Summer classes, conferences, research and grants kept faculty busy this summer, and now fall semester 2013 is just around the corner. Here are some highlights from happenings around COE in July.

**Real STEM:** This summer, teachers from Statesboro High School, Camden County High School, Burke County High School and Ware County High School spent a week in COE's DIGI lab as part of a Race-to-the-Top Innovation Fund Enterprise Grant funded through the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Called "Real STEM," the grant enabled teachers to work with COE faculty to create a STEM scientific research class that they will begin teaching fall semester 2013. It wasn't all pedagogy for these teachers. To craft a place-based and problem-based STEM research class, they worked in a bioswale; took a boat trip along the Ocmulgee, Oconee and then the Altamaha rivers to where it empties into the Atlantic; did research on Sapelo Island and measured the Savannah River's water quality. PI: Robert Mayes, Department of Teaching and Learning and Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education.

**Environmental Concerns: Georgia Sea Turtle Center:** The goal of this Teacher Quality summer grant was to deepen teachers' knowledge about environmental concerns related to the unique species and habitats of Georgia's barrier islands. Teachers are able to enhance their teaching practice and improve student learning by incorporating real life examples of scientific methodology, inquiry and technology into their curriculum. PIs: Marti Shriver and Karen Chassereau, Department of Teaching and Learning; and Kelly Vance, Department of Geology and Geography.

**Savannah River Basin: Problem-based, Place-based STEM (SRB):** Another Teacher Quality grant brought together 13 teachers from Richmond County to study the Savannah River. Teachers worked in professional learning communities within each school to develop interdisciplinary hands-on, problem-based learning modules for students. PIs: Robert Mayes, Department of Teaching and Learning and Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education; and Lissa Leege, Department of Biology.

**Blue Bloods and Red Knots of Sapelo Island: An Investigation into Inquiry:** Sixteen middle and high school science teachers representing 11 Georgia school systems enhanced their content knowledge and pedagogy
COE’s Graduate Academic Services Center, was named as Outstanding Counseling Student of the Year by the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. 

Trevis Killen, an Ed.D. candidate in educational administration, was recently installed as the president of the School Social Workers Association of Georgia. 

Dana McCullough, an Ed.D. candidate in curriculum studies was interviewed for the summer issue of Teaching Tolerance, the magazine of the Teaching Tolerance organization (a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center), about her work on “Henrietta Lack’s Day” in Evans County.

Workshop on New GACE Tests: COE faculty and staff, as well as other education professionals, participated in an all-day workshop on the new Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) test. Click here for more information on the new GACE tests.

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Department Spotlight: Teaching and Learning

COE’s Department of Teaching and Learning rolled out two new degree programs for the M.Ed. in Special Education and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Each program is online and can be completed in one year. Click here for more information on Teaching and Learning's graduate programs.

Faculty News

Associate Professor Kymberly Drawdy, Department of Teaching and Learning, has been asked to participate in the Georgia Department of Education’s “First Annual Statewide Summit on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS).” The goals of the two-day summit are to increase awareness in and understanding of PBIS and to develop a statewide PBIS implementation plan to make PBIS available to all Georgia schools.

Assistant Professor Devon Jensen, Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, has been named to the board of
directors of the World Universities Forum. Jensen was instrumental in bringing the 2015 Conference to COE, the first U.S. location to host the conference. Jensen also recently was named to a grant as part of the North American Mobility Fund where he traveled to Mexico to explore the misperceptions of Mexican academics/administrators as they understand higher education policy and economic development.

A Day for Southern is just around the corner...

September 10 is the big day! With your A Day for Southern gift, you can designate your dollars to support a program or department that is meaningful to you, or you can give to COE’s general fund.

By investing in COE, you demonstrate how much you believe in and support our values and mission. For more information on supporting your college, click here.

Thank you for your support!

Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., Ph.D.
Dean and Professor