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Sacred Ground

A University Archaeological Team Unearths Camp Lawton, a Civil War Prison Lost for More Than a Century.
Where the Eagles check in!

BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE HOLIDAY INN!

Over 2300 square feet of flexible meeting space • Banquet & catering services
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Doug Lambert, of Holiday Inn Statesboro, welcomes Eagles fans to their home-away-from-home.
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.

IN SEARCH OF US 12
Alumnus Lee Berger drew worldwide attention when his group discovered crucial fossil remains dating between the earliest human-like beings and modern mankind.

A HAND FROM THE HEART 16
A Georgia Southern student has inspired medical professionals, community leaders and fellow students to establish a free local healthcare clinic.

HEALTHY CHANGE 27
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.

“I thought all of the ground-breaking archaeology of the Civil War had been done. 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.”

Kevin Chapman, Graduate Student
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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“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.”

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.

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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.”

The Georgia Southern University team had proven conventional archaeological wisdom wrong. There were many artifacts to be found at Camp Lawton – a place the team now knew was the only undisturbed Confederate prisoner of war camp in existence.

THE ARTIFACTS

The artifacts found went beyond bullets and buttons – items Chapman refers to as “the accessories of war.” The artifacts recovered at Camp Lawton are extraordinary because many of them are one-of-a-kind personal items that were owned and treasured by the soldiers.

Many of these items were things the prisoners would have kept hidden from their Confederate guards,” Chapman explained. “These were reminders of home and the life they had before the war. Other items, like bullets that were melted down for gaming pieces, show how prisoners struggled to hold on to some sense of normalcy despite their captivity.

The items are also a poignant reminder of the horror of the war and life at Camp Lawton. Chapman unearthed a tourniquet buckle, used to fasten bandages, with a small piece 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 and I thought, ‘This can’t be Civil War, can it? Cloth after 150 years!’”

“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 Summerville, Ga., native enrolled in the University’s Master of Arts in social science program after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern. As the graduate supervisor for the Camp Lawton/Magnolia Springs project, Chapman’s knowledge and surveying skills led the team to the area of encampment for Union soldiers imprisoned there during the Civil War.

And the rest is history. History that could have been lost to the public, Chapman quickly found himself in the media spotlight.

When the artifacts found at Camp Lawton were publically unveiled on Aug. 18, Kevin Chapman was the undisputed star of the show. The 36-year old graduate student charmed the audience when he told them he had wanted an easy project for his thesis that wouldn’t take a lot of time out of his busy life.

Instead, he made the discovery of a lifetime. The Summerville, Ga., native enrolled in the University’s Master of Arts in social science program after receiving his Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern. As the graduate supervisor for the Camp Lawton/Magnolia Springs project, Chapman’s knowledge and surveying skills led the team to the area of encampment for Union soldiers imprisoned there during the Civil War.

And the rest is history. History that could have been lost to the public, but instead will be studied by researchers for decades.

“I believe we have only begun to scratch the surface of what remains to be found at Camp Lawton,” Chapman said. “There are many more artifacts to be found and many more stories to be told.”

Chapman may be able to relate to the items found in a way that his counterparts cannot. Before coming to Georgia Southern, Chapman served 11 years in the U.S. Army National Guard and was activated for duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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 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. He was featured in hundreds of newspapers and on countless television and radio stories. He and Moore even traveled to Atlanta to be interviewed on the set of CNN.

“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 laughed. “One of my old buddies from the National Guard called me and said, ‘You must be the luckiest guy in the world; because I had some pretty good luck in Bosnia. Maybe, he’s right.’
Later that same day, Chapman unearthed an improved smoking pipe. Chapman says he broke 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 day. 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, was also unearthed. A picture frame, which Chapman said like a treasured item like a pipe or photo frame hidden in their shallow trench or somewhere nearby may not have been possible.”

**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.

“The Georgia Southern Museum is the closest accredited museum to Camp Lawton that has the climate controls necessary to house the artifacts,” said Moore. “Georgia Southern, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service feel strongly that we have a duty to do our best to preserve the artifacts and the site.

“Archaeology has the chance, and I believe the duty, to try to tell the stories for those who cannot or did not. It gives the written record texture and depth. This site is precious and unique and we owe its inhabitants’ the chance to speak through the archaeology and history.”

“Magnolia Springs is sacred ground,” Moore continued. “Hundreds of men died there, and many more suffered unimaginable trials during their imprisonment. As archaeologists and educators we must make sure the story of Camp Lawton is preserved for the future. The artifacts – and the details they provide – were lost for a century-and-a-half. It’s our job now to try and preserve them forever.”

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN’S CAMP LAWTON TEAM**

**Sue Moore, Ph.D.**

Sue Moore is professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Georgia Southern University. Moore is the former director 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 Milton, Ga.

Moore completed her B.A. in the arts of Math and Ph.D. in anthropology while at the University of Florida.

**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 quickly realized he was working in an area that had numerous pieces of historical importance, despite the widely 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 stationed 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 alum, and earned 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.

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 Georgia Archaeology, the Georgia Archaeological Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and 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 earned his Bachelor of Arts in Byron, Ga., and earned his Associate of Science degree from Georgia Military College and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Georgia Southern University. 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.

