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STUDENTS SAY YES TO FBS

Georgia Southern University students supported three new proposed fees that could influence the University’s direction for future generations of students. In a record turnout, 55 percent of the student body voted online to support a potential move up to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), an expansion at Paulson Stadium and campus sustainability initiatives.

The fees must be reviewed and considered by the Board of Regents. If approved, the athletic expansion and sustainability fees will go into effect fall semester 2013. The FBS fee will go into effect when and if the University is offered and accepts an invitation to join the FBS conference.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As we celebrate another fall semester at Georgia Southern, we have exciting news to share. For the past year, our staff has been diligently working to redesign your Alumni magazine. Our goal is to give you a broad perspective of all things Georgia Southern, past and present — and we hope these stories allow you to reminisce about your own history with the University while exploring some new traditions.

Beginning with our cover story on the history of the Southern Pride Marching Band, it’s amazing to see Georgia Southern’s growth and how the University is continuously reaching out and moving in new directions.

In these pages, we have introduced new connections with our Alumni Networks, explored the University’s latest research opportunities with the Georgia Southern Herty Advanced Materials Development Center and featured the Greensboro Dreamers, an educational support program founded by Tom and Kathy Kelly in Greensboro, Ga. Twelve years ago, they nurtured a group of 44 first graders in Greene County with a promise to help further their education after high school graduation. Today, two of the Dreamers have achieved their goal, and are enrolled as freshmen at Georgia Southern.

We hope you enjoy reading Georgia Southern magazine as much as we enjoyed writing, designing and producing it, and we welcome your comments at magazine@georgiasouthern.edu.

- Mary Beth Spence
Every Saturday during football season, fans witness the dazzling Game Day pageantry of Allen E. Paulson Stadium with the excitement of Freedom soaring over the stadium and the Eagles running across the field. However, these aren’t the only traditions that bring spectators to their feet. Hitting the high notes at halftime with their golden horns, thundering drums, magnificent uniforms and precision-stepping musicians, the Southern Pride Marching Band knows what it takes to turn out a thrilling and energetic performance.

“Although the history of Southern Pride may be seen as brief, its growth and development are quite remarkable.” - Daniel Pittman

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“Although the history of Southern Pride may be seen as brief, its growth and development are quite remarkable.” - Daniel Pittman
The 215-member-strong unit includes a 42-member trumpet section, two female drum majors, a color guard line and six majorettes, plus a feature twirler -- a far cry from the inaugural group of 16 students that formed the first official band at South Georgia Teachers College in 1932. The formation of the first band was former President Guy Wells’ vision -- he wanted strong academic programs, competitive athletic teams and a band to complement both. Wells appointed a talented student by the name of Shelby Monroe to lead the group.

“Since then, there hasn’t been a time when we didn’t have a band,” said Professor Emeritus Delma Presley, author of The Southern Century. “In 1934, new college president Marvin Pittman elevated the band by hiring its first full-time director, William Deal.”

As Presley explained, Pittman’s goal was to involve the entire student body in a well-rounded curriculum that included both musical and industrial arts. In 1936, as Deal was trying to recruit a group of 40 members, he admitted his most pressing need was for a drum major. The bandleader was quoted in The George-Anne as saying, “I will welcome anyone who can step high, wide and handsome for T.C. (Teachers College).”

Even when Georgia Southern’s student enrollment decreased significantly because of World War II and the football program ceased, the marching band transformed into a concert band to represent the college and recruit music students to the campus.

The marching band gained new life in 1982 however, with the return of the football program. In the early 1990s, director Daniel Pittman, and his assistant, Matthew Fallin, a percussionist in the 1982 band, came up with the Southern Pride name. Fallin later succeeded Pittman as director in 1991, and chuckled as he described the revived band’s uniforms.

“They were baby blue tailcoats like a tuxedo tailcoat,” he recalled. “We had a white shirt and this dickey that we had to button on the shirt with ruffles, which would always leave a sweaty rectangle right down the front of your body. And the pants were navy blue with a baby blue stripe down the side.”

Pittman, who is retiring in the spring, said what the band has accomplished is impressive. “Although the history of Southern Pride may be seen as brief when compared to that of many other college marching bands, its growth and development is quite remarkable, as is also the case with the concert ensembles of the band program. Today the Georgia Southern band program is regarded as one of high achievement, and in its brief history has produced many fine outstanding students-turned-directors who are now serving in teaching positions. That’s a legacy of which to be quite proud.”

Celebrating the 30th anniversary this year, Southern Pride has been under the direction of Colin McKenzie for two years. He said it takes intense preparation to execute vibrant and exciting pregame and halftime routines.

Every note, every toss of the baton, every wave of the flag and every precise routine takes weeks to develop, rehearse and perfect to create a spectacular game-day experience. For Southern Pride, that meant getting in shape both musically and physically at band camp almost two weeks before the academic year began at Georgia Southern. The musicians

“I will welcome anyone who can step high, wide and handsome.” -William Deal
“Our schedule took us from eight in the morning until 11 o’clock at night and that is a hard schedule to keep,” he disclosed. “We had two outdoor rehearsals every day, two indoor rehearsals every day, plus some sectional time, which is time led by the band director and their sections.” McKenzie said. During fall semester, the band’s schedule continues with two-hour rehearsals, three days per week.

The musicians’ commitment and dedication are impressive, and interestingly enough, about 75 percent of the band’s members are non-music majors. “We have players from every college on campus. We have students who are majoring in early childhood education, writing and linguistics, engineering and the sciences,” McKenzie said.

This season, the marching band is performing six different halftime shows with the assistance of 35 student leaders. Some of the performances are comprised of tunes from Motown, Broadway, Latin music and a show called the ‘Kings’ featuring music from Michael Jackson (the King of Pop), James Brown (the King of Soul) and Elvis (The King). Also in store is a special halftime show recognizing the past work of Fallin and Pittman, who were provided with college tuition and other expenses through the G.I. Bill. The band – now a concert band – played a critical role in recruiting students majoring in music.

“Music programs in public high schools, almost all of which had football teams,” Professor Emeritus Delma Presley explained. “This meant that music education majors needed to play in bands if they wished to direct them.” Professor Dana King led the band program in the 1950s. Many of his students began music programs in public high schools, almost all of which had marching bands if they wished to direct them. Professor Dana King led the band program in the 1950s. Many of his students began music programs in public high schools, almost all of which had marching bands if they wished to direct them.

Assistant Director Tom Stidham, assumed leadership of the band when Fields went on sabbatical to continue his studies toward his doctorate. Professor Emeritus Harry Arling followed him in 1974 and he led it until the marching band was restored in 1982 under the direction of Jerold Michaelson. Arling’s group continued the tradition of giving concerts on campus and even recorded a couple of albums primarily for recruitment purposes.

“A concert band doesn’t generally play music suitable for a marching band,” said Arling. “Concert music consists of varying styles and is meant to be listened to primarily for the music itself within a formal setting such as inside a concert hall. Whereas marching band music, typically outdoors, is intended to brighten the spirits, to enliven the crowd and to support the team.”
In a move impacting the future of research and economic development in the state of Georgia for generations to come, Governor Nathan Deal signed legislation transferring management of the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center in Savannah, Ga., to Georgia Southern University. Effective July 1, this merger blends the unique large scale development and manufacturing capabilities of Herty and the scientific expertise of Georgia Southern faculty and students.

According to Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., this strategic alignment is a win-win situation for all involved. “This new partnership has generated the potential for the University to engage in global research opportunities,” he said, “and provides an outstanding opportunity for us to combine Georgia Southern’s broad base of engineering and scientific expertise with Herty’s leadership and reputation in advanced materials innovation.”

A RESEARCH ALLIANCE Georgia Southern University students will benefit from hands-on research and potential internships with Herty.
Founded in 1938, Herty’s clients include global corporations, as well as numerous Fortune 500 companies, focused in the transportation, forest and paper related products, building materials, energy and the environment and bio-products industries. The facility is one of only a small number offering lab and pilot scale development and small production-line capability for test marketing. Herty’s project managers and operators have produced products from literally hundreds of varieties of fiber blends.

Georgia Southern now has the opportunity to integrate faculty research interests with Herty’s industrial development capabilities. “Herty allows the University to accelerate its research interests in the material sciences and provides an avenue for applied research and development that most universities without dedicated research parks can only dream of,” said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development and dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies.

“We’ve got all the building blocks for a strong industry research and development presence - now the challenge is to leverage the opportunity,” said Don McLemore, Ph.D., director for the Office of Industry Relations and Economic Development. McLemore knows Herty well, having served as the Center’s chief operating officer from 2005-2011, and he is currently linking industrial research projects and economic development opportunities with the University and Herty.

These “building blocks” include the talents of more than 100 Ph.D. scientists and engineers said McLemore, and he suggested that the University also has the opportunity to expand its base of scientific expertise by hiring additional researchers to teach in various colleges.

“This is a real opportunity for Georgia Southern to fill a gap,” Keel added. The industry is looking for well-educated scientists and engineers who have practical capabilities to solve problems and support the growth of commerce all across the state of Georgia,” he said.

Without a doubt, Keel said the merger advances Georgia Southern’s research mission and elevates the University’s established research programs. “Students stand to benefit through potential internships and hands-on learning experiences with Herty’s clients,” Keel added.

THE HISTORY OF HERTY

“In many ways, this merger reunites Georgia Southern with our history,” said Keel, mentioning Dr. Charles Herty’s groundbreaking experiments in a pine forest in 1901, the future site of the First District A&M School.

During Gov. Deal’s statewide tour promoting economic development, he signed Georgia Senate Bill 396 into law on the steps of the Marvin Pittman Administration Building on Sweetheart Circle. This historic and meaningful event represented a homecoming of sorts for Herty, the chemist and revolutionary researcher who saved the turpentine and rosin chemical industry more than a century earlier in the northeast corner of the Circle.

Herty’s pioneering invention of a simple cup-and-gutter system – at the site later renamed Herty Pines – collected resin without harming pine trees, and ultimately saved the nation’s naval stores.

