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## Southern Educator

March 27, 2013

Volume 2 Issue 3

### Upcoming Events

- April 3 Honors Day Program
- April 5 Pinning Ceremony - Gamma Sigma Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society International
- April 11 NVIVO Webinar
- April 12 Grant Writer's Workshop
- April 14-17 NCATE Site Visit
- April 26 COE Curriculum Committee

[More announcements.](#)

### Upcoming Conferences

[June 10-11 Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports](#)

[June 19-22 Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative Conference](#)

### Online Graduate Programs Earn Top Rank

For the second year, COE ranked in the top 25 for "Best Online Graduate Education Programs" by *U.S. News & World Report*. The 2013 rankings looked at such factors as faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, student engagement and admissions selectivity. This was the first time programs were given an overall ranking. At number 21, COE was the only Georgia school to earn a spot in the top 25 online graduate education programs. Georgia State University was next, ranked at number 28.



"The ranking is just one indication of our commitment to COE's online graduate programs and our work to continuously improve and expand the options available to best serve our students," said COE Dean Tom Koballa.

In 2012, rankings were separate for each category. COE ranked in the top 15 for student services and technology, in the top 35 for faculty credentials and training, in the top 20 for teaching practices and student engagement, and in the top 20 nationally for admissions selectivity. For the 2013 survey, 208 regionally accredited institutions met the definition used by *U.S. News* and the U.S. Department of Education for online education and were included in the results. [Read more on the rankings and methodology.](#)

### National Youth-at-Risk Center Approved

A new National Youth-at-Risk (NYAR) Center was recently approved by Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel.



*Curriculum, Foundations & Reading Professor Dan Rea (left) and Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor Eric Landers are co-directors of the NYAR conference and helped spearhead the new center's creation.*

"The NYAR Center is an important addition to the College of Education and our mission," said COE Dean Tom Koballa. "It places COE in the forefront of fostering research and providing professionals with the latest educational programs and strategies to assist youth in overcoming at-risk conditions," he continued.

The NYAR Center will develop, coordinate and extend the ongoing efforts of COE to provide

## New CELS Director Named

Leadership,  
Technology &  
Human  
Development  
Assistant



Professor Jason LaFrance has been named the new director of the Center for Educational Leadership and Service (CELS). As the incoming director of CELS, he brings a rich professional background to the position. LaFrance also is the coordinator for the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership program.

Since 2009, LTHD Professor James Green served as the center's director. Green's contributions to the development of the CELS are immeasurable. During his tenure, he emphasized the areas of applied research and educational leadership which resulted in research and writing collaborations that have served the CELS and the COE well. Green is retiring at the end of the spring 2013 semester.

[Read more about CELS.](#)

## Around COE



Penn State University Professor and editor of the *Journal of Teacher Education* Stephanie Knight presented a lecture earlier this month for COE faculty and staff

professional development, research support and resource assistance for educators serving youth placed at risk within the geographical service area of Georgia Southern and beyond, according to Professor Dan Rea, co-chair of the NYAR Conference.

The NYAR Center takes its name from the NYAR Conference, which just completed its 24th year last month. More than 1100 attendees throughout the U.S. and internationally attended the three-day conference. [Read more about the new center.](#)

## PSC Approves Two New Programs

The College of Education now has Professional Standards Commission (PSC) approved programs in the newly developed certification fields of Instructional Technology and in Curriculum and Instruction. These changes mark a step forward in COE's continuing efforts to improve and advance its programs, offering students greater educational opportunities in a variety of settings that meet their specific needs.



COE adds a certification concentration for Instructional Technology as an option in the Instructional Technology M.Ed. degree. It also offers a School Library Media Specialist certification concentration in the M.Ed. and a new dual-certification concentration option for those seeking certification in both School Library Media and Instructional Technology. Additional Instructional Technology offerings include add-on certifications in Instructional Technology or School Library Media and an Ed.S. in Instructional Technology. All of the Instructional Technology programs are 100 percent online. [Read more about the new programs.](#)

## COE, RESA Collaborate in "Poverty Simulation"



*Georgia Southern Investigator Danny Garrigus role plays arresting negligent parents played by middle grades students Kathryn Mannes (with baby) and Lindy Humphrey.*

About 70 students and faculty from COE's Department of Teaching & Learning experienced the virtual realities of poverty in a unique poverty simulation conducted by the First District Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA). The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) was designed to help people better understand the realities of families living at or below the poverty line.

Using a simulation kit, the Special Education and Middle Grades students role-played the lives of low-income families. Although it uses "play" money and other props, fictional scenarios and time limits, CAPS is not a game. It is a simulation tool that enables participants to view poverty from different angles in an experiential setting. COE and RESA have been working together to bring the poverty simulation to teacher candidates for more than 15 years.



COE Dean Tom Koballa hosted another of his popular "Donuts with the Dean" to meet informally with students, faculty and staff.

### Give a Centennial Plaza Brick



Salute the past, capture the present, and ignite the future with a commemorative brick in Centennial Plaza on the campus of Georgia Southern University. The engraved bricks make wonderful gifts for alumni, favorite professors, an individual who has made a difference in your life, and loved ones including parents and children.

