SACRED GROUND

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

**SACRED GROUND**

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

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

Camp Lawton was supposed to be the Confederate Army’s long-term solution to the notorious Andersonville prison, where conditions were so bad and death rates so high that Army leaders had no choice but to construct an alternative. But life at Camp Lawton was almost as dire. The prison was only occupied for six weeks; records indicate that during that time anywhere from 700 to 1,300 men died there.

In November 1864, Confederate guards roused prisoners in the middle of the night and began a hurried evacuation of the prison. Sherman’s “March to the Sea” was bringing the Union Army dangerously close to Camp Lawton, and Confederate guards had to move the prisoners to other prison camps or risk them being set free by Sherman and re-enforcing the ranks of his army. Camp Lawton was abandoned.

As the years went by, all traces of Camp Lawton, except for a few earthenworks 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.

Story by Betsy Nolen
Photos by Suzanne Oliver and Ryan Honeyman

Kevin Chapman, Graduate Student
**THE FIRST STEP**

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

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

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

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

“I remember thinking to myself this would not be a difficult project to manage, as I did not expect we would find a lot in the way of artifacts,” Moore explained. “I was optimistic that we could find evidence of the stockade and maybe some of the support buildings that went along with the prison camp. Archaeologists have agreed for years that there were no artifacts left on this site. The vast majority of Civil War sites have been farmed, developed, looted and basically stripped of artifacts. The same was assumed of Magnolia Springs. Archaeologists dismissed the idea of finding anything here decades ago.” Moore assigned graduate student Kevin Chapman (’07) to head up the project.

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

**THE RESEARCH**

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

They didn’t have to look very long.

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

The artifacts found at Camp Lawton were unveiled to the public on Aug. 18, 2010 at Magnolia Springs State Park. The artifacts will be on display at the Georgia Southern Museum beginning Oct. 10.

Georgia Southern University archaeology professor Sue Moore and student Caitlyn Farias screen soil looking for artifacts at Camp Lawton.
“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 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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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, 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.

“’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.’”

Georgia Southern researchers demonstrated survey techniques and educated the public about Camp Lawton on the day the artifacts were unveiled. The drawings in the foreground are copies of those made by Robert Knox Sneden, who documented his time in captivity at the camp through his artwork. (Sneden images courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society).
Later that same day, Chapman unearthed an improved smoking pipe. Chapman says a soldier took the stem from a broken pipe and attached it to a make-shift bowl made from melted lead in order to make it usable again. 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.

“When we hear 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 and almost feel that man. You can reach back into the past and make it real in a way. You can reach back to the past and make it feel like you can almost reach out and touch him, and see him, and feel him,” said Chapman.

The discoveries at Camp Lawton allowed the Army National Guard and was activated for duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His military background gives him a unique understanding of the items found at Camp Lawton, and what they meant to each soldier.

Chapman 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.

Kevin Chapman

Amanda Morrow assisted in the excavation of artifacts at the Camp Lawton site and photographed the artifacts for publication. Morrow is now pursuing her Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) from Georgia Southern. Civil War history, artifact photography, and numismatics are among Morrow’s areas of expertise and professional interest. She is a member of Lambda Alpha Anthropological Honors Society and plans to continue specializing in Civil War archaeology while pursuing her Ph.D.

Mary Craft

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

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

Christopher Kowalczyk

Christopher Kowalczyk helped set the initial layout and excavation of the Camp Lawton site. He worked closely with LiDAR and electronic survey ideas at the site.

Kowalczyk served as a United States Navy rescue swimmer and intelligence specialist. He earned his Bachelor of Science in biology from Georgia Southern and is currently enrolled in Georgia Southern’s Master of Arts in social science (anthropology) program.

Kowalczyk’s interests include biological anthropology, evolutionary ecology, taphonomy and faunal curation and preservation by means of 3D scanning. Kowalczyk plans to pursue a Ph.D. in anthropology.

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

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

“Studying in Montepulciano, Italy, was the most rewarding experience of my life. I learned the importance of learning the native languages of the countries I traveled to and gained an increased respect for culture and the people of these countries. My only regret is that I wasn’t able to stay longer,” said T.J. Williams, Germany.

“Within the six weeks, I was able to fully immerse myself in the culture of Spain and develop a new outlook on diversity. I learned how similar we are to other countries, despite the language barriers. Spending hours in the streets waiting for the final call that Spain had won the world cup gave me new respect for the people of Spain. I realized that everyone is connected by our individual character, which blends together to form a sea of red and yellow.”

Nathan Baca, Spain

“Economics professor Greg Brock was awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant in Thailand. Pittman presented seminars and lectures on Wind Band Rehearsal Techniques and Consulting with Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The former director of Southern Pride marching band for 16 years, Pittman was interim director of the Center for International Studies and also led the Department’s Studies Abroad Program in Music with European concert tours.

“On 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. I will never forget the first time I had to do an essay in Spanish. I found that the more I studied, the more I enjoyed it.”

Nicole Penn, Italy

“Georgia Southern professors and students from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences attended the Fulbright Specialist development seminar in the West African nation of Senegal. Thank you, U.S. Department of Education Internationalizing the Curriculum for All grant. In addition to meeting with Senegalese representatives about the country’s educational political and social structure, the group was able to visit sites that are significant landmarks in Senegal’s history and contemporary culture.”

