

College of Education News

April 8, 2019

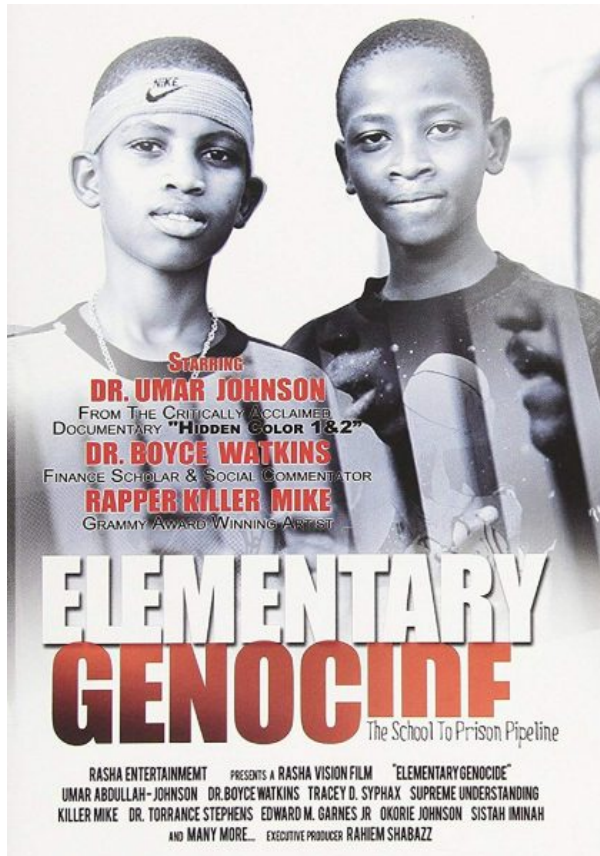
Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern to host free screening of 'Elementary Genocide,' Q&A with area experts to follow

April 8, 2019



On Tuesday, April 16, Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) will host a free screening of “Elementary Genocide: The School to Prison Pipeline,” a film that explores the profitability of the federal and state prison system and links to illiteracy rates of fourth and fifth graders in the country. The screening, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 6 p.m. in the Ogeechee Theatre, located in the Student Union on the Armstrong Campus.

The documentary is the first in a series of three films that Atlanta-based film director Rahiem Shabazz emphasizes the role education plays on self-image, family structure, financial freedom and the collective future of the African American population in America. “Elementary Genocide: The School to Prison Pipeline” focuses specifically on the social, cultural, political and personal ramifications of how the federal government allots money to each state to build prisons based on the failure rate of 4th and 5th graders.

According to Shabazz, the United States houses the highest incarceration rate in the world. With discussions on how to lessen the prison population, “Elementary Genocide” magnifies various causes for incarceration rates and possible solutions that start with the public school system.

In an interview with TheSource.com, Shabazz stated, “In order to render a solution to this pressing problem we must focus on the youth before they get to prison. We got to start before the first day a child steps foot in a Kindergarten class. Education must be of paramount concern in every household, parents need to be actively involved in PTA meetings and become school board members.”

Following the screening, the College will host a question and answer session with local professionals in the fields of education, juvenile justice and literacy.

This screening is a part of the “Education Exposed Film Series” that is taking place on the Armstrong Campus during the spring 2019 semester. The series is being offered at no charge to students or the community as a result of a Campus Life Enrichment Committee grant written and received by COE faculty members Regina Rahimi, Ed.D., Kathleen Burke-Fabrikant, Ed.D. and David Owens, Ph.D.

For more information on “Elementary Genocide,” visit: <http://elementarygenocide.com/>

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UK students visit Georgia Southern and local K-8 classrooms

April 8, 2019



Libby Jones



Abbie Proud

Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) welcomed two students from Sheffield, England, in February as part of the College's International Student Opportunity.

Libby Jones and Abbie Proud, students at Sheffield Hallam University, were the first international exchange students to complete placements in the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System as a part of the COE's exchange program. Both students participated at Hesse Elementary, a K-8 school in Savannah.

Jones and Proud are both second-year primary education students, preparing to teach students ages five to 11. They feel they gained valuable insight while watching an American classroom.

"One of the main things we loved is the independence of the children," said Proud. "The teacher emphasizes it. Children at home (in England) lean on the teachers. There's got to be a balance."

"We will definitely take away the lessons of independence," added Jones. "Encouraging children to have a go. The teacher kept reiterating, 'You go ask three children before you can ask me.' It was great. And each student had a role and responsibility."

Jones and Proud's instruction included introductions of themselves and English culture as well as spelling activities, interactive group discussion and a game called Kung Fu Panda Punctuation.