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**Amanda Morrow**

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

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**Kevin Chapman**

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**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 a member of Lambda Alpha Anthropological Honor Society and plans to continue specializing in Civil War archaeology while pursuing her Ph.D.

Christopher Kowalczyk

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"One of the things that truly surprised me about the whole experience is how much I truly learned in the classes that we took. Despite the length of the classes, we were actively engaged in the learning process the whole time and our professor, Dr. Krista Wiegand, is an experienced traveler who helped us open our minds and realize how connected the world really is. Experiencing Costa Rica firsthand gave me a new perspective on how similar we are to the rest of the world.

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 college professors and teachers to bring about appropriate education to children in kindergarten through twelfth grade. In addition to the duties of his teaching position, he also led several music education programs.

"Within the six weeks, I was able to fully immerse myself in the culture of Spain and develop a love for and understanding of the language. I learned the importance of learning the native language of any country you visit.

Nathan Baca, Spain

Department of Music professor Daniel Pittman received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant to further music education 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, Pittman also led the Department's Studies Abroad Program in Music with European concert tours.

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Nathan Baca, Spain
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 Kibii 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 *pithos* (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 Georgia Southern graduate Lee Berger leads the hunt for early human ancestors

"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
I didn’t find a great deal of new material. I had had very little success with it. I found looking for new fossil sites and trying to use explore the region around the Cradle of a decade and a half where I first started to

funny that the project dates back more than

ect that I undertook, “ said Berger, “and it’s

review of the terrain in an area known as

larly known as the “footprints of Eve. ”

modern human. The prints dated to about

vid Roberts which represented the old-

ecting habits of large predatory birds.

and resulted in a reexamination of the col-

the child itself.

That study, as well as the work of others

kind of perpetuated the idea that there was

very little to be found out there.

“However,” Berger joked, “I was one of

the last human beings on earth to discover

Google Earth in that Christmas period be-

2007 and into 2008, and I realized that it had a remarkable mapping ability particularly in that area. I put all of my in-

formation into Google Earth – 130 known cave sites with 20 known fossil sites that were in this large region. I immediately

realized it looked like we’d missed a lot. I could see patterns and I could see where there might be other caves. I also realized

some of our data was wrong. And, as I would move things, it was very easy to rec-

ognize a cave.

“I started walking the region in March of

2008,” said Berger. “My dog, Tau, and I or

my son or some friends would walk once

or twice a week. I would literally survey a

or twice a week. I would literally survey a

site that had some fossils.

That study, as well as the work of others

kind of perpetuated the idea that there was

very little to be found out there.

On the fifteenth of August I went back

with my nine-year-old son Matthew, my
dog and my postdoctoral student Job Kibi

and a minute-and-a-half later Matthew

said, ‘Dad, I found a fossil’, and that has

with a laugh.

While the popular press often reports

scientific debate as “controversy,” nothing could be more natural among scientists, said Berger.

“One of the interesting things is people

think it’s a negative thing when scientists are debating,” said Berger. “The big debate is of course, what genus is it in? We put

it into Australopithecus, but should it not

be in Homo? While some people say, ‘Oh, well, this is debated, then’ the species isn’t in question. We predicted that they would
debate which genus it should be in, be-
cause it is in fact a transitional fossil. That’s

a fantastic debate that we’re in the middle

of.

Growing up on a farm outside of Syl-

vania, Ga., Berger often walked the newly

explored areas on planet Earth for these

sites and almost 30 new fossil sites, which is

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Growing up on a farm outside of Syl-

vania, Ga., Berger often walked the newly

plowed fields in search of projectile points and became interested in Native American artifacts and lifestyles. His college years 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 ma-

jored in anthropology with a minor in geology. “One of the things about Georgia Southern, which many people may not ap-

preciate, is how unusual it is to have such a varied number of departments doing field work. When I was there, we had geolo-
gists that were vertebrate paleontologists and people working on everything from fossil crabs to dinosaurs to mosasaurs to almost anything you could imagine. At the same time you had archaeologists and an-
thropologists working on everything from Civil War and Revolutionary War-era sites and Native American sites. It was the en-
couragement 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 ex-

ploration 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 ar-

chaeology; 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 amaz-
ing 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 An-

thropology 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

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Berger and his find: The most complete human ancestral skeletons ever found.
A Hand From the Heart

Georgia Southern student inspires the founding of free health clinic

Less than two years ago, 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 Statesboro Noon Lions Club. The clinic, that also houses the church’s food pantry on Highway 301, a sprawling complex of each month, followed by extended dental screenings on the third Thursday evening each Tuesday evening, and provides dental procedures as well as sustainability, and Hearts and Hands is the first undergraduate student-founded clinic to be advised by the organization.

“The community has opened their arms to the clinic,” revealed Montes, listing the donations that have come their way in- cluding office furniture and medical supplies. Two spaces within the office were donated from Ismael Montes, a general and cardiothoracic surgeon who grew up in extreme poverty in Mexico. Montes and fellow student Emmie Boyer first advertised on Facebook to recruit other student volunteers to assist with the initial establishment of the clinic. However, Montes knew that this monumental task would require the assistance of construction services. He has researched and supervised the clinic, says that Montes' hasn't let any- thing 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 added. Patients qualify for free medical care if they are 18 or older and fall into the category of income guidelines at 200 percent of the poverty level.

