DESTINATION: GREEN

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18 DESTINATION: GREEN
Georgia Southern is striving to reduce its environmental impact through sustainability. A broad range of efforts is underway, led by a new Office of Sustainability, to make the University a model "green" campus.

11 BIODIVERSITY UNIVERSITY
Georgia Southern biologist Michelle Zjhra is part of an international team of researchers that has developed a remarkable new road map for finding and protecting rare species that live only in Madagascar.

15 THREE CHEERS FOR CHEERLEADING!
The cheerleading squad took home top honors and a national championship trophy at the NCA Nationals.

33 PRESERVING HISTORY
Jan Brown Anderson's efforts to preserve Oak Grove School, one of Georgia's few remaining one-room schools has earned her the National Historic Preservation Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

3 CAMPUS NEWS
A Life Done Right • Adrian Project • International grant • Model U.N. honors • Professor of the Year • Robotics competition • Commanding presence • Student media takes awards • Marketing awards • Top students • National teaching award • Chemistry project 'Wired'

12 FOUNDATION NEWS
Couple preserves botanical heritage • Planned gift helps tomorrow's students • New Endowments

14 SPORTS SCENE
Hatch Attach II • Athletes of the Year • BCS vs. FCS study • Foster signs with Dolphins • Curry to lead Pistons

28 CHRONICLES
Alumni Awards • Blumenthal key to Library renovation • Aguilar nominated • Eagle Clubs • Long ago and far away • McGaughey takes prize • For the love of the game • Helping fragile folks • A match made at Georgia Southern
As you walk around campus the color green is everywhere, from the beautiful old oak trees of Sweetheart Circle to the landscaping that makes our campus one of the most beautiful in the country. Today, there is an entirely new kind of green at Georgia Southern University.

The daily needs of operating a university of nearly 17,000 students and 1,700 employees require significant consumption of resources – water, fuel, electricity and all manner of manufactured products. Conversely, it requires the disposal of wastes generated on the scale of a small city. In response to this, Georgia Southern University has begun a significant effort to reduce its environmental impact through sustainability.

Georgia Southern recently joined Duke, Clemson, Georgia Tech, the University of Florida, and other well-respected universities by signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. This bold effort is designed to address global warming by accelerating research and educational efforts and to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions. As we join other major institutions in this effort, Georgia Southern’s goal is to lead by example.

At Georgia Southern, our commitment to sustainability is reaching far beyond emissions reduction. To this end, Georgia Southern recently created its first-ever Office of Sustainability, which will serve as the hub of information-gathering and sharing for University environmental initiatives. The Office will also work to maximize our internal use of resources while minimizing our environmental impact.

The University has taken a proactive approach to sustainability and we are already pursuing several initiatives to help reduce the financial and environmental impact of daily operation. In this issue, you will have the opportunity to learn about our efforts related to water conservation, reductions in energy usage, conversion of mass transit buses from diesel to natural gas fuel, recycling and much more.

Green is not just a color or a trendy saying at Georgia Southern University. We recognize the value of sustainability and are committed to making a difference. Go Eagles!

Bruce Grube
President
Tiny tech, huge advantage

Partnership gives students, researchers access to cutting edge nanotech equipment

Thanks to a new partnership, students and faculty in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST) will have access to the latest in nanotechnology equipment.

Georgia Southern’s Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology is partnering with the National Nanotechnology Manufacturing Center (NNMC) in Swainsboro, Ga., a not-for-profit corporation created to promote the rapid commercialization of nanotechnology for commercial and military applications by ensuring efficient manufacturing resources.

Two professors from the Department, Hung-Ming Cheng and Frank Goforth, are lending their expertise in nanotechnology applications to the NNMC.

“The Center is funded by state and federal grants to attract nanotechnology manufacturing businesses to rural Georgia,” Goforth said. “They are actively recruiting venture businesses to locate their manufacturing operations in Swainsboro, and they desire local technical talent familiar with manufacturing and nanotechnology as a resource to support the startup of these ventures.”

Nanotechnology is science, engineering and technology related to the understanding and control of matter at lengths from 10,000 to 100,000 times smaller than the width of the average human hair.

The NNMC has installed the nanotechnology equipment, including the only Nanoink DPN unit in Georgia, used primarily to develop the processes for nanoelectrical circuits and similar devices.

“Dr. Cheng and I have been attending the training sessions for the equipment so we can be a resource to resolve any issues new ventures may have with it,” Goforth said. “We can use the equipment when it is not being used by any of the ventures, and graduate students within the Department will learn how to operate it.”

Given its location and the programs offered by COST, Georgia Southern is a natural partner for the NNMC.

“A primary factor in any technology business location decision is access to properly educated employees, and the University System of Georgia has some of the best nanotechnology research programs in the world,” Goforth said. “The cost of manufacturing in a high-technology research environment is prohibitive, but high-technology manufacturing operations do not usually fall far from the tree of knowledge. Convenient access is important. That’s why southeast Georgia and Georgia Southern are attractive to nanotechnology companies,” he said.

“Georgia Southern’s practice-oriented engineering technology program enables us to educate a workforce to develop and apply technology, and southeast Georgia offers an attractive manufacturing infrastructure.”
A chemistry research project conducted by a Georgia Southern faculty member and student was recently recognized by WIRED magazine’s science blog as one of its “Top 5 Amazing Chemistry Projects.” Chemistry professor Shannon Davis and student Christopher Riley have been working to develop a new, environmentally friendly method to produce adipic acid, the chemical parent of nylon.

Adipic acid is used to make the nylon plastic found in car tires, dental floss, clothing, carpet and a host of other items. Adipic acid is also widely used as an additive in foods like Jell-O, Tums, soft cheeses and SweetTarts. U.S. industry manufactures more than five billion pounds of the chemical each year.

For more than 50 years, adipic acid has been made using a two-step process. Davis is exploring the use of catalysts, enzymes, or metals on spongy ceramics called zeolites, to replace the industrial reaction with something much cleaner and more efficient.

Davis and Riley are studying a variety of combinations of a petroleum derivative called cyclohexane, air, and a copper catalyst to produce the chemical precursor to nylon.

“The two-step process currently used to create adipic acid has been around since 1950,” said Davis, “and it generates greenhouse gases and a large volume of waste.”

“Georgia Southern University has always expressed a strong commitment to international education,” said Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Once this new course is in place, we will have an academic structure to ensure that all students are exposed to the global experiences, such as study abroad and international internships, which can truly transform their entire undergraduate experience.”

We’re exploring catalysts in the search for a new one-step process that will produce adipic acid without the waste and gases.”

“One of the reasons that Georgia Southern is ranked 13th in the nation for producing American Chemical Society-certified graduates is because of faculty members like Davis. More than 75 percent of Georgia Southern’s chemistry majors assist faculty members in their research.”

Grant promotes international programming

Georgia Southern has been awarded a $50,000 grant from the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents Office of International Education to develop the Global Citizens Initiative, a seminar that is expected to increase freshman interest and participation in international programs.

The University will pilot the new course in fall semester 2009, with full implementation of the course planned for spring semester 2010.

“Georgia Southern University has always expressed a strong commitment to international education.”

- Linda Bleicken, vice president for academic affairs
EET students place at first robotic competition

A group of senior Electrical Engineering Technology students scored an out-of-this-world performance at the Return to the Moon Robotic Competition last spring.

The students designed and built a robot that was judged 12th out of 50 entries at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) Region 3 Conference in Huntsville, Ala.

“This was our first year in the competition, so our team did very well,” said University mechanical and electrical engineering technology professor Fernando Rios-Gutierrez. “In fact, three of our students got job interviews from companies that were represented at the conference, and they were offered all-expense paid visits to the companies’ headquarters in California.”

Christopher Donaghue, Lory Gunter, Brendan McGee, Marcus Middleton and Chad Segal conceived and constructed the robot, which navigated and retrieved samples from an imaginary lunar surface.

The project began as part of a senior design course taught by Rios-Gutierrez last fall. McGee served as the team leader while Donaghue, Gunter, Middleton and Segal each took charge of a particular phase of the process. They were assisted by other students in the Electrical Engineering Technology program.

“International learning opportunities are a major attraction for top students.”
- Susan Davies, director of admissions

Built according to strict guidelines set forth by the IEEE, the robot measured 10 inches long, 10 inches wide and 10 inches high. It was designed to roll over smooth, sandy and pebbled surfaces, and collect lunar samples simulated by two-inch color cubes.

“In the fall, the students built the testing field and the mechanical base, which included the chassis, motors and wheel suspension,” Rios-Gutierrez said. “They also designed the electronic interfaces, such as the ultrasonic and infrared sensors that detected obstacles and the moon samples.”

As the project continued into the spring, the students wrote the computer programs, made improvements to the mechanical and electronic systems, and put the robot through a series of tests.

Georgia Southern’s team was competing against students from universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Indiana and Jamaica.

“Our students benefited from this project in many ways,” Rios-Gutierrez said. “First, they actually use the theoretical knowledge they get from the engineering program in the implementation of a real and complex system.

“In addition, they get the experience of working in a team environment and under a specific time frame and design specification,” he said. “They get the confidence of realizing that what they learn at Georgia Southern is on par with other well-known institutions.

“Finally, the students get the opportunity to network with people from electrical engineering companies that are looking for good prospects to hire.”

One faculty member from each of Georgia Southern’s undergraduate colleges will serve on the Global Citizens Initiative team. The task force, co-chaired by Caplinger and Nancy Shumaker, director of the Center for International Studies, has already begun to develop objectives and desired learning outcomes for the course. Funding from the grant will support faculty training workshops, course development grants and cross-cultural educational resources.

“International learning opportunities are a major attraction for top students when considering where to go to college,” said Director of Admissions Susan Davies.
Cawthorn wins 2008 Professor of the Year Award

Biology professor Michelle Cawthorn has Texas-sized enthusiasm for teaching.

The Dallas native and 13-year veteran professor is Georgia Southern’s 2008 Wells/Warren Professor of the Year.

“I am thrilled to win this award,” said Cawthorn. “It is especially gratifying to me because it comes from students. They are, after all, the primary reason I am here.”

Cawthorn has been a University faculty member since 1995. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Cawthorn conducts research on the effectiveness of specific classroom activities on scientific literacy.

“I love teaching, and I especially enjoy teaching non-majors and getting to know a diverse group of students,” she said. “I work hard to make the classes I teach relevant, interesting and memorable.”

Cawthorn was named the Outstanding First-Year Advocate by Georgia Southern’s First-Year Experience program in 2007. That year, she was also recognized by the University’s Student Disability Resource Center for her efforts on behalf of disabled students. In 2004, she received the Gamma Beta Phi Award for Outstanding Service as a Temporary Faculty Member.

“My teaching philosophy is that scientific literacy is a critical learning objective for any science course, but especially for non-majors,” Cawthorn said. “For these students, their exposure to science in ‘school’ is limited, but in real life it’s boundless.

“Students in my class work on scientific literacy skills simultaneously with learning science content. I believe that teachers have a responsibility to engage students and provide the means for students of many different learning styles to succeed.

“As a teacher, I strive to encourage curiosity and critical thinking in students so that they leave the class as better learners than when they entered it.”

The winner of the Wells/Warren Professor of the Year Award is selected annually by the University’s students. Members of the Gamma Beta Phi honor society interview the department heads of the finalists and review student evaluations of the professors.

The group then conducts a blind interview of the finalists before selecting the winner of the award, which is endowed by former Gamma Beta Phi advisors J. Norman Wells and the late Rosalyn Wells. The award is named in honor of their parents, Nolan and Audrey Wells and Hartwell and Lucile Warren.

Students recognized with top academic honors

Catherine Annette Hall of Douglasville, Ga., and Zechariah David Anderson of Swainsboro, Ga., captured the top student awards at Georgia Southern’s 2008 Honors Day Convocation in April.

Hall is a senior biology major and received the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Award. A senior justice studies major, Anderson received the University System Academic Recognition Award.

The Alumni Association Award is presented annually to a Georgia resident at each System institution on the basis of outstanding academic achievement.

Anderson also received the Lee and Rebecca Davis Pre-Law Scholarship, the Richard J. Waugh Justice Studies Award, and the Excellent Scholarship Graduating Senior Award, which is presented to all graduating seniors with a GPA of 3.9 or higher at Georgia Southern.

More than 200 Georgia Southern students were recognized during the Honors Day Convocation. Inductees into a number of honor societies were also recognized.
Student journalists capture statewide honors

Seven Georgia Southern students made news of their own when they received honors from the Georgia College Press Association (GCPA) at its Better Newspaper Contest last spring.

“It’s gratifying for me to see the students get recognized for their efforts,” said student media coordinator Kelley Callaway. “The individual awards we received help to reiterate the impact journalism has on a community.”

