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Southern Educator

Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners

December 2018

Volume 7 Issue 12

Upcoming Events



December 24-January 1

*University Closed for
Winter Holidays*

December 31

Centennial Plaza Brick Order Deadline for Fall 2018
Order today!

January 14

Spring 2019 classes begin

January 14-17

Spring Full Term Add/Drop

January 18

College-Wide Faculty and Staff Meeting | Armstrong Campus
10am - 3 pm
[More Information](#)

January 21

University Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 23

COE Professional Development Session: Writing for Publication
Armstrong Campus | Noon
[More Information](#)

February 8

COE Professional Development Session: Quantitative Research Methods | Statesboro

COE Professional Development Session: Quantitative Research Methods | Statesboro
Campus
10am
[More Information](#)

February 8-9

National Cross-Cultural Counseling and Education Conference for Research, Action, &
Change | Savannah
[Register Now](#)

February 22-23

International Critical Media Literacy Conference | Savannah
[Register Now](#)

March 3-6

National Youth-at-Risk Conference | Savannah
[Register Now](#)

March 21-23

Interdisciplinary STEM Teaching and Learning Conference
Georgia Tech Savannah Campus
[Register Now](#)

March 28

Education Career Fair
Statesboro Campus
10am - 1pm
[More Information](#)

[See COE Event Calendar](#)



Southern Educator
is published monthly by the
Georgia Southern University
College of Education.

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Forward
to a Friend

COE alumnus helps land major grant, puts Apple technology in hands of Brock Elementary 2nd, 3rd graders



Joseph Johnson ('08,'16) started his career at an internet company in Atlanta where he worked his way up to management over five years. His work sparked a passion but not to continue working in the private sector. Instead, Johnson wanted to take his experience and skills in technology and apply it in public schools.

After moving to Savannah, Johnson completed a bachelor's in elementary education from Armstrong State University and taught for seven years at Robert W. Gadsden Elementary School in Savannah.

"My hopes were to become a teacher-librarian," Johnson said. "The librarian at my childhood elementary and middle school really shaped my love for reading and

childhood elementary and middle school really shaped my love for reading and learning."

>>> [Read full story.](#)

Education Exposed: A 2019 film series to be offered free to students, community

Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) will offer a series of film screenings in 2019 that will provide valuable insight and critically examine issues that affect the development, success and well-being of youth. All films will begin at 6 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

The screenings will take place on the University's Armstrong Campus in Savannah and will include question-and-answer sessions following each screening to provide opportunities for engagement and discussion about the educational issue of the film.

The series will feature five films including: "Screenagers" on Jan. 17; "Bully" on Feb. 12; "The Cartel" on March 5; "The School in the Cloud" on March 27; and "Elementary Genocide" on April 16.

>>> [Read full story.](#)

College of Ed faculty member receives national Evolution Education Award



Amanda Glaze, Ph.D., assistant professor of science education at Georgia Southern University, recently received the national Evolution Education Award at the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) National Conference in San Diego.

Sponsored by the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS) center and the BEACON Center for the Study of Evolution in Action, the Evolution Education Award recognizes classroom teaching and community education efforts to promote the accurate understanding of biological evolution. The award is rotated between a K-12 teacher and

undergraduate educator and includes a cash award, recognition plaque and a complimentary membership to NABT.

>>> [Read full story.](#)

Georgia Southern named No. 1 on master's in educational leadership rankings



Georgia Southern University was recently named as the best Best Online Master's in Educational Leadership Program in the country, according to OnlineMasters.com. Of the top 50 programs identified across the nation, the University's M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, housed in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development in the College of Education (COE), received the No. 1 spot. Georgia Southern's program was also the only master's in educational leadership in the state of Georgia to be recognized.

>>> [Read full story.](#)

Additional Headlines



[Alumna
named Georgia
Independent
School Teacher](#)

[of the Year](#)

Double Eagle Summer Bowen teaches pre-K teacher at Savannah Christian



[Research Brief](#)

[David Owens,
Ph.D. featured
on recent](#)



[Centennial
Plaza Brick
orders due Dec.
31](#)

Engraved commemorative brick placed on Statesboro Campus



[newsletter by Dec. 14](#)

[College seeks feedback on monthly](#)



[annual counseling conference](#)

Deadline for registration is Dec. 31

[Keynote speaker announced for](#)



[registration ends Jan. 31](#)

[Critical Media Literacy Conference](#)



[celebrates 30 years](#)

Early bird registration ends Jan. 21

[National Youth-At-Risk conference](#)

Faculty Updates

[Dan Calhoun, Ph.D.](#), associate professor, and [Steven Tolman, Ed.D.](#), assistant professor, both of the Dept. of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, presented during the [Georgia College Student Personnel/Georgia Housing Officers \(GCPA/GHO\) meeting](#) on Nov. 8-9 in Atlanta. The session, titled "Pursuing your Doctorate in Georgia: Ed.D. or Ph.D.," offered insight into the admission processes, discussed the doctoral options within the state of Georgia, and discuss the practical and theoretical differences between the Ed.D. and the Ph.D.

