President's Annual Report

Brooks Keel
Georgia Southern University
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A Message from the President

It has been another outstanding year for Georgia Southern University. This exceptional University continues to grow, innovate and amaze. Whether it is through the hearts of our inspirational faculty, the minds of our dedicated students, or the spirit of our loyal Eagle fans, Georgia Southern has once again proven its ever-growing, ever-changing regional, national and global significance.

Even now, in our 108th year, we are just beginning our journey. Georgia Southern is on the cusp of even greater success and recognition. Offering the best in higher education, we continue to boast enrollment of more than 20,517 students, representing 48 states and 89 countries. For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of “America’s Best Colleges,” and on its list of “best online education programs.” The University has also been named a military-friendly school by Military Advanced Education in its 2014 “Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities” for the third year.

This 2013-14 President’s annual report offers a glimpse at just some of the important accomplishments and milestones made by our faculty, staff, students and community, and the positive changes that continue to make this special University a driving force for innovation, opportunity and outstanding education to the state of Georgia and beyond. I am proud of Georgia Southern University and the fine people of Eagle Nation. I offer you this “year in review” and say “thank you” for your continued loyalty and commitment to the Greatest University in America.

Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.
ACADEMICS

Strong and diverse academic programs continue to be at the heart of what makes Georgia Southern a place of exceptional learning for our students. Through eight colleges, the Center for International Studies and the Division of Continuing Education, students have access to 115 state-of-the-art, top-tier programs taught by inspired and accomplished faculty in an environment that includes hands-on learning and opportunities for research, internships and workplace readiness. Evidence of this is demonstrated by ongoing student recognitions, awards, scholarships and employment success rates after graduation. In addition, our faculty continues to earn state, regional and national honors for their research, publications and commitment to their students. With all of the ways in which academics has grown and improved this year, the future remains bright for our students at Georgia Southern.
Georgia Southern Recognized among Nation’s Best Online Programs

January 11, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern University is home to some of the nation’s best online education programs according to the “2014 Best Online Programs” list from U.S. News & World Report. For the third consecutive year, the University was recognized for giving students the freedom and flexibility to help them earn degrees on their own time while balancing careers, families and other commitments.

U.S. News surveyed nearly a thousand colleges and universities that offer online degrees. Here are the rankings for Georgia Southern:

- Best online graduate computer information technology programs (#23)
- Best online graduate education programs (#50)
- Best online graduate business programs (#64)
- Best online bachelor’s programs (#160)

“Once again, Georgia Southern University is proud to be recognized for its top ranked programs,” said Provost Jean Bartels, Ph.D. “Faculty in all programs are recognized for their dedicated efforts to create and administer the best of online education to students both in state and beyond. Broadening the reach of a Georgia Southern education has been a goal, now recognized, for the University.”

The third annual survey examined a variety of areas including student engagement, student services and technology, faculty credentials and training, admissions selectivity and peer reputation. The rankings cover online bachelor’s degrees and online master’s degrees in engineering, nursing, education, computer information technology and business.

“Our College is relentlessly pushing to create greater quality and value for our graduates, alumni and business partners,” said College of Business Administration Dean Allen Amason, Ph.D. “This is the underlying value added that rankings are meant to reflect. So, we are gratified to see our hard work appreciated and having the impact that we desire.”

According to U.S News, only degree-granting programs offering courses that are 100 percent online were considered for the rankings. “We’re pleased to be in the top tier, said College of Education Dean Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., Ph.D. “Our online classes meet high standards for excellence. We have a committed faculty trained to teach distance learners, and students from across the region and state know they will be engaged in a rigorous graduate program that furthers their career as an educator in many professional settings.”

See the list of “Best Online Programs” by visiting www.usnews.com/education/online-education.
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Georgia Southern University Receives Four Emmy Nods

May 23, 2014

Art Berger (front) and Jeremiah Womble direct live footage for “Inside Georgia Southern Baseball.”

Georgia Southern University received four 2014 Emmy Award Nominations.

Georgia Southern University has received four 2014 Emmy Award nominations from the Southeast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The nominations include Best Student News Production, Best Student Production, Best Sports Director and Best Technical Director.

“We are very proud of our work and especially our student nominations. The work we produced this year for our sports is comparable to large network, Major League Baseball broadcasts,” said Art Berger, director of the Multimedia Development Center.

Berger received an Emmy Award nomination for Best Sports Director for his work with “Inside Georgia Southern Football.” He also received a nomination for Best Technical Director for directing live games of Georgia Southern football and “Georgia Southern Baseball Live” with Ryan Chambers and Kris Draper. Berger says that while he is proud of his nominations, the students are the ones who truly deserve the big win.

“We are very proud of the talent and dedication of our students,” said Berger. “Our student news which airs on www.georgiasouthern.tv compares to a CNN Headline newscast, and “Just Wild,” was a finalist this year in the MTV student video awards. I feel they have a really good chance.”

The projects and students that received nominations were “Just Wild” Saving Exotic Animals by Allen Lincoln, AnnNell Byne, Jose Ocampo, Tim Hunt and Jake Taylor; and “Chomp the Gators and Gus in Space” by Allen Lincoln, Sade Thomas, Wilson Brown, Evan Lebish, Robert O’Donnell, Tim Bragg and Cassandra Holmes.

The winners will be announced June 7th in Atlanta. This year the Southeast Chapter received more than 1000 entries.

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Georgia Southern professors Delena Bell Gatch, Ph.D., and Misty Loughry, Ph.D., are among only five University System of Georgia faculty members selected to receive the System’s most prestigious teaching awards named in honor of the late Regent Felton Jenkins Jr. The award is given in two categories, the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Awards and the Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards.

Gatch, a physics professor in the College of Science and Mathematics, won the 2014 Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for faculty in regional and state universities. Loughry, a professor of management in the College of Business Administration, is the only winner of the 2014 Regents’ Award for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), which the University System of Georgia (USG) typically awards to two faculty members each year.

Dr. Gatch is an alumna having graduated from Georgia Southern in 1995. She began teaching here in 2001, after earning her doctoral degree in physics from the University of Georgia. The USG letter announcing the professor’s selection noted the review committee’s vote was unanimous and it cited her “ability to gather data and adjust her teaching methods from a traditional teaching style to one that involved active learning.”

Professor Loughry has been at the University since 2007, and her selection as the sole winner was unanimous by the review committee. She was selected as a result of her work in helping first-generation college students succeed. Loughry’s research interests include using management research to enhance college teaching and student learning, team-member effectiveness, peer evaluation of teamwork, and controls in organizations, particularly peer control.

“I am honored to receive the Regents’ SoTL Award and happy for Dr. Delena Gatch, also from Georgia Southern University, who won the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award,” Loughry said. “My colleagues and I have been working for more than a decade to develop web-based tools to support teamwork in higher education classes. Information about the tools and the research on which they are based is posted on CATME.org. I am grateful to the Board of Regents for offering the Regents’ SoTL award to recognize research that contributes to teaching and learning.”

Both Georgia Southern winners will be recognized during the USG Foundation’s annual “Regents’ Salute to Education” awards gala.
on March 22, 2014 at the World of Coke in Atlanta.

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$1 Million Grant Awarded to Expand City Campus

November 7, 2013

Georgia Southern and the City of Statesboro have been awarded a grant of nearly $1.1 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to expand the University’s City Campus on E. Main St. to help entrepreneurs design, build and send their products into the marketplace while creating new jobs.

“This partnership will help these entrepreneurs breathe life into their ideas,” explained University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., during the Thursday afternoon announcement at City Campus in downtown Statesboro. “This is a golden opportunity to help build new businesses in our community, generate new jobs and put more people to work. City Campus can be a catalyst for economic change in our region.”

The $1,097,360 investment from the EDA puts City Campus in position to become a central hub for business creation and economic development. “This is a great opportunity for Georgia Southern to continue its efforts to create an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship,” said Vice President for Research and Economic Development Charles Patterson, Ph.D. “The grant will allow Georgia Southern in cooperation and partnership with the City of Statesboro to renovate two buildings downtown where we can create an innovation incubator with full business incubation capabilities and an eventual fabrication laboratory.”

The state-of-the-art facility will include office space and support for companies planned space for a fabrication lab with 3D printing capabilities. “As an emerging research university, we find that many of our faculty and students are engaged in activities of an entrepreneurial nature creating technologies, devices and inventions that a university of our size and magnitude has the ability to license, patent and protect and to spin those technologies out into companies,” said Patterson.

The $1.1 million grant award could not have been possible without the City of Statesboro’s nearly $800,000 financial commitment to purchase the Yard and Haus building from Farmers and Merchants Bank and the City Campus building from the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority. “We feel the collaboration with Georgia Southern through the City Campus is important to the continued improvement of downtown Statesboro,” said Mayor Joe Brannen. “These investments in our city will undoubtedly pay off many times over as we move forward.” In addition, last June, the city council agreed to commit $50,000 annually for three years to help cover ongoing operational expenses at the facility. “While it’s important to try and attract industry and commercial business to our community, it is equally important to encourage local business growth,” said Statesboro City Councilman Phil Boyum. “This grant is yet another example of how big things can get done when we come together as a community.”

In making the grant announcement, U.S. Rep. John Barrow explained how the expansion project will provide great resources for entrepreneurs who need support and guidance to turn their ideas into successful products. “This is a tremendous opportunity for the small business owners who are going to find the resources here that they need to compete and to grow,” said Barrow. “It’s going to be a huge opportunity for Georgia Southern to break out and be a leader in business development. It’s a huge opportunity for this community to show how you can come together to create the conditions to grow businesses.”

The expansion, which has a projected total cost of $1.8 million, will house the Bureau for Business
Research and Economic Development (BBRED), the Statesboro office of the Small Business Development Center and the University’s Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership. “This grant will go a long way in helping us foster a culture of innovation and creation in Statesboro,” said Dominique Halaby, D.P.A., director of BBRED. “Our residents have a lot of great ideas. With this funding, they will now have the infrastructure and support to develop those ideas and take them to market.”

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The Georgia Southern College of Business Advanced Sales Team Competes in the 16th Annual National Collegiate Sales Competition

April 2014

The Georgia Southern University College of Business Sales Centers’ Advanced Sales Team competed in the 16th Annual National Collegiate Sales Competition (NCSC) during the weekend of March 28 – 31 at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw. The College of Business team of 13 marketing students competed in several categories. This year, the NCSC hosted 65 universities from around the country to compete in 6 rounds of competition, divided into undergraduate and graduate competitions. The top 50 teams to place in the competition are always invited back to the competition the following year. Our Georgia Southern College of Business Advanced Sales Team will be returning to compete in 2015.

Also during the weekend, students had the opportunity to meet with nationally recognized sales firms, interview, and secure jobs with these top US companies. Several of our students will be continuing the interview process with companies who were in attendance at the sales competition. The National Collegiate Sales Competition began in 1999 and is the largest and oldest sales role-play competition. The purpose of the NCSC is to enhance the practice of professionalism within the sales profession. It hosts the top collegiate sales teams and faculty from the leading University Sales Programs in North America.

For more information about the Advanced Sales Team, contact Linda Mullen at lmullen@georgiasouthern.edu.
Georgia Southern University College of Education Tapped by Carnegie Foundation

April 10, 2014

Georgia Southern University’s redesigned doctorate in educational leadership offered through the College of Education (COE) has been accepted into the Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate (CPED), an elite consortium of colleges and schools of education charged with transforming the Ed.D. into “the degree of choice” for the next generation of practitioner leaders at all levels of education, from K-12 to higher education.

“We’re preparing a new kind of educational leader that didn’t exist before, one that is equipped to make the big decisions of tomorrow based on solid research and educational theory,” said Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel. “Being asked to apply to CPED was an honor in itself, and being accepted as a member is a testament of how our College of Education has moved the Ed.D. into the 21st century. It puts us in the enviable position of being ahead of the curve.”

With the addition of COE into the consortium, there are now 87 schools or colleges of education working in collaboration to redesign the educational leadership doctorate out of an estimated 1,200 programs across the country. A faculty-led effort, the consortium, headquartered at the School of Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa., is an action-oriented initiative to develop a clear distinction between the “professional practice doctorate in education (Ed.D.) and the education research doctorate (Ph.D.); and to improve the reliability and efficacy of programs leading to the professional doctorate in education.”

“We are especially pleased that we have been accepted as a member of this important group whose goals clearly align with the College’s commitment to bring research, theory and practice to bear on all our degrees as we prepare educators and educational leaders for the next generation in our state and region,” said COE Dean Thomas R. Koballa, Jr.

COE accepted its first cohort into the redesigned educational leadership doctorate in fall 2013. It is a professional practice degree with unique characteristics apart from those usually associated with the research doctorate. “Our degree, and what CPED is charged with developing, is more relevant for the advanced preparation of school practitioners, academic leaders and professional staff for the nation’s schools and colleges, even for those in the business world,” said Devon Jensen, COE’s higher education leadership doctoral program coordinator.

