SACRED GROUND

A UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM UNEARTHED CAMP LAWTON, A CIVIL WAR PRISON LOST FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.
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An archaeology team from Georgia Southern unearthed major finds near Millen, Ga., – artifacts from a Confederate prisoner of war camp and unseen for 145 years. The site of short-lived Camp Lawton, once the largest prisoner of war camp in the world, was widely believed to hold nothing of interest for historians. Professor Sue Moore and her students found otherwise.

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**A HAND FROM THE HEART**

A Georgia Southern student has inspired medical professionals, community leaders and fellow students to establish a free local healthcare clinic.

**HEALTHY CHANGE**

Hendricks Hall is now home to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. An impressive new Core Laboratory will help enhance lives around the state.
In the fall of 1864, Camp Lawton, Ga. may have been one of the most miserable places on Earth. The Confederate prison camp just outside of Millen housed more than 10,000 captive Union soldiers on a sprawling 42-acre compound and was the largest prison camp of the Civil War. While the camp was surrounded by a stockade wall and equipped with guard towers and a few buildings, prisoners were left to come up with their own shelter. For most, that was nothing more than a shallow trench they dug in the ground, covered by whatever scrap material they could find. Death was a constant at the prison where malnutrition, injury, exposure to the elements, and disease claimed dozens of lives every week. The only bright spot was a natural spring, which provided the camp with thousands of gallons of fresh water a day.

Camp Lawton was supposed to be the Confederate Army’s long-term solution to the notorious Andersonville prison, where conditions were so bad and death rates so high that Army leaders had no choice but to construct an alternative. But life at Camp Lawton was almost as dire. The prison was only occupied for six weeks; records indicate that during that time anywhere from 700 to 1,300 men died there. In November 1864, Confederate guards roused prisoners in the middle of the night and began a hurried evacuation of the prison. Sherman’s “March to the Sea” was bringing the Union Army dangerously close to Camp Lawton, and Confederate guards had to move the prisoners to other prison camps or risk them being set free by Sherman and re-enforcing the ranks of his army. Camp Lawton was abandoned.

As the years went by, all traces of Camp Lawton, except for a few earthworks that made up part of the Confederate fort outside of the prison, disappeared. A century-and-a-half passed with the secrets of the prison, and the stories of the soldiers who lived and died there, hidden by time and layers of foliage and earth. They may never have been found, if it were not for a Georgia Southern alumnus, a faculty member and a student whose work uncovered a buried past that everyone assumed had been lost forever.
THE FIRST STEP

In 2009, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Clark (’92) was looking for a way to re-ignite interest and excitement in Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen. The park is located in Jenkins County, which had suffered several devastating economic blows when major employers closed their doors and moved their operations. Clark knew increasing tourism at Magnolia Springs would be good for the park and good for the county.

The fact that the park was situated at the site of Camp Lawton was part of its appeal to tourists. With a few Confederate earthworks still visible and a small display highlighting the history of Camp Lawton at the entrance to the park, those interested in the Civil War had a reason to make a stop at the park as part of their drive through Jenkins County – or even take a short detour – to see the site. But Clark envisioned something more. If the location of the original stockade wall could be found, more extensive displays and interpretations could be offered, giving tourists one more reason to stop at Magnolia Springs. Clark, who had served as student government president at Georgia Southern, turned to his alma mater for help. He approached anthropology professor Sue Moore with his idea.

“I was telling her about some of the opportunities that I thought we had, particularly at Magnolia Springs, and how interesting it would be if we could look and see what we could find about Camp Lawton,” Clark recalled.

Moore agreed to help Clark and knew a search for the footprint of the camp’s stockade wall would give her graduate students the practical, hands-on experience needed for a thesis – and would also be a great service project.

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“I remember thinking to myself this would not be a difficult project to manage, as I did not expect we would find a lot in the way of artifacts,” Moore explained. “I was optimistic that we could find evidence of the stockade and maybe some of the support buildings that went along with the prison camp.

“Archaeologists have agreed for years that there were no artifacts left on this site. The vast majority of Civil War sites have been farmed, developed, looted and basically stripped of artifacts. The same was assumed of Magnolia Springs. Archaeologists dismissed the idea of finding anything here decades ago.” Moore assigned graduate student Kevin Chapman (’07) to head up the project.

“I thought all of the ground-breaking archaeology of the Civil War had been done,” Chapman recalls. “The battlefields had been studied, the campsites had been studied, and the maritime aspect had been studied. And certainly no one believed there was anything left of importance at Magnolia Springs.”

THE RESEARCH

Guided by Moore, Chapman and his team of students took a careful scientific approach to the project as they began the search for the stockade wall. Using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) systems along with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), the team was able to do a survey of the area that turned up things not visible to the naked eye. Among those was a disturbance of the soil underground – which turned out to be from the stockade wall – and other formations and indentations that led the team to believe they could narrow down the area where prisoners had encamped. The team then plotted a grid of the site and began painstaking excavation work in an effort to find any artifacts.

“They didn’t have to look very long.

“On the first day of surveying we found a button and we found a cut musket ball,” Chapman remembered.

The artifacts found at Camp Lawton were unveiled to the public on Aug. 18, 2010 at Magnolia Springs State Park. The artifacts will be on display at the Georgia Southern Museum beginning Oct. 10.
"About five or six minutes after that we found a coin, a U.S. large cent, which was dated before the Civil War. That was the moment we all had to stop and back up and say, 'We have found something here, it is undisturbed and it's significant, and we have to stop and slow down and really do this right.'

Even Moore, who has spent 30 years on archaeological digs, was stunned. "I had to sit down on the ground because I thought, 'I do not believe we just did this.' I was just humbled by this find."

Chapman's knowledge and surveying skills led the team to the area of encampment for Union soldiers imprisoned there during the Civil War. He was activated for duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I was just humbled by this find."

"I believe we have only begun to scratch the surface of what remains to be found at Camp Lawton, " Chapman said. "There are ages, but instead will be studied by researchers for decades.

"I am ex-military and I have served overseas. I've lost friends, so that artifact in particular really spoke to me," Chapman recalled.

Chapman's archaeological discovery soon led to a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Specialized Career Education Program, where Chapman supervises the federal land area where the artifacts were found. And when the artifacts were unveiled to the public, Chapman quickly found himself in the media spotlight.

"All of a sudden I'm getting dozens of friend requests on Facebook and hearing from people I haven't talked to in years," Chapman said when he realized at Camp Lawton that he had found a tourniquet buckle used for amputating limbs of wounded soldiers in the Civil War, he could not help but be moved.

"I found that tourniquet buckle and it took me off guard. I honestly didn't recognize what it was immediately. It had a little scrap of cloth still attached. "I found that tourniquet buckle and it took me off guard. I honestly didn't recognize what it was immediately. It had a little scrap of cloth still attached."

"I realized that this tourniquet during its service would have wrapped around the arms and legs of many servicemen as they lost a limb," Chapman recalled.

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The Georgia Southern researchers demonstrated survey techniques and educated the public about Camp Lawton on the day the artifacts were unveiled. The drawings in the foreground are copies of those made by Robert Knox Sneden, who documented his time in captivity at the camp through his artwork (Sneden images courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society).
Later that same day, Chapman unearthed an improvised smoking pipe. Chapman says a soldier took the stem from a broken pipe and attached it to a make-shift bowl made from melted lead in order to make it usable. The owner’s teeth marks are still visible on the stem. It is Chapman’s favorite artifact, and he feels a connection to its owner whenever he sees it.

“We’ll never know his name — it’s been lost to history — but his story hasn’t, because when you see that pipe, you can almost feel that man. You can reach back 150 years and see him at Camp Lawton next to a small fire with a few scraps of wood he had managed to pull together on that cold November night. He sat next to that fire and he had a little bit of tobacco that he bought from the guards or bartered from the guards and he enjoyed it. And, maybe, he thought of home.”

Other personal items include part of a picture frame, which Chapman said likely contained a photograph of a soldier’s mother or wife. A spoon that is clearly not military issue, and may have been brought by a soldier as a reminder of home and the things they loved. “Many of these items were things the prisoners had to themselves, to keep the past close. It’s a way of marking time and the passage of time.”

“What we are doing is trying to preserve these personal artifacts from the past to keep the past as close to us as possible. They are reminders of who we are and where we come from.”

**Preserving the Past for the Future**

The artifacts found so far are in the custody of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because they were found in a portion of Magnolia Springs owned by the federal government. But, they will be displayed at the Georgia Southern Museum beginning Oct. 10. Later, displays will be mounted at Magnolia Springs State Park.

“Magnolia Springs is sacred ground, ” said Moore. “Many of these items were things the prisoners had to themselves, to keep the past close. It’s a way of marking time and the passage of time.”

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Kevin Chapman

Kevin Chapman is the graduate supervisor for the Camp Lawton/Magnolia Springs project. Chapman found the first artifact on the Camp Lawton site. He realized he was working in an area that held numerous pieces of historical importance, despite the newly held belief by many professional archaeologists that nothing of significant remains on the Civil War site.

The discoveries at Camp Lawton have special meaning for Chapman, who served 11 years in the Georgia Army National Guard and was activated for duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His military background gives him a unique understanding of the items found at Camp Lawton, and what they meant to each soldier. Chapman is a native of Summerville, Ga., and holds an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice from East Georgia College and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern University. He is currently enrolled in Georgia Southern’s Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program. Chapman received the Cultural Heritage Scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year and was recently accepted into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Specialized Career Education program.

Matthew Newberry

Matthew Newberry is the logistical coordinator for the Camp Lawton/Magnolia Springs project and assisted with the archaeological survey and test excavations of the site. Newberry is a Georgia Southern grad and earned a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern. He is currently enrolled in Georgia Southern’s Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program. In addition to the Camp Lawton project, Newberry’s archaeological interests include lowland and coastal plantation archaeology, prehistoric/historic pottery and ceramic analysis, and using remote sensing applications in archaeological research.

Newberry is the president of the Georgia Southern Anthropological Society and holds memberships in the Society for Georiga Archaeology, the Society for Historical Archaeology and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. After completing his master’s degree, he plans to work in cultural resource management.

Matthew Luke

Matthew Luke is the LiDaR scanning director for the Camp Lawton site. Luke performed the site mapping at Camp Lawton and managed data obtained from Geographic Information Systems technology. Luke is a native of Byran, Ga., and earned his Associate of Science degree from Georgia Military College and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program.

Luke’s research areas of interest include the historical archaeology of military sites, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems data management. He is vice president of the Georgia Southern Anthropological Society and holds memberships in the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. Luke plans to pursue a Ph.D. in anthropology.

**For the Future**

“Many of these items were things the prisoners would have kept hidden from their Confederate guards. These were reminders of home and the life they had before the war.”

Kevin Chapman

Amanda Morrow

Amanda Morrow assisted in the excavation of artifacts at the Camp Lawton site and photographed the artifacts for publica-

tion.

Morrow is from Marietta, Ga., and gradu-
ated from Georgia Southern with a Bach-
elor of Arts in anthropology and a minor in photography. Morrow is now pursuing her Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) from Georgia Southern. Civil War history, artifact photography, and numismatics are among Morrow’s areas of expertise and professional interest. She is a member of Lambda Alpha Anthropological Honors Society, and plans to continue specializing in Civil War archaeology while pursuing her Ph.D.

