B.S.Ed. in Secondary Education to return in Fall 2017

October 11, 2016

The Bachelor of Science (B.S.Ed.) program in Secondary Education is returning to Georgia Southern University. This degree program prepares students to become Georgia certified educators for grades 6-12 which will allow them to teach in both the middle and high school. Accepting students in Fall 2017, the B.S.Ed. Secondary Education program currently includes concentrations in mathematics, biology, chemistry, and physics education.

Prior to the return of the B.S.Ed. Secondary program, students who were interested in teaching at the high school level were directed to complete an undergraduate degree in the content area they would like to teach and then earn a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree to enter the teaching field. The B.S.Ed. Secondary program provides students with both strong content preparation and instructional training that leads to their initial teaching certification. Therefore, students can enter into the teaching field immediately following the successful completion of their B.S.Ed. Secondary Education degree program and can choose to add a graduate degree.

The B.S.Ed. Secondary program includes 1,000 hours of field and clinical experience including a year-long student teaching with a partner school. Students completing the B.S.Ed. Secondary Education degree will take approximately 24 hours of upper-division coursework within their content field along with instructional preparation courses to assist with vital educational concerns such as content literacy and teaching diverse learners.

For more information, contact the COE’s Student Success Center at (912) 478-0698 or email coe_ssc@georgiasouthern.edu.
COE to offer new master’s degree that focuses on teaching diverse student populations

October 11, 2016

As educators in the Southeast are seeing a trend of increased English Language Learners (ELLs) in their classrooms, faculty of Georgia Southern’s College of Education created a degree program that addresses appropriate pedagogical practices for the needs of this growing diverse student body. Coming Fall 2017, the Masters of Education in Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students (M.Ed. TCLD) degree program will offer candidates in-depth regional knowledge about diverse student populations and advanced understandings of teaching models for serving students with varying cultures and languages. The M.Ed. TCLD degree program includes a three-course ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Endorsement and a three course TCLD Graduate Certificate within the curriculum requirements.

Current educators or recent graduates of an initial certification degree program are primary candidates for this degree, as it will provide guidance within the classroom for addressing the needs of differing students. Upon completion of the M.Ed. TCLD degree, graduates will be prepared to enter into career paths including curriculum specialist, ESOL coordinator, and ESOL teacher and can use course work for a certificate upgrade. Current educators completing this degree who wish to remain in the classroom will find themselves more prepared to face the challenges and recognize the strengths of their culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Those interested in completing the M.Ed. TCLD program could begin the ESOL endorsement and TCLD Graduate Certificate courses today. These six courses can be applied to the Master’s degree pending its approval by SACSCOC.

For more information contact the COE’s Graduate Academic Services Center at (912) 478-1447 or email gasc@georgiasouthern.edu. You can also visit the certificate program website at https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/tcld/certificate/
Revised master’s in educational leadership accepted first cohort this fall

October 11, 2016

Beginning Fall 2016, COE’s Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development welcomed its first cohort to the newly revised Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Educational Leadership graduate degree program. The revision was a response to changes from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) which included the creation of a two-tiered certification structure for educational leadership preparation. Successful completion of this revised program will provide leadership certification adherent to the new regulations at the Tier I level (administered by the GaPSC).

The M.Ed. Educational Leadership degree offers a three-in-one learning opportunity that includes a master’s degree, teacher leader endorsement (TLE), and certification. This two-year program requires 36-credit hours including a total of 250 clinical practice and field experience hours. The College of Education also offers a certification-only option which requires 30-credit hours of coursework.

The M.Ed. Educational Leadership program is designed for practicing professionals in the education field who are interested in obtaining entry-level, P-12 school leadership positions such as curriculum specialists, testing coordinators, and assistant principals. The fully-online curriculum of the M.Ed. Educational Leadership program provides flexibility for working professionals to complete their degree and/or certification while still employed.

For more information contact the COE’s Graduate Academic Services Center at (912) 478-1447 or email gasc@georgiasouthern.edu. You can also visit the program website at https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/edld/p-12-leadership/masters-p-12/
COE to offer new M.Ed. in Evaluation, Assessment, Research, and Learning

October 11, 2016

Georgia Southern’s College of Education faculty did not just have educators in mind when designing the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Evaluation, Assessment, Research, and Learning (EARL) degree program. The M.Ed. EARL curriculum provides students with rigorous training in research and learning that can be used for assessment and evaluation in a variety of settings. Scheduled to begin in Fall 2017, this program is useful for career paths that require tasks such as the collection and analysis of data, evaluation of programs and information, creation of assessment tools, and conducting research to make decisions based on empirical evidence.

Recent graduates of undergraduate programs in areas such as education, psychology, sociology, public and mental health, or justice studies are ideal candidates for this master’s degree. Another option for both these student populations and those pursuing a graduate degree is the graduate Certificate in Applied Research and Evaluation, a fully-online, 12-credit-hour program. This certificate offers students the opportunity to develop fundamental research strategies and apply this knowledge in various situations.