“Students seeking advanced degrees in education leadership, really anyone in a leadership position regardless of the sector in which they work, needs the training and the tools to be able to solve the big issues facing their institutions. It’s all about the application of research to solve complex problems that school leaders face,” Jensen continued. “CPED membership gives the College the opportunity to enter into dialogue with other education institutions sharing the same goals, to be prepared to change, to experiment and to welcome critical feedback,” Jensen explained. Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu
Georgia Southern University archaeologists will begin a major conservation project to identify and conserve 150-year-old metal artifacts found at Camp Lawton, a Confederate Prisoner of War (POW) camp located at what is now Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen, Ga. The project is the next step in preparation for the opening of a planned History Center at the park.

As part of the project, Georgia Southern archaeologists will X-ray recovered artifacts to determine if solid metal remains inside visible corrosion. In a unique partnership, the team will be working with Gary Edwards, DVM and the staff at Gateway Animal Hospital of Statesboro who are graciously donating their time and equipment to X-ray the artifacts before conservation is attempted.

“Some of the artifacts that we have discovered are extremely corroded which is making it difficult to identify what they are. The X-ray will enable us to clearly identify the shape of the artifact if the metal has not totally corroded away,” said Matt Newberry, a Georgia Southern graduate student working on the Camp Lawton project team.

In the fall of 2009, Georgia Southern University, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, began researching Camp Lawton, which was originally constructed in 1864 to alleviate overcrowding at Andersonville Prison. Once constructed and opened, Camp Lawton became the world’s largest prison and would eventually house more 10,000 Union POWs. The ongoing excavation of archaeological sites is just the first step in the research process. Once artifacts are recovered, especially metal, they are treated to preserve them before they are put on
Georgia Southern archaeologists are using a variety of conservation methods to treat and preserve artifacts from Camp Lawton, ranging from mild mechanical removal of surface rust to in-depth chemical treatments.

When metal artifacts are buried in the ground, they begin to corrode in the soil and will eventually reach a state of equilibrium with the water and mineral content of their new environment. After 150 years, when the artifacts have been excavated, they suddenly have an entirely different environment to react to. This causes further damage if not addressed in a timely manner.

“It is important that we work to conserve these artifacts so that they can help tell the story of Camp Lawton to future generations,” said Lance Greene, Ph.D., assistant professor of Anthropology in Georgia Southern’s Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The first step in artifact conservation involves soaking the artifacts in distilled water which removes the accumulated salts. Next, any loose or disfiguring corrosion on the surface of the artifact is carefully removed. This can be delicately and slowly achieved with small hand tools if the artifact is especially fragile. Alternatively, electrolysis may be used to remove corrosion from artifacts that are solid enough to withstand the process. Electrolysis involves using an electrical current moving through a solution to stabilize corroded metals and remove accumulated rust. After the cleaning is completed, artifacts are sealed against further environmental damage and ready for display in a climate-controlled museum setting.

“Once the conservation process is completed, the Camp Lawton artifacts will be stable and ready for permanent display in the new History Center,” said Greene.

Camp Lawton Public Day Set for Saturday, May 4

The Georgia Southern Archaeology Team will host a Public Archaeology Day at Magnolia Springs State Park on Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in celebration of Georgia Archaeology Month. Visitors will have the opportunity to assist with the ongoing excavations and see the process of conserving Camp Lawton’s metal artifacts. The event is open to the public. Admission to Magnolia Springs State Park is $5.

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Georgia Southern University’s choral groups Southern Chorale and Fermata the Blue returned Tuesday from the International Anton Bruckner Choral Competition and Festival in Linz, Austria. The Chorale received gold diplomas in the compulsory and sacred divisions, Fermata the Blue was honored with one gold diploma and both groups earned second-place finishes. Southern Chorale, the University’s premier choral ensemble, took second place in the “Mixed Choirs Compulsory” category, finishing less than one point behind winning choir Coro Siamo, from Austria. Fermata the Blue, the 12-member contemporary ensemble comprised of Chorale members, finished second in the “Vocal Ensemble” category to the grand prize winning five-voice male ensemble from Germany.

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

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

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

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

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The Zach S. Henderson Library is gearing up to host “America’s Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway,” a six-week series focused on uniquely American musical traditions. The program features documentary film screenings and discussions of twentieth-century American popular music led by Dr. Michael Braz and knowledgeable community members. The sessions will highlight blues and gospel, Broadway, jazz, bluegrass and country, rock ‘n’ roll, mambo and hip hop.

Free and open to the public, each of the programs with the exception of the Oct. 4 performance will be held at 7 p.m. in downtown Statesboro’s Emma Kelly Theater, Averitt Center for the Arts, 33 East Main St. on the following dates:

- July 30: Rock & Roll: Dylan Plugs In Film Showing/Discussion
- Aug. 2: Pladd Dot School of Rock Concert
- Aug. 22: Broadway & Tin Pan Alley: Roaring Twenties Film Showing/Discussion
- Aug. 27: Blues & Gospel: “Goin’ Home to Mississippi” (1983) Film Showing/Discussion
- Sept. 6: The Chris Mitchell Band? “Nothin’ but the Blues” Concert
- Sept. 24: Swing Jazz: Count Basie & The Sweethearts of Rhythm Film Showing/Discussion
- Sept. 26: Country & Blue Grass: Bill Monroe & His Bluegrass Boys Film Showing/Discussion
- Oct. 8: Latin Rhythms “From Mambo to Hip Hop in the South Bronx” (PG13) Film Showing/Discussion

The Oct. 4 performance will feature Michael Lasser at Georgia Southern University’s Carter Recital Hall in the Foy Building at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Dr. Bede Mitchell at 912-478-5115 or email wbmitch@georgiasouthern.edu. In addition, you can visit the Zach S. Henderson Library website.

Zach S. Henderson Library is one of 50 sites selected nationwide to host this program series, which is a project by the Tribeca Film Institute in collaboration with the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint, and the Society for American Music. “America’s Music” has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. “America’s Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway” uses a mixture of films and scholar-led discussions to illuminate the audience’s understanding of American culture. To learn more about each specific program and the grant that funds them, visit the Tribeca Film Institute website.
Library Hosts Book Discussion Series: “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys”
April 14, 2014

The Zach S. Henderson Library has received a $3,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA), to host a five-part reading and discussion series titled “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys.” The final book to be discussed is “Rumi: Poet and Mystic” by Reynold A. Nicholson. Discussion will be on Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in Room 1300 at the Henderson Library. Anyone interested in the discussion is welcome.

The library is one of 125 libraries and state humanities councils across the country selected to participate in the project, which seeks to familiarize public audiences in the United States with the people, places, history, faith and cultures of Muslims in the United States and around the world. The Muslim Journeys theme that the Zach S. Henderson Library has chosen to explore is “Pathways of Faith.” “We are delighted to have been chosen to host this unique series that will allow members of both the campus community and the larger Statesboro community a chance to discuss important themes in Muslim history and literature, with the help of two well-qualified scholars, professors Hemchand Gossai and John Parcels,” said Ann Hamilton, associate dean of the Library.

Selected with the advice of librarians and cultural programming experts, as well as distinguished scholars in the fields of anthropology, world history, religious studies, interfaith dialogue, the history of art and architecture, world literature, Middle East studies, Southeast Asian studies, African studies and Islamic studies, the books are part of the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys. The Zach S. Henderson Library was one of 842 libraries chosen to receive the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys.

For more information, visit the Zach S. Henderson Library website.

About Bridging Cultures Bookshelf The Bridging Cultures Bookshelf is a project of NEH, conducted in cooperation with the ALA Public Programs Office, with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Additional support for the arts and media components was provided by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts. The Averitt Center for the Arts and the Statesboro Regional Library were community partners with the Zach S. Henderson Library in applying for both the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf and the “Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys” awards.
College of Science and Mathematics

Georgia Southern Professors Win Top Regents’ Awards

December 4, 2013

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern professors Delena Bell Gatch, Ph.D., and Misty Loughry, Ph.D., are among only five University System of Georgia faculty members selected to receive the System’s most prestigious teaching awards named in honor of the late Regent Felton Jenkins Jr. The award is given in two categories, the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Awards and the Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards.

Gatch, a physics professor in the College of Science and Mathematics won the 2014 Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for faculty in regional and state universities. Loughry, a professor of management in the College of Business Administration, is the only winner of the 2014 Regents’ Award for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), which the University System of Georgia (USG) typically awards to two faculty members each year.

Dr. Gatch is an alumna having graduated from Georgia Southern in 1995. She began teaching here in 2001, after earning her doctoral degree in physics from the University of Georgia. The USG letter announcing the professor’s selection noted the review committee’s vote was unanimous and it cited her “ability to gather data and adjust her teaching methods from a traditional teaching style to one that involved active learning.”

Professor Loughry has been at the University since 2007, and her selection as the sole winner was unanimous by the review committee. She was selected as a result of her work in helping first-generation college students succeed. Loughry’s research interests include using management research to enhance college teaching and student learning, team-member effectiveness, peer evaluation of teamwork, and controls in organizations, particularly peer control.

“I am honored to receive the Regents’ SoTL Award and happy for Dr. Delena Gatch, also from Georgia Southern University, who won the Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award,” Loughry said. “My colleagues and I have been working for more than a decade to develop web-based tools to support teamwork in higher education classes. Information about the tools and the research on which they are based is posted on CATME.org. I am grateful to the Board of Regents for offering the Regents’ SoTL award to recognize research that contributes to teaching and learning.”

Both Georgia Southern winners will be recognized during the USG Foundation’s annual “Regents’ Salute to Education” awards gala on
March 22, 2014 at the World of Coke in Atlanta.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.
Math Students Make History During Mathematical Association of America Conference
April 1, 2014

Students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences made history at the Mathematical Association of America’s 93rd Annual Southeastern Section spring 2014 meeting at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn. where they competed in “Math Jeopardy,” a competition modeled after the long-running North American television program. During the competition, Georgia Southern became the first college ever to have two teams from the same University to achieve placement in the semi-final round, and brought home a third place win in the finals against 25 other universities during the 3-day conference.

“Our Jeopardy team members have worked very hard the past few months, especially in the weeks leading up to the competition,” said Chasen Smith, instructor and advisor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

During the three-round competition (preliminary, semi-final and final), teams of up to four undergraduate students compete the preliminary round; the top 12 teams with the highest score from the preliminary round move on to the semi-finals, and the top four teams from the semi-finals move forward to compete in the finals. In each round, the teams are allowed two minutes to respond to the answers (which are all math related) in the form of a question.

“We have met every week since December practicing Jeopardy questions from previous years so that we would be prepared. I couldn’t be more proud of our students! They represented Georgia Southern University, the College of Science and Mathematics and the Department of Mathematical Sciences very well, and set the bar high for next year’s meeting at UNC Wilmington,” said Smith.

Students on team one included Michael Ackerman, Matt Cullens, Micah Jackson and Katelyn Yeomans.

Team two included Nicholas Anderson, Brittney Benzio, Garry Brown and Stephanie Hesse.
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

Professor Refines Prostate Cancer Screening Ed. Program
January 1, 2014

For John (Juan) Luque, Ph.D., professor of community health in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH), research is so much more than his job – it is an “integral part of his identity as a scholar.” The Maine native, who arrived at Georgia Southern University five years ago, is the recipient of the 2013-14 Award for Excellence in Contributions to Research/Creative Scholarly Activity, which recognizes faculty who excel in their research efforts in addition to fulfilling full-time teaching responsibilities.

“It is an honor to receive this award,” said Luque. “I enjoy sharing my research with others at conferences, collaborating with fellow scholars and training undergraduate and graduate students in research methods.”

He is currently leading three research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “The Barbers Against Prostate Cancer Research Subproject” is one of two research projects that are part of the NIH-funded Center of Excellence on Health Disparities in Rural Populations. It aims to refine and test a prostate cancer screening educational program, and to train barbers to deliver the program among rural African-American men. It also intends to test the impact of the information on informed decision-making among the men.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States. “Moreover, African-American men have the highest incidence rate for prostate cancer and are twice as likely as white men to die from the disease,” said Luque who added that many black men do not have access to or do not regularly visit doctors or health centers, thereby depriving themselves of readily available prostate cancer information.

“The barbershop is a natural meeting place for black men to talk about a range of issues. Barbers are known as business leaders and opinion shapers in the community, and they have an important role to play as lay health educators,” Luque said.
His research involves sites in Statesboro and Milledgeville, Ga. Luque and a graduate assistant are currently revising and refining the training curriculum for the barbers.
The Georgia Southern University Eagles football team begins fall practice this morning with new equipment designed to protect players from concussions. Georgia Southern is the only collegiate football team in the state to use the Helmet Impact Telemetry System (HITS) which measures and records every hit to the head during practices and games.

“We want to do everything we can to prevent our student athletes from suffering a head injury,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “After the University received a $385,000 National Institutes of Health grant in 2011 to study concussions, we wanted to do more to get a better understanding of these injuries. The addition of this monitoring equipment will hopefully reduce the risks our Eagle players face on the field.”

With funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Georgia Southern has equipped 40 helmets with the Riddell HITS system. There are six sensors inside each helmet that measures the severity of a hit to the head. A typical impact in football lasts about 15 milliseconds, and in that instant, measurements from the sensors will be transmitted in nearly real-time to a laptop computer being monitored on the sidelines of all practices and games.

“If a hit reaches a certain threshold, a pager worn by a graduate research student and the head athletics trainer will receive a notification. “If I get a message saying a player took a hard hit, I’m going to be keeping a close eye on that player,” said Eagles Head Athletics Trainer Brandy Clouse. “If that player displays any unusual behavior, I’m coming over to do a clinical evaluation to make sure that he’s not trying to hide it or downplay the hit and that it’s safe for him to continue playing.”
Each impact will also be time stamped and can be synchronized with game video so coaches, athletics trainers and researchers can better evaluate the hits. “We can look at the body position, see what the athlete is doing and examine the force they experience,” said biomechanics professor Barry Munkasy, Ph.D. “We can then consider what can be done to reduce those hits by possibly changing techniques or teaching players what to do to lower their risks that will help improve their performance.”

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Two Senior Students Earn Prestigious International Scholarship

June 13, 2014

Alyson Gilbert and Rebecca Henderson will spend Fall semester 2014 studying abroad at Keimyung University in Daegu, Korea after earning the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

Two senior students, Alyson Gilbert and Rebecca Henderson, have been awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and will spend Fall Semester 2014 studying abroad in South Korea at Keimyung University in Daegu, Korea.

“I’m a strong believer that the transformative experience of studying abroad is unparalleled,” said Jeffrey Palis, associate director of the Center for International Studies, who helps to advise students interested in studying abroad. “We’ve seen an increase in students’ interest in studying abroad in Korea. The fact that two students got the award and are both going to Korea shows our mutually beneficial relationships with our Korean partners.”

Valued at $3,500 each, Gilman Scholarships are sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State which fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations. The Gilman Scholarship Program offers awards for undergraduate study abroad and was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000. This scholarship provides awards for undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to participate in study and intern abroad programs worldwide. The two students were selected based on essay applications, and their proposed follow-up projects promoting the Gilman Scholarship and the study abroad program at Georgia Southern University.

“Because of the emergence of Korea, I think studying abroad there is on our young students’ radar,” said Palis. “Years ago we were sending one student a year to Korea and now we’re sending several.”

Gilbert, a Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design major with a minor in Studio Art, is from Blakely, Georgia. She says she felt relieved upon receiving the award. “I had been religiously checking my email ten or more times a day for the last two weeks waiting to hear back,” she said. “I was ecstatic to call my mother and let her know that I received the scholarship.” Gilbert is a Guest Services assistant with Georgia Southern’s Housing department. In addition, she served as the 2013-2014 president of the Korean Club student organization.

Henderson, an Accounting major with a minor in Fraud Examination, is from South Thomaston, Maine. She says she was ecstatic to learn the news. “To be honest, I screamed and ran downstairs to tell my mother,” she said. “This award is going to help me greatly in the pursuit of my studies.” Henderson is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

“A big thanks to the Georgia Southern University Honors Program for their support and promotion of the
Georgia Southern University Hosts Nutrition Training to Reverse Childhood Obesity

July 3, 2014

School nutrition managers from across the state of Georgia recently gathered at Georgia Southern University to attend Culinary Institute II, a 32-hour, weeklong training session by the Georgia Department of Education’s School Nutrition Program.

“We are fortunate to work with very passionate school nutrition managers from across the state of Georgia,” said Becky Larson, clinical instructor for the Department of Health and Kinesiology. “They are a part of the solution to help reverse the upward trend in childhood obesity among Georgia children.”

Classified school nutrition managers learned the importance of using herbs and spices, lowering fat and salt, and how incorporating fruits and vegetables into their recipes make for a healthier meal.

“It was a pleasure to work with dedicated school nutrition managers who perform a critical, demanding, and greatly under-appreciated job, with a cheerful upbeat attitude,” said Larry Stalcup, a Department of Management professor. “They are the frontline in the fight against childhood obesity and bad nutrition.”

University faculty and staff assisted in the training by introducing school nutrition managers to healthier recipes that incorporated dark green and red and orange vegetables. Some of the popular recipes were kale slaw, vegetarian “southern-style” collard greens and sesame carrot salads.

The training advocated a farm-to-table approach by using locally grown produce from the Lee Family Farms and Walker Organic Farm, both located minutes from campus.

Culinary II is a program of instruction and laboratory experiences that applies principles of a healthy school environment with special diets, quality food and food choices, adapting culinary techniques for flavor to reduce the need for fats and sodium, and marketing. Twenty-eight certified school nutrition managers attended the training.
EE Dept. Wins Grant for Solar Powered Service Golf Carts
June 24, 2014

The Electrical Engineering department competed for and won a 2014 grant from the Student Sustainability Fee in the amount of $30,425. The goal of the project is to retrofit approximately 23 university electric golf carts with solar panels in order to allow the carts to charge throughout the day and thus reduce the energy demanded from traditional “wall plug” charging. If the initial golf cart charging experiment is successful, we will initiate future phases where we add additional charging devices to the golf carts such as: kinetic charging, piezoelectric sound charging, friction charging, regenerative brakes and regenerative shock absorber charging. The ultimate goal is to create a fully self-sustaining golf cart that no longer requires “wall plug” charging.

Eagle Motorsports Impresses in 2014 Baja SAE
May 27, 2014

The Georgia Southern Eagle Motorsports team earned an impressive 8th place overall ranking in the regional Baja SAE competition held May 22-25 at Pittsburg State University in Kansas (home of the Gorillas). 100 teams and approximately 1,500 students, advisors, faculty and spectators participated from engineering schools from all across the US, Canada, Mexico, Brazil and around the world. The team came in 3rd for maneuverability, 5th in suspension and 5th in endurance — an excellent showing!
Hicks admits he learned German as a high school exchange student in Dortmund, Germany, but had never spoken Spanish or French when he arrived at Georgia Southern. His plan was to double-major in foreign languages. Hicks said he added the third when he just couldn’t decide between Spanish and French. “I have always had a very heavy course load so I was used to that,” Hicks said. “The toughest part about being a triple major was getting the languages mixed up in the different classes.”

An aspect that helped Hicks accomplish his goal was the ability to study abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a year. That allowed Hicks to accumulate foreign language credits in a short amount of time. “The Study Abroad program gave me a complete immersion in French. It gave me a fluency in French that I would not have been able to accomplish had I not gone,” he said. “And by being in Switzerland, I was able to speak all three languages, plus English, on a daily basis.”

Professor of German Horst Kurz called Hicks’ achievement remarkable. “This past January, he gave a presentation at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in Columbus, Georgia, and almost won an award, until it turned out nobody could read his full paper because it was written in German,” Kurz said.

The HOPE scholar was president of the German club for two years, a tutor for the English language program, and participated in the University Honors Program. In August, Hicks will begin working on his master’s degree in human resources and industrial relations, with the ultimate career goal of working in the international human resources division of an international company. To his enormous educational accomplishment, we say Die besten Wünsche für die Zukunft (Best wishes for the future)! – Sandra Bennett
Continuing Education

Elite 50 Conference Centers in the South
The editors of ConventionSouth magazine, a national multimedia resource for planning events that are held within the South and Caribbean Seas region, have selected 50 conference centers for being among the “coolest” and most meetings friendly conference facilities in the South. These elite meeting and event sites will be featured in the June issue of ConventionSouth.

“The conference centers on this elite list are some of the coolest and most meetings-minded in the South,” said ConventionSouth Associate Publisher and Editor Marlane Bundock. “They each offer meeting planners and their attendees a unique set of features such as technology and aesthetics, and are able to host a diverse range of gatherings from cutting-edge business meeting to well-orchestrated social events.”

GEORGIA
Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville
Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta
Hilton/Atlanta Marietta Hotel & Conference Center, Marietta
James H. Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill
University of Georgia Hotel and Conference Center, Athens
Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center, Peachtree City

Bullying Breakdown: Teachers look at roles to prevent bullying

June 16, 2014

By VICTORIA DINATALE

On June 9, more than 200 teachers, counselors and administrators gathered at the Coastal Georgia Center to participate in the fourth annual Southeast Conference on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS).

The Conference, hosted by the National Youth-At-Risk Center at Georgia Southern University, provided teacher training for analyzing positive school behavior and preventing problematic classroom behaviors. During the seminars, disciplinary actions and effective teacher behaviors were discussed. One area of focus was school-wide bullying.

In an afternoon whole group session led by National Youth-At-Risk Center co-director, Eric Landers, Ph.D., participants learned the importance of “Breaking the Social Structure of Bullying.” According to Landers, one of the best ways to prevent school bullying is to put a system in place.

Teaching students what bullying is and training teachers how to respond and collect data is central to breaking the bullying structure.

“We have to put in a system to protect our kids from the emotional abuse,” he said. “There are things we can do school-wide to teach our kids what bullying is. But we have to be prepared to deal with different types of bullies.”

According to Landers, types of bullies include group on group (think school rivalry groups such as nerds versus jocks), group on individual, individual on group, and individual on individual. Fifty-two percent of bullies are individual on individual, he said.

But bullies aren’t always the quiet, rejected types you might expect.

“Bullies are initiative-takers. Bullies are socially skilled. They are naturally born-leaders,” Landers noted. So how do these confident, born-to-be leaders gain their following?

They intimidate others verbally, physically or psychologically and gain support from students who stand by.

These bystanders have several different roles and can influence the bully to continue or stop harassing others.

There is the “reinforcer” who cheers the bully on and the “defender,” who rally’s to the bullying victim’s aid. There is also the “bystander,” who remains neutral during a bullying incident, he taught.

“I want the bystanders to stop being the do-nothings, and start being the do-somethings,” he said. But how can teachers encourage the bystanders to stand up against bullying? How can they deter classroom bullies?
Teachers should instruct students to recognize the difference between “reporting” and “tattling.” They should define what a bully is and make a well-known presence at school, he said. They can also let a bully know that they are onto him.

“The best thing you can do with a bully you’re disciplining is call it like you see it,” Landers said. “Tell him you know he’s a bully. [He] understands you’re watching.”

His message of prevention, support and intervention was well-received by teacher participants. After listening to his presentation, Sarah Beth Benes, a Savannah Early College business and technology teacher, said, “We need to focus on the bystanders and the enablers instead of just on the bully.” After all, talking with bystanders, bullies and adults at school is key to breaking the social structure of bullying.

According to Caroline Gordon-Jelks, the Center Leader for the Savannah Early College, “One of the key concepts that Dr. Landers talked about was the social structure of bullying.

“The most effective way to break the social structure of bullying is to educate all of the stake holders involved in the bullying from parent to teacher to student to administration.”

And communicating with school stakeholders, teaching the roles of bystanders and putting a system in place to help students and teachers recognize and respond to bullying will ultimately contribute to a safe environment for students.

“What is the most effective tool for correcting behavior? You are. Your presence,” Landers said. “Come put something outside to say I’m open, I’m a safe place.”

Victoria DiNatale is a 22-year-old anti-bullying motivational speaker and member of Standing Victorious LLC who survived extensive middle and high school bullying. Learn more about Victoria’s anti-bullying message at www.standingvictorious.com.
Georgia Southern University to Host National Youth-At-Risk Conference

February 11, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Feb. 11, 2014 – Georgia Southern University’s National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center will welcome more than a thousand educators, social workers, community leaders and researchers from across the United States and internationally during the 25th annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah, Ga., March 2-5.

It is one of the country’s premier conferences focusing on the needs of youth at risk—especially raising the achievement of underperforming students. “This is such an important conference because it not only looks at what risks today’s youth face but also presents proactive solutions and best practices for meeting these serious challenges,” said Thomas Koballa, dean of the College of Education which houses the NYAR Center and sponsors the conference along with the Division of Continuing Education. Speakers and workshops will examine such issues as school violence, poverty, learning difficulties, underachievement, bullying and dysfunctional families.

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference will also honor “High Flying Schools” which have made significant achievement in academic and community arenas. These schools have at least 50 percent of their students living at or below the poverty level and have a diverse student body.

The High Flying Schools for 2014 are:
High Flying School Award Winners
Northington Elementary – Tuscaloosa, Ala.
North Vista Elementary – Florence, S.C.
Loris Elementary – Loris, S.C.
High Flying School Honorable Mentions
Cambridge Elementary, Cocoa, Fla.
Oak Hill Middle, Milledgeville, Ga.
Fowler Drive Elementary, Athens, Ga.
C.G. Woodson Elementary, Jacksonville, Fla.

Information and registration are available at www.nationalyouthatrisk.org
Conference coordinators in the College of Education are Dan Rea, Ed.D (danrea@georgiasouthern.edu) and Eric Landers, Ph.D. (ericlanders@georgiasouthern.edu)

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Special Youth Programs in support of University Initiatives
● Lego Robotics
● 32nd Middle School Model UN
Research

The Division of Research and Economic Development facilitates collaborations and partnerships with federal, state, industrial, nonprofit and community entities and serves to bring together education, student engagement, research activity and collaborations in ways that benefit the community, the state and the nation. This has been an active year for research and economic development at Georgia Southern. Research activities continue to expand, driving economic development in Southeast Georgia.

