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Georgia Southern professor invited by former Nigerian president to serve in Africa Progress Group

MAY 8, 2018

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At the invitation of former Nigerian president General Olusegun Obasanjo, Georgia Southern University College of Education (COE) Professor and Goizueta Distinguished Chair of Education Alejandro Gallard, Ph.D., will serve on the new, six-member Africa Progress Group (APG) to advocate for equitable and sustainable development for Africa.

APG was created to continue the work of Africa Progress Panel (APP), a similar alliance led by former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, and will push for the implementation of APP recommendations that address national challenges with energy, agriculture, infrastructure and climate change.

Included in APG's "select group of thought leaders who can provide much appreciated substantive input and advice," Gallard will consult with the group on a regular basis to offer his expertise in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

"It is humbling when an advisory council for a continent asks for your expertise," said Gallard. "I look at this as an opportunity to help improve STEM literacy throughout Africa and look for ways to connect Africa with the state of Georgia through academic and economic partnerships."

Gallard joined Georgia Southern in 2012 after serving 17 years at Florida State University. As the Goizueta Distinguished Chair of Education, Gallard helps reinforce COE's commitment to fulfilling its mission to facilitate learning opportunities that are authentic, student-centered and meet individual student's intellectual and career goals. He works to develop collaborative initiatives in conducting and developing funded projects that support improvements in educational settings with direct ties to diverse learners.

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 Statesboro, Savannah, 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.

Registration for Georgia Southern's Summer Reading Institute open

MAY 8, 2018

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Registration for Georgia Southern University's annual Summer Reading Institute, which will take place June 25-29 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah, is open. Hosted by the College of Education's (COE) Coastal Savannah Writing Project (CSWP), the Institute will offer 30 hours of professional development for a maximum of 15 participants.

The cost for registration is \$300 and includes a copy of *The Write to Read: Response Journals That Increase Comprehension*. Written by CSWP Director Lesley Roessing, the practical handbook presents step-by-step modeling of response journals and how to help students build an understanding of complex literacy and informational text.

Participants will engage in exploration, research and practice of effective strategies for teaching reading comprehension and teaching reading in all genres and content areas for students grades 1-12.

The Summer Reading Institute is facilitated by Roessing, who also serves as a senior lecturer for the COE and has authored several books, chapters and articles on literacy and presented at national and international conferences.

"Reader response writing strategies to increase comprehension and engage readers will be stressed," said Roessing. "Participants will become more proficient and confident teachers of readers, and better versed in the research behind effective reading instruction."

Additional takeaways from the workshop will include: learning to setup and manage a reading workshop; preparation of strategy-focused lessons; engaging in before, during and after reading responses; planning culturally diverse classroom libraries and incorporating books into multicultural study; participation in book clubs; and the design of collaborative reading-writing-speaking projects for the classroom.

A registration form is available upon request form writingproject@georgiasouthern.edu or by contacting Roessing at lroessing@georgiasouthern.edu. Fees are due upon registration.

To stay up-to-date on the CSWP's latest events and activities, follow them on social media at [Facebook.com/coastalsavwp](https://www.facebook.com/coastalsavwp).

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Georgia Southern health and physical education major wins national award

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Georgia Southern University health and physical education major Carson Hollingsworth recently received the Major of the Year Award at the 2018 Society of Health and Physical Educators' national convention and expo in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Carson has become a leader in the field of health and physical education in a short time as an undergraduate student," said Gavin Colquitt, Ed.D., associate professor of health and physical education at Georgia Southern.

Hollingsworth, who graduated this month, was selected as the student representative for the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in his junior year and served a one-year term. He also participated in multiple advocacy efforts for physical education, including a trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with members of Congress at Speak Out! Day in support of school health and physical education.

He plans to pursue a master's in health and physical education as well as a graduate certificate in coaching. His goal is to work in a school system so that he can positively

impact children's lives.

"This award meant a lot to me and reinforced that hard work does pay off," said Hollingsworth.

The Major of the Year Award celebrates outstanding undergraduate students in the fields of health, physical education, recreation and dance. Students are nominated by their faculty and must have a 3.0 grade point average or higher. Nominees must also be within their junior or senior year of the required majors and provide service to their school or community for a minimum of two years.

For more information about Georgia Southern's bachelor's in health and physical education program, visit <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/hpe/>.

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