J. C. Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Over twenty scholarships are awarded annually to deserving College of Education students. These scholarships were endowed through the generosity of alumni, their families, and supporters of the College. To bring attention to scholarships available to College of Education students, the stories behind these scholarships will become a regular feature of the Southern Educator. The story of J. C. Hunter and the scholarship named in his memory is featured in this issue.

Mr. J. C. Hunter dedicated his life to public education. He graduated in 1941 from Georgia Teacher’s College, now known as Georgia Southern University. He was a teacher for thirteen years, a principal for eight years and the Ben Hill County Superintendent of Schools from 1949 until his retirement in 1976. As Superintendent, Mr. Hunter led the transformation of the conditions of the Ben Hill County schools from deplorable and outdated to modern and self-sufficient. Mr. Hunter became synonymous with Ben Hill County Schools and when he was eulogized after his death in July, 2000, for his contributions to Ben Hill County Schools, his love of working with children and his selfless dedication to touching and improving the lives of others.

This Scholarship was endowed by his family and others to memorialize him and to continue his influence in the field of education. The J. C. Hunter Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a College of Education major that has a 3.0 grade point average or better. This year’s recipient is Ms. Michelle Graham, a senior from Buford, GA.

If you are interested in contributing to the J. C. Hunter Memorial Scholarship or other scholarships available to College of Education students or wish to endow a new scholarship, please contact Ms. Dawn Oliver (doliver@georgiasouthern.edu).

Georgia Power New Teaching Assistant Grants

Three recent Georgia Southern University College of Education graduates are beginning their careers as teachers, and their outstanding collegiate work will benefit future students in more ways than one.

The graduates have been awarded Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grants. The grants provide each new teacher with $1,000 to spend on supplies for their classroom.

This year’s winners from Georgia Southern University are: Brian Burns, who earned an M.A.T. in Secondary Science Education and is teaching at Jenkins County High School in Millen, GA.

Kevin Faircloth, who earned a B.S.Ed. in Middle Grades Education and is teaching 4th grade at Reidsville Elementary School in Reidsville, GA.

Kia Whitfield, who earned a B.S.Ed. in Middle Grades Education and is teaching at Kennedy Road Middle School in Griffin, GA.

The 2011 Nominees not listed above were: Lissa Garner, Cali Jones, Haley Lawson, Jennifer Miller, Jason Powell, Michael Stephenson, Theodore Ward.

Jack Miller Faculty Awards

Dr. Yasar Bodur, associate professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning received the Jack Miller Educator of the Year Award which is aimed to recognize and reward a faculty member for exceptional overall achievement based on demonstrated excellence in the areas of teaching, service, and scholarship. Dr. Bodur recognizes, encourages, and honors his juniors, peers, and seniors who have made an accomplishment in teaching, service, or research/scholarly activities. Dr. Bodur’s sincere demeanor serves to encourage junior faculty members to respect and challenge institutional traditions and strive their best to be innovative in and committed to excellence in service, teaching and research and/or creative scholarly activities.

Dr. Brenda Marina, assistant professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. Dr. Marina is the recipient of the Jack Miller Award for Scholarship & Creative Activity which is to recognize and reward a faculty member for exceptional overall achievement in scholarship and creative activities. Dr. Marina’s work on race, gender, class, policies of higher education policy, equity, and diversity contributes to the advancement of the field of educational leadership and higher education administration and engenders positive social and educational change in schools, neighborhoods, and communities in the local, regional, national, and international contexts.

Dr. Dan Rea, professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, received the Jack Miller Award for Service which is to recognize and reward a faculty member for exceptional overall achievement in service. Dr. Rea has demonstrated an amazing record of excellence in service at the department, college, university, state, regional, national, and international levels. Dr. Rea has been playing a leading role and has made invaluable contributions to the advancement of cultural engagement and trans-cultural activities across and beyond the campus through his service. One of Dr. Rea’s most noteworthy excellence in service is his unflattering commitment to excellence in co-chairing the National Youth-At-Risk Conference for the past 15 years.

Dr. Elizabeth Edwards, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, received the Jack Miller Award for Teaching which is to recognize and reward a faculty member for exceptional overall achievement in teaching. To meet the pressing needs of the students in the College of Education, Dr. Edwards taught different courses at different levels in different formats (e.g., face-to-face and fully online courses). Dr. Edwards challenges her students with compassion and integrity and maintains high standards and expectations for all. She strives to be knowledgeable and innovative in using technology in teaching while maintaining integrity of on-line learning.
Looking Inward and Looking Forward

It has been a little more than a year since I assumed the position as Dean of the College of Education, and I must say it’s been an exciting first year. I’m no longer being called the “New Dean” by our students, faculty and staff, and I’ve learned the names of all the campus buildings and who to call within the College and across the campus when I have questions or encounter problems. My first year as Dean has also been punctuated by many points of pride for the College of Education.

