Now there are more ways to stay connected to Georgia Southern University. When you join the Alumni Association, you can get involved with Eagle Networks, Eagle Outreach and Southern Women initiatives. For more information about these new groups and to join today, visit: GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni

Topophilia (tō pō fēl̪ə fēl̪ə) Love of place: The feeling of connection which individuals have for particular locations.
What inspires you? Is it a profit margin? A stock price? A CEO? Or is it something higher? Maybe it's a set of values, a love for freedom and the belief that an individual can make a difference.

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FEATURE STORIES

6 THE BEAT GOES ON
The Southern Pride Marching Band is celebrating 30 years of hitting the high notes at halftime.

12 RESEARCH ON THE HORIZON
The Georgia Southern Herty Advanced Materials Development Center is shaping the University’s future in research.

18 REACHING FOR THE STARS
Georgia Southern Planetarium’s state-of-the-art renovation lets visitors experience full dome movies and real-time tours of the solar system.

20 VISIONARY LEADER
Former State Representative Bob Lane was honored with the President’s Medal.

22 DREAM TEAM
An educational support program called the Greensboro Dreamers has helped two Georgia Southern freshmen achieve their dream of attending college.
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

THEN AND NOW

1981 Landrum Dining Hall was the heart of activity on Georgia Southern’s campus. During the 1970s, it was a common sight to witness both food fights and streakers in the dining hall. In the 1980s, DJ’s spun tunes for diners during the special Thursday evening “Chicken Night.” These memories and more were shared on July 18, as diners heralded the closing of the facility when they flocked to Landrum for a final meal on its last day of operation.

2012 Landrum has now been demolished and construction is underway on a modernized facility that will accommodate more diners and offer expanded food court-type dining selections. The new and improved Landrum is expected to open in fall 2013.

THE FIVE MOST POPULAR FOODS SERVED AT LANDRUM WERE:

- Fried Chicken
- Fried Fish
- Mac & Cheese
- Jambalaya
- Pound Cake

TRUE BLUE 5K

Homecoming weekend promises to pack in a lot of events in the Eagle Nation, including the second annual True Blue 5K. On November 10, Eagle fans of all ages including students, children and adults will be off and running early on campus before the Eagles vs. Howard University game at 2 p.m.

Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel will start the 3.1 mile race, which begins and ends at the Recreation Activity Center (RAC). As the route winds around historic sites on campus including Sweetheart Circle, the Georgia Southern cheerleaders and mascot Gus will cheer on runners and walkers. The Southern Pride Marching Band drum line will welcome participants to the finish line.

Participants are encouraged to show their True Blue spirit by sporting Georgia Southern colors, costumes and gear. The race begins at 7:30 a.m. at the RAC. Registration is $15 for students and $20 for community members and alumni. To register, call (912) 478-5436.
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

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.
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

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**TC Pride** In 1932, South Georgia Teachers College formed the first band with 16 students.

**“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 times, which is time led by the student leadership focused on issues specific to each section,” 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) and James Brown (The King). “Basically, the group does a great big ‘Follow the Leader’ drill where we spell ‘Eagle’ in cursive on the field and it looks like it is just being written the whole way through,” he explained. Another favorite in “Southern Pride to Go” a small group of musicians that raid restaurants and hangouts throughout Statesboro the night before a home game, playing the fight song and other popular tunes to get fans fired up.

Band Day is also slated to return, an event where high school musicians that raid restaurants and hangouts throughout Statesboro the night before a home game, playing the fight song and other popular tunes to get fans fired up.

Band Day is also slated to return, an event where high school band students from across the state are invited to play with Southern Pride during halftime. And, McKenzie is looking for ways to keep alumni members involved with Southern Pride by creating an association and inviting alumni to visit and perform with the band.

