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[A new playing field: former athlete turned educational leader inspires students to be campus, community leaders](#)

February 18, 2020



John Egan, Ed.D., spent his undergraduate and graduate academic career pursuing degrees in sports management. As an award-winning college pole vaulter, Egan wanted to continue his passion for sports, melding it into his career. Yet, when he began as an advisor in Georgia Southern's Student-Athlete Services, which provides academic support and development to student-athletes, in 2012, Egan's professional focus quickly shifted from sports management to students.

"I knew after some time at the University that I wanted to continue my work with college students, but perhaps not in the way that I had really ever thought of before," said Egan. "My career goals suddenly were no longer about sports but more focused on students."

In 2014, Egan started the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program at Georgia Southern.

"To continue working with students in the higher education workforce, I wanted to make sure there was no ceiling or barrier for reaching my potential and goals so I felt I needed to pursue a doctorate," said Egan.

The College of Education's doctoral program only strengthened what Egan already knew – that he had a passion for helping others develop their leadership skills. In July 2016, Egan was named the leadership educator in the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement (OLCE).

"I always had my eye on this office," admitted Egan. "I knew the culture in the office was positive and highly regarded on campus, and the work itself was compelling and attractive to me."

Since joining the team over three years ago, Egan's role has grown, as has his enthusiasm for the work he does in OLCE. One of Egan's primary roles is to assist with the coordination of the Southern Leaders program, a three- to four-year program that engages students in interactive leadership development and community service during their academic career at Georgia Southern. Egan also teaches non-credit courses in leadership for students and the larger campus community. Each fall, Egan coordinates the Southern Collegiate Leadership Conference (SCLC), which hosts over 300 college students from across the Southeast.

Egan's doctoral studies worked hand-in-hand with his job, allowing him to use experiences from his work during his research efforts, and discovered that his coursework enhanced his ability to help college students.

"I find that my work as a leadership educator is more rooted in research and evidence-based practices since completing my work in the program," he said. "For example, I'm now able to build more meaningful leadership programming through the backwards-course-design approach, and I am able to align leadership learning with evidence-based teaching strategies."

Egan successfully defended his dissertation in summer 2019, outlining his mixed-methods research on the skills derived from alumni of the Southern Leaders program, analyzing if and how the program's alumni utilize skills from the program in the workforce.

"Professionally, it is my hope that students who are engaged in programming through the Office of Leadership and Community Engagement will see direct benefits in their future careers," said Egan. "The study allowed me to explore this professional aspiration. Also, in writing the literature review, I learned a great deal about undergraduate leadership learning, and this has directly impacted my approach as a leadership educator."

As a part of the OLCE team and through his doctoral studies, Egan has submitted two manuscripts for publication with members of his dissertation committee that includes College of Education's (COE) Juliann Sergi McBrayer, Ed.D., Pamela Wells, Ph.D., and Steven Tolman, Ed.D. These articles were developed out of Egan's dissertation work, exploring leadership programs from the alumni perspective.

"We've formed a great team, and we are now starting on a third manuscript," he said. "This third manuscript is really an idea that spun off of my dissertation. Dr. Tolman recognized that we were using Experiential Learning Theory in a unique way."

Egan, fellow OLCE colleague and COE alumnus John Banter, Ed.D., and COE faculty member Kip Sorgen, Ed.D., have also created and submitted a manuscript assessing the use of escape games as leadership pedagogy, a practice Egan and Banter began in 2017 at the SCLC. The pair also presented their framework of designing leadership escape games at the 2018 Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) conference where they were named the conference's Distinguished Educator Workshop and the University's Southern Leaders program received the ALE's Outstanding Program of the Year Award.

Now that Egan has completed his doctorate, he plans to continue research and collaboration with the COE faculty members and his fellow doctoral colleagues.

"I really enjoy working here," said Egan. "We have a great team and are doing some amazing work with students."

For more information about the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, visit <https://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/edld/p-12-leadership/p-12-ed-leadership/>.

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Georgia Southern working with National Institute of Design, Amazon India to create sustainable e-commerce packaging

February 18, 2020



Dominique Halaby, director of Georgia Southern's FabLab and Business Innovation Group, left, works with students from the National Institute of Design in India to create sustainable packaging prototypes.

Georgia Southern University is partnering with the National Institute of Design in India (NID) and Amazon India to help combat the negative environmental effects of online retail shopping.

The objective of the partnership is to generate ideas and prototypes for innovative and sustainable packaging solutions for the e-commerce industry and to design sustainable packaging, keeping in mind the challenges faced in transporting goods from store to home.

Dominique Halaby, director of Georgia Southern's FabLab and Business Innovation Group (BIG) located at City Center in downtown Statesboro, and Santanu Majumdar, associate professor of graphic design, recently traveled to India to conduct a two-week workshop with NID students on creating sustainable e-commerce packaging.