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

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

T.J. Williams, Germany

“Economics professor Greg Brock was awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant in the Universidad de Veracruzana, Mexico. He spent three weeks working with that university’s professor and teaching in a language-appropriate economics education to children in kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to the duties of the Fulbright Specialist, he taught better teaching economics to Said Block, whom he met with teaching in Mexico to demonstrate effective instructional methods. The Fulbright Specialist Program provides short-term academic opportunities for U.S.-based University faculty and professionals.

“ALL ABROAD!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their idea set off a lively scientific debate and resulted in a reexamination of the collecting habits of large predatory birds.

That same year, he unveiled a set of fossilized footprints found by geologist David Roberts which represented the oldest known prints left by an anatomically modern human. The prints dated to about 117,000 years ago and have become popularly known as the "Footprints of Eve."

His recent and most stunning discovery, Australopithicus sediba, began quietly as a review of the terrain in an area known as the Cradle of Humankind in northeastern South Africa.

"It started with an exploratory project that I undertook," said Berger, "and it's funny that the project dates back more than a decade and a half where I first started to explore the region around the Cradle of Humankind, just outside of Johannesburg, looking for new fossil sites and trying to use aerial maps and satellite imagery."

"That was done in the middle-1990s and I had very little to be found out there. "However," Berger joked, "I was one of the last humans on earth to discover Google Earth in that Christmas period between 2007 and into 2008, and I realized that it had a remarkable mapping ability particularly in that area. I put all of my information into Google Earth – 130 known cave sites with 20 known fossil sites that were in this large region. I immediately realized that 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 recognize 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 new area so that by July I had found more than 600 previously unidentified new cave sites and almost 30 new fossil sites, which is remarkable because this is one of the most explored areas on planet Earth for these sorts of things. On August first, I found the site at Malapa. I realized I had found a new site that had some fossils."

"On the fifteenth of August I went back with my nine-year-old son Matthew, my dog and my postdoctoral student Job Kibbi and a minute-and-a-half later Matthew said, 'Dad, I found a fossil, and that has pretty much changed my life,'" Berger said with a laugh.

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"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 Australopithicus, 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, because 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 Savannah, Ga., Berger often walked the newly plowed fields in search of projectile points and became interested in Native American artifacts and lifestyles. He 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 majored in anthropology with a minor in geology. "One of the things about Georgia Southern, which many people may not appreciate, is how unusual it is to have such a varied number of departments doing field work. When I was there, we had geologists that were vertebrate paleontologists and people working on everything from fossil crabs to dinosaurs to mosasaurs to almost anything you could imagine. At the same time you had archaeologists and anthropologists working on everything from Civil War- and Revolutionary War-era sites and Native American sites. It was the encouragement of doing field work – people encouraging you not to be afraid to go out and explore and be afraid not to find things.

"Some people may not realize it, but exploration is a scary thing," he said. "You’re taking a significant chunk of money and precious amount of your time and you have to go out there and look for something you might not find. That takes courage, and all of those professors insisted that no-fear archaeology, that no-fear geology in us."

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

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

Lee Berger

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

Geor Lewis, dean of students

Georgia Southern student inspires the founding of free health clinic

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

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

"The community has opened their arms to the clinic," revealed Montes, listing the donations that have come their way including office furniture and medical supplies. Two spaces within the office were transformed into state-of-the-art exam rooms courtesy of construction services donated by Dennis Nelson and his team at American General Maintenance. Additionally, the clinic received a $15,000 grant from East Georgia Regional Medical Center, and is in the process of applying for other grants and planning fundraising events to support the facility.

Montes also enlisted the help of other student volunteers. Several weeks before the clinic opened, their mailbox was overflowing with more than 100 applications for free medical care.

"I want to attend the Medical College of Georgia and specialize in trauma surgery," said Montes, speaking about childhood lessons learned from his father, a thoracic 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 their involvement was the result of the tremendous 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."

Montes draws high praise from everyone involved with Hearts and Hands. Jennifer Bohlke, president of the Statesboro Community Thrift Store, is in the process of applying for a grant from East Georgia Regional Medical Center, and is in the process of applying for other grants and planning fundraising events to support the facility.

Last winter, Sons of Light’s 40-member congregation unanimously voted to provide space for Hearts and Hands, said their pastor John Long. "I don’t have health insurance and I knew that this was a badly-needed ministry in our community," said Long, also a board member of the clinic. The clinic provides the physical need and our congregations 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 enlists the help of an assortment of Georgia Southern faculty members. Those who have championed the cause include Georg Lewis, dean of students, Brett Danilowicz, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, Todd Deal, director of the Office of Student Leadership, and biochemistry professor Dontarie Stallings. "Originally, my involvement was the result of the tremendous 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 additional 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 operation 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 anything stand in the way of his dream of establishing Hearts and Hands. "Andres has been a driving force behind this mission. The institution of medicine is truly his calling. He has researched and supervised every step of making this clinic a place for hope and hard work, but have fallen on hard times," 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. "The desire 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 in 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.
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 Georgia Teachers College. Following its early days as a district 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 Georgia Teachers College. Following its early days as a district...
STILL ON THE MOVE

Retired geographer Dan Good never runs out of curiosity

T he year was 1989, and the southeast ern coast of the United States – spec ifically Savannah, Ga. – was faced with the impending landfall of Hurricane Hugo. Dan Good, a geography professor, revered on campus for his geographical knowledge and also known as the “unofficial” weatherman of Statesboro and Georgia Southern University, was sum moned 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 hur ri cane?

