“There is always more to be done. It’s about setting a culture of change.”

Journey To Distinction

Dr. Grube reflects on 10 years of leadership.
Beginning with the Spring 2010 issue, the print issue of *Georgia Southern* magazine will be mailed to members of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association and to those that donate to the Georgia Southern University Foundation.

The online version of the magazine will continue to be available to all alumni.

Join the Alumni Association today!

Visit alumni.GeorgiaSouthern.edu to join or call (912)GSU-ALUM.

Your $40 membership includes:

- Alumni Association Membership Card
- Subscription to *Georgia Southern* magazine
- 10% discount on University Bookstore purchases (excluding textbooks)
- 20% discounts with nationally known auto rental companies
- Library and computer lab privileges (excluding GALILEO password)
- Weekend use of indoor CRI facilities while visiting campus ($5 per visit)
- Selected motel discounts
- Selected restaurant discounts

The Georgia Southern Alumni Online Community

- Update your profile
- Connect with college friends
- Search the Alumni Directory

HTTP://ALUMNI.GEORGIA SOUTHERN.EDU

It is easier than ever to make a gift to Georgia Southern University. Just visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/donate.
As Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube prepares to leave office on Dec. 31, Georgia Southern magazine looks back at the year-by-year positive movement in key indicators of academic quality and campus enhancements - changes that have increased Georgia Southern’s national recognition as a university of distinction.

Under President Grube’s 10 years of guidance, the University has graduated more than 20,000 new leaders and developed innovative new programs and made major improvements to campus.
Journey To Distinction: A Timeline

1999
President Bruce Grube assumes office
College of Education Building completed
Football wins fifth National Championship

2000
WebMBA program online
Math-Physics addition completed
Ceramics and Sculpture building completed
Cowart Building opens
Remedial programs discontinued
Football wins sixth National Championship

2001
The School of Economic Development founded
School of Information Technology opens

2002
Nessmith-Lane Building opens
University joins Southwest Georgia Cancer Coalition
College of Education accredited by NCATE
School of Nursing reaccredited by CCNE

2003
Performing Arts Center opens
Southern Courtyard opens
College of Information Technology Building opened
College of Science and Nursing Building completed

2004
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health established
Online degrees in Nursing and Information Technology approved
Henderson Library initiates GIL Express service

2005
Soccer-track facility completed
Eagle Village opens
Dan J. Parrish, Sr. Football Building opens

2006
Carnegie Foundation reclassifies University as a Doctoral/Research University
Campaign for National Distinction raises $53.1 million
Bishop Fieldhouse completed
Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center opens
RAC expansion completed
Doctorate in Psychology approved, first in field, other than education

2007
Continuing Education programs online
Doctor of Public Health degree approved
U.S. News & World Report names Georgia Southern among National Universities
M.B.A. featured in Best Business Schools, published by The Princeton Review

2008
Wildlife Center Phase II opens
Center for Art & Theatre opens
Zach S. Henderson Library expansion completed
College of Business Administration reaccredited
Doctor of Nursing Practice degree approved

2009
Fall record enrollment of 19,086
First Ph.D., Logistics and Supply Chain Management, approved
Centennial Place opens, sets new record for enrollment
Foy building renovation completed
National Top 100 Best Universities by Kiplinger
Making History

Georgia Southern joins ranks of Ph.D.-granting universities with major academic step

An achievement that is sure to be counted among Georgia Southern’s most important academic turning points, the University has received approval to offer its first-ever Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, a Ph.D. in Logistics/Supply Chain Management.

Classes are scheduled to begin in Fall 2010.

“The approval of Georgia Southern’s first Ph.D. degree can be included among many firsts for the University, such as achieving university status and recognition as a Doctoral-Research Institution by the Carnegie Foundation. All are major milestones along the road of our more than 100 years of history,” said Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube.

While the new program is the University’s first Ph.D. program, it is also one of only two degrees in the state of Georgia to focus on the fast-growing field of logistics and supply chain management. University System of Georgia institutions offer more than 180 doctoral programs, but Georgia Southern will be the only university to offer the Ph.D. in Logistics/Supply Chain Management through its College of Business Administration.

“This is a major accomplishment for Georgia Southern, particularly as we continue to grow not only in size, but in quality,” said Gary Means, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Georgia Southern. “The Ph.D. builds on Georgia Southern’s already nationally-recognized College of Business Administration’s undergraduate degree program in logistics.”

The new degree program will train students for both advanced practice and academic positions, providing a tactical solution to the need for Georgia residents trained in logistics and materials management.

“With the Port of Savannah emerging as one of the largest ports in the country and Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson Airport’s prominence in air cargo, Georgia is home to many major distribution centers and trucking terminals,” said Ron Shiffler, dean of the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University. “Logistics is a critical function in the business economy and is expected to add more than 500,000 jobs during the next decade.”

Employment opportunities for graduates in this field are abundant and in high-demand. Nationally, only a limited number of universities offer such a degree. In fact, existing doctoral programs are unable to supply enough graduates to meet current demand not to mention future expected growth,” said Jerry Wilson, chair and professor of logistics and marketing.

“This program will provide a pathway for today’s professionals to teach future logistics students. In addition, those entering industry will be prepared to act as consultants and analysts helping develop Georgia’s preparedness to enhance the logistics and transportation industry,” Wilson said.

The College of Business Administration, which will offer the new degree, is recognized as one of the Best 301 Business Schools by Princeton Review.

Doctoral Programs at Georgia Southern

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)*
Logistics/Supply Chain Management

**Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
Curriculum Studies
Cultural Curriculum Studies
Instructional Improvement
Multicultural/International Studies
Teacher Leadership
Teacher Education

Educational Administration - Ed.D.
Higher Education
K-12 Administration
Teacher Leadership

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

**Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.)

**Doctor of Public Health (Dr.P.H.)
Biostatistics
Public Health Leadership
Community Health Behavior & Education

*Classes begin Fall 2010

“This is a major accomplishment... particularly as we continue to grow not only in size, but in quality.”

Gary Means, provost and vice president for academic affairs
Future science, math teachers receive ‘SMART’ scholarships

Four Georgia Southern students have received scholarships aimed at increasing the number of highly-qualified science and math teachers in secondary public schools.

The students have received SMART (Science and Math Achievement through Research and Technology) scholarships from Georgia Southern’s College of Education and Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology as part of a National Science Foundation grant, with funding from the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

The scholarships are available to math or science majors who will pursue a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. For each year the students receive the scholarship, they commit to teaching for two years in a high-need public secondary school.

“Our goal is to have 30 math and science teachers out in the field in the next five years,” said chemistry professor Jim LoBue, who helped write the grant.

A team of five Georgia Southern faculty members wrote the scholarship grant and interviewed the candidates. The team was comprised of LoBue, biology professor Michelle Cawthorn, math professor Joy Darley, chemistry professor Brian Koehler and curriculum, foundations and reading professor Marlynn Griffin.

The grant is for five years, with more than $600,000 in scholarships to be awarded during that period, LoBue said. SMART scholarship winners can receive up to $10,000 per year, with the primary target being juniors who have completed the “pre-professional block” – a practicum that involves 50 hours of observation in a public school classroom.

Faculty focus on international teaching

A group of University faculty spent nearly three weeks in China last spring studying teaching and learning techniques of that nation.

In 2008, professors Charles Crouch and John Steinberg were awarded a two-year $180,000 Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education for “International Education for All,” a program to expand the University’s focus on international teaching and learning both at home and abroad.

For 18 days, the group traveled through China attending faculty development seminars conducted by Chinese specialists in their fields of study. They returned to Georgia Southern ready to bring what they learned in China to the college core and upper-division curriculum.

Next year, the IEFA Faculty Development Seminar moves to another continent. In May 2010, the seminar will take place in Africa.
As retired Georgia Southern art professor Roxie Remley approached her 90th birthday, the last thing on her mind was slowing down. Instead, the prolific painter was hard at work putting the finishing touches on an exhibit of her paintings that opened just before her birthday.

“Art is a marvelous vocation for life whether teaching or producing it,” Remley said.

At this point in her life, Remley has been retired longer than she taught. Remley came to Statesboro to teach at then Georgia Teachers College’s summer session of 1950. There was no art department at that time. Instead Remley and professor Frieda Gernant, who had been at the college for four years, taught art courses in the basement of the Administration Building.

“We taught introductory art courses, but very shortly we began adding courses in the catalog,” Remley said. “I’m not sure we asked anyone for permission. I introduced art history. We had no projector or slides and I recall ordering 12 slides and a projector to begin a class in ancient art history.

“In 1967, we moved from the Carruth building to the new Foy Fine Arts Building. By 1976, those art courses added in the ’50s had helped pave the way for an art department with various majors and a sizable faculty,” Remley recalled. She decided the time was right to retire and begin a new phase of her life as a businesswoman.

When she left Georgia Southern, Remley’s home was filled with a large collection of art glass she had inherited from her mother’s antique business. Free from the demands of teaching, she unpacked the stacks of boxes and began her own antique business.

“I chose not to open a shop, but to sell at antique shows. So for 10 years I exhibited antiques to sell all over the country. My booth was a beautiful display of Tiffany lamps, Stuben, European art glass, etc.,” Remley said.

When the stock began to dwindle and the hectic pace of the antique shows became too much, Remley stopped traveling as an art glass dealer and started traveling strictly as a tourist.

For the next few years she toured many parts of the world, always making a point to visit museums that interested her. Amazingly, 10 years passed without Remley ever picking up a paintbrush.

Painting, however, now consumes most of her days. The “Edge of 90” exhibition opened this fall at the new Center for Art and Theatre on the Georgia Southern campus.

As you would expect, “Edge of 90” is a reflection of Remley’s approach to her 90th birthday. But the show is not about nostalgia, or falling back on old artistic habits. Instead, Remley decided to do something she had not done before.

“One day I was listening on the radio to Beethoven’s Third Symphony, his first symphony to break away from the traditional classic style, and I wondered how those chaotic and quiet sounds would look on canvas. Those sounds have been my project this entire year.”

Remley has volunteered at the downtown Averitt Center for the Arts since it opened in Statesboro five years ago. She says, “Even though my life long interest has been connected with art, it has drifted at times. You direct yourself somewhat, but one never knows for sure what might come next. That’s what makes life so interesting.”

One thing that seems certain is that art will remain at the forefront of Remley’s life.

—Betsy Nolen
“Grit” brings to mind dirt mingled with sweat. It also connotes a firmness of spirit and courage in the face of hardship.

Karl Peace has known plenty of both. Peace is a professor of biostatistics in Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, a University alumnus and the architect of the University’s Master of Public Health Degree in biostatistics.

His recent book, Paid in Full, is an autobiographical account of Peace’s rise from life on a south Georgia tenant farm to earning a Ph.D. in biostatistics, founding and operating a pharmaceutical research company, accumulating considerable wealth, and sharing what he has learned and earned with others.

“I wanted to leave for posterity an accurate record of my life,” said Peace, who was recently chosen as chair-elect of the Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association. “I wanted to tell my story accurately from a chronological point of view and highlight the major events of my life, many of which could have led to decisions other than the ones I made.

“Secondarily, I had hoped that readers would be uplifted by reading it and take away the message that it is possible to overcome hardships and obstacles as long as you have a resolve to be the best you can be,” he said. “I think a large theme in my life is an attempt to live selflessly.”

Paid In Full paints a vivid picture of life on Georgia’s tenant farms in the 1950s – perhaps one of the few books with a firsthand account of the involvement of poor whites in the state’s old sharecropping culture. The book is also a tribute to a mother’s love and a son’s devotion, and an account of a love story that ended tragically with the death of the love of his life.

Peace’s early years – as the son of sharecroppers in rural Baker County, Ga., had all the earmarks of a bleak future – one he refused to accept.

“It’s difficult to pinpoint how old I was when I resolved that essentially no one and nothing would keep me down,” he said. “My mother was a rock in terms of providing nurturing and love and support and always encouraged me to be the best that I could be. To some extent I think my accomplishments have derived from the energy that was created from that nurturing love and support from her and the dark opposite of that from my father.”

“To some extent I think my accomplishments have derived from the energy that was created from that nurturing love and support from [my mother] and the dark opposite of that from my father.”

Karl Peace, author

After one particularly brutal beating at the hands of his father, Peace resolved that no one and nothing would conquer his soul.

“I could be beaten, I could be ridiculed and could be tramped down, but that process would never rob me of knowing who I was or what I could be and that it was up to me to become what I could be," Peace said. "But the anchor in that process was to become a protector for my mother and young brother and sister.”

He also credits those who recognized his potential and reached out in extraordinary ways to help him. Among those were high school math teacher Bill Tom Reeves and principal Joe Vines. While Paid in Full recounts Peace’s rise to wealth and acclaim, it also documents the pain of loss that came at the height of his success and his response to it. After his wife lost a gallant battle with breast cancer in 2004, Peace endowed the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern in her honor and memory. He has also established numerous scholarships, including ones that honor the character and memory of his mother, wife and high school math teacher and principal, to assist aspiring scholars seeking to improve their lives through advanced education. Proceeds from sales of the book go to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

For more information about Paid in Full, visit www.plowboy-press.com.
A Requiem for Neil

University professor Hemchand Gossai honors his late brother with new work

Throughout his years as a writer and University professor of literature and philosophy, Hemchand Gossai has written many books including his memoirs.

