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President's Annual Report

Brooks Keel

Georgia Southern University

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A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT ON OUR 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



President's Annual Report (2013)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past year, few things have been more exciting than our remarkable accomplishments at **Georgia Southern University**. In a year defined by change, it was a time of innovative teaching and learning, continued growth, ambitious research and scholarship, creative endeavors and generous contributions to our state and society.

Georgia Southern is an exceptional institution offering the best in higher education. We are consistently ranked among the nation's leading institutions by *U.S. News & World Report* and have proven that we are leading the way in a changing world. We have a powerful future, and the University has achieved an exciting momentum that continues to build year after year because of our students, faculty and staff.

This report not only represents achievements in which we take great pride, but is a sincere message of thanks to those who contribute to our success every day. We invite you to share in these accomplishments by exploring our year in review.

Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.
President, Georgia Southern University

ACADEMICS

Academics are a hallmark of Georgia Southern's success, and the University once again achieved numerous national accolades. For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern was recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the nation's top universities that students want to attend, was named one of America's "Best Colleges," and earned the title of a military friendly institution of higher learning. The University also continued to attract outstanding students, setting a new record high average SAT score of 1115.

In a nod to learning outside the traditional classroom, the University's online programs were ranked among the best in the nation, and faculty members earned an Outstanding Research in K-12 Learning Award.

This year, Georgia Southern also focused on interdisciplinary science, technology, engineering and math education by launching the new i2STEMe, an institute that encourages K-12 students in rural southeast Georgia to pursue STEM degrees and careers.

Georgia Southern Online Programs Ranked Among the Nation's Best

April 10, 2013

Georgia Southern University has once again been recognized by U.S. News & World Report for giving students flexible and quality online options to earn their college degrees. Four programs have been ranked on the list of “2014 Best Online Programs.”

U.S. News evaluated nearly 860 online programs at colleges and universities across the country. Here are the rankings for the four Georgia Southern programs:

Best online graduate computer information technology programs (#15)

Best online graduate education programs (#21)

Best online graduate business programs (#34)

Best online bachelor’s program (#105)

“The ranking is just one indication of our commitment to the College of Education’s online graduate programs and our work to continuously improve and expand the options available to best serve our students, many of whom are already working within the state’s educational system,” said Tom Koballa, dean of the College of Education. “Our online programs allow these students to continue teaching and serving while growing and developing as educators at all levels.”

“The ability to take all classes online while working full-time has been a major draw for working professionals,” said Bill Wells, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration. “The WebMBA provides the flexibility they need. This AACSB accredited program is recognized for its quality and continues to grow.. This is a reflection of the outstanding work by our faculty and staff.”

According to U.S News, only degree-granting programs offering courses that are 100 percent online were considered for the rankings. They were assigned an overall numerical rank based on student engagement, faculty credentials and training and students services and technology. Admissions selectivity also factored into the rankings for all online master’s degree programs, and academic peer reputation was included in the calculations for engineering and business program rankings.

See the list of “Best Online Programs” by visiting: <http://www.usnews.com/education/online-education>.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern Recognized by U.S. News & World Report

February 4, 2013

Georgia Southern University continues to be a preferred destination for students from across the United States and around the world. This past fall, the University not only set a new record for enrollment with 20,574 students from 49 states and 93 countries, but also a new record high average SAT score of 1115. For the third consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report has recognized Georgia Southern as one of the top national universities that students want to attend.

This past week, the magazine looked at the yield rate which is determined by the number of first year students who enrolled after being accepted. For fall 2012, 5,456 students were accepted by Georgia Southern, and 3,542 enrolled. The University's yield rate was 64.9 percent - besting Yale University, MIT and others. Georgia Southern is the only university from the southeastern United States in the top 10.

"I think people are starting to take notice. Georgia Southern is changing, it is growing and more and more students are making it their top choice for their college education," said Brooks Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern. "I really do think people, particularly parents and alumni who may not have visited campus in a long time, are surprised when they see how much has changed. Georgia Southern has undergone an incredible transformation not only physically with numerous new buildings, but academically as well. When you combine that with living in Statesboro, one of the truly iconic, main street college towns in this country, it is a really attractive choice for students. I tell parents all the time to just visit. If they do, they and their son or daughter are sold."

As more students enroll, Georgia Southern continues to attract some of the best and brightest students. The 2012 freshman class had an average SAT score of 1115 for math and reading - a new record for the growing institution. What's attracting record numbers of outstanding students? University officials believe it is the unique combination of opportunity and atmosphere. Students have the opportunity to pursue degrees in a wide range of popular programs ranging from business and IT to healthcare and education. In 2011, the University began offering bachelor's degrees in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering through its newly established Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology - one of the nation's newest engineering schools.

The resulting record enrollment and growing popularity of Georgia Southern are not only being felt on campus, but are driving factors in the region's economy, too. Last year, the University had an economic impact of \$846 million supporting more than 8,000 jobs in the region. That investment continues with the construction of a new Biological Sciences building that will house teaching labs and research space.

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University MBA Ranked One of the Nation's Top Online MBA Programs

October 10, 2012

Georgia Southern University's Master of Business Administration (MBA) has been named one of the nation's Top Online MBA programs by M magazine (mbaonline.com), the number one online MBA magazine for students. The University's online MBA was ranked 8th in the national rankings.

"Georgia Southern's MBA program is continuing to grow and our online degree program offers working professionals the flexibility to earn their degree no matter their location or family commitments," said Bill Wells, Ph.D., interim dean of Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration. "I am particularly proud of our outstanding professors who understand the demands of working professionals. They have designed the program to not only work with the busiest of schedules, but to help graduates take the next step in their career."

According to the publication, their rankings include a compilation of data students will find useful as they go through the program selection process. One of the top criteria used to rank schools is the affordability of the education, including tuition rates and financial aid option. Affordability also boils down to how long it takes to complete a program and how many credits are required to earn a degree. The value of the school may also be determined by additional benefits the school provides, such as student perks, program perks and alumni resources.

MBAonline.com also looks at reputation and prestige which takes into account accreditation and awards the school has received. The quality of the institution is determined by enrollment statistics, as well as retention and graduation rates. Academic quality is of high importance and includes factors like the competitiveness of admission, design and efficiency of the online program and flexibility of coursework. Profiles of the faculty and diversity of the student body are also considered, as well as additional resources available to students beyond the virtual classroom.

The Georgia Southern University Online MBA is offered through the Georgia WebMBA program, a 30-hour program that appeals to professionals from a broad business background. In addition to being ranked among the nation's best, the magazine also noted that Georgia Southern is, "ranked at the top among regional schools with similar online MBA programs."

Georgia Southern University and all of its programs contained under the university's umbrella are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The College of Business has undergraduate and graduate accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Only about 30 percent of all U.S. colleges of business have AACSB accreditation.

For more information on Georgia Southern's MBA programs, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/mba or call 912-478-5767.

UPCOMING: Savannah MBA Information Session

Georgia Southern's MBA program will be hosting an MBA Information Session in Savannah.

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012

5:30 p.m

Coastal Georgia Center

305 Fahm Street, Savannah

To RSVP for the information session, please call Karen Wells at 912-478-5767 or e-mail kwells@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. In 2012, the University was named one of the Top 10 most popular universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Named One of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report

September 12, 2012

Georgia Southern has once again been named one of America's Best Colleges in the 2013 edition of *U.S. News and World Report*.

Georgia Southern University, which boasts an enrollment of more than 20,000 students from 49 U.S. states and more than 100 countries, is featured in the national university category. The category highlights the top 270 public and private universities in the country.

"We are excited that Georgia Southern University has once again been recognized as one of America's Best Colleges," said Brooks Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern University. "As the largest University in south Georgia, Georgia Southern is not only educating future leaders, but serving as an economic engine for the state. To be recognized among the best is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Georgia Southern's faculty and staff."

There are 280 national universities—172 public, 101 private and 7 for profit—based on the 2010 Basic categories established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. National universities offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and Ph.D. programs. In many cases, they place strong emphasis on research and receive federal money to support their research endeavors

How the Rankings Work

First, *U.S. News and World Report* places each school into a category based on its mission (research university or national liberal arts college). They then gather data from and about each school in 16 areas related to academic excellence. Each indicator is assigned a weight (expressed as a percentage) based on the publication's judgments about which measures of quality matter most. Lastly, each college is ranked based on their composite weighted score.

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Georgia Southern Named a Best Business School for Veterans

March 24, 2013

Georgia Southern University's College of Business Administration (COBA) has been honored by Military Times as being one of the best business schools for veterans in the United States. In the first-ever survey, COBA received the "Best for Vets: Business Schools" seal.

"The MBA program at Georgia Southern University is attracting outstanding veterans from throughout the country," said Bill Wells, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration. "Veterans considering an MBA have more options than ever and we are proud to be one of a select few MBA programs in Georgia to be recognized in this year's rankings."

COBA ranked 45th out of the roughly 100 business schools at colleges and universities that responded to the detailed, 60 question survey. Georgia Southern was singled out for its online and part-time MBA program and for having staff dedicated to veterans issues in the business school.

"The MBA program at Georgia Southern University is not only nationally respected, but offers students maximum flexibility," explained Wells. "Today, you can choose to take your courses full-time or part-time, on campus, online or through a combination of both. It's perfect for veterans looking to take the next step in their career or for active members of the military exploring graduate education. Our students who have military backgrounds enter the MBA program focused and dedicated. Their leadership experiences have prepared them well for life after the military, and we hope the MBA education they receive from Georgia Southern will make them the stand-out candidate for any job."

The Best for Vets survey is in this month's edition of Military Times on newsstands and online. To find the story and all the rankings for the "Best for Vets: Business Schools" list, [CLICK HERE](#).

There is a long, rich and proud tradition of Georgia Southern welcoming active-duty service members, veterans and their families. Military Advanced Education and G.I. Jobs named the University a military friendly school in 2013.

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Establishes New Interdisciplinary STEM Education Institute

August 16, 2012

Georgia Southern University has established a new institute for interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education (I²STEM^e) (pronounced “I two STEM e”) that will support thematic grant writing, research and outreach. The Institute is committed to excellence in primary, secondary and higher education STEM teaching and learning with a focus on rural and diverse populations under-represented in STEM areas.

“Georgia Southern University is not only committed to increasing the numbers of those entering STEM fields, but also to creating an environment where our citizens are more STEM literate and can make informed decisions about complex issues,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D.,. The announcement comes on the heels of a White House initiative to create a new national [STEM Master Teacher Corps](#) and a focus on increased funding that allows school districts to identify, develop and leverage highly effective STEM teachers.

“This new institute will not only support a strategic and important national initiative, but it will position Georgia Southern to play an important role as we work to inspire Georgia’s best and brightest K-12 students to pursue STEM careers,” Keel said.

The Institute will create a broad range of partnerships across academia, business, education and research centers in southeast Georgia, support professional development, outreach, curricular development, the creation of innovative courses and research in STEM education through grant funded projects. The Institute, one of the first of its kind, will be distinctive in that it will focus on serving rural southeastern Georgia.

“Georgia Southern has a track record in developing programs that serve the special needs of our region, a largely rural and ethnically diverse area,” said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president of research and dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. “Our goal is to provide greater access for rural and underserved populations to science, technology, engineering and math by helping these students to pursue degrees and careers in those areas.”

The STEM institute is being established through a unique collaboration of core partners: Georgia Southern’s new Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, the College of Science and Mathematics, the College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. This interdisciplinary collaboration addresses and integrates all four facets of STEM curriculum; utilizing cutting-edge research and educational practice in teaching from kindergarten through college.

“I²STEM^e is the only institute within the University System of Georgia to address all four components of STEM disciplines within the framework of educational practice,” says Keel. “It is unique, but more importantly it addresses a specific need in our state.”

Georgia Southern research professor Robert Mayes, Ph.D., who teaches in the College of Education, will serve as the first I²STEM^e Director alongside Institute Fellows Joy Darley, Ph.D. and Jim LoBue, Ph.D., both from the College of Science and Mathematics; and Shonda Bernadin, Ph.D., from the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology.

For further information about the Institute, please contact Dr. Robert Mayes, rmayes@georgiasouthern.edu or visit the Institute’s website at www.georgiasouthern.edu/stem.

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Georgia Southern University and Armstrong Atlantic State University Sign Articulation Agreement for Engineering Programs

August 1, 2012

Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., and Armstrong Atlantic State University President Linda Bleicken, Ph.D., signed an articulation agreement today for engineering education between the two institutions.

During their freshman and sophomore years of the program, students at Armstrong will enroll in core curriculum and introductory engineering courses taught by Armstrong faculty in Savannah. Upon completion of their sophomore year, students will earn an Associate of Science degree with a concentration in engineering. Qualified students will then have the opportunity to transfer to Georgia Southern to earn a bachelor's degree in civil, electrical or mechanical engineering.

"Today is all about opportunity. As a result of the agreement we have signed, students at Armstrong will now be able to transfer into one of Georgia Southern's bachelor of engineering programs. This enables more students to have access to top-notch engineering education in the state of Georgia," said Keel.

"We are pleased to bring Armstrong and Georgia Southern's engineering programs together," said Bleicken. "This agreement allows students to complete their initial associate degree credentials at Armstrong and move seamlessly to the bachelor's program at Georgia Southern, taking advantage of the talented faculty at both institutions."

During the ceremony, representatives from both universities emphasized that this new agreement will help generate an increased supply of qualified engineering graduates. As a result, Georgia companies will have the opportunity to attract, hire and retain work-ready engineers that meet their requirements without having to recruit out-of-state.

Georgia Southern is one of the newest colleges to offer undergraduate engineering degrees in the country. The University has been offering nationally accredited baccalaureate degrees in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering technology for more than 30 years and the recent establishment of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology is attracting national attention and interest. "Georgia Southern is receiving an increasing amount of interest from students who want to stay in the state of Georgia. Our engineering programs not only provide students with the opportunity to study engineering theory, but focus on providing them with practical, hands-on experience – something employers have said they desperately need," said Keel.

The Engineering Studies Program at Armstrong provides several unique opportunities for engineering students. Through the program, students build a solid foundation in humanities, mathematics, sciences and engineering. Learning takes place in a friendly, small college environment where students can obtain individual help from and maintain close contact with professors outside of classes.

