

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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CIT's Williams Named Distinguished Professor by Computer Research Association

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

Susan Williams, chair of Information Systems in the College of Information Technology at Georgia Southern University, has been named a distinguished professor by the Computer Research Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Computing.

Williams co-delivered the presentation 'Getting Promoted to Full Professor' at the association's workshop Cohort of Associate Professors Project, held in Fort Meyers, Fla. The workshop was sponsored through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

'This workshop focused on helping provide suggestions to female associate professors on how they can progress toward becoming a full professor,' said Williams.

As the only full professor in a computer-related discipline at Georgia Southern, Williams said she was honored to be named a distinguished professor by the organization.

'Being part of a national workshop is a very positive experience,' said Williams. 'It illustrates that the faculty and computing programs here at Georgia Southern are gaining increased recognition.'

In addition to her presentation, Williams worked with attendees, reviewing their curriculum vitae and discussing challenges and strategies they might face in advancing toward full professorship.

'At the smaller colleges, these women may be the only female professor in their department,' said Williams. 'It is important for them to have role models they can look to for advice. I look forward to continuing to foster relationships with the participants I met at the workshop and providing them guidance and support in their careers.'

CIT Professor Greets President

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

When President George Bush paid a visit to Georgia Southern University Monday, Camille Rogers was there to officially greet him.

Rogers, an assistant professor of information systems in the College of Information Technology (CIT), was chosen to serve as an official presidential greeter along with two students, Eric Cumbee and Jesse Tyler. The students were members of the University's College Republicans, which sponsored the event.

'We were selected by Max Burns' office because of our various volunteer work,' said Rogers, who has served as an adult leader for the Girls Scouts for seven years and helped organize several blood drives held at CIT. She also is helping with Burns' congressional campaign.

'It was an honor to meet the president,' Rogers said. 'Max introduced us telling President Bush that not only had he hired me 12 years ago to be on the faculty, but I was one of the campus' best teachers.'

Rogers said President Bush expressed his appreciation for her community and military service. Afterward, they discussed their mutual faith and Rogers told the president that he and her daughter Faith shared the same birth date July 6.

Lanier presented with John Neff Award by Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

An assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Georgia Southern University has been honored by a state organization.

Susie Lanier is the 2006 recipient of the John Neff Award, which is presented annually by the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM).

The GCTM encourages an active interest in mathematics and mathematics education. The organization also promotes ongoing professional development and rewards excellence in the teaching of mathematics in Georgia.

The Neff Award is presented to a GCMT member who demonstrates excellence as a full-time postsecondary instructor. The recipient inspires students and serves as a mentor and advocate of mathematics and mathematics education.

Lanier has been a member of Georgia Southern's faculty for 23 years. She teaches math content courses for math education majors.

In addition, Lanier serves as chairperson of the Georgia Southern Mathematics Tournament, an annual event that attracts hundreds of middle and high school students to the University campus.

Lanier received a B.S. and an M.S.T. in mathematics education from Georgia Southern. She earned a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Georgia.

This marks the second year in a row that a Georgia Southern faculty member has captured the Neff Award. David Stone, a professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, earned the honor in 2005.

The award is named for John Neff, a long-time member of the School of Mathematics at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a dedicated supporter of the GCTM.

For more information on the GCTM, visit <http://www.gctm.org> .

"Lost Boys" return to Georgia Southern

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

Two 'Lost Boys of Sudan' make a return visit to Georgia Southern University to discuss their refugee experience on Monday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. in Russell Union Ballroom. The two, Jacob Magot and Nathaniel Nyok, are part of a group of orphaned refugees, the 'Lost Boys,' who journeyed to the United States after they were forced from their villages as young children.

Their story began in 1987 in southern Sudan. As the boys tended their cattle, extremist Islamic Arabs from northern Sudan attacked their villages, killing their parents and sisters. The now-orphaned boys ran away and headed east. Weeks went by before they reached an Ethiopian refugee camp.

When war broke out in Ethiopia, the boys were forced to return to Sudan and walk on to Kenya. Years passed before the United States sympathized with their plight and opened its doors to the 'Lost Boys.' In 2001, nearly 4,000 'Lost Boys' came to the United States seeking freedom, peace and education.

'It is a little complex, what it means to be a Lost Boy, what it took for us to become Lost Boys,'" Magot said. 'I'm a grown-up man now, but I have lost an important time in my life to be a child.'

The 'Lost Boys' presentation is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Multicultural Student Center and the Center for International Studies. For more information, call (912) 681-5409.

Museum lecture series will focus on Islam

NOVEMBER 2, 2006

The Georgia Southern Museum will welcome an international array of distinguished speakers who will talk about the many aspects of Islam.

The lecture series and student panel discussion are being held in conjunction with the 'Islam in Belief and Practice' exhibit, which will remain on display in the Museum through the end of the year.

The schedule of related events is as follows:

- Monday, Nov. 6, 3:30 p.m. 'Islamic Civilization and Its Influence on Europe' will be presented by Vernon Egger, a professor in the Department of History at Georgia Southern.
- Thursday, Nov. 9, 3:30 p.m. 'Sufism and Islam in South Asia' will be presented by Meenakshi Khanna, a senior lecturer in the Department of History at Indraprastha College for Women in Delhi, India, and a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Monday, Nov. 13, 3:30 p.m. 'Raising Children in the United States: Problems Muslim Parents Face' will be presented by Imam Mubasher Ahmad, the imam of the Baet-ul-Jaamay Mosque in Glen Ellyn, Ill., and a former associate professor of English at the University of Peshawar in Pakistan.
- Wednesday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m. 'Islamic Economics: Work Ethics and Business Practice' will be presented by Waleed El-Ansary, an assistant professor of religion at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.
- Monday, Nov. 27, 3:30 p.m. 'Muslim Student Panel Discussion.' Led by Nazim Ali, a group of Georgia Southern students will talk about their experiences in the U.S.

Free and open to the public, all of the events will be held at the Museum, which is located on Southern Drive.

In addition, John Parcels, the curator of the 'Islam in Belief and Practice' exhibit, is available for lectures and guided tours that can be scheduled through the Museum.

For more information, call (912) 681-5444.