Georgia Southern University Professor and Student’s Work Featured in Nature
February 19, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Feb. 19, 2014 – Georgia Southern University Physics Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D., the University Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair, and College of Science and Mathematics student Noel Murray, are among the authors of an article featured on the cover of the February issue of Nature, an international weekly journal of science.

Entitled “Hysteresis in a quantized superfluid ‘atomtronic’ circuit,” the article reports on a collaborative work between the Georgia Southern University theoretical team consisting of Murray and Edwards and a team of experimental researchers at the Joint Quantum Institute (JQI). The JQI is an institute run by the University of Maryland (UMD) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST is a national laboratory run by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The JQI research team consists of Steve Eckel, Jeff Lee, Fred Jendrzejewski, Charles Clark, Chris Lobb, Bill Phillips and Gretchen Campbell. One of the co-authors, Bill Phillips, is a co-winner of the 1997 Physics Nobel Prize.

“It’s an honor being so young to already have this accomplishment when I haven’t even started my physics career yet. I hope that it’s going to help me get into a good Ph.D school and help me with my career in the future,” said Murray, who is in the joint physics and chemistry Masters of Science in Physical Science degree program.

According to Thomson-Reuters Web of Knowledge database, this is the first Nature article with authors having a Georgia Southern affiliation published since 1999, and marks the fourth time in history this has happened. “It’s a great honor for me and primarily due to the collaborators that I worked with at the Joint Quantum Institute,” added Edwards.

Since publication, the article has been featured on numerous science news websites including Science Daily, Physics News, SciTechDaily and more. The flagship journal of the Nature Publishing Group, Nature is widely regarded as the world’s premier interdisciplinary science journal. Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.
Georgia Southern University Launches Research Partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology

March 19, 2014

Georgia Southern University welcomed Dr. Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland, on Tuesday, March 18, at a reception in the Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center to recognize the launch of the Wexford-Savannah Axis research partnership.

The partnership examines how and why so many people from the Irish county of Wexford and Southeastern Ireland immigrated to Savannah, Ga., in the 19th century, and the impact that had on Irish and American generations in both countries. The initiative is a joint research project between Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), Georgia Southern University, the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah and the John F. Kennedy Trust, based in New Ross, Co. Wexford, Ireland.

“We warmly welcome Minister Varadkar and other Irish friends to our institution for the launch of this exciting and relevant research collaboration,” said Howard Keeley, Ph.D., director of the Center for Irish Research and Teaching at Georgia Southern. “The project is a significant international public-private partnership that will add depth and nuance to our understanding of a crucial but often overlooked aspect of Irish-American identity: the experiences and traditions of the Irish in the Southern States.”

Many people in the Savannah area claim Irish ancestry, and many of those can trace that ancestry to Southeastern Ireland, mostly from Wexford. After Tuesday’s announcement, Minister Varadkar congratulated the team on the innovative nature of the partnership. “I am very excited by this project. There is huge potential to develop links between the southeast of Ireland and Georgia, and in particular to increase tourist traffic between these two parts of the world. We are always pleased to welcome American visitors to Ireland, and in this case it will be wonderful to welcome so many people from Savannah home.”

Keeley added, “Not only will our shared inquiry uncover much about the Wexford-Savannah migration pathway, the knowledge we gain will also help us better comprehend and address the challenges faced by present-day immigrant communities, whether in the U.S., Ireland or elsewhere. In addition, we look forward to sharing the links between Southeastern Ireland and Georgia with as many as possible of the 12 million tourists that visit Savannah annually.”

Dr. Richard Hayes, head of the School of Humanities at WIT, said, “We are delighted by the support the Minister has shown for this project. It is an exciting project for WIT to be involved in, not least because it involves collaboration with not only another university and an esteemed American historical society but also with the JFK Trust. We see great potential in this research as it will answer important questions about the experience of people from our region in the United States and offer insights into how immigrant communities sustain themselves in the contemporary world. Also, of course, our partnership with the JFK Trust allows us to realize the tourism potential of the link in Georgia.”

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The executive director of Georgia Southern University’s Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI), Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., has been awarded an $85,000 federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to collaboratively form a new network focused on childhood obesity prevention in rural South Georgia. The initiative, South Georgia Network to End Childhood Obesity (SGNECO), is funded through a network development planning grant from HRSA’s Office of Rural Health Policy.

“I am very excited for us to have received this funding to help focus attention and resources to the ever-growing threat of childhood obesity in our region,” said Smalley, who co-authored the book Always the Fat Kid: The Truth about the Enduring Effects of Childhood Obesity, published in April. “It is an ever-present and increasing threat to the health of our children, and bold actions and partnerships are needed to address this nationwide issue.”

SGNECO will be initially comprised of representatives from the RHRI, Mercer University’s Center for Rural Health and Health Disparities, the Southeast Health District and the State Office of Rural Health. The grant year will be spent creating by-laws for the network, conducting community needs assessments in the 16-county target region and completing a multi-year strategic plan to guide the network’s operations over the next several years. “Childhood obesity is at a crisis level in rural Georgia,” said Charles Owens, executive director of the Georgia State Office of Rural Health. “It is exciting to be a part of developing a solution to give our children a brighter future with better health, which will improve the lives of rural Georgians for generations.”

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

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Georgia Southern University has embarked on a bold journey where no Eagle has ever gone before. GUS, the University’s mascot, has landed safely after being launched into the stratosphere on a mission to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning.

To gain a bird’s-eye view of earth, GUS was attached to a weather balloon and a rig with multiple high definition video cameras and tracking equipment for lift-off at Paulson Stadium. GUS reached an altitude of 102,000 feet before the weather balloon burst and a parachute returned the Eagle mascot to Earth. He traveled more than 70 miles and touched down in some woods outside Mount Vernon, Ga. “GUS in Space wasn’t just a gimmick because there was a lot of technology behind it,” said University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. “This was a great experiment for our University to blend the wow factor with real science, technology, engineering and math and give our students an opportunity to put textbook material into a real-life situation for a great learning experience.”

The GUS in Space project included the Center for Academic Technology Support, faculty, staff and two students, Cameron Cato and Jeremy Goodman who were responsible for designing the telemetry system to track GUS. “It was quite impressive that what we made could go up more than one hundred thousand feet and survive the extreme cold of 95 degrees below zero,” explained Cato. “All the electronics came through in great shape and were working fine when we recovered GUS.” Goodman took pride in his role in sending GUS into the stratosphere. “The cameras captured some amazing video which shows the curvature of the Earth and should help promote STEM education,” said Goodman. “This is an exciting experience. How many people can say they put something into near space?”

The goal of GUS in Space was to showcase the University’s efforts in STEM education which include practical, hands-on use of technology in the telemetry, satellite and antenna labs. “It’s not difficult to launch something into space with a weather balloon, but to track its every move from launch to landing was really something special for our students,” said Vice President for Research and Economic Development Charles Patterson, Ph.D. “By being able to show the science behind such a fun and entertaining project, we hope to get more children interested in STEM careers.”

Associate Dean of Faculty and Research Programs Karin Scarpinato, Ph.D., said this experiment demonstrated that science does not have to be boring or intimidating and that GUS in Space brought people together who typically don’t work with each other. “This definitely shows how important it is to be interdisciplinary in STEM education, but also shows that what you learn in the classroom can be applied in real life whether it’s doing something fun like putting GUS in space or in a career choice where you will need the same skills,” said Scarpinato.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.
Georgia Southern Uses Technology to Prevent Football Concussions
August 1, 2013

The Georgia Southern University Eagles football team begins fall practice this morning with new equipment designed to protect players from concussions. Georgia Southern is the only collegiate football team in the state to use the Helmet Impact Telemetry System (HITS) which measures and records every hit to the head during practices and games.

“We want to do everything we can to prevent our student athletes from suffering a head injury,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “After the University received a $385,000 National Institutes of Health grant in 2011 to study concussions, we wanted to do more to get a better understanding of these injuries. The addition of this monitoring equipment will hopefully reduce the risks our Eagle players face on the field.”

With funding from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Georgia Southern has equipped 40 helmets with the Riddell HITS system. There are six sensors inside each helmet that measures the severity of a hit to the head. A typical impact in football lasts about 15 milliseconds, and in that instant, measurements from the sensors will be transmitted in nearly real-time to a laptop computer being monitored on the sidelines of all practices and games.

“While this is not a diagnostic piece of medical equipment, it is an early warning system,” explained Tom Buckley, Ed.D., professor of athletic training. “Each time a player gets hit in the head, which can be 30-40 time per practice and game, we can get the calculations on exactly what happened and see how severe the impact was.”

If a hit reaches a certain threshold, a pager worn by a graduate research student and the head athletics trainer will receive a notification. “If I get a message saying a player took a hard hit, I’m going to be keeping a close eye on that player,” said Eagles Head Athletics Trainer Brandy Clouse. “If that player displays any unusual behavior, I’m coming over to do a clinical evaluation to make sure that he’s not trying to hide it or downplay the hit and that it’s safe for him to continue playing.”

Each impact will also be time stamped and can be synchronized with game video so coaches, athletics trainers and researchers can better evaluate the hits. “We can look at the body position, see what the athlete is doing and examine the force they experience,” said biomechanics professor Barry Munkasy, Ph.D. “We can then consider what can be done to reduce those hits by possibly changing techniques or teaching players what to do to lower their risks that will help improve their performance.”

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Dr. Mujibur Khan, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Awarded $153,000 NSF Grant  
September 13, 2013

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a grant of $153,000 to Dr. Mujibur Khan, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. With this award, Dr. Khan will acquire state-of-the-art electrospinning equipment for cutting-edge research in nanofibers and nanotechnology. The equipment will be used in a wide variety of research projects: from generating new avenues for lightweight ultratough hybrid fibers, cancer therapeutics, biocompatible nanofibers and multifunctional materials; to developing antimicrobial coatings and compounds with extraordinary thermal, mechanical and biological properties. The acquisition of the electrospinning equipment will greatly enhance the capabilities of an emerging group of nanotechnology researchers at Georgia Southern University and throughout southeast Georgia.
University Researchers Study Wilderness Therapy for PTSD
June 27, 2014

Zachary Dietrich, Dr. Shauna Joye and Joseph Amos Garcia pose for a photo near the psychology department at Georgia Southern University. The team of researchers have partnered with Warrior Hike “Walk Off The War” Program, to study thru-hiking – walking an entire long-distance trail in one attempt – as an alternative method of therapy for combat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Georgia Southern University researchers have partnered with the Warrior Hike “Walk Off The War” Program, to study thru-hiking as an alternative method of therapy for combat veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The purpose of the research is to expand literature on the benefits of wilderness experience programs and wilderness therapy by determining if a thru-hike – walking an entire long-distance trail during one attempt – allows veterans to process their combat experiences and alleviate PTSD.

“Today’s veterans can literally be in a combat zone one day and within hours they’ll be at home with their families,” said Zachary Dietrich, researcher and Marine Corps veteran. “It isn’t like wars past when it took weeks to get back home and they had time to adjust.”
The program is a six-month, 2,000-plus mile journey through one of three National Scenic Trails – the Appalachian, Continental Divide and Pacific Crest. Combat veterans who thru-hike the Appalachian Trail begin at Springer Mountain in northern Georgia and end at Mount Katahdin in Maine covering a total of 2,185 miles on their long-distance journey.

“We’ve found that the main things they benefit from during the hike are long periods of isolation, reflection and time inside of their own head,” said Dietrich who is pursuing his Doctor of Clinical Psychology degree at Georgia Southern. “As researchers, we’re trying to see if there’s a way we can direct those thoughts a bit and maximize the benefits of the experience.”

A team of researchers hiked alongside the veterans for several days to gain a better understanding of the alternative therapy.

“We hiked with them for more than 20 miles,” said Shauna Joye, Ph.D., Air Force veteran and Georgia Southern professor. “I think that hiking with them showed that psychologists aren’t just about the couch mentality. We just chatted with them and they ended up bringing up things they’ve experienced.”

University researchers will continue to work with the Warrior Hike program by providing psychoeducation to veterans as they hike the trail. This will aid in determining whether adding a therapy component can enhance the benefits of a wilderness experience.

“New ideas need to start being generated and that’s kind of what we’re hoping to do,” said Dietrich who added that he appreciates the University supporting his PTSD research.

“Between my bachelor’s and master’s degrees, this is my fourth university and I could not have done this research anywhere else,” said Dietrich. “PTSD affects a lot of people at one point or another and it’s something we all need to be aware of.”

The results of the study will be used to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of wilderness experience programs and their value to combat veterans.

Three-time combat veteran, Sean Gobin, founded the Warrior Hike Program in 2012 after he hiked the Appalachian Trail to “walk off the war.”

