

Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southern Commons

Georgia Southern Magazine

University Communications and Marketing

Fall 2008

Georgia Southern Magazine

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/georgia-southern>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Georgia Southern Magazine" (2008). *Georgia Southern Magazine*. 1. <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/georgia-southern/1>

This magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the University Communications and Marketing at Georgia Southern Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Southern Magazine by an authorized administrator of Georgia Southern Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

» ENROLLMENT NUMBERS UP ALUMNI CENTER UNDERWAY BASKETBALL SEASON PREVIEW

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

FALL 2008 NUMBER 1 • WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark green sweater and jeans, is shown in profile from the side, painting a large abstract artwork. She is holding a paintbrush in her right hand and a red cloth in her left. The artwork is composed of broad, textured brushstrokes in various shades of blue and green, creating a sense of depth and movement. The background is a dark, almost black, color.

EXPLORING THE
ARTS



YOUR GIFT. OUR PROMISE.

This holiday season, consider a gift to your alma mater.

Your generosity can change a student's life,
underwrite new research, construct a building and more.

In return for a gift, Our Promise is to ensure an outstanding
education to students at a vibrant University –
one where knowing your professor isn't a luxury. It is the norm.

Your gift will make a difference. We Promise.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

THE FOUNDATION

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION INC.

www.georgiasouthern.edu/donate



» 18 THE ARTS AT GEORGIA SOUTHERN

The visual and performing arts at Georgia Southern have come a long way since the "Art Club" of the First District A&M School. The University's professional and aspiring artists are enriching lives in south Georgia and beyond.

5 MAPPING A RESPONSE

University professor Thomas Kollars helped to prepare the major national presidential political conventions for a potential terror attack. He mapped the projected speed and direction of biological or chemical agents in Denver and Minneapolis.

6 AN OLYMPIC MOMENT

An international studies professor spent his summer vacation in Beijing and witnessed the 2008 Summer Olympics from the inside out.

8 DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

Georgia Southern researchers across three disciplines are studying the health of the Altamaha River and how it affects the Georgia coast and the ocean into which it flows.

DEPARTMENTS

3 CAMPUS NEWS

Upward trend • Alumni and Welcome Center
• Freshman residency • Ron Core returns •
Economic impact • Fulbright scholar •
Medical records • Kellogg Foundation grant

10 FOUNDATION NEWS

Woodcock scholarships • Our Growing
Endowment • 1906 Gala • Foundation Board

14 SPORTS SCENE

Standing tall • Double trouble • Eagle Advantage
• Hoops preview • Brown goes pro •
Dowling makes history • Change for champions

34 CHRONICLES

New Board members • Mixed signals •
A life well lived • Sacred spaces • Always learning
• Making an impact



To Our ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

The hard work of faculty and staff and the support of our loyal alumni and friends are paying off. We have the numbers to prove it.

Georgia Southern's enrollment, average freshman SAT score and retention rate all show increases over last year and represent record levels for these key quality indicators.

The University's Fall Semester enrollment leaped 5.4 percent to 17,764 students, the largest in the University's history, and representing 28 percent growth over 10 years.

Yes, Georgia Southern is attracting more students, but also better students. Our new freshman class has a record-high average SAT score of 1111. This is significantly above the state and national averages.

Not only are more and better-prepared students enrolling – they are staying from year to year in larger numbers. The University's freshman retention rate rose to 81 percent, another record high, and up nearly 15 percent since 1999. This measurement of the percentage of freshmen who return to Georgia Southern indicates increasingly qualified students and high student satisfaction.

Thank you for helping us to achieve these new benchmarks. With your support, Georgia Southern will continue to advance in ways that will stretch your imagination.

This issue of *Georgia Southern* magazine highlights another kind of imagination – that made possible through the visual and performing arts. In support of the teaching and practice of artistic inquiry, the University has strengthened its commitment to the visual and performing arts. New and renovated facilities and expanded art holdings benefit students, faculty and the community in ways that cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

The arts are essential, not only to understanding life, but to living fully. They bring joy, enrichment and fulfillment to every human being. As you read further, you might reflect upon the astounding creativity of University students and professors. Consider also what the arts offer you – how they affect your daily life in ways you might never have considered.

Bruce Grube
President



VOL. 11, NO. 1, FALL 2008

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Christian Flathman

EDITOR
David Thompson ('81)

WRITERS
Marla Bruner ('04), Paul Floeckher ('91),
Robert Greene ('08), Megan Hopkins,
Luke Martin ('01), Justyne Tiffany ('09),
Meredith Wise ('08)

DESIGNERS
Ray Hoffman, Ryan Honeyman,
Megan Hopkins

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Frank Fortune, Suzanne Oliver

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
and other submissions
are encouraged.
Send correspondence to
Georgia Southern magazine
P. O. Box 8055
Statesboro, GA 30460-8055
cdavidt@georgiasouthern.edu

CLASS CHRONICLES
and alumni updates may be sent to the
Office of Alumni Relations
P. O. Box 8053
Statesboro, GA 30460-8053
alumni@georgiasouthern.edu

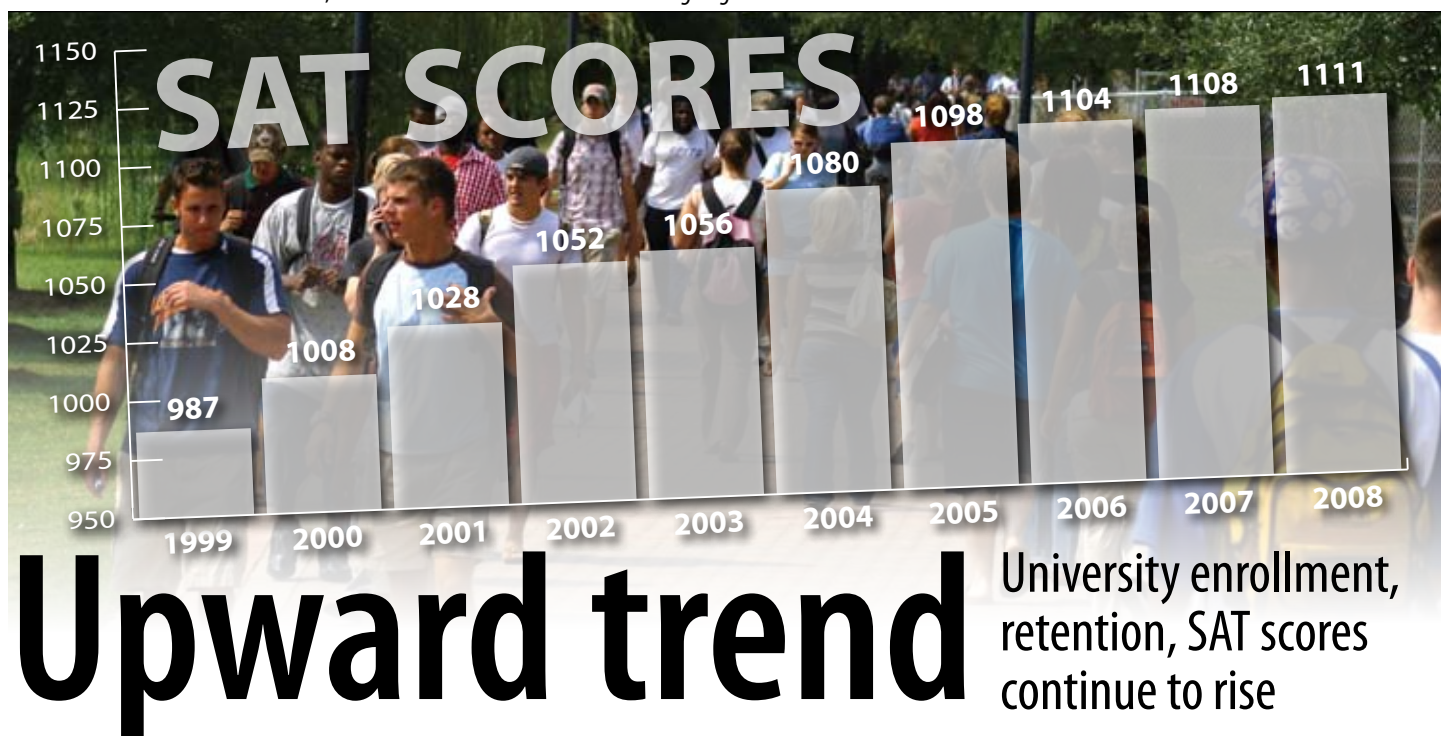
FOR ADMISSIONS
information contact the
Office of Admissions
P. O. Box 8024
Statesboro, GA 30460-8024
admissions@georgiasouthern.edu

Georgia Southern magazine is published three times a year for Alumni and Friends of Georgia Southern University by the Office of Marketing & Communications.

Georgia Southern University is a member of the University System of Georgia and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution

Georgia Southern magazine
© 2008 Georgia Southern University

ISSN 1524-0975



Wall Street has had its troubles lately, but Sweetheart Circle's leading indicators are all positive as Georgia Southern's stock continues to rise in the eyes of prospective students and parents.

Georgia Southern recently released its enrollment figures for Fall Semester 2008 and the numbers show records in growth, student retention and average SAT scores by incoming freshmen.

Fall Semester enrollment at Georgia Southern leaped 5.4 percent to 17,764 students, representing the largest enrollment in the University's history and up 28 percent from 10 years ago.

Last year's enrollment topped out at 16,841.

Georgia Southern is also attracting higher-quality students. This semester's freshman class has an average SAT score of 1111, higher than any class in the University's history and four points up from last fall's 1108. The average SAT score is significantly higher than state and national averages of 989 and 1017, respectively.

More students enrolling at Georgia Southern, but they are also staying at Georgia Southern.

The University's student retention rate – a key indicator of educational quality – reached a record 81 percent, up nearly 15 percent since 1999. The retention rate measures the percentage of freshmen who return to the University from fall to fall and

is indicative of better-qualified students and a high level of student satisfaction.

"These achievements are the result of a decade of hard work and dedication to our students and our University's future," said University President Bruce Grube.

Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Georgia Southern's growth and achievement has an economic impact that reaches far be-

"This is a wonderful time to be a part of Georgia Southern and we are excited about our future."

President Bruce Grube

yond the University as students graduate and put their degrees to work. "If a student comes here and is successful, it's important in the life of the student. But, it is also important for the progress of our region and our state," she said.

"Parents are recognizing the value of not only the education, but the experience that their children receive at Georgia Southern," said Teresa Thompson, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. "We pride ourselves on combining all of the benefits of a major university

with the feeling of a much smaller college. Students like this because they can stand out and get involved.

"Parents love it because they know their son or daughter is receiving personal attention," she said.

Grube said that while much has been accomplished in the last 10 years, the University community is committed to growing its programs and opportunities for students.

"This is a wonderful time to be a part of Georgia Southern and we are excited about our future."

According to Grube, Georgia Southern's growth has been tied to a number of different things including the University's recognition as a Carnegie/Doctoral Research University, its continued focus on its students, an expanding number of innovative programs and a faculty that are not only outstanding teachers, but professionals in their field.

"During the last 10 years Georgia Southern University has undergone the greatest growth in physical facilities in its history and in the quality of academic programs," said Grube. "As we turn our focus to the University's second century, you can feel the excitement on campus, the state and the region. With increased interest from across the country and around the world, we are entering a true era of achievement at Georgia Southern."



If all goes as planned, Georgia Southern will welcome alumni and visitors at a brand new facility in summer '09.

Alumni and Welcome Center construction starts

Construction has begun on Georgia Southern's Bishop Family Welcome and Alumni Center and is expected to wrap up in May 2009.

The nearly 12,000 square-foot facility will be located on Akins Boulevard near the Recreation Activity Center.

"When complete, this will be one of the most impressive facilities on campus and will be the center of activity and a receiving point for alumni and guests to campus," said University President Bruce Grube. "Alumni from across the country will not only appreciate the facility's numerous amenities, but also its outstanding design and accessible location."

"As the campus has continued to grow, we have taken great care to ensure that when we construct new facilities, they blend well with the surrounding architecture," said

Georgia Southern architect, Haroun Homayun. "The University and its designers considered the architecture of numerous new buildings that have been constructed in that area in recent years. The design blends many of the campus' traditional architectural elements such as gables and colonnades with the look of many of the buildings that have been built during the past 10 years."

Designed by Lyman Davidson Dooley Inc., the building will feature the classic "Georgia Southern University brick" design and will be accented with limestone both on the exterior and interior. "As guests enter the new facility, they will find hardwood floors and state-of-the-art electronics including LCD screens that may be used to promote events at the Center or broadcast the Eagles next victory," said Suzy Lee, project manag-

er/interior designer for Georgia Southern.

The location of the Center was chosen for its convenient accessibility to both out-of-town guests and alumni returning to campus. The facility, within walking distance of Allen E. Paulson Stadium, will allow for the expansion of alumni services with facilities for receptions, special events and programs vital to the University as it continues to grow.

"We are very excited to begin construction on this beautiful new facility and are very grateful for the lead gift and support of Dr. Gene Bishop," said Billy Griffis, vice president of University Advancement at Georgia Southern. "The Bishop Family Welcome and Alumni Center stands as a tribute to our alumni, friends and others who have helped make Georgia Southern what it is today."

PLTW Summer Training Institute builds strength in engineering education

The College of Science and Technology offered its second Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Summer Training Institute last summer, providing education and training for 40 teachers from high schools and technical centers in five states.

"The goal of the PLTW Summer Training Institute is to prepare teachers to effectively deliver engineering courses in high schools and middle schools," said Shahnam Navaee, associate dean and affiliate director of the PLTW at Georgia Southern. "Courses will enhance the students' interest in fields inherently linked to engineering and engineering technology and encourage students to select these fields as their majors."

Georgia Southern became a national affiliate of PLTW in the spring of 2006 and



is the first and only affiliate in Georgia. PLTW operates by creating dynamic partnerships with schools across the nation in order to prepare an increasing and more diverse group of students to be successful in science, engineering and engineering

technology programs.

Initiated in the 1980s, PLTW has provided more than a half-million students with the rigorous basic education needed to develop strong backgrounds in science and engineering.

Georgia Southern successfully sponsored its first Project Lead the Way last year and a total of 14 teachers attended. This summer's cohort, which nearly tripled in number, was enrolled in Introduction to Engineering Design, Digital Electronics and Principles of Engineering courses. The participants attended classes all day and continued to work on course projects during the evening hours with help from course instructors.

For more information about Project Lead the Way, visit www.pltw.org.



ABOVE: A sample bio-terrorism map. The yellow sections indicate where a particular bio-agent would survive in the environment for less than 15 days, the orange sections less than 30 days.

LEFT: Thomas Kollars demonstrates global positioning system (GPS) and biodefense mapping technology on the Georgia Southern campus.

Professor maps bioterrorism threats

Thomas Kollars put several days of work into projects for this year's Democratic and Republican National Conventions – and was glad they were never needed.

Kollars, director of the Biodefense and Infectious Disease Laboratory in Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, created bioterrorism threat maps for both conventions. The maps identified how the host cities of Denver and Minneapolis/St. Paul would be affected if biological agents were released into their environments by terrorists.

A lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve Consequence Management Unit, Kollars has been conducting bioterrorism research for 10 years. While participating in a Department of Homeland Security exercise at Fort McCoy, Wis., this summer, he was asked to create bio-agent maps for the federal government. When he returned home, Kollars developed the maps for the two conventions.

"It's a useful tool in case something happens," Kollars said. "For three days' work, you get a lot of information to the first responders and federal agencies. Of course, you really hope it won't have to be used."

To develop the maps, he combined geographic information systems software with environmental modeling software (ArcView and BioTEMS). Data on any number of biological agents can then be plugged into the model, creating a different map for each bio-agent.

The maps show where any biological agent would spread and how long it would last in the environment. Bio-agents can survive in the soil or spread into the animal population and remain for months or even dozens of years.

"The maps show where the bio-agent would survive in the environment for less than 15 days, less than 30 days and less than two years," Kollars said. "Anthrax takes an infective dose of about 8,000 spores to be fatal, whereas Tularemia can take one to 10 bacteria to be fatal. So there's a broad range of infective dose of each disease organism, even the strain."

The models identify where the threat would be the highest. Armed with that information, officials can determine the areas to evacuate, to set up a field hospital, and focus the cleanup.