In the 1930s, Herty made another research discovery with southern pines, discovering that newsprint and paper could be made from the fast-growing trees. Due to those findings, Herty is largely considered the founding father of the pulp and paper industry, and the tree farming industry. In 1938, the Georgia legislature recognized Herty for his significant research contributions by establishing the Herty Foundation (later renamed the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center).

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

The Herty facility offers lab and pilot scale development and small production-line testing for companies worldwide.
INNOVATION AND IMPACT

Herty’s areas of expertise have expanded from early work in tree-based natural fibers to include process and product development, technical analysis, economic analysis and laboratory testing for projects and products employing a broad spectrum of natural and synthetic materials. One example is their production of pellets from pine trees. “Herty has aided several companies in the development of processes for drying, resizing, blending, specialized treatment and pelleting of pine. In several projects, multi-ton quantities of pellets have been produced and shipped to Europe to be used as fuel for generation of electricity,” said Herty’s Director Jill Stuckey, who also serves as the director for Georgia’s Center for Innovation in Energy.

“Herty’s aim is to accelerate the commercialization of new concepts, new products and new businesses,” said McLemore, and the Center has conducted development for a variety of different products. One project, in collaboration with the U.S. Mint, explored the capabilities of printing currency with Braille for the visually impaired. Herty also worked with the company P2i to test a new plasma coating technology, which is used on products ranging from running shoes and clothing to hearing aids. “If a product – such as running shoes – is treated with this ultra-thin polymer layer, it doesn’t absorb liquids,” said McLemore, about the liquid repellant nano-technology. Companies such as Hi-Tec, Adidas Golf, Nike, Magnum and Ecco have used this technology, as well as the global hearing aid market.

Herty’s longevity, expertise and knowledge in the field of pilot testing have made it the natural choice for companies looking for ways to improve efficiency and give them an advantage in the marketplace. According to Stuckey, companies eager to introduce a new product to the market utilize Herty’s equipment and testing capabilities before a launch. “We work out the small details, so a company will know with certainty that a product is going to work before spending millions of dollars to construct a facility,” she said. “We take a lot of the mystery out of it for them,” she added, describing the process.

PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL

Georgia Southern’s Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has opened the door for potential partnerships, especially with the significant manufacturing cluster growing between Statesboro and the coast. “These companies need engineering skills, manufacturing skills and materials knowledge – all which we can provide,” said McLemore. Another essential component of the partnership is the promise of economic development, said Patterson. “If a company is interested in a compound that can be extracted from pine trees, Herty can advance that process in the lab to demonstrate proof-of-concept as well as bring the process to the commercial (manufacturing) scale. In addition, working hand-in-hand with our economic development professionals in the region and the state, we want to attract industries to the region that can benefit from our rich abundance of biomass,” he added.

Bringing Herty under the umbrella of Georgia Southern will help the University become a driving force in accelerating the region’s future economic development, said Keel. This includes encouraging companies to relocate to the state and hire Georgians, and Herty’s new CEO and president Dr. Alexander Koukoulas has plans to continue this growth.

Koukoulas, the former managing director of ANL Consultants, LLC, a private consulting firm supporting the pulp and paper, biomaterials and bioenergy industries, began his duties on Nov. 1. His goals are to enhance the Center’s existing industry relationships as well as forge new strategic worldwide partnerships.

Keel is excited about what the future holds for the Georgia Southern Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, as the University continues toward its goal of achieving national comprehensive research institution status. “Now that these two entities have come together, Georgia Southern has the opportunity to be at the center of all the development in our state,” he said. “There are so many distinct advantages – not only can companies utilize the piloting capabilities of Herty, but also benefit from our faculty researchers. Georgia Southern is aligned with a facility that can grow ideas.”

NEW CONCEPTS, NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Herty produces pellets from pine trees, which are shipped to Europe and used as fuel to generate electricity.
Students, alumni and visitors looking to find the “wow” factor at Georgia Southern University may want to visit the newly renovated Planetarium in the Math/Physics building. Gone is the obsolete star projector that was installed nearly 40 years ago when the building was initially constructed. In its place is the Digistar 4, a full dome digital projector system that has been packing in crowds from school children to adults with its breathtaking, high-definition productions revealing galaxies, molecules and even mathematical constructions.

“In addition to displaying the night sky with wonderful fidelity, the new system is capable of much more, such as 360-degree full-dome movies with surround sound and real-time tours of the solar system with flybys of the planets and their moons,” said Planetarium Director Clayton Heller, Ph.D. Guests also actively experience moving through the galaxy and exploring the universe beyond, courtesy of the state-of-the-art immersive astronomy laboratory, he added.

“We can display real time data from satellites and have a NASA high definition feed to watch live events. All of these things give a “wow” factor that the older mechanical projector could not provide,” said Heller, about the 63-seat facility that also accommodates wheelchair disabled visitors.

The University Planetarium is also unique because it serves a number of purposes. “It stands alone among other campus facilities in that it supports teaching, public outreach, research, and training interns, many of whom may go on to become teachers themselves,” Heller explained. Last year alone, the Planetarium hosted approximately 10,000 visitors, a number that is expected to increase with the recent renovation.

In addition to enhancing the recruitment of prospective students visiting campus, the Planetarium also reaches out to the community by offering free daily shows and monthly events designed for all ages. Popular presentations like the “Lamps of Atlantis,” which takes visitors on a search for the legendary lost continent of Atlantis, and “One World, One Sky – Big Bird’s Adventure” have attracted full houses for back-to-back shows.

“With this fantastic asset now in operation we are actively looking to establish an endowment to secure the long-term stability of the Planetarium and allow us to continue to deliver great educational programs free of charge to Georgia Southern students, public schools and the residents of southeast Georgia,” Heller said. “The endowment and the Planetarium would be named in recognition of the individual who established it and would be a great opportunity for someone to support science education in their community.” – Sandra Bennett

Georgia Southern’s Newly Renovated Planetarium Opens

REACHING FOR THE STARS

A VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE The renovated theater includes a state-of-the-art digital projector system featuring tours of the solar system.
Bob Lane has always had a special fondness for Georgia Southern University. The former Georgia State Representative recalled that his attachment to the University began as a young boy, when he liked sports and loved watching Eagle teams compete for titles. "I grew up in Statesboro and in my childhood I attended basketball games and baseball games in particular," Lane said.

Lane’s Georgia Southern connections run deep through his family as well – son David received a degree in finance, son Brant studied for two years in the Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program (GTREP), and his aunt, Professor Emeritus Betty Lane, was the longtime chair of the Home Economics Department. "I’ve been a supporter and a fan of Georgia Southern my whole life," he said.

That support was evident from 1980 to 2010 during Lane’s service in the Georgia House of Representatives, where he was one of the University’s strongest advocates. During that time period, Lane, along with Bulloch County’s legislative delegation, helped garner support from the entire General Assembly for more than $300 million in capital projects for Georgia Southern.

In appreciation of Lane’s commitment, Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel presented him with the President’s Medal, the University’s highest honor, during a Legislative Appreciation Dinner held in April at the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center. The award is given exclusively to recipients who have demonstrated extraordinary contributions, dedication and service to the University. Lane is only the sixth recipient of the award, and the first to receive the honor from Keel, who called him a true champion for Georgia Southern and the surrounding area. “What he has done for this University will endure and benefit future generations of students, faculty and staff,” Keel said.

Some of the significant projects funded during Lane’s years of service in the House of Representatives will benefit generations to come, including new buildings for the College of Education, the College of Business Administration, the College of Engineering and Information Technology, the Nursing/Chemistry program and the Biological Sciences facility currently under construction.

The former legislator said he was especially proud of the creation of the Engineering and Information Technology building, one of many construction and renovation projects that were completed to accommodate the campus’ growth.

“I can’t take credit for any of this because no one does anything alone,” Lane modestly said. “I was just fortunate to serve on the committees to help get the process started.”

Receiving the President’s Award also came as a complete surprise to Lane. “I thought we were going to honor our current state representatives and I just went to help recognize them,” he said about the Legislative Dinner. However, Lane realized something was afoot when his family and some out-of-town friends were present at the dinner.

“I share this award with my family and the local representatives who supported me during my tenure. Quite honestly, when I became a representative, most of my focus other than making laws and doing what I thought the people here wanted, was to make sure Georgia Southern was funded fairly and adequately.”

– Sandra Bennett

**VISIONARY LEADER**

Bob Lane Honored with President’s Medal
Two Georgia Southern University freshmen have achieved their goal of attending college through the Greensboro Dreamers.

This fall, Jacayla Edwards and Kadijah Woods headed to college with thousands of other students across the country. While most of their peers began prepping for college during high school, these Georgia Southern University freshmen are a little different than most. Since the first grade, Edwards and Woods have been working to achieve their lifelong dream.

Thanks to a couple who decided to pursue a different type of retirement, these young women’s dream has become a reality along with many of their high school classmates, some of whom will be the first in their families to ever attend college.

Tom and Kathy Kelly, the founders of the Greensboro Dreamers—an educational program they launched in August 2000—changed the lives and futures of 44 first graders a dozen years ago in Greene County. In exchange for a 12-year commitment, the Kellys agreed to provide tuition assistance for each student to attend college or vocational school after graduating from high school.

THEY HAD A DREAM

The story of the Greensboro Dreamers began when Tom and Kathy Kelly opted for early retirement. Tom, at 56, was the president of the cardiovascular devices division for health care corporation Baxter International, and Kathy had served as the first...
female mayor of Clearwater, Fla. The couple moved to the north Georgia town of Greensboro – outside Athens – to be closer to their children and grandchildren living in Atlanta. While most retirees would be slowing down and enjoying long-awaited vacations, the Kellys instead decided to share their success with those in need, specifically focusing on education.

The concept of giving back to those less fortunate was instilled in Tom from a very young age. “My mother came from Ireland. If she had a nickel, she would give it to someone else. She was always giving back. The same is true about Kathy,” he said about his wife. “She was one of seven children and her father always emphasized getting a college education if added.