Four student writers and three student photographers were recognized for their work. Two of the seven earned top honors. Reuben Hayslett was selected for first place in the category of Best Feature Story and Tao Ventre received first place for Best Editorial or Feature Photograph.

“Getting first-place recognition on a statewide level is a big achievement,” said Hayslett, a junior writing and linguistics major, “but I know it wouldn’t be possible if it were not for the support of the Student Media staff and the faculty of the Department of Writing and Linguistics.” Hayslett’s winning feature story conveyed the initial shock and grief of learning about the untimely death of writing and linguistics professor David Starnes.

This year, the Student Media staff and individual student journalists took home a total of 13 awards. Other individual student winners included: Robert Greene II for second place in Best Review, Daniel Flanders for second place in Best Editorial or Feature Photograph, Elliot Volkman for second place in Best Investigative News Story, Jamie Tuten for second place in Best Sports Photography, and Jamon Frazer for third place in Best Entertainment Feature.

The George-Anne Daily, and its Thursday magazine edition, The Southern Reflector, bring current events and campus news to the student body. They were the first to break an investigative story about mismanagement and health code violations at a local apartment complex.

Marketing students bring home national awards

Eight Georgia Southern marketing students took their training and enthusiasm to Toronto and came home with a top-notch, hands-on experience.

The students joined others from around the globe at the 2008 American Collegiate Retailing Association’s charrette.

The charrette is similar to stepping into a 72-hour episode of “The Apprentice,” said Kathleen Gruben, a marketing professor and director of the University’s Center for Retail Studies.

Each of the eight gained invaluable international experience by working with students from other states, Canada and Europe,” said Gruben. She and University marketing professor Michael Thomas organized the trip, traveled with the students and served as judges.

In a charrette, groups of students work together to develop a business solution, then present their findings to a panel of internal and external community members.

Georgia Southern participants included Kristen Cole, Erica Frederick, Stephanie Johnson, Travis Gilbert, Jennifer Hammon, Chelsey Smith, Lauren Thornhill and Leann Walls. The students worked with Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment (MSLE), which owns the Toronto Maple Leafs, Raptors and Marlies.

Each team was asked to design a 9,000-square-foot store that will generate $7 million in sales during its first year of operation. The teams developed a product line, created a business plan, wrote a marketing plan, created the merchandising and layout of the store, produced financial statements for up to five years, and presented the results.
Basha honored with ASC National Teaching Award

University construction management professor Ismail M. Basha has been recognized for his excellence in teaching and dedication to his profession by the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC).

Basha received a National Teaching Award from the ASC. The native of Egypt has been teaching for more than 27 years, the last three at Georgia Southern. He has developed and taught courses in construction engineering and management, including concrete construction, construction contracting and administration, construction project management, construction business management, heavy/civil construction, highway design and construction, and strategic management and marketing for contractors.

At Georgia Southern, he has taught courses in project planning and scheduling, construction cost estimating and construction administration. He also works with students in the Department of Construction Management and Civil Engineering Technology's internship program.

Basha has more than 25 years of experience as a private consultant in the construction contracting industry. He spent six years with The Arab Company, which was ranked among the top 100 contractors in the world by the Engineering News-Record.

He has published more than 68 papers, including six that appeared in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) Journal of Construction Engineering and Management, and has had six funded research projects, serving as the principle investigator for three of them.

Basha’s research interests are construction education developments and construction methods and materials. He is writing a research proposal to develop an orientation training program for American contractors working in the Middle East.

Basha earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cairo University and a Master of Science degree and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University. He began his teaching career at Egypt’s Zagazig University, where he initiated and developed the construction program.

“Now that we have a championship, students interested in Model U.N. will be further motivated by our success to choose Georgia Southern.”

- Barry Balleck, team advisor

Model U.N. team brings home highest honor

Georgia Southern’s Model U.N. delegation garnered an “Outstanding Distinction” honor at the recent National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference.

“For many years we’ve been among the best – a perennial runner-up,” said team advisor Barry Balleck. “To use a sports metaphor, this year’s National Model U.N. delegation brought home the championship.”

“Now that we have a championship, students interested in Model U.N. will be further motivated by our success to choose Georgia Southern.”

- Barry Balleck, team advisor

The delegation, often honored over the past decade at the “Distinguished” level, was selected for Outstanding Distinction from more than 250 delegations representing colleges and universities around the world.

“It’s like recruiting for sports teams,” said Balleck. “The University’s long-standing Model U.N. program is well-known throughout Georgia. Now that we have a championship, students interested in Model U.N. will be further motivated by our success to choose Georgia Southern.”

The delegation was also awarded Outstanding Distinction for Position Papers for the sixth time in seven years, and students were voted as Outstanding in four of the 10 committees in which they were represented. The delegation competed against other prestigious universities from the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.
Adrian Project teaches financial investigative techniques

Students in former FBI agent Don Berecz’s white-collar crime class recently had a hands-on opportunity to learn what it takes to catch a crook.

The students took part in the Adrian Project, an IRS education program that reaches out to colleges and universities across the nation. From combing accounting records to searching through trash, the students learned by experience what it takes to conduct an investigation.

“We are an ideal location for the IRS to conduct this program,” said Berecz, director of the University’s Center for Forensic Studies in Accounting and Business. “Georgia Southern is one of only a few colleges and universities nationwide offering a series of courses leading to a certificate, diploma, minor or a major degree in forensic accounting. The IRS was pleased with the quality of our students and how informed they already are about tracking financial crimes.”

“We used everything we’ve learned so far,” said Brianna Bishop, a senior accounting major from Savannah. “From the first briefing through the grand jury, it was exciting to be able to do the work ourselves.”

The Adrian Project’s five-hour exercise began with a briefing and introductions of the four experienced IRS special agents who came from Savannah to role-play and coach the undergraduates as the investigations unfolded. Students were divided into four squads of “honorary” special agents, each with a student team leader and an agent who coached them in the fine points of an investigation: dealing with a confidential informant; gathering evidence from many sources, including the suspect’s trash; working with other law enforcement agencies; and surveillance. The students even donned IRS raid jackets, used handcuffs and uncovered cocaine and simulated weapons.

Led by their IRS coaches, the groups went through four crime scenarios. One squad searched through trash and found a flyer for an anti-tax rally; another investigated a casino that kept two sets of books. Another squad looked at a fraudulent tax preparer, and the fourth squad arrested a drug dealer, who then “rolled over” on his supplier, who turned out to be grossly under-reporting his income.

Berecz took his class one step beyond the standard IRS program. Two days after their investigations, the class met at the Bulloch County Courthouse, where they were duly sworn in and charged as a grand jury by Judge John R. Turner. The evidence found by the fourth squad was turned over to the grand jury, which handed down an indictment.

Joshua Blanchard, a junior accounting major from Brunswick, Ga., applauded the IRS agents for allowing the students to ask and answer their own questions. “The agents that came to participate were great,” said Blanchard, who served as a squad leader for the group that investigated the fraudulent tax preparer.

“We enjoy conducting the Adrian Project because it gives us a chance to work interactively with students,” said Supervisory Special Agent Lisa Holtz. “They learn about a forensic career opportunity that they wouldn’t, otherwise. At Georgia Southern, the project operated very well, and some of the students expressed an interest in learning more about working in the IRS Criminal Investigation Division.”

“The Adrian Project brings white-collar crime right to the students and makes it real,” said Berecz. “They conduct the actual activities of law enforcement agents. The hands-on experience is almost always eye-opening for the students who take part, and in many cases, the Adrian Project helps them make important life-altering decisions about how they will continue their educations.”
A moving theatrical tribute to former Georgia Southern coach Erk Russell will be performed in August and September when "A Life Done Right" takes the stage.

The show will be presented at downtown Statesboro's Emma Kelly Theater on Aug. 22, 23, 24, 27 and 28 before moving to the University's Center for Art and Theatre on Sept. 5, 6 and 7.

The same cast will appear in both venues. Russell, head football coach of the Georgia Southern Eagles from 1981 to 1989, led the team to three Division I-AA national championships. His on-field persona was that of master motivator, but he forever impacted an entire community with his strong civic presence and philosophy of life.

Much of the script is based on interviews with the late coach's family members, friends, fans and former players – people who will be portrayed in the play. The cast includes characters portraying football players, cheerleaders, students, teachers, university administrators, community leaders, waitresses and cooks.

The production includes a multimedia presentation of videotaped interviews and archived footage.

The play's concept was developed by Tim Chapman, executive director of the Averitt Center. Rebecca Kennerly, a professor in Georgia Southern's Department of Communication Arts, is directing the play and helping facilitate the oral histories portion of the project. The script was written by Scott Garner, former Statesboro Herald sports editor.

The play is produced by the Averitt Center for the Arts in conjunction with the Department of Communication Arts. Rehearsals for the production began in early July.

Georgia Southern students involved in the production will receive class credit in the fall by registering for Kennerly's 2008 practicum class.

For ticket information call 912-212-ARTS.

Georgia Southern welcomed the commanding general of the national Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program this past spring. Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield met with Georgia Southern ROTC cadets on the University campus and later traveled to Savannah and met with cadets at Armstrong Atlantic State and Savannah State universities, part of Eagle Battalion based at Georgia Southern. That evening, Winfield was the featured speaker at "Dining Out," the annual Eagle Battalion dinner held at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.
Biodiversity university

Biologist Zjhra works to protect rare species

Georgia Southern biologist Michelle Zjhra is part of an international team of researchers that has developed a remarkable new road map for finding and protecting thousands of rare species that live only in Madagascar.

Led by conservation biologists at the University of California at Berkeley, the research team developed a conservation plan to protect lemurs and species of ants, butterflies, frogs, geckos and plants.

An island nation in the Indian Ocean, Madagascar is considered one of the most significant biodiversity hot spots in the world. More than 2,300 species that are found only in Madagascar were included in the research team's analysis, which was published in Science magazine.

Zjhra's research interest focuses on patterns and processes of plant diversity and spans molecular genetics, floral development, floral odor chemistry, plant-animal interactions and pollination syndrome evolution. Her work has taken her from the swamps and rivers of Georgia and South Carolina, to the tropical rain forests of Madagascar and the mountainous rain forests of Vietnam.

For the Madagascar research team, centralizing and analyzing the huge quantity of data to develop a map of conservation priorities provided several challenges. First, a massive team of researchers collected highly detailed data to learn the exact locations of thousands of animal and plant species across Madagascar.

Using software designed for the project in collaboration with a computer science researcher at AT&T, the researchers estimated the range for each species.

Then, optimization software, customized for this project by researchers at Finland's Helsinki University, was used to identify which regions are most vital for saving the greatest number of species. Species that have experienced a proportionally larger loss of habitat due to deforestation were given top priority in the resulting conservation plan because they are at the greatest risk of extinction.

According to some estimates, about half of the world's plant species and three-quarters of vertebrate species are concentrated in biodiversity hot spots that make up only 2.3 percent of the Earth's land surface.

A developing country off the southeast coast of Africa, Madagascar is one of the most treasured regions of biodiversity on the planet. An estimated 80 percent of the animals on the island do not occur naturally anywhere else on Earth.

All species of lemur and half of the world's chameleons are endemic to Madagascar. They are joined by whole families of plants, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs that are found only on the island.

In 2003, Madagascar's government announced an ambitious goal of tripling its existing protected areas from about five million acres to 15 million acres, or about 10 percent of the country's total land surface.

The conservation mapping project was supported by the MacArthur Foundation with a joint grant to UC-Berkeley and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Based in New York, the Wildlife Conservation Society has a staff in Madagascar that is working with government officials to incorporate the results of the study into the country's conservation policy.

Zjhra is part of a research team that includes scientists from the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the California Academy of Sciences, the Center for Applied Conservation International in Virginia, the Center for Conservation and Research at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Nebraska, the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan, the Natural History Museum in England, the REBIO-MA Wildlife Conservation Society in Madagascar, the Royal Botanical Gardens in England, the State University of New York, the University of York in England, and the Zoological Institute of the University of Braunschweig in Germany.
Couple helping to preserve region’s botanical heritage

By Megan Hopkins

Sandra and Charles Chandler enjoy the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden for different reasons.

Sandra enjoys the Garden. Charles enjoys Sandra enjoying the garden.

Recently, the Chandlers’ affection for the Botanical Garden was expressed through a generous gift to support the Garden’s ambitious Heritage Renovation plan. The plan includes a renovation of the Garden’s Bland Cottage, the construction of a new educational facility — the Heritage Pavilion — landscaping, and an endowment to support the Garden in the future.

“Because it is limited in size, the Garden must grow in content,” said Sandra. “This gift will improve the museum quality of the Garden, and it will give it the opportunity to do more classroom work and a place to do it.”