Mary Craft

Mary Craft assisted in the excavation of the Camp Lawton site and is heading up the team’s educational outreach programs. Craft is from Commerce, Ga., and received her Associate’s degree in anthropology from Gainesville State College and her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology with a minor in history from Georgia Southern. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program at Georgia Southern.

Craft’s areas of interest include zooarchaeology and anthropology/archaeology educational outreach, and she serves as the secretary of Georgia Southern’s Anthropological Society. Craft’s professional goal is to continue to educate the public about man’s and culture’s rich history.

Christopher Kowalczyk

Christopher Kowalczyk helped set the initial layout and exca-
vations of the Camp Lawton site, and he worked closely with LiDaR and electronic survey data at the site.

Kowalczyk served as a United States Navy rescue swimmer and intelligence spe-
cialist. He earned his Bachelor of Science in biology from Georgia Southern and is currently enrolled in Georgia Southern’s Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program. Kowalczyk’s interests include biological anthropology, evolutionary ecology, taphonomy and faunal curation and preservation by means of 3D scanning. Kowalczyk plans to pursue a Ph.D. in anthropology.

**Georgia Southern’s Camp Lawton Team**

Sue Moore, Ph.D.

Sue Moore is a professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Georgia Southern University. Moore is the former chairman of the department and the former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University. Her research interests include historical archaeology, particularly southeastern U.S. colonial-postbellum periods.

Moore’s students are currently engaged in research at three locations: Mont Rose Plantation in South Carolina, Old Town Plantation near Louisville, Ga., and Camp Lawton at Magnolia Springs State Park in Miller, Ga.

Moore completed her B.A. in Anthropology at the University of Florida.

Kevin Chapman

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Georgia Southern students and professors fanned out around the globe last summer, broadening their horizons and seeking to solve problems beyond our shores.

"One of the things that truly surprised me about the whole experience of life, I learned the importance of learning the native languages of the countries I was in, and gained a new respect for a culture other than my own. I stepped outside of my comfort zone and really transformed myself into a more worldly and independent person. Georgia Southern gave me the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program because my college experience would not have been complete without it."

Tim Anthony, Costa Rica

Economics professor Greg Brock was awarded the Fulbright Specialists grant at the Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico. He spent three weeks working with local college professors and teachers to bring age-appropriate economic education to children in kindergarten through 12th grade in addition to the duties of "For decades, Georgia Southern has had a center to help teach better teaching economics," said Brock, who met with teachers in Mexico to demonstrate effective instructional methods. The Fulbright Specialists Program provides short-term academic opportunities for U.S.-based university faculty and professionals.

"Within the six weeks, I was able to fully immerse myself in the culture of Spain and develop a worldview and understanding of the similarities and differences between countries. Spending hours in the streets waiting for the final call that Spain had won the world cup gave me time to see how genuine the people of Spain truly are. That person, individual in character, blended together to form a sea of red and yellow."

Nathan Baca, Spain

ALL ABROAD!

“I can’t even begin to tell you how amazing an experience studying abroad is. One thing I can tell you is that you have to go. Studying abroad is one of those experiences that you can't really grasp— even if you watch the Travel Channel constantly— until you get out there and travel around yourself. If you have the opportunity, you have to take it. I promise it will be one of the best decisions you make in your life.”

T.J. Williams, Germany

"One of the things that truly surprised me about the whole experience is how much truly learned in the classes that we took. Despite the length of the classes, we were actively engaged in the learning process. Dr. Krista Wiegand, one of the professors, and I were both surprised at the level of active participation in class."

Georgia Southern professor Dr. Krista Wiegand, Costa Rica

"Eighteen Georgia Southern professors from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences attended the two-week faculty development seminar in the West African nation of Senegal. In addition to holding seminars on Wind Band Rehearsal Techniques and Consulting, Pittman visited the University of Chiang Mai, Thailand. The former director of Southern Pride marching band for 16 years, Pittman was involved in directing the Center for International Studies and led the Department of Studies Abroad Program in Music with European concert tours.

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Nicole Penn, Italy

Department of Music professor Daniel Pittman received a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant to further music education programs in Thailand. Pittman presented seminars and lectures on Wind Band Rehearsal Techniques and Consulting at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The former director of Southern Pride marching band for 16 years, Pittman was involved in directing the Center for International Studies and led the Department of Studies Abroad Program in Music with European concert tours.

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It took courage when young news videographer Lee Berger (’90) rescued a woman from the swirling currents of the Savannah River back in 1986. Then again, Berger has exhibited a fearless approach to life throughout his career – an attitude that he says was taught and nurtured by his Georgia Southern professors.

Last April, Berger showed a different kind of bravery, putting his professional reputation on the line when, before dozens of international news media, he unveiled a new species of human precursor, *Australopithecus sediba*. The find, one of the most significant in the history of paleoanthropology, was made by a Berger-led team and landed him on the front pages and broadcast leads of news outlets around the world – including CBS’ “60 Minutes.”

Berger, the senior research officer and a professor of paleoanthropology at South Africa’s University of the Witwatersrand, his son Matthew, and post-doctoral student Job Kibbi were exploring a cave when they unearthed the fossilized bones of two individuals: a woman and a child. Both have skeletal features that place them squarely in the gap between early and modern humans, exhibiting some traits of each.

“Both of the skeletons we would eventually find are the most complete early human ancestral skeletons ever discovered,” Berger said, adding that both individuals have some traits of modern humans: small teeth, a projecting nose, an advanced pelvis and long legs. However, their long arms and small brain cases link them to older finds.

“They fall at a critical time period between the early ape men like Lucy and Mrs. Ples and our immediate ancestor, the species *Homo erectus*, at about 1.9 million years. And morphologically, they fit that gap. That is, they look like a mix of earlier things and later things and of course they represent a completely new and unexpected species, *Australopithecus sediba*.”

The fossil’s name comes from Latin *australis* (southern), Greek *pithekos* (ape) and *sediba* meaning “natural spring” or “well” in the South African Sotho language.

The discovery was just the latest of Berger’s forays into the international scientific spotlight. In 1995, he made headlines when he and colleague Ron Clarke put forth an explanation for what caused the death 2.5 million years ago of an individual known as the Taung Child. They attributed it to an attack by a bird of prey, theorizing that an eagle or other large bird not only collected

“Some people may not realize it, but exploration is a scary thing. You’re taking a significant chunk of money and precious amount of your time and you have to go out there and look for something you might not find.”

Lee Berger
Growing up on a farm outside of Sylvania, Ga., Berger often walked the newly nurtured and extended that interest into a formal approach to human ancestors. A big chunk of it started right there at Georgia Southern,” said Berger, who majored in anthropology with a minor in geology. “One of the things about Georgia Southern, which many people may not appreciate, is how unusual it is to have such a varied number of departments doing field work. When I was there, we had geologists that were vertebrate paleontologists and people working on everything from fossil crabs to dinosaurs to mesasaurus to almost anything you could imagine. At the same time you had archaeologists and anthropologists working on everything from Civil War and Revolutionary War era sites and Native American sites. It was the encouragement of doing field work – people encouraging you not to be afraid to go out and explore and be afraid not to find things. Some people may not realize it, but exploration is a scary thing,” he said. “You’re taking a significant chunk of money and precious amount of your time and you have to go out there and look for something you might not find. That takes courage, and all of those professors instilled that no-fear archeology, that no-fear geology in us.”

What does Matthew, the world’s youngest fossil finder, think about all the excitement? “He’s the youngest human being on earth to have ever found one of these things,” said his proud dad. “And to have found maybe one of the most important ones in history is an extraordinary thing. He’s quite an amazing young man, and he’s taking it in stride. He wants to be a paleoanthropologist, but I warn him it’s going to be hard to beat his first find!”

“This discovery is more than I could have ever dreamed of sitting in Sue Moore’s Anthropology 101 class at Georgia Southern,” said Berger. “I chose to be in an area of science that searches for the rarest objects sought after on the planet Earth. Most people who do what I do go their entire careers and never find a single fragment.”

Lee Berger

Berger and his find. The most complete early human ancestral skeletons ever found.
“It will be an opportunity for those in need, but it will also provide opportunities for our local health providers and students studying to be health professionals.”

Georj Lewis, dean of students

In less than two years, a Georgia Southern student has inspired a group of fellow students, a team of medical professionals and various community leaders to change the lives of Bulloch County’s medically-uninsured citizens by opening a free healthcare clinic.

The Hearts and Hands Clinic Inc. became a reality in July when it opened at the Son’s Light Fellowship Baptist Church on Highway 301, a sprawling complex that also houses the church’s food pantry and thrift store. Currently, a rotating staff of 12 volunteer physicians treats patients each Tuesday evening, and provides dental screenings on the third Thursday evening each month, followed by extended dental procedures as well as sustainability, and Hearts and Hands is the first undergraduate student-founded clinic to be advised by the organization.

“Montes' hasn’t let anything stand in the way of his dream of establishing Hearts and Hands.‘Andres has been a driving force behind this mission. The institution of medicine is truly his calling. He has researched and supervised every step of making this clinic a place for those who deserve quality healthcare, but just need a little help,‘ he said, ‘because medicine is a huge passion of mine.’”

Last winter, Son’s Light’s 40-member congregation unanimously voted to provide space for Hearts and Hands, said their pastor John Long. “I don’t have health insurance and I knew that this was a badly-needed ministry in our community,” said Long, also a board member of the clinic. “The clinic provides the physical need and our congregation provides the spiritual need.” Fellow board member DeWayne Grice concurs. “This is a clinic for the working poor — people who are working every day, struggling to survive and just need a little help,” he added. Patients qualify for free medical care if they’re 18 or older and fall into the category of income guidelines at 200 percent of the poverty level.

Montes also enlisted the help of an assumtment of Georgia Southern faculty members. Those who have championed the cause include Georj Lewis, dean of stu- dents, Brett Danilowicz, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Techno-
Thomas Koballa takes helm of the College of Education

Everyone experiences a life-altering moment that changes the focus of their career.

For Thomas R. Koballa, Jr., it was invertebrate zoology. “I developed a great affinity for the sciences as a biology major at East Carolina University,” he said, speaking about his days as a lab teaching assistant. “That was the seed that led me to where I am today.” Thirty years after beginning a long and distinguished academic career, Koballa is the new dean of Georgia Southern’s College of Education (COE).

Koballa assumed his new position on July 1, and he already has very definite concepts in place for the future of COE. “Where some people are ready to implement a series of changes when they start a new position, I come with a vision for success,” he said. His plan in the upcoming months is to better acquaint himself with the 95-plus members of the faculty and staff, strengthening the “team” that is already in place, and becoming an advocate for the COE. “The more I learn about the faculty, the better equipped I am to help them with their teaching and research. After all, I’m working for the faculty – the faculty doesn’t work for me. They may get tired of seeing me upstairs,” he laughed, speaking of his plans to frequently visit the faculty in all areas of the College.

“The COE is much broader than just teacher education – it’s a collaborative effort preparing educational leaders, counselors and also school psychologists. In order to have effective programs, the COE faculty must collaborate with schools in the community, faculty in other colleges and among themselves,” he said.