New faculty members were hired in each of the College’s three departments. These hires brought with them great ideas to enhance our courses and programs, as well as exciting new lines of research. Among our new hires is a person holding one of two research-intensive professorships that reside in the College.

The College’s counseling program is now accredited by the Council for Accreditation for Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP). The process of seeking accreditation was an arduous one for the program faculty, but clearly demonstrates the program’s commitment to meet the highest academic standards. In addition, the College’s school psychology program is awaiting word on the approval of its application for national certification by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

A new Graduate Academic Services Center is open in the College to provide for the needs of prospective and current graduate students. In a number of ways, the Center parallels the services provided to undergraduate students by the College’s Student Success Center. The staff of both centers strives to help students navigate the challenges associated with program admission, retention, progression, and graduation.

The College’s early childhood student teaching program was rated “Good” in the National Center for Teacher Quality’s (NCTQ) report, Student Teaching in the United States. Of the 134 student teaching programs studied from across the country, only 10 were rated higher than the College’s program.

The College awarded more than 400 graduate degrees this past year. Some of the graduates completed their degrees through the College’s five totally online graduate programs and two graduate programs with substantial coursework online.

Another point of pride for the College is the development and approval of a new strategic plan. The plan, aligned with a renewed College mission and vision, presents agreed upon goals to be accomplished by faculty and staff over the next three to five years. (See the College’s mission, vision, and strategic plan at http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/)

It is no surprise that our new strategic plan highlights the scholastic, teaching, and outreach expectations of a College of Education positioned within a modern comprehensive university. Georgia Southern is clearly on the road to becoming one of the best comprehensive universities in the land under the leadership of President Keel.

Not unlike a fair number of comprehensive universities around the country, Georgia Southern’s early days were as a teacher education institution, where the mission was the preparation of highly-qualified educational professionals. But, the expectations are different today. As a unit within a modern comprehensive university, the College of Education must balance the expectations of educator preparation with those of scholarship and educational outreach.

To achieve this balance, my colleagues and I in the College must continue looking inward and looking forward. When looking inward, we see faculty and staff with different talents and interests who have accomplished much within the milieu of a modern comprehensive university. We also see resources, especially in the form of technology, being increasingly utilized to enhance our scholarship, teaching, and outreach. When looking forward, we note the critical need for solid partnerships with schools and an array of other educational agencies. We also recognize the importance of the support and guidance of alumni and friends to achieve the goals laid out in our strategic plan. And, we seek the voices of all interested in education to inform us about issues and challenges associated with our efforts of scholarship, teaching, and outreach.

As a reader of the Southern Educator, you can help us look inward and forward as we, the College of Education, strive to fulfill our mission within the modern comprehensive university that Georgia Southern is today. Please let us know how we are doing and what improvements we can make to better serve our students, alumni, and the education community, as well as to recruit those Georgia Southern University Eagles of tomorrow.

NEWS FLASH

Deborah Thomas – Moves to Associate Dean of Undergraduate Teacher Education

Effective July 1, Deborah Thomas was appointed Associate Dean of Undergraduate Teacher Education. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Thomas served for three years as the Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Research, Sponsored Programs and Development. She has worked at Georgia Southern for twenty years, with seventeen of those as a faculty member in the Department of Teaching and Learning and Program Coordinator for the Middle Grades program. She holds a Ph.D in elementary education from Florida State University and her research has focused on middle school organization and curriculum and teacher education.

Dr. Tracy Linderholm – New Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Research

Dr. Tracy Linderholm started as the College of Education’s Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Research on July 1, 2011. She oversees recruitment, admissions, program changes, graduation, and program development for the College’s master’s, specialist, and doctoral degree programs. Dr. Linderholm will also be responsible for supporting students in faculty scholarship and research efforts. She began her career as an Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Florida in 2000 after graduating from the University of Minnesota with her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology/Cognitive Sciences. While at the University of Florida she taught courses in educational psychology, cognitive psychology, and the psychology of reading. Dr. Linderholm primarily mentored doctoral students in the area of adult learning/cognition and conducted research on the cognitive-psychological processes involved in advanced reading comprehension. Approximately three years ago, she moved in to the role of Associate Director of the School of Human Development and Organizational Studies in Education.

Fall 2011 Enrollment

| Total College of Education Enrollment: | 2,591 |
| Total enrolled Undergraduate Students | 1,141 |
| Total enrolled Graduate Students     | 1,404 |
| Total Students enrolled as endorsement or non-degree | 46 |

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WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Ima Stevenson, assistant professor of literacy education, holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in language, literacy and culture/reading and linguistics from New Mexico State University. Her dissertation title is “How Latino/a bilingual students use their language in a fifth grade classroom and in the science laboratory during science instruction.” She holds a master’s in bilingual education and certification in bilingual elementary education, early childhood through fourth grade. She has previously worked as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Texas at El Paso and as a college instructor and adjunct faculty at New Mexico State University. Dr. Stevenson also has previous experience as a second and fourth grade bilingual teacher.