Gary Means, dean of Continuing Education and Public Service, said the Chandlers’ gift has even more weight because of its source. “This gift is so meaningful to the Garden because of the family’s long-time support. It will help to maintain this unique botanical, historical and educational center for Georgia Southern and the wider community.”

This is not the first time the couple has assisted the Garden. They have been supporters since moving to Statesboro in 2001. Their introduction to the Garden was most likely their first visit to one of the plant sales. “I bought a truckload of plants,” recalled Sandra. Her involvement in the Garden quickly grew from patron to volunteer, as she became a “Friend of the Garden,” and is now a member of its Advisory Board.

“Sandra, in particular, has had a keen interest in the Garden,” said Means. “She is not only an avid gardener but has taken a leadership role since moving here.”

The Botanical Garden’s greenhouse was another gift from the Chandlers, made possible by a gift to the biology department at Georgia Southern — another one of their passions. The Chandlers’ son, Ray and his wife, Michelle, are both biology professors at the University. When the Department needed a greenhouse, the Chandlers were ready to help. It just so happened that the best location for the greenhouse was at the Garden, where both the Garden and the biology department benefit from the gift.

The Chandlers’ large gifts to the Garden and other ventures come from the Charles and Sandra Chandler Foundation, which the couple has developed during the past several years. The Foundation will contribute to causes that meet their criteria of promoting education, heritage, faith and children. The Chandlers’ gift to support the Heritage Renovation at the Botanical Garden is the largest gift to come out of their foundation to date.

The Chandlers give to the Garden not just because they enjoy it, but because they see value in it for the community. “This Garden is going to be more and more important as they develop the surrounding area,” said Sandra. “We’re going to need a place to get away from the big city and Statesboro has become that.”

The Chandlers also see the Garden as important for education. “There are children nowadays who have no idea where the food comes from,” Sandra said. Charles agrees. “Along with the University, the Garden is an important teaching tool,” he said.

Perhaps their insight into the importance of the Garden comes from the Chandlers’ professional life of big business and big cities. Charles’ work managing large manufacturing companies brought the family through metropolitan areas like Atlanta, Salt Lake City and Long Island — a long way from his and his wife’s rural Georgia upbringing.

Charles is originally from Blakely, Ga., and Sandra grew up “in the country south of Atlanta.” She remembers her grandmother who loved flowers and her childhood, picking wild strawberries and muscadines by the river with her friends.

Now that they are retired, the Chandlers have returned to Georgia to be near family and to enjoy what the Botanical Garden at Georgia Southern University is working hard to preserve.
Gift for the future
Cartee’s planned gift will benefit tomorrow’s Georgia Southern students

Jamey and Dawn Cartee are both alumni of Georgia Southern, and while they have fond memories of their experiences on campus, they are now thinking about the future of their alma mater.

Jamey Cartee serves as president of St. Andrews Builders and his wife Dawn Cartee is president of Ogeechee Technical College. The two met while students at Georgia Southern and have been supporting the institution ever since.

“We had a lot of good memories from that time together at Georgia Southern,” said Jamey Cartee. “It turned out to be just the beginning of what has become a strong family relationship with the University that continues today and into the future.”

The Cartees, along with an increasing number of Georgia Southern alumni, have decided to contribute a planned gift insurance premium equal to what they would have normally given to Georgia Southern annually. Since they are paying into a life insurance policy instead of directly to the University, the long term benefit to Georgia Southern is multiplied.

The planned giving option was particularly attractive to the Cartees who are using their young age and health to their advantage. “The younger you are, the lower your premium, so you can give more,” said Jamey Cartee. Another benefit is the ability to designate the gift to a specific college, program or as a gift that can be used University wide. “We wanted to give, but it was the flexibility that was a great incentive.”

“There are several types of planned gifts,” said Michelle Pittman, director of major gifts at Georgia Southern. “Many of our alumni do not realize the various options available to them when it comes to supporting their alma mater. All have wonderful benefits for donors, including generous tax savings.”

Like the Cartees, other alumni can donate a life insurance policy to Georgia Southern or simply name the University as the beneficiary. For the gift of a paid-up policy, an income tax deduction equal to the lesser of the cost basis of the policy or the replacement cost is received. To qualify for the federal charitable deduction on a gift of an existing policy, Georgia Southern University must be named as owner and beneficiary.

New Endowments

1950s Letterman Scholarship
Angelyn B. and Charles W. Sims Scholarship
Bill Carmichael Family Scholarship
Brittany “Ally” Harbuck Memorial Scholarship
Dr. C. Emory Bohler Memorial Scholarship
Jane White Marketing Scholar/Scholarship
Judge Faye Sanders Martin Pre-Law Fund

Parrish Scholar’s Award
Robert S. Haywood Family Scholarship
Russell and Aliese Priddy Master of Health Services Administration Scholarship
Theta Xi University Honors Program Scholarship
Walter and Audrey Campbell Family/Velma Kemp Scholarship for Choral Music
William Russell Wilkes Memorial Scholarship
The Hatch Attack, Season II
Young Eagle squad primed for challenges of 2008

No one can accuse Chris Hatcher’s Eagles of taking the easy road.

Georgia Southern’s season-opening game is against a University of Georgia squad expected to challenge for the BCS national title and to be ranked in the Top 5 pre-season.

This season will mark the fourth time the Eagles and Bulldogs have played. “Of course it would be my luck this is probably one of the best teams Georgia has had in a long, long time,” said second-year head coach Chris Hatcher. “Our big thing going up there is that we are expecting to win. I think that is one of the reasons our off-season has been so good because our guys are excited about this opportunity.

“We are going to go up there, let it all hang out and play as hard as we can,” Hatcher said. “It will be a great eye-opener and great experience for our football team. Our goal is to beat them, Furman and everyone in between. And if we can win four more after that we would have a Georgia Southern-type season.”

Adding interest to the pre-season is the arrival of Ohio State quarterback Antonio Henton. Henton, a sophomore, was one of the state’s most highly recruited players after leading Peach County High to a championship in 2005.

Hatcher expects heated competition for the starting job.

“He’s very similar to the quarterbacks we’ve got,” said Hatcher. “He’s a pretty good runner and a really good passer. We’re excited. Anytime you sign good football players, the competition will be fierce.”

After Georgia, the Eagles return home for four straight – including the Southern Conference opener against Elon then a game versus Wofford. Following a road game at Chattanooga, the Eagles have a week off before playing host to defending FCS national champion Appalachian State.

Hatcher said he likes having a bye week early in the season.

“I like it where it is earlier in the season because you are coming out of a hard camp, go out and play one or two games,” Hatcher said. “You can take a week off, relax a little bit and evaluate where you are at before you hit that conference stretch. The Eagles finish with three of the final four on the road, all league games. The lone home game is a Homecoming affair against another group of Bulldogs, newest league member Samford. Georgia Southern finishes the regular season at Furman.

Winning on the road is something Hatcher is accustomed to.

“I’ve always prided myself on being really good on the road,” said Hatcher. “We were pretty good last year on the road. Now, of course I like playing at Paulson,” he said. “It’s such a great atmosphere. Our fans are awesome, riding the yellow buses into the game - I know of no other experience like that.

“Hopefully,” Hatcher said, “we’ll go up there and play extremely well at Georgia, then maybe get on a roll during that four-game stretch at home as we get into the heart of the season.”

“Our goal is to beat them, Furman and everyone in between. And if we can win four more after that we would have a Georgia Southern-type season.”

Chris Hatcher, Georgia Southern football head coach
Georgia Southern Cheerleaders and the crowd were chanting as the team was presented with the National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Collegiate Cheer Championship trophy last spring in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Competing in the All-Girl Intermediate Division against teams including the University of Georgia, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of Florida, the 17-member, all-girl Georgia Southern University squad took home top honors and a national championship trophy with a score of 8.256.

"This is a tremendous recognition for our team and for Georgia Southern University," said cheerleading coach Barry Munkasy. "I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and spirit our team showed not only during the competition, but throughout the year."

During the two-day competition, the team, led by team captain Jessica Armstrong, a junior from Glennville, Ga., was required to perform a 2:15 minute routine that included stunts, pyramids, a dance, a cheer, tumbling and jumps. Based on its first-day performance, Georgia Southern University entered the finals as the top seed.

The team, which consists of nine members who participated as Eagle cheerleaders for the first time this past year, clinched the title during the second day championship round. Georgia Southern’s winning team includes three juniors, eight sophomores and six freshmen.

"The entire team worked really hard to prepare for the competition, and we hope this is the first of many more to come," said Armstrong who is a child and family development major. "We are just very proud to be able to bring home the first national cheerleading title for Georgia Southern University."

The cheerleaders’ championship is the newest addition to a string of national titles for Georgia Southern.

"While we have a host of national titles, this is the first cheerleading championship for Georgia Southern University," said University President Bruce Grube. "We are very proud of our cheerleaders because they are not only outstanding representatives of our University, but they represent the spirit, pride and tradition of this great institution."

Eagle fans are hoping they get to see standout quarterback and athlete Jayson Foster just one more time – this time in a Miami Dolphins uniform.

The All-America quarterback signed a free agent contract with the Dolphins last spring.

Foster participated in Miami’s rookie camp in April and anticipates playing wide receiver and serving as a punt and kickoff return specialist.

Even though he did not get his named called in the draft, Foster wasn’t disappointed.

"I wasn’t disappointed because I am still going to be playing football just like the players that did get drafted,” said Foster. "After the draft was over we talked to a few teams, and I was excited because I knew I had some offers on the table. (Former NFL) Coach Bill Parcells is in their front office now, they have a really good coaching staff in place, and I think Miami is the best opportunity for me to make a team.”

Throughout his career, Foster showcased his elusiveness, accounting for 77 touchdowns five different ways – 54 rushing, 15 passing, one kickoff return, two punt returns and five pass receptions.

"I am going to go down there, work hard and try to make the most of my opportunity to show what I can do,” said Foster. "If it works out well I think I’ll have a chance to make the team.”
Morris, Richardson named Student-Athletes of the Year

Sporting superior performances on the field and in the classroom, senior swimmer Kimberly Morris of Lawrenceville, Ga., and senior baseball player David Richardson of Dahlonega, Ga., have been recognized as Georgia Southern’s Female and Male Student-Athletes of the Year.

The pair was recognized at the annual Student-Athlete Awards Banquet in April.

Morris has a perfect 4.0 GPA and played an instrumental role in the Eagles going 12-1 during the regular season including a 9-0 mark at home and a fourth-place finish at the Coastal Collegiate Swimming Association (CCSA) Championships.

Richardson carries a 3.9 GPA and batted .359 for the Eagles with nine home runs and 46 RBI. He was recognized as an All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) for his dedication to strength training and conditioning.

Other student-athletes recognized for outstanding academic performances were: Kenith Ward (men’s basketball); Jessica Geiger (women’s basketball); Abby Bloom (cross country); Daniel Jordan (football); Kim Kroken (men’s soccer); Abby Wheeler (women’s soccer); Aubrey Thweatt (softball); Borja Malet (men’s tennis); Kristi Kegerreis (women’s tennis); Jessica Irizarry (track & field); and Flavia Pereira (volleyball).

Michael Eagle Michael Curry named Pistons’ head coach

Michael Curry, the former Eagles basketball standout whose work ethic and persistence garnered him universal respect in the pro ranks, has been named the new head coach of the NBA Detroit Pistons.

The 39-year-old NBA veteran earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the University in 1990.

“He's a perfect example of a guy who's gotten to the top by doing everything the right way,” said Georgia Southern Head Coach Jeff Price, who was an assistant during Curry’s Eagle playing days. “He’s paid his dues, he’s worked hard and he’s been very patient about his playing career,” said Price. “He’s gained the respect of everybody in the NBA.”

A 6-5 guard/forward under then-Eagles coach Frank Kerns, Curry began his pro career with teams in Germany, Belgium and France. He also played in the CBA and USBL before his NBA career began as a free agent with the Philadelphia 76ers during the 1993-94 season.

Curry ended his playing days during the 2004-05 season with the Indiana Pacers.

Curry averaged 4.5 points, 1.6 rebounds and 20 minutes a game during his career, which also included two stops in Detroit along with stints in Milwaukee, Toronto and Washington. His consistently tough defensive play and team leadership were the hallmarks of his playing career.

Curry headed up the National Basketball Players’ Association from 2001-03. He later served as the National Basketball Development League’s vice president of player development and the NBA’s vice president of basketball operations before spending last season as an assistant for the Pistons.

Curry’s contract includes $2.5 million a season and three guaranteed years with the team with an option for a fourth.

Curry, who earned a master’s degree from Virginia Commonwealth University while playing for the Pistons during the 2000-01 season, is a native of Augusta, Ga.

