EAGLES LAND AT THE STATE CAPITOL

A CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL

COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED BY THE STUDENT BODY

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

MAGAZINE

89
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FROM 'CIRCLE' TO AISLE

Kendal Koballa ('14) and Joel Padgett enjoy the spring Lantern Walk around Sweetheart Circle. A longstanding tradition held at the end of each semester, the Lantern Walk marks the last chance seniors have to cross campus as official Georgia Southern students. Started in 1935, graduating seniors carry lanterns and don caps and gowns at sunset to share memories of their time as Eagles. A legend says that if someone walks around the Circle three times with their sweetheart, they’re sure to be married. Engaged to be married in 2015, Koballa and Padgett are proof that a walk around Sweetheart Circle can lead to a walk down the aisle.
inviting a stranger into your home is one of the most intimate and selfless acts you can make. From hosting a surprise party for a friend to sharing Thanksgiving dinner with someone who would have otherwise been alone on the holiday, you know what taking that leap of faith feels like. And for that new guest, little compares with the feeling of embrace that an unexpected welcome and act of pure kindness evokes. That is one reason I take my new position as editor so seriously—being invited into the Eagle family is not an invitation I take lightly.

Personally, I’ve always felt most at home working for nonprofits. For more than 20 years, I have been lucky to have worked alongside colleagues dedicated to vital missions. As a member of several other college and university teams, I am proud of our combined efforts to support each student’s lifelong love of learning. Both my mother and grandmother were schoolteachers, and I share that passion for education. I believe our mission at Georgia Southern is not just to educate, but to embrace diversity and transform lives.

This is an important time in Georgia Southern’s history, and I feel honored to have the chance to share with you inspirational stories from students, faculty, and alumni. Throughout this issue, it will be evident that Georgia Southern University not only has the state’s finest students and student-athletes, but the nation’s brightest and most creative scholars. And with students representing nearly 90 countries, international enrollment is growing (see pp. 6-11 for details). From Nigeria to China, and Honduras to Moldova, the University is attracting undergraduate and graduate studies majors from around the globe, with our reputation as a Carnegie Doctoral/Research university devoted to academic distinction in teaching, scholarship, and service, as well as the Eagle’s renowned athletics programs (check out pgs. 42-49 for more).

Although our main focus remains the same—to inform, enrich and inspire—I hope all of us here at Georgia Southern magazine can offer you a fresh perspective. Like Southern’s own students and alumni, with each new issue we strive to stand out, not just fit in. I welcome your comments and ideas. It is through our collective vision that we create a more engaging magazine. I hope every time you receive your latest issue, or read Georgia Southern online, you feel even more connected to the University. After all, no matter where you’re from we’re all part of the Eagle family, as the University provides a solid foundation for learning, as well as a solid foundation for life.

Thank you again for inviting me into your home.” I cherish the invitation.

Go Eagles! Michael J. Soloway, Editor

EAGLE TAKES RIDE OF HIS LIFE

Georgia Southern University alumnus Steve Pulley (’13) describes himself as a fitness enthusiast. He’s qualified for the Boston Marathon twice and is an avid cyclist. Pulley, 26, also holds a degree in exercise science and will soon pursue his doctor of physical therapy through the Medical University of South Carolina. That’s what we call True Blue!

What people never expect to hear is that Pulley once had a debilitating alcohol and drug problem. On March 23, to show his appreciation to Georgia Southern’s Center for Addiction Recovery, as well as mark the sixth anniversary of his sobriety, he set out by bike on a 57-day trip, Pulley’s “Ride4Recovery” (www.ride4recovery.org) to raise $57,000 over a 57-day trip, Pulley’s “Ride4Recovery” saw him travel more than 3,000 miles to help spread a positive message about the Center.

“I wanted to destigmatize what it means to be in recovery. I am sure I don’t fit the ‘mold’ of what people may think of when they hear the words ‘alcoholic’ or ‘drug addict,’” Pulley said. “Having benefitted so much from the Center, I chose them to be the beneficiary. They operate primarily on private donations, and I hope to gain national attention to the success it has brought in my life and so many others. There is a huge need for services provided by the Center, and financially supporting their mission is one way I can give back.”

With a goal of raising $57,000 over a 57-day trip, Pulley’s “Ride4Recovery” saw him travel more than 3,000 miles to help spread a positive message about the Center.

