

Georgia Southern Theater Production Takes Top National Honor

MARCH 16, 2015



Georgia Southern's powerful production of David Mamet's play, "Race," has garnered national attention from The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

In January, "Race" was one of only four productions selected for performance at The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), Region IV, held at the Albany Municipal Auditorium in Albany, Georgia, Feb. 3 – 7. The KCACTF chose "Race" from among more than 60 productions in Region IV, which includes colleges and universities from southern Virginia down to Florida, as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Once the eight regional festivals were concluded, the KCACTF chose national winners from among the 36 finalists across the U.S. Georgia Southern's production of "Race" won the Distinguished Production of a Contemporary Play award among only three other winners nationwide.

"We were one of four schools nationwide given that distinction, which is pretty good," said Lisa Abbott, associate professor of theatre and director of the play. "It's like winning the Superbowl, you know? Getting invited to regionals is a big enough deal, but being chosen as one of the national contemporary performances was a really big deal."

In addition to the distinguished production award, members of the production — the majority of them students — won the national Distinguished Performance and Production Ensembles award.

Abbott received a national Distinguished Director of a Play award and Teundras Oaks, the dramaturg (responsible for research on the play), was invited to the national dramaturgy workshop at the Kennedy Center in April, one of only four students in the nation.

"None of us expected the national recognition, so that was just the icing on the cake," she said.

At the regional performance in Albany, "Race" was a hit, despite its confrontational style and explicit language and themes. KCACTF bloggers reported that, at the play's conclusion, some people in the audience didn't wait for the lights or a curtain call to begin their standing ovation. KCACTF blogger James Lex wrote, "If the goal was to light a fire of conversation about the brutal questions of racism, then this production uses an abundance of matches."

At the Black Box Theater on campus, Abbott said students performed to audiences no larger than 120. "But at the festival, we played to about 900," she said. "It was just amazing. There, you're performing for a theater crowd. It's a hard play. It's confrontational. It's provocative, in a style that's difficult, and our cast just hit it out of the ballpark. They were so hyped up, I don't think they slept for the next three days."

For their next project, the Georgia Southern Theatre and Performance program will present "Celebrating 30 Years of African-American Theatre," a weeklong exhibit of costumes and photos. It begins Monday, April 27 at The Black Box Theater.

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Barry Joyner Named Dean of Georgia Southern University's College of Health and Human Sciences

MARCH 16, 2015



Barry Joyner, Ph.D.

The College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) at Georgia Southern University has announced the appointment of Barry Joyner, Ph.D., as dean, effective April 1, 2015. In that role, he will oversee the College's mission to provide comprehensive and innovative programs that promote health and quality of life for individuals, families and communities within a global society.

"With the support of the CHHS Dean Search Committee, CHHS faculty and staff, I am confident that Dr. Joyner is well prepared to take on the responsibilities of sustaining the accomplishments and traditional successes of CHHS while moving the College to its next level of academic distinction," said Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., RN, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Prior to his appointment as dean, Joyner served as interim dean. He first came to Georgia Southern in 1992 as an assistant professor in the Department of Health and Kinesiology. He was promoted to associate professor in 1998 and to professor and chair of the Department of Health and Kinesiology in 2005.

Joyner earned his Bachelor of Science in education (with a major in health and physical education) from Georgia Southern University, his Master of Education (with a major in physical education) from Auburn University, and his Doctor of Philosophy (with an emphasis in measurement and evaluation) from the University of Georgia. He has published more than 45 juried articles and more than 25 abstracts, book chapters and book reviews, and has presented widely at state, national and international venues on disciplinary issues.

An active member of the local community, he was a member of the Bulloch County CHILD Coalition and the competition director for the Aquatics and Softball State Competition for Georgia Special Olympics. He has been honored for teaching and service awards and was the recipient of the 1997 Excellence in Teaching Award from Georgia Southern.

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Tags: [College of Health and Human Sciences](#)

Georgia Southern Professor Recognized by SHAPE America

MARCH 16, 2015



Because of her efforts to mentor students pursuing a degree in physical education, sport, kinesiology or exercise science, faculty member Bridget Melton, Ed.D., has been named Outstanding Mentor of the Year by the Society of Health And Physical Educators (SHAPE) of America.