Montes also enlisted the help of a national non-profit organization called Volunteers in Medicine Inc. (VIM). VIM provides advice on start-up procedures as well as sustainability, and Hearts and Hands is the first undergraduate student-founded clinic to be advised by the organization.

Last winter, Son’s Light’s 40-member congregation unanimously voted to pro vide 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 commun ity,” 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 are 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 as sortment of Georgia Southern faculty members. Those who have championed the cause include Georj Lewis, dean of stu dents, Brett Daniłowicz, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Tech nology, Todd Deal, director of the Office of Student Leadership, and biochemistry professor Donatien Stallings. “Originally, my involvement was the result of the trem endous ability of our students and their desire to be engaged in the community, and as the initiative continued to grow, I have learned what kind of impact a program like Hearts and Hands can have in our community,” said Lewis. “Simply put, the clinic wants to touch as many people in the community who are in need as possible. 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.”

Hearts and Hands is still enlisting the help of volunteer medical personnel. “We’ve had a good response from local physicians, but we need 10-20 addition al volunteer physicians, so each person would only have to work once per quarter,” Chappell noted. Montes said that an increase in the hours and days of opera tion would also be welcomed, but the clinic needs extra volunteers. Several weeks before the clinic opened, their mailbox was overflowing with more than 100 applications for free medical care.

Montes draws high praise from everyone involved with Hearts and Hands. Jennifer Bohlke, president of the Statesboro Medical Alliance and board member of the clinic, says that Montes' hasn't let any thing stand in the way of his dream of establishing Hearts and Hands. “Andres is 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,” she said. As Montes enters his senior year at the University, he will continue his studies and work as the CEO of Hearts and Hands. “I want to attend the Medical College of Georgia and specialize in trauma surgery,” he said. “That’s because medicine is a huge passion of mine.”

Montes is changing healthcare through hope and hard work, not only on his part, but that of the medical profession as well. “Everyone, no matter what their stance is, has the right to quality healthcare. For those of us at Hearts and Hands, we take our hearts, and use our hands to give hope,” he said.

– Mary Beth Spence

“Hand A

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Georj Lewis, dean of students

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It was guided by my father’s ethic of giving back to the community,” said Montes, speaking about childhood lessons learned from Ismael Montes, a general and cardiothoracic surgeon who grew up in extreme poverty in Mexico. Montes and fellow student Emmie Boyer first advertised on Facebook to recruit other student volunteers to assist with the initial establishment of the clinic. However, Montes knew that this monumental task would require the assistance of construction services. He has researched and supervised the clinic, says that Montes' hasn't let any-thing 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 added. Patients qualify for free medical care if they are 18 or older and fall into the category of income guidelines at 200 percent of the poverty level.

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Collaborative Thinking

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.

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"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 University’s 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- ing 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 Georj 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 he served as a senator for the College of Education. The SGA is the liaison between the student body and the administration, as well as the umbrella organization that supports more than 220 student groups on campus. The SGA also takes a proactive stance on drinking and driving by operating Shuttle Gus, a three-year-old program available every weekend for students needing a safe ride home. “The SGA rents cars from Enterprise, and we have 21-year-old volunteers take calls from students. We want to eliminate any tragedy,” he said.

During the past couple of years, Standifer has worked tirelessly as a team member for several progressive changes on campus. The first was distributing surveys to students asking for input about dining options at the University’s newest residence hall, Centennial Place. The success of that project led to Cold Stone Creamery and Einstein Bros. Bagels occupying space on the first floor of the building. Standifer is hopeful that other proj- ects benefiting the student body will also be approved this year such as the restructuring of the campus-wide dining plan and the move toward a tobacco-free campus.
STILL ON THE MOVE
Retired geographer Dan Good never runs out of curiosity

T he year was 1989, and the southeast coast of the United States – specifically Savannah, Ga. – was faced with the impending landfall of Hurricane Hugo. Dan Good, a geography professor, reverend 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 opinion that the hurricane force winds wouldn’t descend on Statesboro. The Eagles played, scoring a victory, while Hugo detoured, making landfall in Charleston, S.C. in fact, the only unpleasant outcome for the hurricane force winds wouldn’t descend on Statesboro. The Eagles played, scoring a victory, while Hugo detoured, 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. Good’s geographical skills were put to use 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 bachelor of arts degree in 1972 followed by his master’s and doctorate degrees in geography from the University of Tennessee, Sapelo Island or even McIntosh County. “I can’t just sit and rock!” he laughed.

Still on the Move

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

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. “They kept me enthusiastic about life and teaching.”

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in the news

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.

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 their 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 that do not offer 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 their 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 $591 million on books and supplies, room and board, transportation and other expenses during the summer of 2010.

NEW PH.D. PROGRAM WELCOMES STUDENTS THIS FALL

Georgia Southern’s College of Business Administration welcomed its first Doctor of Philosophy degree students this fall. They will be seeking a Ph.D. in Logistics/Supply Chain Management. The state of Georgia has become home to many major distribution centers and tracking terminals, and graduates of this program will be trained to pursue careers in the logistics and transportation industry.