“Three years ago, my memoir entitled River Crossings was published, and there I tried to recover memories of my early life and the transition and the challenges in immigrating to the United States to attend college,” Gossai said. “In writing River Crossings, I reflected briefly on the altogether short life of one of my brothers, Neil, who was mentally handicapped and who died very young.”

It was after this brief reflection when Gossai knew that he needed to know more about his brother and in some way give a voice to him.

Gossai’s new work, A Requiem for Neil, tells the poignant true story of his mentally handicapped brother who was literally and metaphorically voiceless. Gossai’s guiding and generating principle in A Requiem for Neil is his interest in recreating experiences, particularly the everyday, ordinary experiences, which Neil missed.

“There are moments when you don’t think about things that are so routine that I can almost guarantee you we don’t even think about them,” Gossai said. “We don’t think about the idea of what it feels like to walk on grass, to smell flowers or to hold hands with someone or for that matter to understand what it means to be in love. What does it mean not to be taught the alphabet, how to read a book or eat independently?”

Gossai was a 10-year-old child at the time of Neil’s death. Although the death of a sibling can have a significant impact on a child at that age, Gossai was not affected as much growing up as he was in recent years.

“In a way it affected me more in the last several years than when I was in high school or even college, not because I didn’t care, but as my own life has transformed me and as I have become more acutely aware of the gifts of all people in the world in which we live, I have been taken back to my own family and what I have missed along the way,” Gossai said. “Neil stands out in this regard.”

Gossai aims to convey that all of life has meaning and that the joy in this life is not to be predicated on the basis of what we think is only to be experienced by the “normal” among us. In other words, Neil was a happy person, but his happiness was not predicated on the things that the “normal” among us associate with happiness.

Gossai believes there is plenty to learn from one another regardless of one’s station or status in life, and people should try to be deeply attentive and cognizant of the many aspects of this life that are taken for granted.

“There are moments when you don’t think about things that are so routine that I can almost guarantee you we don’t even think about them,” Gossai said. “We don’t think about the idea of what it feels like to walk on grass, to smell flowers or to hold hands with someone or for that matter to understand what it means to be in love. What does it mean not to be taught the alphabet, how to read a book or eat independently?”

Gossai was a 10-year-old child at the time of Neil’s death. Although the death of a sibling can have a significant impact on a child at that age, Gossai was not affected as much growing up as he was in recent years.

“In a way it affected me more in the last several years than when I was in high school or even college, not because I didn’t care, but as my own life has transformed me and as I have become more acutely aware of the gifts of all people in the world in which we live, I have been taken back to my own family and what I have missed along the way,” Gossai said. “Neil stands out in this regard.”

Gossai aims to convey that all of life has meaning and that the joy in this life is not to be predicated on the basis of what we think is only to be experienced by the “normal” among us. In other words, Neil was a happy person, but his happiness was not predicated on the things that the “normal” among us associate with happiness.

Gossai believes there is plenty to learn from one another regardless of one’s station or status in life, and people should try to be deeply attentive and cognizant of the many aspects of this life that are taken for granted.

“Those of us who have a voice must use it on behalf of those who, for whatever reason, are voiceless or have been made voiceless. This, I believe, has universal claim.”

—Jonathan Daniel
In a quiet computer lab in the Herty Building, a team of geographers and students is researching the cause of the Medieval Black Death that devastated Europe between the years 1347 and 1350. If they prove their hypotheses, their findings will alter history and lead to greater vigilance toward future epidemics.

Until recently, bubonic plague has been the accepted cause of the Medieval Black Death (MBD). However, comparisons of modern bubonic plague symptoms are not consistent with those recorded by observers of the European victims. Research by geographers Brian H. Bossak and Mark R. Welford focuses on these inconsistencies.

Bossak, a medical geographer, and Welford, a physical geographer, are assisted in their research by three undergraduate students: Will Spence, a senior geography major from Statesboro; Joshua Wayne, a junior information technology major with a minor in geographic information systems (GIS) technology from Douglasville, Ga.; and Erin Kelly Miller, a junior dual geography/education major from Dublin, Ga.

Additionally, the team is studying the progression of the disease through Europe. Using maps of Roman roads and GIS technology, the students are creating a database of digitized maps, which allows the team to document more accurately the spread of the disease.

"Although we are not the first to suggest that the Black Death was something other than bubonic plague," Bossak said, "we are the first to attempt to model the spread of the disease along medieval transportation networks using GIS technology, and in doing so, provide additional evidence against a bubonic plague-causation theory. It is quite remarkable to us that nearly 700 years later, we are just starting to learn the characteristics of the deadliest pandemic in recorded history."

Welford leads students in researching historic accounts of bubonic plague and MBD, consulting plague tracts, wills, church records and any other documents that might describe the effects of the disease.

Welford said: "Because I grew up in England, in one of the hardest hit areas of the Black Death – the county of Suffolk – the Black Death has always fascinated me. As I progressed through my geographic education – I would find myself wondering how could the Black Death, a disease supposedly transported by rat fleas, get from Messina, Sicily, to northern Norway in less than three years? It has always seemed preposterous. When I first discussed the Black Death with Brian, his suggestion of airborne viral transmission from human-to-human made complete sense. It was then a simple leap to connect traders and pilgrims and trade and pilgrimage routes with the transmission pathways of the Black Death."

Comparisons of historic accounts of MBD with modern cases of bubonic plague reveal discrepancies in the lengths of incubation and infectious periods. Bubonic plague has an incubation period of up to 10 days but can vary with typical averages between three and seven days. Such a short incubation period leaves little time to infect large numbers of people or to spread it over great distances.

In contrast, Bossak said, a study based on a burial registry from Penrith, England, from the 1597 plague epidemic - a plague with signs and symptoms much like the plague that occurred between the years 1347 and 1350 - found that the incubation period lasted approximately 32 days. During this period, the victim was relatively asymptomatic and could infect many others before evidence of the disease became apparent. Such a long incubation explains the need for the commonly imposed 40-day period.

Another discrepancy exists in the way
the MBD spread. In an epidemic of genuine bubonic plague, the disease is spread by fleas hosted by rats. After the fleas infect and kill the rats, they move on to infect and kill other blood hosts, including humans. If bubonic plague spreads from non-human carrier to human, it could not be responsible for the rapid transmission of disease from human to human that occurred during MBD. Many family members and caretakers of victims of MBD experienced almost instantaneous transmission of the disease.

During epidemics of bubonic plague, large numbers of dead rats were usually noticeable, often falling from roofs and rafters. However, no existing documentation from this period mentions “rat-fall.” With the large numbers of rats in the cities and the specificity of some plague accounts, the conspicuous absence of dead rats also challenges bubonic plague as the cause of MBD. Furthermore, Welford said that the black rat associated with bubonic plague did not arrive in Europe until around 1500, too late to have caused the epidemic in 1347 to 1350. Iceland, which experienced an epidemic in 1500, never had rats at all.

Seasonal peaks of MBD compared with peaks of modern cases of bubonic plague reveal another discrepancy. Modern cases of plague and the Indian bubonic plague epidemic of the early 20th century peaked in the winter months, while MBD peaked in the summer months. Also, records show that MBD traveled about six kilometers per day. Bossak and Welford suggest that the peak in the warmer months and the rapidity of its spread were due to the greater mobility of travelers. During the warmer months, travelers attended festivals, fairs and markets. The summer months also saw an increase in pilgrimages to religious sites. As the travelers went from place to place, they spread MBD through the air by sneezing, coughing and contact with bodily fluids.

Bossak and Welford plan to use their digitized maps of the Roman roads commonly used by travelers in the medieval period, in conjunction with historical documentation of the numbers of deaths, to document the spread of the disease as it swept through Europe. Bossak and Welford expect to find an arc reaching from Central Asia through Western Europe and into Scandinavia - an arc which will significantly illustrate an increased mortality for populations living closer to the established trade and pilgrimage routes in medieval Europe.

The arc that Bossak and Welford expect to illustrate also finds its basis in previous research that documents the distribution of Europeans with genetic mutations, which make them resistant to infection by the AIDS virus. Unlike viruses, bubonic plague does not leave a population with a resistance to re-infection. If a virus caused MBD, it could also account for the resistance to the AIDS virus found in the European population.

To date, evidence collected by the research team points to some cause for MBD other than bubonic plague. The coming year will be a busy year for the team as they complete the GIS database; focus a microanalysis on a particular region in Europe to cross-reference to the study at Penrith, England; and prepare a manuscript in which they will suggest a specific contagion for MBD.

Not only is this research critical in a historical sense but also may reveal an existing contagious element, waiting for the right conditions to mutate and infect again. With the global nature of today's society, the importance of a better understanding of previous epidemics is necessary to predict and control the severity of future epidemics.

—Pat Homer
Lessons in Giving
Gillespie family serves others through gifts to University

Like many parents, Paul (’74) and Elizabeth Gillespie strive to teach their three sons lessons that will carry them through life. The Gillespies believe one of the most important lessons parents can teach their children is about giving to others.

“We taught our sons to be leaders,” said Paul. “With leadership comes responsibility. Responsible people do their part to improve society. How they do this is a matter of life choices - volunteering, donating, serving on boards, organizing and other philanthropy. If you want good results, make sure of your choice before you act.”

The Gillespies have given back to others through Georgia Southern University in a number of ways. Paul serves on the University’s Athletic Foundation Board while Elizabeth serves on the board of the Performing Arts Center. The family gave $400,000 to Georgia Southern scholarships for sons and daughters of U.S. Army Rangers through Elizabeth’s father’s Haywood Family Foundation. They also started the Performing Arts Center Endowment fund, and have made numerous other financial contributions and endowments to the University throughout the years.

“We chose Georgia Southern because it does so many things right,” Paul explained. “It offers a wide range of quality academic degrees and programs. It provides an outstanding college experience with student support services, social activities, and state-of-the-art facilities like the Recreation Activity Center, the Performing Arts Center and the Black Box Theater. The well-planned evolution of our beautiful campus is remarkable. The stated goals of ‘Rings and Diplomas’ result in an athletic program that is both highly competitive and ethical. We are very proud of our association with such a fine institution.”

Paul and Elizabeth, who both have education backgrounds, insist that sons Matt (’08), Josh (who received degrees from Georgia Tech in 2002 and 2004 and gives of his time to be the adviser of Theta Xi fraternity at Georgia Southern) and Georgia Southern student Ethan do their homework before giving.

“Giving starts with research,” Elizabeth said. “Before a donation is given, each son must provide me with complete information about their preferred charity: what they do, who they serve, etc. In the end, they’ve had a meaningful, positive giving experience in which they take pride.”

“The shotgun style of giving that many people have is not very satisfying,” Paul added. “Choosing organizations where your time, money, and efforts have a direct and measurable effect can be most gratifying. Researching the organizations is also very important to ensure the effective use of your resources. Wasted giving is very unsatisfying.”

The Gillespies say they believe the time and resources they have given to the University will have a far-reaching, long-term impact.

“As people and industries consider the Statesboro area for education and relocation, I would be pleased knowing that our efforts helped them choose Georgia Southern University and Statesboro,” said Elizabeth.

“By endowing various scholarships, we know our donations will have an ongoing effect into the future,” said Paul. “Maybe some of those students we help in turn will do great deeds. Hopefully, all will lead happy, productive and responsible lives.”

—Betsy Nolen

Our Growing Endowment

Botanical Garden Music Endowment
Centennial Graduate Education Scholarship
Cynthia Ann Floyd Sikes Mathematics Scholarship
Dr. R. Frank Saunders, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
John Suddath Hall Memorial Scholarship
Nina M. Allen Scholarship
Olivia Suggs Flanagan Faculty Fellowship
QuadGraphics Endowment
Richard S. Beene History Scholarship
Semratedu Undergraduate Research Fund
Mert H. Starnes and Bruce W. Grube University Honors Program Scholarship
Gift boosts Kaiser Permanente Fund

The need for more college-trained nurses in Georgia is rising and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Georgia Inc. has stepped up to help alleviate the growing shortage. The Foundation has contributed $25,000 to the University’s Kaiser Permanente Nursing Scholarship fund, giving Georgia Southern a boost in its efforts to recruit and train nurses for the profession.

“Georgia is facing a shortage of healthcare workers, and Kaiser Permanente is committed to increasing the number of health professionals in our state,” said Evonne Yancey, Kaiser Permanente director of community benefit and community relations. “The School of Nursing at Georgia Southern is an invaluable partner in this effort.”

