Interview with Dr. Margie Yates, Director of Graduate Studies in the College of Education and Health Professions

Dr. Margie Yates has served since 2013 as the Director of Graduate Studies for COEHP and recently began serving as Chair of the University’s Graduate Council. An alumna of CSU’s M.Ed. program in Early Childhood Education, Dr. Yates taught kindergarten through 8th grade for 14 years before returning to CSU in 2004 as an assistant professor in that field. Following a period of several years in which she served as a department chair at LaGrange College, Dr. Yates returned to CSU and soon assumed her current position.

What are your major responsibilities as the Director of Graduate Studies in COEHP?

I facilitate monthly meetings of our college’s Graduate Council and assist graduate faculty and students with issues related to graduate studies. I assist students who want to appeal to be readmitted to a program. I also make sure Council members have relevant information related to such appeals. I communicate information related to the work of the Graduate Council to all stakeholders through minutes, emails, and meetings.

What are some goals for the graduate studies in your college?

Growing our graduate programs is a common goal in COEHP, and finding ways to incorporate relevant programs and opportunities to engage in the community is vital. We want our programs to be relevant and to do research that is meaningful.

What are your responsibilities as chair of the University Graduate Council?

First of all, our Graduate Council Members are dedicated to excellence in graduate education. Members of the council include faculty members from all of the colleges, our Associate Provost for Graduate Education, our Interim Provost, and the Director of Graduate Recruiting.

Dr. Roberts has increased the visibility and impact of the graduate school in the last few years. Through her leadership, we have seen an increase in graduate enrollment, graduate recruiting initiatives, and resources. The Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) and the Graduate School Newsletter were created a couple of years ago, enhancing communication between the Graduate School and students.

As chair of the Graduate Council, I work with members of the Council to develop the agenda, preside at monthly meetings, and facilitate communication between meetings. In my role in COEHP and as a member of the Graduate Council, I have also been very active in recruiting students for graduate programs in my college and across the campus.

What would you like to see happen with graduate education on our campus?

I really would like to see the students involved with GSAB and to be active in making recommendations for new, relevant programs and for program improvement. It would be good for graduate students to have more social activities and more space to gather.

I believe we have to continue conversations that have been started about finding ways to support our community. I would also suggest we broaden our “sense of community” to include the region outside the immediate area. I personally would like to see Graduate programs promoting international experiences for graduate students. We really need to think about global initiatives and our impact around the world.

What advice do you have for graduate students so that they will be successful?

Communicate with Faculty. We are here to support and assist you in your endeavors. Seek out faculty members with similar research interests and passions.

Work hard to keep balance in your life. Understand “life” will happen while you’re in graduate school. Two of the most important skills you can utilize while in graduate school are resilience and persistence. Don’t give up and know you can and will complete the program.

Also, join the Graduate Student Advisory Board and present at the Graduate Conference on November 2nd and 3rd! These are both great opportunities to share your voice and have an impact on graduate education at CSU.
U.S. News & World Report Ranks CSU Among the Top Regional Universities in the South

Columbus State University is among the top 50 best public regional universities in the South, according to U.S. News & World Report, which announced the 2017 Best Colleges rankings to help students worldwide compare the academic quality of more than 1,800 U.S.-based schools.

In the Regional Universities South category, Columbus State ranked No. 46 among Top Public Schools. In other categories, CSU ranked No. 62 in Best Online MBA programs, and No. 105 among all universities throughout the South.

“This latest ranking is another validation of the incredible work taking place on our campus by our elite faculty and support staff,” said CSU President Chris Markwood. “This honor and other recent rankings provide proof that our unique combination of academic quality, innovation and value are paying dividends for our students.”

Study Ranks CSU Economics Faculty as Among South’s Most Prolific Researchers

A new study published in the journal Economics Bulletin finds that Columbus State University D. Abbott Turner College of Business’ economics faculty ranks sixth overall in terms of research productivity from the more than 200 colleges and universities in the U.S. South that are classified by U.S. News & World Report as regional universities.

