Georgia Southern Magazine

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Performing Arts Center
2011-2012 Season

Capitol Steps
Forever Motown
Kathy Mattea
Marvin Hamlisch
American Boychoir
South Pacific
October 6, 2011
November 4, 2011
November 19, 2011
January 22, 2012
February 23, 2012
April 1, 2012

Women of Ireland
March 3, 2012

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: GeorgiaSouthern.edu/pac.
Day One

University students flocked to Allen E. Paulson Stadium on a warm September evening for “Day One,” which University officials hope to see become an annual tradition. The early semester event was aimed at increasing student participation and attendance at Georgia Southern athletics and was equal parts pep rally, welcome and orientation led by President Brooks Keel and coaches Jeff Monken and Charlton “CY” Young, and emceed by Chris Blair, broadcast “Voice of the Eagles.” More than 6,500 attended.
Thirty years ago, football was reborn at Georgia Southern and just four short years later, the Eagles amazed the football world with their upstart, action-packed dash to the top of the FCS world. The legend that is Eagle football continues to grow.

BUILDING IN THE TREES 2
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR and other submissions are encouraged. Send correspondence to Georgia Southern magazine P.O. Box 8055 Statesboro, GA 30460-8055 magazine@georgiasouthern.edu

CLASS CHRONICLES and alumni updates may be sent to the Office of Alumni Relations P.O. Box 8053 Statesboro, GA 30460-8053 magazine@georgiasouthern.edu

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The number of biology majors at Georgia Southern isn’t the only growing thing that attracted the concern of planners for a new biological sciences building. The 155,000-plus square-foot facility has been informally dubbed “The Building in the Trees” with good reason, given its footprint that rests in a heavily wooded area near the intersection of Forest Drive and Akins Boulevard. The contractor is clearing a minimal number of trees and upon completion students will be taking a walk in the woods before they walk through the doors.

“It’s going to have a different look, embedded in that site, than that of some of the other buildings on campus,” said Stephen Vives, Department of Biology chair. “It will be a nice transition from Forest Drive and Akins Boulevard through that site to the RAC. We anticipate a lot of students will walk through and be exposed to this building.”

Biography is attracting increasing numbers of students — between 15 and 20 percent growth per year, said Vives — making the move to a new building a welcome one for faculty and students in terms of additional space and enhanced function.

“The labs will be modern, with all the current safety considerations,” Vives said, enabling faculty and students to conduct some studies they could not do before. The amount of laboratory square footage per student in the 1970s-era building, is below today’s standard, he said. “The new building will allow students to work together in groups and for faculty to be more mobile in the labs so that they can check on what the students are doing, answer questions, and challenge the students.”

Some of the new lecture rooms are patterned after those at MIT, said Vives, which are based on TEAL — Technology Enhanced Active Learning — providing a combination of lecture and lab work that can occur in the same room. “In these areas, students are assigned projects to work through, and the way the room is designed, you have a group at a table with a laptop computer. They are able to display their results separately from all of the other groups around the room so that then the groups can come back together and compare results.”

“There’s a lot of data that suggests that group learning and active learning in this studio-style classroom is a best practice,” Vives said. “We will still have some standard lecture rooms for those classes where that works best, but we’ll have a lot more flexibility in how we teach.”

Members of the design team attended new science building workshops sponsored by Project Kaleidescope (PKAL) funded by the National Science Foundation. Faculty research labs will be shared spaces, encouraging collaboration, said Vives. “The typical arrangement will be two faculty per lab space plus their students. That will facilitate people working together and it allows students to see the collaborative process.” The building will have supporting research areas, too: museum and specimen collections, a microscopy suite, animal care space, an aquarium room, and an insectary where insects can be raised and studied.

The Biological Sciences Building is sited at the intersection of Akins Boulevard and Forest Drive.
Other research-related rooms will feature environmentally controlled conditions, allowing researchers to maintain desired temperatures, humidity and light levels. The Biology department currently brings in significant external funding from federal and state programs. “With the increased research potential, we are hoping to attract additional external funding and new research partners to the Department,” Vives said. This will lead to an increase in regional economic development.

Vives said that simply approaching the building can provide some lessons. “Students should be able to learn from the outside of the building as well as the inside, especially our construction management students. People will be able to see creative ways to deal with storm water runoff from the building, including bioswales where water will be cleansed before it moves on, and rain chains directing water off the building. “The building is going to be much more transparent,” said Vives. “There will be windows in the classrooms and in research labs so that students – and the public for that matter – can see science going on as they walk through. That’s also identified as a best practice in teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).”

Vives said the goal is to make the building a LEED Silver-certified building and to use that certification as a teaching opportunity as well. “Those green aspects of the building are going to be advertised in the building,” he said. “We’re going to have some displays of power usage and water usage in real time so that other classes as well as ours can come in and actually use our building as a learning experience.”

The Department’s faculty are ecstatic about the prospect of gaining the additional space and functionality, said Vives. “We’re excited and we’re pleased we were chosen, but it’s a responsibility we take very seriously”
Mysteries of the past often go unsolved, but digging up artifacts proved to be a therapeutic journey for Georgia Southern art professor Jessica Hines, who ventured to post-war Viet Nam to retrace her brothers footsteps as a soldier in the Viet Nam War.

Hines uses photographs to piece together his story in the internationally acclaimed, award-winning photography portfolio “My Brother’s War,” exhibited worldwide.

“My Brother’s War” is the product of a personal journey to uncover the truth about the life of Hines’ brother, Gary. After serving nearly three years in Viet Nam, Gary was honorably discharged and diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, which led to his eventual suicide 10 years later.

“I think it is possible for this personal story about what happens after a war to have universal resonance,” said Hines. “The effects of war, virtually the same in all cultures, never really go away, and lives are forever changed.”

The debilitating mental disorder forever changed Gary and his relationships with people around him. “He became very detached like so many others who had seen death and protected themselves from further pain by not forming close relationships,” Hines said. “Combat and witnessing combat can change the brain permanently; that’s why avoidance behaviors are survival skills.”

Hines has few memories of her brother before the war. He was much older and the siblings lived with separate relatives. It wasn’t until his return to civilian life that they were able to establish a personal relationship, though he refused to discuss the war.

Gary’s photographs, letters and memorabilia only illustrate the images he saw, but Hines wished to know more about his experience and some of the emotions. Hines embarked on the journey of a lifetime to Chu Lai, Saigon, Hanoi and other cities in Viet Nam, accompanied by two colleagues who were familiar with the area. She returned alone a year later to photograph Chu Lai.

“The moment I decided to make art about this occurred when a friend asked me about Gary’s letters from Viet Nam. My friend, Vincent Kohler, taught a class in political science at Georgia Southern and wanted the students to feel a real connection to a soldier they were studying. Because I read the letters before loaning them to my friend, I was inspired to revisit this past.”

During her journey, Hines discovered that Gary had a Vietnamese girlfriend. She was, Hines realized, the person who had inscribed a message in Gary’s dictionary. It is loosely translated as “I pray for your spirit.” Hines intends to visit Viet Nam again to find out more about Gary’s girlfriend.

In July, three pieces from the series were purchased by the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York and Hines donated a fourth. The work is scheduled to be exhibited in the coming year. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston also purchased a print from the series. The portfolio received the Grand Prize in the Lens Culture International Exposures Award, proving to be superior to more than 18,912 images received from 65 countries, and was also first place prize-winner in Fine Art Portfolio in the Worldwide Photography Gala Awards. As a result of her work, Hines received the Humanitarian Documentary Award for 2011.

“I am grateful that the work has been well-received and that I have been able to use art, not only as a healing tool for myself, but to honor the spirit of my brother, Gary, and all of the other people just like him who suffered from the effects of war,” Hines said.

– Katie J. Stambek
Map Quest

University researcher has new take on ancient document

When a Georgia Southern University researcher asked to see a map from one of the most famous collections housed in one of the world’s greatest libraries, he had no idea he was about to re-write a portion of history. But, what started out as a simple request from associate history professor Robert Batchelor turned into a discovery that has astounded scholars on three continents.

“Immediately, I noticed it had these fine lines on it,” Batchelor remembered. Those lines, Batchelor realized, marked Chinese shipping trade routes of the 17th century. “I thought, ‘This changes our ideas about how maps were made and there is a technology here that we don’t know very much about,’ and that was very exciting as well.”

The map is a colorful, detailed sketch of the South China Sea and Batchelor says it shows the earliest known Chinese depiction of Taiwan and the Chinese cities there. He believes it is the earliest and most detailed map from Asia of the Philippines and Viet Nam. “Unlike many Chinese maps that show only the empire itself, this map depicts the whole of East Asia and most importantly the trading routes used to reach Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines and Southeast Asia. It also shows how such navigation worked, and restoration has revealed that the routes on the map were drawn before the coasts,” Batchelor explains.

And, it is proof of a thriving Asian marketplace unified by trade. “When Europeans came in, they were with companies sponsored by the state,” Batchelor says. “But, the Chinese traders from Fujian, indeed most Asian traders, were family businesses, and to the extent they had no state sponsorship they show a kind of free market at work, giving us a different perspective on East Asia. The markets were really quite dynamic very early. So, this is a visually striking piece of evidence that also tells a new story about globalization and economics.”

Batchelor believes the map was most likely commissioned by a Chinese or perhaps Muslim merchant family-lineage group from Quanzhou, Fujian, who had strong connections in Southeast Asia. Batchelor’s discovery has scholars in the United States, Asia and Europe enthralled. He will meet with other scholars in the United States, Asia and Europe to discuss the significance of the map. Batchelor is also planning to publish an article about his discovery in a scholarly journal.”
southern spotlight

A connection to Georgia

Professor Robert Batchelor says the port of Savannah played a part in his discovery that the Selden Map of China held centuries-old information about Chinese trade routes.

"Like many researchers, I approached China in this period from the perspective of the Ming Empire, which because of The Forbidden City and The Great Wall is usually remembered for closure rather than openness," explained Batchelor. "But when I moved to Georgia and began learning about the Savannah Port, it piqued my interest in the Chinese shipping trade of that era. That’s why I was studying a nearly 400-year-old map in the Bodleian Library when I discovered it was actually a map of Chinese trade routes. The Bodleian Library knew they had the map, but no modern scholars ever made the connection that the map actually documented Chinese trade routes."

While the map will prove invaluable to researchers who want to study Chinese shipping and trade history, Batchelor thinks the discovery also paves the way for a modern dialogue about China’s relationship with the U.S. and other countries.

"Many people don’t realize that South Georgia’s relationship with China goes back to at least the 1760s when Henry Yonge planted the first soybean crop in North America in Savannah with seeds brought from China. It’s important to think like early Americans and merchant Chinese – reaching out to build relationships rather than walls," said Batchelor.

Batchelor says it is no coincidence that his discovery in one of the world’s great research libraries came around the same time as Georgia Southern students and faculty were discovering a Civil War prison camp thought lost to the ages and that Georgia Southern alumnus Lee Berger discovered a new species of a human precursor in one of the most studied regions of Africa.

“You come out of a place like Georgia Southern University seeing the world differently,” Batchelor said. “Georgia Southern is very good at mixing the traditional research with the hands-on. And I think this is a good lesson for the students. What might seem very local is at the same time very global and if you train yourself to see things that way, you’ll see things that other people won’t.”

“Here I am, a scholar from southern Georgia and I’m at Oxford University’s Bodleian Library and I’m seeing things that no one else saw. Maybe it was because no one else was looking, but that in itself is very telling. Why has nobody bothered to unroll this map? And if they did unroll it, why didn’t they see these lines? And I attribute that, in part, to being at Georgia Southern. Because it is the culture of Georgia Southern that encourages that kind of seeing.”

And that kind of discovery.

