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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2016). *Newsroom*. 626.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/626>

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Camp RAD to receive assistance through Faculty Service Award

APRIL 22, 2016



Katy Gregg, Ph.D.; Gavin Colquitt, Ed.D.; and Ashley Colquitt, Ph.D.

Camp RAD has been offered the past three summers and supports youth with disabilities in Bulloch County by offering a summer camp experience. Through collaboration with the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department, The Therapy Spot and Georgia Southern faculty, Camp RAD provides safe, free opportunities for adapted physical activity and sport, health education and life skills training to adolescents age 10-21.

Camp RAD will be held Mondays through Thursdays, May 31-June 23. Campers can register for Camp RAD on April 11 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Honey Bowen Building. For more information on Camp RAD, contact Gavin Colquitt, Ph.D., at 912-478-0889 or Alison Brown at 912-764-5637. For information on financial assistance, contact Mitzi Proffitt at Parent-2-Parent of Georgia at 912-489-1904.

Olivia Edenfield, Ph.D. named Professor of the Year for 2016

APRIL 22, 2016



Olivia Edenfield, Ph.D.

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Ph.D., was presented with the Wells/Warren Professor of the Year Award at the Georgia Southern University 2016 Honors Day Convocation held at the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 6.

A second-generation Georgia Southern University graduate and Statesboro native, Edenfield (82') attended school at Marvin Pittman Laboratory School and Statesboro High School before earning her undergraduate degree in English at the University. Her parents, Paul Carr ('56) and Rose Watkins Carr ('57), graduates from Georgia Teachers College, passed along their love of teaching to Edenfield.

"My undergraduate professors as well as my parents, both of whom were teachers, inspired in me a deep love for the classroom," she said.

Edenfield and her husband of 33 years met as students and she couldn't resist "coming home" to Georgia Southern with him in 1986 when she was hired as a temporary instructor. Since then she has served as a non-tenure track instructor for the Developmental Studies/English Department, a Generalist in the English Department, the Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and is now the Executive Coordinator of the American Literature Association and professor in the Department of Literature and Philosophy.

Edenfield is a member of the Ernest Hemingway Society, the Cormac McCarthy Society, the Elizabeth Madox Roberts Society, the American Crime Fiction Group and the Society for the Study of the American Short Story.

Edenfield's area of specialization is the American short story, and she has published several works including a collection of interviews with Andre Dubus, *Conversations with Andre Dubus*, as his authorized biographer. Edenfield currently has two works in production, a monograph on Dubus, *Understanding Andre Dubus*, and a collection of essays on American crime and detective fiction which she is co-editing.

"What I love most about teaching is watching my students develop a passion for literature," Edenfield said. "I love watching them develop their ideas and become confident scholars in their own right. I love being in the classroom."

The winner of the Professor of the Year Award is selected annually by the University's students. Members of the Gamma Beta Phi honor society interview the department heads of the finalists and consider student evaluations of the professors.

The group then conducts a blind review of the finalists before selecting the winner of the award, which is endowed by former Gamma Beta Phi advisors J. Norman and Rosalyn Wells. The award is named in honor of their parents, Nolan and Audrey Wells and Hartwell and Lucile Warren.

"When I found out I was named Professor of the Year, I was especially happy to make my family so proud of me," Edenfield said. "The award is important to me because it is determined in part by students as well as by my department chair's recommendation. We have a dedicated interim department chair, Mary Villeponteaux, whom I very much admire, not only for her dedication to our majors and her sense of fairness, but also for her contributions to her discipline. To have her respect as well as those of my students is very important to me.

"I truly love teaching. It is a calling, and I am so blessed to spend my days with English majors."

Applications open for second annual BIG Pitch Competition

APRIL 22, 2016

Undergraduate and graduate collegiate innovators who have creative and sustainable solutions are invited to submit their ideas for the second annual BIG Pitch Competition, hosted by [Ocean Exchange](#) and Georgia Southern University's [Business Innovation Group](#).

This year's BIG Pitch Competition focuses on sustainability and invites individuals or teams to submit solutions and innovations that improve economies, health and the environment for the chance to win a \$10,000 cash prize. Applications are now open, and applicants are encouraged to apply early. The deadline is Sept. 30.

Eight finalists will be invited to present their ideas and solutions at Ocean Exchange Nov. 11 in front of 150 delegates representing businesses, NGOs, academia and government. Delegates will vote on who receives the cash award.

“The board and team at Ocean Exchange are excited for year two of the BIG Pitch Competition,” said Ocean Exchange CEO, Millicent Pitts. “Last year exceeded our expectations in the quality of the solutions that applied. Our delegates at the Ocean Exchange event were gratified to see young adults so engaged in sustainability innovations and entrepreneurship, both cornerstones of our existing Gulfstream® Navigator and Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics Orcelle® Awards. Frankly, I see BIG Pitch as a pipeline to bring solutions into our greater awards process as those collegiate innovations mature in one-five years.”

Last year’s competition drew nearly 30 collegiate team applicants from around the country, Canada and India. Opus 12 from Stanford University was selected as the winner for its sustainable innovation, “Renewable Fuel Production from Carbon Dioxide,” which uses technology developed at Stanford University to take carbon dioxide and convert it into usable fuel, ethanol that can then be used by oil refineries and corn ethanol plants.

“BIG Pitch is quickly becoming one of the premiere platforms for college students to showcase their innovative concepts,” said Business Innovation Group Director Dominique Halaby, D.P.A. “Teams are coming from across the globe for the exposure that comes from presenting in front of such an esteemed delegation.”

Since winning the competition, Opus 12 has won grants from the Department of Energy (DOE) and National Science Foundation (NSF), and also won DOE’s 2015 [Transformational Idea Award](#) among several other awards. Nicholas Flanders, the co-founder and CEO of Opus 12 was also featured among [Forbes’ 30 under 30](#) for energy. Opus 12 was also selected by [Shell GameChanger](#) to receive funding for an initial feasibility study.

BIG Pitch is part of the Business Innovation Group, in Georgia Southern University’s College of Business Administration. For more information about the competition and to apply, please visit www.oceanexchange.org.

Ocean Exchange is an international non-profit with the mission of helping advance the adoption of transformative solutions that support sustainability. Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics are worldwide sponsors.