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University welcomes students back to campus

AUGUST 3, 2006

Georgia Southern University's Welcome Week, the traditional kick-off for the fall semester, will begin on Friday, Aug. 11, with the annual welcome cookout. This year's theme is 'Blues, Beads and the Bayou.'

'Our various activities provide students an opportunity to connect and make new friends, meet faculty and staff, and get acclimated into the university setting,' said Bill Pickett, director of student activities. 'This is especially important with our first-year students. We want them to feel like Georgia Southern is their new home and to get them connected immediately.'

Following are the activities taking place:

- Friday, Aug. 11
'Blues, Beads and the Bayou' Welcome Cookout, Sweetheart Circle, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy a free New Orleans style meal including crawfish, jambalaya, red beans, rice, hamburgers and hot dogs. Prizes will also be given away. The cookout is open to all Georgia Southern students, faculty, staff and their families.
- Saturday, Aug. 12
Carnival at the Russell Union. Students will enjoy a fun-filled day of free activities at the Russell Union including inflatable games, carnival concessions, music and prizes from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
The Dancing Head vendor will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. where students can make their own free dance DVD.
The film 'Mission Impossible III' will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Russell Union Theatre. Admission is free.
- Sunday, Aug. 13
'Eagles Night Out – Mardi Gras Madness' will be held at the RAC from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inflatable games, laser tag, prizes, free food, RAC sporting facilities and more will be available.
- Monday, Aug. 14
'Bayou Breakfast' will take place between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda. Enjoy New Orleans culture with some famous Dixie Bread Pudding.
- Students can 'Pop Into Career Services' from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for more information on their services and part-time jobs.
Free Henna Tattoos will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda.

Additionally, free Cajun and bayou favorites from Popeye's will be available.

The Out-of-State and International Student Welcome Reception will be held at 5 p.m. in Lewis Hall.

'Lost' survival daze slip-n-slide and pizza party for all students will take place at the Baptist Student Union at the corner of Harvey and Chandler Roads.

- Tuesday, Aug. 15

Students can 'Pop Into Career Services' from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for more information on their services and part-time jobs.

'Happy Hour' will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Russell Union bus stop area.

Students can enjoy an open bar with mocktails and other drinks to cool off in the Georgia heat. They can also receive a crash course in D.U.I. prevention from the Bulloch County Sheriff's Department and Health Services. Watch as students, faculty and staff attempt to maneuver through an obstacle course under the impairment of beer goggles.

The Transfer Student Welcome Reception will be held at 5 p.m. in Lewis Hall.

The Residence Hall Leadership Kickoff will take place from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Eagle Village courtyard for all residence hall students. Students will enjoy free food, games and learning about getting involved in their residence hall. For more information,

visit www.gsuhousing.com/rha.

"FAT Tuesday Laughter." Enjoy the crazy comedian Adam Ace in the Russell Union Ballroom at 9 p.m. The event is free, but seating is limited.

- Wednesday, Aug. 16

'Fire on the Bayou' is sponsored by the Russell Union and Student Life offices. Enjoy spicy eats, chicken fingers, snacks and more in the Russell Union Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Multicultural Student and Faculty Reception will be held in the Russell Union Ballroom at 4 p.m. Join the Multicultural Student Center and University administrators as they welcome diverse students and faculty to campus. This annual event introduces new students and faculty to a snapshot of the multicultural experience at Georgia Southern. It also provides an opportunity for those new to campus to meet continuing students, faculty and staff from various backgrounds.

The film 'The Break Up' will be shown on the big screen as an outdoor movie at the Russell Union Rotunda. The movie begins at 9 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the free movie under the stars.

'Ice Breaker 2006' Come party with the Ice Cold Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated in the Third Annual Ice Breaker Party from 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Williams Center.

- Thursday, Aug. 17

Eagle Entertainment wants U! Join Eagle Entertainment and help plan activities on-campus. Stop by the Russell Union Rotunda between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to pick up an application. Free lunch will be provided.

‘So You Want to Be a Leader – Prove It.’ Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. come by the Russell Union Rotunda to learn how to develop your leadership skills at Georgia Southern.

‘Cajun Crazy in the Boro’ all night long at The French Quarter CafE. All students, faculty and staff will receive 50 percent off any food items from 6 p.m. to close with the Georgia Southern ID. Enjoy live entertainment and the casual Mardi Gras atmosphere. For more information on The French Quarter CafE, visit their Web site at www.frenchquarterstatesboro.com.
- Friday, Aug. 18

Create your mystic Mardi Gras mask at the Russell Union Rotunda from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eagle Entertainment will provide all the free supplies. Make your stylish mask to be ready for the Masquerade Ball.