He and his wife, Katrina, have three children and have been strong Georgia Southern supporters, including funding a complete renovation of Hanner Fieldhouse’s basketball locker rooms.
Georgia Southern’s football program, administrators and fans are huddled these days, awaiting a call that could begin a drive through a multi-facted and complicated playing field.

With an unprecedented six NCAA national championships at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), the Eagles are taking a look at what it might take to move to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

To assist with this process, Georgia Southern has contracted with Rosser International Inc., to gather data for University officials and evaluate the hard figures of possibly moving the football program to college’s highest level of play.

“This feasibility study will give the University an objective, research-based foundation for the decision process,” said Eagles Athletics Director Sam Baker. “The evaluation will include the costs associated with a possible move, as well as an assessment of infrastructure, facilities and present and potential resources.”

The Atlanta-based firm will provide a balance sheet filled with financial options and factors for Georgia Southern officials as they will decide whether the program should move up or stay put. The feasibility study, which began in June, could be finished by Thanksgiving, but no timetable has been set. Fred Krenson, the vice president and director of the sports and design group, leads the process, which was awarded through the state’s bid system.

“At the end of the study, we’ll have a statement of ‘Here’s what you’re going to have to do (to move the program up to the FBS),’” Krenson said.

Krenson is familiar with Georgia Southern. He was among the original designers of Allen E. Paulson Stadium, which Coach Erk Russell called “the Prettiest Little Stadium in America” when it opened in 1984. Rosser International was also consulted for the refurbishing of the Eagles’ baseball facility, J.I. Clements Stadium, in 2005.

Rosser International, a company with more than 40 years of experience, most recently helped Georgia State University conduct its football feasibility study. The firm has also been involved with collegiate stadium and arena construction and expansion projects at the University of Louisville, Texas Tech University and the University of Arkansas.

The three-part study for Georgia Southern employs different entities with complementary areas of expertise. Rosser will analyze potential facilities expansion. Another group, Conventions, Sports & Leisure International (CSL), will look into overall financial involvement - a process expected to take about eight weeks. Finally, the Geiger-McGee Partnership, formed by former long-time athletics directors Andy Geiger and Mike McGee, will work with attorneys from Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC.

Geiger, most recently associated with Ohio State, and McGee, former AD at both the University South Carolina and University of Southern California will assist in analyzing and assessing legal issues, NCAA compliance rules and the football program’s overall implications on the rest of the athletic department. The findings will be compiled by Rosser.

Krenson says getting familiar with Georgia Southern administration, as well as understanding the fan base’s commitment to the Eagle program, will be the first steps in the feasibility study.

Rosser will not set up a satellite office in Statesboro, but will conduct town hall-type meetings and encourage the participation of fans and other stakeholders. Krenson also plans on using Internet surveys for gathering information and feedback as well. In the study conducted for Georgia State, nearly 75 percent of its boosters responded to questions on that school’s football feasibility study on the Web.

“Georgia Southern has a unique marketplace,” said Krenson. “There are many factors to consider and our role is to identify the challenges and opportunities. Our goal is to meet with as many people as possible and provide the data that will help Georgia Southern make the ultimate decision.”
DESTINATION: GREEN

STRIVING TO REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY.
Sustainability, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

It marries two important themes: environmental protection does not preclude economic development, and economic development must be ecologically viable now and in the long run.

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

“We have a great thing going now,” said Monique Dipple, interim director of the Office of Sustainability, who said she is pleased with the University’s existing efforts to reduce energy consumption, reuse and recycle wherever possible. But she wants more. “We want to improve that. We want to be a greener campus – a sustainable campus. We are doing many things now that many people are unaware of:”

Some initiatives already in place and helping to reduce the financial and environmental impact of daily operation include water conservation, reductions in energy usage, converting transit buses from diesel to CNG fuel, and the recycling of paper, metal and plastic. Other initiatives, like the use of non-potable gray water for irrigation of lawns and sports fields, are nearing implementation.

“There are so many topics to cover, and that’s where we are now,” said Dipple, “trying to spread the word around the campus and work with departments.”

Virtually every department – academic or administrative – is making a contribution to these practices, she said.

Those with a direct responsibility linked to the environment, like Division of Public Safety’s Department of Environmental Safety, take lead roles. The Department promotes the stewardship of energy, land and water by overseeing that hazardous materials are monitored, transported and disposed. It has implemented spill prevention control and countermeasures to keep oil and oil products from contaminating waters and conducts an inventory of emission sources to minimize the release of particles into the air. It also conducts safety seminars on environmental protection.

Others, like the landscaping and grounds department, are using mowers equipped with mulching kits to enhance moisture retention on lawns and reduce the amount of irrigation. Drip irrigation is used in most of the flower beds to reduce water loss due to overspray and evaporation. Plantings are indigenous species adapted to survive local heat and drought conditions.

The University’s campus master plan serves as the guiding document for future land use and development. The plan is constantly under review with periodic major revisions to match anticipated growth and the accompanying needs.

A review of the plan is underway with an emphasis on incorporating more sustainable strategies for the future of the campus, including a pedestrian-oriented environment where the quality of student life and overall air quality is improved by keeping vehicles on the perimeter of campus.

“Everybody is part of the problem and everybody needs to be part of the solution,” said Dipple. “In addition to the students, it needs to reach the staff, the faculty and the upper administration. Everybody needs to do something.”

Dipple said many people on campus have heard something about the new office and want to know how it will impact their work areas.

“There have been questions from many departments the last few months as we introduced the environmental sustainability concept, and lots of people were asking, ‘What is it exactly?’. We will talk with them one on one, and after that we will have bigger meetings where everybody can see what sustainability is about and where we are going,” she said.

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

The daily needs of operating a university of nearly 17,000 students and 1,700 employees requires significant consumption of resources – water, fuel, electricity and all manner of manufactured products. Conversely, it requires the disposal of wastes generated on the scale of a small city. Georgia Southern is striving to reduce its environmental impact through sustainability.
President Bruce Grube signs Climate Commitment

Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube has joined more than 500 university presidents nationwide by signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment to neutralize greenhouse gas emissions and to accelerate the research and educational efforts of higher education to equip society to re-stabilize the earth’s climate.

Building on the growing momentum for leadership and action on climate change, the Presidents Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America’s colleges and universities to go climate neutral. By signing the commitment, the universities are pledging to eliminate their campuses’ greenhouse gas emissions over time.

The Commitment includes:

- Completing an emissions inventory;
- Within two years, setting a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral;
- Taking immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions;
- Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience; and
- Making the action plan, inventory and progress reports publicly available.

The college and university presidents and chancellors who are joining and leading the Commitment believe that exerting leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding and increase the support of alumni and local communities.

“While we understand that there might be short-term challenges associated with this effort, we believe that there will be great short-, medium- and long-term economic, health, social and environmental benefits, including achieving energy independence for the U.S. as quickly as possible,” according to the agreement.

“These colleges and universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.”

The Georgia Southern Environmental Network (GSEN) works to promote environmentally sound policies on the campus by exchanging information, working constructively with the University administration and working with public education. With membership that includes a number of scientists, GSEN has studied and adopted public stances on a number of pertinent environmental issues that face a fast-growing university, including water use, native plants and wildlife, recycling programs and automobile impact.
Weighing in on the issue
Long-standing University recycling program continues to expand across campus

That paper towel you used this morning to scrub your countertop might have once been an internal memo at Georgia Southern.

Last year, the University recycled more than 165 tons of paper products through its recycling program for office paper, newspapers and magazines. Waste paper is sold to Georgia Pacific for re-processing into napkins, towels and tissue.

Paper is just the start for the recycling program. Aluminum beverage containers, scrap metal, inkjet and laserjet printer cartridges are routinely collected and sold for recycling purposes. Cardboard and plastic bottles are donated to Bulloch County’s recycling program. A portion of the metal is delivered to a local broker, Stubbs Metal and Wrecking Yard, and the remainder is collected for resale by a solid waste hauler, Southern Disposal.

Currently, cell phones are being collected exclusively by the internal recycling program at the Henderson Library. Metal furnishings, fluorescent lamps and bulbs, batteries, used motor oil and tires are recycled as well, as are concrete, ballast and metals.

Recycling is not a new concept at Georgia Southern. The program, housed in the University’s physical plant department, began in 1993. Suzanne Venerable, who joined the staff in December 1995, coordinates the collection and disposition of materials.

“When I first joined the physical plant team, the campus recycling program accepted mixed office paper and aluminum cans campus wide and collected metal and cardboard from support facilities,” Venerable said. “Toner cartridges were mailed directly to the manufacturers for reconditioning.

“I saw a need to divert other recyclable material from the campus waste stream. The program was expanded in May 1996 to include the collection of newspapers and magazines. Polyethylene, or clear plastic bottles, was added in January 1997,” she said. “In recent years, we have also increased our campus-wide recycling services to include pickup of cardboard along with toner and inkjet cartridges.”

Individual offices are equipped with “Eagle Boxes” on request, which are used to quickly separate office paper from other items. Nearly every building on campus has collection points where discarded materials are separated by paper, plastic or metal.

Used laserjet and inkjet printer cartridges are placed either in a box beside larger bins or in a designated area so they can be picked up when the recycling crew services each building. Nickel-cadmium batteries are recycled by arranging a pickup with campus Environmental Safety Services.

During the 2007 calendar year, 1.74 tons of toner/ink jet cartridges, 10,319 fluorescent bulbs, and approximately 365 pounds of oil, 1,091 pounds of batteries and 4,017 pounds of miscellaneous waste - ballast, flammable liquids and paint-related material – were recycled.

“Overall the University recycling efforts have grown,” said Venerable. “In 1995, Georgia Southern recycled about 40 tons of material. We are now recycling more than 200 tons annually.”

Measures have been taken to reduce and re-use yard waste, too. Pine cones are shredded and fallen tree limbs are chipped for use as mulch in low-profile areas on campus. At least 75 percent of the campus yard waste is chipped in-house. The remainder is mulched by Bulloch County for residential use.

FAST FACTS
• To ensure that all Georgia Southern students are aware of major issues involving the stewardship of Georgia’s energy, land and water resources, each University student is required to take an environmental science course. Students who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree in biology, construction management, civil engineering technology, geography or geology are required to take additional courses that address many of the state’s most important environmental issues.

• The Department of Construction Management and Civil Engineering Technology will be offering a course in Green Building and Sustainable Research this fall, and the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology has plans to enhance its research program in renewable energy.
Almost a year after its grand opening, the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) extension is setting the standard for environmentally friendly buildings at Georgia Southern and is a model for universities nationwide.

The $31.8 million dollar expansion, designed by campus architect Haroun Homayun, added 135,000 square feet to the RAC. This space allowed for the addition of 10 new indoor multipurpose courts, five new racquetball courts, a fitness center, weight and fitness rooms, as well as an 11-lane indoor pool with diving well. Outdoor facilities, not included in new square footage, have also been added.

The project was designed to meet specific environmental standards including indoor and outdoor water conservation, reduction of heat islands, promotion of alternative mass transportation, environmentally friendly site selection and minimum energy performance. Indoor air quality was also given specific attention through the use of low contaminant-emitting materials. Recycled and local materials were used throughout the project in an effort to minimize environmental impact and 75 percent of waste was diverted from landfills during construction.

Every opportunity to make a positive impact has been addressed, right down to the cleaning supplies used by the custodial staff. According to custodial manager Gwen Jackson, her staff has been trained in green housekeeping procedures and has reduced 25 aerosol cleaners down to four basic diluted cleaning solutions. The staff has also implemented the use of recycled paper products.

“The RAC is an example for other buildings and sports facilities,” said Graduate Assistant Matt Parker. “We recently received an award from NIRSA for Outstanding Sports Facility at the 2008 Conference. We
RAC at a glance

Environmental steps taken for the expansion include:

- Erosion and sediment control
- Site Selection with minimum environmental impact
- High efficiency irrigation system
- Use of recycled and captured rain water for landscaping
- Public transit access
- Installation of additional bike racks
- 20 percent reduction in aggregate water usage
- Change in custodial practices, including cleaners and recycled paper products
- Storage and collection of recyclables
- Use of recycled and local materials in construction
- Diverted 75 percent of waste material from landfills during construction
- Use of low contaminant-emitting materials
- Reduction of heat islands on and around facility
- Ensure that all fundamental building elements and systems are at peak performance
- Optimize energy efficiency and performance
- Zero use of CFCs in HVAC&R systems to reduce ozone depletion
- Implement practices that promote ozone protection
- Established indoor air quality performance that contributes to the well-being of occupants
- Control environmental tobacco smoke
- Installed effective ventilation systems
- LEED-accredited professional on staff

are one in five in the country to receive the award.”