During the past 20 years, the U.S. has not produced enough engineering graduates to meet employment demands. In Georgia, an aging engineering workforce continues to retire at a faster rate than can be replaced. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, during the 2008-18 decade, overall engineering employment is expected to grow by 11 percent.

Administrators and engineering faculty from both universities along with guests from Gulfstream, Mitsubishi Power Systems America, Inc., Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, Thomas & Hutton, Savannah Tech and other regional business leaders were present for the signing ceremony.

Georgia Southern University Named One of Nation's Most Military Friendly Schools by G.I. Jobs Magazine

September 20, 2012

Georgia Southern University's commitment to providing top-notch education opportunities for military veterans, active duty personnel and their dependents is once again earning national attention. G.I. Jobs magazine, a premier military publication, has named Georgia Southern as a "Military Friendly School" for 2013.

The 2013 Military Friendly Schools list was released by Victory Media and can be found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com. This year's list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses as students to ensure their success on campus.

"We are honored to once again be recognized by G.I. Jobs magazine as one of the most military friendly universities in the country," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "The ranking is the result of a University-wide commitment to provide military personnel with the service and assistance they need and deserve."

Georgia Southern's location has contributed to increased numbers of military students choosing the University. Located in Statesboro, the University is within driving distance of the U.S. Army's Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. Additionally, Fort Gordon and Robins Air Force Base are within two hours. "We have students attending classes on campus and a growing number are choosing to pursue their degree through one of our many online programs," says Keel. Georgia Southern currently offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs online in fields ranging from information technology, nursing, education and business administration to name a few.

This year's Military Friendly Schools® list criteria incorporate a survey of more than 3,000 actual student veterans. According to the publication, the feedback they gather provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at particular institutions based on peer reviews from current students.

Now in its fourth year, the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. The survey results that comprise the 2013 list were independently tested by Ernst & Young LLP based upon the weightings and methodology established by Victory Media.

"A school's inclusion on the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools shows commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students," said Sean Collins, vice president at Victory Media and director for G.I. Jobs. "As interest in education grows, we're thrilled to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools."

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Georgia Southern University and Arizona State University Education Professors Presented Outstanding Research K-12 Online Learning Award

October 22, 2012

Georgia Southern University College of Education Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology, Kathryn Kennedy, Ph.D., has been named the winner of the 2012 Outstanding Research in K-12 Online Learning Award. Kennedy along with Leanna Archambault, Ph.D., assistant professor at Arizona State University, was presented with the award at the Virtual School Symposium on Oct.21, 2012, at the Annual International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) Membership Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

The research study that was nominated and earned Kennedy and Archambault the award was a national survey of teacher education programs that explores what teacher education programs are doing to prepare pre-service teachers for K-12 online and blended learning environments. The article based on the study was published in the *Journal of Teacher Education*, which has an acceptance rate of 5 percent and impact factor of 1.891, ranked 18th out of 184 Education and Education Research journals. The study itself found that only 1.3 percent of teacher education programs are doing anything to prepare teachers for these new learning environments. Another finding of the study was that educators continue to have misconceptions about online education, including the notion that online learning is not "real" learning.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have online learning opportunities for K-12 students, and many states are now requiring high school students to take at least one online learning course before they graduate. Because of this and the exponentially growing number of K-12 students who are enrolling in online programs, it behooves teacher educators to step up and create curriculum and field experiences designed to address and prepare teachers for K-12 online learning environments.

Kennedy joined Georgia Southern's Instructional Technology program in Fall 2010. In addition to serving as a professor at Georgia Southern, she was recently hired as the Knowledge Manager/Researcher for iNACOL in September 2012. At Georgia Southern, she teaches four courses including, Field Experience in Online Teaching and Learning, Online Pedagogy, Advanced Seminar in Instructional Technology, and Transforming Learning with Technology. Her research interests and practical experience include pre-service and in-service teacher, technology specialist, and library/media specialist professional development for technology integration and instructional design in traditional, blended, and online learning environments. She has a special interest in K-12 online and blended learning.

Kennedy earned a Ph.D. from the University of Florida in curriculum and instruction, with a concentration in educational technology, a master's from Florida State University in library and information science, specializing in young adult literature, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Florida in English, with an emphasis in children's and adolescent literature.

Archambault is an assistant professor of educational technology at Arizona State University. Her research areas include teacher preparation for online and blended classrooms as well as the nature of technological pedagogical content knowledge. Most recently, she has collaborated on the Hartwell Education Initiative to create and study a newly developed blended course, Sustainability Science for Teachers. Prior to taking her position at Arizona State University in 2008, Archambault graduated from University of Nevada Las Vegas with a Ph.D. in instructional and curricular studies. As a former middle school English teacher, she is passionate about improving the education, particularly through the use of relevant and emerging technologies.

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Georgia Southern ranked as a top fashion merchandising school

May 29, 2013

Georgia Southern University's Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design program has been named one of the top fashion merchandising schools in the United States by fashion-schools.org. In a review that looked at more than 200 institutions and their academics, admissions, programs, faculty and other criteria, Georgia Southern ranked among the top 25 percent in the nation and made the top schools list at 49. The University was also ranked ninth on the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the South.

"This means Georgia Southern is up there with the premiere national programs," said Cynthia Johnson, Ph.D., professor and chair of the School of Human Ecology. "It means we have a rigorous, competitive program where we are teaching our students and preparing them to become buyers or designers in the global fashion industry."

There are more than 200 students now enrolled in the University's program, and they are getting hands-on experience in designing, producing and selling clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children. They are also taught about fashion history as well as fabric research and development.

"The training at Georgia Southern takes students around the world," explained Johnson. "Before graduating, these young designers and merchandisers have traveled to Paris, London, Rome and New York for internships. We prepare them to design or sell merchandise and then put them in locations where they are exposed to opportunities as they begin their careers."

Mychael Knight is one of the best-known graduates of the fashion merchandising and apparel design program. He appeared on "Project Runway" in 2006 and finished fourth in the competition, and he now produces his own clothing line. Professor Hope Wallace won the People's Choice award for her designs during Fashion Week in Charleston, S.C., last March.

"I think the ranking says a lot about what we are doing, and more people are learning about our academic reputation," said Barry Joyner, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. "It is good to see the program getting this recognition, and a lot of the credit goes to our faculty. Our students appreciate how their professors are dedicated to help them by staying late, answering questions and coming in on weekends to open the design lab."

See the Top 75 list at fashion-schools.org/articles/top-75-fashion-merchandising-schools-us. Visit fashion-schools.org/articles/top-15-fashion-schools-south to see the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the South.

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Georgia Southern Creates Center to Help Youth-At-Risk

March 11, 2013

Georgia Southern University announces the creation of the National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center at the College of Education (COE) to train educators to help boys and girls overcome bullying, violence and other challenges in their local schools.

“Once again, Georgia Southern University is answering the call to address issues that face our region and nation,” said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., in announcing the Center’s creation. “Educators serving youth placed at-risk in our service area, in Georgia and throughout the United States need professional development, research support and resource assistance to reduce or eliminate the harmful effects of problematic conditions threatening youth in our schools and communities.”

The NYAR Center will develop, coordinate and extend the ongoing efforts of COE to provide professional development, research support and resource assistance for educators serving youth placed at-risk within the geographical service area of Georgia Southern and beyond, according to professor and NYAR Conference co-chair Dan Rea. The 24th annual conference wrapped up last week in Savannah with more than 1,100 attendees from throughout the U.S. and the world.

“The NYAR Center is an important addition to the College of Education and our mission,” said Tom Koballa, dean of the College of Education. “It places COE in the forefront of fostering research and providing professionals with the latest educational programs and strategies to assist youth in overcoming at-risk conditions.”

The Center will extend three of COE’s current efforts to address the needs of educators to serve youth placed at-risk: the annual NYAR Conference, the annual Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and the Closing the Achievement Gap for Educators website. Through cutting-edge research efforts, the Center will also make it possible for Georgia Southern and the College of Education to play important roles in enabling educators to find research-based solutions to regional and national educational problems.

Youth-at-risk signifies the urgency and seriousness of societal “risks” faced by today’s youth and is distinct from “at-risk youth.” The NYAR Conference and new Center focus on the conditions that threaten the well-being of youths which include poverty, racism, drugs, gangs, negative peer pressure, negative school climate, unqualified teachers, passive instructional strategies, disregard for individual learning differences, ineffective discipline systems, low teacher expectations, inadequate counseling, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment and dysfunctional home life.

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STUDENT SUCCESS

This year, Georgia Southern not only set a new record for enrollment with 20,574 students from 49 states and 93 countries, but also achieved an impressive record for community service. Our diverse student population demonstrated their talent for helping others in need by dedicating nearly 369,000 hours toward community service. Their commitment to reaching out and creating positive changes led to the University's recognition as a member of the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the first time.

Our future leaders have impacted others around the world and increased the University's visibility, whether participating in an international chorale competition, appearing on national television, earning prestigious writing awards or continued involvement in global learning through Study Abroad trips

Georgia Southern University Student Wins Muhammad Ali Writing Award for Ethics

September 27, 2012

Georgia Southern University senior Evin Hughes has won the first ever Muhammad Ali Writing Award for Ethics. The award, co-sponsored by the Muhammad Ali Center and the Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony, in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), is given to the outstanding college student whose writing reflects Muhammad Ali's legacy of living a life dedicated to high ethical standards.

Lonnie and Muhammad Ali, and director, screenwriter, and producer Oliver Stone will present Hughes the award and a check for \$10,000 at the Norman Mailer Center's fourth annual benefit gala on Thursday, October 4, in New York City. Actor Alec Baldwin and Tina Brown of Newsweek Magazine and The Daily Beast.com will host the event, which celebrates renowned and emerging writers alike. Hughes, a Swainsboro, Georgia native, will also receive a week-long writing workshop next summer at the Mailer Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, travel and hotel accommodations and tickets for the Gala.

The essay by the Georgia Southern dual major in Information Technology and Writing and Linguistics, emerged as the winner among eight semi-finalists and four finalists from such universities as Columbia, Georgetown, Oregon State, George Washington, Notre Dame and Alabama.

The three judges who read his prize-winning essay, "Float like a Plane, Sting Like a Bomb: The Ethics of U.S. Drone Attacks," included noted author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Elie Wiesel. In his nearly 5,000 word-winning entry, Hughes wrote about the harm of drones as weapons in "the war on terror" and of a hopeful new future devoid of the violence created by drones.

The writers were judged on their understanding of the ethical issue posed in their essay, as well as for original thinking and insight, effectiveness in presenting a point-of-view and achieving an overall emotional or intellectual effect.

"This recognition of Evin Hughes reinforces the power of writing," said Georgia Southern professor Phyllis Dallas who encouraged him to enter the contest.

"We faculty in Writing and Linguistics know that writing can affect the world, whether it is a poem or story that captures for its reader the beauty of language or an insight or emotion that leaves the reader knowing, as C.S. Lewis wrote, that we are not alone; or whether it is a finely crafted essay like Evin's that brings together his ethics, his critical analysis of a subject, and his synthesis of the research and writing of others to articulate an argument that asks its reader to consider and see their world anew and to question how to achieve peace and social justice."

Donald Lassere, president and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center said, "The Ali Center is so proud of Evin and the rest of the student finalists and honorees being recognized at the Norman Mailer Center's Gala. This has been an outstanding partnership for the Ali Center and it has afforded us another opportunity to share Muhammad's legacy with the younger generation which Muhammad and Lonnie care so much about."

The Norman Mailer Center is an educational non-profit dedicated to supporting and celebrating those writers who challenge the status quo and surprise their audiences. The Muhammad Ali Center's mission is to preserve and share the legacy and ideals of Muhammad Ali and the National Council of Teachers of English is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all scholastic levels. [CLICK HERE To read Evin Hughes' prize-winning essay.](#)

Students recognized for community service

April 23, 2013

Georgia Southern's commitment and dedication to public service from its students, faculty and staff have led to the University being named in the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"This award recognizes the dedication of our students, faculty and staff to invest their lives in this community," said Todd Deal, Ph.D., director of the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (OSLCE). "A significant part of our mission is service to the region, and this award demonstrates that we certainly are meeting that."

This is the first time Georgia Southern has applied for and been recognized with the award. The data from the 2011-12 academic year revealed more than 3,900 students engaged in nearly 369,000 hours or more than 15,000 days of community service. As a part of the application, Georgia Southern reported service by its pre-service teachers and nursing students, as well as the community service efforts coordinated through the OSLCE; however, it does not include the countless hours of service by the University's Greek organizations.

Among the work done through the OSLCE: the Community Liaisons program which embeds ten undergraduate students with non-profit agencies to coordinate volunteers and special events; "The Empty Bowl" project where students produce ceramic bowls that are then filled with chili and sold to raise money for the Statesboro Food Bank; and the annual alternative Spring Break trip to the Bahamas which involved students performing building renovations at the Freeport YMCA and distributing meals through the Bahamas Red Cross.

"Our students definitely have a heart for investing their lives through service," explained Deal. "I can say that I have never seen a university student body with such a dedication to service. I think it reflects the ethos of our region. I believe that the families of our students teach the importance of service and of investing your life in your local community. Our students bring those lessons with them to college and put what they have learned into action in our community."

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Southern Pride Marching Band to Join Alumnae Elizabeth Cook on The Late Show with David Letterman

February 22, 2013

Four drummers from the Georgia Southern University Southern Pride Marching Band will accompany country music singer, songwriter and Georgia Southern alumnae Elizabeth Cook when she performs on the Late Show with David Letterman on March 14, 2013. The show will air that evening at 11:35 p.m. ET/10:35 p.m. CT on CBS.

The Marching Band members who will perform with Cook include:

Sergio Arreguin, junior, Music Education (Baxley, Ga.)

Trey Exley, senior, Exercise Science (Rincon, Ga.)

Jose Morales, senior, Communication Arts (Richmond Hill, Ga.)

Jimmy Rotureau, junior, Nursing (Guyton, Ga.)

Each of the members was chosen by the band director, Colin McKenzie, DMA, based on several factors including seniority, leadership and academic performance.

