

Newsroom

May 7, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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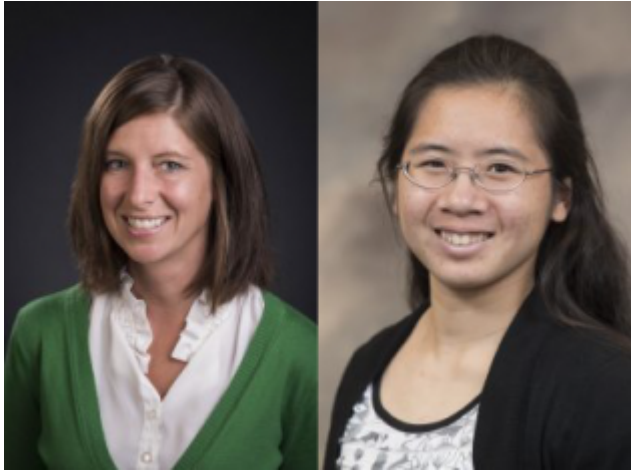
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Georgia Southern faculty, staff advisors win national honors

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(l-r) Christy Mroczek, senior lecturer, Department of Writing and Linguistics, and Lan-Anh Vo, academic advisor in the Waters College of Health Professions, earned National Academic Advising Association Certificate of Merit Awards.

Georgia Southern University faculty and staff members Christy Mroczek and Lan-Anh Vo, respectively, have been honored by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) with Certificate of Merit Awards.

Mroczek, senior lecturer in the Department of Writing and Linguistics and internships coordinator, earned the Certificate of Merit in the Faculty Advising category and Vo, academic advisor in the Waters College of Health Professions, earned the Certificate of Merit in the Outstanding New Advisor Award — Primary Advising Role.

"I'm extremely proud of the commitment demonstrated by Georgia Southern faculty and staff to advise and mentor our students," stated Associate Provost Christine Ludowise, Ph.D. "Our commitment to students and their success is at the heart of what we do in advising, and we seek to find the best ways to support students through their educational journey at Georgia Southern. Having two National

Certificate of Merit Award recipients is a great honor for Georgia Southern, and the competitive nature of the awards process provides us great feedback on the advising we provide."

Criteria and scoring for NACADA awards are based on a culmination of the winners' innovative approaches to effective academic advising, creativity in the delivery of academic advising services, ability to address problems, institutional commitment, impact of advising and the transferability of practices.

Mroczek and Vo will be honored at the NACADA Awards Ceremony at the organization's national conference in Louisville, Kentucky, this fall.

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Georgia Southern graduate student earns masters in newest graduate program

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Zachary Wu presents his work at a conference.

Graduate student Zachary Wu had never studied in the United States before coming to Georgia Southern two years ago. At commencement on May 10, Wu will become one of the first-ever graduates at Georgia Southern to receive a master of science in applied geography as part of the program's inaugural graduating class.

Wu, who is from Chengdu, China, overcame many obstacles on his way to obtaining his degree. One major setback was speaking English only as a second language.

"Moving to the United States was a new page for me," said Wu. "I am not a native speaker and at the very beginning, it

was a little tough. People are nice in Georgia. They tolerated my mistakes and helped me to improve my English and get used to living in Statesboro. My friends, adviser and other professors at Georgia Southern helped me a lot. I really appreciate that."

Despite having a large course load and working as a teaching assistant, Wu still found time to get some experience in his field.

Wu worked on a project to detect and extract roadside traffic signs using geographic information systems (GIS) and machine learning techniques. He presented the results from the project at the 2018 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) SIGSPATIAL conference in Seattle where he published a conference proceeding.

"It was great presenting my work at the 2018 ACM SIGSPATIAL conference in Seattle," said Wu. "I was lucky to have met a lot of researchers and companies. I prepared a lot and based on computer vision, my workflow can detect and extract traffic signs from images and videos with image recognition."

Wu also worked as a GIS intern at the Beaufort – Jasper Water & Sewer Authority in South Carolina in the 2018 Fall Semester.