Andrea D. Jasper, assistant professor in special education, is a recent graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She earned her Ph.D. and master’s degree in special education and her bachelor's degree in African American Studies. Her research interests include: methods to accurately document the academic achievement of students with disabilities; low-incidence disabilities; and disproportionality. Dr. Jasper is ecstatic to be a part of Georgia Southern. She stated, "The faculty and staff have been very kind and supportive. They've made my transition to Georgia Southern much easier.” Dr. Jasper is married. She and her family look forward to learning more about Georgia and exploring the different areas.

Breyan Haizlip, assistant professor of counselor education, holds a Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision with a concentration in multicultural counseling and research from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to her current role at Georgia Southern, she was a graduate professor at Central Washington University in the department of Graduate Psychology. Dr. Haizlip brings with her over a decade of experience in clinical mental health counseling, college counseling, and school counseling. Dr. Haizlip has experience providing online and in-class instruction to both graduate and undergraduate students in a variety of topics including: cross cultural studies, family and couples counseling, substance abuse, group counseling, human sexuality, assessment, qualitative research design, and much more. Dr. Haizlip is an active member in the American Counseling Association (ACA).

James C. Jupp, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, previously worked at Arkansas State University as assistant professor of educational foundations. He worked in rural and inner-city Title I settings for eighteen years before accepting a university position training teachers and administrators at the university level. A veteran of teaching children of color in rural and inner-city Title I schools, one line of his research focuses on white teachers’ understandings of race, diversity, and difference pedagogy. Drawing on his experiences as teacher of Mexican immigrant, Mexican-American, and Latino students and as administrator in Title I schools, he is the author of “ Culturally Relevant Pedagogy: One Teacher’s Journey through Theory and Practice,” a piece which adds to discussions on white teachers that has been anthologized several times. He has published articles in a variety of journals including the International Journal of Qualitative Research Education, Curriculum Inquiry, Urban Education, the Journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies, the Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy, the English Journal, and Multicultural Review.

Christopher Brkich, assistant professor of social studies education, holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in social studies education from the University of Florida. Dr. Brkich also holds a master’s in social studies education from the University of Florida. His dissertation is titled: “High school world history teachers’ experiences: Learning to use authentic intellectual work in schools of color.” Prior to his current appointment, he was an Alumnus Fellow at the University of Florida where he conducted research on social studies teachers in schools of color and poverty, evaluating the quality of qualitative research and the history of American science education between 1930 and 1960. Dr. Brkich is a member of the American Educational Research Association and has prior experience as a tenth grade world history teacher.

Daniel Calhoun, assistant professor of educational leadership, holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Prior to coming to Georgia Southern, he most recently served in college administration, working in the areas of residential life, new student orientation and student activities. Dr. Calhoun also previously taught at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as an adjunct faculty member in the student personnel administration in higher education program. He has also taught undergraduate courses on first year experience and second year success. He is an active member in the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

Dion Jensen, assistant professor of educational leadership, holds a Ph.D. in postsecondary analysis from the University of Alberta. Prior to his current appointment, he worked at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and the University of Calgary. Dr. Jensen and his family also lived in Australia while he was a one-year visiting scholar at the University of Southern Queensland. His areas of specialty are higher education and adult learning. He has recently focused his research on exploring the link between higher education and economic development and has received grant money to travel to Hong Kong, Taiwan, India and Nepal to conduct research on that topic.

Robert Mayes, professor of education, holds a Ph.D. in mathematics education from Kansas State University. He received his bachelor’s and master’s in science in mathematics with a secondary education focus from Emporia State University. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the director of the Science and Mathematics Teaching Center (SMT) at the University of Wyoming. In that capacity, he secured partnerships in multiple grants to support STEM education, including two active National Science Foundation projects. His role at Georgia Southern is to develop collaborative grant and research efforts across the university. His research focus is on the teaching and learning of problem solving, mathematical modeling and quantitative reasoning in the sciences and social sciences.

Katie Brkich, assistant professor of science education, holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in science education from the University of Florida. Her dissertation is titled: “Making connections between formal earth science and life experiences: An investigation of urban fifth graders.” She also holds a master’s degree in elementary education from the University of Florida. Prior to her current appointment, she served in a variety of roles at the University of Florida including alumni graduate fellow, project coordinator, graduate research assistant and elementary science advisor. She also was a fourth and fifth grade teacher in Florida.
The College of Education’s iPad Project

Do you know what has become the fastest selling electronic device EVER? Do you know what device is being considered for use instead of print textbooks in Georgia schools? How about who is using iPads in research, from data collection to studying its impact on teaching and learning? In Spring 2011, the College of Education’s iPad Project started with purchase of iPads for all full-time staff, faculty and administrators. The Administrative Team decided to use some of the end of the year funds to purchase iPads for all full-time staff, faculty and administrators in the COE. The iPads arrived and were distributed before the end of the school year so that everyone had the opportunity to use them over the summer. This project began with the idea of having iPads for all full-time staff, faculty and administrators. The project was funded by the end of the year funds and several monthly mini-conferences on a variety of topics related to use of iPads were held. We have also an ever growing repository of resources to share ideas and suggestions. The project wiki (http://itecips.pbworks.com) has links to everything we’ve developed to support the project.

