

# Southern Educator

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# Southern Educator

September 26, 2012

Volume 1 Issue 9

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 28 STEM Institute Information Meeting, COE
- Sept. 28 Democracy and Education Research Group Meeting
- Oct. 3 Fries Lecture, Dr. Richard Arum
- Oct. 4 COE Research Committee Meeting
- Oct. 13 COE Board of Advisors Meeting
- Oct. 13 COE Alumni Tailgate Party
- Nov. 11 Annual Art Extravaganza

[More announcements.](#)

## Upcoming Conferences

[February 15-16 12th Annual Cross-Cultural Issues in Counseling & Education Conference](#)

[March 3 24th Annual Youth-at-Risk Conference](#)

## "Academically Adrift" Co-author to Speak



Captivating author Dr. Richard Arum will address Georgia Southern University on the topic of "Learning During Unsettled Times: College Graduates' Academic Performance and Recent Experiences in the US" as the 2012 Norman Fries Distinguished Lecturer, Wednesday, October 3, 7:30 p.m., in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center Assembly Hall.

Arum is co-author of "Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses," which raises

questions about the quality of the academic and social experiences of college students and calls for refocusing attention on the fundamental goals of higher education. Dr. Arum's co-author is Josipa Roksa.

The Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series at Georgia Southern began in 2001. It is funded by an endowment in honor of the late Norman Fries, who was the founder of Claxton Poultry. In his more than 50 years in business, Fries built the company from a one-man operation into one of the nation's largest poultry production plants. This year's Fries Lectureship was sponsored by the College of Education. [Click here](#) for more information on Dr. Arum.

## New STEM Institute Wins First Race to the Top Grant



Just weeks after being officially recognized, Georgia Southern's new Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education was named the recipient of a Race to the Top Innovation Fund Grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant, which is estimated at approximately \$700,000 during two years, will fund a unique partnership between Georgia Southern, seven area research institutes and six school districts covering 27 counties in Georgia's lower coastal plain. It is the first Innovation Fund Grant that has been awarded to Georgia Southern.

COE was a key player in the initial phases of designing the new institute along with administrators from the College of Science and Math (COSM) and the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (CEIT). Dr. Robert Mayes, who joined COE's faculty last year, is the

## In Memoriam



COE sadly announces the passing of beloved faculty member Dr. Betty

McKinny on September 5, 2012. Betty spent the past seven years of her career in the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) Program, Department of Teaching and Learning. Her colleagues and students will remember her as a role model for effective teaching and will recall fondly her love of reading, her challenging but caring approach to education, and her bright and sparkling personality and sense of humor.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Betty Jean McKinny Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Citizens Bank of Bulloch County, P. O. Box 120, Statesboro, GA 30459.

**ALUMNI**, stay connected...fill out our [Alumni Survey](#) today.



**It's Not Too Early to Think About the Holidays...**

Give a gift that keeps on giving by helping COE prepare future educators and leaders through diverse,

new director of the institute. Mayes came to COE to conduct research on quantitative reasoning in STEM and spearheaded, through Georgia Southern's Office of Research, the first International STEM Research Symposium on Quantitative Reasoning in Mathematics and Science Education, held in 2012 in Savannah. Click for more information on the [Race to the Top grant](#). Click to hear an interview about the grant with Dr. Mayes on [GPB](#) radio.

## Faculty News

### Awards

The International Society for Educational Planning awarded Georgia Southern graduate Dr. Adrain Cornelius the 2012 ISEP Distinguished Dissertation Award. **Dr. Teri Melton** was Dr. Cornelius' dissertation chair. **Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson** was awarded the 2012 Frederick Douglass award for service to the National Black Home Educators Association. **Dr. Elizabeth Carr Edwards'** book, "Empowering Struggling Readers: Practices for the Middle Grades" has been selected as the 2012 Edward B. Fry Book Award which recognizes Literacy Research Association members who author a book that advances knowledge about literacy, displays inquiry into literacy, and shows responsible intellectual risk taking. Associate Professor Emeritus **Dr.**



*(l-r) Dr. Robert Martin being congratulated by Dr. Terry Diamanduros.*

**Robert Martin** was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Georgia Association of School Psychologists at their 42nd Annual Fall Conference. Dr. Martin was the program coordinator of the school psychology program at Georgia Southern University for 34 years.