The Kellys were inspired by philanthropist Eugene Lang’s “I Have a Dream” Foundation, which he launched in 1981 in New York City. The program provides college tuition assistance to underprivileged children across the United States. “After researching several education-based programs, we decided that ‘I Have a Dream’ was the best concept for us,” said Tom, about their decision to affiliate with the program. The Greensboro Dreamers became the first rural chapter of the national program.

“We wanted to introduce this program to kids with financial needs in Greene County,” said Tom, describing the reason why they selected Greensboro Elementary School. The Kellys met with Principal Joan Antone to see if she was interested in her students participating in the Greensboro Dreamers, which they promised would include tutors and financial assistance for the program.

Antone jumped at the chance to offer this opportunity to her students, many of whom would never have been able to attend college.

The Kellys also realized that they needed the influence of another driven educator, a person to serve as the program director – someone who would help them push the students to succeed on a daily basis. Antone had the person in mind – a Greensboro native and first-grade teacher Beth Thomas.

According to Tom, she was never interested in a pursuit of a profession other than teaching. “I worked as a volunteer at a charter school in Atlanta. I worked as a surrogate mom and has been a blessing to us and all of the kids from day one,” he added, about the person the Dreamers lovingly call “Miss Beth.”

“Beth is the backbone of this project, and it has been a dream come true for us because she is absolutely the best,” said Tom. “Beth is the most organized person we have ever met – she is like their surrogate mom and has been a blessing to us and all of the kids from day one,” he added, about the person the Dreamers lovingly call “Miss Beth.”

Since first grade, the Dreamers were required to attend Saturday school two times a month, spend four days a week in an after-school tutoring program (including Spring Break), and attend summer school for the month of June. Other requirements included performing eight hours of community service each semester; some of the activities included playing bingo with nursing home residents, performing holiday choral concerts and tutoring fifth graders from Greensboro Elementary School. All total, each student participated for more than 1,700 hours in the program and Thomas and the Kellys have been working side-by-side with the students every step of the way.

“I just want to feel that I have made a difference in a child’s life.” -Beth Thomas

Nicknamed “Mr. and Mrs. K.” by the Dreamers, the couple quickly stepped into the role of surrogate grandparents. “We spent a lot of time with the kids, motivating them to keep good grades and listening to issues in their home life,” said Tom.

Kathy enlisted the help of friends all over the country in serve as sponsors and visited local businesses to donate after-school meals for their program. The program grew to include six part-time teachers and 200 volunteers each week working after school with the Dreamers. The students were also paired with a mentor that became involved in all aspects of their everyday lives from baking Christmas cookies to celebrating birthdays and drilling the Dreamers about their grades.

Through the years, Tom has worked tirelessly as a fundraiser to secure grants and other financial assistance for the Dreamers as well as support more than 600 non-Dreamer students in Greene County.

While academic learning has been a large part of the Dreamers program, the students developed character traits and life skills outside the classroom, participating in etiquette classes and living by “Quotes of the Week.” “The quotes could be ‘Family Comes First,’ or ‘Always leave a tip for a hotel room,’” said Thomas. “The objective behind the activity is for the Dreamers to think about every choice they make in their lives, Thomas explained. “I developed something as simple as a firm handshake and learning to look people in the eye when speaking was an important lesson taught to each of the Dreamers. It really instills confidence and gives these kids a boost. Our program addresses the whole child,” said Tom.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Kathy and I have always believed that education is the key – instead of giving kids a fish, we teach them how to fish,” Tom said. That meant giving the Dreamers the opportunities and tools to succeed and rewarding their hard work.

The Dreamers learned their first lesson after report cards were issued in first grade. “We took the kids to a movie theater,” Kathy recalled. Everyone was so excited, because they had never been.

The next time, we only took the kids who were on the honor roll. There were tears, because everyone wanted to go. After that, the kids were all motivated to earn honor roll. The next time report cards came out, we had to hire a bus to get everyone to the theater,” she explained. “The kids understood that good grades bring good things. Through the years, they have discovered that if you try hard in life, nice things will fall into your lap.”

Some of those experiences have included more than 80 in-state trips to museums, theaters, camps, college campuses and sporting events. A large number of Dreamers also earned special trips to Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Dallas and New York City, as a reward for grades, attendance, behavior and effort. For some of the students, it was their first trip in an airplane, said Kathy. When Woods was 13, she earned her first airplane flight to Colorado to attend a nationwide Dreamers conference, and met other Dreamers from New York, California and the Dominican Republic.

THE DREAMERS: PHASE II

In May, many relatives, close friends and donors from all over the United States gathered in Greensboro to celebrate the
Dreamers’ graduation weekend. “Some of our donors were just meeting the Dreamers for the first time. Several said to me, ‘We’ve been so tired of you bringing up these kids over the years, but after we met them, we decided you didn’t brag enough.’” said Tom proudly about their accomplishments.

“These kids have truly earned it,” he added, about the Dreamers’ years of dedication and hard work, and there is no doubt that Thomas and the Kellys have succeeded in their mission of teaching the Dreamers to become productive citizens and leaders in their community.

“One hundred percent of our Dreamers graduated on time, compared to a graduation rate of only 31 percent at their school. Many of these kids will be the first member of their family to go to college,” he added. The Dreamers’ statistics are impressive: 85 percent are attending a four-year college - a record for their community - while the remainder are pursuing a two-year associate’s degree at trade schools. Furthermore, 23 Dreamers earned the HOPE scholarship, which required a 3.0 high school GPA.

“As a Dreamer, I was pushed,” said Edwards, “and we were expected to go beyond just being successful. Of course, we were tried out; but it was all done out of love. We were always told to be thankful for what we have and always give back. Mr. K always told us that we are as good as anyone else, and better than most,” she added.

In addition to Georgia Southern, the Dreamers are attending 15 other colleges including the University of Georgia, the College of Coastal Georgia, Georgia State University, Georgia Tech, Valdosta State College and University and Georgia College and State University, to name a few. This is the beginning of “Phase II” as Thomas and the Kellys like to call it, and they have found that their work is far from over. The support that Edwards, Woods and the rest of the Dreamers have relied on for the past dozen years will remain in place during their collegiate experience. “These past 12 years have been a whirlwind, and we are visiting each of the kids on their campuses during our initial swing of the South tour,” said Kathy, about the first of several visits the couple will make every year the Dreamers are in college.

Thomas will also be on the road for the next five years, making monthly trips to visit the Dreamers at their respective campuses. “I will be checking in with the kids and helping them during the transition,” she said, much to the relief of Edwards and Woods. “I have been so overwhelmed, I wouldn’t know what to do without Miss Beth,” said pre-dental student Edwards, about the excitement of her new collegiate experience. “We live in a bubble in Greensboro, and now we are navigating a whole new system and way of life.”

Now that the Kellys have honored their promise of providing a college education for the Dreamers, these two young women will continue working hard to fulfill their dreams for the future and provide assistance to others in need. “Mrs. K has always talked to us about paying it forward in whatever way you can,” said Woods, who is studying to become a psychologist.

“This is a 17-year commitment, but we’ve never looked back. Aside from our family, it is the most rewarding thing we have ever done,” said Tom. The Greensboro Dreamers has also been a life-changing experience for Thomas. “I think of the Dreamers as my own children,” said the mother of two young sons. “I get my fill from them. They needed me, but I needed them too. I just want to feel that I have made a difference in a child’s life.” Thomas said.

For Woods, her years with Miss Beth, Mr. and Mrs. K and her close-knit group of brothers and sisters, as she calls them, have provided much more than just learning experiences. “We’re a family,” she said.

**Feature Story**

**Learning Outside the Classroom**

Since the first grade, the Dreamers have been rewarded for their hard work and good grades by taking more than 50 in-state trips to museums, theaters, camps, college campuses and sporting events.
It all began with one phone call.

Law enforcement officials from the Bulloch County Sheriff’s Office contacted Georgia Southern University with a request. They were in need of an expert to help them with a suspicious death. They were unable to determine the time of death for a person that had just been discovered.

“During the autopsy, the medical examiner in Savannah, Ga. collected insects from the body and gave them to the Sheriff’s Office,” said biology professor and forensic entomologist Ed Mondor, who was able to examine the insects and construct an approximate time from death to discovery.

Through Mondor’s hard work and dedicated efforts, Georgia Southern and the community-at-large have discovered a new way to help law enforcement personnel around the state. Similar to “body farms” in the area, the only such locations in the state, Mondor and colleague Michelle Tremblay are creating further educational impact we have on the area, that we can also be a major economic engine for our community and region of the state.”

“This study shows that Georgia Southern University is a significant economic player in the Statesboro and Bulloch County community,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. “We are proud that, in addition to the significant educational impact we have on the area, that we can also be a major economic engine for our community and region of the state.”

The study was conducted by the Selig Center at the University of Georgia and calculated the economic impact for each of the 36 University System of Georgia institutions. The study shows that at Georgia Southern, student spending of more than $266 million dollars accounted for the largest portion of the University’s economic impact and resulted in 3,797 jobs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County area.
University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. welcomed nearly 900 faculty and staff for Fall Convocation, held at the Performing Arts Center. The theme for the annual event was “Engaging Our Future Together,” and Keel recognized the teaching and research activity of the University’s outstanding faculty members. He also highlighted the University’s numerous achievements during the past year and then focused on Georgia Southern’s expanding role in Georgia.

“Convocation and commencement are the two greatest events at any university,” said Keel. “This past year has been full of outstanding accomplishments and the year ahead is not without challenges. Georgia Southern is growing and changing for the better and I am excited about our future.”

During the ceremony, Keel, along with Jean Bartels, Ph.D., provost and vice president for Academic Affairs presented the 2012-2013 Faculty Awards for Excellence. Established in 1985, the awards recognize excellence in service, contributions to instruction and research and creative scholarly activity. Since the awards began 25 years ago, only 162 have been presented.

Georgia Southern University’s Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) has been awarded a $5.1 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designating the RHRI as a Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Rural Health Disparities. The grant was received by RHRI Co-Executive Directors Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., Psy.D. and Jacob Warren, Ph.D. Smalley is a clinical psychologist in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) and Warren is an epidemiologist in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH).