Elizabeth Cook, the youngest of 11 half-brothers and sisters, grew up in rural Florida where her musician parents met while playing in local country bars. She is a relentless performer, touring worldwide, including well more than 200 performances at The Grand Ole Opry. Cook currently hosts, "Apron Strings", weekday mornings on Sirius XM's Outlaw Country channel. Her latest EP, Gospel Plow, is some of her favorite Southern Gospel songs (well, six Gospel songs and a cover of Velvet Underground's "Jesus"). Cook is a 1996 graduate of Georgia Southern with dual degrees in Accounting and Computer Information Systems.

The Georgia Southern band members will depart for New York on March 12 and will rehearse with Cook on March 13. Cook recently traveled back to Statesboro for an initial rehearsal with the drummers at Allen E. Paulson Stadium. While in New York, the band members will attend a Broadway show and visit some historical sites to add an educational component to the trip.

"This will be the first trip to New York City for most of these students," said McKenzie. We are extremely thankful for Elizabeth including us in this opportunity as it is an exciting and unique opportunity for our students to represent Georgia Southern University on a national stage."

For more information about Elizabeth Cook, visit: www.elizabeth-cook.com. For more information on the Late Show with David Letterman, visit: www.cbs.com/shows/late_show.

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University Choirs Take Second Place at International Competition

June 19, 2013

Georgia Southern University's choral groups Southern Chorale and Fermata the Blue returned Tuesday from the International Anton Bruckner Choral Competition and Festival in Linz, Austria. The Chorale received gold diplomas in the compulsory and sacred divisions, Fermata the Blue was honored with one gold diploma and both groups earned second-place finishes.

Southern Chorale, the University's premier choral ensemble, took second place in the "Mixed Choirs Compulsory" category, finishing less than one point behind winning choir Coro Siamo, from Austria. Fermata the Blue, the 12-member contemporary ensemble comprised of Chorale members, finished second in the "Vocal Ensemble" category to the grand prize winning five-voice male ensemble from Germany.

Twenty-two choirs from 14 nations participated in the competition, and Southern Chorale was among only six invited to compete for the Anton Bruckner Prize, the competition's highest honor. Interkultur, the competition sponsor, scores choirs on intonation, sound quality, fidelity to the score and overall artistic impression. A choir's numerical score determines whether it receives a gold, silver or bronze diploma, and only ensembles that receive gold diplomas are eligible for the grand prize. Georgia Southern received a special invitation to compete in the final round.

"The competition in Linz provided Georgia Southern and the Department of Music an opportunity to be showcased on the international stage," said Shannon Jeffreys, D.M., conductor of Southern Chorale and Fermata the Blue, and director of choral activities. "The visibility we have and will continue to receive from this experience will greatly benefit our recruitment and retention of both undergraduate and graduate students. This is the first step in putting the Georgia Southern choirs on the world rankings list."

After the competition, Southern Chorale went on an eight-day tour of Italy. The trip began with a celebration on Mt. Lussari in the Julian Alps and continued to Florence. The Chorale performed with the Corale Puccini in Camigliano, Italy, and shared in a homemade dinner and sing-along following the concert. The group also visited Pisa and Lucca and sang in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. The tour culminated with mass at the Vatican, where Southern Chorale sang in service. Many American visitors greeted the Chorale after the mass, and the music director of St. Peter's Basilica said that Southern Chorale was one of the best choirs he had ever heard.

Chorale members hailed the experience as an eye-opening international tour and said they enjoyed the opportunity to engage with students and singers from different countries. "This trip was definitely the highlight of my undergraduate career," said Natasha Martin, who graduated in May after majoring in music and international trade and minoring in French. "It was a cultural plunge as we found ourselves sitting next to a person from Hungary and on the other side a person from Singapore. This trip really proved to me as a student and devotee of music, that music itself eradicates boundaries and allows people to understand each other regardless of their differences in language and backgrounds. As a result of the hard work and dedication of both our choral director, Dr. Jeffreys, and our tour manager, Dr. Carolyn Bryan, Southern Chorale truly roamed throughout Europe as ambassadors of our University and came home with unforgettable memories and new friendships."

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Georgia Southern Ceramic Students Raise Nearly \$4,000 for Statesboro Food Bank

November 12, 2012

Georgia Southern University students raised a record \$3,930 for the Statesboro Food Bank during the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art's annual chili bowl sale on Thursday, Oct. 18. Hundreds of handcrafted bowls were sold in just three hours during the sale, held in conjunction with the Department's Empty Bowl Project.

"The sale was a great success," said project coordinator and ceramics professor Jeff Schmuki. "This is the largest amount that this event has ever raised, and I am proud of the students for their hard work." The money raised by the Empty Bowl Project will purchase more than 18,000 cans of food which is nearly a two-month supply for the Statesboro Food Bank.

Handmade bowls were filled with chili at the Russell Union Rotunda and sold for a \$10 donation. The patrons kept the bowls as a reminder of those in need in Statesboro and Bulloch County. "This project is about those less fortunate, and the larger picture is that it takes the community coming together to make a difference and solve issues like hunger," said Schmuki.

The operations director of the Statesboro Food Bank accepted the nearly \$4,000 donation check from the students. "This is, I believe, the largest single donation ever made to the Statesboro Food Bank," said Joe Bill Brannon. "This money is a big deal for us!"

Brannon explained that monetary donations to the Food Bank have decreased this year while the need for its services has continued to rise. "We have families that were able to donate to us last year but are now in financial constraints and need our services this year," said Brannon.

The Statesboro Food Bank is the largest food supplier in this area. Brannon explained that it also assists surrounding counties in locating food donations when that county's supplies are running low. He attributes much of the continued success and sustainability of the Statesboro Food Bank to Georgia Southern. "Not another county near us can come close to what we have at the Statesboro Food Bank and much of that is thanks to Georgia Southern University," said Brannon.

The 2012 Empty Bowl Project was sponsored in part by the Statesboro Lions Club and Georgia Southern Catering Services.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern is committed to offering quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that prepare students to become professional artists, designers, art historians and industry executives. An accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the Department offers a comprehensive curriculum encompassing the practical, theoretical and historical aspects of the visual arts. For more information about the Department, please visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/art.

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RESEARCH

Georgia Southern researchers are driving their disciplines forward, preparing and engaging students in the classroom and in the field. While PBS filmed archaeology students uncovering hidden artifacts at Camp Lawton, faculty and student research explored new boundaries, with a dedication to making new discoveries.

The University established a new Asphalt Research Lab, signed a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and received a Race to the Top Innovation Fund Grant from the state to promote STEM education.

Several faculty members earned international honors, including hotel and restaurant management professor Larry Stalcup, who was named a Fulbright Scholar at Payap University in Thailand. Other University researchers were awarded significant grants to further their work in the fields of public health, rural health and engineering.

Georgia Southern University Signs Partnership with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

December 13, 2012

STATESBORO, Ga. -- Dec. 13, 2012 -- Georgia Southern University has entered into a cooperative partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote research, teaching, outreach, career development, and stewardship in environmental sciences, sustainability and engineering. This is the first time the University has partnered with the EPA.

On Thursday, Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. was joined by EPA Regional Administrator, Gwendolyn Keys-Fleming to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the EPA's Southeast Region 4. The MoU expresses the University's and EPA's intentions to establish a cooperative working relationship during the next three years.

The new partnership is designed to provide additional opportunities for student training and internships, faculty research support and environmental and public health initiatives.

"Our goal is to work together with the EPA to develop educated, and highly qualified graduates that are capable of addressing the environmental challenges of the future," said Keel. "We are excited about partnering with the EPA and look forward to growing the relationship. This new agreement will not only provide our students with valuable learning opportunities, but it will also focus on providing them with the skills they need to be successful once they complete their four-year degree at Georgia Southern."

"The EPA recognizes the importance of partnering with academic institutions to build capacity and provide a forum for discussing emerging environmental issues with future leaders," said Regional Administrator, Gwendolyn Keys-Fleming. "This new partnership with Georgia Southern University will provide students with the opportunity combine education, outreach and hands-on work experience. We hope to strengthen their interest in environmental careers and encourage environmentalism."

A key part of the new partnership is what it will mean beyond the classroom. The agreement will provide Georgia Southern students access to apply for EPA internships and will also strengthen the University's environmental work on campus as well as its outreach in the Statesboro and Savannah communities and throughout the state. The EPA will also participate in University career fairs, department seminars, conduct mock interviews and representatives will also serve as student mentors.

The new environmental education partnership builds on Georgia Southern's growing reputation and commitment to the environment. This past year, Georgia Southern was named to the Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges. The guide to the top eco-friendly institutions in the U.S. includes colleges and universities based on their proven commitment to environmental and sustainability issues, and is produced in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council. In addition, Georgia Southern launched a new Interdisciplinary Concentration in Environmental Sustainability last year, and requires all students to successfully complete a four-credit environmental course before graduation. The University is also one of the institutions that signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development at Georgia Southern called the new partnership a major opportunity for the University's students and faculty and the EPA. "We have much to offer one another and this new agreement is just the beginning of what we hope will be a longstanding relationship between the two organizations. Our students and faculty are

interested and are actively involved in conserving our natural resources. They are eager for hands-on opportunities to learn more about the environment and to expand their research.”

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Georgia Southern University Archaeologists Uncover Hidden Stockade Wall at Civil War POW Camp

October 11, 2012

Georgia Southern University, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife archaeologists with assistance from Kennesaw State University, the University of Georgia, and the Lamar Institute have found the remains of the Camp Lawton stockade wall, establishing the actual layout and site of one of the Civil War's largest Prisoner of War (POW) camps. The discovery was made at Magnolia Springs State Park located in Millen, Ga.

A significant portion of the southern wall of the camp was exposed along with a section of the western wall which enabled archaeologists to project the exact location of the southwestern corner. The discovery was made late last week as the hit PBS television show Time Team America documented what was found and how archaeology helps tell the story of Camp Lawton's history.

The park, along with University archaeology students and professors, will hold a public day this Saturday at Magnolia Springs State Park (www.gastateparks.org/MagnoliaSprings) in Millen, Ga. The event will run from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to see the location of the stockade wall and discuss Camp Lawton and the television show.

"We found it. Standing where the corner of the Camp Lawton stockade once stood was one of the greatest moments of my archaeological career," said Sue Moore, Ph.D., professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Georgia Southern University.

A crew of geophysicists with Time Team America along with Georgia Southern and University of Georgia volunteers conducted a massive amount of research using equipment such as ground penetrating radar (GPR), magnetometry, conductivity and electro induction. These different technologies look into the soil and their specific datasets assist archaeologists in locating areas of historical interest.

"In three days we conducted more geophysical research than most sites ever do. This laid the baseline for years of future research for Georgia Southern students," said Moore.

Georgia Southern University students and professors along with Time Team America archaeologists extracted several wooden timbers that were submerged in Magnolia Spring. The location of the timbers is near the place where the Camp Lawton Stockade would have crossed the spring which still flows through the park today. Core samples taken from these timbers will help researchers confirm they were part of the Camp Lawton Stockade. The largest of the timbers measured about five feet in length and weighed 400 pounds.

"Being part of the timber extraction was very interesting. It shows how archaeologists use multiple avenues to research the history of a site," said Blake Ayala, a Georgia Southern graduate student.

Archaeological investigation of the Camp Lawton Stockade in the Bo Ginn National Fish Hatchery continued during the recent shooting for the television show. Work focused on uncovering more information about the more than 10,000 Union prisoners who were held in the 42-acre Confederate run prison. A number of excavation units were opened to explore possible huts, known as shebangs, built by the prisoners. The excavations revealed living surfaces and possible hearth features which when fully studied will shed light on the lives of the prisoners who were imprisoned at Camp Lawton nearly 150 years ago.

A metal detection survey, modeled on a gridded sampling technique which helped uncover the stockade three years ago, was used to further delineate the western limits of the prison occupation area. This survey produced numerous artifacts which will reveal more about prisoner life. The team is keeping quiet about the additional discoveries it made until the show airs.

“When this show airs next spring or summer, it is going to be an exciting one,” said Moore. “These are major discoveries that will put Camp Lawton and Magnolia Springs State Park on the map. We hope that this work will attract tourism to the area to support the local economy.”

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Georgia Southern University's Rural Health Research Institute Awarded \$5.1 Million Federal Grant

August 9, 2012

Georgia Southern University's Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) has been awarded a \$5.1 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designating the RHRI as a Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Rural Health Disparities. The grant, one of the largest research grants recently awarded to Georgia Southern, was received by RHRI Co-Executive Directors Bryant Smalley, Ph.D, Psy.D. and Jacob Warren, Ph.D. Smalley is a clinical psychologist in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Warren is an epidemiologist in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

"We are honored to have been entrusted with advancing rural health by such a prestigious federal agency," said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "We are eager to enact the opportunities this grant provides to make a difference in the region."

Funding for the new five-year project comes from NIH's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and will allow the RHRI to enact a comprehensive rural health disparity elimination program spanning research, training and community outreach. The grant's activities include developing and testing new rural-specific health promotion programs designed to improve diabetes, hypertension and prostate cancer outcomes; enacting a rural health disparities elimination summer training program for undergraduate and graduate students; implementing new mentoring programs for faculty wishing to pursue careers in rural health; and creating a new community capacity-building initiative to improve health outcomes throughout rural Southeast Georgia. The grant, which will last through 2017, will also create 10 new grant funded jobs on campus.

"We are thrilled that Georgia Southern and the RHRI have been awarded such a significant grant to bring unprecedented attention to rural health in the region," said Smalley. "This grant will allow Georgia Southern University to make significant advancements in rural health disparities research, and officially designates the University as a national leader in addressing rural health issues."

"Bringing together interdisciplinary teams like the one assembled for this project is a great example of the work we are doing in the Rural Health Research Institute," said Warren. "By bringing together the tremendous expertise present throughout Georgia Southern University, this project will truly make a difference in rural health."

The interdisciplinary project, led by Smalley and Warren, brings together a campus-wide team of faculty from eight departments for the project. Collaborators include faculty from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

"This is a significant moment in Georgia Southern University's research history," said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development. "The efforts of Drs. Smalley and Warren are an example of the collaborative and interdisciplinary work being performed by the Rural Health Research Institute and demonstrate Georgia Southern's identity as a leading research University."