‘Step Into Statesboro’ is a chance for students to volunteer with agencies in the Statesboro community. Registration will be held from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Russell Union Rotunda. Volunteering will take place from 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. followed by a free dinner at 4 p.m. The second annual Halo 2 Tournament will be held in the Russell Union Ballroom from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Stop by the Office of Student Activities to pick up a registration form or download it online at www.eagleentertainment.com. Registration is \$5 per person if completed online and \$10 per person the day of the event. Participants will compete for \$500 or more in prize money. Several systems will also be set up for participants and guest to enjoy.

The ‘Intrigue Masquerade Ball’ will be held in the Williams Center from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. featuring live music, a taste of New Orleans Carnival and a costume contest. Free tickets will be available in the Office of Student Activities Thursday, Aug. 17.
- Sunday, Aug. 20

Meet at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries house at the corner of Harvey and Chandler Roads at 10:30 a.m. to attend one of the local churches for worship and a free lunch.
- Monday, Aug. 21

Residence Hall Leadership applications are due for any position by 10 p.m. in their respective hall offices. For more information, visit www.gsuhousing.com/rha.

Hypnotist Dale K will perform in the Russell Union Ballroom at 9 p.m. The event is free, but seating is limited.

- Tuesday, Aug. 22
‘House Calls’ will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. University faculty and staff members will visit the first-year students living on-campus. Students who are in their room at the time of the visit will be entered in a drawing for a free iPod.
Residence Hall Leadership elections will take place in the respective residence hall offices between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 23
The 2006 Business Expo and Student Organizational Fair will be held outside the Russell Union Rotunda area from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local businesses will be on hand to provide information, coupons and free merchandise. Recognized student organizations will also be there to provide information to students.
Residence Hall Leadership elections will take place in the respective residence hall offices between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 25 – Sunday, Aug. 27
Join Eagle Entertainment as they go White Water rafting in Erwin, Tenn. Cost of the trip is \$100 and includes transportation, a full day of rafting, some meals and lodging. Stop by the Office of Student Activities in Russell Union Room 1056 to sign up. The last day to sign up is Friday, Aug. 18. For more information, call 486-7270.

Welcome Week is sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Eagle Entertainment.

Georgia Southern helps Evans County move toward improved health

AUGUST 3, 2006

Four employers in Evans County are blazing a trail to better health for their employees and ultimately, for their county. Pressed by rising health care premiums, they looked for a way to improve their employees' health status, and they found it with help from Georgia Rural Economic Development Center at East Georgia College and Georgia Southern University.

Ron Gilliard, CEO of the Evans Memorial Hospital and chair of the Evans County Health Collaborative, recently accepted nearly \$50,000 in program support from Regional ICAPP, Georgia's Intellectual Capital Partnership Program, to fund Wellness in the Workplace, an effort among four employers to get a wellness program operating in Evans County. The project is co-sponsored by Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center at East Georgia College in Swainsboro.

The Evans County initiative evolved from research funded by the Georgia Rural Economic Development Center and conducted by the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development.

"Finding ways to help firms provide affordable and effective wellness programs is important to regional economic development efforts," said Phyllis Isley, director of the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development at Georgia Southern and a project participant. "We have just begun to examine the critical links between investments in health and economic development."

Working with Dr. Stuart Tedders, associate professor in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and director of the Center for Rural Health and Research, the four employers—Evans Memorial Hospital, Claxton Bank, Evans County government, and the Evans County School District—created a new program, Wellness in the Workplace. Tedders, an expert in health promotion program planning, listened to the employers' concerns and came up with a two-pronged plan that takes a wellness approach to health and gets the community acting on its own behalf.

"Wellness in the Workplace is a beautiful example of a community making change and solving problems at the local level," said Tedders. "They are not expecting someone to solve their health care problems for them, they are taking the lead."

"We started Wellness in the Workplace with a survey of the employees to find out the aspects of health that are important to them," Tedders said. "Although the group wanted to lose weight and

change poor behavior, we found they had issues related to getting healthy, such as lack of motivation and lack of time.”

The survey also took a snapshot of the employees’ current behavior. In addition to finding high rates of blood pressure, cholesterol, and obesity, Tedders found that few were screened regularly for these problems. He also found that many made poor nutritional choices and had inadequate physical activity.

Evans Memorial Hospital, a member of the coalition, is taking the lead in developing a wellness model that the other coalition members can use. To motivate their employees, the coalition members and Tedders agree that each employer must develop an approach that’s unique for them.

‘We’ve created a program at the hospital called ‘Change Your Weighs,” said Gilliard. ‘We had a June 1 kickoff, and we have plans for speakers, promotional events, rewards, and a Web site that employees can use to get wellness information.” He expects Claxton Bank’s program will kick off August 1, the school district’s to kick off at the beginning of the fall semester, and the Evans County kickoff will be soon after that. The hospital will break new ground with its collaborating employers by doing health care screenings at a reduced cost.

