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Former reality star gets real

AUGUST 22, 2006

The First Year Experience (FYE) Success Series program at Georgia Southern is bringing a former reality star to campus.

After publicly battling her alcohol problems on MTV's "The Real World," Ruthie Alcaide has come out on top. Since the show aired, she has overcome her issues and will talk about what happens when alcohol and drugs take over your life. She will also discuss her experience with alcohol poisoning and her road to recovery. Alcaide will conclude her talk with a question and answer session. Her presentation will be held in the Russell Union Ballroom on Tuesday, Aug. 29, at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Alcaide's visit is sponsored by the First Year Experience and Health Services through an alcohol education grant from the Georgia Office of Highway Safety.

The presentations are free and orientation classes are strongly encouraged to attend.

For more information on events in the FYE Success Series, visit <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/fye/success.htm>.

CLASS presents awards to Alley and Gibson

AUGUST 22, 2006

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University presented its two most prestigious faculty awards at the beginning of the academic year. The Ruffin Cup, endowed by the late David Ruffin, was presented to Dr. David Alley, professor of Spanish. The 2006 Award of Excellence was presented to Dr. Christopher Gibson, assistant professor of political science.

The Ruffin Cup recognizes the highest achievement in teaching and scholarship, and distinguished service to the college of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences for at least 10 years. In his presentation speech, last year's Ruffin Cup winner, Vernon Egger, spoke about David Alley's international experience teaching English in Korea, serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil and Chile, and farming in Norway. He praised him for numerous refereed publications and presentations at the international, national, and state levels, and for earning more than a dozen grants for scholarship and research. Alley's students consistently give him the highest evaluations, and in 2004 he was elected professor of the year at the state level in his professional association. In 2005 that same association elected him professor of the year at the regional level.

In addition to Eggers, recent winners of the Ruffin Cup include Richard Rogers, Michael Braz, Sue M. Moore, and Jane Rhoades Hudak.

The CLASS Award for Excellence is given to honor outstanding activity by faculty members in the first ten years of their college teaching career. In his presentation speech, last year's Award for Excellence winner, F. Erik Brooks, spoke about the qualities that Christopher Gibson has brought to the political science department at Georgia Southern. He praised Gibson for his growing body of peer-reviewed articles, for his successful research grants, for his quantitative methodology work in neighborhoods and quality of life, and for his exemplary skill in teaching research methods. He also recognized Gibson's work this summer in Statesboro, in which he involved students in neighborhood survey research and analysis.

In addition to Brooks, recent winners of the CLASS Award for Excellence include Steven Engel, Chris Ludowise, Gary Hytrek, and Carolyn Bryan.