In the past two years, Wu won a number of awards, including SouthEastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Poster Graduate Honor, Savannah GIS Day Competition Winner in 2017 and 2018, Georgia Southern University Graduate Student Research Support, Project Development Award and Travel Award from the Applied Geography Specialty Group in the Association of American Geographers conference 2019, Best GIS student award in 2019 and Esri Development Center Outstanding Student of the Year 2019.

Wu, who plans to work for a technical company after graduation, said his internships and awards can all be traced back to one word.

“Confidence,” he said. “Confidence helped me to not be afraid of overcoming challenges.”

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Georgia Southern alumna, Read Woke creator recognized as 2019 Mover & Shaker, innovator in education

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Named a *Library Journal* 2019 Mover & Shaker, Gwinnett County Public Schools' 2019 Library Media Specialist of the Year and the 2019 Metro Georgia Library Media Specialist of the Year, Cicely Lewis is making a name for herself as an innovator in the field of education.

After more than 15 years of experience as a high school language arts and Spanish teacher, Lewis decided to make a career change to pursue a passion her colleagues and students continuously praised her for.

"I would host these huge events in my classrooms like poetry cafes and Harlem Renaissance celebrations, and other students in the school would come by and say, 'I wish I could be in your class so I could participate,'" Lewis recalled.

With a talent for instructional technology and innovative reading curriculum, Lewis sought a school library media certificate from Georgia Southern University College of Education to make the transition from the classroom to media specialist.

"I selected Georgia Southern because the program was completely online and the university has an impressive reputation among educators," Lewis said. "I learned so much from the school library program at Georgia Southern. The program was very challenging. Many times I didn't think I could complete all of the work, but I persevered."

Lewis says that the school library media certificate program required her to create social media accounts and participate in activities via the social channels. At first, she was hesitant.

"I was so apprehensive, but that was the best decision that I ever made," she said. "Because of social media, I have reached so many people and learned so much. I also made my first screencast, and I was introduced to various educational tools that have greatly improved my instruction. Every assignment and project that I completed in this program was directly beneficial for my school media center."

Lewis' social media presence has also helped create a platform for her now worldwide effort to get students to read. Her program, Read Woke, began in September 2017 as a reading challenge for students to explore literature that challenged social norms. Lewis was inspired by current events and social injustices and wanted to do her part to make a difference.

She created a reading list of books for Read Woke that fit a criteria of challenging a social norm, giving a voice to the voiceless, providing information about a group that has been disenfranchised or having a protagonist from an underrepresented or oppressed group. Lewis felt these books would help students to learn about themselves and other groups while also engaging in serious dialogue.

In less than two years, Read Woke has grown into a movement Lewis calls Read WOKE across America.

"The program has spread like wildfire," Lewis said. "I have changed it to allow students to bring a book to me and justify why it is Read Woke, and they can use it. The program has grown to include several media specialists from Gwinnett County high schools. I have also expanded it to include picture books for elementary students."

As such, Lewis was honored with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Top Teacher of 2018 award and as a 2018 Dollar General Teen Read Week grant recipient.

"I am so humbled by all of the awards, and I am greatly appreciative," Lewis said. "Although the awards have my name on them, they are for librarians everywhere. These awards are for the school librarian whose position has been eliminated because of budget cuts, for the school librarian who has been told they are not a real teacher, for the school librarian who has been told they don't deserve a raise, for the school librarian who has been told no one reads anymore, and for the school librarian who has been given so many other duties that they cannot successfully run their program."

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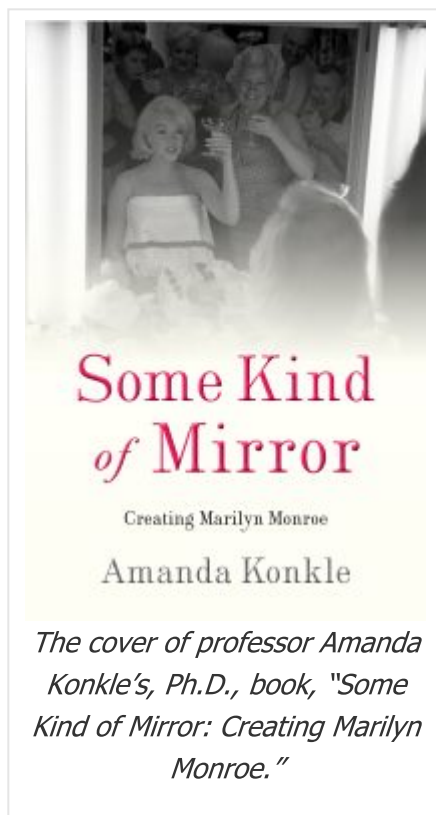
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Georgia Southern professor who published book on Marilyn Monroe to host signing event

