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## Georgia Southern Magazine

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» WELCOME BACK COACH MONKEN CRICKETS ARE A 'DIRTY JOB' RENEWABLE ENTHUSIASM

# GEORGIA SOUTHERN

SPRING 2010 • VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 2 • [WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE](http://WWW.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE)

ON AN EVEN

## KEEL

Dr. Brooks A. Keel  
assumes office as the  
12th president of  
Georgia Southern University

# GEORGIA SOUTHERN MAGAZINE

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Paulson Stadium sits under a rare blanket of snow after four inches fell on campus in February.

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When Brooks Keel assumed office on January 1, it was a homecoming of sorts for Georgia Southern's 12<sup>th</sup> president. The Augusta native sees Georgia Southern poised for greatness on a national stage: A place of opportunity to attain unique accomplishments. He believes the University is a rising star ready to assume its place in economic development, regional service, and international reputation.



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“There is tremendous opportunity here to do things in a unique way that I haven’t seen at any other place. And I want to be at a place where **I can make a difference**, and I saw Georgia Southern as that place.”

O N A N E V E N

# KEEL

**B**eing from Georgia was not the number one reason Brooks A. Keel accepted Georgia Southern’s offer to become its new president. But it didn’t hurt.

Keel, who was born and grew up in Augusta, became Georgia Southern’s 12<sup>th</sup> president on January 1 and has “hit the ground listening” – listening to faculty, staff, administrators, students and alumni – as he prepares a plan and strategy to put Georgia Southern where he believes it should be – in the company of the nation’s top research universities.

“It was an opportunity to come home,” said Keel. “I was born, raised and educated in Georgia and Georgia is a state and a culture, a way of life, I am comfortable with and have always been comfortable with. Being a product of the educational system in this state, it was a great opportunity to be able to come back and participate in that process from the standpoint of being an administrator.

“Clearly that’s one reason,” Keel said. “But perhaps the bigger and the better reason than just coming home is that I saw Georgia Southern being a place of opportunity. Not for me personally, but an opportunity for higher education in general.

“There is tremendous opportunity here

Georgia Southern’s  
12<sup>th</sup> president  
is firm about  
the University’s  
direction:  
**Upward.**

to do things in a very unique way that I haven’t seen at any other place,” he said. “And I want to be at a place where I can make a difference, and I saw Georgia Southern as that place.

“My task, the first six weeks at least, was to hit the ground listening to learn as much as I could about the University so that I could participate in a cohesive way in terms of helping make those strategic decisions,” said Keel. “Clearly there are strengths here. There are some unique aspects of what Georgia Southern has.

We need to look at what makes economic development sense to South Georgia, as well.”

Keel said he will implement a regular schedule of meetings with the Student Government Association and the student body in general through, perhaps, “brown bag lunches” in the Russell Union. He wants to know what’s on their minds.

“One of the first things I’m going to have to do is try to learn about the campus,” said Keel. “I’ve got a lot of faculty to get to know, a lot of staff to get to know, and I want to talk to students and learn more about the culture here.

“I think one of the worst things a president can do is come in and try to change things instantly without understanding where the University is right now. Clearly, I think the big issue that is going to need to be addressed in short order is a new strategic plan. The strategic plan that is in place now has brought this university to a tremendous position. I think when you make that next leap you’re going to need to know what that leap’s going to look like. We’re going to need input from the faculty, the staff, students and our alumni.”

Keel will also be looking for input from the Statesboro and Bulloch County community as well and praised the “town-»

MARVIN PITTMAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
BUILDING



“I love being at a place that provides that sort of **comprehensive atmosphere.**

We’re not just teaching scientists here. Nor are we just teaching musicians. We teach both. You have to have that sort of thing to provide a well-rounded education.”

Keel meets with President’s Cabinet members (l-to-r) Ron Core, Billy Griffis, Gary Means, Marilyn Bruce, Steve Burrell and Teresa Thompson.



gown” relationship of city, county and University. “Georgia Southern is so ingrained with the community that it was one of the things that attracted me here,” he said. “We have tremendous community support. That was evident from the very first day I arrived on campus and it has become evident in the short time I’ve been here. That openness, that welcome, was apparent from the very beginning. Not only do I have to listen to the campus, but I’ve got to listen to the community.”

#### THE NEXT LEVEL: BECOMING A MAJOR RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

“Georgia Southern has a long history and a strong culture of being student-centered,” said Keel. “Teaching is the number one thing here and it has always been that way. And yet, it has now moved to that point where it can take a huge leap forward in terms of doing things that other major comprehensive universities do – such as research, increasing creative works and scholarship, and participating in economic development.

“Those are the types of things that Georgia Southern has done some of, though we have not done it at a level you would when you think of other major comprehensive universities,” Keel said. “I see it as now being able to do that with a teaching backdrop. I think you can do research and still

focus on the student. Many of the larger universities have lost that student touch that has made Georgia Southern so popular.”

Georgia Southern is uniquely poised to move to a higher calling, said Keel. “Every university will tell you they want to go to the next level, but here I think we are at a very special point in time where we can truly do that. The faculty are ready for it, the students are ready for it, the staff is ready for it, and our alumni are as well. If you take that student-centered culture and use it in a way to help guide that next direction, you can do it as a very unique place.”

Students come to Georgia Southern because they want university experiences like athletics, art galleries and concerts, he said. But also, “They want to have an opportunity to sit one-on-one with professors and learn from him or her. You can get that here.

“Whether it’s real or perceived, you can’t get that at the University of Georgia. You can’t get that at Georgia Tech and you can’t get that at Georgia State. Georgia Southern is becoming a ‘university of first choice’ for students, and that’s a big deal.

“For me to be an effective president, especially at this university, I’ve got to know what’s on the students’ minds,” he said. “I’ve got to listen to the faculty’s advice,

too, but they’ve got more of an opportunity to tell me.”

Major universities tout their research capabilities and many cite teaching strengths which come as a result of the research they conduct. But most universities’ research efforts are collaborations between faculty and graduate students, leaving undergraduates to be mentored by teaching assistants. Also, faculty, who are expected to spend large amounts of time conducting research or creative activities as prerequisites to promotion, often find themselves with little time to spend interacting with undergrads in or out of the classroom.

How can those demands be balanced at the kind of university Georgia Southern aspires to become – a major research institution which maintains its traditional focus on a special relationship between professors and their undergraduate students?

Most major universities build their research on the backs of graduate students, Keel said. “I think the unique aspect of what we have here is not that we build research on the backs of graduate students, but that we can build research with the participation of undergraduate students. What I’d like to see is that every student who graduates from Georgia Southern has an opportunity to have either a research, creative, or a community-based learning opportunity,” he said. “What I want to be



## GETTING TO KNOW

### BROOKS A. KEEL, Ph.D

**Age:** 54

**Hometown:** Augusta, Ga.  
Married to Dr. Tammie Schalue

**Children:** Sara, 28, fashion designer; Preston, 24, college student

**Hobbies:** music, travel, SCUBA diving

**Favorite Food:** seafood

**Books:** suspense, science fiction

**Education:** Augusta College, Medical College of Georgia

**Career:** Teaching appointment, University of Kansas School of Medicine, 1985-2001

Associate vice president for research, Florida State University College of Medicine, 2001-2006

Vice chancellor for research and economic development, Louisiana State University, 2006-2009

**Boards of directors:**

American Board of Bioanalysis, the American Association of Bioanalysts Board of Registry, the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the Southeastern Universities Research Association, and the Executive Committee of the Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education of APLU.

**Authorship:**

Sixty five peer reviewed scientific publications, 78 peer reviewed abstracts, 19 book chapters, Edited four books

able to do is build a research environment here that involves undergraduate students, not just the graduate students.

“Yes, we’re going to build the graduate programs here, no doubt about it, but we want to make sure that the undergraduate student has an opportunity to do research as well,” Keel said. “The other thing I think is so commonly thought of is that you never think of research as being a teaching moment. You think the faculty member either spends time teaching or doing research. I think we have a chance to do something a little bit different so that research can be part of the undergraduate teaching opportunity for students who come here.”

Funding for state universities is rarely an abundant commodity, and in times of economic downturn, universities are placing holds on hiring, demanding heavier teaching loads from existing faculty, and reducing faculty development funds. Where can Georgia Southern look in a period of both economic hard times and booming enrollment to fund its aspirations of keeping student/faculty ratios low and encouraging serious research?

“We are in a unique position in that our enrollment has increased so dramatically over the past three or four years,” said Keel. “We are in a position that the revenue being brought in by the additional

students is helping us meet that budgetary challenge in a way that I don’t think a lot of other universities have an opportunity to do. We’re in a position now with good stewardship of the money we have, to meet the budget cuts and, if not to go out and hire a whole group of faculty, at least to be able to maintain the faculty we have.

“Obviously, a faculty member can’t teach four courses a semester and have an active research program and write grants,” he said. “One way to handle that, of course, is just to hire more faculty, and certainly we need to have more faculty. If you bring in more faculty you begin to share that teaching load and provide more time for faculty to pursue their research. It’s going to be a priority for us as we move forward.”

#### **A NOVEL IDEA: MULTIDISCIPLINARY HIRING**

While at LSU, Keel had the opportunity to be part of a program called the Multidisciplinary Hiring Initiative, which is a unique way of hiring and funding faculty who are chosen specifically to provide world-class expertise for teaching and research on issues of importance to the institution’s service area.

“It’s something I’m very, very passionate about,” he said. “I had a chance to see it work at LSU, especially when we first started it, and I saw what it did in terms

of changing the culture on campus as well as what it did for the reputation of the university.

“It’s a unique way of hiring faculty and it’s done to bring faculty into research and creative themes – not into departments,” he said. Keel explained, “You get a group of faculty together, intentionally multidisciplinary. They basically write ideas, or proposals, if you will, so that the ideas come from the faculty not from the administration. We mandated that the individuals who wrote the proposals had to be from multiple departments and preferably from multiple colleges.

“We had some 20 to 25 proposals. We vetted them from a committee internally, narrowed them down to seven, brought in a panel of experts from outside to give us advice on which of the seven they thought would have the greatest impact nationally and then we took three of them to fund.” New faculty were then hired to meet the needs of the chosen research areas.

“That is the sort of model I’d like to do here,” Keel said. “The unique aspect of that model is you get participation from the faculty, you get participation from the administration in choosing to put money into very programmatic and strategic areas. It allows you, with an external panel, to create a buzz across the country with what you are doing.”



“Then, the hiring is not done in the typical way that you hire a faculty member,” he said. “You don’t create a committee. You don’t broadcast an advertisement and see what comes over the transom. The individuals who wrote the proposal form the search committee and they aggressively go out and seek individuals. It forces the faculty to go after true stars in the field. In fact, you go out with a faculty better than you currently have. Then you marry that person with the best department based on the discipline and their expertise, and then you go through the normal faculty tenure-hiring process.”

While realistic about the budget, which has sustained a 20 percent reduction since the current recession began, Keel is optimistic about the prospects of future funding. He also sees students continuing to flock to Georgia Southern.

“We have asked the faculty and staff to hold on with these budget cuts,” he said. “Everybody is doing double duty and working extra hard so we can get through this budget cycle. Hopefully, once we get through this budget cycle we will be able to start hiring additional faculty that we’ve been putting off for the last year or so to meet the budget cuts. So we’ve swept salary savings from unfilled positions to help meet this.

“We plan to increase enrollment. I’d like to see us at 20,000 next year,” said Keel. “I think we need to think about increasing enrollment to whatever that sweet spot is for this particular university. That’s going to push the existing infrastructure pretty hard. I don’t think you can reach that until you begin addressing the issue of more faculty and more staff,” he said. “We need everything from faculty who do teaching all the way through advisors to help with issues for the increased number of students we have. But there are ways to increase enrollment other than just the typical traditional freshman who comes in.”

Keel hopes to continue growth in the number of students taking classes online, boost the number of transfer students and non-traditional students, and foster cooperative arrangements with two-year colleges. “I think there are opportunities to take advantage of cooperation with the two-year colleges and community colleges as well,” he said.

“We already have some of those relationships, but there’s no reason why Geor-



like. And it does it in a way that nothing else you do can do for you. It provides an opportunity for students to look at us who may have never considered Georgia Southern.

“Athletics provide what I call the front porch of the University. It gets people to **look in through the window** and see what the inside of the University looks like. And it does it in a way that nothing else you do can do for you.”

Keel throws out the first pitch at the Eagles’ baseball home opener on February 19.

gia Southern couldn’t enter into an agreement with a community college in another county for that hybrid personal class,” Keel added. “It doesn’t have to be on this campus. It can be somewhere else. Now, that’s going to require faculty who have an interest and an excitement to do that in a high-quality fashion, but that’s the way I want to see us go.”

#### ATHLETICS: WHAT’S NEXT?

Given his experiences at LSU and Florida State, Keel is keenly aware of the excitement and sense of community that athletics can engender. It is also a tool to recruit more and better students.

“Athletics provides what I call the front porch of the University,” he said. “It gets people to look in through the window and see what the inside of the University looks

“It provides student-athletes an opportunity to say, ‘I might want to go there, because they’re successful.’ And it provides alumni and the community an opportunity to support the University in a way that you couldn’t get support before.

“I’m a big supporter of athletics. I’m also a big supporter of the student-athlete. The word student comes first and that’s something we have to keep in mind.”

In 2009, an independent study on the viability of a move by Georgia Southern from its current level at the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) to the Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) was released. The study showed that Georgia Southern is capable of successfully making the jump to a higher level and also provided a road map to do so. The financial obstacles, however, are not easily navigated.

“I know there’s been a lot of discussion about that,” Keel said. “It’s something that I hope we can continue some discussion on.

continued on page 10 »



PHOTOS BY TAMMIE SCHALUE

Keel dives at the wreck of the Oro Verde, above, and the mermaid statue Amphitrite, below, in Grand Cayman.

## SCUBA diving always high on first couple's vacation agenda



Maybe it's not so fitting that a man named Keel would find himself in the water.

Though Brooks Keel readily admits he was not fond of the water, he and his wife, Tammie Schalue, started SCUBA diving in 2000. After logging more than 100 dives, they became certified instructors in 2001 and now take every opportunity to dive.

"This was something that Tammie wanted to do," Keel said. "She always has loved to be in the water and had wanted to learn SCUBA diving. I was petrified of water.

"We were at a conference in Maui and at the hotel they offered what they called a resort course," he said. "Basically you get together with a dive instructor and he gives you a preliminary education in what SCUBA's all about. He gets you in the pool with the dive gear and you swim around and, if you're okay with that, he takes you out one-on-one in the ocean on a short shore dive.

"I thought I'd at least do the pool part of it," he said. "So, I went through that, got in the pool, blew bubbles and swam around and thought that was pretty cool, but I didn't really want to go out in the ocean. I went back to the hotel room and Tammie went out with the dive instructor.

"I was sitting there reading a book while she was out SCUBA diving, and when she came back her eyes were the size of saucers. She was just bouncing off the walls. She said, 'Brooks you gotta do this! You gotta do this!' So I said, 'Alright, I'll do it.'

"Fortunately, we had an instructor who was just fantastic," said Keel. "We went out and as soon as I got underwater, and especially with an instructor with whom I was really comfortable, it was just the most fantastic experience I think I've ever had."

Then he met an octopus.

"Octopi are very territorial and the instructor knew where all the animals were," said Keel. "He reached under this little rock and pulled out an octopus and put it in my hand. What he wanted me to do was to put my hand up with the octopus in it so he could take a picture. When I did, the octopus went 'Wham!' right on my face. I looked like something out of the movie 'Alien'.

"Tammie laughed so hard she flooded her mask.

"It was such a great experience and it was something that Tammie and I could do together. We got certified the following February," said Keel. "We loved it so much we went straight through from that point to be divemasters and then instructors."

Understanding

'how things

work' drives

Dr. Tammie Schalue's

love of research

# THE SCIENCE OF WHY

**T**ammie Schalue never passed up a chance to learn. She still doesn't.

"Even young, I was very interested in the sciences and how things worked," said Georgia Southern's new First Lady. "When I was very young, I was always taking things apart to see how they worked. It would drive my family crazy, my mother especially. But that was always something that was an interest to me. And then when I got into high school, science – biology – was always my favorite class."

She grew up as the youngest of three siblings in the tiny west-central Missouri town of Centerview. Her parents farmed, but also held "regular" jobs. Her dad was an inspector in a munitions plant. Her mother was a chemist. They were a family that spent a lot of time outdoors – on the farm, trout fishing or water skiing in southern Missouri, and later exhibiting cattle and horses.

As a teen, she participated in track and swimming and was very active in FFA and 4-H. "I was of an age that there weren't a lot of women's sports when I was in high school," said Schalue. "When I was a junior in high school, we got a track team. That was the first women's sport that we had. It was a hard-fought battle to get any women's activities. I was pretty good for our track team, but that's not saying a whole lot. I was also on the swim team, but it was not technically associated with the high school. It was a community swim team, but it was primarily high school students."