Good gave the go-ahead after studying weather data, with the opinion that the hurricane force winds wouldn’t de scend on Statesboro. The Eagles played, scoring a victory, while Hugo detonated, making landfall in Charleston, S.C. In fact, the only unpleasant outcome for the campus 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. “With the help of my bloodhound, I was able to do things. “Through the years, Good has inspired and motivated their students to do things. “A career can be called a success if one can look back and say I made a difference,” said Good, “and professors can inspire and motivate their students to do things.”

Good’s distinguished and successful career impacted many aspects of the University, namely his creation of the Georgia Southern Weather Station and partnership with the National Weather Service to launch a local station in 2000, which put Georgia Southern on the climatological map. “A career can be called a success if one can look back and say I made a difference,” said Good, “and professors can inspire and motivate their students to do things.”

For a brief period of time after his arrest for poaching, Georgia Southern class puts students’ skills under the hood and behind the wheel

Students who enroll in this class get to do something unique – design and build a race car. Working in state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories using advanced equipment, students design, build, test, and race the formula-style racing car. Each year, Georgia Southern enters a car in the Society of Automotive Engineers’ Formula SAE competition in Detroit, Mich. Students then compete against 120 other colleges and universities from around the world in a variety of categories. This past year, Georgia Southern finished in the Top 25, besting Duke, Michigan State and the University of Texas to name a few. For more information, visit www.eaglemotorsports.com.

Georgia Southern’s Top 25 Formula SAE team shows off their automotive creation.

Start your engines!

Course: TMET 5137 : Mechanical System Design
Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology
Credits: 3 Credit Hours, 6 Lab Hours

One of Good’s longstanding hobbies includes unearthng projectile points. He has amassed a collection of several hundred in various sizes and dates during his travels around the globe.

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Teacher Recognition. He also received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for research and teaching three times, which took him to sites in Tanzania and Africa. “I think it was very important to take advantage of these opportunities,” said Good, “and they kept me enthusiastic about life and teaching.”

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

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

- Mary Beth Spence
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 within reach for many adults who thought it was too late to return to college because of career or family obligations. Beginning

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

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President Brooks Keel presided over the largest-ever graduation ceremony at the University last May, with a record 2,400 graduates participating. The honors 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**

Two of the University’s first advancement center solely for undeclared students. Her contributions include implementing a major exploration exercise during summer orientation to guide students to earlier declaration of major, organizing FYEs and augural Majors Fair, and integrating peer academic advisors into the advisement process.

**NEW P.H.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 trucking terminals, and graduates of this program will be trained – in areas like careers in the logistics and transportation industry.

Georgia Southern’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOH) has joined a new effort to tackle some of the biggest health challenges in the state through the “Partner Up! For Public Health” campaign developed by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation. The Foundation asked the JPHCOH and other large hospitals to work with them to identify and resolve the problems that are threatening the health of thousands of people in Georgia.

**COLLEGE JOINS STATEWIDE HEALTHCARE CAMPAIGN**

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**ART PROFESSOR RECEIVED 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 Advisor for more than 50 student teachers.

**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 on Georgia Southern’s campus. Georgia Southern was selected from more than 483 applications by department heads and agencies throughout the country. Judged by traffic safety and law enforcement professionals, Georgia Southern was the only institution in the state of Georgia to be recognized.

**GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES LARGEST GRADUATION**

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African captives traveling to the coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina carried traditions with them," she said, as she put together the connection and meaning of her own family’s traditions that had passed from generation to generation. And so, Parks’ journey began. Through-out the years, she has traced her family lineage, and during a trip to Beaufort, S.C., to visit friends, she was introduced to the Gullah Festival, an annual three-day event that educates and entertains the public with music, storytelling, dance, arts and crafts celebrating the Gullah culture. “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 the Gullah and Geechee culture, conducting interviews, visiting historic sites and working with attendees at various festivals and other events. "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 audiences at various festivals and other events. "One lowcountry group has preserved another well-known practice performed during worship services, called the ring shout, that involves singing, clapping, and dance-like stepping done in circular movement while keeping rhythm by thumping on the floor with a customized stick. 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"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 audiences at various festivals and other events. "The lowcountry culture has a rich legacy of traditions that contribute to who we are today," Fayth Parks said, talking about these specific practices.

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
Facility 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 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 of the programs center on educating families and schools on how to prevent an asthma attack.

In addition to being a big step toward accreditation for the College by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the new lab will host research with global potential to enhance the quality of human lives.

The PHCL is actually six independent labs with two preparatory rooms plus teaching and research space. The facility contains two teaching labs capable of supporting biosafety level 1 (BSL-1) and wet chemistry work. The four research labs are designed to accommodate different research models including one wet chemistry lab, one BSL-2 lab and two BSL-3 labs. The BSL-3 suite looks very similar to the biosafety lab, one BSL-2 lab and two BSL-3 labs. The BSL-3 labs have limited access.