One way to do this is through sharing and distributing leadership. For example, Koballa sees himself as a teacher/scholar and encourages the staff and faculty to think about the ways these roles work together. “I think it’s important to ask ourselves, ‘How does my classroom instruction affect my research, and how does my research affect my role in the classroom?’ Each faculty member is a leader in whatever they do, and we all lead in different ways,” he said.

When Koballa first arrived at Georgia Southern, he was influenced by a framed photograph in the COE that pictured the administration building and a sign showing the name, South Georgia Teachers College. Following its early days as a district agricultural and mechanical school, Georgia Southern became a teacher training school in 1924. “We don’t want to lose touch with our heritage. After all, preparing educators for Georgia’s schools is an important part of the legacy of this University,” he said.

SGA president Alton Standifer ready for new year

Leadership is often defined as the ability to guide, direct or influence people. However, one Georgia Southern student sees leadership from a slightly different perspective. “Leadership is leading by serving others,” said Alton Standifer, the 2010-2011 Student Government Association (SGA) president.

His commitment to public service has impacted many programs both at the University and within the community over the past several years, such as Habitat for Humanity, restructur- ing the campus transit system, and introducing improved din- ning options for students.

“There is no question that Alton’s strength is his personality and ability to interact with students, faculty, and staff alike. Intelligence, likeability, empathy, responsibility, a genuine concern for others and flexibility are qualities he holds that will virtually guarantee his success as a campus leader and a future educator,” said Georgi Lewis, dean of students.

Public service is second nature to the Monticello, Ga., native, and in many ways, his childhood experiences put him on the pathway to civic duty. “My family has always been involved in our community,” he said, speaking about his mother, a former town commissioner and uncle, a city councilman. Standifer’s reputation for solid leadership began even before he set foot on campus as a freshman at Georgia Southern, when he served as both student council and senior class president at Jasper County High School.

The following spring, Standifer pursued his goal of becoming a SOAR (Southern’s Orientation, Advisement and Registration) program leader, completing intensive team-building training sessions that focused on the inner-workings of all of Georgia Southern’s individual colleges and departments. Leaders facilitate two-day orientation sessions throughout the summer, introducing incoming freshmen and their parents to all aspects of campus life. He also joined Leadership 101, a series of weekly workshops that explored different topics such as resume building and communication in the workplace, while working at the Recreation Activity Center in member services.

Standifer’s involvement with the SGA began during his sophomore year, when served as a senator for the College of Education. “There is no question that Alton’s strength is his personality and ability to interact with students, faculty, and staff alike,” said Georgi Lewis, dean of students.

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Georgi Lewis, dean of students
STILL ON THE MOVE

Retired geographer Dan Good never runs out of curiosity

The year was 1989, and the southeastern coast of the United States—specifically Savannah, Ga.—was faced with the impending landfall of Hurricane Hugo. Dan Good, a geography professor revered on campus for his geographical knowledge and also known as the “unofficial” weatherman of Statesboro and Georgia Southern University, was summoned to former President Nicholas Henry’s office to assist worried officials with an important decision: Should the Eagles play in their first televised football game under the threat of a hurricane?

Good gave the go-ahead after studying weather data, with the warning that the hurricane force winds wouldn’t descend on Statesboro. The Eagles played, scoring a victory, while Hugo detonated, making landfall in Charleston, S.C. In fact, the only unpleasant outcome for Good was dealing with four inches of rain during the “Hugo Bowl” in Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

Good’s lifelong fascination with geography began during his travels around the world with the U.S. Navy during World War II. “After that, I had a desire to view and study new places,” he said.

The Pennsylvania native received his master’s and doctorate degrees in geography from the University of Tennessee before joining the faculty of Georgia Southern in 1969 as the first full-time geographer on campus. “I got in on the ground level of geography,” he said. “In fact, I was the only professor for 10 years until the campus was reorganized.”

For a brief period of time after his arrival in Statesboro, Good was named an honorary deputy sheriff of Bulloch County. When he wasn’t teaching in the classroom, Good hunted prison escapees with his bloodhound. “It was too dangerous, so I quit in 1975,” he said, after capturing two armed fugitives from Syria. His reward? “A bag of dog food from the sheriff!” he laughed.

Good left this risky pastime to return to the safe occupation of academia, and shortly afterward, he assisted with the development of the geography department in 1980. Seven years later, the first Bachelor of Science degree was awarded in the program.

Good’s distinguished and successful career impacted many aspects of the University, namely his creation of the Georgia Southern Weather Station and partnership with the National Weather Service to launch a local station in 2000, which put Georgia Southern on the climatological map.

“A career can be called a success if one can look back and say I made a difference,” said Good. “Professors can inspire and motivate their students to do things.” Through the years, Good has been recognized many times for his contributions to students and the field of geography, receiving the University Award for Excellence in Instruction and Curriculum, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences’ Ruffin Cup, as well as being named one of Georgia Southern’s Top Ten Professors six times. Good’s national awards include the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award and the Association of American Geographer’s Outstanding Teacher Recognition. He also received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for research and teaching three times, which took him to sites in Tanzania and Africa. “I think it was very important to take advantage of these opportunities,” said Good, “and they kept me enthusiastic about life and teaching.”

Good’s geographical skills were put to the test once more before former President Bruce Grube presided over his first graduation ceremony: “President Grube wanted to have his first Georgia Southern graduation outside. It was so hot, and I collected all of the weather data and sent it to his office every ten minutes. They decided to move the graduation time back to 9 a.m. because of the heat!” he laughed.

Today, the professor emeritus maintains a very busy lifestyle since his retirement seven years ago, and his enthusiasm for travel hasn’t slowed down one bit. These days he’s not traveling to Tanzania, but to Tennessee, Sapelo Island or even McIntosh County. “I can’t just sit and rock!” he laughed. “I still have a curiosity about me.”

-Mary Beth Spence
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES LARGEST GRADUATION

President Brooks Keel presided over the largest-ever graduation ceremony at the University last May, with a record 2,400 graduates participating. The honorees included Sara Plaspohl, the first student to graduate from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health’s Doctor of Public Health program. Plaspohl, as the first doctoral graduate, represents a key step for the College in its ongoing process to earn accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. Along with the “traditional” graduates, Georgia Southern recognized 153 fully and 63 partially online graduates participating. The honorees included Sara Plaspohl, the first student to graduate from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health’s Doctor of Public Health program. Plaspohl, as the

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The dream of a degree from Georgia Southern will soon be within reach for many adults who thought it was too late to return to college because of career or family obligations. Beginning in January, the University will offer a Bachelor of General Studies major offered completely online.

The online Bachelor of General Studies degree has been designed specifically for people who have always wanted to earn their college degree, but life got in the way,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. Keel noted that the degree is not only perfect for working adults, but also is a great option for members of the military and students at two-year colleges and technical schools who want to earn a four-year degree. The program provides students with the opportunity to customize their program by choosing three concentration areas from a list that includes business, justice studies, sociology and writing.

UNIVERSITY SETS RECORD SUMMER ENROLLMENT

While many college students around the country took the summer off to relax at home or to work at a summer job, a record number of Georgia Southern students were taking classes. The University once again set a new record for summer enrollment with 9,950 students, which also played a major role in the local economy. According to a study conducted by the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), students spent about $59.1 million on books and supplies, room and board, transportation and other expenses during the summer of 2010.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENT WINS NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra Mosley, a student in the University Honors program, has been awarded a prestigious National Security Education Program scholarship. The student was selected for the scholarship on the basis of academic excellence and commitment to public service. Mosley’s major is Logistics/Supply Chain Management. The state of Georgia has become home to many major defense contractors. Georgia Southern’s College of Business Administration welcomed its first doctoral graduate, represents a key step for the College in its ongoing process to earn accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. Along with the “traditional” graduates, Georgia Southern recognized 153 fully and 63 partially online graduates participating. The honorees included Sara Plaspohl, the first student to graduate from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health’s Doctor of Public Health program. Plaspohl, as the first doctoral graduate, represents a key step for the College in its ongoing process to earn accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. Along with the “traditional” graduates, Georgia Southern recognized 153 fully and 63 partially online graduates participating. The honorees included Sara Plaspohl, the first student to graduate from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health’s Doctor of Public Health program. Plaspohl, as the
African slaves.
Gullah and Geechee families who are descended from has led her to extensive studies of the Southeast's coastal community to explore, first-hand, the journey of.
Fayth Parks' passion for cultural traditions and genealogy was profoundly affected by the opportunities, and she lived with her great-aunt and uncle during a portion of her childhood. Even though she was from New Jersey, a small slice of South Carolina was a big part of her genteel Southern upbringing when she experienced generations of family traditions.
“My childhood was full of homegrown life lessons,” she said, referring to days spent in the kitchen preparing dishes from family recipes, receiving homemade medications such as tea made from sassafras root and incorporating the Bible into her everyday life.
Parks was undoubtedly influenced by her upbringing, and this inspired her to travel with other scholars from the Chicago-based African American Studies Program to West Africa. While there, she was profoundly affected by the opportunity to explore, first-hand, the journey of her ancestors when they were captured and brought to America. “I realized that African captives traveling to the coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina carried traditions with them,” she said, as she put together the connection and meaning of her own family's traditions that had passed from generation to generation. And so, Parks' journey began.
Through-out the years, she has traced her family lineage, and during a trip to Beaufort, S.C., to visit friends, she was introduced to the Gullah Festival, an annual three-day event that educates and entertains the public with music, storytelling, dance, arts and crafts celebrating the Gullah culture.
“As I attended the festival I thought, ‘This is Africa! I need to spend more time here,’” she said.
During the next 10 years, Parks dedicated what precious time she was able to spend from teaching to immerse herself in the Gullah and Geechee culture, conducting interviews, visiting historic sites and attending festivals and academic seminars, making some very important discoveries.
“As older generations pass away and land slips away due to modern development, it's harder to find people carrying on the traditions these days. That's where I came in. It was my research. Traditions that shared patterns of belief, behavior and language and psychological strengths found in religion and spiritual beliefs are practices. "As older generations pass away and land slips away due to modern development, it's harder to find people carrying on the traditions these days. That's where I came in.
"The McIntosh County Shouters are the masters of the authentic ring shout, which was performed in the early black churches,” said Parks, also relating that the group continues to share this custom with attendees at various festivals and other events.
Parks continues to immerse herself in the study of the Gullah/Geechee communities, with plans to publish a book in the near future about this fascinating history of traditions through the generations.
"The lowcountry culture has a rich legacy of traditions that contribute to who we are today,” Fayth Parks said, talking about these specific practices.
One lowcountry group has preserved another well-known practice performed during worship services, called the ring shout, that involves singing, clapping, and dance-like stepping done in circular movement while keeping rhythm by thumping on the floor with a customized stick.
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Asthma Intervention

For a quarter of a million Georgia children, simply breathing can be a burden. These children suffer from asthma, which costs millions of dollars in emergency medical treatments and causes thousands of missed school days in the state each year.

Thanks in part to faculty researchers at Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) some of the most underserved children with asthma may soon be able to breathe a little easier.

Professors Lynn Woodhouse and Russ Toal are leading the effort to evaluate the effectiveness of asthma prevention programs supported by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation. Because many children with asthma live in poverty and may not have access to routine medical care, it is crucial to make sure programs designed to help prevent asthma are getting results.