Schalue might not have been the fastest runner, but she was a very quick study. After completing her undergraduate and Master of Science degrees in animal science at the University of Missouri, she earned a doctorate in reproductive physiology/molecular biology at the University of Florida, where she also completed her post-doctoral training in obstetrics and gynecology.

Schalue later developed and directed the pre-implantation genetic diagnosis program at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kan., and served as director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine Lab-

oratories and associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Two years later, she assumed the role of director of laboratories at the Heartland Center for Reproductive Medicine, one of two positions she holds today. She is also associate administrator for the American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB) through the association management firm of Birenbaum and Associates. "They manage a number of different associations," she said, "but the one that I work with the most is the AAB."

She is certified as a High Complexity Laboratory Director (HCLD) and Embryology Laboratory Director (ELD) by the American Board of Bioanalysis. Schalue has published numerous peer review journal articles and abstracts and is a member of the National Honor Society Sigma Xi.

Schalue believes her upbringing around farm animals and an appreciation of the outdoors helped steer her toward biological research. "With my agricultural background, animal science was the only thing I really knew, so that's where I started out." She recalls visiting a lab as an undergrad at the University of Missouri and peering through a microscope at an eight-celled embryo. When she returned later in the day, it had grown into a more complex next-stage form, a blastocyst. "That was just amazing to me, and it pretty much hooked me into what I wanted to do," Schalue said. "I think from there I just ran with it."

Outside of work, she and her husband enjoy SCUBA diving, and taking up the sport was something she had wanted to do for years. The couple was at a professional conference on Maui when the opportunity to learn unexpectedly came along. "I said, 'I'm probably never going to get this chance again, so I'm doing it,'" said Schalue. "And we just fell in love with it."

She also enjoys photography – especially underwater photography – and video, college athletics, and counts companion animals and their welfare, community service and the environment as other interests.

"Animal issues are something very important to



Georgia Southern  
First Lady  
Dr. Tammie Schalue  
holds a master's  
in animal science  
and a doctorate  
in reproductive  
physiology/molecular  
biology.



me,” she said. “Spay and neuter programs are something that I would like to be a champion of in the community. Habitat for Humanity is something else that I find important and I think that would also be very beneficial to the students to be involved in those sorts of programs.

“The environment in general is something that I think is very important and is something I’d like to be involved with, and is also something that we can bring back to the students and give them the opportunity for some community service, not just in this area – but in all of south Georgia,” she said. “I’m more likely to be involved with things that are environmental or outdoor.”

She is emphatic about her personal tastes in music and food: “I like it,” Schalue laughed. “I pretty much like all sorts of music and we enjoy concerts. I had the chance to go to the Russell Union for a while and listen to the students put on their productions. It is amazing, some of the talent that we have on campus.”

As many great recreational and learning experiences as she has had, Schalue said one event stands above all.

At the University of Florida’s Shands research hospital, she helped to set up a program to screen couples whose DNA might prevent them from having healthy children. “The first couple that came though was part of a research project. They went through a lot turmoil through that whole process,” she said. “It was a tough time for them, I know, because they were actually out in the public eye more than most patients in their situation would have liked to have been.

“But, this was a couple who had an X-chromosome-linked hydrocephalis situation they were dealing with and had had three children that had died within moments of birth. They wanted to enter the program to see if they could have healthy children. We gave them two twin healthy girls. And, that is one of the events in my life of which I am most proud. I have a photo of them that I keep on my bookcase.”

In recognizing at least part of her drive to learn, to “know how things work,” Schalue also pays tribute to the nurturing influence of her roots.

“I grew up in a very small community, and you don’t realize what that’s like until you get out,” she said, “I didn’t think that we were a particularly close-knit family until I moved away from home and I realized how close a family and how close a community that I came from.

“And that’s nice. It’s a very good background to be from, I think.”

That was an excellent report that the consultants generated. It says a lot about not only athletics, but about Georgia Southern in general. Basically, what that report says is that we could make a move to the FBS, but it's expensive and some of that cost is going to require additional scholarships and some of that cost is going to require facilities to be built.

"I think that instead of just saying, 'okay, let's move to the FBS,' why don't we concentrate on trying to get some of those things done first? We could have an opportunity to say 'Let's put some money into our basketball arena,'" said Keel. "Let's put some money into our football stadium, so when we do decide to make that jump, we already have a lot of that groundwork done. I plan to use this as a fundraising opportunity to set the ground rules for when we can make that move.

"Clearly, this is not the time to do it for a variety of reasons, but we've got to get the facilities, we've got to get the infrastructure in place, and we've got to start winning some more games," he said. "The study does very nicely lay out the steps we need to do in order to get there. It's going to require not just support from this campus; it's really going to require support from the community. So if you think about it, it's not really Georgia Southern's decision. It is truly the community's decision if they want to go there."

#### MANAGEMENT STYLE: PLAN, DELEGATE AND HOLD ACCOUNTABLE

Keel revels in a working environment of diverse ideas, opinions, world views and the exposure that diversity brings to the entire University community. And, he wants to lay to rest any notion that his scientific background makes him view any one aspect of the University more favorably than another.

"The thing that I discovered when I left the academic medical center world and moved to Florida State was the beauty of being at a place that has so many unique things going on," he said. "One day I had an engineering professor in my office and the next day I had an English professor in my office. The complexity of the issues made my job absolutely fascinating.

"I love being at a place that provides that sort of comprehensive atmosphere. We're not just teaching scientists here.



Wildlife Center Director Steve Hein, President Keel and UGA professor of zoological medicine Steve Divers watch as veterinary students perform check ups on some of the Center's animals.

Nor are we just teaching musicians. We teach both. You have to have that sort of thing to provide a well-rounded education."

Keel sees his role as president as setting direction and administering steps needed to establish that direction – not being involved in day-to-day decisions he sees as best left to the vice presidents and deans. "You can't do those sorts of things as a president," he said. "You have to give more responsibility to the deans. I'm a very strong believer in having a strong provost position and having the academic affairs of the University be handled by that provost. Which means then, of course, that the provost passes that responsibility down to the deans and the deans handle that.

"I won't have the time nor the expertise to go tell the deans how to do their jobs," said Keel. "I do have the time and the inclination to hold the deans' feet to the fire with expectations that they produce a quality product. They have the responsibility to produce a high-quality education and to produce high-quality scholarship out of their colleges, and

they're the ones who are held responsible for that. They, of course, pass that down to the chairs where the bulk of the decisions are made.

"The person who is really responsible for that is the provost. We have an opportunity of looking at a provost position here," Keel said. "Gary Means is doing a fantastic job as interim provost. He has said he'd stay as long as I wanted him to and I am delighted to hear that, but I think we have an opportunity to move in that direction and provide more opportunity to give the deans an active role.

"The deans are not only going to have an opportunity to do fundraising, there's going to be a definite expectation that they're going to do so," he said. "They are going to have goals that they are expected to meet. From what I've heard from the deans, there's a tremendous amount of excitement about being able to participate in a capital campaign, for example, which is one of the goals we have.

"I think you have to set the bar and let everyone know what your expectations are, and get the heck out of the way and let them do their jobs."

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**“What I’d like to see Georgia Southern do is not just teaching state-of-the-art knowledge to the students, but **creating state-of-the-art knowledge** that can be taught to students.”**

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#### **MILESTONES: LIFE CHOICES AND INFLUENCES**

Brooks Keel’s father was reared on a farm, and his mother grew up in a very small town in South Carolina. His father was an industrial machinist who attended Wofford College for two years before leaving to help take care of his parents. His mother, who still lives in Augusta, was what he termed “an on-the-job-trained nurse” who worked for several physicians in the Augusta area. “I think perhaps her experience working with physicians got me interested in the medical field,” he said.

“We had a typical home life, I think. I’ve got two older brothers, both attended Augusta College,” explained Keel, “and we all had science backgrounds. We had a very middle-income-type existence. My parents had three sons who finished college, which my dad was very proud of.”

He describes his childhood as uneventful – maybe even boring. But like many young Boomers, he was fascinated with the U.S. space program in the 1960s. He remembers well the Apollo 11 moon landing. “I was sitting in the living room watching it with my family. I remember that very distinctly,” he said. “We had a relative who lived in Houston so I had a chance when I was a kid to tour the Houston space facility, but I never got the chance to go to the cape. Those guys ... You talk about heroes.”

There was one other event which left a vivid memory – one which might have also had an influence on his later direction in life.

“When I was five years old I was in a car accident with my grandmother – a very serious car accident,” Keel said. “I broke my neck, my leg and my jaw and was in the hospital for six weeks – which for a five-year-old kid was quite a traumatic experience.”

“I was incredibly fortunate to have lived through that sort of thing and I’ve often wondered *why* I lived through that sort of thing. That had a major influence on me and gave me an opportunity to appreciate life for what it is really worth.”

Keel was going to be a physician, but it was during his undergrad years at Augusta College his career direction moved from medical practice to medical research. But something more, something bigger in scope, also happened to Brooks Keel as an undergraduate student.

“When I went to Augusta College, I was majoring in biological sciences and I wanted to be a doctor,” he said. “One of the first courses I had to take was music appreciation. I hated it before I even walked in the door. I thought, ‘Why did I need this? This is just a waste of my time and I’m never going to use it to be a doctor. How is this going to make me a better person?’

“I went to class a couple of weeks. I hated it and I was an awful student until the professor played Bach’s ‘Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor.’ It absolutely changed my life. I’m not just making that up. It really did. It completely opened my eyes and I had just found a pretty significant part of being a human being,” he said. “That course really did change my whole attitude about things. It gave me an appreciation for the importance of providing not just a high-quality education but a well-rounded high-quality education. I didn’t go to medical school. I wound up going to graduate school, but it was that appreciation for the total aspects of an academic environment that really excited me.”

Now, he said, “I have a very eclectic taste in music. If you were to look at my collection of CDs, you would have everything from E. Power Biggs playing Bach’s ‘Tocatta and Fugue D Minor’ all the way up to jazz, blues, rock, just about everything you can think of. I got a chance to see Luciano Pavarotti perform when I was doing post-doc study in Houston. That was pretty spectacular, too.”

While working toward his undergraduate degree, Keel joined a fraternity – a move

that he said introduced him to valuable lessons in leadership and management. “That made a definite impression on me,” he said.

#### **FINDING HIS NICHE: RESEARCH SCIENTIST**

Keel was also introduced to a biology professor at Augusta College whose influence on his choice of careers was profound – John Black. Black was instrumental in nudging Keel toward his future career by giving him research opportunities as an undergraduate. “It really sort of set me on my path to where I am today,” said Keel.

John Black is now president of East Georgia College in Swainsboro. “I remember Brooks very clearly as an undergraduate,” said Black, who at Augusta College was the advisor assigned to students interested in going to professional schools for dentistry, pharmacy or medicine. “We had a very strong department,” he said, including field biologists who, in addition to teaching, took undergraduate students out to do field work in identifying flora and fauna. “Brooks was exposed to those classes,” said Black.

Keel became involved in an elective course in undergraduate research for promising freshman or sophomore students, said Black. “Brooks seemed to gravitate more toward the lab sciences than he did the field sciences,” he said, and he invited Keel to assist in his research. Black’s background was reproductive endocrinology, and at that time, sperm donors were not closely screened for the possible transmission of diseases, Black explained. Keel’s work with Black and the late groundbreaking Medical College of Georgia researcher Armand Karow help set disease screening standards.

“That was what led Brooks from Augusta College to the Medical College of Georgia where he got his Ph.D., and he had some of the same faculty that I had when I was preceding him,” said Black. “Brooks was always very bright. I don’t know anybody who has had the breadth of experiences that Brooks has had. I think if you had taken all of the eligible candidates and tried to pick one out of all the eligible presidential candidates that would fit Georgia Southern University, if there’s anybody in the world who can harness what you have and see the future, I think it’s Brooks Keel.”

# ALWAYS BUILDING

Retired professor John Martin is ever on the lookout for his next project.

**R**etired technology professor John Martin loves construction, and while he might not have thought about it at the time, he was a builder of what became Georgia Southern's School of Technology, now part of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology.

Martin's ties to the University go far beyond his 28 years as a professor. He is a 1950 graduate of Georgia Teachers College whose family holds tri-generational alumni status. Both his son, John, and daughter, Rebecca, are graduates, as is his grandson, John Jr. His granddaughter Kate is a Georgia Southern junior.

The professor began his life in the town of Argyle, Ga. His father's company logged and manufactured structural timbers for the railroad. Like most of his generation, the Great Depression left an indelible impression on his upbringing.

"Those were hard times," he remembered. "A nickel was hard to come by." He went to work for his father as a teenager, cutting timber in the heart of the Okefenokee Swamp. "It was sort of a circle that we made," he said. "It was very much the norm in the timber business – you would cut out your area of timber and then, when it all was gone, you would pick up and leave."

When the government halted logging in the Okefenokee, the operation moved to the pine groves near Glennville, Ga. Then World War II intervened.

After military service as a medic, Martin enrolled at Georgia Teachers College. With the help of the GI Bill, he earned his undergraduate degree and taught in Sylvania and Glennville. When he joined the faculty of Marvin Pittman Laboratory School, he implemented the school's Industrial Arts programs.

"I'm so proud of the fact that Georgia Southern is here. When we came here, it was just an agricultural town of 5,000 people."

–John Martin

"I always have said they gave it the wrong name when they put 'art' in there," he laughed. "When I established two new programs for construction management, people began to really get the wrong idea of what I had done because of the connotation of the word 'art.'"

Martin continued his education at Georgia Southern, becoming a member of the first master's graduating class in 1960. He was asked to split his time between teaching at Marvin Pittman and Georgia Southern, eventually moving full time to the college's technology division. With a family of his own by then, he began taking doctoral-level classes in the summer at the University of Missouri and completed his Ed.D.

Before long, John Martin's Wood Products Manufacturing classes were building for facilities all around campus. In his leisure time, Martin was building "products" of his own. His wife, Kate, is eager to show off the neatly crafted pieces that Martin has made from scratch throughout his life – he has nearly furnished his entire home.

In addition to his church, Martin's community service includes a long-time membership in Statesboro's Kiwanis Club. He designed and built the water wheel that stands at Statesboro's Kiwanis Ogeechee

Fairgrounds in his home workshop and assembled it with the help of professors Norman Wells, Don Whaley and retired University administrator Virgil Hicks.

"I was concerned about if I had my balance worked out sufficiently enough that a little bit of water in those troughs would turn it," he said. The day came to mount the wheel and there was no water flowing. "It was just set in place," he said. "I caught a glimpse of movement in my peripheral vision and I turned around and I was astonished. That water wheel was turning in just the little bit of breeze that was blowing."

Georgia Southern was a very different place in the 1950s and '60s, Martin said. He recalls that he took classes in the basement of the Alumni Gym, then taught in the industrial arts building located behind the Marvin Pittman Lab School. Later, when his teaching duties moved to the Carruth Building, "I could walk out and put my foot on the rail of a cow lot where Holstein cows were held, because Georgia Southern had a farm," he said.

Several faculty families, including the Martins and their young children, lived on campus in houses that lined Georgia Avenue, now bounded by sprawling residence complexes and shops. Their son and daughter, along with the children of other professors, played in the still heavily wooded areas and explored construction sites of the rapidly growing campus.

The Martins lived in a duplex near the location of today's Russell Union. The other half of the apartment building was home to the college's maintenance director. "Everybody was congenial," said Kate. "The atmosphere was like a small-town community."

Martin vividly recalls the construction of the F.I. Williams Center across the street



Retired professor John Martin constructed the water wheel at Statesboro's Kiwanis Ogeechee Fairgrounds.

from his home, the first “official” student center on campus. What was not so good was that meant the demise of the campus’ “Blue Tide” store. Martin was not alone in being sad to see it go in 1959. The Blue Tide was more than just a supply outlet. It was the daily social hub for campus. “That was the only place we had at that time to get a soda, a milkshake, or anything like that – plus our books,” he said.

At one time, before he stopped counting, he calculated that he had witnessed the construction of 36 campus buildings.

For a time, Martin maintained a garden at the urging of President Zach Henderson. There was an open space next to the Health Cottage in the vicinity of today’s Smithsonian National Tick Collection and Henderson asked him, “John why don’t you get out there and make a garden?” “I did,” said Martin, “and when I would go from my classes over to where we lived I would have a shirt and tie and a hound’s tooth hat on or something like that and everybody kidded me about being a gentleman farmer. But I was out there pushing my plow, plowing my garden.”

Their current home was constructed in 1962, and the family moved from their campus duplex. From then until his retirement 23 years ago, he continued to help build what is today’s School of Technology, adding courses and teaching construction techniques.

Retirement hasn’t stopped his involvement in church or Kiwanis. He’s still building. Martin constructed items needed for sports facilities in the years he served as an athletics booster, from rubdown benches to lockers.

