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President's Annual Report

Brooks Keel

Georgia Southern University

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT (2012)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Georgia Southern began as a modest college and has emerged as a thriving University – stronger, far-reaching and more influential than ever before. Over the past several years, we have achieved a growing momentum that has pushed us forward and upward in all areas of the University.

During the 2011-12 academic year, Georgia Southern produced great successes – vaulting to national distinction as one of *U.S. News & World Report's* top 10 universities, driving economic growth through collaborations with regional industry and impacting the world with groundbreaking research. Georgia Southern is the place to be for a growing number of talented students, as demonstrated by their stellar achievements last year.

With all of these accomplishments, however, the core of Georgia Southern remains true to one principle: maintaining a student-centered University. Our large-scale/small feel campus is committed to offering the academic opportunities of bigger institutions, but with a personal touch.

We invite you to take a look at Georgia Southern's successes in this Annual Report, and thank you for your role in making it all possible.

Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.

President, Georgia Southern University

ACADEMICS

A new year signaled a new era, and Georgia Southern continued to build its reputation of academic excellence as one of *U.S. News & World Report's* top 10 most popular universities in the nation. As the only college or university in the state of Georgia and in the Southeast to earn this recognition, Georgia Southern has raised the academic bar.

Our freshman SAT scores have reached record levels, up an average of 78 points since 2001.

Throughout the year, the University achieved numerous national accolades. Named one of "America's Best Colleges" by both *Forbes* and *U.S. News & World Report*, Georgia Southern also earned the fourth spot in the nation for graduating African-Americans majoring in the physical sciences by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

The University also vaulted to international distinction with the accreditation of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, one of only 48 colleges or schools of public health worldwide to receive this qualification.

The University's growth and academic successes also heralded restructure and realignment on campus: launching the new Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology and renaming the College of Science and Mathematics.

Georgia Southern University Ranked As One of the Most Popular in the U.S.

January 24, 2011



Georgia Southern University has been named the fourth most popular university in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Georgia Southern joins Harvard University, Stanford University, and others in the rankings that feature the Top 20 most popular universities based on yield (the number of students who apply and then opt to enroll). Georgia Southern was ranked as the fourth most popular university in the country behind

Brigham Young, Harvard and Stanford Universities and came in ahead of Ivy League schools Princeton and Yale. Georgia Southern University was the only school in the state of Georgia and one of only three in the southeast to make the list.

"This is the latest example of Georgia Southern University's continued climb in enrollment, academic quality and national reputation and proves what thousands of Georgia Southern University students and alumni have known for decades," said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Georgia Southern provides its students with an excellent education on one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States. The fact that nearly 70 percent of the students we accept decide to attend Georgia Southern is a testament to the greatness of this University."

U.S. News and World Report's rankings were taken from the fall 2009 class, where 68.7 percent of students who were accepted by the University decided to attend Georgia Southern.

"During our admissions process we work very hard to make sure students and their families not only learn about our University, but begin to feel a part of Georgia Southern," said Teresa Thompson, University vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. "Georgia Southern has become recognized for offering all of the benefits of a major university with the feeling of a much smaller college. Central to our success is our focus on the student provided by our outstanding faculty and staff. It's not just a saying or a catch phrase for us. We live it and prospective students and their parents are noticing in record numbers."

Georgia Southern University Establishes the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

March 9, 2012



Georgia Southern University is continuing to advance educational and economic development opportunities in southeast Georgia with the formation of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). The new College combines high-demand degree programs in engineering and IT to meet the training needs of the state, region and country.

"This new College will combine mechanical, civil and electrical engineering programs with our existing computer science and information technology programs to create an educational environment unlike any other in this region," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Our students will graduate work-ready after studying in a College that will not only teach theory, but will allow our students to gain valuable practical experience that will make them extremely attractive to employers."

Dr. Mohammad Davoud has been named the Interim Dean of the new College, and the University has launched a search for a Founding Dean for the unit.

Georgia Southern's new CEIT will house the mechanical, civil and electrical engineering programs that the University began offering this past fall following approval by the University System of

Georgia's Board of Regents. The College will also offer degree programs in information technology and computer sciences that were previously housed in the University's College of Information Technology. The College is named after Allen E. Paulson, the late Savannah businessman who created an endowment to benefit technology programs at Georgia Southern.

"Pairing our engineering and information technology programs in one College will offer many benefits to our students," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ted Moore, Ph.D. "The College will open new avenues of research for our faculty and students as we exploit rich synergies between engineering and information technology. We believe that the opportunities for cross-disciplinary education and research will make the College's undergraduate and graduate programs extremely attractive to students who previously had limited options to pursue their degrees in state."

Keel expects the new College to have a long-lasting economic impact on the southeast area of the state noting, "Industry locates where there is an educated, skilled workforce available. As students begin to graduate from the new College, industries in need of engineering and information technology professionals will take notice. We believe this will be an important deciding factor that will lead new industries to locate in our region of the state, bringing jobs and more opportunity for economic growth. This is not just an exciting day for Georgia Southern University, but for everyone in southeast Georgia."

In forming the new College, the University is changing the name of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology to the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM). This College will house Georgia Southern's nationally-recognized programs in biology, chemistry, geology and geography, military science, physics, pre-medical/pre-dental and mathematical sciences.

Family Nurse Practitioner Program Soars to Top 20 National Ranking

January 23, 2012



Georgia Southern University's Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner program has been ranked in the top 20 nationally by *U.S. News & World Report*. The program also secured top honors among all colleges and universities in Georgia – both public and private. Georgia Southern's program is included in the top 20 along with those at Yale University, Duke University, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Columbia University and Johns Hopkins

University to name a few.

"To be named among the top 20 in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* is a major honor not only for our University, but for the state of Georgia," said Jean Bartels, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences which includes Georgia Southern's School of Nursing. "Georgia Southern continues to be recognized as one of the top nursing schools in the country as a result of the hard work of our faculty and staff and the outstanding students that select Georgia Southern for their MSN degree."

Georgia Southern's program, which is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), is designed to prepare registered nurses (RN) with an undergraduate degree in nursing for a career as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Georgia Southern's program combines both online and limited on-campus sessions enabling RNs to complete their degree while juggling busy work/life schedules.

According to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) are advanced practice nurses who provide high-quality healthcare services similar to those of a physician. FNPs diagnose and treat a wide range of health problems. They have a unique approach and stress both care and cure. Besides clinical care, FNPs focus on health promotion, disease prevention, health education and counseling.

Alumni from Georgia Southern's MSN-Family Nurse Practitioner program are serving in communities across the state of Georgia and throughout the country. In addition to the Family Nurse Practitioner program, Georgia Southern's School of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing, an LPN-BSN program, a fully online RN-BSN degree, a Post-MSN certificate program, and a fully online Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. For more information about Georgia Southern's nursing programs, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/nursing.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Receives Accreditation

August 24, 2011



Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) has just received accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). JPHCOPH is now one of only 48 colleges or schools of Public Health worldwide to receive this recognition.

"The accreditation of the JPHCOPH by the Council on Education for Public Health is both an honor and an opportunity," said JPHCOPH Interim Dean Lynn Woodhouse. "This accreditation will help us attract additional capacity to understand and tackle the many health disparities in the rural southeastern U.S. We will continue to build our world-class faculty and recruit exceptional students from around the world as we strive to develop a public health workforce prepared to change the future."

"Our faculty members are dedicated to improving the quality of life for Georgians," continued Woodhouse. "Whether it is helping to facilitate a teledentistry program so school children in rural areas can receive adequate, affordable dental care or researching the impact a community health worker program has on breast cancer prevention programs, we are studying ways every day to keep Georgians and rural citizens throughout the U.S. healthy. That translates into less money spent on

illness, less time missed from work and school, more effective use of resources and an increase in well-being.”

The JPHCOPH has a diverse student body and faculty that has a demonstrated commitment to health equity and are working towards that goal by addressing and eliminating health disparities. The small class sizes, the great value and dedicated faculty at JPHCOPH are some of the key reasons students are choosing this CEPH accredited College, which is located less than an hour from the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport and 90 miles from Hilton Head, S.C. To learn more about JPHCOPH visit the website: jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu.

The JPHCOPH was founded in 2004. The college was endowed by Karl Peace, Ph.D. in honor of his late wife, Jiann-Ping Hsu. The college has grown rapidly and recently moved into a renovated building that includes a state-of-the-art Public Health Core Laboratory.

Georgia WebMBA Program At Georgia Southern University Ranked as Top Value

April 2012

The Georgia WebMBA, the online Master of Business Administration program offered by Georgia Southern University and five other members of the University System of Georgia, was ranked No. 15 in the Top 25 Best Value Online MBA programs by *BusinessMBA.org*, an online resource containing information and rankings about the nation's best business schools and MBA programs.

"We are very excited to be recognized by *BusinessMBA.org* as a 'Best Value' online MBA," said Ronald Shiffler, Dean of Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration (COBA). "Overall, the Georgia WebMBA adds significant value for our students in several ways — through accreditation, affordability and team-based learning. After 11 years of delivering our online program, we work continuously to ensure our students are receiving a top-quality education at a price they can afford."

Georgia Southern offers the Georgia WebMBA through COBA. The program ranks ahead of online MBA programs from the University of Memphis and Mississippi State University. Arizona State University's program took the No. 1 ranking.

For more information about the Georgia WebMBA program, visit: **www.coba.georgiasouthern.edu/mba**.