To view the official Web site of the Selden Map of China, which was developed by Robert Batchelor and the Bodleian’s Chinese Curator David Helliwell, please visit: http://seldenmap.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

scholars at Oxford and in the U.S. this fall to discuss his findings.

Just as the map was probably produced by many people in the 17th century, it’s the kind of thing that in the 21st century is going to take many, many minds to unlock all of these interesting secrets about it,” Batchelor says. "How does this map work mathematically? How does it work technologically? I think the map has the potential to open up whole new domains – not just about Chinese mapping, but about the Pacific, about Southeast Asia. And that opens up global questions, as well. How were people mapping, how was globalization happening in the 17th century?"

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Navy Commander Amber Biles helps keep pilots in fighting condition.

Amber Biles (’95) grew up listening to her family talk shop. In this case, the Navy.

Biles’ three older brothers all served in the Navy, as did her father, a 22-year veteran pilot. “He entered the service at the end of World War II, flew missions in Korea and was an instructor pilot in Viet Nam. My brother Willis would talk shop with my dad, and I always loved listening to their stories. One day, when I was 12, they began talking about the great improvements in aerospace physiology training. That’s when I decided, this is what I want to do,” she recalled.

Biles stuck with her childhood dream to her family talk shop. Biles was a big believer in hands-on involvement, so she regularly flies with the aircrew to gain perspective on issues that pilots face. “Troubleshooting gives us a better understanding of how the gear works, fits and is used. It also allows us to experience physiological issues that we can then instruct others on. We want each aircrew member to get home to their family safely at the end of the day,” she said.

Another way to maintain safety and improve pilots’ performance is to continue research in this ever-changing field, said Biles. “Right now we are looking at ergonomic issues, such as strengthening the core of the pilot in conjunction with looking at ways to improve the equipment. We are looking at improvements in NVGs which will aid in giving the aircrew a better visual picture to enhance their situational awareness which will hopefully decrease the chance of sensory illusions,” she said.

“Anything that decreases performance ability increases your chance for the possibility of a mishap,” said Biles, mentioning that heat stress really drains the body and decreases a pilot’s ability to perform at an optimum level.

Through the years, Biles has received numerous honors including expert medals in pistol and rifle, several medals in the categories of Naval achievement and commendation and recognition for serving a tour in Afghanistan. “Anything that decreases performance ability increases your chance for the possibility of a mishap,” said Biles, mentioning that heat stress really drains the body and decreases a pilot’s ability to perform at an optimum level.

After her return from Afghanistan, Biles’ career path turned in another direction when she began a new position as assistant professor of preventive medicine and biometrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The university specializes in training military physicians, nurses, educators and scientists in Bethesda, Md. “It’s a completely different job, and I will be instructing and completing research,” she said, while also working on her doctorate in management.

Although Biles has had a lifetime of thrilling experiences, the most priceless memory lingers from her winging ceremony, which her father and two of her brothers attended. All three men pinned a set of gold wings on her chest that they had specially made for her. “Having my dad put those wings on my chest and seeing the pride in his eyes . . . I can’t even describe how that made me feel,” she said. “I love what I’m doing. I love being in the Navy and the aerospace physiology community.”

-Mary Beth Spence
In the 1960s, life in Yugoslavia as Vladan Jovanovic knew it was very simple. “My childhood memories are happy – the people were friendly and the streets were safe for children. Growing up, we were free of most material possessions (including TV, refrigerator, car, washing machine, etc.) that left more time for playing outdoors with other children, and for me, reading whole libraries literally,” said the College of Information Technology (CIT) professor. “It was obvious for school children that self-reliance is the only way to make any progress.”

These learning experiences led to Jovanovic’s career progression in the field of software engineering, proving that the common thread of technology can successfully connect across continents. Jovanovic’s interest in the field of software engineering was piqued after studying the accomplishments of his role model Nikola Tesla, a remarkable inventor and mechanical and electrical engineer who was an important contributor to understanding electricity. “I wanted to study software design based upon the intellectual challenges of a field with a potential to substantially influence everything,” he said, “and Nikola was a hardworking, interesting individual who left a big footprint.”

Through the years, Jovanovic has left his own footprint in the world of technology, earning a doctoral degree in software engineering in 1982 from the University of Belgrade. He also worked as a professor at the university, while simultaneously developing information systems for government, industry and chambers of commerce in his country. While Jovanovic’s professional career was taking off, political unrest was mounting between the Yugoslav republics after the death of President Josip Broz Tito in 1980, causing the country to fall into a series of civil wars.

“I was not involved in the politics of my country, but in building. The country was broken on so many different levels and it was about to be destroyed,” he said, talking about his decision to immigrate to the United States in 1989. “At the time, Yugoslavia was a federal republic – nationalist and separatist forces were ruining the peace in the country and I was in the minority as a federalist. I felt that the United States was a place where I could pursue my work in databases and software, because it offered the highest standards in my profession,” he revealed. Jovanovic moved to Michigan and accepted a position with the University.
of Detroit, where he designed a master’s degree program in software management in 1993 and helped transfer a product design for the U.S. Army.

After these professional successes, Jovanovic received an offer to join the CIT – supported by Ford Motor Company – which is modeled after the training he received at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During this 12-year period, he also taught software engineering to engineers employed by General Dynamics and also improved software testing and development, design and design validation techniques and reference models, “he said. His research areas include database design, architecture, standards, process, measurement, testing, management and software engineering education. Over the years, Jovanovic has taught courses including introduction to programming, database design, software testing and data warehouse design.

While the professor still has relatives living in Yugoslavia, he doesn’t regret his decision to pursue technology and new opportunities in the United States. “It’s a slower pace here – different, but good,” he said, about his life in south Georgia. “Georgia Southern is moving forward in the right direction, and I’m happy to be a part of it.”

“Mainly, my accomplishments are in the profession: standardization of systems development, design and design validation,” he said. Jovanovic has published Engineering a Better Software Organization, which is listed among the top 50 software process books and is now in its third edition.

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–Mary Beth Spence

Jovanovic is pictured with his seventh grade Yugoslavian classmates, (standing, first student on the left), above, with his son, Stevan (‘05), mother and brother in 1989 before immigrating to the United States, and, at left, as a faculty member at the University of Belgrade.
An impressive 26,000 volunteer hours were given last year by Georgia Southern students around Statesboro and beyond, but equally impressive is what they — and those they have helped — received from the experience.

“In our office we talk about service being the purest expression of leadership,” said Todd Deal, director of the University’s Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. “That's the culture of who we are as educators. It's not only about being the Student Government Association president.”

Deal, who was a guest this summer on the Fox News Channel to talk about Georgia Southern students’ community service efforts, said that his task is made a bit easier by what he described as the millennial generation’s “propensity to serve.” “They’ve been compared to the Greatest Generation — all about America; all about serving,” he said.

Students do receive tangible rewards for their efforts — a formal service transcript for those who log 200 hours with the Office during their time at Georgia Southern that can be used as part of an employment search or graduate school application. But, he said, the intangibles are just as rewarding. “Our office is one of the primary units that can build bridges with Statesboro and Bulloch County, because we’re engaging our students in a non-economic way, but they’re still investing in the community. A lot of people use the term ‘giving back.’ There’s nothing wrong with that, but I like to use the term ‘investing in.’

You’re not just giving and going away,” he said. “Investment is long-term. You’re giving and giving and putting yourself out there for the community.”

Deal frequently gets feedback from students about their volunteer experiences, whether just off campus or offshore. One nursing major recently told him her volunteer work has helped her figure out what “investing in” means. “I have been struggling for so long with what I want to do with my nursing major, and these trips have solidified for me that I want to be a pediatric nurse. I want to work with children,” Deal said. “That’s a great statement to say that this out-of-classroom experience has helped me figure out what I really want to do with my degree,” said Deal. “That’s what we’re all about.”

Likewise, those who receive assistance are often profoundly touched by the student’s efforts. Their work helps individuals and agencies progress in ways they otherwise could not. “After a group worked in the Bahamas last year, Bahamian parents of current Georgia Southern students made a request. ‘They told us, ‘We so much appreciate what you are doing,’” said Deal. “‘Would you allow us to set up opportunities here because there’s so much that can make an impact?’ I said, ‘Yes, absolutely!’ Right now, the Bahamian students on campus are planning our Bahamas trip. They’re going to pick who we work with to provide the most benefit for the entire community.”

To learn more about community service efforts by University students along with Georgia Southern professors. Please visit georgiasouthern.edu/communityservice.

Investment in the future
University students reaping great reward in helping others

Ten University students spent their spring break in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, working with orphaned children.

In a town and gown celebration of entrepreneurial and college spirit, Georgia Southern University and the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority have founded City Campus in downtown Statesboro on East Main Street next to City Hall.

“The City Campus highlights the important relationship between Georgia Southern University and the Statesboro-Bulloch County community,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. “The University is very fortunate to be located in a community that is so supportive of its endeavors. Georgia Southern looks forward to the opportunities the City Campus will bring to support the current and future business leaders of Statesboro and Bulloch County.”

“We have had a very strong response from the community for using the facility,” said College of Business Administration Dean Ronald Shiffler. “We’ve booked at least a half-dozen organizations who wish to hold meetings there, including the new ‘Entrepreneur’s Club,’ which is a Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce initiative. We also have one group that is now holding its regular monthly meetings there.”

City Campus features the University’s Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development along with an E-Zone – part of the University’s Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone hosts classrooms and meeting space, but also houses areas where small businesses can launch their startups at low cost and with access to the entrepreneurial expertise of Georgia Southern professors.

Several classes are also scheduled to be held at the facility this fall, said Shiffler.

To allow Georgia Southern alumni and fans convenient access to licensed products and other University merchandise, a satellite of the University Store is also located in City Campus. The store’s hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday.

“We encourage everyone to visit the University Store at City Campus for their officially licensed products and other Georgia Southern-related items, or to just stop in and say hello,” said store manager Mehmet Samiratoda. “Our staff is excited about the opportunity to serve the larger Statesboro community through our downtown location.”

“The addition of the City Campus shows Georgia Southern’s commitment to the people and businesses of Statesboro and Bulloch County,” said Allen Muldrew, executive director of Tuesday’s Statesboro Development Authority. “We are hopeful that many successful, locally owned businesses will get their start here and will continue to utilize the City Campus as they grow and prosper.”

Georgia Southern’s City Campus opened in June on East Main Street next to City Hall in downtown Statesboro. The facility includes a Downtown University Store.
Students honored with prestigious national Goldwater Scholarships

The efforts of two Georgia Southern students have been recognized by one of the nation’s most prestigious academic grants in support of science, engineering, technology and mathematics.

Georgia Southern senior Katherine Mincey of Portal, Ga., has been selected as a Barry M. Goldwater scholar and will receive up to $7,500 in scholarships. Mincey of Portal, Ga., has been selected as a Barry M. Goldwater scholar and will receive up to $7,500 in scholarships. Mincey, a biology major, is researching plants’ potential for drawing harmful metals from the soil without having a negative effect on the ecosystem. 

Crooke’s research focuses on efficient and cost-effective ways to create chemical compounds in synthetic sponges that have the same properties as sea sponges – potentially useful in the fight against cancer. “The natural products that have been isolated have displayed a promising amount of activity in biological testing, and my research lab will eventually be sending our synthetic ‘natural’ products to the National Cancer Institute for testing as anti-cancer treatments,” Crooke explained.

He said Georgia Southern’s strong support of research by undergraduates has been key to his success. “I feel that my close relationships with my advisers, Dr. Michele McGiboney and Dr. Christine Whitlock, helped in progressing my research through the years. I feel that this close relationship with my professors here at Georgia Southern is a major advantage that I had when applying for the Goldwater Scholarship which students at larger universities might not have enjoyed.”

