

College of Education News

March 13, 2018

College of Education, Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

College of Education, Georgia Southern University, "College of Education News" (2018). *Education, College of - News*. 10.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/coe-news/10>

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Undergraduate students present at NYAR Conference

March 13, 2018



Megan Fromme



Abigail Slattery



Elise Rustine

Three undergraduate College of Education students presented at the 29th Annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference held in Savannah, March 4-6. Megan Fromme, Abigail Slattery and Elise Rustine participated in the poster presentations featuring research conducted for their honors thesis projects. All three students are enrolled in the Georgia Southern University Honors Program.

Professor Meca Williams-Johnson, Ph.D. serves as the faculty mentor for the honors students in the COE, guiding their research interests and assisting with research methodologies.

Fromme, a senior special education major, presented on the regularly debated issue of Common Core. Her research examines how Common Core has influenced special education teachers' efforts to meet the needs of their students and the teachers' perceptions of these standards. Fromme's study also explores possible benefits Common Core has for teachers and students, how the teachers have adjusted, and if there are any noticeable differences in student achievement.

Slattery conducted a case study that examined English Language Learners (ELLs) in rural counties and the negative perceptions that correlate with ELLs due to lack of resources to assist their learning process. A junior early childhood education major, Slattery explored strategies used by teachers when working with ELL students in one rural, southeastern Georgia elementary school. She reviewed district policy, school administration supports, individual teacher practices and what does this look like in the life of a student who is learning to speak, read, and write in English in within this environment.

Rustine, a senior early childhood education major, presented research on Third Culture Kids (TCKs), referring to children raised in a culture other than their parents', to better understand dilemmas with transitions, and how this impacts their identity or sense of belonging. She examined the identity development of TCKs who are currently college aged and how they navigated through schools as a TCK.

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference is the longest running conference hosted by Georgia Southern University. Over a thousand professionals gather annually at this conference to discuss ways to create safe, healthy, caring and intellectually empowering educational environments for children and adolescents. For more information about the National Youth-At-Risk Conference, email nyarconference@georgiasouthern.edu.

Middle grades teacher candidates attend state conference

March 13, 2018

In February, five middle grades teacher candidates from Georgia Southern University attended the [Georgia Middle School Association \(GMSA\)](#) Annual Conference held in Valdosta, Georgia.

Rachel Allen, Jillian Arnold, Amanda Ellis, Tiana Gordon and Victoria Ramirez learned strategies, methods, applications and other ideas from educators from across Georgia.

Students also heard from keynote speaker Dave Burgess, author of *Teach Like a Pirate*, a inspirational book that offers practical and innovative ideas to increase student engagement, boost creativity and transform educators. Burgess encouraged attendees to strive to create “LCLs,” or life-changing lessons, for their students.

“Dave Burgess really opened my mind to endless opportunities for the classroom,” said Gordon, a junior middle grades major.

The GMSA is a leader for continuous improvement in the education of middle grades students.

Assistant Professor of Middle Grades Education Amanda Wall, Ph.D., serves as the faculty mentor for Georgia Southern’s Collegiate Middle Level Association (CMLA) and is the Professors of Middle Level Education representative to the GMSA Board.



Victoria Ramirez, Tiana Gordon, keynote speaker Dave Burgess, and Jillian Arnold.



Pictured (l-r) are middle grades majors Jillian Arnold, Rachel Allen, Tiana Gordon and Amanda Ellis.