“I was very much a football enthusiast, so when I retired I became a Georgia Southern booster,” he said. “I didn’t want to lose construction or let that part of me go, so I agreed to a gift-in-kind situation with the club.

“The University is such an integral part of Statesboro,” he said. “The fact that it has grown to 19,000 students is amazing. These students are really giving back to the community. I’m so proud of the fact that Georgia Southern is here. When we came here, it was just an agricultural town of 5,000 people.”

The 86-year-old veteran has seen Statesboro grow, but knows that some things – like its small-town feel – are just the same.

– Denver Pittman



## CHIRP CHIRP

Cricket Farming:  
It's a 'Dirty Job,'  
but alumni Clay and Cathy Boling Ghann  
are happy to do it.



# CHIRPY FUTURE

**S**ome jobs are satisfying, some are lucrative and some are just plain dirty.

Then there's the job done by Clay and Cathy Boling Ghann, which are all of those and more.

The 1981 Georgia Southern alumni and their international business, Ghann's Cricket Farm, recently drew the attention of the Discovery Channel when the network featured them on its popular Emmy-nominated show, "Dirty Jobs."

The show's producers contacted the couple in December 2008 after the farm was recommended by one of its customers as an interesting feature, said Clay. "The episode was filmed in June 2009 at our facility here in Augusta, Ga. It was a lot of fun – truly an experience we will never forget."

The show featuring the Ghanns aired in January.

"The experience of having a major tele-

vision show like 'Dirty Jobs' feature our business was really great, although I didn't jump at it initially," Clay said. "When they first contacted us, I was uncertain as to whether or not I wanted to do it. I was a little concerned that some of our people might find it mildly insulting in some way – the implication that their job was dirty, or gross or demeaning.

"But," he said, "after talking it over with my key people and discussing my concerns with the producers of the show, I was convinced that would not be the case. The goal of 'Dirty Jobs' is to honor the working man in a way that viewers find interesting, informative and entertaining – and I think the crew did a great job of delivering that.

"We think our folks are very deserving of such accolades," said Clay. "We are blessed with some really, really good people here, and I think that came across in the show. Our team is hard-working and

very dedicated, and we wouldn't be successful without them."

Having the television show's crew on hand was "kind of surreal at first," said Clay, "but after a few hours, as we talked and joked with them, we became more comfortable." The show's star, Mike Rowe, is "just as you see him on TV," he said. "He's funny, witty and just a regular guy. He and the crew were surprised at the scope and complexity of our operation, and how much science is involved in many of our processes.

"I guess nobody really thinks of a cricket farm as a sophisticated business – probably more like a backyard hobby – which couldn't be farther from the truth," Clay said. "We employ about 20 to 30 people depending on the time of year. In our busiest weeks, we ship five to six million crickets per week via FedEx, UPS and air freight. We produce around 300 million crickets

# P CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP



The cricket farming business is a seven-day-a-week job for Clay and Cathy Ghann. For more on their “dirty job,” including a link to show footage, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine).

per year, and they, in turn, produce about 100 tons of ‘Cricket Poo’ per year which really is a great organic fertilizer for flowers, shrubs, lawns and vegetable gardens.”

Operating the business involves some big challenges, said Clay, especially the amount of energy, persistence and dedication it takes to keep it going and growing. “We’ve seen this thing change from a small regional business to one of international scope. E-commerce has worked its way into the cricket business as well. We sell lots of crickets and mealworms now via our Web site, [www.ghann.com](http://www.ghann.com). It’s much larger and more involved than people think. We have six acres of land with buildings occupying a little over half of that, we ship crickets not only to every state in the U.S., but internationally as well – including Canada, England, France, Germany, The Netherlands and South Africa.

“Cathy and I both are usually at work

mentally even when we’re not at work physically,” Clay said. “At times I have found myself feeling envious of people who work for someone else. When they get off work and go home, I think it’s a lot easier for them to leave their work at work. Not so for us. We take care of business all day. We talk about business at dinner, we talk about business while we’re watching TV, and heck – we usually dream about business!”

Having said that, would they change the life they lead? “No, probably not,” said Clay. “All in all, the good Lord has blessed us far beyond what we deserve, and we’re very grateful for the opportunities we’ve been given and the success we’ve had.”

Going into the cricket business was not Clay’s idea of life after college. “No, it wasn’t always my plan,” he said. “I watched my dad work very hard to build up Ghann’s Cricket Farm during the years. It

demanded a tremendous amount of his time and energy, and at one point I actually decided I did not want to take over the business, and I told my dad that. I told him I’d do anything rather than go in the cricket business: I’d wait tables, pump gas, dig ditches. So, I waited a few tables, I pumped a little gas, I dug a few ditches, and one day it occurred to me that, you know, the cricket business might not be so bad after all! I think it’s called ‘growing up.’

“I thank my lucky stars – and my parents – every day for the opportunity to attend college in general, and Georgia Southern in particular,” said Clay, who earned a BBA. “I think I’m much better equipped to handle the demands of business – production, marketing, sales and finance – than I would be if I had not attended college. Cathy’s degree in accounting has also been put to good use as CFO/controller and part owner. »



## CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP

“I cannot think of a better place to come of age than Statesboro – I love that town with all my heart,” he said. “I had a lot of wonderful experiences there, most notably meeting my soulmate - or ‘split-apart’ as Plato said. We met in Sweetheart Circle in 1977, our first kiss was by the duck pond, and our first ‘real date’ was to the old Knights of Georgia. We spent many sunny afternoons hanging out on the old wooden bridge at Jones Landing, swimming in the ‘Geechie. If the old mill out near the cemetery is still standing, you might just find in the wall a heart-shaped carving with ‘Cricket + Cathy’ in it. Cathy and I married in 1982, bought the cricket farm from my dad in 1984, and the rest, as they say, is history. We now have two wonderful sons – Ben and Beau – who are both students at GSU.”

Some people are surprised at how clean the operation is, said Clay. “We are a bug farm, so yes, there’s a certain amount of dirtiness, but we put a lot of effort into keeping our facility clean and organized. In fact, we were a little worried that ‘Dirty Jobs’ might think we weren’t dirty enough for them. I figure if we’re going to run a bug farm, I want it to be the best bug farm there is!

“My Dad always taught me that whatever I was going to do, do it right! When I was a kid he used to say, ‘When you get a job, if all they ask you to do is sweep the floor, you be the best floor sweeper they’ve ever seen!’. He instilled that concept in me, and it has definitely helped me throughout the years.”

Clay said he doesn’t try to look too far into the future when planning for the business. “My main business strategy is a really simple one that my dad taught me years ago. He said, ‘Know your business, work hard, and do things the right way. Produce the best product you can produce, set your prices a little above your costs, and the rest will take care of itself. That’s what I’ve done. Now, obviously there’s a lot more to making things work than just that, but in today’s world sometimes I think we tend to over-think things,” said Clay.

“Sometimes keeping it simple works just fine, and maybe that gives you more time to stop and smell the flowers along the way. And, ‘Cricket Poo’ works great on flowers, by the way!”



Clay and Cathy Ghann’s farm ships as many as six million crickets around the world each week.

“We ship crickets not only to every state in the U.S., but internationally as well – including Canada, England, France, Germany, The Netherlands and South Africa.”

Clay Ghann, Ghann’s Cricket Farm

Hala Moddelmog  
receives elite  
AASCU Distinguished  
Alumnus Award

# Distinct honor

Georgia Southern alumna Hala Moddelmog has joined Pres. Lyndon Johnson, novelist James Michener, Sen. Robert Dole, newsman Tom Brokaw, entertainer Burl Ives, former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, and Gen. Colin Powell as a recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Moddelmog, the first graduate of Georgia Southern to receive the national award, earned her bachelor's degree in English from Georgia Southern in 1979 and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from the University in 2007. She most recently served as president and CEO of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. As a six-year breast cancer survivor, Moddelmog has a passion for championing women's issues and community engagement.

The award, one of the Association's highest national honors, was conferred on Nov. 24 at the AASCU's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Moddelmog has been a strong supporter of Georgia Southern, having served as the chair of the institution's first capital campaign in 2003, the Campaign for National Distinction. With a goal of \$40 million, she led the campaign that ultimately topped \$53 million for the University. She has also served on the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees, was named College of Liberal Arts Alumna of the Year in 2000, is an inductee into the College of Business Administration Hall of Fame, and was named the Distinguished Alumna of the Year for the University in 2007. She has served as an executive-in-residence for the College of Business Administration's Center for Retailing Studies.

Prior to joining Susan G. Komen for the Cure, she served as founder and CEO of



Catalytic Ventures, a private equity firm that consulted and invested in the food service industry. She became the first woman in corporate America to lead an international Quick-Service Restaurant brand in 1995 when she was named president of Church's Chicken, a division of Atlanta-based AFC Enterprises.

Moddelmog subsequently led Church's to record sales and profit performance. She also held executive management and marketing positions at Church's, Arby's Franchise Association and BellSouth. In August, Moddelmog was unanimously elected to the board of directors of Amerigroup Corporation. She has served on the boards of directors for Fiesta Brands Inc., HyperActive Technologies, and AMN Healthcare Services Inc.

Moddelmog has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to philanthropy, directing company participation in causes like Habitat for Humanity, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and helping to found Camp for Change,

which provides week-long summer camp experiences for children who would not otherwise have that opportunity.

Globally recognized for innovative leadership and strategic brand development, Moddelmog has served on the boards of Leadership Atlanta, the Atlanta Police Foundation, the B.B. King Museum Foundation and *Women Looking Ahead* magazine.

She is a recipient of the Women's Foodservice Forum Emerging Leader Award, the International Franchise Association Bonny LeVine Award, the Restaurant Hospitality Rising Star Award, and the Roundtable for Women in Foodservice Pacesetter Award. In 2003, she received the Women of Achievement Award from the YMCA of Greater Atlanta.

In 2008, she was called to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Moddelmog told the committee that efforts to find and fund early cancer detection methods should be a priority.

"There are so many cancers that don't have an early detection method, and that is what we have to start to do," she said. "Early detection is, in so many cases, the closest thing we have to a cure. It's time to conquer cancer."

In a 1999 interview with *Georgia Southern* magazine, Moddelmog said that her University training in the humanities contributed greatly to her ability to lead complex organizations. "The skills I developed in learning how to analyze English literature provided me with an excellent foundation for analyzing markets," she said. "Communication skills are absolutely critical. If you can't communicate and persuade others to follow you, you don't get a lot of productivity. I believe all of these are important for future success."

# Golden Dragon Acrobats

at the  
Performing Arts Center

The Golden Dragon Acrobats from Hebei, China, amazed their Performing Arts Center audience in January with a show they have presented in more than 65 countries on five continents and in all 50 U.S. states. Each of the troupe's performers has trained in the rigorous art of acrobatics since early youth.

For a full schedule of upcoming events at the PAC, visit [www.georgiasouthern.edu/pac](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/pac)



PHOTOS BY SUZANNE OLIVER AND RYAN HONEYMAN





# AROUND THE CIRCLE

GEORGIA SOUTHERN NEWS ROUNDUP



## GEORGIA SOUTHERN WINS AWARD FOR CAMPUS DESIGN

Georgia Southern has been presented the University System of Georgia's Regents' Facilities 2009 Award for Excellence for a long-term commitment to campus design and master planning. The award honors the University's Pedestrium walkway that serves as the main artery through campus. The award, considered the top honor for university facility design and planning, is voted on by a team of facility leadership from the 35 University System of Georgia member institutions. Georgia Southern is only the seventh university to win the award since it was established.



## BEST VALUE

According to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, Georgia Southern students are getting the best academic bang for their tuition buck. For the second year in a row, the school was named one of the 100 best values in public colleges and universities by Kiplinger, a publisher of personal finance and business forecasts. Only three other Georgia schools made Kiplinger's list this year.



## COCA-COLA SELECTS STUDENT TO CARRY OLYMPIC TORCH

Georgia Southern student Crystal Hardy spent Martin Luther King Day carrying the Olympic torch in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Dublin, Ga., native, the only student selected from Georgia, represented the United States during the torch run and was chosen for the honor because of her volunteer work, which includes co-founding the Laurens County Green Teens in her Dublin hometown. She is active in recycling and sustainability efforts at Georgia Southern. Hardy was one of only 20 people from the U.S. chosen by Coca-Cola to carry the Olympic torch as an example of positive living.

Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology

### REGASSA HONORED FOR TEACHING

Biology professor Laura Regassa has been awarded the Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. The award honors exemplary teaching that significantly improves student success and recognizes research demonstrating innovative teaching techniques that enhance student learning. Each year, recipients are selected from nominations submitted by the presidents of USG institutions. Each of the award winners receives \$5,000 and a certificate of achievement.



College of Education

### THOMAS KOBALLA NAMED DEAN

Thomas R. Koballa Jr. has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Education and Professor of Teaching and Learning, effective July 1. Koballa is a tenured professor of science education in the Department of Science Education at the University of Georgia. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in science education from East Carolina University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the Pennsylvania State University. He is past president of the National Association for Research in Science Teaching and the recipient of the Association of Science Teacher Education's Outstanding Mentoring Award. He teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in science education and has authored or co-authored more than 60 journal articles and chapters. His current research includes science teacher learning and mentoring.



College of Business Administration

### ONE OF NATION'S 'BEST BUSINESS SCHOOLS'

Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration has been recognized as one of the best 301 business schools in the country by The Princeton Review. This is the fourth year in a row Georgia Southern has been included on the list.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

### ADMINISTRATOR AND FACULTY MEMBER HONORED

Charles Hardy, dean of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, has been awarded the 2009 Distinguished Educator/Researcher of the Year Award from the Georgia Rural Health Association in recognition for his leadership as founding dean of the College.



Professor Karl E. Peace was recently honored on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for his numerous professional and charitable contributions. Peace is a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar, senior research scientist and professor of biostatistics in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

### COMM ARTS STUDENTS GET LEAP ON COMPETITORS

LEAP – Leadership, Experience, Academics and Professionalism – aims not only to help students acquire experience in their field, but also to make them more attractive to potential employers. Public relations majors earn points toward LEAP certification by participating in activities relating to their studies – attending workshops, networking, shadowing public relations professionals, blogging, attending conferences, and serving in communication positions for clients. At the end of their senior year, if they have accumulated the required points, students receive certification, indicating a level of experience beyond the norm.

College of Information Technology

### PROFESSORS ATTAIN SAP CERTIFICATION

Two Information Systems professors, Camille Rogers and Hsiang-Jui Kung, have attained Systems Applications and Products (SAP) certification, professional affirmation of their ability to effectively train students seeking to support SAP implementation within businesses. Both teach graduate and undergraduate courses with SAP components that students take to satisfy the requirements for the University's SAP Certificate. In addition, six students passed their own SAP certification exams, earning

the title of SAP Certified Business Associate with SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) 6.0. "The certification verifies that they understand how SAP ERP supports business processes and that they are capable of serving as business process consultants on SAP implementation projects," said information systems professor Tom Case.

College of Health and Human Sciences

### BARTELS NAMED INTERIM DEAN

School of Nursing Chair Jean Bartels will serve as interim dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences for the 2010-2011 academic year. Bartels has served as chair of the School of Nursing since 1999. She came to Georgia Southern from Alverno College in Milwaukee where she was nursing department chair from 1990-99. She currently chairs the University's Strategic Planning Council. She was recently named the 2009 recipient of the Sister Bernadette Armiger Award, the highest honor given by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.



Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies

### PATTERSON NAMED VP RESEARCH

Graduate Dean Charles Patterson has been named to the newly created position of vice president of research. He will continue in his current role as dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. "As Georgia Southern moves forward in expanding its research efforts, Dr. Patterson will play an integral role in the formation of the research and academic agenda at the University," said President Brooks Keel. "The vice president for research is responsible for the strategic growth of the University's research enterprise, which includes everything from encouraging partnerships with industry and other educational institutions to ensuring that all of our undergraduate and graduate students have ample research opportunities."





During the past few years, the U.S. economy has shown its vulnerability to petroleum-derived energy as armed conflicts, political instability, natural disasters and limited supplies have driven crude oil to above \$140 per barrel and pump prices for gasoline over \$4 per gallon.

**NOW THE  
GOOD NEWS.**

# RENEWABLE ENTHUSIASM

**G**eorgia Southern is offering leadership and looking ahead to the future on energy-related issues in a move toward energy independence and self-sufficiency with a focus on renewable energy and environmental science research.

“In 2009, a task force of faculty developed recommendations for the development of interdisciplinary research themes in the College,” said Bret Danilowicz, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology. “Their recommendations were approved by the faculty as a whole in May 2009. The four themes are coastal plain science, computational science, green construction, and renewable energy.

“New faculty hiring within the College will be aligned to support the development of these research themes,” said Danilowicz, “and it is expected the College will become regionally then nationally recognized for the research being conducted in these themes.”

The fostering of this research focus has been met with fantastic support, he said. The State of Georgia es-

tablished and funded an Endowed Chair of Renewable Energy at Georgia Southern, and biofuel facilities in the state are converting Georgia-grown agricultural products into marketable fuel.