“All of the professors here genuinely care about how the students perform and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunities that arise,” agreed Mincey. “Their hard work and dedication is seen inside and outside of the classroom. “For me, the guidance and support of Dr. Risa Cohen and my mentor Dr. William Irby, as well as many other professors, have been influential in my accomplishments and were important in my application for the Goldwater Scholarship.”

JPHCOPH receives National Accreditation

This summer’s accreditation of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) increases Georgia Southern’s ability to apply best practices in public health and healthcare systems to improve the health of rural communities in the state and around the globe.

The College received official notification in June that it had met the standards of the Council on Education for Public Health, making it one of only 48 schools and colleges of public health worldwide to have earned the distinction.

“This provides us with the opportunity to expand our impact on rural communities through external funding opportunities at the federal level – we were not eligible for some opportunities without the accreditation,” said Interim Dean Lynn Woodhouse.

“With the accreditation we also expect to attract even more exceptional students and faculty. We will compete on the national level. This should expand our number of fellowships for students and research opportunities for faculty.”

The College is focused on preventing health problems by promoting improved health outcomes; facilitating healthy lifestyles, communities and environments; developing and implementing effective policies; and, supporting the improvement of quality of the public health and healthcare systems.

In addition, the College focuses on community collaboration for workforce development, improving practice, providing service and expanding the quantity and quality of its rural health research.

The process of accreditation began in 1998, with the launch of two Master of Public Health programs developed by founding Dean Charles Hardy and entrepreneur and biostatistics professor Karl E. Peace. The University System Board of Regents considered growing concerns about healthcare inequities in rural Georgia and approved the establishment of the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health in 2004 as the first such school in the state.

Its founding was made possible through a donation by Peace in memory of his late wife, Dr. Jiann-Ping Hsu. In 2006, the school transitioned to the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH).

Degree offerings include a Master of Public Health in biostatistics, community health, environmental health sciences, epidemiology or health policy and management, a Master of Healthcare Administration, and a Doctor of Public Health in biostatistics, public health leadership or community health behavior and education.

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Professor begins service in Armenia

Michael Braz has proven that music is truly a universal language. While the retired Georgia Southern music professor was completing a 10-week Peace Corps training course to teach English as a Foreign Language in several Armenian villages, he still found a way to squeeze in several musical teaching opportunities. Not surprising for a man who has been interested in music education since the age of 10.

“I taught piano to several trainees and language instructors in our villages, as well as arranging the music and rehearsing and conducting the trainee chorus for our swearing-in ceremony,” said Braz, who was sworn in at a ceremony in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. While many people would be overwhelmed at beginning a new phase of their life in an unfamiliar country, Braz has taken it all in stride. During training, he lived with a host family who helped with his transition to a new culture. “My host family has been friendly, welcoming and sensitive to the fact that I am acclimating to both the country and to a new language with a distinct alphabet,” Braz said.

Braz began his teaching assignment at a local high school in Gyumri – Armenia’s second largest city – a perfect environment in which to share his musical knowledge. “Gyumri has at least a half-dozen music schools and institutes, and I foresee a potential for secondary musical collaboration while I am here,” he said.

“The Peace Corps is fond of describing service as ‘The toughest job you’ll ever love,’” said Braz. “Certainly, the concept of 27 months’ training and service requires intense hard work and a keen sense of humor. Though I’m just beginning my real work here in Armenia, I’ve begun to discover much more about myself that will serve me well these next two years.”
in the news

GEORGIA SOUTHERN NAMED AMONG AMERICA’S BEST COLLEGES

Forbes magazine has named Georgia Southern to its roster of “America’s Best Colleges,” which includes colleges and universities in the top 20 percent of a survey of the “student’s point of view.” The survey, by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP), examines post-graduation success, student satisfaction, student debt, four-year graduation rate and competitive awards that reward schools whose students win prestigious scholarships and fellowships.

“Georgia Southern’s designation by Forbes magazine as one of America’s Best Colleges is a great indicator that we are moving in the right direction,” said University President Brooks Keel. “We are honored to be recognized as one of the nation’s top universities.”

PUBLIC SAFETY EARNs ACCREDITATION

The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police has granted accreditation to Georgia Southern’s Department of Public Safety after the Department’s completion of a challenging process. Only four university police departments in the state have earned accreditation.

“Georgia Southern has one of the best public safety operations in the state and this accreditation is just another example of the pride that our police officers take in their jobs,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. “We have been recognized as having one of the safest campuses in the country and that’s important for the community, our students and especially their parents.”

AROUND THE CIRCLE

GEORGIA SOUTHERN NEWS ROUNDUP

EXECUTIVE MBA PROGRAM FIELDS FIRST COHORT

The University launched its new Executive MBA this fall, aiming the program at working individuals with professional experience. One of only a few of its kind in the nation, the program is designed for mid- and upper-level managers, according to College of Business Administration Dean Ronald Shiffer.

“The more knowledge a leader brings to his company about our expanding global economy and ever-changing business landscape, the more of a competitive advantage they will have,” said Shiffer.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Executive MBA should visit http://cob.georgiasouthern.edu/emba.

ONLINE M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE DRAWS ACCOLADES

Georgia Southern’s online Master of Science in computer science program is one of the top ten “best buys” in the country according to GetEducated.com.

GetEducated.com is a consumer group that rates, ranks and verifies the cost and credibility of online colleges and online universities. It ranked the University’s program ninth in the nation out of 140 surveyed schools. The M.S. in computer science earned an “A” in consumer satisfaction from the Web site.

“Georgia Southern launched the online Master of Science in computer science program last year to help meet the needs of busy professionals who saw the benefits of continuing their education, but knew it would be tough to juggle their career and family responsibilities with a standard class schedule,” said Ronald Shiffer, interim dean of the College of Information Technology. “We are thrilled that just one year into this program, it is already ranked among the top in the nation for cost and credibility.”

To learn more about Georgia Southern’s online Master of Science in computer science program, please visit http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/mcs.

College of Information Technology

DNP-GRAD EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

Susan Riley, a recent Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate, has received an award funding a diabetes-education program she began during her doctoral studies.

Riley, a practicing nurse practitioner, is the recipient of the American Association of Diabetes Educators - Bayer 2011 Innovation in Practice Award. The funding will support Riley’s INTERCEED program, a monthly interactive diabetes education program for adults in the communities of Portal and Stilson, Ga.

“DNP students are required to select a vulnerable population to research,” said Riley. “After choosing the diabetes community, I found that they had access to healthcare professionals but little knowledge on how to improve the awareness of diabetes.

“To be recognized in The Princeton Review’s annual ranking is a solid endorsement of the University’s efforts to promote sustainability in practice as well as in our scholarship, education and outreach.”

Jennifer Keyser is spending this year at the University of Kassel in Germany by way of a prestigious DAAD scholarship.

“The DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service, is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. The Griffin, Ga., native is Georgia Southern’s first exchange student at the University of Kassel.

“lt’s really exciting because I get to spend an entire year in Germany. I get to basically set the tone for Georgia Southern students at the University of Kassel, and I get to make my own way. Study abroad programs help you step out of your comfort zone – to get to know other cultures,” said Keyser.

While Keyser is abroad, Georgia Southern is hosting three sociology students from the University of Kassel, strengthening and expanding existing international student exchange programs through the Center for International Studies.

Colleges of Health and Human Sciences

UNIVERSITY MAKES PRINCETON REVIEW ECO-RANKING

Georgia Southern’s growing national reputation has received an eco-boost from The Princeton Review.

The Review has included the University in its recent new Guide to 311 Green Colleges.

“This is a major accomplishment and recognition for Georgia Southern University,” said Lisa Lege, director of the University’s Center for Sustainable Practice. “To be recognized in The Princeton Review’s annual ranking is a solid endorsement of the University’s efforts to promote sustainability in practice as well as in our scholarship, education and outreach.”

It is the first time that Georgia Southern has been named to the prestigious national list of “green” colleges and universities.

Matched with traditional educational programs, the work of the Library of Congress and the support of international cooperation have helped the Library of Congress make the Library of Congress Summer Institute in Washington, D.C. a rewarding experience for me, and I encourage all educators to apply,” said Rivera. “Not only did I meet several top-notch educators from across the country, but I networked with the Educational Outreach staff at the Library of Congress who have a passionate desire to share their knowledge.”

Institute participants were able to access areas of the Library that are closed to the general public and work with Library specialists to learn best practices for the use of primary sources – historical documents such as letters or maps as well as artworks – in K-12 classrooms. Rivera was able to explore primary sources on the Library’s Web site.

College of Education

GEORGIA SOUTHERN REPRESENTED AT SUMMER INSTITUTE

Michelle Wainwright, associate coordinator of the College of Education’s Instructional Resources Center, represented her College at the Library of Congress Summer Institute in Washington, D.C.

Delta Dental of Georgia and the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, have received an eco-boost from The Princeton Review.

Researchers Alison Scott, Renee Hotchkiss and Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

RURAL CHILD HEALTH

Schoolchildren in Brantley and Candler counties have bigger smiles and overall improved health thanks to a grant-funded telemedicine project from the Juan-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

Dental care for poor and uninsured children is a significant concern in Georgia. Researchers Alison Scott, Renee Hotchkiss and Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health.

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Even though they’re no longer rolling, scrap tires might still find their way to Georgia’s roadways, depending on the results of a study by Georgia Southern civil engineering professor Junan Shen.

Shen wants to find out if a relatively new type of paving mix – rubberized asphalt – will save the state money and landfill space. He has been selected by the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine if the performance of the mix, derived from scrap tires and considered a “green” material, is a viable alternative for building roads.

“We want to determine if crumb rubber is a practical, stable solution. The world is using more and more green materials – which crumb rubber is – made from scrap tires,” Shen said.

Part of the study will look at the permeability of the new materials’ rubberized Open Graded Friction Course (OGFC). Also, said Shen, “As a driver, is your visibility improved? Is the pavement safer to drive on during the rain? Does the rain accumulate on the roadway, or does it drain off, making it safer for drivers?”

Another potential advantage of the new mix is that noise could also be reduced on the roadway, he said.

The project, the first awarded by the DOT to the University, will determine how rubberized asphalt’s performance compares to polymer-modified asphalt pavements. As part of the study, Jeremy Todd Earnest, a Georgia Southern senior civil engineering technology major from Marietta, Ga., will assist Shen on the nearly $75,000 project.

Test sections on I-75 near Perry and I-20 in Augusta were paved three years ago with OGFC and stone matrix asphalt, respectively, using the “dry” process of modifying asphalt cement with crumb rubber. In the dry process, crumb rubber is concurrently blended with mix aggregates and asphalt cement at the plant, while in the “wet” process, crumb rubber is blended with the asphalt cement before the blended cement is mixed with aggregates. So far, the performance of these test sections has not been formally evaluated, nor has research on the dry process generally been documented. The wet process has been successfully evaluated and implemented by other states.

Shen’s findings will be used in a second, more comprehensive phase of the overall project, which would include field evaluations.

“There are going to be additional phases of the DOT research,” said Shen. “The second phase will be a more comprehensive study on the test sections of the rubberized pavement to determine changes in the roadway, such as cracking and rutting.”

“Through this study we will provide best-practice recommendations to the Georgia DOT for consideration as they look at road construction alternatives,” said Shen. “Our ultimate goal is to save money on road construction and this study is just the first phase of a much larger project that could have major benefits for Georgia taxpayers.”

“I am excited to work with Dr. Shen on this study for the Georgia DOT,” said Earnest, who hopes to become a structural engineer. “The opportunity to do research while being an undergraduate is incredible. It will give me real-world experience, and help me compete in a very competitive job market. I would not necessarily have had this opportunity at another university.”

States actively using crumb rubber for their roadways are Arizona, California, Texas and Florida, said Shen. “It’s a way to recycle and use green materials. The state of Georgia produces approximately 9 million scrap tires every year. What are we going to do with them? This is a smart alternative.”