What do we hope to see as outcomes from this major investment of resources and time? There’s no doubt that digital resources and mobile learning are impacting teaching and learning at every level and involving our entire college in the iPad project is a great opportunity for discussion, collaboration and research. The class sets of iPads are already being checked out for use in faculty and student explorations of how the iPads can be used to support our students in field experience settings. One major area of emphasis is the use of the iPad in research, from data collection to studying its impact on teaching and learning. We hope to see several publications about the project, including an edited book of descriptive cases and other experiences with others. But fundamentally we hope that this college-wide approach will begin to energize and share learning experience that will keep our COE in the lead for 21st century teacher education.

Graduate Academic Services Center Coming Spring 2012

The College of Education announces the formation of the Graduate Academic Services Center which will begin providing services to graduate students and faculty in spring 2012. The goal of the Center is to provide a comprehensive graduate experience beginning with recruitment of prospective students to providing support from program entry through graduation. The Center will also provide faculty support through the collecting, processing, and interpreting assessment data for all College of Education graduate programs. The Center is responsible to the Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research.

Services the Graduate Academic Services Center will provide beginning spring 2012 include: serving as a first point of contact for questions regarding graduate programs, representing the College of Education at recruitment events, assisting the Office of Graduate Admissions and the College of Graduate Studies to complete graduate applications, coordinating and processing the College of Education graduate student travel grant applications for the Research Committee, providing administrative support for the College of Education doctoral programs, and TaskStream support for graduate faculty and students.

Additional services will continue to be added throughout the next year including planning and support of the Graduate Student Research Workshop held each summer for Ed.S. and Ed.D. students, assuming advising responsibilities for several programs within the Department of Teaching and Learning, providing centralized graduate assistant recruitment and training support for the College of Education, and collaborating with the College of Graduate Studies and other campus offices to provide programs that enhance the College of Education graduate experience (research workshops, focus groups, career services presentations, etc.)

The Graduate Academic Services Center is comprised of two full-time staff members and two graduate assistants. Lydia Cross is the current director of the Center and Theresa Duggar joined as an academic advisor in early October 2011. Lydia has worked in the College of Education since 2009 and Theresa joined the College from the Center of Science and Technology Advancement Center. Lauren Webb and Jonathan Olivarze are the two graduate assistants who will work with the Center in 2011-2012. Lauren is a first year graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in healthcare administration. Jonathan Olivarze is a first year graduate student pursuing a master’s of arts in teaching.

You can find more information at the website: http://coe.gasc.southern.edu/gasc.html or by calling (912) 478-1447.

Fall 2011 Honor Students

Early Childhood Education

Pearl Butler
Kathryn Crenshaw
Michaela Lariskey
Alexa Lowery
Beth Martin
Savannah Norman
Kathleen O’Neill
Taylor Roberson
Courtney Sanford
Kristen Tillman

Middle Grades Education

Amanda Arasmith
Kayla Christopher
Rebecca Conner
Stephanie Dorminey
Stacy Maxwell
Rochelle Patterson
Katrina Vadera
Amanda Wood

COE McNair Scholar

Kevin Michael Blake, middle grades major, presented his research, The Influence of Teacher Certification on Student Standardized Test Scores, at the 2011 Research Symposium on Thursday, July 7 in the CIT Professional Development Center in the Georgia Southern University campus. He also presented his research at the 2011 17th Annual University of Buffalo McNair Research Conference, July 14-17, 2011, held in Niagara Falls, NY. The McNair Conference is a forum for McNair Scholars and other undergraduates to network, to prepare for graduate school, and to present research projects before faculty, staff and peers.

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International Student Teacher Exchange

Spring semester, Georgia Southern and three partner schools hosted the fourth cohort of teacher candidates from Sheffield Hallam University in Sheffield, England. The five early childhood candidates completed field experiences at Blandford Elementary School in Effingham County, Julia P. Bryant and Sally Zetterower Elementary Schools in Bulloch County. Thanks to the following classroom teachers for hosting our international visitors in their classrooms: Kathy Allen, Carrie Turnbull, Vanessa Denison, Tracy West, Kimberly McGee, Tracey Vickery, Karen Keen, Lucy Hubbard, Nicki Lord, and Allison Powell. Pictured above (l-r) are Lois Gore, Lauren Fletcher, Karen Durkin, principal Blandford Elementary, Megan Smith, Samantha Chapman, and Zannie Straker. The College of Education looks forward to hosting another cohort of students from Sheffield Hallam University during 2012.