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Georgia Southern University Assistant Professor of Film Studies Amanda Konkle, Ph.D., who recently had her book "Some Kind of Mirror: Creating Marilyn Monroe" published by Rutgers University Press, will be at E. Shaver Booksellers in Savannah on May 11 for a signing event.



"Some Kind of Mirror: Creating Marilyn Monroe" offers the first extended scholarly analysis of Marilyn Monroe's film performances. The book looks at how people united the contradictory discourses about women's roles in 1950s America. Konkle said in the book that Monroe's star persona resonated with audiences because it engaged with the era's critical debates regarding femininity, sexuality, marriage and political activism. She explores how Monroe drew from the techniques of method acting and finely calibrated her performances to better mirror her audience's anxieties and desires.

Although she remains one of the all-time most recognizable Hollywood icons, Marilyn Monroe has seldom been ranked among the greatest actors of her generation. Critics have typically viewed her film roles as mere extensions of her sexpot star persona. Konkle said this ignores both the subtle variations between these roles and the acting skill that went into the creation of Monroe's public persona.

Drawing both from Monroe's filmography and from 1950s fan magazines, newspaper reports and archived film studio reports, "Some Kind of Mirror: Creating Marilyn Monroe" considers how her star persona was co-authored by the actress, the Hollywood publicity machine and the fans who adored her. It is about why 1950s America made Monroe a star, but it is also about how

Marilyn defined an era.

Copies of the book will be for sale at the signing event, and they can be found in the Georgia Southern bookstores.

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Georgia Southern student awarded Dow Jones News Fund Internship

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Georgia Southern journalism student Brendan Ward will take part in the American City Business Journals Business Reporting Program at New York University as a part of a Dow Jones News Fund Internship.

"I'm honored to have been selected as a Dow Jones intern this summer," Ward said. "This is a huge opportunity, and I'm excited to represent Georgia Southern University. I want to thank the amazing journalists at The George-Anne and the Georgia Southern journalism professors for helping me grow as a journalist."

Ward is one of only 79 students nationwide who will work this summer in a paid internship at one of the nation's 65 leading news organizations through the Dow Jones News Fund. The Dow Jones News Fund arranges summer internships for college juniors, seniors and graduate students in newsrooms across the country in data journalism, digital media, business reporting and multiplatform editing. On average, nearly a third of the fund's graduating seniors are offered full-time jobs when their internships end.

Parker College of Business logistics students win at annual IANA competition

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Four senior logistics and supply chain management students in the Parker College of Business brought home a second consecutive win from the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA) Logistics and Supply Chain Management Case Competition in Jacksonville, Florida.

Alecia Breen, Madeleine Haney, Shelby Bates and Tate Robinson won first place after competing against six other student teams from Auburn University, University of Arkansas, University of Maryland, University of North Florida, University of North Texas and the University of South Florida during the 11th annual event in April.

This year's focal case required students to leverage topical knowledge about types of intermodal equipment, regulatory limitations, due date promises and analytical computations to find the most cost-efficient shipping plan for a sub-network of parcel package carrier's operations.

"Our team worked hard and delivered a top-notch presentation," said Jerry Burke, Ph.D., the team's advisor and a professor and chair of the Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management. "The industry judges made a point to let me know our team did an excellent job. Many thanks to IANA for supporting these competitions and also for supporting the Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management as an IANA Scholar School."

Larry Gross of Gross Transportation Consulting was commissioned to develop the intermodal case study specifically for the competition. The student presentations were judged by a group of business professionals representing a broad section of intermodal supply chains.

In addition to competing, the students enjoyed a Behind the Tracks tour hosted by CSX at the corporate headquarters in downtown Jacksonville, where students had the opportunity to network with industry professionals and their peers, learn about the academic programs at other universities, and hone their analysis and presentation skills.