“Kaiser Permanente’s support for professional nursing education, particularly their generous gift of scholarship funds to the Georgia Southern University School of Nursing, will provide significant assistance to our nursing students. This scholarship award will assure that highly qualified nursing students are able to devote their energy to full-time study, thus graduating in a timely manner,” said Jean Bartels, chair of the University’s School of Nursing.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly 233,000 new jobs will open for registered nurses each year through 2016. That is on top of about 2.5 million current positions. Taking into consideration that only about 200,000 candidates passed the required RN licensing exam in 2008, the need for new nurses becomes even more alarming.

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

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

Given the shortage and the Foundation’s gift to the School of Nursing, “our communities in Georgia will benefit from their speedy entry into nursing practice where they will make a significant contribution to reducing the unprecedented nursing shortage we are experiencing in the state,” Bartels said.

36th A Day for Southern totals $1,275,989

For the 36th year, the Statesboro-Bulloch County community came out in a big way for Georgia Southern in the annual A Day for Southern campaign, raising a total of $1,275,989.

The community campaign was preceded by the on-campus drive the week before, which brought $221,071 from faculty, staff and student donors.

Bulloch County’s business and professional community along with Georgia Southern faculty and staff donated more than $1 million to the University for the 12th straight year.

The annual A Day for Southern campaign helps meet the needs that state funds do not cover. Proceeds go to the Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. and the Eagle Fund to support both academic and athletic programs at the University.
Defensive behavior

Talented backcourt offers guarded optimism for new coach Young’s first season

First-year Georgia Southern men’s basketball coach Charlton Young knows something about running a potent offense.

As a junior point guard, he led the 1991-92 Georgia Southern squad to 91.5 points per game and 25 wins – both school records.

“We’re going to play fast,” he guaranteed of this year’s team. “Offensively, we have talent.”

Leading the offense will be three guards – senior Antonio Hanson, junior Willie Powers and sophomore Ben Drayton III. Hanson averaged 12 points per game last season. Powers was averaging 14.5 points per game when he suffered a season-ending injury in the 11th game of the season. Drayton was named to the Southern Conference All-Freshman Team after averaging 11.8 points per game and leading the conference in 3-point field goal percentage (48.9).

Adding depth at guard will be senior Antoine Johnson (6.3 points per game last season), sophomore Colby Wohlleb (4.7 ppg) and junior Johntavious Rucker, who is healthy after missing all of last season with an injury.

“We have a strong perimeter,” Young said. “In college basketball, when you have good guards, you have a chance to win.”

Young is also counting on a strong senior season from 6-7 forward Tyler Troupe, who averaged 9.9 points and 6.4 rebounds per game as a junior. Fellow 6-7 senior Sandy Perry (6.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg) also returns at forward.

While the up-tempo offense will entertain fans, Young says the Eagles’ success will ultimately depend on how well they rebound and play defense. “That’s the emphasis from day one,” he said.

In fact, Young has a message for the team to see every day in the locker room. He posted a statistic on the board that 80 percent of last year’s champions of “one-bid leagues” (conferences that sent only one team to the NCAA Tournament, such as the SoCon) were ranked first or second in their conference in field goal percentage defense.

“For us, nothing matters but three games in March (the SoCon Tournament),” Young said. “Our goal is to win a championship every year.”

Despite last year’s 8-22 record, Young says the Eagles already have the first element that every championship team needs – “championship people.”

“We will hold the players accountable and make them hold each other accountable and let the chips fall where they may,” he said. “If you reach your daily goals, the chips may fall in a 20-win season or a championship.

“Everything we do will be about championships,” Young promised. “If you have an 8 o’clock class, be there at 7:50 and sit in one of the first two rows.

“The guys have responded. They really want to be champions.”

--

Men’s Basketball Schedule 09-10

NOVEMBER
13 Reinhardt 7:30 p.m.
16 at South Carolina 7 p.m.
18 at Florida 7 p.m.
21 at Jacksonville State 5:30 p.m.
27-29 Legend’s Classic
27 Troy 7:30 p.m.
28 Ark. Ft. Smith TBA
29 Valparaiso 3:30 p.m.

DECEMBER
3 at College of Charleston TBA
5 at The Citadel TBA
12 at North Carolina State 2 p.m.
15 Coastal Carolina 7 p.m.
17 at Evansville TBA
22 at Georgia State 7:30 p.m.
29 at Coastal Carolina 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY
2 at Auburn TBA
6 Chattanooga 7 p.m.
9 Western Carolina 3:30 p.m.
14 at Wofford TBA
16 at Furman TBA
20 Appalachian State 7 p.m.
23 Davidson 2 p.m.
28 The Citadel 7 p.m.
30 College of Charleston 1 p.m.

FEBRUARY
4 at Western Carolina TBA
6 at Davidson TBA
13 at Appalachian State TBA
17 Furman 7 p.m.
20 Wofford 2:30 p.m.
22 at Samford TBA
25 Elon 7 p.m.

MARCH
1 at UNC-Greensboro TBA
5-8 SoCon Tournament at Greensboro, N.C.
Strength in numbers

Lady Eagles hope to build bench to match starters’ promise in 2009-10 season

Rusty Cram is the winningest coach in Georgia Southern women’s basketball history with 200 victories entering his 14th season at the helm.

However, wins early in the season have often been hard to come by, thanks to a knack for scheduling tough non-conference games.

“I’ve been 0-6, 2-8 to start the season, with the kind of schedules we play,” Cram said.

The Lady Eagles will face a tough early stretch again this season, but Cram doesn’t worry as much about the wins and losses in those games as he does the experience his team gains from them. That’s especially true this year when Cram has six freshmen on the team – some of whom he expects to play right away.

“Kids coming right out of high school will play some of the top teams in the country right away. That gets them ready for conference play,” Cram said. “We’re excited about our freshman class. They’re very hard-nosed, blue-collar kids, and we feel that any of them can contribute.”

The 2009-10 roster also has five sophomores, including two guards – Krista Tate and Samantha Williams – who stepped into key reserve roles last season after injuries thinned the Lady Eagles’ roster.

“They will be called on early this season. They got a lot of experience under a tough situation last year,” Cram said.

Junior Jamie Navarro also had on-the-job training last season. An injury to the starting point guard pressed Navarro into the role, and she responded with 6.4 points and 2.1 assists per game and a team-high 57 steals.

Joining Navarro in the junior class is talented guard Janay Wilson, a transfer from Savannah College of Art and Design. As a freshman at SCAD, Wilson set a school record with 116 steals. Last season she averaged 11.5 points and 7.1 rebounds to earn first-team All-Sun Conference honors.

“Janay is a very quick one-two guard who is a great penetrator and a great defender,” Cram said.

Along with all the youth on the roster, Cram does have four seniors – J’Lisia Ogburn and Jessica Geiger at forward and twin sisters Elise and Carolyn Whitney at guard.

Ogburn and Geiger both started all 30 games last year, with Ogburn averaging 9.7 points and 5.9 points per game and Geiger averaging 6.7 points and 5.3 rebounds.

“Our expectations are high for them,” Cram said of his two 6-1 senior forwards. “We’re going to go as they go.”

Elise Whitney is hopeful for a healthy senior year after injuries ended her previous three seasons, including a torn ACL in a scrimmage that kept her out all last season.

But possibly no player is looking forward to the start of the season more than Carolyn Whitney. After being named Southern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2006-07 and averaging 6.2 points and 3.1 assists per game as a sophomore, Whitney was averaging 6.9 points and 4.3 assists last year until an injury ended her season after only eight games.

“With Carolyn back 100 percent, hopefully she will have a big senior year. She is loaded with talent,” Cram said. “She could be the catalyst who gets us over the hump.”

“We will put a good starting five on the court. It’s after that we have to build for,” he said. “We feel like the team’s depth will be there by Christmas – it’s just a matter of getting there.”

Head coach Rusty Cram hopes to improve on his squad’s 16-14 2008-2009 record.
Basketball programs sign promising talent

Men’s Basketball

Georgia Southern men’s basketball coach Charlton Young announced his first two scholarship signees – a pair of champions – who will join the Eagles for the 2009-2010 season.

Cameron Baskerville, a 6-7, 215-lb. forward from Marietta, Ga., and Rory Spencer, a 6-8, 210-lb. forward originally from Atlanta, signed National Letters of Intent to play basketball for Georgia Southern.

In his senior season at Whitefield Academy, Baskerville helped lead the Wolfpack to a 26-6 record and the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) state championship this past season. He averaged 12.4 points, scoring 20 or more points six times and recording eight double-doubles. He finished with a 7.7 rebounds-per-game average, 51 total blocks and 55 steals on the year.

Baskerville earned first-team all-state honors in 2008 and all-region honors in 2009. He won the team’s Most Valuable Player Award as a junior.

“We are excited to have Cameron join our program,” said Young. “His versatility is a huge commodity and he is talented enough to play power forward or small forward.”

Spencer, a forward from Johnson County Community College, helped the Cavaliers capture the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) D-II championship this past March. The Cavaliers defeated two top-five teams.

“A tremendous combination of high energy and athleticism, Rory will also bring a level of experience to our team,” Young commented. “His strong rebounding and shot blocking skills will instantly affect our program and his abilities will allow us to show multiple defensive looks.”

Spencer, a second-team all-conference selection, posted a team-high 12 field goals, 12 rebounds (two occasions) and eight blocks during the 2008-2009 season, overall averaging 14.5 points and 7.1 rebounds.

Women’s Basketball

The Georgia Southern women’s basketball coaching staff has announced the addition of Meredyth Frye to the 2009-2010 roster.

Frye, a Riverbend High School standout, joins the Lady Eagles’ squad from Fredericksburg, Va. Frye becomes the third member of her family to play basketball at the collegiate level as her brother John played for the Air Force Academy and her father, Joe, played for James Madison. Leading her team to the Northwest Region playoffs this past season, Frye was named the Commonwealth District’s co-player of the year.

Frye was named to The Free Lance-Star All-Area team for the second consecutive season. She averaged 18 points per game and was first-team all-region selection.

Joining Frye are recruits Kayla Dayton, a 5-9 point guard from Monroe, N.C., Miriam (MiMi) DuBose, a 5-8 guard from Jefferson, Ga., Briana Scott, a 6-2 forward from Dumfries, Va., Alexandria Williams, a 5-8 guard from Aiken, S.C., and Ro-Ro Smith, a 5-10 guard from Blackshear, Ga.

Head coach Rusty Cram also announced the addition of Janay Wilson to the roster. Wilson is a 5-8 guard from Warner Robins, Ga., who transferred from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

In her freshman season, she was named Freshman Player of the Year, Second Team All-Conference for the Florida Sun Conference and was the Bees’ Defensive Player of the Year. In addition, Wilson set SCAD’s single-season steals record with 116. After finishing the 2008-09 season averaging 11.5 points and 7.1 rebounds, Wilson was named first-team All-Sun Conference, Defensive Player of the Year and the recipient of the Champion of Character Award, an award based on academics and the five core values – respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship.
Moving up?
University examines possible move to Football Bowl Subdivision with reclassification study

While Georgia Southern football could recruit and put the athletes on the field to compete successfully at the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), financing the required scholarship and facility enhancements is a major question mark, according to the Football Reclassification Analysis released during the summer.

At Georgia Southern’s request, the consulting firm of Rosser International Inc., McGee-Geiger and CSL International prepared the study to assess the University’s position and potential for elevating its football program to the NCAA Division-I Football Bowl Subdivision. The document contains an extensive review of facilities, current and future scholarship allotments and budget considerations and comparisons. It provides a roadmap for activity and minimum funding necessary for reclassification.

“Georgia Southern could successfully make the transition from NCAA Football Championship Subdivision to FBS from a competitive athletic perspective,” reads the study, but “there is much less confidence in the financial capability to meet the challenge of existing in the high cost and high inflation rate that comes with NCAA FBS. The risk is considerable and the rewards need to be calculated in some concept other than revenue generation.

“It is not a financial decision to be made upon the profit motive,” the study continues. “It is a decision that should more likely be based upon the prestige of being in the ‘major leagues’ and how that will benefit the institution as it contemplates its future growth and direction.”

Such a move would require the addition of 22 football grants-in-aid plus an additional 22 to meet Federal Title IX requirements for women’s athletics. Playing at the FBS level also requires facility improvements, higher travel costs, additional equipment and more support staff.

The athletics budget would need to increase from its current $9.1 million annual budget to about $14.2 million. Based on demands for more revenue and higher attendance in an FBS conference, expansions of Allen E. Paulson Stadium and Hanner Fieldhouse and improvements to the football practice facility were deemed “necessary and desirable” if a reclassification is done.

The survey results show “strong interest” among all respondent groups in reclassification to the higher level. Most are willing to accept higher ticket prices, and students indicated a willingness to accept higher athletics fees.

Georgia Southern donor base contributions would rank favorably with selected peer institutions and in the Sun Belt Conference, but lag significantly behind institutions in Conference USA, the ACC and SEC.