Georgia Southern University Graduate Programs Ranked among the Best in Nation by U.S. News and World Report

March 15, 2012



Georgia Southern University's graduate programs in nursing, business, public affairs and fine arts have been ranked among the best in the nation in by *U.S. News and World Report*.

For the second year in a row, Georgia Southern University's Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner program was ranked among the top 20 in the nation. Other programs ranked in the top 20 this year include Johns Hopkins University, Duke

University, Yale University and Vanderbilt University.

"Georgia Southern University's nursing program is consistently recognized as one of the best in the state and the nation," said Georgia Southern University Vice President for Research and Economic Development and Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies Charles Patterson, Ph.D. "Nurses who are ready to take the next step in their education know that our excellent faculty and programs will prepare them for the professional challenges and opportunities of their ever-changing field."

In addition to the top 20 ranking for the Family Nurse Practitioner program, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Georgia Southern's School of Nursing graduate programs among the best in the nation.

Georgia Southern University's part-time Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, and Master of Fine Arts degree programs were also ranked by the publication as stand-outs among the 1,200 graduate programs it analyzed for this year's rankings.

"Many of our graduate degree programs are offered online or have an online component to provide busy professionals the opportunity to earn an advanced degree while managing their personal and professional lives," Patterson said. "These rankings are a reflection of Georgia Southern University's continued commitment to providing quality advanced degree programs that are recognized not only as some of the best in our state, but the country."

To learn more about Georgia Southern University's graduate programs, please visit <http://cogs.georgiasouthern.edu>.

Georgia Southern University Receives \$913,000 Grant from The Goizueta Foundation Grant to Establish and Support Hispanic/Latino Student Recruitment and Retention

January 18, 2012

Georgia Southern University has received a \$913,752 grant to establish and support a comprehensive Hispanic/Latino student recruitment and retention initiative. The University's relationship with The Goizueta Foundation dates back more than a decade with the Foundation donating more than \$2.7 million to the University.

The new grant includes \$500,000 to provide need-based tuition assistance during a period of seven years for Hispanic/Latino students whose families currently reside in the United States. In addition, the grant provides \$317,752 to cover salary and benefits for a new assistant director for Hispanic and Latino Services for four years. Lastly, the grant provides \$96,000 during a period of four years to support bilingual marketing materials, travel and events for Hispanic/Latino student recruitment and retention.

"On behalf of the executive committee and the staff of The Goizueta Foundation, I extend our appreciation for Georgia Southern University's vision, direction and programs," said Olga C. de Goizueta, chairman of the executive committee of The Goizueta Foundation. "Through this partnership, we look forward to continued dialogue on the successes that Georgia Southern University encounters as it begins this new initiative."

Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. said that the grant comes at an ideal time as the institution continues to attract a more diverse student body from 49 U.S. States and from more than 100 countries around the world. "Georgia Southern University is fortunate to have a very diverse student body. We believe that this adds to the education and experience that our students receive during their four years at Georgia Southern."

Georgia's Latino population has increased significantly in recent years by nearly doubling, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. Keel says that one of the biggest challenges has been in providing the necessary financial resources to ensure these students have access to higher education. "This grant enables Georgia Southern to provide outstanding Hispanic/Latino students with much-needed access to higher education. Ultimately, the education that these students receive will have a long-term benefit on our state and their communities."

The purpose of The Goizueta Foundation is to assist organizations that empower individuals and families through educational opportunities to improve the quality of their lives. The Atlanta, Ga.-based foundation was established by the late Roberto C. Goizueta, CEO and chairman of the board of directors of The Coca-Cola Company in 1992. Today, it provides financial assistance to

educational and charitable institutions supporting educational programs that promote sustainable change with long-term impact in the community.

"We sincerely appreciate The Goizueta Foundation's confidence in Georgia Southern," said Keel. "Georgia Southern is uniquely positioned to become a leader in providing opportunities for Latino students to pursue their college degree and we are excited to be awarded this grant."

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 117 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. In 2011, the University was named the fourth most popular university in the country by *U.S. News & World Report* and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: **www.georgiasouthern.edu**.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Georgia Southern's student population celebrated a milestone this academic year – a record enrollment of 20,212 students from 49 U.S. states and more than 100 nations, with a few from as far away as Burkina Faso. In fact, the University ranks fourth in the nation among other institutions enrolling students from that west African country.

Georgia Southern continues to attract a growing number of talented students, and this year their diverse achievements reached unprecedented levels, whether it was participating in Study Abroad research trips, winning prestigious national scholarships or promoting the True Blue spirit with the Eagle-It! campaign.

Georgia Southern University Enrollment Tops 20,000 Students – Sets New Record

November 1, 2011

Georgia Southern University announced that it has topped 20,000 students this fall, enrolling 20,212 students from 49 U.S. states and from 101 countries around the world.

Georgia Southern welcomed 3,099 new freshmen while experiencing a 1.6 percent increase in total enrollment from the previous year. Making the achievement even more noteworthy is the fact that University enrollment increased despite two of its largest ever graduating classes departing this past year. Graduate enrollment at Georgia Southern also increased by nearly two percent, continuing a trend of attracting students interested in earning their master's, specialist's and doctorate degrees at the growing institution.

"Our goal is not to just grow in size, but to do so in a way that ensures that we stay true to what has made Georgia Southern so special," said Brooks Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern University. "Surpassing 20,000 students definitely takes us to a new level. Not only are we growing in size, but we're also attracting very bright and accomplished students from throughout the state and from around the world."

Georgia Southern University

Fall 2011 Enrollment By the Numbers:

Total Fall 2011 Enrollment: 20,212

Students by State/Country: 49 U.S. states, 101 countries

Undergraduate Students: 17,525

Graduate Students: 2,687

Top Three Largest Colleges by Enrollment:

- College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (4,657)
- Allen E. Paulson College of Science & Technology (3,637)
- College of Business Administration (3,293)

College with Largest Percentage Increase in Enrollment: College of Information Technology (24 percent)

Georgia Counties with largest enrollment:

- Gwinnett
- Bulloch
- Fulton

Top four states:

- Georgia
- Florida
- South Carolina
- North Carolina

"This past year Georgia Southern received more applications than in any other year in its history. We believe this can be attributed to outstanding degree programs, a dedicated team of faculty and staff and an incredibly beautiful campus," said Keel. "Parents are looking for a well-rounded and challenging college experience for their student and they are finding both at Georgia Southern. They are not only attracted to the University, but the charm of a classic college town that is within driving distance of Atlanta, north Florida, historic Savannah and Hilton Head Island."

Ghana Research Trip Inspires Students

Spring 2012

[View Slideshow Here](#)

While it's been said that words can change the world, one Georgia Southern University public health professor is using his work to accomplish that task.



Recognizing a need both with Georgia Southern students and his native homeland of Ghana, Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, coordinator of the Environmental Health Sciences Discipline in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) initiated a plan. "I had a vision," said Afriyie-Gyawu, "that it would be great for our University students to gain their practical learning experience in an environment or a country whereby their contributions could help improve the health conditions of the people. The students were very excited about this idea!"

Last summer, he and a group of 10 graduate students spent five weeks in the West African nation engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention work, disease control issues and studying environmental health concerns across the three regions in the country. It was the University's first graduate student oriented Study Abroad group to journey to Ghana, and also the first trip for any graduate students in the JPHCOPH.



“In this College, practicum experience combined with capstone research (for master’s students) and preceptorship (doctoral students) experiences are requirements for students, and these are a reflection of what they’ve studied here.” Afriyie-Gyawu came up with the idea of a study abroad trip after realizing that the JPHCOPH students were having a difficult time finding sites and areas in Statesboro and in the state of Georgia to complete these

requirements.

“I thought it would be a good idea to visit Ghana, because not only will students fulfill their academic mandates, but they will also travel to a peaceful country in Africa (in dire need for public health services) and experience other cultures as well,” he said.

In addition to his familiarity with the region, Afriyie-Gyawu felt that the peaceful, English-speaking country would be an easy transition for students.

“Ghana is one of the most stable countries in Africa right now,” he said, “and the students were able to easily communicate with residents.”

A faculty member for the past three years at Georgia Southern, Afriyie-Gyawu holds a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology/biostatistics and a doctorate in toxicology from Texas A&M University. His research background in food safety and toxicology focuses on strategies to protect humans and animals against contaminants in foods/feeds.

For Afriyie-Gyawu, Ghana presented a prime opportunity for his students to conduct research on one of the most pressing health concerns in that country – local meat processing. Slaughterhouses in the region –known as abbatoirs – use scrap tires as a fuel source for smoking meat intended for human consumption. Workers follow the practice of burning scrap tires over an open fire to singe the fur of slaughtered goats and cattle before cooking and eating.

“This is their process of smoking the meat. The abbatoir operators use tires because they are readily available, and are either free or cheap. The disposal of tires in Ghana is not as controlled as it is in the United States,” said Afriyie-Gyawu.

The health risks to the abattoir workers and nearby residents are significant, he said. Tires are made of chemicals and materials that are hazardous to the public's health when they are released. When tires are burned, the ashes usually contain high levels of heavy/toxic metals (including arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury, etc.) that can be washed through water runoffs, so Ghana's water sources could also be polluted with these toxic chemicals.

"We looked at the chemical composition of tires to determine what was emitted on a daily basis," said Afriyie-Gyawu, discovering that dangerous chemicals (for example, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons – heavy/toxic metals) were polluting the area, and that the meat was also exposed to these chemicals. "These emissions could have toxic effects among humans via the food systems and some of the chemicals have been classified as either carcinogens (cancer causing) or probable carcinogens in the U.S.," he said.