The National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) grants this award to facilities considered to be standards by which other collegiate recreational facilities should be measured.

In addition to receiving awards for its high standards, the RAC has been featured in Environmental Design and Construction Magazine and College Planning and Management Magazine.

The RAC is on track for certification as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building. The LEED Green Building Rating System was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and is the national set of standards for design, construction and operation of environmentally sustainable structures.

According to the USGBC Web site, LEED promotes a whole building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Parker has been heading up the campaign to keep the RAC, a student-run facility, on track for its LEED certification. “The culture is changing. Now we can’t afford for this to be a convenience choice anymore. As a collective, we have to decide to be more environmentally sound,” said Parker.

The decision to “Go Green” not only promotes forward thinking for students, faculty and staff, but it also falls in line with the Presidents Climate Commitment signed by President Bruce Grube and with the campus master plan.

The impact of this green facility will also be seen in its use as a teaching tool for future students. Signs will be posted throughout the facility explaining the environmentally friendly practices that have been employed. Starting in Fall 2008, Green Design and Construction classes will use the RAC facility as a learning lab with a goal of students leaving Georgia Southern with higher expectations for themselves and others in the arena of environmental awareness.

According to Parker the benefits of going green can already be seen. “People will recycle if you make it readily available to them. There are no lone trash cans in our building; they are all set up next to recycling centers,” he said. “The RAC staff started emptying their own recycling bins from their offices in an effort to remind employees to stay green. When it has been five days since the trash truck has come and our dumpster is only half full, it is pretty cool to see things work.”

– Marla Bruner
'Clean' buses move students across campus

As the potential for thousands of additional automobiles in a small space loomed in the near future, Georgia Southern initiated its transit system in 2005, mitigating the need for more, and bigger, student commuter parking lots.

The system began with diesel buses then switched to cleaner-burning Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a fuel in 2006.

There are more than 150,000 natural gas vehicles (NGVs) on American roads today and more than five million worldwide. Besides reduced exhaust emissions, CNG vehicles do not release fuel vapors while refueling or due to fuel heating during vehicle operation.

Operators generally say they are quieter, have lower maintenance costs, longer life expectancy and lower fueling costs. CNG is one of the most prominent alternative fuels. Its life cycle emissions and vehicle exhaust emissions are substantially cleaner that conventional fuels.

The University operates a 10-bus system with eight buses operating at the busiest times of the day, departing the Paulson Stadium parking lot every 3-4 minutes from 7 a.m. through 4 p.m. on weekdays. After 4 p.m., a reduced number of buses run the route until 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The estimated time between buses on the reduced schedule is 15 minutes. Friday’s bus service ends at 5 p.m.

Riders park free at Allen E. Paulson Stadium and the RAC and do not need a parking permit at those locations.

Reusing water

Plan to use treated wastewater for landscaping moves forward

And you thought sprinkling your lawn used a lot of water. Georgia Southern uses, on average, six to eight millions gallons of water per month.

It could do with less if a water reuse plan comes to fruition. “Depending on the season, probably a third to half of our water bill goes for irrigation,” said Michael Dipple, associate director of physical plant. “We use a well, and regulations prohibit drilling any more wells.”

Something other than drinking-quality water, but suitable for lawns and playing fields, would go a long way toward solving the problem, and University officials believe they might have the answer.

Georgia Southern and the City of Statesboro are working through an agreement for re-using treated wastewater.

“Reuse is important, because it will offset the water we're going to need for campus growth,” said Dipple.

Treated wastewater is not considered suitable for drinking, but is fine for other uses. Bird’s Pond, an effluent holding reservoir just south of campus has plenty, and instead of sending water downstream into the Ogeechee River, it might be used to irrigate Georgia Southern's playing fields and landscaping.

“The plan as it is taking shape right now,” said Dipple, “is for the city to build a pumping station at Bird's Pond where their outflow enters the stream system. It will come up Lanier Road through an existing, but abandoned, water main that will be converted for this use, at which point the University piping will be joined. We're going to run piping from that corner out to the pond at the Recreation Activity Center, reuse the water from the city to recharge those ponds, and use those ponds for irrigation on all the playing fields out there.”

The next phase would likely extend the piping either to the other lakes at Henderson Library or to send water to the Wildlife Center to recharge the new beaver pond and other wetland areas.

While the agreement between the city and University is not finalized, the plan is progressing.

“The design is all but complete,” said Dipple. “The permitting process is underway and is moving forward without any problems. Everything is progressing as it should.”
Sunny or cloudy, every day is “green” at the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden.

The Garden’s 11-acre landscape is lush with plants native to the Southeastern Coastal Plain, making it a popular meeting place for anyone interested in gardening, but also helping it fulfill its mission of preserving and teaching about the natural heritage of the region.

The Garden promotes environmental awareness by giving Georgia Southern students and the region access to its resources, said Public Relations Coordinator Stephanie Tames. “Visitors learn about issues like invasive species and why they should refrain from planting detrimental plants,” she said. She cited wisteria as an example of a plant that is known for its invasive qualities.

The Garden is home to 16 of Georgia’s protected plants including carnivorous plants such as *Sarracenia purpurea* and rare plants like the endangered Georgia Plume (*Elliottia racemosa*).

Tames said that the Garden is making great strides to protect these plants for future generations. “Our most recent project with Elliottia is part of a collaborative research effort with the University of Georgia. Researchers are trying to determine the best practices for growing Georgia Plume.” The Garden welcomes visitors of all ages who stroll down the beautiful woodland trails or visit the Bland Cottage Visitor Center, Heritage Garden, Children’s Vegetable Garden, Camellia Garden, Rose Arbor, Native Azalea Collection or Bog Garden. Each of the gardens has a lesson to teach for anyone seeking information about their local environment.

“We believe that the Garden’s open gates to the students and the community will promote knowledge and a greater appreciation for native plants and animals of the Southeastern Coastal Plain,” said Tames. “Hopefully, their appreciation for what they’ve been exposed to will inspire environmentally responsible behavior.”

A 12-acre addition containing a cypress swamp, waterfowl pond and a simulated stream has given Georgia Southern’s Center for Wildlife Education an additional focus: water.

Given the statewide concern about water shortages, the project is timely. “The theme of the expansion was water – a resource critical to Georgia’s environmental and economic future,” said Center Director Steve Hein. “The waterfowl pond, cypress swamp and simulated stream are educational tools. We want to educate future generations of Georgians on the wise use of our water resources.

“We are fortunate to have a natural corridor made up of very mature hardwoods and pine trees that have been sampled to be over 80 years old,” said Hein.

Each of the ponds has an observation deck where Center staff can gather groups of students and visitors for “in-the-moment teaching” about the pond habitats, said Hein. “Basic to all that, however, is water. We’ll offer programs that teach our visitors, both young and old, how to protect and preserve water resources.”

The path leading visitors through the habitat is made of environmentally friendly recycled rubber. Native-species plants and more than 550 young trees have been added to the area.

“The wading bird cypress swamp, located on the other side of the Phase II expansion, will showcase a shallow ecosystem,” said Hein.

“Our mission, especially the focus on water resources in our wetlands exhibit, is one that serves Georgia and all of the southeastern U.S.,” said Hein, and will emphasize the interconnectedness of wild creatures, their environment and people, he said.
As residential growth continues along the Georgia coast, environmental concerns are growing as well. One prominent issue is that of marshland preservation. An increasing number of land owners are seeking to build docks across the salt marshes. These docks, some more than 1,500 feet long, typically run from the property’s high ground, across the marsh to a navigable creek where a boat can be moored.

The effect of docks on the salt marshes is the focus of several research projects by Georgia Southern’s Applied Coastal Research Laboratory. The ACRL is located on the campus of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah and is headed by Director Clark Alexander. Earlier research by Alexander and research technician Mike Robinson demonstrated that shadows cast by docks inhibit the growth of the marsh grass, Spartina Alternaflorea.

“We have seen a 50 percent decrease in the number of grass stems below docks from shading,” said Alexander.

In reaction to that research and similar findings from other researchers, some dock builders are now designing docks that cast a smaller shadow on the marsh because of narrower width or light-passing walkway materials. Alexander and his team are working with a McIntosh County developer who has built a 1,600 foot low-profile dock that replaces the traditional platform of six-inch boards with an open framework, a series of rails and an electric cart. The first step in the study is to compare the salt marsh growth under and adjacent to the new dock – before construction and seasonally for several years afterward.

“We will also construct a number of dock sections on dry land – both traditional designs as well as the newer light-passing models – and measure the light and the dock’s shadow” said Alexander.

The ACRL is also looking at the role long docks play in the accumulation of large mats of dead and decaying marsh grass, called “wrack.” In a pristine environment, most of the wrack is washed out to sea or accumulates along the upland. In the Savannah area, large accumulations of wrack are getting hung up on docks and killing the underlying spartina, but no one is sure of the magnitude of the problem.

“The effects could be greater than those of shading. However, additional research is the only way to know that,” Alexander said.

The ACRL will be working on the salt marsh project for the next several years.
Treading new ground
Students never ‘tire’ of seeking solutions

A civil engineering technology senior research project, led by Construction Management and Civil Engineering Technology professor Junan Shen, is treading new ground, literally.

With the guidance of Shen, students William Foster, Jorge Caster, Justin Masdon and Colin Westlake are looking for ways to convert a growing problem into a sustainable advantage.

According to the Scrap Tire Management Council, almost 300 million scrap tires are produced annually — about one tire per person in America. These non-biodegradable tires either sit in landfills, are stacked at junkyards or are abandoned on the side of the road. As developing countries become more dependent on motor vehicles, the problem will continue to grow worldwide.

The Georgia Southern students are investigating how scrap tires can be repurposed. Taking the discarded tires and grinding them into tiny particles, the tires are transformed into sand-sized pieces known as crumb rubber. The crumb rubber is added to soils with a high water content, or soils that are unable to bear weight, to help make them more stable.

Until recently, lime and concrete were added to stabilize soils, requiring massive quantities of additional resources to be consumed. With crumb rubber, the previously unusable tires can find new life as a construction material. This new concept enters the beginning stages of in-depth research in the Soil Mechanics lab at Georgia Southern.

The students blend crumb rubber particles and limestone into 25-pound samples of problem soils and conduct tests to determine whether or not the soil can support additional weight without shifting. Progress in improving problem soils could allow construction in areas previously not able to support it.

“This idea is still in its infant stages, and is very far from implementation,” said Foster, a senior construction management major. “But if the results turn out well, it could provide a very viable solution to a growing problem of waste tires.”

With the foundation of this project being set this summer, the senior-level students have high hopes for what the underclassmen can accomplish.

The Department could also possibly receive grant money, which would greatly enhance the project.

Upcoming seniors will be able to expand on the foundation of research laid this summer, said senior construction management major Colin Westlake.

— Greg Lawrence

FAST FACTS

- The campus landscaping and grounds department uses lawn mowers equipped with mulching kits to enhance moisture retention on lawns and reduce the amount of irrigation required. Drip irrigation is used in most flower beds to reduce water loss due to overspray and evaporation.

- The University has taken measures to save energy and conserve water throughout campus. Energy Wise/Energy Star compliant lighting, heating, and cooling equipment is purchased and retrofitted for both newer and older facilities. State-of-the-art temperature controls operate over a campus optical fiber network to monitor and adjust temperatures. Each internal building network calibrates and optimizes systems to run more efficiently.

Henderson Library Recycling Committee promotes environmental awareness and the benefits of recycling by providing easily accessible recycling facilities to all library staff and patrons. In addition to accepting “traditional” recycling items such as paper and aluminum cans, the Library encourages employees and patrons to participate in the recycling or reuse of toner cartridges and transparencies. The Library collects and recycles used cellular phones. Also, donated books that have been removed from the library collection are sold for .25 to .50 cents, giving them a new life.
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
Tracy Ham
Tracy Ham (’95) is a regional account manager with Sony Electronics and serves as a color commentator with Comcast SportsSouth. As an Eagle quarterback, Ham led his team to NCAA national titles in 1985 and 1986. He was recently inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. He was the Canadian Football League Most Valuable Player in 1995. His No. 8 jersey was the first to be retired by the Eagles. Ham is on the board of directors for First Southern National Bank, the advisory committee for the Statesboro-Bulloch Parks and Recreation Department, and works with the Boys and Girls Club of Statesboro, Athletes in Action Team Ministry, and the Bethesda Home for Boys in Savannah. He also serves as a spokesman for United Way and for prostate cancer awareness.