What is clear from the survey is “the pride the Georgia Southern community has in its football program and the strong desire to support it,” the study said. “The problem is clearly not lack of interest. The amount of money required annually to support the elevated program is of significant magnitude that the current base of support would not be able to generate adequate funds to maintain the current gap between athletically generated revenue and allocated revenue from the University, student fees, and State of Georgia sources.”

“With the multitude of factors that had to be analyzed, this study helped the University identify the resources required to succeed at our current level of competition and identify the improvements and facilities needed should the University elect to pursue this change,” said Ron Core, vice president for business and finance. “It is important for us not to underestimate the funding required and at the same time, maintain a realistic perspective of potential funding sources.”

Further analysis and discussion of the research, survey results and funding sources will assist University and athletics administration in determining a future course of action. An NCAA-mandated moratorium on any reclassification continues through December 2011. The study suggests that the earliest Georgia Southern could compete at the higher level, given the moratorium and the need to raise additional revenue, would be in 2014.

The full report is available at www.georgiasouthern.edu/athleticstudy.
“At my first Convocation address in August 1999, I asked the University community, not to follow me, but to join me on a journey of change…”

President Bruce Grube
Bruce Grube reflects on 10 years of leadership at Georgia Southern

As he closes a successful tenure and prepares for the next stage of his life’s journey, back to the classroom, Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube is reflective about the University’s vision during the last 10 years – challenges met and overcome and future destinations.

“Georgia Southern has been about achieving academic distinction,” Grube said. “That is expressed in the quality of our students, the quality of our faculty, the quality of our staff, leadership, and in the quality of how we all work together. We have gone from being a university that a chancellor referred to back in 1998 as a ‘glorified community college’ to a university that has developed high-quality programs. The University’s teaching, student life, and research programs have, during the past decade, undergone more rapid qualitative change than during any other period of our history.”

Since joining the administration in 1999, Georgia Southern has become a Carnegie Doctoral-Research University, has had record-breaking enrollments, significant improvement in aca-
“There is always more to be done. It is about setting a culture of change.”

demic quality, and has experienced its greatest period of facilities growth.

Grube points out that there were significant challenges, but a major part of the University's success has been the result of the campus culture.

“One of the biggest challenges – and this is true not just for Georgia Southern, but for many institutions facing continuous reductions in funding during the past decade – has been dealing with the budget,” he said. “Fortunately, Georgia Southern has been able to grow. We have managed the budget issues well and have continued to develop not only in quantity, but more importantly in quality.

“What I found was an institution that was well-positioned to rise to its next level of excellence and become a major university,” said Grube. “What struck me primarily were the incredible faculty working in many different departments as well as very fine staff and administrators. The students I met were an absolute joy.”

He also noticed a culture of campus civility. “Unlike many university campuses, people found ways to work together to get things accomplished, and the culture of working together was well-established. I am appreciative when I am complimented about the unprecedented qualitative academic and facilities improvements at Georgia Southern since I arrived. But, I know that all of these significant developments are not really mine. They are the accomplishments of hundreds of faculty, staff, students and administrators who came together to move our University forward. I cannot begin to describe how very fortunate I am to have had fine people around me.”

Shortly after assuming the presidency, Grube charged staff with the development of a strategic plan for the University then turned his focus to implementing that plan.

“Once we had identified what Georgia Southern wanted to focus on, it was very important not to let this plan sit on a shelf, gathering dust, which more often than not is what happens at universities, but rather to have our plan serve as the map for our journey,” he said.

In planning his own journey, the decision to step down and return to the classroom was a carefully considered one. “I have always thought that 10 years is just about the right length of time for a president to be in place,” said Grube. “That is long enough for one to go through the necessary phases: the first being the creation of a vision with the University community planning, organizing and beginning implementation of the plan; the second phase being the consolidation and refining of the efforts in phase one; and, the third being to plan again for the future, an important element being my exit strategy to have the University at a place ready for an orderly transition for the next president to come to the University with new energy, ideas, and vision.

“I have seen institutions where a president stayed too long, and while that may have worked for the president, it was not necessarily in the best interests of the institution,” he said.

His decision was also influenced by the death of his father-in-law, Mert Starnes. “When Kathryn’s father died a year ago, it brought us face to face with the fact that everyone’s time is finite,” said Grube. “I was very close to Mert. His death caused Kathryn and me to think more deeply about the meaning of life. I was getting close to the 10-year span I had talked about and his death simply clarified the decision. I turned 66 last November and I realized that in 14 more years I was going to be 80, which had seemed impossible not so long ago. It is now a time for reflection. It’s a time for me and Kathryn to more fully enjoy our time together.

“I have been truly privileged to be Georgia Southern’s president for 10 and one-half years,” he said. “But, I am not the University. I have simply tried to provide leadership, with the help of many good and talented people for a brief time during the University’s history.”

Grube said he has enjoyed collaborating with state and local officials to maintain the positive relationship the University enjoys with its neighbors.

“The contributions of our state and local elected leaders, as well as those in the community, in business and in industry, have been extraordinary,” he said. “I have never seen a better town and gown relationship. I have never worked with a better legislative delegation. Much of what the University has accomplished is because of the work and support of these leaders.”

While his part of this journey is coming to an end, he knows that Georgia Southern will continue moving toward the next goal on the horizon.

“As we journey through this first spectrum of a doctoral-research level university, our goal will be to move to the next level, which is to become a unique high research activity institution. I have no doubt that Georgia Southern University will become the next university in the System to become a USG research institution,” he said.

“The great challenge for Georgia Southern, and it is one the University community will take seriously, is that as the University becomes a new kind of university, it is imperative that Georgia Southern maintain the culture for which it is well known – that ‘high touch’ we have with students,” said Grube.

“As other institutions have developed into research institutions they have become less concerned with their undergraduates and have tended to almost exclusively focus on their graduate students. It is my hope that Georgia Southern will create a unique model for the journey to full research institution status that preserves the values that have made the University a very special place.”

“It would be wonderful to come back to Georgia Southern years from now and find that culture of caring about all students is still respected, and to see that Georgia Southern University has defined the new research university of the 21st century.”

–Marla Bruner
“The academic quality of our students has grown and enrollment growth has followed.”

Academics: Raising the bar

Hands-on practical means of meeting the needs of Georgia’s citizens is a hallmark of Georgia Southern’s approach to the three pillars of academic pursuit: teaching, research and service.

Under Bruce Grube’s guidance, the University has developed new programs to solve old and persistent problems and to address the need to train tomorrow’s technologically savvy workforce. Foremost among these are issues revolving around public health and the well-being of individuals and families and helping to spur and sustain new economic growth.

President Grube’s administration has seen year-by-year positive movement in key indicators of academic quality, changes that have drawn increased national recognition of Georgia Southern as a university of distinction.

With increased recognition and a firmer foundation from which to recruit, the University has become a first-choice destination for record numbers of high-achieving college-bound students.

Leading Indicators
Enrollment up to record 19,086
Freshman SAT scores reached record levels
Retention rate rises to record 82 percent
Doctoral/Research University by Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
Designated National University by U.S. News and World Report
Named “Top 100 Best Values” by Kiplinger’s Personal Finance
First Ph.D. program approved; Classes began in fall of 2009
Named Top 20 safest campus by TheDailyBeast.com

New Colleges founded
College of Information Technology, 2001
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, 2004

New Programs initiated
B.A. in Writing
B.B.A. in Regional Economic Development
B.S in Information Technology
M.A in Social Science
Master of Public Health
Master of Healthcare Administration
Master of Science in Applied Economics
Doctor of Psychology
Doctor of Public Health
Doctor of Philosophy Logistics/Supply Chain Management
Doctor of Nursing Practice
WebMBA
Online B.S. in Nursing
Online B.S. in Information Technology
Online M.S. in Kinesiology (Coaching)
Online M.Ed. Instructional Technology
Online M.Ed. Accomplished Teaching
Online M.Ed. Instructional Improvement
Online M.Ed. Higher Education Administration
Online M.Ed. Educational Leadership

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health
- Established in 2004 as the first school of public health in the University System of Georgia – transitioned to college status in 2006
- Doctor of Public Health degree established
- Council on Education for Public Health approved the College’s application to begin the accreditation process
Academics: Raising the bar

University Honors Program
The Honors Program transitioned from its founding as the Bell Honors Program to the University Honors Program and has grown from 23 to more than 400 students.

An initiative to create an Honors College was announced in 2008 and the UHP will serve as the founding core of the new college.

The scope of the program has expanded as well, with 11 states and 10 countries represented among UHP students. The Program's freshman retention rate is 90 percent, with new students bringing an average SAT score of 1277 and high school GPA of 3.7.

The Program administers 77 named endowments totaling more than $4 million and awarded more than a half-million dollars in scholarships in support of students in the 2008-09 academic year.

College of Business Administration
- College was accepted as an associate member in the Association of Schools of Public Health
- Students involved in faculty research and service projects to enhance the health of rural and underserved populations in Georgia and the region

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
- New Center for Art & Theatre opens
- Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree established
- The B.A. in Writing degree is one of 10 in the U.S. offered through a self-standing department
- Foy Building undergoes a total renovation and is now dedicated to the Department of Music
- Founded the Xalapa Center in Mexico for language and culture studies
- Established a new Master of Social Science degree
- Georgia Southern received a two-year $180,000 Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand its focus on international teaching and learning both at home and abroad
- Established the Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures and its accompanying journal, The Coastal Review
- Political Science department is the home of the oldest regional professional organization in the discipline and is the host institution for annual meetings
- In 1998, the first annual conference on “Success in First-Year Composition,” was organized. Attended by 150 high school and college English teachers throughout the state, the conference continues to this day
- Writing and Linguistics professor Frank Arasanyin was awarded $202,000 to create an on-line dictionary for Yoruba
- Publication and grant activity in Political Science dramatically increased in last 10 years
College of Health and Human Sciences
- Graduate Nurse Practitioner Program (MSN/FNP) in the School of Nursing has been consistently ranked in U.S. News and World Report. This ranking is a first for Georgia Southern, and this program has been ranked higher than Duke, Vanderbilt, Emory University and the Medical College of Georgia.
- The Doctor of Nursing Practice is the fourth doctorate program and the first online doctorate degree at Georgia Southern.
- The College successfully secured one of the first four endowed chairs for the University when the Endowed Chair of Nursing was funded by a donation from the Bulloch Healthcare Foundation.
- Tenure track faculty with the terminal degree in the college increased from 50 percent in 1999 to more than 90 percent in 2009.
- The College has developed two completely online graduate programs, the M.S. in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Coaching Education and the Doctor of Nursing Practice.
- The Interior Design Program and the Athletic Training Program secured initial program accreditation and subsequent re-accreditation from their national accreditation bodies.
- The College recruited and developed a successful partnership with the Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center which is now located in the Hollis Building.
- A new state-of-the-art Athletic Training Complex and the new Human Cadaver Lab were constructed for student instruction.
- The Bulloch County Child Coalition was formed as a partnership with CHHS and the Southeast Georgia Public Health District in an effort to address the epidemic of childhood obesity and physical inactivity.

College of Information Technology
- College founded and building completed in 2003.
- Students partner with NCR to develop point-of-sale software for retailers.
- Students/faculty began working on software development for Fortune 100 clients of Cogent Ware Inc.
- WebBSIT online degree program established.
- SAP alliance allowed University students to be the only ones in Georgia to earn SAP certification with their degrees.
- The IS department created an IS minor to address student interest in the SAP Certificate.
- Eagle Informatics consulting group launched with the NCR project and grew into other public/private partnerships.
- Georgia Southern joins the NASA Space-Grant Consortium, providing scholarship and opportunities to faculty and students.
- CS and IT programs accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology.
- College becomes one of only 10 in the world to teach virtualization on VMware.

College of Education
- Partnership with Valdosta State and Columbus State in a joint Georgia On My Line M.Ed. in Accomplished Teaching.
- M.Ed. in Instructional Improvement Program in Instructional Technology moved all courses, both graduate and undergraduate to totally online.
- Revised the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies to include two strands, one in Curriculum Studies and the other in Teaching & Learning.
- Introduction of the hybrid delivery model for the Ed.D. in Curriculum Studies which allowed the program to reach a wider audience of educators in the state.
- Since 1999, Educational Administration graduated 209 Ed.Ds and Curriculum Studies 145, helping to enable Doctoral Research University (DRU) status.
- School Counseling program earned national accreditation.
- College successfully completed a continuing accreditation process by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.
- LTHD headcount (all graduate) increased from 384 to 722 (88 percent) from 1999 to 2008 (Fall Enrollment Report).
- MOUs with Augusta State & Armstrong Atlantic allow the Ed.D. in Educational Administration to be taught in cooperation with those campuses.

Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology
- Based on number of African-American graduates, Diverse Issues in Higher Education ranked the College's physical science programs (Chemistry, Physics and Geology) and the Biology Program among the top in the nation.
- College's Office of Undergraduate Research was launched to establish meaningful research collaborations between undergraduate students and members of the faculty.
- The Department of Chemistry was ranked 13th in the nation for its number of ACS-certified graduates - the highest ranked program in the state.
- The Department of Geology and Geography became the second ESRI Development Center in the State of Georgia. Only 21 EDCs exist worldwide.
- GTREP program helps to meet the need for more engineering grads in south Georgia.
- Students work with industry standard equipment at the National Nanotechnology Manufacturing Center.
- New facilities include a building for the Department of Chemistry and a renovated wing of the Herty Building for molecular biology.
“I actually became tearful thinking about saying good-bye to a really big part of our lives. There is just something about Georgia Southern that grabs you and doesn’t let go.”

Kathryn Grube

Georgia Southern’s ambassador

The first time that it truly dawned on her that her husband was stepping down as President of Georgia Southern University, Kathryn Grube was in the middle of a calendar meeting. President Bruce Grube, Kathryn, and some staff members were planning the office’s official calendar of events for the 2009 – 2010 academic year. When they began talking about January 2010, it hit her that these were events that would be planned and attended by someone other than her and her husband in their roles as President and First Lady of Georgia Southern. “I actually became tearful thinking about saying good-bye to a really big part of our lives,” Kathryn recalled. “There is just something about Georgia Southern that grabs you and doesn’t let go. It truly has been wonderful.”

When Bruce and Kathryn Grube first came to Georgia Southern in July 1999, it soon became clear that this was a partnership in every way. As President Grube began his tenure as Georgia Southern’s 11th president, Kathryn immersed herself not only in her role as First Lady, but also as an active volunteer in the Bulloch County community. Even before she had time to unpack their moving boxes, Kathryn began receiving requests to join an assortment of volunteer groups. One of her first efforts was on behalf of the Bulloch County Chapter of the American Red Cross. As a direct result of her personal efforts, the Bulloch County Chapter was brought from a state of non-existence to an organization with a vibrant and productive new board. She later became the Chapter’s Chairperson.

Many other local and regional groups have been the recipient of Kathryn’s commitment to service. She is a graduate of the Leadership Bulloch Class of 2000, she served as honorary co-chair of the March of Dimes annual fund-raising walk, served as a board member and campaign co-chair of the United Way of Southeast Georgia, and volunteered through membership in the Statesboro Service League and participation in the Keep Bulloch Beautiful organization. Kathryn has also become a familiar face at East Georgia Regional Medical Center, where she serves as a “Pink Lady” in the day surgery area. Without doubt, many anxious families have found comfort in her reassuring face and demeanor.

While all of these causes have been special and important to her, perhaps the one that has been most challenging for Kathryn is the work she did with the Statesboro Arts Council. In 2000, Kathryn and 11 others were appointed by the city to form the Council. Their work, along with many other volunteers and staff, resulted in the creation of the popular Averitt Center for the Arts. “I cannot adequately describe how much I learned on that project,” Kathryn recalls. “Everything from the ground up had to be done. By-laws had to be written, an historic building had to be completely renovated, and an executive director had to be found. And, of course, there was the fund raising that had to be done. I never had any doubt that the citizens of Bulloch County would come through for us. And, they did.”

She became chair of the facilities committee the year construction began. “I attended meetings with contractors and learned about so many things that were new to me. We worked a great deal with the city, Mayor Hatcher, and the city manager to bring the project to fruition,” Kathryn said. When the Averitt Center for the Arts opened, she then served as president of the Statesboro Arts Council. “The work done by so many over my six years of board service was amazing. It was an honor to have been allowed to be a part of this wonderful project. The job was often overwhelming and certainly humbling a lot of the time! But, I look back on that period with a great deal of pride. It was the biggest learning experience, growth experience, and gratifying experience I have had since our arrival in Statesboro. Having the opportunity to work with so many different groups in the community is something for which I will always be grateful,” she says enthusiastically.

Kathryn’s service to the community did not go unnoticed. She received the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award in 2002, and later she was presented the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind/Statesboro Herald’s Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2007. Also in 2007, she was inducted into the Sigma Alpha Iota Fraternity as a Patroness Member.

Despite her many efforts on behalf of the Statesboro-Bulloch County community, Kathryn never has forgotten her primary role as partner to her husband and First Lady of Georgia Southern. Almost every aspect of the University has benefitted from Kathryn’s presence. She has been a regular volunteer for Holiday Helpers, a University-sponsored annual program that donates gifts to more than 800 needy children, elderly, and disadvantaged citizens in the community. When high-caliber high school seniors are recruited and brought to campus every fall and spring, Kathryn is active in all the activities, singing the praises of Statesboro’s “large-scale, small-feel research univer-
Kathryn has also been a loyal participant in the annual A Day For Southern campaigns. Her opinions and expertise are sought on advisory boards such as the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden. And, whether it was the annual watermelon cutting in July, the holiday tree planting in December, the dedication of a new building, or the first home football game in the fall, Kathryn could be found at her husband's side. “I always joked through the years that the only way I was ever going to see him was if I was involved,” laughs Kathryn.

It is clear to anyone who has ever met the Grubes that they are a team. Kathryn readily admits that she and her husband are different in a lot of ways, but in ways that make their marriage – and his presidency at Georgia Southern – work. “I don’t think we could have done this job if we hadn’t had this kind of relationship,” Kathryn admits. “We’re really compatible and compliment each other, and that has allowed us to do this job with some degree of success.”

Arguably, everyone associated with the University would say that is a gross understatement!

Now, after 10 years, that job is ending. Kathryn said she and her husband are excited about the future. But, she readily admits her feelings are very mixed when she thinks about this time in their lives coming to a close. When asked what will stand out to her about Georgia Southern years from now, long after her husband’s presidency is over, Kathryn did not hesitate.

“There are many, many things I’ll miss about Georgia Southern. Fall convocation and the excitement that comes with starting another academic year; Scholars’ Weekends; interaction with students; athletic seasons; Eagle Club gatherings; spring commencement in Paulson Stadium as the eagle flies over the graduates at the culmination of the ceremony - to name just a few. But, above all, I will miss the people, on campus, in the community, and beyond, who have worked with us to make this the exceptional institution it is today. I will always remember the beautiful Georgia Southern campus, its rich traditions, the outstanding faculty and student body, and the many dear friends we’ve made both on and off campus. I will be forever grateful that our path brought us to this outstanding university.”

Madame First Lady, may we return the compliment and say that this University and community will forever be grateful that your path brought YOU to US!
“A student-centered university is known for academic distinction and high expectations of its students, faculty, staff and administrators. All of our planning must begin and end with our students.”

The Student First

When Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube spoke those words during his inaugural address, he set the tone for what would be a decade of enhancing the University’s commitment to its students. While building modern, upscale student housing, expanding the Recreation Activity Center, creating more study abroad opportunities and encouraging the growth and diversity of the student body, the University also maintained a low faculty-to-student ratio and fostered an environment where students could thrive, learn and prepare for their future.

Students received all of the benefits of a large-scale university, while enjoying the small feel of the Georgia Southern community.

Georgia Southern is committed to giving students the benefits of a large-scale university, while giving them the personal attention in the classroom they would expect from a small college. Despite increased enrollment, Georgia Southern’s faculty to student ratio is 21:1.

The Academic Success Center was formed during President Grube’s administration to ensure that all students have the support and tools they need to do well in the classroom. It provides tutoring, help with study skills and workshops.

Housing

Georgia Southern University is committed to providing students safe, comfortable housing. Because many studies show living on campus betters a freshman’s chance of staying in school and doing well, Georgia Southern required all freshmen to live on campus beginning with the fall 2009 semester. During the last decade, the University worked to improve not only the quantity of on-campus housing, but also the quality.

- The 1,001-bed residence hall Centennial Place opened in fall 2009. It is an apartment-style community complete with a food court and retail space.
- In 2008, Georgia Southern purchased University Villas to provide apartments for upperclassmen and transfer students.
- In fall 2005, the $27 million, 776-bed Eagle Village opened. Its construction was funded through user fees.
- Southern Pines and Southern Courtyard opened in 2003. The residence halls added space for 1,110 students and introduced apartment and suite style on-campus housing choices to students.
- New freshman had the option of using a University online roommate matching system for the 2009-10 academic year.
The Student First

The Recreation Activity Center
Georgia Southern recognizes the importance of student health and wellness. The Recreation Activity Center, known on campus as the RAC, underwent a two-year, $31.8 million dollar renovation and expansion in 2007, funded by student activity fees approved by student government.

The RAC offers:
- A two-story rock climbing wall
- An 11-lane competition pool and diving well
- Eight basketball/volleyball courts
- Two indoor soccer courts
- Five racquetball courts
- A one-mile fitness trail
- 20 acres of lighted playing fields
- Rooms specially designed for dance, spinning class, martial arts, aerobics and yoga
- Weight machines and free weights
- A Wellness Center with an athletic training staff, massage therapy and a smoothie bar

Diversity
It is important that the University’s enrollment reflect the cultural makeup of the U.S. and beyond.
- Georgia Southern has enrolled students from 85 countries around the world.
- In the 2007-2008 school year, 27.4 percent of Georgia Southern students were minorities.
- Black Issues In Higher Education magazine has recognized Georgia Southern for the number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to African-American students.
- The School of Nursing formed the “SCRUBS” program to increase the number of minority professionals in healthcare.
- The Multicultural Student Center presents activities and lectures focused on bringing awareness and understanding about people of all religious, social and ethnic backgrounds.
Student Activities, Organizations, Leadership, and Opportunities

• In 2008, the Eagles in D.C. Congressional Internship Program was formed, assigning interns to offices of Georgia’s U.S. congressional and senatorial staffs.
• The Georgia Legislative Intern program gives select students the opportunity to serve in the Georgia Capitol during the legislative session.
• The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement directs a program whereby hundreds of students perform thousands of hours of community service each year.

Additional new programs since 1999 have made the Georgia Southern campus a safer and more efficient environment in which to conduct study.

• The WINGS system allows students to register, drop/add and check transcripts, grades and financial aid information online.
• The campus transit system, Southern Express, began operations.
• The First-Year Experience program was inaugurated to help freshmen cope with the demands of college life.
• The Eagle Alert system began reaching students with text messages and calls warning of impending health or safety threats.
• Georgia Southern is now a wireless campus, allowing students to access the Internet without restricting study and research to computer labs and the accompanying cumbersome cabling.
• The Parent Portal was created to give parents access to student information.
• MyGeorgiaSouthern began offering students customized Web pages for daily news and information updates.

Study Abroad Programs/International Students

International travel and study abroad is an invaluable experience that enhances students’ University experience and equips them for a life and career in a global society. In the last decade, Georgia Southern has significantly increased the opportunities for its students to study abroad.

• The number of study-abroad students surged from 73 in 1998 to 361 last year.
• The University joined two collaborative exchange programs: The International Student Exchange Program, 257 colleges and universities in 39 countries, and The North American Mobility Project involving universities in Canada and Mexico.
• Georgia Southern established cooperative agreements with Huazhong Normal University in China, Roskilde University in Denmark, Fachhochschule Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences in Germany, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies in Japan, Universidad Veracruzana in Mexico and Keimyung University in South Korea.
• The Center for International Studies offers summer study abroad programs in Costa Rica, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.
• The University Honors Program offers an international spring break where students can learn first hand about the culture of a country while participating in a variety of volunteer opportunities.
• The University, in collaboration with five U.S., Canadian and Mexican universities, was awarded a $1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of faculty and student international exchanges and to develop programs to increase awareness and understanding of North American integration.
• Georgia Southern received a $180,000 Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education designed to give students who have never had the chance to study abroad an opportunity for an international educational experience.
• In the summer of 2009, students participated in a new, five-week study abroad program in Waterford, Ireland through the Center for Irish Studies.
“The state cannot provide sufficient resources for our continued growth. Funds for scholarships, endowments and other essential needs must come from donors, corporate and business partners, and non-profit foundations.”

Return on Investment

Public funding
As a member of the University System of Georgia, the state's residents have every expectation that they are receiving wise and cost-effective stewardship of their funding.

Georgia Southern has been committed to meeting and exceeding the high level of trust placed in it by the taxpayers of Georgia.

Total revenue, including tuition and fees, campus sales, and endowments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Endowment</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$131,224,024</td>
<td></td>
<td>$164,377,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$135,297,286</td>
<td></td>
<td>$180,063,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$146,865,217</td>
<td></td>
<td>$195,773,927</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Positive influence
Georgia Southern had an economic impact of more than $748 million on its region during the 2007-2008 fiscal year – a 158 percent increase in 10 years.

According to the University’s Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development, the institution pumped $748,099,767 into the economies of nine southeast Georgia counties in 2007-2008.

Georgia Southern was responsible for 9,350 jobs in the region.

Total Regional Economic Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>$289,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>$284,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>$279,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>$259,994,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>$493,269,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$549,249,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$653,440,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>$719,233,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$748,099,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>$709,966,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advancing the cause
Private funding through the Georgia Southern Foundation and the Georgia Southern Athletics Foundation has been the lifeblood of the University's drive to the next level. Recruiting and retaining top faculty and students is dependent on the scholarships and enrichment not provided through a taxpayer-funded day-to-day operating budget.

