rest of my life. From the very first day of class, I knew this course was going to be different from anything I had ever experienced. Dr. Reynolds taught me how to think beyond a standard curriculum, and he inspired me to learn. He was the first professor I had ever met that exhibited to me how important it is to challenge my college traditional values in this very class only changed my life. I am currently a teacher in Fulton County, and I think of Dr. Reynolds often. I strive to be able to challenge my students to think the same way that I was inspired to think during my all too short semester with Dr. Reynolds.**

Shen Nakov Smith, B.S.Ed. 1999

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Shen Nakov Smith, B.S.Ed. 1999

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**Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution**

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**Comments or questions? Please send them to dscolson@georgiasouthern.edu.**

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Donna S. Dowius, B.S., M.Ed.
Students have applied for the Fall 2005 experience. Hammond who manage the program for Barrow County Schools. Six Georgia Southern students in critical needs areas through a handful in the country designed to recruit beyond their expectations, as well as a ready group of peers all pursuing the same goals. Each of them has committed 25% of their time to addressing the PRISM goals. Dr. John Weaver, Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, has assumed the task of gathering and assimilating PRISM’s abundant demographic and assessment data. PRISM is one of scores of math-science initiatives that have been funded nationally by the National Science Foundation’s Math-Science Partnership program (MSP). Georgia’s MSP proposal was funded in September 2003, having been submitted as a comprehensive proposal administered through the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Four PRISM Regions were defined in the proposal, one centered at Georgia State, one at the University of Georgia, one at Georgia Southern, and the fourth at Armstrong Atlantic. Georgia Southern’s region includes forty-six schools in seven systems: Bulloch, Evans, Screven, Effingham, Toombs, and Candler Counties, as well as Vidalia City. The number of teachers and students that will be affected by the enhanced science, math, and technology offerings we hope to develop is huge. With Georgia occupying a very low position in just about every assessment of students’ science and math competence in public schools, the effort expended through PRISM is timely, to say the least. PRISM seeks to take its own leadership position in bringing Georgia’s public technological capability to continue occupying a role of world leadership; our intellectual enhancement of fundamental concepts in math, and the physical and biological sciences. Teachers and university faculty have, for example, taken advantage of offered through the local PRISM office to enhance classroom teaching. Nearly $100K was awarded late in the Fall Semester, and another Request for Proposals (RFP) is ready for distribution now. Public school teachers and administrators, and college faculty are welcome to apply for funding that will directly enhance science and/or math content knowledge among teachers. With an annual budget in excess of $1M, most of which is earmarked for teacher education and professional development, the East Central PRISM office can facilitate the implementation of many good ideas that otherwise lack funding. See http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/prism/ for RFP information.

Georgia’s residents have much at stake as they enter the 21st Century. We have the technological capability to continue occupying a role of world leadership; our intellectual ability to continue in a leadership position is much at risk, however, as other nations seize the initiative in creating a well-informed, scientifically and mathematically astute populace. PRISM strives to take its own leadership position in bringing Georgia’s public school students to the competitive edge in these fields. For more information please contact Fred Rich <frich@georgiasouthern.edu> or Penny Sikes <pennysikes@georgiasouthern.edu>.

Barrow County Student Teaching and Living Experience

Two Georgia Southern students spent Fall 2004 student teaching and living in Barrow County, midway between Athens and Atlanta. This program is one of only a handful在全国范围内 designed to recruit teachers in critical needs areas through a residential student teaching experience. Both of our students in Fall 2004 taught mathematics—one in a middle school and one in a high school—and lived with student teachers from other universities in a small dormitory run by the Barrow County Schools.

In this experience, Barrow County School supplies the lodging free and gives each student teacher $200 per month for groceries. The student teachers cook in the dormitory kitchen and enjoy the use of an on-site computer lab, two common rooms, and a laundry room. Supervising teachers are assigned by Barrow County Schools in one of their 14 schools. The Georgia Southern Department of Teaching and Learning screens students who apply for the experience, pays the honorarium for the Barrow County supervising teacher, and provides the University Supervisor. If a student teacher from the experience is hired as a full-time teacher at the end of their participation in the program, they receive a signing bonus.

