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Southern Educator

Reflective Educators for Diverse Learners

July 2018

Volume 7 Issue 7

Upcoming Events



July 14

University Day at the Atlanta Braves | 4:10pm, Suntrust Park
[More Information](#)

August 7

COE Fall Opening Faculty & Staff Meeting | 9-11am
COE 1115 | Statesboro Campus
Department meetings to follow.

August 8

University Fall Convocation for Faculty and Staff | 9:30am
Statesboro Campus

August 8

University Fall Convocation for Faculty and Staff | 1:30pm
Armstrong Campus

August 10

Operation Move-In (OMI)
Statesboro Campus
[Volunteer Here!](#)

COE alumna sees impact of research in her school and district



Alissa Sasser, Ed.D., who is Statesboro High School's (SHS) assistant principal for Curriculum and Instruction, said her career in education is owed to the strong teachers and administrators that have surrounded her throughout her career.

In 2000, when she began teaching in a fifth grade classroom, Sasser said she didn't feel like she understood the purpose of what she was doing. But with the support of good, veteran teachers and administrators, she was able to find her life's work.

"(Eventually), I saw the importance and relevance of my work, and it became more of a calling because I saw how important it was for

August 13

Classes begin for fall semester
University Semester Schedules

August 13-16

Drop/Add for Full Term
Fall 2018 Courses

September 3

Labor Day
University Closed

September 21-22

Rural HIV Research and Training
Conference | Savannah, GA
[More Information](#)

September 27-29

Georgia International
Conference on Information
Literacy | Savannah, GA
[More Information](#)

October 5

Georgia Educational Research
Association (GERA) Conference
Macon, GA
[More Information](#)

[See COE Event Calendar](#)



Also--update your information to be considered for a future [#COEAlumniSpotlight](#) on the Georgia Southern University College of Education social media accounts!

Southern Educator

all students to receive quality instruction," she said.

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

COE staff member helps African university learn to use new equipment



Georgia Southern University's **Kania Greer**,

Ed.D. (center), traveled to southeastern Africa in June to assist in hosting a four-day workshop for faculty, administrators and staff of the University of Livingstonia in Livingstonia, Malawi.

Greer, who serves as the coordinator for the College of Education's (COE) Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i2STEMe), was invited to collaborate on the project by Zipangani "Zipa" Vokhiwa, Ph.D., professor of science at Mercer University. Vokhiwa serves on the University of Livingstonia Foundation Board and is a native of the country.

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

Special education major receives statewide award

Bailey Waters, a senior majoring in special education, received the Outstanding Student Member award from the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) during its annual IDEAS Conference,



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held June 5-8 on St. Simons Island.

"When my picture flashed up on the screen, I couldn't believe it," Waters said. "Everyone was so excited. It was great."

Recognized as an undergraduate student who has made outstanding contributions in service to the CEC and to children with exceptionalities, Waters received a commemorative sculpture and will be a nominee for the CEC's national student award.

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

The return of STEMfest scheduled for Sept. 22



On Saturday, September 22, Georgia Southern University's Institute of Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i2STEMe) will be re-introducing one of the University's most popular past events--STEMfest!

The event will be held on the Statesboro Camps in the Nessmith-Lane Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and provides exploration stations with hands-on STEM learning activities for elementary, middle and high-school aged children. The event is free and open to the public.

"We were disheartened when we were not able to offer this event in 2017," explained Kania Greer, i2STEMe coordinator, "and the large response from the public let us know they were disappointed as well. We knew that if at all possible, we had to bring STEMfest back this year."

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

Additional Headlines



University Day at the Braves to be held Sat., July 14

Tickets include Atlanta Braves-Georgia Southern co-branded hat



Georgia Educational Research Association conference now accepting proposals
Conference to be held Oct. 5 in Macon, GA

Faculty Updates

Karin Fisher, Ph.D. , assistant professor in the Dept. of Elementary and Special Education, was appointed to the State Advisory Panel for Special Education (SAP) which addresses the needs of students with disabilities in Georgia. The panel consists of representation of stakeholders including parents, educators, higher education, administrators, state agency representatives, individuals with disabilities and advocacy group representatives from across the state. SAP members serve as advisors to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).

Daniel Rivera , Instructional Resources Center Director for the Statesboro Campus, presented on Google topics during both the **First District RESA Summer Institute**, held at Georgia Southern University's Statesboro Campus as well as the **SC Midlands Summit**, held in Columbia, South Carolina, both held in June. Rivera, who is also a Google for Education Certified Trainer and Innovator, presented on multiple Google topics including spreadsheets, hangouts, Gmail, and general Google offerings.



Doing for others as they did for him...



Bruce Field, Ph.D.

Recent retiree Bruce Field, Ph.D., joined the faculty of the College of Education (COE) in 2014 as chair of the Department of Teaching and Learning. Field arrived at Georgia Southern University with a wealth of experience both in the classroom and in preparing future educators. Immediately before arriving in Statesboro, he spent over a decade with the University of South Carolina's College of Education as the executive director of school-university partnerships and clinical experiences.

"While I greatly enjoyed my work in South Carolina," Field said, "I was looking for a smaller, more community-oriented environment where I could hopefully have an impact in this stage of my professional career. Both Georgia Southern and Statesboro met that criteria in spades."

Throughout his career, Field has dedicated time as well as given philanthropically to the field of education and has been especially generous with the University's College of Education. Giving to support the College during the annual "A Day for Southern" giving campaign, Field is also a passionate

supporter of specific projects within the COE. He has seen firsthand how contributions to the College of Education are essential in continuing to produce outstanding educators for the workforce.

"Where I am today is the result of multiple educators, from elementary school through college, who cared about me as a person and who bent over backwards to get me where I wanted to be," he said. "And I owe it to those individuals who provided that much appreciated support to do for others what they did for me. So I've made a point throughout my career of giving whatever I can, in both time and money, to help others achieve their dreams."

"Georgia Southern truly does prepare excellent educators," added Field. "And so I encourage anyone who cares about the education of children to join the ranks of those committed to paying it forward."

Thank you, Dr. Field, for your continued support of the College of Education and Georgia Southern University. Eagle Nation is wishing you a happy retirement!

For information on how you can support the College of Education, please contact John Ramfjord at jramfjord@georgiasouthern.edu.