Georgia Southern’s most recent capital campaign, The Campaign for National Distinction, kicked off in 2001 and culminated with the University’s celebration of its centennial year in 2006.

The Campaign met then exceeded its $40 million goal, bringing in $53,051,156.

To provide the “quality dollars” needed to excel year to year, the University hosts an annual one-day Bulloch County fundraiser, A Day for Southern, and conducts the Phonathon, calling alumni throughout the year.

Progress has been impressive. Georgia Southern Foundation scholarships totaled $644,000 in 1999, but by 2007 the Foundation was distributing $1.3 million per year. A Day for Southern has topped $1 million for 12 consecutive years. 2008 marked the 35th A Day for Southern with the campaign and totals having increased by 4.2 percent from 1998’s $1,024,440 to 2008’s record $1,401,739.

Income from the annual Phonathon rose from just over $222,000 in 1998 to more than $265,000 in 2008.

“Rings and Diplomas”

The Georgia Southern University Athletics Foundation, Inc. raised more than $16 million between 1999-2009, providing scholarships for student-athletes and facility construction, enhancement and maintenance.

As part of a plan to increase its visibility and effectiveness, the organization adopted the "Rings and Diplomas" concept in support of more than 380 student-athletes as they pursue their dreams, playing at a championship-caliber level of intercollegiate athletics while earning a University degree.

The 2008 annual campaign raised $953,198 from 2,110 donors from across the country. These figures represented organizational highs for total dollars raised, annual campaign fund raising and Athletics Foundation membership.

Total Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>$1,109,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>$1,008,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>$1,129,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>$1,140,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>$1,189,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$1,425,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$2,007,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>$1,862,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$2,337,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>$1,850,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$16,039,865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Solving problems

A Georgia Southern hallmark is service to its region, often taking the form of professors who engage in research or cooperative involvement with public and private entities. Such outreach benefits both residents of the state and students who learn by their involvement in research or volunteer efforts.

In other cases, students receive region- or problem-specific training to meet needs identified in the University’s service area.

Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, College of Education, College of Health and Human Sciences, Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, College of Business Administration, College of Information Technology, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and College of Education each engage in public outreach. Such outreach, research and public/private partnership aims to improve the quality of life and productivity of Georgia’s citizens.

When needed, the Colleges join in cooperative, cross-disciplinary approaches to solve complex problems.

Since 1999, Georgia Southern has greatly expanded its efforts to enhance research and outreach through public health, education, commerce, the arts, and economic development. University faculty have worked in far-ranging research and service to improve the quality of schools, enhance the efficiency of Georgia’s transportation infrastructure, find cost-effective answers to environmental problems, and bring national and international expertise to bear on social ills.

Some highlights

- Participated in regional health initiatives
- Increased public access to visual and performing arts
- Created a retail index to assist the state's business owners
- Increased minority representation in healthcare professions
- Worked closely with school systems to enhance teaching skills
- Provided rural healthcare outreach
- Partnered with major companies in software development
- Founded an annual national gathering of socio-educational experts
- Researched coastal estuarine and nearshore environmental issues
- Linked science and math professors to in-service teachers
- Advised local communities on law enforcement and management issues
- Initiated online degree programs to reach place-bound professionals
- Made economic development expertise available to cities and counties
Georgia Southern’s campus Master Plan undergoes constant review and update to meet year-to-year evolving needs.

In the past 10 years, balancing new demands with limited resources has been a challenge, but one in which Georgia Southern has scored major advances. The Board of Regents and the General Assembly have provided invaluable financial support toward the University’s efforts to enhance the lives of Georgians while preparing a new generation of leaders among its young people.

Georgia Southern has experienced a decade of unprecedented physical growth, but being mindful of budgetary realities, has stretched available funds to meet needs through re-purposing older buildings at a cost savings to taxpayers.

Sustainability

Georgia Southern’s colors are blue and white, but the emphasis today is … green.

The University’s Office of Sustainability serves as the hub of information-gathering and sharing for University environmental initiatives, working to maximize Georgia Southern’s use of its resources while minimizing its environmental impact.

The latest review of the Master Plan places an emphasis on incorporating more sustainable strategies for the future of the campus, including a pedestrian-oriented environment where the quality of student life and overall air quality is improved by keeping vehicles on the perimeter of campus.

Some initiatives include:

- Reductions in energy usage
- Converting transit buses from diesel to CNG fuel
- Recycling of paper, metal and plastic
- Nearing implementation is the use of non-potable gray water for irrigation of lawns and sports fields
- The Division of Public Safety’s Department of Environmental Safety promotes the stewardship of energy, land and water by seeing that hazardous materials are monitored, transported and disposed
- The landscaping and grounds departments are using mowers equipped with mulching kits to enhance moisture retention on lawns and reduce the amount of irrigation
- Drip irrigation is used in most flower beds to reduce water loss due to overspray and evaporation
- Plantings are indigenous species adapted to survive local heat and drought conditions
- LEED certification of the Recreation Activity Center

Construction/major renovation projects total more than $300 million.

**Academic/Student**
- Center for Art & Theatre
- Department of Art renovation
- Nessmith-Lane Center for Continuing Education
- Performing Arts Center
- Ceramics and Sculpture Studio
- College of Information Technology
- Foy Building renovation
- Math-Physics addition
- Visual Arts renovation
- Zach S. Henderson Library expansion/renovation
- Center for Wildlife Education expansion/Pavilion
- Nursing and Chemistry Building
- Communication Arts Scene Shop
- Botanical Garden Multipurpose Building
- Botanical Garden Heritage Pavilion
- Recreation Activity Center expansion
- Hendricks Hall renovation
- M.C. Anderson Pavilion
- Veazey Hall renovation
- Cone Hall renovation
- Carroll Building Renovation
- Biology Building (in planning)

**Housing**
- Centennial Place
- Southern Courtyard
- Southern Pines
- Eagle Village
- University Villas

**Athletics**
- Troy & Mozelle Cowart Building
- Dan T. Parrish, Sr. Building
- Soccer/Track stadium
- Bishop Field House
- Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center
- J.I. Clements Stadium renovation
- Softball stadium renovation
- Swimming/Diving Facility
- Stadium Maintenance Facility
- Allen E. Paulson Stadium Renovation
- Iron Works Weight Training Center
- Erk Russell Athletic Park
- Herring Pavilion

**Administrative**
- Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center
- Lewis Hall renovation
- Alternate Network Operations Center
- Rosenwald Building Renovation
- Parking/Transportation Services Building

“This has been the greatest decade of facilities growth and continuing beautification of campus.”
“Students first, athletes second – it is very important the students, who bring excitement to our community through athletic competition, complete their degrees.”

Athletics

Georgia Southern’s athletics programs have a long and storied history, rich with tradition born of success. In the past 10 years, the University has not only produced conference and national champions, but has parlayed private support into significantly enhanced facilities – crucial to the recruitment and retention of top athletes.

The Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation, Inc. raised more than $16 million between 1999-2009, providing scholarships for student-athletes and facility construction, enhancement and maintenance.

Athletics facilities and athletics success also translate into a high level of student and alumni involvement and enthusiasm.

In the spring of 2009, the University announced that five sports programs recorded a perfect 1,000 score in Academic Progress Rate (APR) during the 2007-08 academic year. In all, 13 of Georgia Southern’s 15 Division I sport programs that year surpassed the 925 APR benchmark standard. Perfect APR scores were attained by golf, women’s basketball, softball and men’s and women’s tennis.

Also in 2009, the University’s athletics fundraising arm, Southern Boosters Inc., changed its name to The Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation, Inc. Its mission remains the same: to provide scholarships and facilities for student-athletes.

On Eagles’ Wings…

Georgia Southern athletics began the past decade in style, with the Eagles defeating Youngstown State 59-24 to win the 1999 Football Championship Subdivision national title. The Eagles added to their record number of championships a year later, earning number six with a 27-25 win over Montana.

Along with the football team’s five Southern Conference championships and six playoff appearances since 1999, two Eagles – Adrian Peterson and Jayson Foster - have won the Walter Payton Award as the top player in the FCS.

The past 10 years have also seen conference titles and/or postseason berths for the baseball, golf, softball, volleyball, men’s basketball, women’s basketball and women’s track and field teams, and a National Cheerleading Association championship for the cheerleading squad.

A number of former Eagle standouts have made their mark in professional sports, including one who kicked his way into the NFL record book and another who became the first Georgia Southern alumnus to coach a professional team.

NCAA National Championships since 1999

Football (FCS) – 1999, 2000

NCAA Tournament/Playoff appearances

Men’s Basketball – 2006 (NIT)
Softball – 2006

Southern Conference Championships

Men’s Basketball (South Division) – 2001-02, 2005-06
Women’s Basketball – 2000-01
Golf – 2003, 2006
Softball – 1999, 2006
Women’s Track & Field – 2007 (Outdoor)

National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Championship

All-Girl Intermediate Division – 2008
All-Girl Intermediate Division runners-up - 2009

New construction
Total: $10,630,482
• Bishop Academic Enhancement Center
• Dan J. Parrish, Sr. Football Center
• Troy & Mozelle Cowart Building
• J.I. Clements Stadium renovation
• Iron Works Weight Training Center
• Track & Soccer Complex
• Gene Bishop Field House
• Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center
• Howard House
• Herring Pavilion

Major Renovations
Total: $975,000
• Paulson Stadium EagleVision
• Paulson Stadium PA system
• J.I. Clements Baseball Hitting Cages
• Eagle Club seating
• Curry Men’s basketball locker room
• Women’s Basketball locker room
• Parrish Football Building Hall of Fame
• Football practice fields renovation
Welcome home, Eagles

University unveils Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center

Georgia Southern celebrated the latest addition to campus with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center in August.

The nearly 12,000-square-foot Center is located on Akins Boulevard in front of the Recreation Activity Center.

The Center features the classic “Georgia Southern University brick” design, accented with limestone on the exterior and interior, blending in well with the surrounding architecture on campus. One of the most impressive features of the facility is Alumni Hall, a large room designed to host major events.

“We are very excited about this beautiful new facility and are very grateful for the support of Dr. Gene Bishop,” said Billy Griffis, vice president for University Advancement at Georgia Southern.

“The Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center stands as a tribute to our alumni, friends and others who have helped make Georgia Southern what it is today.”

The Bishop Alumni Center houses the Office of Alumni Relations, Advancement Services, Annual Giving, Foundation Accounting, Governmental Relations and the Office of Development, all of which had been housed in the Eidson Alumni House since January 1984. The alumni house dates from the 1950s and was originally the president’s home.

A long-time friend and supporter of the University, Bishop, of Dawsonville, Ga., provided the lead gift for the Center. The location of the Center, within walking distance of Allen E. Paulson Stadium, was chosen for its convenient accessibility to out-of-town guests and alumni returning to campus.

“The Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center stands as a tribute to our alumni, friends and others who have helped make Georgia Southern what it is today.”

— Billy Griffis, vice president for University Advancement
If alumni can have homecomings maybe other things can, too.
A 20x24-inch black and white photo destined for the new Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center comes home with a story.
As a student, Kent Dykes (’68) inherited an unwanted picture from his Student Congress office. It depicted the main entrance sign and an eagle statue on a brick pedestal mounted alongside it.
“It meant something to me because I was in Delta Pi Alpha and that eagle was donated to the college by our fraternity,” he said.
He asked then-Dean of Students Ralph Tyson about it and Tyson told him, “Take the picture and do what you want to with it.”
“I took it back to my apartment in Statesboro and hung it up and I enjoyed it,” said Dykes.
“DPA eventually evolved into Alpha Tau Omega, but it (the eagle) was there for about a year and half or two years. It was either a basketball rivalry or some prankster, but all of a sudden it disappeared.”
Dykes took the photo with him and has kept it for more than 40 years as a reminder of his days at Georgia Southern.
Now president of the Easley, S.C., Chamber of Commerce, he recently brought the photo back to campus where it is to be displayed with other memorabilia in the new alumni center on Akins Boulevard.
“It means a lot to me,” said Dykes, “but it would mean more to Georgia Southern to get the picture back,” he said.

In search of the lost eagle
Georgia Southern is interested in locating the missing eagle pictured in Kent Dykes’ photograph.
The eagle in question has been missing for 40 years, is about a foot and a half tall, is burgundy in color and is made of fiberglass.
The bird was on its perch until 1969 when the George-Anne reported it had been “eaglenapped.”
Anyone with information about the eagle is asked to contact the staff of the Office of Alumni Relations at 912-478-2586 or by e-mailing Thackle@georgiasouthern.edu.
Georgia Southern would like to bring the eagle back to campus – no questions asked.
No matter the era, Georgia Southern days are remembered as…

THE BEST OF TIMES

Between 1959-1989, Georgia Southern changed its name, grew in population from fewer than 1,000 students to more than 11,000, added new buildings, expanded its academic programs, and changed who was in charge. But a common thread united those who attended the school - a universal feeling of contentment that the years spent at Georgia Southern matched or exceeded their expectations. Students found it comfortable yet academically challenging, leaving them fulfilled, well-educated and ready for their futures.