These efforts, along with other initiatives at Georgia’s public universities, will contribute to long-term fuel stability within the state. Equally important, these steps reduce Georgia’s dependence on foreign petroleum sources.

## **BECOMING A REGIONAL CENTER**

Georgia Southern University’s former president Bruce Grube enhanced the renewable energy initiative by signing the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate research and education to become climate-neutral.

To this end, Georgia Southern plans to become a regional center for renewable energy sciences with an emphasis in application. Renewable energy encompasses



“This partnership provides tremendous opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and Georgia Southern faculty to participate in real-world applied research that can provide local economic benefits to the region.”

Dean Bret Danilowicz, Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology

power generation using a variety of ongoing natural processes including solar power, wind power, wave power, flowing water (hydropower), biological processes such as anaerobic digestion, and geothermal heat flow. All of these natural processes result in energy that is replaced at a rate equal to or faster than the rate at which that resource is being consumed.

The effects of these research themes and future growth on campus are also intertwined. Renewable energy sources, like solar panels, are being built into the design of future buildings on campus, including the proposed biological sciences building.

Chair of Renewable Energy Valentin Soloiu is involving faculty and students in research in this field. The research team will identify renewable sources of energy in south Georgia and design and evaluate products to capture the energy in a useable form for commercial or residential use in the region.

The research team, under Soloiu’s direction, will also assist regional industries in energy consumption analy-

sis, appropriate strategies for conservation of energy, and preservation of our environments. In addition to creating a regional repository of technology that showcases renewable energy application, these activities will help advance the State of Georgia and the region through the benefits of higher education.

#### **FACULTY, STUDENTS COLLABORATE**

The newly established Renewable Energy Laboratory is conducting research in the formulation, generation, transfer and combustion of biofuels. This laboratory combines multiple disciplines and faculty at the University, including biology, chemistry and engineering, to address the production requirements for a viable energy substitute from organic materials.

Current areas of research interest in the laboratory include advanced combustion technologies, homogeneous charge compression ignition and low temperature combustion, advanced laser diagnostics, spray dynamics, mixture formation, smart engines control strategies, »

“For the experimental part of our wind energy research we have designed and fabricated a low speed sub-sonic wind tunnel which becomes the first wind tunnel on campus.”

Mosfequr Rahman, technology professor

and engine tribology – the study and application of friction. The most significant research in the lab’s first year was the conversion of a small engine to a fuel-injected engine capable of using 100 percent ethanol.

Engineering students are now able to conduct research on how to run engines efficiently with low particulate and nitrogen emissions using fuels made from renewable biofuels, including novel ones derived from non-food sources such as acorns and pine trees.

The College is also home to the Center for Sustainability, led by biology professor Lissa Leege. The Center has provided two Sustainability Incentive Grants to the Renewable Energy Lab targeted at the development of novel biofuels, and the use of those fuels in local farm equipment.

In the chemistry department, a number of faculty are conducting research which supports this theme. Notably, the Department has many undergraduate students involved with this research, preparing those students for careers in the rapidly expanding renewable energy field. Understanding and optimizing the chemical reactions that produce biofuels, and discovering new and improved ways to produce those fuels from a number of different starting materials, is researched by professor David Kreller’s team.

“The chemistry department is in a good position to support the biodiesel formulation efforts of the engineering technology department as well as undertake our own research toward resolving some of the fundamental unanswered questions in the area of the chemical reactions through which biodiesel is produced,” said Kreller.

Chemistry professor Shannon Davis and her research team are investigating the development and use of novel catalysts to improve the chemical reactions involved in converting biomass to biofuels, and professor Norman Schmidt analyzes biodiesel profiles using gas chromatography.

According to Soloiu, the lab has an effect on both the environment and the students.

“What is very special about the lab is that it is very comprehensive. A different level of responsibility comes with working in a research lab. The students develop a new mentality toward the environment,” Soloiu said.

#### DRIVING NEW PROGRAMS

The newest addition to the lab, a Dieselmax engine, was recently donated by JCB Inc., one of the world’s leading manufacturers of heavy equipment. The same engine was used in the vehicle that set the land speed record for diesel-powered cars at 350 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats in 2006. Georgia Southern students are using the engine to research biodiesel and other biofuels combustion emissions.

“This partnership provides tremendous opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and Georgia Southern faculty to participate in real-world applied research that can provide local economic benefits to the region,” said Danilowicz.

The next generation of students graduating from Georgia Southern’s Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology will be educated in renewable energy technology both at graduate and undergraduate levels. This will allow for a range of specialty courses within the ma-



for, the development of a core-satisfying environmental science laboratory course, and a Master of Science degree in applied engineering with a renewable energy emphasis.

“We have already added courses in renewable energy to the undergraduate Mechanical Engineering Technology program as well as at the graduate level to the Master of Science in Applied Engineering Program,” said Mohammed Davoud, chair of the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology.

The faculty of the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology are also involved in research related to solar and wind energy. Several undergraduate and graduate students under the supervision of professor Mosfequr Rahman are currently involved in design and development of a low-cost, affordable



wind turbine that can be utilized for residential power generations.

With the Renewable Energy Lab nearing completion, the future looks bright, not just for the region and the environment, but for the countless students who will have the opportunity to conduct applied research.

—Marla Bruner

**Above, l-to-r:** Mechanical and electrical engineering student Jeff Lewis, professor Mosfequr Rahman and graduate assistant Khandakar Morshed run an analysis on the wind turbine.

**At right:** In March, Georgia Southern faculty and students hosted a visit by diplomats representing 20 countries to the Renewable Energy lab during the statewide International VIP Tour. The Tour was sponsored The Georgia Department of Economic Development.



Did you know, tucked away on the bottom floor of the Herty Building is the human gross anatomy laboratory, a teaching facility unlike any other in the state?

# Mortui Viventes Docent\*

\*the dead teach the living

One of Georgia Southern University's best hands-on teaching tools for students isn't prominently displayed on campus.

In fact, many people don't even know it exists.

"Having this lab is an unbelievable feather in Georgia Southern's cap," said Matthew Williamson, director of the human gross anatomy laboratory and a biological anthropologist in the College of Health and Human Sciences' Department of Health and Kinesiology. "The list of things you can learn from this is endless."

What makes the lab so unique is a combination of hands-on learning opportunities and high-tech equipment that is unmatched by any other university in Georgia. Rather than the "virtual" study of the human body that many schools across the country conduct, Georgia Southern stu-

dents learn anatomy by actually working with cadavers.

"Students who use the lab tell me all the time what a huge impact it makes on the work they will do as nurses or community health professionals," Williamson said. "One student was so moved by her experience in the lab that she went home and told her parents, 'I held a human heart in my hand!' She couldn't believe it."

The lab is utilized by students in six different majors – pre-nursing, community health, exercise science, pre-athletic training, physical education and nutrition. Students in each of those majors are required to take Georgia Southern's Anatomy and Physiology I and II lecture and lab courses.

Twelve sections of the human anatomy class are offered per week, with 30 students in each section. The students aren't limited to just periodic lessons with the

cadavers, though; they have several opportunities during the semester.

"For students who want to go into healthcare fields, there is no substitute for this experience," Williamson said. "No one in the state is better than we are in the undergraduate human anatomy class, in terms of the number of cadavers available and the time the students can spend on them."

The undergraduate students don't perform any dissections themselves; rather, they study dissections done by Georgia Southern Health and Kinesiology graduate students. Since bodies and organs won't always look like the ones shown in textbooks or computer models, the hands-on opportunities – identifying organs, seeing the human variation of them and understanding how those parts work together to form organ systems – are invaluable.





Georgia Southern's human gross anatomy laboratory is used by graduate and undergraduate students in six health-related majors.

“My experience with Dr. Williamson and the opportunities he provides for his anatomy students have been the defining point of my college career,” said Maureen Ransom, a junior majoring in community health. “With my previous anatomy and physiology experience limited to textbook study, I never imagined that I would be able to gain an up-close, practical knowledge of how the human body functions.”

Ransom took the Anatomy and Physiology I and II courses in the laboratory last year. Each day enabled her to practice the laboratory's guiding principle, *Mortui Viventes Docent*, Latin for “the dead teach the living,” the motto posted on one of the lab's walls.

“While the material was quite challenging, the labs I attended really shed light on what makes a body function,” she said. “With each lab I attended and each model or cadaver I studied, the material became

less intimidating and more familiar. I soon found myself eagerly learning not only the material for the test, but also material that went well beyond the testing standards.”

The students conduct their work on downdraft autopsy tables, like the ones used in FBI crime labs. The tables use a vacuum to draw fumes down the table and out the building, reducing the students' exposure to them, and to drain any fluid leakage.

Since the lab's inception in 2007 as part of the Herty Building renovation, it has received cadavers on loan from the Medical College of Georgia. The lab has room for 11 bodies at a time – one on each of the five tables and six in the refrigerated storage unit – which can each be used for about a year.

“Everything we do is student-oriented – it's all for the teaching of our students,” Williamson said.

## Lab donors contribute knowledge that betters lives

Last summer, Georgia Southern's human gross anatomy laboratory received its first direct donation of a cadaver, from a family in another state.

“I wrote a letter to the family explaining the magnitude of that donation,” Williamson said. “The donor's daughter read the letter at the memorial service, to help the family see the impact that was being made on hundreds or even thousands of students.”

Since then, two more people have pledged to donate their bodies when they die. Such commitments are vital, Williamson said, since all bodies for the lab must be donated or loaned. Paying for cadavers is illegal, he added.

“Ideally we would like to have cadavers donated directly to us, so we can be the first ones to work on them,” said Williamson, who coordinates the University's body donation program.

Along with benefitting the lab, the body donation program also provides a service to the community. Donating a cadaver to the lab is a viable option for families who cannot afford a funeral. In return, Georgia Southern agrees to cover the cost of embalming and cremating the body.

“We can't rely on cadaver loans forever and we are grateful to the individuals who have donated thus far,” Williamson said. “This kind of selfless gift has the potential to influence the lives and educations of many, many students – students who will carry this profound experience with them their entire lives and careers.”

–Paul Floeckher

“We need and want to protect the health of the public and must do all we can through research and community projects to realize this objective.”

Kari Fitzmorris, environmental health professor

# CORE OBJECTIVE

## Unique bio-safety research laboratory to open this fall in renovated Hendricks Hall

Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) will be moving to a newly renovated Hendricks Hall this fall. When it arrives, the College will take the reins of a brand new Core Research Lab facility.

The lab will include a Bio-Safety Level 3 (BSL3) lab and will be one of roughly a dozen of its kind in Georgia.

“A BSL3 lab will increase research productivity that will help us better understand how various agents move through the environment and impact the health of our communities, open opportunities for greater funding for the College and Georgia Southern, provide health-related research opportunities for interested Georgia Southern students, and support the work of other health professionals in our region,” said environmental health profes-

sor Kari Fitzmorris. “We need and want to protect the health of the public and must do all we can through research and community projects to realize this objective.”

The mission of JPHCOPH is to enhance health and eliminate health disparities of rural communities and underserved populations in Georgia and the southeastern region, the nation and the world through excellence in public health workforce development, research, professional service and community engagement. The lab, which is dedicated to analyzing soil, air and water samples from the surrounding areas in an effort to find and remove contaminants, will facilitate these goals.

“Developing this BSL3 lab will expand our capacity to meet our mission,” said Fitzmorris. “The contributions of JPHCOPH and this lab will complement the

University’s mission as a dynamic doctoral university, and support our focus on service and outreach to our region, state, nation and world.”

While construction was underway, a planning committee was organized to develop lines of communication with on- and off-campus groups about the new facility as well as form standard operating procedures that will guide the maintenance and use of the lab upon its opening.

The first proposed project for Fall Semester 2010 will be the examination of municipal wastewater and solids to determine biological contaminant content and inactivation, particularly in well water for surrounding rural areas.

“The faculty members at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, especially our Environmental Health Sciences faculty, are excited about the opportunity to embark on this level of public health research pertinent to rural and underserved populations in southeast Georgia,” said Dean of JPHCOPH Charles J. Hardy.

Because of the high level of research the laboratory can support, the University expects to attract more grants and research funding opportunities, thus creating a more efficient program of study for JPHCOPH students. Students will receive the opportunity to gain hands-on research experience in the laboratory.

According to Fitzmorris, the facility will provide research experience needed for adequate training in the fields of environmental health science and epidemiology. “The training our students will receive in this lab as they prepare to embark on careers dedicated to improving the health of our communities will be invaluable,” added Hardy.

Initially, only graduate students will conduct research in the labs with faculty. However, over time undergraduate students may collaborate in the process after appropriate training.

JPHCOPH determined the need for the environmental health laboratory when the College was created in 2006 and has been working toward establishing the facility.

The entire Core Research Lab will be comprised of two labs for undergraduate chemistry, two labs dedicated to teaching, and two BSL3 research laboratories. Each will promote the goal of continuing education and resources toward the overall public health.



Biology majors Tabitha Williford, a junior from Perry, Ga., and Jessica Cain, a sophomore from Kennesaw, Ga., collect specimens from one of the wasp traps placed in the wild.

# THE STING

University researchers set traps to study yellow jacket populations

**S**outherners have a reputation for having a sweet tooth. So do the wasps in this part of the country, which is helping a group of biology honors students at Georgia Southern to learn more about them.

Eleven students in the Research Methods in Biology course participated fall semester in an international research project to monitor the behavior and diversity of yellow jackets and hornets. Alan Harvey, associate biology professor at Georgia Southern, is working with the U.S. Geological Survey in the pilot project that involves universities in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and the Czech Republic.

Through this collaboration, researchers can simultaneously monitor wasp populations over half the planet by coming up with sampling instructions that anyone can follow, Harvey said.

For much of the year in South Georgia, yellow jackets and hornets are protein hunters that keep people from being overrun by caterpillars, Harvey said. However, around the start of autumn, the animals boom in population and develop a taste for sweets instead of caterpillars, changing them from pest controllers to just plain pests.

“If we can come up with a good way to monitor them, we might be able to better identify problem areas and eliminate only the most troublesome nests,” Harvey said.

For Georgia Southern’s study, students placed 36 traps around campus and another 36 traps at George L. Smith State Park in nearby Twin City, Ga. At both sites, traps were placed in three different habitats – a woodland, a sand hill and a recent con-

trolled-burned area.

The traps are half-liter plastic bottles, each containing one of three baits the class tested: apple juice, apple cider vinegar, and beer. “The Southern species really like apple juice, they’re not interested in vinegar, and beer is somewhere in-between. That’s different from other parts of the world,” Harvey said.

Harvey and the students visited the traps once a week to check on their progress. The traps captured more than 1,300 yellow jackets, which were identified and preserved for further study.

“This project is the perfect way to introduce research methods that I want my students to learn, and their findings could wind up being used around the world,” Harvey said. “They’re making a real contribution.”

“Being involved in the project has given me my first real taste of field work,” said Jessica Cain, a sophomore from Kennesaw, Ga. “Going through the entire process, from brainstorming how to set up the experiment to actually collecting the yellow jackets to analyzing the data, has been a great experience. As a result, I am now more motivated to get involved in the undergraduate research opportunities at Georgia Southern.”

One possible finding, according to Harvey, is that wasps may do the opposite of what many other animals do – they may not feed where their nest is. The traps close to nests collected far fewer wasps than did the traps farther from nests.

“For example, if you’re getting pestered by yellow jackets at the Russell Union, it may not do any good to eliminate the closest nest. Their nest may be 100 yards away,” Harvey said.





Georgia Southern  
researchers are using  
GIS data to help solve  
community social problems.

# ON THE MAP

**M**erging the disciplines of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and human geography, Georgia Southern geography professor Robert Yarbrough and professor Tom Chapman at Old Dominion University are working to create a mass system of geo-spatial data to better serve people in need.

Their Community Geography Initiative helps local communities detect community health, environmental, housing and economic problems with the use of specialized mapping techniques.

“We are interested in broadly seeking a kind of social and economic justice,” Yarbrough said. “We see it as an opportunity to use our expertise and training as professional geographers to contribute to making people’s lives better.”

During summer and fall semesters in 2009, Yarbrough and Chapman invited undergraduate interns to work with them in locating sub-standard housing in Camden County, Ga., and mapping those locations using GIS. They collaborated with the Camden Community Alliance & Resources Inc. (CCAR), which helped provide the data on the locations which the faculty team mapped.

GIS technology allows users to assign land-based coordinates to a home, business or service organization. Using computer-generated maps, those coordinates can be easily located, identified by type and proximity to other locations and overlaid with additional demographic or physical information.

“We think we are going to use the maps as a snapshot for where we are now and measure our progress as we move forward,” CCAR Executive Director Calenda

Perry said. “We just want to help people in these situations create better environments for themselves.”

