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» DR. GRUBE STEPPING DOWN INTRODUCING THE EAGLE FUND A 'GREEN' DONATION

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

SPRING 2009 • VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 2 • WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

Renovation Renaissance

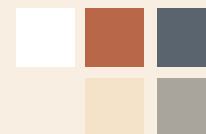
A larger and newly renovated Center for Wildlife Education, Henderson Library and Foy Building showcase the drive to expand and extend the University's facilities.





EMPOWER MINDS.

the honors college georgia southern university



Through private investment, The Honors College, a first-of-its-kind venture at Georgia Southern University, will create new opportunities for student research, scholarship, and student development. In doing so, The Honors College will foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective and an ethic of civic responsibility both inside and outside the classroom.

Your gift to The Honors College will help shape the next century of excellence at Georgia Southern University.

For more information about The Honors College at Georgia Southern University, please contact Dr. Steven Engel, University Honors Program Director at 912.478.7926 or contact Michelle Pittman, Director of Development at 912.478.0880.

www.georgiasouthern.edu/honorscollege



» 20 RENOVATION RENAISSANCE

Water is arguably our most important natural resource, because without it, life as we know it could not exist. Although there is plenty it is not always of good quality or in the right place at the right time. Georgia Southern's Center for Wildlife Education has chosen to help meet this challenge with the construction of the Wetland Preserve, 12 acres devoted to explaining why water matters.

Meanwhile, the Renovation Renaissance continues across campus, transforming the Foy Building into a grand music-only learning center and Henderson Library's expansion creates the campus information resource hub of the new millennium.

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Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube is leaving the University, ending a 10-year tenure of record-setting enrollments, quality indicators and new construction.

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To Our ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

As we end another academic year, we turn our attention to summer and preparations for the next school year. Each summer, enrollment grows as a result of students wanting to get ahead of the fall rush. Last year, more than 8,000 students enrolled during the 2008 summer, and we expect even more for summer 2009.

In addition to record numbers of summer students on campus, Georgia Southern also hosts more than 30 summer camps that attract all age groups from small children to high school seniors. With a diverse range of interests – Eagle Science Camp, the Atlanta Ballet, or one of our numerous athletic camps -- summer brings thousands of visitors to our campus.

Recently, Gordon Wood, a Pulitzer Prize winning professor from Brown University, was on the Georgia Southern campus. During his visit he remarked that, “Georgia Southern is one of the most surprising and beautiful college campuses I have seen.” For those of us who work daily on campus and are surrounded by the natural beauty of areas such as Sweetheart Circle, we could not agree more. From the feedback we receive on a regular basis from prospective students and their parents, it appears they feel the same way. “Physical Environment” is one of the six essential themes that comprises the University’s Strategic Plan. A safe, beautiful, and ecologically and environmentally sustainable campus supports our core academic mission.

While the historic section of campus remains intact, there have been significant renovations and expansion during the past 10 years. The latest addition, scheduled for completion in time for the arrival of students this fall, is the 1,001-bed Centennial Place residence hall. Located on Chandler Road across from the University Store, Centennial Place will offer on-campus, state-of-the-art living facilities for our students, as well as several retail stores on the first floor. It will also address a growing need for on-campus housing as we introduce a new mandatory freshman residency requirement this fall.

Several renovation projects are profiled in this current issue of Georgia Southern Magazine. With the expansion and renovation of the Zach S. Henderson Library, the facility is now as large as a city block. The \$22.75 million project added 101,000 square feet to the original 132,000. The renovation of the Foy Building, completed this spring, offers the Music Department first-class facilities for classes and concerts. The Georgia Southern University Wildlife Center and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center has recently added a 12-acre wetland preserve. This new addition nearly doubles the size of the facility. As you will see in these pages, the Georgia Southern University campus has been transformed to fit our growing University community, and to enrich the lives of students in all areas.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our “Renovation Renaissance,” and that you will visit soon and rediscover just how special Georgia Southern University is.

Sincerely,



Bruce Grube
President

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Grube stepping down

Search begins for 12th president of Georgia Southern University

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has begun a national search to replace Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube, who has announced he is stepping down.

Grube will serve until his replacement is named – as early as July 1, but perhaps as late as January 2009, dependent upon the length of the search. He will also serve as a consultant and mentor with the University System where he will work with new and newer presidents within the 35-school system.

Grube began his tenure as the 11th president of Georgia Southern July 1, 1999. During his presidency, the University has undergone the greatest increase in academic quality and the greatest expansion of physical facilities of any other comparable period in the history of the institution.

Timing played a role in his decision. “It is the right time for the University,” said Grube. “The University’s strategic plan has been developed and put into action, numerous construction projects are underway, and a new president will have the opportunity to come in and not only build upon what the University has accomplished, but take Georgia Southern to new a level. An experienced leadership team is in place and we have an outstanding base of alumni, friends and supporters at the institution, in the community, the state of Georgia and throughout the country.”

Academic Success

Grube’s presidency has been marked by records in enrollment, academic quality, fundraising and retention. Student enrollment has increased by more than 3,200 full-time stu-

dents during the past 10 years and the composite SAT score for incoming freshmen has risen 124 points with the Fall 2008 class scoring a record 1111.

In addition, the University has increased its student retention rate, a key measure of academic and University quality, from 69 percent to a record 81 percent this past fall. Under Grube’s leadership, Georgia Southern was designated a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University and the institution has been featured in *U.S. News & World Report’s* “Best Colleges” guide. In addition, the institution was recently named one of the Top 100 Best Values by Kiplinger.

Building for Growth

Georgia Southern has enjoyed a boom in new construction and building re-use since 1999. The College of Education building opened in 2000 and was followed in rapid succession by the College of Information Technology, Nursing and Chemistry, the Center for Art & Theatre, a soccer and track facility, the Gene Bishop Field House, and the Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center.

Public service was given a huge boost when the expanded Nessmith-Lane building and its 825-seat Performing Arts Center opened in 2002. The Zach S. Henderson Library underwent a major renovation and expansion, placing it among the finest public libraries in the Southeast.

Grube has also led projects to expand on-campus living. New residence halls have set higher standards for student housing, including the 1,001-bed Centennial Place, due to open this fall.

Search committee named

The national search committee has been named to solicit and review candidates to replace Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube.

The Presidential Search and Screen Committee will develop a position description, place announcements in appropriate national media, and conduct on-campus interviews.

Members of the Presidential Search and Screen Committee are:

- **Trey Denton**, professor of marketing, committee chair
- **Jean Bartels**, chair and professor of nursing
- **Peggy Hargis**, chair and professor of sociology
- **Fayth Parks**, associate professor of counselor education
- **Georj Lewis**, dean of students
- **Brandon Cook**, president, Student Government Association
- **Don Howard**, chairman, Bank of North Georgia
- **Caroline Harless**, Georgia Southern Foundation
- **Mike Cummings**, past chair, Alumni Association

The committee will forward the credentials of three to five unranked candidates to a Special Regents’ Search Committee for the second phase of the search. Regents Felton Jenkins, William H. NeSmith Jr., Benjamin J. Tarbutton III and Richard L. Tucker will serve as members of the Special Regents’ Search Committee chaired by Regent Donald M. Leebern Jr.

This committee is responsible for recommending finalists to Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr., who will make a recommendation to the full Board of Regents.

For more information, visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/presidentsearch.

Equipment donation gives students rare career-changing classroom experience

Georgia Southern is one of only 10 universities in the world to teach the cutting-edge technology of virtualization on VMware software, thanks to VMware and a donation of computer equipment by Corus Consulting and Canvas Systems to the University's College of Information Technology.

Corus Consulting and Canvas Systems values the equipment at \$126,000, but professors in the College of Information Technology said it is hard to put a price on what the donation will add to IT students' education and career potential long term.

"With the equipment from Corus Consulting and Canvas Systems, our students will now have access to an educational experience that not many in the world have today," said professor Timur Mirzoev, who is already using the donated equipment in two of his IT classes. "We now have x86-based and UNIX servers, FC, iSCSI networked storage, switches, firewalls, VoIP and much more dedicated specifically to education. We believe that this type of experience will give our graduates an additional competitive edge when they start their job search in an already in-demand field."

The new equipment is being used to teach

virtualization, which allows one server to host multiple virtual computers without the loss of their purpose or function. In addition, virtualization is changing the way businesses deploy and manage resources, simplifying and speeding IT response.

Designated a VMware Academy, the College of Information Technology may teach VMware courses and certify students as Virtualization Certified Professionals. This certification saves future employers thousands of dollars in training costs and makes Georgia Southern graduates much more competitive in the job market. The designation as a VMware Academy was one of the key elements that impressed executives with Corus Consulting and Canvas Systems and prompted the computer equipment donation.

"Georgia Southern University's College



Students training on Corus software will have an experience unique not only to Georgia, but to the world.

of Information Technology is now not only unique to Georgia and the Southeast, but the world," said Brian Hoffman, managing director of technology services for Corus Consulting and Canvas Systems. "We wanted to work with an institution that was both innovative and a leader in IT education. Being one of only 10 VMware Academies in the world is an outstanding accomplishment for Georgia Southern and shows their commitment to preparing outstanding IT professionals."

An 'Eagle Blue' Christmas:

Marines in Iraq receive care packages from University's political science department

Georgia Southern blue is being worn halfway around the world by Marines serving in Iraq.

During the holidays, faculty and staff from Georgia Southern University's political science department sent care packages to a Marine reserve unit stationed in Iraq. Four Georgia Southern students – Russ Waters, Andrew Mecklin, Asa Akins and Keaton Russell – serve in the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance unit, which deployed in October.

The care packages included food, candy, socks and reading materials. There were also

gifts that added a splash of color to the Iraqi desert – Georgia Southern t-shirts and hats.

"I thought it was important for our Georgia Southern students to know that people are thinking about them and that they are missed," said political science professor Christine Ludowise, who organized the project. "I know from talking with friends and former students who have served that every little piece of home helps."

Ludowise got the idea while serving as the faculty advisor for Waters and Mecklin, who are both justice studies majors. She

said the political science faculty were happy to help, since most of them have had the two students in their classes at some point. However, the project was just as much about Akins (a biology major), Russell (business) and all the other Marines in the unit.

"The care package contents went to everyone in the unit, so it gave everyone something extra for the holidays," Ludowise said.

Along with the items contributed by the political science department, the University Store and Georgia Southern athletic department donated the t-shirts and hats.

College of IT offers SAP® Certification

Georgia Southern the only University in Georgia to offer high-demand certification

Georgia Southern's College of Information Technology students are not only graduating with a competitive edge, but saving employers thousands of dollars in the process.

Georgia Southern is one of the rare universities in the country, and the only in the state of Georgia, that includes a SAP Certificate as part of its curriculum. This provides a major competitive edge for graduates as they begin their job searches.

SAP AG, headquartered in the EU (Waldorf, Germany), is the third-largest software enterprise in the world in terms of revenues. SAP is currently used by more than 35,000 companies with new products targeting small and medium enterprises. Its customer base is projected to include more than 100,000 companies by 2010.

Other institutions that award a SAP Certificate include the University of Southern California, Louisiana State University and the University of Central Florida, to name a few. Only a handful of other institutions in the U.S. offer an equivalent number of SAP-approved courses and have a comparable level of

SAP integration in their curriculum.

"Being able to include a SAP Certificate as part of Georgia Southern's curriculum provides students with hands-on experience with SAP products and solutions that are used by thousands of the world's major companies," said Tom Case, professor and chair of the College's Information Systems Department.

"The state of Georgia serves as the corporate headquarters for numerous corporations that are heavy users of SAP including Coca Cola, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot and Newell Rubbermaid. Our SAP Certificate gives students a true competitive edge in the marketplace and provides SAP user organizations with a valued pool of SAP-experienced talent that is rarely found in recent university graduates."

Georgia Southern has partnered with SAP's University Alliance to enable students to use and understand SAP products. Through hands-on experience with SAP solutions, students gain insight into how SAP and other enterprise solutions can empower a business to optimize key processes such as accounting and controlling, human capital management, materials manage-

ment, and sales and distribution.

Students who complete three SAP-approved courses are eligible to receive a SAP Certificate signed by SAP America. Information systems majors in the enterprise resources planning emphasis typically receive this certificate as part of their normal course work. The SAP Certificate may also be earned by undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who minor in information systems.

"Employers would typically have to spend significant amounts of money to provide an employee with a comparable SAP skill-base as that obtained by students who earn our SAP Certificate," said Case. "We are one of the few universities in the country using SAP this extensively and we are receiving a lot of interest from prospective students and working professionals. Our graduates are in high demand and many are receiving multiple job offers with major companies."

In the past two years, BMW, Georgia Pacific and Under Armour are just three of the companies that have come to campus to recruit Georgia Southern students pursuing their SAP Certificates.

A local veterinarian even donated treats for a puppy the unit has adopted.