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE) PROGRAM ACHIEVES UPON COLLEGE

The Foundation asked the PHCOPH and other experts to work with them to identify and resolve the problems that are threatening the health of thousands of people in Georgia.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

ART PROFESSOR RECIPIENT OF RUFFIN CUP

Art professor Bruce Little was presented with the 2010 Ruffin Cup. The Cup recognizes the highest achievement in teaching, scholarship and service in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. It is awarded annually to a professor/scholar with at least 10 years of service to Georgia Southern who has combined excellent teaching with outstanding contributions to the spirit of the liberal arts.

In 2003, Little was named Georgia Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association, and his works have been featured both in solo shows and juried exhibits, including The Gallery of the Office of the Governor in Atlanta. Additionally, he has chaired more than 40 MFA thesis committees and was Univer-

sity Professor for more than 50 student teachers.

College of Health and Human Services

SCHOOL OF NURSING TEAMS UP WITH U.S. ARMY

Two of the University’s most competitive and successful programs – the School of Nursing and the Army ROTC – have joined forces to meet the U.S. Army’s need for nurses. Georgia Southern’s ROTC program currently has 32 nursing students among its 270 cadets. According to LTC George Fredrick, Commander of Eagle Battalion, the University produces more Army ROTC nurses than any of the other 38 ROTC programs in the 6th Brigade, which includes schools in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

College of Information Technology

ONLINE MASTER’S DEGREE OFFERED

Classes began this fall for the University’s new online Master of Science in Computer Science program. “The online Master of Science in Computer Science degree program is another example of Georgia Southern’s College of Information Technology being the way in preparing professionals for a future in a field that touches every aspect of our lives,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. “As the only College of Information Technology in Georgia, we are dedicated to educating professionals who will have a large impact on the businesses and industries already in Georgia, and whose presence here will attract new ones as well.”

GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENT WINS NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra Mosley, a student in the Univer-

sity Honors program, has been awarded a prestigious National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship for study in Moscow, Russia. Boren Scholarships are awarded to students who wish to study in countries and regions of critical importance to U.S. interests. Mosley is a history and international studies major who will spend the 2010-2011 academic year in Russia. Boren scholars also commit to a year-long service requirement in a government agency with national security responsibilities.

PUBLIC SAFETY NAMED NATION’S BEST FOR TRAFFIC EFFORTS

Georgia Southern’s Office of Public Safety has been selected as a National Law Enforcement Challenge first place winner in the College/University category by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The honor recognizes the campus police department’s overall efforts to strengthen and support traffic enforcement at the University.

Georgia Southern was selected from more than 483 applications by departments across the country. The University was named as a winner in the Public Safety category for its traffic safety and law enforcement professionals, Georgia Southern was the only institution in the state of Georgia to be recognized.
Personal Journey

Fayth Parks’ passion for cultural traditions and genealogy has led her to extensive studies of the Southeast’s coastal Gullah and Geechee communities, a fading culture of the lowcountry and Sea Islands that stretches along the southeastern coast from North Carolina’s Cape Fear River to Florida’s St. John’s River.

The psychologist and professor of counselor education was raised in Atlantic City, N.J. Her family originates from the Greenville and Laurens areas of South Carolina. Parks’ extended family moved up north to pursue greater economic 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. Throughout 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. “After 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 spare from teaching to immerse herself in 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 the point of my research. Traditions that shared patterns of belief, language and psychological strengths found in religion and spiritual beliefs and practices are fading,” she said.

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

“The lowcountry culture has a rich legacy of traditions that contribute to who we are today.” Fayth Parks

African slaves.

Gullah and Geechee families who are descended from 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. Throughout 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. “After I attended the festival I thought, ‘This is Africa! I need to spend more time here,’” she said.

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Parks also realized the important relationship between religion and health during her research. Last year, she completed a David B. Larson Fellowship at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., exploring the written and oral histories of African-Americans, beginning in the 1930s that are documented through the Depression-era Works Progress Administration.

Some of the Gullah/Geechee practices include storytelling, prayer, woodcarving, quilting, basketry, net making, metal working, music and folklore. “I’m especially interested in studying the health benefits of practices where people challenged distorted ideas about their humanity, expressed their frustrations, used humor, and asserted their human dignity,” said Parks, 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.

“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,” she said.

—Mary Beth Spence
Faculty researchers at Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health are looking for ways to help Georgia children breathe a little easier.

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.

“For a number of years, the trends have been going in the wrong direction,” said Woodhouse. “The number of children with asthma, the number of emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and missed school days are all increasing. The Georgia Healthcare Foundation saw the need to tackle this growing problem and funded several programs that take different approaches to preventing asthma. Our role is to help the programs implement the innovations and program monitoring that will allow an accurate evaluation of their effectiveness.”

“We’re helping the groups that are running the programs to set up data collection systems and target the kids most at risk,” Toal said. “We’re also identifying ways to improve the programs’ communication with schools and physicians.”

Asthma is the number one cause of missed school days, and Toal said kids with uncontrolled asthma have much higher absenteeism rates than their classmates. That’s one reason the researchers say it is so important to focus on keeping the condition in check.

Woodhouse added, “For kids who are maybe burdened by poverty, to miss many days of school because of asthma is almost impossible to overcome. That’s one reason almost all asthma projects are attempting to move children away from emergency visits to manageable, preventive primary care services.”