Junan Shen and his assistant test a crumb rubber sample.
Libraries are often touted as places of imagination and thought, a great way to explore world history from the comfort of one location. The books lining the shelves of the Zach S. Henderson Library certainly document history through the ages, but tucked away within its walls are historic treasures of another sort that are attracting national attention.

The Library’s Special Collections section contains nearly 3,000 original pieces of sheet music that have been selected by the American Library Association to host a national traveling exhibit next March, called “A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters, American Songs, 1910-1965.”

The yearlong exhibit documents the importance of Jewish artists and their contributions to American culture, focusing on the lives and works of Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Sammy Cahn, Jerome Kern, Al Jolson, Richard Rodgers and others. Colorful posters from Broadway shows and photographs of the composers, singers and casts of hit musicals are just some of the items to be displayed.

The exhibit will also feature a performance of songs from the University’s sheet music collection by local artist Harriet Ziegler, a concert by the Georgia Southern Symphony Orchestra conducted by music professor Adrian Gnam, and a panel discussion on Jewish influences and participation in the early 20th-century American stage.

“We have one of the largest collections in the Southeast,” said Marvin Goss, head of Special Collections, “and pieces from most of these composers will supplement the exhibit.” Special Collections is one of 55 sites – and one of only two in the state of Georgia – selected to host the exhibit.

“Some of our pieces include Berlin’s “White Christmas,” “Alexander’s Ragtime Band,” and “God Bless America,” he revealed. In addition to the Jewish composers, their collection contains several unique pieces ranging from the Soviet National Anthem to Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata” as well as sheet music from Brahms and Mozart.

Goss revealed that the bulk of their collection is from the estate of a former silent movie pianist in Savannah. “Almost 2,000 pieces of sheet music came from Leonora Lieuwenkamp. Her collection also included books of theme music that she played as an accompanist for silent movies,” he said.

Through the years, Special Collections has been contacted with some exclusive requests pertaining to their sheet music collection. “Once, we received a phone call from an out-of-state resident requesting a copy of some sheet music. Her father had just passed away, and she wanted his favorite song from 1910 to be played at his funeral. She had looked everywhere unsuccessfully for the music, until she discovered from our Web site, that we had a copy,” said Goss.

Goss was also contacted by the daughter of John Kellette, the composer of a popular 1918 waltz called “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles,” which was recorded by most major singers and bands through the early 1920s. “She was putting together a collection of her father’s music and had searched everywhere for this particular song when she found that we had this piece of music,” he said.

Special Collections offers more than just original sheet music, said Goss. The section also includes other artifacts, rare books and manuscripts, including unpublished papers, photographs, scrapbooks and other items, most of which are stored in the Library’s Automated Retrieval Collection (ARC). Due to the fragile nature of the collection, visitors are welcome to look at any artifacts, but only in the Special Collections reading room. That specific room also contains office furniture on display from former Georgia Southern President Zach Henderson. “We are preserving pieces of history for scholars and researchers,” said Goss.
For more than two decades, Georgia Southern University researchers Gale Bishop, Fred Rich and Kelly Vance have traveled by boat to discover the long-ago history of one of coastal Georgia’s barrier islands. Along with a team of geologists, archaeologists and biologists from around the country, researchers have unearthed disappearing plant species, studied the coastal sediments and groundwater, addressed the topic of coastal erosion and saved loggerhead sea turtles on St. Catherines Island.

Inhabited by the Guale Indians in the 1500s and the site of the Mission Santa Catalina de Guale, the 10-mile-long island has a rich history that once included ownership by Button Gwinnett, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. St. Catherines is now a protective haven for endangered species and one of coastal Georgia’s barrier islands.

“Research has been an important part of the island’s history for a very long time,” said Gale Bishop, who has worked with Bishop using Geoarchaeology to study St. Catherines Island. “One of Georgia Southern’s early researchers was Dr. Jim Oliver, who studied ticks and mites on the island. But Bud Rollins and David Hurst-Thomas have both been doing research here since the early 70s,” he said.

Bishop has teamed up with Thomas, curator of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, and Rollins, professor emeritus of geology at the University of Pittsburgh, to co-author Geoarchaeology of St. Catherines Island: Geoarchaeology is the result of papers presented by 20 researchers at the Fourth Caldwell Conference detailing their studies over the years.

“Geoarchaeology explores the geological history of St. Catherines Island and its interactions with early human habitation as North America was colonized by Native Americans, Europeans and African Americans — it preserves evidence of the habitats that these waves of diverse peoples lived in,” said Bishop.

Rich and Vance also co-authored several chapters in Geoarchaeology, and have actively conducted research on the island for many years.

Rich has discovered dozens of ancient plant species on the island, some that have vanished, because of climate and sea level changes. “The plant fossils tell in fact that the island’s climate has changed,” he said. “Spruce and hemlock are some of the species that don’t grow here, or even in the region anymore. Coastal Georgia once had a much cooler climate in the past, more like that of Wisconsin,” he said.

Vance is concerned about the threat to St. Catherines Island. Vance is concerned about the threat to the Florida Aquifer as sea level rises.

“We could have salt water mixing in with fresh water. All of our coastal areas are supplied by water from the Florida Aquifer, and the continued intrusion of salt water would eventually lead to loss of our greatest fresh water resource,” said Vance. With the large human population on the coast, other islands that would be affected included Ossabaw, Wassaw, Blackbeard, Sapelo, Sea Island and St. Simons as well as mainland communities.

In order to determine the possibility of salt water entering the Florida Aquifer through the shallow aquifer, Vance, colleagues and several undergraduate students have entered the next phase of their research using vibrocoring. During this process, sediment samples are collected after drilling approximately 20-30 feet underground. Vance revealed that after studying the core samples, they will have a better understanding of the shallow water table aquifer to determine the potential for communication with the deep Florida Aquifer. Vance is currently working with hydrogeologist Jim Reichard, environmental geologist and alumnus Brian Meyer and undergraduate geology major Brock Nelson to install shallow groundwater wells on the island.

As for further geoarchaeological research on the island, Bishop expects the studies and evaluations to strengthen and continue. “We host a great number of research programs on the island and we are even now collaborating on a new book called Research, Conservation, and Education, the motto of the St. Catherines Island Foundation,” he said.

Mary Beth Spence
New teaching technique helps struggling readers

For Sally Brown's students, a picture is worth a thousand words. The Georgia Southern University College of Education professor and longtime literacy advocate recently conducted research aimed at exploring ways to help struggling elementary school students learning to read. Instead of a traditional book, Brown's unique classroom approach used graphic novels.

This genre resembles a comic strip with colorful art and text placed in speech bubbles, and is an innovative way to explore the reading, writing and thinking processes of young English language learners. These students have a tougher time than most because they're learning a new language and learning to read at the same time.

Graphic novels differ from traditional books in that there are a limited amount of words, and an abundance of pictures that help students interpret the text. "Graphic novels present stories told through dialogue, and they help kids that struggle with reading. These novels help students with the reading process, there are fewer words, and the graphic nature helps students comprehend text," said Brown.

Brown's background in literacy stems from her 13 years spent in the classroom, reinforcing literacy skills in kindergarten through third grade students. "I worked with English language learners that struggled, specifically, Spanish-speaking students. I was bothered by the way other teachers treated them, so I became an advocate for immigrant students and their families," she said about her experiences.

Last spring, Brown worked with a class of 22 second graders: four days per week, dividing her research into two segments: the first, teaching students to read graphic novels; and secondly, having students write their own graphic novels.

Over the course of the three month study, students read over 200 graphic novels, which are documented on the class blog exploringgraphicnovels.edublogs.org, along with the graphic novels written and narrated by each student with YouTube videos. "Within the past year, there have been a lot of graphic novels published," said Brown, "and some of the popular series read by our class include The Lunch Lady and Baby Mouse."

Does the concept of graphic novels mean that traditional books are losing their spot in the classroom? Not necessarily, said Brown. "For these students – especially the English language learners – I saw a lot of benefits. For example, they were able to use the pictures to develop the context of the story. So, instead of using words to describe a setting, the students are able to look at the picture and recognize the location."

"These students were struggling with decoding text, which affects their comprehension. The graphic novels left space in their brains to focus on comprehension instead of decoding. Students feel that a book is manageable, just by having fewer words and more pictures on the page," she said. Some of Brown's reading strategies included teaching students to look at punctuation – I saw a lot of benefits. For example, they were able to use the pictures to develop the context of the story. So, instead of using words to describe a setting, the students are able to look at the picture and recognize the location."

"These students were struggling with decoding text, which affects their comprehension. The graphic novels left space in their brains to focus on comprehension instead of decoding. Students feel that a book is manageable, just by having fewer words and more pictures on the page," she said. Some of Brown's reading strategies included teaching students to look at punctuation marks, which helped them distinguish between the narrator and what a character is saying. In order to continue helping these young students, Brown feels that it all begins with the educator. Currently, she is teaching a required master's level literacy course that instructs teachers on the specifics of how to meet the needs of English language learners in their classrooms.

Researcher Laura Gunn seeks to equalize birth outcome disparities

Biostatistics researcher Laura Gunn is seeking to answer why African-American women have a significantly higher incidence of adverse birth outcomes than those of other ethnicities.

She recently collaborated with Alison Macfarlane and Nirupa Dattani of City University London, to compare birth outcomes data among English and Welsh women of African and Caribbean origin with that of the same ethnic minority groups in the U.S.

"One idea we have is that of a generational effect, which is why we're interested in looking at the mother's country of origin or birth," said Gunn. "We have data on births in the U.S., England, and Wales and we have information on the mother's country of birth. We can determine, through a biostatistical analysis, whether there are trends from one generation to the next."

Gunn said she hopes to determine if there are disparities between African-American and Caribbean-American women born in the U.S. and African-British and Welsh women born in the U.K. compared to these same ethnic minority groups in the U.S.

"One component when comparing the U.S. to England and Wales is that of prenatal care," she said. "In particular, one hypothesis is that there will be larger disparities in the U.S. with regard to prenatal care's association with adverse birth outcomes compared to that of the U.K. and Wales based on the vastly different health systems."

One factor that led to her invitation to collaborate in the U.K. was a paper authored by Gunn, health and kinesiology professors Diana Sturges and Padmini Shankar, and M.P.H. graduate student Shrikrisha Shroff. "We found clear disparities in infant mortality between African-American and white infants, with black infants' rate of death more than doubling that of white infants," said Gunn. This led to a second paper which considered maternal behavioral and medical factors and infant characteristics among the same women in the 2007 study associated with these disparities.

"Within the past year, there have been a lot of graphic novels published," said Brown, "and some of the popular series read by our class include The Lunch Lady and Baby Mouse."

"One idea we have is that of a generational effect, which is why we're interested in looking at the mother's country of origin or birth," said Gunn. "We have data on births in the U.S., England, and Wales and we have information on the mother's country of birth. We can determine, through a biostatistical analysis, whether there are trends from one generation to the next."

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RESEARCH NOTES

GEORGIA SOUTHERN RESEARCH NEWS ROUNDUP

Georgia Southern researchers are looking into the long-term effects of concussions with a $385,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. "Our goal is to help determine how effectively with concussions, builds on three years of ongoing concussion research within the College of Health and Human Sciences. In addition to Buckley, professors Barry Munkasy, Laura Gunn, George Shaver, and Brandy Close are participating in the research, which will work together to advance health, welfare and economic development."

"A communist regime – in power until 1991 – exercised a high degree of state terror," said Amy. "Eighty percent of the population was subject to exile, arrest, imprisonment, torture or execution, and it is estimated 20 percent of the population cooperated with the secret police in a surveillance structure that eradicated any possibility of a dissident movement. From this past, what in the West is understood as 'civil society' was, under the one-party system, illegal."

