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Southern Educator

February 2015

Volume 4 Issue 2

Upcoming Events

February 20-21 14th Annual Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference for Research, Action and Change

February 21 Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl Children

February 25 M.Ed. in Counselor Education Information Session

February 27 Lecture: "Addressing Disparities in Academic Medicine"

March 1-4 National Youth-At-Risk Conference

March 5-6 Fourth Annual Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference

March 10 Brown Bag Lunch Speaker Series

March 11 Eagle QuaRC Speaker Series

March 27 COE Visit Day

March 28 COE Scholarship Luncheon

March 28 COE Board of Advisors Meeting

[More announcements](#)

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE: OVERCOMING POVERTY, VIOLENCE, AND FAILURE

March 1-4, 2015 Hyatt Regency Hotel On The Historic Riverfront in Savannah, GA

26th Annual NATIONAL YOUTH-AT-RISK CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY College of Education's National Youth-At-Risk Center & The Division of Continuing Education at Georgia Southern University

SUNDAY • MARCH 1	MONDAY • MARCH 2	WEDNESDAY • MARCH 4
 <p>MARCIA L. TATE President and Executive Committee of Opportunity Works, Inc., Cary, NC</p> <p>Workshops Don't Grow Dendrites: 28 Instructional Strategies That Engage the Brain</p>	 <p>GEOFFREY CANADA Executive, Social Action Fund (Formerly, Harlem Children's Zone, New York City, NY)</p> <p>The Crisis Facing Youth: What Adults & Communities Can Do to Save Our Children</p>	 <p>JANE BLUESTEIN Executive Director, Center for Professional Support Services, Chapel Hill, NC</p> <p>The "Core" of the Matter: Creating a Community for Making Complex Core State Standards Work</p>

Details @ www.nationalyouthatrisk.org or Call 1.855.478.5551

Early Childhood Education M.Ed. Earns Top 25 by *The Best Schools*

COE ranked number six on *The Best School's* "25 Best Online Master in Education in Early Childhood Education Degree Programs." Rankings for the article were determined by several weighted factors including academic excellence, course offerings, faculty strengths and overall reputation. TheBestSchools.org is a leading resource for prospective students seeking a college or university degree.



Assistant Professor Katie Brkich is program coordinator for the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education.

"We strive for excellence in all our educator and educator leader programs in whatever platform they're offered," commented Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., dean and professor of COE. "We're pleased that our graduate degree in early childhood education has earned a top ranking. The degree gives educators the opportunity to take the next steps in becoming an expert in meeting the diverse needs of students from Pre-K through fifth grade," he continued.

The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education is 100 percent online. COE offers graduate degrees in a traditional face-to-face format, completely online and in a hybrid, or executive, model. "Today's students, whether in-service educators or those working in other professional settings, need the flexibility our programs offer while being guaranteed the most rigorous and highest quality educational experience," Koballa continued.

The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education is designed for individuals who currently hold a Professional Level Four

Certificate or equivalent in early childhood education. The M.Ed. can be completed in one year.

Centennial Plaza Bricks

What's your story?

"Since coming to Georgia Southern in summer of 2004 as a high school junior I fell in love with the campus and had my sights set on coming here for college. My parents purchased my brick as a surprise since they bought my sister one when she graduated from her University. When I received the small brick I immediately put it in my office along with all of my other mementos from my years here at Georgia Southern, my lantern from the Lantern Walk and my Graduation tassel. It is nice to know that no matter where I go in life there will always be a small part of me represented here on campus!"

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. The possibilities are endless!

Your commemorative brick purchase (\$100) includes an engraved brick installed in the wheel of the Centennial Plaza, a certificate of ownership suitable for framing, and a mini replica for you to keep as a memento. Up to three lines, with words of your choosing, can be engraved on your brick.