Woodhouse and Toal said some of the programs center on educating families and schools on how to prevent an asthma attack; something as simple as making sure a child is not around cigarette smoke or takes a nap on a cot instead of a rug at day care, can make a difference.

Gary Nelson, president of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, said JPHCOPH’s mission of improving the health care of those in rural and underserved communities mirrors the mission of the asthma intervention programs.

“We’re delighted to be working with the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health,” said Nelson. “They possess the right combination of leadership experience and sensitivities to these communities; this is truly a partnership.”

The Georgia Healthcare Foundation recently awarded the JPHCOPH a renewal grant to continue the evaluation process, “said Woodhouse.

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 biolab on campus – the difference is, the BSL-3 labs have limited access.

“The lab structure affords us the opportunity to expand our research with different agents,” said professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, whose research background is in food safety and toxicology – specifically focusing on strategies to protect humans and animals against contaminants in foods/feeds – and environmental toxicants and remediation activities.

Most importantly, Afriyie-Gyawu stressed that the controlled lab space is not only productive, but safe. Georgia Southern hired a lab design consultant with expertise in the construction of BSL-3 labs in the design phase. “Safety is the most important component in our labs,” said Afriyie-Gyawu.

As the world continues to grow, we have the possibility of expanding our work with the ports of Savannah and Brunswick to move in the direction of food security,” 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.”

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 notable schools/colleges of public health such as Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University.

New lab will enhance quality of human lives
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 stance patterns changing to see if a person is inept. “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 Intelec, 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,” Buckley said. “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 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 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.

"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

GEORGIA SOUTHERN MARKETING PROFESSOR
JACQUELINE EASTMAN UNCOVERS A SHOPPER'S WORLD WITH MALL STUDY

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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 for 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 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."

Willie Burden, Sr.

Willie Burden, Jr. and son Willie Burden, Jr. share a common interest in learning on and off the field.

EAGLE FAMILY
A 6’4” tall, Charlton Young takes big steps. He hopes his Eagles can match his stride this season.

“We’re looking to take one big step forward,” said Georgia Southern’s second-year head basketball coach. "We’re excited about two things.

The first year was definitely a rebuilding year, and we were at a crossroad of 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 like it was a successful season in terms of the senior players and the people who fought to reenergize 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 should on the road at all times, and I thought we competed until the buzzer sounded,” Young said. "I was proud of that.

“We’re talented enough! Probably not. But there was a change in the mentality of the program where we expected to win. Young begins his second year as head coach after spending the last two seasons in prep school. He’s hoping his Eagles can manufacture points in quick fashion.

“We use our motion offense to work the shot clock and take the ball out of our opponent’s hands,” Cram said. “We have our motion offense to work the shot clock and take the ball out of our opponent’s hands.”

While this year’s roster includes nine new players, 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.”

**Basketball Eagles look to take ‘one big step forward’ in 2010-11**

Trent Bussey is a very exciting combo guard that can really score and manufacture points in a hurry,” Young said. “We’re excited about Trent. 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 get ahead academically and lifting weights. They want it.”

And then there’s Eric Ferguson. Ferguson, a 6’8” forward, is the son of former Eagle Cal Ferguson, and spent the last two seasons in prep school.

“I think he’s a legitimate NBA prospect right now,” said Young. “He’s very similar to the prototype NBA 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 was 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 Crennel 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.”

**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 with the 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 87.8 free throw percentage.

Jamie Navarro is as steady as they come at point guard,” Cram said.

Cram will also count on a pair of juniors – Krista Tate, who started 26 games last season, averaging 5.2 points and finishing third on the team with four rebounds per game, and Samantha Williams, who averaged 4.5 points and 2.7 rebounds per game.

That trio will lead the way as the Lady Eagles follow the same formula that resulted in a 19-12 record last season – running a ball-control motion offense and playing stifling defense. Georgia Southern led the Southern Conference in defense last season, allowing just 56.5 points per game.

“We use our motion offense to work the shot clock and take the ball out of our opponent’s hands,” Cram said. “Having to guard our motion offense wears teams down. We have a lot of experience on our team.”

Women’s basketball coach Rusty Cram

**2010-11 Men’s Basketball**

For game times, visit www.georgiasouthernmeagles.com.

**Basketball Eagles look to take ‘one big step forward’ in 2010-11**

November

December

January

February

March

**November**

12 @ Notre Dame
15 Mercer
18 Bowling Green
21 @ South Florida
23 @ Texas Tech
26 @ Mississippi State
Valleym State, Chicago
State – South Padre Island, Texas

**December**

2 @ The Citadel
4 College of Charleston
11 Bryant Parkers
14 @ Cincinnati
18 South Alabama
26 @ Georgia State
29 @ Auburn

**January**

2 Eastern Kentucky
5 Western Carolina
8 Appalachian State
13 Wofford
15 Furman
19 Alabama
22 @ Elon
26 College of Charleston
31 Davidson

**February**

3 Chattanooga
5 Samford
9 @ Furman
12 @ Wofford
14 @ Davidson
20 @ UNC Greensboro
19 The Citadel
22 @ Elon
24 UNC Greensboro
26 College of Charleston
26 Elon

**March**

4-7 SoCon Tournament, Chattanooga, Tenn.


