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GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners

Southern Educator

May 2015

Volume 4 Issue 5

Upcoming Events



June 7-9 Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support



June 10-13 Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative



June 18-19 COE Summer Graduate Research Workshop

[See full calendar here.](#)

COE Graduates Over 300 Educators and Educational Leaders at Spring

Summer = Professional Development for Area Educators

When public schools close their doors for the summer, classroom teachers get a chance for some hands-on professional development by participating in Teacher Quality Grants.

This year just 28 of the 62 Teacher Quality Grants were funded. Funding comes through the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia from the U.S. Department of Education as part of the "No Child Left Behind Act." The grants specifically aim at strengthening and deepening teachers' content knowledge in their academic subject areas with emphasis on how this new knowledge affects teaching practices and student learning.

Two of the 28 funded grants went to COE. "Blue Bloods and Red Knots of Sapelo Island: An Inquiry into Interdependence," is a renewal of a previously funded grant that targets middle and high school level public school science teachers in the area of ecological inquiry and earth science.

The object of the inquiry is the interdependence of Atlantic Horseshoe Crabs and the migratory Red Knot shorebird of Sapelo Island,



Last year's TQ grant participants pose with a poster on their research.

Commencement

Additional 97 graduate students scheduled for summer commencement.

COE sent over 300 educators and educational leaders into area and regional school systems this



month with graduation ceremonies at Georgia Southern University.

For most COE degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate level, candidates must also pass state certification exams to graduate and teach in their fields.

"As always, we're extremely proud of all of our graduates," commented COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "They've chosen an exciting, and challenging, career path and one that is sure to make a difference. Educators at all levels touch so many lives," he continued.

Nearly 100 candidates will receive graduate degrees this summer, bringing the total number of graduate degrees conferred spring and summer to 338.

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Georgia. Teachers will learn to create guided inquiry lessons for their own classrooms. The week-long summer science course -- with a spring preview and post course review by grant faculty -- also targets Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. Faculty leading the grant include Professor Missy Bennett, Instructor Heather Scott and Associate Professor Yasar Bodur, all from the Department of Teaching and Learning, and Professor Fred Rich, Department of Geology.

COE Dean Thomas Koballa and Dr. Mare Timmons, UGA Marine Extension Service, were awarded a grant, "The Georgia Shore Program," a STEM



The Marine Education Center and Aquarium main building on Skidaway Island, Savannah, Georgia.

(science, technology, engineering and mathematics) based grant. The project provides up to 16 K-12 teachers with an in-depth study of marine and

environmental sciences and cross disciplinary subjects during a two-week summer residential program on Skidaway Island, Georgia.

COE Ranks in Top Tier of Best Online Graduate Programs for Veterans

COE's online graduate programs ranked number 63 in *U.S. News & World Report's* just released "Best Online Programs for Veterans."

The rankings covered online bachelor's degree programs and master's degree programs in business, education, engineering,



computer information technology and nursing. To qualify for the "Best Online Programs for Veterans" rankings, the 737 online degree programs featured first had to be among the [top 75 percent of schools ranked in the "2015 Best Online Programs."](#) For those rankings, *U.S. News* "evaluated regionally accredited degree-granting programs on a number of factors, which, depending on the discipline, could have included their affordability,



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faculty credentials, student services and reputation," according to a news release.

Programs had to be certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, two initiatives sponsored by the federal government to help veterans reduce the cost of school. Public schools that don't participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program still qualified if they offer in-state tuition to student veterans from out of state. Click here for more information on the ["Best Online Programs for Veterans Rankings."](#)

Ed.D. Candidates Recognized for Research

Two COE doctoral students were recognized



Ed.D. candidate Amy Zieziula.

this spring for their research at the [2015 Annual Georgia Southern University Research Symposium](#). Amy Zieziula, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, won first place in presentations in the "Education and Learning" category. Christy

Howard, Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies, was awarded second place in presentations in the same category.



Ed.D. candidate Christy Howard.



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