Katie Bradford and Ashley Barber, our two Fall 2004 participating students, found that the experience provided personal attention and assistance in becoming a teacher beyond their expectations, as well as a ready group of peers all pursuing the same goals. The accompanying photo shows our two students with Marshall Chambers and Lynn Hammond who manage the program for Barrow County Schools. Six Georgia Southern students have applied for the Fall 2005 experience.

Cross-Cultural Teaching Consortium

I serve as the College of Education’s representative to the Cross-Cultural Teaching Consortium. This organization was formed by 15 universities of the University System of Georgia to conceptualize multicultural education for Georgia and to provide suggestions to renew this significant aspect of schooling in our state.

It has created both problems and new challenges for educational systems. Our college has searched possibilities to help local schools and has developed collaborations with the University of Veracruz (Xalapa, Mexico). This collaboration will bring more individuals from Mexico to study in our college and help our schools in teaching Hispanic children. The Consortium also believes that there is a need to seek new ways to increase academic achievements of African American students, especially male students, through engaging their culture within school curriculum and teacher education programs. And the latest news: 215 Korean families with 261 school-age children will soon move into Bulloch County.

The survey on multicultural education that I conducted in our college at the request of Dean Chance became part of the study of the state-of-affairs with multicultural education undertaken by the Consortium. Here, I would like to especially thank Jim Bergin, Saundra Nettles, Kent Kittschof, Ming Fang He, Ronnie Sheppard, Rosemarie Stullworth-Clark and other faculty as well as our doctoral students who provided me with valuable ideas which I put on the table for Consortium members to use in their discussions and deliberations.

At present, the Consortium is finishing its draft report that will be submitted to the Board of Regents, Georgia Department of Education, and Professional Standards Commission. One of the suggestions is seeking endorsement to include multicultural education into the core curriculum of the state educational institutions as is done in many other states. Another suggestion is to offer undergraduate and graduate certificates to those who will plan to teach children from Hispanic, immigrant, international, and migrant families.

Your thoughts, ideas, comments and suggestions on how to renew multicultural education in Georgia are always greatly appreciated. I can be contacted at gregdmitri@georgiasouthern.edu.

On Loving and Leaving

When people ask when I came to Georgia Southern, I tell them I was born here. Actually, my first home was right across from the front gates of Georgia Teachers College. I was raised in my mother’s little beauty shop where the women faculty members of the college would come and bring me books. Much of my life has been centered on and around this university, and my ‘blood memories’ are Eagle Blue. But a part of loving is knowing when to let go. I will retire this year and continue my preparations for Unitarian Universalist ministry. Although Georgia Southern will no longer be my “work place,” it will remain my alma mater and, like many of you, I will remain a faithful supporter. Thanks for the memories and let’s make some more!

Editors’ Note: In 2002, Jane provided the seed money for an annual Distinguished Lecture in Curriculum Studies. If you would like to honor Jane in her retirement, please send a check made out to the Georgia Southern Foundation for the Jane A. Page Distinguished Lecture Account. Georgia Southern University Foundation, P.O. Box 8053, Statesboro, GA 30460-8053.

Dr. Gregory Dmitriyev
An Educator’s Perspective

Barbara Brown Named 2005 Special Education Teacher of the Year

Barbara Brown—a College of Education part-time instructor, COE doctoral student in educational leadership, and special education teacher at Screven County Middle School—was recently named the Georgia Federation Council for Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher of the Year for 2005. Ms. Brown was selected from a pool of applicants taken from the estimated 17,000 members of the statewide organization. Applicants fill out an extensive questionnaire regarding their experience, and a selection committee for the organization chooses only one teacher to receive the award. “Teachers don’t teach for recognition,” said Brown. “But it’s always nice to get recognized by your peers.” Ms. Brown is a 27-year teaching veteran and has been working with special education students in Screven County her entire career.