They have a few memories to share.

– Bonnie Jaeger

1960s

Glenda Edwards ('60) is retired from the Evans County Board of Education. She resides in Claxton, Ga. with her husband, Charles. They have two children.

Leroy J. Delionbach ('65) retired after 27 years at Aiken Technical College. During his tenure, Leroy was director of Resource Development, the first Psychology Department head, the first Human Services Department head, and director of the criminal justice programs. He served as interim dean during Operation Desert Storm. Prior to joining Aiken Tech, he was chief of employment services at the Medical College of Georgia. He and his wife, Ferris, live in Aiken, S.C.

Mary Ann Pollak Lewis ('68) has been named Virginia Tech's first director of first-year experiences. Lewis will provide leadership to the university's commitment to improving the first-year experiences for Virginia Tech's freshman and transfer students.

Mike Parker ('69) is retired and lives in Savannah. Friends may contact him at cparker154@comcast.net.

1970s

George Hostilo III ('72) is the district chief of pardons and parole in Statesboro. His wife, Anne, recently retired from Swainsboro Technical College after 33 years of service. They reside in Swainsboro. The couple has a son, Kyle, a daughter-in-law, Krista ('06), and a granddaughter, Kyleigh Anne.

Dennis Ingley ('73) was named as the 61st Vidalia Citizen of the Year last February. Based on the judging criteria, the honoree must represent high morals and standards in the areas of spiritual, charitable, cultural and education, civic affairs, and public affairs. Dennis and his wife, Therisa, reside in Vidalia, Ga., and have two children, Dyson and Jared.

Howard Mann ('74) has been named superintendent of the Glynn County, Ga., school system. Howard is a former Eagle baseball player who has served for 31 years in the system, most recently as assistant superintendent for operations.

Jerry Douglas Sharber ('75) is retired from his position as president of J.E. Sharber Oil Co. Inc. He and his wife, Cena, live in Bainbridge, Ga.

Leslie Ramsey Barineau ('74) is vice president of the Birmingham (Ala.) Bar Foundation. She has recently been elected as a commissioner for the Alabama State Bar from the 10th Judicial Circuit and was listed as a 2009 Super Lawyer in Alabama.

June Hutto ('74) is a first-grade teacher at Robins Elementary School. June and her husband, Buddy, reside in Warner Robins, Ga.

1980s

Guy D. Foulkes, M.D. ('84) is the Medical Association of Georgia's representative to the Georgia Orthopaedic Society and is chief of hand surgery at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Foulkes has authored numerous medical articles and book chapters and has presented at more than 30 medical conferences. He spoke on "Evolution and Adaptation of the Human Hand" in the University's Department of Biology in September. Foulkes and his wife, Lesley Hoyt, reside in Macon. He may be contacted at guyfoulkes@cs.com.

Michael P. Boggs ('85) has been appointed to serve on the Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee on Drug Courts. Boggs, Waycross Judicial Circuit superior court judge, was appointed to the committee for a four-year term.

Mara Register ('88) was promoted to assistant to the city manager for Valdosta, Ga. Mara serves on the Board of Directors of the National Community Development Association (NCDA) and was recently elected President of NCDA Region 4 covering the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. She resides in Valdosta with her husband, David. She may be reached via e-mail at mara.register@yahoo.com.
1990s

Ronya Anne Churchwell (’91) and her husband, David, live in Braselton, Ga. Ronya is a teacher at Flowery Branch Elementary in Flowery Branch, Ga.

Roger Watson (’91), a 16-year construction industry veteran, has joined Atlanta-based Hardin Construction Company as director of business development.

Joy Deal (’92) is the program supervisor for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department. In April 2009 she attended the National After School Association (NAA) Convention in New Orleans, the first NAA convention held with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Everett Sharpe (’92) has been named Athletics Director of the Year by the Southeast Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference. Sharpe is athletics director at Waycross Middle School.

Jim C. Black (’93) and his wife, Heather, reside in Calhoun, Ga. They have a two-year-old daughter, Bailee-Anne Elizabeth. Jim may be contacted at jcbblack1969@gmail.com.

Miriam Knudsen (’93) and her husband, Robert, live in Wayne, Neb., where Miriam is an administrator for Premier Estates Senior Living Community. Bob is self-employed as a sound engineer. They have been married since 2001 and have four children. Miriam writes, "We are enjoying the four seasons in the Midwest. The family enjoys gardening together." Miriam may be contacted via e-mail at Miriam.wall@sunh.net.

Ann Marie Pomanio Nikola (’93) is an account executive for Pitney Bowes. She resides in Middlebury, Conn. She may be contacted at AnnMarieNikola@aol.com.

Sydney Blackwell (’95) is an account executive with Elanders USA in Atlanta. Sydney married Brett Blackwell Oct. 19, 2008, and the couple resides in Kennesaw, Ga. Sydney may be reached at pchef25@bellsouth.net or Sydney.blackwell@elandersusa.com.

Kevin James Keilman (’95) and his wife, Jennifer, are residing in Greer, S.C., where Kevin is employed by Woodward as a manufacturing engineer. They have three children, and the family may be reached via e-mail at keilman4@charter.net.

THE BEST OF TIMES

1959: Close-knit and a lot of fun

Jane Jones Cox and Keith Cox

Most girls had bangs and the boys sported crew cuts, and absolutely everyone wore saddle shoes. But each person felt like an individual in a school with a population that did not reach 1,000.

"You got to know everyone by name," said Jane Jones Cox (’59). Even Zach Henderson, then college president, knew all the students. "You could meet him anywhere, and he would know you," she added.

They were simpler times, and Sweetheart Circle was the locus of the school - a place where the students were housed, went to classes, studied, socialized and were within walking distance of everything. Jane later married fellow student Keith (’59). "We did most of our courting under the trees on Sweetheart Circle. We would sit together on the benches," she said.

Sweetheart Circle had lived up to its name.

And it was there that the students actively went about their college business. An average school day started with a full breakfast in the dining hall where all three daily meals were served. Then off to classes by 8 a.m. Dormitories with strict curfews and rules, especially for the girls, bustled with four students to a room, and one shower and bathroom down the hall was used by everyone. It was no place for a thoughtful enterprise like studying, so students sought out the library after classes. All tests and papers were written by hand - there were no typewriters - so teachers gave students plenty of time to complete an assignment.

Jane was going to become a teacher and the Marvin Pittman School, a training laboratory for new teachers, was the perfect venue for her to teach a class in her area of expertise giving her practical experience. After all, the school was then known as Georgia Teachers College and easily placed its graduates in jobs.

Statesboro was a quiet little place and students did not have much money to shop so they seldom went to town. But for those who did have a vehicle, they could park it anywhere on the campus. On rare occasions, students with cars would head to the drive-in movies.

Once a month, the school held dances as great ‘50s music played on 45-speed records. Students also moved to the sounds of The Professors, the school’s official dance band. In sports, basketball was number one. Life was simple, but so much fun.

Ken W. LoCurto (’89) is a senior account executive with Standard Press in Atlanta. Ken is also active with youth sports, coaching football and baseball, and serves on the board of directors for the Kennesaw Baseball Association. He and his wife, Lorelle, live in Kennesaw with their four children. Ken can be reached at ken@stpress.com.

Joy Deal (’92) is the program supervisor for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department. In April 2009 she attended the National After School Association (NAA) Convention in New Orleans, the first NAA convention held with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Everett Sharpe (’92) has been named Athletics Director of the Year by the Southeast Georgia Middle School Athletic Conference. Sharpe is athletics director at Waycross Middle School.

Jim C. Black (’93) and his wife, Heather, reside in Calhoun, Ga. They have a two-year-old daughter, Bailee-Anne Elizabeth. Jim may be contacted at jcbblack1969@gmail.com.

Miriam Knudsen (’93) and her husband, Robert, live in Wayne, Neb., where Miriam is an administrator for Premier Estates Senior Living Community. Bob is self-employed as a sound engineer. They have been married since 2001 and have four children. Miriam writes, "We are enjoying the four seasons in the Midwest. The family enjoys gardening together." Miriam may be contacted via e-mail at Miriam.wall@sunh.net.

Ann Marie Pomanio Nikola (’93) is an account manager for Pitney Bowes. She resides in Middlebury, Conn. She may be contacted at AnnMarieNikola@aol.com.

Sydney Blackwell (’95) is an account executive with Elanders USA in Atlanta. Sydney married Brett Blackwell Oct. 19, 2008, and the couple resides in Kennesaw, Ga. Sydney may be reached at pchef25@bellsouth.net or Sydney.blackwell@elandersusa.com.

Kevin James Keilman (’95) and his wife, Jennifer, are residing in Greer, S.C., where Kevin is employed by Woodward as a manufacturing engineer. They have three children, and the family may be reached via e-mail at keilman4@charter.net.
1969: Agents of Change
Sara Fountain

The Vietnam War, integration, women’s rights, the sexual revolution, Woodstock and of course the music - each topic speaks to those living in the era of the sixties, an age that translated into perhaps the most pivotal time in the 20th century.

“One of the things that stands out, most of all, is that this was an incredible time of change across the country,” said Sara Fountain ’69, who passionately defines her school years at Georgia Southern College as being part of a “decade of transition and expansion.”

Georgia Southern was still known as a teachers’ college, but was evolving into a liberal arts school exploding with new dormitories and classroom buildings. But it was still a place that was small enough for the students to know the administrators by name.

“They were not a faceless group,” said Sara.

With such a large influx of new students, some of the juniors and seniors were allowed to live in apartments. There was a new student center, too - drawing in the melting population when the airless dorm rooms drove them out. But some things remained the same - a dress code existed for female students while there was none for the guys. “Women had to come to campus with a raincoat to wear over their gym clothes,” Sara said. “We had to dress for Sunday dinner, but the men did not have to,” she added. Things were still a bit uneven.

But with change also came challenges - many linked to the national consciousness. “Drugs had come to the campus in the form of marijuana, and across the country students were reacting to the Vietnam War, but we were a wholesome crowd overall,” remembered Sara. They had their music to soften the tumultuous era. “We were a generation molded by our music,” she said. “Black music was coming onto the scene, and it was part of the integration of our colleges and universities that we all loved the same music,” she added.

The sense of community also may have softened the blow of the student demonstrations at other colleges. “I believe that the riots and disruptions of other campuses, particularly up north, were worse than Statesboro because there was a sense of community here. I remember that the students’ reaction to all of the turmoil was a food fight in the cafeteria,” she said. They were reacting to a need for the administration to make changes in college regulations. When Martin Luther King was shot, though, “I had fear in my heart for the country,” recalled Sara.

The times they were a-changin’.

M. Craig Potter ’95 is recreation director for Cusseta-Chattahoochee counties. He and his wife, Brooks, live in Columbus, Ga. He may be reached at cpotter24@msn.com.

Julianna Waits ’95 and her husband, Clint, live in Statesboro with their three children. They recently founded JW Pine Straw which offers installation and delivery of pine straw in the Southeastern region of the United States. Julianna may be reached via e-mail at julianna2@frontiernet.net.

Kevin Smyrl ’96 and his wife, Lisa Marie, are living in Loganville, Ga. Kevin is assistant dean for Development and Alumni relations at Oxford College of Emory University. He may be reached via e-mail at kevinsmyrl@gmail.com.

Hal T. Earnest ’98 and Meredith Keeffe Earnest ’99 welcomed their new daughter, Virginia Bennett Earnest in January. The couple also has a son, Owen, age 2. They reside in Montgomery, Ala.

Justin H. Moss ’98 lives in Sharpsburg, Ga. He is employed by Home Depot Corporate and works in retail.

Mendie Langford ’99 is living in Woodstock, Ga. She works for Velocitel Inc., where she is a business development manager. Mendie may be reached at MendieL@hotmail.com.

Deidre Jones Tilley ’99 and her husband, Alvin, live in Columbus, Ga., where she is an operations assistant for Columbus State University. Alvin is a budget officer with the U.S. Army at Ft. McPherson. He was recently promoted to the rank of major.

Jason VanHouten ’00 and his wife, Jessica, live in Saratoga, N.Y. Jason is a junior officer in the Leadership Program with GE Energy. He left the U.S. Army at the rank of captain in December 2008 after six years of service and joined GE in January. Jason may be reached at jason_vanhouten@yahoo.com.

Meggan Barber ’01 and her husband, Randall, welcomed their first-born daughter, Amelia Margaret Barber, Feb. 23, 2009. Meggan is employed by Providence Day School, and is the director of the school’s Annual Fund. Meggan and Randall reside in Pineville, N.C.

Raygan Evans ’01 has been named tax manager with Bennett Thrasher, an Atlanta-based accounting, audit and consulting firm. Raygan has been with the firm since 2003.

