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## Georgia Southern ‘New Teacher Thrive and Survive Summit’ assists new teachers with classroom management

February 11, 2020

The College of Education (COE) at Georgia Southern University is offering a day for early career teachers to recharge, reconnect and reengage. On March 28, teachers will gather at the University’s Statesboro Campus for the “New Teacher Survive and Thrive Summit” featuring keynote speaker Ruth Herman Wells, director of Youth Change, a comprehensive professional development resource for teachers, counselors and principals.

“One of the concerns for new teachers is retention and burnout within their first five years,” said Alisa Leckie, Ph.D, associate professor and COE interim assistant dean for partnerships and outreach. “We want to ensure that teachers are getting the support they need for both their professional and personal well being and growth.”

The event will be held in the College’s classroom building, located at 275 C.O.E. Drive, Statesboro, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will feature session topics including classroom management, motivating students, stress management and financial wellness.

The keynote address, presented by Wells, will address classroom management challenges while providing practical strategies for motivating students. Wells has authored more than 20 books on youth and child behavior and has more than two decades of experience hosting workshops for teachers and other educators .

“Classroom management is one of the concerns we hear teachers express most often,” said Michelle Reidel, Ph.D., professor of middle grades education and summit coordinator. “Especially for new educators who are really trying to find their footing in their own classrooms. It can be a challenge to build relationships with students, design meaningful instruction and meet the many demands teachers face today. We want to help by providing early career teachers with resources and tools that will assist them in feeling confident and prepared to move into their future teaching careers.”

The summit is limited to 150 registrants to ensure individual concerns of participants can be heard and discussed during the breakout sessions. Registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Door prizes and giveaways will also be available during the summit.

To register, visit <https://survivethriveteach.weebly.com>.

Posted in [COE Events](#)

Tags: [Alisa Leckie](#), [Michelle Reidel](#), [New Teacher Survive & Thrive Summit](#)

# Georgia Southern educational leadership faculty recognized for international award

February 11, 2020



*Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D.*

Georgia Southern University's Daniel Calhoun, Ph.D., associate professor of educational leadership, is one of only three individuals internationally to receive the 2020 Annuet Coeptis Senior Professional Award from the American College Personnel Association — College Student Educators International (ACPA).

The award recognizes senior student affairs professionals for demonstrated excellence in administrative service or teaching, research and publications, professional service and leadership.

"To be recognized by ACPA, the professional organization I've belonged to since I was a graduate student is especially rewarding," said Calhoun. "Being a teacher is not something I really think about doing, it is just who I am. So much of what we do in the field of education isn't always tangible, so reading what colleagues and students said about me in their nomination letters was both surreal and humbling."

A member of the College of Education (COE) faculty for more than nine years, Calhoun serves as the director of the M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration program and co-director of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. In Calhoun's nomination packet for the ACPA award, 24 letters of recommendation were compiled from current and former students, student affairs professionals, and faculty members spanning from his current role at Georgia Southern, to his previous positions at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Queens University of Charlotte and Western Illinois University.

"The abundance of recommendation letters for Dr. Calhoun is very telling of the impact he has had within the field," said COE colleague and assistant professor of educational leadership Steven Tolman, Ed.D. "We are extremely proud to see him recognized on a national level for the dedication and service we have seen from him on a daily basis here on the educational leadership team."

President of Atlanta Metropolitan State College and former Vice President of Student Affairs at Georgia Southern, Georj Lewis, Ed.D., included a letter of support for Calhoun's ACPA nomination, stating that he had benefited from Calhoun's "enthusiasm about education, his willingness to support others' educational advancement and his spirit of collegiality."

"Dr. Calhoun's scholarship, service and willingness to work has earned him the respect of students, faculty and student affairs practitioners alike," wrote Lewis. "His enthusiasm for the profession is refreshing and contagious. Dr. Calhoun is an exceptional person and has my support without equivocation."

Calhoun has served as committee chair for 15 completed doctoral dissertations as well as the chair of seven in-progress dissertations. His service as a committee member of dissertations and directed research projects spans over 40 students. Calhoun often collaborates with current and former students of the educational leadership graduate programs for research and was published in three peer-reviewed journals as well as a book chapter and two book reviews in 2019. =

“I enjoy working with students in and outside of the classroom,” said Calhoun. “It is my hope that through appropriate challenge and support, by providing concrete connections between theory and practice, and by providing mentorship and guidance, my students become active learners and leaders within higher education or the K-12 system.”

