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Georgia Southern graduate students help increase awareness of brain injuries

December 19, 2019



John Godbee, Kristen Warren, Reagan Gulley, Chandler Dotson, K'yanna Groomster, Caroline Steed, Madison McCabe, Michelle Licari participate in the annual Brain Injury Awareness Walk in Savannah, Georgia.

Graduate student Caroline Steed aspires to work full time with brain injury survivors, which is why she enjoyed representing Georgia Southern University's Communication Sciences and Disorders program in the seventh annual Brain Injury Awareness Walk in Savannah, Georgia.

"The Brain Injury Awareness Walk is such a special event in which I am honored to have participated," stated Steed. "It's important to be involved in events like this so that we can spread awareness about traumatic brain injury, empower the survivors and their caregivers, as well as provide support in any way we can."

Steed was one of 15 graduate students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program from the Waters College of Health Professions who participated in the annual walk which supports the Brain Injury Association of Georgia (BIAG).

"As a first-year graduate student, I am wrapping up my neuroanatomy and physiology course where I have learned so much about the inner workings of the brain," Steed said. "However, what's really fascinating is how each and every one of my classes are interrelated and have helped me learn ways to provide exceptional services."

Throughout their graduate school career, communication sciences and disorders students receive direct training to promote skills needed to provide exceptional speech and language therapy services to brain injury survivors.

“One of my greatest areas of interest in this field is working with those who have had a traumatic brain injury, so I am particularly grateful to be in such a great program and to be able to learn from such knowledgeable professors,” she said.

Students not only participated in the walk but had the opportunity to interact with local professionals. Walks such as the Brain Injury Awareness Walk help to raise funds necessary to continue different support groups and research for those impacted by brain injuries.

According to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), speech-language pathologists play an integral role in evaluating, intervening and advocating for those impacted by brain injuries.

About BIAG

The mission of the BIAG is to provide hope, help and support to the citizens of Georgia who have sustained or have been affected by brain injury.

About the Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders

The Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate program allows students to enter careers in speech-language pathology and prepares students to pursue the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competency (CCC). The degree includes a total of 57 credit hours of academic coursework and a minimum of 400 clinical clock hours as described by ASHA for the CCC. The program is accredited in the area of speech-language pathology by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 26,000 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.

Annual Walk for RiteCare raises \$5,000 for Georgia Southern's RiteCare Center

December 19, 2019



Students from the communication sciences and disorders class of 2021 team.

The RiteCare Center at Georgia Southern University received a \$5,000 donation from the Valley of Savannah Scottish Rite Masons after their second annual Walk for the RiteCare at Lake Mayer Park in Savannah, Georgia.

Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus students and staff were among the 80 participants in the walk. Held in October, the walk featured trick or treating along the walking trail for children, a children's costume contest and a team costume contest.

Students from the communication sciences and disorders class of 2021 team won the trophy for the costume contest, and the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association team winning second place.

About the RiteCare Center on Armstrong Campus

The RiteCare Center is a teaching communication disorders center for students in the graduate Communication Sciences and Disorders program. Under the supervision of experienced licensed and certified speech-language pathologists, graduate students in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program provide low-cost services to include assessment and intervention services for children and adults with communication delays or disorders.

About the RiteCare and Scottish Rite Masons

The RiteCare Center at Georgia Southern University is supported by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite – Savannah Valley, in keeping with the national philanthropic program of the Scottish Rite Masons to support speech and hearing clinics. Today there are numerous RiteCare clinics, centers and special programs operating

or planned throughout the United States. Through this philanthropic effort, RiteCare Centers have significantly helped tens of thousands of children across the United States improve their communication skills in order to improve their lives.