

## College of Education News

March 11, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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## Katz selected to serve on the Notable Books for a Global Society award committee

March 11, 2019



Anne Katz, Ph.D.

**Anne Katz, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, was chosen to serve on the Notable Books for a Global Society award committee. The committee is tasked with annually selecting 25 outstanding trade books for enhancing student understanding of people and cultures throughout the world. The committee reviews books representing all genres intended for K-12 students.

According to Katz's invitation to join the committee, members felt her "expertise, experience and dedication to this important work will help us ensure that readers have access to highest quality literature that reflects diverse experiences and perspectives."

Katz will serve a three-year term from 2019-2022. Notable Books for a Global Society Award is a committee of the International Literacy Association.

# Georgia Southern graduate student turns art into therapy for teachers, receives 2019 national Emerging Professional Development Leadership Award

March 11, 2019



(L-r): Meredith Tanner, RHHS assistant principal; Laine Lynch, RHHS counseling department; Nick Wozniak; Ellen Whitford, Ed.D., COE professor and PDS coordinator; Cynthia Bolton, Ph.D., COE associate dean for educational outreach, partnership and diversity.

Georgia Southern University College of Education graduate student Nick Wozniak, enrolled in the [M.Ed. Counselor Education program](#), recently won the Emerging Professional Development Leadership Award at the 2019 National Association of Professional Development Schools Conference. The award recognized his work with the creation and implementation of an expressive arts workshop for Richmond Hill High School (RHHS) teachers.

With more than 20 years experience as an art educator, Wozniak is studying to become a school counselor. The change in direction largely stems from his time as a teacher in Sarasota, Florida, during the 2018 Parkland High School shooting. His emotions “bubbled over,” leaving him feeling helpless for his students who lost friends during the shooting. This, and years of watching students struggle with mental illness in his classroom, encouraged him to do more.

“I have always been interested in the power of art and its creative and healing abilities,” Wozniak said. “So I started looking at counseling programs all over the country.”

Returning to his roots, Wozniak moved back to Savannah, Georgia, where he had previously earned a BFA in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). After attending SCAD, Wozniak enrolled at the Maryland Institute College of Art and earned a master’s in art education. Combining his art background and counseling education, Wozniak hopes to integrate expressive art into his therapy practices.

As a graduate assistant with the Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education, Wozniak collaborates with RHHS as part of a professional development school partnership with Georgia Southern’s College of Education. While working with RHHS, Wozniak realized a need for emotional support of the teachers.



Nick Wozniak shown during one of the art workshops at RHHS.

“We know mental health issues are being addressed for students, but the element that isn’t being addressed is the mental health of the teachers,” he said. “Teachers bear the weight of their own stress as well as that of their students, yet we aren’t giving them enough support.”

Wozniak wanted to do something to change that. With the support of the RHHS administration, he prepared a 10-session workshop utilizing the expressive arts to provide support to teachers. On Thursdays after school, the art room is opened up for the high school’s faculty to come create 2D and 3D artwork for an hour followed by a time to share and debrief, which Wozniak said has been powerful for those involved.

“The teachers are very appreciative of my time and thankful to use expressive art to create discussions and share their feelings,” he said. “I want to do all I can to help support the educators who are teaching our future leaders. I am hopeful that in the end these teachers will be a support system for each other.”

Sessions include activities such as creating artwork guided by emotions, personal history or life events. Wozniak explained that in a session titled, “Storms,” he asked teachers to create a bubble map of their current life stressors and use oil pastels to turn their stressors into colors and shapes.

“In a small way, I feel like I am making a difference for these teachers,” Wozniak said.

For more information about the counselor education program, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/coun/programs/>.

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# Georgia Southern's College of Education hits the road with Science To-Go, brings STEM education to Southeast Georgia

March 11, 2019



Pictured (l-r): Mary Thaler, i<sup>2</sup>STEM<sup>e</sup> senior administrative assistant; Cynthia Bolton, Ph.D., associate dean for educational outreach, partnership and diversity; and Kania Greer, Ed.D., i<sup>2</sup>STEM<sup>e</sup> coordinator.

Georgia Southern University College of Education's (COE) Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (i<sup>2</sup>STEM<sup>e</sup>) is taking science on the road. Equipped with a new enclosed cargo trailer, the institute plans to travel around Southeast Georgia providing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities to K-12 students and community members as a part of their new project called Science To-Go.

"Typically, people who come to science events are already engaged in the sciences," explained i<sup>2</sup>STEM<sup>e</sup> Coordinator Kania Greer, Ed.D. "We want to take science to new audiences and garner new interest in STEM activities and education."

Science To-Go offers hands-on educational activities in physical science, life sciences, chemistry, mathematics, physics, engineering and technology through a mobile unit. Activities will rotate periodically, allowing for new and interesting experiments for participants.

While the idea originated with Greer, she says many members of the University have helped Science To-Go come to life. The striking appearance of the trailer was designed and completed by Georgia Southern graphic design students under the guidance of Santanu Majumdar, MFA, associate professor in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. The Georgia Southern Museum is also collaborating on the project.

Greer says additional partnerships are being requested as the institute will need volunteers to help facilitate and create new activities for the project.



Participant attempts to trace an outline in the neuroscience activity while i<sup>2</sup>STEM<sup>e</sup> Coordinator Kania Greer explains the science behind the activity.

“Science To-Go volunteers will have the opportunity to evaluate student comprehension of activities and learn how to develop engaging activities that can span grade levels, all while actively engaging with the participants,” Greer said. “With a mobile and informal environment such as this, activities must grab the attention of participants and provide educational content in a short amount of time. That will be what helps generate the spark of passion for STEM education that we hope to grow in those we encounter on the road.”

With colleagues from the COE and College of Science and Mathematics, Science To-Go plans to hit the road in March with five activities focusing on neuroscience, forensics, physics, biology and chemistry.

“Learning isn’t always in school and teachers aren’t always in classrooms,” Greer said. “Science To-Go brings STEM education and teaching to students and the community.”

For more information on how to bring Science To-Go to your school or event, email [stem@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:stem@georgiasouthern.edu).

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