Terry Coleman
President’s Medalist
Terry Coleman, deputy commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, is the recipient of the President’s Medal, presented by the University for extraordinary professional accomplishments and contributions to the community and the University. Coleman made invaluable contributions to Georgia Southern during his 34 years as a member of the Georgia House of Representatives including leadership and support in the establishment of the College of Information Technology. Coleman’s current post has emphasis on international trade, homeland security and legislative issues.

Rod Meadows
Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise
Rod Meadows (’71) of Stockbridge is president of Meadows & Macie P.C. He practices law in Henry County, Ga., and has been chosen on several occasions as one of Atlanta Magazine’s Best Lawyers and is listed in Best Lawyers in America. Meadows is the past chair of the State Bar of Georgia, Health Law Section and the University Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Georgia Bar Association, Flint River Judicial Circuit Bar Association and the Henry County Bar Association.

Frank Hook
Alumnus of the Year
College of Health and Human Sciences
Frank Hook (’71) has served as Georgia Southern’s senior alumni relations director since 1995. He was president of Southern Boosters Inc., 1985-95; co-owner of Sports Buff Inc., 1979-91; and director of the Statesboro Recreation Department, 1976-79. Hook has served on the boards of directors for the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, the Bulloch County Red Cross, Bulloch County Cancer Society and Southern Boosters.
James Becton, MD
Alumnus of the Year
Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology
Augusta, Ga., surgeon James Becton is a partner in Augusta Orthopaedic Clinic. Becton has served as chief of staff at St. Joseph Hospital, and on the hospital's board as a trustee. Since 1971, he has been a consultant with the U.S. Army at the Dwight David Eisenhower Hospital. Becton served on the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1986 and the College of Science and Technology Advisory Council since 1999. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Biology in 1998.

Olivia Suggs Flanagan
Alumna of the Year
College of Business Administration
Albany, Ga., accountant Olivia Suggs Flanagan ('69) is the retired vice president of Flanagan and Waycaster Construction Company. She has served as vice president of Bristol Development Corporation, tax manager for Cousins Properties and was a CPA with Arthur Andersen. Flanagan is a member of the College of Business Administration Advisory Board, a past president of the Georgia Women's Golf Association and serves on the organization's board of directors.

Charlene R. Jackson
Distinguished Biology Alumna
Charlene R. Jackson ('90, '92) of Athens, Ga., is lead scientist and microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance Research Unit. She earned both undergraduate and master's degrees at the University and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Georgia. Prior to her current position, Jackson was a researcher in the Department of Avian Medicine at the Poultry Diagnostic Research Center and the Department of Microbiology at the University of Georgia.

Matthew Janofsky
Alumnus of the Year
College of Information Technology
Matthew Janofsky ('84) of Lawrenceville, Ga., is Gladiator Technology Services' vice president for application development. He is a steering committee member for Georgia Southern's Information Systems Program. Janofsky founded the Matthew Janofsky Scholarship in Information Systems. He served as project lead and developer for Alltel, customer support manager and systems analyst for OIN Banking Systems Inc., and a software developer for Unisys Corporation.

Norris B. Strickland
Alumnus of the Year
College of Education
The late Jesup, Ga., businessman Norris B. Strickland ('53) was posthumously honored. Strickland was owner and president of Norris B. Strickland and Associates Inc., and owner and developer of Whitepath Lodge in Ellijay, Ga. He served on the University Foundation's Board of Trustees, as Lettermen's Club president, on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and was Alumnus of the Year in Private Enterprise in 2004 and Alumnus of the Year for the Association in 1980.

M. Albert Burke
Alumnus of the Year
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Statesboro's Al Burke ('61) is a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. He has worked with the Boy Scouts of America since 1976 in various roles. He has also served as president of the Jaycees in Brunswick, Ga.; secretary of the Kiwanis Club in Brunswick; and president of Statesboro Rotary Club. From 1996 to 2003 he served as chair of the Bulloch County Board of Education.
The ink on Brooks Blumenthal’s diploma had barely dried before he was back on campus.

This time he’s not a student, but a key figure in the renovation and expansion of Zach Henderson Library.

“When my company, McKnight Construction, got the call and told me that we got the bid for the library and that they wanted me to come back to build it, I had a sense of comfort knowing that I was going somewhere I was familiar,” Blumenthal said. “As bad as senioritis is, and you’re ready to leave college, you don’t realize how much you’re not ready to leave college behind. You just want to stay – especially for me, because I had so many positive experiences at Georgia Southern.”

Blumenthal (’04) has worked on the library expansion and renovation project since day one in July 2004. “I was the first person from my company on the job, even working out of my truck before the office trailer arrived,” he said. “And, hopefully, I’ll be the last one to turn the keys over to the owner.”

From ensuring subcontractors are scheduled, to ordering all materials to make sure they’re there when needed, to solving problems with the subcontractors or his personal crew, Blumenthal heads up the project.

“I provide direct communication between the job, the architect, engineers, and the State of Georgia,” he said. “If I can’t figure out what the problem is or what the misunderstanding is with one of the drawings, I work with the architect to get them worked out. I also take care of the procurement schedule, monthly pay application and basically anything that’s involved in managing the job.

“If it takes me getting out there to operate a piece of machinery, then I’m out there running a piece of machinery,” he added. “I’m a firm believer in not asking someone to do something I’m not willing to do. I’ll get just as dirty as anyone I expect to get dirty.”

Heading up the project is rewarding, but his return brought an unexpected benefit. He recently completed his second year as an instructor of construction management. “I never would have imagined I would go into teaching,” he said. However, when he was approached about teaching a night class, he leaped at the opportunity.

“I thought I’d jump into something new,” he said. “I know construction and I know how to do it,” Blumenthal added. “I was always one that wanted to know and learn the things I was going to be able to use. After accepting the position I thought what a great opportunity it is to teach people what they’re going to need to know.

“When you can talk to the students on a basic level and tell them about real-life instances, watching how big their eyes get and how susceptible they are to retaining what you’re teaching them has been fun to see.”

Blumenthal and his wife, Rebecca, are living in Statesboro. Not one to stay idle, Blumenthal also operates a small contracting business, Blucon Inc., with his brother.

“I can’t just sit around. It drives me crazy to not have anything to do.”
Elliott’s calling: helping the ‘fragile folks’

By Loretta Brandon

Upon finishing seminary, Micheal Elliott was faced with a peculiar irony.
“As the student pastor of an inner city church that very few attended,” Elliott explained, “I was in charge of a building called a sanctuary, but it had bars on the windows and homeless people sleeping outside. So I converted some of the rooms to apartments and invited the homeless people to move inside.”

Savannah’s Union Mission was born.
“Union Mission has grown into a large, diverse, non-profit management company,” said Elliott. “We’ve gone from one small homeless shelter to five different campuses and 20 different buildings. With 250 employees and an $11.5 million budget, we operate with a corporate structure, but we deal in human capital.”

With a homeless population approaching 5,000, Savannah faces a major challenge – one that Union Mission is helping to meet. The Mission provides housing, health care and a multitude of services to those who Elliott calls “fragile folks.”

At the helm of Union Mission is Elliott, who is president and CEO. He has been part of the organization for 21 years.

Union Mission’s expertise lies in helping restore the lives of people who, for whatever reason, have become fragile.

Elliott says his life has been “a marvelous journey of learning.” After earning a degree in history and minors in literature and religious studies, his Georgia Southern mentors, professors George Shriver and Delma Presley, encouraged him to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. There he earned master’s degrees in divinity and social work and fell into his life’s work.

Not only does Elliott have big plans for Union Mission, including a 48-bed apartment complex for families with disabilities and expanded health care for the working poor, he also has a part-time job: writing. He’s the author of eight books, including the most recent, Tour of Homes. His Why the Homeless Don’t have Homes and What to Do About It won a Best Book Award, and Running with the Dolphins is in its 12th printing.

1970s

Martin NeSmith ('70) has been named a General Motors Dealer of the Year. He owns automobile dealerships in Claxton, Hinesville, Jesup and Statesboro. He is one of only 115 General Motors dealers out of 6,700 in the U.S. who received this honor. He was presented with a Jack Smith Leadership Award, named for the retired GM chairman and CEO who founded the Dealer of the Year program. NeSmith is a former member of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents and a current member of the University Foundation Board of Trustees.

Emory Proctor ('70) and his wife, Kay (McCormick '56), are retired and live in Brooklet, Ga. They can be reached at emproc@bulloch.net or kaymp@bulloch.net.

Linda Russell Adkison ('73) is the associate dean of curricular/academic affairs at Kansas State University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Donna Tress Miles ('74) retired in 2007 after 24 years of teaching pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. In 2004, she adopted...
Aguilar nominated to fill open SEC post

Atlanta attorney Luis Aguilar (’76) has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to a post on the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Nominated by President George Bush, Aguilar will fill a term that expires in June 2010. Aguilar earned his undergraduate degree in political science at Georgia Southern before earning a Master of Laws degree from Emory University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia. He is a partner in the Atlanta office of the McKenna, Long & Aldridge law firm.

Aguilar is a former staff attorney at the SEC. Atlanta Magazine named him one of the most influential foreign-born Atlantans, and in 2006, Hispanic Business Magazine called him one of the “100 Influential Hispanics” in the United States. In 2005, he was named Member of the Year by the Georgia Hispanic Chamber for his contributions to economic development in the Hispanic community, as well as for his community and charitable efforts.

A native of Cuba, Aguilar is active in the Latin American Association in Atlanta and Hispanic National Bar Association. He served on the board of the non-profit Latin American Association, and was chairman from 2005 to 2007.

Elizabeth Anne Rumble (’74) is retiring from the position of recreation director with the Dothan, Ala., Leisure Services Department after 30 years of service.

Stanley W. Cochran (’76) is a systems analyst with GEICO. He resides in Macon, Ga.

C. Leslie Murphy (’78) was named by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue as the First Congressional District representative to the Georgia Council for the Arts. Murphy and her husband, John, co-own Richmond Hill Land and Realty Company. She is also a corporate member of the Richmond Hill Historical Society and the vice-president and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of Arts on the Coast Association Inc. The couple resides in Richmond Hill, Ga., and has three children.

Mark Keel (’79) has been nominated to head the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. He has three decades of experience in law enforcement. An attorney for the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Keel has served as chief of staff, captain of tactical operations, supervisor of the agency’s aviation unit, bloodhound tracking team, SWAT team and fugitive task force. He has also held positions on SLED’s narcotics and intelligence units and inspects law enforcement agencies seeking national accreditation.

1980s

Vicki Sherrod (’81) is the student life coordinator at East Georgia College. She lives in Swainsboro, Ga., and can be reached at vscherrod@bellsouth.net.

Phylis Hardeman Thompson (’81) has been promoted to national manager of physician recruitment for Health Management Associates’ 63-hospital health care system. She and her husband, David (’81) live in Statesboro.

Timothy Aligheri (’83) is the chief technology officer with Jackson Healthcare in Alpharetta, Ga.


Arch Nelson (’84) recently joined All Points in Atlanta as its president. All Points, a marketing service company, works with clients such as Sun Trust Bank, The Coca-Cola Company and Home Depot. Nelson and his wife, Katrina, live in Alpharetta, Ga., with their two daughters, Parker and Merrill. Nelson can be reached at anelson@allpointsatl.com.

Tim Papdam (’85) is a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army. He is currently mobilized with the U.S. Army Reserve in support of Operation Noble Eagle. He can be reached at timpapdam@comcast.net.


Robert “RB” Branan (’89) is a designer and drafter with the Georgia Transmission Corporation. “After a nine-year battle with cancer, my wife, Kristin, passed away on Feb. 23,” he writes. “To all my alumni friends, please be in prayer as my family makes the necessary adjustments.”
Preserving history

Anderson honored for preservation of one-room schoolhouse

Jan Brown Anderson loves history. “It’s fitting that she was honored by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), with the group’s National Historic Preservation Medal. Anderson (‘61) was the force behind the preservation and subsequent restoration of Oak Grove School, one of Georgia’s few remaining one-room schools. “Georgia Southern has a 100-year history of teacher preparation, so it was a good thing to do for last year’s Centennial celebration,” said Anderson. “Now, as I work with Georgia Southern’s College of Education faculty to let people know about the one-room school, I am beginning to understand how well it represents the seamless education teachers look for today.”

NSDAR National Vice President of Historic Preservation Terry Price Arnold praised Anderson’s preservation and ongoing research of the school. “The volunteer efforts of Mrs. Anderson in locating, acquiring, and restoring the school; collecting oral histories of former students of the school; and preserving all for the use and education of youth speak of her indelible contribution in historic preservation and to the field of education,” said Arnold.

To commemorate Georgia Southern’s Centennial, Anderson located the structure in Tattnall County and had it moved to Bowen Rushing Road in Bulloch County. Working with experts in history, education and construction, Anderson oversaw the restoration of the school and now conducts programs for teachers and student groups about teaching and learning in the day of the one-room school.