The group conducted surveys of workers and consumers to determine their knowledge of the scrap tire-based meat processing procedures and the potential dangers presented. "We found that the residents wanted safer practices to be used," he said. Afriyie-Gyawu and the students subsequently presented their preliminary findings at an American Public Health Association conference in Washington, D.C., and at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington last November.

Another group of Afriyie-Gyawu's students, including Kimberly Curtis, focused on HIV/AIDS prevention in Ghana. "With a population of 24 million people, approximately two percent have been diagnosed with HIV," said Curtis, who worked closely with nurses counseling patients in local hospitals. "We were exposed to real-life situations that we wouldn't necessarily have the opportunity to work with in the United States," she said, about Ghana's open-door system in regard to HIV/AIDS. "Thursdays were clinic days, and we discovered that a lot of HIV patients were malnourished, so we provided them with supplements and also dietary recommendations to address the disease."

Curtis found that life in Ghana is drastically different than life in the United States. "The trip taught me to be happy with what I have," said Curtis, revealing that residents don't have amenities such as air conditioning and hot showers. "It has influenced me to help more, and I am trying to figure out other ways to give back to the people of Ghana," she said, eager to return in hopes of making a small difference in the lives of other residents.

Word of the successful Ghana trip spread throughout campus, and students are requesting spots for the summer 2012 journey to the West African country. Afriyie-Gyawu also sees endless possibilities and the potential for a partnership between Georgia Southern and its sister university, the University of the Cape Coast, through student research programs and funding opportunities.

“There are benefits for Georgia Southern students and also Ghana,” he said. “Our students learn all of the aspects of a different culture, while immersing themselves in hands-on experience. They will have this experience for a lifetime.”

—*Mary Beth Spence*

Georgia Southern University Honors Student Stephen Crooke Selected for National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

May 2, 2012



Georgia Southern University Honors Program senior chemistry major Stephen Crooke of Claxton, Ga. has won the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

With this fellowship, Crooke will receive significant monetary support to fund three full years of study pursuing a research-based doctoral degree at an accredited US institution. This prestigious award is given in recognition of his outstanding academic and research accomplishments as an undergraduate at Georgia Southern University.

Crooke is a Paulson Scholar, and his research focuses on developing a more efficient and cost effective way of creating certain chemical compounds in synthetic sponges that have the same properties as sea sponges. His research will be used in the fight against cancer.

“Over the past four years, I was able to synthetically develop five separate compounds. Our group is in the process of screening these compounds for antibacterial activity, and in the near future, we will be sending them to the National Cancer Institute for screening against cancer cells,” Crooke explains.

“Research of this nature is critical to the medical community due to the need for an effective treatment for cancer, and it also has important implications in the field of synthetic chemistry because of the new methodology introduced for the potential development of other therapeutic compound.”

In his research Crooke works closely with both Dr. Christine Whitlock and Dr. Michele McGibony. During the course of his research, Crooke has spent a significant amount of time creating biologically-active compounds in Whitlock’s lab and testing the compounds in the lab with McGibony.

McGibony encourages her students to participate in research experiences as undergraduates, “I was fortunate that Stephen chose me and my collaborator, Dr. Christine Whitlock. as his research mentors. Stephen is one of the most hardworking students I have ever met in my fourteen years of higher education,” said McGibony.

"Often scientific experiments do not work out properly the first time you set them up, Stephen will keep making alterations to the experiment until he gets a result. He is interested in understanding everything he can about chemistry and biochemistry," McGibony explained.

The Georgia Southern senior intends to earn his Ph.D. in biochemistry upon graduation.

Crooke says that his participation in the Honors program was a major influence on his undergraduate career at Georgia Southern.

"The Honors Program's encouragement of undergraduate research led me to become involved with my research early in my academic career, and I am thankful for that. Collaboration with my professors and the Honors Program allowed me to accomplish much during my time at Georgia Southern, primarily culminating in this award," Crook said. "I cannot thank the Honors Program and my advisers enough for all of the mentoring and guidance that they have provided me over the years."

The University Honors Program at Georgia Southern University provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. The 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. The program also advises students from across the University in their pursuit of national and international competitive scholarships.

Georgia Southern University Student Awarded Prestigious Scholarship for Study Abroad

July 11, 2011

Georgia Southern University student Jennifer Keyser has been awarded a prestigious DAAD scholarship, and will spend the 2011-2012 academic year pursuing her studies at the University of Kassel in Germany. The DAAD, also known as the German Academic Exchange Service, is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. Keyser, a Modern Languages major and Griffin, Ga., resident, is Georgia Southern's first exchange student at the University of Kassel. Keyser is also a member of the University's Honors Program.

"It's really exciting because I get to spend an entire year in Germany. I get to basically set the tone for Georgia Southern students at the University of Kassel, and I get to make my own way. Study abroad programs help you step out of your comfort zone – to get to know other cultures," said Keyser, speaking about the benefits of these learning opportunities. A multi-lingual student and former community leader for international students at Centennial Place residence hall, Keyser plans to pursue a career combining her linguistic skills with international trade or corporate communications.

While Keyser is studying abroad next year, Georgia Southern will host three sociology students from the University of Kassel, strengthening and expanding existing international student exchange programs through the Center for International Studies. The idea for the new partnership between Georgia Southern and Kassel was initiated by sociology professor Michael Dellwing, a former exchange student at Georgia Southern, and a DAAD scholarship recipient.

"I consider Georgia Southern to be a major part of my life course, and I have fond memories of the school, its professors and my fellow students," said Dellwing, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate who was inspired to create and coordinate the program between his former and current learning institutions. When it came to thinking of an exchange partner, I tried to make it possible for our students to come to the school I know, trust and have personal ties with. I do feel that our students can profit from being in a "large-scale, small-feel" American university. They will get all of the benefits of an excellent learning environment while having an experience that will let them appreciate the pluralism and diversity of the United States."

"The idea is to exchange students back and forth between Germany and North America," said Jeffrey Palis, interim director for the University's Center for International Studies, "to internationalize higher education in Germany and also promote the teaching of German language and literature."

Georgia Southern hosts international students from more than 100 nations on campus. The new program between the University and Kassel is just one of many study abroad opportunities offered through the Center for International Studies.

Keyser received support from the University Honors Program in her application process. In the last five years, the program has helped 23 students win a variety of nationally competitive scholarships. The program works with all Georgia Southern students seeking to apply for these awards.

Georgia Southern University Unveils Eagle-it Campaign

September 9, 2011



Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Eagle head football coach Jeff Monken and Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport Manager Jeff Herrington have introduced a new True Blue tradition specifically developed for passionate fans and supporters.

"Eagle-it!" is a unique way for fans, businesses and supporters to connect with Georgia Southern University's traditions by being a part of one. Participants can show their True Blue spirit by highlighting locations on the roadways and airfields leading to the heart of Eagle Nation. Trained representatives of Georgia Southern's Student Eagle Club will paint residential properties, and a professional painter will be provided for larger, commercial properties.

The Statesboro Airport was selected as the "Eagle-it!" launch site for its visible entry point to campus. The increase of high profile guests and athletic opponents visiting campus has prompted Georgia Southern to team up with the Statesboro Airport to signal their arrival into Eagle Nation.

Eagle Nation is composed of Georgia Southern University fans, alumni, students, faculty and staff. "Eagle-it!" is a collective effort among supporters and the Student Eagle Club, a student organization working to foster and promote True Blue spirit.

Applications and location recommendations are submitted through the website, www.georgiasouthern.edu/eagle-it. Approved locations are highly visible to traffic on major roadways leading to campus. Participants are encouraged to submit creative ideas, such as hay bails and barns.

Georgia Southern University Nursing Student Awarded U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Scholarship

October 4, 2011



Georgia Southern University nursing student Lindsay Higgs was recently awarded a competitive national scholarship from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Higgs is one of only about 450 recipients selected from 11,000 applicants to receive the scholarship, which will cover tuition expenses, books and other fees in addition to a monthly stipend of \$1,239, in exchange for two years of service at a health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. The HRSA Nursing Scholarship Program benefits full-time undergraduate nursing students.

"Lindsay participated in the BUILD program in the summer prior to her freshman year and has not stopped serving and investing her life in Georgia Southern and in the community since," said Todd Deal, director of the Office of Student Leadership and Civic

Engagement. "Her passion for service, as exemplified through her participation in numerous alternative break trips, made her the unanimous choice to lead our new Alternative Break Board, which is a student-led effort dedicated to enhancing and expanding the alternative break experiences on our campus."

Higgs, a junior with a 3.5 GPA from Duluth, Ga., made the decision to pursue a career in nursing based upon her active involvement with community service at Georgia Southern. During the past two years, she has contributed more than 350 volunteer hours in the local community and in six Alternative Break trips. The trips, sponsored by the University's Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, provided opportunities such as renovating buildings, building libraries, providing relief efforts and entertaining children with life-threatening illnesses.

During these life-changing experiences, Higgs witnessed many people who could not afford healthcare. "I hope to be an inspiration to people," said Higgs. "There is so much you can do to help, and if I'm a nurse, I can use my knowledge and abilities to help many people in need," she explained, about her academic choice. Higgs has recently stepped into a leadership role as the chairman of the newly founded Alternative Break Board with several new ventures in store. "Our

goal is to travel to more places in need, lower the cost for students to participate and offer a wide range of choices," she said.