“The lab structure affords us the opportunity to expand our research of different agents,” said professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, whose research background is in 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 noted public health facilities, such as Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University.
Studies conducted in the College of Health and Human Sciences have provided 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 patients 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 test only requires a person to stand in various positions with their eyes closed, both on a firm and foam surface. According to Buckley, the BESS test only successfully identifies an athlete’s impairments for the first three to four days following a concussion. “By using the BESS test, athletes may be released to return to athletics too soon. Our findings, in agreement with other research, suggest that the effects of concussions persist longer than previously thought,” he said.

Also, once an individual suffers an initial concussion, they are at risk for second impact syndrome if they suffer another head injury while still symptomatic from the previous concussion. “If second impact syndrome occurs, there’s about a 50 percent death rate,” Buckley noted. These and other recent findings have resulted in athletic trainers and the rest of the sports medicine community becoming more conservative in their treatment of concussions.

“In addition to balance problems, a person with a concussion typically presents with cognitive processing problems,” he said. So, in addition to basic balancing tasks, concussed individuals are also asked to perform cognitive tasks while moving. The basis of these tasks is to examine one’s ability to think and move at the same time. Some of the exercises include solving math problems or reciting the months of the year backward while walking.

Buckley and his team have recently completed a research project funded by the Army Research Office where they partnered with other researchers from the University of Florida and PMB IntelTech, a West Lafayette, Ind., corporation, to study approximate entropy, which examines the effect brain injuries have on their treatment of concussions.

“In this study, we looked at a person’s movements following a concussion. For example, a healthy person will have a very consistent movement pattern, and a person who has suffered from a concussion will have a very inconsistent pattern of movement. We tracked this over a long period of time to see how these changes occur,” he said. In fact, the Army Research Office has requested that the team pursue a follow-up study to this initial research, and Buckley said that the next phase of this study will begin this fall.

Concussions are of substantial interest to the armed services as a recent study found that 15 percent of soldiers surveyed have experienced head trauma while serving in Iraq.

Buckley is optimistic that the results of this research will promote further training of coaches and athletes on the appropriate ways to recognize a concussion and the importance of reporting the symptoms to their athletic trainer. “The big push now is to educate coaches and athletes on the serious risks associated with frequent concussions,” he said. According to Buckley, Georgia Southern’s coaching education students have a 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.

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

“Why they buy”

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.

PHOTOS BY SUZANNE OLIVER AND RYAN HONEYMAN

NUCLEAR OPTION
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 I like to bring the practical aspect to the classroom. With the textbook, it’s theory, and we like students to understand theory and how it’s supposed to work in a perfect world, but mainly my focus is to have students do hands-on activities or hear from people who are actually doing the work on a daily basis and can relate to what’s happening on the job. That works pretty well for me."

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

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

"There are still lessons to be learned," he said. "I learn from students, I learn from my sons, and I will continue to learn. It’s the people you meet along the way that teach you some of life’s lessons, and from some of the experiences you have, you learn a lot of life’s lessons. Some of the basic stuff always remains, there are some things that change around you and you have to be willing to change with it, to adapt."
Basketball Eagles look to take ‘one big step forward’ in 2010-11

A 6’4” tall, Charlton Young takes big steps. He’s hoping 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 rebuild, and was a year when my staff and I wanted to build a foundation for the future of the program,” said Young. “Obviously, we were starting from scratch. Nine wins is not what we wanted and 6-12 in the conference is not what we wanted, but I do feel like it was a successful season in terms of the seniors and the people who fought to reprogram 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 brings senior guard Willie Pow- ers, senior forward Rory Spencer, sophomore guard Jelani Hewett (6’2” 186 lbs., Oakland Park, Fla.), and Campbell’s cousin. I think he’s going to be very good. He’s (former NBA star) Eldon Baynham (6’6” 193 lbs., Miami, Fla.), and Jelani Hewett (6’2” 186 lbs., Oakland Park, Fla.). 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 player,” said Young. “He has a chance to be very, very good. He’s (former NBA star) Eldon Baynham’s cousin. I think he’s going to grow some. He’s a rebounding defender.

“Baynham, Young said, is a tremendous athlete. “He has a high, high motor. He’s a high energy guy. 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.”

“Tre’ Bussery is a very exciting combo guard that can really score and manufacture points in a hurry,” Young said. “We’re excited about Tre’. 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 real- ly 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 Wofford, College of Charleston and Davidson as the top contenders for the league title. Wofford, Young said, has won a championship and is a winner 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 Crenn and 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 Dav- ison.”


Women’s basketball coach Rusty Gram

While this year’s roster includes nine players who are freshmen or sopho- mores, Gram sees a lot of potential in the group.

“We’re very excited about the fresh- men and sophomore classes,” Gram said. “They’re just good, blue-collar basket- ball 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 in- cludes games against SEC powers Geor- gia and Alabama prior to the typically tough Southern Conference date.

“Our freshmen are going to see what it takes to go from high school to Division 1,” Gram said. “They will learn more bas- ketball 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.”

Cram counting on defense and ball control

Despite losing three of his top four scorers and rebounders from last season, Georgia Southern women’s basket- ball 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 national among with a .67 free throw per- centage.

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

Cram will also count on a pair of ju- niors – Krista Tate, who started 26 games last year, averaging 5.2 points and finish- ing 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 re- sulted 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 and, in the final minutes of the game, we hope to be in good shape.”