Spotlight On Alumni

Georgia Southern University Alumni Implement Innovative “Mobile Classroom” Concept to Increase Student Achievement in Screven County

School systems around the state are using a plethora of strategies to meet the academic goals outlined in Georgia’s accountability plan. This can be a very daunting task when school systems are continually asked to offer more services with fewer resources. This is the case in Screven County, but this school system has gotten very creative in meeting the academic needs of its students and working to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

In 2003, a school bus was removed from the transportation fleet. William Bland, Assistant Superintendent for Maintenance and Operations, and Carl Roberts, Director of School Improvement Services, worked collaboratively to secure the funding and personnel needed to transform this school bus into a fully equipped mobile computer lab. Since last summer, the results of their efforts have been seen in communities throughout Screven County.

What Screven County Elementary School (SCES) students refer to as “the computer bus” is a state-of-the-art twelve-station computer lab. Each afternoon, the lab is stationed in a neighborhood within this feeder district with high concentrations of students who could benefit from additional academic services. During these afternoon sessions, a certified teacher and a paraprofessional assist students with technology based, hands-on activities, which reinforce the essential objectives being taught during the school day.

Dennis Carpenter, who received his B.S. in Early Childhood Education and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership from Georgia Southern University, is the administrator of this innovative program. Carpenter is an assistant principal at Screven County Elementary and is currently enrolled in the educational leadership doctoral program at Georgia Southern University. Shannon Sills, a 2000 Georgia Southern University graduate in early childhood education, is a kindergarten teacher at SCES and the primary instructor of this program. Both alumni have worked extensively to ensure that this program increases the quality of education received by elementary students throughout Screven County. Carpenter feels that of all the educational projects he has had an opportunity to be involved in, this is one of the most beneficial.

According to Carpenter, “The mobile lab provides the community with a tangible illustration of the school system’s commitment to ensuring that no student is left behind. We are already beginning to see increases in student achievement, community support, and parental involvement as a result of this initiative.”

Ms. Sills has been very pleased with the dedication of the students who have participated in this program. “I guess it does not seem like work to them,” said Sills. “Most afternoons they are lined up and ready to go before we get to the site. Using the Light Span curriculum, which is delivered using a Sony PlayStation game system, does not seem like work to the students.”

Carpenter says as few as one student can determine whether or not a school makes or misses its AYP targets. For this reason, he views the “computer bus” as an innovative means of making certain that SCES exceeds the academic requirements outlined in Georgia’s accountability plan.

For more information you can contact Dennis Carpenter via email at: dcarpenter@screven.k12.ga.us.

Portal High Wins Governor’s Cup

On September 20, 2004, the town of Portal was treated to a visit, by helicopter, from Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. The occasion was an honor Governor Perdue sees as equal to that of winning an athletic division championship. The Governor’s Cup is awarded to the high schools whose students show the greatest increase in their SAT scores for their athletic division, based on school size. For Portal High, that was an average increase of 90 points from the previous year, for which they received a large silver trophy, a $2,000 check and tickets to a Braves game.

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1961
Jan Brown Anderson (B.Ed. Elementary Education) resides in Statesboro, Georgia. She taught four years and substitued for 10 years. Jan raised two children. She is currently the choir director and pianist for her church.

1966
Cindy Collins Dennard (B.Ed. Elementary Education) taught school for 12 years. She then went to work for the Georgia Department of Corrections first as a teacher and then as a counselor. Cindy and her husband, Richard (‘66 B.B.A.) have been married for 40 years and reside in Milledgeville. Her son and daughter-in-law, Chandler and Kem, are also Georgia Southern graduates. Her daughter, Caryl, lives in Wrens. Cindy also has four beautiful grandchildren.

1967
Alice Rhodes Rogers (64 B.S., 67 M.Ed.) taught school through June 1984. She retired and remained very active working as a church librarian, gardener, and with Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. She has written her family genealogy. She resides in Mullins, South Carolina. Alice is a life member of the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association and is almost 90.