Yarbrough described CCAR’s participation in the project as invaluable. “One of the big things about doing any research when you are using GIS as a tool is making sure you have access to quality data,” Yarbrough said. “You can have all the greatest ideas in the world and the fastest computer programs, but without good data to start with, your finished product will suffer.

“One of the main things we learned was the importance of broadly educating people about the applications of GIS and how it can aid these community-based organizations. Becoming comfortable and familiar with the groups you are working with is essential,” said Yarbrough. “We want to make sure we have a reciprocal relationship with our community partners. We do not just want experience for our students, but actually something that is helpful for the community-based organization. We try to allow them to drive the process and lead us to where we can help them better achieve their goals.”

One of the unique aspects of the research project is Georgia Southern’s involvement of undergraduate students. The process provides benefits to students, faculty and society alike. Apart from lab work alone, the research allows the student to feel an intellectual attachment to and ownership of something bigger. The relationship between the professor and the student is vital in the development of innovative alumni. It provides for the stable transition from apprentice to team member and creates a larger perspective into the work field.

“Many times students have a lot of train-



Professor Robert Yarbrough and student research assistant Ben McKeeman examine a series of GIS generated maps.



“We want to make sure we have a reciprocal relationship with our community partners. We do not just want experience for our students, but actually something that is helpful for the community-based organization.”

Robert Yarbrough, geography professor

ing and knowledge, but lack the opportunities to apply them in the real world,” Yarbrough explained. “We want our students to be involved from the beginning to the end of a community geography project, not just the middle.”

Wes Askew, a senior at Georgia Southern, was the student collaborator for the program last summer. He said nothing could have taught him better than the hands-on experience he received from the program.

“Applying something to a real-world perspective means starting from scratch,” said Askew. “It is much more than doing a lab that is already completed before you begin. It helped me to focus on the wider applications of the program and how it can benefit actual lives rather than just going through the motions of a project,” he said. “Both the non-technical and technical sides are important. Without knowledge of why you are doing something, it loses its purpose.”

Askew graduated in December and used his experience to highlight his senior thesis.

Yarbrough described Askew as the “guinea pig of a bigger project” in which they hope to implement student research in all levels of GIS.

Yarbrough said he hopes that incorporating students will also help promote a better understanding and implementation of the system on a wider perspective.

“We’re excited about getting our hands on more data and putting our interns to work,” he said. “The possibilities are endless.”

“In the longer term, we are trying to figure out a way that we can achieve the same goals in a more direct way,” Yarbrough said. “But that takes a lot of resources in terms of training people how to use GIS in their own lives.”

– Denver Pittman

“It was an outstanding group of players. From the beginning of fall practice until the end of the season, everybody worked hard.”

- Jack Stallings, coach



# DREAM

Twenty years ago this spring, Georgia Southern rode a season-long wave

**T**odd Greene enjoyed a college baseball career that most players only dream of.

In his four seasons at Georgia Southern (1990-93), Greene earned All-America honors three times. He holds the school records for home runs (88), runs batted in (257) and total bases (640). He ranks third all-time on the NCAA Division I career home runs list.

However, Greene says, the highlight of his college career remains the *team* accomplishment of his freshman season. The 1990 Eagles won a school-record 50 games and advanced to the College World Series for the second time in school history.

“I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything,” said Greene, who played 11 years in the major leagues and is now a scout for the Seattle Mariners.

Legendary coach Jack Stallings is 13<sup>th</sup> all-time on the NCAA Division I career wins list with 1,255, including 858 at Georgia Southern. But no team in his 39 years as a head coach won as many games as the 1990 Eagles.

“It was an outstanding group of players,” Stallings said. “From the beginning of fall practice until the end of the season, everybody worked hard.”

## NO ROLE TOO BIG OR SMALL

Though only a freshman, Greene was one of the team’s leaders and hardest workers. It paid off as he led the Eagles in nearly every offensive category, including hits (100), home runs (26), runs batted in (75) and total bases (203), en route to becoming the first freshman ever named Trans America Athletic Conference (TAAC) Player of the Year.

Senior outfielder Thad Clayton posted much more modest statistics, batting just 12 times all season with two hits and one run batted in. However, he did play in 32 games as a late-inning defensive replacement and pinch-runner.

“My utility role on the team taught me many lessons, one being that no contribution is too small to help accomplish something great,” Clayton said.

“Everybody contributed, and that’s what it takes,” said Rob Fitzpatrick, the catcher and cleanup hitter. “Absolutely, without a doubt, it was my greatest year of baseball – not just for me personally, but to be around that great group of guys and see our hard work pay off and it all come together for everybody.”

Fitzpatrick, a senior, hit a team-best .382 with 21 homers and 65 RBI. Following the season, he was selected by the Montreal Expos in the seventh round of the major league draft. Sophomore pitcher Joey Hamilton, who would go on to a 10-year major league ca-



FAR LEFT –The 1990 Georgia Southern baseball team set a school record with 50 wins and advanced to the College World Series for the second time in school history.

Legendary head coach Jack Stallings (1) and the Georgia Southern assistant coaches are announced prior to the Eagles' College World Series game against Mississippi State.

# SEASON

of hard work and talent all the way to Omaha and the College World Series.

reer, led the nation with 18 wins while striking out 138 batters in a school-record 161 innings pitched.

The Eagles were much more than their All-America trio of Greene, Fitzpatrick and Hamilton, though. Junior first baseman Mike Yuro hit .358, the second-best batting average on the team. Senior center fielder Chris Abner stole a team-high 29 bases. Sophomore left fielder Mike Miller batted .324 with 15 homers and 56 RBI. Junior third baseman Chad Sumner drove in 48 runs and sophomore second baseman Doug Eder drove in 44. Freshman shortstop Chris Petersen hit .473 in conference games. Junior pitcher Scott Ryder won 11 games, saved two more and registered 128 strikeouts.

But possibly no player personified that season's success more than senior pitcher Peter Bouma. Growing up in Statesboro, he attended Georgia Southern baseball games and dreamed of playing for the Eagles.

Bouma realized that dream, but played sparingly his first three years and entered his senior season with one career win. In that magical 1990 season, he won 10.

"I hoped to be a solid starter or come out of the bullpen and contribute as much as possible. I don't know whether I really thought I would win 10 games," Bouma said.

»



Senior catcher Rob Fitzpatrick was a leader at the plate and behind the plate for the 1990 team.



Second baseman Doug Eder fields a throw in Georgia Southern's College World Series opener against Stanford.

### START OF SOMETHING BIG

The Eagles began the year uneventfully, with six losses in their first eight games.

But their confidence never wavered. Greene recalls the team huddling around their head coach after losing two of three against Florida to open the season: "Coach Stallings told us, 'We're going to be good. You just have to believe we're going to be good.'"

Sure enough, the Eagles returned home and reeled off 12 straight wins. The streak began with a 14-1 trouncing of Furman behind Hamilton's two-hit, 10-strikeout gem, and senior Jay Berkner followed with a two-hitter of his own in a 4-0 shutout of the Paladins.

The Eagles then won two games apiece against Youngstown State, West Virginia and James Madison before opening conference play with a three-game sweep of Mercer, ignited by a 14-run first inning in the series-opening 15-2 win. Georgia Southern scored a season-high 16 runs against Augusta for consecutive win number 12.

The streak ended with a loss to South Carolina, but the Eagles bounced back the next day with a 14-10 win over the Gamecocks. Greene crushed three home runs in the game, a feat he would duplicate later in the season in a 14-5 rout of Centenary in the conference tournament.

### SO CLOSE TO PERFECTION

The 1990 Eagles were dominant in conference play, finishing with the best mark in TAAC history (17-1).

In typical coach's fashion, Stallings remembers the one loss more than the 17 wins. So does Fitzpatrick, a head coach himself these days at Westfield School in Perry, Ga.

"Usually when you ask about a game that sticks out, it's one that you didn't win," Stallings said with a laugh.

With a two-run lead and Hamilton on the mound against Samford, Georgia Southern appeared headed to another win. However, a wild pitch that allowed a batter to reach base after a strikeout – a curveball in the dirt that to this day Fitzpatrick says he should have caught – helped the Bulldogs rally for three runs in their final at-bat to steal a 4-3 win.

"I know I should have had it," Fitzpatrick said. "I talk about that game all the time with my players – that one small thing can be the difference in the game."

The Eagles bounced back to beat Samford 13-6 in the series finale, the first of 16 straight wins. Georgia Southern avenged its only TAAC loss with a three-game sweep of Samford in Statesboro, and also swept the conference series against Stetson and Mercer. Eagle pitchers were dominant during the winning streak with six shutouts, including three in a row by Hamilton

"Absolutely, without a doubt, it was my greatest year of baseball – not just for me personally, but to be around that great group of guys and see our hard work pay off and it all come together for everybody."

– Rob Fitzpatrick

(8-0 versus Samford), Bouma (12-0 versus Samford) and freshman Dave Masi (10-0 versus Baptist).

After splitting a pair of non-conference games at Clemson, the Eagles swept Stetson again to complete their record-setting run through the conference.

### NOT DONE YET

After losing just one conference game all year, the Eagles dropped their opener in the TAAC Tournament. The Eagles bounced back, winning three straight to reach the championship game, but fell 15-4 to the same Stetson team they had defeated in all seven previous meetings that season.

"I remember how guys were hanging their heads after that game," Stallings said, "but I also remember we had guys who came into the locker room and said, 'Hey, we have work to do. We're not through with this season.'"

But that was no guarantee. Even with 46 wins and a regular-season conference championship, the Eagles weren't certain to receive a bid to the NCAA Regionals.

Huddled around a radio in a conference room near Stallings' office, the players listened to the tournament field being announced. Finally, they heard they were in, and the celebration began.

"We heard our name called, and I didn't even hear who we were going to play,"

## 1990 GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

50-19 record (most wins in school history)  
17-1 conference record (best in Trans America Athletic Conference history)  
26-3 home record, including 24-game winning streak  
2<sup>nd</sup> College World Series appearance in school history  
Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in final poll by Collegiate Baseball/ESPN, 11<sup>th</sup> by Baseball America  
Trans America Athletic Conference Player of the Year – Todd Greene  
Three players named to All-America teams – Rob Fitzpatrick, Joey Hamilton and Greene

## TEAM LEADERS

Batting Average – Rob Fitzpatrick, .382  
At-Bats – Chris Abner, 295\*  
Runs Scored – Rob Fitzpatrick, 70  
Hits – Todd Greene, 100  
Home Runs – Todd Greene, 26  
Triples – Todd Greene and Chad Sumner, 3  
Doubles – Todd Greene, 19  
Runs Batted In – Todd Greene, 75  
Total Bases – Todd Greene, 203\*  
Stolen Bases – Chris Abner, 29  
ERA – Joey Hamilton, 3.07  
Wins – Joey Hamilton, 18\*  
Complete Games – Joey Hamilton, 10  
Innings Pitched – Joey Hamilton, 161\*  
Strikeouts – Joey Hamilton, 138

\* School Record



A crowd of Georgia Southern fans greeted the Eagles at Hanner Fieldhouse on their return from the College World Series.

Greene said.

Their opponent was one of college baseball's most successful programs. The Eagles were headed to the Midwest Regional, where they would open against defending national champion Wichita State – on the Shockers' home field.

### SHOCKING THE SHOCKERS

While Greene is best remembered for his offense, possibly his biggest play of the season was on defense.

On the strength of Hamilton's pitching and run-scoring singles by Sumner and Yuro, the Eagles led Wichita State 2-0 entering the bottom of the ninth inning. WSU rallied for two runs in the ninth, but Greene cut down the potential winning run with a throw that nailed the Shockers' Jim Audley at home plate.

"From the time I saw the ball coming to me, I had no doubt I was going to throw him out," Greene said.

Greene's play sent the game to extra innings, and Fitzpatrick belted a two-out home run in the top of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Yuro added an RBI double and Ryder pitched four innings of scoreless relief in the Eagles' 4-2 win.

Greene had worked hard on his defense after being moved from third base to right field in pre-season practice. In fact, he said one of senior teammates "went out of his way" to help him learn to play the outfield.

That teammate? Thad Clayton, of course.

### 'WE'RE GOING TO OMAHA!'

Following the upset of Wichita State, the Eagles split two games with South Alabama in the double-elimination tournament. Designated hitter Steve Siebert's RBI double in the ninth lifted Georgia Southern to a 5-4 win over UCLA and a winner-take-all rematch with South Alabama.

Trailing 3-1 in the fifth inning, Georgia Southern put two runners on base. South Alabama chose to walk Greene intentionally, loading the bases for Fitzpatrick. The senior responded with a grand slam to put the Eagles ahead.

"That was absolutely the biggest home run I ever hit," Fitzpatrick said. "They walked a freshman to pitch to a senior. It was a pressure situation, and I hit the grand slam. It was amazing."

Miller doubled in the sixth and scored on a single by Abner to put Georgia Southern ahead 6-5, and Hamilton made the score hold up for his 18<sup>th</sup> win. Greene caught a fly ball for the final out, clinching the Eagles' trip to the College World Series in Omaha.

"I had this split second of panic because Todd was kind of hopping as the ball headed out to him," Bouma said. "I then realized he was jumping from the excitement of knowing he had it."

"It was hard for me to keep my feet on

the ground as I was camping under the ball," Greene said.

"When Todd caught the ball to end the game," Fitzpatrick said, "that was the greatest moment – realizing we're going to Omaha!"

### TOUGH ENDING

Following his clutch home runs in the regional, Fitzpatrick belted another home run in the College World Series opener against Stanford – or so everyone in an Eagle uniform thought.

Television replays showed that Fitzpatrick's sixth-inning blast cleared the fence, but the umpires ruled it a double instead of a two-run homer. Stanford got out of the inning and held on for a 5-4 win in 10 innings.

Georgia Southern then lost to Mississippi State in an elimination game, and, just like that, the dream season was over.

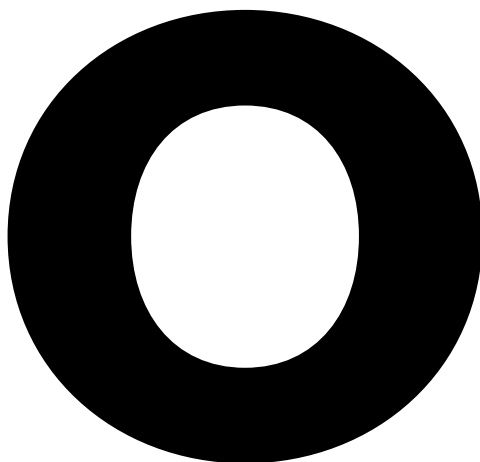
"I'm very proud we got to the College World Series, but I'm not satisfied with just getting there," Greene said. "Don't get me wrong, I'm very proud of that season and what we accomplished – but I'm still mad we lost."

Stallings takes a softer stance, but holds the 1990 team in the same high regard.

"We had guys who really wanted to win," he said. "But more than that, they wanted to do things the right way."

– Paul Floeckher

# HELLO, TRIPLE



New Eagle football coach Jeff Monken is ready to bring the program back to national prominence.

**J**eff Monken isn't making bold predictions on how many games he'll win in his first season as Georgia Southern's head football coach, or how soon the Eagles will win another Southern Conference championship, or hang a seventh national championship banner on the flag pole at Paulson Stadium.

However, he does make one promise.

"We *will* field a team that this university and this community will be very proud of," said Monken, who was introduced in December as the Eagles' coach.

Monken, 42, understands the great football tradition at Georgia Southern. After all, he helped set the bar high.

Monken was slotbacks coach and special teams coordinator under Paul Johnson from 1997-2001, when Georgia Southern posted a 62-10 record with two NCAA Football Championship Subdivision national championships (1999 and 2000), one national runner-up finish (1998), five consecutive playoff appearances and five Southern Conference titles.

"I know what the expectations are, and that's part of the lure of being at Georgia Southern," he said. "It's not that people just want to have a football program – they want to have a really good football program and they want to win.

"So do I."

Winning is exactly what Monken did in 13 years as an assistant under Johnson. At the U.S. Naval Academy, the coaching staff quickly rebuilt a struggling program into one that appeared in five straight bowl games and won five consecutive Commander-In-Chief Trophies from 2003-2007. He then went with Johnson to Georgia Tech and helped guide the Yellow Jackets to 20 wins over the past two years, including the Atlantic Coast Conference championship and an Orange Bowl berth last season.


Now he looks to duplicate the success of his first stint at Georgia Southern. Since Monken's last game at Paulson Stadium, the Eagles have won just two playoff games.

"I had such a great experience here as an assistant coach," Monken said. "When you have success like that and you think back on what a great time that was, it would be wonderful to get it going again and experience that kind of success for a second time."

With the exception of one year as a high school head coach, Monken has been a career-long assistant. However, he said that becoming a college head coach for the first time hasn't changed his approach.

"As an assistant, if you're really bought in and you want success for the program, you care just as much as the head coach does and the pressure is the same," he said. "It's just the realization (as the head coach) that everything that happens with Georgia Southern football is a reflection of your leadership."