Funding for the new five-year project comes from NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIHMHD) and will allow the RHRI to erect a comprehensive rural health disparity elimination program spanning research, training and community outreach. The grant’s activities include developing and testing new rural-specific health promotion programs designed to improve diabetes, hypertension and prostate cancer outcomes; enacting a rural health disparity elimination program for undergraduate and graduate students; implementing new mentoring programs for faculty wishing to pursue careers in rural health; and creating a new community capacity-building initiative to improve health outcomes for the founding Rural Health Disparities Elimination Program between rural Southwest Georgia.

The interdisciplinary project, led by Smalley and Warren, brings together a campus-wide team of faculty from eight departments for the project. Collaborators include faculty from CLASS, JPHCOPH and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Georgia Southern is one of the newest colleges to offer undergraduate engineering degrees in the country. The University has been offering nationally accredited engineering degrees since 2005. The College of Engineering and Technology is attracting high-caliber students from Georgia and beyond.

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SOLUTIONS

Rural Health Research Institute Awarded $5.1 Million Grant

RHRI CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., Psy.D. and Jacob Warren, Ph.D. accepted the funds for a five-year project to eliminate rural health disparities.

The new agreement will help generate an increased supply of qualified engineering graduates. As a result, Georgia Southern will have the opportunity to attract, hire and retain work-ready engineers that meet their requirements without having to recruit out-of-state.

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On the Move
Operation Move-In 2012

Most college freshmen like to bring the comforts of home to their new home-away-from home. For Dallas, Ga., resident Anita Taylor, that meant typical dorm room accessories such as a comforter, clothes and her iPod. But the most important item of all? Phillip, her Betta fish.

Taylor was just one of more than 3,300 new freshmen that moved in to nine residence halls on Georgia Southern’s campus before fall semester, during the University’s annual Operation Move-In.

Over the course of two days, nearly 900 faculty, staff and student volunteers participated in the unique tradition, which eases the transition from home to college. During the speedy door-to-door process, volunteers greeted families and students carside, unloaded belongings from cars, SUVS and UHaul trucks into blue bins and delivered possessions to their rooms in one quick trip.

One of the participating volunteers included reigning Miss Georgia Southern University Charlene Bibeau (wearing her sash and crown), who helped Phillip and his owner get settled into their new suite at Kennedy Hall. To combat the soaring temperatures, Taylor was just one of more than 3,300 new freshmen that moved in to nine residence halls on Georgia Southern’s campus before fall semester, during the University’s annual Operation Move-In.

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Relationship and the Kennedy Legacy. “The symposium operated to discuss the festival’s themes of the Irish-American home will soon be designated a national monument. Attended by three generations of the Kennedy clan, the Summer school took on a whole new meaning this September, during and after the 1960s.”

To view coverage of Eagle home football, volleyball, baseball, and men and women’s basketball and soccer games visit gseagles.com. On the homepage click the “Watch and Listen” link at the top. From there, alumni and supporters can access the live video link embedded in the page, and listen to live game audio via desktop, laptop, iPhone, Android device, iPad and other tablets. Archived audio and video content are also available at the site.

EAGLE SPORTS TV OFFERS FREE VIDEO STREAM OF UNIVERSITY EVENTS

Fans unable to make it to their favorite Georgia Southern University event can still catch it by watching Eagle Sports TV, a high-quality live video stream online produced by the University’s Center for Academic Technology Support (CATS).

Georgia Southern has invested in cutting-edge HD video and live streaming capabilities for delivery of University events through the Internet. The capabilities allow Eagle Nation viewers anywhere in the world to watch their favorite game event, concert, play or speaker live online.

In 2004, Peace endowed the Jiann-Ping Hsu Biostatistics and Regulatory Sciences Student Paper Award in perpetuity at the annual ICSA meeting. The endowment provides travel support for a graduate student, whose paper is deemed best by a panel of experts, to attend the ICSA annual meeting and present at the session. In 2006, Peace successfully lobbied the Executive Committee of the ICSA to incubate the central office of the ICSA (OICSA) within the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern. The OICSA is considered pivotal in the growth of the ICSA and provides financial support for a graduate student in biostatistics. Dr. Lili Yu, assistant professor of biostatistics in the JPHCOPH provides oversight for the OICSA.

College of Science and Mathematics FACULTY MEMBER WINS DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Department of Mathematics professor Hua Wang is the recipient of the 2012 Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Award, Southeastern Section, for Distiguishing Teaching. The award recognizes the top educator from the states of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Wang teaches a variety of courses at Georgia Southern, including frequent sections of honors calculus. He serves as the advisor to the MAA student chapter, is a presenter and discussant at the Session: Statistical Paradigms and Methodologies for Clinical Development organized by Dr. James Hung, FDA Biometrics.

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Last fall, Professor Nicole Karapanagiotis taught the very first Sanskrit class with three students as part of the Religious Studies program. “We open texts, and it’s like we’re co-investigators of these ancient scriptures. We sit together with these ancient texts and we try to figure it out,” said Karapanagiotis, describing the class. “This class, then, is different from many others at Georgia Southern. It is very hands on. We work together to read religious texts. There is no lecturing to students. Instead, we learn together.”

As one of the oldest languages in the world, Sanskrit is found in the texts of three major religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. Sanskrit is also a liturgical language, which means that it is used in Hindu, Buddhist and Jain temples even to this day. “So, knowing Sanskrit is key to understanding these traditions’ textual viewpoints – on the nature of God, reality, the self, etc. – and also to interpreting ritual expressions as they are performed by practitioners of these traditions today,” Karapanagiotis said.

Aside from religious texts, most people would be surprised to know that Sanskrit is commonly heard and used in our everyday lives. “I think students will know of Sanskrit through yoga,” she added. “You will often hear the yoga instructor call a pose by the Sanskrit name, and many students here take yoga.” Other familiar words in the language include “karma,” “guru,” “Buddha,” “dharma,” “om” and “namaste.”

Karapanagiotis says a religious studies class like Sanskrit allows students to look closely at the texts. “We aim for breadth and depth, and this class adds a dimension of depth and specialization to students’ study,” the professor said. “We’re trying to bring the University to the next level. This class is an important bridge between making us an undergraduate teaching research university and preparing students to pursue higher specialized degrees.”

A class like Sanskrit is a big undertaking for Georgia Southern because the course typically is taught at bigger schools like major research universities and/or private or Ivy League institutions, Karapanagiotis said. “It’s the hardest language I will ever tackle, yet I feel like I learned better because it was just the three of us,” said junior anthropology major Michael Putnam. “The class gives us accolades other universities do not have.”

Now well into teaching the second year of a new class, Karapanagiotis said her goal is to enable her students to closely read Sanskrit texts and to give them an opportunity to work directly with primary religious materials from the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain traditions. “This allows them to learn about these religions from the inside out, so to speak,” she said. “And who knows, maybe these students will eventually translate texts that have never been translated before! How great would that be?” — Sandra Bennett
Things you will need:
- TWO EMPTY 2-LITER BOTTLES
- WATER
- VEGETABLE OIL
- DRILL
- GLUE
- DUCT TAPE

Instructions:
1. Fill one bottle almost to the top with water.
2. Add 2 ounces of oil and affix the cap.
3. Hold the cap of the second 2-liter bottle against the other (smooth surfaces touching). Drill a hole through the center of both caps.
4. Attach the second cap to the other bottle with glue. When the glue is set, use duct tape to attach the bottles and complete the seal. (The holes should be lined up with each other.)
5. Turn the bottles upside down, so that the bottle with the water and oil is on top. Move the bottles in a circular fashion to create a swirl. Notice the oil swirl in the center of the bottle. THIS IS YOUR HURRICANE!

MAKE YOUR OWN HURRICANE

ON RECORD

Professors Investigate Georgia’s Hurricane History

Two Georgia Southern University professors have begun research that will extend the record of Georgia’s hurricane history, after receiving a grant of $129,664 from the Georgia Sea Grant, which receives funding support from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Collaborators Brian Bossak in the University’s Jann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) and Mark Welford from the Department of Geography and Geology say NOAA’s current database on tropical storms in Georgia only goes back to 1851 and expanding the history to 1750 may help explain why the number of hurricanes along the Georgia coast has decreased since 1850. Their research will also generate information on the potential risks to Georgia’s coast from major tropical storms in the future.

According to official data, in the 50-year period between 1951 and 2000, hurricanes were rare in Georgia with only Hurricane David of 1979 (a Category 2 storm) making landfall along the Georgia coast.

“Based on historical records, Georgia frequently got struck by hurricanes in the 1800s, especially in the late 1800s, and then over time we see a pretty dramatic decrease in the number of hurricanes striking Georgia, as well as the intensity of the storms,” said primary researcher Bossak. “What we don’t understand, because we don’t have earlier records, is whether that was an anomaly — whether it was unusual to have so many storms in the late 1800s — or whether that was the norm. Is it normal that we have a lot of storms and right now is abnormal?” he questioned.

Key researcher Welford is contributing to the project by creating a database of tropical storm activity and is gathering information from archives such as newspapers, books, people’s diaries, professional articles, encyclopedias and even the records of British and Spanish ships that sailed the seas at the time. Welford said by providing that information on storms, “We will be able to identify when they hit, the nature of the impact, the wind velocity, the structural damage to houses and storm surge.” The data, he explained, may help them determine the intensity of the storms based on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale that classifies storms into five categories, with five being the most powerful.

The ultimate goal of the research is to compile hurricane risk information that government agencies, coastal cities, insurers and all coastal Georgia residents can use to plan for evacuations, and develop public health and safety measures in the event a significant hurricane approaches the coast.

