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### Southern Educator

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GEORGIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

*Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners*

## Southern Educator

August 29, 2012

Volume 1 Issue 7

### Upcoming Events

- August 31 Call for Proposals Deadline, [National Youth-at-Risk Conference](#)
- Sept. 14 Rural Based HIV Education & Training
- Sept. 14 Building Research Collaborations and Partnerships Between COE Faculty
- Sept. 14 Qualitative Research Workshop
- Sept. 18 STEM Career Fair
- Sept. 28 STEM Institute Information Meeting for COE
- Oct. 3, 2012 Fries Lecture, Dr. Richard Arum
- Oct. 13, COE Board of Advisors Meeting
- Oct. 13, COE Alumni Tailgate Party

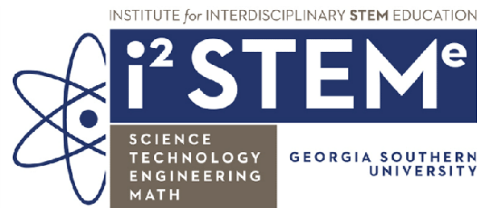
[More announcements.](#)

### Sherry Smith Receives Betty-Ware Wray Staff Award



Sherry Smith, administrative secretary in Undergraduate Teacher Education and Accreditation and long-time COE staff, received this year's Betty-Ware Wray

Staff Award. For over three decades, Smith has shown consistent professionalism and dedication in whatever job she encounters, whether it is in her normal work day or the many high pressure or last minute assignments



### Georgia Southern STEM Institute to Focus on Needs of Rural Southeast Georgia

Georgia Southern University has established a new institute for interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education whose focus is excellence in primary, secondary and higher education STEM teaching and learning in rural southeast Georgia.

The College of Education (COE) was a key player in the initial phases of designing the institute along with administrators from the College of Science and Math (COSM) and the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (CEIT). "It's our belief that any interdisciplinary STEM initiative must be informed by cutting-edge educational practice," said Dr. Thomas Koballa, COE Dean. COE's role in the institute, in addition to the other core partners - COSM, CEIT and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences - creates a unique institute and the only one in Georgia that brings together an interdisciplinary collaboration to address and integrate all four facets of STEM curriculum while utilizing frontline research and educational practice. [Click here for the rest of the article on the STEM institute.](#)

### New Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Education Named



Dr. Alejandro Jose Gallard Martinez

For Dr. Alejandro Jose Gallard Martinez, Georgia Southern University has separated itself from other institutions in its commitment to the Hispanic/Latino community. "Georgia Southern has taken a leadership role not just in its attention to the socio-economic problems of this community but in bringing resources to address the problems," said Gallard. And Gallard should know. He is the newly named COE Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Education.

landing on her desk. Through her many years supporting COE, Smith is known as cheerful, down-to-earth, and a spreader of goodwill and joy to all those she encounters.

## COE Transitions

Eight faculty members were promoted for the 2012-2013 academic year.



**Dr. Dan Chapman**, Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Christine Draper**, Teaching and Learning, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Robert Lake**, Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



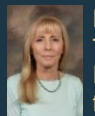
**Dr. Hsui Lien Lu**, Teaching and Learning, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Brenda Marina**, Leadership, Technology and Human Development, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Julie Maudlin**, Teaching and Learning, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Teri Melton**, Leadership, Technology and Human Development, was approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor.



**Dr. Marla Morris**, Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, was promoted to professor.

## COE Retirements

"The Goizueta Chair's primary duties are in the area of research," said COE Dean Tom Koballa. Gallard will assume a leadership role in developing collaborative initiatives already in place at Georgia Southern to conduct research and assist the Hispanic/Latino community and develop newly funded projects that support improvement in educational settings - both K-12 and higher education, with direct ties to Hispanic and Latino learners.

