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College of Education professor to speak at Smithsonian Institution

APRIL 5, 2018



Amanda Glaze, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Georgia Southern University College of Education, will be the featured speaker during the Smithsonian Institution's Broader Social Impacts Committee's annual meeting on April 29 in Washington, D.C.

Glaze's presentation, "Laboring for Science, Laboring for Souls: Obstacles and Approaches to Teaching Evolution in the Southeastern United States," will be broadcast live from [Q?ruis Theater](#), which is located in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

"It is such a huge honor to me because of what the Smithsonian Institution represents," Glaze, who teaches middle grades and secondary education, said. "My grandmother was a science teacher, and I remember from childhood looking through her books and collections and feeling like the Smithsonian was something special and represented to the world a collection of our nation's history in so many areas."

The presentation will examine Glaze's research into evolution education, specifically in the Southeastern United States where there is perceived tension between religious worldviews and science. She focuses much of her research on student teachers and in-service teachers, who are on the "front line" when it comes to teaching scientific worldviews, according to Glaze.

"I hope to share the stories of people like myself who have grown up with misperceptions about science and beliefs as a result of conflict that can be easily mitigated through outreach and understanding," she explained. "The South represents an area that has even greater conflict when it comes to topics in science like evolution, yet it is rarely studied because the culture can be difficult to understand if you are looking in from the outside. I hope to provide a lens for understanding and growth around the country by studying this conflict in the Southeast and the actions we are taking to mitigate conflict while respecting and including worldviews of all students."

Glaze taught five years as a middle grades and high school science teacher in her home state of Alabama and Georgia before beginning her career in higher education. Her years in both the secondary and college classroom have given her firsthand experience of the perceptions and knowledge students have of evolution and the place it has in the field of science.

"As someone who grew up in a deeply religious family and who has navigated the conflict that can arise when science and beliefs are not always in agreement, I recognized the need to have conversations that bring everyone to the table rather than making assumptions or excluding people because of differences," Glaze said. "The goal of science education is for all people to be scientifically literate. In order to reach that end, we have to first be willing to

listen and learn, then we can build bridges that make science accessible and welcoming to all as a part of their worldview, rather than something that conflicts with their worldview.”

The public presentation will include a 40-minute lecture by Glaze. Afterward, the Broader Social Impacts Committee will provide feedback and open up the floor to the attendees for discussion. To view the live webcast of the event, visit <http://humanorigins.si.edu/about/events>.

The Broader Social Impacts Committee was established by the Human Origins Program of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. It is made up of professionals representing a variety of religious traditions, as well as science educators and religious studies scholars. The committee serves to assist the museum in developing resources that complement its education and outreach efforts and reach audiences affected by potential challenges at the intersection of scientific findings and religious reflection. Each year the Broader Social Impacts Committee hosts public events that serve to answer inquiries about human evolution.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 27,000 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Savannah, Statesboro, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern music faculty members receive Global Music Award for new CD

APRIL 5, 2018



Larisa Elisha, D.M.A., and Steven Elisha, D.M.A., faculty members in the Department of Music at Georgia Southern who form the acclaimed classical group, Elaris Duo, recently received the Silver Medal-Outstanding Achievement Award at the Global Music Awards.

Elaris Duo was awarded in the duo and new release categories for "Duo Virtuoso II – Works for Violin and Cello," a colorful program of 20th-century European masterpieces written between the two World Wars.

"We are very humbled, honored and proud to receive a Global Music Award," Larisa Elisha said. "It is very exciting to receive appreciation and international recognition for our duo and this unique duo program featured on our recent MSR-Classics release."

The Elishas have gained national and international attention with performances at the Bergen International Festival, Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy, National Taiwan University of the Arts, Summit Music Festival and Sunflower Music Festival.

Steven Elisha serves as the head of the string area, director of orchestras and conductor for the Georgia Southern Symphony, and Larisa Elisha is coordinator of upper strings studies. They both joined Georgia Southern in 2011.

Established in 2011, the Global Music Awards is one of the most prestigious international music competitions and celebrates independent musicians from more than 62 countries.

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