The two professors believe their two-year project will add to the research profile of Georgia Southern, and that it will be the first in a planned sequence of grants to grow in scope, size and impact, potentially leading to more research that could one day turn the University into the premier institution focusing on Georgia’s coastal hazards, particularly hurricane hazards. Another underlying goal is to determine if climate change has a link to hurricanes. “The risk may actually be increasing over time and not necessarily fading,” Bossak said. “We’re hoping our research may shed light on whether that is the case and spur people to prepare.” - Sandra Bennett
NEW RESEARCH FACULTY

College of Health and Human Sciences

The Department of Health and Kinesiology is expanding its research in biomechanics with the recent hire of research professor Li Li. Prior to joining Georgia Southern, Li was a 14-year faculty member at Louisiana State University (LSU), serving as director of the biomechanics lab and director of the LSU Peripheral Neuropathy Studies. His main research projects include posture and gait for people with peripheral neuropathy, dynamics and control of human gait transition and the effect of aging on movement stability.

AHAD RESEARCHES MUSCLE HEALTH

Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

College of Engineering and Information Technology professor Mohammad Ahad is researching painless ways to measure muscle health by using a new non-invasive technique known as Electrical Impedance Myography (EIM) to provide an accurate picture of a muscle’s condition. Ahad is also collaborating with faculty in the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) to initiate research using EIM for brain injuries. “In this study we will investigate any changes that may occur in leg muscles of patients with mild traumatic brain injury,” he said.

BOOK: MEXICAN WAR FORGOTTEN

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

A new book by history professor Michael Van Wagenen investigates the Mexican War in Remembering the Forgotten War, published by the University of Massachusetts Press. Van Wagenen’s book analyzes how the tools of collective memory — such as books, popular culture, historic sites, heritage groups, commemorations and museums — have shaped the war’s multifaceted meaning in the 160 years since it ended. Van Wagenen explores how regional, ethnic and religious differences influence Americans and Mexicans in their choices of what to remember and what to forget.

ANTI-CORROSION COATINGS

College of Science and Mathematics

Chemistry professor Weihua (Marshall) Ming is leading the way in the development of sophisticated, smart corrosion-detecting and anti-corrosion coatings that will be used on ships, aircraft and more for the military, with a $360,000 grant awarded by the Office of Naval Research. The coatings are expected to potentially save billions of dollars in maintenance costs for the U.S. Navy. Ming, the College’s Distinguished Chair in Materials Science, serves as principal investigator along with co-investigator John DiCesare, department chair and professor of organic chemistry.

SUPPLY CHAIN RESEARCH

College of Business Administration

Operations Management Professor Alan Mackelprang has been named the winner of the 2012 Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award for Beyond Firm Boundaries: Exploring the Interdependence between Supply Chain Partners. The internationally competitive award, which is co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill and the Decision Sciences Institute, encourages and publicizes outstanding dissertation research by selecting and recognizing the best dissertations written in the past year in the decision sciences. Additionally, he has been named to the Decision Sciences Institute’s Hall of Fame.

DISPARITIES IN CANCER OUTCOMES

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

A study by professors Talar Markossian and Robert Hines from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health has found that efforts are needed to alleviate disparities in breast cancer outcomes in rural populations. The study, titled “Disparities in Late Stage Diagnosis, Treatment, and Breast Cancer-Related Death by Race, Age, and Rural Residence Among Women in Georgia,” revealed that compared to whites, African-American women had significantly increased odds of late stage diagnosis and unknown tumor stage, decreased odds of receiving radiation or surgery and increased risk of death following breast cancer diagnosis. Increased age was significantly associated with odds of late/unknown stage at diagnosis, worse treatment and survival.

RESEARCH NOTES
ATHLETICS

GEORGIA SOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE

ATHLETICS have been accused of many times since. We could not see a thing, just made everything up, which I because the school’s press box had recently been condemned.

I found my passion calling high school football, Saturday and Sunday mornings signing on at 6 a.m. at my first station. I found my passion calling high school football, Saturday and Sunday mornings signing on at 6 a.m. at my first station. This was back when radio was live. The news, the weather and the obituaries during the morning shifts. We were the only station. I found my passion calling high school football, Saturday and Sunday mornings signing on at 6 a.m. at my first station. We were the only station.

As far as radio goes, I started in high school in Milledgeville. I was an o.k. athlete but a much better talker. My father, the smart man he is, encouraged me to take advantage of having a big mouth and would wake up at 5 a.m. on the weekends to drive me to the local radio station to read the news, and the obituaries during the morning shifts. This was back when radio was live.

In college, I was a sports reporter/editor for the Georgia-Anne. Coach (Erk) Russell used to tell me that since I liked sports, I was good at journalism, and I “talked a lot,” that I should probably look into sports broadcasting. Also, I was the basketball public address announcer. I filled in on Nate Hirsch’s radio stations for a few high school games and Bill Edwards gave me the opportunity to do a few games on television after my playing was over (Edwards was the host of the Georgia Southern Football TV Show back in the 1980s).

I read the game notes, talk to the coaches and many times, after six years, have pretty good relationships with people at the opponent school, so I try and talk with them too. Mostly I try to be early and pray to not screw up too badly.

Well, I don’t go to the stadium in America. Then, Southern Pride will play the hymn “It Is Well with My Soul.”

I truly believe that Coach Jeff Monken is the finest in the land, at any level. He demands excellence from his staff, his players, support staff, heck even the broadcasters and because of that operating procedure, our team is becoming a finely tuned instrument in 2012. The work ethic and pride of our team is at the level of the great teams that put those six flags over Paulson Stadium and this year’s skill, speed and physicality could very well prove to be one of the best in a very long time.

It’s a week long process that starts on Monday gathering information on the teams from the previous week, who they played, the score, etc. I spend probably 12 hours a week preparing my spotting boards with the 2-deep for both teams and adding stats, background information, to make sure we have more than enough information to talk about in a three hour broadcast.

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Anybody can do almost anything just one more time.” - Terry Harvin

Ryan Chambers, Chris Blair and Terry Harvin share game day camaraderie on the Georgia Southern Radio Network during their 7th season together.

Q/A EAGLE TALK

How did you get into this career?

CB: My first broadcast was at the age of 14 and I spent early Saturday and Sunday mornings signing on at 6 a.m. at my first station. I found my passion calling high school football, basketball, and baseball and even did a high school game from the back of a pick-up truck on the sideline at the 40-yard line, because the school’s press box had recently been condemned.

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Well, I don’t go to David Ball’s Archibald’s Restaurant & Tavern the night before games or Snooky’s for a game day breakfast any more. In all seriousness, having played for this great school, you really understand the history and traditions that are so vitally important to the program. It really comes down to mental preparation, and as Coach Russell would say, your ability to “reach deep down inside and turn it up a notch!”

Anybody can do almost anything just one more time.” - Terry Harvin

How do you prepare for each game?

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What is your most memorable interview?

Chris runs the show. Terry relives those great stories from the 1980s and playing for Erk. And I am there to poke fun at Terry.” - Ryan Chambers

What are your expectations for the Eagles the rest of the season?

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What is your greatest Georgia Southern sports memory?

Well, I don’t go to David Ball’s Archibald’s Restaurant & Tavern the night before games or Snooky’s for a game day breakfast any more. In all seriousness, having played for this great school, you really understand the history and traditions that are so vitally important to the program. It really comes down to mental preparation, and as Coach Russell would say, your ability to “reach deep down inside and turn it up a notch!”

Anybody can do almost anything just one more time.” - Terry Harvin

“During the 2010 semi-final game versus Delaware we are in a makeshift press box that felt more like a large deer stand. It had snowed in the days leading up to the game and the melted snow had formed puddles on the floor. We were surrounded by who knows how much electricity with the broadcast equipment and sure enough at halftime the breaker blows. Harvo pulls out his cell phone and in minutes I am broadcasting the 3rd quarter kickoff from a smartphone. As they say, ‘the show must go on.’” - Chris Blair

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It’s hard to imagine that anyone could outsize Brent Russell in his family. At 6’2”, 300 lbs., the Eagles senior defensive tackle is only surpassed by one person - his twin brother Brad at 6’3”, 360 lbs. Without a doubt, the athletic siblings always shared a love of sports.

“We played every sport together, side by side, in high school,” said Russell, “including wrestling, track and football.” In fact, Russell lettered in all three sports, and says he owes his athletic success to his brother. “Brad has always been a major influence in my life, pushing me to be better,” he added.

For five seasons, Russell has pushed himself to excel for the Eagles since he was a redshirt freshman. Some of the honors that rolled in during his first season include being named the Most Valuable Player by his teammates and the 2009 Freshman of the Year for the Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). As a sophomore, Russell ranked 12th nationally with 14 career sacks. Since that time, the two-year All-American has been named to numerous All-America lists - including five last year - and helped lead the Eagles to their ninth Southern Conference (SoCon) Championship in 2011.

Clearly, last year’s SoCon Defensive Player of the Year set the tone for the Eagles’ defense with 16.5 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks, upping the expectations for the 2012 season. Russell was on everyone’s preseason radar, gaining spots on the Buck Buchanan Award watch list and the College Sporting News’ FCS Preseason All-America Team, as well as being named the SoCon Preseason Defensive Player of the Year and a Preseason All-American by the Sports Network. Russell was also recognized as one of 20 FCS players to the Senior Bowl’s first-ever watch list.

Such high expectations might cause a player to crack under the pressure, but Russell continues to excel. One crucial component to his success is game day preparation.

“I like to go over the plays in my mind and listen to music as part of my own preparation,” he said, “but then, our defensive unit gets together for our own pre-game rituals. We talk, respond and have prayer. It’s a time for me to get everybody focused and it’s a time for everyone to be in their own zone before the game - and then we unleash it,” said Russell.

While Russell has garnered a slew of awards for his tough performances on the field, he has also achieved recognition off the field for his community service. The impact of his leadership has been significant and he has had the opportunity to influence the lives of local at-risk youth, just as his brother Brad pushed him to excel when they were youngsters.

“I owe it all to Coach Monken,” Russell modestly said. “He introduced the football team to the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County, and really opened our eyes to community service,” said Russell, about the special one-on-one time spent with the elementary and middle school kids.

