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## Message from the President

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To the Georgia Southern Community:

This has been an exciting and event-filled week for Georgia Southern. As we jump into this early Spring, our University is moving ahead, getting attention and seizing opportunities across the nation.

- Earlier this week, the Armstrong/Georgia Southern **Athletics Operational Working Group** announced a recommendation to end intercollegiate athletics competition at Armstrong after the current season. [Read more about the recommendation here.](#)
- March is a busy month for Georgia Southern athletics. Our men's and women's basketball teams traveled to New Orleans for the **Sun Belt Conference Championships**. While in New Orleans, the teams greeted patients at a local hospital and read to children at a local elementary school. The women's team was eliminated in a tough game against Arkansas State, but entered the tournament seeded sixth in the Sun Belt. The third-seeded men's team will play tonight against Troy. I couldn't be more proud of our student-athletes. Go Eagles!
- Georgia Southern's teacher-scholars from the **Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health** were in the news the last two weeks. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* published a student-led obesity study with Dr. Jian Zhang and assistant professor Andrew Hansen, Ph.D., which reported fewer overweight and obese adults are trying to lose weight. The study was published in international media outlets, including *TIME*, *The Los Angeles Times*, ABC, CBS and NPR. In addition, assistant professor Kelly Sullivan, Ph.D., was the co-author of a study that found having children affects how much women sleep, but not men. The results were discussed nationwide in *Cosmopolitan*, *New York Magazine* and many more international outlets.
- The latest installment of [Faculty Spotlight](#) features Alan Harvey, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Biology. He has an infectious curiosity, and I hope you will take the time to watch this and the other [Faculty Spotlight videos](#) that recognize the interesting scholarly work by our world-class faculty.
- Last Friday, I had the honor of attending the annual **Georgia Southern Scholarship Banquet**. Guests included 75 donors and 50 student scholarship recipients. I will never forget the experience of meeting the donor of a scholarship I received, and I loved watching the students enjoy that moment. Donors make a difference in the lives of our students and we appreciate their investment.
- For the eighth consecutive year, Georgia Southern will host a float in the **St. Patrick's Day Parade** in Savannah on Friday, March 17. Be sure to come to Savannah to see the cheerleaders, Freedom, Miss Georgia Southern and "The Dean's List" represent our University. This will be my first parade in Savannah, and I'm looking forward to it!

What an exciting time for Georgia Southern! I am so proud of this community, and I want to thank you all for your efforts to serve our students, and for being such an important part of this great university.

Jaimie Hebert  
President