1972
Jane Shicklandt Camp (B.Ed.) taught school in Aiken during the 1973-1976 school years. From 1973-1976 she was a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. She taught school in Monroe, Georgia from 1976-1977. Her daughter, Chamblee Randolph Camp, was born in 1977, her son Wesley Sanders Camp in 1980. Her daughter graduated from the University of Georgia in 1999. Her son graduated from Vanderbilt in 2002. Both of her children reside in Atlanta. Jane is very active in her community, church and she plays ALTA tennis.

1973
Jane Hamby Hollis (M.Ed. Exceptional Child) taught interrelated special education for 11 years. She served as a special education consultant for Washington State Department of Education for 4 years. Currently she is serving her fifth year as principal of the HOPE Academy, an alternative school in Troup County, Georgia. Jane received her Ed.D. in Special Education from Auburn in 1978. She resides in Lagrange, Georgia.

1976
H.F. Johnson Jr. (’62 B.Ed., ’86 M.Ed.), Superintendent of Appling County Schools, was recently elected President of the Georgia Association of School Superintendents (GASSA) and has also been elected to serve on the Governing Board of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He was elected superintendent of the Appling County Schools in 1972 and after serving 29 years as a Regional Director and Associate Superintendent of Schools with the Georgia Department of Education and superintendent of the Hall County Schools, he returned to South Georgia to again serve as Superintendent of Appling County Schools.

1983
Linda Annisdorf Murray (’72 B.Ed., ’78 M.Ed., ’83 Ed.S. Reading) taught at SGA High School in Sardis, Georgia from 1972 to 1987. From 1987-1990 she was the assistant principal at Blakely Elementary in West Georgia. From 1990-1998 she was the principal at SGA Elementary School in Sardis, Georgia. Since 1998 she has been the principal at Burke County Middle School.

1988
Staci Gregg Vickers (B.Ed. Business Education) obtained her masters and specialist degrees in Middle Grades. She taught 16 years at Pulaski County Elementary School. She is currently the assistant principal at Pulaski County Middle School. She is married to Dennis Vickers (‘83 B.S.). They have two boys, Gregg (13) and Don (11).

1988
Pamela Kay Conway Arnold (B.Ed.) has been teaching fifth grade in Walton County. She earned her master's degree in 1992 and continued her work at the University of Georgia. She married Tim Arnold in 1988 and they have a daughter who is 3 1/2-years-old. Pamela is also a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for Key Women Educators.

1989
Michael T. Youngblood (B.Ed. Special Education) was the interrelated teacher at Chatton High School from 1990-1995. He also coached football, basketball and baseball. Since 1995 he has been the executive director for the Kay Center in Fort Valley, Georgia. This year he started workshops for adults with developmental disabilities.

1992
Sheryl Taylor Watts (B.Ed. Spanish Education) taught for four years at Upson-Lee High School in Thomaston, Georgia. She currently is teaching Spanish at Pike County High School in Zebulon, Georgia, where she was named Teacher of the Year for 2004. She resides in Griffin, Georgia with her husband and son.

1994
Morris C. Leis (B.Ed., Social Science Education) taught history and coached football, tennis, and soccer at Fitzgerald High School. He was an assistant principal at Ben Hill Middle School and Ben Hill Elementary. He is currently the principal at Ben Hill Elementary School. Morris resides in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

1996
Hollie Heath Beale (’95 B.Ed. English Education, ’96 M.Ed. English Education) is an English teacher at West Laurens High School in Dublin, Georgia. She is married to Don Beale and they have one daughter, Anna Claire.

1998
Cindy Avant Cobb (’92 B.Ed. Family & Consumer Sciences and ’98 M.Ed. Counselor Ed) was the 1990 Teacher of the Year at Tatnall County High School. She received the 2004 Distinguished Volunteer Award: Prevent Child Abuse Georgia. She currently is a school counselor in Dombs County Schools. She lives in Uvalda, Georgia with her husband, Matt (’88 B.S. Chemistry), and two children, McKinley, 6, and Mason, 4.