"The opportunity to work with NID and Amazon India to address global issues as they relate to sustainability and logistics has the benefit of extending the profile of our institution and creating connections that will hopefully manifest themselves in new learning and employment opportunities for our students," said Halaby.

During the workshop, students from NID worked in various areas to understand the entire logistics process, including supply chain management to human interaction with the e-commerce packaging, in addition to

challenges faced at every touchpoint. They created and tested several prototypes before presenting their final outcome to the Amazon India team in person.

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Georgia Southern ‘New Teacher Thrive and Survive Summit’ assists new teachers with classroom management

February 18, 2020

The College of Education (COE) at Georgia Southern University is offering a day for early career teachers to recharge, reconnect and reengage. On March 28, teachers will gather at the University’s Statesboro Campus for the “New Teacher Survive and Thrive Summit” featuring keynote speaker Ruth Herman Wells, director of Youth Change, a comprehensive professional development resource for teachers, counselors and principals.

“One of the concerns for new teachers is retention and burnout within their first five years,” said Alisa Leckie, Ph.D, associate professor and COE interim assistant dean for partnerships and outreach. “We want to ensure that teachers are getting the support they need for both their professional and personal well-being and growth.”

The event will be held in the College’s classroom building, located at 275 C.O.E. Drive, Statesboro, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and will feature session topics including classroom management, motivating students, stress management and financial wellness.

The keynote address, presented by Wells, will address classroom management challenges while providing practical strategies for motivating students. Wells has authored more than 20 books on youth and child behavior and has more than two decades of experience hosting workshops for teachers and other educators.

“Classroom management is one of the concerns we hear teachers express most often,” said Michelle Reidel, Ph.D., professor of middle grades education and summit coordinator. “Especially for new educators who are really trying to find their footing in their own classrooms. It can be a challenge to build relationships with students, design meaningful instruction and meet the many demands teachers face today. We want to help by providing early career teachers with resources and tools that will assist them in feeling confident and prepared to move into their future teaching careers.”

The summit is limited to 150 registrants to ensure individual concerns of participants can be heard and discussed during the breakout sessions. Registration is \$25 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Door prizes and giveaways will also be available during the summit.

To register, visit <https://survivethriveteach.weebly.com>.

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[Science on Tap brewing scientific conversations in Savannah, Statesboro](#)

February 18, 2020

Mastodons, tortoises and human trafficking are the next three installments for spring 2020 of Science on Tap, a series of unique conversations in Savannah and Statesboro about various scientific topics given by professors at Georgia Southern. The series is hosted by the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) at Georgia Southern University.

“Science on Tap is pouring science into the community,” Associate Dean of COSM Brent Feske said. “While the lecture is given by an expert, the target audience is anyone in the community regardless of their scientific background. We choose venues to allow the audience to relax and enjoy the presentation.”

Christina Olson, MFA, a professor in the Department of Writing and Linguistics, will present on Mastodons in Statesboro on March 3; biology professor Elizabeth Hunter, Ph.D., will speak on conservation and restoration regarding tortoises in Savannah on April 2; and Kate Perry, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and International Studies, will present on women in human trafficking on April 7 in Statesboro.

Lectures in Statesboro are at Eagle Creek Brewing Company, and Savannah lectures are at Savannah Coffee Roasters. All events begin at 6 p.m.

Science on Tap aims to present scientific topics in a way that is fun for non-scientists and science enthusiasts alike. For more information on the series, visit

www.facebook.com/pg/cosmgeorgiasouthernuniversity/events/.

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Tags: [College of Science and Mathematics](#), [Science on Tap](#)

'Godspell' next up in Main Stage Series at Performing Arts Center

February 18, 2020



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Statesboro Campus
PAC Box Office: 912-478-7999
CAT Box Office: 912-478-5379
theatre@georgiasouthern.edu
Students - \$10 | Faculty/Staff - \$17
General Admission - \$20

GEORGIA SOUTHERN Theatre



Broadway favorite "Godspell" will be presented by Georgia Southern University's Theatre and Performance program and the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on the Statesboro Campus Feb. 27 through March 1. The musical is a part of the PAC's 2019-2020 Main Stage Series.

“Godspell” tells the story of a small group of people helping Jesus Christ tell different parables from the Gospel of St. Matthew. It is the first musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz.

“The magic of this show is the community it creates not just with the cast but with the audience as well,” said Professor Lisa Abbott, the musical’s director. “The message of the show is about acceptance and love, and the cast and crew have enjoyed creating ways to tell that story with open minds.”

“Godspell” has toured the country and been a musical theatre standard in schools, universities and churches since it was written in 1971. In 2011, it was revisited by its creators and updated for the 21st century. Favorite songs like “Day by Day,” “Prepare Ye” and “By My Side,” are there, with a richer and deeper musical voice.

Tickets are on sale at the PAC Box Office and cost \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth, ages 17 years old and under. Discounts are available for Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff. Group rates for groups of 10 or more are also available. Visit the box office in person Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or purchase tickets over the phone at or online at www.georgiasouthern.edu/pac.

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