"So instead of trying to clean up the entire Denver or Minneapolis area, which

would take a whole lot of dollars and manpower, they can actually go to these specific sites and clean up," Kollars said. "You can go out and take samples from the soil and water and animals, and test them to see if that agent is persisting there."

Closer to home, the technology can also be used for planning and consequence management for areas like the Port of Savannah, Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport, or other high-value targets such as government buildings, hospitals and research laboratories.

Identifying the environmental consequence – from a few hours to several years – of each bio-agent makes the models unique, Kollars said. Environmental models are another part of the equation for fighting bio-terrorism, along with the population models the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention use to determine how agents are spread from human-to-human contact, he added.

"I'm glad I can contribute," Kollars said. "I feel that being part of the faculty here, as well as being an Army officer, I can take my skills and actually serve our country and help protect the health of its population."

An Olympic moment

Van Tassell witnesses Chinese 'coming out party' at 2008 Summer Games

By Meredith Wise

Author, business owner and international studies professor Darin Van Tassell is a man of many hats. Or caps – as in baseball.

A former Eagle player and Rhodes Scholar finalist, Van Tassell has continued his association with the sport via the International Baseball Federation, taking official roles in three Olympic Games.

Most recently Van Tassell served as the baseball competition director for the Olympics in Beijing, China. What he saw was nothing short of amazing.

“You had this incredible mix of sporting personalities and sports and they’re happening against the backdrop of a society that is growing at a pace like no other place on the planet,” said Van Tassell. “That mix of it all, the professor in me, the former athlete in me, and the sports administrator in me – not to mention the American citizen living in Statesboro, Ga. – is trying to make sense of all of that,” he said.

“We read lots of things about the Chinese hoping this was their ‘coming out party.’ Well, they came out a long time ago, but what they had was an opportunity to really market themselves to the rest of the world,” said Van Tassell. “The Olympics, by definition, are not normal and sometimes as observers we have to be a little bit careful. Now clearly, their best foot was being placed forward for visitors, but if you went in the capacity that I went, you couldn’t help but be impressed.

“I was there in March for some pre-Olympic events,” he said, “but by the time I came back in September, there were upwards of 50 to 100 skyscrapers that had been built that weren’t there in March. There were interstate-sized roads that weren’t there in March. I don’t know of any place else in the world that could do such a thing right now.”

Aside from the amazing preparations the Chinese had made and the intensity of international competition, Van Tassell said he experienced his own “Olympic moment” in an unlikely place.

He recounted the near-brawl between the U.S. and Chinese baseball squads when American outfielder Ron LaPorta and Chinese catcher Wang Wei collided at home plate, resulting in a serious knee injury to

Wei. Later, when LaPorta came to bat, the Chinese pitcher retaliated by sending him to the hospital with a beanball-induced concussion.

The anger spilled over into heated post-game comments by both team’s managers and players.

Van Tassell then witnessed a kind of humanity peculiar to Olympic competition.

He visited the injured Wei and then LaPorta. LaPorta asked how the catcher was doing and, when told Wei would be out for the rest of the competition, LaPorta penned a note to his opponent, expressing concern about the injury, saying he never intended to injure Wei, and expressing regret at the incident.

Van Tassell delivered the note to the Chinese team manager.

“He was so moved by it. He brought his whole team over to show them the gesture that had been made. It was like an iceberg had been melted. For me, that was my ‘Olympic moment’ in which some of the magic of the Olympics happened,” said Van Tassell.

The professor keeps a world map on his wall, dotted with push pins. Each notes a country he has visited. There are more than 40 pins. “International studies teaches about the world, and baseball has been my vehicle to see the world,” said Van Tassell.



Freshman residency makes a comeback

A policy once familiar to pre-1980s alumni is coming back to Georgia Southern next year.

First-year students attending the University will be required to live on campus beginning Fall Semester 2009.

The value of the living-learning experience associated with on-campus living is a primary reason behind the decision to require freshmen to live on campus.

“Georgia Southern is committed to providing its students with a comprehensive educational experience,” said University President Bruce Grube. “This decision is part of a larger objective of creating a better environment on campus for student development, both educationally and personally.”

Recognizing that students in nearby counties might decide to live at home, the University will exempt students from living on campus in some cases. Students who may apply for exemption from the new requirement include:

- Students residing with parents or guardians in Bulloch, Evans, Jenkins, Screven, Effingham, Emanuel or Candler counties
- Students who will be 21 years of age before Spring Semester commencement



FRANK FORTUNE

University freshmen will be required to live on campus starting Fall Semester 2009.

- Students who have earned more than 30 hours of academic credit
- Students who are legally married or who are single parents
- Students with at least one year of active military service

First-year students wishing to reside off campus will be required to apply for an exemption on the basis of the exceptions. The student will be required to provide proof of one or more of the exceptions in the form of proof of county residence, a marriage

certificate, proof of military service, etc.

Residency requirements are common at universities around the country and state and Georgia Southern officials visited several major peer institutions that require freshmen to live on campus.

“The majority of today’s successful universities, including institutions much larger than Georgia Southern, are already seeing the benefits,” said Teresa Thompson, vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

University receives Kellogg Foundation grant

Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health has been awarded a contract valued at nearly \$200,000 to study public health in the Georgia cities of Albany, Augusta, Fort Valley and Savannah.

The study, “New Tools, New Visions 2,” is a three-year initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

“New Tools, New Visions 2” will use a community-based participatory research approach to address racial and ethnic disparities in health. The initiative will focus specifically on environmental justice and violence prevention issues identified by African American communities in the four cities, and its goal is to create new, culturally relevant and effective tools that will improve

health in their regions.

“Working with the Kellogg Foundation will increase our visibility as we seek to achieve our mission of eliminating health disparities in rural and underserved populations,” said Dean Charles Hardy. “As researchers, our faculty members have tremendous experience in providing program evaluations, teaching capacity-building skills, and assisting communities to improve the conditions in which all people can be healthy.”

Faculty participants in the contract include community health and health behav-



ior professor Mondri Mason, epidemiology professor Cassandra Arroyo, environmental health science professor Simone Charles, and nutrition and food science professor Padmini Shankar of the College of Health and Human Sciences. The four will be assisted by public health doctoral student Raymona

Lawrence.

“Once the Kellogg Foundation saw our focus on rural health issues and our partnerships across the state, they were enthused about awarding the evaluation contract to Georgia Southern,” said Mason.

University scientists assess health of Altamaha River basin

Georgia Southern researchers are studying the health of south Georgia's Altamaha River basin and how it could affect coastal and offshore environments.

Two departments – biology and geology & geography – have begun investigating aspects of the Altamaha River and the area around it.

“It is one of the last river basins in Georgia that is undeveloped,” said Dallas Rhodes, chair of the Department of Geology and Geography who headed up the initial project of mapping the river basin.

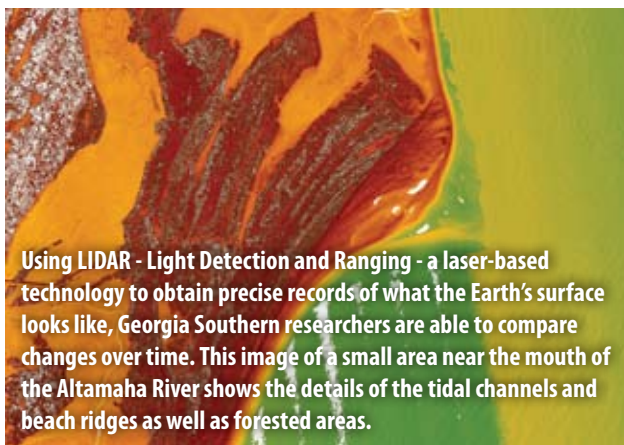
Rhodes collected two types of data, both showing changes in the basin over time.

The first data was collected using LIDAR - Light Detection and Ranging – a laser-based technology. The group contracted with the University of Florida's Airborne Laser Swath Mapping Program. “It can get a precise picture of what the Earth's surface looks like,” said Rhodes.

The second method used to survey the

river basin was by using the Quick Bird Satellite, showing detailed information about the environment, even the height of trees.

The information was given to Georgia Southern's biology department, also part



Using LIDAR - Light Detection and Ranging - a laser-based technology to obtain precise records of what the Earth's surface looks like, Georgia Southern researchers are able to compare changes over time. This image of a small area near the mouth of the Altamaha River shows the details of the tidal channels and beach ridges as well as forested areas.

of the Coastal Plain Taskforce which is studying the region of Georgia from Augusta through Macon, and includes most of southeast Georgia.

According to Daniel Gleason, a Georgia Southern marine biologist, the biology researchers are looking at connectivity – the

relationship between the river system, the coast to which it flows and offshore areas beyond. Involvement in the project began with a call from the Environmental Protection Agency's Region Four.

“We were asked, ‘if you could start looking at connectivity, how would you do that?’” said Gleason. “The tendency is for people to study only uplands or only offshore,” said biologist Risa Cohen, a taskforce team member “But you really can't focus on one part.”

Cohen and University geneticist Scott Harrison joined the project after the Department of Agriculture approached them about studying the water quality in the Altamaha River. They have taken a closer look at the relationship between the phytoplankton living in the river and how water quality affects their population.

A relatively new scientific technique, DNA barcoding, was used in this study.

“We tried to see if we could use DNA barcoding,” Harrison said. In this case, the biologists are looking for phytoplankton by their DNA signature. “Some of this phytoplankton could be good food for fish, and some of it may be poisonous,” said Harrison.

Gleason said that the project could lead to further investigations, especially if items from the river basin are found offshore. “It could be expanded to two rivers. The Altamaha was a great place to start.”

Former vice president returns to University post

It's an encore for Ron Core.

Ron Core, Georgia Southern's vice president for Business and Finance from 1997-2004, has returned to his former position at the University.

Core has 33 years of experience in higher education administration. He left Georgia Southern in 2004 to be vice chancellor of business affairs for the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. While at UNC-Wilmington, Core was responsible for the operations of the Business Affairs



Division.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Core back to Georgia Southern and Statesboro,” said University President Bruce Grube. “He is not only familiar with Georgia Southern, but has a thorough understanding of our operations given his prior experience at the institution.”

“I am very pleased to be back at Georgia Southern and have maintained many close relationships at the University and within the state of Georgia during the past four years,” said Core. “Quite a bit has changed since I was last here. With the continued growth and development of our institution, not only in academic quality, but in physical size, it is an excit-

ing time to be at Georgia Southern.”

Prior to joining Georgia Southern in 1997, Core served as executive vice president for Mississippi University for Women.

Earlier in his career he served in increasingly responsible leadership roles at Western Carolina University and Bowling Green State University.

Core earned a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Georgia. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in Education in Higher Education Administration from Western Carolina University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Bowling Green State University.

Researchers developing medical records innovations

Electronic medical records have been around for more than a decade, but researchers in Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health are working to develop the technology and methods to share those records more effectively.

The College is collaborating with the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, aided by a Georgia Department of Community Health grant to the Council, to develop a secure system to manage and share electronic medical information.

The Council has contracted with Georgia Southern to conduct formative research to develop a pilot program for health information exchange.

Georgia Southern community health and health behavior professor Mondy Mason and health services and policy management professor Renee Hotchkiss are co-investigators on the project. By conducting individual interviews and focus groups, Mason and Hotchkiss will assess the readiness of providers and patients across six health clinics affiliated with the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council.

"Our goal is to maximize the benefits

of sharing medical records among Safety Net stakeholders," said Mason. "As part of this project, we are looking at how information is shared and who has access. We want to consider – and alleviate – concerns of both the patients and the medical providers."

"This project will lead to better care for patients," said Diane Weems, chief medical officer of the Chatham County Health Department and chair of the Safety Net Planning Council. "This health information exchange will allow our providers to be more effective and our patients will be able to participate more fully in their own health care."

Several graduate students in the health services policy and management program are assisting Mason and Hotchkiss as they conduct focus groups and individual interviews across the health clinic sites.

Many healthcare systems, especially safety net settings in healthcare, have lagged behind in the realm of technology either because of cost or training, said Mason. In Chatham County, the Safety Net Planning Council wants to eliminate that lag and



"This project will lead to better care for patients."

Diane Weems, M.D.

bring its key stakeholders to the forefront in an effort to expand the use of electronic medical records.

"The Council is pleased to have this opportunity to partner with Georgia Southern University in this collaborative effort to improve health care delivery to the uninsured and underinsured in our community," said Weems.

Grad student awarded Fulbright Grant

Georgia Southern doctoral student Jeffrey Palis has been awarded a U.S. Student Fulbright Grant to study in Latvia.

Palis is pursuing his doctoral degree in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations, and Reading in the College of Education and is the study abroad and exchange coordinator in the Center for International Studies.

Palis' research project, "Cultivating Global Citizenship," will explore how global citizenship can be fostered on university campuses and in local communities. During his time in Latvia, Palis will work in collaboration with the Department of International Relations at the University of Latvia, Riga.

"Simply put, this is a dream come true for me," said Palis. "My time in Latvia will certainly have a profound impact on my dissertation and on my professional practice, however, I am most excited to truly become what I am studying – a global citizen."

Palis' grant represents the fourth U.S.



Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs award presented to a Georgia Southern student in the past two years.

During the months leading up to the Fulbright deadline, Palis worked closely with the staff of the University Honors Program, which serves as the campus clearinghouse for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships and helps to prepare University students to compete for grant funding.

"Jeff's wealth of experience and the quality of his research proposal certainly played a significant role in making his application successful," said Steve Engel, director of the Honors Program and Fulbright Program advisor at Georgia Southern.

UHP scholarships honor Will and Bonnie Woodcock

Will and Bonnie Woodcock had a reputation for integrity and for reaching out to those in need.

Their kindness and generosity lives in perpetuity with the establishment of two University Honors Program scholarships by their daughter Bonnie Grist and son-in-law Fred Grist of Statesboro.

The Wilburn Wright Woodcock Scholarship was created in memory of Bonnie's dad, Will Woodcock. A graduate of Georgia Tech, he was a successful Statesboro businessman who had a reputation for high ethical standards and complete honesty, said Fred Grist. "He was the definition of humanitarian. Even today, some 39 years after his death, people come to us with stories about how he graciously and with a cheerful heart financially or otherwise helped them or some member of their family.

"The annual scholarship will continue his legacy of helping others by financially assisting a Georgia Southern student enrolled in the College of Business Administration," said Fred.

The Bonnie Page Woodcock Scholarship was established in memory of Bonnie's mom, a music graduate of Brenau College. "She was a native of Statesboro and a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend," said Bonnie. Mrs. Woodcock was an active member of Statesboro First



FRANK FORTUNE

Fred and Bonnie Grist hold portraits of Will and Bonnie Woodcock.

Baptist Church. She enjoyed her involvement with the Merry Weeders Garden Club and was also an accomplished artist.

"Her longtime hobby of china painting produced scores of pieces which are treasured by her friends and children," said

Bonnie. "In her own quiet way, it gave her great pleasure to reach out to help friends and strangers who may have needed anything from encouraging words to financial help.

"In her spirit of service to others, we are establishing this annual scholarship to assist financially a Georgia Southern student in the Department of Music."

The University Honors Program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective and an ethic of civic responsibility. A hallmark of the Program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning and service-learning opportunities.

Approximately 175 new students are admitted to the Program each year and those students compete for \$1,500 renewable scholarships.

"We're pleased and honored that the Grists have elected to honor Mr. and Mrs. Woodcock by the establishment of these endowments with Georgia Southern," said University Foundation Director of Major Gifts Michelle Pittman. "Through this gift to the University Honors Program, their names will forever be linked with the selfless kindness and commitment to high achievement that their lives exemplified."

Another year, another record 'Day'

Bulloch County's business and professional community along with Georgia Southern faculty and staff donated a record \$1,401,739 to the 35th annual A Day for Southern campaign.

The total also marks the 11th straight year the one-day fundraising drive has topped \$1 million in contributions to Georgia Southern.

"This year's record total is incredible," said Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube. "We're very appreciative of the community's support in our efforts to continue to not only provide an excellent education, but to attract top-quality students."

A Day for Southern helps meet the needs that state funds do not cover. Proceeds go to support both academic and athletic programs.

"The Bulloch County community has come through in a big way for us once again," said Wendell Tompkins, Georgia Southern's director of annual giving. "Every year we see what a giving community this is, especially on A Day for Southern."



Georgia Southern also held its annual on-campus A Day for Southern campaign in August, setting a new high with more than \$250,000 in donations from faculty and staff.