**November**

14 @ Georgia
16 Mercer
19 Alabama
21 @ Jacksonville
26-27 @ SMU Tournament – Dallas, Texas

**December**

1 @ Wolford
3 @ Elon
5 @ UNC Greensboro
8 Davidson
10 Appalachian State
12 @ College of Charleston
14 Western Carolina
22 @ Furman
16 College of Charleston
24 Wolford
19 @ Davidson

**January**

29 @ Chattanooga
31 @ Samford
26 Furman

**February**

5 @ UNC Greensboro
8 Davidson
10 Appalachian State
7 Elon
14 Western Carolina

**March**

4-7 SoCon Tournament, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Redshirt freshman Willie Powell, who fought to reenergize the program and the people who sought to reenergize the program and lay the foundation for what we will be able to do in the future.

I wanted to build a foundation for the future in basketball. Roy Spencer is one of the top returning power forwards in the league. Those are two key seniors who are coming back. You have Ben Drayton who has experience coming back and you have Cameron Baskerville who had a solid freshman year.

Among the newcomers are Sam Mike (6’11”, Atlanta), Trent Bussey (6’1” 161 lbs., Lithia Springs, Ga.), Marvin Bayham (6’6” 193 lbs., Miami, Fl.), and Jelani Hewett (6’2” 186 lbs., Oakland Park, Fl.). It’s a class that Young believes has the potential to take the Eagles into future contention for the SoCon crown.

“Sam Mike is a rough and rugged post, said Young. “He has a chance to be very, very good. He’s (former NBA star) Eldon Campbell’s cousin. I think he’s going to grow some. He’s a rebounding defender. Bayham, said Young, is a tremendous athlete. He has a high motor, high energy. He impacts the game whenever he steps between the lines. He’s a warrior and has a mentality that we want to have on this program. He has winner written all over him.”

Eagle athletics

***Eagle Athletics***


**November**

12 @ Notre Dame
15 Mercer College Volleyball
18 Bowling Green
21 @ South Florida
23 @ Texas Tech
26 @ Mississippi State
Valleym State, Chicago
State – South Padre Island, Texas

**December**

2 @ The Citadel
4 College of Charleston
11 Bryant Parkers
14 @ Cincinnati
18 South Alabama
26 @ Georgia State
29 @ Auburn

**January**

2 Eastern Kentucky
5 Western Carolina
8 Appalachian State
13 Wofford
15 Furman
19 Alabama
22 @ Elon
26 College of Charleston
31 Davidson

**February**

3 Chattanooga
5 Samford
9 @ Furman
12 @ Wofford
14 @ Davidson
20 @ UNC Greensboro
19 The Citadel
22 @ Elon
24 UNC Greensboro
26 College of Charleston
26 Elon

**March**

4-7 SoCon Tournament, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Eagle athletics

GEORGIA SOUTHERN FALL 2010

scored a run on a squeeze play in the bottom of the 10th to win 1-0.

Zieziula named new men’s tennis head coach

N ick 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 Buf-

"The men's tennis program at Georgia Southern has tremen- dous potential to be extremely competitive in the conference and compete for cham-

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 base-

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

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 por-

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, Meybohm has served as the National Director of the National Association of Realtors, President of the Georgia As-

"I would like to thank Sam Baker, Cathy Beene, Jeff Blythe and everyone in Georgia Southern Athletics for giving me this opportu-

In both his seasons at UCF, Zieziula oversaw the academic progress of the team’s student-athletes. In 2010, five Knights gar-

Heavily involved in statewide professional and Augusta-area service, Meybohm has served as the National Director of the National Association of Realtors, President of the Georgia As-

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 regular season game at Florida State, their 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 compete in the tournament. At a team meeting, the squad voted

One of the highlights of my 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 head of the key screen for him. Well, he called the pick and got the basketball – it was in NBA three-

The Eagles won the first game of the double elimination playoff, but dropped the second. “We had to win three games the next day,” Meybohm said. “We won the first one in the morning, and then I pitched a 10-inning game and we scored a run on a squeezed play in the bottom of the 10th to win 1-0. We won the next game and went on to the nationals and won out. That was an unreal situation, if you think of it. At the time we went on to the national tournament, Seventeen was in critical con-

E. G. Meybohm played a pivotal role in Georgia Southern’s first-ever national title, the 1962 NAIA Baseball Championship.

Ellen from October 2007 to June 2008. He took over as an assistant High Performance Program Director for the high performance program at Georgia Southern and also served as chairman of the board for Georgia Bank and Trust Company.

The workout we went through was going as fast as I could and then get a sore arm. It was just always tough playing basketball all the way there and try to rush to get going as fast as I could, and then get a

Zieziula also served as chairman of the board for Georgia Bank and Trust Company and as an insurance trustee for the Georgia As-

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.

That was an unreal situation, if you think of it. At the time we went on to the national tournament, Seventeen was in critical con-

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 por-

Heavily involved in statewide professional and Augusta-area service, Meybohm has served as the National Director of the National Association of Realtors, President of the Georgia As-

Ellen from October 2007 to June 2008. He took over as an assistant High Performance Program Director for the high performance program at Georgia Southern and also served as chairman of the board for Georgia Bank and Trust Company.

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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 .371 average. A Norcross, Ga., native and mathematics major, the 2010 Southern Conference Player of the Year posted a 3.65 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

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.