Although his first game as the head coach is months away, Monken has already won over a number of Eagle supporters. He is bringing back the triple option offense that was synonymous with Georgia Southern's success. »



“It’s not that people just want to have a football program – they want to have a really good football program and they want to win.”

Jeff Monken, football coach

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE** – Jeff Monken’s first head coaching job carries on a rich family tradition. Visit [www.georgiasouthern.edu/magazine](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/magazine) for the full story.



“We want to be a championship football team, but I’m not willing to sacrifice doing things the right way to be champions. We are going to build the program and win and do it the right way so it will stay there.”

Jeff Monken, football coach

While many coaches like to add their own nuances to an offense, Monken said Eagle fans will see the same offense they have watched Johnson run for years. And why not? Georgia Southern ranked among the top five teams in rushing offense in all five of Monken’s years as slotbacks coach, leading the nation in rushing yards in 1999 and 2001. The Eagles also led the nation with an average of 50 points per game in 1999.

“The offense Coach Johnson has implemented each place we’ve gone has worked because we *haven’t* varied from it,” Monken said. “We have been successful because the offense we run is unique, and the fundamentals and skills our players learn in practice are the same day after day after day.”

Inheriting a team that utilized a pass-oriented offense, Monken isn’t sure how quickly the Eagles will adjust to the return of the triple option. Spring and fall practices will determine how the returning players and the incoming freshmen best fit into the old-is-new-again offense.

However, Monken vowed he and his coaching staff will not cut corners or look for quick fixes. They are committed to returning the Eagles to national prominence by recruiting quality student-athletes who are dedicated to reaching not only their own potential, but the team’s as well.

The staff got off to a strong start on National Signing Day in February, inking 23 new Eagles. “We are thrilled with the young men who are joining our program,” said Monken. “It was an exciting day for all of us – especially the kids. We’re looking forward to having them join our team.

“Our staff did a great job in assembling this class. The enthusiasm they showed was the difference in us being able to sign high-quality student-athletes who will be Eagles this fall.

“You have to build the program so that there is an opportunity for sustained success,” Monken said. “We want to be a championship football team, but I’m not willing to sacrifice doing things the right way to be champions. We are going to build the program and win and do it the right way so it will stay there.”

Regardless of which players emerge as starters, what positions they play and how many games they win, Monken said he will never lose sight of his true role as the head coach.

“I am a servant to the players,” he said. “They get one opportunity to be a college football player in their life, and I want to do all I can to make it a great experience for them.”

-Paul Floeckher



## THE JEFF MONKEN FILE

### Personal

Age: 42

Hometown: Peoria, Ill.

Family: wife Beth, daughters Isabelle and Amelia

### Coaching Experience

1989-90: Hawaii, graduate assistant coach  
(defensive backs, slotbacks)

1991: Arizona State, graduate assistant coach  
(wide receivers)

1992-94: Buffalo, assistant coach  
(receivers, tight ends, recruiting coordinator)

1995: Morton High School (Cicero, Ill.), head coach

1996: Concordia (Ill.), assistant coach (offensive line)

1997-2001: Georgia Southern, assistant coach  
(slotbacks, special teams coordinator)

2002-07: Navy, assistant coach  
(slotbacks, special teams coordinator)

2008-09: Georgia Tech, assistant coach  
(slotbacks, special teams coordinator)

### Playing Experience

1981-84: Joliet (Ill.) High School,  
wide receiver/defensive back

1985-88: Millikin University (Decatur, Ill.), wide receiver



Eagle fans gathered in Statesboro on signing day to hear Coach Monken narrate video highlights of players in his first signing class.

## Staff in place for 2010 campaign

Jeff Monken has added 10 assistant coaches to his staff in preparation for his inaugural season as head football coach.

Joining Monken are offensive coordinator Brent Davis and defensive coordinator Brent Pry.

Davis, in addition to some other familiar names, returns to the Eagles' coaching ranks on offense. The former Georgia Southern offensive line and running backs coach installed the option offense at VMI and propelled the Keydets to the FCS rushing offense title the last two years.

Pry brings more than 15 years experience to his position as defensive coordinator, arriving at Georgia Southern from Memphis. Pry was the defensive line coach for the Tigers for the last three seasons following five years on the defensive staff at Louisiana-Lafayette.

The force behind Southern Utah's potent offenses in the late '90s, C. Ray Gregory joins the staff after three seasons as slotbacks coach at Bethune-Cookman.

Mitch Ware, offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Georgia Southern from 2002-05, joins Monken's staff to tutor the Eagle quarterbacks as does Brett Gilliland, a graduate assistant coach at Georgia Tech for four years and most recently an offensive

quality control coach for the Yellow Jackets. Gilliland will serve as an assistant coach for the offense.

The new defensive line coach, John Scott Jr., comes to the Eagles from Missouri State, where he coached outside linebackers last season. Scott also coached defense at Western Carolina for three seasons.

Orlando Mitjans joins Monken's staff with responsibilities for the cornerbacks. Mitjans came to Georgia Southern from Tennessee State where he served as secondary coach.

Shawn Quinn, who was co-defensive coordinator and defensive line coach at Northwestern State last year, will coach linebackers and serve as recruiting coordinator. At Tennessee and Louisiana-Lafayette he was a member of coaching staffs that won conference championships and coached in bowl victories at LSU and Tennessee.

Lamont Seward will coach wide receivers. Seward was with the West Georgia program as an assistant through the last two fall campaigns, coaching wide receivers and also assisting with the kickoff and punt return teams.

Victor Cabral returns to his alma mater as defensive line assistant. Cabral spent three years as defensive line coach and special teams coordinator at Georgia Military College.

### FOOTBALL 2010 SIGNING CLASS

- Robert Brown (RB, 5-11 1/2, 199) Macon (Westside-Macon)
- Tray Butler (A-Back, 5-9, 179) Stockbridge (Woodland)
- Dorian Byrd (OL, 6-1, 245) Macon (Westside-Macon)
- Carlos Cave (LB, 5-10, 188) Macon (Westside-Macon)
- Justice Ejike (DT, 6-1, 241) Covington (Newton County)
- Aaron Fisher (B-Back, 5-5 3/4, 188) Tulsa, Okla. (Central)
- Alex Ford (A-Back, 5-11, 177) Nashville, Tenn. (Franklin)
- Josh Gebhardt (DE, 6-2, 235) Douglasville (Landmark Christian Academy)
- Matthew Gilbert (OL, 6-2, 275) Marietta (Walton)
- Marcus Howton (OL, 6-2, 315) Pensacola, Fla. (West Florida)
- Omari Jones (LB, 6-0 1/2, 199) Jonesboro (Mundy's Mill)
- Zach Lonas (OL, 6-1, 275) Acworth (Etowah)
- Javonte Martin (CB, 5-9, 170) Tampa, Fla. (Plant)
- Trevor McBurnett (OL, 6-1, 300) Lawrenceville (Peachtree Ridge)
- Jerrick McKinnon (QB, 5-9, 177) Marietta (Sprayberry)
- Blake Riley (DT, 6-1, 250) Crescent (McIntosh Academy)
- Darries Robinson (RB, 5-8, 165) Brunswick (Glynn Academy)
- Michael Spaulding (LB, 5-11, 224) Fayetteville (Sandy Creek)
- Deion Stanley (S, 5-9 1/2, 185) Dry Pond (Twiggs County)
- Julian Suber (QB, 5-9, 165) Lawrenceville (Brookwood)
- Lavelle Westbrook (S, 5-11 1/2, 174) Riverdale (Riverdale)
- Rashad Williams (LB, 6-1, 223) Dunwoody (Dunwoody)
- Ezayi Youyoute (QB, 5-11 1/2, 171) Wauchula, Fla. (Hardee County)

# SIDELINES

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLE ATHLETICS ROUNDUP



Chester Webb's grandchildren Hunter, Parker and Madison joined him on the floor of Hanner Fieldhouse as his jersey was retired. He was joined by University President Brooks Keel (far left) and Athletics Director Sam Baker (far right) for a standing ovation from Eagle fans.

## CHESTER WEBB: BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

The No. 22 jersey of Chester Webb, the all-time leading scorer and rebounder in the history of Georgia Southern men's basketball, was retired in January.

Webb, a two-time All-American and NBA draft pick, has his name etched in the program record book 18 times. The 6-7, 180-pound center from Elberton, Ga., was named to the *Atlanta*

*Journal-Constitution* collegiate All-State Team all four years of his career and was the first freshman to be selected to the squad, as well as the first individual to earn the honor every year of his career. Webb's jersey joins those of Scotty Perkins (No. 15), Jeff Sanders (No. 42) and Michael Curry (No. 20) retired by Georgia Southern.

## TECH QB SHAW NOW AN EAGLE

Jaybo Shaw, Georgia Tech's No. 1 backup option quarterback the past two seasons, has enrolled at Georgia Southern. The Flowery Branch, Ga., native is likely the leading contender for the quarterback position this fall. Shaw arrives as a junior and is eligible to play immediately.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL SCORES BIG RECRUITING CLASS

The future looks bright for Charlton "C.Y." Young's basketball Eagles. ESPN has ranked the Eagles' 2010 recruiting class as the best in the SoCon.

All four signees earned high rankings from national scouting services. The incoming class also earned an honorable mention in ESPN's rankings of the top recruiting classes for mid-major programs.

Eleven teams were ranked (including a tie for 10th) with 16 programs earning honorable mention status. Georgia Southern was the only Southern Conference team listed.

Signees were: Marvin Baynham, F, 6-7, 195, Miami, Fla. (Norland); Tré Bussey, G, 6-3, 165, Lithia Springs, Ga. (Lithia Springs); Eric Ferguson, G, 6-8, 175, Statesboro, Ga. (Statesboro); Sam Mike, F, 6-8, 220, Atlanta, Ga. (Columbia).

## FRESHMAN BRENT RUSSELL RAKES IN HONORS

Redshirt-freshman defensive lineman Brent Russell from Comer, Ga., was named Most Valuable Player by vote of his teammates at the annual postseason football banquet in January.

The award was just the latest honor gar-

nered by the freshman. Russell was named the 2009 Freshman of the Year for the Division I Football Championship Subdivision by the *College Sporting News*. He was also selected as First Team All-Southern Conference by the SoCon Sports Media Association and Defensive Rookie of the Year by *Southernpigs.com*, earning a spot on the Web site's 28-man All-SoCon Team.

## ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME SEEKING NOMINATIONS

The Georgia Southern Department of Athletics is accepting nominations for the Athletics Hall of Fame 2010 induction class. Nominations must be submitted by May 15.

Hall of Fame induction is open to persons who have made an outstanding contribution to Georgia Southern as a supe-

rior competitor, a coach, administrator or athletics official, or a supporter who has made significant contributions to the advancement of athletics.

Nominations and supporting documentation may be mailed to Department of Athletics, P.O. Box 8115, Statesboro, Ga., 30460. Complete guidelines may be found on the Hall of Fame link at [georgiasoutherneagles.com](http://georgiasoutherneagles.com).

### **VOLLEYBALL CELEBRATES A RECORD-SETTING YEAR**

A 20-win season highlighted a record-setting year for Eagle volleyball.

The squad ended its year with two All-Conference selections, three SoCon Player of the Week picks, two record-setting players, four season series sweeps, four different All-Tournament Team honorees and one Tournament MVP. With only one senior and 10 freshmen and sophomores, a team of 15 players recorded the best season since 2005, going 21-10 overall, 11-5 in Southern Conference play and an astounding 13-2 at home.

### **BASEBALL INKS NINE PLAYERS FOR 2011**

The baseball Eagles, coming off a 2009 Southern Conference Tournament championship and number two seed in the NCAA Regionals, received commitments from four pitchers and five position players for the 2011 season.

The signees are: Josh Adams (P, 6-2, 185, R-R) Bath, S.C. (Midland Valley HS/Spartanburg Methodist); Stryker Brown (INF, 5-11, 175, L-R) Rocky Face, Ga. (Dalton HS); Taylor Burke (P, 6-0, 180, L-L) Statesboro, Ga. (Bulloch Academy); Tyler Christman (P, 6-2, 180, R-R) Sumter, S.C. (Sumter HS/USC Sumter); Lucas Hart (P, 6-3, 165, R-R) Kennesaw, Ga. (North Cobb HS); D.J. Henderson (INF, 6-2, 175, R-R) Detroit, Mich. (Southeastern HS/Olney Central); Taylor Jones (OF, 6-1, 185, L-R) Kathleen, Ga. (First Presbyterian Day); Ben Morgan (INF, 5-9, 165, R-R) Evans, Ga. (Greenbrier HS); and Jesse Piccolo (C, 6-1, 190, L-R) Flagler Beach, Fla. (Palm Coast HS/St. Johns River CC).

For complete bios, the 2010 schedule, or to purchase tickets visit [georgiasoutherneagles.com](http://georgiasoutherneagles.com).

# Eagles great Tracy Ham headed to CFL Hall of Fame

Legendary Georgia Southern quarterback Tracy Ham will be inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in September.

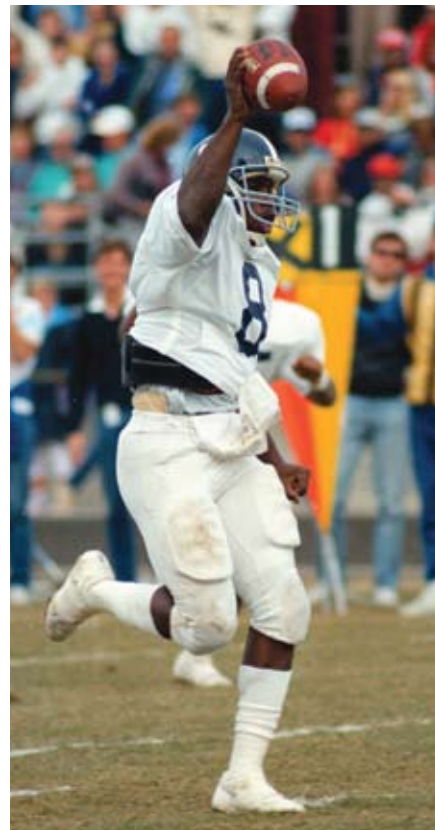
"It is a great honor to be inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame and this achievement is a testament to all the people who have invested in me throughout the years," said Ham. "When you are on the journey of your playing career, of your life, you may not realize what the outcome will be. This is an amazing reward for what I believe was my privilege to represent great teams and the Canadian Football League."

Ham will join the other four members of the 2010 class, Bob Cameron, Don Narcisse, Elfrid Payton and Joe Pistilli, at the 2010 induction ceremony.

Ham's speed and cannon arm helped lead Georgia Southern to back-to-back national championship seasons in 1985 and 1986. When he completed his collegiate career, his statistics placed him as Georgia Southern's all-time leader in almost every offensive category. Ham still owns more than 15 game, season and career records and more than 20 playoff records. One of only two Georgia Southern players to have his number (8) retired, Ham was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

In 1987, Ham signed with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League (CFL) and became the starting quarterback the following season. In 1989, he became the first quarterback to rush for over 1,000 yards. For his performance that season, he was named the league's Most Outstanding Player and was a unanimous selection as a Western All-Star and CFL All-Star.

In 1993, Ham spent one year with the Toronto Argonauts before moving to the Baltimore Stallions for the 1994 season. He led the Stallions to a Grey Cup victory in 1995 and earned



Former Georgia Southern quarterback Tracy Ham will be inducted into the Canadian Football League Hall of Fame.

Most Outstanding Player honors in the CFL championship game. Signing with Montreal in 1996, he played a total of four seasons with the Alouettes, leading them to the Eastern Division final in 1997. At his retirement, Ham held the record for most rushing yards in a season by a quarterback with 1,096 and ranked second with 8,043 yards in all-time rushing yards by a quarterback (10<sup>th</sup> overall).

In his 13-year career in the CFL, Ham amassed 40,534 passing yards for seventh all-time in the league, completing 2,670 of 4,943 passes (54 percent) and accounting for 284 touchdowns. He added 62 rushing touchdowns to his career totals.

# Students still reap rewards from Home Builders Scholarship

In 1979, interest rates were skyrocketing, an energy crisis was creating long gas lines, and the United States was headed into one of the worst economic recessions in decades.

Still, a group of Statesboro homebuilders sat at a backroom table at Snooky's restaurant and began talking about ways they could help Georgia Southern. What began as a conversation over coffee turned into a scholarship legacy that has helped dozens of Georgia Southern students complete their educations – and recently came to the aid of one student when she needed it the most.

Donald Nesmith ('66), of Statesboro's Nesmith Construction, was one of the people sitting around the table that day. Nesmith said the group of small business owners wasn't in the position simply to write a check, especially during those uncertain economic times. Their idea to provide scholarships for generations of Georgia Southern students would literally mean rolling up their sleeves and getting to work.

