

# President's Newsletter

December 2012

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# President's Newsletter

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### **Georgia Southern University Sends Christmas Cards to Troops**

This past week, Georgia Southern University's Division of Continuing Education and the Military Affairs Directorate sponsored a special Christmas card signing for more than 2,000 U.S. military troops serving in Afghanistan.

Students, faculty, staff and community members were asked to drop by the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center to sign a card and add a personal message to our troops.

### **Georgia Southern Names Tom Kleinlein Athletic Director**

This past month, I was pleased to announce that Tom Kleinlein, deputy athletic director at Kent State University, will be Georgia Southern University's new athletic director. Tom brings an incredible amount of experience and enthusiasm to Georgia Southern and I'm very excited to welcome he and his family to the Eagle Nation. He and I both share the same goal of making sure that our student athletes not only win on the field, but in the classroom. I am confident he will lead our athletic teams and department to the next level, both on and off the field. Chris Blair, the Voice of the Eagles, conducted an interview with Tom and myself and I wanted to share this video with you. [Watch Video.](#)



### **Former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter to Speak at Georgia Southern**

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States,



### **Georgia Southern Cheerleader Overcomes Odds**

Recently, one of Georgia Southern's cheerleaders was featured in the news and I

I was pleased to be joined by Head Football Coach Jeff Monken as well as numerous student athletes to sign the cards. The story gained national attention when it was picked up by the Associated Press. [View Photos.](#)



### **Eagles Advance to NCAA Quarterfinals**

Georgia Southern's football team defeated the University of Central Arkansas this past weekend to advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA playoffs. This week, the Eagles will be traveling to Norfolk, Va. to take on the Old Dominion Monarchs.

The game will be a rematch of last year's second round playoff game which Georgia Southern won 55- 48 in Statesboro. We learned yesterday that the game will

and former first lady Rosalynn Carter will speak at Georgia Southern University's Hanner Fieldhouse on Feb. 12, 2013 at 7p.m.

The remarks will be a part of Georgia Southern's popular Leadership Lecture Series, designed to provide its students with an opportunity to hear from influential leaders from throughout the world. This will be the first time that the former President and First Lady have spoken at Georgia Southern. [Read more...](#)



### **Travel Package for Saturday's Game**

If you live in Savannah, Statesboro or another nearby town, the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation has partnered with Burns World Travel to provide fans a travel package for Saturday's football game at Old Dominion.

The package includes travel by bus, a hotel room for Friday night and a ticket to the game.

thought it was a terrific story and I would like to share it with you. Sophomore Hope Gasaway suffers from profound hearing loss. While not able to hear the cheers, she's leaving her mark at Georgia Southern by leading them. To watch this story, [click here ...](#)



### **Erk Russell Statue Unveiled**

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of welcoming legendary coach Erk Russell's sons back to campus to honor their father with the unveiling of a bronze statue at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

Through the tireless efforts of

be broadcast on ESPN at 12 p.m. ET Saturday which will be terrific national coverage for the University. We hope to have a large crowd in Virginia to show the nation how much our fans love their University and I hope you can make it to cheer the Eagles on in person. If you can't join us, we hope that you will gather with fellow Georgia Southern alumni to watch the game. Our Alumni Relations team will be sending out more info on gatherings this week.

The bus will leave from Bishop Fieldhouse at Allen E. Paulson Stadium at 10:30 a.m. on Friday morning.

For more info and to reserve a seat, contact Patty Burns at Burns World Travel at 912-489-4040 or [pburns@burnsworldtravel.com](mailto:pburns@burnsworldtravel.com).

The deadline to reserve your seat is this Wednesday (Dec. 5) at 2 p.m. ET.

Georgia Southern alumnus Derek Sills, the impressive sculpture, titled "One More Time," was commissioned, funded and installed for fans to enjoy at the west end of Paulson Stadium.

I certainly appreciate all of the donors who helped make this possible. If you have not seen it yet, I hope that you will have a chance to on your next visit to Statesboro.

[Watch News Story...](#)

#### **ON THE CALENDAR:**

**December 7:** Women's Basketball vs. Mercer, 7 p.m. ([Full Schedule](#))

**December 8:** Wildlife WinterFest, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Let it Snow, Georgia Southern Planetarium, Hourly shows from 4 - 8 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Brewton Parker, 7 p.m., Statesboro

**December 9:** December 9: Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert, 3 p.m., Performing Arts Center

**December 10-13:** Final Exams

**December 14:** Fall Commencement, Hanner Fieldhouse. [Watch Live Online](#)

**December 15:** Winter break for students begins

**December 29:** Eagle Basketball vs. Georgia State, 7:30 p.m., ([Full Schedule](#))

**December 24 – January 1:** University Offices Closed

For more information on University events, please visit the [University Calendar](#).

For information on athletics events, please visit: [GSeagles.com](http://GSeagles.com).



### **Office of Admissions Honored**

Georgia Southern's Office of Admissions was recently honored by University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby for its outstanding customer service.

The "Happy Hardwood" team was named the bronze winner of the 2012 Chancellor's Customer Service Awards in the outstanding front desk support category.

The team that was honored was the front desk personnel, who are the first people prospective students, parents and other guests meet when they visit Georgia Southern.

The name "Happy Hardwood" comes from the hardwood floor at the front entrance of Lewis Hall. These terrific individuals greet our



### **Lighting of Sweetheart Circle**

This past week Georgia Southern celebrated one of my favorite holiday traditions, the lighting of Sweetheart Circle. Think of a Georgia Southern version of Rockefeller Center's Tree Lighting in New York.

Our Physical Plant staff work hard each year to decorate our campus for the holidays and their hard work culminates with one of our newest, but already most beloved traditions.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community join us at Sweetheart Circle each year before finals as we flip the switch officially marking the start of the holiday season at Georgia Southern. Each year, I have the privilege of turning on all of the lights



### **Wildlife WinterFest**

On Saturday, December 8, Georgia Southern's Center for Wildlife Education and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center will host its annual Wildlife WinterFest. This is a great family friendly event that will include the Staples Safari Zoo, animal encounters, holiday music and even Santa. We hope that if you are in the area, you will stop by and see our incredible Wildlife Center and also have a great time.

[Read more...](#)

guests with a warm smile and are the first to welcome them to our friendly campus.

The awards from the University System of Georgia recognize service providers who go above and beyond their normal duties to help internal and external customers.

around Sweetheart Circle.

I was glad that so many alumni were able to make it this year and I hope that those that could not make it will be able to join us next year.

I've included some pictures from this year's event. To view photos, [click here](#).



### **Museum Reopens with New Exhibit after Renovations**

Georgia Southern's Museum is open to the public again after being closed since August for the installation of new windows. As the Museum reopens, it offers a new exhibit. "From Protest to Peace: Northern Irish Murals by the Bogside Artists" is on display through January 20. The large murals capture the violence and civil rights protests that occurred in Northern Ireland. The curators of the exhibit are Georgia Southern faculty members Steve Engel, Ph.D., and Howard Keeley, Ph.D. For more info, visit:

[www.georgiasouthern.edu/museum](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/museum)

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**'We are the Eagle Nation.'** A simple phrase, but at the same time it is also incredibly complex. To me it represents who we are and what we believe as a University. It's not a creed, but the way we work and support our University. Recently, Georgia Southern started a new tradition by creating a video that includes current students as well as University employees and alumni. Each time the video is updated, different individuals will be chosen to read a line of 'We are the Eagle Nation.' Be sure to check out this year's video by visiting: [www.georgiasouthern.edu/eaglenation.](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/eaglenation)

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