NIH held a nationwide grant competition for the project, which involved a rigorous review and awarding process that lasted 16 months. The Center of Excellence grants are designed to allow universities to make significant progress toward eliminating disproportionate burdens of disease in a specific group; the RHRI sought and received funding to address rural health issues.

Georgia Southern's RHRI is an interdisciplinary hub of rural health research and outreach that spans five Colleges within the University. Its mission is to improve health in rural areas by promoting cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research and outreach that connects faculty from diverse fields and promotes the development of researchers examining rural health issues. To learn more about the RHRI, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/RHRI.

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Georgia Southern Receives \$360,000 National Science Foundation Grant

June 18, 2013

The Allen E. Paulson Chair of Renewable Energy at Georgia Southern University, Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., has been awarded a \$360,000 Research for Undergraduates (REU) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The University program, under Soloiu's direction, will start next summer and be available to students across the country to explore solutions to energy problems.

"This puts us in an extraordinary position to reach out to undergraduate engineering students nationally and help boost their interest in research with hands-on learning," said Soloiu. "The program that I have designed will allow students to perform research on our campus, and they will work on formulating new biofuels, hybrid combustion technologies, renewable energy, automotive engineering and many other areas."

Georgia Southern will collaborate with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) to recruit participants for the program. Ten students will be selected to spend ten weeks on campus every summer for the next three years. They will rotate through work stations in the Renewable Energy and Engines Lab while broadening their horizons about engineering careers.

The program titled "Undergraduate Research in Green-Engineered New Transportation Technologies (URGENTT)" aims to increase students' interest in conducting research, expand basic understanding of interdisciplinary concepts through hands-on-learning, enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) problem-solving skills and develop an ability to apply those topics to a research problem.

Eight Georgia Southern faculty will also support the summer program including the College of Engineering and Information Technology, the College of Science and Technology and the Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship. The Department of English will offer assistance in teaching students to write reports and communicate effectively during presentations.

"We want to do everything we can to prepare the next generation of scientific leaders," explained Soloiu. "I expect this grant will continue to elevate us to a national level and generate a lot of interest in what we have to offer at Georgia Southern. Maybe these undergraduates who spend their summers with us will return to our campus and pursue master's degrees." Learn more about the Renewable Energy and Engines Lab by visiting <http://ceit.georgiasouthern.edu/engine/>.

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Georgia Southern Establishes Asphalt Research Lab

February 26, 2013

Georgia Southern University is continuing to expand its research activities with the recent addition of a new asphalt research lab within its Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). The new lab will provide research services to a variety of state and private companies, including the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Initially, the lab will be used to conduct scientific research for the GDOT, but University officials say additional opportunities exist to support the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The lab is also capable of providing services to regional industry and certification training for technicians. In keeping with Georgia Southern's focus on teaching and education, the lab will serve as a valuable training tool providing application-based learning and research opportunities for engineering students.

"We are excited to establish the state's first lab dedicated to asphalt research," said Mohammad Davoud, dean of CEIT. "There has been a great amount of interest by the public and private sector to establish such a lab at a state university in Georgia. We are fortunate to have researchers on staff with a tremendous amount of experience in asphalt and construction materials. This new lab will help us expand our research and collaborate with other researchers throughout the country."

What makes it unique? The new lab features "super pavement" asphalt mixture design equipment -- Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) asphalt binder grade equipment, an asphalt mixture performance tester and weathering equipment. "The lab's diverse capability to conduct research, provide educational opportunities and certification is just one part of the equation," said Junan Shen, Ph.D., associate professor of civil engineering and director of the new lab. "My students and I will now be able to conduct research on new, improved asphalt mixtures and pavement-related research."

"We are making a significant investment to conduct research and development that will ultimately save taxpayers money and benefit the environment," said Davoud. "This is just one example of how Georgia Southern is combining the expertise of its faculty to conduct research to support our state and a growing industry. We are looking forward to seeing the lab continue to grow. It's a great addition to our Civil Engineering degree program and will provide hands-on research opportunities for our students -- something employers continue to tell us they need."

Most recently, Shen was selected by the GDOT to conduct the second phase of a project to investigate the performance of rubberized asphalt mix for use in road construction in Georgia. The nearly \$300,000 research project will examine how "green" material derived from scrap tires will make a viable alternative for use in road construction. "The majority of highways in Georgia and around the country are paved with asphalt materials," said Shen. "There is increasing interest in asphalt research so that the government can build a reliable, economical and sustainable infrastructure."

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Physics Department Chair and Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D. Named Fuller E. Callaway Chair

July 2, 2012

Georgia Southern University Physics Department Chair and Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D. has been named a recipient of the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair. The distinguished award recognizes professional accomplishment in classroom education. Edwards is the third Georgia Southern professor to receive the honor.

“This is a terrific honor for Mark Edwards and for Georgia Southern University,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “Not only is he an outstanding teacher, but a scholar and noted researcher. He is a great example of the outstanding faculty members that work at Georgia Southern. I would like to personally extend my congratulations to him on this terrific and well-deserved achievement.”

The honor will allow Edwards to initiate some new interdisciplinary research projects to expand his research portfolio. In addition, he plans to increase the involvement of both graduate and undergraduate students in his research. Ultimately, Edwards hopes to be able to use the results of the new projects to improve physics classroom instruction.

“It's a great honor for me to be named the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Physics. It has been very easy for me to excel at Georgia Southern because I have had the chance to work with great students, faculty and administrators during my 22 years here,” said Edwards. “I hope to live up to this honor in the future and to do Georgia Southern University proud with my future work.”

The Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Trust was established in 1968 by the Callaway Foundation, Inc. with the purpose of encouraging enrichment of the academic programs of senior colleges and graduate schools located in Georgia by providing funds for the establishment of professorial chairs in order to enable the institutions to retain and add superior faculty members. Following an official nomination by the University, each submission is reviewed by a four person Board that consists of the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, the president of the private senior college or university in Georgia with the largest undergraduate enrollment (Emory University), the executive director of the Atlanta University Center and the Georgia Market President of Bank of America, N.A.

At Georgia Southern, Edwards not only serves as chair of the Physics Department, but he has taken a leadership role in fostering student learning and success. Edwards led the development of an innovative approach to teaching physics called Studio Physics. The unique course integrates separate lecture and laboratory classes into a seamless educational experience that is designed around active, inquiry-based learning. As a result of this integrated approach, Edwards and his colleagues have seen a significant increase in student success in this difficult subject area.

Edwards is a past winner of Georgia Southern's Excellence in Service Award, the College of Science and Technology Excellence in Service Award, the Excellence in Research and/or Scholarly Activity award, a Georgia

Southern University Foundation, Inc. Fellowship and is a Fellow of the American Physical Society. His research interests include high-field effects in pulsed-laser/atom interactions and Bose-Einstein condensation of trapped, neutral atoms. He is a recipient of numerous National Science Foundation (NSF) grants for projects ranging from “Instrumentation for Studies of Optional Properties of Inert Gasses” to “Modeling Quantum Logic Operations with Ultra-cold Atoms in Optical Lattices.” He has also

served as a visiting scholar at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in physics degree from Georgia Southern College (now Georgia Southern University), a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. in physics from Johns Hopkins University.

Georgia Southern University Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Awarded NIH Grant to Evaluate Cervical Cancer Screening in Peru

October 26, 2012

Researchers from Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and Georgia Health Sciences University Gynecological Cancer Prevention Center have been awarded a \$143,912 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to evaluate a large cervical cancer screening initiative in Cusco, Peru.

The researchers will use the formative evaluation findings to design and pilot a brief social marketing intervention to increase cervical cancer screening. The two-year project, funded by the National Cancer Institute, is titled, "Implementation Evaluation of a Cervical Cancer Screening Initiative in Cusco, Peru." The Principal Investigator is John S. Luque, Ph.D., MPH, a faculty member in community health in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

"A better understanding of knowledge, risk perceptions, and cultural attitudes among indigenous Quechua women toward cervical cancer screening will assist in developing more effective social marketing efforts and impacting cervical cancer disparities in groups suffering the greatest burden of the disease, thereby improving public health in Peru," said Luque. "This initiative is one of several externally funded projects to improve cervical cancer outcomes for underserved women in Cusco, Peru."

The idea for the project came following a 2011 initiative by the National Cancer Coalition (NCC) and BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a leading global medical technology company, to implement a cervical cancer early detection program for the benefit of 75,000 underserved women in Peru.

Cervical cancer continues to be the second most common cancer among women worldwide. In Peru, rough estimates place screening coverage between seven and 43 percent of the eligible population. With a goal to reduce the high cervical cancer mortality levels in the mountainous region surrounding Cusco, this extensive program conducts liquid-based cytology exams utilizing the BD SurePath™ Liquid-based Pap Test System. This program was implemented by NCC in partnership with its local partner in Cusco – the CerviCusco Clinic.

CerviCusco was founded and is led by Daron G. Ferris, MD, an internationally respected expert in cervical cancer prevention and detection and Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgia Health Sciences University.

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Georgia Southern University Professor Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D. Receives International Recognition for Supply Chain Research

August 23, 2012

Georgia Southern University assistant professor of Operations Management, Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., has been named the winner of the 2012 Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award. The internationally competitive award, which is co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill and the Decision Sciences Institute, encourages and publicizes outstanding dissertation research by selecting and recognizing the best dissertations written in the past year in the decision sciences.

The Elwood S. Buffa Dissertation Award, which is also accompanied by a \$1,500 prize, is presented at the Decision Sciences Institute's annual meeting. Mackelprang, who joined the College of Business Administration's faculty in 2011, received the award for his doctoral dissertation, *Beyond Firm Boundaries: Exploring the Interdependence between Supply Chain Partners*, which he completed at the University of South Carolina in May of 2011.

By being nominated and ultimately winning this award, he is now invited to showcase his research during a special session at the Decision Sciences Institute's annual meeting in San Francisco, Calif. in November. In addition, Mackelprang has been named to the Decision Sciences Institute's Hall of Fame and joins a distinguished list of previous winners including professors at the University of North Carolina, Northwestern University, The Ohio State University, Auburn University, Boston College and more.

This is not the first honor for the business professor. His co-authored paper titled "Supply Chain Integration: A Meta-Analysis and Future Directions" has been selected as the winner of the 2012 Young Researchers Award at the Annual Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals Educators Conference to be held in Atlanta in September.

Mackelprang earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, his master of science degree from the University of Rochester and his bachelor of science degree from Arizona State University. His research interests include supply chain contagion and flexibility, operations–marketing interface and operations management, and supply chain strategy. He has published in top empirical research journals, including the *Journal of Operations Management*.

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Georgia Southern University Professor Larry Stalcup, Ph.D. Named Fulbright Scholar

July 11, 2012

Georgia Southern University Associate Professor of Hotel and Restaurant Management, Larry Stalcup, Ph.D. has been named a Fulbright Scholar and will be assisting Payap University's International Hospitality Management program in Thailand this month.

The Fulbright Specialists Program provides short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) for U.S.-based University faculty and professionals. To be selected, a candidate must first apply and are then selected after a comprehensive peer review of the application and qualifications.

The goal of the Fulbright Specialists program is to increase the participation of U.S. scholars and professionals through academic exchanges. Each of the selected specialists will not only participate in traditional lecture and research activities, but will also promote increased connections between U.S. and non-U.S. post-secondary academic institutions.

"So far my visit at Payap University has been a wonderful experience. The University has about 6,000 students in liberal arts, music, business, nursing and pharmacology that are all taught in Thai," said Stalcup. He is working through the University's English-based International College that houses about 400 students studying hospitality management and international business to name a few.

"I am teaching two courses, guest lecturing in several others and giving one of the keynote speeches at small regional conference," he said. "There is a new president and dean who are repositioning the college to take advantage of Myanmar or Burma opening up and the 2015 creation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) common market. The college has been getting me involved in a great deal of the early planning which is exciting. The best part of the experience is working with the students. The relationship is much more formal than in the U.S., but there are a lot of similarities to college students in our country.

Stalcup has a wealth of industry and academic expertise in the area of hospitality and hotel/tourism. He has worked at Georgia Southern since 1997. During his 15-year career in Statesboro, he has taught a variety of courses including: Hotel Operations, Hospitality Sales and Marketing, Hospitality Human Resources, Hospitality Issues and Perspectives, Dining Room Management and Introduction to Hospitality Management.

This is not the first time he has taught overseas. He has previously served as a visiting associate professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Hong Kong, China in 2008. While in Hong Kong, he taught Managing Human Resources in the Hotel and Tourism Industry. In addition to his teaching experience, his professional experience includes roles at Williams Hospitality Management Corporation in San Juan, Puerto Rico and various major hotels in Dallas, TX and New York, NY.

Stalcup earned a Master of Professional Studies degree from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration and later attended Purdue University where he received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Hotel Management and Human Resources.

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World Report, and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health Receives \$297,000 National Institutes of Health Grant to Support Cervical Cancer Education Program

September 26, 2012

Georgia Southern University's Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health has been awarded a \$297,185 federal grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to refine and test a cervical cancer education program in the Hispanic/Latino community.

The two-year project, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, is titled, "Salud es Vida (Health is Life): Reducing Access Barriers to Cervical Cancer Screening among Underserved Hispanic Women." John Luque, Ph.D., assistant professor of community health, is the principal investigator of the new grant.

As a part of the grant, Georgia Southern researchers are partnering with Georgia Health Sciences University's Gynecological Cancer Prevention Center and Department of Medical Illustration. In a previous NIH pilot grant, Luque's team developed a Spanish language cervical cancer screening toolkit that helps community health workers to encourage women to receive Pap tests and also provides information about the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, which prevents cervical cancer. This new grant will test the efficacy of this intervention approach.

According to statistics provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Hispanic women have the highest rates of cervical cancer of all racial/ethnic groups in the United States. Hispanic women are also more likely to die from cervical cancer than non-Hispanic whites. There are several reasons why cervical cancer rates are much higher in this segment of the population, one being that Hispanic women, especially newer immigrants, are less likely to receive regular Pap tests. In addition, recent changes in Pap test guidelines issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, recommend that women receive Pap tests only every three years beginning at age 21, so women need more information about recent changes in cervical cancer screening guidelines. Other professional groups have recommended that outreach be targeted at medically underserved women who have never received screening.