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

[Click here for more information.](#)

Southern Educator

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Young Artists Showcased at COE Event

Sen. Jack Hill makes surprise visit

Sen. Jack Hill (Reidsville), made a surprise visit to the opening of the annual K-12 art exhibit at COE earlier this month. Hill, chair of the Appropriations Committee, found time during the busy legislative session to travel to Statesboro to greet a room full of excited K-12 students and their families and teachers. A strong supporter of the arts in schools, Sen. Hill said "I believe art and music have such a positive effect on students and not just in developing talent

but in the rest of their lives."

Southern's Art

Extravaganza: A

Georgia Southern and P-12

Partnership has showcased hundreds of young artists for the past eleven

years. Featured artists in the show were selected by a certified art teacher. Their art is framed and hangs on the second

floor of the COE classroom building

where it will remain for a year. [Click here for more on the event.](#)



NYAR Center Names High Flying Schools in Georgia

COE's National Youth-At-Risk Center announced in advance of its 2015 national conference that three Georgia schools have been honored as "High Flying Schools."



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With at least 50 percent of their students living at or below poverty level and with a highly diverse student body, the three high achieving

schools will be honored during the 26th Annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference, March 1 - 4, 2015, in Savannah, Georgia. The winning schools are Louisville Middle School, Jefferson County; Kendrick High School, Muscogee County; and Fowler Drive Elementary, Clark County. They were chosen for their achievements in attaining academic success, community collaboration, citizenship development and democratic education, according to COE Professor Dan Rea, co-director of the NYAR Center.

The conference draws educators, counselors, social workers, criminal justice professionals and community leaders, with substantial participation nationally and internationally.

NYAR also announced the launch of its journal. The journal is an open-access, peer-reviewed online journal that publishes educational articles on how to reduce harmful risk conditions and promote the well-being of all youth, especially vulnerable youth in schools, families and communities. The journal is edited by COE Professor Cordelia Zinskie.

The journal, published twice a year, is now accepting submissions. [Click here for more information.](#)



**GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY**

NATIONAL YOUTH-AT-RISK CENTER

"Helping Adults Serve Youth"

Faculty News



Assistant Professor Antonio Gutierrez, Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, has published "Effects of Strategy Training and Incentives on Students' Performance, Confidence, and Calibration" with Gregory Schraw, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in *The Journal of Experimental Education*.



Associate Professor Christine Draper, Department of Teaching and Learning, and School Partnership Coordinator, has been selected to serve as the national chair for the Notables Children's Books in Language Arts Committee.



Assistant Professor Nancy Arrington, Department of Teaching and Learning, has published with Hsiu-Lien Lu, Center for Teacher Education, Taiwan, "Assessing Our Students Assessing Their Students: Support and Impact of Preservice Teachers on P-5 Student Learning," in Taylor & Francis Online.

Associate Professor Fayth Parks, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, was a featured speaker at TEDxAugusta last month. She spoke on "How Culture Connects to Healing and Recovery." Parks is in the counselor education program.



Alumni News

Zabrina Cannady ('09 Ed.D. Education Administration) was named assistant superintendent for student services in the Houston County school system.

Stephanie Lane ('89 Ed.S., M.Ed., '94 Middle Grades) was recently selected as the WTOC (Savannah) Top Teacher.

Diana Bishop ('10 M.Ed. and current Ed.D. Student in Curriculum Studies) won a Cobb County School Foundation Teacher Impact Grant to provide funding for instructional materials to initiate an American Sign Language enrichment class at Lassiter High School. Bishop was also named to the Cobb Education Consortium Leadership Academy, a solution-based collaborative of public K-12 schools, technical colleges and universities in Cobb County.

Jerry Knox, a M.Ed. Secondary Education student, was awarded an Innovation in Teaching award by Governor Nathan Deal. Knox is a mathematics and science teacher at the Academy of Richmond County.

Alumni: received special recognition or won an award? Let us know at collegeofed@georgiasouthern.edu or fill out our alumni survey [here](#). Next month we'll include all your responses from the alumni survey. Keep the news coming!