"Latinos are the fastest growing demographic in the U.S.," Gallard said. "That means this is the pool the US will draw from. It's critical that we dramatically and significantly improve (secondary and higher) graduation rates.

"I am so excited to be a part of a university that understands the importance of interdisciplinary and scholarly teams to address the issues of the Hispanic/Latino community," Gallard continued. "Georgia Southern is united to tackle the issues of recruitment, community outreach and scholarship advancement and my goal is to help in this organizing effort," he said.

Gallard comes to Georgia Southern from the Science Education program at Florida State University. He received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Science Education and has taught science at the primary, secondary and university levels. He also consults, conducts evaluations, and teaches at the national level in many Spanish-speaking countries. The Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Education was established in 2001 by a grant from the Goizueta Foundation.

## Welcome New Faculty

In addition to Dr. Gallard, COE welcomes six new faculty members.

Dr. Olufunke Adefope joined Teaching and Learning as an assistant professor in mathematics education. Dr. Adefope earned a BA in economics from the State University of New York, Stony Brook. After working in the private sector for four years, she returned to graduate school to pursue a degree in education at Teachers College, Columbia University. She taught mathematics to elementary and middle school students in low-income communities in New York City and has worked extensively with disadvantaged students. In 2012, she was awarded a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a specialization in mathematics education from Indiana University. A goal of Dr. Adefope's research is to better understand how classroom practices impact student learning.



Dr. Mohomodou Boncana recently joined Leadership, Technology and Human Development as an assistant professor in educational leadership. Dr. Boncana comes to Georgia Southern from the University of Utah College of Education where he received his Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy. A native of Mali, he received his bachelor's degree from Ecole Secondaire Rural, in San, Mali. Dr. Boncana's research areas include educational

**Donna Colson**, Undergraduate Teacher Education  
**Katie Sheppard**, Teaching and Learning  
**Dorothy Battle**, Curriculum, Foundations and Reading

## COE Ambassadors

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### Alumni

#### Become a COE Ambassador

We're introducing **COE AMBASSADORS**, a program to encourage liaisons between school systems and Georgia Southern COE. We'll support you as educators, you provide COE with input on the needs of COE alumni in your school system.

Become a COE Ambassador\* today and be COE's guest at the upcoming GAME and TAILGATE PARTY, Saturday, October 13, between GSU and the Wofford Terriers. Contact Dawn Oliver at [doliver@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:doliver@georgiasouthern.edu)

\*must commit to one-year service and attend one orientation meeting.

### Faculty News



Georgia Southern COE is the new sponsor of *The Georgia Journal of Reading*. Dr. Lina Soares and Dr. Christine Draper, Department of Teaching and Learning, are the journal's co-editors and worked for over a year to bring the journal to COE. The journal is published by the Georgia Reading Association. The purpose of the journal is to provide relevant pedagogical practices and current research in the field of reading to promote literacy for all learners. The journal will be published in fall and spring with the fall issue appearing online for the first time.

leadership and parental involvement, educational leadership and organizational theory and change, education policy and politics and university-school-community partnerships.

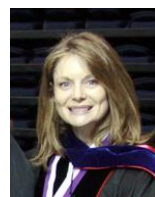
Dr. Amelia Davis recently joined Curriculum, Foundations and Reading as an assistant professor of educational research. Dr. Davis was awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in May, 2012; her major was educational psychology and research with a concentration in adult education and a cognate in cultural studies in education. Dr. Davis also earned a graduate certificate in Qualitative Research Methods in Education. Her areas of work and research interest include adult literacy and basic skills, transitions to adulthood, adult development, and qualitative research methodology.



Dr. Beth A. Durodoye was named the new chair of Leadership, Technology and Human Development. She comes to Georgia Southern from the Department of Counseling in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she served as professor of counseling. Dr. Durodoye earned her Ed.D. in Counselor Education from the University of Virginia, and brings experiences as an educator, scholar and administrator to the chair's

position.