Deep roots

Ground broken for Garden's Heritage Pavilion

Georgia Southern's Botanical Garden began work on its new Heritage Pavilion and renovation project in October. Botanical Garden Board President Jack Orman and community supporters joined Continuing Education and Public Service Dean Gary Means to break ground for the project.

The Pavilion, which will provide the Garden with covered event space and improved visitor facilities, represents Phase I of the Garden's Heritage Initiative. The project will include renovation of the Bland Cottage and the installation of new gardens that unify the new buildings with the original Bland farmstead.

When complete, the additions and renovated areas will increase the Garden's ability to share the biological, historical

and cultural heritage of the Southeastern Coastal Plain with the thousands of visitors and school groups who enjoy the facility each year.

The Heritage Pavilion will include a community meeting room, restrooms and a large open-air pavilion that will enhance Garden events and public gatherings. It is projected to be completed by spring 2009.

The Pavilion has received significant community support, including a lead gift from Charles and Sandra Chandler of Statesboro. Garden officials are hoping for additional funding to see the project to completion.

"Mr. Bland gave the Garden to Statesboro and surrounding communities to enjoy, and it is a green jewel in the center of

our beautiful city," said Orman. "Our role in preserving and teaching about the area's natural and cultural heritage will become even more important as the area continues to grow."

"The Heritage Initiative builds on the wonderful legacy left by Dan and Catharine Bland," said Botanical Garden director Carolyn Altman. "With this project, we are entering a new era for the Garden and are excited about all the new additions and improvements that will enable current visitors and future generations to enjoy the facility."

To support the Heritage Pavilion, contact the Georgia Southern Foundation at 1-888-GSU-1906 or at www.georgiasouthern.edu/foundation.

New Endowments

- 1950s Letterman Scholarship
- Angelyn B. and Charles W. Sims Scholarship
- Bill Carmichael Family Scholarship
- Bonnie Page Woodcock Memorial Music Scholarship
- Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Memorial Scholarship
- Department of Biology Endowment
- Dr. C. Emory Bohler Memorial Scholarship
- Jane White Marketing Scholar/Scholarship
- Jerome "Jay-Jay" Stephens, Jr. Scholarship
- Judge Faye Sanders Martin Pre-Law Fund

- Parrish Scholar's Award
- Porter Keadle Moore, LLP Scholarship
- Robert S. Haywood Family Scholarship
- Russell and Aliese Priddy Master of Health Services Administration Scholarship
- Theta Xi University Honors Program Scholarship
- Tina Schneider Memorial Scholarship
- Walter and Audrey Campbell Family/Velma Kemp Scholarship for Choral Music
- Wilburn Wright Woodcock Scholarship
- William Russell Wilkes Memorial Scholarship



1906 Gala

The Georgia Southern Foundation's 1906 Society gathered this fall for its annual Gala where members enjoyed shrimp, scallops, lobster and spring rolls of duck and chicken complemented by cheeses, vegetables and fresh fruit. Members then joined in a high-energy concert by the legendary Pointer Sisters in the Performing Arts Center.





Janiszewski hoping to stand tall for Eagles

By Luke Martin

Like many graduating high school seniors, Krzysztof Janiszewski wasn't sure where his future was headed and even the best of plans often change.

Janiszewski graduated from Community Christian High School in Atlanta in 2003 and was set to play basketball for Birmingham Southern. The day before he graduated, Birmingham Southern announced it was dropping its athletics programs from Division I to Division III.

"I was confused as to what to do," he said. "I was graduating the next day."

Despite still wanting to play Division I basketball, Janiszewski went to Birmingham for a week, working out and trying to figure what to do.

Meanwhile in Statesboro, Eagles head coach Jeff Price received a phone call from the Birmingham Southern coach asking if he was interested in a big post player.

"At the time, we weren't really recruiting that position," said Price. "We had a scholarship and thought about holding it, but when you get the opportunity to get a 6-11, 280-pound post player, you've got to do it," Price said.

"As soon as I got here, I liked it," said Janiszewski. "I met the players and saw the school and made the commitment to sign."

While Price was understandably excited to get a big post player, he looked at Janiszewski as a work in progress. He'd only begun playing basketball at age 14 and was still learning the game.

Before coming to Atlanta, Janiszewski played in his native Poland and said he struggled to adjust to the different style of play in the United States and to a new culture.

Price said his goal has been to have Janiszewski prepared by his junior season to be a contributor for the Eagles.

"We want him to use his size on the defensive end and cause problems in the paint," said Price.

Janiszewski and the rest of the Eagles have high expectations.

"Our goal is to make the (NCAA) tournament," said Janiszewski. "We've been so close. We need to finally cross that line."



FRANK FORTUNE

Krzysztof Janiszewski plays center for the Eagles basketball team.

EAGLES BASKETBALL 2008-09

NOVEMBER

- 10 vs. Houston at Durham, N.C. 4 p.m.
- 11 vs. Duke/Presbyterian at Durham, N.C. TBA
- 14 REINHARDT 7:30 p.m.
- 18 at UTEP, TBA
- 29 AUSTIN PEAY 2 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 6 SAMFORD 7:30 p.m.
- 12 vs. Drake at Des Moines, IA 8:30 p.m.

- 13 vs. North Dakota State/Stephen F. Austin at Des Moines, IA TBA
- 22 at Florida TBA

JANUARY

- 3 CHATTANOOGA 7:30 p.m.
- 8 at The Citadel 7 p.m.
- 10 at College of Charleston 4 p.m.
- 15 UNC GREENSBORO 7:30 p.m.
- 17 DAVIDSON 3 p.m.
- 19 at Western Carolina 7 p.m.

- 22 WOFFORD 7:30 p.m.
- 24 FURMAN 3 p.m.
- 29 at Samford 7 p.m.
- 31 CHATTANOOGA 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 APPALACHIAN STATE 7:30 p.m.
- 5 ELON 7:30 p.m.
- 7 UNC GREENSBORO 7:30 p.m.
- 12 at Furman 7 p.m.
- 14 at Wofford 8 p.m.

- 19 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 7:30 p.m.
- 21 ESPN BRACKETBUSTERS TBA
- 26 at Elon 7 p.m.
- 28 at Davidson

MARCH

- 2 THE CITADEL 7:30 p.m.
- 6-9 SoCon Tournament at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Double trouble

Twins Elise and Carolyn Whitney eager to take on opponents

By Luke Martin

Elise Whitney could only sit and watch during the second half of last season as her teammates battled for the Southern Conference basketball crown.

Her season ended in December when a knee injury, her second in two years, sidelined her.

“It was really tough,” she said. “It was hard to watch everyone else playing, but it made me want to work that much harder to get back.”

While Whitney’s injury was a blow to all her teammates, it hit one particularly hard. Whitney’s twin sister, Carolyn, plays point guard for the Lady Eagles and had to finish another season without her sister on the floor with her.

“It was terrible,” Carolyn said. “I knew how good she was and what she can give to the team. She’d worked so hard that it was really disappointing to see her go down like that.”

Long before Carolyn and Elise dreamed of leading the Lady Eagles to a Southern Conference championship, they were playing recreation league games. Ever since, they’ve played side by side through middle school and then high school. Carolyn set her high school’s assist record with 645, was named an All-State player and was nominated to the McDonald’s All-American Team.

Elise, meanwhile, didn’t garner quite the attention of her sister. She was named an All-Region player and earned other accolades, but it was Carolyn who got most of the media attention.

When it was recruiting time, each sister was aware of the possibility of playing without the other for the first time. While schools recruited both, Cram said many saw them as a “package deal.”

“We picked up on that and made sure to let them know we wanted them both here,” Cram said. Both sisters said they wanted to continue playing basketball together, but said they made their decisions independent of each other.

They were attracted to Georgia Southern in part because of the family-type atmosphere of the team and the community.



FRANK FORTUNE

Carolyn, left, and Elise Whitney of the Lady Eagles basketball team.

“Everyone in town knows Coach Cram, and the town is small, so everyone knows about your games,” Carolyn said.

Carolyn and Elise both know they’re expected to assume leadership roles on the team this year.

“We’re older now and need to take on more responsibility as leaders,” Carolyn said. “We have to work harder, be more vocal and lead by example now more than ever before.”

Off the court, Cram said, Carolyn tends to be more serious while Elise is lighthearted.

“They’re very attractive young ladies and you can see their athletic side on the court,” Cram said, “but off the court, they’re good, solid people. They enjoy the ‘twin thing,’ but they have their own separate identities.”

LADY EAGLES BASKETBALL 2008-09

NOVEMBER

- 1 at Florida 2 p.m. (exhibition)
- 10 ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC 5 p.m. (exhibition)
- 15 BREWTON-PARKER 1 p.m.
- 17 at Florida Atlantic 7 p.m.
- 19 AUBURN UNIVERSITY 7 p.m.
- 22 UNC ASHEVILLE 3 p.m.
- 25 at Notre Dame 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 APPALACHIAN STATE 7 p.m.
- 3 at High Point 7 p.m.
- 6 at Elon 2 p.m.
- 15 at Kennesaw 7 p.m.
- 17 at UNC Greensboro 7 p.m.
- 21 at Western Carolina 4 p.m.
- 29-30 FIU Tournament, Miami, Fla.

JANUARY

- 3 CHATTANOOGA 3 p.m.

- 5 SAMFORD 7 p.m.
- 10 at Davidson 2 p.m.
- 12 WOFFORD 7 p.m.
- 17 at Furman 1:30 p.m.
- 19 at College of Charleston 7 p.m.
- 24 UNC GREENSBORO 12:30 p.m.
- 26 ELON 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 WESTERN CAROLINA 5 p.m.
- 7 at Chattanooga 7 p.m.

- 9 at Samford 5:30 p.m.
- 14 FURMAN 3 p.m.
- 16 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON 7 p.m.
- 21 DAVIDSON 3 p.m.
- 23 at Wofford 4 p.m.
- 28 at Appalachian State 1 p.m.

MARCH

- 5-9 SoCon Tournament, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Eagles face challenging 2008-09 schedule

A trip to Florida and home Bracket-Busters matchup highlight the 2008-09 Georgia Southern men's basketball schedule.

"This is probably one of the most challenging schedules we've had in the last 10 years in regard to non-conference opponents," said head coach Jeff Price. "We're playing at Florida, at UTEP, in Cameron Indoor, at Drake's tournament, not to mention we play Davidson twice, which was an Elite Eight team."

The addition of Samford to the conference brings an end to the home-and-home series against every league team.

"Samford brings a different style," said Price of the new league school. "They play a Princeton-style offense. They're going to have some success in the league their first year because I don't think any of us have experience playing against a team like that."

The 2008 calendar year wraps up with a tournament at Drake in Des Moines, Iowa and a game at Florida in Gainesville. Last year, the Gators edged the Eagles 52-49 in Jacksonville.

"Everybody knows to go play Florida in Gainesville is an extremely tough game, said Price. "But we played Florida really well last year and it was a great experience for our



Sophomore guard Willie Powers, an All-Freshman standout last season, will be back to help the Eagles contend for a SoCon title.

guys. We're excited to play them again."

The Eagles' home BracketBusters game is Feb. 21. "This is something we haven't had since I've been here and that's why we played in it last year so we could get a home

game," said Price.

"We're all really excited about having the opportunity to have a BracketBusters game at home, plus get the return game at home against Austin Peay."

Lady Eagles' guard Tiffany Brown joins European league



Go to college. Play basketball. Stand out.

Only one goal remained for Tiffany Brown, and now she can check that one off the list: Play pro ball.

The All-Southern Conference star has signed a contract to play basketball with Club Sport IV Baschet Arad in Romania.

Brown, who finished her career ranked 13th among the Eagle career scoring leaders with 1,154 points, becomes the 15th player to sign a professional contract since head coach Rusty Cram joined the Georgia Southern coaching staff.

Not only did Brown finish among the Georgia Southern career scoring leaders,

she also finished seventh all-time in steals (170) and fifth in 3-point field goals (131). Brown earned Second Team All-SoCon honors this past season, averaging a team-leading 11.3 points per game while sharing the team lead making 33 '3s'. The pro contract fulfills a goal for Brown, said Cram.

"One of Tiffany's goals coming here was to play at the next level," he said. "For her to continue playing is a great accomplishment."

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Brown. "I am looking forward to playing with new people and getting to know the members of the organization. I'm both excited and nervous about being over there for a year."

Change for Champions

Partnership turns pennies into major revenue for athletics

Thanks to a new program to be rolled out in January 2009, pennies saved will add up to a lot of support for Southern Boosters.

Southern Boosters has teamed up with Veracity Payment Solutions Inc. on the Eagle Merchant Advantage program which Southern Boosters President John Mulherin hopes will eventually generate about \$150,000 in renewable income each year.

Veracity, which processes credit cards, passes on a rebate based on the total sales volume to Georgia Southern Athletics through Southern Boosters.

"It's pennies on each transaction, but it adds up to billions and billions of pennies," said Mulherin.

Proceeds from the program benefit Southern Boosters' "Rings and Diplomas" campaign and projections indicate it will generate at least \$20,000 for student-athlete scholarships within its first year of operation.

Mulherin said Veracity offers credit card processing services at a reduced cost and the University receives a fee based on the volume of Visa and MasterCard sales

processed.

The program is the first of its kind for University fundraising efforts and Georgia Southern plans to extend it nationwide, Mulherin said. Southern Boosters test-marketed the concept earlier this year with business owners in Statesboro, Augusta and Dublin.

"It's just a great way to help Georgia Southern," said Mike Cummings ('74), a former Southern Boosters chairman and the owner of The Sir Shop in Dublin, one of the businesses involved in the pilot project.

To top it off, a University graduate was the driving force behind Eagle Merchant Advantage. Mark Stephens ('85), an independent sales agent for Veracity, brought the program to Southern Boosters and coordinated the pilot program.

"Other people have proposed programs like this before, and Mark is the most professional we have ever dealt with," Cummings said. "I have set him up with other companies here in Dublin and they have been very happy with what he has done and what they have been able to do for Georgia Southern."



Alumnus Mike Cummings ('74) is supporting Georgia Southern athletics with the Eagle Merchant Advantage Program. Cummings is co-owner of The Sir Shop in Dublin, Ga.

"We see this as a service for our alumni," said Mulherin. "It's the only program I've seen where all the parties involved win."

Former Eagle makes history at Wrigley Field

Former Georgia Southern baseball standout Greg Dowling made history at legendary Wrigley Field in Chicago last summer when he became the first-ever minor leaguer to hit a home run in the park.

Dowling and his Class A Kane County, Ill., Cougars took on the Midwest League rival Peoria Chiefs on July 29 before a league record crowd of 32,103 in the first minor league baseball game played in the 94-year-old park.

Dowling hit his solo homer in the second inning.