Candidates interested in the master’s program will complete a total of 36 credit hours. This fully-online program allows flexibility for working and off-campus students. Graduates from this program will be qualified for social science research environments such as public schools and school districts, higher education institutions, private research and assessment firms, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. M.Ed. program is pending approval from SACSCOC.

For more information contact the COE’s Graduate Academic Services Center at (912) 478-1447 or email gasc@georgiasouthern.edu.
MAT Early Childhood Education program now accepting applications

October 11, 2016

Beginning Summer 2017, the College of Education (COE) will offer a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Early Childhood Education. This fully-online program will focus on culturally relevant and asset-based pedagogy for P-5 learners and is designed for those looking to change careers or who currently work in the school system but are not certified to teach. Once successfully completed, this program will provide graduates with a master’s degree and initial certification to teach in grades Pre-K through fifth grade in Georgia. Applicants are not required to have previous education experience or degrees but must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution.

The MAT in Early Childhood degree program requires 45-48 credit hours, which includes 900 clinical hours to meet certification requirements. Coursework is fully-online, however, students must complete field experiences and student teaching in the area where they live. MAT candidates are also encouraged to attend on-campus Student Teaching Orientation and edTPA information sessions their final semester of the program in order to prepare for the certification exam.

Applications are now being accepted for the MAT Early Childhood degree program, and the priority deadline to be considered for the first cohort in Summer 2017 is March 1, 2017.

For more information contact the COE’s Graduate Academic Services Center at (912) 478-1447 or email gasc@georgiasouthern.edu. You can also visit the program website at https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/mat/concentrations/m-a-t-early-childhood-education-concentration/
COE names 2016 Jack Miller Award recipients

October 11, 2016

Jack Miller Award recipients include (l-r) Cordelia Zinskie, Ph.D.; Jonathan Hilpert, Ph.D.; and Sabrina Ross, Ph.D.

The Jack Miller Faculty Awards are given annually to recognize Georgia Southern University’s College of Education (COE) faculty for demonstrated excellence in areas of teaching, service, and/or scholarship. Awards can be given in each area along with an additional Educator of the Year Award, which recognizes scholarship in all three of the considered areas.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, three COE faculty members received Jack Miller Awards including Sabrina Ross, Ph.D., Jonathan Hilpert, Ph.D., and Cordelia Zinskie, Ph.D.

Sabrina Ross received the Jack Miller Educator of the Year award, recognizing her proven success in all areas including teaching, service, and scholarship. Ross joined Georgia Southern in 2009 and is an associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading. She previously served as a visiting professor of women’s and gender studies and African American studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she also earned her doctorate in curriculum and teaching with a
cultural studies concentration. Ross chairs doctoral dissertations for the College as well as serves as a Faculty Senator for Georgia Southern University Faculty Senate.

Her research interests include the influence of ethnic and gender identities on schooling processes and outcomes; experiences of women faculty of color in higher education; and contributions of black feminist and womanist philosophies to educational practices.

Jonathan Hilpert, winner of the Jack Miller Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity, is an associate professor of educational psychology in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading. Hilpert joined the COE faculty in 2012, after serving as an assistant professor at Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. He provides leadership at the national level, serving as Division C, Section 1e engineering and computer science section chair for the American Education Research Association (AERA), as well as president elect of the Southwest Consortium for Innovative Psychology in Education (SCIPIE).

Hilpert’s research focuses on examining student engagement and interactive learning in post-secondary STEM courses from a complex systems perspective, including the emergent and dynamic qualities of psychological and collaborative systems and their underlying network structures.

Cordelia Zinskie was this year’s recipient of the Jack Miller Award for Service. A faculty member in the College of Education since 1993, Zinskie has previously been honored as the Educator of the Year (2005). She is as a professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading, the same department in which she was acting chair from 2006-2013. Zinskie serves as the conference co-chair for the National Youth-At-Risk conference held annually in Savannah, and she also serves as the editor of the National Youth-At-Risk Journal.

Zinskie earned a doctorate in research methodology and statistics from Memphis State University. Her interests include online teaching and learning as well as research methodologies.

Jack Miller was the former Dean of the College of Education at Georgia Southern. He endowed the Jack Miller Faculty Awards in 1994 after leaving to accept the position of Dean of the College of Education at Florida State University. In September 2016, Miller retired from his position as the President of Central Connecticut State University. The awards are open to all full-time, tenure-track COE faculty who have completed at least three years of full-time service at the University.