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An Educator’s Perspective

Library of Congress Institute

Michelle Rivera was selected to participate in a week-long institute at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. during July. Michelle and 124 other participants were selected from a pool of 500 teachers and media specialists. The focus of the institute was, “Working with Primary Sources.” Michelle’s reflection of the experience follows.

If I could use one word to capture the week, it would be WOW! We spent the week working at the Education Outreach Center in the Madison Building, with fellow educators and media specialists. We had content experts give us behind the scenes tours of the Maps and Geography division, the Jefferson Library Main Reading Room, and personalized tour of the Jefferson Library.

More importantly, however, we learned how to use and analyze primary sources effectively in the classroom. The Library of Congress has thousands of digitized primary sources, from original broadsides to the ledgers Thomas Jefferson kept about what fruits/vegetables were sold at the farmers market. We also learned how to navigate the vast resources on the website.

I have already presented a lesson on using primary sources in a math class, as well as political cartoons on anti-immigration. If anyone would like more information on how to use primary sources, please email Michelle at michellerivera@georgiasouthern.edu.

Taiwan Exchange

In fall 2011, the Department of Teaching and Learning is launching a pilot study for the Taiwan Student Teaching Opportunity (TSTO) Program with National Taiwan University of Education (NTUE) in Taiwan. Five student teachers, including four in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program and one in the Middle Grade Education (MGE) Program, accompanied by Dr. Hsiu-Lien Lu, will be leaving in early November for Tainan, Taiwan, after they have completed all requirements for teacher certification in Georgia. They will be teaching students from 3rd to 8th grade in public schools in a low-income area for four full weeks.

After two years of preparation, TSTO is currently at its pilot study stage. This pilot study follows the model that is determined by the result of a feasibility study supported by an initial COE grant. Drs. Hsiu-Lien Lu and Lina Soares were awarded this initial COE grant in winter 2009. Based on stakeholders’ perceptions of the experiences they had had with the International Study Abroad Opportunity in UK, the purpose of this study was to craft a model for the new TSTO Program with Taiwan. The new program is to facilitate opportunities for collaboration in the areas of teaching and learning, research, and service for pre-service teachers and faculty members at the levels of programs, departments, and colleges in two international higher education institutions. A second goal is to provide pre-service teachers the opportunity to immerse in a diversity-enriched environment.

Through the connection with NTUE, student teachers will be working with students in public schools in the city of Tainan, located in the southern region of Taiwan. The four ECE student teachers will work in two elementary schools in pairs, and the one MGE student teacher will work in a middle/high school. The schools have relatively small class sizes, ranging from 10 to 20 students in each classroom. All students are required to learn English as a foreign language, and this is where the Georgia Southern University students will be especially helpful. The Georgia Southern University students will be mainly working with English teachers and at times collaborate with special education, arts, and PE teachers. They will observe, assist, plan, and teach with the teachers there. In preparation, the students have received orientation sessions provided by faculty in the Department of Teaching and Learning on the cultures and behaviors, basics for ESOI, culturally responsive pedagogy, and technology. In addition and with the support of excited Georgia classroom teachers, the GSU students are working on projects that will connect students from both countries via the use of technology.

We determined this program offers several outstanding features. First, we start this program by sending students to a low-income area instead of affluent areas in the capital Taipei City. Second, the Georgia Southern University student teachers will have the opportunity to experience firsthand what it is like to be a minority in a classroom, which in turn may benefit future students in Georgia. Further, the fulfillment of collaboration of pre-service teachers and faculty in the areas of teaching, learning, research, and service is already under way; yet, the program is dynamic and open for future experiment, adventure, and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, Taiwan is a relatively safe and friendly country. Americans are warmly welcomed, and they provide tremendous support that is way beyond expectation. Finally, Taiwan is looking for licensed American teachers to teach in their public school systems. This opportunity may provide our Georgia Southern University graduates who cannot find a job in Georgia with another venue for job options. As this is a pilot study stage, the model is not permanent and is subject to be further modified through research findings. The next projected opportunity will be in fall 2012. For the time being, we humbly understand we still have potentially hidden obstacles to resolve, but we are determined and excitedly hopeful that we will soon see a complimentary collaborative student teaching exchange program between the two international institutions in Georgia and Taiwan.

As an undergraduate in the Special Education program, our learning was centered on meeting the needs of diverse learners through differentiation and relevance. While those concepts were held in a very high regard, the foundation of our learning was reflection. Reflect, reflection, reflective: as graduation approached, I couldn’t wait to get away from any form of that word because it was required with every lesson we taught, paper we wrote, and word we said. The good news is that I never did.