The study, titled “Out of Big Brother’s Shadow: Ranking Economics Faculties at Regional Universities in the U.S. South,” was written by economists Frank Mixon of Columbus State University and Kamal Upadhyaya of the University of New Haven. The article appears in the August 24 issue of the Vanderbilt University-based journal, Economics Bulletin, online at www.economicsbulletin.com.

The study indicates that CSU’s economics faculty trails only those at Appalachian State University, James Madison University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Trinity University, and Loyola University-New Orleans. By ranking sixth overall, the CSU economics faculty is the highest-ranked economics faculty among Georgia regional universities.

“We are proud of the research productivity of all of the faculty in the Turner College,” said Linda Hadley, the Bill Heard professor of Finance and dean of the college. “Dr. Mixon is undoubtedly one of our most prolific scholars. His research is highly regarded and frequently cited, bringing welcome recognition to CSU and the Turner College of Business.” Mixon attributes a major portion of the CSU economics faculty’s research productivity to the support provided by the Turner College’s administration.

The Turner College graduate economics faculty currently consists of Ben Blair, the Sarah T. Butler Endowed Professor, associate professors Andres Jauregui and Tesa Leonce, professor Frank Mixon, and assistant professor Wen Shi. In addition to their undergraduate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Andres Jauregui and Dr. Tesa Leonce teach in either the MBA or WebMBA program, while Dr. Frank Mixon teaches in the M.S. in Organizational Leadership.
Mark Your Calendar...

**Monday, September 26**
International Student Convocation and Reception.  
CSU President Chris Markwood will give opening remarks.
4:00 to 5:00 pm, Center for International Education,  
Spencer Event Hall, 6 Clearview Circle

**Tuesday, September 27**
Graduate School Advisory Board Meeting  
Schuster Room 101, 12:15 to 1:30 pm  
Free Lunch from Chick-Fil-A

**Thursday, September 29**
Turner College of Business Executive Speaker Series  
Featuring Jane Seckinger - CEO of Goodwill Industries  
Center of Commerce and Technology  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Free Event.

**Coming next month…**
October 27—Lunch-and-Learn  
Resume writing and LinkedIn  
Columbus Room 12:15-1:30

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**Professor Developing EPA-Sponsored Opportunities for Research**

The Aquatic Resources & Conservation Laboratory at CSU is searching for one or two M.S. degree seeking graduate students to participate in an EPA funded research project investigating invasive mussels. Activities include sampling using scuba/snorkeling, sorting, and identification, analyze water chemistry, and implement data analysis for scientific presentations and publications. Sampling will take place in July 2017 and July 2018. Food and Housing is covered through the grant. There is a modest stipend that is also included.

Interested students should contact Dr. Troy Keller for more information at keller_troy@columbusstate.edu or 706-507-8099.

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**Do not forget!! Tomorrow is the Graduate Student Advisory Board meeting**

GSAB meetings are a good way to meet students from other programs of study. Meet us for lunch and to discuss your needs, concerns, and ideas for the Graduate School. We have some regular attendees from History, Public Administration, Natural Science, Computer Science, the doctoral program in Education, and Counseling and would love to expand that group. We will discuss the pros and cons of becoming an official student organization and an upcoming Graduate Student social event. We welcome your participation and input!

**Hope to see you September 27th, in Schuster 101 @ 12:15 pm. There will be free food from Chick-Fil-A. We’re ordering more to accommodate a bigger crowd.**

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**Graduate Assistants!** Be sure to check out the GA 2016 Training photos at:  
https://gradschool.columbusstate.edu/gatraining-2016.php

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The Graduate School wants to hear from you! Do you know a graduate student or faculty member who has gone over and beyond in their work/studies; presented at a major conference; had a publication accepted, etc.? Are there new graduate programs or changes to current programs? Are there any graduate related events that could be featured in the newsletter? Please let us know! We want to give our graduate students and faculty the recognition they deserve. Send your information to:  
gradschool@columbusstate.edu.

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