“The lab structure affords us the opportunity to expand our research of different agents,” said professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, whose research background is in public health occupational hygiene and sensitivities to these contaminants. “People don’t take seafood lightly,” said Afriyie-Gyawu. Other studies include researching the mercury levels in fish and the effects of these contaminants. “People don’t take seafood lightly,” said Afriyie-Gyawu, stressing the need for this research in the coastal area. “We need to and want to protect the health of the public and must do all we can through research, teaching and community service projects to realize this objective.”

A total renovation of Hendricks Hall has been completed, converting it into a new home for the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) and the College’s new Public Health Core Laboratory (PHCL). In addition to being a big step toward accreditation for the College by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the new lab will host research with global potential to enhance the quality of human lives.

The PHCL is actually six independent labs with two preparatory rooms plus teaching and research space. The facility contains two teaching labs capable of supporting biosafety level 1 (BSL-1) and wet chemistry work. The four research labs are designed to accommodate different research models including one wet chemistry lab, one BSL-2 lab and two BSL-3 labs. The BSL-3 suite looks very similar to the biological labs on campus – the difference is, the BSL-3 labs have limited access. The lab structure affords us the opportunity to expand our research of different agents,” said professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, whose research background is in public health occupational hygiene and sensitivities to these contaminants. “People don’t take seafood lightly,” said Afriyie-Gyawu, stressing the need for this research in the coastal area. “We need to and want to protect the health of the public and must do all we can through research, teaching and community service projects to realize this objective.”

In conjunction with a self-study and an upcoming site visit by CEPH officials, the lab will give the College a big push toward attaining accreditation, said Dean Charles Hardy.

“The CEPH accreditation will have a dramatic impact on all we do in the JPHCOPH, the University and our region,” he said. “Obviously, a key element in us reaching our goal is the development of the PHCL.” Upon successfully completing the requirements and receiving accreditation from CEPH, Hardy said this status will align the JPHCOPH with other national schools/colleges of public health such as Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University.
Studies conducted in the College of Health and Human Sciences on the subject of concussions are providing insight into concussion education, the acute effects of concussions on athletes, and the cumulative effects of brain injuries that individuals have incurred over a period of years. News reports in recent months have detailed permanent brain injuries in former NFL players who suffered multiple concussions resulting in a condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy that has led to early memory loss and dementia. Studies have shown that players as young as their 30s or 40s have brains that resemble that of an 80-year-old with dementia.

Tom Buckley and Barry Munkasy, professors in the Department of Health and Kinesiology, and their research team of graduate students have studied more than 25 athletes during the past two years in hopes of identifying concussion recovery patterns. Researchers are investigating post-concussion changes in individuals’ ability to maintain their balance using both a standard exam called the Balance Error Scoring System (BESS) and more sophisticated biomechanical measurements during transitional body movements. “The BESS is an inexpensive test that is easy to do,” said Buckley, “but it may be underestimating how long a person is actually impaired.” The BESS is a challenging test in which researchers measure a series of stances for an individual by asking them to stand in various positions with their eyes closed, both on a firm and foam surface.

According to Buckley, the BESS test only successfully identifies an athlete’s impairments for the first three to four days following a concussion. “By using the BESS test, athletes may be released to return to athletics too soon. Our findings, in agreement with other research, suggest that the effects of concussions persist longer than previously thought,” he said.

Also, once an individual suffers an initial concussion, they are at risk for second impact syndrome if they suffer another head injury while still symptomatic from the previous concussion. “If second impact syndrome occurs, there’s about a 50 percent death rate,” Buckley noted. These and other recent findings have resulted in athletic trainers and the rest of the sports medicine community becoming more conservative in their treatment of concussions. “In addition to balance problems, a person with a concussion typically presents with cognitive processing problems,” he said. So, in addition to basic balancing tasks, concussed individuals are also asked to perform cognitive tasks while moving. The basis of these tasks is to examine one’s ability to think and move at the same time. Some of the exercises include solving math problems or reciting the months of the year backward while walking.

Buckley and his team have recently completed a research project funded by the Army Research Office where they partnered with other researchers from the University of Florida and PMB InteliGence, a West Lafayette, Ind., corporation, to study approximate entropy, which examines the effect brain injuries have on the amount of time it takes a person to regain their balance, and how balance patterns compare between healthy individuals and those suffering a brain injury. “In this study, we looked at a person’s movements following a concussion. For example, a healthy person will have a very consistent movement pattern, and a person who has suffered from a concussion will have a very inconsistent pattern of movement. We tracked this over a long period of time to see how these changes occur,” he said. In fact, the Army Research Office has requested that the team pursue a follow-up study to this initial research, and Buckley said that the next phase of this study will begin this fall.

Concussions are of substantial interest to the armed services as a recent study found that 15 percent of soldiers surveyed have experienced head trauma while serving in Iraq. Buckley is optimistic that the results of this research will promote further training of coaches and athletes on the appropriate ways to recognize a concussion and the importance of reporting the symptoms to their athletic trainer. “The big push now is to educate coaches and athletes on the serious risks associated with frequent concussions,” he said. According to Buckley, Georgia Southern’s coaching education students have a very thorough understanding of concussion symptoms, based on a study conducted by one of his graduate students who found that the students had significantly more concussion knowledge than previous investigations of active coaches.

“There are a lot of myths about concussions,” Buckley said. “For example, you do not have to be knocked unconscious or be completely disoriented to have a concussion. National data has shown that there are upwards of 60,000 concussions reported each year in high school football players, however a lot of athletes think that if you have to be knocked unconscious, so approximately 50 percent of concussions that occur don’t get reported.”

Even with all of the breakthrough data that has surfaced on this topic, there is, however, one drawback. “It’s hard to get subjects,” said Buckley. “It’s one of the challenges of this research, so we’re a little bit limited in what we are able to do.” However, Buckley is confident that new, more advanced diagnostic testing methods are on the horizon. For example, “there are ongoing studies using the gaming system Wii and a WiiFit board to measure balance,” he noted, “and also using a special carpet that can literally be rolled out on any hard surface, anywhere for testing.” –Mary Beth Spence
The term ‘shop ’til you drop’ has just taken on a whole new meaning, thanks to Georgia Southern faculty member Jacqueline Eastman.

The marketing professor has collaborated with Bradley University colleague Rajesh Iyer to find out exactly what attracts and keeps fashionistas shopping in a mall.

The pair spent hundreds of hours working on “The Fashion Conscious Mall Shopper: An Exploratory Study,” which is slated for publication next year in the *Marketing Management Journal*. During a one-week period, 210 shoppers participated in the survey at a Valdosta, Ga., mall with questions focusing on key areas such as affordable prices, variety of styles, comparison shopping and current fashions available from retailers.

Various published studies over several years have documented the declining trend of mall shopping due to busy lifestyles and increased competition from discount stores and the Internet. Eastman’s article offers marketing solutions to mall merchants eager to keep trendy style setters shopping in their stores.

The survey results showed that the entire group of consumers had an overwhelmingly positive attitude toward shopping. The authors generally found that fashion-conscious shoppers in this economy focus on the best price, comparison shop, and seek a variety of brands and styles. Fifty-three percent of the participants were male and 47 percent were female, with 35 percent of them frequenting the mall on a weekly basis, and 69 percent visiting the mall just for the simple pleasure of shopping.

So what are some good ways for retailers to lure shoppers to the mall? Eastman suggests that mall stores have to emphasize their uniqueness versus discount stores and Internet shopping. “They have to market their mall as a leisure experience, through fine dining at restaurants and events that will draw traffic to the mall. It’s important for malls to recognize that price is a factor for shoppers, but they also need to focus on what else they can offer,” she said.

Eastman is one of the founding faculty members responsible for the development of the Georgia Southern WebMBA program, and she has parlayed her extensive marketing and research experience in the private sector to publish more than three dozen articles in national scholarly journals. Her influential studies have been utilized around the globe – including China, Mexico, South Africa and Israel.

Like most professors, Eastman’s work involves more than just typical classroom lectures. In fact, by Eastman’s own estimation, she spends roughly 30 percent of her week researching topics such as status consumption, e-commerce, consumer advocacy and ethics for two reasons – to remain academically qualified and to lead by example for her students.

“The way students learn is by rolling up their sleeves and doing the work,” Eastman said. “I ask my students to write papers, so I feel an obligation to be consistent and put my own papers through a review process to be published.” She also helps her marketing research students gain experience in the field by assisting with survey collections, such as through data collection for the University’s Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development. “The students develop some interesting ideas and measures for the surveys that we will incorporate into other areas of research,” she said.

—Mary Beth Spence

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The explosive triple option offense returned to Georgia Southern in a big way under new head coach Jeff Monken as he led the Eagles to a season-opening 48-3 win over Savannah State before 20,430 fans.

Quarterback Jaybo Shaw directed the Eagles to more than 540 yards of offense. Freshman fullback Robert Brown ran for 122 yards and one touchdown to become the first Georgia Southern freshman to gain 100 or more yards in his debut since Adrian Peterson in 1998. A stifling defense held the Tigers to 172 total yards.
Football means a lot to Willie Burden.
Both of them.
Georgia Southern sport management professor Willie Burden, Sr. played a little ball in his day: ACC Player of the Year at North Carolina State, a Canadian Football League Most Outstanding Player, and an inductee of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and the CFL Hall of Fame.

His son, Willie Burden, Jr., is a sophomore defensive end for Georgia Southern.

"Football's just been in my blood ever since I was little," said Burden, Jr. "I just love the game. That's what motivates me to keep going. There was nothing like Fridays when I was in high school, and now Saturdays. You just put on that helmet and go out to the stadium and there are all those kids out there. That's what you've worked all summer long and all camp long."

After his pro career, the senior Burden became an athletics director then earned his doctorate and entered the teaching profession. He's still a believer in the value of athletics and how it can strengthen academic performance because of the discipline and routine coaches set forth.

"It's absolutely the structure," said Burden, Sr. "Athletes perform better during their season than they do out of season when they're missing some of the structure. Coming along as an athlete myself, coaches instilled discipline. They tell you where you're supposed to be when you're supposed to be there and, if you apply it on the academic side, too, and do the things that you're supposed to do, you'll be pretty successful!"

Burden, Jr. agreed. "A lot of people don't realize it, but football is such a tremendous help to your academics. Our coaches make sure we're at every class, that we're on time and that we're at study hall. And if you don't do those things, there are repercussions. That is a tremendous, tremendous help to academics and to life, because you learn how to be on time and how to do things the right way: It will help us when we get older!"

His dad gives him frequent advice – on both football and academics. "All the time," Burden, Jr. laughed. "But I enjoy it. I like learning. It's fun for me. Overall I just try to take in as much as I can."

Burden, Sr. is also a firm believer in hands-on learning experiences for his students.

"I'm a practitioner from way back, so I wasn't brought up through the teaching ranks," he said. "I came from industry with two dozen years in athletic administration before I began to teach full time, so I like to bring the practical aspect to the classroom. With the textbook, it's theory, and we like students to understand theory and how it's supposed to work in a perfect world, but mainly my focus is to have students do hands-on activities or hear from people who are actually doing the work on a daily basis and can relate to what's happening on the job. That works pretty well for me."