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 league teams.


Nina Iduate at an ESPN The Magazine First Team All-American.

GOLF FINISHES 2010 CAMPAIGN IN NATION’S TOP 30

The Georgia Southern golf 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.

GOLFERS RECEIVE ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

Seniors Spence Fulford, Matt Deal and junior Logan Blondell were named to the Cleveland/Siryon 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 ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

The Georgia Southern golf team has 19 overall NCAA Championship appearances.

Andy Moye 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 Moye in the 30th 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

For the third straight season, Jenkins was a standout for the Eagles. For more information on Eagles sports action on the airways.

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 SCON 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 nixed its list for individuals eligible for induction in 2011 from 70 to 36 nominees, which includes former Eagles Tray Ham, Chester Webb and Marvin Vanover.
Alumni couple establishes scholarship to assist aspiring journalists

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 became what they are," said Rachel. "Laura Dyar was quite a character."

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 and she met Margaret Mitchell at one of their gatherings," Rachel said.

"Most people don't know that Margaret Mitchell was a reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution," she added. Mitchell's news stories and columns were bylined "Peggy" Mitchell, and she had become a well-established journalist before she ever penned the iconic Southern novel that would bring her international acclaim and significant wealth.

Their meeting began a friendship that resulted in a years-long exchange of letters, both typed and handwritten, in which Mitchell shared details about her everyday life, family and career. "They became big 'buds' and they corresponded — not just 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 establish 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 couldn'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.

Ken and Rachel Rhodes-Dyar display their Margaret Mitchell letter collection at their home.
Couple’s love for Georgia Southern inspires scholarship

Jenny Lynn Martin Anderson ('85) and Mark Anderson ('85) spent a great deal of their time at Georgia Southern and later 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 major because of his interest in grammar, writing, and spelling, but Jenny Lynn was a whiz at all that. 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 entrepreneurial program.

The couple began dating while they were students at Georgia Southern, but even then they were not complete strangers.

“Mark and I knew each other a little growing up in Statesboro,” Jenny Lynn said. “He was at Statesboro High and I was at Bulloch Academy. But, when we were at Georgia Southern, I had to have a date for a Phi Mu pledge dance. He was an ATO and I was a Phi Mu. She and her roommate pulled out the fraternity coteries and started dating through the members of Alpha Tau Omega. “I saw his picture and I thought, ‘Oh! I sort of know Mark Anderson!’ He’d be a good person to talk on a blind date.” So I called him and that’s how it all began.”

About nine years ago the couple decided to commit more deeply to the University and create scholarships in each department.

Mark’s desire to set up the scholarship stemmed from him wanting to make education affordable to those who wanted to go to college but possibly couldn’t, due to financial hardship. “I grew up in a large family and had to work all during college and I know how much I would have appreciated a scholarship that could have assisted me financially,” said Mark. “This may help in a small way for a student to spend more time toward their degree rather than having to work during school.”

Jenny Lynn thought it was important to recognize students whose work ethic goes above and beyond the average student. “I’ve always felt if you work hard, you should be rewarded and the students eligible must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and must be recommended by their professors,” she said. “I was also interested in creating this scholarship so that I could say ‘thank you’ and honor the many professors who had an impact on my education.”

During my education, I had many beloved professors like Pam Bournal-Davis, Clarence McCord, Janet Bury, Dick Johnson and Bill Bolen,” said Jenny Lynn. “Each year when we award the scholarship it allows me to stop and reflect on these people who mentioned me and instilled in me a great love for public relations.”

AMY SEMREDAU

Alumna Amy Semredau has achieved a reputation as a green ambassador, and she can’t think of a better place than Statesboro to share her environmental experience.

“I was a steward of the environment before it was cool,” said the Dalton, Ga., native and 1992 geology and anthropology graduate. “Even though this career was not where the money was, I chose to stick with it, because it was interesting to me. Most people during that time were going into academics. Now, however, the department has grown and students need more undergraduates in these fields,” she said.

Her life-changing experiences during undergraduate field trips were the building blocks that led to her successful career in the industrial minerals and chemicals industry, and she was motivated to launch the Semredua Undergraduate Research Fund in memory of her late husband Ahmet.

“I wanted to do something that would have the fastest impact for students,” she said, remembering that her own professors often paid for students’ gas money to travel to sites. “This fund is a vehicle for the under- grad to go on field trips and complete thesis work – it will help them afford travel. It is necessary to get hands-on experience while you are working toward a degree,” she said.

Through the establishment of this fund, the future of undergraduate research in this department has been impacted for years to come, and the first recipients will be announced this fall. Semredua’s employer, BASF Functional Polymers Carpet Business in Dalton, generously matched her $5,000 donation to establish the fund.

Semredua’s position at BASF includes researching and formulating biodegradable materials for carpet backing, improving the sustainability and recyclability of carpet backing systems as well as researching renewable energy trends – focusing on recycling and reusing mineral materials such as kaolin, glass, ash or other minerals to increase post-consumer content in carpet. “At BASF, sustainability is part of my job. Our company has strategic guidelines to ensure we combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. We recognize that sustainability is vital to our long-term success,” said Semredua.