An examination of the school showed that the lumber used to build it was hand-hewn. A 1916 survey of Georgia schools indicated the school had shutters, not windows, so Anderson had the glass windows removed. She furnished the room with a flag, slates, marbles, lunch buckets and other historical items.

The College has placed information about Oak Grove School at http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/oneroomschool. Teachers, school groups and history buffs may visit the one-room school by making plans through the Web site.

“I am thrilled that Jan Anderson has been recognized nationally for her work on Oak Grove School,” said College of Education Dean Cindi Chance. “She took on a major project and has seen it through in a way that benefits regional students and teachers, the College of Education’s pre-service teachers, our faculty and members of the community.”

1990s

Deb Blackshear (‘90) is a program manager with the National Children’s Study, National Institute of Health. She lives in Clinton, Md.

Jenni Sasser McDonough (‘91) is vice president of human resources for Manning Selvage and Lee Public Relations. In August 2007, she and her husband, Stewart, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Lillie, who joined sister Kate. The family makes its home in Mableton, Ga. They would enjoy hearing from friends at jenni.mcdonough@yahoo.com.

Jennifer L. Murkison (‘91) is vice president of Marsh USA. She has participated in marathons in Washington, D.C., and Prague, Czech Republic. She resides in Decatur, Ga.

Wendy Exley Seiler (‘91) and her husband, Charles, celebrated the December birth of their son, Cecil Wilson. Wendy is a second grade teacher at Lanier Primary in Savannah.

Thomas Tootle (‘91) was recently promoted to director of business development for the Toro Company’s Irrigation Division. Thomas and his wife, Allison (DeArmon ‘91), recently relocated to Temecula, Calif., with their three children, Jay, Grant and Carole Rose.

Kenneth Gaither (‘93) was recently named head of school for the Health Professions Academy at Beaufort High School in Beaufort, S.C. He can be reached at knghumpty1379@yahoo.com.


Heather McAdam Pomilio (‘93) is a special education teacher with Dorchester II Schools in Summerville, S.C. She also coaches JV softball for Fort Dorchester High School. She and her husband, Steve, live in Ladson, and have a son, Dylan. She would enjoy hearing from friends at jenni.mcdonough@yahoo.com.

Marne Miller Thompson (‘93) and her husband, Steve, proudly announce the August 2007 birth of their son, Zachary Steven.

Chad Davis (‘94) and his wife, Theresa, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sofia, who joins big sister Isabel. Chad is an attorney with Kissiah and Lay. The family resides in Marietta, Ga., and can be reached at jcdavis94@yahoo.com.

Michael Gilbert (‘94) and his wife, Sabrina, celebrated the January birth of their son, Ian Wayne.
Martin Sauls IV (’94) has been elected president of the Jasper County, S.C., Chamber of Commerce. Sauls, public relations director for Tradition Hilton Head, a master-planned community in Hardeeville, was elected by the Chamber’s Board of Directors to a one-year term. As president, Sauls’ responsibilities will include presiding over the Chamber board’s monthly meetings, speaking and introducing dignitaries and guests at Chamber functions, and attending new business openings. Sauls and his wife, Anissa, have two daughters, Macy and Emma.

Lynne Steinmiller Mastervich (’95) and her husband, Brian, proudly announce the February birth of their son, Devin Andrew. Lynne is a physician assistant with Mid Atlantic Cardiovascular Associates. The family lives in Baltimore, Md.

Leigh Ann Cline Bernot (’96) and her husband, Rodney, welcomed daughter Ramona in April. She joins big sister Reegan. The family makes its home in Marietta, Ga., and can be reached at labernot@bellsouth.net.

Tim Coughenour (’96) is a sales representative with Southern Wine & Spirits. In April, he was recognized as salesperson of the month. He and his wife, Heather, live in North Augusta, S.C., with their two children, Heidi and Samuel.

Jason Camp (’97) is a pilot with Delta Airlines. His wife, Jennifer (Rainey ’95), is a customer service representative with The Peoples Bank. The couple lives in Eatonton, Ga.

Renea Colson (’97) completed her doctorate in educational administration in December 2007. She is a teacher in the Hart County School System in Hartwell, Ga. She and her husband, Greg (’99), reside in Elberton.

Judson Puckett (’97) is a sales director with Verizon Business. He supports a team of 12 contact center and IP telephony specialists. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Alpharetta, Ga., with their children, Adam, Marie, Carter and Sam. He would enjoy hearing from friends at judson.r.puckett@verizonbusiness.com.

Leonard J. Reich (’97) is the sports information director at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

Deidre Jones Tilley works in academic support at Columbus State University. Her husband, Alvin (’99), is a captain and budget officer in the U.S. Army. The couple has three daughters, Ayana, Dionna and Adriana. The family lives in Columbus, Ga., and would enjoy hearing from friends at dtilley2003@hotmail.com or tilley52@hotmail.com.

McGaughey honored for research

Joseph McGaughey (’07) has been honored for a glowing achievement.

McGaughey transformed bacteria with jellyfish DNA that produced a green-glowing protein, making the bacteria visible under a special kind of light. The glow makes the bacteria easy to track.

McGaughey received a President’s Award when he presented the research at the Entomological Society of America (ESA) 2007 Student Competition.

The experiment was conducted while he was a student working with biology professor Dana Nayduch.

“The experiment was focused on determining how flies transmit bacterial disease and how they can remain healthy while in contact with a poor environment,” said McGaughey, who graduated from Georgia Southern in Fall 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in biology.

“I fed the glowing bacteria to the flies and dissected the flies at different points in time. Under the microscope, the bacteria look really amazing. I compare it to looking at a starry night,” he said.

“I’ve always been interested in the latest techniques in biology,” McGaughey said. “I began reading stories about biotechnology, genetic engineering and the development of new medicines, and have been fascinated by it.”

McGaughey conducted his study with the help of a Paulson Student Research Award, presented annually by the College Office of Undergraduate Research in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology.
A new slate of Alumni Association Board of Directors was installed last spring, each member serving a 3-year term. New directors are, front row, l-r, Mack Bryson, Sam Young, Karen Dixon, Jim Joyce, Julie Turner Davis, Corey Lawrence and Pokey Sheffield. Back row, l-r, are Brian Brennan, University President Bruce Grube, Jason Clary, Kristie Waterfield, and Vice President for University Advancement Billy Griffis.

Mandy Hirsch Lane (’98) and her husband, Chris, welcomed a daughter, Britton Sylvia, in February. Mandy is a realtor with ERA Landmark Realty. The family lives in Statesboro and would enjoy hearing from friends at mandyjhirsch@hotmail.com.

Mary Blanchard Rayburn (’98) is a French teacher at the Academy of Richmond County. She and her husband, Stuart, and son, William, live in Augusta, Ga., and can be reached at mbrayburn@comcast.net.

Jody Cason (’99) was recently promoted to Food Service Manager II at Georgia Southern University and was assigned to the Chick-fil-A on campus. His wife, Jaclyn (Proctor ’01), is the operations manager for Frontier in Statesboro. The couple can be reached at jcason@georgiasouthern.edu.

Amy Alexander Dykes (’99) and her husband, Jason (’01), celebrated the August birth of their son, Landon Alexander.

John Price (’99) is a lecturer at Clemson University. He and his wife, Nadia, live in Mauldin, S.C., and would enjoy hearing from friends at gsi07924@att.net.

Duncan Puett (’99) and Sarah Melendez were married in October 2007. Duncan is a service manager with Tires Plus. The couple resides in Bonaire, Ga., and can be reached at d_puett@hotmail.com.

2000s

Melissa Madsen Canady (’00) and her husband, Bradley, celebrated the February birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Blair. The family resides in Grovetown, Ga., and would enjoy hearing from friends at madsen85@comcast.net.

Chris Culton (’00) is entering his sixth year at the U.S. Naval Academy and his first coaching the offensive line. He is a former offensive lineman for the Georgia Southern Eagles. He and his wife, Amanda, live near Annapolis, Md.

Myrtice Latson Doore (’00) is an RN case manager with the Department of Defense. She, her husband and her daughter, Greta, reside in Jesup, Ga.

Christopher Mills (’00) is a data integration specialist with ADP Inc. He lives in Jacksonville, Fla., and can be reached at christophermills@hotmail.com.

Alexandra Patrice Stewart (’00) is a paralegal with Home Depot U.S.A. Inc. She lives in Atlanta and would enjoy hearing from friends at lksay@aol.com.

Victoria Ridgle (’00) and Jon Parker (’94) were married in March 2007. They currently live in Waycross, Ga.

Kimberly Kirby Tomlinson (’00) works with MP Direct Inc. She can be reached at ktomlinson02@aol.com.

Kristen Henderson Coggins (’01) and her husband, Rob (’02), welcomed son Zachary in April. He joins sister Alexandra.

Benji Croom (’01) recently graduated from Georgetown University’s Public Policy Institute with a master’s in policy management. He now works in the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-Public Affairs office in the Pentagon. He is also a captain in the U.S. Army.

Lisa Stanford Major (’01) and her husband, Courtney (’02), celebrated the February birth of their son, Aidan. Courtney is the director of sales and marketing at the Residence Inn Midtown and Lisa is a senior account executive with EventPro Strategies. The family resides in Cumming, Ga.

Christy Knorr Miller (’01) is an agent liaison with Mopper-Stapen Realtors. She and her husband, Jack, live in Rincon, Ga., with their children, Garrett and Macie. She would enjoy receiving e-mail at christymiller@gmail.com.

Carrell Perry (’01) and his wife, Tiffaney (Astin ’03), are proud to announce a future addition to their family. The couple is expecting their first child in July 2008.

Maggie V. Shook (’01) is superintendent of Thomaston-Upson, Ga., Schools. She can be reached at msvshook2003@yahoo.com.

Courtney Harden Conlan (’02) and her husband, James, lives in Leesburg, Ga., with their daughter, Madison. The family would enjoy hearing from friends at courtneyharden@hotmail.com.

Elizabeth Jordan Haines (’02) is an independent consultant with Tastefully Simple. She and her husband, Sean, live in Ponte Vedra, Fl., with their son, Brittin. She writes, “I would love to keep in touch with old friends via e-mail at emj_sbn@yahoo.com.”
Todd Knippenberg (’02) is an assistant professor of chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He teaches new students basic chemistry, as well as researching projects for the Navy.

Olubunmi Olugbode (’02) and Gbemi Fasogbon were married in November 2007. They live in Richmond, Va.

Leah Baker (’03) is a tax analyst with The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta.

Mandy Johnson Couch (’03) became involved with volunteer efforts for the American Heart Association (AHA) after having a surgical correction of a heart valve problem. “What started out as a volunteer effort, turned into a career path,” she writes. She is now director of the Metro Atlanta Start! Heart Walk where she works with corporate teams who have partnered with the AHA and consults with them on their fundraising efforts. She and her mother were honored at the Go Red for Women luncheon in Atlanta in May. Mandy and her husband, John (’03), live in Marietta, Ga. She welcomes e-mails at mandy.couch@heart.org.

Elizabeth Gallagher Deal (’03) and her husband, Stothard (’00), welcomed daughter Emily Elizabeth in February. Elizabeth is a resource nurse with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Stothard is a product manager with AIG. They live in Suwanee, Ga., and would enjoy hearing from friends at elizabeth_deal@bellsouth.net.

Jonathan LaFevers (’03) has joined Heart of Georgia Railroad as the company’s director of commercial relations. He began his new position April 15.

April Alford Platt (’03) and her husband, Kerry (’05), celebrated the June 2007 birth of their daughter, Kendall Elizabeth.

Greg Rossidivito (’03) is the director of life enrichment at Abernethy Laurels continuing care retirement community in Newton, N.C.

Brittany Gates (’04) is a computer technician with Onsite Computer Services in Columbus, Ga.

Becky Rimer (’04) and Seth Wilson were married in March. Becky is a teacher in the Paradise Valley Unified School District in Phoenix, Ariz. She would enjoy hearing from friends at sethandbecky@gmail.com.

A match made at Georgia Southern
Mary Wilson (’08) and Jacob Powell (’06) were married in May. The couple met as students, and decided to feature a custom Georgia Southern ice sculpture as part of their reception at the Hyatt Regency Savannah.

Something borrowed, something blue
When Julie (Gresham, ’03) and Ryan Foley (’03) were married on campus, they paid tribute to their alma mater, and Julie’s sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma, with blue, white and gold signature colors.

Check out Georgia Southern’s online Traditions Page at www.georgiasouthern.edu/traditions. You’ll find information on traditions like Watermelon Cuttings, Yellow School Buses, Freedom’s Flight and more.