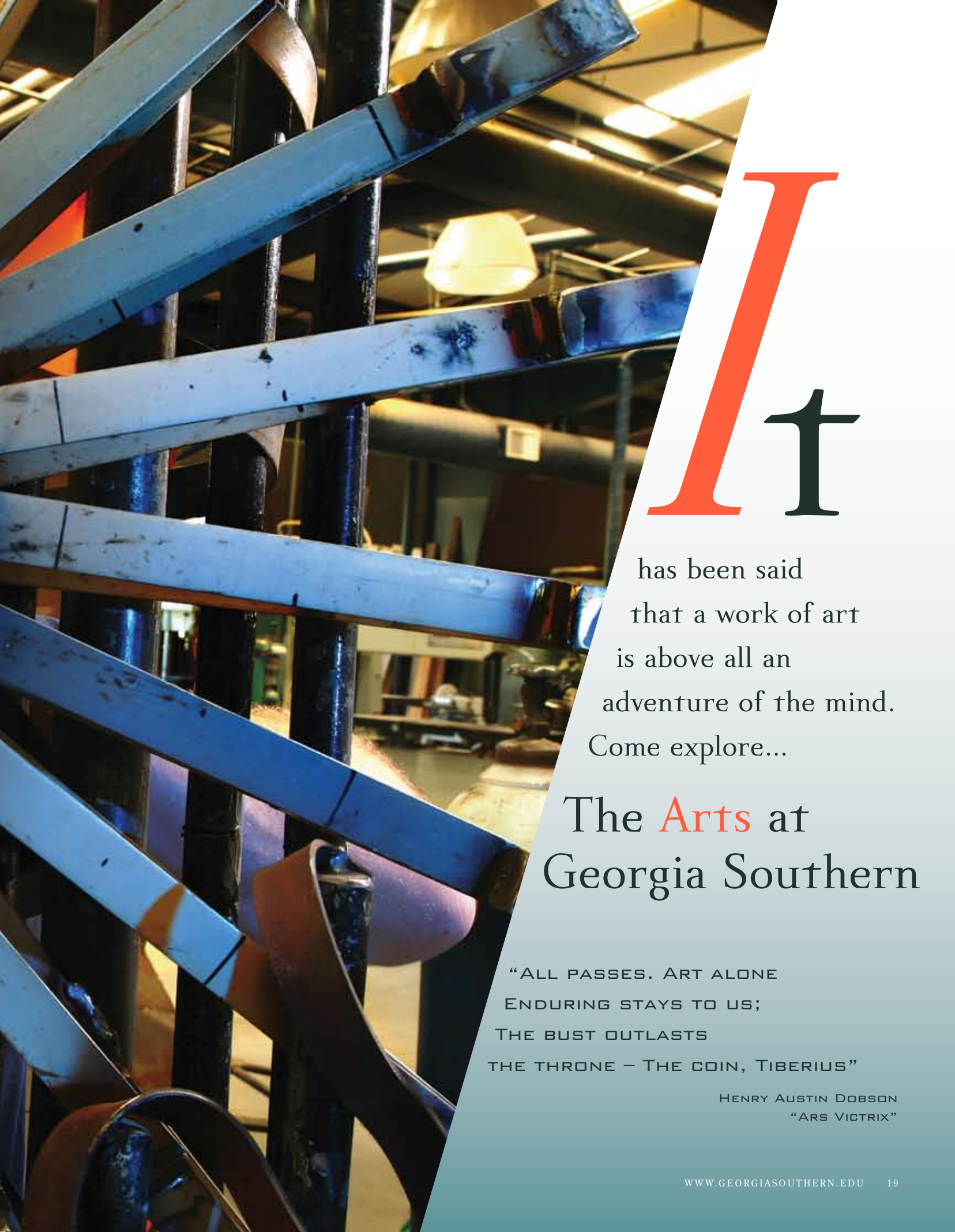
"I was just on cloud nine running around the bases," said Dowling. "Then I got to the dugout and everybody was smiling and started cheering a little bit. I think I kept a pretty straight face running around. It was unbelievable. It really was. For all of us that might not make it, or even if you do, it's the first time being in a big league park like that - 32,000 - it was just unbelievable. I don't know how to explain it."

The 32,000-plus in attendance shattered Kane County's previous attendance high of 14,492 set on August 11, 2007 at the Cougars' Elfstrom Stadium.





PHOTOS BY FRANK FORTUNE



has been said
that a work of art
is above all an
adventure of the mind.
Come explore...

The **Arts** at Georgia Southern

“ALL PASSES. ART ALONE
ENDURING STAYS TO US;
THE BUST OUTLASTS
THE THRONE – THE COIN, TIBERIUS”

HENRY AUSTIN DOBSON
“ARS VICTRIX”



Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art a wellspring of new ideas

Creative thinking

Georgia Southern's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art has become its own simile.

Like the discipline it represents, the Department has revered traditions, but is moving, innovating, always reinventing itself – looking for the next best way to make its statement.

Moving from cramped quarters to spacious, from windowless rooms to bright and airy, the Department of Art has emerged into the light with its Visual Arts Building and its Center for Art & Theatre. Coupled with elements in the Science and Technology Building and the Ceramics and Sculpture Building, the Department has witnessed its own renaissance.

Even as it pays homage to the ancient tradition of the potter's wheel, it is embracing the age of digital design.

"Look at where we are," said Department Chair Patricia Carter. "We're blown away." Faculty, students and, perhaps most telling, visiting artists from other universities are equally "blown away," praising the thoughtful and appealing design of the facilities and the breadth of the programming, said Carter.

That's the initial impression, and a valid one. But looking closer, there's something more deeply motivating at work – a core philosophy about the teaching and practice of art.

"I use the word spiritual, not in a religious sense, but in a respectful sense," Carter said. "When we talk about why students come to Georgia Southern, we really need to emphasize the tradition that's here in the curriculum – where the visual arts are es-

AT A GLANCE

**Betty Foy Sanders
Department of Art**

400 majors
24 full-time faculty

Accreditations:

National Association of
Schools of Art & Design
National College Association
of Teacher Education
National Association of
Instructional Technology

Degrees:

B.A. in art history or studio
B.F.A. in ceramics, drawing
& illustration, graphic
design, jewelry/metals,
painting, photography
& digital imaging,
printmaking, sculpture
B.S. graphic communications
management
M.A.T. art education
M.Ed. art education
M.F.A. studio

sential. We come back to the core premise of cultivating the mind and cultivating the soul," she said.

With a vision extending past the classroom or gallery, the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art is also committed to reaching out.

Exhibits, collections and visiting artists' lectures are meant to be seen and heard, not hidden behind academic walls and enjoyed just by students.

"The Center for Art & Theatre is a beacon for visual and performing arts at Georgia Southern, and is now established as a premier cultural center in southeastern Georgia," said Carter. "The Center encourages appreciation and understanding of art and its role in society through its clear commitment to serve the University, the local community, the region, and beyond."



Hammering out the details

Lemon imparts appreciation for hand-crafted works

Art does not have to be six feet tall to be monumental.

“I like the intimacy of having an object that is small enough to be held and the fact that you can wear it for everyone to see,” said art professor and metalsmith Christina Lemon. She appreciates “that you can wear it, or that it becomes either a symbol or it communicates to other people by the fact that it’s on your body.

“Also, the adornment,” she said. “I’m very interested in ethnic jewelry and its role in society.”

Lemon enjoys the process of making something by hand. “I think maybe one day it will be a lost art,” she said. “So much now is technology-driven with computers. Most of what I do is very tactile – hand, eye and mind all working together. That’s what I try to impart to my students when they take my classes - the appreciation for the discipline, for how things are made, for the materials and what can be done with them.

“For a Jewelry I class, our beginning level,” she said, “I want them to leave the class with a greater appreciation for those objects and how they are made. They should understand why that

piece is different and has value as opposed to something that is machine-made – how similar, but also how different those can be.

“One of the things they tell me when they finish the class is ‘I had no idea,’” said Lemon. “Some of them come into the class thinking they are going to be assembling little pieces and parts, and in actuality they are designing from paper to the working model to the production piece.

“I think there’s something inherently human about object-making,” she said, “and that gives them a whole other realm of beauty and practice. When they’re out in a working environment they’ll have a greater appreciation for all the arts. Hopefully, while they’re here at Georgia Southern, they’re getting even one class that will help them understand art and art’s role in society.”

Like her colleagues, Lemon counts herself fortunate to be able to work in a field she loves – art and teaching. “I love the people, the students, the interaction,” she said. “And what could be better than teaching what you love to do and have a passion for it?”

Visual appeal Art instruction thrives in the Visual Arts Building

The experimental and inquiring nature of the old Marvin Pittman Lab School lives on.

Constructed in 1937, the 52,000-square-foot building has been extensively renovated and is now home to the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art’s Visual Arts.

The 2003 renovation made way for specialized classrooms, studio spaces for jewelrymaking, graphic design, printmaking, painting, offices and select artworks, notably the Smith Callaway Banks Folk Art Collection.

Art professor Christina Lemon began her Georgia Southern career a decade ago in the Foy Fine Arts Building. “I started in one tiny room,” said Lemon. “I have moved the studio three times, and each time it was expanded and I was able to get more equipment. Our final destination is here in this building.”

The Department of Art was housed primarily in the Foy Fine Arts Building from its construction in 1967 until the Ceramics and Sculpture Studio was completed in 2000. The Foy Building became a music-only facility with the Visual Arts’ move to the former lab school.

The tall and wide schoolhouse windows and open floors were an airy perfect fit for conversion to the dedicated teaching of art, said Lemon.

The Visual Arts Building offers oversized classroom studios within classic architecture that invites cascading light throughout the building. It features a media center for art history research, a 176-seat auditorium, and a generous quantity of graduate studios.

Students have 24/7 access to light-filled, spacious, and professionally equipped studios for around-the-clock creative production.



Center for Art & Theatre welcomes public to new venue

The visual and performing arts at Georgia Southern and the surrounding region entered a new era with last spring's opening of The Center for Art and Theatre.

The \$7 million 30,000-square-foot Center features three indoor exhibition galleries including a permanent gallery for the Betty Foy Sanders Georgia Artists Collection and a new Black Box Theatre with seating for up to 150.

"This new facility brings the visual arts and theatre together in a way that will not only benefit Georgia Southern, but will make a wonderful addition to the Statesboro community and our region," said University President Bruce Grube.

Guests to the galleries and theatre are greeted by a public sculpture, "Ascend," commissioned by Betty Foy Sanders, and created by University professor Marc Moulton. The Georgia Artists Collection, a gift that has been developed by Betty Foy Sanders since 1967, is a primary feature of the new venue and is located on the main floor.

A Contemporary Gallery presents solo and group exhibitions by art and design professionals and students in two distinct spaces. Works range from traditional paintings to multi-media installations.

The University Gallery offers contemporary art exhibitions for an in-depth art experience for all constituents. Throughout the year, exhibitions are complemented with residencies by visiting artists who work directly with art students, providing external critiques and unique skills.

Annual student exhibitions provide outstanding work created by University art and design students and are presented throughout the year. The works are juried by an external professional and provide students with additional experiences in presenting their work publicly. Form and Content highlights exemplary works created in foundation-level drawing and design; The Annual Juried Undergraduate Exhibition presents selected works completed under the tutelage of University faculty; The Graphic

Design Portfolio Reveal presents the professional portfolios of senior graphic design students to the public and art directors in the region; The MFA Biennial presents a juror's selection of art and design created by candidates in the Master of Fine Arts degree program.

"The galleries are open to the public, allowing more people the opportunity to see the students' work, the faculty's expertise, and a variety of exhibitions that are possible as we host visiting artists from around the world," said Department Chair Patricia Carter.

An adjoining outdoor sculpture garden, the first on the Georgia Southern campus, offers a fourth exhibition space for three-dimensional works of art. Situated in a distinctive courtyard, the Garden features 12 pads which permit regular showings.

The "black box" or experimental theatre is a welcome addition as well.

"The new Black Box Theatre is a unique addition to our region and is a simple and unadorned performance space that places an intimate focus on the playwright's story and the actors' interpretation," said Pam Bourland-Davis, chair of the Department of Communication Arts. "Audiences attending performances at the theatre have an up close and personal experience with the performance as the flexible seating arrangements will be tailored to the individual performance."

Banks Folk Art Collection

The Smith Callaway Banks Southern Folk Art Collection and Research Center brings together historical and new pieces in the folk art tradition for the learning and enjoyment of all.

The collection was donated in November 2007 by Statesboro's Smith C. Banks.

"This collection is phenomenal," said Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art Chair Patricia Carter. "It's got really key early pieces from Georgia, but it's regional, so it's all southeastern. A lot of people say, 'Why is that in Statesboro? That ought to be in Savannah – in a big city!'"

"These pieces provide a visual reflection of Georgia's history and culture during the past 200 years," she said.

The collection includes 225 folk art paintings and more than 200 face jugs and ceramic pieces. Banks' gift comprised about three-quarters of his total collection, and it includes resources to catalog and maintain the objects.

The collection, housed in the Visual Arts Building, presents research, educational, cultural and community opportunities through its extensive collection of southeastern folk art.

Ascend

Sculpture honors patron, ideals of art



When the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art needed a site-specific sculpture to stand as a welcoming beacon for students and visitors to the new Center for Art & Theatre, it turned to one of its own – art professor Marc Moulton.

Moulton was selected from a large survey of Georgia-connected artists to design and create “Ascend,” a sculpture symbolic of artistry, nature and pride. It is comprised of a pair of interacting 20-foot stainless steel sculptures.

Moulton drew inspiration from native southern Georgia forms including the longleaf pine, the magnolia, and the ocean waves of the coast. “Ascend” also incorporates the idea of the flight of an eagle, symbol and mascot for Georgia Southern. The work catches the feeling and sense of uplift or flight that visual arts and education can provide.

The sculpture serves as the aesthetic focal point for The Center for Art & Theatre and celebrates activities held there, said Department Chair Patricia Carter. Conceptually representative of the enlightened ideals of visual arts in society, “Ascend” also acts as physical locator for the contemporary visual arts exhibition center on Georgia Southern’s campus.

About Betty Foy Sanders

The contributions of Betty Foy Sanders to the advancement of the arts in Georgia are extraordinary.

A native of Statesboro, Sanders began her academic career at Georgia Southern and has remained close to the University, generously giving of her time and talent in support of art and the mission of the academic department which now bears her name.

The Department was officially named the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art in 1999 in recognition of Mrs. Sanders’ achievements and dedicated support.

“The generous scholarships, student travel opportunities, and curation of the Georgia Artists Collection are but a few of the reasons we are proud to be named as the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art,” said Department Chair Patricia Carter. “Mrs. Sanders is an accomplished artist and long-time supporter of fine arts programs throughout the state. Her works reflect her love for Georgia, its history and its beauty.”

Sanders’ artwork appears in museums, corporate headquarters, and some of the finest college and private collections in the South, including the High Museum of Art, Callaway Gardens, Swan Coach House, Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and the Georgia State Capitol.

She is the subject of a book, *The Artist Within: The Legacy of Betty Foy Sanders, Georgia’s 74th First Lady*.

Mrs. Sanders and her husband, former Georgia Gov. Carl E. Sanders, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary in September.

Fired up

Students get hands-on experience in ceramics program

Smoke and flames pour out of the chimney of the University's new wood kiln as students slide long, thin strips of wood into the lower firebox.

The fire crackles and an orange glow emanates from the brick kiln.

Inside are student art works, the first to be fired inside this kiln on the grounds outside of the Ceramics Studio for building class.

Professor Jane Pleak instructs the students to watch the smoke pouring out of the top of the kiln. Loading up too much wood at a fast rate can bring the temperature inside the kiln down and stall the firing.

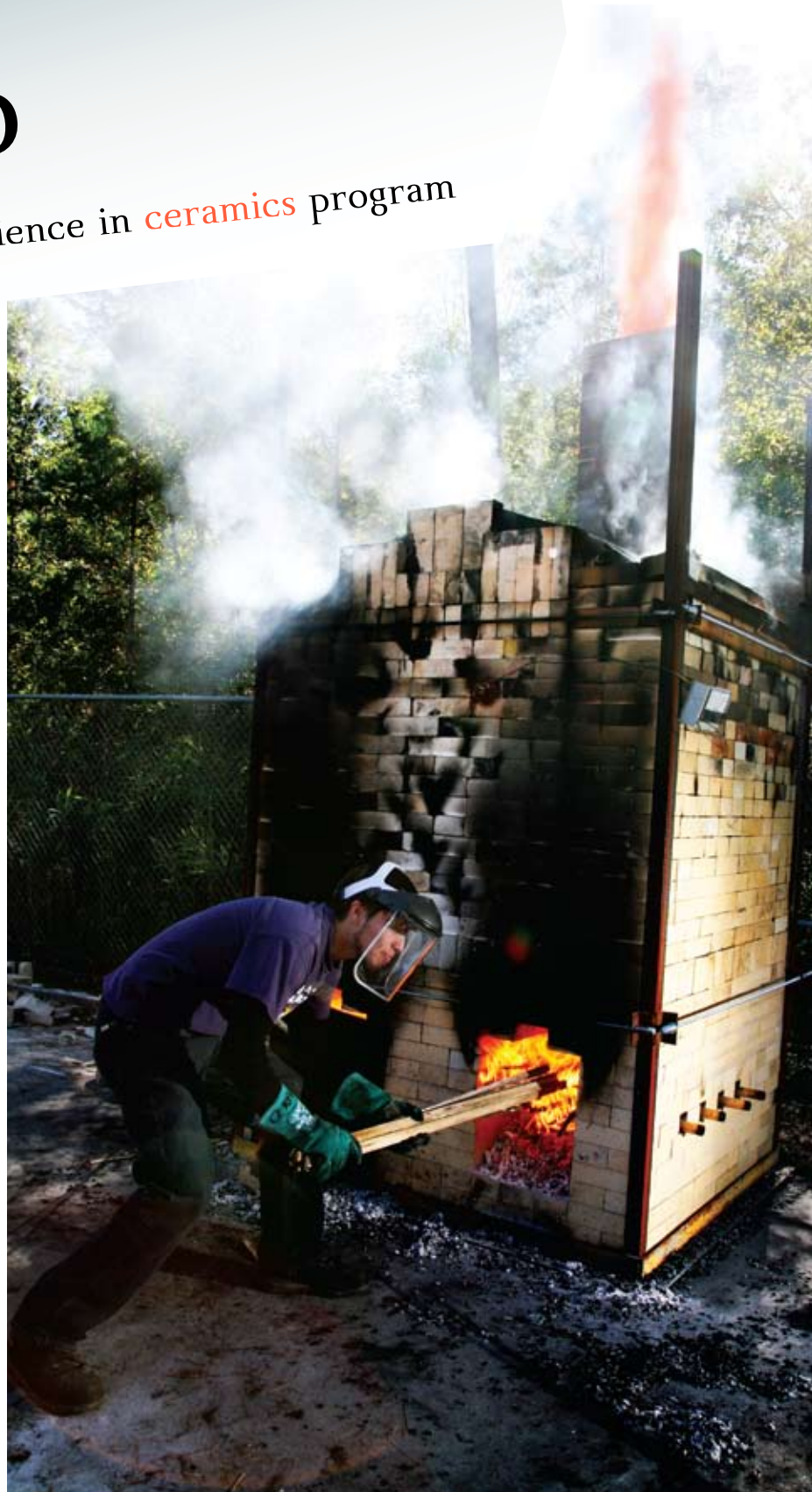
The massive kiln can take around 12 hours to properly fire, and when it does it will have reached temperatures higher than 2,350 degrees. This more traditional approach to ceramics will bring the pieces inside to come in contact with wood ash, varying the look and feel of the finished pottery.