In an e-mail to Ludowise thanking the University community, Waters explained how much the reminders of home meant to a unit that had "been living off [their] vehicles in the desert like nomads" and "had only two showers in 54 days.

"Receiving all those goodies, especially during Christmas time, really put a smile across all our faces in a place where smiles are few and far between," Waters wrote.

The Marines hope they aren't the only ones to get a smile from this, though.

"The next time we go into a town, I plan on handing out a few shirts to the kids and get their pictures representing the Eagles!" Waters said in his e-mail.



The 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance, F Company includes four Georgia Southern students. The Marine reserve unit deployed to Iraq in October.

Recession resistant

Need for nurses continues to rise at record rate despite economic downturn

With announcements of rising unemployment and an ongoing economic recession, Georgia Southern nursing graduates are finding that they are not only in high demand, but employers are fiercely competing for their services upon graduation.

Among the highest-ranked nursing programs in the state, Georgia Southern is seeing not only increased interest in its graduates, but also a rise in applicants to its highly competitive program.

"It is really amazing to see the interest from not only employers, but also the increase in the number of applicants to our program," said Jean Bartels, professor and chair of the University's School of Nursing. "Employers continue to aggressively recruit our students, considered to be the best in the state, both at the undergraduate and graduate level."

Some students within the School are not only receiving one or two job offers, but receiving them before they graduate. In fact, more than two thirds of the December 2008 graduating class received two to three job

offers from health care agencies both in and out of state. For area health care agencies, Georgia Southern graduates were the most heavily recruited nursing graduates of any regional university in Georgia.

Georgia Southern graduates were the most heavily recruited nursing graduates of any regional university in Georgia.

In fact, one large metropolitan hospital hired only Georgia Southern graduates this December. A recent news story by the Associated Press noted that some employers are becoming very creative going as far as offering red carpet treatment and gas cards just to entice job seekers to attend job fairs. "Nearly every recruiter that comes to Georgia Southern's campus is

trying to find a way to stand out versus the competition. In such a competitive market, recruiters are definitely searching for unique ways to attract graduates."

Bartels said Georgia ranks 42nd nationally in the supply of RNs, creating an RN vacancy rate of as high as 15 percent, well above the national average. By 2012, Georgia alone will have an estimated shortfall of nurses. "Even with a best-case scenario, assuming all nursing graduates pass the licensure exam, remain in Georgia, and work full time, it is estimated that with current capacity and practices, the state will only be able to produce a maximum of 12,000 of the needed 20,000 RNs by 2012," Bartels said.

"The need for well-educated nurses is not only tied to the increased demand for healthcare, but can also be attributed to increasing numbers of retiring nurses," said Bartels. "Nurses are retiring at a faster rate than Universities can train and supply new nurses, not to mention addressing additional needs on top of that."

More working nurses seek advanced degrees

Online degrees providing new options

In addition to a national nursing shortfall, University School of Nursing Chair Jean Bartels is seeing another trend – the desire of current nurses to earn additional higher degrees in their field.

Georgia Southern offers several programs that have grown rapidly in the past year, including the RN-BSN program where a currently registered nurse may earn a bachelor's degree through an online program. The University also offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree and has introduced a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP). The RN-BSN and DNP are offered completely online while the Master of Science in Nursing is taught through a combination of online and classroom instruction.

All three programs have been designed for nurses working long hours or varying

shifts. One need that Bartels continues to reinforce is the need for additional nursing faculty. To counter this trend, Georgia Southern's Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares nurses not only for advanced nursing practice, but also to return to the classroom. The program is one of only two of its kind in the state and now students have access to one of the nation's top nursing programs at any location with an Internet connection.

"You've got to be creative, persistent and willing to step outside the box," she said. "At Georgia Southern we are continually looking for new ways to not only address the existing shortage, but prepare for expected future demand."



Fifth student earns Department of State award

Georgia Southern University Honors Program student Rose Marie Sheahan has been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

Sheahan, an International Studies major, will use the award for study at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies in Japan.

The Gilman Scholarship is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Institute of International Education. Sheahan is the fifth Georgia Southern student recipient of a U.S. Department of State award in the past two years.

Growing up in rural Springfield, Ga., Sheahan had dreamed of traveling to Japan. "I have always been fascinated with Japan's culture and language and wanted to learn more about this vastly different society," said Sheahan.

She departed on March 12 and will take part in academic programs at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies that focus on Japanese language and culture.

The University Honors Program serves as the campus clearinghouse for nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships and

is committed to helping prepare all Georgia Southern students for these awards.

One of the main objectives of the University Honors Program is to provide students with the opportunity to obtain a global perspective. "Ideally, all of our students would spend a semester or year abroad. I applaud Rose for receiving this prestigious award in order to broaden her educational experience," said Steven Engel, director of the University Honors Program.

As a requirement of the scholarship, Gilman recipients will also complete a project upon return to their home institutions. Sheahan plans to initiate a tutoring program pairing Japanese exchange students with American students at Georgia Southern. "I believe this program will not only have a positive impact on the Japanese students, but also on the American students who will learn more about the culture from those who live in Japan," said Sheahan. She also plans to assist the Center for International Studies with promoting study abroad opportunities, especially to students like herself from rural Georgia.

After graduating from Georgia South-



ern, Sheahan plans to teach with the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. JET, an organization that promotes grassroots international exchange between Japan and other nations, offers positions assisting teachers of English in Japanese public school classrooms.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program offers grants for undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies abroad. Such international study is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

Going global: More University students studying abroad

Georgia Southern is a leader in the record number of University System of Georgia (USG) students studying abroad, according to figures released by the System.

The USG recently announced it reached a milestone by sending more than 6,000 students overseas to study last year. During the 2007-08 academic year, 6,076 students from the System's 35 colleges and universities studied outside the United States – a threefold increase from the 1,850 students who studied abroad during 1997-98.

Georgia Southern played a key role, sending a record number of students to study abroad in 2007-08. In just five years, the University's number of study abroad

students has surged 191 percent, from 124 in 2003-04 to 361 last year.

"We are seeing increased interest among students in studying abroad and in making that experience an integral part of their degree program," said Nancy Shumaker, assistant vice president for International Studies.

"Prospective students tell us at our recruitment fairs and open houses that they



want to come to Georgia Southern because we offer not only many different study abroad opportunities, but also because we offer semester and year-long programs in countries such as China, Japan and South Korea," Shumaker said. "These students are very aware

of the fact that they need to graduate from the University with first-hand knowledge about the world outside the United States if they are to succeed in their professions and careers."

College of Health and Human Sciences delivers sport science knowledge to Poland

Georgia Southern's College of Health and Human Sciences is using the game of baseball as a teaching tool.

Twelve faculty members and students traveled to Poland, where they served as instructors for an international coaching seminar sponsored by Major League Baseball and Little League Baseball. They conducted more than 30 sessions in four days for dozens of coaches from 15 countries.

The purpose was to use sport science and application to teach coaches about kinesiology, the science of how the human body functions and moves. In the process, the students got an invaluable hands-on experience.

"This was an incredible opportunity for our students and faculty," said Fred Whitt, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. "In the College of Health and Human Sciences, we pride ourselves on providing an in-touch approach to the teaching and learning process, and this experience exemplifies our continuing commitment to developing academic excellence."

Whitt was joined on the trip by four faculty members from the Department of Health and Kinesiology – Department Chair Barry Joyner, Dan Czech, Drew Zwald and Trey Burdette – and Georgia Southern's head strength and conditioning coach Tom Melton.



Georgia Southern University faculty and students participated in the seminar sponsored by Major League Baseball and Little League Baseball.

The Georgia Southern envoy also included six sports psychology graduate students – Evan Balthazar, Jed Blanton, Steve Gonzalez, Chris McCalmont, Erin Mulvey and Andrea Way.

Major League Baseball sponsors coaching seminars around the world, with Poland's being one of the largest. What made the experience so unique for the College and its Department of Kinesiology was that this was the first time any university was a co-sponsor.

The Georgia Southern representatives were the sole presenters at the seminar

focusing for four days on social and psychological aspects of teaching and learning baseball skills, strength and conditioning, coaching principles, and baseball skills and techniques.

"This was a tremendous honor and recognition for the quality of our Sport Psychology and Coaching Education programs," Whitt said.

The journey to Poland began when Czech, who is part of the Major League Baseball Envoy Program, was contacted about involving Georgia Southern in the coaches clinic.

Georgia Southern named a Kiplinger 'Best Value'

Georgia Southern has for the first time been named one of the Top 100 Best Values by Kiplinger, a noted personal finance and business forecasting company.

Georgia Southern is one of only three Georgia universities to be recognized in the annual list that helps parents of prospective students identify outstanding universities that not only provide a good education for their sons or daughters, but offer an outstanding investment. The other two Georgia

institutions named to the list were Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia.

"We are very pleased to be recognized as one of the best values in the country," said Teresa Thompson, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Georgia Southern. "While Georgia Southern has continued to grow, we have done so in a way that allows us to attract outstanding students from across the country and around the world. Parents are rec-



ognizing the value of a Georgia Southern education and students are applying at record numbers."

This year, Georgia Southern announced an enrollment of 17,764 students, freshman retention of 81 percent and an average freshman SAT score of 1111. Each was an all-time high for the growing University.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Fledgling college on target for accreditation

Georgia Southern's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health has reached two major milestones toward becoming what is called a "sustainable and accredited College of Public Health," according to Charles Hardy, founding dean of the College.

The first milestone is the College's acceptance as an applicant for accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the national accrediting body of public health schools and programs. "The College is now on target to meet our goal of earning full accreditation by the year 2011," said Hardy. There are currently only 40 accredited schools or colleges of public health in North America.

The other milestone reached by the College is receiving an invitation to become an associate member of the Association of Schools of Public Health. Membership in this organization is only offered to Schools or Colleges that are accepted as applicants for or are accredited by CEPH.

"Reaching these milestones is a significant achievement in our growth as a college of public health and reflects most positively on our students, faculty and administra-

tion, but would not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Hardy and Dr. Lynne Woodhouse (associate dean of JPHCOPH)," said Karl Peace, professor and director of the University's Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics.

Hardy describes the College as an educational institution that is committed to increasing the capacity of the public health workforce. "We are focused on enhancing health equity through improving public health practice," Hardy said. "Our mission is to enhance health and eliminate health disparities of rural communities and underserved populations in Georgia and the southeastern region, the nation and the world through excellence in public health education, workforce development, research, professional service and community engagement."

The College is partnering with an expanding array of rural south Georgia com-



Charles Hardy has been dean of the college since its start.

munities through its Public Health Practice Advisory Board. They have 28 faculty members who are engaging with multiple community and public health agencies to document best practices and increase health equity in rural communities. Their research and service efforts emphasize applied, collaborative projects that engage stakeholders and provide students with real-world experiences.

College developing diverse workforce for the future

An important goal of the rapidly-growing Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health is to increase the diversity of the faculty, graduates and students because increasing health equity and rural public health will require a diverse workforce – one comfortable working in underserved, rural settings.

Last fall the College implemented a new, practice-focused curriculum designed to build strong skills in core public health disciplines while emphasizing competencies for improving health equity and rural public health.

The College grew from two Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) programs devel-



Karl Peace, architect of the M.P.H. in biostatistics.

oped by Dean Charles Hardy and Center for Biostatistics Director Karl E. Peace and

approved in 1998 and 2000 – community health education and biostatistics. The College was first established as a School in 2004 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. At that time it was the first school of public health in the state system.

The establishment of the School was made possible by a generous gift from Peace, an alumnus of Georgia Southern, a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, the architect of the M.P.H. in biostatistics, and the founder of the biostatistics center. He endowed the school in honor and memory of his wife, Jiann-Ping Hsu, as an enduring celebration of her life.

International award bestowed on Professor Emeritus James Oliver

James H. Oliver, Jr. is not just a leader in his field, but *the* leader in his field.

Recognized as one of the world's pre-eminent scholars on tick-borne disease and host-parasite relationships, Oliver was recently elected by the 25 members of the Scientific Council of the University of South Bohemia and approved by the University to receive an Honorary Doctor's degree in Parasitology.

The degree, a Doktor Honoris Causa, presented last fall, saluted Oliver for his lifetime of work in the field of biology and ecology of ticks.

Oliver directs Georgia Southern's Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology (IAP). The U.S. National Tick Collection is an integral part of the IAP. It is the largest tick collection in the world with more than a million specimens including representatives of most of the world's 850 species.

The presentation of the honorary doctorate brought Oliver back to the beginning of his academic career - to the country where he attended one of his first international congresses in 1971. Since his first academic conference in the Czech Republic, academic collaborations between Georgia Southern and Czech universities have flourished. Scientists, faculty and researchers enjoy a reciprocal exchange, learning from the collection's vast resources of specimens and the knowledge of Oliver and faculty.