As teachers we spend hours planning out the perfect lesson. On the day of the lesson, we have all of the materials, a schedule of the pacing of the instruction, and most of the time the students seem to be alert and ready to learn. We use the latest best practices, while paying close attention to the learning styles of the students. Finally, the time comes for the students to demonstrate what they have learned; sometimes we as teachers have missed the mark. It is clear that the students have learned some of the objectives, but the student outcomes are not all we hoped they would be. We may first feel discouraged, but since we have been prepared at Georgia Southern University, we have been taught reflective teaching, and we recognize how to improve the lesson and adjust our instruction for the next day. Teaching and learning is truly a life long process.

Reflecting on the continual process of learning not only impacted the daily instruction I presented my students, but also prompted me to continue my education by attaining my master’s degree and beginning preparation for acceptance into a notable doctoral program. During my undergraduate years, I conducted research with one of my professors with whom I continue to work with on new projects through our university/public school partnership. Her commitment to improving education and willingness to help me become a better-rounded educator has given me the opportunity to present our research to education institutions. A second goal is to provide pre-service teachers the opportunity to immerse in a diversity enriched environment.

For the past year, I have hosted Georgia Southern pre-service teachers. My goal is to ensure that they are prepared for challenges that will come as they are entrusted with our most sacred asset, the future of our children. As I encourage them to differentiate, model, and reflect, I have the opportunity to once again reflect on my own teaching strengths and weaknesses.

Georgia Southern is committed to preparing reflective teachers; regardless of how much we rebel against the process, it is on our instruction. We determined this program offers several outstanding features. First, we start this program by sending students to a low-income area instead of affluent areas in the capital Taipei City. Second, the Georgia Southern University student teachers will have the opportunity to experience firsthand what it is like to be a minority in a classroom, which in turn may benefit future students in Georgia. Further, the fulfillment of collaboration of pre-service teachers and faculty in the areas of teaching, learning, research, and service is already under way; yet, the program is dynamic and open for future experiment, adventure, and recommendations for improvement. Additionally, Taiwan is a relatively safe and friendly country. Americans are warmly welcomed, and they provide tremendous support that is way beyond expectation. Finally, Taiwan is looking for licensed American teachers to teach in their public school systems. This opportunity may provide our Georgia Southern University graduates who cannot find a job in Georgia with another venue for job options. As this is a pilot study stage, the model is not permanent and is subject to be further modified through research findings. The next projected opportunity will be in fall 2012. For the time being, we humbly understand we still have potentially hidden obstacles to resolve, but we are determined and excitedly hopeful that we will soon see a complimentary collaborative student teaching exchange program between the two international institutions in Georgia and Taiwan.
New COE Staff

Dawn Oliver is a Georgia Southern graduate with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration. She began in University Advancement on April 1, 2011 and was assigned to the College of Education to work with Dean Koballa and other members of the faculty. Her title is Major Gifts Officer and her objective is fundraising by cultivating alumni or others who have an interest investing in our endowment to benefit education students and/or the College of Education.

Amanda Reid became the new Departmental Secretary in the Department of Teaching and Learning in February of this year. She joined the College of Education from The University Store where she was employed as a Textbook Associate. Her main responsibilities include: supervising work study students/graduate assistants, uploading course schedules via Banner, and assisting department faculty.

Betty Whitaker is the Assistant to the Dean. Her responsibilities include, providing administrative assistance to the Dean, budget preparation and monitoring, coordination of special projects, proofing and editing publications, drafting correspondence, assisting in research and fund raising efforts, supporting grant proposal development and project activities, and supervising student workers. Before coming to Georgia Southern, she worked at Jones County High School as a business education/marketing teacher/co-op coordinator and as CTAE Supervisor/Assistant Principal. She also taught business courses in the evening at Central Georgia Technical College.

Opportunities to give to the College of Education
http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/pdfs/giving.pdf

For more information, contact Dawn Oliver at doliver@georgiasouthern.edu

Homecoming 2011
ARE YOU COMING “HOME”?

The College of Education invites you to connect during these Homecoming festivities.

Friday, November 4th, 4-7 pm, the homecoming parade will begin at Paulson Stadium and end at Sweetheart Circle. Also, stick around Sweetheart Circle for a family friendly movie after the parade.

Saturday, November 5, at 2 pm, the Georgia Southern Eagles are playing the homecoming football game in the “prettiest little stadium in America” against the Citadel football team. Stop by to cheer them on!

Sunday, November 6 from 2-4 pm, the College of education will host the annual Southern’s Art Extravaganza.
Southern Educator Class Roll

1947
Carl M. Rooks (B.S. History) retired in 1983 from Glynn County School System and is an expert in “looting.” He was a Principal at Ballad Elementary school.

1962
Carole Biddy Cowart and David Cowart (B.S.Ed.) are both retired consultants from Florida Department of Education. They both provide part-time services to Florida School Districts in facility planning. Carole and David live in Jacksonville, FL and can be reached at cowdckowart@att.net.

