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### Southern Educator

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

*Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners*

# Southern Educator

August 2015

Volume 4 Issue 8

## Upcoming Events



**August 17 Fall 2015 Classes Begin**

**Sept. 7 Labor Day -- No Classes,  
Faculty & Staff Holiday**

**Sept. 18 Global Education Summit**

**Sept. 25 Georgia International  
Conference on Information  
Literacy**

**Sept. 30 Eagle Expo Career Fair**

**Oct. 7 Graduate School Fair**

**Oct. 16 Georgia Educational  
Research Association**

GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015  
CORTESE GEORGIA CENTER  
SAVANNAH, GA



## U.S. Rep. Rick Allen Participates in Educator Workforce Roundtable

U.S. Congressman Rick Allen, representing Georgia's 12th District, participated this month in a COE facilitated discussion on educator workforce development.

"Educator workforce development is such a critical issue and cuts across all levels of government," said COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "We were extremely pleased that Rep. Allen could participate in the discussion." Participants included COE faculty, staff and board of advisors members; local K-12 leaders; and University administrators including Georgia Southern Interim President Jean Bartels.

"As a member of the House Education and Workforce Committee, I appreciated the opportunity to hear their input and discuss how we can best empower educators at all levels," Rep. Allen said.

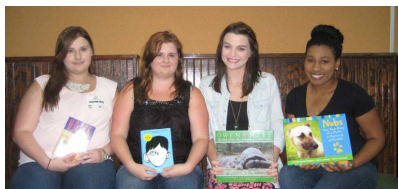


[See full calendar here.](#)

## Faculty, Students & Alum Create Summer Book Club

Educators know it as "summer slide," the unfortunate loss in reading achievement that can happen when students stop reading during the summer holiday.

In an effort to keep local children reading, Associate Professor Christine Draper, Professor Michael Moore, Associate Professor Michelle Reidel and Assistant Professor Amanda Wall developed a book club pilot project for interested students at Bulloch County's Boys & Girls Club.



L-R: Allison Lawrence, Courtney Lawrence, Meg Pennington and Tiara Willingham.

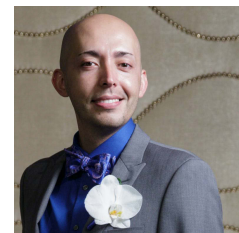
The result was two book clubs that kept children reading seven weeks during the summer. One club, for second and third graders, was led by Tiara Willingham ('15, B.S.Ed. Middle Grades Education) and Meg Pennington (undergraduate Middle Grades Education). Sisters Allison Lawrence (M.A.T. Secondary English Education) and Courtney Lawrence (undergraduate Middle Grades Education) led a club for fourth and fifth graders. The clubs



Bottom right group photo (L-R) back row: COE student Jasmyn Mikel, First District RESA Executive Director Whit Myers, COE Dean Thomas Koballa, COE Faculty Michael Moore, Rep. Rick Allen, COE Dept. Chair Bruce Field, COE Dir. of Field Experiences & Partnerships Pat Parsons, STEM Center Director Bob Mayes, Claxon High Principal Justin Russell, Bulloch BOE Superintendent Charles Wilson. Front row (L-R) Interim Georgia Southern President Jean Bartels, COE Board Member Genie Fulcher, COE student Alyce Wells, COE GASC Director Lydia Cross.

## COE and Nursing College Awarded \$1.5 Million Educational Grant

COE Assistant Professor Antonio Gutierrez, working with Georgia Southern's School of Nursing, has been awarded a 3-year, \$1.5 million grant to help create an Advanced Practice Nurse-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (APN-PMHNP) track to serve the psychiatric/mental health needs of south Georgia's rural and underserved community.



COE Assistant Professor Antonio Gutierrez

"This educational program development grant will allow Georgia Southern's nursing faculty to develop this much needed psychiatric mental health specialization, which will aid in improving the mental health of residents in rural Georgia. Being part of this interdisciplinary team of scholar-educators will help me learn more about these topics as well as to serve by helping the team evaluate the success of the program. I am very excited to embark on this mission with them," Gutierrez said. [Read full story.](#)

## Youth-At-Risk Center Awards First Research

were a huge success, and faculty plan to expand the project to host book clubs for children grades one through seven next summer.

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## Southern Educator

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## Grants

COE's National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center, now in its second year of operation, has awarded its first research grants to COE faculty. "One of the goals



of the NYAR Center is to support COE faculty and doctoral student research projects related to serving youth

placed at risk," said Professor Dan Rea, co-director of the center. Associate Professor Eric Landers, co-director of the center, further stated, "We were pleased with the number and quality of the grant proposals submitted for our first round of awards and believe this is the start of creating a substantive body of research that will be accessible and useful for all those working with youth placed at risk."

Two research grants were awarded. "Computer Science Education in Rural Schools" and "The Impact of a CrossFit Intervention for Youth At Risk at the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County." [Read full story.](#)

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## COE Students Ready for New Certification Requirements

COE students are prepared for the new teacher performance-based assessment, called edTPA, which is now a state requirement for all new teacher certification in addition to the Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators (GACE) content exam.

"Our faculty began piloting edTPA during spring 2013 with students in our Special Education program, commented COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "We involved additional students and programs over the next few semesters while also making any needed program changes to ensure the goals of edTPA are fully embedded in all programs," he explained.

The new assessment is a portfolio-based capstone completed during student teaching that requires a teacher candidate to demonstrate their ability to plan, teach and assess their teaching effectiveness and ability to positively impact student learning. The submitted portfolio includes teaching materials, video clips of their teaching and reflections justifying

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video clips of their teaching and reflections justifying their planning, teaching and assessments of student learning. [Read full story.](#)



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