

# Southern Educator

Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2013

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## Recommended Citation

"Southern Educator" (2013). *Southern Educator*. 34.  
<http://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/southern-educator/34>

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## Southern Educator

May 29, 2013

Volume 2 Issue 5

### Upcoming Events

- June 1 Greater Atlanta Alumni Network Day with the Atlanta Braves ([click here for more information on the event](#))
- June 3 Clinical Camp for School-based Clinical Supervisors
- June 10-11 Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports
- June 13 Summer Graduate Research Workshop
- June 19-22 Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative Conference
- June 19-20 Final Exams for Evening Classes, Term A
- June 24 Classes Begin for Term B
- June 24 [Summer Leadership Academy](#) (CCGPS and the Teacher and Leader Keys Effectiveness Systems)

[More announcements.](#)

### Conference Information

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

[June 19-22 Curriculum](#)

### COE Graduate Named Georgia Teacher of the Year



Gemelleh Nurse Coes, a special education English language arts and reading teacher at Langston Chapel Middle School in Bulloch County, has been named the 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year.

Coes, a College of Education alumna, received her B.S. Ed., Special Education, in 2008 and M.Ed., Teaching and Learning, in 2010 with a concentration in instructional improvement. Her involvement with COE didn't end with her degrees. Coes is also a clinical supervisor, helping give educator candidates meaningful field experiences.

"We are extremely proud that once again one of our graduates has been recognized for their exemplary teaching," said COE Dean Thomas Koballa. "Being named Georgia Teacher of the Year is a testament not only to Gemella's professionalism and ability but also to her commitment to students and life-long learning," he continued.

[Read more about Coes here.](#)

### COE's Service Noted in President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award

Georgia Southern was recently named in the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The award recognizes the commitment of students, faculty and staff to community service in many areas, including those of COE's education candidates. This is the first time Georgia Southern has applied for and been recognized with the award. The data from the 2011-12 academic year indicated that 1670 pre-service educators contributed 305,860 hours. [Read more about the award here.](#)



### UK Student Exchange Marks 10-Year Anniversary

The arrival of eleven teacher candidates in Sheffield, England, this spring marked a special anniversary for the College of Education. For a decade, the COE has been a part of a student exchange program that has

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Teaching endorsements are available in Online Teaching and Learning, ESOL and Reading. Deadline for application is July.

Visit [COE's Graduate Academic Services Center](#) for more information on registration.



*Southern Educator* is published on the last Wednesday of the month by Georgia Southern University College of Education [coe.georgiasouthern.edu](http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu)  
[See past issues of Southern Educator here.](#)



another country provides so many unique opportunities for learning and growing," he continued.

The COE participated in a student exchange pilot program in Fall 2011 with the National Taipei University of Education in Taiwan with placements facilitated by the principal at Tainan Municipal Tu-Cheng High School ([see Southern Educator, Vol.1 Issue 1](#)). Talks are underway for a similar exchange in Mexico.

Pictured above are COE exchange students (bottom row, l-r): Rebecca Skowronski, Drew Christopher, Shelly Morgan, Rebekah Beaty (middle row, l-r): Ashley Clay, Catherine Bruner, Sydney Cronin, Caroline Cooper, Jessica Kirkland (top row, l-r): Ashley Favors and Jacqueline Kelly.

given nearly 100 teacher candidates the opportunity to gain valuable teaching and life experiences. In Spring 2003, the first group of COE students went to Derby, England; for three years thereafter the students were placed in schools in East London. Since then, the students have been in Sheffield and Doncaster.

"We value our partnership with UK schools and the experience it provides both students from COE and England," said Dean Thomas Koballa. "Living and teaching in

**Faculty, Students Raise Funds for Free Book Program**

It started with a COE alumna reaching out to a former professor. Six months later, the Bulloch County Community Action Team (CAT) for the [Ferst Foundation](#) has already raised over \$6,000 for books for children from birth to age five. The Ferst Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to ensuring that all Georgia's children from birth to age 5 have access to developmentally appropriate reading materials that will ensure they will start school ready to learn. Community groups coordinate fundraising and register children for the program. There is no cost to any child or family. Children are sent one age-appropriate book a month through the mail.

Ashleigh Wright, a 2003 COE graduate and teacher at Southeast Bulloch High School, spearheaded the formation of the group. Associate Professors Christine Draper and Michelle Reidel, Assistant Professors Nancy Arrington and Lina Soares, Clinical Instructor Shelley Woodward and the COE's Field Placement Director, Patricia Parsons, are part of the Community Action Team.

The CAT has held several fundraisers with the help of local businesses and members of Georgia Southern's Chapter of Gamma Beta Phi, and earlier this month the Downtown Statesboro Rotary generously contributed \$3,600 which will support 100 students in the upcoming year.

The group is planning their next fundraiser, a registration drive and a community-based literacy event. If you would like to join or support the CAT contact Michelle Reidel at [mreidel@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:mreidel@georgiasouthern.edu)

**Chris Thompson Named Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students**

Chris Thompson, director of the Student Success Center, was named the Georgia Southern University 2013 Staff Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students. In supporting her nomination, COE Dean Thomas Koballa said Thompson "works tirelessly to support the

For questions about supporting the College of Education, please contact [Dawn Oliver](#), Director of Development.

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*Provost Jean Bartels (l) with Chris Thompson and Assistant Provost Alan Woodrum.*

success of first-year students" and engaged the center's staff in "professional learning that targets strategies to support first-year students."

Thompson was one of 35 faculty, staff and administrators nominated for the First-Year awards. Also named was Visiting Instructor in Writing and Linguistics Leigh Ann Williams as the 2013 faculty recipient. Several of Thompson's Goal Setting FYE students wrote in support of her nomination that she helped them think more critically about themselves and to embrace "differences in our lives and accept each other without judgment." This is not the first time Thompson has been recognized for her dedication to the success and well-being of

students. In 2006, she received a merit award.

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