After that rewarding experience, Russell initiated a weekly mentoring program for youth at the Joseph’s Home for Boys, a residence for boys ages 11 to 18-years-old who are in the custody of the state.

“It has been a great experience, and it was easy to get the guys to go out there,” he said, about his teammates who have willingly served as mentors. “We have taken the boys to Eagles’ basketball and volleyball games, and we’re here just in case they need us,” he said. Although Russell said a lot of the fun and games includes Xbox and basketball, there is also plenty of time spent helping the boys with their homework. “Sometimes we just hang out, and it’s really important for the kids to have positive role models they can trust,” he said.

The Allstate Insurance Company and the American Football Coaches Association recognized Russell for his commitment to the Joseph’s Home for Boys by selecting him as a member of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. He joins 116 other college football players who have made a difference through leadership and service in their communities.

Even though Russell is just a few short weeks away from graduation, his impact on and off the field will be remembered by both fans and youth alike for a long time. He admits, “It all went by so fast, from the first camp to last year’s camp. While I will remember all of my team experiences and bonding, the brotherhood is something I will never forget.”
Every year at Thanksgiving, a faithful group of Eagle alumni grabs their irons and gathers at the green for a celebratory tee time. For more than 20 years, the group of seven Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers has traveled from as far away as Atlanta, Ga., to renew friendships and reminisce about their college days.

What once began as an informal gathering at the Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, Fla., has quickly gained momentum and developed into a charitable cause. Since 2002, the Jeff Chandler Memorial Golf Outing, named in memory of one of the group’s members, has contributed thousands of dollars to Georgia Southern University’s golf team.

According to Mark Martin, one of the original members, the tight-knit group all attended Georgia Southern during the 1970s, and decided to start an annual golf reunion after graduation. “We always gathered to play a round of golf together the day before Thanksgiving, because everyone was in town for the holidays,” Martin said. After Chandler, an avid golfer, passed away in 1998, the friends continued their annual match. In 2002, however, the group had an idea.

“We always placed bets on our matches,” revealed Martin, “and Bill Charles and I said, ‘Why don’t we try to do something in memory of Jeff? We all love our University, we all play golf, and he loved playing golf too.’” That year, each participant made individual contributions, with nearly $500 donated in Chandler’s memory to the University’s golf team.

Now 25 players strong, the event has contributed more than $25,000 to the team since its launch. “We even have a trophy for the winner,” said Martin, “and he must return with the trophy and play in the event the following year.”

Participants in the event have always included members of the Chandler family, and in past years, several Georgia Southern alumni golfers such as Logan Blondell, Brannon Rue and Joe Monte have joined in the match.

In 2011, the outing raised $3,000 for the University’s team, which has been used to purchase much-needed equipment for the team’s players. Golf coach Larry Mays is grateful for the generous support from the event. “We are honored every year to get financial support from the tournament to buy equipment for our team. We have bought range finders, rain suits and a bunch of practice balls with donations from the outing. Mark Martin and the entire group that get together are very supportive Eagles who have helped us with our continuing success,” he said.

The generosity of these participants hasn’t gone unnoticed by other organizations and golf enthusiasts, and they have reciprocated. “A lot of people have been very generous by providing golf clubs, towels, balls and other items so we can put together goody bags for each golfer participating in the event,” said Martin.

Martin also said that this friendly and fun competition on the green has no plans to slow down. “We have a continuing purpose: to give back to our University, keep Jeff’s memory alive and keep our friendship alive and well.”
Chris Vozab is expecting the 2012-2013 Georgia Southern University Women’s Basketball season to be extra special because it will be her first as the Eagles coach and her first as a head coach. Previously an assistant at the University of Dayton, Vozab replaced longtime head coach Rusty Cram, who resigned in March after 21 years with the women’s basketball program.

Basketball has always been a major force in Vozab’s life; in fact she can claim it’s in her DNA, as both of her parents were hoops coaches. Vozab’s father was a high school and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) coach, and her mother coached at the AAU level as well. During college, Vozab herself was a four-year starter and three-year captain at Providence College in Rhode Island. After 10 seasons as an assistant coach, the New York native said she was definitely ready for the next step.

“When I decided to get into coaching pretty much right after my playing career was finished, it was definitely my dream to one day become a Division I head coach,” Vozab said. “As I became involved in the search process at Georgia Southern, I discovered that there was a tremendous amount of support here for all the athletic programs, including women’s basketball. I realized that it was the right fit for me.”

The new Eagles’ coach says building the team the way she wants will take work, but she believes her players can make the adjustment. The team finished last season with an 8-22 record and all of those players are returning, with the exception of two seniors who graduated. New to the team are four freshmen – two point guards and two forwards – recruited by the previous staff and 6-foot-2 forward Briana Jones, a transfer student from James Madison University signed by Vozab.

“We are fortunate that the team we have inherited certainly possesses some skills and some basketball smarts,” she said. “Our coaching staff is working really hard in recruiting to make sure we complement our current strengths. We will play with lots of pace, energy and aggressiveness. I believe that an attacking style will help our players have the kind of confidence to play their best.”

Vozab says she will bring structure to the team but does not want it to inhibit her players.

“Having been a player who went into coaching, I always try to remind myself, don’t ever forget what it was like to play,” she said. “I think it is something that is really important to our staff, to make sure we develop our players with the skills, so that when they get out there at game time they have the confidence and the freedom to go ahead and make those plays.”

The women’s basketball coach says her goals are to not only build a winning team but to turn out winning student-athletes.

“We talk with our team and to all of our recruits about ‘Rings and Diplomas,’ and how important that is to the Georgia Southern tradition,” Vozab said. “That is what we want for every young lady in our program – to graduate from Georgia Southern with a diploma and to have a ring for being a conference champion. That is our goal and what we are trying to build, and I believe that will be a product that our community will want to rally around and support.”

As for what type of leader her players can expect, the coach said, “I will be intense and will bring a highly energetic demeanor, but I am also a coach who will trust in our preparation level. We will work hard as a staff and a team to be as prepared as possible for every opponent, and that preparation level will enable us to balance our energy and intensity with poise and confidence. I am a big believer that a team adopts the personality of its coach, so I will be mindful to be the type of leader I want my team to emulate.”

NEW HOOPS COACH Chris Vozab aims to reinvigorate the women’s basketball team at Georgia Southern.
Seven new members were inducted into the Georgia Southern University Athletics Hall of Fame at a dinner held the night before the Eagles vs. Samford football game. The following day, the members were introduced to Eagle fans during halftime.

The 2012 Hall of Fame members include: FCS leading career rusher Adrian Peterson, Blake Adams (golf), Julian Deal (supporter), Ray Mims (baseball), Sharon Mitchell (women's basketball), Tracy Rivers (baseball) and Robin Thirsk (women's soccer).

The Class of 2012 joined 126 former coaches, student-athletes, supporters and administrators in the Hall of Fame. Inductees to the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame are chosen biennially.

**FOOTBALL**

Corless, Saturnio Join Eagles Coaching Staff

Georgia Southern’s football program added two new members to the coaching staff this year.

Linebackers coach Kevin Corless joined the program in January following the completion of the 2011 season. Corless spent nine years coaching on the defensive side of the ball at Arkansas State University and helped turn three programs into nationally-ranked defenses.

During his first seven years at Arkansas State, he served as co-defensive coordinator with Jack Curtis, now the Eagles defensive coordinator. In his final two years there, Corless had sole responsibility as coordinator and was in charge of the linebackers and the punt return unit.

Sean Saturnio joined the coaching staff as the tight ends coach prior to the start of 2012 spring practice. He also assists offensive coordinator Brent Davis with the offensive line and continues his role as director of player development. Saturnio served in this non-coaching role during the 2011 Southern Conference Championship season prior to assuming his current assistant coach role.

Saturnio came to Statesboro after a successful nine-year head coaching career at Waipahu High School in Hawaii, where he led his team to a semifinals appearance in the Oahu Interscholastic Association White Conference playoffs in his last season.

**BASEBALL**

Moore Named Hitting Coach

Chris Moore joined the Georgia Southern Baseball coaching team in September as the hitting coach. Moore played for Head Coach Rodney Hennon at Western Carolina, and for the past two seasons, he was the hitting coach for Appalachian State.

He replaces longtime assistant coach Mike Tidick who left last fall to become a professional scout. In his new position, Moore will share recruiting duties with Hennon and pitching coach B.J. Green.

**CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

“Soaring to Victory” in Phase I

The ambitious $36.6 million “Soaring to Victory” eight-year campaign to transform Georgia Southern University’s entire athletics program is moving full speed ahead.

Phase 1 is a $15.5 million effort that begins with stabilizing the football program by focusing on ways to give it a competitive edge in recruiting and training, as well as providing financial incentives to keep coaches from going elsewhere. The Athletic Foundation has raised $8 million in the first year, nearly reaching its goal to go toward the marquee project of the first phase – the Football Operations Center. The new, first-class 57,000-square-foot facility at Paulson Stadium will cost $10 million, and that amount must be raised before construction can begin on the facility, based upon approval from the Georgia Board of Regents.

The fundraising goal for the Football Operations Center is the largest privately funded project ever at Georgia Southern, and the Campaign is continuing to take in contributions.

“The Vision of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation (GSUAF) is simply, but aptly, ‘Rings and Diplomas.’ We strive to provide the opportunity for a championship ring and a college diploma for each and every student athlete,” states David Beaubien, executive director of the Eagle Fund.

**GOLF**

Wolfes Wins Invitation at Kiawah

Georgia Southern sophomore golfer Scott Wolfes took home the individual title at the Invitational at Kiawah, the site of the 2012 PGA Championship.