For more information about Pulley’s cross-country trip, visit www.ride4recovery.org.
Ten months ago, Jean Zagre left the small West African country of Burkina Faso to travel more than 5,000 miles to his new home at Georgia Southern University. "My flight to Savannah was the first time that I had touched United States soil," Zagre said as he explained that he always dreamed of studying in the U.S. because it is still "a country of opportunities."

"When I was a 10-year-old I told my mom I would continue my studies in the U.S., but she said 'never' because she was worried about my security. After many discussions she finally accepted my decision." Zagre is a student in the English Language Program (ELP) and chose Georgia Southern after International Student Admissions Assistant Director Ron Jones visited his school in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

"Eighteen new Burkina students have enrolled at Georgia Southern as a result of that trip and we currently have the third highest population of Burkina students of any university in the United States," said Jones. While the University’s variety of academic programs, diverse student population and campus safety initially attract most international students, Jones said the University’s student-centered approach is what sets Georgia Southern apart from other universities.

International Student Enrollment Reaches 89 Countries
“International students are usually not able to visit campus before enrolling and are applying to universities across the nation,” he said. “Being personable, friendly and responsive to email and phone calls are especially important for this group. The students and their parents tell me continually that they selected Georgia Southern over other universities because of how friendly everyone was through the enrollment process—admissions to housing, from the Center for International Studies to orientation, from Health Services to academic departments.”

“I think the ‘large-scale, small-feel’ environment is a good transition for students who want to study in the United States,” added Zagre, who noted that international students are driven to succeed academically because they understand how much their families have sacrificed for them to attend such a prestigious American university and receive an outstanding education.

International students who enroll at Georgia Southern can face financial challenges. Between tuition, books, room and board, and travel, a full academic year can easily reach $33,000. “As international students, they do not qualify for federal or state financial aid (including loans), so most of the educational costs are borne by each student’s extended families,” said Jones.

“Many of our students come from developing countries, where the average annual income is often less than $1,000 per year.”

Students from other countries sometimes qualify for merit and need-based scholarships or find on-campus jobs in order to pay their own way. There are more than 30 students on campus from Saudi Arabia alone, but the Center for International Studies said the Saudi government supports most of them. For Rakhee Trivedi, a graduate student in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, coming to Georgia Southern is possible through a graduate assistantship. She has been at the University for nearly a year and is planning her first visit back home to Sagar, India, this summer. “My parents are helping me pay my tuition fees and the graduate assistantship is a great help for my monthly living expenses,” said Trivedi.

The public health major remembered how happy she was to reach Georgia Southern after a 36-hour flight that landed in Atlanta. “There is no traffic in Statesboro and I like it here because it is calm. There is no pollution and this area is a better fit for me.”

If Trivedi, Zagre and other international students, have any complaints about their life in Statesboro, it would be the lack of public transportation. “We are doing our utmost to address that need among our students,” said Jacek Lubecki, Ph.D., the director of the Center for International Studies. “We do have transportation for the students on campus and most importantly, we rely on volunteer organizations such as the Wesley Foundation and Baptist Collegiate Ministries to provide them with free transportation to Walmart every week.”

College of Business Administration graduate student Shu Dong is from China and has enjoyed living in the U.S. ever since she was an exchange student in Pennsylvania. “I found out about Georgia Southern because it has an exchange program with my university in China... life in the United States is very, very different. Being here has definitely made me more open-minded,” said Shu who has earned a master’s degree in higher education and is pursuing a Master of Accountancy with a forensics concentration. “I’ve learned I like all kinds of food. I like fried chicken and I love Mexican food, which we don’t have in China.”

While missing her native food has not been a problem for Shu, other international students say food and their families are what they miss most about being so far from home. “I am
FEATURE STORY

vegetarian,” said Indian born Trivedi who depends on friends to take her to Savannah to shop for the vegetables and spices she craves. “International students tend to be highly motivated and independent,” said Jones. He added, “You would have to be to leave your family and friends behind to study in a new country in a language that is often your second or third language.”

The first year is often the hardest for many of the students as they struggle with homesickness, the language barrier, cultural obstacles and making friends outside of their own nationality. “Things we take for granted can challenge our students,” said Jeffrey Palis, the associate director of the Center for International Studies. “Little things that we forget about are classroom management, how courses are graded, how students are expected to participate and speak up in class...in some cultures that is not common.”