"In rural Georgia, there are numerous barriers to regular screening including shortage of providers, transportation challenges and burdensome costs for uninsured patients," says Luque.

In order to increase information about access to cervical cancer screening, Luque is partnering with the Southeast Georgia Communities Project (SEGCP), a non-profit organization directed by Andrea Hinojosa in Lyons, Ga. The community health workers (or promotoras in Spanish) will have the educational tools to deliver this information to their fellow community members to join the fight against cancer health disparities.

The 2011 Department of Health and Human Services "Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities" specifically calls for supporting more training of community health workers, such as promotoras, as one of its action steps to reduce disparities.

"The hope is that this study will add to the evidence base for how important a community health worker can be in making sure that underserved women receive routine, yet often lifesaving, Pap tests," said Luque. "Promotoras typically volunteer to work with women in low-income areas who often do not have adequate access to preventative health care. This study will demonstrate how researchers can partner with community partners and promotoras in a rural area to refine and test a cervical cancer education and outreach toolkit to reduce cancer health disparities."

Luque says the study may help community health programs and clinics realize the value of community health workers as they plan cervical cancer outreach programs for Hispanic women.

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Georgia Southern University Awarded Race to the Top Innovation Fund Grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal

September 5, 2012

Georgia Southern University has been named the recipient of an Innovation Fund Grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. The science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grant, which is estimated at approximately \$700,000 during two years, will fund a unique partnership between the University, seven area research institutes and six school districts covering 27 counties in southern Georgia.

Georgia Southern will utilize the grant to fund the partnership known as “Real STEM.” The project, which will be run through the University’s new Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education, will develop hands-on STEM learning modules related to the environmental concerns of Georgia’s coastal region. This is the first Innovation Fund Grant that has been awarded to the University.

The Real STEM service region of the lower coastal plain is a rural geographic region which includes low social economic status counties in southeast Georgia with a high number of minorities. The population served includes 44 high schools, of which 26 are classified as “needs improvement” by the Georgia Department of Education’s 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress Detailed School Reports.

The partnership will develop problem-based modules for high school career pathways courses mandated by State House Bill 186. The 150 students in the first year of the project and 300 in the second year will apply STEM to real-world, place-based problems arising from research conducted on the coastal plain. The students will be mentored by scientists and taught by teachers working in professional learning communities in collaboration with scientists.

As part of the grant, the team will work with research partners at Georgia Southern, the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, the UGA Marine Institute at Sapelo Island, Gray’s Reef Marine Sanctuary, Marine Education Center and Aquarium, Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy and the Ossabaw Island Education Alliance. The team will also work with the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the team will work with six school districts including Bulloch County, Burke County, Camden County, Jenkins County, Treutlen County and Ware County.

“Our goal is to reignite the interest of students in science, technology, engineering and math by engaging them in applied learning through real-world challenges of environment and energy that are impacting their local communities,” said Robert Mayes, Ph.D., director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Institute at Georgia Southern. “Ultimately, we hope to improve STEM achievement in Georgia and encourage students to pursue careers in STEM.”

About the Race to the Top Innovation Fund Grant

On Sept. 4, 2012, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal announced nine winners of Innovation Fund grants, a \$19.4 million competitive grant program created through Georgia’s Race to the Top (RT3) plan. Through the Innovation Fund, the state awards grants to partnerships between local education authorities or charter schools, institutions of higher education, businesses and nonprofit organizations that develop or implement innovative and high-impact programs aimed at producing positive outcomes for students.

Administered by the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA), the Innovation Fund provides competitive grants for proposals that creatively leverage members’ financial, human and intellectual resources to address one or more of the following priorities:

Raising student achievement through the development and delivery of applied learning opportunities and experiences directly tied to a subject matter, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Raising teacher effectiveness through support for innovative induction programs to bridge the gap between pre-service and career teaching, focusing on providing structured and intensive support to new teachers and leaders.

Increasing the pipeline of effective educators by developing local capacity through Grow Your Own Teacher programs in rural regions to increase the workforce, especially in high-need subject areas.

Developing or expanding charter schools with special characteristics and that leverage nontraditional partnerships with industry partners and/or post-secondary institutions throughout the state to provide students with unique learning opportunities.

The grant is the latest for the growing University who has continued to grow its focus on STEM education. In August, Georgia Southern announced the creation of the Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education (www.georgiasouthern.edu/STEM), one of the first-of-its-kind in the country. The goal of the Institute is to not only inspire Georgia's best and brightest K-12 students to pursue STEM careers, but to create an environment where Georgia citizens are more STEM literate and can make informed decisions about complex issues. The Institute is already working to create a broad range of partnerships across academia, business, education and research centers in southeast Georgia.

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FACILITIES

With enrollment on the rise, Georgia Southern experienced a year of growth, including new construction and renovation projects that transformed the ever-changing needs of campus life.

After nearly two years of construction, the \$41 million LEED-certified Biological Sciences Building opened in August -- a 155,000-plus-square foot facility housing state-of-the-art labs and supporting research areas and classrooms.

After announcing a move to the Sun Belt Conference, the University broke ground on expansion projects at Allen E. Paulson Stadium including a \$10 million Football Operations Center and the construction of an additional 6,200 seats.

Dining Commons (formerly Landrum), a new 1100-seat facility located adjacent to the University Store, opened in August 2013 with special dining stations for guests. The site also houses the Post Office, Eagle Print Shop and Eagle Card Center. Lakeside recently completed a year-long renovation and opened with expanded dining options as well as the capacity to seat 500 diners.

May 31, 2013

Coming Fall 2013: Eagle Dining Services' New Facilities



A sketch of the new Lakeside, opening in Fall 2013. View from the Pedestrium.

Eagle Dining Services will introduce two brand new facilities to campus this fall, bringing a variety of foods and action stations in each location, as well as all access dining.

Renovations of Lakeside and progress on the new Landrum dining facilities are moving forward smoothly, according to Eagle Dining Services Director, Jeff Yawn. "The projects are progressing nicely with mill work being installed and kitchen equipment coming in. We continue to be very excited!" said Yawn.

Michael Murphy, marketing coordinator of Eagle Dining Services, said, the goal (of the brand new facilities) is "to elevate dining, bringing all the latest trends and best concepts to our program while reinvigorating our campus with a one-of-a-kind experience that's memorable and a joy to all our guests."

A few highlights the campus community can look forward to include:

- Fresh pizza prepared in a rustic wood burning stove
- Popular Mongolian BBQ and Hibachi Grill concepts with made-to-order dishes
- Unique international cuisine
- Salad bars with a focus on individual, special dietary needs
- Comfortable, spacious and inviting environment

For more information on all access dining, new dining plans and Eagle Express, view the [New Era flyer](#).



A sketch of the new Landrum Hall, opening in Fall 2013. View from Georgia Avenue.

Expansion Projects Begin at Allen E. Paulson Stadium

June 5, 2013

STATESBORO, Ga. – June 5, 2013 – Georgia Southern University leaders broke ground Wednesday morning in the east end zone of Allen E. Paulson Stadium for the \$10 million Football Operations Center (FOC) and the construction of an additional 6,200 seats. The projects come as the Eagles move up to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) in 2014 and begin playing in the Sun Belt Conference.

“We are here today to witness the beginning of a new era in the history and tradition of Eagle football,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “This journey started more than 30 years ago with a wild idea and fearless expectations. It continues today as we break ground and begin a new chapter in the storied history of Georgia Southern football and move to the national stage.”

The 50,000 square foot Football Operations Center, which is privately funded, will have many state-of-the-art features and facilities including offices for the football coaches, locker rooms, workout facilities, meeting space and a Hall of Fame exhibit to showcase the rich history of the Eagles and the team’s legendary players.

“Today marks a new timeline in the journey for Georgia Southern athletics,” said Athletics Director Tom Kleinlein. “The Football Operations Center will house everything we need for our football program to be successful. The impact of these projects will be tremendous, and it’s happening because of the kind gifts of Eagle fans and the votes of our students.”

Last year, Georgia Southern students voted to pay a \$75 fee to fund the move to FBS and a \$25 fee for stadium expansion. The 1,100 seats to be added to the lower level of Paulson Stadium could be available this season, and more than 4,000 seats in an upper deck will be added to the north stands by 2014.

“If you look at the Sun Belt Conference and the teams we are going to play, we need a facility like this to be able to compete with them and in recruiting, retaining and developing the players that we need at Georgia Southern,” said Jeff Monken, head football coach of the Eagles. “This is going to put us ahead of a lot of those schools immediately.”

Learn more about Georgia Southern’s stadium improvement plans, the move to the FBS and the Sun Belt by visiting georgiasouthern.edu/journey.

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ATHLETICS

In the span of a few months, the Eagle Nation continued to move forward when the University named Tom Kleinlein the new director of athletics, accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference and added a 16th sport – women's rifle.

Georgia Southern's student-athletes also scored impressive achievements in their respective sports. Coach Jeff Monken's Eagles reached the FCS semifinals for the third consecutive year, two cheerleaders were named STUNT All-Americans, Scott Wolfes earned the title of SoCon Golfer of

the Year, and archer Linda Stephens was recognized nationally as one of the top 10 in her sport.

Off the field, our student-athletes were dedicated to academic excellence, setting records for their achievements in the classroom. The Southern Conference named 175 Eagles to its academic honor roll, with numerous Eagles earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average as well as a Commissioner's Medal for their commitment.

Georgia Southern University Names Tom Kleinlein Athletics Director

November 12, 2012

Tom Kleinlein, deputy athletics director at Kent State University, was introduced this evening as Georgia Southern University's new athletics director, concluding a national search.

During remarks at a standing-room only press conference to announce Kleinlein's appointment, Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. described the University's new athletics director as someone who not only understands the competitive and business aspects of managing a growing athletics department, but also the focus on academics. "Tom Kleinlein brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to Georgia Southern University. Our goal is to make sure that our student athletes not only win on the field, but in the classroom. We're excited to welcome Tom and his family to the Eagle Nation and I am confident he will lead our athletics teams and department to the next level, both on and off the field."

"I am very excited to join the Eagle Nation and am honored to serve as Georgia Southern University's athletics director," said Kleinlein. "This job can be summed up in one word: opportunity. The tradition and success that Georgia Southern has become so well known for will serve as the foundation as we build for the future. I am looking forward to working with President Keel, the University's leadership, our coaches, staff and student athletes and I am looking forward to meeting all of our fans, alumni, sponsors and donors."

Kleinlein joined Kent State in 2010 and was responsible for the management of the athletics department's revenue generation component and coordinated the department's efforts with Institutional Advancement, Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. He also served as the direct sport supervisor for football along with men's and women's basketball while directing many of the day-to-day operations of the department. He led the University's relationship with IMG College, the marketing department, ticket office, facilities, strength and conditioning and game day management operations.

Prior to joining Kent State, he served as associate athlete director for football under head coach Dennis Erickson at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. from 2005-2010. Earlier in his career, he served as assistant athletics director for football operations at Rutgers University. Prior to that, he worked at his alma mater, Wake Forest University, as an academic counselor and then assistant director of football operations.

A four-year letter winner as an offensive lineman at Wake Forest, he earned a bachelor's degree in history. He later earned a master's in education curriculum and instruction from Arizona State. He and his wife, Tara, have two sons - Austin and Mason.

In addition to announcing the new hire, Keel recognized the efforts of the search committee which consisted of representatives from the University's faculty, staff and students, alumni and members of the community. "There was a tremendous amount of interest in this position and I would personally like to thank the search committee for their hard work. They had a very tall order and I could not be more pleased with the result of their effort."

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News & World Report and is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu

March 27, 2013

Georgia Southern University Joins Sun Belt Conference

23

13

One of the most dominant teams in Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) history is making the move to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). Georgia Southern University has announced it has accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference.

“This is a milestone day for Georgia Southern University, and we are very excited to be joining the Sun Belt conference,” Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., told a standing room only crowd in the Williams Center during the official announcement. “This decision was made with the long-term interest of our University in mind. The Sun Belt will provide our student athletes with an outstanding opportunity to compete at the highest level, and we are excited to contribute to the conference's success both on and off the field. I am equally excited about the opportunity that it will provide Georgia Southern and the more than 75,000 alumni that make up the Eagle Nation.”

[Sun Belt Conference](#) Commissioner Karl Benson visited Georgia Southern Wednesday morning to welcome the Eagles as President Keel formally accepted the Sun Belt invitation. “We have built our reputation around a focus on the student, and this move will allow us to partner to provide our student athletes with the opportunity to compete on a national stage,” said Georgia Southern Athletics Director Tom Kleinlein. “Today, I invite the entire Eagle Nation to stand up and join us on this journey.”

Georgia Southern's football team has been part of the Southern Conference (SoCon) since 1993 and won ten conference titles during that time and six national championships since 1985. The Eagles' football schedule for this fall will not change; however, Georgia Southern won't be eligible for the FCS playoffs. The Eagles will begin playing Sun Belt games and will be a revenue sharing member of the conference in 2014 and eligible for the Sun Belt conference title, but will not be eligible to play in a bowl game. In 2015, Georgia Southern will become a full member of the conference and be bowl eligible. With the exception of men's soccer, all other Georgia Southern teams will begin Sun Belt play in 2014 and eligible for the conference championship. Since the Sun Belt does not field a men's soccer program, Georgia Southern is negotiating to find a conference home for the team.

The move to FBS comes after 65 percent of Georgia Southern University students voted to pay \$75 a semester to support the move to a new level of competition for Eagle Athletics. That fee will be collected starting in the fall. Ground will also be broken in a few weeks to build a new Football Operations Center in the east end zone of Allen E. Paulson Stadium and add 6,300 additional seats for football games.

Students, faculty, alumni, fans and supporters can learn more about Georgia Southern's FBS move by visiting www.georgiasouthern.edu/journey.

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PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

QUOTING: Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., PRESIDENT, GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Our student-athletes deserve the opportunity to compete and perform on a national stage, and all of our academic people deserve to perform on a national stage as well. This move helps us market the university and get the word out beyond the reaches of Statesboro and our region.