After Higgs' graduation in May 2013, she will fulfill her HRSA scholarship requirement by working for at least two years in a health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses. Her plans include pursuing a master's degree in nursing, and also continuing her active service to those in need. "I would like to join the Peace Corps in South America and reach out to more patients in inner-city areas," she said.

RESEARCH

Leaders, mentors, creative thinkers -- our talented faculty have put us on the map with research in their respective fields. For instance, history professor Robert Batchelor uncovered a Chinese trade route hidden for nearly 400 years while researching maps in Oxford University's Bodleian Library.

Archaeology professor Sue Moore and her graduate students continue to unearth long-lost Civil War artifacts at Camp Lawton, a Confederate prison camp located in Millen, Ga., while also providing hands-on opportunities for local teachers and schoolchildren at the site.

Other University researchers were awarded significant national grants to study both the immediate and long-term effects of concussions, investigate tropical cyclone activity along the Georgia coast, help improve public health services for some of the state's most at-risk citizens and promote diabetes education in rural areas.

Georgia Southern University Researchers Receive Grant to Investigate Historical Tropical Cyclone Activity along Georgia Coast

May 16, 2012

Georgia Southern University researchers have been awarded a grant to investigate historical tropical cyclone activity along the coast of Georgia, in an effort to determine how susceptible the state is to hurricanes. Preliminary data suggests the Georgia coast has historically experienced cycles of very high hurricane landfall activity, despite no major hurricanes hitting the state in recent decades.

"Many people believe that because no major hurricanes have hit the Georgia coastline in recent decades that we are somehow immune," said Georgia Southern University researcher Brian Bossak, Ph.D. of the University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. "But we believe we can trace cycles of very high hurricane landfall activity along the Georgia coast, and that should serve as a warning that residents and local governments should take planning for a major hurricane very seriously."

The nearly \$130,000 grant from the Georgia Sea Grant program will fund two years of research by Bossak and Georgia Southern professor Mark Welford, Ph.D. of the University's College of Science and Mathematics. The researchers are working to determine if some parts of the Georgia coast may be more susceptible to hurricane landfall than others.

"We have evidence that tropical cyclones, including hurricanes, did significant damage to Georgia's coastline and settlements," said Welford. "We plan to generate the most complete digital database of Georgia's tropical cyclones to date, and use the data to analyze and determine areas with the highest risk of landfall frequency and storm intensity."

The ultimate objective of the research is to generate hurricane risk information that can be used by government officials and coastal managers when planning evacuations and other public health and safety measures.

Georgia Southern University Professor Uncovers Trade Route Secrets Hidden for Centuries

September 19, 2011



A Georgia Southern University history professor has uncovered centuries-old Chinese trade routes that have been hidden for nearly 400 years. The discovery was made by Robert Batchelor, Ph.D., while researching maps in Oxford University's Bodleian Library. Batchelor is discussing his discovery at a meeting of researchers being held today at Oxford.

"Like many researchers, I approached China in this period from the perspective of the Ming Empire, which because of The Forbidden City and The Great Wall is usually remembered for closure rather than openness," explained Batchelor. "But when I moved to Georgia and began learning about the Savannah Port, it piqued my interest in the Chinese shipping trade of that era. I was studying a nearly 400-year-old map in

the Bodleian Library when I discovered it was actually a map of Chinese trade routes. The Bodleian Library knew they had the map, but no modern scholars ever made the connection that the map actually documented Chinese trade routes."

While studying the long neglected early 17th-century Chinese manuscript map, Batchelor discovered a finely drawn network of shipping routes. Unlike many Chinese maps that show only the empire itself, this map depicts the whole of East Asia and most importantly the trading routes used to reach Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and Southeast Asia. It also shows how such navigation worked, and restoration has revealed that the routes on the map were drawn before the coasts. Batchelor believes the map was most likely commissioned by a Chinese or perhaps Moslem merchant family-lineage group from Quanzhou, Fujian, who had strong connections in Southeast Asia.

"The map is a unique artifact that tells the story of East Asian commerce as open, dynamic and driven by coastal merchant networks with aspirations to trade as far away as the Persian Gulf," said Batchelor. The map, known as the Selden Map of China, was donated to the Bodleian in 1659 by English legal philosopher John Selden.

"Professor Batchelor's discovery is another example of Georgia Southern University's research reaching far beyond our borders and impacting people around the world," said College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean Mike Smith. "There is no question that international scholars and

researchers will study this map to unlock secrets lost to time and to better understand the impact and implications of international trade centuries ago.”

While the map will prove invaluable to researchers who want to study Chinese shipping and trade history, Batchelor thinks the discovery also paves the way for a modern dialogue about China’s relationship with the U.S. and other countries.

“Many people don’t realize that South Georgia’s relationship with China goes back to at least the 1760s when Henry Yonge planted the first soybean crop in North America in Savannah with seeds brought from China. It’s important to think like early Americans and merchant Chinese –reaching out to build relationships rather than walls,” said Batchelor.

Georgia Southern University Study Adding Protection to the Coast

February 8, 2012

A Georgia Southern University researcher recently received a \$377,000 grant to better protect the southeastern coast of the United States from the threats of flooding, storms, hurricanes and erosion. The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA), an environmental organization headed by the governors of the four involved states – Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and North Carolina – received \$1.06 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Ocean Partnership federal funding opportunity to fund several grants.

"We are extremely pleased with the investment that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has made in this program," said Charles Patterson, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Georgia Southern, "and we look forward to active participation in the multi-state efforts to support the region's coastal and marine spatial planning goals."

Georgia Southern researcher Clark Alexander's project will work to enhance the capabilities of a software tool called AMBUR (Analyzing Moving Boundaries Using R), which will determine the coastal areas that are most vulnerable to natural hazards. The data, combined with economic factors, will determine the pros and cons of coastal development in vulnerable areas.

AMBUR was created by Georgia Southern professor Chester Jackson, and the project to develop the tool on a larger scale will last 18 months. Partners in all four states will gather data throughout the process.

"The core of the project is to develop a new hazard-vulnerability tool that can be applied in the whole region," said Alexander, director of Georgia Southern's Applied Research Laboratory and professor at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah, Ga. "Project partners are going to be gathering the data sets that we need, and we are going to use the tool in all four states. At the end of the day, we'll be providing this tool so anybody can use it. Hopefully it will be adopted across the U.S."

Georgia Southern University's Rural Health Research Institute Awarded \$450,000 Federal Grant to Promote Diabetes Education in Rural Areas

April 10, 2012



Georgia Southern University's Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) has been awarded a \$450,000 grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide diabetes education to patients in rural areas.

The grant will fund *Project ADEPT* (Applied Diabetes Education Program using Telehealth), which was developed by the University's RHRI to bring information to diabetes patients on how to care for themselves and manage their condition. *Project ADEPT* will target patients in Candler, Emanuel, - Tattnall, and Toombs counties who may otherwise have a difficult time accessing important information on how to best manage the symptoms and possible complications of diabetes.

The grant was awarded to Dr. Jacob Warren and Dr. Bryant Smalley, the co-executive directors of the RHRI. Warren is an epidemiologist in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, and Smalley is a clinical psychologist in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

"This grant is a way for us to get information directly to patients who may not have access to regular transportation and who may go long periods in between doctor's visits," said Smalley. "If a

patient has regular access to information about nutrition, exercise, and the warning signs of a complication caused by diabetes, we feel they have a much better chance of effectively managing their condition.”

The program, which is expected to be underway in the fall, will reach about 750 diabetes patients in a four-county area. The grant funds will be used to connect Georgia Southern’s RHRI with East Georgia Healthcare Center patients. The Southeastern Telehealth Resource Center will support the technical aspect of the program.

“*Project ADEPT* can be used in an individual or group setting,” explained Warren. “It can be used for one session, or to give a patient the information needed over a period of time. We are making this available in English and Spanish in an effort to make sure anyone who needs the information will have access to it. Our goal is to help the patients make long-term health behavior changes that will lead to a better quality of life.”

The RHRI is an interdisciplinary hub of rural health research and outreach that spans five colleges within Georgia Southern. For more information on the RHRI, please visit <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/RHRI>.

Georgia Southern University Researchers Awarded Nearly \$400,000 by National Institutes of Health to Study Concussions

June 14, 2011



Georgia Southern University researchers have been awarded a \$385,000 grant by the National Institutes of Health to study the immediate and long-term effects of concussions. The research will help treat student athletes who suffer the head injury.

“Our goal is to help determine how long the effects of a concussion persist,” said Georgia Southern College of Health and Human Sciences faculty member Thomas Buckley, Ed.D. “If a person returns to risky activity while still suffering the effects of a concussion they are more likely to suffer another concussion, which will likely be worse and could potentially even be fatal. We hope that this research leads to a better understanding of how long a person needs in order to fully recover before engaging in activity that could put them at risk for another head injury.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates there are 1.6 – 3.8 million concussions annually in the United States which occur during sports and recreation activities, and recent studies show that 15 percent of U.S. soldiers experienced some type of head trauma while

serving in Iraq. Previously, Buckley and his team have worked with the U.S. Army to track how a person's movements change after a concussion.

"Once a person suffers a concussion they are more likely to suffer a second and then third concussion, and we now believe that multiple concussions may be linked to long-term brain problems such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and maybe even Lou Gehrig's disease," said

Buckley. "We hope this research leads to a better understanding of the recovery process following a concussion so we can reduce these serious long term consequences. Concussions are an unfortunate risk of playing sports, but our goal is to help prevent repeated concussions and the associated short and long term risks from multiple concussions. Parents of young athletes also need to be aware of the dangers and implications of head trauma." The research will also provide important information to coaches, athletic trainers and doctors who deal with concussions in athletes.