The ceremony, held in a 400-year-old building located on the historic square of

Ěeské Budějovice, included academic leaders from the University of South Bohemia. Notable attendees included Václav Bůžek, president of the University of South Bohemia, Dean Libor Grubhoffer, who nominat-



Oliver, at left, is presented with an Honorary Doktor Honoris Causa degree in parasitology by University of South Bohemia President Václav Bůžek.

ed Oliver for the honor, and Oliver's sponsor, Professor Karel Skalický. Presidents of other universities in the Czech Republic also attended the ceremony. Oliver was honored with the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner," his honorary doctorate, and customary bouquets of flowers.

During his tenure at Georgia Southern, Oliver has prepared future scholars and conducted critical research in arthropodology and parasitology which has impacted human beings and livestock worldwide. In 1990, the Smithsonian Institution and National Institutes of Health acknowledged his expertise and selected Oliver and the Institute of Arthropodology and Parasitology (IAP) as the custodian of the National Tick Collection. The collection which houses more than one million specimens is the largest in the world. This national collection is one of only a few Smithsonian collections not curated in

Washington, D.C.

An alumnus and member of the class of 1952, Oliver returned to Statesboro and his alma mater in 1969 as the first Fuller E. Callaway Chair in the University System of Georgia. He has secured more than \$12 million in research grants throughout his career, recruited National Merit scholars and motivated his students to perform at their highest potential. The list of his international and national awards for research, excellence, achievement and service include the highest commendations from distinguished organizations and institutions across the nation and the globe.

Honoring Oliver's more than 35 years of service, to both Georgia Southern and his discipline, the IAP now bears his name. Oliver, who retired from the University last fall, was re-hired to direct the Institute and continues to collaborate with colleagues both on campus and worldwide.

University spending boosts regional economy

Georgia Southern had an economic impact of more than \$748 million, nearly three quarters of a billion dollars, during the 2007-08 fiscal year – a 158 percent increase in 10 years.

According to the University's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), the institution pumped \$748,099,767 into the economies of nine Southeast Georgia counties in 2007-2008.

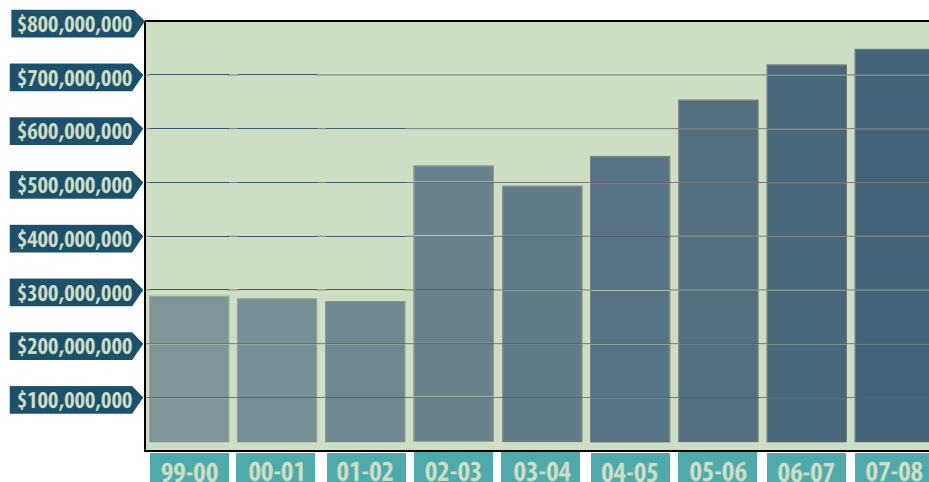
Georgia Southern was responsible for 9,350 jobs in the region, which includes the counties of Bulloch, Bryan, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Jenkins and Screven.

In compiling the annual report, BBRED divided its analysis into four areas:

- The impact from the daily operations of the University measured by operating expenditures
- The impact from expenditures by students
- The impact of faculty and staff expenditures measured by salaries and payroll
- The impact from major construction projects

Georgia Southern's impact goes far be-

Georgia Southern University Total Regional Economic Impact



yond direct spending by the institution. For example, budget expenditures translate into the demand for goods and services for other businesses. In turn, these businesses hire additional staff and order additional supplies to meet the demands of the University.

The study also shows that Georgia Southern was directly responsible for 6,790 jobs during the last fiscal year. Full-time

employees at the University accounted for 1,781 of those jobs.

Estimates do not include the cumulative impacts of the thousands of visitors that Georgia Southern brings to the region for athletic events, visits to campus by students' families during the SOAR student orientation program, participants in conferences and the growing number of research dollars and activity at the University.

Seeking solutions: University hosts 20th Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah

Georgia Southern hosted its 20th annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference in Savannah last March, drawing experts from around the nation to discuss ways to help young people overcome at-risk conditions that might threaten their success.

About 1,200 people attended the conference.

The four-day gathering has grown from humble beginnings in 1989 to the leading conference nationwide for professionals who deal with troubled youngsters.

Hosted by the University's College of Education and Continuing Education Center, the conference drew educators, counselors, social workers, criminal justice professionals and community leaders. There was participation from throughout the nation and internationally.

The conference offered more than 100 presentations on how to help young people overcome at-risk conditions that may threaten their safety, health, emotional needs or academic achievement.

The workshops provided proactive solutions and best practices on a wide range of subjects, including:

- The dark side of the Internet and technology: Youth trends, issues and strategies.
- Cyber bullying: Bullying in the digital age.
- The "protected school": A comprehensive approach to violence and substance abuse prevention.
- East Coast gangs: Identifying and dealing with gang members.

- Single-sex classrooms: Can it make a difference in male achievement?
- Wiping out obesity: Strategies for schools and communities.
- Military children: Helping youth cope through each stage of deployment.
- Tiger's action plan from the Tiger Woods Foundation.

Highlighting the guest speakers were recipients of two prestigious awards: Georgia Southern alumna Molly Howard, the 2008 MetLife National Principal of the Year, and Michael Geisen, the 2008 National Teacher of the Year.

Guest speakers also included author and consultant Robert Barr discussing the "seeds of hope" and attorney and author Crystal Kuykendall addressing how to bring out the best in at-risk youth.

Higher honors

University seeks financial support for Honors College

Georgia Southern is preparing for the development of its newest college: The Honors College.

Designed as a center of academic excellence for undergraduates representing every major, University Honors Program Director Steven Engel believes The Honors College will provide students with transformative experiences and further enhance the academic reputation of Georgia Southern University.

The Honors College at Georgia Southern University will build upon a tradition first laid in the early 1980s by the innovative and nationally recognized Bell Honors Program and followed by the creation of the University Honors Program in 1998, said Engel. "Today, unfortunately, only a small percentage of Georgia Southern students are able to take advantage of the intellectually rigorous opportunities offered to honors students," he said. "With the development of The Honors College, significantly more students will receive an enhanced undergraduate education.

"College education is about empowerment. We empower students with the knowledge and skills to improve their lives and the lives of those around them," said Engel. "In doing so, we empower our state

"The Honors College at Georgia Southern will create an educational environment that is second to none."

and region by creating a more humane and prosperous society.

"The Honors College at Georgia Southern will create an educational environment that is second to none. It will focus on developing top students both inside and outside the classroom," Engel said.

"First, through the curriculum, students and professors will collaborate through innovative learning experiences. Enriched classes and opportunities for undergraduate research and creative activity will address the most pressing challenges facing our society today.

"Second, The Honors College will challenge students to apply their knowledge, passion and abilities in real-world situations such as study abroad, service-learning, and leadership development," said Engel. "In fact, this March, the University Honors Program led a group of students to Northern Ireland to learn about peace and reconciliation in that divided land while serving the local community there."

"Unique opportunities such as these cannot be funded with state appropriations alone," said Michelle Pittman, director of development in the Office of University Advancement. "With state budget cutbacks and the condition of the national economy, now, more than ever, we turn to the generosity of our alumni and friends of the University."

Students from around the world are already making the choice to participate in the University Honors Program.

"Being an honors student at Georgia Southern has made my college experience truly distinct," said junior economics major Ann Hedges. "I have taken part in research, leadership and service opportunities which have challenged me and help shape my direction for the future. The Honors College will enable more students to enjoy enriching opportunities like these."

For more information on The Honors College initiative or to find out more about ways to donate, please visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/honorscollege.



New Endowments

1950s Letterman Scholarship

Angelyn B. and Charles W. Sims Scholarship

Bonnie Page Woodcock Memorial Music Scholarship

Cynthia Ann Floyd Sikes Mathematics Scholarship

Department of Biology Endowment

Jane White Marketing Scholar/Scholarship

Jerome "Jay-Jay" Stephens, Jr. Scholarship

K.N. and Leamon Stephens Scholarship

Mert H. Starnes and Bruce W. Grube University Honors Program Scholarship

Nina M. Allen Scholarship

Olivia Suggs Flanagan Faculty Fellowship

Parrish Scholar's Award

Porter Keadle Moore, LLP Scholarship

Richard S. Beene History Scholarship

Semrasedu Undergraduate Research Fund

Theta Xi University Honors Program Scholarship

Tina Schneider Memorial Scholarship

Walter and Audrey Campbell Family/Velma Kemp Scholarship for Choral Music

Wilburn Wright Woodcock Scholarship

William Russell Wilkes Memorial Scholarship

Early spring

\$92,000 donation brings new plants to campus

Statesboro's Wise Nurseries has donated thousands of plants worth \$92,000 to Georgia Southern, representing the largest single gift of plants to "green" the campus.

Wise Nurseries' gift includes 8,659 perennials, shrubs and trees. Working with the University's landscape architect, the campus grounds crew is planting at carefully selected locations throughout the nearly 700-acre campus.

"We are extremely appreciative of Wise Nurseries' gift to Georgia Southern," said Billy Griffis, vice president of University Advancement. "This gift will further improve the beauty of our campus for not only current students, but future generations. This gift is particularly meaningful because it will be enjoyed by everyone who visits campus."

"Georgia Southern University has one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country and we have had an outstanding relationship with the institution. Its faculty, staff and students have supported us for many years," said Matthew Wise, owner of Wise Nurseries. "We are proud to support Georgia Southern and we are particularly pleased that we could contribute to improving the campus with these plants."

The gift is especially timely as the University continues to develop its master plan with the goal of making Georgia Southern



L-R: VP Billy Griffis, Donor Matthew Wise and Wendell Tompkins, director of Annual Giving.

one of the most welcoming campuses in the country. Georgia Southern's landscape design features a variety of native trees and shrubs, but also includes a variety of plants from around the state of Georgia and the Southeast.

Wise Nurseries has provided plants for numerous projects at Georgia Southern including the landscaping for the front gates of the University, the Zach S. Henderson Library, University housing projects, the recent expansion of The Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center, along with numerous others. In addition to his business relationship with Georgia Southern, Wise's wife, Michelle Wise, is a 2001 graduate of the University with a degree in exercise science and kinesiology.

Don't miss your next issue of

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

The summer issue of Georgia Southern magazine will be available exclusively online. Thank you for helping us conserve resources. Georgia Southern magazine's print edition will return in the fall.



New legislation extends giving options for seniors

Federal legislation has been approved that allows taxpayers over age 70½ to make tax-free distributions from their traditional and Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) directly to charity.

Congress approved and the President signed legislation last fall for the immediate and re-



roactive extension of the popular Pension Protection Act of 2006 provision.

The transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and this IRA rollover will exist through 2009.

"This legislation offers a benefit that is a 'niche' giving opportunity that will appeal to seniors with more than adequate resources to fund their retirement, but see a tax-efficient way to com-

plete a gift," said University Director of Development Michelle Pittman.

"Many retired persons do not have large percentages of their assets invested in stocks, and much of the value of their bonds and similar investments are still intact," she said. "This option will allow people to make gifts they otherwise would be making this year at lower after-tax cost."

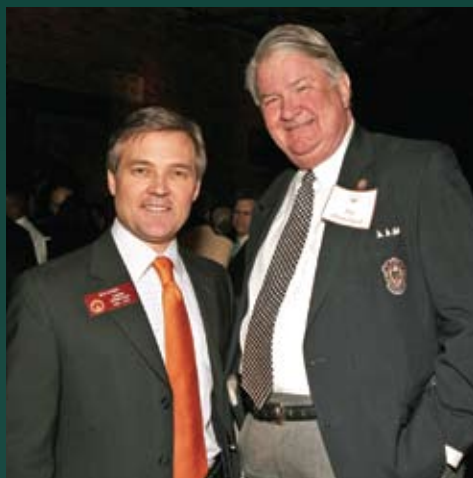
For more information about IRA rollovers for charitable giving, call the Office of Major Gifts at 912-478-5105.

The only game in town:

Every legislative session for more than two decades, the Georgia Southern Foundation and the Statesboro community have invited a few hundred friends working in and around the state's capital city to a meal that's hard to find in Atlanta – wild hog, venison, quail and dove, served with grits and gravy biscuits. It's a popular plate. Once again this winter, alumni, government leaders and representatives from the campus and its hometown enjoyed the food and company at the Annual Wild Game Supper at the Railroad Depot in Underground Atlanta.



