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Orton Grissett receives OER Research Fellowship



Judy Orton Grissett, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology, recently received an Open Educational Resource (OER) Research Fellowship from the Open Education Group.

The Open Education Group conducts interdisciplinary research on the educational outcomes of OER adoption as well as designs frameworks for studying the impact of OERs. The Research Fellowship is funded by The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and facilitated by the Open Education Group.

Orton Grissett has a longstanding interest in free and open-source software.

“As a graduate student, I used OpenOffice and Linux not only because they were free but also because I liked the idea that they were open access,” she said. “I find OERs appealing for the same reasons.”

“In a world where proprietary ownership of learning materials is standard, allowing more students to have access to something so basic as textbooks and other educational materials just makes sense,” she added. “Many of our students have enough challenges along the way to earning a degree. Expensive textbooks shouldn’t be one of them.”

As part of her fellowship, Orton Grissett will receive funding to attend two conferences, one of which will be the Open Education Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, in November 2015. In addition, she will receive mentoring in OER research and guidance in identifying, researching and writing specific OER projects.

The fellowship will also allow Orton Grissett to contribute to the growing body of literature supporting the use of OERs.

Orton Grissett has previously researched the impact of OERs. In the spring, she and Charles Huffman, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Psychology and Sociology, conducted a study on student perceptions on OERs and their effectiveness in an introductory psychology course.

“We found that students who used an OER preferred using them in the future. We found the opposite trend among students who used a traditional paper textbook (they preferred a paper textbook),” said Orton Grissett. “Although not conclusive, these findings are exciting because they suggest that students who have a positive experience with OERs are more receptive to using them in the future. This fellowship will allow me to further address this and related questions about OERs through additional research.”

Orton Grissett also serves as the Affordable Learning Georgia Campus Champion for Georgia Southwestern. In this role, she provides current resources and information about open-source materials to GSW faculty and instructional staff.

Several GSW faculty teams awarded ALG grants



Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) is providing grants for University System of Georgia faculty, libraries and institutions so that they can explore lower cost options for textbooks and other learning materials.

The ALG Textbook Transformation Grants support these institutions as they test alternative textbook options in hopes that lowering the cost of textbooks for college students will contribute to their retention, progression and graduation.

Several GSW faculty teams recently received grant awards from ALG.

Two teams of faculty from the Department of Psychology and Sociology received grants.

Ellen Cotter (Principle Investigator), Judy Orton Grissett and Gary Fisk will receive \$15,200 for PSYC 2103 (Human Growth and Development).

Joseph Comeau (PI), Jamie MacLennan and Judy Orton Grissett will receive \$16,800 for SOCI 1160 (Contemporary Social Problems), SOCI 4440 (Methods of Social Research) and PSYC 4431 (Experimental Psychology).

With these grants, six courses offered by the Department of Psychology and Sociology will be using materials that will be of no cost to students in place of expensive published textbooks. The total saving for students per year will be approximately \$150,000.

A team from the Department of Music were awarded a grant as well.

Mark Laughlin (PI), Julie Megginson, Robert Bryant and Ru Story-Huffman will receive the full amount of \$30,000 for MUSC 1100 (Music Appreciation). This grant will save students approximately \$65,000 per year. This was also the first grant awarded for MUSC 1100 through the first three rounds of applications.

Recipients will attend the Grant Kick-Off Meeting on Monday, Oct. 12 in Macon, Ga.

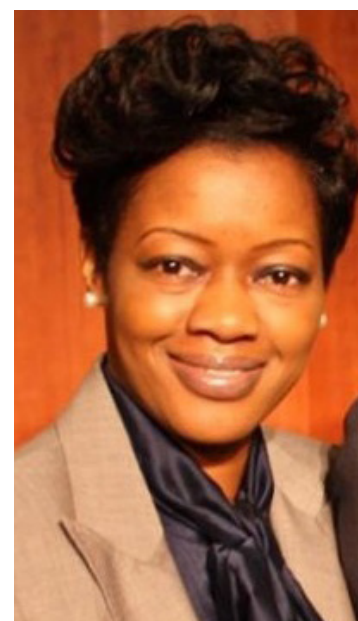
Thomas hired as RCI's new Program Support Specialist

Miranda B. Thomas is the newest addition at the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, serving as the program support specialist. Thomas is originally from Cobb, Ga. and graduated from Sumter County Comprehensive High School. She received her Bachelor of Science in sociology from Georgia Southwestern College and a master's in social administration from Georgia Southwestern State University.

Thomas has been employed at GSW since 2001, serving as the assistant director of Student Support Services where she provided assistance for low income, first generation and disabled students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. She is excited to return to her alma mater in a "different capacity."

Thomas states, "I am elated to join the team at RCI, and I am looking forward to acquiring new skills and assisting the team in making an impact!"

Thomas is happily married to her husband Cedrick of 13 years. They have two daughters, Cemirra and Cemiya.



Announcements

Dreena and Tom Hoffmann celebrated their 32nd year anniversary on Oct. 1.

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The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving announced in September that its signature military support program is adding three new locations. Operation Family Caregiver (OFC) will expand to Virginia, North Carolina and Los Angeles, California. With the latest expansion, OFC will be serving military families in 12 locations across the country by the beginning of next year. Read the full article [here](#).

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Dr. Judy Orton Grissett's manuscript, "You Are (Not) Welcome Here: The Climate for LGBT Students in an Adult Literacy Program," was recently accepted for publication in the upcoming issue of the journal "Adult Learning." The manuscript was co-authored with three researchers from Georgia State University.

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Congratulations to Cecilia Maldonado, Ph.D., assistant professor of marketing for becoming a U.S. citizen on Sept. 28 in a ceremony in Atlanta, Ga.