"We worked with Dr. Ralph Lightsey, who was a builder and professor at Georgia Southern, to come up with the idea for a scholarship house. He donated the lot, and different builders and suppliers donated supplies. We did as much legwork as we could to get as many donations as we could," said Nesmith, who led the first scholarship house project.

When the house was built and sold, the profit was used to start the Home Builders Association of Statesboro Scholarship.

"We made it clear from the beginning that this scholarship would be used to benefit students who were majoring in building technology or interior design," said



Donald Nesmith, a Home Builders Scholarship founder, scholarship recipient Kristen Cox and Nesmith Construction co-owner Keely Fennell at Snooky's restaurant.

Nesmith.

The group continued to make contributions to the scholarship fund every year. In 1995, under the leadership of Home Builders Association president Ellis Cartee ('66) of Cartee Construction, the group built a second scholarship house, which Nesmith said put their endowment over the \$100,000 mark. The hard work and monetary investment paid off for students and the builders.

"If these students are trained well at Georgia Southern, they make better employees and better builders for our business and the community," said Nesmith's daughter Keely Fennell ('91), who now runs Nesmith Construction. "It's very rewarding to know that the foresight my dad and others had to begin this, and all of the hard work they've put into it, is perpetual. It's helped students finish their education and go on to successful careers, and it's very rewarding to be a small part of that."

The scholarship came at a crucial point for interior design major Kristen Cox. Cox was excelling at her coursework when she decided to apply for the scholarship. Then, like so many others, her family was hit hard by the recent recession.

"Around the time I found out I had won the scholarship, the economy was really

bad and one of my parents had just lost a job," said Cox. "So, the scholarship was very helpful. This could not have come at a better time.

"When you look at your tuition statement and you see where the scholarship money has reduced your bill, it's such a relief to know that people are willing to help you out like that."

Cox, who graduates in December, plans to focus on historical restoration interior design and hopes to continue the cycle of looking out for the next generation.

"I'd like to think that I can give back to the community in some way by opening my own business or working with a firm to restore some of Statesboro's beautiful, historic homes," she said.

The Home Builders Association of Statesboro will continue to give back, too. Fennell said there are long-term plans for another scholarship house to boost their endowment. And, she encourages others to recognize there is strength in numbers.

"Not everyone can write a large check. But, if you work together as a group it does add up. It takes a bunch of people to make it work, and sometimes a lot of hard work," said Fennell. "But in the end, when you realize you're helping to provide for someone's education and future, it's well worth it."

# No 'doubletalk' in Fincher's expression of appreciation to Georgia Southern

Some people can talk their way out of anything. Alumnus and funny man Durwood "Mr. Doubletalk" Fincher ('69) has talked his way into a successful career.

Discovered by the "Candid Camera" television show's Allen Funt, this Georgia Southern graduate has entertained thousands.

A member of the Washington Speakers Bureau, he is a native of the small mill village of Payne City, outside of Macon. After graduating from Georgia Southern, Fincher taught for 10 years before embarking on his entertainment career. He has crossed the country many times over as a speaker for the last 25 years.

"The journey is the reward," said Fincher.

His unique talents have led him from "The Today Show," and "Live with Regis and Kelly," to the dugouts of the Atlanta Braves and the Boston Red Sox, and now to the release of his biography, *Once You Step in Elephant Manure, You're in the Circus Forever: The Life and Sometimes of Durwood 'Mr. Doubletalk' Fincher* by Macon Telegraph columnist Ed Grisamore.

"The book has been about connecting my past with the future. I want to be a reminder for people about values – the way I was raised," said Fincher.

His nostalgic look back over his life led him back to Georgia Southern. According to Fincher, the University not only helped to shape who he is today, but has "saved his life" on two separate occasions. "Once when the college allowed me an escape from the mill village I grew up in, and again, when their nutrition science program helped me to lose 80 pounds," he said.

In 2006, clinical nutritionist and faculty member Rebecca Fordham Black headed up a research project, now called "the Durwood Project" with students and instructor Andrew Hansen from the Department of Health and Kinesiology. During an 18-month peri-

od of rigorous exercise and diet changes, Fincher lost 80 pounds and reduced his percentage of body fat from 32 to 19.

Fincher, a Type 2 diabetic, said, "Every religion states the body is a temple of God – I just got tired of being a coliseum."

He was not the only member of his family to develop a close connection with Georgia Southern. After he graduated, his mother Ella Mae "Ma Fincher" was a house director or "dorm mother" in Sanford, Olliff, and Cone halls.

Her journey from Payne City to Sweetheart Circle is one of many tales included in Fincher's biography. With the help of then-Dean of Students Ralph Tyson, Fincher was able to secure a position for his mother just before he graduated and was happy to have his mother come to the place he had grown to love.

"He was grateful to have been able to help her improve her station in life in the shade of the big oak trees along Sweetheart Circle," said Grisamore.

Since the completion of the book, Fincher has decided to give back to the place that has given him so much. He has added a giving statement to his will leaving Georgia Southern 10 percent of his estate and is encouraging other alumni to do the same.

"Don't forget Georgia Southern in your will or estate planning – remember where you came from," said Fincher.

According to Fincher, planned giving is something that everyone can do and for him the time was right. "It's about remembering and honoring those who got me where I am today ... my mother, my church and the school that took an interest in me."

According to Michelle Pittman in University Advancement, a will bequest is a popular way to donate through planned giving. A bequest through your will may be expressed in terms of either a specific sum or a percentage of the residuary estate.

For more information on planned giving and other giving opportunities, please visit <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/foundation> or contact Michelle Pittman by phone at 912-478-0880 or via e-mail at [mepittman@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:mepittman@georgiasouthern.edu).



"It's about remembering and honoring those who got me where I am today ... my mother, my church and the school that took an interest in me."

Durwood Fincher ('69)

# Gift will help Georgia Southern students build their futures

Tim Evans, founder of Evans General Contractors, recently made a financial commitment to Georgia Southern that will benefit the University for years to come.

Evans has set aside a significant part of his estate as a bequest, with half of the designated funds to be left to his church and the other to Georgia Southern.

He never attended Georgia Southern, but has seen the University grow in size and impact. Evans said he had visited friends who went to school here in the 1970s and '80s, but had not seen the campus for many years.

"I was so shocked when I had not been here for 15 or 20 years and realized all the things that they had done. I was floored. I was just blown away," he said.

"I look around and see all the new construction and all the kids here and there's a lot of challenges. Georgia Southern has not been supported by corporate America like some of the other big schools and hopefully as it grows, it will. Maybe in some small way what I can do can help lay some groundwork for that.

"There are things we support in life that wouldn't have a big impact, but I feel like giving here I can make a difference," he said. That's why I chose to support Georgia Southern in this way."



Tim Evans, founder of Evans General Contractors

Evans started building his firm with knowledge he gained as a construction laborer in high school, then continued to work construction part-time while in college – first at the University of Georgia and, later, at Georgia State University.

He finished at Georgia State with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in economics.

"I learned a lot from being out in the field, but when you do construction there's so much finance involved with accounting, bonding, insurance – the actual 'business' part of construction can get very complicated," said Evans. "Completing my degree really helped, and I'd like to be able to help the kids who want to be involved in the business and need that knowledge to succeed."

Evans said he wants his gift to also reach some students who are not necessarily planning to enter the field of construction.

"The program that I'm most interested in because of my profession is construction management and engineering technology," said Evans, "but for any school to be a great school you've got to be balanced in all disciplines and all professions, so I've asked that half of my contribution go to other areas."

Evans is also hoping to support the University's student leadership programming, which gives students opportunities to take lead roles in campus and community projects. "Whether you're in biology or teaching or nursing or construction management or whatever else, having a leadership program applies to all the different schools," he said.

"You take people who excel in those areas and bring them to the next level so when they get out they really will be prepared to lead and excel."

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES



At the Fall 2009 meeting of the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees, the Board presented former President and Mrs. Bruce Grube with the "Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Grube UHP Student Scholarship" in appreciation of their service and dedication to the University. Pictured, l-r, are Foundation Chair Max Manack, Immediate Past Chair Connell Stafford, Kathryn Grube, Bruce Grube, and Vice President for University Advancement Billy Griffis.



At the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees meeting in October, new officers were elected to serve a two-year term from 2009-2011. Pictured are, Foundation President Billy Griffis, Chair-Elect of the Board Tommy Bond, Vice Chair of the Board Barbara Christmas, and Chair of the Board Max Manack.

# Scholarship, Garden gifts bequeathed by former professor

R. Frank Saunders Jr. loved learning and he loved the land.

A 1957 Georgia Southern alumnus and 28-year history professor at Georgia Southern, Saunders passed away in December 2008; but along with his legacy of scholarship, he left behind two gifts: the Department of History's Dr. R. Frank Saunders Jr. Memorial Scholarship and the Botanical Garden's Smokehouse Garden, which memorializes him and his parents, R. Frank Saunders Sr. and Mollie Lanier Saunders.

"In his will, he set aside grants for the Department of History and the Botanical Garden," said Saunders' sister, Betty Saunders Anderson ('59), a retired teacher living in Savannah.

Saunders, who grew up on the family farm east of Portal, Ga., earned both his undergraduate degree and an M.Ed. at Georgia Southern and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. He taught at Georgia Southern from 1968 to 1996.

His father had attended Georgia Southern when it was First District A&M.

Saunders' love of scholarship was evident in his many published works on regional history and his three-decades-long career as a professor at Augusta State College, Abraham Baldwin College and Georgia Southern. The fully funded endowment specifies that the scholarship will be awarded annually to a junior or senior Georgia Southern student majoring in history and having a minimum GPA of 3.0.

"Frank cared very much about local and regional history, making numerous



Frank Saunders, standing, co-authored with professor George Rogers the book *Swamp Water and Wiregrass: Historical Sketches of Coastal Georgia*.

contributions to our knowledge and understanding of South Georgia, including papers and artifacts for Henderson Library's Special Collections, a wonderful book on coastal Georgia with friend and longtime collaborator George Rogers, and, shortly before his death, a marvelous folk-life drama to celebrate Portal's centennial," said friend and fellow professor Don Rakestraw. "His generous gift to the Department will support our students as they continue to examine the rich past of the nation and region."

Saunders' gift to the Garden was inspired by his farm upbringing and strong love of the land, said Anderson. Saunders looked after his mother in her later years

and took care of the farm. "Having grown up on a farm just beyond the years of the Great Depression, there was still some of that around when we were growing up and you realized how hard your parents and grandparents had to work to have what they had," Anderson said. "And as it was passed on to us, we certainly didn't want to squander it away."

"We wanted to be good caretakers. And he was an extremely good caretaker from the last scrub oak to the tallest pine tree to the little streams that run here and there and the ponds and the lakes," she said. "Everything was under his supervision. He took the greatest care. He wanted it to be left better than he found it."



## NEW ENDOWMENTS

Botanical Garden Music Endowment  
Clinton R. Davis Scholarship  
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Grube Scholarship  
Dr. R. Frank Saunders, Jr. Memorial Scholarship  
Gene and Jan Jernigan Construction Management Initiative  
John Suddath Hall Memorial Scholarship  
Porter Keadle Moore, LLP Faculty Fellowship  
QuadGraphics Endowment  
Rod and Betty Meadows University Honors Program Scholarship  
Stephanie Routman Memorial Theatre Scholarship



# Yoshi Takei took gymnastics, career to a higher level

Gymnasts are known for their grace in surmounting obstacles – both stationary, like vaults, and ambiguous, like judges' expectations.

Yoshiaki "Yoshi" Takei ('72), a former intercollegiate gymnast, showed the ability to overcome both.

Takei is a professor of kinesiology and physical education at Northern Illinois University whose research on the biomechanics of gymnasts has made him a leader in this field, including being a co-author of a *Training Manual for the Practice of Exercise Physiology*.

Takei was recruited from Japan to compete as a member of the Georgia Southern men's gymnastics team under coach Ron Oertley in 1970. During his tenure, Takei won all-around first place in the National Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Gymnastics Championships in 1970, 1971 and 1973 and a second in 1972.

Takei won his first AAU championship within a week of arriving in the U.S. He said Oertley was an "energetic, humorous coach," who joked with other coaches that, although he had only coached Takei for a week, he was able to make him into a champion gymnast. "I enjoyed being supported by him," Takei said.

Wins were not rare occurrences for Takei. He won 17 total event titles in floor exercises, still rings, parallel bars and high bar events. He also won five championships at other prestigious meets in the United States.

Takei narrowly missed being a part of the U.S. Olympic team. In 1971, the collegiate AAU championship was combined with the Olympic Trials. Although Takei competed and won the men's all around competition, his U.S. citizenship had not passed and places 2-8 qualified for the Olympics instead.

Takei was successful in the classroom as well as the arena, showing a proclivity for achievement in education, both as a teacher and student. He had to manage his time wisely to teach basic P.E. classes, to compete, and be a student. But attending classes required a better understanding of the English language.



While a gymnast at Georgia Southern, Yoshiaki "Yoshi" Takei won AAU individual titles for three consecutive years.

"I had a very difficult time taking notes, working with the English language and teaching," said Takei. "But I had outstanding professors who helped me, and my coaches and teammates helped as well."

After graduating from Georgia Southern with a Master of Science for Teachers degree in 1972, Takei wanted to pursue further education.

He continued his academic career at California State University, taking night classes, coaching and teaching. He earned a master's degree in physical education with an emphasis in exercise physiology. In 1983, he completed his Ph.D. in physical education with a specialization in biomechanics and a sub-specialization in exercise physiology at the University of Southern California.

Takei credits his experience at Georgia Southern with helping him develop his work ethic and time management skills. Although school was demanding, the help from his teammates, professors and coach and his dedication pushed him to succeed. Refusing to let a language barrier hinder his progress, Takei overcame the obstacles to become a champion gymnast and a leading scholar in his field.

– Rachel Sale

## 1960s

**Dahlia Allen** ('63) received her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Georgia last August. She is dean of Adult Education at Heart of Georgia Technical College in Dublin, where she has been employed since 1995.

**Bob Green** ('64) of Register, Ga., has authored a book, *Do Adult Children Still Need Parenting?: Keeping Families Healthy After the Empty Nest*. The book examines strained or poor relationships between parents and their adult children. More information about the book, published by PublishAmerica, can be found at [www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com).

**Gary K. Steele** ('66) has retired from Uniroyal and The Gates Corporation after 36 years in manufacturing as the human resources manager in Moncks Corner, S.C. Prior to joining Uniroyal and Gates, he taught school before and after a tour in the Navy. He is looking forward to more time for golf, gardening, woodwork, volunteering, and some traveling. Gary and his wife, Sarah, have a daughter, Amanda, who is a junior at Columbia College. He has two older children, Barry and Pamela, and three grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Tim Wallis** ('74), president of Wallis Printing Company in Rome, has been named to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce's 2010 board of directors. Wallis is a board member of United Community Bank in Rome and of the bank's Holding Company in Blairsville. He has previously been a member of the board for the YMCA and United Way of Rome.

**Gary Mikell** ('76) wants friends and classmates to know that his e-mail address has changed to [bcjudge@bulloch-county.net](mailto:bcjudge@bulloch-county.net).

**Mary McBride** ('79) has been named as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regional director for the four states in HUD's Northwest Region including Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. As the regional director, McBride will serve as HUD's liaison to mayors, city managers, elected representatives, state and local officials, congressional delegations, stakeholders and customers and will be responsible

for overseeing the delivery of programs and services to communities and evaluating their efficiency and effectiveness.

## 1980s

**Nick Wiley** ('83) has been named executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Wiley had served as assistant executive director since 2008.

**Alucia Deloris Walton** ('84) received a Doctor of Ministry degree in ministry from Jacksonville Theological seminary in 2008. She was ordained international minister of music of Disciples of Christ Ministries International in Hardeville, S.C. and pastor of Spiritual Oasis Revival Center in Savannah.

Duke University School of Nursing Clinics Director and Clinical Associate **William Michael Scott** ('85) has been elected vice chair of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Scott has more than 20 years of experience working in primary care settings and nurse practitioner managed clinics. Scott is completing his requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Georgia Southern. For his dedication and excellence in clinical practice in North Carolina, he has also been selected to receive the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Excellence in June.

**Ross Norton** ('87) is public information director for Clemson University. His wife, Heather, directs a business, "The Lollypop Lady," creating personalized gift baskets.

## 1990s

**Terry Harvin** ('91) has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer for Georgia Eagle Media, Inc. Terry is responsible for overseeing the marketing, sales and operations for the various media properties: Internet, newspaper, radio and television. The company has a presence in the Middle Georgia area as well as well as radio properties in Statesboro and surrounding counties. Georgia Eagle operates the Georgia Southern Radio Network with broadcast rights to Georgia Southern. This year the company will add television to its mix in the Warner Robins area.

**Lori Durden** ('92) has been named as one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's "40 under 40" young high-achieving Georgians who are making their marks in business, govern-

ment, education, the arts and the world of nonprofits. Lori is director of Georgia Southern's Small Business Development Center and is co-owner of Tim Durden Construction and Building Design.