Burden, Sr. knows how tough the game of football can be – from a player's and a parent's perspective, so watching Willie, Jr. and his high school-aged brother, Freddie play is a mix of concern, enthusiasm and pride. "Number one, I pray that everybody gets through the game without sustaining any kind of serious injury," he said. "From that point on, whatever happens is great – just good luck in the game. I enjoy watching them play, but as a parent, the main thing is that no harm comes to them."

A man who has enjoyed at least three distinct careers: professional athlete, athletics administrator, and professor, Burden, Sr. sees life as a process of always growing and learning to roll with the changes.

"There are still lessons to be learned," he said. "I learn from students, I learn from my sons, and I will continue to learn. It's the people you meet along the way that teach you some of life's lessons, and from some of the experiences you have, you learn a lot of life's lessons."

"Some of the basic stuff always remains, there are some things that change around you and you have to be willing to change with it, to adapt."
Basketball Eagles look to take ‘one big step forward’ in 2010-11

At 6’4” tall, Charlton Young takes big steps. He’s hoping his Eagles can match his strides this season. “We’re excited about ‘two’,” said Georgia Southern’s second-year head basketball coach. “We’re excited about ‘two’.

“The first year was definitely a rebuilding year, and was a year when my staff and I wanted to build a foundation for the future of the program,” said Young. “Obviously, we were starting from scratch. Nine wins is not what we wanted, and 6-12 in the conference is not what we wanted, but I do feel it was a successful season in terms of the seniors and the people who fought to reengineer the program and lay the foundation for what we will be able to do in the future.

“I thought we battled every time we took the floor. I thought we conducted ourselves like people from Georgia Southern University, whether on the court all times, and I thought we competed until the buzzer sounded,” Young said. “I was proud of that.

“We were talented enough? Probably not. But there was a change in the mentality of the program where we expected to win. Young believes senior guard Willie Powell, 6’6” tall, Charlton Young takes big steps. His 15th season as Lady Eagles head coach.

“Trey” Bussery is a very exciting combo guard that can really score and manufacture points in a hurry,” Young said. “We’re excited about ‘Trey’ I think he’s a guy who could have played at some bigger schools, but felt like this was the best fit for him.

“Julani Hewett was the most highly ranked of that class of high school kids,” said Young. “He has a chance to be really, really special. He’s big and strong. His body’s ready to play division one basketball right now. He’s very, very talented and can manufacture points in quick fashion. “I think they will be immediate impact guys,” he said. “All of these guys were here in the summer taking classes trying to gear ahead academically and lifting weights. They want it.”

And then there’s Eric Ferguson. Ferguson, a 6’8” forward, is the son of former Georgia to the other.

“I think he’s a legitimate NBA prospect right now,” said Young. “He’s very similar to the prototype NBA’s small forward. I’m really proud of him because he’s worked hard for the last two years in preparation for college from an academic standpoint and as a basketball player. He’s had two years to mature. He could see far enough down the road to see that this is the best road for him. There’s nothing wrong with wanting to get some preparation.”

The Southern Conference has stepped up its level of play, said Young. He sees Wolford, College of Charleston and Davidson as the top contenders for the league title. Wolford, Young said, has a winning coach and won a championship last year. “And, they’re all back,” he said. The Terriers defeated South Carolina and Georgia handily last year, and Young feels they should have beaten Wisconsin in the NCAA tournament. The College of Charleston is always tough with coach Bobby Crennis while Davidson was able to reach the upper echelon of the conference starting two freshmen last year.

Young is ready to see his team take those big strides down the road to a conference championship, but beyond that, he wants to see their footprints from one end of Georgia to the other.

“We want to get to the NCAA tournament,” he said, “but we want to compete outside the conference and make a run at the state like Butler and Gonzaga and Davidson.”

2010-11 MEN’S BASKETBALL — For game times, visit www.georgiasouthernmeagles.com.

2010-11 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL — For game times, visit www.georgiasouthernmeagles.com.

Cram counting on defense and ball control

Despite losing three of his top four scorers and rebounders from last season, Georgia Southern women’s basketball coach Rusty Cram isn’t looking at the 2010-11 season as a “rebuilding” year. Rather, he sees an opportunity. ‘That just means the door is open for another group of players to make names for themselves,’ said Cram, who enters his 15th season as Lady Eagles head coach.

The unquestioned leader of the young team will be senior point guard Jamie Navarro, who was second on the team in assists and third in scoring last season. She led the Lady Eagles and finished 12th nationally with an 8.7 free-throw percentage.

Jamie Navarro is as steady as they come at point guard,” Cram said. “While this year’s roster includes nine players who are freshmen or sophomores, Cram sees a lot of potential in the group.

“We’re very excited about the freshman and sophomore classes,” Cram said. “They’re just good, blue-collar basketball players. We feel they understand the work ethic it takes to win.”

The young players will be tested early with a non-conference schedule that includes games against SEC powers Georgia and Alabama prior to the typically tough Southern Conference slate.

“Our freshmen are going to see what it takes to go from high school to Division I,” Cram said. “They will learn more basketball in that first month of the season than they probably will the rest of their career. They will be hungry to get better because they will see what they need to do to compete.”
Meybohm carries discipline of athletics into successful career

E.G. Meybohm (64) rolled up some impressive numbers as an Eagle including a career 43.3 percent field goal average and 67.9 percent free throw average in basketball, and a 10-inning shutout pitched in the NAIA National Tournament for the baseball squad. A four-year letterman, Meybohm played a key role in the Eagles’ athletics success from 1960-64 and had the opportunity to play for two of the legendary figures in the University’s athletics history: basketball coach J.B. Scource and baseball coach J.I. Clements. “They were two different personalities,” said Meybohm. “Coach Scource was much more outgoing and demonstrative. Coach Clements was very quiet and didn’t say a lot, but he was demanding. They both worked us pretty hard.”

The basketball squad went to the NAIA national tournament twice during Meybohm’s career. “I remember my senior year we were in the national tournament and didn’t get back until mid-March,” said Meybohm. “I missed quite a bit of the early part of the baseball season. I was a pitcher and having to get in shape after playing baseball was always a problem for me. I would get out there and try to rush to get going as fast as I could and then get a sore arm. It was just always tough playing baseball all the way up into March.”

One of the highlights of his basketball career was being part of the night Fran Florian scored 60 points. He and I both came out of the game with about a minute to go. Everybody started chanting, ‘We want 60! We want 60!’ We had a play where he came across the lane of the key on a screen for him. Well, he came off the pick and got the baseball – it was in NBA three-point range today – and he just drained it for 60 points. Everybody just went crazy. It was a great experience for me. It was one that I recall very vividly!”

In 1962, the 16-man baseball squad was wrapping up a great season and had earned a bid to the NAIA tournament. On its way home from the final game, the Eagles were two outs away from winning the region tournament when a bus was involved in an accident that injured a handful of players and critically hurt the driver, who they called “Seventeen” – their 17th man. Shorthanded and concerned about their driver, there was serious doubt about whether or not they should attempt to play the game. We got the message to Dizzy Dean and his folks that we had won this national championship for Seventeen because he was in real bad shape. It was one of those things you always think about – it must have been destiny!”

Meybohm taught and coached at his alma mater, Harlem High, for a few years, but with a young family to support, opted for a career change. He was hired by Southern Finance Corporation to sell real estate, and eventually purchased the real estate sales portion of the business, founding Meybohm Realtors.

His company generated more than three quarters of a billion dollars in sales last year and has six offices in the Augusta, Ga., area with about 300 agents.

Heavily involved in statewide professional and Augusta-area service, Meybohn has served as the National Director of the National Association of Realtors, President of the Georgia Association of Realtors, chairman of the Metro Augusta Chamber of Commerce, president of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, vice chairman and organizer of Georgia Bank and Trust Company, a past Realtor of the Year in Augusta and past president of the Augusta Y.M.C.A. The former Georgia Southern Alumnus of the Year and an Athletics Hall of Fame inductee also served as chairman of the board for Georgia Bank and Trust Company and as an insurance trustee for the Georgia Association of Realtors.

Nick Zieziula will coach the Eagles men’s tennis team, coming from the University of Central Florida.

Zieziula named new men’s tennis head coach

Nick Zieziula has joined the Georgia Southern tennis program as men’s head coach, coming to the Eagles from his previous post as an assistant at the University of Central Florida. Zieziula was a four-year letterwinner at The State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) and has been at UCF for two seasons.

The dedication and hard work Nick put into being an assistant coach at both Buffalo and the University of Central Florida impressed us as well as his desire to become a Division I head coach,” said Georgia Southern Athletics Director Sam Baker.

“We are extremely excited about Nick and what he will bring to our program with his outstanding background as a player and coach. I’m sure our student-athletes will enjoy working with him as we prepare for the 2010-2011 tennis season,” Baker said.

“I would like to thank Sam Baker, Cathy Beene, Jeff Blythe and everyone in Georgia Southern Athletics for giving me this opportunity,” said Zieziula. “The men’s tennis program at Georgia Southern has tremendous potential to be extremely competitive in the conference and compete for championships immediately, which is what drew me to the program. I am honored to have been chosen to lead the team and I look forward to getting to Statesboro to start working with our players.”

In his second season at UCF, Zieziula played an instrumental role in helping the Knights record ample time in the national rankings – ranking as high as No. 61 in early March – and earn the program’s best tournament seed (No. 3) in the Conference USA league tournament.

In both his seasons at UCF, Zieziula oversaw the academic progress of the team’s student-athletes. In 2010, five Knights garnered the C-USA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll status and in 2009, four players received academic honor roll recognition.

Before joining the athletics department at Central Florida, Zieziula was the assistant men’s tennis coach at his alma mater for three seasons. Working directly with the head coach, Zieziula played an active role in the recruitment process and day-to-day operations.

Zieziula spent two years at the Village Glen Tennis Club in Williamsburg, N.Y., as an assistant High Performance Program Teaching instructor and served as the director of the High Performance Program from October 2007 to June 2008.

At Buffalo, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and minor in anthropology. Zieziula held UB records for career singles wins, career doubles wins and single season singles and doubles wins at the time of graduation. As a team leader, he oversaw the academic progress of the team’s student-athletes. In 2010, five Knights garnered the C-USA Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll status and in 2009, four players received academic honor roll recognition.

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GEORGIA SOUTHERN TO HOST 2011 SOCON SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Georgia Southern learned it will host the 2011 Southern Conference softball championship as the conference announced the sites for future tournament play. The 2011 Southern Conference softball championship will include all nine conference programs.


ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Nina Iduate became the third Eagle in school history to earn First Team Academic All-American honors, being named to the ESPN The Magazine First Team.

The team is selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Iduate led the Eagles with a Southern Conference single-season record .450 batting average, finishing her stellar career as the all-time leader at Georgia Southern with a .377 average. A Norcross, Ga., native and mathematics major, the 2010 Southern Conference Player of the Year posted a 3.85 Grade Point Average and made the Dean’s List (3.5 GPA or higher) five times and the President’s List (4.0 GPA) once during her academic career.

IDUATE NAMED FIRST TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Georgia Southern softball standout Nina Iduate became the third Eagle in school history to earn First Team Academic All-American honors, being named to the ESPN The Magazine First Team.

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GOLDFINNISHES 2010 CAMPAIGN IN NATION’S TOP 30

The Georgia Southern softball team capped its 2009-2010 season with its 19th overall NCAA Championship appearance and a Top 30 finish in the nation.

