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Katherine Taylor's Reflective Plane on view at Center for Art & Theatre Sept. 25 – Oct. 20

AUGUST 16, 2017



Katherine Taylor's "Park Median," oil on canvas

Atlanta-based artist Katherine Taylor, known for her powerful and sometimes ominous paintings, challenges perceptions with her exhibition "Reflection Plane," on view at Georgia Southern University's Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre from Sept. 25 to Oct. 20.

The public is invited to learn more about Taylor and her work during an Artist Talk on Oct. 19 at 5 p.m. in Arts Building, room 2071. A reception will follow at 6 p.m. at the Center for Art & Theatre.

"Reflection Plane" acknowledges the deep influence our perception of the landscape has on the environment.

The paintings depict engineered spaces that mirror the boundaries of sky and water, always directing attention back to the surface. The works show direct observations framed, snapped or stopped in action with

intact portions of railings, pools, signs or concrete structures grounding the view.

"I paint with an awareness of the emotional territory of our shifting physical world," said Taylor.

"The paintings operate with perceptions of distance to bring abstract surfaces into being by accessing illusions of moving space with fixed impressions of deep space. Coupled with the geometry that orders our lives, these images in painting examine the environmental conditions of our world."

Taylor's work has been featured in numerous publications including "New American Paintings," "Art Papers," "The Boston Globe" and the newly published book "Painted Landscapes: Contemporary Views." Her work has also been included in exhibitions internationally, including the Quebec City Biennale, Quebec, Canada; Diverseworks, Houston, Texas; The Albany Museum of Art, Albany, Georgia; Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, Marietta, Georgia; and at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, the Museum of Contemporary Art Atlanta and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I am excited to exhibit Taylor's work here at Georgia Southern," said Gallery Director Jason Hoelscher. "Taylor's paintings are an intriguing mix of eras and implications that take some time and consideration to detect. They initially look like abstract works but are in fact fairly representational, which lends them a spatial complexity not often found in, say, modernist approaches to pictorial flatness. At the same time, the works play interesting games with the notion of a painted surface, a painterly agenda that complicates the relationship between the painting as an object covered with paint, and an imaginary window through which we view a painted scene."

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master's degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information, visit class.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern professor Alma Stevenson receives award from 'INSIGHT Into Diversity' magazine

AUGUST 16, 2017



Alma Stevenson, Ph.D.

Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) Associate Professor Alma Stevenson, Ph.D., has been named a recipient of the 2017 Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education.

The Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award honors professionals from underrepresented groups who have made a difference in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Stevenson will be featured in the September 2017 issue of INSIGHT Into

Diversity magazine as one of 40 recipients in the nation to receive this recognition.

“We know many of those working in STEM fields, especially those from underrepresented groups, are not always recognized for their success, dedication and mentorship to others,” said Lenore Pearlstein, owner and publisher of the magazine. “We want to honor the many professionals who are inspirations to their colleagues, their community and to young people who may be interested in a future career in STEM. We are proud to honor these leaders as role models to all.”

Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award recipients were nominated by a colleague and selected by INSIGHT Into Diversity based on their efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of young people to consider careers in STEM through mentoring, teaching, research and successful programs and initiatives.

“One of my main attributes as a person is my commitment to serve underrepresented and underserved populations,” explained Stevenson. “My current research looks at these populations and addresses STEM education issues.”

During her time spent as an elementary school educator in El Paso, Texas, one of Stevenson’s primary responsibilities was to make modifications for science and math instruction to be accessible for all students, including students with exceptionalities and English as a Second Language (ESOL) learners.

Her dissertation research examined how bilingual students choose to use their linguistic resources in both science classrooms and lab settings. Since moving into higher education, Stevenson has focused much of her research on literacy and language development in science classrooms. She teaches undergraduate and graduate-level courses including: Literacy in the Content Areas; Approaches to Literacy; and Critical Issues in Literacy Education with Diverse Populations.

She has served on several STEM grant-funded projects since coming to Georgia Southern University in 2011. Currently, Stevenson is working with COE colleagues Robert Mayes, Ph.D., and Lacey Huffling, Ph.D., on Georgia’s GEAR UP! grant, focusing on the professional development of eighth grade mathematics and physical science teachers.

“As a professor, my research, service and teaching all focus upon the goal of ensuring that challenging and empowering curricula is available for all students, regardless of their socio-economic, cultural, academic or linguistic backgrounds,” said Stevenson.

A past recipient of the College’s Jack Miller Award for Scholarly Activity, Stevenson serves in voluntary roles with Bulloch County Schools and the Georgia Department of Education’s Migrant Education program, including presenting workshops for parents and teachers and participating in statewide assessment initiatives.

“Dr. Stevenson is a well-deserving candidate for this award because of her hard work and dedication to the field of STEM education,” said Thomas Koballa, Ph.D., dean of COE. “She does a superb job of linking her passion for research with her attention to the needs of students, particularly students whose potential for greatness may be overlooked. STEM fields serve as vehicles for Dr. Stevenson to satisfy her desire to bring out the best in people, and to improve educational opportunities for all through her studies of student learning and motivation.”

For more information about the 2017 Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award and INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, visit InsightIntoDiversity.com

For more information about the College of Education, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/COE.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 118 degree programs serving 20,673 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.