"It is quite an honor to be selected as SHAPE Mentor of The Year. I have been blessed with wonderful mentors throughout my career and I hope that I am able to give back to my students," said Melton, a Physical Activity and Healthful Living Director and Assistant Professor of Physical Activity at Georgia Southern. "The best part of being a faculty member is the positive interactions that we have with our students."

SHAPE America presents this award annually in recognition of one higher education faculty member nationwide who serves as a mentor to students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in the aforementioned areas of study. To be considered for the award, educators must serve as outstanding role models of professionalism, encourage student involvement in professional opportunities, support student membership in professional organizations and provide exemplary academic and professional preparation advisement.

"I try to make my coursework as applicable to their future careers as possible, and often I link community service with their coursework," Melton said. "For those students who really shine, I challenge them to get involved with professional development such as presenting at professional conferences. Going to professional conferences for a student can sometime be intimidating, so it is nice to coax them along."

Melton teaches a variety of courses focused on health and physical activity including Healthful Living, Sport Conditioning and Physiology of Sport and Exercise for Coaches. As the director of the Healthful Living Program, she oversees the undergraduate requirements for health and physical activity courses.

"One of the most profound impacts we can have as educators is our influence on young professionals," said SHAPE America President Dolly Lambdin of the University of Texas at Austin.

“This award honors an individual who exceeds in instilling passion and professionalism in all of her students. We are thrilled that Bridget Melton represents SHAPE America in such a caring, giving and professional manner.”

In addition to her mentorship and teaching, Melton conducts research that concentrates primarily on using technology to motivate special populations to exercise. She has published 29 peer reviewed articles, contributed to 15 books and has given over 50 presentations to state, national and international audiences. She is also active with several state and national organizations, including American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), SHAPE America, National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP) and the Georgia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (GAHPERD).

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Eagle Dining Offers Community Dining Plans

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Eagle Dining Services, a department of Auxiliary Services, will offer Community Dining Packages to the residents of the Statesboro community. These packages will provide the public with an exclusive way to access the campus Residential Dining facilities at a special entry price.

The idea for a community-oriented dining package stemmed from the influx of community members that visited Dining Commons on weekends and during home athletic events. Eagle Dining Services leadership decided that they wanted to create a more convenient way for the public to stop in and enjoy the delicious selection of the Residential Dining facilities.

"This is the first time that we are offering those outside of campus a method to conveniently enter each Residential Dining location," said Greg Crawford, Director of Residential Dining for Eagle Dining Services. "I believe these Community Dining Packages are an amazing way for our the public to enjoy dining with us. These packages also work great for our Sunday Brunch at Dining Commons."

Each package will include a special discounted entry price to Georgia Southern dining locations and give customers the opportunity to enjoy the variety of cuisine and stations. The price for package 1 is \$127.50 and the price for package 2 is \$255.00. Each package also includes a number of guest

passes to use for friends and family that want to try dining at Dining Commons or Lakeside Dining Commons for the first time. Packages are available for use year-round with no additional fees and the funds from purchasing the packages have no expiration date.

For pricing and more information on Community Dining plans, visit the [Eagle Dining website](#).

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University Online Programs Rank Top 10 in the Nation

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Georgia Southern's online programs have been ranked nationally by BestColleges.com and placed in the top 10 in multiple categories.

Georgia Southern ranked No. 4 for "Best Online Colleges of 2015," and No. 9 for "Best Online Masters in Education Programs of 2015."

Several factors were weighed in determining the rankings for these recognitions. BestColleges.com collected data from College Navigator and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), both government databases, to ensure accurate, up-to-date information was being evaluated. Factors included acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates.

"Georgia Southern's online programs are among the best at preparing individuals for careers in today's fast paced employment market," said Dr. Jean Bartels, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "The strength of our faculty and the strong online programming format make Georgia Southern leaders in the delivery of online education. These recognitions and rankings underscore the national presence of our outstanding programs."