1999
Shannon Brown Roberson (B.Ed. Early Childhood Education) received her M.Ed. in Early Childhood from Armstrong Atlantic.

In Memory of Victoria B. Zwald

Georgia Southern University Faculty Member, 1994 - 2005

Victoria Zwald died on January 5, 2005, at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah. She was a Clinical Supervisor/Instructor in the College of Education’s Department of Teaching and Learning. For the past two years, she also served as the College Coordinator for Alumni, Media and Public Relations and was a valued co-editor of the Southern Educator. She will be greatly missed. The College’s staff and faculty were grief-stricken by the loss being experienced by her husband Drew, daughter Jami Smart, son-in-law Jeff, and grandchildren Corey and Hunter. A celebration of her life was held Saturday, February 19, with her family and many colleagues, friends, and former students in attendance. The celebration focused around her love of others and her commitment to the teaching profession and the all people in it.

Before coming to Georgia Southern in 1994, Mrs. Zwald was Inclusion Specialist for Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools and School-Based Consultant in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina. She received her M.Ed. in Supervision of Special Education and her B.S. in Education (Summa Cum Laude) from Ohio University. Since 1994, her teaching and research focused on pedagogy. She was awarded a number of grants, and she published articles, book chapters, and manuals. She presented her research and work at ninety-six international, national, regional, and state conferences. Victoria was also an independent distributor of Tahitian Noni brand. She is also an independent distributor of Tahitian Noni International.

Diane McNeely (‘92 M.Ed. Counselor Ed, ‘02 Ed.S. Administration, ‘04 Ed.D. Administration) is currently the assistant principal at Jinks County High School. She was awarded a Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant on Saturday, January 29, 2005, at the awards luncheon held at Georgia Power's corporate headquarters in downtown Atlanta.

Sommer Groove Shuford (B.Ed.) was awarded a Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant on Saturday, January 29, 2005, at the awards luncheon held at Georgia Power's corporate headquarters in downtown Atlanta. She has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood from Armstrong Atlantic.

Victoria Zwald received her M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Armstrong Atlantic. She has been teaching at Windsor Forest Elementary School for five years. She lives in Savannah with her husband, Todd.
The Transition Program at Harlem High School

On Monday, November 15, 2004, Jeromy (J. J.) Williams (B.S.Ed. ’95, M.Ed. ’99) brought eight of his students and paraprofessional Bernard Johnson to Georgia Southern to speak to two classes of future teachers in the College of Education’s Special Education Program. During the visit, Mr. Williams’ students presented the Transition Program that has been created at Harlem High School (HHS). The HHS Transition Program is for special education students working to earn a special education high school diploma. These students spend part of their school day working on functional English and math skills as well as developing personal budgeting and appropriate socialization skills. The other four hours of the students’ school day is spent in the community learning valuable work skills. The HHS Transition Program is available to any junior or senior with a Mild Intellectual Disability (MID).

The eight HHS students presented a fifty-slide PowerPoint presentation they had created which explained all of the elements of the job training program. It described the job responsibilities and duties of the program’s instructor, the job coach, and the paraprofessional. The slide show took the Georgia Southern students through the program’s class syllabus and requirements. HHS students took turns presenting the fifteen sections of the presentation which shows how the Transition Program impacts their lives.

P. C. Washington presented pictures of the students working at the various job sites in the Augusta area including Doctors Hospital, Sheraton, McDonalds, Kroger, The Home Depot, The Columbia County Transportation Office and twenty other business partners. Kyler Bennett presented the section on the Transition Program’s 2004 banquet. Various award programs are in place throughout the year and awards are presented at the end of the year. Channing Hale presented the level system which is used as a reward and consequence tool. Alana Neal discussed the importance of good hygiene on the job sites and displayed the student’s job training uniforms that they had selected and purchased to be worn on the job. Maurice Barksdale reviewed the Friday routine and demonstrated how the students cooked meals and prepared their uniforms for the upcoming week by washing and ironing them. Each phase of the presentation was met with signs of amazement on the part of the fifty Georgia Southern students and faculty present because of what these MID students were accomplishing. The Georgia Southern future teachers were particularly impressed by the ease with which the HHS students presented information to such a large group of individuals.