The 113th NCAA Men’s Golf Championships were contested on the par 72, 7,385-yard The Honors Course in Chattanooga, Tenn. “Competing at the National Championship was a great experience for the team,” said head coach Larry Mays. “We didn’t play our best golf, but I also think it was compounded with the tee times we were handed. But it was good to see the team compete on a championship-style course in a well-run tournament.”

Eagles seniors Spence Fulford and Ryan Zabroske concluded their collegiate careers at the championship.

GOLFERSEN RIEVE ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

Seniors Spence Fulford, Matt Deal and junior Logan Blondell were named to the Cleveland/Srixon All-America Scholars list by the Golf Coaches Association of America. The Eagles trio joins 116 other Division I collegiate golfers in receiving the honor.

Fulford, Blondell and Deal helped propel Georgia Southern to a tie with six other schools for the most players represented by a Division I collegiate golf program on the list.

FOUR EAGLES PICKED IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

Senior pitcher Jake Brown was selected on the second day of the Major League Baseball draft, chosen by the Oakland Athletics in round 26 as the 785th overall pick. Outfielder Shawn Payne and pitcher Andy Moore became the second and third Georgia Southern Eagles selected in the draft when the Kansas City Royals picked Payne in the 44th round (1,319th overall), while the St. Louis Cardinals called Moore in the 50th round (1,519th overall).

Also receiving the call on day two was fall signee, Tyler Christman of Sumter, S.C. Christman was a 13th round pick (No. 408) by the San Francisco Giants. Meanwhile, Eagles senior reliever Dexter Bobo signed a free agent contract with the Milwaukee Brewers.

STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED TO ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Georgia Southern had 25 student-athletes named to the 2010 Southern Conference Spring Academic All-Conference Team.

The Eagles softball team led the way, earning seven selections, more than any other softball team in the conference. The baseball team was second with six selections. Men’s golf and women’s tennis each had four honorees, while men’s tennis and women’s outdoor track and field added two honorees each.

FORMER BASKETBALL EAGLE JULIUS JENKINS NAMED BBL MVP

Former Georgia Southern point guard Julius Jenkins was honored as the Most Valuable Player of the BBL, the top professional basketball league in Germany. The award is the second for Jenkins in his fourth season with the ALBA Berlin Albatrosses.

In the third straight season, Jenkins earned Best Offensive Player distinction and added All-First Team Shooting Guard accolades for 2010 after averaging a team-high 15.5 points per game. The former Eagles star is shooting 48.8 percent from the field this year, including 43.4 percent from 3-point range.

Jenkins was a standout for the Eagles during the 2001-2003 seasons.

RECORD NUMBER EARN SOCON ACADEMIC HONORS

The Southern Conference announced the 2009-10 SoCon Academic Honor Roll, and 152 Georgia Southern student-athletes earned the honor, achieving at least a 3.0 grade point average.

The football team led the way for Georgia Southern, with 25 student-athletes earning the honor. Baseball and women’s swimming and diving each had 17 student-athletes selected, while women’s track and field had 14 student-athletes named to the honor roll.

THREE FORMER ATHLETES ELIGIBLE FOR GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame narrowed its list for individuals eligible for induction in 2011 from 70 to 36 nominees, which includes former Eagles Tracy Ham, Chester Webb and Marvin Vanover.

EAGLES SPORTS ACTION ON THE AIRWAYS


www.GeorgiaSouthernEagles.com
Gone with the Wind was Margaret Mitchell’s most famous work, but a virtually unknown collection of her writings is having a much more direct influence on Georgia Southern students.

Ken Dyar ’76 and Rachel Rhodes-Dyar ’76 have endowed the Laura Dyar Scholarship for University journalism students in memory of Ken’s great-grandmother—one of only a handful of women in Georgia working as reporters in the early to mid-20th century. “I think she was a modern woman before modern women were.”

Both Laura and young Margaret Mitchell were members of the statewide organization of journalists, the Georgia Press Association. “Laura became interested in the Georgia Press Association. Laura became a friend of Margaret Mitchell and they corresponded—just not over a couple of weeks—but many years,” Rachel said. “We have a letter handwritten by Margaret Mitchell to Laura that reads, ‘My husband says having a wife for a novelist is great because all he has to do is go to cocktail parties and meet people. It was a lot of fun for him,’ said Rachel. “So, the correspondence went back and forth.”

After Laura died, the letters stayed in the family and were eventually passed down to Ken as the eldest grandchild. A few years later, Ken and Rachel loaned the letters to an organization that was creating an exhibit on Mitchell’s career as a journalist. Before they were ever seen by the public, the letters were misplaced. A subsequent lawsuit brought a monetary settlement—compensation, but less than complete satisfaction.

“We had lost a valuable piece of our family history,” said Rachel. “But happily, the funds became the basis for the scholarship endowment, and there was a legal agreement that if the letters ever surfaced, the Dyar family would have the opportunity to reclaim them.”

The Dyars contacted the University Foundation, set up the endowment agreement, and finalized their contribution to the scholarship.

“It was something we always wanted to do. We did it in Laura’s memory because she was a friend of Margaret Mitchell and because journalism is such a big part of the family,” said Rachel, herself a former reporter as were many of Ken’s ancestors. “And, she said, students who study journalism can find themselves equipped to pursue many different types of careers. Journalism isn’t limited to newspapers and magazines. So many careers have to use those skills.”

But the story of the letters doesn’t end there. Missing for six years, they were eventually found where they had been misplaced at the home of one of the exhibit organizers and returned to the Dyar family. “We’ve got them back now and they’re safe,” Rachel said.

The saga of the lost letters had a happy ending, but Margaret Mitchell was not so fortunate.

The postman delivered Peggy’s final correspondence to Laura in 1949. “We have a letter,” said Rachel. “It is the last one that Margaret Mitchell wrote her, and on the back in Laura’s hand is written, ‘This is the last letter I’m ever going to get from my beloved Peggy, because she was killed this morning by a hit-and-run driver, and I am so upset I had to take to my bed.’”

Laura, active at an age when most would have retired, became affectionately known in Press Association circles as “Mother Dyar.” She passed away at the age of 83, but not before she witnessed her friend become one of Southern literature’s best-known figures. Through Ken and Rachel’s generosity and the Laura Dorough Dyar Scholarship, Laura will herself be forever enshrined as a role model for Georgia Southern students who aspire to carry on her journalistic legacy.

Alumni couple establishes scholarship to assist aspiring journalists
Jenny Lynn Martin Anderson (’85) and Mark Anderson (’85) spent a great deal of their time at Georgia Southern College in the Hollis Building.

Jenny Lynn could be found in her writing classes where she earned a degree in communication arts with an emphasis in public relations. On another floor in Hollis, Mark was taking business classes where he pursued a management degree. He liked grammar, writing and spelling, but Jenny Lynn was a whiz at all three. Jenny Lynn never particularly enjoyed math, but Mark could easily crunch numbers.

It was a match made in heaven because the couple’s various gifts have complemented each other during the last 25 years as they have created and operated the family business, Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home. “Although Jenny Lynn and I have different degrees, we have a common love for Georgia Southern which has led us to be more involved in our respective departments,” Mark said. Jenny Lynn has served on an advisory board for the Department of Communication Arts and Mark has served the College of Business Administration in its entrepreneurship program.

The couple began dating while they were students at Georgia Southern and continued to work toward their degree rather than having to make financial sacrifices. “This may help in a Scholarship that could have assisted me financially,” said Mark. “I knew how much I would have appreciated it and honor the many professors who had an impact on my education.”

Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home has grown and companies need more understanding of the funeral business. “We recognize that sustainability is vital to the future of undergraduate research in Environmental Design (LEED) building and Semratedu’s expertise to work as a member of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology Advisory Board. The primary goal of the board is to improve campus sustainability with the future construction of the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building and Semratedu’s involvement will also extend to the development of science curricula for a possible class on the topic of green chemistry.

Semratedu has no plans to slow down on ways to assist students at the University. “If it wasn’t for the field trips arranged by Dr. Vance, I wouldn’t have known about some of these companies,” she said. The University and Joiner-Anderson have strategic guidelines to ensure we are searching for.

Clubs students work with mining industry personnel at a National Science Teachers Association meeting in Atlanta. She encourages them to take advantage of field trips, lectures and other opportunities, because they will be able to graduate and be diversified and adaptable. “We recognize that sustainability is vital to the long-term success,” said Semratedu. “Amy is an excellent ambassador for green technology,” said Kelly Vance, one of Semratedu’s former professors. “People like Amy are vital in securing and utilizing the essential raw materials that are a major part of your home, car, cell phones and computers and even the paper you write on. She arranged to have our Geo-Cupid’s love for Georgia Southern inspires scholarship

Jenny Lynn and Mark Anderson met while Jenny was a Phi Mu pledge dance. He was an ATO at Georgia Southern, I had to have a date for Bulloch Academy. But, when we were at Bulloch Academy, “He was at Statesboro High and I was at Georgia Southern which has led us to be more involved in our respective departments,” Mark said. Jenny Lynn has served on an advisory board for the Department of Communication Arts and Mark has served the College of Business Administration in its entrepreneurship program.

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Georgia Southern will welcome Eagles from near and far on November 5-6 as we celebrate Homecoming 2010. Make plans now to join your friends, revisit the campus and see the football Eagles take on Appalachian State at Paulson Stadium.

### 1950s/60s Reunion Events

**Friday, November 5**
- **Golf Outing**
  - Forest Heights Country Club
  - Time: 9:30 a.m.
  - Registration is $40 per person (not included in Reunion registration)

- **Dinner**
  - Springhill Suites Conference Center
  - Dress: Come as you are!
  - Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 6**
- **Golf Outing**
  - Forest Heights Country Club
  - Time: 9:30 a.m.
  - Registration is $40 per person (not included in Reunion registration)

- **Dinner and Dance**
  - Springhill Suites Conference Center
  - Fair Road and Veterans Memorial Parkway
  - Dress: Sunday attire
  - Time: 7 p.m.

### Homecoming Game

**Saturday, November 6**
- Georgia Southern vs. Appalachian St.
- Game time: 2 p.m., Paulson Stadium
- Tickets: $25 per person
- Purchase game tickets through the Georgia Southern Athletics Ticket Office by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS or (912) 478-WINS. Classes of 1950s/60s ask for your Reunion ticket block.

### Black Alumni of Georgia Southern Reunion Events

**Saturday, November 6**
- **Pre-Game Cookout**
  - All proceeds go to the BAGS scholarship fund.
  - Time: Noon–2 p.m., Paulson Stadium (back of tailgate lot, look for the BAGS tent)
  - $10 per person

- **Dance**
  - Food, drinks and the sounds of DJ Malik
  - Time: 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Russell Union Ballroom
  - $20 per person

Register online for Homecoming events at alumni.georgiasouthern.edu. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (912) GSU-ALUM (478-2586).
Alumni receive prestigious honors

Two Georgia Southern alumni have recently received prestigious state and national honors recognizing their excellence in teaching and their dedication to ensuring students' educational success.

Pam Williams, an American government and economics teacher at Appling County High School in Baxley, Ga., and Jeff Johnson, an AP Physics teacher at Hoover High School in Hoover, Ala., are creative educators who think outside the box by actively engaging their students in the classroom, whether it is a lively debate or a musical performance to learn the concept of sound waves.