“We often think we bring international students here to teach them. The truth is, they teach us.” - Jeffrey Palis, Associate Director, Center for International Studies

Still, most agree they have been impressed with how friendly and helpful people are in Statesboro. In the months before they arrive, Academic Coordinator Kelley Riffe provides assistance with documents, immigration and visa regulations. “It’s a source of pride that among the thousands of colleges and universities around the world they wanted to come here,” Riffe said.

To help address international student concerns and challenges, the Center for International Studies operates programs such as the Cross Cultural Friendship Program, the Global Ambassadors Program, International Club, the annual International Festival and the International Conversation Hour, which allows time for American and international students to meet and talk about their collegiate and overall life experiences. “I have developed into a more independent, responsible and well-rounded individual since living in the U.S.,” said Bowe of the Bahamas.

Most of Georgia Southern’s international scholars are degree-seeking students, but this is not always the case. “There are ELP students who first arrive to improve their English speaking skills then move into a degree program,” said Palis. “There are both undergraduate and graduate students who come for their degree, and exchange students who enroll in one of our various exchange partnerships around the world and spend one or two semesters with us.”

“We often think we bring international students here to teach them,” said Palis. “The truth is, they teach us. They create this diversity of experience, of opinion, and bring their previous academic background into the classroom to make it a much more engaging and interesting place.”

After all, we are one world, all connected through our collective experiences—80-plus countries living together as one. Look around our Statesboro campus today and you soon realize that Georgia Southern University may be a multitude of countries and cultures but if you open your minds and hearts, we are all part of the same proud student body. “To say that everything has been easy would be a lie,” said Zagre who has a cousin in the English Language Program. “At first, we spent all our days thinking about back home. Then we agreed, we chose this life so we have to live it.”

Commencement is a testament to that. There are no countries of origin on Georgia Southern diplomas, just the names of each Eagle student and their degree. It’s just another symbol of their added dedication and the unique sacrifices it took to achieve their educational goals, no matter the distance they traveled in order to walk across the graduation stage. - Sandra Bennett

For a complete list of countries represented on campus, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine

“Life in the United States is very, very different. Being here has definitely made me more open-minded.” - Shu Dong, China

FAMILY LIFE

How would you like to “adopt” an international student? The International Extended Families Program (IEF) connects local families to international students at Georgia Southern so they can see what American family life is like. Your international student will spend occasional time with you and your family participating in activities such as going to the movies, shopping, dining out, cooking a meal together, traveling out of town, enjoying day trips to the beach, or going to a sporting event. If you are interested in becoming a “host” family to an international student, there is a link at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine.

International Extended Families
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

INDIA
SAUDI ARABIA
CHINA

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PERFECT LANDING
Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol Arrives

Georgia state lawmakers received a formal introduction to Georgia Southern University on Feb. 6, when the Capitol opened its doors to Eagle Nation to mark the inaugural Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol.

After months of preparation by the Capitol Day Planning Committee comprising various department and campus officials, the special day offered a number of alumni and more than 50 University representatives a unique opportunity to visit with Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, Lieutenant Governor and fellow Eagle Casey Cagle, as well as other members of the House of Representatives and the Georgia State Senate.

“The planning and implementation of Georgia Southern University’s Day at the Capitol showcased our University in many ways, not the least of which is the collaborative environment in which our students, faculty and staff learn and work,” said Georgia Southern Vice President of Government Relations and Community Engagement Russell Keen. “I am very grateful for the leadership team who garnered support for this endeavor all across campus. The Georgia General Assembly is very supportive of Georgia Southern University and this was a great way to showcase our stewardship of their investment.”

Coming together to support statewide education initiatives and Georgia Southern’s ongoing institutional objectives, members of both legislative chambers attended the resolution that officially deemed Feb. 6, 2014 as Georgia Southern Day at the Capitol. The local delegation included state Senator Jack Hill, R-Reidsville; state Rep. Butch Parrish, R-Swainsboro; state Rep. Jon Burns, R-Newington; and state Rep. Jan Tankersley, R-Brooklet.