In 2010, U.S. Congress declared June 27 National PTSD Awareness Day as a means to raise public awareness for PTSD and its effective treatments to assist those affected by the disorder.
Facilities

With enrollment rising, Georgia Southern experienced an unprecedented year of increase in infrastructure. New construction and renovation projects continue to transform the Eagle campus experience. This growth includes a Biological Sciences building ($41 million), the new Dining Commons ($18 million), Lakeside dining hall renovation ($6 million), and the University Park/Golf Course. The new $10 million Football Operations Center expansion is ready for the fall football season and Student Affairs broke ground on the Shooting Sports Education Center thanks in part to a grant from the Department of Natural Resources. Plans are underway for a new $10 million Health Center and a long-awaited facility for our nationally-recognized ROTC program. If you haven’t been on campus in a while, you will probably be surprised at what you’ll find. The beauty of our campus and facilities are worth the trip. We invite you to stop by for a visit any time and read even more achievements from this past year below.

Georgia Southern University Golf Course Opens

October 11, 2013

It is almost time to tee off at the new Georgia Southern University Golf Course. Public play begins Saturday, Oct. 12 on the redesigned course at 1031 Golf Club Road.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday afternoon, University leaders shared praise and excitement about the addition of a golf course to the long list of outstanding recreational facilities for students. “This represents a number of things that speak loudly and boldly about what Georgia Southern is and where we are going,” said University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. “We are a university on the move and are always looking for ways to better serve our students and community. This is one more way in which we can tell the world that we are different, and we are special.”

Money collected from student fees paid for the transformation of the 167 acres located about six miles from campus. Three years ago, the University spent $650,000 to purchase Southern Links, which had been closed for several years. With $5 million spent on renovations and a new layout designed by Robert Walker, Georgia Southern now has an attractive 18-hole championship golf course open for students, faculty, staff and people in surrounding communities.

“This is what a student-centered university is all about,” said Teresa Thompson, Ph.D., vice president of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. “What we were buying was the opportunity to expand our recreational and student activity opportunities. We have very bright students who have high expectations inside and outside the classroom.” Thompson also pointed out the golf course could help keep students enrolled. “We have found in studies that students who are involved in recreational activities are retained and graduate at a higher rate.”
The public course has five sets of tees and has been redesigned so golfers of all skill levels can enjoy playing a round. It measures 6,900 yards from the back tees and 5,300 from the front tees. Water is in play on 11 of the 18 holes, and the course has 53 bunkers in the fairways around the greens.

“This is an opportunity for us to provide an experience to our students and community members and expose them to the game of golf,” said Gene Sherry, executive director of Campus Recreation and Intramurals (CRI). “This facility is a great addition to meet the needs of our active and growing student body as we promote healthy lifestyle habits.

The facility also has a driving range, practice putting and chipping greens, along with a renovated 8,000 square foot clubhouse, which includes a pro shop, snack bar and meeting space. Find out about greens fees, schedule tee times and learn more about the course by visiting GeorgiaSouthern.edu/golf.

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Georgia Southern Opens Biological Sciences Building
August 27, 2013

A new era in scientific learning and teaching is underway at Georgia Southern as the University officially opened its $41.4 million Biological Sciences Building during a ribbon-cutting this morning. In two years, the corner of Old Register Road and Forest Drive was transformed into a state-of-the-art, 21st century teaching and research facility.

“This Biological Sciences Building will serve as the nexus for teaching and research to converge to form southeast Georgia’s most comprehensive center for biological science education and research,” explained Georgia Southern President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. “By training tomorrow’s leaders and advancing scientific knowledge, this will serve as a magnet to attract new businesses and industries to our area.”

The new facility has more than 158,000 gross square feet that houses five active-learning classrooms, 10 teaching labs and 15 research labs that will be utilized by the more than 1,300 undergraduate and graduate biology students. The design encourages both collaborative and individual research projects. “This space will help us turn students into scientists and inspire their imaginations and creativity,” said Steve Vives, Ph.D., chair of the Biology Department. “When a facility accomplishes these goals, we can reach the best faculty and students and have them work to their potential.”

The Biological Sciences Building will play an important role in educating the next generation of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) leaders. U.S. colleges and universities have a goal of graduating an additional one million STEM majors in the next decade. “The key to meeting this goal is retaining students and keeping them interested in the fields,” said Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics Martha Abell, Ph.D. “This building with its state-of-the-art teaching labs and technology-enabled and active-learning classrooms will support our efforts to produce more STEM graduates.”

President Keel thanked the Statesboro-Bulloch County legislative delegation, Gov. Nathan Deal, former Gov. Sonny Perdue and the Board of Regents for their continued commitment to find money for the project when funding was tight. “This is a proud day for the Georgia Southern family,” explained State Sen. Jack Hill. “As Georgia Southern forges ahead in applied research, this building will play a key role in that research. We believe Georgia Southern can be the next great research university in the state.”

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Health Services Achieves AAAHC Accreditation

January 14, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern University has been recognized for providing outstanding and high-quality medical care to students. Health Services has received accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) after an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey.

Among private and public colleges and universities in the state, Georgia Southern is one of only three accredited by AAAHC. Georgia Tech and Emory are the other two. Health Services is also the only non-surgical primary care center in the region including private primary care offices to receive the AAAHC accreditation. The organization also recognized Georgia Southern as a certified Patient Centered Medical Home providing comprehensive proactive, preventive and chronic care management and treatment.

“This designation proves our facility and medical professionals meet and exceed nationally recognized standards when it comes to taking care of Georgia Southern students,” said Medical Director Dr. Brian DeLoach. “This provides external validation that we are providing safe, high-quality care and hold ourselves to the highest standards regarding the care that we deliver.”

Health Services has adopted the slogan Your Medical Home Away from Home to describe daily efforts made to meet the health and wellness needs of more than 20,000 students. “We believe our patients deserve the best,” explained DeLoach. “We are constantly looking to find better ways to serve our patients, and this is a reminder that our responsibility is to strive to continuously improve the quality of care we provide.”

The surveyors noted the facility is undersized and outdated but were amazed that DeLoach and the staff have been able to do so much with so little. A bigger, state-of-the-art facility is coming. University Health Services is now in the design phase of a new $10 million facility that will be built at the corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. It is expected to open in mid-2015.

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Sanford Hall Gets More than a Facelift

1948 Originally built in 1936 as a 100-room men’s dormitory, Sanford Hall is one of Georgia Southern’s oldest residence halls. Although the exterior remains unchanged (except for the age of the cars parked out front) to preserve its historic integrity along Sweetheart Circle, a steel frame recently transformed the structure’s outdated wooden support. Campus architect Haroun Homayun said the job was challenging because old beams couldn’t be demolished all at once for fear the building would collapse. Homayun also noted that the interior of Sanford Hall now reflects “a very basic and honest attitude toward a place of learning.”

2014 Sanford Hall has been transformed into a state-of-the-art University facility, complete with writing labs, classrooms, offices, lecture halls, and suites for film production and editing. In addition, the building contains brand new audio booths, as well as studios for both student-run radio and television stations. The newly renovated building is now the permanent home of the Department of Communication Arts, which includes multimedia communication, journalism, public relations, communication studies and theatre. For years, the Department’s programs had been separated into six buildings across campus. Completed in May, faculty have already moved into the new building, while students will be able to begin using the space beginning this fall. – Sandra Bennett
Student Affairs

The students of Eagle Nation continue to impress us with their academic achievements and community service. In addition to earning impressive internships and employment after graduation, our 20,517 students raise awareness for important social causes, give back to the community, and improve the lives of their fellow students by offering constant support and fellowship. The dedicated staff of the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management deserve recognition as well. They embody a culture of cooperation and commitment to student success through ongoing improvement efforts and personal attention to each and every student need. Here are just a few examples of last year’s student and staff successes.

Student Sustainability Fee Funds $238,000 in Campus Projects

May 19, 2014

During its first funding cycle, the Center for Sustainability’s Sustainability Fee Committee has allocated more than $238,000 in funding for 12 projects at Georgia Southern University to be implemented beginning this fall.

“This is a very proud moment for the students who worked so hard to put the Student Sustainability Fee in place, and for Georgia Southern University, which has made significant strides in sustainability over the past several years,” said Lissa Leegge, director of the Center for Sustainability.

Representing a range of sustainable solutions including instant savings with LED lighting upgrades and solar powered service golf carts, education and outreach with a traveling sustainable solutions museum exhibit and interpretive campus signage, the committee received 20 proposals requesting over $432,000. In addition, the projects awarded cover baseline data collection regarding water quality and carbon storage on campus and the application of innovative research with potential to solve sustainability problems in a nanofiber technology and carbon capture grant proposal.

The departments awarded and their proposals are below:

- Assessment of Water Quality and Soil Carbon Sequestration to ensure environmental quality – $15,930 Department of Chemistry and Department of Biology
- Nanofiber Based Carbon Capture Technology to Reduce the CO2 Emissions – $30,044 Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Solar Powered Service Golf Carts – $30,425.50 Department of Electrical Engineering and Department of Art
- Moth Project – $7,000 Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Solar Energy Potential – $31,424.75 Georgia Southern Museum
- Portable Sustainability Exhibit – $7,450 Division Facilities Services
- LED Lighting Upgrade Parking Lot: Information Technology Building Parking Area – $42,000 Campus Landscape Architect

The Division of Facilities Services also will receive the following:

- Bicycle Repair Station: Student Union – $2,400
- Forest Drive: Bicycle Lane/ Sharrow Markings – $3,700
- Campus Sustainability Interpretative Signage – $8,500
- Bicycle Parking Facility: Stadium Bus Stop – $24,800
- Stormwater Park: Plant & Forest Drive – $34,400

Proposal submissions were received from eight academic departments in five colleges, as well as the Georgia Southern Museum and the Division of Facilities Services.

The committee consisted of eight students, representing seven colleges and one college-at-large, as well as one staff member representing the Division of Facilities Services, one representative of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, one representative of Academic Affairs, one faculty member and the Director of the Center for Sustainability.

“I was impressed with the quality of the applications and the breadth of sustainable solutions presented in this first request for proposals,” said Leege. “The projects the committee selected for funding represent exactly what students had in mind when they developed the sustainability fee. I could not be more proud of Georgia Southern University’s commitment to sustainability and of the foresight and dedication of the students who have made these new advances possible,” said Leege. Students can expect to see some of these projects up and running in fall 2014 when they return to campus.

The $10 Student Sustainability Fee was approved in Fall 2012 by a 75 percent student majority vote, and approved by the Board of Regents in April 2013. The fee was collected for the first time in August 2013. These projects represent the first cycle of funding for Sustainability Fee project proposals.
Georgia Southern to Host Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
April 2, 2014

Georgia Southern University will hold its second annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®, an event where men don women’s high-heeled shoes to increase awareness about sexual violence, on Thursday, April 10 at the Russell Union Rotunda. Those who have pre-registered can check-in starting at 3:30 p.m. Day of registration will start at 4 p.m. The walk will begin at 5 p.m.

“Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® is a light-hearted, educational event that aims to raise awareness and encourage communication about gender relations and sexual violence,” explained Alli Anderson, Ph.D., licensed psychologist with the University’s Counseling and Career Development Center. “All of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center which helps survivors of sexual assault in Bulloch, Jenkins and Screven counties.”

The goals of the walk are getting people talking about the sexual violence happening in the Statesboro area, helping the victims and figuring out how to prevent these attacks. Organizers say it is important for men to join the cause. “Women who have been hurt, physically or mentally, by any kind of sexual violence including harassment, are the sisters, mothers, aunts, cousins, girlfriends and friends of men, and by extension, those men have to deal with it, too,” said Shanna Felix, president of the Sexual Assault Student Educators. “This issue affects everyone. The goal is to get all of Georgia Southern talking about ‘that thing where guys walked in heels to raise awareness about sexual violence.”

While walk participation is free, $10 donations from students and $15 from faculty and staff are suggested. To register, visit http://www.tinyurl.com/gsuwams2014. Men can choose to walk in heels or walk in support. Women are encouraged to bring their own heels. For more information call (912) 478-5541 or email Dr. Anderson at adefinis@georgiasouthern.edu. Walk a Mile in Her Shoes® at Georgia Southern University is sponsored by Health Services, the Sexual Assault Response Team, University Wellness Program, University Housing, the Multicultural Student Center, Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, the Department of Electrical Engineering, Licensed Professional Counselor Association Student Affiliate Organization, the Sexual Assault Student Educators organization, Coastal Harbor Health System and the Clubhouse.
Students Participate in Alternative Spring Break to Give Back

Link to blog: https://gsubreaks.wordpress.com

Student Government Association Honors Third-Year Members; SGA President Earns Statewide Recognition

February 20, 2014

Ten members of the Student Government Association (SGA) were presented with blue blazers to signify their third year of dedicated service to the organization at the weekly senate meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19. President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., presented the blazers and spoke at the event.

“This is one of the first times I’ve had the opportunity to visit a SGA meeting and I’m proud and happy to be here,” said Dr. Keel. “As many of you know I’m from Augusta, Ga., and I’m accustomed to the green jacket,” he said jokingly.

“Congratulations to the blue jacket recipients. I appreciate all you do for Georgia Southern.”