Your commemorative brick purchase (\$100) includes an engraved brick installed in the wheel of the Centennial Plaza, a certificate of ownership and a mini replica.

These purchases are 100% tax deductible and will support undergraduate and graduate student scholarships.

[For information, call \(912\) 478-5200 or click here.](#)

### Faculty News

Curriculum, Foundations & Reading Professor **Ming Fang He** has been elected as Vice President of Division B (Curriculum Studies) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Her election marks the first time the AERA's Division B has elected a vice president from a non RU/VH university (research university, very high research activity). He's election means that COE's Ed.D. Curriculum Studies Program is now recognized nationally and internationally.



Prof. Ming Fang He

Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor **Olufunke Adefope** was selected to participate in the Service, Teaching & Research Summer Institute (STaR) hosted and funded by the University of Missouri. The prestigious program is designed to provide mathematics education faculty with an opportunity to collaborate on research and best practices for teaching, research and service.

Professor **Alejandro Gallard**, Goizueta Distinguished Chair of Education, and Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor **Katie Brkich** have been invited to present at a special forum as part of the journal *Cultural Studies of Science Education* and Springer Publishers journal to the annual meeting of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching this spring.

Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor **Eric Landers** has been asked to speak at the 33rd Annual Louisiana's Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice this spring.

Leadership, Technology & Human Development Assistant Professor **Daniel Calhoun** was recently elected to serve for a 3-year term (2013-2016) on the Directorate of the American College Personnel Association's Commission for Professional Preparation.

Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor **Nancy McBride Arrington** presented "Preparing our Future Teachers for Civic Leadership: Introducing Early Childhood Teaching Candidates to Service-Learning Through a Field Experience Choice Assignment" at the 2013 Gulf South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement Through Higher Education in Louisville, Kentucky.



*A Curriculum of Place: Understandings Emerging through the Southern Mist*, edited by Curriculum, Foundations & Reading Associate Professor **William Reynolds** was just published by Peter Lang Publishers. Reynolds and three additional CFR faculty (**Robert Lake**, **Ming Fang He** and **Sabrina Ross**) contributed essays as did Teaching & Learning Associate Professor **Julie Maudlin**. CFR faculty **Wendy Chambers** contributed the cover art. Additionally, **Ming Fang He's** essay is co-authored with five graduate students. One chapter is authored by CFR alumni **Donald Livingston**.





COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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For questions about supporting the College of Education, please contact [Dawn Oliver](#), Director of Development.

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**Alumni News**

**1960-69**

[Jeff Brannen](#) ('67 B.S. Ed.) is a retired firefighter/paramedic.

**1970-79**

[Deborah \(Oliver\) MacDonald](#) ('72 B.S. Ed. Elementary Education) is retired and now lives part time in Daytona Beach Shores and Waynesboro, GA. She and her husband are Eagles season ticket holders.

[Rebecca \(Morgan\) Dorminey](#) ('76 M.Ed. Early Childhood, B.S. Ed., '70) lives in Cordele, GA.

[Vikki \(Edenfield\) Womack](#) ('78 B.S. Ed. Early Childhood, M.Ed. Early Childhood) retired from teaching first grade at Swainsboro Primary in 2008 after 33 years. Vikki still remains active with the school and is very active with her grandchildren.

[Fredda \(Coleman\) Haltiwanger](#) ('79 B.S. Ed. Special Education) is a retired special education teacher living in Bamberg, SC.

**1980-89**

[Gloria \(Riley\) Boney](#) ('89 M.Ed. Exceptional Children, B.S. Ed. Exceptional Children) is retired and lives in Statesboro, GA.

**1990-99**

[William Bomar](#) ('91 M.Ed. Secondary Ed/Social Science) is the director of the University of Alabama's Moundville Archaeological Park and Museum. While directing a major capital campaign, Bomar also completed his Ph.D. in higher education administration. He lives Tuscaloosa, AL.

[Kem Dennard](#) ('91 B.S. Ed. Early Childhood) has been named the Teacher of the Year at Langston Chapel Elementary School in Bulloch County where she teaches third grade.

[Sharon Barrow](#) ('95 B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) works for Ware County Public Schools and is the newly elected president of Tau Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators and department head for school counselors at Ware County High School.

[Neil Aspinwall](#) ('99 Ed.D., Education Specialist, M.Ed., B.S. Ed.) was recently appointed as the Chancellor of SOWELA Technical Community College in Lake Charles, LA.

[Amanda \(Stringer\) Hardee](#) ('99 B.S. Ed. Special Education) was named the Special Education Teacher of the Year for Wayne County, GA.

**2000-09**

[Wallace Ingram](#) ('03 Ed.S. Counselor Education) is employed by Richmond Hill High School.

[Dennis Carpenter](#) ('09 Ed.D. Education Administration) is the new superintendent for the Hickman-Hills C-1 School District in south Kansas City.

[Lindsey Wallace](#) ('09 B.S.Ed. Secondary Education) works for the Allatoona High School, Cobb County School District and was named 2009-2010 New Teacher of the Year (Hiram High School-Paulding County, GA)

**2010-**

[John Cook](#) ('11 MAT Secondary Education, Economics) was chosen as the Georgia Council of Economics Education Economics Teacher of the Year.