For more information about the Jack Miller Awards or to view past recipients, visit https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/awards/
College of Education welcomes new faculty

October 11, 2016

Georgia Southern University’s College of Education is excited to welcome four new faculty members to the COE team this semester. New faculty members for Fall 2016 include:

Andria Disney, Ed.D., is an assistant professor of P-5 curriculum and P-5 teaching mathematics in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Disney joins Georgia Southern from the University of Montana where she taught while earning her doctorate in curriculum and instruction. Prior to working in higher education, Disney taught mathematics in public schools in Arizona as well as served as an instructional coach and lead elementary specialist for the last three years of her public school career. Her research interests include facilitating teacher learning to bring about mathematics instructional change to engage diverse learners.

Karin Fisher, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of special education in the Department of Teaching and Learning. A recent graduate of the University of Central Florida, Fisher holds a doctorate in exceptional student education. Fisher worked with the Department of Children, Family, and Consumer Sciences at Central Florida for three years where she served as both a graduate research assistant and adjunct professor. She also worked for six years at Lyman High School in Longwood, FL as a teacher of students with moderate intellectual disabilities. Fisher’s research interests focus on increasing participation of students with disabilities in extracurricular STEM activities.
Amanda Glaze, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of middle grades and secondary science education for the Department of Teaching and Learning. Glaze is an alumna of the University of Alabama where she earned a doctorate in science education and biological/physical sciences. Her research interests include evolution education, religiosity, cultural diversity, and acceptance and rejection of evolution specifically in the southeastern United States. Prior to coming to Georgia Southern, Glaze served as a science teacher and specialist within public schools in Alabama and Georgia as well as an instructor at Jacksonville State University and Texas A & M University-Commerce.

Julie Pickens, Ph.D., is an instructor of special education courses in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Pickens joins the COE from the University of Illinois where she earned a doctorate in special education as well as served as the community and school liaison (2014-2015) and group manager (2012-2014) for the Ben’s Bells Project. Her research interests include transitioning of students with disabilities to post-secondary settings, community-based instruction, inter-agency collaboration, and self-determination and self-advocacy within youth ages 18-22.

In Fall 2015, the College welcomed eight new faculty members. Those faculty members included:

Tonya Cooper, M.Ed., is an instructor in the Department of Teaching and Learning. A Double Eagle, Cooper earned both her undergraduate (B.S.Ed. early childhood education) and graduate (M.Ed. special education) degrees from Georgia Southern. Cooper worked as a special education teacher in area schools for 20 years prior to joining the University. Cooper’s interests include collaboration between schools and parents of children with disabilities as well as early intervention programs.
Kristen Dickens, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of counselor education in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. She previously served as a visiting assistant professor in the counselor education program at the University of New Orleans where she also earned her doctorate. Her current research interests include multiple roles and relationships in counselor education, ethics and value conflicts, multicultural issues in counseling, and family systems work. Dickens has experience working in a variety of community mental health settings, including intensive outpatient facilities, university outpatient centers, inpatient treatment centers for eating disorders, and in-home counseling services.

Lacey Huffling, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of middle grades and secondary education in the Department of Teaching and Learning. She earned her doctorate in educational studies from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Greensboro. Huffling taught at UNC Greensboro and Elon University prior to joining Georgia Southern. Her research interests focus on science education.
Heather Huling, M.Ed. is an instructor in the Department of Teaching and Learning. A Double Eagle, Huling earned both her undergraduate (B.S.Ed. early childhood education) and graduate (M.Ed. early childhood education) degrees from Georgia Southern. Prior to joining the COE faculty, Huling taught 3rd grade math and science at Sallie Zetterower Elementary School as well as served as a 2nd grade educator at Richmond Hill Elementary School.

Toby Jenkins-Henry, Ph.D., is an assistant professor and higher education tier I coordinator in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. Jenkins-Henry taught interdisciplinary studies and educational administration at George Mason University for four years before serving as a visiting instructor of ethnic studies at the University of Hawaii. She also served as the director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center at Penn State University where she earned her doctorate in educational theory and policy.

Lucas Jensen, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. Prior to coming to Georgia Southern, Jensen directed summer camp programs and served as a teaching assistant at the University of Georgia. He also taught music courses for the Double Helix STEAM Academy in Athens as well as served as an adjunct professor of
visual literacy at James Madison University. Jensen earned his doctorate in learning, design, and technology from the University of Georgia.

Juliann Sergi McBrayer, Ed.D., is an assistant professor and P-12 M.Ed. coordinator in the Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development. McBrayer earned a doctorate in education administration from Georgia Southern University. Her prior experience in the education field includes having served as a director for the Georgia Charter Schools Association (GCSA) as well as several years of teaching experience within the areas of science and technology.

R. Ansley Rogers, Ed.D., is an instructor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading. Rogers is re-joining the COE, as she previously served as an adjunct faculty member of reading education courses from 2006-2010. Before returning to Georgia Southern, Rogers taught at Brewton Parker College and Taylors Creek Elementary. She recently completed her doctorate in curriculum studies from Georgia Southern.