Dr. Lee Grimes has joined Leadership, Technology and Human Development as an assistant professor in counselor education. Dr. Grimes received her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia where she studied school counselor social justice advocates in rural schools. Dr. Grimes comes to COE with extensive experience in school counseling, most recently as a counselor at North Forsyth High School in Forsyth County, Georgia. She received her M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Georgia and her undergraduate degree from Valdosta State College.



Dr. Jonathan Hilpert recently joined Curriculum, Foundations and Reading as an assistant professor of educational psychology. He comes to Georgia Southern from Indiana University, Purdue University Fort Wayne where he was employed as an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Studies from 2008-2012. Dr. Hilpert received his Ph.D. in learning and motivation from Arizona State University in 2008. His higher education teaching experience includes courses on educational psychology, classroom management, human development, and research methods and statistics, and he was a high school English teacher for two years in Arizona. Dr. Hilpert is an active grant writer, and his research interests include students' strategic learning, achievement motivation, and construction of scientific knowledge.



Dr. Nancy Arrington, Dr. Sabrina Ross and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson received a grant, "Evaluating the Music Education and Boys and Girls Club Partnership," sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

[Click here for more on COE's grants.](#)

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## Jack Miller Presents Faculty Awards, Announces Increased Endowment



*2012 Jack Miller Faculty Awardees with Dr. Miller (center). (l-r) Dr. Robert Lake, Dr. Julie Maudlin, Dr. Jack Miller and Dr. Scott Beck.*

Dr. Jack Miller, President of Central Connecticut State University and former Georgia Southern Education Dean announced that he will be doubling the endowment for the Jack Miller Faculty Awards, which he helped endow in 1994. Miller was on hand at the 2012 Fall Faculty and Staff meeting to present the annual Jack Miller Faculty Awards for teaching, scholarship and creativity, and service.

This year's winner for teaching is Dr. Scott Beck, associate professor in Teaching and Learning. Beck's interests are in diversity in children's and young adult literature, migrant immigration and ESOL education in the rural South. Beck was noted for his enthusiasm in engaging students.

Dr. Julie Maudlin, also an associate professor in Teaching and Learning, received the award for service. Maudlin's research interests include early childhood education, cultural curriculum studies, creativity, and consumption and public pedagogy. Her service work includes, among other things, the creation of the only elementary school math tournament for Bulloch County students.

The award for scholarship and creative activity went to Dr. Robert Lake, associate professor in Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, whose research centers on multicultural education, imaginative education and educational biography. Lake was noted for his work on international, national, regional and state conferences, grants he has worked on and the numerous journal articles, chapters, and books he has authored.

"When I was dean we were just a school then, not a college," Dr. Miller said, "and there weren't any awards for education faculty. I wanted to make sure that members of the education faculty are recognized for their important work," he said. During his tenure at Georgia Southern, the school went from a college to a university, education went from a school to a college, and the education faculty grew from 37 to 104. Dr. Miller had not returned to Georgia Southern since 1995. "It's very nostalgic for me and I'm proud to be back and still a part of this community," he said.

## DON'T MISS OUR FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY

BUY A TICKET TO THE GAME, GET INTO THE TAILGATE FOR FREE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

TAILGATE STARTS AT 4:30



### COE Alumni TAILGATE PARTY 2012

An afternoon  
of FOOD,  
*friends*, &  
FOOTBALL.

We're getting together at 4:30 p.m., before the Georgia Southern Eagles battle the Wofford Terriers, for our first **Alumni Tailgate Party, Saturday, October 13**. Food and drink catered by **BIG BAD WOLF BBQ**. We're INSIDE the stadium under a tent at the **Cowart Terrace** ([click here for a map showing the stadium and terrace](#)). This is next to the main ticket office right next to Lanier Drive. PLEASE LET DAWN OLIVER KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE TAILGATE. Email her at [doliver@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:doliver@georgiasouthern.edu).