2009 Wild Game Supper



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE OLIVER

Talking baseball

One on one with coach Rodney Hennon as he looks to a bright future

By Luke Martin

In 1998, Rodney Hennon appeared to be living every coach's dream.

He was the head coach at his alma mater, Western Carolina, the place he'd spent nearly a decade of his life, beginning as a freshman in 1989. Upon graduation in 1993, he returned to his hometown of Dalton, Ga., to work as an assistant coach for Dalton High School until he was offered the chance to return to Cullowhee, N.C., as an assistant for the Catamounts.

"As an assistant, I was coaching guys who were my teammates the past couple of years," Hennon said. "It was a bit of an adjustment, but I think it's important as a coach to understand what it's like to play and to never forget the mindset of a player."

After serving as an assistant coach at WCU for three years, he was promoted to the head coaching position where he compiled an 81-38-1 record for the Catamounts.

When Georgia Southern's legendary head coach Jack Stallings retired following the 1998 season, Hennon was among several who were interested in the position. He was eventually offered the job and admitted it was a tough decision to leave a place where he'd been for so long.

"I've always had a great deal of respect for this program," Hennon said. "It was a great opportunity to be back in Georgia. I love Statesboro and this community."

Since he's been at Georgia Southern, Hennon has compiled a record of 328-216 and has guided the Eagles to three appearances in the NCAA Regionals. He also led the Eagles to back-to-back Southern Conference regular season titles in 2000 and 2001.

During Hennon's tenure as head man for Georgia Southern he's seen and experienced many changes in Eagle baseball. Most notably is the expansion of J.I. Clements Stadium that transformed it into one of the best facilities in the conference.



SUZANNE OLIVER

Eagles head coach Rodney Hennon has witnessed giant steps forward for his facilities.

"There's always been good, quality baseball played here and the new stadium gives people a great environment to watch the game."

Coach Rodney Hennon

"When we first got here, we felt like we needed an upgrade," he said. "With the growth of college baseball in the last 10 to 15 years, a lot of schools have made major improvements to keep up with facility upgrades. We felt, recruiting-wise, it was important for us to do this."

The goal, Hennon said, was to have a stadium that could host an NCAA Regional should the Eagles ever be in that position.

Last year, the Eagles were 37th in the country in baseball attendance averaging

nearly 1,600 people per game. "There's always been good, quality baseball played here and the new stadium gives people a great environment to watch the game."

While the Eagles were upgrading their facilities, the conference as a whole has gotten stronger during Hennon's time at the helm.

"One reason for that, I think, is the new additions to the league have made it stronger. We've added Charleston and Elon which both have quite a bit of baseball tradition. Also, other schools have put a lot more resources into their baseball programs."

Despite the increased competition, Hennon says he has the same goals for his team each year. "First, to win the conference regular-season title. Second, we want to win the tournament and then we'd be in the NCAA Regionals and give ourselves a chance to play our way into Omaha (the site of the College Baseball World Series). All the things we talk about doing in college baseball can happen right here at Georgia Southern."

New coach, new stadium

Maggie Johnson embarks with optimism on first year as softball mentor

By Luke Martin

When new Georgia Southern softball coach Maggie Johnson accepted the job, one of the first things she did was check out the Eagles' roster online to see what kind of talent would be returning.

Among the players Johnson had returning was catcher/infielder Robyne Siliga, who was named the top player in the conference last year.

"I was very excited the Southern Conference Player-of-the-Year had another year to play," Johnson said. "With her track record and what she's done, she has a ton of potential for this year."

Siliga, a senior, finished second in the SoCon in average (.379) and RBI (54), first in on-base percentage (.500) and third in home runs (11) and slugging percentage (.609).

Siliga is proof that Georgia Southern's recruiting base now stretches from coast to coast.

A standout high school player at Ocean-side, Calif., Siliga had offers from several schools, including Hawaii, UNLV and perennial softball power Tennessee. Ultimately, however, she chose Georgia Southern after visiting the campus and talking to former Georgia Southern Coach Natalie Poole.

"I liked that (Statesboro) was different from city life," Siliga said. "The people were really nice. It was a nice change of pace."

Siliga admitted she wasn't sure what kind of talent level to expect on the opposite coast, but was pleasantly surprised when she arrived.

She made an immediate impact for the Eagles, garnering the Southern Conference Freshman-of-the-Year award after batting .304 with nine homeruns and 36 RBI.

Siliga redshirted her second year at Georgia Southern to focus on her academics before returning for her redshirt sophomore and junior years. She said bal-



SUZANNE OLIVER

First-year head softball coach Maggie Johnson has been pleased by the level of talent she found upon arriving to take over the reigns of her Georgia Southern team.

ancing school with academics and a social life can be challenging at times.

Johnson said Siliga is one to lead by example on the field.

"She works hard and that's what the younger players see," Johnson said. "She doesn't get cheated at the plate and practices hard."

Siliga was one of four Eagles to be named to the preseason Southern Conference team, joining Jenny Side, Nina Iduate and Amanda Hall.

The Eagles were picked to finish fourth in the conference in the preseason poll.

While Siliga is returning to the Eagles, this will be the first year for Johnson plus her first as a head coach. Previously, she served as an assistant coach for Radford University and oversaw the offensive attack for the Highlanders.

A former player at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, Johnson said it is difficult to move from being able

to have a direct impact on the game to coaching, but she knew she wanted to be in college athletics.

"This is the next best thing (to playing)," she said. "I get to stay in college athletics, but I don't have to go to class."

Johnson said that in addition to coaching softball, she has the opportunity to help shape the lives of the women and help their development into adults.

In addition to her talented returning players, Johnson had a pleasant welcome by virtue of the stadium her team calls home.

The Eagles have a newly renovated facility to play in this spring as Eagle Field underwent a major facelift and is now one of the finest stadiums in the conference, Johnson said.

"It'll definitely help for recruiting. It'll keep us in the running with the SEC and ACC schools," she said. "It takes us to another level."

Athletics fundraising adopts name change

What's in a name? Southern Boosters Inc. is hoping it means a more clearly defined mission and greater recognition.

The Boosters' Board of Directors has unanimously voted to change the organization's name to the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation Inc., a move designed to more clearly communicate the organization's purpose and mission as a fundraising and supporting organization of University intercollegiate athletics.

The annual fundraising campaign and "go-to-market name" will be "The Eagle Fund."

The name change is part of an ongoing branding initiative that the organization's leadership and Board of Directors have been researching for nearly two years. The initiative began when the organization launched the popular "Rings and Diplomas" and "For All the Right Reasons" campaigns in 2007.

The new name will be consistent with other University foundations including The Georgia Southern University Foundation Inc., The Georgia Southern University Housing Foundation Inc. and the Georgia Southern University Research Foundation Inc., said John Mulherin, president of Georgia Southern University

THE EAGLE FUND

Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation, Inc.

Athletic Foundation Inc.

During the past 27 years, the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation Inc. has expanded from just a few charter members to thousands of supporters throughout the country. The new name will help more clearly communicate the group's purpose. "When we approach potential donors and corporations, this new name will reinforce our focus on supporting the entire athletics operation including philanthropy, scholarships and donor benefits," said Mulherin.

The organization was founded in 1982 to support the University's re-started football program. Today the organization supports each of Georgia Southern's 15 intercollegiate sports and its more than 385 student athletes. The organization provides critical scholarships and facility improvements necessary to continue recruiting outstanding student athletes and

coaches to Georgia Southern.

"Our donors are the most important aspect of our organization and I know they will support this change as they have supported the Eagles over these many years," said Athletics Director Sam Baker. "Regardless of the name, this organization is made up of some of the most loyal and die-hard supporters of athletics that I have seen in my career. With this new name, the organization is positioning itself for future growth."

"The Board of Directors is thrilled with the direction the organization is moving. We believe the new organizational name and annual fund name both support our goal of focusing on the philanthropic nature of the organization and 'Rings and Diplomas,'" said Phil Moore, chair of Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation Inc. Board of Directors.

2009 football schedule includes trip to Chapel Hill

SEPTEMBER

- 5 ALBANY (N.Y.) TBA
- 12 South Dakota St. @ Brookings, S.D. 7 p.m.
- 19 *WESTERN CAROLINA TBA
- 26 *Elon @ Elon, N.C. TBA

OCTOBER

- 3 *Wofford @ Spartanburg, S.C. TBA
- 10 North Carolina @ Chapel Hill, N.C. TBA
- 17 *CHATTANOOGA TBA
- 24 *Appalachian State @ Boone, N.C. TBA
- 31 OPEN

**Southern Conference game*

NOVEMBER

- 7 *Samford @ Birmingham, Ala. TBA
- 14 *FURMAN (HC) TBA
- 21 *THE CITADEL TBA
- 28 NCAA FCS Playoffs First Round TBA

DECEMBER

- 5 NCAA FCS Playoffs Quarterfinals TBA
- 11 NCAA FCS Playoffs Semifinals TBA
- 12 NCAA FCS Playoffs Semifinals TBA
- 18 NCAA FCS Championship Chattanooga, Tenn. TBA

HC (Homecoming)



For tickets call 1-800-GSU-WINS

Athletics Hall of Fame inducts former players

The Georgia Southern University Athletics Department has inducted six former student-athletes into the Athletics Department Hall of Fame.

The 2008 Hall of Fame class includes: Richie Bryant (golf), Anita Buggins (women's tennis), Alexis Dankulic-Manhertz (volleyball), Tommy Peterman (baseball), Rob Stockton (football) and Charlton Young (men's basketball).

The six individuals were chosen by the selection committee from a list of 73 names on the 2008 ballot.

The Hall of Fame selection criteria include a 10-year eligibility moratorium for all student-athletes and five years for coaches and administrators.

University Director of Athletics Sam Baker praised the qualifications of the newly inducted group.

"It is certainly a privilege to be able to honor these individuals," said Baker.

"Needless to say, their credentials speak for themselves and we are extremely proud of their inclusion to the Hall of Fame. Each of this year's honorees made significant contributions to the success of Georgia Southern athletics."



The 2008 Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame inductees were: front row, l-r, Rob Stockton and Tommy Peterman; back row, l-r, Charlton Young, Alexis Dankulic, and Richie Bryant. Not pictured, Anita Buggins.

Peterson named to first SoCon Hall of Fame class

Georgia Southern All-America running back Adrian Peterson is one of 10 legendary athletes inducted into the inaugural class of the Southern Conference Hall of Fame.

The class features some of the greatest student-athletes to ever compete in the conference, including Sam Huff (West Virginia), Arnold Palmer (Wake Forest) and Jerry West (West Virginia). Also named were Megan Dunigan (Furman), Dick Groat (Duke), Charlie Justice (North Carolina), Melissa Morrison (Appalachian State), Frank Selvy (Furman) and Valorie Whiteside (Appalachian State).

The inductees will be honored at a May 4 ceremony at the Chapman Cultural Center

in Spartanburg, S.C.

"We're extremely proud of this announcement, one that's been 88 years in the making," said Southern Conference Commissioner John Iamarino. "The achievements of this first group of inductees are truly remarkable. These 10 individuals are wonderful representatives of the great history of the Southern Conference."

Peterson holds the Eagles' record for rushing yards in a season (1,932 as a freshman) and career (6,559), in addition to points in a season (174) and career (524). He remains as the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision all-time leading rusher.





PHOTOS BY SUZANNE OLIVER & RYAN HONEYMAN

And how should a beautiful, ignorant stream of water know it heads for an early release – out across the desert, running toward the Gulf, below sea level, to murmur its lullaby, and see the Imperial Valley rise out of burning sand with cotton blossoms, wheat, watermelons, roses, how should it know?

CARL SANDBURG

CENTER FOR Wildlife

by BETSY NOLEN

Steve Hein envisioned expanding the Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center at Georgia Southern before the first visitor ever passed through the gates in 1997.

Moments before the Center opened to visitors, director Steve Hein greeted Charles H. “Pete” McTier, then president of the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, which had given the University the original one-million dollar donation for the Center. During a VIP tour, McTier asked Hein if the University had any plans to expand the facility.

Hein didn’t hesitate.

“I liken it to being Babe Ruth at bat because I had no authority to do what I did, which was to point to what was the ropes course and I say, ‘Yes, there’s some property over there and I’d love to see us expand.’ I didn’t have time to consult the president or anybody else. But, to be before this person who could benefit the Wildlife Center and the institution and convey that I had no vision was the worst answer,” laughed Hein. “I had not been on the job, had not opened, had not had the first visitor through, and I was put in the crosshairs. What do you do?”

What Hein did was to continue to tell McTier about the 12 acres of campus property he thought would be perfect for a future addition to the Center. Eventually, Hein and University President Bruce Grube’s efforts led to another \$750,000 donation from the Woodruff Foundation and the real planning for the expansion began.

