Sharon Subreenduth joins as Georgia Southern’s new Dean of the College of Education

July 14, 2021

On July 1, Sharon Subreenduth, Ph.D., took the reins as the new Dean of the College of Education at Georgia Southern University.

“I am excited to be joining a University and College on the move,” said Subreenduth. “There is so much energy and innovation sparked by new collaborations within and outside of the University. I am honored to serve as the next dean of the College of Education and to be working with such dynamic, creative and equity-minded faculty, staff, students and partners — all committed to sustaining strong transformative educators and educational spaces.”

Subreenduth joins Georgia Southern from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (UML), where she served as associate dean of the College of Education for three years. In this role, Subreenduth oversaw undergraduate academic affairs, research and graduate studies, grants and grant mentorship as well as faculty and student success. During this time, Subreenduth significantly contributed to managing the teacher licensure process and the development of non-licensure options within the college. She also initiated a number of collaborations with local schools, community partners, area educational programs and the state’s regulatory agencies in shared efforts at diversifying the teacher workforce.

Prior to joining the administration at UML, Subreenduth was a professor of curriculum and instruction at Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio for 16 years. During her tenure at BGSU, Subreenduth served for eight years as co-director of the International Democratic Education Institute, focusing on efforts to bring together faculty, community leaders and other educators from the United States and abroad to promote inquiry-based education to inform and create effective members of society. Subreenduth also served as principal investigator for a number of international grants that developed innovative partnerships with several local schools and community organizations, which spawned local-global collaborations, increased professional development and mentorship opportunities.

Her combined grants at UML and BGSU brought in nearly $5 million in educational funding that Subreenduth used to support faculty research and teacher professional development. Her strong interdisciplinary grant scholarship, and the relational aspect of her work in the United States and globally, is grounded in critical inclusion and diversity, and has fostered authentic local-global initiatives and collaborations across disciplines and produced partnerships with international educators, higher education, governmental and community-based organizations from over 40 developing post-colonial countries.

A native of South Africa, Subreenduth earned a Bachelor of Pedagogics in English, Geography, and Education from the University of Durban-Westville and a Bachelor of Education from the University of South Africa. After teaching for four years at a secondary school in South Africa, Subreenduth traveled to the U.S. to attend The Ohio State University for a master’s in social studies and global-multicultural education, followed by a Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development.

Her research interests include social justice, equity in education, global issues in education and post-apartheid South African education. Subreenduth’s scholarship is centrally concerned with research on decolonization and building diverse communities of practice through critically engaged inquiry that focuses on anti-oppressive schooling, curriculum, pedagogy and identity that is cognizant of socially responsible research within global-local educational contexts.
“I look forward to being part of the team and building on the strengths, collaborating on new initiatives and continuing the positive and lasting impact of the College of Education and Georgia Southern University’s Eagle Nation — regionally, nationally and globally,” said Subreenduth.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers approximately 140 different degree programs serving almost 27,000 students through 10 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.

Posted in Press Releases

2021 Averitt Award winners champion research, teaching experiences

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Four graduate students at Georgia Southern University earned the highest award in the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies for their research or instruction in various disciplines during the 2020-21 academic year.

Each year, the Averitt Award is bestowed upon a group of students within the College of Graduate Studies who stand apart in research or instruction. This year’s winners included Cesar Carapia, Excellence in Research; Erin Arneson, Excellence in Research; Bradly McGinnis, Excellence in Instruction; and Cydney Price, Excellence in Instruction.

Carapia is a mechanical engineering major who pursued a degree at Georgia Southern for its hands-on learning experiences. The opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research with Allen E. Paulson Distinguished Chair of Renewable Energy Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., among others, has been a vital component to his success.
“Receiving this award helps validate that all the effort I put into my work at Georgia Southern in research is actually bearing fruit, not only through the research papers I publish, but also through acknowledgment from my peers,” Carapia said.

Arneson, who will earn her master’s degree in biology this year, credits much of her learning to Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary where she performed a significant amount of her research. It was this work that ignited her passion for sharing the beauty of biology with others.

“I worked hard through graduate school not only to do my research well, but also to expand my abilities to convey that research to other people at different levels of understanding,” Arneson said. “Whether it’s kids, adults or other scientists who work in different fields, I hope I can be a liason or collaborator to help bridge the gap between scientists and the community.”

McGinnis (’21), who earned a master’s in experimental psychology in May, hails from a family of teachers. Carrying the tradition forward, McGinnis began teaching at the start of the pandemic. On his final day in the classroom, his students gave him a round of applause, an experience that will stay with him as he begins a doctoral program in clinical psychology in South Dakota this fall.

“That was my last lecture here, and getting that was amazing,” said McGinnis. “I’m going to miss it.”

Price (’21) began her college journey as a fashion merchandising and apparel design major. She completed her undergraduate studies in both fashion and English and chose to continue her education in English with a master’s degree. It was this experience that led her to teach at Georgia Southern.

“Going to graduate school, when I found out that teaching was a mandate, I was nervous because I had never had my own classroom before,” Price said. “But when you step into your classroom and you realize that these students are depending on you, that you are why they are going to leave this campus someday and do something bigger, then you realize that you can’t let them down. So you figure out how to make sure that they learn world literature, but also how to navigate the rest of their college and careers to some extent.”

Each of the honorees received a $500 cash prize. The Averitt Award is funded by the Graduate Student Organization (GSO).
Collaboration among the Waters College of Health Professions, Campus Recreation and Intramurals (CRI) and University Health Services has garnered Georgia Southern University a fourth Gold Level Campus by Exercise is Medicine® on Campus (EIM®-OC) designation.

The designation honors college campuses for their participation and engagement in the EIM®-OC program. Schools earn gold, silver or bronze status based on their activities related to physical activity promotion, education and EIM®-OC integration into campus health services.

Recognition provides an opportunity for campuses to enhance their image as a healthy academic environment and highlight their commitment to creating a culture of wellness.

“This is a campus-wide effort,” stated Bridget Melton, Ed.D, professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Kinesiology. “CRI offers physical activity opportunities on campus and the Waters College of Health Professions provides physical activity education. In addition, Health Services is key in prescribing medicine.”

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