COSM Dean to participate in USG Accelerated Leadership Academy

JANUARY 4, 2017

Martha Abell, Ph.D., dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM), has been selected to participate in the 2017 University System of Georgia’s (USG) Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) Accelerated Leadership Academy (ALA).

As one of just 15 selected participants, Abell has been given the opportunity to represent the University in this competitive program from Jan.-Nov. 2017. The ALA builds on the curriculum from the Executive Leadership Institute, which Abell completed in 2013, and provides advisement on improving the leadership effectiveness of program participants with a focus on integrity and ethics.

“The interaction with colleagues from across the USG within the ALA will provide an opportunity to better understand the challenges facing our campuses and enhance my skills in identifying potential problems in the future,” said Abell. “In addition, participation in a program like the ALA will better prepare me for possibly more demanding situations in the future. Of course, these experiences will also help me become a stronger mentor in assisting others on their pathways to leadership positions here on campus.”

Abell began her career at Georgia Southern as an assistant professor in 1989. She became an associate professor and then a professor for the Department of Mathematical Sciences, was the director of the University Honors Program from 2001-2004, became Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences in 2004, interim dean of COSM in 2012 and the Dean in 2014.

“I would encourage others on campus to take part in leadership training in programs on campus like the Eagle Leadership Program, programs sponsored by the USG like the ELI/ALA, or programs offered by professional societies,” said Abell. “I have found programs like these offer excellent opportunities to learn from colleagues, both internal and external to campus, and to take a close look at how my leadership style impacts those around me.”

For more information about the USG CLE, visit http://www.usg.edu/leadership_excellence/.
Anthropology’s Lambda Alpha Society presents spring film series

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Georgia Southern Anthropology’s Lambda Alpha Society is set to present their first annual Spring Film Series on Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9 and April 20.

During each month of the spring semester, a film related to an anthropological topic will be screened. The Society plans to screen films of interest to a broad University audience that will encourage viewers to think about what it means to be human.

The first film, “Babies,” to be shown Jan. 12, looks at one year in the life of four babies from around the world, from Mongolia to Namibia to San Francisco to Tokyo.

The second film in the series, “Becoming Human,” to be shown Feb. 9, examines what the latest scientific research reveals about the human species, putting together the pieces of human’s past and transforming the audience’s understanding of the earliest ancestors.

The third film, “Living on One Dollar,” to be shown March 9, follows the journey of four friends as they set out to live on just one dollar a day for two months in rural Guatemala, facing challenges such as hunger, parasites and extreme financial stress as they attempt to survive life on the edge.
The final installment, “Fed Up,” to be shown April 20, examines America’s obesity epidemic and the food industry's role in aggravating it.

All films will be shown in the Russell Union Theatre at 6 p.m. on their respective dates. The series is free and open to the public. Popcorn will be provided.

Lambda Alpha is the international honors society for students of anthropology. The name, Lambda Alpha, comes from the initial letters of the Greek words logos anthropou, meaning the 'study of man.' The Society was originally founded with the purpose of encouraging scholarship and research in anthropology. It provides funding for approved student activities, such as travel and professional conferences and seminars.