In addition to Buckley, Georgia Southern faculty members Barry Munkasy, Ph.D., Laura Gunn, Ph.D., George Shaver, Psy.D. and Brandy Close, M.S., are participating in the research. The Georgia Southern University research team is collaborating with University of North Carolina-Charlotte faculty member Erik Wilkstrom, Ph.D.

Buckley and his research team of students from the University's Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies have been working on concussion research for nearly three years. "This National Institutes of Health grant will help Dr. Buckley's team continue research that could impact thousands of lives and lead to a better understanding of a common injury that puts people at risk every day," said Charles Patterson, Georgia Southern's Vice President for Research and Dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. "This research is a great example of how faculty members and students are working every day to engage in meaningful research that will improve the lives and health of people worldwide."

Georgia Southern University Awarded \$100,000 Grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

December 7, 2011

Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to help improve public health services for some of the state's most at-risk citizens. The grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be used to help improve the quality of services from public health departments around the state of Georgia. Researchers from JPHCOPH will work with the state's health departments and the Georgia Public Health Practice-Based Research Network, housed at the JPHCOPH, to find ways to better address critical public health issues including obesity, diabetes and newly emerging infectious diseases.

"Georgia's health departments are on the front lines of our battle for good public health," said Dr. Lynn Woodhouse, interim dean of the JPHCOPH and a researcher with the Georgia Public Health Practice-Based Research Network. "Our goal with this grant and our research is to find ways to help build a better public health system to more effectively and efficiently face the new health challenges of the 21st century."

Researchers believe those improvements will translate into improved health of the people and communities served by public health agencies. The grant will support efforts to increase the use of quality improvement techniques that are specifically tailored for local public health agencies in Georgia.

Georgia Southern University Professors Receive \$360,000 Grant from the Office of Naval Research

Dr. Marshall Ming, the College of Science and Mathematics Distinguished Chair in Materials Science and associate professor in chemistry, is leading the way in ongoing efforts to create a coating that can detect and potentially stop corrosion. Ming was awarded a three-year \$360,000 grant by the Office of Naval Research allowing the chemistry professor and his team of researchers at Georgia Southern to develop sophisticated, smart corrosion-detecting and anti-corrosion coatings. The coatings, which will be used on ships, aircraft and more, are expected to potentially save billions of dollars in maintenance costs for the U.S. Navy.

"The economic ramification is enormous," said Ming. "Corrosion-related costs are almost half a trillion dollars annually. Over the last decade, research has focused on multifunctional nanostructured polymer materials and coatings," he added. Ming also explained that in addition to the benefits of stopping corrosion on battleships and aircraft carriers, the metal coatings will also prevent the collapse of bridges, due to massive metal corrosion. "Our team is working to develop a technique that will show early metal corrosion before it is visible to the eye, and will alert maintenance crews to necessary repairs," he said.

Ming's areas of research also include smart polymer coatings, super-repellent, antimicrobial coatings, self-healing polymeric materials and anisotropic particles and polymer hybrid composites. Ming received his B.S. in materials chemistry and Ph.D. in polymer chemistry and physics from Fudan University. In 2012, he was awarded the Roon Award by the American Coatings Association for his research on smart coatings for self-healing corrosion protection.

Another component of Ming's research involves the development of a self-cleaning coating for one of the largest coating companies in Latin America. "This industrial product can be used on any surface to keep it clean," he said, "whether it is used as an outdoor architectural coating, for windows or electronic devices. This project has been evolving for the last decade, and we have successfully used fruit particles from raspberries to develop this product."

Ming was also awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in an effort to enhance food safety. His research involves creating a surface or coating that repels bacteria for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), an agency within the USDA. "There have been numerous outbreaks due to food contamination. This coating could also be used for many other applications, including metals, glass and even shopping cart handles," he said.

In addition to collaborating with fellow Georgia Southern researchers and universities around the nation, Ming is studying anti-fogging and frost-resistant properties. "Our researchers are teaming up

to find an effective coating that can prevent fogging and frost from forming on various surfaces. For example, when a customer opens the door of a frozen food compartment in a grocery store, the glass is fogged. Other ways this research can be of great benefit is during winter storms. During a recent storm in the Midwest, more than 300,000 customers lost power due to an icy rain. We are researching ways to develop an effective surface that will prevent ice from accumulating.”

Georgia Southern University Civil Engineering Professor to Examine Performance of Rubberized Road Materials for Georgia Department of Transportation

July 20, 2011



Georgia Southern University associate professor of civil engineering Junan Shen, Ph.D., has been selected by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct a laboratory study to determine if the performance of rubberized asphalt mix, which is derived from scrap tires and considered a “green” material, will make a viable alternative for use in road construction in Georgia. The research project, which is the first awarded by the Georgia DOT to Georgia Southern University, will fund a one-year study to determine if the performance of rubberized asphalt is comparable to that of polymer-

modified asphalt (PMA) pavements. As part of the study, Jeremy Todd Earnest, a Georgia Southern senior civil engineering technology major from Marietta, Ga., will assist Shen on the nearly \$75,000 project.

Findings in this preliminary study are intended to be used in a second, more comprehensive phase of the overall project, which would include field evaluations.

Three years ago, test sections on I-75 near Perry and I-20 in Augusta, Georgia, were paved with open graded friction course (OGFC) and stone matrix asphalt (SMA), respectively, using the “dry” process of modifying asphalt cement with crumb rubber. In the dry process, crumb rubber is concurrently blended with mix aggregates and asphalt cement at the plant, while in the “wet” process, crumb rubber is blended with the asphalt cement before the blended cement is mixed with aggregates. So far, the performance of these test sections has not been formally evaluated, nor has research on the dry process generally been documented. The wet process has been successfully evaluated and implemented by other states. Shen’s research will evaluate the materials’ long-term performance, enabling the Georgia DOT to decide whether dry process technology can be adopted for widespread use around the state.

“Through this study we will provide best-practice recommendations to the Georgia DOT for consideration as they look at road construction alternatives,” says Shen. “Our ultimate goal is to save money on road construction and this study is just the first phase of a much larger project that could have major benefits for Georgia taxpayers.”

“I am excited to work with Dr. Shen on this study for the Georgia DOT,” says Earnest, who hopes to become a structural engineer following graduation from Georgia Southern. “The opportunity to do

research while being an undergraduate is incredible. It will give me real-world experience, and help me compete in a very competitive job market. I would not necessarily have had this opportunity at another university.”

In Georgia, OGFC and SMA layers are applied to interstate and state highway pavements as well as some urban main roads to improve safety and reduce such environmental considerations as water splash and noise. If the dry process technology is proven to work well, then both dry and wet rubberized OGFC and SMA will be viable alternatives, potentially reducing construction costs as well as being environmentally-friendly green technologies.

Georgia Southern Camp Lawton Team Honored by U.S. Department of the Interior

September 27, 2011



Georgia Southern University's team of student and faculty archaeologists has been awarded the U.S. Department of the Interior's *Partners in Conservation* award for their work in discovering a long-lost Civil War prison camp.

The team was presented the award by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award is given to those who have achieved exemplary conservation results through local partnerships, while engaging the community. Georgia Southern's team was honored for their discovery of the exact location of Camp Lawton along with numerous personal artifacts left behind by Civil War soldiers.

"Georgia Southern University is very proud of our students and faculty who have been honored with the *Partners in Conservation* award," said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Not only has their research and subsequent discovery shed new light on a critical point in American history, but it has also created numerous opportunities for the community. Our archaeology team has hosted hundreds of school children at the site to give them a hands-on educational experience. Teachers visited the site over the summer as they learned how to explain the Civil War to their students. And, the

artifacts found are on display to give the public a deeper understanding of the lives of Civil War soldiers. This discovery will add to our knowledge of that time for decades.”

The artifacts were found at Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen, Ga. The area was the site of Camp Lawton, which at the close of the Civil War was believed to be the largest prison camp in the world. The state park was established in the 1930’s, after the exact boundaries of the prison camp were no longer known. Last year, Georgia Southern University professor Sue Moore, Ph.D., and graduate student Kevin Chapman led the team of student archaeologists that pinpointed the site of one stockade wall and found the first artifacts on a portion of land in Magnolia Springs State Park that had recently been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In addition to the Georgia Southern University team, representatives from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and Jenkins County were also honored for their work on the preservation of the Camp Lawton site.

FACILITIES

While our enrollment was on the rise, campus facilities also experienced growth. The University ushered in a new era of technology with the groundbreaking of a \$41 million LEED-certified Biological Sciences Building and also partnered with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to develop an elite sports shooting education center in 2013 -- a facility that will serve as an educational, recreation and competitive venue.

Another recreational venue under development is University Park, a 100-plus acre site scheduled to open in fall 2013 for students, faculty and staff. Anchored by an 18-hole golf course that will be open to the public, the development will also include a multi-use recreational facility.

Georgia Southern University Partners with Georgia Department of Natural Resources to Develop Elite Sports Shooting Education Center

February 7, 2012

Georgia Southern University is partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to develop an elite sports shooting education center in Statesboro, Ga.

The state-of-the-art center is being funded in part by a \$3.3 million federal grant that was acquired through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. That funding, along with private and corporate donations, will allow the center to be a unique facility serving as an educational, recreational and competitive venue. The center is scheduled to open in August 2013.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for Georgia Southern University and all of southeast Georgia," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. "This center will have a far-reaching economic impact as elite sports shooting enthusiasts and competitors from around the country travel to this venue to train and compete. We are honored to be working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to bring this unique facility, and its many economic benefits, to our area."