Two years ago, incentives for SGA members were implemented to recognize each year of service. First-year members receive a polo dress shirt, second-year members receive an oxford and third-year members receive navy blue blazers.

Third-year SGA members share the same responsibilities as SGA Senators. Each academic college at Georgia Southern has six senators that represent and voice the views, concerns and ideas of the students in their college. “They are unpaid students that devote an abundant amount of their time gathering information and feedback from the students they represent,” said Garrett Green, president of the SGA. “They voice those sentiments at SGA meetings and the numerous University committees they serve on as well. They are the heart of SGA and play a huge factor in making it the voice of the student body.”

The 2014 third-year board members and senators honored include:

- Jodie Beckford (SGA Executive Assistant)
- Jasmine Elder (At-Large Senator)
- Azell Francis (SGA VP of Academic Affairs)
- Charles Glover (SGA VP of Auxiliary Affairs)
- Ellen Hogan (SGA VP of Finance)
- Jacob Jay (COSM Senator)
- James Kelly (COBA Senator)
• Amanda Mullany (CEIT Senator)
• Kandyce Reeves (COGS Senator)
• Errol Spence (CLASS Senator)

In addition, Teresa Thompson, vice president of the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management was in attendance to present a special award to the SGA President. Awarded by the Student Advisory Council of the University System of Georgia, Green was presented with the Regent Willis J. Potts Leadership Award. “We’re proud to have the best SGA President in the system,” said Dr. Thompson.

Green was selected by his peers in the University System of Georgia’s Student Advisory Council composed of the student government association presidents from the System’s 31 colleges and universities.

“I just feel extremely humbled and thankful. This year’s council was made up of some great SGA presidents and I’m grateful to have the opportunity to represent them and Georgia Southern by winning this award,” Green said.
Successful Legislative Internship Program Continues Providing Students with Valuable Experience

July 2, 2014
The 2013-2014 Legislative Internship Programs, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, assisted several qualified Georgia Southern University students with securing experiential learning through internships with Georgia representatives’ congressional offices in Washington, D.C. and in state legislative offices in Atlanta.

During the past academic year, 18 students participated in the Legislative Internship Program. Two of these students interned with the Georgia state legislation; the remaining were provided opportunities in Washington, D.C. This program continues to be popular with students and has led to full-time employment for many of its eligible participants. The University also receives high praise for the quality of student at Georgia Southern from the staff within the Legislative offices who work directly with the student interns.
School nutrition managers from across the state of Georgia recently gathered at Georgia Southern University to attend Culinary Institute II, a 32-hour, weeklong training session by the Georgia Department of Education’s School Nutrition Program.

“We are fortunate to work with very passionate school nutrition managers from across the state of Georgia,” said Becky Larson, clinical instructor for the Department of Health and Kinesiology. “They are a part of the solution to help reverse the upward trend in childhood obesity among Georgia children.”

Classified school nutrition managers learned the importance of using herbs and spices, lowering fat and salt, and how incorporating fruits and vegetables into their recipes make for a healthier meal.

“It was a pleasure to work with dedicated school nutrition managers who perform a critical, demanding, and greatly under-appreciated job, with a cheerful upbeat attitude,” said Larry Stalcup, a Department of Management professor. “They are the frontline in the fight against childhood obesity and bad nutrition.”

University faculty and staff assisted in the training by introducing school nutrition managers to healthier recipes that incorporated dark green and red and orange vegetables. Some of the popular recipes were kale slaw, vegetarian “Southern-style” collard greens and sesame carrot salads.

The training advocated a farm-to-table approach by using locally grown produce from the Lee Family Farms and Walker Organic Farm, both located minutes from campus.

Culinary II is a program of instruction and laboratory experiences that applies principles of a healthy school environment with special diets, quality food and food choices, adapting culinary techniques for flavor to reduce the need for fats and sodium and marketing.

The event was hosted in conjunction with dedicated faculty and staff in, the College of Health and Human Sciences’ Department of Health and Kinesiology, the College of Business Administration’s Department of Management and the Division of Continuing Education.

Twenty-eight certified school nutrition managers attended the training.
Student Media Earns Statewide Recognition

February 14, 2014

The Office of Student Media has earned recognition in several categories at the Georgia College Press Association Better (GCPA) Newspaper Contest conference. The George-Anne was recognized for the following categories:

- General Photography Excellence (3rd Place)
- Layout and Design Excellence (2nd Place)
- Best Campus Community Service – Sports Coverage (2nd Place)
- Best Campus Community Service – Editorial Excellence (2nd Place)
- General Excellence (3rd Place)

Best News Article – Objective Reporting (2nd Place) was given to Alanna Navin, senior pre-medicine biology major, at the conference held in Athens, Ga. “I didn’t realize how much of an impact the article would have on people and myself,” Navin said. “I think I contributed to showing people that Georgia Southern is a research university, not just a run-of-the-mill school.”

David Simpson, director of Student Media, attended the conference with the staff. He started in January in his new position. “It’s great for our student journalists to be recognized in front of their peers for all the hard work they do,” Simpson said.

GCPA is an organization that allows journalism students from Georgia to discuss common issues faced at college newspapers.

“Other colleges and universities go through the same struggles as we do trying to make publications, so to be among the top ranked in the state is very rewarding,” said Jose Gil, senior graphic design major and production manager for Student Media.

Student Media is a student organization that is a hub for students looking to gain real-world experience. These students create seven different publications each semester including The George-Anne, Gameday Mayday, The Reflector, Miscellany Magazine for the Arts, Our House, Our Neighborhood and The Lantern Walk.
Outreach and Community Engagement

Georgia Southern continues to seek every opportunity to engage the community, and contribute to society and the world. Earlier this year, President Keel testified before Congress, in Washington, D.C., on workforce readiness. In addition, the entire University participated in a Day at the Georgia Capitol, spreading the word to Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and state legislators about the outstanding happenings at Georgia Southern. Our University Advancement division continues to build relationships with our valued alumni and friends, and the University hosted numerous events for the local community including: STEM Fest, Art Fest and numerous summer campus. There is always something exciting happening on campus and this year was no exception.
Georgia Southern University President Testifies in Congressional hearing on Higher Education
April 2, 2014

Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., testified before a Congressional committee in Washington, D.C., Wednesday in a hearing examining higher education issues. The House Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing titled “Keeping College Within Reach: Meeting the Needs of Contemporary Students,” and Keel spoke on the importance of preparing the 21st century workforce and the need for a “Workforce-Grant University.”

In his prepared remarks, Keel expressed how Georgia Southern serves as an example of a Workforce-Grant University. He explained that students who participate in one of the University’s more than 110 degree programs are taught not only the theory of discipline but also the practical aspects of how to apply the theory to a real-world work situation.

Additionally, Keel noted that colleges and universities must now focus on both the college completion rate and worker-readiness, especially in Georgia with the statewide effort known as Complete College Georgia. This effort, championed by Gov. Nathan Deal and modeled after Complete College America, estimates that 60 percent of jobs in Georgia by 2020 will require at least some postsecondary credentials.

“Speaking today to members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce was a wonderful opportunity to share how crucial it is that today’s students are prepared for the workforce as they complete their college career,” said Keel. “Emphasizing the importance of a competitive education and a work-ready skill set that Georgia Southern and similar universities offer is a great way to show how postsecondary education is evolving to meet the needs of 21st century students.”

Committee member and U.S. Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.), offered his support for Keel’s testimony and said, “As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I appreciate Dr. Brooks Keel testifying at today’s hearing. Georgia Southern University is a shining example of how higher education institutions can seek out innovative ways to better prepare students to enter the workforce with greater success. Dr. Keel and his team at Georgia Southern have shown real leadership on this issue, and we look forward to watching the progress of its workforce initiative. By partnering with local industries and providing education opportunities in line with the dynamic and evolving needs of America’s job market, universities like Georgia Southern are preparing the next generation to be strong leaders in a highly competitive global economy.”

“The president of Georgia Southern University, Dr. Brooks Keel, testified today on a subject matter that is important to me—preparing the next generation for the workforce,” added U.S. Rep. Scott DesJarlais (R-Tenn.). “Georgia Southern clearly has an important story and concept to share on how to prepare our nation’s students for work. We all know the workforce demands that exist in our economy today, and increasing that relationship between college and job placement is critical to fill the need for a highly skilled, and prepared workforce.”
Over the past year, the House committee has held the “Keeping the College Within Reach” series of hearings as Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Act and the hearings provide an opportunity for committee members to examine policy and programs to support continued innovation in postsecondary education.

The committee heard from six other members on a panel including Kevin Gilligan, the chairman and CEO of Capella Education Company in Minneapolis; Dr. George A. Pruitt, the president of Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J.; David K. Moldoff, the CEO and founder of AcademyOne in West Chester, Pa.; Stan Jones, president of Complete College America in Indianapolis; and Dr. Joann A. Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University System of Maryland.

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Georgia Southern University Hosts First-Ever Day at the Capitol Event
February 10, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Feb. 10, 2014 – State lawmakers got a formal introduction to Georgia Southern University on Thursday when University officials went to Atlanta for the first-ever Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol.

The day included appearances by Georgia Southern’s bald eagle Freedom, mascot GUS and the Georgia Southern cheerleaders, as well as a breakfast provided by Eagle Dining Services, a showcase of the University’s ROTC, nursing and STEM education programs, Herty Advanced Materials Development Center and more. Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., began his address on the Georgia House of Representatives floor by playing a video of the Eagles’ 26-20 football victory over the University of Florida Gators last November.

“Any time we can take a moment and thank our elected officials for the support they provide to higher education we most certainly try to do so,” said Keel. “We enjoyed talking with legislators about the great things happening at Georgia Southern, and we hope they learned a little something about our wonderful University as well.”

Representatives from the University’s academic, research, athletics and student organizations were also on hand to speak with legislators about the specific achievements of their areas within Georgia Southern University.

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Georgia Southern Named “Military Friendly School”
September 11, 2013

For the third year in a row, Georgia Southern University has been named a Military Friendly School® by G.I. Jobs magazine for its efforts to provide educational opportunities to America’s veterans, active-duty troops and their families. The 2014 Military Friendly Schools list was released today and can be found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

“It is a great honor for our University to serve our military men and women who have given so much of their time and made so many sacrifices for our country,” explained Georgia Southern President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. “We are reaching out to veterans, active-duty military and their dependents to give them the service and attention they deserve to make them successful while earning their degrees online or on campus.”

Georgia Southern takes great pride in being ranked among the top 15 percent of schools nationwide in a survey conducted by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business and publisher of G.I. Jobs and The Guide to Military Friendly Schools®. In a survey of more than 12,000 schools, researchers examined policies to recruit and retain military and veteran students.

There is a proud tradition on campus to welcome the military and their families. Earlier this year, Military Times named the College of Business Administration (COBA) one of the best business schools for veterans in the United States for its online and part-time MBA program and for having staff dedicated to veterans issues.

In 2011, Georgia Southern established the Military Resource Center in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center, 847 Plant Drive. It is a one-stop location providing services to help military service members achieve academic success. It is a place where military students can relax, study and talk with other service members and veterans.

“I am extremely happy and just proud for Eagle Nation because we are seeing the increase in veterans coming to school here,” said Director of Military Affairs Col. George Fredrick. “We now have 637 people receiving G.I. Bills including the military, veterans, spouses and children. Plus we’ve established a Student Veterans Association so they can share their experiences and help one another transition to higher education.”

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Office of University Advancement Hosts the Marvin S. Pittman Society

Georgia Southern’s Office of University Advancement hosted the Marvin S. Pittman Society celebration in April, recognizing donors for their generosity and ongoing support of education and our students. The Society consists of five giving levels: the Lantern Walk, Sweetheart Circle, Southern Fellows, Founders’ Guild and the President’s Club. The annual Marvin S. Pittman Society celebration allows the University to honor those who have provided lifetime gifts of $25,000 to $1 million or more. “Georgia Southern appreciates the generous support of alumni and friends, no matter what they’re able to give as Marvin S. Pittman Donor Society members,” said Salinda Arthur, vice president for University Advancement. “Each and every one of their gifts allow the University to fund scholarships, as well as initiatives to enhance teaching, research, cultural activities, and economic development.”

For a list of new members view the Marvin S. Pittman Donor Society Member List (pdf).
Evening with the President Savannah to Atlanta

Alumni are such an important part of the Georgia Southern family. I always enjoy meeting and talking with them every chance I get. The Development division and the Alumni Association organized opportunities for me to meet alumni in their own areas. We started our tour in Savannah on December 3rd and traveled to Atlanta on February 5th. Alumni shared good food, conversation and reflection on the successes at Georgia Southern and where we are headed in the future. The events were a success with a great turnout from alumni in these areas.

Georgia Southern Alumni gather in Atlanta for “Evening with the President” on February 5, ’14.

Evening with the President Augusta

Another successful Evening with the President was held for our alumni in Augusta, Ga., at the West Lake Country Club on March 12. It is always great fun to connect with our alumni from across the state and the visit to Augusta was no exception. The event included networking and we talked about the highlights of life at Georgia Southern. Alumni are such an important part of the Georgia Southern family.

