

Newsroom

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Karen Phipps named Deen Day Service to Mankind Award recipient

JUNE 9, 2017



Karen Phipps

Karen Phipps, director of the College of Education's EAGLE Academy, was named a recipient of the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award announced during a May ceremony.

The Deen Day Smith Awards honor Statesboro and Bulloch County citizens for their devotion to others and the community. The annual banquet is hosted by the Statesboro Herald.

"I was overwhelmed, shocked and humbled," Phipps said. "I was going to support others and then realized I was being honored and given the royal treatment."

Included in Phipp's recognition was her service and commitment to the community during the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. Once the storm passed through Bulloch County, she began working to assist community members in providing leadership to organize food donations, prepare meals and coordinate volunteers. With hundreds of people in Bulloch County without power, food was provided for a week after the hurricane left its mark.

Once power was restored, Phipps immediately began working with community leaders to form a local membership of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD). Members of National VOAD form a coalition of nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as a part of their overall mission including the American Red Cross and collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Phipps also serves as the coordinator of the local soup kitchen hosted at the Statesboro First Methodist Church each Saturday.

"My heart is with the less fortunate," she explained, "right next to my heart for individuals with special needs."

Phipps joined the College of Education in 2016 as an adjunct faculty member and became the director of the EAGLE (Equal Access to Gainful Employment) Academy in January 2017. This inclusive post-secondary education program provides students with mild intellectual and

developmental disabilities the opportunity to attend the Georgia Southern and develop job and life skills.

Phipps says that volunteering was instilled in her at a young age.

"My grandmother had me out doing community service as a young child," she explained. "I was raised that you were just supposed to serve and help others."

She is active in various other community roles including the Wesley Board of Directors; Leadership Committee for Relay for Life Bulloch County; a faculty advisor for the Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC); and a member of Compassion Christian Church of Statesboro.

Phipps was one of 18 citizens to receive a 2017 Service to Mankind Award.

The Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Awards event is named for renowned humanitarian Deen Day Smith Sanders, whose husband founded Days Inn of America. The exclusive gala honors area residents who are nominated by peers and selected by a committee that reviews their history of compassion, giving and helping others. The event is sponsored by several area businesses and individuals.

Henderson Library presents 'A Chinese Art Preview'

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The Zach S. Henderson Library will honor the life and art of Jiann-Ping Hsu, Ph.D., and explore the history of Chinese art and calligraphy at 'A Chinese Art Preview' on Wednesday, July 12, from 2 – 3 p.m. in Library Room 1300.

The event will be hosted by the Library's Special Collections, and will feature some of the beautiful works of Hsu and the many works of art she collected. In addition to being the namesake of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, Hsu was a scholar, scientist and artist who devoted her career to public health before losing a long battle with cancer in 2004. She served with the Food and Drug Administration, served in the leadership of several pharmaceutical companies, and was a research consultant with Biopharmaceutical Research Consultants, Inc., a research consulting organization founded by her husband, Karl E. Peace, Ph.D. Peace endowed the College of Public Health in her name as a celebration of her life.

Light refreshments will be provided at the event.

Faculty develop physical activity program for local children

JUNE 9, 2017



Three Georgia Southern faculty have partnered with Bulloch County's Transitions Learner Center (TLC) to offer an optional physical activities program for 16 middle and high school students.

Christina Gipson,

Ph.D., assistant professor of sport management in the School of Health and Kinesiology, Bridget Melton, Ed.D., associate professor of physical activity in the School of Health and Kinesiology, Dawn Tysinger, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Leadership, Technology and Human Development, and first-year psychology graduate student, Laura Veasey spent this past spring implementing the physical activity program. Students in the Exercise Science course at the University were given the opportunity to observe and assist with the first half of the program as well.

The TLC is an alternative school in Bulloch County that currently serves the general education needs of students, who have been referred to the program and need a more non-traditional learning environment.

With no access to a gym, the group held the physical activity program four times a week in the school cafeteria. Although resources were limited, the program received funding from the School of Health and Kinesiology in the College of Human Sciences, and Tysinger donated the protocols needed for the research.

"The school had minimal physical activity equipment," noted Gipson. "Tony Pritchard, Ph.D., program coordinator for the School of Health and Kinesiology's Graduate Physical Education program, and CrossFit Boro helped supply equipment for the participants."

Before the physical activity program was implemented, students attended school from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with little to no physical activity.

"Due to students being strictly on the computer for their classes, there was very limited opportunity for movement," said Renee Perry, TLC school counselor. "The program encouraged students to become active and try new activities."

With the guidance of Gipson, Melton and Tysinger, Veasey developed the curriculum and workouts for the students.

"I attempted to make the workouts fun for the students," said Veasey. "Students are required to wear a uniform of khaki pants and white shirts while attending TLC, and on the days I demonstrated the activity I dressed to match the students."

Activities were designed based on the student's age and skill level. Each activity included rules that encouraged participation of every student. Students were required to attend the physical activity program in the same structure as their general class structure and were only provided the opportunity to participate if they were in good-standing.

Perry expressed the students' excitement over getting to attend "PE" several times a week. Perry recalled one student in particular who benefited from the physical activity program after having an unsuccessful start at the TLC.

"During the student's first time participating in the physical activity program, the student really got into the running and circuit training and would exceed the requests of the instructor," she said. "The student expressed liking to exercise, and we began to see a difference in the student's classroom behavior. The student was proud of his skills in physical activity."

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