Williams received her master's and specialist degrees from the University's College of Education and was recently named Georgia's Teacher of the Year. A 20-year veteran educator, she will spend the school year traveling around the state of Georgia as an advocate for public education and the teaching profession, speaking to teachers and students at various schools as well as groups such as Future Georgia Educators and at the Georgia Conference for Social Studies.

Williams was selected from a pool of 148 candidates for the honor, based upon her teaching experiences and her underlying focus: the three “Rs” – respect for self, respect for others and responsibility for actions. “Teaching is about making real world connections, and making the learning experience meaningful. For example, I have the students create their own business plan, and help them understand the gross domestic product, the recession and taxes. We have debates about current news, such as the role of the government in the BP oil spill. The students understand how something like this can affect them – and why the prices have increased for gas and food,” she said.

Johnson’s passion for teaching and specifically the subject of physics led to his selection as the Siemens National AP Teacher of the Year. Since 1998, the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement have supported the efforts of students and teachers who perform exceptionally well in STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Advanced Placement initiatives across the nation.

Johnson received his biology degree and master's in education from Georgia Southern, and he has long considered himself a teacher. “I used to teach students at NCAA cheerleading camps when I was one of the University’s first male cheerleaders,” he said. During Johnson's educational career, he was greatly influenced by professor emeritus Arthur Woodrum. “Dr. Woodrum is the reason why I teach physics,” said Johnson, speaking about his love for teaching. For the past 11 years, his AP Physics students have achieved a 90 percent-plus pass rate, an impressive accomplishment since the national pass rate for that subject is 48 percent. Last year, four students from the state of Alabama were accepted to Harvard, and two of them were enrolled in Johnson’s high school class.

Johnson modestly credits the relaxed classroom environment as well as the student/teacher connection as the winning combination for a student’s success. “Interacting with the students makes me a better teacher. They will come in and talk to me about TV, dates or movies – this creates a relaxed atmosphere and makes learning accessible,” he said.

Johnson’s classroom structure doesn’t include the standard textbook/lecture model, but rather learning concepts motivated by sheer creativity. For example, a recent assignment on the topic of sound and sound waves transformed the classroom into the Blue Man Group, an innovative musical band that uses pipes as instruments. “I divided the class into groups of three to four students, and asked them to pick their favorite song. Each group then had to research what notes compose a song and find out the frequency relating to the musical note. For example, if the students were looking at the note ‘A’ – which is 440 hertz – they had to cut a PVC pipe in class that would correspond to the frequency of that note. The final assignment was to play the song for the class,” he said.

In addition to the national honor, Johnson’s school was the recipient of a $5,000 grant, which was used to purchase data collecting devices, not only in physics, but also environmental science and biology. Representatives from Vernier Software & Technology trained faculty how to use these devices, which present a graphical analysis on the computer. Johnson expects these devices will have a substantial impact on the school. “For example, when we use these devices in a physics class, students could study a time graph that analyzes force vs. time vs. gravity,” he explained.

1960s

Hoyt Canady (’60) has retired as the editorial page editor of The Knoxville News Sentinel. He and his wife Marilyn (’70) live in Knoxville, Tenn.

Jerry Garrard (’69) and Ruthie Hendrix celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary August 12.

Donald Patterson (’66) concluded a successful 37-year career at the Medical College of Georgia and volunteered for the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. He participated in the interviewing of 400 veterans, including three from Statesboro. He writes, “I truly believe they are ‘the greatest generation.’”

Kenneth Robbins (’66) and Dorothy Dodge Robbins, co-edited a collection of works titled Christmas Stories from Ohio. The book includes writings by Nikki Giovanni, James Thurber, William Dean Howells, Kay Boyle, Langston Hughes, and many others. It is their fourth publication of its type, following Christmas Stories from Georgia, Christmas Stories from Louisianese, and Christmas on the Great Plains. Robbins serves at Louisiana Tech University as its director of the School of the Performing Arts.

Jim McLaughlin (’58) and Diane Cowan McLaughlin (’67) celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary with a cruise to Alaska. Jim is a law professor and Diane is a “stay-at-home grandma.” They have two sons, Cole and Rhett, and five grandchildren.

William L. “Pete” Brannan (’69) is a retired naval air reservist. He concluded his full-time teaching career at Rockdale Career Academy last June and he assumed the one-year presidency of the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education this summer. He and his wife, Nell, reside in Bonaire, Ga. His Georgia Southern legacy includes two sons, three siblings, and at least nine other family members.

1970s

Richard Stratton (’73), associate professor of education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences’ School of Education at Virginia Tech, has been conferred the title of professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.
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PROSPECTIVE STUDENT RECEPTIONS

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Georgia Southern: Nov. 13

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Sgt. Todd Tinker, a Georgia Southern staff Information Technology Services specialist stationed in Afghanistan, shows his True Blue spirit. Tinker is with the Army’s 395th Tactical Theater Signal Battalion.

MODELMOG NAMED ARBY’S CEO

Former Susan G. Komen for the Cure CEO Hala Moddelmog (’79) has been named president and CEO of Arby’s Restaurant Group Inc. Moddelmog, a veteran food service industry executive, began her duties in May.

She recently left her position as president and CEO of Susan G. Komen for the Cure where she helped contribute more than $1.5 billion in the fight against breast cancer and created outreach in over 50 countries during her time with the Foundation. Moddelmog has also founded and led Catalytic Ventures, a company providing operational and strategic consulting in the food service area. In 1995, she became the first woman to lead an international quick service restaurant in corporate America when she was named CEO of Church’s Chicken.

Bill H. Wallace, Jr. (’77) of Ainsworth, Ga., has been named to a three-year term on the state’s Board of Community Health. Wallace is past associate vice chancellor for human resources for the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and past director of human resources at Kennesaw State University. He is a member of the Howett Associates University Pathfinder program and co-chaired the Commission for New Georgia’s task force that reviewed the State Health Benefit Plan and the task force that reviewed recruitment, retention, and retiree benefit strategies.

Johnnie Harrison Edge (’79) is now dean of student affairs at Statesboro Technical College. Her daughter, Meredith Edge (’99), is employed by the Pepsico Company in Statesboro.

1980s

Edward D. Murphy (’80) is now a Certified Geodesign Exchange Designer. He is a senior associate with the Atlanta consulting and engineering firm of Nawrocki & Boyd. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional.


Yoalnda Wallace (’91) had her debut novel, Ifa, to assist in the decoding of African literacy texts.

Always An Eagle

Family tradition

Savannah Eagle Club is a close-knit group of supporters

They say you can’t choose your family members, but you can choose your friends.

For some Savannah Eagle alumni, chosen friends have become family. The Savannah Eagle Club began hosting its alumni luncheons in 1995 and what began as a social meeting for local Savannah alumni has developed into a full-blown speaker series featuring coaches and administrators from Georgia Southern.

Lunch meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December) at Johnny Harris Restaurant’s banquet hall on Victory Drive in Savannah. The Club also hosts a large annual event each spring. Club members are “die-hard supporters,” said Frank Hooke, the University’s long-time senior director of Alumni Relations. “They love Georgia Southern academically as well as athletically. They’re a great bunch of folks you can always count on.”

The Georgia Southern Alumni Association’s Eagle Club program has clubs sprinkled across the state and into South Carolina and north Florida. Club meetings in each city bring the area’s University alumni, boosters, and friends together to strengthen athletic and academic support for the University. No dues are required to join.

The organization and coordination of all Eagle Clubs is administered through the Office of Alumni Relations, with all events being a combined effort of both Alumni Relations and the Athletic Foundation.

In Savannah, Club member Rick Bean maintains and manages contact information for Savannah area alumni. The Office of Alumni Relations organizes the calendar of speakers for the organization’s monthly luncheons and Greater Savannah Eagle Club President Laney Claxton heads up planning for the group’s annual event each spring.

“We have met a lot of wonderful people through the Eagle Club – the first game of each season is like a family reunion,” said Claxton. “My mother graduated in ’54, my sisters and I are graduates, and one of my children just finished up in May.”

Beans’s son, Scott, is the current president of the Student Eagle Club and another son, Matt, graduated in May. “Organizations like the Savannah Eagle Club help preserve our traditions and through giving back, make it better for those who come after us,” said Alex Grovenstein, assistant director of Alumni Relations.

Laney Claxton, Savannah Eagle Club president
Flight plan

Ryan Evans introduced to his future job at the age of nine

It was the gift that kept on giving.

Nine-year-old Ryan Evans was dreaming of a radio-controlled airplane he saw in Toys “R” Us when his parents did more than make his birthday wish come true. They set him on a career path.

Evans (’03) puts high performance, super-secret new unmanned aircraft through their paces for AAI, an unmanned aircraft systems company that designs, produces, tests, fields, and supports advanced vehicles around the world.

Evans provides demonstration test flights for customers as the last step before a purchase is finalized, including flying the company’s “Shadow” system, currently in service with both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps.

He didn’t start out flying highly complex military aircraft, but he was close to a road and a guy pulled off and said, “You’re flying okay. As time progressed, one thing led to another and I started entering in small competitions around the Southeast. When I was 18, I flew my first master competition which was the second from the highest at the time.” He continued to compete while he was a student at Georgia Southern, and obtained his private pilot’s license. He later earned an instrument rating, allowing him to fly commercial craft.

“Right after I got out in 2003, I did really well at the Masters World Aerobatic Competition which became the highest that I was able to compete in at the time,” said Evans. “Some of the top guys did stuff with UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) companies and basically that’s how I got into the aviation field. I went there and became an instructor and test flight pilot.”

In 2007, the Pioneer system was superseeded by more advanced UAVs adopted by the Army and Marine Corps. “That’s when I went to work for the manufacturer of the Shadow system, AAI,” Evans explained.

“Now living in Pennsylvania, Evans said his job is mostly test flying. “Here we do not so much training unless a customer needs us to, but we do flight tests, flight operations and check flights. Then we hand off the system to the customer. He licensed it to taking a customer for a test drive in a car. “They want to see an aircraft meet certain objectives during its flight,” he said.

“UAVs can be flown manually – like an R/C airplane – or on instruments. “All the good systems have automatic takeoff and recovery,” Evans said. “But during the testing phase when it first rolls out it’s flown manually and they hire test pilots from the top of the line R/C people to test fly these aircraft. If it flies good to those people flying it manually, that means then it’s going to feel good to the autopilot, too. When you’re flying it internally, that’s when you’re flying by instruments and GPS on a map and you have a full set of instruments pretty much like you’d have on full-scale. Where people have a wrong view of it is they think you’re looking out through a camera like you’re looking through the windshield of the airplane.” That’s not the case, he said.

“You have an internal pilot and you have a payload operator,” said Evans. “The payload operator is concerned only about the camera and he can coordinate in case of emergencies with the pilot. He’s telling him where to go and what heading to turn to get the best view on the target. The pilot is flying by instruments, which is why they want you to have an instrument rating these days. In fact, it’s mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration.”

The potential of UAVs is just starting to be realized, Evans said. “It’s a growing field and projections are that in the not-too-distant future, 50 percent of all military applications will be unmanned. “The last manned fighter is already built and that is the F-35,” he said. “There’s no way that a human would be able to endure what a machine can endure if it went into combat. Granted, there are advantages of having a human behind it. People think a UAV goes up and flies by itself, and that’s not the case. There’s a human behind it, too.”