Wolfes finished with a three-round 220, despite posting an 80 in the final round at The Ocean Course in Kiawah Island, S.C. in September. Wolfes is the first individual medalist for Georgia Southern, since Logan Blindell won the Kauai Collegiate Cup in 2009.
FRIDAY, NOV. 9
HOMECOMING PARADE
4 p.m. / Allen E. Paulson Stadium to Sweetheart Circle

1950S-1960S REUNION
6 p.m. / Bishop Alumni Center
Bus transportation to and from SpringHill Suites

ALUMNI FAMILY AND FRIENDS BBQ
6 p.m. / Bishop Alumni Center
Bus transportation to and from SpringHill Suites

SATURDAY, NOV. 10
BREAKFAST WITH BAGS
8 - 11 a.m. / RJ’s Restaurant

BAGS, MAP & GREEKS COOKOUT
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. / Allen E. Paulson Stadium Tailgate Area (next to Gate 7)

CLASS OF 1962/50-YEAR GRADUATE BRUNCH
10:30 a.m. / Bishop Alumni Center

EAGLES VS. HOWARD UNIVERSITY
2 p.m. / Allen E. Paulson Stadium

1950S-1960S SOCIAL HOUR AND DINNER
6 p.m. / SpringHill Suites Conference Center

BAGS AFTER HOURS
Late-night / Applebee’s Restaurant

CLASS OF 1962/50-YEAR GRADUATE BRUNCH
10:30 a.m. / Bishop Alumni Center

GSU STOMP FEST 2012
7 - 10 p.m. / Performing Arts Center (PAC)

SUNDAY, NOV. 11
BAGS SUNDAY BRUNCH
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. / Emma’s Restaurant (at Holiday Inn)

Colleges will host additional events for their alumni. Check with your dean’s office for more information.

Purchase game tickets through Georgia Southern Athletics Ticket Office by calling 1-800-GSU-WINS or (912) 478-WINS. (Classes of 1950s/’60s ask for your Reunion ticket block.)

For more information contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (912)GSU-ALUM (478-2586).

Register online for Homecoming events at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni.
His first term as a Securities and Exchange (SEC) Commissioner began only weeks before the 2008 financial crisis.

Luis Aguilar (76) knows how to work under pressure. Only weeks before one of the biggest financial crises in history, the Georgia Southern University alumnus was a member of one of the key government agencies that responded to the 2008 collapse of the American financial system. Aguilar began his first term as a Securities and Exchange (SEC) Commissioner on July 1, 2008, when several large American institutions collapsed and global stock markets declined sharply. Now into his second term, Aguilar said the SEC continues at the same intense pace that started his first day. “Serving as an SEC Commissioner is always a significant commitment because of the SEC’s jurisdiction over 35,000 entities, the capital markets and more,” he said. “However, my tenure has been heavily impacted by the fact that two months after I took the job, the Lehman Brothers collapse was followed ten months later by the collapse of the American financial system.”

Aguilar said while he never anticipated having his current job, he is thrilled to be engaged in public service. “I arrived in the United States when I was six years old as a refugee from communist Cuba. The generosity of the American people and the strength of the American system allowed me to be successful in my career. It is a privilege to work at the SEC and give back to the American public.”

The Commissioner believes that his educational experiences prepared him to achieve various degrees of professional success. “The foundation for any career often starts with an excellent education, which I received at Georgia Southern,” he said. “I believe my education initially prepared me for new situations, and gave me the confidence that I will know the critical questions to ask.” - Sandra Bennett

Prior to taking the job in Washington, D.C., Aguilar worked as a partner in the Atlanta, Ga., office of an international law firm specializing in securities and was the general counsel at the investment firm, Invesco, in the late 1990s. Aguilar said while he never anticipated having his current job, he is thrilled to be engaged in public service.

The Georgia Southern alumni played a big part in this momentous occasion for the veteran swimming coach. She started her collegiate coaching career at the University in 2000 as the assistant swim coach for the women’s team. Two years later Bonewtt-Cron graduated from Georgia Southern with a master’s in kinesiology and said she remains connected to the University through her relationships with her graduate school classmates. “I still keep in touch with many of them, including two who were in my wedding five years ago,” she added.

Scott Zehngraff (94) has been named the Georgia Department of Transportation’s District Traffic Engineer for the 21 counties in northeast Georgia that comprise District 1. Zehngraff has been working with the department since 1995. Among other things, he is responsible for district-wide traffic engineering studies, signal timing studies, safety enhancement reviews and citizen complaint investigations.

Alumna Coaches at 2012 Olympic Games

Georgia Southern University alumna Holli Bonewtt-Cron (’02) was selected to coach the Grenadian Swim Team at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Bonewtt-Cron, the head coach for the swimming and diving teams at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), said she believes her experience will help her become a better coach for her athletes. Georgia Southern played a big part in this momentous occasion for the veteran swimming coach. She started her collegiate coaching career at the University in 2000 as the assistant swim coach for the women’s team. Two years later Bonewtt-Cron graduated from Georgia Southern with a master’s in kinesiology and said she remains connected to the University through her relationships with her graduate school classmates. “I still keep in touch with many of them, including two who were in my wedding five years ago,” she added.

Esau Simpson is a member of the NSU swim team, and he represented his home country of Grenada at the Olympics. Simpson posted a time of 53.62 on the 100-meter freestyle trials to win his heat and set a new record for Grenada. Going into the Olympics, Bonewtt-Cron said her goal was for her swimmer to have a thrilling experience while achieving his own personal best time. Simpson finished the event ranked 43rd out of 60 competitors.

The Georgia Southern alumni said her experience as a head coach at the Olympics is one of the highest levels a coach could achieve. “It takes a lot of hard work to get to this point, but it is an experience and opportunity like nothing else. It is hard to top the opportunity to be a head coach at the Olympics,” Bonewtt-Cron said. “The only other Olympic achievement that could be higher as a U.S. coach is to be on a U.S. Olympic Team.” - Sandra Bennett

IN THE SWIM OF THINGS

Dunaway’s Crossing

1970s

Denery R. Bishop (70) received the Citizen Volunteer Service Award from the Department of Justice in Washington. The award recognizes citizen volunteers who assist the Justice Department in serving the public interest and Richard A. Booth, the executive director of Crime Stoppers of Savannah-Chatham County (Ga.), Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole presented the award to Bishop at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in June. Bishop, a retired FBI Special Agent, has volunteered his time, energy and resources on several federal law enforcement initiatives and helped develop and maintain a program intended to reduce gun violence in Savannah.

1990s

Nancy Brandon (92) has published her first novel, Dunaway’s Crossing, which is set in 1910 Georgia. The book follows 19-year-old Bes De Ferguson and the obstacles she faces after leaving an abusive husband and her wealthy home in Savannah to visit a relative in rural Pineview. A launch party was held in August for Dunaway’s Crossing, with proceeds benefitting Senior Citizens, Inc. in Savannah, Ga. Brandon’s novel is available through major booksellers and Amazon.com.
LOYALTY AND SUPPORT are two words that Sean Knox (’98) understands well. The Columbus, Ga., native has shown plenty of both toward his alma mater for more than a decade, beginning during his undergraduate years. Now in his new role as president of Georgia Southern’s Alumni Association, he is aiming to step up his level of support a few notches, while also reaching out and encouraging fellow alumni to do the same. “I’ve always wanted to support Georgia Southern,” he said, about his desire to give back to his alma mater. “I have great memories of Georgia Southern, and I’m glad that I can still be involved with the University.”

Reaching out is something very familiar to Knox. After earning a master’s in public policy from Regent University, Knox returned to his hometown and was one of the key members of a group that spearheaded the effort to restart the Columbus Eagle Club in the early 2000s. Ever since, he has been actively involved as an Alumni Association board member and chaired the committee that awards student scholarships, which he says was a rewarding experience.

During his tenure, Knox hopes to increase the membership of the Alumni Association by encouraging alumni to join the new alumni networks already being established in several cities around the South. “I intend to reach out to alumni to urge them to join these new groups, which incorporate their interests,” he added. From a financial perspective, Knox would also like to help increase the percentage of alumni donors. “It’s not about the amount of dollars, though, but the amount of donors. There are a lot of exciting things going on at Georgia Southern, and our alumni have the opportunity to play a role in the University’s growth.”

While Knox is growing the membership of the Alumni Association, he is also working to continue the upward growth of his family’s business, Knox Pest Control. Founded by his great-grandfather Forrest in 1929 – who learned the ropes of the exterminating business from Otto Orkin – Knox is the fourth generation to join the industry. Currently, the Columbus-based company operates 15 offices throughout Georgia, Alabama and Florida and is ranked in the top one percent in revenue of all pest control companies in the U.S. He and his wife Crawford have three children: Addie (7), Sim (4) and newborn Pate.

MOVING UP
Outgoing Alumni Association President Mike Carpenter passes the gavel to Sean Knox.

This holiday season, give the gift of spirit.

A NEW TERM
Alumni Association installs Sean Knox as president

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Loyalty and support are two words that Sean Knox (’98) understands well. The Columbus, Ga., native has shown plenty of both toward his alma mater for more than a decade, beginning during his undergraduate years. Now in his new role as president of Georgia Southern’s Alumni Association, he is aiming to step up his level of support a few notches, while also reaching out and encouraging fellow alumni to do the same. “I’ve always wanted to support Georgia Southern,” he said, about his desire to give back to his alma mater. “I have great memories of Georgia Southern, and I’m glad that I can still be involved with the University.”

Reaching out is something very familiar to Knox. After earning a master’s in public policy from Regent University, Knox returned to his hometown and was one of the key members of a group that spearheaded the effort to restart the Columbus Eagle Club in the early 2000s. Ever since, he has been actively involved as an Alumni Association board member and chaired the committee that awards student scholarships, which he says was a rewarding experience.

During his tenure, Knox hopes to increase the membership of the Alumni Association by encouraging alumni to join the new alumni networks already being established in several cities around the South. “I intend to reach out to alumni to urge them to join these new groups, which incorporate their interests,” he added. From a financial perspective, Knox would also like to help increase the percentage of alumni donors. “It’s not about the amount of dollars, though, but the amount of donors. There are a lot of exciting things going on at Georgia Southern, and our alumni have the opportunity to play a role in the University’s growth.”

While Knox is growing the membership of the Alumni Association, he is also working to continue the upward growth of his family’s business, Knox Pest Control. Founded by his great-grandfather Forrest in 1929 – who learned the ropes of the exterminating business from Otto Orkin – Knox is the fourth generation to join the industry. Currently, the Columbus-based company operates 15 offices throughout Georgia, Alabama and Florida and is ranked in the top one percent in revenue of all pest control companies in the U.S. He and his wife Crawford have three children: Addie (7), Sim (4) and newborn Pate.
Tailgaters may have noticed something new at this season’s home football games—the 1970 GMC fire truck parked near the water tower outside Allen E. Paulson Stadium. The truck belongs to alums Jamey Cartee (’90) and John Lamar (’86), who decided to step up their tailgating a notch this year. Lamar (‘86), who decided to step up their tailgating a notch this year.

EAGLES REACHING OUT
New Alumni groups are now available

Since May, Amy Dietrich (’11) and a core group of Atlanta, Ga., alumni have brought community service to a whole new level within the Eagle Nation. The dedicated group of 35 members has been meeting monthly to volunteer for various activities such as working at a thrift store to benefit a women’s shelter, stocking the shelves of a medical supply bank, assiting a Habitat for Humanity build site and helping out at Zoo Atlanta.

These ambassadors of good will represent the launch of Eagle Outreach, one of several new initiatives keeping alumni connected to the University through the Alumni Association.

“I reached out to fellow alumni who were passionate about community service and wanted to support Georgia Southern,” said Dietrich, who was an active volunteer with the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement and Eagle Entertainment as an undergrad. Dietrich has successfully used social media to build the group, which is growing daily. “People are recruiting other people,” she said.

“It’s all about fostering connections,” said Wendell Tompkins, director of alumni relations and annual giving, adding that other new initiatives already underway include Alumni Networks, Young Alumni Networks and Southern Women. These groups are rapidly forming in six cities around the South, including Atlanta, Savannah, Columbus, Augusta, Macon and Jacksonville, with other locations planned.

The Alumni Network is the umbrella organization for all alumni activities in various communities in the Eagle Nation, and is a new and exciting type of programming for alumni, said Tompkins. “It is taking Alumni Relations in a whole new direction. No matter what a person’s interests are, the Alumni Networks have something for everyone.” Open to alumni, parents, friends and Georgia Southern students, the networks serve several purposes: first, to provide opportunities to network, socialize and support the Eagles, and secondly to offer support to Georgia Southern by working to provide scholarships and also assist in student recruitment.

“The Young Alumni Network is an opportunity for graduates of the last decade to get involved with the Alumni Association, meet fellow alumni and get reconnected with the University,” said Tompkins. Young Alumni Networks have already sprung up in various cities. “Our Southern Women groups provide social activities, professional development seminars and involvement in community service. Some of our alumni have hosted gatherings in their homes and we have also featured guest speakers at some of these events,”

Tompkins urges alumni interested in starting or joining an Alumni Network to visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni. “Even if you have a unique experience at Georgia Southern, and these new initiatives provide a way to connect our alumni no matter where they live.”

and began his career with Georgia Southern, retiring in 1987.

Mike Deal
Retired Georgia Southern University Registrar Thomas Michael “Mile” Deal (’59) died in August at Ogeechee Area Hospice in Statesboro. Mr. Deal was employed for 30 years in the registrar’s office at Georgia Southern and he served as the registrar for the last 20 years of his employment. The lifelong resident of Bulloch County, Ga., was a member of Pittman Park United Methodist Church.

Dr. Ralph Lightsey
Professor Emeritus
Dr. Ralph Lightsey died in September at Ogeechee Area Hospice in Statesboro. The 59-year-old minister was ordained in 1940 and served churches in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi during 72 years of active ministry. For 10 years, Dr. Lightsey served as a professor of educational research at Georgia Southern and also as an assistant to the vice president. Upon his retirement, the Board of Regents conferred on him the title of professor emeritus of educational research.

In keeping with his passion for his fellow human beings, he received the Dean Day Smith Service to Mankind Award. Dr. Lightsey was also the original owner of Lightsey Construction Company, Inc. in Statesboro.

Dr. Betty Jean McKinny
College of Education faculty member Betty Jean McKinny died in September at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Ga. An educator for more than 40 years, Dr. McKinny spent the last seven years of her career in the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) Program, Department of Teaching and Learning at Georgia Southern. She received her B.S.Ed. from Southern Oregon College, M.S. Ed. from Oregon College of Education and Ph.D. from the University of Alaska. The avid Eagles football fan will be remembered as a role model for effective teaching, her love of reading, her challenging but caring approach to education and her sense of humor. The family created the Betty Jean McKinny Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Citizens Bank of Bulloch County, P.O. Box 120, Statesboro, Ga. 30459, in her memory.
From 1959 until 1974, J.E. Rowe (’61) gave a lot to Georgia Southern College. He was a two-sport athlete from 1959-61, and became the head basketball coach when Hanner Fieldhouse was erected and the program moved to Division I in 1971. But, in 2011, Rowe gave what may have been his biggest contribution yet, when he and his family founded the Coach J.E. Rowe Scholarship.

Rowe’s motivation was simple. “In one sentence I can sum it up,” he said. “I got out, got married and decided to start coaching.”

On the reference of J.E. Scearce, Rowe’s basketball coach when he played at Georgia Southern, Rowe went on to coach high school hoops in the Atlanta area. After a year as an assistant at Druid Hills High School, he became the head coach at Avondale High School for five years, in which he accumulated a record of 61-29. Then, in the spring of 1967, Rowe was hired as an assistant by Scearce and returned to Georgia Southern. Scearce charged him with two important responsibilities in this position. The first was for Rowe to bring high school players Steve Buckler and Phillip Sisk with him from Atlanta. “I coached Steve for eight years through high school and college,” said Rowe, about the athlete who became one of the leading scorers in Georgia Southern history.

Rowe’s second task was to live with Roger Moore, an African-American athlete signed by Scearce. “In those days, it was not unusual for other colleges and universities to steal players from schools,” he said, describing recruitment. Moore became the first black athlete to receive a scholarship in the University System of Georgia’s history.

“There were some people who were unhappy with that situation, but they survived it, and we survived it, and everyone’s better for it,” said Rowe. “I’m glad I went through it.”

After Scearce left the University to further his degree, Frank Radovich was named head coach and Rowe became his assistant, heading up recruiting.

When Radovich stepped down in 1971, Georgia Southern College Director of Athletics J.C. Clements named Rowe the head coach during a period of time when Georgia Southern was in transition from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II, and ultimately to NCAA Division I.

“There was a very fine line between a lower-major and a major college program back then, and we felt like we could play with the big boys if we could get some decent talent in there, and we did,” Rowe said about the transition. “I played teams like South Carolina, North Carolina State, Clemson – I played some very, very good teams during that time.”

Rowe spent a huge portion of his life impacting Georgia Southern on the field and the sideline and he was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991. Rowe, with children living in and around the Statesboro area and grandchildren attending Georgia Southern, it’s only fitting that his most recent, and maybe biggest contribution, will affect students and student-athletes in the classroom, every year into the future.

“ GIS also uses mathematics and I always liked math.”

Markley expressed gratitude for the financial burden he has avoided by being a scholarship recipient. They have allowed him to focus on his studies and service projects. “It would be a much bigger struggle to go to college without the scholarships,” he said. “My sister also goes to college and we both wanted to have as little debt as possible.”

Outside of the classroom, Markley serves as a Student Government Association Scholarship and the Daniel B. Good Geography Scholarship, is a geography major with a geographic information systems (GIS) minor. He plans to continue his studies in graduate school. “I hope to study urban geography or city planning,” he said.

“I came to study geography and took my first GIS class and loved the whole process,” said the Marietta, Ga., native. “GIS allows students to analyze and interpret data, which can be really helpful in fields such as planning and environmental science.” Markley is currently analyzing data for a project related to water conservation in the Atlanta area.

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University Foundation hosts Annual Event at the Bishop Alumni Center

Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel and the Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees will host this year’s one-of-a-kind 1906 Society Event on Friday, November 2nd at the Eugene M. Bishop Alumni Center. This year’s event features a cocktail reception followed by a concert with the Swingin’ Medallions…the “Party Band of the South.”

The band is celebrating its 50th anniversary of entertaining crowds with beach music, frat rock, R&B and shaggin’ music. “Double Shot (of My Baby’s Love)” became a million seller in 1966, and has been a party classic for college students for decades.

Membership in the 1906 Society is extended to contributors who make annual gifts of $1,200 or more to support the University Foundation. To join the 1906 Society, contact Alex Grovenstein at agrovenstein@georgiasouthern.edu or by calling 912-478-GIVE.

New Record

The 39th annual A Day for Southern set a new record of $1,417,799, marking the 25th straight year the campaign has raised more than $1 million. Donations are contributed by faculty, staff, the surrounding community and retirees of the University. Pictured left to right are Campus Co-Chair Brenda Ayres, Campus Co-Chair Jeff Tyngrace, Vice President for University Advancement Salinda Arthur, Community Chair Daron Burnette, University President Brooks Keel, Director of Annual Giving Alex Grovenstein and Eagle Fund Executive Director David Beaubien.

Top 10 Reasons to Be at the 1906 Society Event

1. It’s about time... A NEW VENUE!
2. 50th ANNIVERSARY of the Swingin’ Medallions!
3. We could all use a DATE NIGHT!
4. LEADED or UNLEADED... try THE 1906 Signature COCKTAIL!
5. PHOTO BOOTH to capture the Night!
6. Dance like you used to at MCKINNEY’S POND!
7. Great FOOD ****...you can even eat dessert first
8. App State Fans are NOT invited!
9. See old Friends...meet New Ones!
10. So We Can Say... THANKS to You!

1906 Society Event

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/1906event

39th Annual Campaign Raises Record $1,417,799 Million
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE GARDEN

The Georgia Southern Botanical Garden is celebrating its 25th anniversary year with a new name - the Garden of the Coastal Plain at Georgia Southern University. The new identity is in line with the Garden’s mission to focus on the natural and cultural history of the southeastern coastal plain and to reinforce the important relationship between the Garden and the University.