1968
Pamela Theus Jordan (B.S.ED.) retired in 2004 with thirty years of experience in the education field. She received two advanced degrees, M.Ed. in 1978 with an Ed.S., and did post graduate work at South Carolina State. Pamela taught at Glynn Academy for five years then moved into administration and supervision in McIntosh County. She served as Assistant Principal, Principal, and Alternative School Coordinator. Pamela currently lives in Brunswick and can be contacted at ajordan@bellsouth.net.

Judy Bedgood McCollough (BS Education) is now retired and stays busy taking care of her three year old grandson and is expecting a granddaughter. She resides in Newnan, GA. Judy would love to hear from her friends. She can be contacted at 770-328-8214 or girty.jr@gmail.com.

1976
Jerry Cox (B.S.ED.) is retired with approximately 33 years of Federal Service (Military and Civilian) as a Contracting Officer for the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Mission & Installation Contracting Command, Fort Stewart, GA supporting the mission of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized and Fort Stewart, GA. Jerry currently resides in Claxton, GA and can be contacted at blueagle1972@yahoo.com.

1993
Mary Day Johnston Widner (Ed.D.) has completed two advanced degrees and has been managing the Special Education Department in Stephens County Middle School for the past nine years. She has five grandchildren and her youngest child is currently in her senior year of high school. Mary Day resides in Toccoa, GA and can be reached at maryday.widner@stephenscountyschools.org.

1996
Cathy Young Parnell (M.Ed. Adult & Vocational Education) is an instructor for Abbeville County Adult Education, teaching basic skills to help students prepare for the GED Exam, the WorkKeys test, and college placement exams. She is also a part-time church music director. Before taking this position, Cathy moved around with her husband, who was in the army. While moving from place to place she was a stay-at-home mom, adult educator, owner of a small business, and a part-time church music director. She currently resides with her husband in Abbeville, SC.

1997
Denise McMillan Borch (Ed.S. Middle Grades Education) is the media specialist at William James Middle School in Statesboro, GA where she has worked for the last eighteen years. Since graduating with her undergraduate degree, she has received her M.Ed. and Ed.S. This year she was named Media Specialist of the Year for Bulloch County and Coastal Georgia District, and she was also chosen as WMHS 2012 Teacher of the Year. This past year, Denise traveled to Baltimore, MD to present a session titled Book Trailers: Not Your Typical Book Report at the National Middle School Conference. This year she will be traveling to Jacksonville, FL to co-present a session on collaboration at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology International Convention. Denise currently resides in Statesboro, GA and can be contacted at dborck@bulloch.k12.ga.us.

Tammey Taylor Hendley (B.S.Ed. Middle Grades Education) earned her M.Ed. in Middle Grade Education in 2000 from Georgia Southern University. She also earned her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Administration in 2005 and her Ed.S. in Educational Leadership and Administration in 2010 from Jones International University, CO. Tammey is currently the Principal at Jenkins County Elementary School in Millen, GA. She resides in Swainsboro and can be contacted at thendley@jchs.com.

Brenda L. Roberts (Ed.S. Administration and Supervision) is the AVID Coordinator at DeRenne Middle School. Since graduation she has been employed as a School Counselor on the elementary, middle, and high school levels, and has served as a Graduation Transition Coach. Brenda has also written a book entitled Savannah’s Black “First Ladies.” Vol. 1 which was named a “2010 Best Books Finalist” in the African-American category by USA Book News. She currently resides in Savannah, GA and can be contacted at blynerobotis@yahoo.com.

2001
Heidi Johnston Reynolds (Ed.S. Educational Leadership) has received her M.Ed. in Educational Technology. She currently works in Forsyth County Schools. Heidi resides in Cumming, GA and can be contacted at hjohnston11@fcs.org.

2005
Krystle Williams White (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) taught first grade for three years at Screven County Elementary School after graduation. She is now currently a stay-at-home mom with her three year old son, Ryan, and her newborn daughter, Katy. Krystle, along with her husband and children, live in Webster, NY and she can be reached at kwwhite709@gmail.com.

Kimberly McMillan Neville (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) is currently serving as Academic Facilitator at Jenkins County Elementary School. She completed her masters in 2008 at Georgia Southern University, and married Georgia Southern University graduate, Rawls Neville, in March 2010. Kimberly now resides in Brooklet, GA.

2006
Carley Prichard Marshall (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) has been working on her M.S. in Education with a specialization in Reading and Literacy at Waldon University online. She worked as a kindergarten teacher at Jodye Bacon Elementary School in Hinesville, GA before having her first child, Caleb. Since then, Carley has had a second child, Chloe, and is currently working part-time at her children’s preschool, Rainbow Preschool. She is also the president of the local MOMS Club, Moms Offering Moms Support, chapter. Carley currently resides in Shelby, NC with her two children and husband. She can be contacted at carp@ad.com.

