

Southern Educator

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January/February 2014

Volume 3 Issue 1

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 12 Graduate Assistant/Student Professional Development
- Feb. 12 Educational Leadership Webinar Series
- Feb. 18 COE Research Committee Meeting
- Feb. 18 Brown Bag Lunch Series: Focus on CFR
- Feb. 22 Helen Ruffin Reading Competition
- Feb. 26 Eagle Expo Career Fair
- Feb. 27 COE Assessment Retreat
- March 2-5 National Youth-At-Risk Conference (see related story)
- March 7 COE Curriculum Committee Meeting
- March 7 Third Annual Scholarship of STEM Teaching & Learning Conference (see related article)
- March 8 COE Scholarship Luncheon

[More announcements](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[National Youth-At-Risk Conference, March 2-5, 2014](#)

[Georgia Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference, March 7, 2014](#)

Goizueta Chairs Edit Edition of Cultural Studies of Science Education

Online Graduate Programs Earn Top Tier Rank



COE's online graduate programs earned a top 50 ranking in the 2014 *U.S. News & World Report* "Best Online Graduate Education Programs" released last month. "We're pleased to be in the top tier," said COE Dean

Thomas R. Koballa. "The College of Education continues its commitment to offer high-quality online graduate programs and expand the options available to best serve our students," he said.

"Our online classes meet high standards for excellence," Koballa continued. "We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students from across the state and region know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings," he said. The *U.S. News* rankings are compiled annually and take into account such factors as student engagement, which includes retention and graduation rates; admissions selectivity; peer reputation; faculty credentials and training; and student services and technology. The rankings included 238 public and private institutions offering online education programs. [Read more.](#)

Teacher Candidates Get Ready for the Classroom

Nearly 160 COE students started spring semester early. While their classmates were still enjoying time off, these students were getting ready for their final semester which is spent honing their skills as a classroom teacher in one of COE's partner schools. Jemelleh Coes,



Matthew Simon, a special

Georgia's 2014 Teacher of the Year and COE alumna and Clinical Supervisor, was on hand to offer advice and encouragement. Coes is a special education English language arts and reading teacher at Langston Chapel



GTOY Jemelleh Coes addresses COE's teacher candidates during spring orientation.



(L-R) Goizueta Distinguished Chairs in Education Alejandro Gallard and Rene Antrop-Gonzalez.

Two Goizueta Distinguished Chairs in Education, COE's Alejandro Gallard and Dalton State College's Rene Antrop-Gonzalez are guest editors of the journal *Cultural Studies of Science Education* (CSSE), directing the journal's content to an examination of social and cultural issues that impact Latinos/Latinas in the educational system. "Our editorship of this issue is significant," said Gallard. "We came together collaboratively to use research to fulfill our mission in Georgia to Latinos/Latinas and extend that of the Goizueta foundation," he added.

The issue includes 12 original papers and an editorial by Gallard and Antrop-Gonzalez, "Toward Latin@ Revisionings of Decolonizing Western Science and Math." To read the journal online, go to <http://link.springer.com/journal/11422/8/4/page/1>. Volume 8, Issue 4, Dec. 2013.

2014 Scholarship of STEM Event Helps Classroom Educators



STEM Conference Highlights 2013

Georgia Southern University, with sponsorship from the University System of Georgia, is hosting its third Scholarship of STEM Teaching and Learning Conference, a one-day conference for educators, students, industry professionals and research institutions with interests in STEM. Participants are invited from all USG colleges and universities, private higher education institutions within the state, industry, research institutions and local area K-12 schools. The conference will be held on Friday, March 7, 2014, at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center on Georgia Southern's campus.

"The conference is particularly important because classroom teachers and higher

education major, listens as Jemelleh Coes, GTOY talks about student teaching.

Middle School. It was little more than five years ago that Coes herself was sitting at a student teacher orientation at COE.