Elite sports shooting, which includes archery and indoor-range shooting, is one of the fastest growing sports in the world.

"The shooting sports are lifelong activities that promote outdoor recreation, good health, discipline and safety, and an appreciation of conservation," says Commissioner Mark Williams, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "The elite sports shooting education center at Georgia Southern University will promote these values and activities to its students and the community at large as well as generations to come. In addition, the shooting sports generate more than \$478 million in economic impact in Georgia each year, and this facility will be a first-rate addition to our state's shooting sports amenities."

Georgia Southern Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Teresa Thompson says the center will be committed to safety and educating those interested in all levels of the sport.

"There is only one other center like this in the country," said Thompson. "Our students are excited about the educational and recreational opportunities they will have here, and are very proud of the fact that Georgia Southern University is leading the way promoting the opportunities of this clean, intelligent sport. We are very appreciative of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Easton Foundation's efforts to help us build this center for our students and community."

"Georgia Southern has been an ideal partner for this endeavor," says Dan Forster, director of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Division. "With its iconic role in Georgia and its active student base, the University recognized the value of a shooting sports facility immediately and has embraced this

program at every level of the organization. Each step along the way, Georgia Southern has brought excellence and innovation to the process and the program. The end result will be a state-of-the-art, world-class facility that will be a model for others.”

Georgia Southern University Breaks Ground on \$37 Million Biological Sciences Building

June 10, 2011



Governor Nathan Deal joined Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, local leaders, legislators and invited guests at a ceremonial groundbreaking Thursday for the University's planned \$37 million Biological Sciences Building.

The building, which will be located at the intersection of Akins Drive and Forest Drive (across the street from the University's College of Education), will open in Spring 2013.

The current Biology Building was constructed in 1968 for a student population of fewer than 5,000, nearly one quarter of Georgia Southern's expected fall 2011 enrollment of 20,000 students. Ninety eight percent of all Georgia Southern students take at least one class in biology prior to graduation.

"Georgia Southern's goal is to leap forward as a serious research-oriented University while retaining our student-centered reputation. This new building will showcase scientific research and learning as it happens, providing our students with exceptional opportunities at all levels," said Brooks Keel, Ph.D. president of Georgia Southern University. "This building is an investment in the future of

science education and economic development in Georgia and it would not have been possible without the support of our local legislators.”

“Georgia Southern University is the leading research institution in southeast Georgia and is expected to reach a record 20,000 students this fall,” said Deal. “This new building not only addresses a major need, but also creates a strategic center for the study of biological sciences in Georgia. The new facility will enable Georgia Southern students and researchers to pursue important scientific advancements that will benefit the entire state of Georgia and beyond.”

The new building has been designed to provide maximum flexibility to ensure its longevity and utility. In addition to its modern lab and research spaces, the building also includes space for group work and cooperative learning activities. Keel says that the addition of this new state-of-the-art building to Georgia Southern’s campus, combined with its outstanding faculty, will “form the most comprehensive center for science education in southern Georgia.”

University officials say that the facility will enable Georgia Southern to continue to attract outstanding students from across Georgia, the nation and from around the world. Georgia Southern was most recently ranked one of the Top 10 universities in the country for minority Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) by *Forbes* magazine.

Biological Sciences Building Facts:

Total Gross Square Feet: 155,394

Teaching Labs: 10

Research Labs: 15 labs with 31 research spaces

Design/Construction: SLAM Collaborative/Brasfield & Gorrie

ATHLETICS

Last year the Eagles scored a record number of accomplishments on and off the field. Coach Jeff Monken's Eagles reached the FCS semifinals for the second straight year with an 11-3 record, the most wins for the program in a single season since 2002.

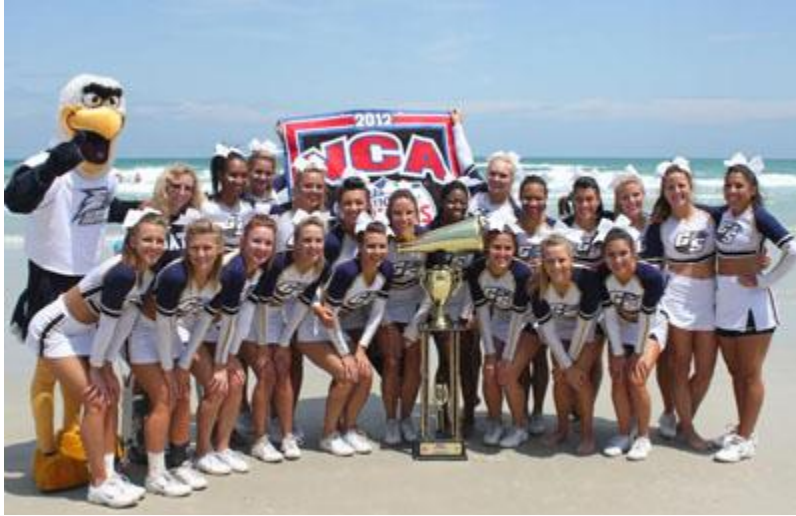
Georgia Southern women's softball brought home the Southern Conference Championship, the baseball team earned the Southern Conference Tournament runner-up title and the University's All-Girl Cheer Team won their third national championship.

Georgia Southern's student-athletes were also committed to excellence in the classroom, achieving a record grade point average, with several Eagles earning spots on the President's and Dean's list.

Major enhancements of Hanner Tennis Complex were completed, including new center-court bleachers, a drainage system and new surfacing. In addition to serving the Eagle men's and women's tennis teams, the complex is also used for physical education classes, club competitions and campus recreation.

All-Girl Cheer Team Takes Third National Title

April 24, 2012



Georgia Southern University's All-Girl Cheer Team is bringing home its third national championship after placing first in the NCA National Championships held in Daytona, Florida.

"I am very proud of our spirit program," said Georgia Southern University professor and cheerleading coach Barry Munkasy, Ph.D. "All represented their University in an exemplary manner. They worked hard all year supporting Georgia Southern football and men's and women's basketball and then went down to Daytona and brought home another National Championship."

The Georgia Southern All-Girl Cheer Team overcame low scores on the first day to beat out competitors that included Clemson University, North Carolina State and the University of Georgia. "We overcame a lot of adversity this past year including several injuries and setbacks even up until competition day," said Georgia Southern All-Girl Cheer Team Captain Rachel Miller. "Our team stepped up and took on positions unfamiliar to them for the sake of the team. After our final performance, we each felt as though we left it all on the mat. We weren't sure of the outcome going into finals in seventh place, but couldn't have performed the routine any better. The routine was fun and ultimately unforgettable. Back to back National Championships was a perfect ending to an amazing year for the program. Our hard work and dedication paid off."

The All-Girl team also competed in the emerging NCAA Sport of STUNT and finished ranked fourth in the nation to University of Louisville, Oklahoma State University and the University of South Carolina.

Georgia Southern University's mascot, GUS, brought home a third place finish in the NCA National Championships mascot competition, the best finish ever for a Georgia Southern mascot in this

contest. The Coed Cheer Team placed 6th overall.

The Georgia Southern University All-Girl Cheer Team is made up of the following members:

- Tara Achenbach - Douglasville, GA
- Hannah Antley - Newnan, GA
- Kelsey Bachmann - Suwanee, GA
- Chloe Cotter - Lawrenceville, GA
- Katherine Daniels - Rincon, GA
- Kate Dixon - Winder, GA
- Coeli Janiak - Augusta, GA
- Jessica Knapp - Warner Robbins, GA
- Conice Leverett - College Park, GA
- Kim Martin - Decatur, GA
- Rachel Miller (Co-captain) - Milledgeville, GA
- Miranda Minick - Statesboro, GA
- Abbie Mizell - Statesboro, GA
- Ashlee Newsome - McDonough, GA
- Callie Oliver - Macon, GA
- Kristen Pirie (Co-captain) - Newnan, GA
- Sarah Reuter - Loganville, GA
- Ashley Riggs - Sharpsburg, GA
- Jasmine Ward - Richmond Hill, GA
- Kayla Wheatley - Thomson, GA
- Kaitie Wood - Waxhaw, NC

Additional Athletics Highlights

- Eagles Softball Wins 2012 Southern Conference Championship
- Record GPA Highlights Academic Achievement for Eagles
- Georgia Southern Ranked in Top 30 in Capital One Cup Standings
- Hanner Tennis Courts Completed

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Georgia Southern's strength as an economic growth engine is constantly on the rise. For the past several years, the University's economic impact has been significant -- Georgia Southern has pumped nearly \$800 million dollars annually into the economies of nine southeast Georgia counties.

Collaborations with regional industries have also increased Georgia Southern's growing research portfolio. Management of the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center -- a global leader in traditional and advanced materials innovation -- was recently transferred to the University. This move enhances business and economic development in Georgia and also positions the University as a global leader.

The reaches of the University also extended beyond the 900-plus acre campus with the founding of City Campus, Georgia Southern's joint venture with the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority, which fosters an exchange of expertise and ideas between business leaders and faculty.

Georgia Southern University Has More Than \$500 Million Economic Impact During 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

July 2012

Georgia Southern University had an economic impact of \$512 million and nearly 7,000 jobs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County area during the 2011-2012 fiscal year, according to a study released today by the University System of Georgia.