In addition to the BestColleges.com ranking, the University's online programs have been included among the best in the country by U.S. News and World Report, TheBestSchools.org and GetEducated.com.

To learn more about these programs, visit [Academics.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/online/](https://academics.gasou.edu/online/)

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Georgia Southern University to Host 2015 Essentials of Fraud and Forensic Accounting

MARCH 11, 2015

The School of Accountancy at Georgia Southern University will host a one-week seminar Aug. 3-7, 2015, for individuals wishing to explore Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting. The seminar is open to potential graduate students interested in pursuing a Master of Accounting with a concentration in Forensic Accounting, along with accountants, attorneys and law enforcement professionals seeking continuing professional education (CPE) credit. The seminar will allow professionals to register for two-hour blocks of CPE.

The five-day seminar will be taught by faculty members who have been assigned for years to the Fraud Examination and Forensic Accounting programs at Georgia Southern University. The seminar will cover:

- Introduction to Fraud Examination
- Fraud and the Law
- White Collar Crime
- The Top 20 Fraud Schemes and
- Forensic Interviews and Interrogation.

"We are looking forward to offering this seminar to anyone interested in exploring how to investigate and resolve allegations of fraud and white collar crime," said Don Berecz, director of the Center of Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business and a retired FBI agent. "Our accounting and law faculty have decades of experience fighting and researching fraud and forensic accounting. We are excited to host this seminar and hope to motivate participants to become Certified Fraud Examiners (CFE) and continue on as graduate students in our Forensic Accounting Master's program."

The seminar is open to educators, students, the general public and professionals seeking CPE. Participants will earn a certificate and fulfill the prerequisites for entry into the Georgia Southern School of Accountancy Forensic Accounting Master's program. Registrants may earn up to 36 hours of CPE credit for the entire seminar, with the option to register for single or multiple two-hour blocks of instruction. Those completing the entire seminar will earn a certificate of completion. It is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and transfer students seeking admission into the school's graduate-level accounting program.

The event will be held on the campus of Georgia Southern at the College of Business Administration in Statesboro, Ga. Breakfast and lunch will be provided each day. The accounting firm of Porter Keadle Moore is sponsoring the event. For more information, pricing and registration visit <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/soa/effa> or contact Don Berecz at (912) 478-0259 or [berez@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:berecz@georgiasouthern.edu).

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COE Faculty Awarded Seed Grants

MARCH 11, 2015

The College of Education has awarded more than \$10,000 in seed grants for spring 2015. The announcement was made this week by Amelia Davis, assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, and co-chair of COE's Research Committee.

Two grants were awarded. The first went to Assistant Professor Alisa Leckie, and Assistant Professor Amanda Wall, both in the Department of Teaching and Learning. The title of their project is "Bringing Language to the Forefront of Instruction: A Teacher Research Project." The project will involve undergraduate students in research processes they will be able to apply in their future classroom settings. It will also examine the impact of including academic language into units developed by pre-service teachers across programs (Special Education, Early Childhood, and Middle Grades). The research design uses a Teacher Research approach and case study methods to critically examine instructional practice.

The second grant went to Assistant Professor Olufunke Adefope and Assistant Professor Melony Allen, also both in the Department of Teaching and Learning. The title of their grant is "A Mixed Methods Study: Exploring Student Teachers' Mathematical Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK) and Adaptive Teaching." This project will reveal student teachers' mathematical pedagogical content knowledge as measured by the Learning Mathematics for Teaching Instrument and how and why student teachers adapt their instruction to meet the needs of learners. The findings will provide insight about how to best meet the needs of our student teachers as they develop mathematical PCK and their capacity to engage in adaptive teaching. The ultimate goal of this study is to enhance the ways in which COE prepares teachers, particularly in mathematics education.

The Seed Grants are funded by COE. The purpose of the grants is to provide initial, or seed, funding for research proposals that support the institutional research agenda of COE, including the advancement of the college's mission and conceptual framework commitments, and have a significant impact on the college's outreach to P-12 and community constituents and enhance the College's capacity to conduct significant education research.



Assistant Professors Olufunke Adefope and Melony Allen



Assistant Professors Alisa Leckie and Amanda Wall

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