Augusta news stations have aired several in-depth stories about the HHS program. One of the news stories discussed the possibility of this program being cut to meet the No Child Left Behind standards. After viewing that video clip, the education students participated in a very intense discussion about the cohesiveness of No Child Left Behind and Special Education. Another video clip was shown which covered the recent election campaign the Transition Program students had participated in to elect their own class officers. This small class project eventually encompassed the entire HHS student body and made the local news when the MID students started going room to room giving self-written campaign speeches. All of the students were very well received when they presented their information.

Having been diagnosed with a learning disability in the third grade, Mr. Williams knows first-hand the struggle of obtaining an education, and he stresses self advocacy as part of his curriculum. “These students need to go out and show the world what they are capable of doing. With realistic goals, there is no reason why these students should not be able to achieve a life full of successes.” Mr. Williams believes in demonstrating this principle by actions not just deeds. His accomplishments include earning both a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in special education from Georgia Southern. He has been keynote speaker for Disabilities Awareness Week at Georgia Southern, and he has been a motivational speaker at graduate ceremonies and other meetings. Mr. Williams is also a two-time recipient of Teacher of the Year, in 1999 at Screven County Elementary and in 2004 at Harlem High School. “It is our responsibility to educate others about our abilities as much as our disabilities.”

The Harlem High School group will be back for an encore when they present their program to a Master’s level weekend-college class in March 2005. Individuals interested in hearing more about the HHS Transition Program or in having Mr. Williams to speak to your group may contact him at JeromyWilliams@comcast.net.

Faculty/Staff

Retirements

Ms. Dixie Aubrey retired December 31, 2004, after working in the College of Education since spring of 1991. She was the founding director of the Education Admissions Center (now Student Success Center) and since 1997, was the Academic Advisor for secondary and P-12 education students as well as alternative certification students.

Ms. Dianne Hickman retired December 31, 2004, after serving for thirty-two years as Secretary to the Dean in the College of Education. She first worked for the university as a student employee and after a short period of time working in Jenkins County, returned as a full-time regular employee with the then named School of Education. Her career spanned the tenure of five education deans and several acting deans.

Ms. Betty-Ware Wray retired September 30, 2004, after twenty years with the College of Education. Ms. Wray’s first role was Administrative Coordinator in the Office of the Dean for the School of Education. Later she became Special Educational Evaluator recommending qualified students for certification, and, for a period of time, she held a joint appointment with Georgia Southern and Armstrong State as Teacher Certification Coordinator and Advisor for Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs. From July 1998 to her retirement, Ms. Wray served as the COE’s Coordinator of Advisement and Certification.

New COE Staff Members

Ms. Janice Harris joined the College of Education in January 2005 as Secretary to the Dean. Ms. Harris has worked on campus since 1984, most recently as Administrative Secretary in the Office of Planning, Design and Construction in the division of Physical Plant. She can be contacted at jharris@georgiasouthern.edu.

Ms. Muriel Allen became Senior Secretary effective January 4, 2005 for the FIPSE grant (Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education). In this capacity she provides support to the FIPSE Project Director in implementing grant activities and has primary responsibilities for monitoring, maintaining and balancing the grant budget.

Kiwanis Club of Statesboro ILC Awards

Congratulations to Jessica Callan, Candra Clark, Rachel Roy, Lundie Spivey and Kate van Ee, B.S.Ed. students who have been awarded a Kiwanis Club of Statesboro International Learning Community Award. The $100 awards, approved by the COE’s International Study Opportunity (ISO) Selection Committee, are to be used toward the student’s expenses while visiting schools in England this semester as part of their student teaching experience.