Meybohm carries discipline of athletics into successful career

E.G. Meybohm ('64) rolled up some impressive numbers as an Eagle including a career 43.3 percent field goal average and 67.9 percent free throw average in basketball, and a 10-inning shutout pitched in the NAIA National Tournament for the baseball squad. A four-year letterman, Meybohm played a key role in the Eagles’ athletics success from 1960-64 and had the opportunity to play for two of the legendary figures in the University’s athletics history: basketball coach J.R. Scearce and baseball coach J.I. Clements. “They were two different personalities,” said Meybohm. “Coach Scearce was much more outgoing and demonstrative. Coach Clements was very quiet and didn’t say a lot, but he was demanding. They both worked us pretty hard.” The basketball squad went to the NAIA national tournament twice during Meybohm’s career. “I remember my senior year we were in the national tournament and didn’t get back until mid-March,” said Meybohm. “I missed quite a bit of the early part of the baseball season. I was a pitcher and having to get in shape after playing baseball was always a problem for me. I would get out there and try to rush to get going as fast as I could and then get a sore arm. It was just always tough playing baseball all the way up into March. “One of the highlights of 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 and my job was to screen for him. Well, he came off the pick and got the baseball — it was in NBA three-point range today — and he just drained it for 60 points. Everybody just went crazy. It was a great experience for me. It was one that I recall very vividly. ”

In 1962, the 16-man baseball squad was wrapping up a great season and had earned a bid to the NAIA tournament. On its way home from the final regular season game at Florida State, their bus was involved in an accident that injured a handful of players. “We 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,” said Meybohm.

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

His company generated more than three quarters of a billion dollars in sales last year and has six offices in the August, 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 Association of Realtors, chairman of the Metro Augusta Chamber of Commerce, president of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, vice chairman and organizer of Georgia Bank and Trust Company, a past Realtor of the Year in Augusta and past president of the Augusta Y.M.C.A. The former Georgia Southern Alumnus of the Year and an Athletics Hall of Fame inductee also served as chairman of the board for Georgia Bank and Trust Company and as an insurance trustee for the Georgia Association of Realtors.

One of the highlights of my basketball career was being part of the night Fran Florian scored 60 passes. 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 and my job was to screen for him. Well, he came off the pick and got the baseball — it was in NBA three-point range today — and he just drained it for 60 points. Everybody just went crazy. It was a great experience for me. It was one that I recall very vividly.”

In 1962, the 16-man baseball squad was wrapping up a great season and had earned a bid to the NAIA tournament. On its way home from the final 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 to play. 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 the first 10-inning game and we scored a run on a squeeze 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 condition, and we didn’t know if he was going to survive,” said Meybohm. “After the tournament, we came back through St. Louis and were the guests of the St. Louis Cardinals and watched the baseball game. We got the message to Dizzy Dean and his folks that we had won this national championship for Seventeen because he was in real bad shape. It was one of those things you always think about — it must have been destiny.”

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

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.

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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- falo and the University of Central Florida impressed us as well as his desire to become a Division I head coach,” said Geor- gia Southern Athletics Director Sam Baker. “We are extremely excited about Nick and what he will bring to our program with his outstanding background as a player and coach. I’m sure our student-athletes will enjoy working with him as we prepare for the 2010-2011 tennis season,” Baker said.

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

In his second season at UCF, Zieziula played an instrumental role in helping the Knights record ample time in the national rankings – ranking as high as No. 61 in early March – and earn the program’s best tournament season ever (2009) in the Conference USA league tournament.

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

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

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

At Buffalo, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and minor in anthro- pology. Zieziula held UB records for career singles wins, career doubles wins and single season singles and doubles wins at the time of graduation. Of the three-time team captain for three seasons. Working directly with the head coach, Zieziula played an active role in the recruitment process and day-to-day operations.

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GEORGIA SOUTHERN FALL 2010

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLE ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

Nina Iduate is an Academic All-American, 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.

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.


SIDELINES

Eagle athletics

IDUATE NAMED FIRST TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

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

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

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

GOLFS FISHES 2010 CAMPAIGN IN NATION’S TOP 30

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GOLFER RECOVING ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

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

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

FOUR EAGLES PICKED IN MAJOR ACADEMIC HONORS

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

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FOUR EAGLES PICKED IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

Senior pitcher Jake Brown was selected in the 50th round (1,519th overall) by the San Francisco Giants. Meanwhile, Eagles senior reliever Dexter Bobo signed a free agent contract with the Milwaukee Brewers.

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 35th round (1,1519th 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

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

The third straight season, Jenkins earned Best Offensive Player distinction and added All-First Team Shooting Guard accolades for 2010 after averaging a team-high 15.5 points per game. The former Eagles star is shooting 48.8 percent from the field this year, including 43.4 percent from 3-point range. Jenkins was a standout for the Eagles during the 2001-2003 seasons.

RECORD NUMBER EARN SOCON ACADEMIC HONORS

The Southern Conference announced the 2009-10 SoCon Academic Honor Roll, and 152 Georgia Southern student-athletes earned the honor, achieving at least a 3.0 grade point average. The football team led the way for Georgia Southern, with 25 student-athletes earning the honor. Baseball and women’s swimming and diving each had 17 student-athletes selected, while women’s track and field had 14 student-athletes named to the honor roll.

