

Southern Educator

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Southern Educator

April 24, 2013

Volume 2 Issue 4

Upcoming Events

- April 26 COE Curriculum Committee Meeting
- May 2 Partnership Council Meeting
- May 2 Education Career Fair
- May 3 Last Day of Classes
- May 10 Graduate Commencement
- May 11 Undergraduate Commencement
- May 10 GOML Final Deadline for Summer Admission

[More announcements.](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[June 9-11 Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports](#)

[June 19-22 Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative Conference](#)

Undergraduate Honors Students Highlight Research at Symposium

COE senior honors students presented their capstone research at the annual

New Undergraduate Research Opportunities Underway in the College of Education

The Georgia Southern Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs awarded funded an undergraduate research initiative to Teaching & Learning Associate Professor Kymberly Drawdy, Curriculum, Foundations & Reading Associate Professor Meca Williams-Johnson and Teaching & Learning Instructor Kathleen Tootle, totaling \$10,700. Their work, "Research to Practice: Pre-service Teacher Research Initiative," was created to provide opportunities for action research projects for pre-service teachers in Bulloch County schools. [Read more about this story here.](#)



Research grant awardees (l-r) Kymberly Drawdy, Meca Williams-Johnson and Kathleen Tootle.

Exchange Program Gives Teacher Candidates Experience in Area Schools



Sheffield-Hallam University students (l-r) Emmy Whealing, Aisha Ibrahim, Gabrielle Bousfield, Sarah Hulm, Jessica Clark and Charlotte Hodgkinson.

Six teacher candidates from Sheffield, England, will be bringing more

Honors Research Symposium. Courtney Samford presented "Finally! A Hispanic Person who is Actually Special: Making Connections with English Language Learners Using Multicultural Children's Literature." Rachel Dunn's paper, "Mathematical Misconceptions: Use of Manipulatives in Elementary Mathematics Classrooms," will be published in

Momentum Research Journal of Undergraduate Research. Katrina Vader's research was entitled "Characteristics of a Good Middle School Teacher."



COE Honors Students (l-r) Associate Professor Michelle Reidel, Amanda Arasmith, Katrina Vadar, Alexa Lowery, Taylor Roberson, Rachel Dunn, Courtney Smith and Associate Professor Meca Williams-Johnson.

COE Graduate Students Win at Research Symposium, Develop Social Justice Project

More than 100 graduate students recently presented their research at the annual Graduate Research Symposium. The COE winners were counselor education's Tiffany Rogers, first place; education administration's Travis Killen, second place; and curriculum studies' Kathy Morris, third place.



Children at the Boys & Girls Club of Bulloch County participated in a "superhero" approach to wellness and career

than classroom experience to their future jobs after spending a month in the U.S. through an exchange program with the College of Education. The students are from Sheffield-Hallam University. The students will be working with COE partner schools gaining valuable teaching experience while also giving local K-12 students an opportunity to interact with someone from another culture.

Dr. Martha Tootle Cain Selected as Alumni of the Year

Alumna and former Georgia Southern professor Dr. Martha Tootle Cain is the 2013 COE Alumni Award recipient. Dr. Cain graduated in 1950 from what was then Georgia Teachers College, one of 115 students in the graduating class. During her undergraduate studies, Dr. Cain was mentored by Professor William S. Hanner and worked as Hanner's lab assistant.



After receiving her master's and doctoral degrees, Dr. Cain returned to her alma mater in 1963 and began a teaching career in chemistry that lasted until 1988.

Dr. Cain and her late husband, Lee, established the Lee C. and Martha Tootle Cain Science Education Scholarship to enrich the educational experiences of students majoring in K-12 science education.

COE Research Committee Awards Seed Grants

The College of Education's Research Committee recently announced the award of three seed grants. Leadership, Technology & Human Development Professor Jim Bergin's research seed grant project, "Rural Middle School Counseling Advisory Council," focuses on implementing American School Counseling Association training sessions with an advisory council. Teaching & Learning Assistant Professor Lina Soares received an assessment seed grant, "How Well Are We Doing: A Program Assessment and Evaluation of Middle Grade Undergraduate Teachers' Dispositions at Georgia Southern University." Finally, Teaching & Learning Associate Professor Hsiu-Lien Lu and Assistant Professor Nancy Arrington received an assessment seed grant for their project, "Pre-service Teachers' Impact on P-5 Student Learning Outcomes."

COE Helps Establish SECME Affiliation

Georgia Southern University is now a member of the Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Education (SECME) to help develop partnerships with local K-12 schools to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education for under-represented students.



"Our goal is to provide institutional support for local schools and interested students and work with them on national projects through SECME," said Dr. Alejandro Gallard, Goizueta Distinguished Chair of Education. Gallard and Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research Dr. Tracy Linderholm, joined with the College of Engineering and Information Technology and the College of Science and Mathematics to submit an application to become a SECME member

planning through a special project by COE graduate students in counseling. The project was led by Leadership, Technology & Human Development Assistant Professor Breyan Haizlip's cross-cultural class.



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Director of Development.

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institution. Dr. David Williams, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, CEIT, is the liaison between Georgia Southern and SECME. COE's Gallard will coordinate diversity activities.

SECME is a national strategic alliance created to help more under-represented and under-served students prepare to enter and complete post-secondary studies in STEM areas, which in turn will create a more diverse and globally competitive workforce. SECME offers continuing education for K-12 STEM teachers, projects and competitions for students and networking opportunities and venues for affiliates to share STEM strategies.

Faculty News

Eight COE faculty presented papers at the recent 2013 Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) Conference. Faculty included: Teaching & Learning Associate Professor **Yasar Bodur**, Teaching & Learning Professor **Gregory Chamblee**, Leadership, Technology & Human Development Professor **Ken Clark**, Leadership, Technology & Human Development Professor **Elizabeth Downs**, Leadership, Technology & Human Development Assistant Professor **Charles Hodges**, Curriculum, Foundations & Reading Professor **Steve Jenkins**, Leadership, Technology & Human Development Assistant Professor **Stephanie Jones**, and Leadership, Technology & Human Development Assistant Professor **Jason LaFrance**.

Teaching & Learning Associate Professor **Christine Draper** has been selected as a member of the Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts committee sponsored by the Children's Literature Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English. It is a three-year appointment.

Leadership, Technology & Human Development Associate Professor **Fayth Parks** was an invited panelist at "Ashe to Amen: African Americans and Biblical Imagery" at the Museum of Biblical Art in New York. Parks also traveled to Northern Thailand with South Carolina Rotary District 0777 to distribute educational supplies to a one-room school in a rural Hill Tribe village.



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