The analysis is part of her ongoing research about traumatic memory under communism in transition.

The ancient Chinese concept of yin yang describes how polar opposites like quantum entanglement logically undercut the ability to make complex theoretical topics understandable. In it, Zhang applies the yin yang concept to a new level of one another in ways. "In general, my students and I are interested in the role that aquatic consumers, mainly insects, play in ecosystem structure and function," he said. "Early in their lives many of these insects depend on healthy aquatic environment where they can develop to play very important roles in the breakdown of coarse materials like leaves and debris from the surrounding forest. However, as both juveniles and adults, they depend on healthy terrestrial environments for food, refuge and dispersal habitats." Furthermore, many of these insects can serve as food sources for larger consumers and make their way up the food chain as an important resource for fish, amphibians and even birds," said Colon-Gaud. "They can also provide important insight into the health and condition of local aquatic systems as many can be sensitive and thus respond rapidly to altered conditions."

Some of the researcher’s studies look at small streams in the Appalachian mountains and the Puerto Rican rainforest. Others are examining floodplains and wetlands of larger rivers in the southeastern Coastal Plain.

BIOLOGY RESEARCHER STUDIES HEALTH OF WATERWAYS

A Unifying Theory of Nature, Agents and Equilibrium: A Unifying Theory of Nature, Agents and Equilibrium: The role of freshwater insects in streams and rivers as indicators of the health of waterways. "In general, my students and I are interested in the role that aquatic consumers, mainly insects, play in ecosystem structure and function," he said. "Early in their lives many of these insects depend on healthy aquatic environment where they can develop to play very important roles in the breakdown of coarse materials like leaves and debris from the surrounding forest. However, as both juveniles and adults, they depend on healthy terrestrial environments for food, refuge and dispersal habitats."

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Opportunity is knocking.

“Not since 1982 and the ‘Dirty Dozen’ has there been a greater chance to impact Georgia Southern athletics, the University and the community than the $36.6 million Soaring to Victory Capital Campaign,” said John Mulherin, president of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation.

“This is our generational opportunity.” The Campaign’s vision is to put student-athletes in position to win conference and national titles and to earn their University degrees. “It is about rings and diplomas,” Mulherin said. “We’ve got to hire and retain the best possible coaches, we’ve got to attract the best possible athletes, provide facilities and upgrade technology for the fans.”

At the direction of Athletics Director Sam Baker, Mulherin approached every coach and asked, “What do you need to win a conference championship every single year?”

“The Campaign provides the means to meet those needs,” said Mulherin.

Phase I of the Campaign includes a $10 million football operations building – one that promises to be one of the nation’s best at any level. “Though we have been the standard for others in terms of our on-the-field success, we have continually had to overcome facility issues in competing for prospects and in player development,” said head football coach Jeff Monken. “We are now at the point where we have fallen behind. The facility will not only create the recruiting advantage that we desire, but will allow us to better train and prepare our team to continue to play championship-level football and position us to be an elite program at this level for decades to come.

“It will also give us the necessary facility to be a viable candidate for a move up if repositioning of college football
conferences takes place in coming years,” Monken said. The building’s impact will ripple far beyond football. “It will also help other athletic programs at the University by providing better space utilization and training for more than two-thirds of our athletes in other sports,” said University President Brooks Keel.

Moving football into a new facility frees up the current offices in the Parrish Building to become home for the athletics program, taking it and other sports out of the basement of old Hanner Gym. It frees up the Iron Works weight room and current sports medicine areas for timely and efficient use by other sports.

Work on the entrance to Hanner Fieldhouse can move forward along with a transformation of the current practice fields into a new lighted track/soccer stadium and a relocation of the football practice fields to the current track/soccer facility.

“The facility will not only create the recruiting advantage that we desire, but will allow us to better train and prepare our team to continue to play CHAMPIONSHIP-LEVEL FOOTBALL.”

– JEFF MONKEN

The Campaign also addresses another major need: coaching continuity. “Continuity wins championships,” said Mulherin. “Right now, if a better-funded program wants to lure Eagle coaches away, the Athletic Foundation is limited in its ability to respond. The Campaign would create a funding source to keep the University competitive year to year with other programs,” he said. “The Campaign goal is simple,” said Baker. “It is time to transform the face of Georgia Southern athletics for future generations.”

“It would be easy to look at the $36.6 million Soaring to Victory goal and wonder, ‘As one average fan, what can I do? Everyone can play a part in the campaign. There are opportunities to impact the growth of the program from an increase of your annual donation to a $1 million dollar gift. We all have a part in our future success.’

- John Mulherin, president, University Athletic Foundation

WHAT CAN ONE FAN DO?

1. Raise the bar on donations to the Eagle Fund, and give 110 percent for the Eagles.
2. Bring one more new donor to the Athletic Foundation.

Of the $36,600,000 needed for Soaring to Victory, $15,000,000 will need to come from the Eagle Fund, which will require an annual increase in revenue of $1,650,000.

EAGLE FUND

NEW EAGLE FUND

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Saoring to Victory

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Phase I:

STABILIZING THE PROGRAM: $15.5 MILLION
Increase annual Eagle Fund contributions to retain coaches $500,000
Football Operations Center $10 million
Salary of Excellence fund to incentivize coaching salaries $5 million

Phase II:

ENHANCING THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE: $2.85 MILLION
Double Athletic Foundation Annual Campaign/donor base $1,000,000
Student-athlete scholarships through private funding $350,000
Academic Support Center $250,000
Career/life skills program $250,000
Additional recruiting staff $150,000
Maximize auxiliary income $150,000
Increase recruiting budgets by 50% $100,000
Signature competitive and travel experiences $50,000
Double scholarship endowment $1,500,000
Improve student-athlete laptop program $200,000

Phase III:

UPGRADING ATHLETIC FACILITIES: $7.5 MILLION
Expand Allen E. Paulson Stadium $2,500,000
Soccer/track relocation-lighting $2,500,000
New football practice complex $1,000,000
Athletics administrative office $500,000
Cowart Building/Ticket Office expansion $500,000
Softball batting cage complex $250,000
Indoor multi-purpose practice center $250,000

Phase IV:

IMPROVING THE FAN EXPERIENCE: $10.5 MILLION
New scoreboards and PA for football, baseball, and basketball $5,500,000
Hanner Fieldhouse renovation $5,000,000

Phase V:

EXPANDING THE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE: $275,000
E-ticketing and scanning program $100,000
Athletics film studio, expand broadcast ability $75,000
Upgrade Web site, on-demand programming $50,000
Availability of technology for coaches $50,000

FUNDING SOURCES FOR SOARING TO VICTORY

Of the $36,600,000 needed for Soaring to Victory, $15,000,000 will need to come from the Eagle Fund, which will require an annual increase in revenue of $1,650,000.
All eyes in Allen E. Paulson Stadium are fixed on senior Eagle quarterback Jaybo Shaw at the start of every offensive play for his team. While he carries no identifying “No. 14” on his day-to-day treks across campus, he’s still a highly recognizable figure to other students as a leader of their beloved Eagles.

Fellow senior Katie Stambek caught up with Jaybo to pose a few questions about his life off the field.

Since your major is business management, what are your career plans?
I’d like to coach as soon as I get done playing. I’d like to stay here and coach with Coach Monken if that’s possible. If not, I’ve always talked about opening up a business with my brother and he’s a business management major as well at South Carolina.

What’s going through your mind on game day? Do you have any rituals?
I call my parents before every game. It kind of calms me down. It’s always good to hear my mom before the game. I call them, and if I can, I talk to my brother, too.

Do you still get nervous before a game?
Oh, yeah. Absolutely. It doesn’t get old, I can promise you. I just try to embrace that nervousness and move on.

Moving from metro Atlanta to south Georgia is a change — what are some things you’ve enjoyed most about Statesboro?
Just the college-type town and the community. It’s a lot different from Atlanta — in a good way. It’s slower paced. I love the community and I love my teammates. Even though it’s a little hot down here, I can’t ask for a better place.

You’re just starting your final season, so tell me about your experience at Georgia Southern.
I’ve gotten to know all these guys, my teammates. They’re like brothers, so it’s been great. I’ve got a great coaching staff — they love us and we love them, so it’s been awesome.

Who’s been especially influential during your time at Georgia Southern?
Coach Ware and Coach Monken, definitely. Coach Monken, I’ve known since I was at Georgia Tech. He’s a great football coach, but he’s an even better man. He’s awesome. Coach Ware is like another father figure to me. It’s just been great.

How would your friends describe your personality?
Probably real shy. I don’t talk a whole lot. I just try to be a good friend — to be there when they need me and to try to be around the guys as much as I can.

You’ve played football since you were a kid. If you weren’t playing football, what sport would you be playing?
Golf. I love it. Every time I go home I try to play as much as I can with my dad and my brother.

You get a lot of media attention. What is the strangest thing you’ve ever been asked?
It’s a common question, but I guess one of them would be, “How did ‘Jaybo’ come about?” It’s not even my name. It’s Jared. And my middle name is Lee. It came out of nowhere. My mom came up with it. I was playing Little League baseball and I don’t know how she did it to this day.

How do you spend your free time in the off season?
I try to be around my family as much as I can. I’ve got a brother and I’ve also got a little sister.

You’ve got a very active family. Are you guys competitive?
Absolutely, and my sister’s the best athlete out of all of us. She is a junior this year in high school. She wants to play college tennis, so I hope that will work out.

If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be?
I’m going to stay with football. Drew Brees. He’s not very big and he’s making millions of dollars in the NFL, but he’s a Christian man and he puts his faith before anything else. He came back from what they thought was a career-ending injury and now he’s a Super Bowl champion.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I want to be a good husband one day and a good father one day, and provide for my family — just be a good person and just be there for the people who need me and be able to support my family.
Record-setting Eagle placekicker returns for his final season

Georgia Southern placekicker Adrian Mora never kicked a football until his first day of practice his freshman year in high school. Strange, since the 23-year-old Georgia Southern placekicker finished the 2010 football season as an Associated Press Third-Team All-American, as the College Football Performance Awards Placekicker of the Year, and as one of 10 Finalists for the Fred Mitchell Placekicker of the Year Award. He was named to the Mitchell Watch List for the 2011 season.

“Mora played soccer for his middle school team and it was his soccer coach who suggested he might want to consider playing football. “I was the one that did all the goal kicks and was the hard hitter on the soccer team all through middle school,” Mora said. The same year, his older brother started to play for his high school football team. “I used to go watch his games – and us soccer people really didn’t have anyone showing up to the stadium – but, when I went, just seeing that environment was fun and I wanted to be a part of it,” Mora said.

Mora said that his high school football coach, Ronnie McClurg, played a big part in his success as a player. “He is someone who cared more about me as a person than a football player. I would say that he was the one that guided me throughout my high school years and into my college years,” Mora said. Mora said that McClurg also played an integral part in helping him pick what college he would choose to play for.

Knowing that Mora’s family didn’t have the means to send their son to college on their own, McClurg assumed the role of Mora’s advisor, making it known to prospective schools that Mora was not going to play anywhere where he wouldn’t be provided for.

“We [our family] are by no means wealthy,” said Mora. “We’re wealthy in that we care for each other, we’re always there for each other and we’re together no matter what,” Mora said.

Mora said that, although he made good grades through high school and had earned the HOPE Scholarship, he already knew that if he didn’t have a scholarship to play football that he probably would have ended up going to community college.

“It was great that I was given this opportunity to showcase my talents and at the same time get a degree,” Mora said.

When it came to choosing Georgia Southern as the school where he would showcase those talents, Mora wanted to go to a school that had traditions that reflected those of the winning years of Dalton High School. He found those traditions at Georgia Southern.