THREE FORMER EAGLES ELIGIBLE FOR GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

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

EAGLE SPORTS ACTION ON THE AIRWAYS

Along with full coverage on 16 statewide radio affiliates, pre-game and every minute of Eagle football action can be heard online and worldwide on the official Web site of Georgia Southern Athletics, www.georgiasouthern.edu. For more information on Eagles broadcasts visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/radionetwork.

LOCATION

STATION

Statesboro
Atlanta/Gainesville
Athens
Albany
Augusta
Columbus
Dublin
Elberton
W mcast 109.9 FM
W GSMC 106.5 FM
W ZBX 106.5 FM
W SAV 1290 AM
WKEN 100 AM
W WSGS 1053 FM
WRGD 96.9 FM
WECD 101.7 FM
WFLO 105.5 FM
WLWY 100.9 FM
W PST 1490 AM
W KT 1290 AM
W ZBSK 106.5 FM
WTHO 1017 FM
WWG 107.5 FM

WWW.GEORGIA SOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE

EAGLE SPORTS ACTION ON THE AIRWAYS

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FORGE SPORTS HALL OF FAME

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

EAGLE SPORTS ACTION ON THE AIRWAYS

Along with full coverage on 16 statewide radio affiliates, pre-game, and every minute of Eagle football action can be heard online and worldwide on the official Web site of Georgia Southern Athletics, www.georgiasouthern.edu. For more information on Eagles broadcasts visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/radionetwork.
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. 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 finally 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 doesn’t end there. Missing for six years, they were eventually found where they had been misplaced at the home of one of the exhibit organizers and were 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.

1906 SOCIETY
University Foundation sets date for Gala

Some of Georgia Southern University’s most loyal supporters will gather on Friday, Nov. 5 for this year’s 1906 Society Gala, a Homecoming weekend tradition.

1906 Society members are invited to a cocktail reception with Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel and First Lady Tammie Keel followed by an evening of entertainment. And, there is still time for those who are not yet 1906 Society members to receive an invitation.

This year’s celebration will feature “Gershwin on Broadway,” a performance by pianist Leon Bates and vocalists who will perform some of the classic music that made George Gershwin one of the legendary American composers of the 20th century. The trio performs across the country and their renditions of Gershwin’s music, along with their set of a New York City street scene, transport audiences to the time when Gershwin’s impact was first felt in theaters and on stages around the world. Some of Gershwin’s most famous compositions include “Rhapsody in Blue,” “Someone to Watch Over Me” and “Summertime” from his ground-breaking opera “Porgy and Bess.”

This year’s event will be a black-tie, black-and-white gala that will reflect the classic elegance of the 1920s and 1930s when Gershwin’s music was at the height of its popularity. “Every 1906 Gala is special, but this one promises to be an event that our donors will remember for years to come,” said Keel. This 1906 Gala is the first for Keel and Schalue, who joined the University in January.

“Tammie and I are very excited about this evening because it will give us the opportunity to meet and speak with many of the University’s most loyal supporters,” said Keel. “Georgia Southern has grown and prospered thanks to the generous contributions of our 1906 Society members. We look forward to thanking them personally for the dedication they have shown the University.”

There is still time to attend the invitation-only event. Those who join the 1906 Society before October 15 will receive an invitation to this year’s Gala. Membership in the 1906 Society is extended to contributors who make annual gifts of $1,200 or more to support the Georgia Southern University Foundation. When cumulative gift totals reach $12,000, donors become lifetime members of the 1906 Society.

Those interested in joining the 1906 Society can contact Wendell Tompkins at 912-478-GIVE (4483). Those who are already 1906 Society members may visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/1906 gala or contact Melanie Mosley at 912-478-2641 for more information about this year’s Gala.
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 in the Hollis Building. Jenny Lynn could be found in her writing classes where she earned a degree in communication arts with an emphasis in public relations. On another floor in Hollis, Mark was taking business classes where he pursued a management degree. Jenny Lynn never particularly enjoyed math, but Mark could easily crunch numbers.

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

The couple began dating while they were students at Georgia Southern, 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仲等 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’ll 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 stems 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 Bourland-Davis, Clarence Mc Cord, Janet Bury, Dick John son 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.”

Jenny Lynn and Mark Anderson share a common love for Georgia Southern.

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NEW ENDOWMENTS

Georgia Southern University Foundation

C. Vickers Hawkins Leadership Scholarship
Clinton R. Davis Scholarship
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Grube Scholarship
Druffin and Tucker LLP, School of Accountancy Scholarship
Gene and Jan Jerigan Construction Management Initiative
Panhellenic Association Leader-Scholar Endowment
Porter Keable Moore, LLP Faculty Fellowship
Rod and Betty Meadows University Honors Program Scholarship
Stephanie Routman Memorial Scholarship
William Bolin Retailing Scholarship

Semratedu Undergraduate Fund recognizes research need

Alumna Amy Semratedu 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 anthropol ogy 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 companies need more undergraduates, so it’s been great.”

Her life-long 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 Semratedu Undergraduate Research Fund in memory of her late husband, Almen. “I wanted to do something that would have the fastest impact for students,” she said. “I was a steward of the environment before it was cool, so I thought it made sense to do something that would have the fastest impact for students.”