Some folks are just afraid of change, just afraid of moving forward, and I understand that and respect that. But we're all about trying to make this university the greatest we possibly can, and this an opportunity to take us to another level and do just that. So I'm hoping folks will get on board with this and will help us not only because they love athletics but more importantly, because they love this university and they love what this university is going to do for the future of our country.

QUOTING: TOM KLEINLEIN, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

What a great day for this institution and what a great day for Eagle Nation. There are a ton of people to thank for this moment. This is a great time and great opportunity for our athletic department to serve the mission of the institution, and our job is to put our institution on a bigger platform so we can talk about the great academic things that are done on our campus. That's why this movement is about our entire institution.

Obviously, we know with this move, there will be challenges. Some of them are immediate. But Eagle Nation has always stepped up. They've always fought against the challenges, and they've always defeated the challenges. I know the people who make up this institution will go out every day and do the best they possibly can.

It's a tremendous opportunity not only for our student-athletes but it's a tremendous opportunity for our economic area as well. When we can play on a game on a Tuesday night or a Thursday night or on a Saturday and we can bring ESPN here, that's tremendous exposure not only for our university but for corporate entities around Statesboro, Savannah, Jacksonville and Atlanta that want to be a part of it.

In 10 years, I see us competing for championships within the Sun Belt Conference. I see us being a nationally-recognized institution for athletics and academics because of the exposure this move will have given us.

Regarding football postseason eligibility:

If we declare June 1st, which is what our intention is, we will play the 2013 season ineligible to compete for postseason in the FCS, which renders us ineligible to compete for the Southern Conference championship. We will be eligible for the football championship for 2014 in the Sun Belt Conference, and we will be eligible for a football bowl game and the Sun Belt football championship in 2015. Also, by declaring the way we will declare, we will be eligible to start receiving and be a part of the revenue distribution associated with the Sun Belt Conference in 2014.

QUOTING KARL BENSON: COMMISSIONER, SUN BELT CONFERENCE

Our member's chancellors and presidents have evaluated Georgia Southern, and there is a real affinity. The Sun Belt just got better from a football standpoint with the addition of Georgia Southern. Georgia Southern fits in the Sun Belt footprint, and I'm very confident that under the leadership of Dr. Keel and Tom Kleinlein and the coaches and all the student-athletes that Georgia Southern will be a contributing member of the Sun Belt immediately when they start play in 2014.

This is a very volatile and fluid time in college athletics and what the Sun Belt is looking for from Georgia Southern is stability and solid, credible programs that will allow the Sun Belt take a part here in this region and build the Sun Belt in the state of Georgia.

One of the things that come with being an FBS member is greater representation in the NCAA governance structure. So it's important to get that FBS label not just from a promotional and recruiting standpoint but also from just the landscape of college athletics standpoint.

By adding Georgia Southern, we will get back to that six-team division in the east, and it will be compact. We've heard about the travel demands that joining the Sun Belt will have on student-athletes and teams, and we will minimize that because of the divisional play.

It is our intention that we would do a football championship game in 2014 and even though Georgia Southern would not be eligible for a bowl game in 2014, if Georgia Southern wins the Eastern Division of the Sun Belt, the first Sun Belt championship game could be right here in Paulson Stadium.

Regarding football postseason eligibility:

The requirement and the expectation was that Georgia Southern start that clock as soon as possible to be able to get to full FBS status by the 2015 season. As the Sun Belt is going through reinventing itself and re-establishing its membership, we needed Georgia Southern to start that clock. We know that it does create some concern and some

issues for student-athletes, but whenever they start that clock, there is going to be a certain number of student-athletes who won't be eligible for the FCS.

Georgia Southern University Archer Linda Stephens Earns All-American Status

July 10, 2012

In just her second year of collegiate archery, Georgia Southern University junior Linda Stephens has made quite a statement. For the second time, the Ludowici, Ga. native has been named an All-American by United States Collegiate Archery (USCA). She was one of 10 women to earn the honor in 2012.

Stephens, a management major in the College of Business Administration, serves as vice president of Georgia Southern's Archery Club team in addition to her role as a full-time student. What makes her accomplishment even more impressive? She has only been competing in the sport for six years. The honor is awarded to archers who are full-time college students in good standing and who have competed in both the USCA National Indoor and the United States Intercollegiate Archery Championships (USIAC). The Top 10 in each class with a combined score from those events earn All-American status.

"I was simply astonished to learn that in my first year of collegiate competition, I was able to attain the title of All-American," said Stephens. "I was so proud of my achievement, but even I didn't know what an honor it was until this year when I thought my performance at USIAC would fall just short of the requirements. Thankfully, I managed to achieve All-American status for the second straight year."

Along with All-American honors, Stephens was named an All-Academic performer for the second consecutive year. The USCA awards All-Academic status to archers whose grade-point average is above 3.0 and who rank in the Top 10 nationally. In addition, Stephens went to the Olympic trials last summer.

Georgia Southern University's Archery Club Team was formed in November 2010. Today, the team focuses not only on the sport of archery, but on education – teaching students the basics of the increasingly popular sport. This past March, Georgia Southern's team hosted the National Indoor tournament, one of only eight tournaments in the country. The team currently practices on the University's intramural fields, but that's about to change.

Recently, Georgia Southern and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced plans to construct a new Elite Shooting Sports Education Center adjacent to Georgia Southern's campus in Statesboro. The new center, which is being funded in part by a \$3.3 million federal grant along with private and corporate donations, will allow the center to serve as an educational, recreational and competitive venue. Scheduled to open in fall 2013, it will be only one of two such centers in the country.

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Cheerleaders named STUNT All-Americans

June 13, 2013

Georgia Southern University senior base Ashley Riggs and sophomore flyer Katherine Daniel were recently selected by USA Cheer as First Team 2013 STUNT All-Americans.

Riggs, an early childhood education major from Sharpsburg, Ga., was the captain of the Georgia Southern STUNT team and had major responsibility for selecting personnel and teaching the STUNT routines. She led the team to the national semi-finals against the University of Louisville, performing in 12 out of the 19 STUNT routines and was instrumental in victories over the University of Georgia and Florida State University.

Riggs, a four-year Georgia Southern cheerleader, has cheered at more than 90 football and men's and women's basketball games. As a member of the All-Girl team she won two NCA National Championships in 2011 and 2012.

Daniel, a middle grades education major from Rincon, Ga., participated in 10 of the 19 STUNT routines as a flyer. She was focused on perfecting routines with her stunt partners, including Riggs, and was an integral part of the most difficult pyramids. Daniel earned an NCA National Championship in 2012.

Riggs and Daniel join Georgia Southern's previous STUNT All-Americans Ashlee Newsome and Conice Leverett from 2012 and JaNee Demery and Kayla Anne Wheatley from 2011 in achieving this recognition.

STUNT is an emerging NCAA competitive team sport that has derived from traditional cheerleading. STUNT removes the crowd leading and focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheer. STUNT was developed by USA Cheer in collaboration with Title IX experts as well as known coaches and experts in the All-Star and traditional cheerleading community. USA Cheer is the national governing body for sport cheering in the United States.

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The Southern Conference Names 175 Eagles to its Academic Honor Roll

[Full honor roll \(PDF\)](#)

SPARTANBURG, S.C. – The Southern Conference honored 175 Georgia Southern student-athletes for the 2012-13 season as the conference announced its academic honor roll.

A SoCon high 19 Eagles posted a perfect 4.0 grade point average, and 89 earned the Commissioner's Medal, awarded annually to student-athletes who attain a GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout the year.



The football team had 27 selections to the honor roll, while the swimming and diving team had 26 and the women's soccer squad posted 25. Four members of the swimming and diving team had 4.0 grade point averages, while the softball, volleyball and baseball teams each had three student-athletes with perfect GPAs.

The honor roll topped 2,000 student-athletes for the first time in conference history, surpassing the record 1,985 who were honored in 2010-11. The 25-year-old award originated in 1988-89, when SoCon athletic directors established the honor roll prior as a way to recognize the league's outstanding student-athletes. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports at member institutions and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher while passing at least 24 hours in two semesters of classes or its equivalent for other academic calendars. Of those more than 2,000 student-athletes on the list, 895 earned the Commissioner's Medal.

Davidson had a league-best 258 student-athletes on the honor roll, while Appalachian State was second with 210 and Wofford was third with 202. Each of the SoCon's 12 league schools had at least 118 student-athletes on the list.

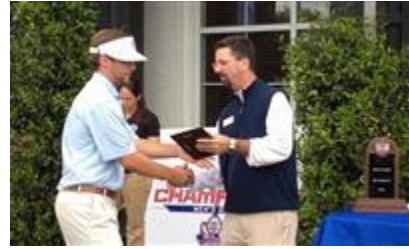
The honor roll includes all 19 SoCon-sponsored sports as well as the non-sponsored sports of field hockey, lacrosse, swimming and diving, equestrian, rifle and sailing. League schools who sponsor swimming are members of the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels [facebook.com/GSATHletics](https://www.facebook.com/GSATHletics) and twitter.com/GSATHletics, and its new "Eagles GATA" mobile app for Android and iOS.

Golf Ties for Fifth at SoCon Championships, Wolfes Named Golfer of the Year

[Final results \(PDF\)](#)

CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Georgia Southern golf team shot a 301 in the third round of the 77th Southern Conference Championships to move up one spot and tie for fifth Tuesday at Ralston Creek Course.



Scott Wolfes (right) was named the league's Golfer of the Year and first-team all-conference. The sophomore won two tournaments, placed first or second in five events and posted seven top-10 finishes. He is the first Eagle to win Golfer of the Year honors since Logan Blondell in 2009.

The Eagles (+45) moved past Elon (+50) and made up two strokes on Appalachian State (+42) but could not pass the Mountaineers, who placed fourth. UNCG made up five strokes on Georgia Southern to tie for fifth, while Elon (+50) and Samford tied for seventh.

Chattanooga (+20), which came into the final round with a 3-shot lead over Davidson, held off the Wildcats (+22) by two strokes. College of Charleston (+34) finished third.

Freshman Josh Lorenzetti from College of Charleston took individual medalist honors after backing up his second-round 69 with a 70 today. UNCG's Taylor Coalson fired a 70 to finish 1-over for the tourney and tie Chattanooga's Steven Fox and Davidson's Todd Eckstein for second. Fox shot a 74 today, and Eckstein posted a 72.

Chattanooga claims the SoCon's automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals, and Lorenzetti will get an automatic bid to compete as an individual.

Will Evans led the Eagles with a 2-over-par 74 and finished the tournament tied for 12th. Charlie Martin carded a 75, while Scott Wolfes and Hayden Anderson each posted a 76. Christian Humber shot a 77.

The wind was much calmer today, but it was chilly and breezy. The course played tough with tucked-away pin placements on almost every hole, resulting in some difficult putts. Georgia Southern could not overcome the score of 315 they put on the board in the first round that left them tied for seventh after the first day, 17 shots behind second-place Chattanooga and 18 shots back of leader Davidson.

"Obviously, it's not the finish we came over here for. We just never seemed to get any mojo going after getting blown off the golf course Sunday," said Georgia Southern coach Larry Mays. "I was proud of the guys yesterday for coming back with a solid round, but today again, a couple guys got off to bad starts and we couldn't get all five of them playing well at the same time, which is something you have to do if you want to compete against good teams and win tournaments. We didn't putt well this week, and that's something we'll have to work on and clean up."

Evans had two birdies and three bogeys on the front to make the turn at 1-over. The junior double-bogeyed 12 and birdied 15 to finish 2-over. He saved par on hole 18 by making a 5-foot putt after getting up and down out of the sand, finishing the tournament with a 225.

Martin's putter deserted him early today as the sophomore three-putted for bogey on the first two holes and bogeyed the first five. He regained control from there, playing his final 13 holes at 2-under par and

posting birdies on two of his last three holes, including the par-5 18th. His only hiccup was a bogey on 12 en route to finishing the tournament with a 231.

Anderson started out with a birdie and played the first seven holes at even par. The junior double-bogeyed hole 8 and bogeyed 9 before posting a birdie on 10. He struggled at the finish by playing his final five holes 2-over, including a bogey on 18 after his ball hit the green below the hole, spun off and ran all the way down a bank and into the water. He finished the tournament with a 231.

Wolfes birdied three of the first six holes, but had bogeys on holes 2 and 5 to make the turn at 1-under. He bogeyed 11 to fall back to even par and posted double bogeys on 15 and 16 and a bogey on 17. He got up and down for birdie on the par-5 18th after flying his second shot over the green and posted a 227 for the tournament to tie for 18th.

Humber bogeyed his first three holes and double-bogeyed the par-5 6th hole. The junior righted the ship by birdieing holes 8 and 9 and playing the back nine at 2-over to finish the tournament with a 232.

"Even though it wasn't the finish we wanted this week, we had a great season with three tournament wins and did enough to expect an NCAA regional bid when they get announced May 6," said Mays.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSAthletics and twitter.com/GSAthletics, and its new "Eagles GATA" mobile app for Android and iOS.

Football Ranked Third in Final Polls



STATESBORO, Ga. - The Georgia Southern Eagles finished third in the final FCS Polls as announced Monday afternoon.

The Eagle football team was rewarded for a third-straight semifinal run with a third place ranking in both the Sports Network FCS Poll and the FCS Coaches Poll. Georgia Southern was previously ranked sixth and seventh, respectively, in the previous poll, released before the start of the playoffs. The Eagles were ranked behind only the two FCS finalists, North Dakota State and Sam Houston State, in both final polls.

Georgia Southern was one of three Southern Conference teams selected to the two polls. Wofford finished seventh in both polls, while Appalachian State fell to eighth in the FCS Coaches poll and 9th in the Sports Network poll.

The Eagles reached as high as No. 1 in the FCS Coaches Poll and opened the season ranked third.

GSU finished the 2012 season with a 10-4 record and a 6-2 mark in the Southern Conference and secured a share of their second-straight Southern Conference Championship.

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Georgia Southern Adds Women's Rifle Team

April 15, 2013

Georgia Southern Director of Athletics Tom Kleinlein announced today that the University will add women's rifle as its 16th intercollegiate program beginning in the 2013-14 season.