“I think another factor that played into it was that it’s far enough away from home where I’m able to start anew, but still close enough to where my family can come to the games every single week, which they do,” Mora said.

As proud as Mora is of his success as an athlete, he is even more proud of his academic achievements. He said that he realizes not many college players will ever make it into the NFL, and he sees getting a degree and doing well academically as the real payoff for getting to play college ball.

“I think the fact that school is setting me up for life is more rewarding than getting hardware for my accomplishments on the field,” Mora said.

Mora earned an undergraduate degree in business administration last spring, finishing with an overall 3.9 GPA, and is now enrolled in graduate school for his final season as an Eagle.

-Matthew D’La Rotta
Charlton Young can’t wait to get this season started. “We’re going from being probably the youngest team in the country to one of the older teams in our conference,” said the Eagle men’s basketball head coach.

Among the older players returning this season will be senior Ben Drayton, who Young says has improved tremendously. Senior Willie Powers will also be returning from an injury sustained last season. Young wants Powers to drop about 15 pounds before the start of the season in order to take some pressure off of his knees and ankles so as to prevent further injuries.

“With those two guys in our backcourt, we have two of the better guards in the conference,” Young said.

There will also be five of last year’s freshman players returning this season, including Marvin Baynham and Jelani Hewitt – two players that Young says could have easily been on the SoCon All-Freshman team.

The 19th-ranked freshman in the country, Eric Ferguson, and teammates Sam Mike and Tre Bussey will complete the list of returning freshman players.

Young’s main focus for improvement over last season’s performance lies in the team’s ability to shoot.

“We did not shoot the ball well last season. Some of it was inexperience and the speed of the game. Some of it was losing our point guard, Willie Powers, who kind of set guys up and made the games easier for people,” Young said.

To improve the team’s shooting percentage, Young is making sure that during every individual workout the players are taking over 500 shots and charting each one of them.

Young is leading the men’s basketball team into its third year of a program that he says is growing.

“We took our knocks, but I knew what I was doing. I wanted to build it with freshmen. We wanted to build a program that could sustain itself. We’re in year three and we have a chance to take off and have a really good two- or three-year run with these kids we have in the program,” Young said.

Young has no doubt that the University and the fans will have the patience to wait for him to make the Georgia Southern men’s basketball team a winning program again. “President Keel, Sam Baker, and our administration have all been fabulous with me and my staff, and with the kids in our program. But, even more impressive than our administration, the student body and the fans have been unbelievable,” Young said.

Young said that at the end of last season he would still see between 1,500 to 2,000 fans at each game to support a team that was struggling.

“The community and the student body believe in what we’re doing,” Young said.

-Matthew D’La Rotta

Right: Head coach Charlton "CY" Young leads his team into year three of a freshman-heavy rebuild- ing program that should see the squad make significant improve- ment over last year’s 5-27 mark.
Getting healthy has been priority one for the 2011-2012 women’s basketball squad. Having finished up last season with a total of 11 major injuries, six surgeries in the off-season, and inconsistencies in the starting line-up, head coach Rusty Cram says that the staff has been focused on getting his team members through all their physical rehabilitations so that they will be back to 100 percent by the season’s tip off.

“Basically we shut down the majority of the spring and summer just so they can get healthy again, because that’s our biggest problem,” Cram says.

On the flip side to all the injuries and downtime, Cram says he is excited about the players he has returning, along with the three incoming freshman.

“For three years we’ve changed our offense and it’s been a slow process in getting to the point where we have the type of athletes who can run that offense the way we expect it to be run,” Cram says.

Highly recruited freshman Kayla Upchurch will be joining the squad this season as a point guard. Cram expects her to get playing time immediately since former starting point guard, Jamie Navarro, will not be returning. Anna Claire Knight, from Dublin, Ga., will also join the program as a freshman.

“Highly recruited freshman Kayla Upchurch will be joining the squad this season as a point guard. Cram expects her to get playing time immediately since former starting point guard, Jamie Navarro, will not be returning.

‘She’s coming in from the 3,000 point club out of high school. She can score the basketball. She comes highly recruited and she’s the epitome of a student-athlete,’ Cram says.

Tashayla Steede will complete the list of new additions to the program and will be a post player who Cram is expecting to bring impact minutes inside the paint.

Cram says for his squad to improve over last season, they are going to have to get better defensively and be more consistent at swapping out between nine or ten players without skipping a beat. But the biggest area for improvement would have to be the post game.

“We have to score more with our big people than we did last year, because we have to start from the inside and work out,” says Cram.

To implement the changes necessary for a winning season, Cram plans on keeping the team’s “flex” offense by having some quick shooters and isolating certain players who continue to demonstrate an ability to score.

Cram plans for senior Janay Wilson to be an integral part of the team’s new strategy. Wilson was out all of last season due to an injured ACL.

“We know she’s going to be able to get to the rim and open up some shooters. We didn’t have that last year,” Cram says.

The entire coaching staff returns with Regina Days-Bryan, Amy Krach and Mary Perry.

“At our level, when you’re at the mid-Division I level, anytime you can keep a staff together every year it’s a bonus. There’s a pretty big turnover with assistant coaches,” Cram says. ‘The squad opens up against Arizona in Hanner Fieldhouse, followed by Georgia, and then on the road against Alabama.

“We throw them to the wolves early. And, they’re going to realize – especially these incoming freshmen – that they’re not in high school anymore,” Cram says.

“How many people can say they played Arizona on their home floor? These are teams you get to see on TV playing for the Top 20 and for national championships, and we get them right here on our floor.’

- Matthew D’La Rotta

Entering his 17th season as head coach, Rusty Cram is looking for consistency and depth on this season’s women’s basketball squad.
SIDELINES
GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLE ATHLETICS ROUNDPUP

SOCON, PUBLIC TELEVISION AGREE TO FOOTBALL BROADCASTS

The Southern Conference has agreed to a three-year plan with public television systems in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina to televise SoCon football, including three Georgia Southern games this year – two at home and one away.

Eight conference games will be televised in each of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 seasons and coverage will reach nearly 11 million homes through 32 affiliates, making it the largest regional distribution option across both broadcast and cable.

The network will televise Georgia Southern’s Oct. 8 home game vs. Chattanooga at 3 p.m., the Oct. 15 home game vs. Furman at 3 p.m. and the Oct. 29 game at Appalachian State at 3 p.m.

ASSOCIATE AD BEENE TO CHAIR DIVISION I TENNIS COMMITTEE

The NCAA Men’s and Women’s Tennis Committee has tabbed Georgia Southern Associate Director of Athletics Cathy Beene to serve as chair for the coming season.

Beene has served on the Committee since 2009. This season marks the second term Beene has served as chair, having led the group from 1993-1997.

“I’m humbled that my colleagues have chosen me to lead the Division I Tennis Committee for a second time,” said Beene. “Being selected to chair a national committee is a tremendous honor for both Georgia Southern and the Southern Conference.”

EAGLE ATHLETES NAMED TO SOCON ACADEMIC TEAM

Twenty-two Georgia Southern athletes have been named to the All-Southern Conference Academic Team comprised of the highest-performing students in the conference.

Tennis player Alessandra Dzuba joined the list as one of 13 SoCon student-athletes to maintain a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade point average.

Also named to the team were: Logan Blodell, golf; Ali Beavers, women’s tennis; Kelly Burnett, softball; Bethany Cranshaw, softball; Sara Curry, track and field; Matthew Deal, golf; Hanna Ennis, softball; Sebastien Felt, men’s tennis; Morgan Fenterson, track and field; and Kasi Lee, track and field.

MINCEY TO LEAD CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK AND FIELD

Former Eagle Marlo Mincey will lead the Georgia Southern track and field programs as their new head coach.

Mincey comes to the University from Georgetown University where she helped the Hoyas finish in the Top 25 at the 2011 NCAA Outdoor Championships.

The new coach competed for the Eagles in the NCAA outdoor regionals in 2004 and set three outdoor and two indoor University records. She finished her Georgia Southern career with six SoCon titles and a degree in exercise science. She completed a master’s degree in sport management in 2007.

DIVING NAMES GIAMBRA NEW COACH

Former Clemson standout diver David Giambra has been named head diving coach for the Eagles.

Giambra lettered for four years for the Tigers and holds school records in one-meter and three-meter events.
Giving Thanks
Hoyes family leaving a legacy with bequest

For alumna Sheila Hoyes (’71), reconnecting with her Georgia Southern roots began with something as simple as a decal on a car. Ever since Hoyes launched an Eagle Club in Conyers, Ga., she and her husband, Spence, began meeting more and more people who shared their passion. “I would just stop people on the street if I saw they had a Georgia Southern sticker,” she said. Over the years, the 2011 College of Education Alumna of the Year has steadily rebuilt her connection with her alma mater.

“Back when I was in school, Georgia Southern was much smaller – you knew everyone on campus, if not by name, at least by face,” said Hoyes. She and Spence became reacquainted with a much larger Georgia Southern in 1992 after attending a football game with their daughter, Marla.

“Not only do we love Georgia Southern athletics, but my degree has given me 30 wonderful years as a teacher,” said Hoyes.

“The spark of interest for she and Spence things took off from there.” That spark of interest for she and Spence has developed into a full-blown passion for the University. Hoyes worked with the Office of Alumni Relations to start an Eagle Club in their area. “Through the years, I worked with (former alumni directors) Gene Crawford and then Frank Hook. Frank was such a motivator – he is so enthusiastic, that you can’t help but be excited, too.” Hook encouraged Hoyes to serve as an officer on the Alumni Board and she later served as Board president from 2000-2002. “It was such an awesome job – traveling with Frank to visit all of the Eagle Clubs was such fun,” said Hoyes.

The Hoyes have also served the University as a member of the board for the College of Education and the Athletic Foundation Board of Directors.

Planned charitable gifts create a win-win situation for Georgia Southern University and the donor. The conservation of income and considerable tax savings often combine to make possible a gift that might not have been made otherwise. This act of philanthropic support leaves a legacy and an example for others to follow.

A will bequest is the most popular way to make a planned gift to the Georgia Southern University Foundation. A bequest may be expressed in terms of a specific sum or a percentage of the residuary estate.

For more information on planned giving and other giving opportunities, please contact the University Foundation at 912-478-4483 (GSU-GIVE) or visit http://georgiasouthern.edu/foundation.

Donors to this fund will be recognized by giving level on a plaque that will be displayed along with the exhibit.

Giving Levels:
$20,000 Gives you the opportunity to name the exhibit $10,000 Platinum Level
$5,000 Gold Level
$2,500 Silver Level
$1,000 Bronze Level

*All donations may be paid across multiple years

For more information on donations and giving to the University, please contact Pam Jones at 912-656-4243.

Do you have a unique item you would like to donate to the Museum’s collection? Please contact Brent Tharp at 912-478-5444.

THE STORY OF US
Funds, items sought for permanent University history exhibit

A s a college student, Louise Quantock Watson (’35), never imagined her scrapbook would be valuable one day, but as part of a collection of Georgia Southern memorabilia, it offers a priceless view into the daily lives and personal experiences of students in the 1930s.

Watson’s scrapbook holds countless items that reflect the era of her college days, including movie tickets, photos and telegrams, and even her first student worker pay stub.

The Georgia Southern Museum is on the hunt for more items like this to be included in a permanent exhibit that chronicles the historical transformation of Georgia Southern from its beginnings as the First District A&M school to being one of the top five most popular universities in the country today. Donations are also being requested to help build the cabinetry to house the rotating exhibit in the Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Conference Center. The fundraising goal has been set at $100,000.

“Alumni and visitors to campus, as well as current faculty, staff, and students will be able to explore artifacts, photographs, and interactive elements that interpret and honor the story of our institution,” said Brent Tharp, administrative director of the Georgia Southern Museum. “We have a core collection – the Centennial celebration added some new artifacts – but we continue looking for artifacts that help preserve the stories of Georgia Southern’s unique students, faculty, staff and campus.”