Twelve years later, the vision Hein ad-libbed under pressure is a reality. The Wetland Preserve at the Wildlife Center opens April 25 on the very property Hein pointed to that first day. “We now have 17 acres, which is large when you think of a University center, especially one that sits right in the middle of a major college campus,” Hein said.

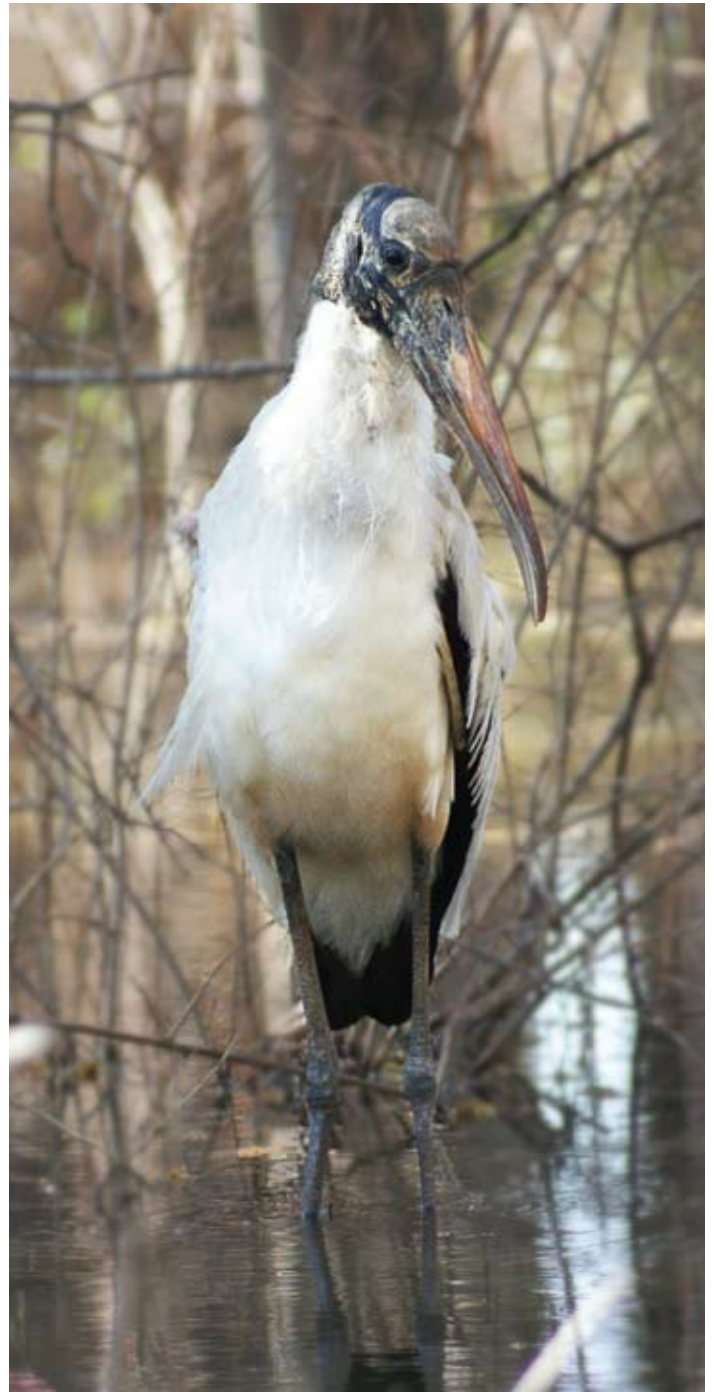
While the first phase of the Center was devoted primarily to reptiles and raptors, the second phase is devoted to the essential element that is the building block of their lives – water.

WETLAND PRESERVE

Size: 12 acres

Features:

- Small pond/capture basin
- Beaver lodge
- Stream guiding visitors into the expansion
- Waterfowl pond hosting native and migratory waterfowl
- Cypress pond showcasing native flora, wading birds



A wood stork moves through the new cypress pond, a prominent feature of the Wetland Preserve.

Education



A variety of waterfowl pause for reflection on a log in the Wetland Preserve's new waterfowl pond.

"The real function and purpose behind the expansion is to educate visitors about why water is Georgia's most critical natural resource and the impact it has on all life," said Hein.

The majority of the addition to the Wildlife Center is on the old ropes course (which moved to the Recreation Activity Center), but visitors get their first glimpse as they enter the Center's drive. To the left of the drive is a small pond and capture basin that houses a beaver lodge. As the water flows through the Center's property, visitors get an up-close look at the many ways water affects a habitat and all of the creatures that live there.

From the beaver lodge, water flows into a stream that guides visitors into the expansion.

"The stream flows around the existing Center," said Hein. "The water is literally flowing into the Corps of Engineers-delineated wetlands section. So, you actually see wetlands function, which is run-off water that goes into a wetland area but ultimately empties into the second major feature which is the waterfowl pond.

"The waterfowl pond is an opportunity to showcase all of these native waterfowl that either are year round residents or migratory to the state of Georgia," explained Hein. "That will be a big draw because so many people are captivated by the beauty of these waterfowl!"

Visitors will also see how water, or the lack of it, affects plant life in the nearby cypress pond.

"The cypress pond is a more shallow water feature that by design fluctuates with the seasonal rain and showcases a variety of flora that exist in that type of habitat," said Hein. "Over time, the cypress pond will house various species of wading birds. Wading birds by definition are the long-legged birds whose physiology has evolved and adapted to that type of habit. We're talking about herons and egrets and we'll acquire those as they become available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These are birds that have been injured and rehabilitated but are not able to be released back into the wild."

Hein said all of the plantings in the expansion are native to the area. The goal is to give visitors an up-close look at the varying impact water has on its surroundings. Hein hopes visitors to the Wildlife Center will leave with a greater appreciation for a natural resource that everyone uses, but many fail to think much about.

NEW WATERFOWL WETLAND PRESERVE

- Wood stork
- Great blue heron
- Wood duck
- Red-headed duck
- Hooded mergansers
- Green winged teal
- American wigeon
- Common pintail
- Lesser scaup
- Blue winged teal
- Canvasback
- Gadwall
- North American ruddy duck



Wildlife Center director Steve Hein holds the University's bald eagle Freedom and the attention of visiting students.





An eagle owl takes flight during an educational show at the Wildlife Center, a popular attraction that draws thousands of visitors each year.



One of two alligators on display inside the Center's education exhibits.

"Sometimes we don't appreciate the availability and the quality of the water we have. We take it for granted until we're told to shut it off when there is a drought and water restrictions are imposed. It is without question a building block of life on earth and this expansion will help people see how critical the impact can be when you take water from an estuary or river system. It disrupts every form of life in that ecosystem," said Hein.

Hein said now that the expansion is completed, the Center will redouble its educational efforts. Thousands of school children and tourists visit the Center every year. Hein believes the expansion puts the Center in a new class.

"I think it raises not only the center, but the University to a higher level. This truly makes this Center a pre-eminent environmental center not only within the state, but within the Southeast. This shines a very positive light on Georgia Southern University and makes us more prominent and I'm proud of that," Hein said.

A focus of the expanded Center will also be to work more closely with educational departments within the University and to allow students more hands-on research opportunities.

Hein admits there is both personal and professional satisfaction when he looks back on the day the Center opened, the ad-libbed answer to an unexpected question and the 12-year journey that has just ended.

"That's a long ride, 12 years, to accomplish not only a personal goal, but an institutional goal. So, there is a sigh of relief," he said. "But there is still work to be done. Now our future is to grow our educational efforts as we continue to serve the people of Georgia."



The new outdoor classroom located on the Wetland Preserve will be used to teach groups that visit the Center.

New classroom puts focus on the outdoors

As visitors walk across the bridge over the waterfowl pond in the Wetland Preserve, they'll notice a small cedar-covered building – the new outdoor classroom that was added as part of the Center for Wildlife Education's wetlands expansion.

"This building gives us another venue where we can showcase the extraordinary wildlife and the work going on here," said Center Director Steve Hein. "This outdoor classroom is the perfect setting to teach and learn about wildlife and the importance of water in our environment, which are our two main focuses."

The Wildlife Center hosts thousands of visitors every year, from adult groups to civic organizations to school groups. The Center offers different field trips based on students' ages and areas of study. The outdoor classroom will provide a perfect location for the many educational programs offered by the Center throughout the year.

More than strictly functional, the outdoor classroom is also pleasing to the eye and fits in perfectly as part of the backdrop of the Wetland Preserve. The structure is built in a low country cabin style that can accommodate seating for up to 60 visitors.

With a prime view of the waterfowl pond, Hein predicts the outdoor classroom will not only be a favorite of students but will also provide another appealing venue for special events at the Center.



A view from above of the cypress pond. Displays provide visitors information about each area.



FRANK FORTUNE

"It is, however, not to the museum, or the lecture-room, or the drawing-school,
but to the library, that we must go for the completion of our humanity.
It is books that bear from age to age the intellectual wealth of the world."

OWEN MEREDITH

Lib ZACH S. HENDERSON rary



by PAUL FLOECKHER

When Georgia Southern University celebrated the expansion and renovation of the Zach S. Henderson Library with a ribbon cutting in January, the ceremony marked the end of a four-and-a-half year project.

But in many ways, it was just a beginning for the University.

"This project is critical to the University and has significance beyond what most people can imagine," said Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube. "When we can improve the major academic resource on campus, we can improve everything we're doing academically."

The \$22.75 million expansion and renovation added 101,000 square feet to the Library's original 132,000. However, the new-look Library is much more than just a bigger building to accommodate a growing enrollment.

"This really is a good example of Georgia Southern's commitment to its future and to its faculty and students," said Bede Mitchell, dean of the Library.

A LONG JOURNEY

Although construction began in the summer of 2004, the expansion and renovation of the Zach S. Henderson Library actually involved more than 10 years of cooperation and collaboration both on and off campus.

Acting Georgia Southern President Harry Carter presented the project to the Board of Regents in the summer of 1998, and it took six years to be funded and designed.

Architects from Lyman Davidson Dooley Inc., worked with Library employees and Physical Plant to design a building to meet the needs of future generations of students, including the use of an automated retrieval system.

Cogdell and Mendrala Architects took that design and made it into the building that graces the campus today. Completion of the building took four and a half years of teamwork among Cogdell and Mendrala, McKnight Construction, the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission, Physical Plant, and the Library.

"The result is a building that can be treasured not only by the campus community, but the entire state of Georgia," said Ann Hamilton, associate dean of the Library and manager of the project.

NOT 'JUST A LIBRARY'

Along with its "traditional" library resources, the Henderson Library is home to the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET) and the Learning Commons.

The CET, an independent unit housed in the Library, focuses on the effective use of technology in teaching and learning. The Center promotes programs that represent new models for working with and for faculty.

The Center accomplishes that through research-led, evidence-based teaching and student learning; open, interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and innovations among faculty; peer-based formation, application and dissemination of research and teaching practices and outcomes; and student learning through course design, assessment, and teaching for understanding and higher-



The Library's glass-front atrium entrance is open to three floors.

order thinking.

The Learning Commons, a collaboration between the Library and Information Technology Services, is a "combination of reference assistance and information technology assistance," Mitchell said.

All in one place, the Georgia Southern community is able to conduct library research, type and print reports, utilize multimedia production software and hardware, and receive computer assistance. Also, multimedia equipment such as video cameras, digital cameras and projectors are available for checkout.

"The whole concept behind the Learning Commons is phenomenal. The students understand how to do research," Information Systems Coordinator Pattie Beblowski said.

Students can use the presentation room on the first floor to rehearse class presentations and record them for evaluation. Com-



The second-floor computer lab offers free word processing and Internet research access for students.

puters are located on the first and third floors, and the building is wireless for personal laptops or laptops borrowed from the Library.

“Within less than half-an-hour of the opening (of the renovated Library), there was not a computer to be had,” said Beblowski.

“What’s at the real heart of the institution are resources you need for doing research,” said Mitchell. “This (library) is emblematic of Georgia Southern’s commitment to academics.”

WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER

A popular trend in higher education, according to Mitchell, is collaborative learning among students. Many students prefer to work collaboratively and a number of faculty members feel that

students learn more when they work together, he said.

With that in mind, the majority of the furniture in the renovated Library is easy to move around so students can configure it to suit their needs. The facility also has 29 group study rooms, including three designated for graduate students only.

“Let’s face it – what career do you go into today where you don’t need to be able to work with others and be an effective member of a team?” Mitchell said.

For students who still prefer independent study, the Library continues to offer two “quiet” floors.