Once the temperature of the kiln cools, the art work can safely be removed.

Students in the ceramics program will work to develop a body of work for their final class portfolios. The finished pieces will range from skill-building projects dealing with technical problems to utilitarian work like cups and bowls.

Even though ceramics is an art that's steeped in tradition dating back thousands of years, the program at Georgia Southern strives to implement new technology into the curriculum. Computer-designed images are created using laser printing and firing decals on work. Once the firing is complete, images from drawings or photography become part of the surface of the form, allowing for limitless applications of graphic design into the process.

"Everyone should take ceramics. It's something everyone uses every day," said Pleak. "Whether it's starting out the day with a cup of coffee or when we're picking out our wedding china, so much of what we use started out as clay."



Club Mud puts student work up for sale

The Department of Art's annual Club Mud Exhibition and Sale will celebrate its 25th year December 4, 5 and 6 as more than 40 undergraduate and graduate art students exhibit their work in ceramics, porcelain, stoneware, jewelry, small metals, prints and handmade books.

"Over the years Club Mud has evolved into a three-day gallery opportunity for the students," said Jane Pleak, professor of ceramics. "We have such a diverse group of students that the work always

varies, expanding creative offerings."

Consistency comes year to year, through the opportunity for student artists to exhibit, network with the public and understand the business of art.

"The University and local community have been our biggest supporters, encouraging our students as they develop their creative talents," said Pleak. "They support and encourage young artists and, over the years, see student work evolve and grow."

Showcasing seamless writing, design and printing

Professors Don Armel, Urkovia Andrews and Onyile Onyile are in the planning stage of what could be a future addition to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences – the Design Center.

Onyile's Graphic Design program and Armel's Graphic Communications Management (GCM) program sound similar, but until recently were in separate colleges – Graphic Design in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and GCM in the College of Science and Technology.

The main difference between the two is that graphic designers conceptualize and create designs for ads, logos, packaging and posters and GCM students bring them to life in print or on the Web.

The collaboration between programs would result in the Design Center, a place for students in both programs to apply their knowledge. Students would create campaigns for campus groups and local non-profit organizations and, in the process, would see the flow of writing, design and print from start to finish.

Andrews' public relations majors could be brought into the Center to meet with clients and determine what type of publicity is needed before the graphic designers begin their work.

The hope is for all GCM and graphic design classes to be held in the same building, encouraging relationships between the students. A good first step, said Armel, is to combine the student organizations for each major to get students talking about what the Design Center could be.

– By Meredith Wise

The Design Group serves clients on and off campus

When art organizations come to mind, one group on the Georgia Southern campus is known to students simply as "The DG."

The Design Group offers graphic design work for community projects and campus events, but the Group accepts any client needing design assistance.

The Group strives to help their clients while members build their portfolios one project at a time, meeting deadlines and putting maximum effort and creativity into each piece.

The Group's fees go to fund visits to workshops offered by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), the professional association for design, at its Jacksonville, Fla., chapter. The AIGA helps students learn more about the programs and practices they will use in their field, as well as meeting potential employers.

– By Justyne Tiffany



Graphic content

Thomson stresses real-world experiences

Once graphic design professor Leigh Thomson found she could make a living doing what she loves, it led her to the next career phase – teaching others to do the same.

After earning her Georgia Southern degree in print management, Thomson found that she enjoyed the design of printed material more than the printing process. "Once I figured out that I really enjoyed the creative aspect of it, could make a living at it and could turn it into art, then I decided I wanted to go to grad school."

Thomson completed her Master of Fine Arts degree and earned a position as a company art director, but noticed a problem.

"When I was working as an art director, I saw a lot of students that we would hire coming out of college that had significantly large holes in their educations and experience," Thomson said. That was the incentive she needed to focus on teaching. Now she is making an impact on students' lives by showing them how to see beyond a classroom environment.

"I enjoy challenging people. I love making people think. The academic environment is geared toward that," she said.

She engages students in creative research that places them in real-life situations with actual clients.

"I think it is important to bring students creative, realistic opportunities that are going to give them experience in this field – which is going to give them a competitive edge when they graduate," said Thomson. "You take a real-life situation, you do a significant amount of research and planning, and then you execute it by disseminating the information, which is the entire point of graphic design.

"Students have the opportunity to see how things are formed from the beginning to the end in a commercial context, not just in a classroom situation.

"In this program we want students to explore the conceptual side, the design of art, but you've also got to put it in the context of a corporate environment," she said. "At least 85 percent of all the design jobs are going to be in that corporate context. You always have that three-part relationship between you, the client and the audience that's going to see your work."

Still rolling along

Roz Ragans continues to teach even in retirement



Roz Ragans has come a long, long way from “art on a cart.”

Ragans started her career teaching room to room from a rolling cart of art supplies and is now a University emeritus professor and the best-selling author of art textbooks for high school students.

ArtTalk, her senior high art textbook, has sold more than a quarter of a million copies in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Asia. It was the first art education textbook to combine art history, criticism, aesthetics and artistic performance.

Ragans, National Art Educator of the Year in 1992, conducted research for *ArtTalk* at the former Marvin Pittman Laboratory School, which now houses the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art's Visual Arts. “Her classroom was right over there,” motioned Department Chair Patricia Carter. “It happened here and it carries on.”

Even in retirement Ragans has a full-time job updating her latest textbook editions for 2011. “I am so grateful that at the age of 75 I still have a job that excites me,” she said. “I wake up every morning wondering how I will solve my next creative task.

“From the day I started in 1958 I have loved teaching art, and so it never seemed like work to me,” Ragans said. “As far as I’m concerned, I’m still teaching. Only now there are hundreds of thousands of students reading my words. I guess even though my body has failed me, my mind is still challenging me to keep going.”

Little enjoys watching students learn, share talents

Bruce Little likes the balance he finds in teaching a broad range of courses – from introductory or “foundation-level,” to intermediate then graduate-level students.

Many will become teachers of art and, in turn, introduce their own students to the basics.

“It’s kind of a nice circle,” said Little.

He is enthused about the Department of Art’s new facilities and is happy to see increasing numbers of talented students coming to Georgia Southern, better prepared to start their art educations. “We were a secret in a sleepy little town, and now we’re not a secret anymore. We’re attracting more and better students.”

Little has an impressive two-decades-long resume of exhibitions. His works reside in private, corporate and public collections across the Southeast and he is active in art education organizations.

In the end, it all comes back teaching. When he is in the classroom he is also learning. “I learn as much from being in the classroom as the students learn,” he said. And the joy of seeing students “get it” never gets old. “You can almost see the light bulb go off in their heads. Seeing the students experience something new to them makes it new for me again, too.”

Little, the 2003 Georgia Art Educator of the Year, arrived at Georgia Southern 20 years ago. Now, he is starting to think about retirement and leaving a department with what he believes are superior professors and facilities.

“We probably have the best faculty now that we’ve ever had,” he said. “All of our faculty are accomplished artists, but they’re also committed to teaching.”

–By Megan Hopkins



Annual ArtsFest draws thousands to campus

What began 26 years ago as a groundbreaking festival for area youth has evolved into ArtsFest, an even more ambitious regional gathering of artists and performers.

Now aimed at all ages, ArtsFest celebrates the arts and arts education through performances, exhibits, demonstrating artists, and hands-on activities and games.

Last spring's free public festival brought hundreds of artists and over 6,000 visitors to Sweetheart Circle.

"The arts festival has been a premier event at Georgia Southern for decades," said Department Chair Patricia Carter. "After 25 years, literally generations of families hold fond memories of this event that was once a part of their childhood, and is now part of their children's experience."

Demonstrating artists included painters, sculptors, wood turners, blacksmiths, ceramicists, collage/assemblage artists, folk artists, and portrait artists among others.

Performers include ballet, Native American, traditional West African and modern dancers, stilt walkers, classical and folk musicians, and puppeteers.

Adults and children alike enjoy face painting, papermaking and book arts, ceramics, poetry readings, foreign language lessons, drawing marathons, wandering musicians, and more.

ArtsFest 2009 is April 9. For more information, visit <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art>.

Art history. Don't laugh.

McGuire provides **historical** contexts through her teaching

Julie McGuire takes art history very seriously and with good reason.

McGuire is quick to point out that the artwork of the past reflects the issues, events, and discoveries of their day, thus building the knowledge of the historical facts we know today.

"How do we know about ancient history?" she asked. "Through cave paintings, pottery shards, architecture – everything artists have made reflect environment, politics, religious beliefs, and gender class ideology. It becomes a part of that history."

McGuire is interested in having students understand "why" – not simply memorizing facts about the art that they study in class. She asks, "Why did they make it? What was the purpose of that art?"

"I want them to have the bigger picture," said McGuire. "The context of the object, not just the knowledge of the object itself. As both artists and art historians my students need to know what has happened before them – to understand that it connects to politics and the social atmosphere. I want them to make that connection with art."

Of her own contemporary artwork, she explained that she is not out to make any sort of political or social statement. It simply reflects her experiences or ideas that were presented to her in a serendipitous way. "A lot of my work has to do with collecting things. I can't seem to throw anything away. But that is part of my personal history. People collect concert tickets, rocks from a certain place or their favorite t-shirt. Mine is multiplied by the 'nth' degree."

McGuire said some people view contemporary art as strange or irrelevant when compared to the artwork of the past, but insists that is not the case.

"There are so many different layers of the social and political fabric," she said. "Art is not as one-dimensional as it was in the 1600s. I tell students to put into context the time and place the art was made. Only then can you really understand or appreciate it."

Expanded arts **programming** requires expanded private funding

The Sanders Society for the Visual Arts was founded in March 2008 and pays tribute to Gov. Carl and Mrs. Sanders by providing a means by which individuals can support the arts at Georgia Southern. Patrons provide funds for gallery exhibits, visiting artists and additions to the Georgia Artists Collection.

Donors receive private docent tours, invitations to lectures, excursions and special events, discounts on travel, programs and workshops and free or reduced admission to Department events. Members are advocates for the visual arts at Georgia Southern and participants in creating the future for the fine arts at The Center for Art & Theatre.

For information on the Sanders Society for the Visual Arts, contact the art department at 912-GSU-ARTS.

Man of Letters

Language professor **creates** art with blend of alphabets and images

A desire to learn about cultures other than his own has led David Seaman around the world, most recently to China.

The University professor of French has found that art speaks across borders.

Early in his career, Seaman's interest in art and language motivated him to look for a connection between poetry and painting. While working on his doctorate in French, he discovered an art movement called the Lettrists – artists whose fundamental idea was using the alphabet as the basic elements of their paintings.

“On the painting side, some of them were very theoretical, but the best ones ended up making beautiful paintings, sort of semi-abstract,” said Seaman. “For me, the most attractive part of it is it looks like an abstract painting, but also looks like something that you can't quite read. That really intrigued me.”

He began meeting with prominent leaders in the Lettrist movement and through his own work came to be accepted as one of their own.

“It was partly because of that interest that I really wanted to teach in China,” said Seaman. “Because obviously Chinese written language is created pretty much along the same lines as Lettrism.” Last spring he taught French at Huazhong University in Wuhan, China.

“One of the forms of Lettrism is to take a photograph of any kind and then put your signs and characters on top of it,”



David Seaman creates art for his Chinese hosts at Huazhong University in Wuhan during a traditional holiday gathering.

said Seaman. “That way, you're transforming the picture into a work of art. I've started doing something similar based on photographs of China.”

Symbolism has a strong presence in Chinese culture. Among the many examples is the crane – birds revered, depending on how they are depicted, for longevity, wisdom or nobility.

Near the end of his stay in China, Seaman's hosts took him to a traditional holiday party at which everyone was expected to perform. For his part, Seaman painted the Chinese character for “crane” on a large scroll. In another color he overlaid the word with a drawing of a crane.

“The crane in China is also important because they mate for life and always return to the same nest,” said Seaman. “I wrote a little poem about the crane returning to the same nest and that I hope to return to Wuhan.”

“When I encounter a culture I try to learn about their art, and even try to create something in their style,” he said. “This opens a door to understanding them. So I encourage students to be aware of art – whether painting, poetry, music or dance – because I want them to have this same enriching experience.”

Georgia Artists Collection

The Betty Foy Sanders Georgia Artists Collection represents a diverse collection of artwork created by artists with a connection to the state of Georgia

Curated by Betty Foy Sanders, the Collection includes works created by artists native to the state, created with materials indigenous to Georgia or having imagery about the state.

Celebrating the unique diversity of the visual arts in Georgia, the extensive collection permanently resides in its own gallery.

The collection includes styles and forms of art ranging from folk art and traditional crafts to contemporary and period pieces reflecting major movements in art history. Original works date from the 1700s and the collection is the largest display of artworks by

Georgia artists on a public campus in the U.S.

Recently added to the Collection was “On Wings of Eagles,” a painting by Betty Foy Botts in tribute to the artistic legacy of her mother, Betty Foy Sanders.

Botts' painting identifies the eagle as a symbol of the United States and as symbolic to Georgia Southern as the University's mascot. “On Wings of Eagles” encompasses the legacy and power portrayed by the painting's key image of an eagle while conveying the characteristics of determination and perseverance associated with the scholarship and higher education achieved at Georgia Southern.

The Georgia Artists Collection is on permanent display at The Center for Art & Theatre.

Music department prepares to open renovated Foy Building

The rhythm of change is beating through Georgia Southern's Department of Music, ushering in a new era, the opening of the renovated Foy building, and adding new areas of study to its repertoire.

Pianist and author Richard Mercier joined the Department this fall as its new chair and is already making an impact on the Department.

"As chair it is a joy and a luxury to work and interact with so many talented and creative musicians," said Mercier. "The greatest joy is working with students and instilling in them a love for the complexity of music – to help teach them to become free thinkers, and to be able to work on their own successfully without instruction."

The most visible change for the Department will be unveiled in December. The Foy Building has been renovated and spaces have been designed especially for the Department. The building, first dedicated in 1967, was named for lifelong resident of Statesboro and Georgia Southern contributor Jessie P. Foy.

The Carol A. Carter Auditorium is being renovated, and a new lobby will be added. The building's mechanical and electrical infrastructure is being totally replaced.

The Department will be inviting alumni to participate and attend special performances to celebrate the reopening of Foy.

"I am very interested in meeting alumni when they are in the area," said Mercier. "We appreciate their continued support of our department; not only financially, but through their support with promoting Georgia Southern's music programs."

Mercier has coached and accompanied a broad range of instrumental and vocal music, served as church organist and choir director, performed in marching bands, directed opera productions, served as assistant conductor and opera coach with regional opera companies, and taught in public schools.

"I have spent years honing my craft. By sharing with others, I am giving back all the joy and pleasure I have received from music," said Mercier. "At the same time I can bring an aspect of beauty and quality to their lives. If I can touch someone through the beauty of music and enrich their lives in some way, I feel rewarded."