“Amy is an excellent ambassador for green technology,” said Kelly Vance, one of Semredua’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- Club students work with mining industry personnel at a National Science Teachers Association meeting in Atlanta and distribute free samples of minerals and rocks to science teachers as well as literature and VCR tapes on the use of industrial minerals.”

The University continues to put Semredua’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 industrial minerals and chemicals industry.

“The University continues to put Semredua’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 Industrial Minerals and Chemicals Industry,” she said.

Remote Education's involvement will also extend to the development of science curricula for a possible course on the topic of green chemistry. Semredua has no plans to slow down on ways to assist students at the University. She encourages them to take advantage of field trips, lectures and other opportunities, because they will be able to graduate with a unique experience that companies are searching for.

“You have to manage your own career and be diversified and adaptable. I’m a Jack of all trades,” she said.
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**
  - Springhill Suites Conference Center
  - 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 and veteran educators Pam Williams and Jeff Johnson were named Georgia’s Teacher of the Year and Siemens National AP Teacher of the Year, respectively.

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 to groups such as Future Georgia Educators and Future Georgia Educators in Business and Industry, as well as Future Georgia Educators in Manufacturing, speaking to teachers 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 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-logging devices not only in physics, but also environmental science and biology. Representives 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.

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 Veteran’s 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 Louisiana, 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 (’57) 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 six grandchildren.

William L. “Pete” Brannan (’59) is a retired naval air reservist. He concluded his full-time teaching career at Rockdale Career Academy last year and he assumed the one-year presidency of the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education this summer. He and his wife, Noel, reside in McDonough, Ga. His Georgia Southern legacy includes two sons, three siblings, and at least nine other family members.

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.

1970s

Richard Straton (’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.
MODDELMOG NAMED ABBY’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 arena. 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 Aarowth, 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 Sanderson Technical College. Her daughter, Meredith Edge (’99), is employed by the Peiss Company in Statesboro.

1980s

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


Sally Scherer (’82) and her sister, Susan Guscinsky, recently vacated at the Red Rocker Inn in Monroe, N.C., with their dad, Bob Scherer of Statesboro. Sally is lifestyles editor with the Lexington Herald Leader.

Twilla Humphrey Presieling (’81) has been named winner of the Excellence in Education Award for the Southwest Region from Alpha Sigma Lambda. Presieling is a 27-year veteran teacher at Chaparral High School in Phoenix, Ariz.

1990s

Yolanda Wallace (’91) had her debut novel, In Medias Res, published by Bold Strokes Books. Continued on Page 53

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 Hook, 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.”

At present, 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.
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. He attended at gathering intelligence or delivering ordnance. It began with that $200 radio-controlled (R/C) airplane he and his dad flew after school and neighborhood events.

“Basically when I was nine years old we were in Toys “R” Us and I saw a radio-controlled airplane hanging up,” he said. “I wanted it and my parents got me one.”

Evans dreamed of a radio-controlled airplane until he saw in Toys “R” Us, but his parents did not have the money for the airplane, but I got it and I love flying. All he had to do was to start flying and he was hooked.

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 could compete in at the time,” said Evans. “Some of the top guys did stuff with UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) companies, and basically that’s how I got into that field. I got invited to Cubic Corporation. They wanted me to come down and look at flying their prototypes.”

In 2007, the Pioneer system was superseded by even 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 test 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 a camera like you’re looking through the windshield of the airplane.” That’s not the case, he said.

“Y ou 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 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, but with R/C I fly aerobatics. For work, the aircraft are flown in a very scale manner conduct testing.”

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

LUKE BRYAN GATHERS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

Luke Bryan (‘99) recently won “Top 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. Bryan and his wife, Caroline, welcomed their second son this summer, Tate Christopher, who joined his 2-year-old big brother, Bo.

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In March. Her second book, Run, Spring, 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 teddysw@egov.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 msgillert@exective.com.

Scott Jeffries (‘94) has been named one of the top volunteers in the country and has had a $5,000 grant given to the Duchenne Syndrome Association of Atlanta on his behalf from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. A Sharonville, Ga., resident, Jeffries is a representative with Goodwin, Wright in Atlanta.

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., Athletic 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 (‘94) is editor of a newly released book, African Americans in Georgia: A Reflection of Politics and Policy in the New South. Ford is an assistant professor of political science and African-American studies at the University of Arkansas.

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Alumni chronicles

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Alumnas’ boys’ choir reaches out to at-risk youth in Savannah

Two years ago, one classroom inside Sa- vannah’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 after- noon to return to a home in crisis.

The school’s principal decided to separate these boys from the rest of the student body 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 third grade this class, she knew 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 children who many times seemed unreachable.

The boys disagreed. “The boys didn’t want to sing because they thought it was sissy,” Walton recalled.

Walton wasn’t giving up that easily. “I went on YouTube and found the Har- tem Boys Choir and let them look at the vid- eos,” she said. “I let them look at the Tempta- tions ‘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 it – would open the door to an entirely new world.

“We once 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 grooming 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 Hodge 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 dunk shoes, and this uniform adds to their self esteem. They began to dress better with their hair cut and their clothes were kept neat,” Walton said.

And now the boys who once stood out for their movements and the rappers they like to listen to. The band director came and talked to them and I showed them they like to listen to. The band director came and talked to them and I 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.

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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.