**Cathy Powell** ('93), a social studies teacher at Southeast Bulloch High School, received the Outstanding Social Studies Educator of the Year Award from the Georgia Council for the Social Studies. Powell was honored during the National Council for Social Studies Conference in Atlanta. She was also a featured conference speaker during the event. "It was truly a privilege and honor to accept this award as an educator from Southeast Bulloch and the Bulloch County Schools," said Powell.

**Joseph Surber** ('95) has been named as one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's "40 under 40" young high-achieving Georgians who are making their marks in business, government, education, the arts and the world of nonprofits. A physician, he is chief medical officer of Southeast Regional Research Group, a four-location clinic and multidisciplinary research facility.



**Amy Laircey Altman** ('97), media specialist at Statesboro High School, was named the 2009 Georgia School Library Media Specialist of the Year by the Georgia Library Media Association and the Georgia Association of Instructional Technology. She was selected from six district-level finalists. The award rec-

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# Eldon Mullis put 'the right soldier at the right place'

For 27 years, Eldon Mullis helped put soldiers where they were needed and got them what they needed when they needed it. Now he's meeting the needs of soldiers' families when they most need help.

Mullis retired last September as chief of staff of Army Human Resources Command and immediately moved to a civilian job with Army Emergency Relief (AER). AER is a private, non-profit organization that helps soldiers and their families with expenses like food, rent or utilities, emergency transportation and vehicle repair, funeral expenses, medical expenses, or personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

Mullis' career began at Georgia Southern as a member of the first ROTC cadet class commissioned by the University in 1982. It took him from the U.S. to Germany, where he met his future wife, Doris, to Kosovo and back, with numerous stops in between. His last post was Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va., where he was tasked with matching soldiers with jobs that needed to be done by Army personnel around the world.

"We manned the entire Army," said Mullis. "What that means is, if you look across all the divisions, all the soldiers, all the units across the Army, we send them there. The way we did that is we looked through all our personnel models and determined what skill sets were needed, what grades (ranks) are needed, and we determined who needed what. We found these soldiers and we got them to the unit at the right time. We like to say, 'The right soldier at the right place at the right time.'"

His responsibilities also included overseeing postal operations, mortuary services, awards, voter registration and absentee ballots, retirement services and post-Army educational services under the New GI



Bill. In his last year in the Army, he helped facilitate the consolidation of offices from Alexandria, St. Louis and Indianapolis to their new assignment at Fort Knox.

"I owe a lot to Georgia Southern," Mullis said. At one time, he said, five Georgia Southern ROTC alumni were working in his Alexandria headquarters of Human Resources Command. "And that said something, because the guys who came there were hand-picked. Those are the ones we wanted to bring here to take care of the soldiers out there in the field, so it really speaks highly of Georgia Southern's ROTC program and also the campus and the academics that the school puts everybody through."

Mullis said one of his proudest moments in his 27-year Army career was as a battalion commander seeing the result of his unit's actions in support of the peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. "I've been a finance officer my whole career," he said, including work done for the Secretary of Defense to help revamp housing allowances for soldiers.

As a finance officer, he said, "We brought the Army's checkbook, if you want to look at it that way. We started buying things like gravel, plywood and baked bread. By the time we finished we had built a small installation that had a circumference of about five miles around." In Kosovo, where there had been no installation, he left buildings and roads. There was "a really good installation on the top of that hillside and a lot of it had to do with my soldiers writing contracts and providing services for the soldiers," said Mullis.

"I've been working with AER since September and love every minute of it," said Mullis. "This past year, we provided more than \$81 million in assistance to more than 71,000 soldiers, retirees and their family members. We also provide scholarships for children and spouses of soldiers to attend college.

"At the end of the day, I leave the office with a sense that we have helped an Army family that is selflessly serving or has served our great nation."

recognizes K-12 library media specialists in the state whose services have resulted in exemplary library media programs. She is also a national board certified teacher.

**André B. Mountain** ('98) of Augusta, Ga., is on special assignment in the Department of Curriculum with the Richmond County School System. He was appointed as a Georgia TAPP Ambassador and was a Richmond County Public School Teacher of the Year finalist. Andre previously taught reading and language arts at Monte Sano Elementary School. He and his wife, Tanesha, have one child.

**Curt Ricker** ('98) and wife Brandy Childress Ricker welcomed their second child, Gavin, in October. The couple resides in Kennesaw and can be contacted at [falcons1fan@gmail.com](mailto:falcons1fan@gmail.com)

## 2000s

**Chad Cannon** ('00) and his wife, **Shannon Todd Cannon** ('99), are expecting their first child, a baby boy, in April. The couple celebrated their six-year wedding anniversary on October 4, 2009. They are living in McDonough, Ga.

**Joe** ('01) and **Beth Hildebrand Matherne** ('01) welcomed their third child, Mariner Jacob "Jake" Matherne, on July 23, 2009. Jake joins siblings Maitland, 7, and Madeline, 3. Beth is an active member of the Florida Bar and recently published an article titled "Lactating Angel or Activist? Public Breastfeeding as Symbolic Speech" in the *Michigan Journal of Gender and Law*. The Mathernes now live in Atlanta, where Joe is a tax manager with Deloitte and Beth is preparing for the Georgia Bar Exam. They can be contacted at [ehmatherne.esq@gmail.com](mailto:ehmatherne.esq@gmail.com).

**Tanita Peak** ('02), a fourth-grade teacher at Brooklet Elementary School, is the 2010 Bulloch County School System's Teacher of the Year. The nominees were judged by a group of community leaders from the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce's Education Committee.



**April Knepp** ('03) recently accepted a librarian position with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C. She may be reached at [april.knepp@gmail.com](mailto:april.knepp@gmail.com).

**Adam Brady** ('04) was married on May 17, 2009 to **GINNA KELLY** ('07). He joined the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau in July of 2009.

**Javana Lovett** ('05) has been named Palmetto Health Foundation Children's Hospital event coordinator for Pediatric Cancer Services. Prior to joining Palmetto Health Foundation, Lovett worked for the South Carolina Department of Public Safety as a public information specialist. Lovett is active in the community as a member of Community Improvement Cooperative Council, Edgewood Floral Community Club and Richland One Community Coalition. At Palmetto Health Foundation, Lovett will coordinate fundraising initiatives for Camp Kemo and other Pediatric Cancer Services fundraising efforts.

**Joseph K. Henry** ('07) is living in Miami, Fla., and is attending the University of Miami School of Law. He will graduate in 2012.

**Josh Mikulecky** ('07) and **Heidi Hammack Mikulecky** ('07) were married at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, Ga., in October of 2008. Josh is a transportation engineer for UPS in Alpharetta. Heidi teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade ESOL for Gwinnett County Public Schools. The couple resides in Lawrenceville and may be reached at [heidimikulecky@gmail.com](mailto:heidimikulecky@gmail.com).

**Jennifer Lauren Thompson** ('07) is engaged to **Justin Avery Banks** ('08). Jennifer and Justin are planning a spring or summer 2011 wedding in Atlanta. Jennifer recently accepted a transfer position with her company, Scientific Research Corporation, from Atlanta to Charleston, S.C. Justin works with the Georgia Department of Transportation as a bridge design engineer. Jennifer can be reached at [jthompson47@gmail.com](mailto:jthompson47@gmail.com). Justin can be reached at [jbengr2b@yahoo.com](mailto:jbengr2b@yahoo.com).

Coast Guard Seaman **Dustin T. Absher** ('09) recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J. During the eight-week training program, Absher completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

**Kenneth W. Odermatt, III** ('09) recently received the designation as certified public accountant. He is employed by Cordasco & Company, P.C. He earned a master of accounting degree from Georgia Southern. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of CPAs.



Send your comments, updates and suggestions to: [magazine@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:magazine@georgiasouthern.edu).

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## In Memoriam

### Judson Clements Ward, 1912-2009

Dr. Judson C. "Jake" Ward, fifth president of Georgia Southern, passed away in Atlanta on November 1, 2009 after a lengthy illness. He was 97.

Dr. Ward succeeded Marvin S. Pittman as president of Georgia Teachers College in 1947 and served but one year before being promoted to assistant chancellor of the University System of Georgia.

In late 1948, Dr. Ward returned to his alma mater, Emory University, as dean of the undergraduate liberal arts college and a professor of Georgia history. In 1957, he was promoted to vice president and dean of faculties, a position in which he remained until his retirement in 1979.

"Jake was a first-rate administrator at Emory," said University Professor Emeritus Delma Presley. "I knew him when I studied there and he was academic dean and vice president. Jake Ward helped Emory reach a high level of service and excellence, and that is one reason that university has risen to greatness among America's universities. I cherish his friendship. He continues to influence me."

In retirement, Dr. Ward briefly served as the director of the Atlanta Historical Society before resigning to teach history in the Oglethorpe Evening Courses for Credit program. In 1984, he returned to Emory in a volunteer capacity, overseeing the Emory Alumni Association's alumni travel program. The following year, Dr. Ward became Emory's dean of alumni, a post in which he remained for the rest of his life.

Prior to becoming president of Georgia Teachers College, Dr. Ward taught political science at GTC from 1939-40. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, then returned to GTC to serve as president after earning his Ph.D.

Dr. Ward held bachelor's and master's degrees in history from Emory and a Ph.D. in history from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

He is survived by his wife, Susan-Jane Weyant Ward, four children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



### Kirbylene Stephens, 1932-2009

Retired presidential secretary and longtime devoted University advocate Kirbylene Stephens ('55) passed away November 15, 2009 at East Georgia Regional Medical Center.

The Wilkinson County native moved to Waycross, Ga., as a child and graduated from Waycross High School in 1949 and from Georgia Teachers College in 1955, with a B.S. in business education.

Ms. Stephens joined the Georgia Southern staff in the fall of 1955 as secretary to President Zach Henderson. She subsequently served in that capacity to Presidents John Eidson, Pope Duncan and Dale Lick, leaving the position after 32 years to become coordinator of special projects for the president and associate director of Alumni Relations for five years until her retirement in 1992.

She served on a number of committees at the University and was an ardent supporter of University academics, athletics, the Henderson Library and the Alumni Association. She was an active member and officer of several civic clubs.

Survivors include her sister, Nan Stephens of Brunswick, Ga., and cousins Sara Baird of Richmond, Va., Steve Allen and Ben Allen of Tampa, Fla., Matt Allen of Sarasota, Fla., and Rusty and Elinor Cullens of Atlanta.

Burial was in the Oakland Cemetery in Waycross.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the K.N. and Leamon Stephens endowment with the Georgia Southern Foundation.

### Dr. Macelyn V. Anders, 1915-2010

Macelyn V. Anders, M.D., 94, died at Ogeechee Area Hospice in January.

Dr. Anders served as the Georgia Southern physician from 1972-82.

He was born in Marietta, Ohio, and earned his undergraduate degree from Marietta College in 1940 and a Master of Science Degree from Brown University in 1942. During World War II, he served as a research pathologist on the Manhattan Project. He earned his M.D. degree from Case Western Medical School, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1949.

Dr. Anders practiced general medicine in Parkersburg, W.V., from 1950-53. He served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical



## Always An Eagle

# Club 'masters' the art of supporting Georgia Southern

When the Greater Augusta Eagle Club set out in search of a way to support Georgia Southern and have a little fun doing it, they hit upon an idea that was a natural for alumni who live in and around the home of the famed Masters golf tournament.

What would be more fitting than a fundraising golf tournament on the heels of the internationally famous annual professional event?

"That is our big fund raiser held in the spring after Masters week when golf's still in the air, the weather's getting warmer and everybody's into it," said Club member Matt Griffin ('00), one of the event organizers. "We get a lot of local sponsors and we have a lot of local business owners who are Georgia Southern alumni. "We touch base with them and they have been more than willing to sponsor a hole and different contests and try to raise as much money as possible."

Held at Jones Creek the past two years – though in the past it has also been at Forest Hills, the River Club or Bartram Trail – the tournament averages 70 to 80 players each year, Griffin said.

It usually raises anywhere from \$3,500 to \$5,000.

Contributions have gone to the football program's recruitment fund, the soccer



stadium construction, J.I. Clements Stadium, Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center, and even to provide megaphones and pompons for the cheerleading squad.

The Club also sponsors an annual banquet the first or second week of March for area alumni that features speakers from the University athletics staff, creatures from the Center for Wildlife Education, and, of course, barbecue. "Usually attendance is between 130 and 150 people," he said. "It's growing each year." He said a more formal dinner was tried early in the event, but the group found that alumni preferred a casual atmosphere, so now it's

"family-style."

"Kids can come and check out the wildlife expo," Griffin said. "There might be just one person in the household who graduated from Georgia Southern and they end up bringing the whole family."

This year's golf tournament is being planned for early May, said Griffin. "I like to keep it as close to the Masters as possible."

As for future plans, Griffin said there have been discussions about funding a scholarship for a student-athlete or providing a scholarship for an Augusta-area student.

Corps from 1953-55, then practiced general medicine in Warner Robins, Ga., from 1955-72 before becoming the University physician.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elinor Imogene; his son, Roger M. Anders, and daughter-in-law, Karoline, of Germantown, Md; and granddaughters Anna and Ginger Baker.

### Student

Jeremy Michael Grant, Stapleton, Ga.

### Alumni

Jenny Mitchell Howsare, '58, Metter, Ga.

R. Andrew Poole, '76, Round Hill, Va.

Joseph M. Murray, Sr., '63, '88, Ludowici, Ga.

Jean Strange, '66, Oak Park, Ga.

Robert H. Warren, '75, Norwood, Ga.



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# THEN & NOW

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### 1935

May Day festivities in 1935 were held at the eastern end of then-new Lake Wells, visible at the center right. Pasture land and fields are clearly visible just beyond the lakes. The first campus lake, the smaller of the two, was created in 1932 at the direction of President Guy Wells as part of a general beautification effort. The larger lake, completed just a year before this photo was taken, was named Lake Ruby in honor of the president's wife. Enrollment at South Georgia Teachers College was 535 then.



### 2010

Seventy-five years later, the award-winning campus Pedestrium leads more than 19,000 students beside the lakes, which are just visible through the trees. On the distant land once cultivated or roamed by cattle now stand residence halls Centennial Place and Watson Hall, in addition to private student housing.



## **TORCH BEARER**

After being selected by Coca-Cola, Georgia Southern student Crystal Hardy lit up smiles along the route as she carried the Olympic Winter Games torch in January.

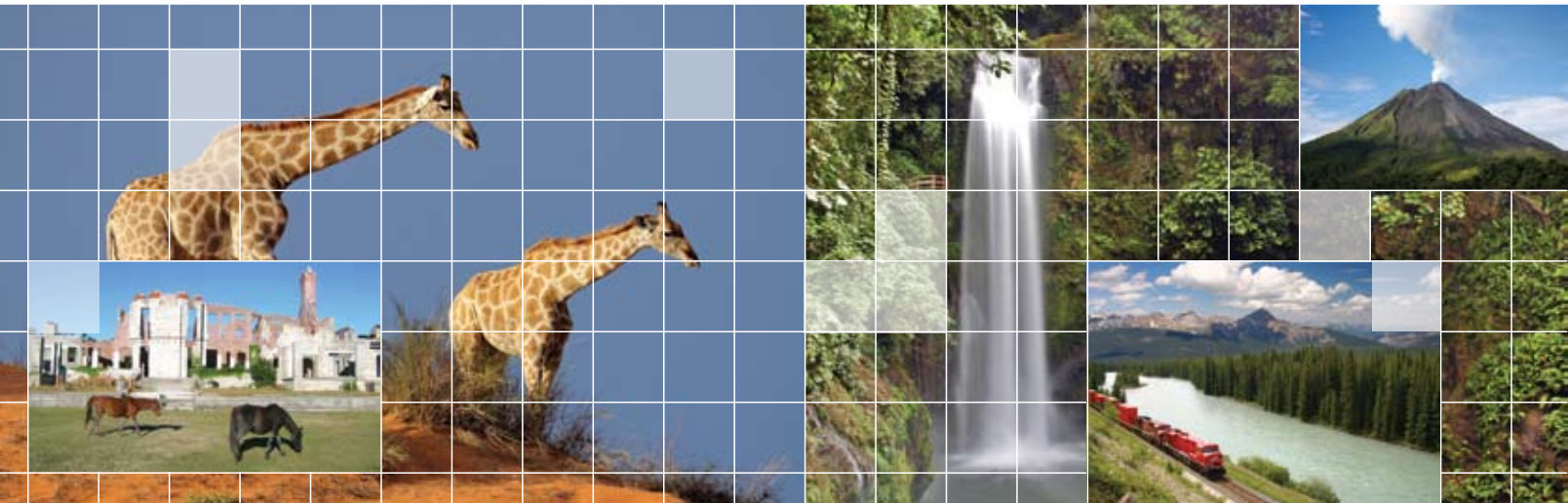




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