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. Semratedu’s employer, BASF Functional Polymers Carpet Business in Dalton, generously matched her $5,000 donation to establish the fund. Semratedu’s position at BASF includes a master of science in polymer engineering and a degree in industrial geology and anthropology. “Even in college I was interested in recycling 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 the sustainability of the carpet,” she said. “Even before it was cool, I thought it was integral to sustainability with the future construction of a Green Technology Advisory Board. The primary goal of the board is to improve campus sustainability with the future construction of a LEED building. Semratedu’s involvement will also extend to the University to extend the development of science curricula for a possible goal on the topic of green chemistry. Semratedu 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 the knowledge and experience that companies are searching for.

“Have you managed your own career and be diversified and adaptable. I’m a jack of all trades,” she said.
WHEREVER YOU GO…
Always an Eagle.

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

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

Black Alumni of Georgia Southern Reunion Events

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

Homecoming 2010

Dance
Food, drinks and the sounds of DJ Malik
Time: 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Russell Union Ballroom
$20 per person
Register online for Homecoming events at alumni.georgiasouthern.edu. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (912) GSU-ALUM (478-2586).
Alumni receive prestigious honors

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

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

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

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

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

Johnson received his biology degree and master’s in education from Georgia Southern, and he has long considered himself a teacher. “I used to teach students at NCAA cheerleading camps when I was one of the University’s first male cheerleaders,” he said. During Johnson’s educational career, he was greatly influenced by professor emeritus Arthur Woodrum. “Dr. Woodrum is the reason why I teach physics,” said Johnson, speaking about his love for teaching. “For the past 11 years, his AP Physics students have achieved a 90 percent 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 to study motion not only in physics, but also environmental science and biology. Representatives from Vernier Software & Technology trained faculty how to use these devices, which present a graphical analysis on the computer. Johnson expects these devices will have a substantial impact on the school. “For example, when we use these devices in a physics class, students could study a time graph that analyzes force vs. time vs. gravity,” he explained.

1960s

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

Jerry Garrard (’66) and Ruthie Hendrix celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary August 12.

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

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

Jim McLoughlin (’58) and Diane Cowan McLoughlin (’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 June 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.

1970s

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

Former Susan G. Komen for the Cure CEO Hala Moddelmog (’79) has been named president and CEO of Arby’s Restaurant Group Inc. Moddelmog, a veteran food service industry executive, began her duties in May. She recently left her position as president and CEO of Susan G. Komen for the Cure where she helped contribute more than $1.5 billion in the fight against breast cancer and created outreach in over 50 countries during her time with the Foundation. Moddelmog has also founded and led Catalytic Ventures, a company providing operational and strategic consulting in the food service areas. In 1999, she became the first woman to lead an international quick service restaurant in corporate America when she was named CEO of Church’s Chicken.

Battalion.

Sgt. Todd Tinker, a Georgia Southern staff Information Technology Services specialist stationed in Afghanistan, shows his True Blue spirit. Tinker is with the Army’s 399th Tactical Theater Signal Battalion.

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 and his son, Scott, are the current president and 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 Laney Claxton, Savannah Eagle Club president.

“...” said Alex Bean’s son, Scott, 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.
Flight plan

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

It was the gift that kept on giving. Nine-year-old Ryan Evans was dreaming of a radio-controlled airplane he saw in Toys “R” Us. When his parents paid 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 started at Georgia Southern, and obtained his private pilot’s license. He later earned an instrument rating, allowing him to fly commercial craft.

By the age of 15, 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.

“After I got it out in 2003, I did really well at the Masters World Aerobatic Competition which became the highest that I’ve competed in at the time,” said Evans. “Some of the top guys did stuff with UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) companies and basically that’s how I got introduced to Cubic Corporation. They wanted me to come down and look at flying their Pioneer aircraft. I went there and became an instructor and test flight pilot.”

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

Facing the future job at the age of nine, Evans introduced to his future job at the age of nine.
Two years ago, one classroom inside Sa-
vanah’s Hodge Elementary School was
filled with little boys facing big problems.
Many were falling behind in their school
work. Some were struggling with emotional
and behavioral issues. Others left the safety
and security of the school building every af-
ternoon to return to a home in crisis.

The school’s principal decided to separate these boys from the others in an ef-
tort to give them their best shot at learning before it was too late. And when veteran
educator Alicia Walton (’84) learned she
would be teaching this class, she knew she quickly had to connect with the children in a way others had not had.

A boys choir, she thought, would surely
open the hearts and the minds of these chil-
dren in a way others had not.

“Once we started touring and they had
such a good response, they caught the at-
tention of some people in the community,”
Walton remembered. “I had former students
come and talk to them about life and groom-
ing and they started to change. We began
to talk to them about being brothers – every-
thing does not have to be solved by a fight.”

Walton began keeping up with the chil-
dren’s school work through their homework
teachers. She said boys staying out of
trouble they could go on the performance
field trips. Test scores went up and attitudes changed.

The Hodge Boys Choir was opened up to
to anyone who wanted to join, and soon the
number 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
dress shoes, and this uniform adds to their self esteem. They began to dress better with
their hair cut and their clothes were kept
neater,” Walton said.

And now the boys who once stood out for
all of the wrong reasons can proudly take
center stage, lift their voices, and sing.

---Betsy Nolen

EagleOne!