For more information on donations and giving opportunities, please contact Pam Jones at 912-656-4243.

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Foundation plans 1906 Gala

The sounds of Motown will fill the air as the University hosts this year’s 1906 Gala. The Homecoming weekend tradition is a chance for the University’s most loyal donors to gather and celebrate their shared love of Georgia Southern. University President Brooks Keel and First Lady Tammy Schalae will host this year’s Gala on Friday, Nov. 4, 2011, at the University’s Performing Arts Center and Nessmith-Lane Conference Center Ballroom.

The black-tie event for 1906 Society members will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with a reception featuring cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres in the Nessmith-Lane Ballroom. At 8 p.m., Forever Motown will take the stage in the adjoining Performing Arts Center.

As their name suggests, Motown transports audiences back in time to when the classic “Motown Sound” ruled the radio. Audience will know every song and will delight in hearing old favorites made famous by artists like Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Temptations and many more.

While this premier event is only open to 1906 Society members, there is still time to join the 1906 Society and attend the invitation-only gala. Those who join the 1906 Society before October 15 will receive an invitation to this year’s Gala. Membership in the 1906 Society is intended to attract donors who make annual gifts of $1,200 or more to support the Georgia Southern University Foundation. When cumulative gifts total reach $12,000, donors become lifetime members of the 1906 Society.

For more information, members can contact Alex Grovenstein at 912-478-GIVE (4483). Current 1906 Society members may visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/1906gala or contact Melanie Mosley at 912-478-7621 for more information about this year’s event.

1960s

Cecil Christopher Jr. (’69) of McRae, Ga., has been inducted into the Association of Old Crows Electronic Warfare Hall of Fame. The honor recognizes individuals or groups who have been a prime innovator in technology development for electronic warfare.

The induction ceremony for Christopher will be held this November in Washington, D.C. The Association of Old Crows is a not-for-profit international professional association with over 13,000 members. This organization is engaged in the science and practice of electronic warfare, information operations, and related disciplines.

1970s

Tommy Rogers (’71) of Eastman, Ga., traveled to Brazil the summer to work with researchers on sustainability research. Rogers is one of 25 Alcoa employees from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, Suriname and the United States to venture to Rio Carnival preparations in Pará State, Brazil, or the Guanabara National Natural Reserve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to become sustainability leaders as a part of the Earthwatch expedition.

John Brunger (’74) earned 19 years of service credit in the Texas Public School System including teaching social studies for 15 years in the Hurst Bowling/Bedford Independent School District of Texas.

Michael Skinner (’73) was honored with a Meritorious Service Award from the Georgia Society of CPAs. Skinner has 37 years of experience in public accounting and is an owner of Skinner, Ramdall & Associates, P.C. Skinner is the former president of the Savannah Business Association and is a member of the Telfair Museum of Art for 10 years. Skinner serves on advisory councils for Georgia Southern’s School of Accountancy and College of Business Administration. He was Alumnus of the Year for the School of Accountancy in 1990 and for the College of Business Administration.

1980s

Twyra Humphrey Preising (’83) was nominated for the Excellence in Education Award from the Alpha Delta Kappa International Teacher’s Sorority. She was the 2010 winner for Arizona in the Southwest Region. She also recently received the DMI Grand Canyon Chapter of Arizona American History Teacher of the Year Award.

Laird Culver (’85) and his wife, Becky, toured Costa Rica for their 25th wedding anniversary. “We visited the four volcanoes around San Jose,” he wrote. “It is strange getting altitude sickness after driving a car above 11,000 feet. Beautiful views of the surrounding area when you could see down below the clouds. The highlight was zip lining above and through the triple canopy jungle at dusk and after dark.”

1990s

Daniel E. Ellis (’95) has been named senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Cambike Cinemas Inc. Ellis most recently served as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary at hotel franchise owner and operator Lodgian Inc. and LSREF Peach Investments LLC, a private equity firm. Prior to working for Lodgian, Ellis was an associate attorney at Stokes Latour & Carmichael LLP in Atlanta. From 1995-97 he was assistant district attorney for the State of Georgia. His affiliations include the State Bar of Georgia, treasurer of Georgia’s American Corporate Counsel Association chapter and board member of the Foster Care Support Foundation of Georgia.

Spencer N. Mullis (’96) president and CEO of Moris Bank, Dublin, Ga., has been elected by his peers in the state as president of the Leadership GBA Executive Committee of the Georgia Bankers Association (GBA). Leadership GBA is committed to developing the future leaders of the banking industry.

Trey Danieil (’97) has earned his Professional Engineer License. He began a Georgia Department of Transportation career in 1998 as a civil engineer, a position he recently held within. His work includes numerous engineering projects with the Department and is currently erosion sedimentation control liaison.

Don L. Shelnutt (’99) has joined Park Sterling Corporation, the holding company for Park Sterling Bank. Shelnutt, formerly director, Monitored Credit Group for Carolina First Bank, will oversee a team of veteran bankers with the newly formed asset-based lending business. Shelnutt has over 30 years of banking experience, including senior line and credit positions at Wachovia and other regional institutions.

2000s

Justin Dunn (’02) and Neillie Dunn (’00) welcomed the birth of Jack Ryves at 7:52 a.m. on Aug. 11. He was 7 lbs. 11 and 19 inches.

Jacqueline Allen (’03) has been named the Alex Fee Memorial Pro Bono Service Award winner by the Maryland State Bar Association for her efforts on behalf of Maryland’s homeless populace. Since 2008, as part of the Association’s Homeless Persons’ Representation Project, Allen has helped 27 people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to obtain expungements of certain charges listed on their criminal records.

Eric Pucciarelli (’94) was promoted to vice president of the AlphaKappa, Ga., based financial services firm, OYVest Financial. The firm is featured weekly on the Atlanta radio station Rock 100.5 FM’s, “The Regular Guys” morning show.

George Gray (’07) has received a Master of Fine Arts in acting degree from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.
Healthy Solutions
Alumnus addresses pressing healthcare issues around the state of Georgia

David Cook (’76) is a person who leads by example.

Working as the chief of staff for then-Congressman Nathan Deal in the 1990s, Cook learned a valuable lesson from his mentor. “He taught me that there’s an art to living with humble discipline and integrity, and that when you do the right thing for the right reason, you produce good results,” he said.

Today, as the State of Georgia’s Commissioner for the Department of Community Health (DCH), Cook looks for solutions to health care issues that impact millions of low-income, underserved Georgians every day. Under his leadership, the $12 billion state agency is responsible for all health care purchasing, planning and regulation in the state. “Our mission is to provide affordable, quality health care to Georgians through effective planning, purchasing and oversight, and thus create a healthy Georgia,” he said.

The agency administers the Medicaid program which serves 1.7 million Georgians. It also oversees the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) that insures nearly 700,000 state employees, teachers, retirees and their dependents through one of the nation’s largest state health insurance programs. Combined, Medicaid and the State Health Benefit Plan provide access to health care for nearly one in four Georgians.

Cook began his lifetime role as an advocate for Georgia’s youth in college. “I was a radio broadcast reporter for WGST, station-owned by the President,” he answered questions during my call-in show from students about a variety of campus matters,” he said.

After graduating with a political science degree from the University, he worked as the reading clerk for the Georgia State Senate for two years before attending law school at the University of Georgia. As a law student, Cook gained additional experience working with the Prisoner Legal Counseling Program on pro-bono criminal, misdemeanor and appellate cases. “After I graduated from law school, I was tapped to open the legal office at the Georgia State Prison in Reidsville as part of a program to provide appellate services in compliance with federal court orders. I worked on this program for the first 18 months, and continued my legal career and taught constitutional law at Georgia Southern. It was like coming home to have this role as a graduate of Georgia Southern,” he said.

During the next decade, Cook was able to use his leadership skills, legal expertise, legislative experience and an understanding of health care practices as he built his career. He moved to Atlanta, opened a law firm, worked as a top aide to then-state Senator Nathan Deal and subsequently began a lengthy association with the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) first as the director of government relations, handling all areas of law and advocacy for the association.

In 2001, Cook was named executive director and CEO of MAG, and over the next several years he restructured the organization and added new components such as the Physicians’ Institute for Excellence in Medicine, which helps improve health care outcomes through medical education.

“The Institute supports physicians with educational programs, as well as sponsoring projects that utilize the knowledge and practices of specialists and physicians in their offices,” said Cook. One important initiative was the launch of the MAG E-Technology Academy, to assist physicians with the use of technology in their offices.

Last January, Cook received the Georgia Magazine of the Year Award from the Georgia Magazine Association. He donated Cook to his current position at the DCH, which serves more than 1.7 million residents through Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare – Medicaid for children up to age 19. “I am the new health care reform law, we estimate that we will add approximately 650,000 new members over the next several years,” he said, mentioning a future challenge for the agency.

On the horizon, Cook foresees a future collaboration between DCH’s Office of Rural Health and Georgia Southern’s Rural Health Research Institute. “The Rural Health Research Institute is a perfect complement to the needs of the rural and underserved in the state,” he said.

“Health care delivery is an arena of constant change and it is imperative to continue to be flexible and responsive to that change, always seeking ways to make things better,” he said.

Gloria Kilgore (’60) chose her major in business education thinking that she would either teach or enter the business world.

Then the “travel bug” intervened. A four-decade career in foreign service with the U.S. Department of State fulfilled Kilgore’s drive to see the world. Even now, she recalls a book she read as a child about a couple’s African travels and her fascination when Christian missionaries serving in China spoke at her church. “I’ve always had this desire to travel,” she said.

She applied and was hired for an entry-level foreign service position, living for six months in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Information Agency and then the “travel bug” intervened. She was assigned - Istanbul, Turkey.

She applied and was hired for an entry-level foreign service position, living for six months in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Information Agency and then the “travel bug” intervened. She was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Istanbul, Turkey. “When I first joined, I said I’d stay two years to get this travel bug out of my system,” said Kilgore. “I retired 42 years later.”

As a regional office manager, Kilgore made official visits to more than two dozen countries and visited many others on her own. Each locale held a unique experience, she said. While stationed in London, “I think I put 30,000 miles on my car just traveling England. I visited someplace new every weekend.”

Despite warnings about what she should avoid eating, Kilgore enjoyed literally taking in the local flavor. “I tasted everything,” she said. “In Istanbul, when I walked to work I went by the bakery and would buy a loaf of crusty and delicious bread fresh out of the oven. One afternoon, the fishermen had just come in with their catch and had a frying pan on the boat and were frying their fresh fish and selling it. I couldn’t resist this delicious fish sandwich. I ate on the streets in China, Laos and Thailand.” She was only six inches tall from bad food in India after eating in a five-star hotel.

In Istanbul, Kilgore watched from her balcony as Soviet ships passed through the Bosphorus Strait in support of Cuba during the 1962 missile crisis. She visited Viet Nam while stationed in Laos, regularly flying in to American air bases for refueling in the war-torn country. She was a member of the diplomatic staff supporting President Lyndon Johnson’s visit to Thailand in 1966 and President Richard Nixon’s 1972 visit to Moscow during the Strategic Arms Limitation (SALT) talks, and was working in the office of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger when Nixon resigned. She worked under President Ronald Reagan’s 1985 visit to Bonn for a summit with European leaders.

At one point, Kilgore was detailed to the White House as a gift representative to the Clinton Administration, cataloging incoming and outgoing gifts to the President. “It was a lot of fun,” she said. “There were some very nice gifts - some very expensive and some very creative gifts from children.” She drafted thank-you notes, all according to strictly prescribed protocol. “There was always an official thank-you for each gift,” she said.