2007
Dr. Michele Taylor Rizz (Ed.D. Educational Administration) is the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning at Pennsylvania Highlands Community College. After completing her doctorate, she continued working at Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro and an English instructor and Coordinator for Student Learning Outcomes. Once she married, she moved to Pennsylvania where she currently resides. She can be contacted at mrc@pennghs.edu.

Heidi Hammack Mikulecky (Secondary English Education) is working on her M.Ed. in Reading, Language, and Literacy and teaches sixth grade Language Arts at J. E. Richards Middle School in Gwinnett County. She was also recently accepted in the PAFE New Teacher Academy. Since graduation Heidi married Joshua Mikulecky, a Georgia Southern University graduate. They both currently reside in Lawrenceville, GA. Heidi can be contacted at heidimikulecky@gmail.com.

Megan McMahon Hutchins (English Education) is working in the Office of Undergraduate Admission at Georgia Tech while she peruses an M.Ed. of Higher Education Administration from Georgia Southern University. Before doing this, she taught English in Savannah, GA from 2007 until 2010. Megan currently resides in Atlanta, GA and can be contacted at meganmathchins11@gmail.com.

2009
Ashley Strickland Judy (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) is currently working on her M.Ed. in Accomplished Teaching through Georgia Southern, and is teaching kindergarten at Taylors Creek Elementary School in Hinesville, GA. Since graduation she married Justin Judy, also a graduate from Georgia Southern University. They like to consider themselves a “True Blue” couple. Ashley resides with her husband in Statesboro, GA. She can be contacted at ashstrickland@liberty.k12.ga.us.

Charlie Cox (B.S.Ed. Middle Grades) is a math teacher at Dublin High School, and he is also the assistant football and baseball coach for Dublin Middle School. Charlie resides in Dublin, GA and can be contacted at coxc112@ds.net.

2010
Alise Kerlin Meador (B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) is preparing to travel to Cambodia, Vietnam, and Korea on missions work as ESL support. Since graduation she has moved to Guam where she taught English in sixth and eighth grade at St. Johns. Alise currently resides in Guam with her husband. She can be contacted at anmeador531@hotmail.com.

Crystal Carlson (B.S.Ed. Middle Grades Education) is currently teaching sixth grade Reading and Language Arts in Ware County. After graduation she worked as a Special Education Paraprofessional in Bulloch County. Crystal is currently living in Waycross, GA and can be contacted at crys1121@ds.net.
Faculty Promotions
Effective August 2011, the following faculty received promotions in rank:

Dr. Yasar Bodur was promoted to associate professor of early childhood education, Department of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Kymberly Harris Drawdy was promoted to associate professor of special education, Department of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Michelle Reidel was promoted to associate professor of middle grades and secondary education, Department of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Denise Weems was promoted to associate professor of early childhood education, Department of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Elizabeth Edwards was promoted to associate professor of Literacy Education, Department of Curriculum Foundations and Reading

Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson was promoted to associate professor of educational research, Department of Curriculum Foundations and Reading

Dr. Jeff Tysinger was promoted to associate professor of school psychology, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development

Retirements 2010-2011
Leon Spencer
Cindi Chance
Stephanie Kenney

Faculty Change 2010-2011
Randy Carlson stepped down from LTHD Department Chair to faculty in Instructional Technology.

ALUMNI: WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

First ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Middle __________________________________________________________

Last ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Maiden ____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone: _________________    E-mail: _________________________________________________________________

Graduation Date: _______________    Degree/Major: ______________________________________________________

Check if it is okay to publish your email address.

What have you been doing that we can share with other alumni?

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Please complete this form and return it to: Southern Educator, P.O. Box 8133, Statesboro, GA 30460-8133 or use the online form at http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/alumniform07.html

Upcoming Conferences

http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/conferences.html

25th Annual Southern Conference on Children
January 28, 2012

11th Annual Southeastern Conference on Cross-Cultural Issues in Counseling and Education
February 15–11, 2012
Savannah, GA
http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/crossculturalissues.html

23rd Annual National At-Risk Conference
March 4-7, 2012
Savannah, GA
http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/nationalyouthatrisk.html

SOTL Commons Conference
March 7-8, 2012

1st Annual Advance Practice UPDATE
May 31-June 1, 2012

2nd Annual South East Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
June 4-5, 2012
Savannah, GA
http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/positivebehavior.html

The 11th International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference
June 7-9, 2012

Beginning with this issue, alumni with active e-mail addresses on file with Georgia Southern’s Alumni Office will receive the newsletter by e-mail.

Our goal still is to reach all College of Education alumni, so those without a known e-mail address will continue to receive a paper copy. If you would like to save some trees and help us cut the cost of postage, please send your e-mail address to the Alumni Office at jwest@georgiasouthern.edu or to the COE at dscolson@georgiasouthern.edu.

View Southern Educator online 24/7 at coe.georgiasouthern.edu/news.html#newsletter