Georgia Southern attendees were led by President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.; Provost Jean Bartels, Ph.D.; Brittany Waters, a legislative student intern at the Capitol; and Lewis McDermott, a student intern in the governor’s office. Also making the trip from Statesboro was Freedom, the University’s bald eagle mascot.
A GREAT SIGN
Governor Signs Education-Friendly State Budget on Pittman Steps

Safely tucked inside the pages of Georgia’s nearly $21 billion state budget are the first faculty pay increase in more than five years and $9.5 million to construct a new Georgia Southern University Military Science Building. Governor Nathan Deal ceremonially signed the budget bill at the foot of the University’s Marvin Pittman Administration Building on April 28. Georgia Southern was the last stop as Deal criss-crossed the state to announce his governor’s new budget, with its emphasis on Georgia education, serves as a reminder that the delegation and the governor have in the future, of the strong and steadfast. We look forward to many more years of such support. The support of Georgia Southern has been both needed. “In a downturned economy like we’ve been through the past three or four years, the confidence I think that the delegation and the governor have in the future of the economy increasing, is reflected in the budget, so we’re very excited about it,” said Keel. “Govemor Deal believes that increased college access leads to future success. His support of Georgia Southern has been both strong and steadfast. We look forward to many more years of such support. The governor’s new budget, with its emphasis on Georgia education, will not let you down.”

Governor Signs Education-Friendly State Budget on Pittman Steps

The $9.5 million for the Georgia Southern University Military Science Building will also come from state bond sales. The new building, encompassing 30,000 square feet, will replace a 10,000-square-foot temporary facility that the University’s Army-affiliated Reserve Officer Training Corps program has occupied for nearly a decade. Since its inception in 1980, the Georgia Southern ROTC program has repeatedly moved around campus. It has grown by about 60 cadets in the past five years, to a total of 280 today, including 138 on the Southern campus. Other cadets are students of Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah State University and the Savannah College of Art and Design.

“To be honest, we’re happy with anything we get but having a first-class facility like the one they plan to build for us really tells us a lot about what they think of ROTC,” said Military Science Instructor Lt. Col. Gary Morea. “It showcases us as a real first-class program and it’s a great accolade for all of the hard work the cadets have put forward up to this point.”

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As well as the Georgia Southern Cheerleaders and the official mascot GUS. In addition, the most patriotic member of the Eagle Nation on Parade Fleet, Victory, was carefully transported from its home on the Georgia Southern campus and temporarily placed atop the Capitol building steps (see above and page 12).

Before the resolution, Deal visited with members of the Georgia Southern ROTC program, as other state officials spent time learning unique details about the University’s nursing program, Department of Music, the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education program, and the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, along with other University Points of Pride—making Feb. 6 a perfect red, white and True Blue day.

“Any time we can take a moment and thank our elected officials for the support they provide to higher education we most certainly try to do,” said Keel. “We enjoyed talking with legislators about the great things happening at Georgia Southern, and we hope they learned a little something about our wonderful University as well.”

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YOU COULD CALL IT A “BAND OF BROTHERS.” ROUGHLY 40 VETERANS CAME TOGETHER AS PART OF THE ACHILLES FREEDOM TEAM OF WOUNDED MILITARY VETERANS TO COMPETE IN NOVEMBER’S NEW YORK CITY MARATHON.

At the center of this group was Georgia Southern alumnus Greg Sapp, class of 2012, who completed the 26.2-mile course in the handcycle division. Sapp is a combat-injured veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sapp first became involved with the Achilles Freedom Team in 2010, through his connection with the Christopher Reeves Foundation. In 2010, Sapp competed in his first marathon—the Marine Corps Marathon in the Washington, D.C. area—and at that time made a personal commitment to complete at least one marathon a year.

“I like competing in marathons because I find it very inspiring. I get to ride with a lot of veterans who were wounded in combat, a lot of amputees,” he said. “And I am racing with a lot of people from different branches of service. We all come together for one cause.”

And that cause is to raise money for wounded veterans. The Achilles Freedom Team was founded in 2004 by Achilles International to specifically aid veterans. Achilles International is a nonprofit group that empowers people with disabilities to participate in athletics. The group has chapters across the United States and in 60 countries worldwide. Achilles International founder Dick Traum, who lost one of his legs at the age of 24, when it was smashed between two cars, went on to become the first amputee to complete a marathon when he crossed the finish line in New York in 1976.

Sapp and his wife, Cassandra, who is also a combat-injured veteran, are raising money by competing in Achilles Team events. They plan to start a Georgia chapter of Achilles Freedom. “We do this to support the wounded veteran’s organization. I do my own fundraisers and I have raised more than $24,000 so far,” he said.

Sapp’s latest support has come from the Texas Roadhouse restaurant chain, which donated $10,000 and paid for the team’s trip to the Boston Marathon this spring. “They gave us the donation at the end of last year and told me they also wanted to support us at the event, including catering food for us,” he said. Sapp also noted he receives support from larger companies such as Merck Pharmaceuticals.

The New York City Marathon was exciting for Sapp even though the marathon itself presented a few challenges. “It had a lot of hills and I wasn’t prepared for that. Statesboro does not have a lot of hills so I wasn’t able to train for that kind of course,” he said.

Sapp said his goal for New York was to finish in less than two hours, but that because of the hills, his finish time was two hours and 25 minutes. He said, however, that the marathon became more of a personal event for him because his brother, Brian, came to New York, ran in the race and raised $3,000 for the Achilles team. “It was special because he ran in support of all of us and it was his first marathon,” said Sapp. “He had wanted to run New York for a long time.”

Sapp admitted there is something special about the New York City Marathon.

“The crowd was awesome…there were so many people there,” he said. “It was pretty cool to have all the people out there and the support. New York and Boston are the two biggest marathons as far as supporters.”

Sapp said the biggest difference for the wheelchair racers is that they take off before everyone else. “The wheelchair racers don’t have all the runners around; we don’t have the congestion that the runners have, but we do compete on the same route as the runners.”

Sapp graduated from Georgia Southern in June 2012 with a degree in psychology and is now working on a master’s degree in clinical psychology as part of an online program at Walden University. He expects to receive his degree in December and then move into their Ph.D. program.

“I really liked Georgia Southern. It is a good school,” he said. “The school does an excellent job working with students with disabilities.”

Sapp said he had help from the University’s Student Disability Resource Center, which worked with him to allow for changes and accommodations regarding testing. “This helped make it a much less stressful situation for me,” he said.

To help the Achilles Freedom Team, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine. And take Sapp’s word for it—“It’s a cause worth supporting.” - STEVEN HANAN
Former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young was the featured speaker for the University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January at the Performing Arts Center. Young has led a lifetime of public service and worked tirelessly to improve human and civil rights around the world. He sat down with Georgia Southern magazine to discuss his recent visit, his life in public service and to share his memories working alongside King.

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YOUNG PERSPECTIVE

Civil Rights Leader Andrew Young Visits Campus

YOUNG PERSPECTIVE

Former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young was the featured speaker for the University’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in January at the Performing Arts Center. Young has led a lifetime of public service and worked tirelessly to improve human and civil rights around the world. He sat down with Georgia Southern magazine to discuss his recent visit, his life in public service and to share his memories working alongside King.

GSM: What inspired you to devote your life to public service?

Young: My mother, father and grandfather had a chance to get an education through Christian missionaries, and they used to tell me, “To whom much has been given, of them much will be required.” I realized that I had been given everything, but it wasn’t for me, it was for me to pass on those blessings. I think that may be the theme of my life because I’ve been so blessed in so many ways that I am constantly trying to pass on those blessings to others.

GSM: How do you think your life would have been different had you not led a life of public service?

Young: Well, I don’t think it would have been different. The older you get the more you realize that one of these days you’re going to be asked, “Did you feed the hungry, did you clothe the naked, did you heal the sick, did you set at liberty those who are oppressed?” And I just think whether I was in business, politics or health I would still be trying to find ways to help people.

I like a parable that Dr. King used: “I admire the Good Samaritan, but I don’t want to be one.” He said, “I don’t want to spend my time picking up people by the side of the road after they’ve been beaten and robbed, I want to change the Jericho Road so that people don’t get beaten up and robbed.” And that’s why I think of myself as having a “ministry:” and not necessarily a life of public service.

GSM: Why is it important to you to speak to young people?

Young: What I find is that it is hard for college-aged students to get an overall perspective because they’re focusing on one subject at a time. But life doesn’t really work that way; it tends to work more in trends. So I try to give not only a perspective of the last 50 years, but also the next 50 years, because I think what’s most important is a sense of where we’ll all have to go together over the next 50 and beyond.

GSM: What is the best piece of advice you have to offer today’s students?