"This study shows that Georgia Southern University is a significant economic player in the Statesboro and Bulloch County community," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "We are proud that, in addition to the significant educational impact we have on the area, that we can also be a major economic engine for our community and our region of the state."

The study was conducted by the Selig Center at the University of Georgia and calculated the economic impact for each of the 35 University System of Georgia institutions.

The study shows that at Georgia Southern, student spending accounted for the largest portion of the University's economic impact. Student spending accounted for more than \$266 million dollars and resulted in 3,797 jobs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County area.

"Our students are a vital part of this community," Keel continued. "Whether they are spending on groceries, clothing or entertainment, that money goes into the cash registers of area businesses and allows those businesses to grow and provide more jobs and economic opportunity for the people who call Statesboro and Bulloch County home."

The study also revealed the important role colleges and universities play in job creation. The study found that overall, college and university spending creates more jobs off-campus than on-campus. The study also found that, on average, for every one job on campus there are two off-campus jobs related to institutional spending, and most of those are in the private sector

For a copy of the full report, visit: **www.usg.edu/economic_development/documents/PS-USGImpact2011.pdf**

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University is one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report, and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education.

Visit: **www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu**.

Georgia Southern University Herty Advanced Materials Development Center to Boost Economic and Business Development in Georgia

April 24, 2012



Georgia Southern University welcomed Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to campus to sign Georgia Senate Bill 396 into law transferring management of the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center to Georgia Southern University. The new legislation, which will align the University and Herty to create the Georgia Southern University Herty Advanced Materials Development

Center, is designed to enhance economic and business development in the state of Georgia. The alignment, which will become effective July 1, 2012, will combine the strengths of both Herty and Georgia Southern University with the goal of expanding its capabilities as a global leader in traditional and advanced materials innovation. Herty's clients, which include global corporations as well as numerous Fortune 500 companies, are currently focused in the transportation, forest and paper related products, building materials, energy and the environment and bio-products industries.

"This strategic realignment will expand economic development opportunities for Georgia," said Governor Deal. "It has the real potential to make Savannah and this larger coastal area an even more attractive market for manufacturing as well as research and development."

"As a research university with a broad base of engineering expertise, the addition of Herty's global leadership in advanced materials innovation combined with its global reputation and network of clients will provide an outstanding opportunity for us to work together to accelerate economic development efforts in the state of Georgia," said Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "We are excited to be working with the team at Herty on this exciting opportunity. The center will combine the capabilities of our two outstanding organizations and represents the next step in serving the region's growing industrial and manufacturing needs while advancing the university's ability to partner with industries."

By transitioning the center to Georgia Southern University, and leveraging some of the existing infrastructures for industry engagement and government relations, both Georgia Southern and Herty

will benefit from improved visibility, providing it with the opportunity to build additional industry partnerships by being directly tied to a major research university. In addition, Herty and the Center's clients will benefit from access to Georgia Southern's more than 100 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Ph.D. faculty, allowing access to the combined research and development prowess of an advanced materials research and manufacturing center and a major research university.

"Herty has been strategically focused on industries that are important to Georgia including transportation, forest products and paper, energy and environment and building materials," said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development at Georgia Southern University. "Our goal is to expand the center's existing capabilities to help make this area an even more attractive market for research and development in the areas of pulp and paper, materials science, polymer science and composites, with an emerging interest in bio-derived materials and biofuels."

A recent manufacturing survey noted that fewer than 10 percent of manufactures in Georgia set innovation as a priority. Patterson says that is where the new Georgia Southern University Herty Advanced Materials Development Center comes in.

"Ultimately, the goal is to enable companies to achieve both their research and development and financial goals while working with the region and the state to create an environment that cultivates opportunity for businesses to relocate or stay within Georgia," says Patterson. "This will mean more jobs for Georgia and we appreciate the Governor's confidence in Georgia Southern University and in our expanding role as an economic development engine for the state."

The center, which is located near the Port of Savannah, is named for the noted chemist, businessman and academic, Charles Herty (1837-1938) who revolutionized the nation's naval store industry through innovations in turpentine and paper making in the early 1900s. In addition, Herty devised the first system for manufacturing newsprint from southern pines giving the South a tremendously successful cash crop. Today's announcement represents a homecoming of sorts. Herty's first experiments on southern pines were conducted in a forest located on Georgia Southern's campus. The University erected a plaque in 1935 noting the site.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 117 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University is one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report, and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Draws More than 163,000 Tourists to Bulloch County in 2011

June 20, 2012

Georgia Southern University drew 163,339 tourists to Bulloch County in 2011, according to a study by the University's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED). The study also shows that the visitors had an economic impact of more than \$47.4 million last year.

"Georgia Southern University's athletic events, graduation ceremonies, conferences and faculty and student recruiting visits drew tourists that then often shopped in Bulloch County's stores, ate in its restaurants, and spent the night in its hotels," said Georgia Southern BBRED researcher Ben McKay. "Some of these visitors came just for the day, others spent a night or two, but they all had a positive impact on the local economy."

The study found that more than 131,000 of the visitors brought by Georgia Southern stayed overnight. The visitors who traveled to Bulloch County because of University sponsored events helped to support 748 jobs and generated over \$3 million in state and local tax revenue.

"Tourism is an important part of economic development representing significant opportunities for our community," said Heidi Jeffers, executive director of the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau. "As this study represents, Georgia Southern has a major impact on the tourism industry in Bulloch County."

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University is one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report, and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education.

Visit: **www.georgiasouthern.edu**.

Georgia Southern University and Downtown Statesboro Development Authority Receive State Honor for City Campus

October 6, 2011

Georgia Southern University's City Campus has been honored by the Georgia Downtown Association. City Campus, which is a partnership between the University's College of Business Administration, the City of Statesboro and the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority, has been given the organization's Best Commercial Redevelopment Activity Award.

"Our goal for the City Campus was to form a partnership between the University and downtown Statesboro that would have meaningful, far-reaching benefits for the community," said College of Business Administration Dean Ronald Shiffler, Ph.D. "This honor from the Georgia Downtown Association shows that this truly is an innovative project that stands to serve as a model for other communities that are home to a thriving higher educational institution."

The Best Commercial Redevelopment Activity Award honors development projects that use quality growth principles while utilizing existing structures.

"City Campus brings professors and economic development specialists into the heart of downtown Statesboro," said Downtown Statesboro Development Authority Executive Director Allen Muldrew. "This facility can be used by business owners and those who hope to open their own business in the future. It is a resource that we think will help to grow and begin many downtown Statesboro businesses in the years to come."

The City Campus houses the College of Business Administration's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development along with an E-Zone, which is part of the University's Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone consists of classrooms and meeting space, and also houses areas that small businesses can utilize during their initial start-up phase. A branch of the University Store is also located in the City Campus.

OUTREACH

Small changes, big impact. Georgia Southern students touched the lives of many last year in the community, across the nation and around the world with the completion of nearly 20,000 service hours. Students participated in a powerful anti-texting and driving campaign aimed at young drivers and also collected and shipped thousands of snacks to U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan through the "Snacks for Soldiers" campaign.

Teaching students the importance of environmental awareness through sustainable practices on campus earned the University a place in The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges for the second year in a row. Our eco-friendly institution also requires students to complete a four-credit environmental course before graduation, recognizing the effect and impact our students will have in the future.

On campus, the University's Outreach Centers are the focal point of discovery. The Museum, Center for Wildlife, Botanical Garden and Performing Arts Center enrich the lives of visitors by sharing the cultural heritage of the region through unique educational programs, exhibits, lectures and other events.

Georgia Southern University Collects More Than 5,200 Snacks for Soldiers

October 3, 2011



Georgia Southern University collected more than 5,200 "Snacks for Soldiers" in September as part of the Adopt-A-Soldier program to support troops serving overseas.

The University collected non-perishable snacks that will be shipped to soldiers in the 438th Expeditionary Wing serving in Kabul, Afghanistan. In addition to snacks, the University collected cards for the soldiers and monetary donations to help offset the cost of

shipping the snacks.

More than two hundred Georgia Southern University student volunteers spent the weekend sorting the snacks and preparing them to be mailed to the troops. The University is still collecting monetary donations to help offset the cost of shipping. Anyone who would like to donate may call the University at 912-478-5555.

Georgia Southern University Launches Anti-Texting and Driving Campaign

October 26, 2011



Georgia Southern University is launching an anti-texting and driving campaign aimed at young drivers on its campus and around the state.

The "txtl8r" (text later) campaign consists of a series of radio and television public service announcements and digital signage images that will be featured on campus, and will also be

distributed to media around the state of Georgia. The campaign features Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., Eagles Head Football Coach Jeff Monken, University students and athletes and a professor who had to break the news of a texting and driving death to one of his classes.

"It only takes a split second for a text message behind the wheel to turn into a tragedy," said Keel. "While texting and driving is illegal in the state of Georgia, we know that thousands of young drivers engage in this potentially deadly behavior every day. With the 'txt l8r' campaign, we are sending the clear message that no text is too important to wait."

Georgia Southern biology professor Lorne Wolfe, Ph.D. decided to become involved in anti-texting and driving awareness after one of his students had a relative killed in an accident where texting and driving was involved.

"I looked into this classroom filled with young people and told them that one of their classmates wasn't there because they had gone home to bury a loved one killed by texting and driving," remembers Wolfe. "As shocking and sad as that message was, I knew many of those same students would continue to text and drive."

Wolfe partnered with Georgia Southern's Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the Office of Marketing and Communications to develop the "txt l8r" campaign. Students

involved in Greek organizations, ROTC and athletic teams are featured to send the message that members of the Eagle Nation do not text and drive.