Whether students are working collaboratively, studying quietly or just relaxing and reading a newspaper between classes, there has been a “huge increase” in student usage since the reno-

ZACH S. HENDERSON LIBRARY THEN

- The first library at Georgia Southern – then First District A&M School – was a small room in the Marvin Pittman Administration Building with 1,000 books, pamphlets and bulletins, and 50 magazines and periodicals.
- It was open on Friday afternoons.
- When A&M School became Georgia Normal School in 1924, the first full-time librarian, Frances Stubbs, and an assistant librarian were hired, and the Library expanded from one room to four on the Academic Building’s top floor. In 1933, a private gift of 3,000 volumes brought book holdings up to 12,000, and included rare books that began what is now the Special Collections area.
- President Marvin Pittman obtained grants from philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, and in 1938 the Rosenwald Library was built at a cost of \$60,000. The annex built in 1965 cost 10 times that amount. Today, the original Rosenwald Building houses the Georgia Southern University Museum.
- The campus rapidly outgrew Rosenwald, and a new, larger library opened in the fall of 1975. Named the Zach S. Henderson Library, after the retired longtime University president, each of the four stories covered one acre.
- In the early 1990s, Henderson Library became one of the first libraries in the country to remain open 24 hours a day (on the first floor) during weekdays.

vation, said Mitchell.

"I think it's clear that we've hit a bull's-eye in anticipating the kinds of learning opportunities the students really wanted to have in their library," he said. "It is tremendous to see this dream come true and be so enthusiastically received by students and faculty."

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The renovated and expanded Library will meet the campus' needs for years to come. For example, Mitchell said the automated retrieval system provides the Library "literally more than 70 years worth of growth space."

"So for that period, we will not have to think about having to reduce public seating to add more bookshelves or start storing items in an external site," Mitchell said. "The building was planned around ensuring we had a flexible and adaptable infrastructure so that, if we can't anticipate to the tiniest degree of precision every new trend in learning technologies, we are as prepared as we can be to adapt to them in the future."

One addition Mitchell does hope to see is the University developing what is known as an institutional repository – an online collection of faculty and student work such as research reports, theses, dissertations, simulations, conference papers and technical reports.

"If we make it easier for people to see the kinds and quality of work that our faculty and students are doing, we can raise the awareness of what's going on at Georgia Southern," Mitchell said.

Taxpayers, legislators and potential students and faculty members would all have a gateway to the intellectual contributions being made at Georgia Southern, said Mitchell. He added that current students can build their portfolios by posting their work on the Web, and faculty members posting on an institutional repository are more likely to have their work cited than those who only publish in a journal.

"Professors on the other side of the country, or even on the other side of the globe, who see that we have faculty who are working in a certain area that they're working in too, may want to collaborate," Mitchell said.

Creating an institutional repository could be done within the Library's three-year plan, Mitchell said.



The newly renovated Library has ample quiet space for study.

ZACH S. HENDERSON LIBRARY NOW

- The Henderson Library is as large as a city block.
- The expansion/renovation began in summer 2004, and the new portion of the Library opened to the public on September 22, 2008.
- The \$22.75 million project added 101,000 square feet to the original 132,000.
- The Library has 29 group study rooms.
- Henderson Library now offers more than 600,000 books and bound periodicals, 890,000 microform units, almost 750,000 government documents, and more than 46,000 electronic journals.
- The Library has more than 300 hard-wired computers, and wireless is available throughout the building.
- The Automated Retrieval Collection (ARC) is capable of storing about 800,000 items in 5,848 separate bins that are stacked 45 feet high. While most of the Library collection is shelved in publicly-accessible stacks, the ARC guarantees more than seven decades worth of collection growth space without having to reduce public seating or store materials outside the library.
- During fall and spring terms, the Library is open 143 out of 168 hours each week. It is closed only from 10 p.m. on Friday to 9 a.m. on Saturday, and from 10 p.m. Saturday to noon on Sunday.



"I think I should have no other mortal wants, if I could always have plenty of music.
It seems to infuse strength into my limbs, and ideas into my brain.
Life seems to go on without effort, when I am filled with music."

GEORGE ELIOT

Foy BUILDING

There were many good reasons to renovate the Foy Fine Arts Building – outdated infrastructure, inadequate lighting and cramped classrooms – but most compelling was that students were not being well-served.

That fact alone was enough to move the building to the priority “A” list.

“The new facility greatly enhances student learning by providing dedicated state-of-the-art spaces in which faculty can deliver quality learning and music-making experiences for all our current students and future students,” said Music Department Chair Richard Mercier.

“Originally the Foy Fine Arts Building housed the music department on the first two floors with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) dean and the art department on the upper two floors,” he said. “The building was dark and run down. When the art department received a new building, music was able to gain much-needed space as we took over the vacated upper two floors. At that time, the facilities left much to be desired visually, but more importantly in the configuration of the spaces themselves.”

Clearly, the unique requirements of musical instruction were not being met.

“There was a great need for spaces designed specifically to meet the growing and specialized needs of the music department,” said Mercier. “Faculty and students made the best of a less-than-ideal situation, but the limitations and drawbacks of the building became obvious to everyone. Fortunately the Georgia Southern administration led by President Grube came to our aid with the wonderful renovation project that we see today.”

The location of the Foy Building has made it a central physical presence on campus since 1967, but the new extension and renovation places Foy as a center for recruitment and efficient facilities use on the Georgia Southern campus.

The \$7,853,000 renovation of the building, re-named simply the Foy Building, has added 3,599 square feet, but more importantly, has opened up a world of opportunity. For more than 30 years, the building housed the art and music departments, but like the student body, the departments and their programs grew exponentially and were in desperate need of new facilities.

Two years ago, the Foy project was launched as the art department made its way to its new facilities. The music department was dispersed to temporary housing in Hendricks Hall and classrooms around campus. The reinvented Foy Building opened its doors this semester and is now home to the CLASS Advisement Center, the College dean’s suite and conference room, and the Department of Music.

The building now includes a music library, choral and opera rehearsal room, several faculty offices, a recording studio, offices for the CLASS Advisement Center and an extension to Carol A. Carter Recital Hall.

“Just the fact that we now have a dedicated presence on campus where students can find us is substantial,” said Acting CLASS Dean Sue Moore. “Having the CLASS Advisement Center here along with us really makes things better. We are centrally located on campus and it makes it easier for students.”



The Music Technology Lab soundboard located in the Foy Building.

To give the building a feeling of openness, glass walls and storefront windows have been used in the lobby extension for the Carter Recital Hall, the dean’s suite, student lounge, music library and first-floor offices.

“Foy is a mid-century building,” said campus architect Haroun Homayun. “It has a modern look and the goal throughout the project was to respect that. We wanted to open up the building, let in natural light. We wanted the design to be compatible with the contemporary structure.”

That existing structure posed challenges, especially for acoustics and soundproofing in the rehearsal and performance spaces.

“Foy is a solid concrete building, which is the worst for acoustics. In the annex and recital hall, we solved the problem by installing moveable acoustic panels,” said Associate Director of Physical Plant Michael Dipple.

Acoustic flooring and ceiling panels have also been added to practice and rehearsal rooms throughout the building. The renovation has made better use of space allowing for more faculty and staff offices, multifunctional rehearsal spaces and instrument and equipment storage. Smart classrooms have also been added, making instruction and learning easier. The new facilities will not only



The Carol A. Carter Recital Hall features advanced acoustics and a larger seating capacity.

assist faculty in their teaching, but should also help CLASS and the music department in their efforts to recruit more highly qualified students and in greater numbers.

“The new building should make recruitment of students a bit easier,” Mercier said. “No matter how good a music program is, if the facilities are inferior it will be difficult to attract them to your program. Now we have facilities that are competitive, especially our beautiful recital hall,” he said.

The extension and renovation of the Carter Recital Hall has added a new lobby and entrance, a new elevator, new seats, state-of-the-art sound and lighting equipment, a new backstage “green

room,” and top-of-the-line acoustic panels. The redesign of the hall, which now seats 260, allows the facility to host a greater variety of musical performances.

Mercier called the Carter Recital Hall “a jewel,” designed by the architectural firm that produced Atlanta’s Spivey Hall, known nationwide for its excellent acoustics. “The recital hall stage is covered with rich cherry wood panels for a classy look and excellent sound projection,” he said. “Showcasing our talented faculty and students will be a joy in this performance and rehearsal facility. Students will have an opportunity to learn the important skill of musical projection in a large space.”

FOY BUILDING THEN

- Organizations serving the performing arts in the 1930s included the Glee Club, Vesper Choir, a 34-piece College Band, and the Little Symphony of 16 instruments. The Music Club included both musicians and music boosters.
- 1954: Undergraduate degree in music approved.
- 1964: Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders announces funding for a fine arts building.
- 1966: Ground broken for construction of the fine arts building.
- 1967: Jessie P. Foy Fine Arts Building dedicated.
- 1966-2007: Building hosts the Department of Music and the Department of Art.



Percussion students rehearse timpani in the renovated Foy Annex. The Annex is used for band and symphony rehearsals.

Not only has the interior structure changed, but outdoor facilities and landscaping have been revamped as well. “The old parking lot is gone and has become a landscaped courtyard,” said Dipple. New outdoor touches include additional trees, benches, bike racks, ornamental pedestrian lighting, a low retaining wall for seating, low-water plants, and a small paved terrace for impromptu outdoor performances.

“The new facilities are attractive, inviting, bright and cheerful. Everyone in the department is excited to be back in Foy,” said Mercier.

“The wonderful light airy feeling one gets walking through the halls and the excellent studios, offices, rehearsal halls and classrooms make it a pleasure to come to work every day. Everyone appreciates having our classes in one building rather than running all over campus as we did for the past two years.”

The renovation has not only made a difference to current students, faculty and staff; but the multifunctional facilities now allow for future growth.

“This is an exciting time for music at Georgia Southern from the new conducting emphasis in the master’s degree program to multi-functional dedicated spaces for recording and music technology,” said Mercier.

“We would like to invite our alumni and friends to visit us for a first-hand look at how far the Department has come and hear about our plans for the future.”

To celebrate the re-opening of Foy, the Department is hosting a series of special performances and master classes this spring. For more information on Foy or the upcoming performances visit <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/music>.

FOY BUILDING NOW

- July 2006: Contract signed with architects Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbo to design expansion and renovation.
- August 2007: Department of Music takes temporary residence in Hendricks Hall and other locations on campus.
- January 2009: Foy Building and Annex opens to classes and becomes the home of the Department of Music, the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences dean and the College’s Advisement Center.
- February 2009: Carol A. Carter Recital Hall renovation and building expansion completed.
- April 2009: Music Department hosts Foy Celebration events and concert series.

Cheer up!

Married alumni turn love of cheerleading coaching into international business

By Luke Martin

Shazia Alvi Edmonds never dreamed that when she finished her cheerleading career at Georgia Southern she'd have the opportunity to continue something she loved so much.

She began cheerleading at the age of 14 after the daily grind of gymnastics became too much for her. She continued cheering until she graduated from Georgia Southern in 2004 with a B.S. in exercise science and spending five years as a member of the Georgia Southern cheerleading squad – four of those as the team captain. Upon graduation, Edmonds worked in medical sales in Savannah. However, she wasn't fulfilled in her vocation. She still wanted to choreograph and instruct for a career.

While in Savannah, she began dating another Georgia Southern graduate, Drew Edmonds, and the two would eventually marry.

Early in 2006, knowing Shazia's desire to get back to cheerleading, Drew surprised his wife with a Web site, brochure and business cards for DanceCheerMove, a company dedicated to offering cheerleading camps, clinics and choreography services to squads needing help.

In the three years since the Edmonds' started their company, business has increased by more than 400 percent annually. Soon, they began to expand into the international market.

Last September, a 14-year old Norwegian girl named Vilde contacted Shazia and asked about the possibility getting assistance from Edmonds. Vilde had started a cheerleading squad called the Diamonds, built a Web site and obtained gym space to practice – all without the assistance of adults.

Vilde explained that her squad was, "considered a joke in Norway because it was organized by a 14-year-old girl." She expressed that the team wanted to learn a



RYAN HONEYMAN

Drew and Shazia Edmonds find working with international squads a rewarding experience.

routine from DanceCheerMove because "(they) want to prove that the Diamonds are a true cheerleading team," according to Shazia.

"Vilde's story is not a joke, but rather, an inspiration," Shazia said. "There aren't many 14-year girls who could have organized a squad on their own. Vilde is someone to be admired and revered!" Traveling to Norway, Shazia taught the Diamonds a 90-second routine set to music as well as other fundamentals of cheering.

Even though competitive cheerleading started in the United States, it's gaining popularity worldwide due to the success of the movie "Bring It On." "Everywhere we travel, girls mention the movie and claim that it is the reason they wanted to become a cheerleader," Shazia said.

While in Europe, Shazia and Drew visited two other cheerleading teams, another in Norway and one in England.

"Working with international squads has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," Shazia said. "The squads have so much enthusiasm and show a real desire and determination to learn new skills."

With the success of their first overseas trip, Shazia and Drew have been invited back to visit the three teams they worked with in 2008 as well as other opportunities.

