COE Graduate Named Georgia Teacher of the Year

Jemelleh Nurse Coes, a special education English language arts and reading teacher at Langston Chapel Middle School in Bulloch County, has been named the 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year. Coes, a College of Education alumna, received her B.S. Ed., Special Education, in 2008 and M.Ed., Teaching and Learning, in 2010 with a concentration in instructional improvement. Her involvement with COE didn’t end with her degrees. Coes is also a clinical supervisor, helping give educator candidates meaningful field experiences.

"We are extremely proud that once again one of our graduates has been recognized for their exemplary teaching," said COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "Being named Georgia Teacher of the Year is a testament not only to Jemella's professionalism and ability but also to her commitment to students and life-long learning," he continued. Read more about Coes here.

COE's Service Noted in President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award

Georgia Southern was recently named in the 2013 President's HigherEducation Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The award recognizes the commitment of students, faculty and staff to community service in many areas, including those of COE's education candidates. This is the first time Georgia Southern has applied for and been recognized with the award. The data from the 2011-12 academic year indicated that 1670 pre-service educators contributed 305,860 hours. Read more about the award here.

UK Student Exchange Marks 10-Year Anniversary

The arrival of eleven teacher candidates in Sheffield, England, this spring marked a special anniversary for the College of Education. For a decade, the COE has been a part of a student exchange program that has
Studies Summer Collaborative Conference

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Online M.Ed., Ed.S. & Endorsement Programs Now Enrolling

An M.Ed., Ed.S. or endorsement can give your career a boost — and you don't even need to take time away from home or work. COE's online M.Ed., Ed.S. and endorsement programs meet all PSC requirements for certificate upgrades. Programs include C&I-Accomplished Teaching, Early Childhood Education, Instructional Technology, Middle Grades Education, Reading Education, Secondary Education, and Special Education. The Special Education and Early Childhood master's programs can be completed in one year.

Teaching endorsements are available in Online Teaching and Learning, ESOL and Reading. Deadline for application is July.
Visit COE's Graduate Academic Services Center for more information on registration.

Faculty, Students Raise Funds for Free Book Program

It started with a COE alumna reaching out to a former professor. Six months later, the Bulloch County Community Action Team (CAT) for the Ferst Foundation has already raised over $6,000 for books for children from birth to age five. The Ferst Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to ensuring that all Georgia's children from birth to age 5 have access to developmentally appropriate reading materials that will ensure they will start school ready to learn. Community groups coordinate fundraising and register children for the program. There is no cost to any child or family. Children are sent one age-appropriate book a month through the mail.

Ashleigh Wright, a 2003 COE graduate and teacher at Southeast Bulloch High School, spearheaded the formation of the group. Associate Professors Christine Draper and Michelle Reidel, Assistant Professors Nancy Arrington and Lina Soares, Clinical Instructor Shelley Woodward and the COE's Field Placement Director, Patricia Parsons, are part of the Community Action Team.

The CAT has held several fundraisers with the help of local businesses and members of Georgia Southern's Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi, and earlier this month the Downtown Statesboro Rotary generously contributed $3,600 which will support 100 students in the upcoming year. The group is planning their next fundraiser, a registration drive and a community-based literacy event. If you would like to join or support the CAT contact Michelle Reidel at mreidel@georgiasouthern.edu

Chris Thompson Named Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students

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Chris Thompson, director of the Student Success Center, was named the Georgia Southern University 2013 Staff Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students. In supporting her nomination, COE Dean Thomas Koballa said Thompson "works tirelessly to support the
success of first-year students" and engaged the center's staff in "professional learning that targets strategies to support first-year students."

Thompson was one of 35 faculty, staff and administrators nominated for the First-Year awards. Also named was Visiting Instructor in Writing and Linguistics Leigh Ann Williams as the 2013 faculty recipient. Several of Thompson's Goal Setting FYE students wrote in support of her nomination that she helped them think more critically about themselves and to embrace "differences in our lives and accept each other without judgment." This is not the first time Thompson has been recognized for her dedication to the success and well-being of students. In 2006, she received a merit award.

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