The years come and go... but traditions live on forever...
Long ago and far away
Grocholski seeks to understand evolution of distant galaxies

Not so long ago, Aaron Grocholski ('00) usually calculated distance in terms of yards to the green. Today, he routinely measures in light years and parsecs.

The former Eagle golfer is now a post-doctoral researcher at Baltimore's Space Telescope Science Institute where he studies the birth, maturity and death of incredibly distant galaxies.

After earning his undergraduate degree in physics, Grocholski earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in astronomy at the University of Florida.

“In astronomy, you can look at the solar system – things nearby – or you can look at stars, dust, gas, other galaxies or even distant galaxies where you can just see a smudge in the sky,” he said.

“I like to look where you can actually see the stars in the other galaxies.”

For his current project, Grocholski is studying Galaxy NGC1569 using an instrument on the Hubble Space Telescope called the Advanced Camera for Surveys.

“We take images of galaxies and we can know how far away they are, how old they are, when all of their stars formed, and what kind of chemical elements it had when it was formed,” Grocholski said. “So, you can take an image now, back out the information, and figure out the evolutionary history of that galaxy.

“The first part of the project is to determine the distance to the galaxy,” he said. “It turns out it was 50 percent farther away than earlier believed. This galaxy is undergoing quite a bit of star formation right now. NGG1569 is probably similar to extremely distant galaxies where we can’t actually see the individual stars,” he said. “The ultimate hope is that by understanding its evolutionary history, we can use that as a tie between our galaxy and the galaxies off in the distant universe.”

While he enjoys the intense research, Grocholski would also like a chance to mentor his own students. “I’d like to end up at a university where I could do some teaching as well,” he said. “One of the things I have seen is that it’s really difficult to do a lot of teaching and actually get the research done.” After earning a doctorate in astronomy, he said, there are typically two different post-doctoral studies, each lasting from two to three years before an individual will be considered for a faculty position.

Grocholski and friends enjoy a variety of sports. He still enjoys golf, where he gets to calculate distances he can reach with a solid seven iron.

Marianne Schunemann ('04) has been selected to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. She will be departing for Japan in late July and will spend one year completely immersed in Japanese culture as an assistant language teacher in Wakasa, Tottori Prefecture, a town of approximately 4,400 people located on the Sea of Japan. Participants experience Japan at the grassroots level through daily activities at schools and local governments, and act as “cultural ambassadors” of the United States to the local community.

Kimberly Delk Brooks ('05) is a provider relations representative with Coventry Healthcare of Georgia. She and her husband, Johnny, live in Kennesaw, Ga.

Robert Cole ('05) is a nurse consultant with Cahaba GBA. His wife, Pamela (Stevens '05) is a clinical review nurse with Unicare. The couple lives in Garden City, Ga., with their daughter, Caroline.

Alyson Kile Dickerson ('05) and her husband, Brett ('07), announce the December birth of their son, Winton Michael.

Justin Wilkinson ('05) and Julie Copeland ('04) were married April 2007. They live in Hazlehurst, Ga.

Misty Young Dunn ('06) is working on her master’s in social science at Georgia Southern with a focus on anthropology. Her husband, Michael ('06), is an account specialist with JB Hunt. The couple lives in Statesboro and have a son, Michael “Gage.” They would enjoy hearing from friends at mduhn@georgiasouthern.edu.

Carol Ann Craven Fordham ('06) and her husband, Jeremy ('05), celebrated the November 2007 birth of their son, Henry Benjamin.

Cassandra Glass ('06) is an administrative assistant at the Morehouse School of Medicine. She and her husband, Rafael Lawrence, live in Lithia Springs, Ga.

Virgil Watkins Jr. ('06) was elected to the Macon, Ga., City Council. He is also a pre-college advisor with TRIO.

Amy Askew ('07) is the member services manager at the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Holly Larsen ('07) is a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa. She is working specifically with non-governmental organizations and women’s associations. She arrived in July 2006 and is scheduled to return to the States in October 2009.
**Golfer Price wins tournament**

Former Eagles golfer Aron Price took a giant step toward his goal of joining the PGA Tour when he beat J. J. Killeen in a sudden-death playoff on the U.S. Nationwide Tour at Live-mero, California’s Wente Vineyards course.

Australia-born Price survived a bogey on the last hole of regulation play and went on to beat Killeen by making par at the second extra hole.

Price, whose previous best finish in a tournament was a tie for second in the same event last year, came from four shots behind Killeen in the final round with an even-par 72. He pocketed a check for $108,000 of the $600,000 event, easily the biggest paycheck of his career.

Price joins Jarrod Lyle, Ewan Porter and Gavin Coles on the tour honor roll for the year. Price moves to No.4 on the money list.

The top 25 golfers at the end of the season earn a 2009 PGA Tour card.

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**W. L. Stafford of Pensacola, Fla., responds to the story on the passing of Dean Emeritus Jack N. Averitt**

Editor:

I last spoke with Dr. Averitt about a year before his death. The occasion was to express my thanks to him for helping me along the way of life.

I transferred from Georgia Military College in Milledgeville to Georgia Southern College in the summer of 1961.

In the fall of 1961, I met Dr. Jack Averitt, along with Dr. Robert David Ward and Dr. Zach Henderson, in courses that were to be the bedrock of my undergraduate program. As chairman of the social studies department, Dr. Averitt met with all those students wishing to major in social studies.

This Southern Gentleman obviously saw something in me that I didn’t realize was there. He would hold all to exacting standards, and God forbid you miss one of his classes. He wanted the student to reach as high as he could and then extend just a little more to reach the goals set.

I managed to survive, pass the tests, and finished my undergraduate work in December of 1963.

Realizing the need to start an advanced degree, I went to Dr. Averitt for advice. Dr. Averitt allowed me to start in the master’s program on a conditional basis… it was time to fish or cut bait. To be off the conditional basis, I had to make at least a B average in the two subjects during the summer quarter. I surprised myself… two Bs.

I had the idea I wanted to enter school administration and supervision. Again with the help of Dr. Jack Averitt and Dr. Harold T. Johnson, my graduate studies took root, and in August of 1967, I received my Master of Education degree in administration and supervision.

I retired in August of 2002, in Escambia County, Fla., with a total of 39 years in public education.

Remembering Dr. Jack Nelson Averitt is very easy to do and for anyone reading this letter from a man almost 70 years young, remember those who have assisted you to be where you are today. Thank them, for you didn’t do the tasks by yourself!

Sincerely,

W.L. Stafford (’63, ’67)
Pensacola, Fla.

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**In Memoriam**

**Virginia W. Russell**

Virginia Boyce Wilson Russell, widow of the late Professor Emeritus Fielding D. Russell, died April 22 at the age of 97.

She and Dr. Russell moved to Statesboro in 1932 where her husband began a 45-year teaching career.

Mrs. Russell graduated from then-Georgia Teachers College with a bachelor’s degree in education, later earning a master’s degree and a six-year certificate. She taught at the West Side School, the Middleground School, Mattie Lively Elementary, and Julia P. Bryant in Statesboro before retiring in 1976.

For years, she wrote a column, “Through the Eyes of Virginia Russell,” which was published in the *Bulloch Herald*. She was a Reach to Recovery program volunteer, offering comfort and advice to women dealing with breast cancer. Statesboro’s First Presbyterian Church was the center of her spiritual life. She was a long-time member of the evening circle. With her husband, she led a young people’s group on Sunday evenings. She served for more than 20 years as church historian, and in 1991 authored the book, *A Century of Presbyterianism in Bulloch County*.

She is survived by three children and their spouses: William Don and Barbara Bolin Russell, Richard Brevard and Wasana Wongwanit Russell IV, and Virginia Russell and Stephen Black; by a daughter-in-law: Elizabeth Radford Russell; by nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Elwyn Wilson (and John Frank) Ward, sisters-in-law Alma H. Wilson of Doraville and Alia Jo B. Russell of Memphis, and by a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years and her eldest child.

**Wynnetta Scott-Simmons** (’07) is an assistant professor at Mercer University. She lives in Atlanta.

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**Alumni**

- Embree Claudius Anderson (’62), Statesboro
- Daniel T. Burgstiner (’71), Charleston, S.C.
- Herbert Burroughs, Palmetto, Ga.
- Vera Kessler Dasher, Guyton, Ga.
- John Ethan DeLoach (’75), Atlanta
- Linda Spencer Eaddy (’67), Evansville, Ind.
- Grover C. Futch (’49), McDonough
- Cindy Shuman Harrison (’93), Savannah
- Earl C. “Tippy” Hickman (’64), Waynesboro
- Sammie Lamb (’54), Augusta
- Dorothy Cromley Jenkins (’40), Brooklet
- John Clifton Key (’52), Birmingham, Ala.
- Herbert Newberry Jr. (’86), Milledgeville
- John David Norman (’71), Paris, Ky.
- Wesley Ann Parker (’56), St. Simons Island
- Tony Craig Pettrea Jr. (’02), McDonough
- Joseph D. Purvis Sr. (’36), Savannah
- Melany Merritt Wiggins (’94), Augusta

**Faculty**

- Joseph Axelson, journalism
- Peter Christopher, writing and linguistics
- Galal Dimetry, foreign languages
- Anton Borowsky, English
EAGLE CLUBS 2008

From Atlanta to Albany, from Jenkins County to Jacksonville, springtime for the Office of Alumni Relations brings road trips with food, fun, fellowship and fans with high hopes. The 2008 Eagle Club tour found one common denominator: Alumni love Georgia Southern!
For the love of the game

By Rosemary Carter

Twenty-hour days were nothing for Joe Axelson.

From typewriter tabulations of sports statistics to cranking out the first alumni newsletter to blockbuster trades and marketing deals in the National Basketball Association, very little escapes Axelson’s realm of expertise.

Though he didn’t graduate from Georgia Teachers College, Axelson had an impact on thousands of alumni. Upon his arrival in the fall of 1954, the Army veteran and Northwestern University grad’s first assignment was to create the Georgia Teachers College Alumni Association and produce its first mailing list and publication.

Once, he and his part-time staff compiled an issue, placed the materials in a manilla envelope, and handed it over to a bus driver for delivery to a printer 22 miles down the road in Claxton. That particular envelope was never seen again.

“It took us three weeks to cobble together a very patched-up replacement packet that I drove over to Claxton personally,” said Axelson. “I have no doubt that some marriages and other accomplishments were overlooked in this rehashed issue.”

Axelson found GTC when he was recalled into the Army reserves and assigned to Augusta’s Fort Gordon. As sports information director and coach of the Fort Gordon basketball team, he was in contact with GTC coaches J.B. Scearce and J.I. Clements. Axelson hired Scearce and Clements to work as officials during an Army tournament, changing the course of his life.

Recognizing his talents, Scearce and Clements created a position for Axelson at GTC. Axelson announced scores and news on local radio in addition to selling advertising for game programs and compiling stats for the Teachers’ teams.

“I never had a better time in my entire life,” Axelson said. “We loved the town and the people were great to us.”

At GTC, Axelson took graduate courses, taught journalism, and witnessed sports history. In the first game of the 1958-59 basketball season, Axelson’s radio play-by-play documented one of the greatest victories in University history when the Teachers beat heavily favored Georgia Tech.

Axelson eventually moved on to a 20-year career with the NBA’s Kings organization. He oversaw the team’s move from Cincinnati to Kansas City-Omaha and was named NBA Executive of the Year in 1973. He served as vice president for basketball operations for the NBA for three years before rejoining the Kings in the early 1980s as team president and general manager.

Axelson later took over sales and marketing for the Kings in their new home in Sacramento where he brokered a deal granting the first naming rights for an NBA facility, and kept the seats at ARCO Arena full of fans season after season.

In 1990, Axelson was inducted into Georgia Southern’s Athletics Hall of Fame. He retired from the Kings in 1991.

Axelson is a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan who schedules his day around the team’s games.

Editor’s note:

This story was written in mid-May. Joe Axelson passed away on May 31, 2008 at the age of 80, as his beloved Chicago Cubs were about to enter the month of June with their best record since 1908. He was preceded in death by his wife of 38 years and is survived by three children, David, Mark and Linda, and six grandchildren.
Last spring, while thousands of their peers across the Southeast were soaking up sun on the beaches of Florida, 10 Georgia Southern students were basking in a different glow – that of accomplishment. These students, who were part of the Honors University Wind Ensemble, volunteered their time to assist in a weeklong community service trip to El Progreso, Honduras, to share their musical talent with the local community.

Here, Maricel Williams, tutors a young child on the basics of photography.
Show your Eagle pride every day with a Georgia Southern University alumni prestige license plate.

3 EASY STEPS:

1. Visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/licenseplate
2. Download and complete required MV-9C form
3. Take completed form to your county tag office