"We do actions for each punctuation (such as a period, a question mark, a comma) to the music from the 'Kung Fu Panda' movie," explained Jones. "It makes it fun and interactive for the students."

Jones and Proud also explained that being a part of this experience would help them to evaluate current methods utilized in their classrooms and consider new practices they have observed. Differences they noted right away included class sizes, curriculum and resources.

For them, Hesse K-8 is unique in that it is uniquely outfitted with innovative desks that double as whiteboards, one-on-one technology (where each student has their own digital device provided by the school) and unique seating arrangements such as spinning chairs, exercise balls, cushions and traditional seats that allow students to choose what will make them most comfortable.

The international students will return home with international perspective, and to positively impact children.

"For me, it's making a change in society," said Jones. "In that the children are going to be the members of society, and I think programming them to be a good citizen is key. They are going to learn something, but most importantly to be a genuine person and work hard."

For more information about the College's International Study Opportunity, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/student-teaching/iso/>.

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College of Education professor named outstanding faculty advisor merit recipient

April 8, 2019



COE faculty member Steven Tolman, Ed.D. (pictured left) provides students the opportunity to meet with him while away at conferences.

Georgia Southern University College of Education Assistant Professor [Steven Tolman, Ed.D.](#), was recently named the 2019 Georgia Southern merit recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Advisor award for the [National Academic Advising Association](#) (NACADA).

Institutional merit recipients are recommended for nomination to NACADA's national awards. Criteria and scoring for awards are based on a culmination of qualities and practices including interpersonal skills, availability and frequency of contact with students, monitoring student progress toward academic and career goals, and attitude towards students, faculty and staff.

Tolman joined the University in 2017 and teaches online and hybrid graduate-level courses in educational leadership.

“I utilize an online platform, so that students can easily make appointments with me,” explained Tolman. “Students know they can at any point schedule an appointment with me via face-to-face, phone or video chat.”

He also travels to Atlanta for advising sessions and offers opportunities to meet students while traveling for conferences.

“I am happy to meet with any student, not just those that are currently taking my courses,” said Tolman. “I think it is important to provide our online students with the opportunity to meet face-to-face and discuss courses, career paths, research or educational leadership in general.”

On any given day, Tolman reaches out to students individually and collectively to share career opportunities, research articles, networking events and professional development opportunities based on their respective interests and career paths. While students may not ever meet Tolman in person, he promotes an open-door policy that allows students to feel comfortable emailing or communicating with him whenever necessary.

“I firmly believe advising and teaching is my primary focus as a faculty member,” said Tolman. “I would argue these roles are inextricable — you cannot have one without the other. I am invested in the success of every student in our program. Their success is my success. Our success together will strengthen our profession.”

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Georgia Southern's online Master of Education ranked Top 10 in nation

April 8, 2019



Georgia Southern University's [M.Ed. in Evaluation, Assessment, Research and Learning](#) was recently ranked No. 8 in the nation for the Best Online Master's in Assessment and Measurement Programs, as well as receiving the "Most Modern" recognition, according to OnlineMasters.com.

The master's in evaluation, assessment, research and learning curriculum provides students with rigorous training in research and learning that can be used for assessment and evaluation in a variety of professional settings including public schools and school districts, higher education institutions, private research and assessment firms, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

Offered fully online, the program requires 36 credit hours of coursework, emphasizing tools and abilities such as collection and analysis of data, evaluation of programs and information, creation of assessment tools, and conducting research to make decisions based on empirical evidence.

"Our combined emphasis on evaluation, assessment, research and learning offers a broader, more contemporary approach to preparing individuals for the growing number of professional research positions that require ongoing systematic assessment to maintain accountability and the successful delivery of human services," said program director Cordelia Zinskie, Ed.D.

Georgia Southern was the only university in the state of Georgia to be ranked and one of only two ranked in the southeast.

"We also have an online graduate certificate program that is appropriate for those who want to develop or renew foundational research skills," added Zinskie.

The graduate Certificate in Applied Research and Evaluation is a fully online, 12-credit-hour program that offers students the opportunity to develop fundamental research strategies and apply this knowledge in various situations.

In addition to insights gained from industry professionals, OnlineMasters.com conducted interviews and analyzed data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and statistical data from the

National Center for Education Statistics. Only programs from accredited, nonprofit institutions were eligible.

For more information about the M.Ed. in Evaluation, Assessment, Research and Learning program, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/epr>. To review the Best Online Master's in Measurement and Assessment Programs at OnlineMasters.com, visit <https://www.onlinemasters.com/best-degree-programs/education/assessment-and-measurement/>.

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