### Grants

"Evaluating the Music Education and Boys and Girls Club Partnership" is the title of a grant awarded to **Dr.**

**Nancy Arrington, Dr. Sabrina Ross, and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson.**

The sponsor of the grant is the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. **Dr. Alma Stevenson** and **Dr. Sabrina Ross** completed a four-week literacy research project with students from Bulloch County Boys and Girls Club. Funding was provided by a COE Seed Grant with books for the participants donated by a private citizen.

### Publications

**Lake, R. L. & Rittschof, K. A.** (Sept. 2012). Looking deeper than the gradebook: Assessing cultural diversity attitudes among undergraduates. *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, 12(3), 142-164. [Click here for online journal.](#)

intensive field experiences, cutting edge technology and research based instruction. Our **Commemorative Engraved Brick** program and **Wall of Honor** are just two ways you can honor an alumnus, friend or loved one -- and be a part of COE's continuing mission. To find out more, follow the links provided here, [Giving to the College of Education.](#)



**It's getting closer...  
COE's ANNUAL ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY**

**BUY A TICKET TO THE GAME, GET INTO THE TAILGATE FOR FREE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13  
TAILGATE STARTS AT 4:30**



We're getting together at 4:30 p.m., before the Georgia Southern Eagles battle the Wofford Terriers, for our first **Alumni Tailgate Party, Saturday, October 13**. Food and drink catered by **BIG BAD WOLF BBQ**. We're **INSIDE** the stadium under a tent at the **Cowart Terrace** ([click here for a map showing the stadium and terrace](#)) This is next to the main ticket office right next to Lanier Drive. PLEASE LET DAWN OLIVER KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE TAILGATE. Email her at [doliver@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:doliver@georgiasouthern.edu).

**Alumni News**

**1970-79**

Rod Meadows ('71 B.S.Ed.) was recently named an Emeritus member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Southern University Foundation. He has been active in the foundation for 20 years, including serving as its chair from 2005-2007. Rod received his J.D. from UGA in 1976 and works for Meadows & Macie in Stockbridge, GA. James Holt ('77 B.S.Ed.) retired from fulltime teaching and is now an adjunct professor at the Coastal College of Georgia in Brunswick. He is also the diocese director for the State of Georgia for the Catholic Forensic League.

**1980-89**

Richard Freeman ('82 B.S.Ed.) retired after 29 years in the field of education in Georgia, including 20 as a high school principal. In 2010 he retired from education in North Carolina after 9 ½ years as a high school principal.

**1990-99**

Cheryl (Dickey) Roddenberry ('97 M.Ed. Early Childhood) recently retired from the Newton County School System, sold her home in Covington, GA, and moved to Statesboro where she is building a new home. She's anxious to reconnect with COE.

Rhonda Fordham ('97 M.Ed. Counseling Education) and her husband William have retired to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

**2000-09**

Kevin Gaines ('00 B.S.Ed. Mathematics) has spent the last three years as assistant principal at Stephens County High School. On October 1, he will become the new principal at Hart County High School, Kevin's alma mater.

Joni Aycock ('04 M.Ed.) was selected by the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology and the Georgia Library Media Association as the 2012 Library Media Specialist of the Year for the Coastal Georgia District. She is the media specialist at Mill Creek Elementary School in Bulloch County.

Tia (Frazier) Burton ('06 B.S.Ed. Early Childhood) works for the Richmond County Board of Education and was named Freedom Park Elementary School's 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. In December 2011, Freedom Park was named Pearson Education's first National Model School in five years.

Jennifer (Kanzler) Miller ('07 B.S.Ed.) works in Roswell, Georgia, at Queen of Angels Elementary School. She was a Phil Mckelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy participant and a PAGE Teachers Academy participant.

LaMarcus Hall ('08 M.Ed. Higher Education and Administration) is newly married, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and author of "I Refuse to Let YOU Give Up: To My Teens Who Feel All Hope is Gone."

We love hearing from you! Update your alumni information today. [Click here for our alumni survey.](#)