The Department is now offering Master of Music degrees in the areas of composition, performance, education and technology. There is also a new focus in conducting offered for undergraduates.

"We prepare our students to be able to go out into the world and be competitive with students from any other school," he said. "Regardless of discipline, be it performance, education, composing or technology."



Working in concert

Wind Ensemble and Concert Band embrace broad range of styles

Attend a Georgia Southern Wind Ensemble or Concert Band performance and you might hear "Star and Stripes Forever." Then again, a little Zappa could be on tap.

"Both ensembles perform concert band music that ranges from the traditional-sounding music for bands, like John Phillip Sousa, to very modern-sounding music by composers like John Adams, Libby Larson, John Williams or even Frank Zappa," said Director of Bands Rob Dunham. "That helps our performances to be accessible to a very wide variety of musical tastes and understanding and never, ever stuffy or boring."

The Concert Band offers its members the opportunity to expand their technical expertise and musical understanding. Membership is open to all students who demonstrate distinct performance abilities on wind and percussion instruments.

Auditions are held at the beginning of each term. The band usually performs two concerts each semester on campus and special performances off campus and on tours with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

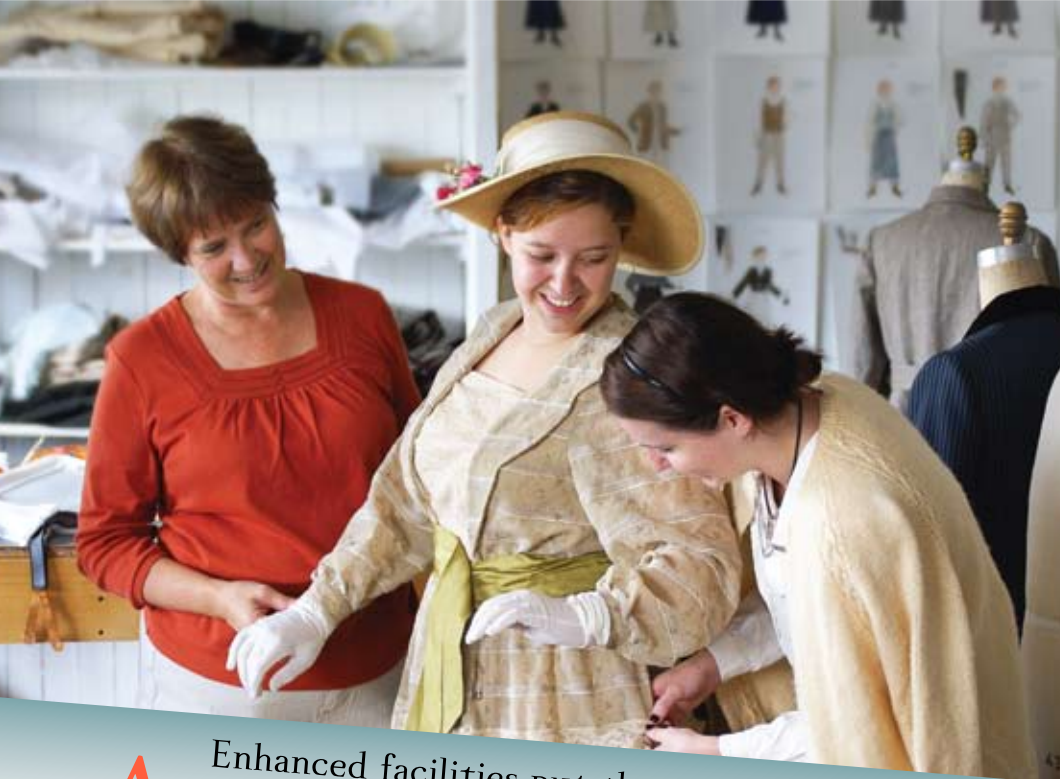
The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the University's premier concert band. Open auditions are held in the fall and spring for outstanding wind and percussion performers.

The Wind Ensemble performs music representing all musical periods from the Renaissance up through contemporary works. It typically performs two concerts each semester on campus and regularly tours throughout Georgia and the southeastern U.S.

The Ensemble is also an important component of the Department of Music's Study Abroad Program, which includes an international concert tour every third summer. It has appeared in London, Prague, Vienna, Florence and Munich, and has performed with the White Russian Central Band while traveling in Europe.

"Additionally this fall, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be touring annually in different parts of Georgia, helping to recruit new students and letting everyone hear how exciting and entertaining the music we make really is," said Dunham.

About 500 students participate in the University's band program each year. Between concerts, football and basketball games and special activities like Commencement and Honors Day, about 150,000 people see and hear performances from the bands each year.



Voice professor spreads word about University opera

Opera is known for the technical excellence of its performers and elaborate productions. Georgia Southern's opera program delivers those, but also serves to educate students and the general public.

"The whole point is to share it with others - to communicate, to inspire, to entertain," said voice professor Arikka Gregory. "The Statesboro area and Georgia Southern are the ideal place to do this. We have such an interesting mix of people in our community, from people who love opera and classical singing to people who haven't had the opportunity to hear much of it.

"It is our charge to reach out to both types," she said, "to make our art form interesting and accessible to the latter, and to feed the souls of the former."

The program is also a training ground for the fundamental skills of singing, acting, stage movement and protocols for performance and audition.

The vocal arts allow students from all majors to participate in choirs, opera and private vocal study. The opera program's mission is to train professional operatic artists and enrich the culture of southern Georgia by producing quality opera. Each semester culminates in a fully staged and costumed performance.

"Each year in the fall, I put together our very popular Night of Opera benefit gala," said Gregory. "This program is performed by the University's voice faculty and by alumni of our program."

Gregory is in her third year with the music department.

"My voice type is mezzo soprano, which to most people means I sing alto in choir," said Gregory. "In the opera world, this often means I sing 'pants roles,'" she said.

Gregory has performed professionally in roles including, Siebel in "Faust," Dorabella in "Cosi fan tutte," Cherubino in "Le nozze di Figaro," Hansel in "Hansel and Gretel," and L'Enfant in "L'Enfant et les sortilèges."

She has also performed solo arias in Vivaldi's "Gloria," Handel's "Messiah," Saint-Saëns' "Christmas Oratorio," and Durufle's "Requiem." Gregory has been seen most recently in performances with Procantus Lyric Opera including the mother in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" and Lucia in "Cavalleria Rusticana."

A new stage

Enhanced facilities put theatre into spotlight

It's easy to trace the common threads linking club-level theatre performances at Georgia Normal School through the formal theatre program of today - discovery, learning and sharing a message with audiences

"It's fun to watch the students grow and learn in a conservatory-type environment," said theatre professor Kelly Berry. "I let them go and run crews and work on more advanced projects as they progress."

"That is the joy of the teaching profession," said his colleague Gary Dartt. "Another realm of creativity comes from the students. They add another layer."

What began as a small organization so many years ago has become an award-winning, student-centered program that brings numerous performances to the campus and Statesboro every year. The opening of the Performing Arts Center, and now the new Black Box Theatre in The Center for Art & Theatre, will allow the program's growth to continue.

"It is under (University President) Dr. Grube's stewardship that we have been able to garner facilities that rank with other comparable universities," said Georgia Southern theatre professor Jim Harbour. "We now have a true black box theatre to work in as well as the Performing Arts Center."

The theatre program has come a long way, Department of Communication Arts Chair Pamela Bourland-Davis said. Less than a year ago, the original Black Box Theatre at Georgia Southern was a collection of combined empty classrooms. "With our new facilities, I expect audiences and enrollment in the program to increase."

Theatre professor Gary Dartt agreed. "It's a beautiful space. The University met our needs with equipment, comfortable seating and moving platforms that allow for many more variations."

"The new Black Box Theatre includes a stage area, green room, scene shop, classroom space, a 'real' lighting system, and a state-of-the-art sound system," said Berry.

Faculty-directed and student-directed plays can be seen at the theatre. "Each performance is adjudicated by the American College Theatre Festival and they always come away with high marks," said Bourland-Davis.

Harbour said it is his desire to share theatre with the students and community. "Theatre reveals the truth and beauty of our human nature, he said. "Constant discovery makes the creative life a great way of living," said Dartt. "We have come a long way in what we offer to audiences. Looking back over the last 20 years, to know that I have been a part of that is amazing"



On the march

Southern Pride keeps **spirits** high on and off the field

While a marching band has been a fixture at Georgia Southern since the days of Georgia Teachers College, the current version, Southern Pride Marching Band, is marking its 26th year of entertaining Georgia Southern fans.

Each fall, band members hit the practice field and toil in the south Georgia heat and humidity perfecting their next halftime performance. Southern Pride members log more than 40 hours of practice before classes ever begin.

“The kids I deal with work very hard and take their ensemble responsibilities very seriously,” said Matt Fallin, associate director of bands. “It takes quite a bit of work to make it all come together. I’m not sure most people realize just how much these students put into it.”

Southern Pride performs at home football games, select away games, parades and as an exhibition band all over the state. The work ethic of its members and director have garnered Southern Pride the

title of “The Hardest-Working Band in Show Business.”

Fallin, who also directs the Hoop Troop basketball pep band, and the Georgia Southern Percussion Ensemble, has been with Southern Pride in one form or another for 22 of the band’s 26 years. As an undergraduate, he marched with the reincarnation of the band in 1982 that came together to support the upstart football program.

“Music is pretty much all I ever thought about doing,” said Fallin. “I didn’t know when I was attending Georgia Southern as a student that I would be teaching at the college level, much less doing it at my alma mater. But here I am.

“It’s always nice when we hear from the crowd after we perform. When we do a good job, they let us know it. It’s nice to hear that positive response from an audience,” said Fallin.

“We enjoy what we do, but without an audience there’s not much point to working at perfecting a performance the way we do. Their applause, when we are finished, really does make a difference.”



Georgia Southern-based orchestra serves to entertain and educate **In tune with the world**

The Georgia Southern Symphony is a regional orchestra with a distinctly international flavor.

The Symphony is under the direction of Cheung Chau, who also conducts the Sinfonietta Polonia in Poland. In addition to his conducting duties, Chau is a University music professor and director of orchestral studies.

He has made guest conducting appearances with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nordhausen Symphony, and the Lublin, Bialystok, Kielce and Suddetic Philharmonic Orchestras in Poland as well as orchestras in Sweden and Finland.

Chau's conducting performance with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra was a televised celebration concert of the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to China. Chau, a cellist, is also a member of the Atma Piano Trio which has performed in Germany, Sweden and the U.S., and toured in Poland.

The Georgia Southern Symphony is a semi-professional orchestra serving Bulloch and surrounding counties. The Symphony also provides instruction and experience for music majors pursuing

careers in orchestral instruments.

The Symphony presents three on-campus concerts, two youth concerts, one outdoor pops concert and one holiday season concert each year.

Members are Georgia Southern student musicians, area professional players and qualified community residents.

"The Georgia Southern Symphony is trying a new performance schedule this year as it goes through restructuring," said Music Department Chair Richard Mercier.

The Symphony opened the season in November with Mercier as featured piano soloist in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto.

On March 28-29, 2009, the Symphony will team up with the opera program for two performances of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and the final concert of the season, on April 27, will feature clarinet faculty member Linda Cionitti as well as student concerto competition winners.

"I am excited to continue to be a part of the tradition and community of Georgia Southern and Statesboro. I am looking forward to a season of exciting music making," said Chau.

A very **vocal** performance

The performing arts at Georgia Southern include several choirs, made up of a diverse group of students and often performing at locations in the city of Statesboro and across the state of Georgia.

According to Adam Con, director of choral activities, the various choirs "make up an important part of the cultural pie in southeast Georgia."

Southern Chorale is the premiere choir at Georgia Southern, according to Con, and often performs at events across the state. They have also performed at out-of-state venues, including The Vatican, Ireland and England. Con said that the Southern Chorale has a strong reputation in the state, and that it "represents the University just like the marching band." They are also invited, with other Georgia

Southern choirs, to perform in December at the Performing Arts Center.

There are several other choirs at the University, most of which can be joined by any student willing to practice and perform. University Singers, which is a large ensemble choir, often performs at area churches.

The newest, the Women's Choir, has been performing since 2002. Southern Chorale also sings at churches, and performs at the annual lighting of the Christmas tree on Sweetheart Circle.

"The choir is a big-time commitment," said Con. "It is a way to help promote the University, but it is also done to practice music. It is a dedicated art."

University faculty ensemble draws acclaim

The Magellan String Quartet is a professional ensemble in residence at Georgia Southern.

In addition to Quartet members' teaching responsibilities at the University, they serve as principal string players of the Augusta Symphony, have performed at diplomatic functions, and are frequently heard on Georgia Public Radio. Quartet members are on the approved touring roster of the Georgia Council for the Arts and the South Carolina Arts Council.

Established in 1990, the Quartet has an active performing schedule between its own chamber music series and visiting artist series throughout the Southeast. They have made international appearances as well, performing in Prague, Vienna, Garmsch-Partirkirchen, Germany and at Festival Internacional Junio Musical in Mexico.

The Quartet also performs educational concerts, lecture recitals, master classes and community outreach programs.

String students at Georgia Southern have the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from world-class professionals in master classes, and symphonic and chamber music concerts.

Members violinist Jason Economides, violinist Jonathan Aceto, violist Carl Purdy, and cellist Ruth Berry perform an extensive repertoire of major composers. Yvonne Johnson is filling in for Purdy, who is on leave for the year.

Works include complete cycles of celebrated composers like Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, as well as stylistically diverse programs such as "The Evolution of the String Quartet" with movements from landmark compositions by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Dvorak, Debussy, Bartok and Wynton Marsalis.



Schmid, Jazz Ensemble spread the 'gospel of jazz' Jazz it up!

The good news is jazz is a uniquely American musical form.

The bad news is, it's more popular in other countries than here – a situation Bill Schmid would like to rectify.

"Jazz is an original American art form and treasure," Schmid said. "Unfortunately, it is now far better known and appreciated in Europe and Japan than in its country of origin. I consider it an honor to perform musical outreach to our campus and community to help spread the 'gospel of jazz.'"

Schmid, who joined the music department faculty in 1986, teaches trumpet and jazz at Georgia Southern. He is the coordinator of the Jazz Studies program, which includes the Jazz Ensemble, student combos, and courses in jazz improvisation, history, styles and pedagogy. He also teaches private trumpet lessons.

The Jazz Ensemble is a popular group at Georgia Southern, not just with students, faculty and staff, but with the surrounding communities as well. They play a variety of jazz music and its musical repertoire includes the entire spectrum of composition for jazz ensemble from early Creole, to big band and swing, through bebop to modern jazz and fusion.

The Jazz Ensemble provides a venue for talented student musicians to perform in a 24-member big band. Guest artists who have performed with the group include Bobby Shew and Tom "Bones" Malone. The Ensemble usually performs two to three concerts on campus each semester in the Performing Arts Center or the Russell Union Ballroom.

Jazz studies at Georgia Southern also features smaller student combos that play numerous concerts both on and off – sometimes way off – campus. A Georgia Southern jazz combo performed at the Bayerisches Landesmusikfest in Munich, Germany.

Members in all jazz groups are selected through an audition process. "The groups are comprised entirely of Georgia Southern students," said Schmid. "The Jazz Ensemble usually performs four on-campus concerts each year."

Schmid, who plays trumpet, has performed regularly with the Savannah Jazz Orchestra, the Georgia All-Star Directors Big Band and other groups in the region. He has played with noteworthy jazz artists Louis Bellson, David Liebman, Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath, Joey DeFrancesco, Claudio Roditi, Nick Brignola, Ernie Andrews, Diane Schuur and Kathy Kosins.

The opportunity to share his vast experience with students while he plays music is a big positive for Schmid. "I really love teaching and cannot imagine doing anything else," he said.

Mixed signals

Alumnus Cecil Christopher works to ensure U.S. military's air superiority

The goal of an enemy combatant is to hit his target.

Cecil Christopher's goal is to make him miss.

Christopher ('69) is senior technical advisor for the U.S. Air Force's Electronic Warfare Life Cycle Management Group at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga.

The group was chartered by the Secretary of the Air Force in November 2007 as the coordinating organization for all Air Force Electronic Warfare (EW) programs in development and sustainment.

After graduating from Georgia Southern with a degree in technology, Christopher did a hitch in the Army, worked for Savannah Power and Electric, and then rejoined the Army as a civilian employee. He went to work for the Air Force in 1977.