Alumni from the Augusta area, share food and good conversation at the Evening with the President event held March 12, at the West Lake Country Club in Augusta, Ga.
Evening with the President Jacksonville

The fourth stop on the Alumni Association’s "Evening with the President" tour was at the Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville, Fla., on April 8. We were very happy that so many alumni came out to network and share their passion for Georgia Southern.

Evening with the President Middle Georgia

The final stop on this year’s tour was in Middle Georgia. Alumni from the area gathered at the Brickyard Country Club in Macon for another great evening.

We hope you will join us this year as we visit Savannah on December 2, 2014, Atlanta on February 3, 2015 and Saint Simons Island on April 16, 2015.

(L) Alumni Matt Mercer ('91) and (R) Clint Avret ('92) in Jacksonville, Fla.
Georgia Southern to host STEM Festival

September 5, 2013

Georgia Southern is on a mission to get more students interested in careers in science, technology, engineering and math. The University will showcase hands-on opportunities to help students discover these fields and share stories of success during the STEM Festival planned for Sept. 12-14 at several locations on campus.

“The purpose of the STEM Festival is to use exploration stations to demonstrate to our greater community that science, technology, engineering and math, despite many misconceptions, can be fun and that subjects that seemed boring in school have some very real applications and are tied to interesting careers,” said Karin Scarpinato, Ph.D., associate Dean for Faculty and Research and biology professor. “This allows us to display our capabilities in the STEM fields and demonstrate how we prepare students to enter careers in these exciting and progressive fields.”

i2Work on Sept. 12 in the Russell Union Ballroom, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., provides students with opportunities to meet with employers about internships, co-ops and employment. i2Research on Sept. 13 in the Williams Center, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., will highlight all the research being performed at Georgia Southern including the Institute of Coastal Plain Science, public health and athletic training.

The STEM Festival wraps up on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center, 847 Plant Drive, with i2Explore from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This event is designed for teenagers and children who will learn about robotics, make ice cream with liquid nitrogen, launch rockets with Alka Seltzer and become a “Star Wars” Jedi.

“Many misconceptions exist about what STEM courses have to do with real life and what careers are affiliated with them,” said Scarpinato. “Education in these fields lacks behind, not just in Georgia, but nationwide, too. The STEM Festival provides an opportunity to begin addressing these issues.”

All events are free and open to everyone. For more information on the STEM Festival, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/research/stemfest.

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Georgia Southern University to Save $350,000 in Energy Efficiency

June 19, 2014

Representatives from Georgia Power present a rebate check to Georgia Southern University’s Housing department on Wednesday, June 18. The rebate was a result of the Commercial Energy Efficiency Program, an initiative to help companies reduce energy use and costs. From left: Eddie Mills, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services; GUS; Tan Adams, Georgia Power area manager; Jamarcus Brewer, coastal region account manager of ICF International; Jesse Hopkins, electrical supervisor; Chris MacDonald, executive director of University Housing and Elke Dennis, procurement specialist.

Georgia Southern University will save more than $350,000 over a five-year period by using light emitting diode (LED) bulbs instead of standard incandescent bulbs in eight of the campus housing complexes. The University partnered with Georgia Power through the company’s Commercial Energy Efficiency Program, an initiative to help companies reduce energy use and costs by offering rebates.

“I met this opportunity with excitement and a little disbelief,” said Jesse Hopkins, electrical supervisor. “To be honest, it sounded too good to be true. I think we asked a few times, ‘So, if we spend $77,700, you’re going to pay us $77,700 right?’

Over a four-week period, 10 Facility Services’ staff members worked to change out 10,000 standard 60-watt incandescent light bulbs to LED bulbs, thereby reducing energy consumption from 60-watts to 10-watts per bulb.
“We are proud of what Georgia Southern is doing and we want every customer to use every kilowatt hour that we deliver to them efficiently,” said Tan Adams, Georgia Power area manager for Statesboro. “These rebate programs are a way that we encourage our partners to take advantage of the most recent, energy efficient technologies. By doing this, they’re not only saving money, but also investing back into our community.”

Members and affiliates from Georgia Power presented a check to the University for nearly $78,000—the largest rebate Georgia Southern has received to date, and the same amount required to purchase the light bulbs initially.

“Georgia Southern is actually one of the larger schools in all of the Board of Regents to participate in this rebate program and take advantage of it,” said Jamarcus Brewer, coastal region account manager of ICF International, the firm contracted by Georgia Power to manage the day-to-day operations of the rebate program. “We’ve upgraded between 40 and 45 buildings on campus and I’ve worked with a number of Georgia Southern staff to help them with rebate applications for lighting upgrades, roofing and a number of measures,” he said.

Since 2012, Georgia Southern through its partnership with Georgia Power has received more than $140,000 in energy efficient rebates.
Georgia Southern University Named “Green College” by The Princeton Review

April 22, 2014

For the fourth year in a row, Georgia Southern University has been named to The Princeton Review’s Guide to 332 Green Colleges: 2014 Edition, which highlights the top eco-friendly institutions based on their proven commitment to environmental and sustainability issues and is produced in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council.

“We are proud to have been recognized again as national leaders in sustainability. Georgia Southern’s commitment to sustainability is widely evident across campus, from sustainable buildings to cutting edge water conservation measures to sustainability outreach and education programs,” said Lissa Leege, director of the Center for Sustainability at Georgia Southern. “It takes a team of dedicated leaders in every corner of campus to make this happen. Georgia Southern is True Blue and green too.”

The guide profiles 330 institutions of higher education in the United States and two in Canada that demonstrate a strong commitment to sustainability in their free academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation. Georgia Southern’s renewable energy laboratory, sustainability action projects like “No Impact Week” and student organizations like the Green Ambassadors and Geo Club, as well as a growing academic environmental sustainability concentration, are just a few of the ways the University actively involves students in sustainability. A student-initiated sustainability fee will provide funding for new sustainability projects and initiatives on campus.

“We are pleased to recommend Georgia Southern University to the many students seeking colleges that practice and promote environmentally-responsible choices and practices,” said Rob Fanek, senior vice president and publisher of The Princeton Review’s annual guide. “Among 10,116 college applicants who participated in our 2014 ‘Colleges Hopes & Worries Survey’ 61 percent said having information about a school’s commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the school.”

Universities and colleges were chosen for the guide based on a survey conducted in 2013. The survey asked administrators at hundreds of colleges across the U.S. and Canada about their institution’s sustainability-related policies, practices and programs. The Princeton Review tallied its “Green Ratings” for 832 schools, and of those, 332 were named in the guide. Published April 17, a few days before the April 22 celebration of Earth Day, the 216-page guide is the only free comprehensive resource of its kind. To see the schools listed, visit www.princetonreview.com/green-guide.

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Andrew Young to Speak at MLK Celebration

January 1, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Andrew Young will be the featured speaker at Georgia Southern University’s 2014 MLK Celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center (PAC), 847 Plant Drive. The annual celebration to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the University’s Multicultural Student Center.

Andrew Young has led a lifetime of public service and worked tirelessly to improve human and civil rights around the world. He has served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. Congressman and Atlanta Mayor. He is a best-selling author and an Emmy-nominated television show producer of “Andrew Young Presents” through the Andrew Young Foundation which works to end racism, war and poverty.

“Our students were drawn to his significance in the civil rights era of Dr. King, and they made Andrew Young their choice to serve as this year’s speaker,” said Dorsey Baldwin, the director of Georgia Southern’s Multicultural Student Center. “Since Andrew Young has an amazing body of work in civil rights along with his success in the public sector and politics, he has an inspiring story to share. This is a great educational opportunity for our students and our University.”

There will be a new addition to this year’s MLK Celebration. Georgia Southern students will participate in an essay contest that will focus on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. “This will be an evening for our students, faculty, staff and community to hear about the civil rights movement firsthand from someone who made history,” said Baldwin.

This is a free event, and tickets will not be distributed; however, seating is limited. Doors open at 6 p.m. and close at 6:45 p.m. If you are interested in asking Andrew Young a question after his speech, tweet #askAndrewYoung or email the question to msc@georgiasouthern.edu with “Ask Andrew Young” in the subject line.

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Georgia Southern Donates to Boys and Girls Club

November 27, 2013

STATESBORO, Ga., — Nov. 27, 2013 – The Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County has received a $1,500 donation from Georgia Southern University.

A foursome representing the University won the 2013 Chancellor’s Fall Classic Charity Cup golf tournament held on Aug. 23 at The Georgia Club in Athens. The victory included a $1,500 donation on behalf of Georgia Southern to a charity of the University’s choice.

Georgia Southern President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. and Vice President of Business and Finance Rob Whitaker toured the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County on Nov. 20 before making the check presentation. “This is an incredible facility and what an incredible need in the community that they fulfill here,” said Keel. “Georgia Southern is part of a great community and we take that role very seriously and this is just a small way that we can give back to the community that we serve. It’s a real great day for us.”

The Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County serves around 400 children with a focus on academics by providing after-school homework help and tutoring along with plenty of recreational and social activities. “Any participation that we can get with Georgia Southern is always valuable to the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County and our operations,” said Executive Director Mike Jones. “In these tough economic times, a donation like this makes a tremendous impact on the kids that we serve and the programs that we are able to offer to the children. It’s an extreme honor and pleasure to have such a good relationship with Georgia Southern.”

The members of the winning golf team were Rob Whitaker, John Mulherin, Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation president, Larry Mays, University golf coach and Carter Collins, assistant coach.
Financial and Business Services Division Earns Statewide Recognition

June 16, 2014

Georgia Southern University’s Financial and Business Services Division has earned the Award of Distinction for Excellent Financial Reporting by the Georgia State Auditor for consistently performing well on audits and financial reporting.

Conducted by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA), the DOAA spends approximately four months auditing financial statements, financial operations and Information Technology (IT) operations. Once audits are complete, the DOAA produces audited financial statements and renders an opinion on the accuracy of the statements and the soundness of financial and IT internal controls.

“I was ecstatic to learn of the award,” said Kim Brown, senior associate vice president of finance. “Our staff, in the areas of financial accounting, budgeting, purchasing and bursar’s office, work very hard each year beginning around April and May to end the fiscal year, prepare financial statements and work closely with state auditors. Our staff is a wonderful group of professionals that work diligently to ensure that Georgia Southern’s financial reporting is the best it can be.”

A sound audit demonstrates that financial reports meet the national financial reporting standards required to acquire funding, provides a positive impact on the public perception of Georgia Southern and has a significant impact on the University’s ability to attract federal and state research dollars.
Georgia Southern University presents the Grammy-winning country music trio Lady Antebellum in their “Take Me Downtown Tour 2014” as the headlining band for the Spring Concert at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

Known for hits such as “I Run To You,” “American Honey,” “Just A Kiss” and others, the band includes Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood. The group’s single “Need You Now,” claimed five of the trio’s seven career Grammy wins in 2011. Their latest album, “Golden,” features “Downtown,” which is the highest-debuting single in the band’s career.

Joe Nichols, whose hits include “Gimmie That Girl,” “The Impossible” and “Sunny and 75” among others, will serve as one of the opening acts for Lady Antebellum. Kristian Bush will also be an opening act. Bush is one half of the platinum-selling country duo Sugarland, which is known for songs including “Baby Girl,” “Stay” and others.

Tickets for Georgia Southern students will go on sale Monday, March 24, and public general admission tickets will go on sale Monday, March 31. Tickets will be available for purchase at the University Store and at etix.com. For more information about prices, parking, tailgating and more, visit www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/concert.

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The Georgia Southern University Police Department has received again state certification status from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, representing the completion of a rigorous, multi-step process that recognizes the Department as one of the top law enforcement agencies in the state.

Of more than 500 agencies in the state, approximately 100 are certified and among those, only four are universities. Additionally, the Georgia Southern University Police Department is the only law enforcement agency in the area certified by the Association. The state certification program is a voluntary program that certifies that departments operate under specific professional standards.

“It is a great honor for our University’s Police Department to receive this certification, and an even greater honor to be one of only four universities in the state to have received this status,” said Georgia Southern University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. “Our public safety officials and staff go the extra mile to ensure our campus is safe, which is important for our community, students and parents.”

To become certified, participating agencies must conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet the Association’s strict certification standards. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained assessors verifies that applicable standards have been successfully implemented. A joint executive committee then determines if all requirements for certification have been met.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the men and women of the University Police Department,” said Michael J. Russell, Chief of Police at Georgia Southern University. “They are true professionals and this is a huge accomplishment for them. They work hard every day to make the campus safe and secure, and this is a well deserved honor.”

Georgia Southern’s Police Department was initially certified in October 2010 after nearly a year of setting procedures, writing policies and conducting training. The certification lasts for three years and in October 2013, the Department received another on-site assessment that looked at how the Department met each of the approximately 100 standards set by the Joint Commission for all agencies statewide, and was awarded re-certification.