Britt Richeney (’62) and Dallas Copeland (’62)
mets at Georgia Southern in a business calculus
class in the summer of 2000. Three years later
he proposed to her in the student union classroom,
this time filled with their friends. Britt works at
Johnson Lighting, his family business, and Dallas
is a Northwestern Insurance Company agent’s
office. They reside in Savannah with their two daughters, Carson and Cameron.

Maggie Thurmond Dorsey, RN (’85), recently
published another children’s book. The book,
My Hero, My Dad, the Nurse Knocked Out Cancer
is the latest in the My Hero, My Dad. The Nurse
on Amazon.com, appropriately describes for
a youthful and older audience how colon
cancer was prevented when her dad had a colonoscopy. Dorsey noted he other two books are My
Hero, My Dad. The Nurse (2008) and My Hero, My Dad, the Nurse Played Football (2009). Dorsey
is the internist (or School of Nursing at the
University of Southern California Aiken. She
can be reached at maggie@usca.edu.

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

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

Shaheem Solomon (’17) and Reine (Jack)
(’16) Solomon were married on December 6,
2020. We have welcomed Elijah Armadeau, a
bouncing 8.8 lb baby boy, into the world. They
reside in Fairburn, Ga.

Jennifer Lauren Thompson (’07) and Justin
Avery Banks (’08) are planning a July 22,
2021 wedding in Atlanta. Jennifer recently accepted a transfer position with her company.
Scientific Research Corporation from Atlanta
to Charleston, S.C. Justin works with the Georgia
Department of Transportation as a bridge
design engineer. The couple would enjoy
receiving e-mails at jthompson47@gmail.com
and jenny36@yahoo.com.

Rufus Scott (’92) was featured in a summer
article of Minority Engineer. He is an outside
plant engineer at Windstream Communications
and lives in Leedy, Ala.

Send your comments, updates and suggestions
to: magazine@georgiasouthern.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Dean Origen J. James

Dr. Origen J. James, Jr. died February 8 in
Statesboro. Dr. James served the University for 21 years as a professor of accounting, the studies of which were as dean of the College of Business.

The Eagle Pass, Texas, native spent most of his
childhood in Chile, returning to the United
States for his education. He interrupted his
studies at Texas A&M University to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, receiving a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal and a Combat Infantryman
Badge. After his discharge, he lived in Chile for
three years, then returned to the United States
and completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Texas A&M and his Ph.D. at Texas Tech.

Dr. James was the accrediting dean for
Georgia Southern’s undergraduate bachelor’s
and master’s degrees.

He was a past president of the Southern
Business Deans and a member of the
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of
Business.

He was preceded in death by his wife
of 46 years, Betty Adams Rogers. Survivors
include his daughters, Vivian Armadeau and her
husband, Michael Price of Rincon, Ga.;
a son, George William Rogers and his wife,
Mary Beth Halsey; Rogers of Miford, Va.,
four grandchildren and one sister.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the George A. Rogers Scholarship Fund at Georgia Southern.

Alumni

Emily Akins Malicki, ’84

Faculty

Evelina Bosek, English & Philosophy

Alumni Chronicle

Alumni’s Boys’ Choir Reaches Out to at-Risk Youth in Savannah

From 1958 through the 1960s, the Georgia Southern Snack Bar inside the F. H. Williams Center was a place to see friends,
meet dates, stop in for lunch or a snack, study, or just pass the time with friendly game of
gin rummy. In 1970, it became the supervising of Food Service’s staff at
Sarah Savage and became known as "Sarah's Place." It not only played host to students seeking food, but to those seeking the last-lack
atmosphere of a coffee house complete with local bands and solo acts. Sarah eventually retired and with the opening of the
University Union in 1990, the snack bar was also retired soon afterward. The space continues to serve students,
though, now as part of the Office of Career Services.

Dr. Jennifer C. James

Dr. Origen J. James, Jr., died February 8 in
Statesboro. Dr. James served the University for
21 years as a professor of accounting, the
studies of which were as dean of the College of Business.

The Eagle Pass, Texas, native spent most of his
childhood in Chile, returning to the United
States for his education. He interrupted his
studies at Texas A&M University to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, receiving a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal and a Combat Infantryman
Badge. After his discharge, he lived in Chile for
three years, then returned to the United States
and completed his bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas A&M and his Ph.D. at Texas Tech.

Dr. James was the accrediting dean for
Georgia Southern's undergraduate bachelor's
and master's degrees.

He was a past president of the Southern
Business Deans and a member of the
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of
Business. Dr. James was involved in several
academic and honorary societies at Georgia
Southern and served locally as a board
member of Farmers and Merchants Bank and
a member of the Rotary Club of Statesboro. He
was a member of the First Presbyterian Church
of Statesboro, where he served as an elder. Two
Georgia Southern Foundation endowments are
named in his honor: the Or James Beta
Gammasigma Scholarship Fund and Ori James Beta
Alpha Endowment.

He was preceded in death by his parents,
Origen James, Sr. and Mattie While James; two
sisters, Ori Jean May and Frances Fitch; and
nephew Richard Says. Surviving are his wife
of 57 years, retired English professor
Eleanor James; two daughters, two
dughters, one granddaughter, three great-grandchildren, a
sister, and 11 nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the George A. Rogers Scholarship Fund at Georgia Southern.
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.