[Richard Cleveland, Ph.D.](#), associate professor in the Dept. of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, presented with M.Ed. Counselor Education student [Jared Simonin](#) at the 2018 [Georgia School Counselor Association annual conference](#) held in Macon during November. The session, titled "Mindfulness with Judeo-Christian Student Populations," explored a secularized conceptualization of mindfulness and then incorporated a Judeo-Christian framework for framing mindfulness-based interventions and how school counselors may implement the practices in K-12 settings. Despite research regarding clinical effectiveness and increased societal acceptance, students and parents/guardians adhering to a Judeo-Christian worldview may be hesitant to engage in mindfulness-based interventions due to perceptions of mindfulness as a strictly Buddhist practice.

[Karin Fisher, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor in the Dept. of Elementary and Special Education, presented alongside Jeannine Brinkley, executive director of the PEAL Center, and Cassandra Willis, a doctoral candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University at the [2018 TASH Conference](#) in Portland, OR on November 28-30. TASH is a nonprofit disability advocacy organization. The presentation, titled "Endrew F. parent Toolkit," addressed the details of the Endrew F. Supreme Court Case, a case in which the United States Supreme Court addressed the

definition of "appropriate" in what constitutes a free and appropriate education. The parent toolkit created by Fisher, Brinkley and Willis was disseminated to parents all over the nation.

As a result of her research on the impacts of the Endrew F. Supreme Court Case, Fisher was also invited by the director of the **Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)** at the University of Central Florida to present a webinar on the case. She and her colleague Barbara Ransom, Esq., a special education attorney, presented the webinar that can be found on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/E2QIOlwrGx8>



Karin Fisher, Ph.D. and **Tonya Cooper, M.Ed.**, both of the Dept. of Elementary and Special Education, presented alongside BSEd Special Education student **Angela Norris** at the

annual Teacher Education Division of Council for Exceptional Children in Las Vegas. The trio presented two sessions--one on student perceptions of field placements in undergraduate special education where Norris provided valuable insight and survey results from students in field placements. They also presented the Endrew F. Parent Tool kit. Norris received an undergraduate travel award from the **Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs** at Georgia Southern.

Juli McBrayer, Ed.D., assistant professor in the Dept. of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, along with Ed.D. Educational Leadership candidate **Jennifer Syno** also presented at the GCPA/GHO meeting showcasing Syno's research project called "Perceptions of Faculty and Staff as Relative to Collaborative Efforts." In the session, Syno discussed the results of her research, and McBrayer discussed best practices for maximizing faculty and staff collaboration. This research will be published next spring in the College Student Affairs Journal.

Additionally, two M.Ed. Higher Education Administration students, **Miranda Garske** and **David Ndikanwu**, co-presented a session with a member of Georgia Southern's professional housing staff, Kenzel Hill, entitled "Getting Your Professional Life Together." This session was designed for graduate students and new professionals to help them "navigate the at times confusing world of professional development and the intimidating job search process while figuring out how to find their best institutional fit."

Michael Moore, Ed.D., professor emeritus of the College of Education, is partnering with Christina Gipson, Ph.D., assistant professor of sport management, and Alyssa Sasser, Ed.D., COE alumna and Statesboro High School assistant principal, to conduct CrossFit classes while doing research at the school. The school district has provided space at the school, and Moore and Gipson have received grant funding for equipment to work with an at-risk population of ninth graders. Data is being collected of the workouts as well as the perception of self image and self image.

Fayth Parks, Ph.D., professor in the Dept. of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development, was the guest speaker at the **American Psychological Association's** Brown Bag Lunch on Nov. 20 in Washington, DC. Parks' presentation titled "Challenges and Opportunities: HIV/AIDS, Behaviors Health and Rural Healthcare," detailed the battle of AIDS/HIV in small, rural communities due to the lack of primary care and specialized services along with other factors such as social determinants and behavioral health determinants. Parks provided promising strategies that build the HIV intervention and care continuum in the rural context.

Patricia Wachholz, Ed.D., professor in the Dept. of Elementary Education and



Lesley Roessing, former director of the Coastal Savannah Writing Project, were recipients of the 2018 Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award at the [National Council of Teachers of English Annual](#)

Conference in Houston, Texas. For the past three years, Wachholz and Roessing have served as co-editors of the Georgia Council of Teachers of English journal, Connections, published annually. Through their journals, affiliates provide their members with scholarly articles on issues and topics related to the teaching of the English language arts. The Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award, established in 1995, is designed to recognize those journals which represent models for affiliate journals to emulate.



College of Education seeks feedback on monthly newsletter



Complete survey for a chance to win a COE backpack and swag

The College of Education is looking for your input on the

Southern Educator, our monthly newsletter. Please complete the survey below to tell us how we are doing and provide your valuable feedback. Submissions completed by December 14 at noon will be entered for a chance to win a College backpack filled with swag!

Complete the survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/Of21IyUM2UnAz98p1>