A total of 34 NCAA schools sponsor rifle, including a combination of coed, men's and women's teams, and 22 compete at the Division I level. Eight schools compete in Division I women's rifle, and 13 compete in mixed rifle. The NCAA scholarship limit for Division I is 3.6.

Kleinlein also announced that MSG Tim Parks will serve as the program's first coach. The Eagles will use the shooting range behind the Recreation Activity Center on Register Road as their home facility until the Georgia Southern Shooting Sports Education Center, slated to open in the fall of 2014, is completed.

"The strength of the Georgia Southern ROTC program and its relationship with Eagle athletics coupled with the plans for an on-campus, state-of-the-art shooting facility makes women's rifle a perfect addition to our lineup of intercollegiate sports," said Kleinlein. "As with all of our athletics programs, we expect to be competitive on a yearly basis."

The Shooting Sports Education Center will be 20,000-25,000 square feet, designed for future expansion and will include both indoor archery and firing ranges and outdoor archery ranges. The proposed site is adjacent to the Recreation Activity Center and M.C. Anderson Recreation Park on Georgia Southern's main campus.

Georgia Southern will conduct tryouts May 1 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the shooting range behind the Recreation Activity Center on Register Road. Students must bring a copy of a physical within the last six months signed by a physician and proof of medical insurance to try out. For more information, contact Senior Woman Administrator Cathy Beene via email at cbeene@georgiasouthern.edu. [Click here for the sickle cell waiver.](#) [Click here for the medical history form.](#)

"The addition of a women's rifle program and added athletic scholarship opportunities for female student-athletes is a positive effect of our decision to move up to FBS," said Kleinlein. "Starting a women's rifle program fulfills an NCAA requirement of sponsoring 16 varsity programs in order to compete at the FBS level."

Georgia Southern will compete in the Air Rifle discipline to start. Air Rifle uses a 0.177 caliber pellet, and shooters are 10 meters from the target. For women, the shooter gets 40 targets and one shot per target. Each shot scores from 1-10, and a perfect score is 600. The total time limit to complete the targets is one hour, 15 minutes. Each team declares five shooters before the match, and four scores count towards the overall team score.

Other Division I women's rifle programs in the Southeast include The Citadel, The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and Ole Miss. Mixed rifle programs in the region include Wofford, NC State and Kentucky. West Virginia won the National Championship in 2013, its 15th title.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Georgia Southern's record enrollment and growing popularity were not only felt on campus, but in the region as well. Last year, the University's economic impact topped a record \$846 million -- signaling Georgia Southern's continued strength as an economic growth engine.

At the center of economic development is Georgia Southern's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center in Savannah, Ga., recognized this year for opening the nation's first pilot pellet mill. The research, development and demonstration facility will provide innovative process technology and pellet design, while also helping the rising global demand for biomass pellets.

New Study Says Georgia Southern University's Economic Impact Tops \$846 Million

October 16, 2012

Georgia Southern University's economic impact during fiscal year 2012 topped \$846 million, setting a new record for one of the state's growing research universities. The study, conducted by the University's Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), noted that the University's growth, visitor and student spending and ongoing construction projects continue to fuel the area's growth and economy.

"In fiscal year 2012, Georgia Southern had its largest economic impact ever on the local economy," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Georgia Southern is a great example of how a University's growth can have a direct impact on its community as well as the surrounding region."

The BBRED report calculated Georgia Southern's economic impact base on five key areas of University activities: operating expenditures, construction projects, student spending, visitor spending and salaries and payroll. Together, these five areas made up the direct spending values used in this analysis, which this year totaled nearly \$504 million.

The report emphasizes Georgia Southern's role as a cultural center within the region, with activities ranging from unique outreach centers including the Wildlife Center, Garden of the Coastal Plain and Georgia Southern Museum to intercollegiate athletics, live musical and theatrical performances. During the 2011 fiscal year, the University attracted more than 163,300 visitors to Bulloch County, with an estimated impact of \$47.4 million.

As the University's reputation continues to grow and expand, student enrollment at the institution has also grown. Roughly 9,400 students relocated from northern Georgia (Atlanta area) to attend Georgia Southern in fall 2011. Enrollment has increased every year since 2006, reaching an all-time high of 20,212 in fall 2011. Enrollment for fall 2012, when announced in the coming month, is expected to set yet another record for the growing institution.

"This year saw the combination of Georgia Southern's engineering programs with its computer science and information technology programs, resulting in the formation of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology. This new college has created an educational environment unlike any other in the region," said Keel. "Industry locates where there is an educated, skilled workforce available...bringing jobs and more opportunity for economic growth."

The study noted that as a result of the University's continued growth, it is supporting a total of 8,386 jobs in the region. One-third of the total jobs linked to the University are attributable to the students and visitors, who together contributed to the creation of 3,308 jobs through their spending in the local economy.

"Universities interact with their communities as both economic and cultural centers. The economic contributions can be clearly documented in a direct way by examining the impacts of the direct spending of the institution, its employees, the students and the visitors," said Dominique Halaby, director of BBRED.

In July, the University System of Georgia released its annual economic impact results that stated Georgia Southern's economic impact was approximately \$512 million. "The new study is a more comprehensive look at the University's true impact, and includes visitor spending as well as a three year rolling average of construction projects, two things the University System report did not include," said Charles Patterson,

vice president for research and economic development at Georgia Southern. “Regardless of which study you look at, one thing is clear – Georgia Southern is having a major impact on this region of the state.”

Georgia Southern University Economic Impact: Did You Know?

Georgia Southern students spent more than \$142 million in the local economy.

For every \$1 spent by Georgia Southern, its students, and its visitors, the secondary spending associated with that output created an additional \$0.69 of economic impact, for a total impact of \$1.69. This is referred to as the multiplier effect which represents the number of times this money circulates in the economy (e.g. 1.69 times).

The University attracted more than 163,300 visitors to Bulloch County, with an estimated \$47.4 million impact.

The direct expenditures of Georgia Southern, its students, and visitors contributed more than \$283 million to the Gross Regional Product (GRP), which had a total impact of almost \$487 million on the regional economy.

Labor income related to Georgia Southern totaled \$308 million.

In total, 8,386 local jobs are linked to Georgia Southern. One-third of the total jobs linked to the University are attributable to the students and visitors, who together contributed to the creation of 3,308 jobs through their spending in the local economy.

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Herty Opens Nation's First Pilot Pellet Mill in Savannah

February 7, 2013

Georgia Southern University's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has opened the first fully-integrated pilot pellet mill in the United States. The new production line, located in Savannah, includes a nearly \$2 million investment in process equipment. The facility will provide a much-needed platform for innovation in process technology and pellet design in the U.S. and will help rising global demand for biomass pellets in Europe and North America.

With the introduction of the new mill, Herty will work with technology providers and developers to help validate a number of product development projects. The team will also support researchers working to enhance pellet design and will develop methods for lowering operating costs.

Pellets, formed from wood and bioenergy feedstocks such as miscanthus and switch grass, are highly regarded as an effective, alternative energy solution because of their relatively high energy density and ease of handling. Pellets can also be easily integrated into existing electric power generating plants as a fuel. As a result, the pellet industry has witnessed tremendous growth as major European countries, which have adopted mandates for greenhouse gas emissions, are using biomass pellets at unprecedented rates. Most of the growth in Europe has come from imports.

According to a recent report from the U.S. International Trade Commission, annual global imports of wood pellets have grown from virtually zero to more than \$1.5 billion during the last decade. However, research into improving the production of pellets, as well as optimizing pellet operation and composition has lagged behind industry growth. Developers, manufacturers and researchers will now be able to benefit by having a flexible, integrated production facility that can produce pellets with properties that are consistent with those achieved in large-scale commercial facilities.

"For more than 75 years, Herty has been helping companies in a variety of industries develop and validate new processes and products," said Alexander Koukoulas, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Georgia Southern's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center. "This new pilot mill is a first and will help address a global need. The new mill will serve as a valuable testbed by helping our clients confirm product performance and operating efficiencies and before they commit to an investment in full-scale manufacturing. Ultimately, the Savannah-based facility will help companies lower technical risk and accelerate delivery."

"To be a part of a larger mandate, assisting in clean energy solutions, promoting a cleaner environment and impacting Georgia's economic growth makes our efforts here at Herty all the more meaningful," said Jill Stuckey, director, biomass development. Herty's pellet mill and production facility provides access to both advanced technology and to new product development capabilities and support. Capabilities and services include:

- Biomass preparation and pretreatment
- Biomass testing
- Pellet analysis

About Herty Advanced Materials Development Center

Georgia Southern University's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center is a world-class research, development and demonstration facility for the non-wovens industry, as well as the pulp and paper and the emerging bioenergy and biomaterials industries. Herty is a new product and process accelerator providing technical, market and development expertise to our clients. The Center has extensive pilot-scale

capabilities for prototyping new products and de-risking the commercialization process.

About Georgia Southern University

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

OUTREACH

In a year defined by change, Georgia Southern took the opportunity to innovate, revitalize and reach out, making contributions that count in the community, region and the nation. The University unveiled a new license plate for the Eagle Nation, designed a historical markers app for smartphones and was recognized for the third consecutive year as one of the nation's top environmentally responsible green colleges by The Princeton Review.

As the cultural center of the region, Georgia Southern touched the lives of many with a range of events hosted by the unique outreach centers, including live musical and theatrical performances, museum and wildlife exhibits and festivals celebrating the heritage of the Coastal Plain.

The campus and community also benefited from an impressive roster of world-class speakers such as former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter, Madeleine Albright and Soledad O'Brien.

Georgia Southern University Hosts Third Annual Wildlife WinterFest

December 4, 2012

STATESBORO, Ga. – Dec. 4, 2012 – The Center for Wildlife Education and The Lamar Q. Ball, Jr. Raptor Center at Georgia Southern University will host the third annual Wildlife WinterFest on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. at 1461 Forest Drive.

For the second consecutive year, Wildlife WinterFest will feature [Brian Staples](#) and his exotic animals in the Staples Safari Zoo. It includes monkeys from around the world, a 500 pound white tiger, a lion and a black panther. “Brian does such a good job bringing forth these animals but also talking about their natural history and explaining why some species are in peril, why it's important and why we should care here in Georgia,” said Steve Hein, director of the [Center](#). “It's a continuum of what we do each and every day.”

During Wildlife WinterFest, families can roam the 17 acres of the Center and learn about animals and plants native to Georgia and the Statesboro area. In addition to several performances with his animals, Staples will also perform a magic show. Wildlife WinterFest also features holiday music and Santa Claus.

“The Wildlife Center was built upon bringing man and nature together, and this traveling exhibit is a continuum of that as well,” said Hein. “Visitors will have the opportunity to get about as close as they want to some really fabulous and exotic wildlife.”

The goal of Wildlife WinterFest is to encourage families to develop a lifelong love of wildlife. “Brian has a great message,” said Hein. “The animals he has rescued have been injured or abandoned. So it has a good purpose there. Every element of his show ties it back to the animals and their need for protection and education.”

Admission to Wildlife Winterfest is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child (ages 3-11) and free for children ages two and under. For more information on Wildlife Winterfest, visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/wildlife.

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Georgia Southern Named Environmentally Friendly "Green College"

April 19, 2013

As the nation prepares to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, Georgia Southern University has been recognized as being named one of the nation's most environmentally responsible "green colleges" by The Princeton Review and the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council for the third consecutive year.

"This great honor has put us on the nation's sustainability map and indicates that our academics, facilities and policies lead the country in a commitment to taking care of our limited natural resources and finding solutions to sustainability issues," said Lissa Leege, director of the Center for Sustainability at Georgia Southern.

The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013 Edition profiles Georgia Southern and 319 other schools in the U.S. that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

The honor comes as Georgia Southern celebrates "No Impact Week" and just days after the Georgia Board of Regents approved a \$10 sustainability fee that nearly 75 percent of students voted in favor of paying. "The fee will be used in part to support the Center for Sustainability and its activities, including speakers, events, development of sustainability curriculum, outreach and promotion of sustainable solutions," said Leege. "In addition, the fee will help to support sustainability efforts on campus to be determined by students, potentially including such advances as building retrofits and relamping."

"No Impact Week" concludes at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 22 in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center's Assembly Hall with a discussion on our future energy needs. The panel will include Congressman John Barrow along with representatives from utility agencies and environmental groups.

"The panelists represent an array of energy options for Georgia and can help us to understand the promise of each for the energy future of the southeast," explained Leege. "Congressman Barrow brings a national perspective as a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which deals with national energy policy and related legislation."

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter to Speak at Georgia Southern University

November 13, 2012

Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter will speak at Georgia Southern University's Hanner Fieldhouse on Feb. 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. ET. The remarks will be a part of Georgia Southern's popular Leadership Lecture Series, designed to provide its students with an opportunity to hear from influential leaders from throughout the world. This will be the first time that the former President and First Lady have spoken at Georgia Southern.

"We could not be more excited to welcome President and Mrs. Carter to Georgia Southern University," said Georgia Southern Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Teresa Thompson, Ph.D. "At Georgia Southern, our goal is to integrate learning, service and leadership to empower our students to become global citizens who lead with a lifelong commitment to service. The Carters are recognized around the world not only for their leadership, but their commitment to service. This will be a terrific opportunity for our students to not only hear directly from a former U.S. President and First Lady, but two great citizens of Georgia."

Jimmy Carter served as President from 1977 to 1981. Successful in the Camp David Accords, the Panama Canal Treaties, and SALT II treaty with the Soviet Union, he may be most notable for his admirable humanitarian efforts following his presidency. Since leaving office, Carter has gained a reputation as a tireless champion for social justice. In 1982, he founded The Carter Center, a nonpartisan and nonprofit center that addresses national and international issues of public policy. He is a University Distinguished Professor at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga. and is the author of 27 books. On Dec. 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Carter "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

President Carter was educated in the public schools of Plains, attended Georgia Southwestern College, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1946.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter has worked for more than three decades to improve the quality of life for people around the world. Today, she is an advocate for mental health, caregiving, early childhood immunization, human rights and conflict resolution through her work at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga. A full partner with the President in all the Center's activities, the former First Lady is a member of the Carter Center Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Carter served as distinguished centennial lecturer at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., from 1988-1992 and is currently a distinguished fellow at the Emory University Department of Women's Studies in Atlanta. She is a graduate of Georgia Southwestern College where she serves as president of the board of directors for the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving. Mrs. Carter has received numerous honors including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor. She has written five books and continues to travel and speak throughout the world. A mother of four, she has maintained a lifelong dedication to issues affecting women and children.