"We have also been asked to judge the Australian World Cup and work with squads in Germany and Sweden in 2009," she said. "The next couple of years will be very exciting for DanceCheerMove."

Helping hand

Alumnus reaches out to help adults raise the expectations of their children

By Michael Strong

After a lifetime of seeing children living down to low expectations, LaMarcus Hall did something to change it.

Hall, 25, decided to dedicate his life to reaching out to children, then put his plans into motion by writing a book designed to help adults raise the expectations of teenagers. *I Refuse to Let YOU Give Up* is the culmination of Hall's determination to lift the outlook of disadvantaged children.

"I'm tired of youth of all races being led astray. I'm tired of adults not inspiring our children," Hall said. "Every time I achieved something, a parent would grab me and say 'come talk to my child.' I've accepted my calling from God."

Hall wrote the book, which is available on *Amazon.com* as well as *Target.com*, during a four-month period after he complet-

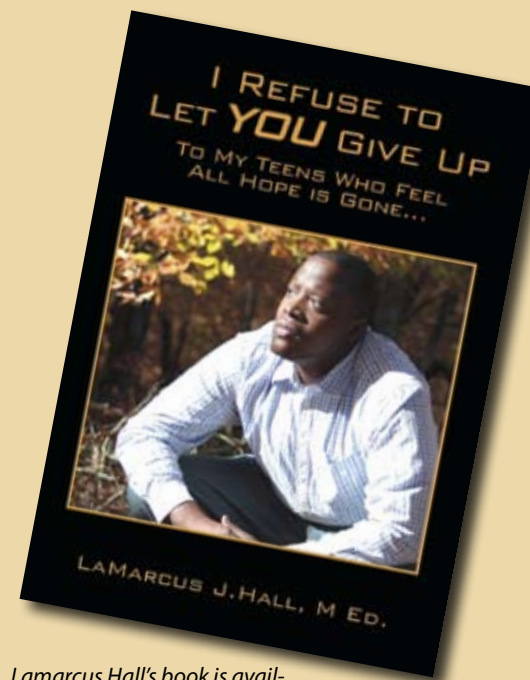
ed his master's degree in higher education from Georgia Southern. The book poured out of him after he wrote the introduction, cementing his feeling that he was called to do it, he said.

The book is aimed at better relating to teenagers.

"Number one: I'm a liberal for youth," he said. "I give them a true picture of where I came from. I made less than 1000 on my SAT, less than 20 on the ACT, but I overcame all of that," said Hall, who is currently the coordinator of resident life for Augusta State University.

This type of interaction needs to happen as soon as children have the ability to grasp the concept of achievement and success, Hall said.

"We need to plant prosperity in our children from the moment they understand. If you do not do this, the computer is going



LaMarcus Hall's book is available at *Amazon.com* and *Target.com*

to raise your child. Movie stars will raise your child," he said.

1940s

Frances Herrington Smith ('49) writes that her husband, **Thomas** ('40) passed away last November at the age of 83. He was a member of the Georgia Teacher's College basketball team who played under the legendary coach J.B. Searce. They had celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in July 2008. Mrs. Smith retired from teaching at Fort Stewart Elementary School in 1989.

1950s

D. Keith Cox ('59) and his wife, **Jane Jones Cox** ('59), are retired and living in Savannah. "We celebrated our golden wedding anniversary on Dec. 21, 2008," he writes. "We met at Georgia Teachers College in 1957 in Dr. Weaver's Child Development class."

1960s

William Albert Muller ('66) is a retired public library administrator. He and his wife, Pamala, live in Granville, N.C. "Things have changed

since I attended in the '60s, and yet they stay the same with the spirit of Southern and people who make the University what it is," he writes. "Carry on, Eagles!"

1970s

Pam Kane Breeden ('74) and her husband, **Frank** ('74) live in Marietta, Ga., where she is director for Cobb Senior Services. They'd like friends to know of the coming marriage of their daughter **Victoria** ('08) to **Paul Waters** ('08). "The tradition continues!" Pam writes.

1980s

Keith W. Johnson ('81) was named a Georgia High Performance principal by Gov. Sonny Perdue and Georgia Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox for three consecutive years, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and Appling County Middle School was named a Distinguished Middle School for 2007 and 2008. He was also named the only public winner of the International Dyslexia Foundation Leadership in Literacy Award for 2007. His wife, **Patsy** ('86), is a guidance

counselor with the Appling County Board of Education. They have a daughter, Whitney, and live in Baxley, Ga. Contact the family at kjpj199@bellsouth.net.

Betsy Sheppard ('82) led her company, B. Sheppard Consulting, to four national marketing awards at the recent annual National Active Retirement Association (NARA) Business Summit in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The company received the Gold Award in the Best Website category and the Silver Award in the Best Promotion/Event category. The firm also swept the Best Color Print Advertisement category, winning both the Gold and Silver Awards for ads appearing in local and regional publications.

Julie M. Foy ('83) is a first-grade teacher at Bonaire (Ga.) Elementary School. The 24-year veteran educator and her husband, Dan, have three children: 22-year-old Tyler, a senior at Oklahoma City University, Maura, a freshman at Georgia Southern, and Mallory, high school freshman.

Martha Futch Tatum ('84) and her husband, William, reside in Glennville, Ga. She is CEO of Evans Memorial Hospital in Claxton, and William is a rural mail carrier for the

U.S. Postal Service. They have a daughter, Stephanie. Martha may be reached at prntatum@windstream.net.

Michael D. Fagler ('85) has been named executive assistant to **Col. Bill Hitchens** ('76), the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety. Michael and his wife, Hope, live in Swainsboro, Ga., and also operate a family-owned Maryland Fried Chicken restaurant. They have two children, Macy and Shane. Michael may be reached via e-mail at mdfagler@yahoo.com.

Jeff Dudley ('86) has been named president and general manager of 13WMAZ television in Macon. He joined 13WMAZ in August 2001 to lead the station's promotion, programming and community relations departments. He has previously served at WUSA-TV, Gannett's CBS affiliate in Washington D.C.; WXIA-TV, Gannett's NBC affiliate in Atlanta; and at WTLV-TV, Gannett's NBC affiliate in Jacksonville, Fla. Jeff is involved in several community organizations including service as a board member for the Central Georgia Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and is on the marketing committee for United Way of Central Georgia.

Dan Miot ('86) is self-employed as a writer and composer and recently arranged 20 Christian hymns for trumpet and trombone duets. "In 2006, I published 'Portrait of Georgia,' a musical and geographical trip touching several key cities and towns in Georgia describing their historical and sentimental significance with short piano pieces," he writes. In 2007, he authored a book, *Guardians of the Troop*, recounting an eventful and instructive scouting trip from his youth. Dan lives in Brunswick, Ga., and may be contacted via e-mail at miotd@bellsouth.net.

Catherine Moore Ulmer ('89) and her husband, Wayne, reside in St. Augustine, Fla. She is senior vice president for market research with Bank of America. Wayne is a golf professional with Hidden Hills Country Club. They have two children, Ryan and Erin. Friends may write them at sashaulmer@aol.com.

1990s

Stephen Marquess ('90) is a physical therapist in Athens, Ga. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children: Leah Kathryn, John Owen and Ava Lauren. The couple may be contacted at kathymarquess@windstream.net.

Tanya Arauz Cales ('91) and her husband, Christopher, live in Port Wentworth, Ga. She is an assistant special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. She completed FBI

Alumnus addresses students, shares views on public issues

By Marla Bruner

Lance Simmens ('71), who has spent the last three decades involved in a variety of public policy issues, was a recent guest speaker on campus, sharing his views on environmental issues.

Simmens has spent 22 years in Washington, D.C., working in senior policy positions in two presidential administrations, six years as a U.S. Senate staffer, and six years as assistant executive director for the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

In 1993 he helped establish the first Federal Office of Sustainable Development in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and in 1995 received the highest honorary award from the U.S. Department of Commerce for his pioneering work in sustainable fisheries initiatives in New England and the Pacific Northwest.

"I remember my first class over in Newton Building with Dr. Lane Van Tassell," said Simmens. "I knew right away that I wanted to be in public service. If someone had told me back in the '70s that my school, Georgia Southern, would be leading the way with a climate commitment and LEED-certified buildings, I would have laughed. It's exciting to see Georgia Southern has come so far."

Simmens currently serves as a special assistant to Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, acting as liaison to local governments and local elected officials. To date, he has delivered 70 presentations in a variety of venues, including high schools, colleges, town hall meetings, national conferences and executive boards. Last year, he was invited to London by the European Parliament to present to Green Party members at the London School of Economics.

"Students should know... elected representatives work for you, the people, but you have the responsibility of



Lance Simmens returned to his alma mater to speak to students last fall.

holding them accountable," he said. "Stay involved."

Simmens has also participated as a visiting scholar in the Global Villages program of the Iacocca Institute at Lehigh University, where he held seminars with 96 entrepreneurs representing 44 countries.

"Students may want to know what they can do with a degree from Georgia Southern," said Simmens. "Personally, I have had the ride of a lifetime. You can go as high as you want to go. I have made it to Capitol Hill in D.C. and now, globally."

In addition to his Georgia Southern bachelor's degree in political science, Simmens earned a master's in public administration from Temple University, and has completed executive programs at the Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard Institute for International Development. He recently served as a citizen participant in National Security Seminar Week at the U.S. Army War College.

Man of the World

Dirk Haarhoff's personal and professional international ties have global reach

Given his family history, attorney Dirk Haarhoff ('99) couldn't help but be interested in international affairs.

Haarhoff's father was South African. His mother was Brazilian. He was born in Rio de Janeiro and was nine years old when his family emigrated to the U.S. and settled in the Atlanta area.



When he enrolled at Georgia Southern, he discovered a field that was to influence his career direction.

"Around the time I was a sophomore they started the international studies major," Haarhoff said. "So, I took an Intro to International Studies class. It was an awesome class." Professors like Zia Hashmi, Lane and Darin Van Tassell, and Barry Balleck brought out issues that deeply interested Haarhoff. "Because of my interna-

tional background these were issues that I always thought about," he said. "At that time I wanted to go to law school and Dr. Hashmi told me international studies would be a great major to do that."

Haarhoff also became a Model UN delegate. "That's when I actually fell in love with the city of New York," Haarhoff said. "When I decided to go to law school, I applied and was accepted to Fordham."

He's been in New York ever since.

"I've been practicing law in New York for about five years now," he said, concentrating on international law and balancing his love of international affairs with legal expertise. "So far, I've been able to mix it up with work that I've done. Law gives you a lot of options. Now it's just a matter of trying to put two and two together."

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, Haarhoff is an associate with Sedgwick, Detert, Moran and Arnold LLP. And New York is exactly where he wants to be.

"All different types of people are living more or less harmoniously in one very con-

gested area," he explained. "I've always been interested in different cultures, and here in New York we have it all. There's probably more diversity in my subway train coming to work every morning than in a lot of other areas. It just feels like if something's happening, it's happening here. I like that."

Haarhoff gives unreserved praise to his international studies professors. "In a hypercompetitive market like New York, I just wouldn't be able to come up here and compete if they hadn't expanded my horizons beyond Statesboro or Atlanta."

"I feel like I'm ambassador of sorts up here," he added. "People are always asking me about Georgia Southern or where Statesboro is."

"Roots are important," said Haarhoff. "That's what my background has taught me. A whole side of my mother's family is in Rio and my dad's whole family is from South Africa, and I have established my own roots in this country now that I've been in New York. But my roots in Statesboro are part of my global set of roots."

National Academy training in December and is currently enrolled at Georgia Southern, working toward her doctorate in education.

Lori Grice ('91) was chosen to create a Christmas ornament representing the 12th Congressional District of Georgia for the 2008 official White House Christmas tree. The tree was decorated with 369 ornaments which were hand-decorated by artists from around the country and selected by their respective members of Congress. Grice lives in Statesboro with her husband, **DeWayne** ('03), and daughter, Edie Grace.

Chris Clark ('92) was recently named executive director of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Formerly, Chris was the deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development. He, his wife, Tiffany, and son, Christian, reside near Peachtree City, Ga.

Tod Morgan ('92) is head men's basketball coach at Chapel Hill high school, Chapel Hill, N.C. He may be contacted at coachtodmorgan@gmail.com.

Mark A. Weeks ('92) and his wife, Stephanie, live in Brunswick, Ga., where he is plant controller with Rich Products Corporation. They have two daughters, Isabelle and Annie. Mark may be reached via e-mail at mweeks@rich.com.

William J. Milton, Jr. ('94) a financial professional with AXA Advisors LLC in Mount Pleasant, S.C., has earned the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification, granted to individuals who successfully complete the CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements. Milton focuses on helping individuals and business owners work toward achieving their financial goals. He is active in the Mt. Pleasant community where he resides with his wife, Dominique, daughters Gabrielle and Dahnielle, and son, William III.