"Electronic warfare is a key part of any package that is involved in aerial combat where you're going in to attack targets," explained Christopher. "Worldwide, there is a very highly developed set of anti-aircraft missile systems, long-range warning radar systems, and aircraft interceptors. Electronic warfare is designed to counter those.

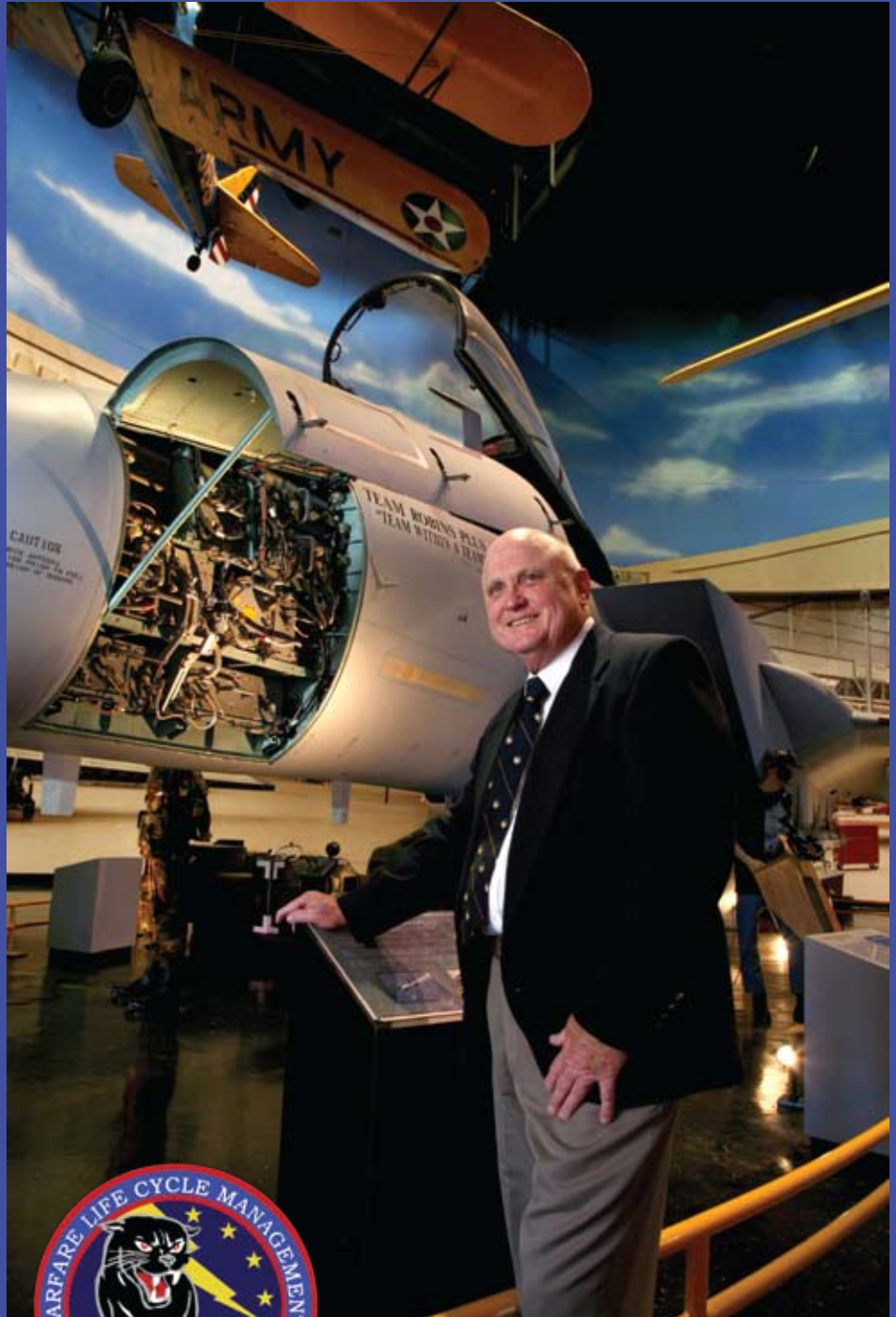
"Basically, what you want to do is make their radars ineffective or at least as ineffective as you can make them," he said, "and, if they are able to get a missile off, provide electronic jamming so that the missile is not able to hit its target."

Christopher is part of the 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing at Robins AFB, which coordinates all electronic warfare for the Air Force and integrates with other services for joint cooperation.

The Wing designs, acquires, installs and sustains electronic warfare avionics, support equipment, vehicles, missiles and weapons. It is responsible for life cycle management of over 800 systems valued at \$56.2 billion and manages \$4.21 billion in executable funds and \$8 billion in contracts.

Christopher works with a staff of more than 600 engineers.

"It's a very high-tech business and becoming more and more so all the time," he said.



FRANK FORTUNE

Cecil Christopher ('69) is senior technical advisor for the U.S. Air Force's leading electronic warfare development group.



SPECIAL TRAVIS CHRISTOPHER

Making an impact

Alumna finds monitoring program for endangered sea turtles

Consider yourself lucky if you've ever seen a sea turtle. Six of the seven species of these reptiles are listed as threatened or endangered.

Georgia Southern alumna Kimberly Stewart ('98) is doing all she can to bring the turtles back and has founded the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network (SKSTMN), a non-profit organization to promote community awareness of sea turtles.

Stewart is a Ph.D. student and instructor at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. She first learned about sea turtles as a Georgia Southern master's student working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on Sapelo Island and for the University's St. Catherine's Island Sea Turtle Program.

When she arrived on St. Kitts to attend veterinary school in 2003, there were no organizations to protect sea turtles, so she created SKSTMN.

Today, the SKSTMN has about 80 members devoted to protecting and preserving sea turtles. One of the group's tasks is to tag



Kimberly Stewart has involved island school children in sea turtle education programs.

the turtles to determine their re-migration intervals and nesting frequency. They also assess each female sea turtle in an effort to determine the health of the greater population.

SKSTMN recently teamed with similar organizations to offer a workshop to train veterinarians, biologists and researchers in first response and triage techniques for sea turtles. "If the turtle is injured, an SKSTMN member will take it to the Ross School of Veterinary Medicine for immediate rehabilitation," said Stewart.

What drew her to the cause of preserving sea turtles? "My experiences showed me that there was a need for this," said Stewart. "This is where I can make an impact on my world."

1930s

Dr. Kathryn Lovett ('35) of Statesboro, recently attended the 60th reunion of her graduation from the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. Hers was the first class to admit women and she was one of five women who were students. She worked for a time in Metter, Ga., with her father, also a physician, then moved to Statesboro with her husband, Dr. Frank Lovett, who entered practice with Dr. Albert Deal. She completed her psychiatric residency at the Medical College of Georgia and organized mental health clinics in Statesboro and seven surrounding counties where she worked in that capacity until her retirement 25 years ago. Eleven members of her graduating class attended the reunion, including two women, Drs. Lovett and Marguerite Candler Ballard.

1950s

Charlie Iddins ('57) has authored a book, *A View from the Sandhills*, about the 20-county

region in which Vidalia onions are grown. Charlie is retired from the DeKalb County School System and lives in Tucker, Ga.

Hugh L. Belcher Sr. ('58) was inducted into the Southeast Bulloch High School Athletics Hall of Fame last spring. Retired after 32 years as an educator, he coached and taught at Hoboken High School from 1958-64 and was selected as Star Teacher in 1960 and 1962. Belcher coached at Southeast Bulloch from 1964-72, mentoring the girls' basketball and boys' track teams. He was Coach of the Year in 1969 and 1970 for track, Coach of the Year in girls' basketball in 1968, and was again a Star Teacher in 1966. He was an assistant principal at Westover High School from 1974-84 and was at Albany Middle School from 1984-89. He and his wife, Sybil, now live in Lee County.

1960s

Donald L. Massey ('66) is a retired college professor who resides in Tifton, Ga.

1970s

Robert Deller ('70) is senior attorney with the Law Offices of Robert Deller and Associates in Riverside, Calif. He and his wife, Diana, have two children, Jessica and Delia. He may be contacted at dellerlaw@pacbell.net.

Edward Harris ('71) of Blackshear, Ga., is a case manager with Correction Corporation of America who taught school for more than 30 years in the Waycross, Charlton County and Ware County systems. "I served two years as a substance abuse preventionist with the Satilla Community Service Board," he writes. "I am responsible for managing offender case plans and responding to their issues and concerns. I continue to enjoy working in behavior health services, but I take time to enjoy traveling, cultural events, gardening and entertaining family and friends."

Anne Rumble ('74) received the Paul Harris Fellow award from the Dothan, Ala., Rotary Club in May. She recently retired as the director of Dothan Leisure Services department where she served for 30 years.

Always learning

Physician Brian Redmond enjoys taking on new challenges

The practice of medicine is both an art and a science. It's also a business – one physicians are often not trained to face.

"The demands of a growing medical practice emphasized the need for a formal business education," said physician Brian Redmond ('01). "Fortunately for me, I turned to Georgia Southern for my MBA degree.

"The curriculum was challenging and the entire experience of studying a new discipline was exciting," he said, adding that he greatly enjoyed working with his cohort of master's students.

"Of course, one of the most valuable aspects was the close working relationships with my professors and fellow students. In short, my experience at Georgia Southern has been one of the most rewarding of my adult life," he said.

Redmond practices with Anesthesia Associates, a large medical group in Savannah, and travels to hospitals with which the group has contract services. On any given day he might be as far south as St. Marys, Ga., as far north as Hilton Head Island, S.C., or inland in Hinesville, Ga.

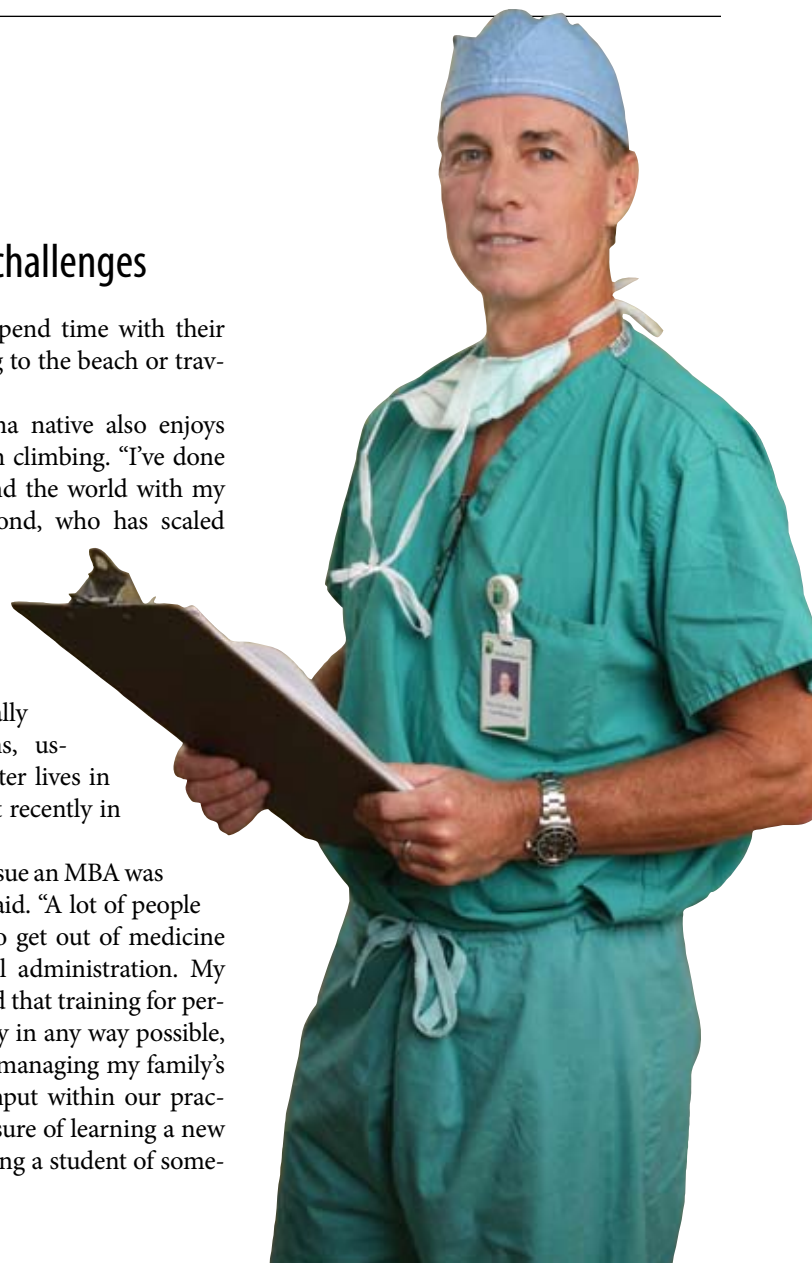
When he's not in the O.R., Redmond and his wife, Christie, an attorney who is also

trained as a nurse, spend time with their family, boating, going to the beach or traveling together.

The North Carolina native also enjoys fishing and mountain climbing. "I've done some climbing around the world with my brother," said Redmond, who has scaled the famed Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

He and Christie also occasionally do medical missions, using their skills to better lives in other countries, most recently in Guatemala.

His decision to pursue an MBA was purely personal, he said. "A lot of people ask me if I wanted to get out of medicine and get into hospital administration. My answer is no. I wanted that training for personal reasons to apply in any way possible, whether it would be managing my family's finances or having input within our practice and just the pleasure of learning a new discipline. I enjoy being a student of something challenging."



A new slate of University Foundation Board members came on board this fall. Pictured are, l-r, University President Bruce Grube, Billy Hickman, Kara Martin M.D., Terry Coleman, Connell Stafford, Jenny Gentry and Vice President for University Advancement Billy Griffis. Also joining the Board is Tracy Ham, not pictured.

1980s

Tony Webb ('82) has joined Private Bank of Buckhead as executive vice president and chief lending officer. Webb was previously with North Atlanta National Bank.

Bob Mackessy ('85) has started his 24th year of teaching and has been at Cass Middle School in Cartersville, Ga., since 1990. He teaches 7th grade math and 6th grade advanced math. "I would love to hear from friends and fellow alums at mackessy@bartwo.k12.ga.us," he writes. "Go Eagles!"

Steve McClelland ('85) and his wife, Brenda, live in Atlanta where he is a financial advisor for AXA Advisors LLC.

John Barrett ('86) is vice president of statewide operations for Junior Achievement of Georgia. He was recently chosen to be a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2008. The program, affiliated with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, is one of the nation's oldest and most successful leadership training schools for young business, civic and community leaders. Friends may e-mail him at jbarrett@georgia.ja.org.

Joel Wolfson ('87) is head of the Exceptional Student Education department for Lee County Schools in Ft. Meyers, Fla. he writes, "Vocational education has been tested over a considerable amount of time and its need and value has yet to be 'fully' recognized. However, the folks at Georgia Southern are the very best in our country – professional, patient, devoted, respectful and more!"

Gale Martin Hamayun ('88) taught from 1967-2001 in a career that took her to South Carolina, Jordan, Spain, Guam, Pennsylvania and Georgia. She and her husband, Aslum, live in Kim, Colo. "Retirement in southeastern Colorado is great!" she writes.

1990s

Paul Floeckher ('91) is a senior communications specialist in Georgia Southern's Office of Marketing and Communications.

Jon M. (Jay) Middleton ('92) has been named manager of the new REI outdoor equipment store in Asheville, N.C.

Matt Fasick ('93) writes that he has made a career change to work for Amorim, a cork flooring manufacturer, turning in his white collar for a "green" one. He will be going to Portugal this fall to learn more about the company and how its products are made. "I'll learn more about how this sustainable crop

of trees contributes to the biodiversity of the region, but how significant these trees are to the massive absorption of carbon dioxide emissions. I'm proud of my green collar and my University recognizing the importance of reducing its environmental impact through sustainability."

Julian Edgar Rhodes Jr. ('93) and his wife, Paula, live in Estill, S.C. He is owner of Yard Care Etc. and is a firefighter with the Bluffton Township Fire Department. "Oh my, how the time keeps going by faster every year," he writes. "I have remained very busy moving from the construction family-owned business to owning and operating my lawn business eight years ago. I will always remember the friends and my time at Georgia Southern. How I miss those times – some of the best life has to offer." He can be contacted at yardcareetc@yahoo.com.