Evans still flies R/C aircraft, performing stunts in aerobatic competition. “I fly R/C every time I get a chance – at least twice a week if I am able,” he said. “I always enjoy flying as a hobby and for work, with R/C I fly aerobatics. For work, the aircraft are flown in a very scale manner conducting tests.”

Just for fun, he also flies his own full-sized Cessna 150.

LUKE BRYAN GATHERS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

Luke Bryan (’99) recently won “Top New Solo Vocalist” and “Top New Artist” at the 2010 Academy of Country Music Awards. Bryan was also a winner at the 2010 Country Music Television Awards taking honors for “Breakout Video of the Year” for his hit song, “Do I.”

Previous winners of the award include well-known artists such as Kellie Picker and the Zac Brown Band. While pursuing his degree in business administration at Georgia Southern, Bryan formed a band and played gigs on campus and at local watering holes in Statesboro. After graduation, Bryan moved to Nashville where he landed a deal as a songwriter and in 2007 signed a recording contract with Capitol Records. Bryan and his wife, Caroline, welcomed their second son this summer, Tate Christopher, who joined his 2-year-old big brother, Bo.

Continued from Page 10

LUKE BRYAN GATHERS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

in March. Her second book, Rum Springs, will be published in December by the same company.

Jim Dupree (’93) and Debra Harris Dupree (’93) recently celebrated their son Ryan Dupree’s first birthday on May 22.

Ted Williams (’93) of Vidalia, Ga., is a supervisory agriculture specialist with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Tampa, Fla. As a manager of agriculture specialists, he protects America’s food supply from foreign pests and diseases. He can be reached at teddydsvjr.gov.com or on Facebook.

Michael P. Gilbert (’94) and his wife, Sabrina, celebrated the birth of their son, Ian Wayne, in January 2008 and that of a daughter, Tabitha Kathleen, in May 2009. The couple resides in Canton, Ga., and may be contacted at mspgb171@excite.com.

Scott Jeffries (’94) has been named one of the top volunteers in the country and has had a $15,000 grant given to the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta on his behalf from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation.

Chip McGinley (’94), who played soccer and football at Clark Central High School and both sports at Georgia Southern, was inducted into the Athens, Ga., Athlete Hall of Fame last spring.

Steve Brock (’90) and Robin Ponder Brock celebrated the birth of their son, Wesley Ponder Brock, on October 8, 2009. They reside in Americus, Ga.

Pearl K. Ford (’96) is editor of a newly released book, African Americans in Georgia: A Reflection of Politics and Policy in the New South. Ford is an associate professor of political science and African-American studies at the University of Arkansas.

LUKE BRYAN GATHERS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

LUKE BRYAN GATHERS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

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Lisa Scarborough (’01) received the WCCL/WKZ 28 Union County Advocate Community Advocate of the Year Award from the Small Business Chamber of Savannah. In May, her organization, Coastal Pet Rescue, received the Best Non-Profit award from Connect Savannah.

Jeffrey Brown (’92) of Upland, Calif., is an associate professor at the Collins College of Hospitality Management at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. He was named the American Culinary Federation Inc. 2010 Chef Educator of the Year.

Iman Freeman (’02) of Philadelphia, N.J., is a representative with Goodwin, Proctor,心中 Christmas. She recently graduated from American University’s Washington College of Law, and will be a proud member of the class of 2013. He sends a special thanks to Dr. Ludowise in CLASS for her help and guidance throughout the application process. Go
soon afterward. The space continues to serve students, local bands and solo acts. Sarah eventually
food, but to those seeking the laid-back
gin rummy. In the 1970s, it came under the
just pass the time with a friendly game of
Center was a place to see friends, meet
From 1958 through the 1960s, the Georgia
could sing. " Walton recalled.
"The boys didn’t want to sing because they
The choir continued to draw the atten-
tion of the community and soon donations
allowed the school to purchase uniforms.
"Some of these children had never even had
dance shoes, and this uniform adds to their
self esteem. They began to dress better with
dress shoes, and this uniform adds to their
self esteem. They began to dress better with
"The place – would open the door to an entirely new
world.
Once we started touring and they had
such a good response, they caught the at-
tention of some people in the community," Walton remembered. "I had former students
come and talk to them about life and groom-
ing and they started to change. We began
to talk to them about being brothers – every-
thing does not have to be solved by a fight."
Walton began keeping up with the chil-
dren’s school work through their homework
teachers. She said boys started staying out of
trouble so they could go on the performance
field trips. Test scores went up and attitudes
changed.
The Boys Choir was opened up to
anyone who wanted to join, and soon the
group doubled in size from the original 25
to 50 members. But getting in and staying
in were two different things. Bullies were
kicked out. Grades were expected to stay up.
The choir continued to draw the atten-
tion of the community and soon donations
allowed the school to purchase uniforms.
Some of these children had never even had
dance shoes, and this uniform adds to their
self esteem. They began to dress better with
t heir hair cut and their clothes were kept
neat," Walton said.
And now the boys who once stood out for
their dashing of the beans and tails on the
rappers they like to listen to. The band director
came along and talked to them and showed
them they could sing.
Walton said once she sold the 3rd and 4th
graders on the idea of singing, she was care-
ful to select songs that would appeal to boys.
"They like the Temptations’ ‘My Girl’ and
the movements and they really got a kick out of
doing that. We did some spirituals – they
seemed to like those – along with songs from
male gospel groups and R&B groups," said Walton.
Soon, it was time to take the show on the
road.
Hodge Elementary School’s students
come from an area filled with poverty. Some
of the students had never been to a mall or to
a beach. Some had never left their neighbor-
hood. Music – and the chance to perform
center stage, lift their voices, and sing.

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**Lift Every Voice and Sing**

**Alumna’s boys’ choir reaches out to at-risk youth in Savannah**

Two years ago, one classroom inside Sa-
vanah’s Hodge Elementary School was
filled with little boys facing big problems.
Many were falling behind in their school
work. Some were struggling with emotional
and behavioral issues. Others left the safety
and security of the school building every af-
ternoon to return to a home in crisis.
The school’s principal decided to separate
these boys from the rest of their classmates
in an ef-fort to give them their best shot at learning
before it was too late. And when veteran
educator Alicia Walton ‘84 learned she
would be teaching this class, she
knew she quickly had to connect with
the children in a way others had not.
A boys choir, she thought, would surely
open the hearts and the minds of these chil-
dren who many times seemed unreachable.
The boys disagreed.
"The boys didn’t want to sing because they
thought it was sissy," Walton recalled.
"I went on YouTube and fraced the Har-
lem Boys Choir and let them look at the vid-
eos," she said. "I let them look at the Tempta-
tions and talked to them about the rappers
they like to listen to. The band director
came along and talked to them and showed
them they could sing.
Walton said once she sold the 3rd and 4th

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**Eaglefest**

**Britt Richoe (’82) and Dallas Copeland (’82)**
melt at Georgia Southern in a business calcula-
tion class in the summer of 2000. Three years later
he proposed to her in that same classroom,
this time filled with their friends. Britt works
at Johnson Lighting, his family business, and
Dallas works at Northwestern Insurance
Company’s agent office. They reside in
Savannah with their two daughters, Carson and
Camryn.

**Maggie Thurmond Dover, RN** (’85), recently
published another children’s book. The book,
*My Hero, My Dad, The Nurse Knocked Out Cancer*
is the latest in the *My Hero, My Dad, The Nurse*
on Amazon.com, appropriately describes for
a youthful and older audience how colon
 cancer was prevented when her dad had a
colonoscopy. Dover wrote the other two books in the
series. *My Hero, My Dad, The Nurse* (2008) and
Dover is the intern (RN) of the School of Nursing at
the University of South Carolina-Aiken. She can
be reached at maggiejdussic@gmail.com

**Brett Adams** (’07) was married to Callie Smith
in October 2009 on Lake Rabun in Clayton, Ga.
He works in construction management.

**Mike Newton** (’07) was named superintendent of
Jasper County, Ga., schools in February.
Newton, a native of Jasper County has served as
a teacher and administrator in Jasper,
Newton and Jones counties.

**Shaheen Solomon** (’17) and Reine (Jack)
(’16) Solomon were married on December 6,
2016. The couple have welcomed Eliazah Ma made,
a bouncing 8.8 lb baby boy, into the world. They
reside in Fairburn, Ga.

**Jennifer Lauren Thompson** (’07) and Justin
Avery Banks (’08) are planning a July 22,
2011 wedding in Atlanta. Jennifer recently accepted a transfer position with her company.
Scientific Research Corporation from Atlanta
to Charleston, S.C. Justin works with the Georgia
Department of Transportation as a bridge
design engineer. The couple would enjoy
receiving e-mails at jphomson4@gmail.com
and jenburg8@yahoo.com.

**Rufus Scott** (’99) was featured in a summer
article of *The Savannah Morning News*.
Scott is the latest in a line of Scotts who have
been making their mark in the wiregrass
region. His book, *Swamp Water and Wiregrass*
for 33 years. Together with R. Frank Saunders,
he co-authored Swamp Water and Wiregrass –
*Historical Sketches of Coastal Georgia in 1984. He
also served as one of the 1V appointed
members of the Heritage Trust Commission
established in 1975 by Georgia Gov. Jimmy
Carter.

He was preceded in death by his wife of
46 years, Betty Adams Rogers. Survivors include two daughters, Vivian Rogers Price and her
husband, Michael Price of Rincon, Ga.; a son,
Georgia William Rogers and his wife, Mary Beth Hallesy Rogers of Mif ord, Va.,
four grandchildren and one sister.
The family requests that memorial
contributions be made to the George A. Rogers
Scholarship Fund at Georgia Southern.

**Alumni**

Emily Akins Malecki, ’34
**Faculty**

Evelina Bolek, English & Philosophy

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Dr. George A. Rogers

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Dr. George A. Rogers, 92, died August 14 in Savannah.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from Illinois College, Dr. Rogers taught at Gem City Business College in Quincy, Ill. During World War II, he served in the European Theater in the 1st
Army, 542nd Anti Aircraft Artillery Automatic
Weapons Battalion, as a reconnaissance and
communications officer.

In 1960, he completed his Ph.D. in history at
the University of Illinois and joined the faculty of
Georgia Southern where he taught history
for 33 years. Together with R. Frank Saunders,
his co-authored Swamp Water and Wiregrass –
*Historical Sketches of Coastal Georgia in 1984. He
also served as one of the 1V appointed
members of the Heritage Trust Commission
established in 1975 by Georgia Gov. Jimmy
Carter.
1979
Looking up Georgia Avenue from the Foy Building in 1979, cars ease along the road toward its intersection with Herty Drive at the Hanner Building. Just out of the frame at the right are the Home Management House (now the Institute for Arthropodology and Parasitology) and the Biology Building. At the top center is the Hollis Building.

2010
Georgia Avenue still winds its way to Herty Drive, but today carries only pedestrians. The portion of the road from the University Union to Herty is reserved for foot traffic. Today, the former roadway is covered by brick pavers interspersed with benches and planted beds.

GIVE US YOUR BEST!
Send your favorite old photos of Georgia Southern people and places and we will share them on our Web site. E-mail your pictures along with an explanation of who or what the photo is about to magazine@georgiasouthern.edu.