“I was working in Washington on Sept. 11, 2001,” said Kilgore. “We were evacuated out of the building onto the streets. We were able to see the smoke billowing from the Pentagon. Normally it took me 40 minutes to get home, but it took two hours that day.”

Through all the massive changes in technology Kilgore witnessed – from typewriters to desktop computers and transatlantic cable messages to encrypted satellite links – one thing has remained constant. While governments often clash and customs differ from nation to nation, “Kids” is the world over share much in common. “They’re people just like we are,” she said.
As a general manager at Australia’s largest media company, Fairfax Media, Wendell Williams (’90) has come a long way from selling ads for a student newspaper.

A native of Atlanta, Williams grew up in the Buckhead area, where many generations of his family were from, before moving to Marietta at the age of 12. “Both sides of my family have ties to Atlanta and there was a rivalry between those who were University of Georgia fans (his father’s side) and those who were Georgia Tech fans (his mother’s side), and yet I ended up going to neither,” Williams said. “Now I find myself about as far away from Atlanta and Georgia as possible.”

Williams enrolled at Georgia Southern in 1986, and also became active in the Greek system as an undergraduate. As Sigma Chi chapter editor, he received his first opportunity to work in marketing and communications, writing for and promoting his fraternity. “Getting published in the national Sigma Chi magazine cemented my love of journalism and inspired me to continue my pursuit to work in media,” Williams said.

Williams also worked as the advertising manager for the local independent student newspaper, selling and designing ads for local businesses.

He didn’t set out to graduate with a communication arts degree when he first came to Georgia Southern. Rather, his original intentions were to earn a business degree. That is, until he took a required communication arts class where the professor talked through marketing and communications principles.

“I realized then that I was more interested in the communications aspect than the business principles,” Williams said. “Luckily I was able to study and have a career that combines both.”

Pamela Bourland-Davis, chair of the Communication Arts department, played a particularly pivotal role in Williams’ education by encouraging all of her students to think critically – a skill Williams said is imperative in the “real world.” “She helped shape my love of communication and media, and I would like to think I’ve put that to good use,” Williams said.

Williams has most certainly put his passions to use. With a resume that boasts previous employment positions working for The New York Times in strategic partnerships, and vice president at the Fox Group global development firm, it is no wonder that Fairfax Media selected Williams to lead the strategizing of the company as well as overseeing 400-plus newspapers and over 300 Web sites in Australia and New Zealand. Williams manages all international media contracts and negotiations, as well as the monetization of Fairfax Media’s content worldwide.

“Why not fly with the Eagles?”

Georgia Southern University’s Flying Eagles travel program has been providing outstanding travel opportunities since 1991. Find out why you should join the 650 participants who have already chosen to travel with The Flying Eagles.

Join us in May 2012 for the “Bite the Big Apple” Theatre Class and Trip to New York!
Flight Plan

Global marketing led by EMBA grad Clint Clouatre

Course corrections are routine for pilots, and one made by Clint Clouatre (’90) set him on the way to new heights.

Clouatre was recently named vice president of marketing for Embraer Executive Jets. The West Monroe, La., native earned his Executive MBA at Georgia Southern while working as a flight test engineer in Savannah.

He has had a life-long love of flight and had considered a career as a military pilot. With less-than-perfect eyesight, he knew that was not going to be an option.

Instead, Clouatre earned an undergrad degree in engineering, hoping to break into the aerospace industry. “Flight testing was a lot of fun,” he said, “but I didn’t want to go into aviation,” he said. The rest of his family wasn’t all that interested, though.

“My father only flew one time and that was with me!”

“For as long as he can remember, Clouatre has loved flying – a good thing, since the number of flights he is taking between continents just took a big leap. A licensed pilot at the age of 25, “I had always wanted to go into aviation,” he said. The rest of his family wasn’t all that interested, though.

“I was just fortunate the opportunity presented itself, and it was an interesting cross section.

It was an interesting cross section. I was just fortunate the opportunity presented itself, and it was an absolutely incredible experience.”

He found the EMBA a great fit for his evolving interests. “Engineering was very difficult for me,” Clouatre said. “I found business much more intuitive.”

Today, Clouatre is responsible for the worldwide marketing initiatives of Embraer’s Executive Jets division. Headquartered in Brazil, the company employs more than 17,000 people around the globe and earned net revenues in 2010 of $5.3 billion. The company designs and manufactures four product lines: commercial airliners, agricultural airplanes, defense aircraft and executive jets.

In addition to Brazil, Embraer operates facilities in France, Portugal, Spain, China and the U.S., including its brand new $50 million, 80,000-square-foot executive jet plant in Melbourne, Fla. Clouatre is proud of the company’s contribution to job growth in Florida, especially in an economic downturn. It is expected to eventually employ 200.

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“My father only flew one time and that was with me!”

Blue Skies

Meteorologist Fowler a household name in ‘Holy City’

Meteorologist for WCBD-TV in Charleston, S.C., Rob Fowler (’82), grew up in Atlanta and had always been in close proximity to the University of Georgia, so naturally he thought that he would end up there.

That is, until he got a good look at what Georgia Southern’s campus had to offer.

“I visited Georgia Southern in February of my senior year of high school and absolutely just fell in love with it,” Fowler said.

“I was ready to sign on the dotted line right then.”

Fowler started at the University in the fall of 1978. Since Georgia Southern didn’t offer a degree in meteorology, he began to take a substantial number of geography courses under the instruction of professor Dan Good. Fowler used the courses to supplement the degree he earned in broadcasting.

Let your holiday shopping support Georgia Southern!

Let your holiday shopping support Georgia Southern!

Fresh out of college, Fowler landed an internship with a Savannah, Ga., television station through Georgia Southern. His internship soon turned into a career.

“I did a little bit of everything, but weather is kind of where I wanted to hang my hat,” Fowler said.

Fowler went back to school at Mississippi State University, where he received his certification for meteorology.

After working in Savannah for four years, Fowler decided it was time for a change and moved to Green Bay, Wis., where he worked for a couple of years before taking on the role of chief meteorologist for WCBD-TV in Charleston, S.C.

Fowler gained national recognition during the coverage of Hurricane Hugo in 1989, when the television station he was working for ended up being the last station on the air during the storm.

“A lot of people remember me as the last person they saw, the last voice they heard before the power went out; telling everybody to batten down the hatches, and if they hadn’t left yet, then stay put,” Fowler said.

During the Hugo coverage, Fowler was the only full-time meteorologist on staff, had gone without sleep for almost three days, and was handicapped by the technology of the times.

“It’s amazing now when I look back at what we did during Hurricane Hugo with the tools we had at the time, compared to the tools we have today,” Fowler said.

Professionally, Fowler says that Hugo was probably the best thing that ever happened to him. But personally, he said, it left him with the feeling that he imagines most people who shared the experience felt – drained and depressed at the sight of the destruction of the city he loved so much.

Fowler truly does love his work and Charleston, the city he has called home for the last 24 years. He said he especially loves that he is relatively close to Georgia Southern, and that he gets to see the Eagles play a couple of times a year against local SoCon teams the College of Charleston and The Citadel.

“I don’t get to make as many trips down to Statesboro as I’d like, but certainly, they [Eagles] are always in my heart, that’s for sure,” Fowler said.

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Far Sighted

Corley’s foresight spurs development of medical innovations

From an early age, J. Andy Corley’s vision was to join the medical field. Later, it became a vision that brought him international acclaim.

Corley (’78) is corporate vice president and global president of surgical products, for Bausch & Lomb. As a child in Eatonton, Ga., he watched his mom manage a local medical office. “The guys with the nicest cars and who wore the nicest clothes were those pharmaceutical sales reps,” laughed Corley. “My mom always said, ‘You should get one of those jobs. That looks pretty good!’”

He earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration and set out to make a career in pharmaceuticals. “When I graduated from Georgia Southern, I replied to an ad in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as a sales rep for a company called Allergan Pharmaceuticals,” he said. “Allergan is now famous as the company that makes Botox. I went to work for them in 1978 and brought Corley on board in his current role in which he oversees a worldwide division with 1,700 employees and $550 million in sales. “We do business in more than 100 countries,” said Corley. “We have to work real hard to get alignment and keep our messages straight all around the world, but it’s a fun challenge.”

Corley’s foresight spurs development of medical innovations.”

“Number one, we got an ‘accommodating’ lens approved. This was a lens that, after cataract surgery, responds to the brain’s commands and focuses,” he explained. “Patients could literally have the best vision they’ve ever had in their lives after cataract surgery.”

Corley said he enjoyed the work, but the nature of pharmaceutical sales was “more ‘information-sharing’ than selling. So, in 1984 he shifted to American Medical Optics, a company that sold lasers and other medical devices. “I really liked the speed and the pace of that business,” he said. “I preferred it over the pharmaceutical business. ‘That’s how I started in medical devices.’

Two years later, he co-founded Chiron, serving as general manager of the refractive surgery business. “Our claim to fame at Chiron was that our division developed the LASIK procedure,” said Corley. “My team developed LASIK, educated surgeons, and brought the technology into the country that made that happen.”

Chiron was eventually sold and Corley partnered with ophthalmologist J. Stuart Cumming in 1988 to start a new company, eyeonics, Inc. “We had two breakthroughs that were significant at eyeonics,” Corley said. “Number one, we got a ‘lens’ approved. This was a lens that, after cataract surgery, responds to the brain’s commands and focuses,” he explained. “Patients could literally have the best vision they’ve ever had in their lives after cataract surgery.”

The second part was that we were successful in getting the government to change the rules by which cataract surgery is paid. “We have to elect and pay for this type of lens by itself, and prior to eyeonics it literally have the best vision they’ve ever had in their lives after cataract surgery. The second part was that we were successful in getting the government to change the rules by which cataract surgery is paid. Patients have to elect and pay for this type of lens by itself, and prior to eyeonics it was against the law for you to purchase an upgrade if you were in the Medicare system. That took years of lobbying in Washington.”

Bausch & Lomb bought eyeonics in 2008 and brought Corley on board in his current role in which he oversees a worldwide division with 1,700 employees and $550 million in sales. “We do business in more than 100 countries,” said Corley. “We have to work real hard to get alignment and keep our messages straight all around the world, but it’s a fun challenge.”

Bags and Greek Block Party

 Noon-2 p.m. / The RAC Plaza (near the sand volleyball court & pool)

Georgia Southern vs. The Citadel

 2 p.m. / Paulson Stadium

1950-s-1960-s Dinner

 6:30 p.m. / SpringHill Suites Conference Center

Family Friendly Outdoor Movie

 7:15 p.m. / Sweetheart Circle

Bags Bowling and Cards

 9 p.m.-11 p.m. / The Clubhouse at Heckers, Old Register Road (off the Hwy 301 Bypass)

Bags Breakfast At Landrum And Campus Tour

 8:30-10 a.m. / Landrum Center

Campus Recreation & Intramurals CRI Alumni Tailgate

 10 a.m.-12 p.m. / Recreation Activity Center (RAC) Pavilion

Food served starting at 11:30 a.m.

Bags Comedy Show

 8:30-9:30 p.m. / Russell Union Theatre

Bags Old School & New School Dance

 9 p.m.-11 p.m. / Russell Union Ballroom
Historic Hall

In addition to witnessing thousands of student meals during its 50-plus year lifetime, the Williams Center Dining Hall has been the site of several notable special events. The Hall was host to the Inaugural Ball for President Nicholas Henry in 1988 and saw the first public announcement that Georgia Southern had been granted University status during a football luncheon on Sept. 13, 1989. The Hall is now designated as the Multi-purpose Room in a recent renovation for the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and is just one element in a facility designed to serve the needs of more than 200 student organizations.

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ABOVE: The former Williams Center Dining Hall kitchen has been transformed into a comfortable small-group gathering space.

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