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Athletics

Georgia Southern’s 16 varsity sports won a combined four conference championships and posted momentous wins over Florida in football and Florida State in baseball. The 2013-14 season was the last for the Eagles as a member of the Southern Conference and July 1, 2014 marked the start of the new Sun Belt and FBS era. The year was also the first for the women’s rifle team and saw the announcement of a 17th sport – women’s golf. Georgia Southern made great strides in academics as well, honoring 134 student-athletes at its Academic Banquet in April. Garrett Frye and Megan Ostrom were selected from the group as the Male and Female Scholar Athletes of the Year. At the banquet, Director of Athletics Tom Kleinlein also handed out Adidas gear to those student-athletes with a 3.0 GPA.
Eagles Upset Florida 26-20

November 23, 2013

Ellison runs for two touchdowns, McKinnon game winner in epic win

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – If there were only going to be 11 games in the 2013 season, Georgia Southern was going to make the last one count. Senior Jerick McKinnon, who started at slotback, and moved to third on the Eagles' all-time rushing list, scored the winning touchdown to give the Eagles a 26-20 with 2:57 left in the game. Georgia Southern's defense stopped the Gators' final drive at the Eagles' 17-yard line as the clock expired.

"I am so proud of our football team," said Georgia Southern Head Football Coach Jeff Monken. "This senior class, they talked about what it means to them to win this football game, and that is what college football is all about, days like today. It is a great, great win. The kids were just thrilled. That's a big win for us and for our kids."

The Gators used their last possession to drive down the field with a first and 10 at the Georgia Southern 24. Florida took a timeout after linebacker Edwin Jackson factored into the incomplete pass on that first play and then the Gators picked up seven yards on Florida quarterback Skyler Mornhinweg's complete pass and called another timeout. The final two passes fell incomplete with safeties Matt Dobson and Antonio Glover breaking up the plays.

Georgia Southern, now 10-0 in games when not completing a pass, ran for all 429 yards with a 7.9 per attempt average. The stout Eagle defense held Florida to only 279 yards of total offense, its lowest total since a 2002 game against LSU.

"We just came out there and we were able to execute plays," said redshirt freshman Kevin Ellison, who tied his career best with two rushing touchdowns. "We love our seniors, we are grateful for them. They showed a lot of leadership and Coach Monken motivated us to play hard."

Mornhinweg connected with Solomon Patton on a 46-yard play to the end zone and the Gators added the point after to tie the game at 20 with 5:41 left to play in the game. The Gators used three plays to go 59 yards after a failed fourth-and-two by the Eagles gave them the ball at the Eagle 41.

McKinnon and Ellison both went over the 100-yard mark with McKinnon netting 125 and the final touchdown and Ellison totaling 118 with his two. William Banks, who played exclusively in the second half, totaled 94 yards, including a 53-yard rush that set up the final touchdown. Banks, who had been out with an injury the previous week, scored the Eagles third touchdown to put them up 20-10 at the end of the third quarter.

"That's just Georgia Southern Football, we're known for running for running the football," said
McKinnon. "We were able to execute the plays the coaches called."

Kyle Oehlbeck, senior linebacker from Gainesville, had eight tackles, seven in the first half, playing with his usual intensity times 10. Junior linebacker Edwin Jackson played all over the field, making key tackles and leading the Eagles with 10 tackles.

"This is something I will never forget, it will stay with me the rest of my life," said Kyle Oehlbeck. "This is an awesome feeling."

McKinnon broke off for a 66-yard rush to bring the Eagles inside the Florida 10-yard line and

Ellison reached over the goal line to give Georgia Southern a 14-10 lead, one it would not relinquish, on the first possession of the second half. Younghoe Koo added the PAT, but would miss the point after on the Eagles' third touchdown.

Georgia Southern had 50 more yards of total offense in the first half that was dictated by defense and marred by turnovers. In the closing minutes of the first half, Ellison hit the endzone in full stride, splitting the defense with a 45-yard run for touchdown, needing only that one play and 10 seconds to get the Eagles within three points.

Florida's Francisco Velez hit a 22-yard field goal with 12:02 left in the game to put the Gators within a touchdown at 20-13.

The Eagles could have had another score, but fumbled the ball at the Florida three-yard line with 4:17 left in the first quarter. The defense, though, didn't allow the Gators to capitalize on the mistake, forcing them to a three-and out. Junior Valdon Cooper, who started in place of an injured Lavelle Westbrooks at cornerback, was in on special teams and blocked a field goal that would have given Florida a 6-0 lead at the end of the first quarter.

This team has continued to push, fight and improve," Monken said. "I am just proud of the effort of our kids and our staff. Our staff did a tremendous job all week of getting our kids prepared for what they will see. Our kids were ready. We made some mistakes and we were able to overcome them. I think that makes it even more special. We didn't play a perfect game."

Georgia Southern finishes its season at 7-4 and with its first-ever win over a FBS or BCS team on its 21st try. The Eagles open the season on August 30, 2014 against N.C. State in Raleigh as a member of the Sun Belt Conference as 2013 was their final season after 21 seasons as a member of the FCS Southern Conference.

"This is unbelievable," said senior running back William Banks. "From the beginning of the season we said we were going to go 11-0, and we let Eagle Nation down, I hope this makes up for it."
Eagles Shut Out No. 5 National Seed Florida State

May 30, 2014

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Sam Howard threw a complete game shutout to lead No. 4 seed Georgia Southern past No. 1 seed Florida State in a 7-0 shutout in game two of the Tallahassee Regional. The win for Georgia Southern (40-21) was their first in regional play since a 6-2 win over Elon in the Clemson Regional in 2002 and the third for Rodney Hennon as the Eagles' skipper. With the win, GSU reached the 40 win plateau for the 10th time in school history and the third time under Hennon.

The shutout was the fifth on the season for the Eagles and the fourth on the season for Howard. The complete game was Howard's first of his career. Florida State fell to 43-16 and was shut out for the second time this season.

Kody Adams deposited the second pitch he saw into left field for a lead off single and later scored the first of two Georgia Southern runs in the first on Aaron Mizell's double into the right center gap. Garren Palmer drove in Mizell with a two-out single and was thrown out trying to score on Hunter Thomas' double to end the frame.

The Eagles added on to their lead with single runs in the sixth and seventh innings. Ben Morgan plated a second two-out run with a single to right field before Thomas doubled down the right field line to score Stryker Brown in the seventh.

Howard (7-6) held Florida State to one hit over six innings and set down 15-straight batters from the second inning until D.J. Stewart led off the seventh with an infield hit. The lefthander tossed a career-high nine innings in his first career postseason start and did not allow a run on two hits. Howard walked four batters and struck out 10 for the third time this season.

Mike Compton tied his shortest outing of his career and went just 1.1 innings. Compton (7-3) allowed two runs on five hits and a walk.

The GSU bats tallied 10 or more hits for the fifth time in the last eight games and amassed nine extra-base hits the most since March 2nd against Ohio.

Dalton Busby went three for three at the plate with a double and a home run and drove in two runs in the ninth inning. Busby and Garrett Chapman both homered over the left field wall in the ninth. Aaron Mizell extended his hit streak to 11 games with a double in the first inning and went two for five on the day. Four other Eagles finished with two hits each.

Georgia Southern will face Kennesaw State in the winner's bracket contest tomorrow at 5 p.m. The Owls defeated No. 2 seed Alabama 1-0 in the early game on Friday. The Eagles faced KSU twice in the regular season and lost both contests.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media channels facebook.com/GSAthletics and twitter.com/GSAthletics.
Georgia Southern Introduces Willie Fritz as New Football Coach
January 10, 2014

STATESBORO, Ga. – Georgia Southern Director of Athletics Tom Kleinlein today announced the hiring of Willie Fritz as the ninth head football coach in the program’s modern history. A proven winner with more than 30 years of coaching experience, Fritz led Sam Houston State to back-to-back Southland Conference titles, NCAA FCS championship appearances in 2011 and 2012 and a third-straight playoff berth this past year. In 21 years as a head coach, Fritz owns a 72.3 winning percentage with a record of 176-67-1 and more than a few trophies for his accomplishments at the national, regional and conference levels.

The Liberty Mutual Coach of the Year at the FCS level in 2012, Fritz was recognized nationally in 2011 as the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Coach of the Year. Honored as the AFCA Regional Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2012, Fritz was selected by the media and his peers in the Southland Conference as the league’s Coach of the Year in 2011 after his team went a perfect 7-0 in conference play.

In 2011 and 2012, Sam Houston State posted the two highest single-season win totals in program history with marks of 14-1 (2011) and 11-4 (2012) and Bearkat players were showered with accolades. More than 50 earned All-Southland Conference honors under Fritz in the last four years, not including additional “Player of the Year,” “Offensive Player of the Year,” “Defensive Player of the Year,” and “Newcomer of the Year” awards. All-America status from national coaching and media outlets were bestowed on 11 Sam Houston State players during his tenure.

Fritz comes to Georgia Southern after four years as the head coach of the Bearkats and his most recent of three total tours in Huntsville. His resume includes a wealth of experience across the board, notably as a coach with an innate ability to connect with his players, demand accountability and build winning programs.

After a highly successful tenure at Blinn College, averaging nearly 10 wins a season during his four years there, Fritz left to revitalize a Central Missouri program and guided it to 11 winning seasons. The NCAA Division II program’s ledger included two 10-win seasons with the 2001 Mule squad earning its first postseason trip in more than 30 years. In 2002, Central Missouri made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II playoffs and was the Mid-America Athletic Association (MIAA) co-champion a year later. A 97-47 mark in 13 seasons ranks Fritz as the winningest coach in the program’s 118-year history. He was the only coach to ever win seven or more games in eight consecutive seasons and his victory total ranked him 15th among active Division II coaches at the time.

In addition to his impressive 67.4 winning percentage with the Mules, Fritz coached his student-athletes to achieve their potential both on the field and in the classroom. More than 150 Mules were recognized with All-MIAA honors with 41 first-team selections and 24 All-Americans. Under Fritz, Central Missouri recorded a graduation rate of 84 percent with 144 MIAA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll recipients, 14 Academic All-Region and three Academic All-Americans.
Serving as a graduate assistant for the Bearkat program during the 1984 and 1985 seasons, Fritz earned a master’s degree in kinesiology while Sam Houston State posted a 16-6 record and won the 1985 Gulf Star Conference championship. He returned to Huntsville in 1991 after spending two years at Coffeyville College in Kansas under legendary Coach Dick Foster, earning a promotion to defensive coordinator after one year. He stayed another two years to work for Coach Skip Foster and the Red Ravens.

“I knew immediately when I interviewed him that I wanted to hire Willie,” said Coach Dick Foster, a charter member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Football Hall of Fame. “He’s a talented person and I've followed his career closely, from Central Missouri and to Blinn where he coached two national championships, to what he has done at Sam Houston State. He has all the qualities needed for the challenge in front of him – he’s an excellent technician, an outstanding recruiter, very organized with his coaching and support staff and his student-athletes enjoy playing for him.”

Coach Bob Randleman brought Fritz back to the state of Texas and Sam Houston State as secondary and special teams coach in 1991, instilling an attitude of excellence on special teams that would last more than a decade. The Bearkats’ “block party” racked up 80 blocked punts, field goals and extra points beginning with Fritz in 1991 and lasting through 2004. In Fritz’s first year as a full-time assistant coach at Sam Houston State in 1991, the Bearkats won the Southland Conference. That league title and eight-win season launched SHSU to the program’s second-ever appearance in the NCAA playoffs.

“Willie was like a coach on the field for me as a four-year starter at Pittsburg State,” Coach Randleman said. “I just think the world of him and am proud that he was on my coaching staff not once, but twice. He has a tremendous work ethic, he played hard, and he coaches the same way. Willie has a great rapport with his players and they respect him.”

Fritz would leave Huntsville again, this time for an opportunity to be the head coach at Blinn College, where he would turn around a program that had only five wins in its previous three seasons. From 1993-96, Fritz and the Buccaneers would rack up 39 victories against only five losses with a tie and claim two national junior college championships. He was inducted into the NJCAA Football Hall of Fame for the environment of success he created at Blinn.

One of seven children, Fritz is the son of the late Harry Fritz, who coached the Central Missouri football team in 1952 before continuing his career as the Executive Director at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in Kansas City. The elder Fritz also served at several colleges and universities in administration as an athletics director.

Fritz played on two conference title teams and was a four-starter at defensive back for Coach Randleman at Pittsburg State and remained at his alma mater as a student assistant coach for his alma mater in 1982. Early coaching stops included a year at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School (Kansas) in 1983 and Willis High School (Texas) in 1986, with his return to Sam Houston State for graduate school in between those years.

Fritz and his wife Susan have three children, Wesley and Elaine, who are enrolled at Sam Houston State, and Brooke, a junior in high school in Huntsville.

Georgia Southern Athletics provides up-to-date information on all its sports through its official website, GSEagles.com, through social media.
channels [facebook.com/GSAthletics](https://facebook.com/GSAthletics) and [twitter.com/GSAthletics](https://twitter.com/GSAthletics), and its “Eagles GATA” mobile app.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 degree programs serving more than 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).
Expansion Projects Begin at Allen E. Paulson Stadium

June 5, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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