Adam Hayes ’01 is employed by UPS in Alpharetta, Ga., as a global solutions analyst. His wife, Melissa, ’01, is employed by Fleet Feet Sports in Johns Creek as a marketing and events coordinator. Adam and Melissa
A freshman in college, on his own without any connections, has the daunting task of becoming part of a social group. It can be a challenge.

But Al Lawson (’79), who claims to not have known anyone when he first arrived at Georgia Southern College, eventually became entrenched in, and embraced by, the activities and studies of a college for which he grew to be a self-proclaimed fan. After three lonely days at school, his father said, “go to school or go to work,” Al said.

School it was.

But it was his sophomore year when things really began to take off. Activities that year opened him to a new world of the Greek system – a world that was engaging and meaningful to him as a student. Being a fraternity brother of Sigma Chi meant intramural sports – flag football and softball – dances, and parties. He remembers pledges trying to repaint the TKE (Tau Kappa Epsilon) rock which was fiercely guarded by its own pledges. It was a fun time.

Although an electrical engineering student, Al could sing. “I was an engineer with a passion for music,” said Al, and he joined the Georgia Southern choir of which 90 percent were music majors. Al remembers singing during Greek Sing - a highlight of Greek Week when all the fraternities tuned up their best singers to compete against the other associations. Sigma Chi competed in the Greek Sing with a four-part harmony barbershop quartet backed by barbershop scenery and real barber chairs. They won two years in a row.

Back to his freshman year. It was 1975, and flyers were being passed around the school that students were going to “streak.” This was a phenomenon of the times - even the Academy Awards had its brave “streaker.” “The whole of Sweetheart Circle was lined with students,” recalled Al. “I think there were around 49 guys and one girl who ran by,” he said. The next day, the administration let the student body know that it was not too happy.

In Al’s major, along with other technical majors, students needed time on the school’s only computer located in the technical center. “You had to load the computer program with a punch card, get a little information and have your work printed out,” said Al. With just one computer on the campus, sometimes it was three or four in the morning when a student could use it for a project. With such a full social life, it seems that the early morning computer shift became the only lonely time for Al.

Alaina Jones (’04) is an administrator for Black Box Network Services in Duluth, Ga., and her husband, Christopher (’04), is a geologist at Tetra Tech, also in Duluth. Alaina and Christopher reside in Smyrna. The family can be reached via e-mail at ajones5246@gmail.com.

Meredith Allen Bennett (’04) is billing manager for Virginia Center for Eye Surgery in Virginia Beach. She may be contacted at meredithbennett12@yahoo.com.

Keri Levin (’04) and her husband, Eric (’00), were married in Savannah in 2008. They are living in Atlanta, where Keri is a registered nurse at Emory University Hospital. Eric is employed by FSC Pediatrics, where he is a medical sales representative.

Sheryl Suzanne Sheppard (’04) completed her veterinary training last May, receiving her D.V.M. degree from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Amanda Elizabeth Slider (’03) completed her veterinary training last May, receiving her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Glenn Weston (’03) recently graduated from the Georgia Banking School, a three-year program offered by the Georgia Bankers Association. Weston is assistant vice president and office manager for Citizens Bank’s main office in Springfield, Ga.

Ashleigh Womack (’03) is living in Savannah and is a financial service professional for New York Life. She recently received her Certified Long-Term Care Specialist designation and is in the process of obtaining her certification as a licensed agent for Macro Asset Perspective, an asset accumulation strategy. Ashleigh would love to reconnect with old college friends and alumni living in the Savannah area and may be contacted via e-mail at ashleighwomack@yahoo.com or www.ashleighwomack.com.

Walt Archer (’04) and his wife, Jordan, were married last May on Hilton Head Island, S.C. Georgia Southern was well represented with a groom’s cake replica of the Georgia Southern logo and a Georgia Southern garter worn by the bride. The newlyweds are living in Atlanta.

Aliya Noel Frazier (’04) and Joey Leftow were married on April 24 in Central Park in New York City and reside in Manhattan. The couple honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and later had their wedding reception on May 24 in New York.
There was an excitement about the school – football was big on campus and boy, was the team making headlines. “Everyone went to the games on Saturdays,” said Monica Tarver Long (‘89), and “the teams were really good,” she added. It was the Erk Russell era, and the school would never be the same. Football was putting it on the map.

But with all the football fever and game-winning buzz, the small-college atmosphere still existed, and that was the real reason that Georgia Southern College became Monica’s school of choice. “When I was looking for colleges, I selected Georgia Southern because I felt the quality of education was there along with the hometown community feel,” Monica said.

That hometown feel translated into a strongly-qualified faculty that she considered to be accessible, and a student way of life that offered her a personal sense of identity. “Teachers got to know you, classes were small and you had a sense of belonging,” said Monica, who majored in accounting.

It was the late ’80s, and a handful of students had word processors. There were computers on campus, though – you could sign up for one at the library and wait your turn. The Internet was not widely accessible to the public, so research was accomplished the old-fashioned way - using the card catalog, microfiche and microfilm.

Dormitory life her freshman year was marked by dorm directors who were very hands-on and modest facilities that still called on their occupants to travel down the hall to shower. Not too much had changed in the freshman dorms during the years.

Monica’s sophomore year meant more exploration and a step up to a dorm with a kitchen for a collective home-cooked meal. One dorm telephone served everyone, although a few fortunate people paid for a personal line in their rooms.

For Monica, the heart of the school was the community center and a place called Sarah’s Place. “There was not much going on in Statesboro, but the campus activities made up for it,” she said. “The school was beginning to draw high-profile speakers and things were being put out there for discussion,” she said, remembering dorm meetings to discuss the new topic of bulimia.

The campus was the core of activity, both academic and social, but weekends found students drifting off to Savannah to shop, eat out and go to the movies. Many students opted to go home on weekends. It was a very flexible place.

Matt Rio (‘05) has opened a State Farm Insurance agency. Matt and his wife, Afton (‘06), reside in Greensboro, N.C. Matt and Afton’s daughter, Brooklyn, was born May 14, 2008. Matt may be reached via e-mail at matt@mattrioagency.com.

Justin Wilkinson (‘05) and Julie Copeland Wilkinson (‘04) celebrated the birth of their first child, Jeb Copeland Wilkinson, on March 10. Justin is a senior parole officer with the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Julie is a deputy clerk of Superior Court for Jeff Davis County. They reside in Hazlehurst, Ga., and write that they “hope to see Jeb starting for the Eagles in 2027! Go Eagles!”

Jonathan Matthew Buckner (‘06) has accepted a position as Cook County (Chicago) assistant state’s attorney pending passage of the Illinois Bar Exam.

Fallon Cassidy Hinz (‘06) and J. Cory Hinz (‘07) were recently married and are living in Marietta, Ga. Fallon teaches kindergarten and Cory is a construction manager. Cory’s groom’s cake was styled as a Georgia Southern cooler complete with “Cory’s Lite” beverages and ice. Fallon would be happy to hear from friends at fallonhinz@yahoo.com, while Cory may be contacted at CoryHinz@yahoo.com.

Elaine Wilcher (‘06) ventured to Nicaragua in July 2008 to introduce public school teachers to formal assessments, instructional methods, and record keeping for reading and literacy. Elaine resides in Grovetown, Ga. Elaine may be contacted via e-mail at Elainewilcher@bellsouth.net.

Melissa Gray (‘07) is engaged to Trevor Hardy (‘07). Melissa and Trevor are planning their wedding for April 2010.

Merrick Tollison (‘07) and her husband, Vicktor (‘06), live in Vidalia, Ga. Merrick is attending Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in the Caribbean country of St. Kitts, and Vicktor is an insurance agent at Liberty National in Savannah. Merrick and Vicktor were married in their hometown of Vidalia, Ga., in March of 2008. Merrick may be reached via e-mail at Merricktollison@gmail.com.

In Memoriam
Alumni
Walter “Skip” Aldred, III, ’65, Fernandina Beach, Fla.
Mollye Nancy Eason, ’01, Statesboro
Mahlon H. Jones, Huntsville, Ala.
Alan W. Rodgers, ’51, Hillsborough, N.C.
Staff
Connie Ruhling
George Freeman, ’78, Auburn, Ala.
Lovett Bennett, Auxiliary Services
Keith Arnett, Counseling Center
Paul Gamble LaGrone, former business dean at Georgia Southern, passed away July 4 in Statesboro. He was 92.

LaGrone was born November 6, 1916 in Greenville, Miss., and had lived in Statesboro since 1962. LaGrone was a Lt. Commander during World War II, serving as a naval aviator. He received a Ph.D. in accounting from the University of Alabama in 1958.

LaGrone joined the Georgia Southern College faculty in 1962 as chairman of the Division of Business which he successfully developed and later established as the School of Business, serving as dean from 1971 until 1974.

He was a past member and officer of the Rotary International and other various civic and professional organizations including the Coastal Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America. LaGrone received the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Award in 1990. He was a member and past treasurer of the First Presbyterian Church.

William Glenn (Billy) Vaughn ('91), 48, of Watkinsville died at his home in his sleep in May. He was a well-known community newspaperman and prize-winning reporter. His recent positions were with the Lake Oconee News and the Oconee Enterprise. He attended Columbus High School and, in addition to his Georgia Southern communication arts degree, he earned a master’s degree in counseling at Columbus State University. His career included reporting stints at the Meridian Star, Savannah Morning News, Gastonia Gazette and the Clayton News/Daily in Jonesboro, Ga.

Nancy Jenkins Welch ('68) died in Highlands, N.C., in October. She was 62. Nancy earned her bachelor's degree in art and minors in journalism and English. She was a lifelong writer, artist and supporter of Georgia Southern. She was a broadcast announcer for "Sounds from Southern," the art editor of the 1967 Reflector, and editor of the 1968 Reflector. After graduation she traveled extensively and wrote for the U.S. Army's newspapers at Fort Benning, Ga., as well as other publications at Fort Bragg, Fort Jackson and Fort Stewart. When in Europe, she was a weekly announcer for Armed Forces Network (AFN) Europe. When her family returned to Statesboro, she began a steady progression through editorial positions at the Statesboro Herald. She is best remembered as a weekly columnist and for her true-to-life accounts of her family escapades following the antics of Farmer Chuck, Indiana Jane and the Boy. She is also remembered for her positive attitude, jovial spirit and her inspirational influence on the people she worked with.
Signed, sealed, delivered

Jackie Anderson Strange enjoyed rise to top levels of the Postal Service

It's a long, long way from “Collegeboro” to L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, D.C.

Jackie Anderson Strange’s journey from Georgia Teachers College’s tiny post office to the halls of leadership at U.S. Postal Service headquarters was one she relished daily as she climbed to the highest position any woman had ever held in the Service to that date.

Georgia Southern’s old Collegeboro postal designation ended in 1960, just as Strange’s career was moving into high gear. She had joined the Postal Service as a temporary clerk in 1946 while a student and, working her way up through the organization, often was the first woman in her managerial positions.

She served as a postmaster, then acting manager of mail operations, followed by a number of regional and district management positions, assistant postmaster general in procurement and supply, and regional postmaster general for the southern region.

In 1985 she was named deputy postmaster general of the United States, the No. 2 job in the largest non-civilian organization in the world, managing a workforce of 800,000 and a budget of $32 billion.

“As I was promoted to positions, I worked really hard to identify other women who showed that they had the capability of being managers,” Strange said. “If I felt they really proved to me they had those capabilities, I would put them in positions. I saw so many of them flourish and become great managers.

In fact, her efforts to advance women were so effective that the Australian postmaster general invited her to help him improve the status of women in the Australian postal service.

Her management philosophy was simple: “Create an environment for innovation. Respect is reciprocal. Earn it.”

Strange has received numerous awards both inside and outside the Postal Service for her success. She was the first graduate of Georgia Southern to receive an honorary doctoral degree. She has also received the Benjamin Franklin Award and the Postmasters General Award for Excellence. Strange also served as CEO and president of Sen. Robert Dole’s Foundation for the Employment of People With Disabilities.

Retired since 1987, she now devotes her time to painting, composing, designing dresses and writing poetry. She is also in the process of publishing a book of poems and her memoirs, detailing her rise to prominence in the Postal Service.

It could be said she even has more time to create than most people because she only sleeps three or four hours a night. In that sense, she joked, “I have lived two lifetimes!”
Beginning this fall, students had a new escape from Statesboro’s September humidity with a visit to Cold Stone Creamery on the first floor of Centennial Place just off Georgia Avenue. The Centennial Place food court also features Einstein Bros. Bagels.
Nearly 5,000 students, faculty and staff packed into Hanner Fieldhouse on Sept. 8 to hear former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speak on leadership and the power of education. “You are so lucky, you who are students,” she told the crowd. “You are experiencing the one great equalizer that we have, which is education. It doesn’t matter where you come from. It matters where you’re going.” Rice’s visit was sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement to give students insight into leadership and crisis response. Demand prompted the organizers to set up overflow seating for a remote simulcast for those who could not get tickets.