"The Georgia Southern Eagles practice safety on the field every day because we want to win," Monken states in one of the public service announcements. "I'm recruiting your support while you're driving so that we all win."

In addition to targeting Georgia Southern's 20,000 students, the public service announcements will be distributed to media around the state. Statistics by the U.S. Department of Transportation show that in 2009 distracted driving — which includes texting — was a factor in nearly 5,500 traffic deaths and a half million injuries. Studies show those most likely to be killed or injured are under the age of 20, while the second most likely group is between the ages of 20 and 29.

"Our students fall into the age groups most likely to be hurt or killed by texting and driving," said Keel. "So that makes this campaign very personal for me and everyone involved. We don't want our students' great potential squandered by a moment of inattention at the wheel. The message is clear. Don't text and drive — text later."

Georgia Southern University Named to Guide to 322 Green Colleges by the Princeton Review

April 17, 2012



For the second year in a row, Georgia Southern University has been named to the Princeton Review's *Guide to 322 Green Colleges*. The guide to the top eco-friendly institutions in the U.S. includes colleges and universities based on their proven commitment to environmental and sustainability issues, and is produced in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council.

"Georgia Southern University is proud to be recognized by the Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council as a good steward of our environmental resources," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "But we are doing more than conserving water and energy today. We are also teaching our students the importance of environmental awareness and that is a lesson we believe many of them will carry beyond our University as they become the next generation of leaders."

Georgia Southern launched a new Interdisciplinary Concentration in Environmental Sustainability in January 2011, and requires all students to successfully complete a four-credit environmental course before graduation. All new construction at the University must be LEED certified, and 30 percent of the buildings on campus have undergone retrofits to make them more energy efficient. Georgia Southern is one of the institutions that signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, and partners with the city of Statesboro to claim their re-use water for irrigation of some athletic fields. For the second year in a row, the University is participating in "No Impact Week," which shows students how to make small changes that will have positive impacts on the environment.

"Protecting the environment is becoming increasingly important to our students," said Georgia Southern's Director for the Center for Sustainability Lissa Leege, Ph.D. "They are interested and actively involved in conserving our natural resources, and are eager for hands-on opportunities to learn more about sustainability. This designation will mean a great deal to our students, faculty and staff who are working very hard to preserve our environment for the future."

Georgia Southern University Museum Joins National Blue Star Museums Program May 23, 2011



The Georgia Southern University Museum has joined the Blue Star Museums program, along with more than 1,300 museums across the country, to offer free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2011.

Blue Star Museums runs from May 30 to September 5, 2011. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve members. Some special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. A list of participating museums and a map to assist with visit planning may be found at the website, www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

“We could not be more excited to recognize the hard work and sacrifice of military families by offering free admission as a part of the Blue Star Museums program,” said Brent Tharp, director of the Georgia Southern Museum. “We are excited to join more than 800 museums across the country in this program and we are excited to welcome military families to our museum — many of them for the first time.”

"Blue Star Museums recognizes and thanks our military families for all they are doing for our country, and simultaneously begins young people on a path to becoming life-long museum goers," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "I cannot imagine a better way to do that than welcoming them in to explore and enjoy the extraordinary cultural heritage our museums present."

Georgia Southern Museum Exhibits

Below are just a few highlights of the exhibits and activities available at the Georgia Southern Museum.

Civil War Camp Lawton

Georgia Southern University is pleased to extend this special exhibit of archaeological discoveries until Dec. 31, 2011. The exhibit features artifacts discovered at the site of Camp Lawton, a former Civil War prisoner of war camp situated in Jenkins County, Georgia. In addition to the ongoing exhibit, archaeologists have included additional artifacts to the display which has attracted visitors from across the country. For more exciting details on this important discovery, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/camplawton.

A View from Space

Beginning May 28, 2011, this new exhibit will provide guests the opportunity to explore Earth through views from Earth-orbiting satellites. Visitors are challenged to become scientists, to study satellite images, and to try to answer important questions about the workings of our dynamic planet. In addition, visitors will be introduced to Geocaching. They will learn how this fast-growing hobby is made possible through the use of satellites and also have the opportunity to use a GPS device to solve several museum adventures.

The Hall of Natural History

Features the Mosasaur (*Tylosaurus proriger*) and Vogtle whale (*Georgiacetus vogtlensis*). Exhibits on whale evolution, the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary and eocene mammals, as well as a kids' interactive area, explore 80 million years of natural history in the Coastal Plain.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including the National Guard and Reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable. Membership includes military spouses, children and parents as well as service members, veterans and civilians. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit www.bluestarfam.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion of how art works, visit the NEA at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

Oak Grove One Room Schoolhouse

The Garden is now the home of the Oak Grove Schoolhouse, a one-room school typical of those that served most of Georgia's rural students from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. The Oak Grove Schoolhouse was originally constructed in Tattnall County, Georgia. In 2007 the schoolhouse was moved to Bowen-Rushing Road, where it was restored and then relocated in 2010 to its current home at the Garden.

In 1900 there were more than 7000 of these one-room schools in the state of Georgia, but today only a select few of them have been preserved. Groups can schedule a tour with the Garden to see what school was like for rural Georgia students in the 19th and 20th centuries. While at the Garden, guests can also visit the restored Weathervane Barn, which contains a museum of rural life from the 1920s and 30s.

Special thanks to the vision and generosity of Ms. Jan Anderson, who donated the Oak Grove School to Georgia Southern University during its centennial celebration in 2007.

To arrange a group tour of the Oak Grove One Room Schoolhouse, contact Kathy Tucker at 912-871-1503 or [**ktucker@georgiasouthern.edu**](mailto:ktucker@georgiasouthern.edu).

Georgia Southern University Botanical Garden Celebrates Heritage Festival

October 1, 2010



The Georgia Southern Botanical Garden will host its annual Heritage Festival on Sat., Oct. 9, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the festival, which will include a variety of activities for families, Georgia Southern University will celebrate the relocation of the Oak Grove One-Room Schoolhouse to the Garden. Admission to the festival is free, but donations to support the Garden's programming are welcome.

The 2010 Heritage Festival will include live music, a plant sale, pie eating contests, games for children, historic tractor displays and even square dancing. This year's festival will also feature the opening of the fully restored Oak Grove One-Room Schoolhouse. The schoolhouse, restored by Bulloch County native Jan Anderson, is an outstanding example of a one-room school typical of those that served most of Georgia's rural students from the late 19th-century to the mid-20th century.

During the festival, Anderson will teach classes in the schoolhouse, and actors from the Averitt Center for the Arts in Statesboro will share a fun school day for visitors in performances at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Officials will perform a ribbon cutting ceremony for the schoolhouse at noon. The Georgia Southern Botanical Garden is located at 1505 Bland Avenue in Statesboro.

"The 2010 Heritage Festival is the perfect way to spend part of a terrific Saturday in Statesboro," said Carolyn Altman, director of the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden. "Festival attendees can enjoy a relaxing family day in the Garden exploring the Oak Grove School, the Rural Life Exhibit, drawing water from a well and participating in games and activities including hoop rolling and scarecrow building."

Area farmers will provide a demonstration of old tractors, and car enthusiasts can admire cars from the 1920s and 30s. Traveling minstrel Jesse Cockcroft from Charleston, S.C. will perform throughout the garden, and musicians are welcome to join Cockcroft for informal performances. Local delicacies will be available from Chef Elaine and an extensive assortment of plants chosen by Garden expert Bob Randolph will be available for sale.

The Georgia Southern Botanical Garden promotes knowledge and appreciation of the native plants and animals of Georgia's Coastal Plain, connects people to the natural and cultural heritage of the region, and inspires environmentally responsible behavior. Once the home of Daniel and Catharine Bland, the Garden preserves nearly 11 acres of the farm they worked together beginning in 1916, guided by Mr. Bland's passion for plants and respect for the land that sustained them. The Garden offers attractions for nature lovers, history enthusiasts, and anyone looking for a beautiful stroll through a Southern garden.

For more information on the 2010 Heritage Festival or the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/garden.

Georgia Southern University Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center Welcome New Bald Eagle

June 7, 2012

The Georgia Southern University Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center recently welcomed a new American Bald Eagle to its habitat with the addition of "Franklin," a 6.3-pound bird which is considered a "southern bald eagle" due to its smaller size.

Franklin joins two other bald eagles – Freedom, the eagle that has become the mascot for Georgia Southern Athletics and flies over Paulson Stadium at football games and graduation ceremonies, and Glory, whose nest is prominently displayed at the Wildlife Center.



Franklin came to Georgia Southern University by way of the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Fla. He was found running through the woods near Tallahassee, Fla., with a bone fracture in his right wing and ligament damage.

After an unsuccessful attempt by a veterinarian to pin Franklin's broken bone and elbow, he was deemed unable to fly and therefore could not be released to the wild.

With the help of the Audubon Center, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Franklin found a new home when Georgia Southern was able to add him to its permits. He will be on display along the nature walkway at the Wildlife Center.

"It is unfortunate when bald eagles sustain injuries that keep them from being released back into the wild, but I am pleased that the Wildlife Center has the opportunity to give Franklin a new home," said Scott Courdin, wildlife curator at Georgia Southern. "Here at the Wildlife Center he will be admired, appreciated and will help our visitors gain insight to this majestic species."

Franklin's name, given to him by the Wildlife Center, is a playful reference to Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, who wished to make the turkey the national symbol of the United States.

FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT,
THANK YOU