Apart from creating an entertaining and exciting product for fans to enjoy, the band director said setting a standard of excellence is his primary goal for Southern Pride. “The group needs to be excellent in every way. It needs to be musically excellent. It needs to be visually excellent,” McKenzie said. “More than that, it needs to be a place that grows and develops people of excellence.”

Southern Pride’s tradition of playing the hymn “It is Well with My Soul” after an Eagle victory started with former band director Matthew Fallin back in the ’90s. He says his musicians first used the song as a warm-up chorale, but after several years, they switched to playing it every time the Eagles won a game.

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.

“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.”

Georgia Southern’s Herty Advanced Materials Development Center takes University research to the next level

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.

“With the merger, we get 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 reenites 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).
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 added 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 repellent 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 development in our state,” said President Brooks Keel.

NEW CONCEPTS, NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Herty produces pellets from pine trees, which are shipped to Europe and used as fuel to generate electricity.

“Georgia Southern has the opportunity to be at the center of all development in our state.” -President Brooks Keel
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
Bob Lane has always had a special fondness for Georgia Southern University. The former Georgia State Representative recalls 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
Tom and Kathy Kelly visit two of their Greensboro Dreamers, Jacayla Edwards and Kadijah Woods, on the Georgia Southern University campus.

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.

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. I am added.

The Kellys were inspired by philanthropist Eugene Lang’s “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 visited local businesses to donate after-school meals for their program. The program grew to include six part-time teachers and 20 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.

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 choruses and concerts and tutoring fifth graders from Greensboro Elementary School. All total, each student participated for more than 1,700 hours in the program and Tom 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 move as sponsors and visited local businesses to donate after-school meals for their program. The program grew to include six part-time teachers and 20 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.

The Greensboro Dreamers toured the Georgia Southern University campus during one of their school breaks.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS The Greensboro Dreamers toured the Georgia Southern University campus during one of their school breaks.

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. “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.

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“Many people have given up on me, but I have remained constant and made me a better person.” -Kadijah Woods to Tom Kelly

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 bragging about these kids over the years, but after we met them, we decided you didn’t brag enough.’” said Tom proudly about their accomplishments.

“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 age group - while the remainder are pursuing a two-year associate’s degree at trade schools. Furthermore, 23 Dreamers have 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 frustrated at times, but we never looked back. Aside from our family, it is the most rewarding thing we have ever done,” said Tom. The Greensboro Dreamers have 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.

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 have 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 80 in-state trips to museums, theaters, camps, college campuses and sporting events.
FORENSIC FIND

Professor Assists Law Enforcement

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 to death to discovery.

Through Mondor’s hard work and dedicated efforts, Georgia Southern and the community-at-large have introduced to the field of forensic entomology. Since the summer of 2010, Mondor has led students in research studies at two undisclosed field sites in the area, the only such locations in the state. Similar to “body farms” located at universities around the country, students study the stages of vertebrate decomposition. Instead of human cadavers, Mondor uses stillborn pigs. Students are taught to identify the types and stages of local fly species that colonize the carcasses.

Currently, he is building a database of local insects that will be helpful in identifying insects discovered on human bodies in future cases. While waiting for his next opportunity to assist in a case, he is teaching the University’s first forensic biology course. Mondor and colleague Michelle Tremblay are creating further awareness about the field by conducting a forensic entomology workshop for law enforcement personnel around the state of Georgia. “We are going to show them proper collecting techniques for different life stages so the insects can be sent to me for future cases,” he said.

“During the autopsy, the medical examiner collected insects from the body.”

-Ed Mondor

$512 MILLION
USG Study Reveals University’s Economic Impact

According to a study released from the University System of Georgia, Georgia Southern had an economic impact of $512 million and nearly 7,000 jobs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County area during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

“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 our 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.

Georgia Southern University has established a new Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education (I’STEM) (pronounced “I two STEM”) that will support thematic grant writing, research and outreach. The Institute is committed to excellence in primary, secondary and higher education STEM teaching and learning.

The Institute will create a broad range of partnerships across academia, business, education and research centers in southeast Georgia, support professional development, outreach, curricular development, the creation of innovative courses and research in STEM education through grant funded projects. The Institute, one of the first of its kind, will be distinctive in that it will focus on serving rural southeastern Georgia.

The STEM Institute was established through a unique collaboration of core partners: Georgia Southern’s new Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (COEIT), the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM), the College of Education (COE) and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

COE research professor Robert Mayes, Ph.D., serves as the first I’STEM Director alongside Institute Fellows Joy Darley, Ph.D., and Jim LoBue, Ph.D., both from COSM; and Shonda Bernadin, Ph.D., from CEIT.

NEW INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED
Georgia Southern Launches I’STEM

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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., Poy D. and Jacob Warren, Ph.D. Smallley is a clinical psychologist in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) and Warren is an epidemiologist in the Jann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOH).

Funding for the new five-year project comes from NIH’s National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NMHHD) and will allow the RHRI to enact 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 disparities elimination summer training 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 in the founding 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, JPHCOH and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Georgia Southern’s RHRI is an interdisciplinary hub of rural health research and outreach that spans five Colleges within the University. Its mission is to improve health in rural areas by promoting cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research and outreach that connects faculty from diverse fields and promotes the development of researchers examining rural health issues.

**RHRI Co-Executive Directors**

Bryant Smalley, Ph.D., Poy D. and Jacob Warren, Ph.D. accepted the funds for a five-year project to eliminate rural health disparities.
Bringing families back together.

We have been helping families that have been affected by alcohol or drug addiction for over 45 years.

If your family has been torn apart by addiction, please call us. We can help.

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 U-Haul 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 Charline 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, volunteers were also busy handing out approximately 15,000 water bottles to students, families and other volunteers.

“After seven years of receiving over 99% positive feedback on OMI through student and family surveys, we believe we have it running about as good as it can get,” said Director of Housing Chris McDonald, about Georgia Southern’s successful methods for managing the madness of move-in day.

Although Phillip was probably one of the most unusual items to take up residence on Georgia Southern’s campus, volunteers were also spotted rolling in blue bins containing a four-foot tall teddy bear, a guitar amplifier, 83 jumbo rolls of toilet paper, skateboards and enough food to fill a Sam’s Club warehouse.

University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D., and Head Football Coach Jeff Monken — along with the football team — were on hand to fire up the crowd with Georgia Southern’s Pride Marching Band playing traditional tunes and cheerleaders teaching Game Day customs and cheers in anticipation of the Eagles’ first home game.

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Center for Irish Studies Director Lectures at John F. Kennedy Summer School

Summer school took on a whole new meaning this September, when one Georgia Southern professor participated in a unique event that took him back to his homeland. Howard Keeley, director of Georgia Southern’s Center for Irish Studies, traveled to the historic river port of New Ross in the southeastern Irish county of Wexford as a distinguished speaker at the John F. Kennedy Summer School, a symposium exploring JFK’s legacy. Attended by three generations of the Kennedy clan, the Summer School was motivated by next year’s 50th anniversary of JFK’s historic homecoming trip to Ireland. The President’s family originated in the New Ross area, and the Kennedy ancestral home will soon be designated a national monument.

In addition to Keeley, the exclusive three-day event included sessions featuring major politicians, professors, broadcasters, and writers and editors from both Ireland and the United States. Geraldine Kennedy, the former editor of the Irish Times and the Kennedy Legacy Outside St. Michael’s Theatre, New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland for the Kennedy Summer School (from left); Dr. Michael Hewlett, Dean of Social Sciences, Waterford Institute of Technology; Dr. Howard Keeley, Brendan Howlin, Ireland’s Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform; Austin Currie, Irish Civil Rights leader and former Minister of State; and Bobby Kennedy III.

The Kennedy Legacy Outside St. Michael’s Theatre, New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland for the Kennedy Summer School (from left); Dr. Michael Hewlett, Dean of Social Sciences, Waterford Institute of Technology; Dr. Howard Keeley, Brendan Howlin, Ireland’s Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform; Austin Currie, Irish Civil Rights leader and former Minister of State; and Bobby Kennedy III.

TRADITION LIVES HERE

The Eagles now enjoy a renovated locker room in Hanner Fieldhouse. The facility is a virtual walk through the history of Georgia Southern Football, beginning with the image of a player head-butting the bust of legendary coach Eric Russell at the front door. Inside, the walls are covered with pictures of former players, along with the slogan “Toughness, Humility and Effort.” The championship facility also features glass cases containing the retired jerseys of former quarterback Tracy Hamm and running back Adrian Peterson.

IRISH ABROAD

Summers always fly by, especially at Georgia Southern, when the days are filled with sports and events. That’s the case during Georgia Southern’s Men’s Basketball Summer Session. The Eagles now enjoy a renovated locker room in Hanner Fieldhouse. The facility is a virtual walk through the history of Georgia Southern Football, beginning with the image of a player head-butting the bust of legendary coach Eric Russell at the front door. Inside, the walls are covered with pictures of former players, along with the slogan “Toughness, Humility and Effort.” The championship facility also features glass cases containing the retired jerseys of former quarterback Tracy Hamm and running back Adrian Peterson.

EAGLE SPORTS TV OFFERS FREE VIDEO STREAM OF UNIVERSITY EVENTS

Fans unable to make it to their favorite Georgia Southern Southern 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 or event, concert, play or speaker live online.

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.

CATS is a full service support unit for the University with specialty areas in video and multimedia. The team also delivers original HD University programming such as the online technology show “TechKnow.” "Just Wild,” a wildlife showcase program for the Center for Wildlife Education and the Emmy award-winning “Inside Georgia Southern Football with Coach Monken.” The HD streaming capabilities have placed Georgia Southern at the forefront of educational institutions by delivering 24/7 HD online media to alumni and students.

HOMECOMING

Alumni Association Family & Friends BBQ

Friday, November 9
Bish Alumni Center: 6:30 – 9 p.m.
Advance tickets: $10 adults and $5 kids (under 12)
(Purchase online by November 2)
Day of tickets: $15 adults and $5 kids (under 12)
GeorgiaSouthern.alumni

FACULTY MEMBER WINS DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

College of Science and Mathematics Department of Mathematics professor Hua Wang is the recipient of the 2012 Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Award, Southeastern Section, for Distinguished 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, which is a member of the MAA Student Section. His research focuses on functional analysis and complex analysis. The MAA annual conference awards the Wang is the technical director of research projects, some of whom several have won conference awards.

news, cont.

news, cont.
RESEARCH

DIRECT TO TEXT

Studying texts has taken on a different meaning with a new class in the Department of Literature and Philosophy. Instead of using a traditional textbook, students are gaining hands-on experience in the translation of ancient religious Sanskrit texts.

Unique Class Tackles Ancient Language of Sanskrit

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

INVESTIGATING THE SCRIPTURES

Professor Nicole Karapanagiotis, Ph.D. and students Michael Putnam and Lacy Bell-Putnam study texts from the ancient language of Sanskrit.
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!

LITTLE EAGLES STORM SEARCHERS
Professors Mark Welford and Brian Bossak, along with student researchers, are compiling data that will aid in the development of hurricane safety plans.

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 Jinn-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.” - SABRA BERTET
RESEARCH NOTES

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
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.

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 Dícesare, department chair and professor of organic chemistry.

SUPPORT 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.

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.

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.

PRINCIPALS INFLUENCED BY SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES IN HIRING
College of Education

With the rising popularity of Facebook, a College of Education professor has published a study that looks at whether school principals are influenced by posts gleaned from social networking sites of graduates seeking teaching positions. "Your private life may not be as private as you think, especially if you are a K-12 teacher," says Marlynn Griffin, educational psychology professor. Taking language directly from posts of students enrolled in an initial education practicum course, Griffin looked for language and images that were inconsistent with the ethical standards held for teachers by professional organizations. The statements in the survey included vulgar, sexually explicit, violent and discriminatory language. Griffin found that principals perceive that information on social networking sites would impact their hiring decisions, and said that further studies are needed.

78%REFERENCES TO DOING ILLEGAL DRUGS

POLITICAL POSTS/TWEETS 18%

OVERLY RELIGIOUS POSTS/TWEETS

PICTURES OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

47%

SPELLING/GRAMMAR ERRORS IN POSTS/TWEETS

54%

PROFANITY IN POSTS/TWEETS 61%

61% POSTS/TWEETS OF AN OFFENSE NATURE

66%POSTS/TWEETS OF A SEXUAL NATURE

47%POSTS/TWEETS OF AN ILLEGAL NATURE

80%POSTS/TWEETS OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE

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SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT RECEIVING A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Source: Jobvite Social Recruiting Survey 2012; Jobvite Index

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ATHLETICS

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

“How did you get into this career?”

RC: 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, the weather and the obituaries during the morning shifts. This was back when radio was live.

TH: In college, I was a sports reporter/editor for the Georgia-Anne. Coach (Ekr) Russell used to tell me that since I liked sports, was a “pretty good” writer, 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).

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. We could not see a thing, just made everything up, which I have been accused of many times since.

“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

“How do you prepare for each game?”

RC: 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.

TH: 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 anymore. 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!”

CB: 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.

“Anybody can do almost anything just one more time.”

– Terry Harvin

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

RC: How many ever games we play… take that number, put a dash behind it, and add a zero.

CB: 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.

TH: The Eagles will soar through the playoffs and bring home another National Championship flag to the prettiest little stadium in America. Then, Southern Pride will play the hymn “It Is Well with My Soul.”

“What is your greatest Georgia Southern sports memory?”

RC: Andy Mojé’s complete game win over Charleston in 2011, and Russell DeMaio scoring against South Carolina State. Both of those guys will probably smile forever telling those stories for the next 80 years and it was neat to be able to help share them on the radio.

CB: The two wins over Appalachian State – the one in 2007 to snap the longest home winning streak in the country and the 2010 overtime win, when I think all of us in the Eagle Nation knew at the moment, that Georgia Southern was back to stay.

TH: There are several: I grew up near Gainesville, Fla., and was a Florida Gator fan. In 1986, my first football game as a Georgia Southern Eagle was against the University of Florida. The National Championships in 1989 and 1990, and Georgia Southern beating Appalachian State - anytime.

“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 blew. 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

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE INTERVIEW?

RC: Probably the interview in the Bishop Field House locker room moments before Coach Monken was introduced as the Eagles Head Coach. There was just a sense of excitement that all was right in the world and option football was returning to Georgia Southern and he was the right man at the right time for this job.

TH: I have several, but I was the first to interview Chris Blair and introduce him as the new “Voice of the Georgia Southern Eagles.”

CB: Andy Mojé’s complete game win over Charleston in 2011, and Russell DeMaio scoring against South Carolina State. Both of those guys will probably smile forever telling those stories for the next 80 years and it was neat to be able to help share them on the radio.

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– Chris Blair

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST GEORGIA SOUTHERN SPORTS MEMORY?
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 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 gather their irons and gather at the green for a celebratory tee time. For more than 20 years, the group of seven Alpha Tau Omegas 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 goodie 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 not only to 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.”

- Sandra Bennett

NEW HOOPS COACH Chris Vozab aims to reinvigorate the women’s basketball team.
EAGLE ATHLETICS
Hall of Fame Inducts Seven New Members

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 line backers 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.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

“Soaring to Victory” in Phase 1

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.

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 Tylick 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.

GOLF

Wolfes Wins Invitational 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 Blundell won the Kauai Collegiate Cup in 2009.
HOMECOMING 2012

FRIDAY, NOV. 9
HOMECOMING PARADE
4 p.m. / Allen E. Paulson Stadium to Sweetheart Circle

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

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

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

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

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

BAGS AFTER HOURS
Late-night / Applebee’s Restaurant

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

BAGS OLD SCHOOL & NEW SCHOOL DANCE
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. / Russell Union Ballroom

BAGS AFTER HOURS - CARDS & MORE
1 a.m. / Main Street Billiards
(Downtown Statesboro)

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.

HOMECOMING draws thousands of Eagle fans to campus.
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 31, 2008, when several large financial 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 plus entities, the capital markets and more," he said. "I 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 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."

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.

"Serving as an SEC Commissioner is always a significant commitment because of the SEC’s jurisdiction over 35,000 plus 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 by a significant systemic crisis of the American financial system. Since then, the SEC and other regulators have been working to develop more informed and pro-active oversight."

His first term as a Securities and Exchange (SEC) Commissioner began only weeks before the 2008 financial crisis.

Luis Aguilar

In the Swim of Things

Alumni Coaches at 2012 Olympic Games

Georgia Southern University alumna Hollie Bonewit-Cron (’02) was selected to coach the Grenadian Swim Team at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Bonewit-Cron, the head coach for the swimming and diving teams at Nova Southeastern University (NSU), said she believes the 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 Bonewit-Cron graduated from Georgia Southern with a master’s in kinesiology and said she remains connected to the University through her connections 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.

Essau 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 in the 100-meter freestyle trials to win his heat and set a new record for Grenada. Going into the Olympics, Bonewit-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 alumna 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,” Bonewit-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.”

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- Sandra Bennett

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A NEW TERM
Alumni Association installs Sean Knox as president

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 installed Sean Knox as president.

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.

We’re taking Tailgatin’ with WIDE 1 to Athens! Join us in your TRUE BLUE best!

This holiday season, give the gift of spirit.

NOV. 16 - 7:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Mellow Mushroom
330 E. Clayton St., Athens, Ga.

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This holiday season, give the gift of spirit.

NOV. 16 - 7:30 - 8:00 P.M.
Mellow Mushroom
330 E. Clayton St., Athens, Ga.

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Alumni 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 alumni Jamey Cartee (’90) and John Russell, and his son, Hunter—currently in his second year on the team—wore number 64 when he played on the first football team under coach Erk Russell, and his son, Hunter—currently in his second year on the team—wears 64 now.

Cartee says the coolest thing about the truck is its different compartments and equipment for different types of emergencies. “It’s all about fostering connections,” said Wendell Tompkins, director of Alumni Relations. “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, and friends and Georgia Southern students, the networks serve several purposes: first, to provide opportunities for 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. “Everyone has a unique experience at Georgia Southern, and these new initiatives provide a way to connect our alumni no matter where they live.”

In keeping with his passion for his fellow human beings, Dr. Lightsey was also the original owner of Lightsey Construction Company, Inc. in Statesboro.

Dr. Betty Jean McKinney College of Education faculty member Betty Jean McKinney died in September at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Ga. An educator for more than 40 years, Dr. McKinney 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 McKinney Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Citizens Bank of Bulloch County, P.O. Box 120, Statesboro, GA 30459, in her memory.
SUPPORT

GEORGIA SOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE

PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS

By the 1972/73 season, Coach Rowe was involved in Georgia Southern’s successful transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II play.

Former athlete and coach establishes the Coach J.E. Rowe Scholarship

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, established to support and recognize the Coach J.E. Rowe Scholarship.

Rowe attended Georgia Southern on an athletic scholarship.

“If it were up to me, I couldn’t have paid 10 dollars,” he laughed. “I went through that program, and decided to start coaching.”

Rowe’s playing days at Georgia Southern led to several opportunities, the first of which was being drafted by the New York Mets and later signing with the Los Angeles Dodgers. But that was a short-lived experience that quickly led to both a lifestyle and career change.

“I was a better baseball player than I was a basketball player, but to put it this way, I only got a cup of coffee with those teams,” said Rowe. “I got out, got married and decided to start coaching.”

On the reference of J.B. 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 81-29.

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 – played some very, very good teams during that time.”

Rowe spent a huge portion of his life coaching and decided to start coaching.”

Rowe attended Georgia Southern on an athletic scholarship.

“When I was little I always liked being in the city,” Markley said, and that feeling hasn’t changed. He still likes it. “There are things to do and see at all the time.”

But, more than a simple preference of lifestyle, he’s interested in what makes urban centers function day to day – or, if they’re not working, to find solutions to their problems. “I want to make a better city,” he said, “I’m fascinated by how all the parts work together.”

Markley, the recipient of two awards, the John F. Nolan Student Association Scholarship and the Daniel B. Good Geography Scholarship, is a geography major with a geographic information systems 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. “I also liked 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 senator, treasurer for Delta Chi fraternity, and mentors freshmen undeclared majors by helping them find the campus resources they need to make sound academic decisions. He also serves as a SOAR leader for the Office of Admissions, leading campus tours and calming the concerns of anxious parents and prospective students.

Markley has conducted field research as an undergraduate and has had the opportunity to present his results at a research symposium. He was also able to conduct an independent study course, plotting GPS points at a hunting range near Augusta, an exercise he said enabled him to add to his knowledge and experience.

Markley also hopes to conduct a study abroad in the summer of 2019.

He credited geography professor Jill Stockhouse with starting him down the path of success “She kind of took me under her wing and I was able to present one of my research projects at the Graduate Research Symposium,” Markley noted. “She worked with me the whole way through. She was always the one pushing me with my GIS work.”

“I have known Scott since fall 2010 and since then, have been consistently impressed, not only with his scholastic achievements, but with his focus, discipline, professionalism and his genuine enthusiasm for his experience at Georgia Southern,” said Stockhouse.

Given his busy schedule, Markley’s academic pace seems to have mirrored the bustling tempo he so admires in urban settings. He credits his scholarships with having freed him to create some hustle and bustle of his own, packing as much activity as possible into his time as a Georgia Southern student.

“As far as making the most out of my college experience, the scholarships definitely allow that,” he said. — DAVID THOMPSON

URBAN DREAMS

Senior Scott Markley loves the excitement of the big city.

“"When I was little I always liked being in the city,” Markley said, and that feeling hasn’t changed. He still likes it. “There are things to do and see at all the time.”

But, more than a simple preference of lifestyle, he’s interested in what makes urban centers function day to day – or, if they’re not working, to find solutions to their problems. “I want to make a better city,” he said, “I’m fascinated by how all the parts work together.”

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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.

Reach the Eagle Nation.

Your business can reach Georgia Southern alumni and friends throughout the state, region and nation. Advertise in our Spring 2013 issue by contacting us at:
marketing@georgiasouthern.edu or 912-478-6397

1906 SOCIETY

39th Annual Campaign Raises Record $1,417,799 Million

Upcoming Prospective Student Reception:
January 24, 2013
Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, GA

Upcoming Open Houses:
February 2, 2013
April 6, 2013
Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

RSVP Today: GeorgiaSouthern.edu/eventRSVP

NEW RECORD
The 39th annual A Day for Southern set a new record of $1,417,799, marking the 28th 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 Tytenague, Vice President for University Advancement Salinda Arthur, Community Chair Darion Bunnette, University President Brooks Keel, Director of Annual Giving Alex Grovenstein and Eagle Fund Executive Director David Beaubien.

A DAY FOR SOUTHERN

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

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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.