College of Ed alumna named state's 2017 top school psychologist

Georgia Southern University College of Education alumna Amy Pierce ('08,'10) was named School Psychologist of the Year by the Georgia Association of School Psychologists (GASP) during the organization's 47th annual fall conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia held Oct. 16-18.

This annual award recognizes an outstanding school psychologist in the state by examining the individual's range of psychological services, job performance, respect of fellow coworkers, students and parents, and a demonstrated pride of the school psychology career.

The school psychologist for Banks County School System in Homer, Georgia, Pierce is a two-time graduate of the University with a master's and specialist degree in school psychology. Prior to earning her graduate degrees at Georgia Southern, Pierce was working in the community mental health field in Maine.

>>> Read full story.

Higher education administration graduate candidates present at state conference
Alumna spearheads award-winning technology project

The Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) recently named Jenkins County School System (JCSS) the 2017 recipient of the Richard B. Lewis Memorial Award for outstanding technology integration and media utilization programs.

The County's achievement centered on their Innovative Teacher Technology Project (ITTP) that was developed during the 2013-2014 school year. At the forefront of the ITTP project is Georgia Southern University College of Education graduate student Alumna, Ms. Jenkins County School System Technology Coordinator.
Southern Educator is published monthly by the Georgia Southern University College of Education.

Education alumna Julie Chance ('85,'13,'15,'17). Chance serves as the Director of Federal Programs and Professional Learning for JCSS. "As the overseer of both of those programs and because we funded ITTP through federal money, it was my responsibility to help develop the program as one of our school improvement strategies," she said.

>>> Read full story.

i2STEMe hosts fall STEM Experience for Effingham students

Facility from various disciplines on Georgia Southern University's campus participated in the fall 2017 STEM Experience hosted by the College of Education's Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i2STEMe) on Nov. 3.

Lisa Stueve, Ed.D., the Institute's outreach specialist, explained that STEM Experiences are "interactive hands-on lab experiences for K-12 students in STEM situations campuswide" with faculty often participating from many of the University's colleges.

>>> Read full story.

Additional Headlines

Potential students join COE for fall Visit Day

Health & physical education major Grayson Fincham was featured speaker
Order a commemorative brick in Centennial Plaza today!
Deadline for fall 2017 brick orders is December 15

COE professor speaks to students at scholarship showcase
Meca Williams-Johnson, Ph.D. selected as featured speaker for Southern Scholars

Sign up to receive new COE Research Briefs (see right hand column to join mailing list)
Series includes summary and practical application of current research

Faculty Updates

The Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children held their annual conference in Savannah on Nov. 7-10. Karin Fisher, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Dept. of Teaching and Learning, collaborated with Armstrong State University faculty members Barbara Serianni, Ph.D., Kelly Brooksher, Ed.D., and Nedra Cossa, Ph.D., to take conference participants and special education professors from all over the country, on a site visit to Savannah’s Hesse K-8 School. Leah Colby, assistant principal at Hesse K-8 School, conducted a 90-minute tour of the school including visits to inclusion and self-contained classes. Cossa added information on how Armstrong students are placed at the school.

Elizabeth Barrow, Ed.D., assistant professor in the Dept. of Teaching and Learning, participated in a roundtable presentation at the 97th annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) held Nov. 17-19 in San Francisco, CA. Barrow’s presentation, titled "Sociolinguistic Awareness: How Student-Teaching Abroad Raises Awareness About the Importance of Language," highlighted how four pre-service teachers came to understand the importance of language during a one-month student teaching and internship. As part of a larger study, participants, with no specific cultural sensitivity training, were asked to define intercultural competence (ICC) at various points throughout their experience (pre-departure, during the internship, and after re-entry).

Barrow also recently co-published an article in the latest issue of Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education (CITE). "The Role of Photoblogs in Social Studies Classroom: Learning About the People of the Civil War" examines the concept of photoblogs, such as Humans of New York, and details a lesson plan that incorporates technology the replacement, amplification and transformation framework to modify a traditional social studies lesson on the American Civil War into an engaging and inquiry-based lesson. Students researched individuals who lived during the American Civil War and created their own digital storyboard using technology to engage in more meaningful instruction.

Assistant professor in the Dept. of Teaching and Learning Amanda Glaze, Ph.D., was interviewed by Newsweek as an evolution education expert in a story about the resurfacing of a controversial 1997 video featuring an Alabama U.S. Senate candidate. Click here to read the story on Newsweek.com.

During the 2017 Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) International Convention, Charles Hodges, Ph.D., associate professor in the Dept. of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, received the AECT’s Presidential Award. The award acknowledged Hodge’s commitment and exceptional work in advancing TechTrends, a leading journal for professionals in the educational communication and technology field. Hodges serves as the editor of the journal.
Hodges also recently published an article with COE alumna Rachel Harris, M.Ed. (Counselor Education,'10) in the *Journal on School Educational Technology*. "Self-efficacy: A rationale for badging in learning contexts" uses self-efficacy as a basis for implementing digital badging, an assessment and credentialing mechanism that is housed and managed online. Self-efficacy beliefs have proven to be an important influence on an individual’s learning success. The rationale includes a summary of learner self-efficacy, a description of current applications of badging, and potential applications and impacts of using badging for learning to enhance learner self-efficacy.

A special thank you to our COE Alumni supporters

For the final donor spotlight of 2017, we would like to say THANK YOU to all of those who have contributed to the College of Education. Every gift is important and assists in developing our Eagle Educators who are known for their exceptionalism in the state of Georgia and beyond. Our success would not be possible without you.

The College of Education has several great programs that have benefited from our alumni’s generosity. Programs such as EAGLE Academy, Jane A. Page Distinguished Lecture Fund, 1906 Current Use Scholarship Fund, and many others contribute to the unique opportunities our students have at Georgia Southern. Donations to the Dean's Fund have assisted in faculty being able to present their research worldwide and the creation of high quality professional development opportunities for COE alumni and regional educators such as EdCamp and Edumakers.

If you are interested in giving to the College of Education, it’s not too late! All contributions made between now and December 31, 2017 are eligible as a tax deduction for the 2017 tax year and qualify as a charitable contribution.

**Click here to explore our online giving option.** Be sure to check "Designate My Gift," and select the College of Education from listed options. If you have any questions or would like to donate to a specific area within the College, please contact John Ramfjord at jramfjord@georgiasouthern.edu.

*Thank you for your continued support of our mission to create the best and brightest educators!*