Award winners will be honored at the 2020 ACPA Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, in March.

Posted in [Faculty Highlights](#)

Tags: [Daniel Calhoun](#)

## [A new playing field: former athlete turned educational leader inspires students to be campus, community leaders](#)

February 11, 2020



*(l-r): Steve Tolman, Ed.D., assistant professor of educational leadership; John Egan, Ed.D.; and Juliann Sergi-McBrayer, Ed.D., assistant professor of educational leadership*

John Egan, Ed.D., spent his undergraduate and graduate academic career pursuing degrees in sports management. As an award-winning college pole vaulter, Egan wanted to continue his passion for sports, melding it into his career. Yet, when he began as an advisor in Georgia Southern's Student-Athlete Services, which provides academic support and development to student-athletes, in 2012, Egan's professional focus shifted quickly from sports management to students.

"I knew after some time at the University that I wanted to continue my work with college students, but perhaps not in the way that I had really ever thought of before," said Egan. "My career goals suddenly were no longer about sports but focused more on students."

In 2014, Egan started the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program at Georgia Southern.

"To continue working with students in the higher education workforce, I wanted to make sure there was no ceiling or barrier for reaching my potential and goals so I felt I needed to pursue a doctorate," said Egan.

The College of Education's doctoral program only strengthened what Egan already knew – that he had a passion for helping others develop their leadership skills. In July 2016, Egan was named the leadership educator in the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement (OLCE).

"I always had my eye on this office," admitted Egan. "I knew the culture in the office was positive and highly regarded on campus, and the work itself was compelling and attractive to me."

Since joining the team over three years ago, Egan's role has grown, as has his enthusiasm for the work he does in OLCE. One of Egan's primary roles is to assist with the coordination of the Southern Leaders program, a three- to four-year program that engages students in interactive leadership development and community service during their academic career at Georgia Southern. Egan also teaches non-credit courses in leadership for students and the larger campus community. Each fall, Egan coordinates the Southern Collegiate Leadership Conference (SCLC), which hosts over 300 college students from across the Southeast.

Egan's doctoral studies worked hand-in-hand with his job, allowing him to use experiences from his work during his research efforts, and found that his coursework enhanced his ability to help college students.

"I find that my work as a leadership educator is more rooted in research and evidence-based practices since completing my work in the program," he said. "For example, I'm now able to build more meaningful leadership programming through the backwards-course-design approach, and I am able to align leadership learning with evidence-based teaching strategies."

Egan completed and defended his dissertation in summer 2019, in which he focused his mixed-methods research on the skills derived from alumni of the Southern Leaders program, analyzing if and how the program's alumni utilize skills from the program in the workforce.

"Professionally, it is my hope that students who are engaged in programming through the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement will see direct benefits in their future careers," said Egan. "The study allowed me to explore this professional



aspiration. Also, in writing the literature review, I learned a great deal about undergraduate leadership learning, and this has directly impacted my approach as a leadership educator.”

As a part of the OLCE team and through his doctoral studies, Egan has submitted two manuscripts for publication with members of his dissertation committee that includes College of Education’s (COE) Juliann Sergi McBrayer, Ed.D., Pamela Wells, Ph.D., and Steven Tolman, Ed.D. These articles were developed out of Egan’s dissertation work, exploring leadership programs from the alumni perspective.

“We’ve formed a great team, and we are now starting on a third manuscript,” he said. “This third manuscript is really an idea that spun off of my dissertation. Dr. Tolman recognized that we were using Experiential Learning Theory in a unique way.”

Egan, fellow OLCE colleague and COE alumnus John Banter, Ed.D., and COE faculty member Carl (“Kip”) Sorgen, Ed.D., have also created and submitted a manuscript assessing the use of escape games as leadership pedagogy, a practice Egan and Banter began in 2017 at the SCLC. The pair also presented their framework of designing leadership escape games at the 2018 Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) conference where they were named the conference’s Distinguished Educator Workshop and the University’s Southern Leaders program received the ALE’s Outstanding Program of the Year Award.

Now that Egan has completed his doctorate, he plans to continue research and collaboration with the COE faculty members and his fellow doctoral colleagues.

“I really enjoy working here,” said Egan. “We have a great team and are doing some amazing work with students.”

For more information about the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/edld/p-12-leadership/p-12-ed-leadership/>.

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