

Gold Star daughter pays tribute to dad

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In 2018, Shannon Celiz was only 8 years old when her father, SFC Christopher A. Celiz, was killed in action in Afghanistan. Three years later, Shannon is a fifth grader in the Savannah area and uses the stability of her education to pay tribute to her fallen hero.

"My daughter told me that her life is like a Jenga tower and most of the sturdy pieces have been removed since the death of her father. She feels as though her school is the last sturdy piece remaining at the bottom of the tower," says Shannon's mother, Katherine Celiz. "If we take that away, her tower will fall down."

The Celiz family has received support from The Folded Flag Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides a pathway for thousands of Gold Star spouses and children (under the age of 26) to obtain an education and establish a career. With education as the cornerstone, the foundation offers scholarship and grant opportunities for college students, as well as for summer school and summer-related activities for younger students.

"Without organizations like The Folded Flag Foundation, I don't know if I would be able to keep my daughter's Jenga tower standing tall," Celiz added.

Summer Bonanza registration extended

Registration has been extended for the 2021 Summer Bonanza for Chatham County youth age 7-14. Summer Bonanza has run every year since 1991.

The program will run online every Saturday from 10:30-noon, beginning June 5. "I wanted to not only provide some summer fun for children, but I also wanted to have an educational element, too," said the program's founder, Priscilla Thomas. "Each child must present a project at the end of the session about what impressed them the most and then present that to all participants and volunteers."

Topics include "Cooking in Trina's Kitchen", "Wacky Science" with STEAM, and "Hemojis and Shemojis" for mental health and wellness.

The Summer Bonanza 2021 program fee is \$10 and is limited to 150 participants. For more information and to register, click on the Summer Bonanza website at summerbonanza.com. Paper applications may be sent by fax to 912-232-7388.

STEM Academy student wins State Grand Award

STEM Academy @ Bartlett eighth-grade student Ella Shaffer was recently awarded the Grand Award in Biochemistry in the Junior Division of the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair. Ella's project, "How do low-glycemic sugar alternatives affect bread yeast growth?" compared multiple natural sweeteners in the process of baking bread. The project won first place for biochemistry at the Regional Science Fair earlier this year before advancing to state.

Shaffer previously attended Heard Elementary where students begin working on science fair projects in third



Ella Shaffer is an eighth-grade student at STEM Academy @ Bartlett.
PROVIDED/SCCPSS

grade. Shaffer's third-grade science fair project won first in the region testing yeast growth with sugar, honey, and saccharin.

In subsequent years, Shaffer's experiments with various sugars and yeast continued. In seventh grade last year she tested fruit/vegetable juices (apple, orange, carrot, celery) with yeast growth. This year she tested yeast growth with low-glycemic sugar alternatives.

"I'm extremely proud of Ella and what she's been able to accomplish during her middle school career at The STEM Academy," said Jimmy Cave, STEM principal. "Her latest achievement, the Grand Award in Biochemistry, is outstanding! Ella is an exceptional student and I'm looking forward to hearing about her next accomplishment."

"It has been a pleasure to watch Ella grow academically during her time here at STEM. She has already accomplished so much, and I have no doubt that will continue as she enters high school," added Lauren Kelly, STEM Academy STEAM Coordinator.

Groves senior wins ClearWater scholarship

Ash'ana Burns of Groves High School in Garden City was one of 14 graduating seniors at high schools in areas served by ClearWater (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina) who were awarded the \$1,000 scholarships.

"We are extremely proud of Ash'ana and impressed by her accomplishments in the classroom as well as her involvement in activities in her school. We expect great things from her in the future," said ClearWater Garden City project manager Larry Arnett. "I'm thankful that we are again able to recognize talented young people like Ash'ana in the Garden City community, and we hope this scholarship encourages other students at Groves High to aim high and work hard."

"We believe assisting students in obtaining a college education is a great investment in the communities we serve," ClearWater President Rick Ailiff said. "A community does well when its young people do well, and a college education, for many young people, is the key that



Shannon Celiz is pictured with her father SFC Christopher A. Celiz.
PROVIDED/CELIZ FAMILY



ClearWater Garden City project manager Larry Arnett, left, presents the certificate and scholarship to Ash'ana Burns of Groves High School.
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unlocks the door to opportunities and success."

Winning students can use their scholarships in any college or technical school in pursuit of the degree of their choice. High school academic performance, community involvement and financial need were considered in choosing the winners.

Georgia Tech offers Professional Leadership certificate

Georgia Tech-Savannah is introducing a Professional Leadership certificate program which will begin in August. This program has been developed for emerging leaders to accelerate their careers through education and self-discovery, and for professionals in corporations and organizations that have demonstrated leadership qualities through experience and engagement.

Georgia Tech-Savannah has designed a cohort model for individuals who register for the eight part program

to join in a group learning experience with other executives.

Over the course of nine months, professionals will build relationships with a small, diverse group of other executives from a range of industries. The program will culminate in a graduation ceremony on May 17, 2022, as members of the cohort are awarded their prestigious Georgia Tech Professional Leadership certificates.

Most of the courses will take place on the CT Savannah campus with some online exceptions. All cohort participants will be required to complete the courses as a group in the scheduled format to graduate in May 2022.

For more information about the Professional Leadership Certificate, contact the course administrator James Wilburn, EDD, at james.wilburn@pe.gatech.edu.

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