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter volunteer one week a year for Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization that helps needy people in the United States and in other countries renovate and build homes for themselves. Together, the Carters co-wrote the book "Everything to Gain," which describes their work for Habitat. President Carter also teaches Sunday school and both serve as deacons at the Maranatha Baptist Church of Plains.

President and Mrs. Carter, have three sons, one daughter, nine grandsons, three granddaughters, two great-grandsons and four great-granddaughters.

Carter will be the second U.S. President to speak at Georgia Southern and the visit will mark the first time a President and First Lady have visited Georgia Southern together. Former President George W. Bush spoke on campus in 2006. Georgia Southern's Leadership Lecture Series has included a number of well-known leaders and influencers including former secretary of state Condoleezza Rice, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, political consultants James Carville and Mary Matalin, Toms Shoes Founder Blake Mycoskie, Apollo 13 Astronaut Jim Lovell, and former United Nations ambassador and secretary of state Madeleine Albright to name a few.

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Georgia Southern Designs Historical Markers App for Smartphones

April 18, 2013

Georgia Southern University has just launched a new Georgia Historical Markers smartphone application that will allow historians and visitors to easily locate and explore Georgia's more than 2,500 historical markers. Georgia Southern partnered with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in the development of this application.

This is the most comprehensive application of its kind for the state of Georgia and will allow users who download the app, the ability to search for markers of interest using their mobile phone. The app is available for Android, iPhone, iPad, iPad Mini and iPod Touch devices. To locate the app, search "Georgia Historical Markers" on your smartphone's app store and look for the Georgia Peach logo.

The app, designed to support tourism and ultimately economic development in the state, includes several unique features that make locating and learning about Georgia's history easier than ever. The app provides users with the opportunity to search for historical markers in Georgia based on location, marker text, or both. Users can also use a smartphone's built-in location services to identify markers closest to their location. Users may view the results in a list or on a map. Each marker location includes an image of the marker as well as a detailed description of the historical site.

"This is just the beginning," said Steve Burrell, vice president for information technology and chief information officer at Georgia Southern. "Our goal is to continue to add additional features to the app that will make learning about our state's history even more fun and exciting, with the goal of helping attract more tourists to Georgia."

"We created a Georgia Historical Marker website more than 10 years ago to promote historical education and tourism," said Terry Jackson, director for DCA's mapping programs. "It is one of our most visited websites, so when Georgia Southern University approached us with the idea for a mobile phone application we were immediately impressed with their vision and knew right away that we wanted to partner with them."

DCA Programmer Mathew John noted that, "This was a challenging project where we used new spatial database types and web services to deliver information to the mobile app. It was a great opportunity to collaborate with the visionary and talented developers at Georgia Southern."

While just launched, updates are already planned, including the ability to mark off which sites you have visited so that you can follow your progress. "This has the potential to turn into a scavenger hunt of sorts," said Burrell. "We envision parents and teachers making great use of this application for educating children and turning routine trips into adventures in Georgia history."

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Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs partners with local governments on many initiatives to promote job creation, provide housing and build better communities. Visit www.dca.ga.gov for more information.

Soledad O'Brien to speak at Georgia Southern's MLK Celebration

November 13, 2012

CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien will be the featured speaker during Georgia Southern University's 2013 MLK celebration. The event on January 29, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center is presented by Georgia Southern's Multicultural Student Center and the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. O'Brien's theme will focus on social justice, public service and continuing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Soledad O'Brien is a veteran, Emmy award-winning journalist who anchors the CNN morning show "Starting Point." She has traveled the world covering stories and producing documentaries focusing on minorities and their challenges and struggles in America.

"You can't deny the work that she has done to bring attention to multiple social justice issues," said Mrs. Dorsey Baldwin, the director of Georgia Southern's Multicultural Student Center. "I think it is going to be an amazing experience to listen to her story and testimony about the challenges she faced and obstacles she has overcome. O'Brien will address a lot of the social justice issues that she has tackled. I think people will be able to relate to that regardless of their political affiliation. She has an amazing story that she will be able to share with Georgia Southern and our community."

Tickets for the free event will not be distributed; however, seating is limited.

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Southern Pride To-Go to Inject School Spirit into Statesboro on Friday Nights

August 30, 2012

If you were in a Statesboro restaurant or hangout on a Friday before a home football game last year, you may have been startled by a clandestine group of Southern Pride Marching Band members who have dubbed themselves, 'Southern Pride To-Go.' Each Friday before a Georgia Southern home football game, a small group of musicians raids restaurants and hangouts throughout Statesboro playing the fight songs and other popular tunes to get fans fired up for Saturday's game.

"This is quickly becoming a popular Georgia Southern tradition," says Colin McKenzie, director of the Southern Pride Marching Band. "It started with a simple idea – nine to 10 marching band members and a van. People loved it last year and we're excited about this year."

The idea began when McKenzie and University Marketing & Communications Director, Christian Flathman sat down and talked about ways to get fans, alumni and the City of Statesboro excited about upcoming home football games. "When we first started calling local restaurants and hangouts, there was a lot of silence on the other end of the phone when we told them about the idea," says Flathman. "After the first week, people started asking if we would come back the next Friday and then it took on a life of its own."

How it Works

Each home football game week the band selects where it will be going on Friday night. Volunteer musicians from the University's Southern Pride Marching Band sign up to be considered and are selected for the group. They meet on campus and after a quick warm up, pile into a multi-passenger van and then head to their first location. When they arrive at a location - which is only known to the band and business owner - the band piles out of the vehicle as fast as they can and immediately goes into the restaurant to begin playing.

"When you see nine marching band members run in with drums, tubas, trombones, trumpets and more it kind of catches you by surprise," says Flathman. "Last year, we had a couple of people jump out of their chairs when they started playing the fight song in the middle of the restaurant."

The band will play three to four quick tunes and then immediately run out, jump back in the vehicle and head to their next location. They repeat the fun until they have completed their route for the evening.

"Local business owners love it because they have students, alumni and fans coming to their business and asking if the band is coming by tonight. Even better, we had opposing teams' fans saying 'this is awesome'," says Flathman. "We want everyone to get excited about the University. If they show up when you're out to dinner or having a good time, we hope you'll join in with them."

"This was one of those ideas that was different and no one really expected it and I think that's what makes it great," says McKenzie, who has to narrow down a huge list of volunteers each week. "We have an incredibly dedicated group of musicians who love to perform and the Friday Night Band is a great way to showcase the group. The smiles and cheers we get when we come running in are worth it. We've already been asked if we're doing it again this year and my answer is, yes...but we're not telling you when or where we're going to show up."

Businesses interested in learning more about 'Southern Pride To-Go' or supporting the band can contact Colin McKenzie at 912-478-5396 or via e-mail at: cmckenzie@georgiasouthern.edu.

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ArtsFest at Georgia Southern

April 2, 2013

Georgia Southern University's Sweetheart Circle will soon be filled with thousands of people who share a common love – art! The University's 31st annual ArtsFest returns to campus on April 6 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The free day of entertainment offers something for every member of the family including art, music, dance, food and more. ArtsFest provides the opportunity for people to get hands-on and create their own art, watch performances and buy paintings, ceramics, jewelry, oil candles and more from vendors in the Artists Market which will include the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art's Jewelry Guild and Student Art League.

“For 31 years, the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art has hosted the annual ArtsFest event to unite the community and University through art,” explained ArtsFest Director Cinnamon Dowd. “This year we are excited to offer patrons not only their favorite elements of the festival, but also to add in some new experiences!”

The Tampa Taiko Japanese drumming ensemble and a lion dancing team from Atlanta's Chien Hong School of Kung Fu will be the headline performers adding a touch of cultural flair to this year's ArtsFest. Dowd explained festival-goers will get a one-of-a-kind experience during these interactive and unique performances.

This year sets a new record for art stop stations. There will be 30 set up around Sweetheart Circle and several new creative opportunities have been added. Along with traditional stations such as “Paint-A-Pet” and “Gyatuko Fish Printing,” attendees will notice new activities including “Athletic's Action Painting,” “Rocket Races,” “Art in the Middle Ages” and “Henna Painting.”

For more information on ArtsFest, visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/artsfest or email Cinnamon Dowd at artsfest@georgiasouthern.edu.

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

June 7, 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University to Host Rhythm and Brews Craft Beer Tasting Event on Sept. 28

September 14, 2012

The Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University, formerly Georgia Southern Botanical Garden, will host its annual Rhythm and Brews beer tasting event on Sept., 28 2012, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Proceeds from the event will support the Garden.

Atlanta's popular Mosier Brothers Band will heat up the fall heritage garden with bluegrass-laced rock and alternative music while guests enjoy unlimited tastings of craft beers and food from Big Bad Wolf barbeque of Statesboro.

The event will be held at the Garden in Statesboro, a quick ride from Savannah. Tickets are available through Sept. 22 for \$40 per person. After Sept. 22, tickets are \$50 per person. Guests must be 21 or older to attend, and proper ID is required. Tickets are available by calling the Garden with a major credit card at 912-871-1149.

The Atlanta-based The Mosier Brothers Band are 30-year veterans of bluegrass-infused rock 'n' roll. Jeff Mosier, founder of the band, plays the electric banjo while his brother Johnny plays the electric and acoustic guitar. Big Bad Wolf will park their smoker on wheels behind the Garden's restored Weathervane Barn, and the mouthwatering smells of barbeque smoke will greet Rhythm and Brews guests. Follow the music through the fall gardens to the large field between the Barn and the historic Oak Grove One Room Schoolhouse to the beer tasting tent, where each guest will receive a commemorative beer glass. Guests will have the opportunity to visit numerous vendors each offering unlimited samples of a varieties of beer.

Centered on an early 20th century farmstead, the Garden at Georgia Southern University offers visitors a unique view of the cultural and natural heritage of the Southeastern Coastal Plain, an area rich in unique and endangered plants. The Garden's nearly 11-acre site, located in the middle of the growing city of Statesboro, includes walking woodland trails, the Bland Cottage, a Heritage Garden, a Rose Arbor, a Children's Learning Garden, a Camellia Garden, a Native Plant Landscape Garden, a Native Azalea Collection and the Bog Garden. The Garden promotes knowledge and appreciation of the native plants and animals of the southeastern coastal plain, connects people to the natural and cultural heritage of the region and inspires environmentally responsible behavior.

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Broadway Musicals, Acrobatics, Comedy & Drama to Highlight Performing Arts Center's 2012-2013 Performance Season

August 13, 2012

Georgia Southern University's 2012 Performing Arts Center's upcoming season has been designed to have something for everyone featuring popular Broadway musicals, acrobatics, comedy and drama. The season which will begin on Sept. 15 will include seven shows which the Center expects to draw thousands from throughout the region.

"This year's season will be one of the best we have ever had," says Carol Thompson, director of the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern University. "The types of performances that the Performing Arts Center at Georgia Southern hosts are typically only available in much larger cities. This is an opportunity for families to attend some great shows at a very affordable price."

The season kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 15 with 101 Years of Broadway, the number one Broadway touring concert in the U.S. Georgia Southern will then play host to the National Circus of the People's Republic of China who will perform "Cirque Chinois" on Tuesday, Oct. 16. The season continues Friday, Nov. 30 as the stories of Sholem Aleichem come to life as the Center hosts a performance of Fiddler on the Roof. To kick off the new year, the Center will host the romantic adventure, Cyrano de Bergerac on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013. The lights of Broadway return to Statesboro just over a week later as Hooray for Hollywood takes the stage on Monday, Feb. 18. Next on the schedule is Neil Simon's hit play, Biloxi Blues on Thursday, March 14. The season concludes with a first for the Performing Arts Center as it hosts Stormy Weather: The Lena Horne Project on Saturday, May 4. Starring Mary Wilson of the Supremes, the show is a living, breathing biography featuring rare audio clips, video footage, true stories, and thrilling performances.

New season ticket packages will be available beginning Aug. 14 and will cost \$175. Tickets for individual shows will go on sale Aug. 28. To purchase tickets, contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office at 912-478-7999. The Box Office is open Tuesday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets online go to: www.georgiasouthern.edu/pac

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

Reducing carbon footprints during "No Impact Week"

April 4, 2013

Georgia Southern University's Center for Sustainability will host a number of events throughout April that are designed improve and protect our environment and change behavior when it comes to food, energy, water and waste. The focal point is "No Impact Week," to be held April 14-21.

"No Impact Week engages our campus in extended sustainability awareness with challenges, action and positive choices that are within our control," said Lissa Leege, director of the Center for Sustainability. "It gives participants power in the face of difficult environmental problems and shows us that collectively, our small lifestyle changes can result in a large impact on the planet."

The goal of the environmental education activities is to share ideas and information and learn to live by leaving as little of a carbon footprint as possible. "Our campus will offer more than 25 events over the course of the week that emphasize the themes of the day which include consumption, trash, food, transportation, water, energy and giving back," explained Leege. "Our outreach centers will even get in on the act with special 'No Impact Week' programs for the public."

A highlight of "No Impact Week" is a presentation from New York Times best-selling author Van Jones on Wednesday, April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 847 Plant Drive. Jones, who has worked as a green jobs advisor to the Obama White House, is the founder of Green For All, a national organization that creates green jobs in disadvantaged communities.

In celebration of Earth Day on Monday, April 22, U.S. Representative John Barrow, Georgia's 12th District Democratic congressman, will join leaders of utility companies and environmental groups for a discussion on the future energy needs of Georgia. The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center Assembly Hall. Admission is free and open to everyone.

Georgia Southern is the only university in the United States to participate in "No Impact Week" for three consecutive years and is a joint project between the Center for Sustainability and the University Wellness Program with support from CLEC (Campus Life Enrichment Committee), the Multicultural Student Center, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and the College of Science and Mathematics for various events. See the full calendar of "No Impact Week" events by visiting: <http://recreation.georgiasouthern.edu/wellness/special-events/no-impact-week/>.

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