Greg Pressley ('95) and Kara Bassily were married last September in Charleston, S.C., and reside in Mount Pleasant. He is a senior business consultant with CSS Inc. Kara is a senior sales representative with Eli Lilly & Company.

Todd Cleveland ('97) has been named general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn-North Alpharetta, Ga. The 164-room property is owned by Inland American and managed by Alliance Hospitality Management, a national hotel management company. Cleveland will oversee all operational, sales and administrative aspects of the Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta North Alpharetta. His most recent prior position was general manager for the Hyatt Place Atlanta/Johns Creek. He previously served as opening general manager for the Hilton Garden Inn Albany, Ga., and resident manager for the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn. He resides in Sugar Hill, Ga.

M. Brandon Vaughan ('97) is a manager with Deloitte Consulting in Washington, D.C. He may be reached at Vaughan_brandon@yahoo.com.

Nicole Bennett-Perkins ('98) and her husband, **Jermaine** ('00), reside in Statesboro. Jermaine is owner of Perkins Cement Finishing. Nicole is a graduation specialist at Portal Middle High School. They can be contacted at nperkins1908@frontiernet.net.



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For more information contact Susie Zakraisek at samorris@mindspring.com

Chad Swain ('99) and his wife, Marie, live in Madisonville, La., where he is a U.S. Postal Service inspector. They have two children, Brady O'Neal and Kate Caroline.

Leesa Rycenga Woodberry ('99) and her husband, **Paul** ('94), live in Alexandria, Va. Lessa is director of business development for Prindle Ryan and Associates real estate and Paul is a special agent with the U.S. Department of Justice. They have a daughter, Audrey Anna. "We attended GSU but never met until we had both graduated and moved to Atlanta. In 2003, we were married and moved to Mobile, Ala. Since then we have moved to Washington, D.C." They enjoy traveling to Europe and visiting family in Michigan and Statesboro. They receive e-mail at leesawoodberry@hotmail.com or woodberry@hotmail.com.

2000s

Courtney Ella Hughes ('00) is a third-grade teacher for Union County, N.C. public schools.

George Mategakis ('01) was recently named director of championships for the California Community College Athletic Association. He will be leading all regional and state championship competition. George lives in Sacramento and invites alumni and friends to e-mail him at gategakis@coasports.org.

Russell Carpenter ('02) recently left Cornell University to continue research at Oregon State University on a tumor suppressor protein. Carpenter earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Auburn University. He and two co-authors recently published research in *Biochemistry* magazine.

Melissa Wilson Cook ('02) and her husband, Chris, celebrated the birth of their son, Jared Todd Cook, last September. The couple lives

in Folkston, Ga. Melissa has worked with CSX Intermodal in Jacksonville, Fla., for the past six years. Chris is employed with the Sheriff's Office.

Holly Merriman Jordan ('03) has been promoted to the rank of major with the Glynn County, Ga., Sheriff's Department. Her duties now include supervision of the department's clerical staff and dispatchers, public relations and support services. She and her husband, James, live in Brunswick, Ga.

Nick Pearson ('03) has been named vice president of government and political affairs for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Pearson has been with the state chamber since 2006. He was previously a campaign consultant to Casey Cagle's successful campaign for lieutenant governor of Georgia. Prior to that he worked in the office of U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson as a liaison to the Environment and Works Committee, and two environmental subcommittees. He also served as liaison to state and local governments and chambers of commerce. Pearson got an early start at the state Capitol, having worked as an aide in the Georgia Senate. He may be reached via e-mail at npearson@gachamber.com.

Jennifer Camuso Anderson ('04) and her husband, **Michael** ('04), welcomed their first child, Caleb Michael, on Oct. 12, 2008. Jennifer is a first-grade teacher in Gwinnett County, Ga., and Michael is a systems engineer for possibleNOW. They live in Loganville, Ga.

Christopher Michael Barr ('04) and **Candice Grant Barr** ('05) are living in Richmond Hill, Ga. Christopher is vice president for commercial banking with Atlantic Bank & Trust in Savannah. Candice is a second-grade teacher with the Bryan County Board of Education. They may be contacted via e-mail at cbarr@myatlanticbank.com.

Jenny Lee Chandler ('04) and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Wyatt David, last August. The couple resides in Blairsville, Ga. They may be contacted at jlee@corrugatedpats.com.

Erica Price ('07) is a sales consultant for Anne's in Charleston, S.C., and lives in Hanahan. She may be reached via e-mail at eruthp@hotmail.com.

Katie Lamothe Sriratanakoul ('04) and her husband, **Sriravong** ('04) are living in Statesboro. "We recently got married at the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden on a beautiful fall day in November 2008." Katie is employed with Georgia Southern's Henderson Library and Sriravong with the Office of Student Activities.

Julie Ann Rumaugh ('05) is living in Brunswick, Ga.

David Warchol ('05) and **Jen Scipioni** ('05) met as students and are recently engaged and planning a June wedding. David is an engineer with Metcalf & Eddy, and Jen is employed with The Aspen Brands Company as project specialist and traffic coordinator. They may be contacted at davidfwarchol@gmail.com or jen.scipioni@gmail.com.

Brandon Allen Jones ('06) is an engineering drawing and design instructor with Screven County High School and lives in Statesboro. "Personally I'm relaxed with my life and enjoy nature and adventure the beauty of life and the earth, family and friends, work and personal time."

Justin L. Willbanks ('07) and **Kara Mulryan Willbanks** ('07) were married last summer and after a honeymoon in San Francisco, are residing in Gray, Ga. Justin is a manager with Saddle Creek Corporation and Kara is a second-grade teacher. He may be reached at jwillban@georgiasouthern.edu. Kara may be contacted at kmulryan@yahoo.com.

What I said... What you heard...

Alumna: Good communication skills reduce office friction

Denise Altman loves music and even used to sing and play in a band. Today she helps create another kind of harmony – between managers and co-workers.

Altman even wrote a book, *22 Reasons Employees HATE their Jobs...and What Companies Can Do About It*. The book not only cites the top reasons for workers' dislike of what they do, but helps them to communicate to co-workers with different personality styles, which is often the root of the problem.



Altman is a Certified Professional Behavior Analyst and a CPA. After earning her undergrad business administration degree at Georgia Southern, she completed her M.B.A. at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is president of Altman Initiative Group Inc., a behavioral and strategic consulting firm in Matthews, N.C. and a frequent speaker at conferences nationwide on interpersonal and intra-company communication.

"As long as there are people, there are people problems," said Altman. "Most of the time when you get at least two people together, you're going to have some communication issues. That's really where I focus - helping people communicate better and helping them hear better. 90 percent of our problems come from misstating or mishearing."

Her book was published two years ago in a strong economy, but the recession has not

changed the principles, she said. Only her approach is different – fewer companies are willing to spend time and money on workshops for entire management teams or entire company workforces. Now, she said, the focus is on personal coaching.

"The market changes, but the No. 1 reason people hate their jobs is they hate their boss," Altman said. "People generally don't work for a company. They work for a boss. As far as the company is concerned, the boss really does hold the key to their being able to accomplish what they want. Typically there's a disconnect between the employee and the employer."

She tells a personal story about working for an accounting firm and being perceived by one subordinate as "abusive." "I could see how I might come off as 'abrasive' at times, but they said 'abusive.' That's not how I wanted to be perceived or how I meant to be taken." By happenstance, she was introduced to a behavioral measurement test about personality styles which caught her interest and led to a new career helping companies solve their "people problems."

"It was not an intent issue, but an intensity issue," she said. "I was in a firm with accountants who tended to not share my personality style. They didn't understand me and I didn't understand them very well. I made a decision at that point, I was going to fix that."

"The boss might really be a nice person," said Altman, "but if he or she doesn't communicate very well, people don't understand what they could accomplish if they could really connect with this person – and vice versa."

2nd Lt. **Robert E. Johnson** ('08) recently received his commission as an officer in the United States Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va. During the 10-week-long training program, he received extensive instruction on a variety of specialized subjects including Marine Corps history, tactics, operations and organization, land navigation and other military subjects.

Coast Guard Seaman **Benjamin J. Scarbrough** ('08) recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J. During the eight-week training program, Scarbrough completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship.

Phil Yarbrough 1936-2008

Phil Yarbrough, credited with streamlining AM Top 40 radio into the national standard rock programming format of the 1960s, died in West Hills, Calif. last November.

He was 71.

Yarbrough, who adopted the name Bill Drake early in his radio career, attended Georgia Teachers College in the mid-1950s and was a former TC basketball player. His athletics career was ended by an injury.



Yarbrough was program director at major radio stations in San Diego and Los Angeles. His ear for hits was credited as making stars out of then-obscure Los Angeles rock groups like the Doors, the Byrds and Sonny & Cher.

Yarbrough was the radio programmer who first used market research and a tight, polished format, which reached its zenith with "Boss Radio." That format hit the Los Angeles airwaves in April 1965, and quickly turned KHJ into the biggest radio station in the nation's most-important music industry market.

Drake's automated "Hit Parade" format spread to FM stations across the nation, carrying with it Yarbrough's voice.

In Memoriam

Alumni

Robert W. Lamb, '65, Lincolnton, Ga.

Johnny McGlamery, '75, Statesboro

Thomas J. Smith, '49, Hinesville, Ga.

Nancy Jenkins Welch, '68, Highlands, N.C.

Fielding D. "Rusty" Russell III, Statesboro

Faculty

Frank R. Saunders, Statesboro

Staff

Fred Shroyer, Statesboro

Student

Lauren Nicole Herndon, Dixie, Ga.

Entrepreneurship 101

Alumna works in West Africa to bring skills to the impoverished

By Holly Larsen ('97)

What did you dream about when you were a child?

It probably was living the dream job – a doctor, lawyer, fireman or superhero.

The children in West Africa have few reasons to dream. Their days are full of work – sweeping the dirt yards, working in the fields, or cooking endless meals. They are rarely provided the opportunity to go to school.

If permitted to attend school, the relevance of their studies has no impact on their lives, nor do they see its significance.

As a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, West Africa, I have implemented a program in my community with a local non-government organization assigned to me by Peace Corps and the not-for-profit organization Junior Achievement.

Junior Achievement Mali intends to start a movement of leaders through the education and community affairs sector to contact and inspire the youth so that they can enhance their economic and social environment.

The notion of entrepreneurship in small villages is a new concept in terms of product differentiation and innovation. Junior Achievement provides the students with a brush and the open-mindedness to paint their imaginations without criticism.

“Let their success be your inspiration” is the slogan of Junior Achievement Worldwide and it rings true in my work in Banamba, a medium-sized village of 12,000 people located north of the capital city of Bamako. During the 2007-08 school year, I and Hamed Traoré, a Malian counterpart, taught over 120 students in the “Our Community” program at six different middle schools. You could see the excitement in their eyes and faces. They were getting the lessons and retaining the information, which is unlike the normal classroom setting. The students tend to memorize their lessons and not retain any information,



Holly Larsen is teaching youthful Malians the principles of entrepreneurship.

particularly when the lesson is in French and not their native language of Bambara.

The students learned basic economic principles and how to operate a small business.

My Global Entrepreneurship Week Bike Tour included a HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. I teamed up with 11 fellow Peace Corps Volunteers and two Malian university students. We rode approximately 56 miles, visited seven villages and slept under the stars giving presentations on HIV/AIDS, entrepreneurial skits in the local language, and a lesson from the Junior Achievement “Our Community” program.

The week is over, but the ripple effects are still spreading. The education system has noticed the benefits of Junior Achievement and the practical improvements that could happen in Mali.

Peace Corps involvement will do its part, but it is up to the Malians to step up and volunteer their time in the schools. Not only will the children take something home from this program, but the volunteers will be inspired just like I was to continue their efforts to help Mali build a stronger economy for tomorrow's generation.

Why do all this for people you do not know in a place that you are not from and know nothing about?

All my life I have been taught to be nice and hospitable to everyone regardless of the color of their skin, gender, or socio-economic background – to always help the poor and hungry because it is the right thing to do. So, I am now “casting my bread upon the waters” because it is to their and my advantage to give back to a world that has already blessed me more than I have deserved.

PARTING SHOT



Assistant football coach Jeff Koonz oversees defensive lineman Charwel Brown in a defensive blocking drill during morning practice. Spring drills gave Eagles fans a chance to get a glimpse of their team which opens its season Sept. 5 at Paulson Stadium against Albany (N.Y.). The Danes will arrive with consecutive Northeast Conference championships under their belts as the Eagles aim to return to FCS playoff contention.



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RYAN HONEYMAN

Actor and environmental activist Ed Begley, Jr. (center) helped University President Bruce Grube (far right) and Georgia Power's Terry Reeves (left) kick off a project to switch all light bulbs in campus offices and conference rooms to energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). This project is the first of its kind in the University System of Georgia and was featured on the Weather Channel's "Eco Watch" segment. The energy savings and environmental impact of the project is the equivalent of removing eight cars from the road or planting 140 trees.