‘Motivation to improve health will be different for each group of employees,” said Tedders. ‘If lower health care cost motivates you, then OK. Some people are motivated by time off, some by monetary rewards, some by recognition. Each employer will have to determine what works.”

Once a wellness model is in place for each group of employees, Tedders will collect pre- and post-program health data. He will evaluate each program’s effectiveness from an academic standpoint, then write up the process. His goal is to develop a template that could provide structure for healthcare reform in other communities.

‘I’d like to see a workbook develop from this project,” he said. ‘It would document everything we’ve learned, and it would be a catalyst for other communities looking for the same outcomes.”

The four Evans County employers are a subgroup of the Evans County Health Collaborative, a community-wide organization that includes not only these employers, but also the county health department, medical professionals, the Chamber of Commerce, and many concerned citizens. The group is a non-profit organization aimed at improving health for everyone in Evans County. The American Cancer Society recently presented the Collaborative with a \$10,000 grant to encourage smoking prevention among young people, a grant that will put health promotion dollars into the county’s public and private schools. The ACS grant also stresses proper nutrition and physical activity. Last fall the Collaborative conducted a diabetic screening for the community, and last spring hosted a health fair with the Chamber of Commerce.

'Better health for Evans County will require a sustained commitment," said Gilliard. 'The collaborative, and the employers encouraging health promotion among their employees, are all steps in the right direction. I'm proud of what we've accomplished in a short time, and look forward to keeping wellness efforts moving forward in Evans County.'

University students honored at McNair Scholars Conference

AUGUST 3, 2006

Georgia Southern University students Amber Fennell and Javoris Hollingsworth were honored at the 12th annual Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel McNair National Scholars Research Conference at Knoxville, Tenn.

A special education major from Rome, Ga., Fennell took second place in the education division for her research project titled 'The Brief History of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Interventions and Their Effectiveness.'

A chemistry major from Jeffersonville, Ga., Hollingsworth took second place in the science division for his research project titled 'A Study of the Regioselectivity of Aluminum Chloride-Promoted Reduction of Benzylidene Acetals via NMR and Molecular Modeling.'

The students were participants in the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program Summer Research Institute. Created in memory of the African-American astronaut who perished in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster, the

McNair Program is a national initiative that seeks to increase the number of students from under-represented segments of society who earn graduate degrees.

The McNair Program prepares selected juniors and seniors for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. During the six-week program, the McNair Scholars received mentoring from faculty, attended seminars, participated in summer internships, and received academic counseling and assistance in securing financial aid for enrolling in graduate programs.

The McNair Program's Summer Research Institute at Georgia Southern also included the following students:

- Candice Carr, a psychology major from Atlanta. Her project was titled 'The Relationship Between Self-Perception and Performance: A Short-Term Psychology Memory Test.'
- Christopher J. Ford, a marketing/graphic design major from Suwanee, Ga. His project was titled 'The Relative Worth of an Advanced Degree for an Art Director in Advertising.'
- Harry E. Maze II, a psychology major from Jesup, Ga. His project was titled 'Can Homophobia Be Cured? Neutralizing the Bomb of Homosexuality.'
- Tawny Mullins, a psychology major from Griffin, Ga. Her project was titled 'Juror Decision Making: The Relationships Between Attachment, Empathy, Belief in a Just World, and Perceptions of the Victim and the Perpetrator of a Date Rape Scenario.'

- Tata Nanje, an English major from Smyrna, Ga. Her project was titled 'In In Memoriam, What Does Nature, Science and Christianity Mean to the Speaker's Faith?'"
- Jenna N. Pinkston, a community health major from Smyrna, Ga. Her project was titled 'Perceived Job Satisfaction, Stress and its Effect on Health: A Pilot Study of Wmen in the Workplace."
- Jesseca Short, a political science major from Columbus, Ga. Her project was titled 'Does the Development of Combined Communities of Southeast Columbus Enhance the Academic Achievement of Participants?'"
- Margarita Viera, a chemistry major from Ludowici, Ga. Her project was titled 'Isolation and Characterization of Chromodulin (Low Molecular Weight Chromium-Binding Substance, LMWCr) from Chicken Liver."

After revealing the results of their research at an on-campus symposium, the students traveled to the University of Tennessee to present their findings at the McNair National Scholars Research Conference, which was held July 6-9.

Titled 'Preparing for Global Competitiveness Through Research, Training and Service," the conference attracted Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) personnel and students from colleges and universities in the United States and its trust territories.

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program is part of the EOP at Georgia Southern. For more information, contact Mary Woods at (912) 681-5458 or mwoods@georgiasouthern.edu.