Faculty and Staff Fund Drive set for Oct. 1-31

The Faculty and Staff Fund Drive is the opportunity for each of us to support students and our colleagues as we all work together to make the university the best it can be. Your gifts go directly to the area or areas that you choose – to your own department or college, to the Student Success Fund, the athletics program or any of the many existing funds. You will receive a packet of information from your area fund drive coordinator very soon, if you haven't already. Refer to the GSW Foundation website for more information and a listing of available funds (www.gsw.edu/foundation). Our goal is 100 percent participation of all faculty and staff so we hope you will make a contribution of any size and join us as "Together We Give, Together We Grow."

Library to release three new films a week

The GSW Library is releasing three new films each week this semester! Two popular titles and one Windows to the World feature (international film) will be released. Like the library on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to find out what the upcoming new releases are and be the first to know when they're released. So far this semester, the GSW Library has released the following popular films:



"The Gambler" (Mark Wahlberg), "Focus" (Will Smith), "Jupiter Ascending" (Channing Tatum) and "Hot Pursuit" (Reese Witherspoon). The library has also released the following Windows to the World films: "I Saw the Devil" (South Korea) and "Siddarth" (India).

Latini to serve new role in RCI

Naomi Latini with the Rosalynn Carter Institute is just wrapping up the completion of the RCI REACH program, which called for the national dissemination of the evidence-based program. This powerful program is designed to help caregivers who are caring for someone with dementia, and as of today, more than 20 agencies around the country are now operating this program thanks to training from the RCI. With the training portion of that program complete, Latini has been hired as the training and implementation specialist with RCI. In this role, Latini will continue to work with the RCI REACH program and will also be assisting with the development of implementation training and tools for other assigned RCI evidence-based program sites such as the Operation Family Caregiver Program. The RCI is excited to see Latini continue to grow and nourish these sites around the country as well as locally.

Laughlin presents at conference, writes article for national newsletter



Mark Laughlin, associate professor of music, presented a one-hour interactive presentation and workshop titled "Improvisation in the Music Curriculum" at the Fédération Canadienne des Associations de Professeurs de Musique, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The conference was held July 8-11, 2015, and hosted piano pedagogues from Canada and the United States.

Laughlin was also invited to write an article for the National Association for Music Education's "Music in a Minuet." The article "[Video Game Music: The Great Teaching Experiment](#)" appeared in the Aug. 20, 2015 edition of "Music in a Minuet" and will be topic of his presentation at the national conference of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) in October 2015. The article was also featured in NAfME's national newsletter, "Orchestrating Success."

Oris Bryant Book Scholarship winners announced



Please join GSW Staff Senate in congratulating the recipients of the Fall 2015 Oris Bryant Book Scholarship. The purpose of the scholarship is to support currently-employed Georgia Southwestern State University staff members in their pursuit of higher education.

Each recipient was awarded a \$50 book scholarship. This scholarship fund is named in honor of the late Oris W. Bryant, Jr., affectionately known as "Chief." Oris Bryant was an active member of the GSW community where he served as director of Public Safety.

Scholarships will be offered again at the beginning of Spring 2016 semester. The GSW Staff Senate

thanks you for your continued support and hopes to see you at a program in the near future.

Pictured left to right: Jill Hohnecker, enrolled at Georgia Southwestern State University pursuing a Master of Business Administration; Dreena Hoffmann, enrolled at Georgia Southwestern State University pursuing a Master of Arts in English; David Jenkins, enrolled at the University of Georgia pursuing a Doctor of Education in Student Affairs Leadership.

Contact GSW Staff Senate

Email: staffsenate@gsw.edu

Website: <https://gsw.edu/Resources/FacultyandStaff/staffSenate/index>

Meetings: Last Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in the SGA Conference Room

Fine Arts Building Ribbon Cutting reveals improvements



The Fine Arts Building Renovation Ribbon Cutting took place on Friday, Sept. 25 (pictured left).

After the ceremony, the building was open for tours and demonstrations. Visitors were given demonstrations in glass blowing (pictured center) and with the new green screen in the experimental theater (pictured right), the second largest green screen in the state.

During the tours, visitors could also stop in for a viewing of the first fully edited scene of the TCMA department's first feature film, "Which Way There."

2015-16 Pope Fellows honored at reception hosted by RCI

The 2015-2016 Pope Fellows were honored in August with a reception by the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. The Fellows each earned \$3,500 in scholarships from local donor, Betty Pope. Students must be enrolled in the Caregiving Issues and Management Certificate program at Georgia Southwestern State University to qualify.

To read the full article from WALB, click [here](#). To learn more about the Pope Fellowship/Scholarship, click [here](#).



Scholarship Day held Aug. 18



Scholarship Day took place on Aug. 18, 2015. At this event, named foundation scholarship recipients take photos and write notes of appreciation to their donors.

The supporters of these scholarships are family members and/or donors. The Foundation sends a photo of scholarship recipients, notes of appreciation and a report of the scholarship fund to those donors/family members. The GSW Foundation awards over \$600,000 in scholarship money each fiscal year to over 300 recipients.

Pictured are the recipients of the Frances B. Arenz Jones Scholarship, which is awarded to incoming freshmen who are residents of Sumter County.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 16 8:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m.	President's Classic Golf Tournament To benefit GSW Athletics Griffin Bell Golf Links For more information or to register, click here .
Oct. 17 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	4th Annual "Turn Up the Pink!" Breast Cancer Awareness Event Cost: \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door SSC Intramural Gym
Oct. 17	GISA State Softball Championship GSW Softball Field
Oct. 22-23	2015 RCI National Summit & Training Institute
Oct. 27 7:30 p.m.	Chamber Concert Series Mary Bowden, trumpet Jackson Hall