Sheila Marcum Wentz ('94) is a business manager with Georgia Southern. She and her husband, Roger, have a son, Adam, and live in Brooklet, Ga. She may be contacted at swentz@georgiasouthern.edu.

Jamie Fraley Segear ('95) has been an instructional technology specialist at St. Marys Elementary School for 18 years. Last year, she filled in as instructional lead teacher at Woodbine Elementary. Friends may e-mail her at jsegear@gmail.com.

Michael King ('96) and his wife, **Meredith Sheppard King** ('99) welcomed their first child, Gracie Lynn, in January. The couple lives in Norcross, Ga. Michael is a network engineer with Presidio.

Adam Davis ('98) is sales manager for Allgood Pest Solutions in the Savannah region. He and his wife, Heidi, have two children, Daisy and Alex. The family can be contacted at adavis@allgoodpests.com.

Leslie Price Carroll ('98) is a criminalist with the Warner Robins Police Department. "My primary function is method development and implementation for blood alcohol levels and toxicology analyses," she writes. The former Johnson Hall resident also said she "can't wait to get my Johnson Hall brick to place on my desk!" Her husband, Ricky, was recently promoted to a higher position at Robins Air Force Base. "He stays busy at work and home. He's a do-it-yourselfer who constantly has some project going!" Leslie may be contacted at lcarr011@windstream.net.

Alan R. Fleming ('98) and his wife, **Anne Cook Fleming** ('00), live in Savannah. Alan is division president with First National Bank and Anne teaches 1st grade at St. Andrew's School. Alan was recently elected to the Leadership Division Board of the

Community Bankers Association of Georgia. He is also an honor graduate from the University of Georgia/GBA Banking School and is a certified community lender. Their daughter, Claire, is a preschooler who enjoys swimming and ice cream.

Adam Harden ('98) and his wife, **Serena Freyermuth Harden** ('97), proudly announce the July birth of their son, Ross Lewis Harden. Adam and Serena are teachers in Effingham County. The family resides in Springfield, Ga., and can be reached at harden18@windstream.net.

Ron Stalnaker ('98) is assistant director of information systems at Georgia Southern. He and his wife, Brett, recently celebrated the birth of their first son Jake. He may be reached at rstalnaker@georgiasouthern.edu.

Soyini Strange Ford ('99) and her husband, **Tony** ('01) welcomed the August birth of their son, Tyler Terrell. They live in Conyers, Ga.

Casey Smith Lee ('99) and **Ryan Lee** ('96) were married in August 2007 and reside in Gainesville, Ga. While at Georgia Southern, Ryan was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and Casey was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. They may be reached at wtb122@hotmail.com.

2000s

Lori Pierce Boyd ('00) is a biology teacher with the Houston County Board of Education. She and her husband, Keith, live in Bonaire, Ga. She may be contacted at loriboyd77@bellsouth.net.

Deborah Ryan Carnes ('00) and her husband, Ty, live in Cumming, Ga., where she is a 3rd grade teacher. She may be reached at deborahjryan@yahoo.com.

Shannon Cheney Hammond ('00) is a district-level administrator for Barrow County schools in Winder, Ga. She taught and worked as a school counselor for 11 years prior to her current position.

Mary Glenn Mullins Jernigan ('00) and her husband, Donnie, are celebrating the birth of their second son, Michael Lucas, born in June. He joins his big brother Cody.

Crystal Sanders Johnson ('00) is a teacher at Norcross Elementary School. She and her husband, Kyle, reside in Lawrenceville, Ga., and recently welcomed the birth of their daughter, Claire. Crystal has been accepted into the Teachers as Leaders program in Gwinnett County and completed her Education Specialist degree at Piedmont College in May.

A life well lived

Intercultural cooperation is professor's ongoing legacy

International studies professor Galal Dimetry left a legacy of international understanding with his students and colleagues when he passed away last spring.

"When I received my ROTC commission as a U.S. Army officer, I never would have predicted that I'd actually find myself in the Middle East, said Jeanette Medina ('99). "Now that I've found my way to Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq, I couldn't be more thankful for everything Mr. Dimetry taught me."



"He was always encouraging his students to go farther, do more and get involved," added University librarian Sonya Shepherd.

Dimetry joined Georgia Southern in 1988 as an instructor in International Studies, teaching Arabic language and Middle Eastern culture.

Early in his career the native of Zagazic,

Egypt, translated Arabic for the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg and created translation systems for DANTRAIN Educational Institutes and Texas Instruments. He taught courses in Kuwait for DANTRAIN and worked with troops at Fort Stewart on a U.S./Egyptian exchange program teaching language, customs and beliefs of Arabic-speaking countries.

"His teaching went beyond the classroom," said his daughter, Basant Paradis. "He knew his students and what was going on in their personal life. He expected a lot from his students and they delivered because they did not want to disappoint him."

A frequent public speaker on Middle Eastern issues, Dimetry addressed Jewish war veterans, honor societies, Rotary clubs and student organizations and wrote extensively on sometimes controversial subjects ranging from author Salman Rushdie to the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993.

"He was an extremely knowledgeable man and he would never bore you with his insight," said his son, Basem. "He was very

education-oriented. He always had a book in his hand."

In retirement, Dimetry maintained ties to the University's International Studies department as an Arabic tutor and the International Conversation Hour program. He was translating for judicial proceedings in Brunswick, Ga., just before his death.

Dimetry is survived by his wife Raifa, his son and daughter-in-law, and daughter and son-in-law, and five grandchildren with whom he shared an active home life. "He was always busy," said his wife, Raifa. "He loved to read and work in the garden."

"It's unfortunate that during this time of war, there are so many misguided thoughts about Arabic culture, but I take pride that my teacher equipped me with the knowledge and understanding to conduct my job here and still be able to acknowledge the beauty in the people, culture and language," said Medina.

"Mr. Dimetry armed me with the open mind to experience the best that the world has to offer and I thank him for these most treasured life lessons."

Mandy Gaddy Osburn ('00) is a physical therapist living in Newnan, Ga., where she and her husband, Michael, reside. She welcomes e-mail at mandygaddy@hotmail.com.

Karen Simmons ('00) and her husband, **Michael Stephens** ('00), welcomed their new son, Brady, in April. Karen is office manager for the Michael Gasses Agency while Michael is an assistant principal with Henry County Schools. They live in McDonough, Ga.

Travis Twiford ('00) lives in Las Vegas, Nev., where he is a regional recruiter for ITEA. He may be reached via e-mail at ttwiford@hotmail.com.

Troy Allen ('02) has been named assistant vice president at Citizens Bank of Springfield, Ga. Allen, a consumer and commercial lending officer, will also serve as manager of the bank's main office in Springfield. He joined Citizens Bank in 2005.

Jonathan Book ('02) is bass guitarist and co-founder of a Chicago-based band, Asylum. "We are nearing completion of our debut album," he writes, "having worked with multi-platinum worldwide recording artists, three Grammy nominees and having been featured in magazines around the world. I would love to hear from old friends and can be reached at myspace.com/officialasylum or asylumbassjunkie@gmail.com.

Cecil Steven Page ('02) joined 30 new faculty members at Augusta State University for the fall 2008 semester. He is an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in ASU's College of Education. He received his bachelor's and specialist degrees from ASU and received his master's and doctoral degrees from Georgia Southern.

Kendall Lynn Rich ('02) is a registered nurse with Meadows Regional Medical Center

in Vidalia, Ga., and welcomes emails from friends at kendallrich5@yahoo.com.

Pearl Middleton ('03) has been named assistant director of technology in the Office of Admissions at Georgia Southern. She and her husband, **Josh** ('00), reside in Statesboro. She may be contacted at pmiddleton@georgiasouthern.edu.

Jasmayne Rozier Scales ('03) teaches exceptional children at Burdell-Hunt Magnet Elementary School in Macon. "I love my job and enjoy going to work each day," she writes. "I co-teach with general education teachers in an inclusional classroom. I enjoy working with exceptional learners because I have the ability to make a positive difference in the academic, social and personal aspects of their lives." She plans to return to graduate school next summer. She may be reached at jrscales@cox.net.



Outgoing members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors were honored this fall. There were front row, l-r, Provost Linda Bleicken, Shaun O'Quinn, Jerry Bilton, Sam Pathak, Dennette Thornton, Terry Harvin and Director of Alumni Relations Frank Hook.

Ginny Pace Starling ('03) and her husband, **Jason** ('05), celebrated the birth of their daughter, Gracie Nell, in September. The family resides in Statesboro.

Glenn Weston ('03) has been named an assistant vice president with Citizens Bank of Springfield, Ga., and was formerly a consumer and commercial lender at the bank's Port Wentworth office. He will continue as a lending officer assuming additional responsibilities in credit analysis. Weston joined Citizens Bank in 2005.

Anne Marie Vickers ('04) and her husband, **Jed** ('03), were married in 2004 and welcomed the birth of twins Maudie Lee and Sims Rutledge in April 2007. Jed is a physician assistant and Anne Marie is homemaker. They live in Columbus, Ga., and would love to hear from friends at jvickers62@yahoo.com. "Dr. Darin Van Tassell is still the most wonderful teacher to me," she writes. "His international studies class really opened my eyes to our world."

W. Elliot Lewis ('05) has passed Level I of the Certified Financial Analyst Exam. He is living in Charlotte, N.C., and may be reached by e-mail at elliott.lewis@gmail.com.

Maggie Thurmond Dorsey ('05) has co-authored a book, *My Hero, My Dad, The Nurse*. She is a nursing professor at the University of South Carolina at Aiken. The book tells the story of a boy who ponders different career choices, but decides that he wants to follow his dad's example and become a nurse. Maggie was selected as the 2007 recipient of the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing's Phoebe Kandel Rohrer Founders Award.

Blair Riley Inabinet ('04) and her husband, **Bill** ('05), welcomed their first child, William Carroll IV, on July 14. The family lives in Loganville, Ga., and would love to hear from friends via their Web site www.familylobby.com/inabinet.

Brian Bowles ('06) and his wife, Erica, celebrated the birth of their son, Hyden Brian, in January. The couple lives in Dublin, Ga., where Brian is district executive for the Boy Scouts of America and Erica is a pharmacist. Friends may e-mail them at cbbowles@hotmail.com.

Mary Beth Medlin Jager ('06) and her husband, Jeff, live in Cumming, Ga. Both are employed by the Forsyth County Board of Education. They may be contacted at thejagers@bellsouth.net.

Lydia Karakolidis ('06) has been named a resident director at Savannah College of Art and Design. Friends may e-mail her at Lydia_Karakolidis@hotmail.com.

Andrew Hensley Bradley ('07) resides on Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Jennifer Roan ('08) is living in Dallas, Texas, after completing her bachelor's degree in early childhood education last May.

In Memoriam

Alumni
Cindy Shuman Harrison, '93, Savannah
Deborah June Malcom, '74, Centerville, Ga.
Annie Lee Hall Wise, '35, Egypt, Ga.

Chester W. Williams

Chester W. Williams ('35), at age 96, the oldest living member of the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame, died in October after a long illness.

A longtime resident of Statesboro, Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Akins Williams. He received a B.S. in education from South Georgia Teacher's College on an athletic scholarship, where he lettered in varsity basketball, football, track and boxing. He later earned a Master of Education degree from the University of Georgia.

He was a member of Southern Boosters since 1982, was a past president of the Letterman's Club, and was instrumental in the addition of the Eagle's Roost Room in Hanner Fieldhouse.

Williams served as principal of Metter High School, North Habersham High School in Clarkesville, Ga., and Reidsville High School. Throughout his tenure in the public schools of Georgia, he was a principal, teacher, athletics director and varsity coach.

Survivors include his son, Roger Bron Williams of Statesboro and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Frank E. Inman

Former Georgia Southern football radio color announcer Frank E. Inman passed away Nov. 3 under hospice care in Brunswick, Ga.

Inman was a longtime football coach and former Glynn County schools athletics director. A native of Augusta, Ga., he was a 1940 graduate of Richmond Academy where he was head football coach and compiled a record of 51-11-4 in six seasons, leading his team to the Class AAA state title in 1956. He later served as an assistant football coach at the University of Georgia from 1962-79.

Inman held degrees from both Presbyterian College and Duke University.

He was athletics director for Glynn County schools from 1979-86 and was instrumental in the construction of Glynn County Stadium. He was also executive director of the Sea Island Company Golden Isles Bowl Classic from its inception in 1996 through 2007.

Sacred spaces

Artist Desmal Purcell strives to give viewers a unique experience

Desmal Purcell likes to roam, but he always comes back to his roots.

Purcell, one of the founders of the StillmoreRoots group and a 2004 graduate of Georgia Southern's MFA program, is an art instructor at East Georgia College in Swainsboro.

"My family has a farm in Stillmore, which is in Emanuel County, and it goes back to my great great grandfather," said the Savannah native. "That's what I always call home. I spent a lot of time in these woods.



"I travel all the time – Guatemala, Central America, South America, Europe and crisscrossing the United States," he said. "The great thing about home is you can always come back."

His travels make a significant contribution to his art. "I'm trying to connect with several things," said Purcell. One is people.

"I have a tendency to stay out of large cities and spend a lot of time in small towns," he said. "More often than not, people end up taking me into their homes. I call it adventuring. I use my art to communicate with people.

"Sometimes I'll sit in a park and start drawing and more often than not they'll come up and ask me what I'm doing there and why, and we go from there," Purcell explained.

He also looks at the symbolism and iconography of different locales. "I love these



Desmal Purcell's art draws upon far away places like Machu Pichu and the pyramids in Guatemala and nearby places like the woods on his family's farm near Stillmore, Ga.

mega-sites like the pyramids in Guatemala, hiking the Inca trail, walking through the halls of Machu Pichu, and visiting the old sites in Europe – just connecting with the history of the landscape.

"The installations I do are very large-scale," said Purcell. "I create sites that I label as 'sacred spaces' and they are generally large-scale installations that take place within an outdoor rural environment – in the woods, for example. They are a place where viewers enter one at a time and can have an experience on the interior that none of us on the exterior are able to influence.

"I set up things in that interior for the viewer to interact with and typically to engage all the senses. I'm trying to create a unique individual experience for each person at the exhibition," he said.

Purcell's artistic influences come in large measure from his family.

"The one I hold dear is my father, Vernon Purcell, who is a painter. Had he not been an artist, I'm not sure I would be where I am at today," Purcell said.

"We lived in D.C. for a while and I can remember sitting in the garage on a five-gallon bucket watching him paint. Or, he had a studio space in the basement where he did his pastel work and I'd go down there and he'd give me a sheet of paper.

"My grandfather at Stillmore painted,"

he said. "I have an aunt who is into photography. I had another aunt who liked to involve me in cultural opportunities. Growing up surrounded with a particular occupation can really do a lot for you. But I never felt that I was forced into the arts."


In 2002, Purcell and fellow artists Jean Gray Drake ('02), Anthony Faris, Bryan Ghiloni and Brandon Tatom founded the StillmoreRoots artists collaborative and staged an exhibition in the unique setting of a managed pine forest. Soon afterward, the group initiated "Art in the Woods," an annual public exhibit in Stillmore.

The group is transitioning into a non-profit organization that develops educational and hands-on art programs in under-served rural communities and has expanded its membership to include artists Melissa Cartaya, Bridget Conn and Nick Nelson ('04).

In addition to his family and travels, he draws inspiration from his colleagues in StillmoreRoots. "We've been a constant source of inspiration to one another," said Purcell. "We started with five core members and the deal was, each one of the members would invite another member into the group.

"It's a great system for collaboration and for growth among ourselves."

PARTING SHOT



Overnight field exercises awaited Georgia Southern ROTC cadets who boarded CH-47 Chinook helicopters of the Georgia National Guard at the Recreation Activity Center. The cadets were flown to Fort Gordon, Ga., aboard aircraft stationed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah and commanded by alumnus CPT Louis L. Williams ('03). On the ground is Georgia Southern Army ROTC Battalion Cadet Matt Penn of Peachtree City, Ga., directing the flight to its landing zone. Penn attended the Army's Air Assault School this summer where he learned how to prepare landing zones, guide in helicopters, sling loading equipment and rappel from helicopters.



FRANK FORTUNE

Roar for O.A.R.

A free concert by national recording artists O.A.R. drew thousands of cheering students to the RAC fields on a cool November evening. The concert was part of series of Homecoming 2008 events hosted by the University for students and alumni.



P.O. BOX 8053
STATESBORO, GA 30460-8053

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED