First STEM Fest Draws Thousands

More than 2,000 parents and children -- from toddlers to high schoolers -- descended on the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center at Georgia Southern September 14 for the first annual STEM Fest, a hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The festival was an outreach endeavor of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education, directed by COE Professor Robert Mayes. Kania Greer, Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education grant coordinator, and Associate Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics Karin Scarprinato were instrumental in organizing the event.

Assistant Professor Katie Brkich, Department of Teaching and Learning, coordinated nine activity tables with more than 20 Georgia Southern volunteers, most of whom are COE majors. "It was so exciting to see children and parents lined up at different stations and out the doors like they were waiting for a rock concert or movie premier, but instead they were that excited about STEM activities," Brkich said. The volunteers interacted with all the participants to make sure they understood the concept behind the activity.

STEM Institute Director Mayes was equally surprised by the large attendance. "I was amazed at the school and parental response to the first STEM Fest," he said. "We were hoping for 500 participants and got four times that number. Thanks to all the faculty and both graduate and undergraduate students who created the wonderful hands-on STEM experiences for the participants and spent their Saturday engaged with kids of all ages. The STEM Fest is an excellent example of how Georgia Southern can serve the lower coastal plain of Georgia as a center for science, technology, engineering and mathematics," he added.
develop a domain general model of emergent interactive learning processes that can be applied to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education environments where students are learning to innovate. The researchers are in the process of creating an instrument that can be used to measure the characteristics of these types of learning environments and testing that instrument in conjunction with other existing measures. Co-principal investigators are Jenefer Husman and Sarah Brem from Arizona State University.

New Books Published


Faculty News

New Faculty:

COE's Department of Teaching and Learning welcomed four new faculty this fall.

Catherine Suzann Howerter: Assistant Professor Catherine Howerter received her undergraduate degree in elementary and special education from Carlow University, a master's in educational psychology from New York University and her doctorate in special education from the University of Nevada. Her research interests include collaboration, co-teaching, access to the general education curriculum for students with disabilities and preservice teacher education.

Alisa Leckie: Assistant Professor Alisa Leckie received her undergraduate degree in English education from the University of Arizona, a master's in bilingual/multicultural education from the University of Arizona and her doctorate in teaching, learning and sociocultural studies from the University of Arizona. Her research interests are in the education of language for minority students, critical analysis of policies impacting education, literacy across the content areas and adolescent literacy.

Aslihan Unal: Assistant Professor Aslihan Unal received her undergraduate degree in elementary education from Pamukkale University in Denizli, Turkey. She received a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Missouri and her doctorate in elementary education from Florida State University. Her research interests include assessment of teaching and learning, technology in education, classroom management and parental involvement.

Nancy Amanda Wall: Assistant Professor Amanda Wall received her undergraduate degree in Latin and Greek from Brown University, a master's in teaching Latin and classical humanities from the University of Massachusetts, and her doctorate in teacher education from the University of North Carolina. Her research interests include middle grades, motivation and adolescent literacy.

Promotions:

Promotion to Associate Professor: Lorraine Gilpin
is published on the last Wednesday of the month by Georgia Southern University College of Education
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Promotion to Associate Professor: Charles Hodges
Promotion to Associate Professor & Tenure: Sally Brown, Sabrina Ross and Dawn Tysinger

Retired:
Professor James Green, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development
Professor Susan Trimble, Department of Teaching and Learning

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