National Youth-At-Risk Conference Celebrates 25th Year

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference, one of the country's premier conferences focusing on the needs of youth at-risk, is celebrating its 25th year during this year's conference, March 2-5, in Savannah. It is Georgia Southern University's longest running and most successful conference. The conference has grown from a regional event of 150 participants to a national conference of more than 1,000 national and international participants and over 100 training sessions.



(L-R) National Youth-At-Risk Conference co-chairs Dan Rea and Eric Landers. The two COE faculty are also co-directors of the NYAR Center.

"This is such an important conference because it not only looks at what risks today's youth face but also presents proactive solutions and best practices for meeting these serious challenges," said Thomas R.

Koballa, dean of the College of Education which sponsors the event. COE is home to the new National Youth-At-Risk Center, co-directed by COE faculty Dan Rea, Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, and Eric Landers, Department of Teaching and Learning. Rea and Landers are also co-chairs of the conference.

This year's keynote speakers include **Keith Brown**, lead consultant of 20/20 Enterprises in Fayetteville, GA; **Ron Clark**, founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta; and **Crystal Kuykendall**, founder and president of K.I.R.K. Inc., in Potomac, MD.

[Read more about the conference.](#)



2014 NYAR Conference keynote speakers (l-r) Keith Brown, Ron Clark and Crystal Kuykendall.

COE Alum Joins Advancement Team

Dear Alumni and Friends,

After three years away from Statesboro, I am honored to be back and serving as your new Director of Development for the College of Education in partnership with University Advancement. As the flagship College of Georgia Southern, we will work to raise philanthropic support for the important programs and research the College of Education carries out. We are tasked with ensuring the long-term viability of the College and supporting the vision and needs of the University.

education faculty can come together in significant ways around STEM issues," said Thomas R. Koballa, dean of the College of Education.

David Pogue is the morning keynote speaker. Pogue is anchor columnist for Yahoo Tech and was formerly the personal-technology columnist for the *New York Times*. He's also a monthly columnist for *Scientific American* and host of science shows on PBS's "NOVA." He's been a correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning" since 2002. [Read more about the conference.](#)



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ALUMNI:

I'm excited to have the opportunity to get to know our graduates, faculty and friends, and know I will build relationships that last a lifetime. Like you, I'm proud to call myself an alumnus of the College of Education, and I'm looking forward to visiting alumni to share the exciting things going on with the College. As a son and grandson of Georgia educators I know firsthand how dedicated and passionate you are to your craft and how important your role is to the future of the region and state.

Georgia Southern will continue to have a major influence on education, and my work through University Advancement will help support our students and faculty, allowing us to continue to recruit the best of the best.

The work of our alumni and future alumni will positively impact the lives of countless students around the state and nation. I reflect on how my own life has been shaped by educators and I count myself blessed to be involved with this College. I hope you will let me know if there is anything I can do to share the successes and work of the College with you. Our needs are great and we are always looking for donations of time, talent and treasure. It is our sincere hope that the College of Education continues to grow in its national recognition for excellence and innovation in teaching, scholarship and outreach. I know you will answer the call.

Hail Southern!

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Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol

Georgia Southern University faculty, staff, students and alumni visited with legislators and staff earlier this month at the first Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol. The event provided an opportunity for COE representatives to talk with legislators about the College's accomplishments preparing future educators and leaders, and to discuss current issues facing education.

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Pictured, L-R: Michelle Allen (current Ed.D. Curriculum Studies student); Dr. Sonya Jefferson (Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies, Principal of Clifford T. Sego Middle School); Dr. Ming Fang He (COE Professor, Curriculum, Foundations and Reading); Dr. Jacquelyn Anthony (Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies, Social Worker with the Clayton County Board of Education); Dr. Derrick Marcel Tennial (Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies, Associate Director and Professor, Gateway to College Academy, Georgia Perimeter College); COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa; Dr. Eric Landers (COE Assistant Professor, Teaching and Learning, Co-director, National Youth-At-Risk Center); Ross Davis (COE Major Gifts Officer); McKenzie Smith (COE Graduate Assistant, National Youth-At-Risk Center); and Lydia Cross (Director, COE Graduate Academic Services Center).