Young: Well, what woke me up was President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s speech when I was maybe nine or 10 during the second World War. President Roosevelt said one of the most profound statements in history, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” I think quite often young people get overwhelmed by details, by facts, overwhelmed by all these worldly incidents and they forget they really are in charge, if not of the world but of themselves. And if we’re endowed by the creator with certain inalienable rights, there is a purpose for everybody. Maybe instead of looking for a job, you ought to look for a purpose and let your purpose lead you to a job or several jobs.

GSM: What is your favorite quote by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

Young: “Either we will learn to live together as brothers and sisters or we will perish together as fools.”

GSM: What would you most like to be remembered for?

Young: That I lived and tried to help others.

“I try to give not only a perspective of the last 50 years, but also the next 50 years ... what’s most important is a sense of where we’ll all have to go together.” - Andrew Young

- CRISSE ELRIEK
FEATURE STORY

LONGTIME FRENCH PROFESSOR RETIRES

From the moment she took her first French class as a 14-year-old, Clara Krug was hooked on the language often called the 'language of love.' For the past 35 years, Krug has guided thousands of Georgia Southern University students through the intricacies of the French language and their personal journeys into the French culture. Sadly, when next semester begins, the Department of Foreign Languages will be missing the University’s longest-serving professor.

Krug, who joined the faculty in 1978, retired in May and said goodbye to a college that has witnessed astonishing growth and change during her tenure. When Krug first arrived on campus, there was no football team, no cell phones, no email, no personal computers, no Internet and the foreign language department was part of the School of Arts and Sciences. The professor said technology included ‘a rotary dial telephone, an electric typewriter, a mimeograph machine, reel-to-reel or audio cassette tapes and players, blackboards and an overhead projector.’

During her years of service, the highly-regarded scholar taught all levels of French courses—from elementary to upper division levels—and found she most enjoyed teaching elementary French. “It is interesting when you teach a first-semester classroom. Students begin with little, if any knowledge of French. At the end of the semester, they realize the progress they have made and how much more proficient they are in the language,” Krug said.

Originally from Dundalk, Maryland, in eastern Baltimore County, Krug graduated from James Madison University with a bachelor’s degree in French. She earned both her master’s and doctorate degrees in French literature from Michigan State University. Krug joined Georgia Southern from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and is proud of what she was able to achieve. “I wanted to work for a university where you can teach a variety of courses and you pretty much have to do that here,” said Krug who also headed classes in existentialism, theatre of existentialism and literature of Africa and the Caribbean.

Department of Foreign Languages Chair Eric Kartchner worked with the respected professor for six years and praised her devotion to helping others learn and appreciate the French language and Francophone culture and history. “Through her service with the World Languages Collaborative,” Kartchner said, “she has promoted foreign language learning throughout southeast Georgia, and through her leadership with National French Week, she has taken French language and culture beyond the classroom, into the community. She has also been a strong advocate for shared service and governance, and she has demonstrated her commitment with her actions. Her most important legacy, however, will be in the heart and mind of each of the hundreds of Georgia Southern students whom she has inspired in the classroom for 35 years.”

Gerrick Hicks, who graduated in May with a triple major in French, German and Spanish (see page 28) said his classes with Krug, one of his favorite professors, were challenging, “but I can say that I learned a lot of French and became more interested in the culture because of her. She was a huge mentor who helped me with many things when she didn’t have to.”

Aside from teaching, Krug said her proudest achievements are reflected in the honors and awards that she received during her career. They include an Excellence in Service Award from Georgia Southern, the Professor of the Year Award from the Foreign Language Association of Georgia, the Governor of Georgia’s Award for Contributions to the Humanities and many others.

Throughout her decades of service, Krug taught thousands of students and said while they haven’t changed that much over the years, their lifestyle certainly has: “I always had intelligent students. I always had first-generation university students in my classes and I always taught students who had jobs,” she said. “However, in recent years, it seems that they have less and less ‘down time.’ They are constantly ‘connected’ to some type of social media.”

An amateur poker player and Baltimore Orioles fan, Krug says she will have more time to travel, watch foreign films and attend more musical performances by students and faculty in her retirement. Krug also admits she will miss having a daily impact on young people’s lives. Georgia Southern will certainly miss her, too—and that’s the honest truth in any language. - Sandra Bennett
BUBBLING WITH PRIDE
The Class of 2014 capped off a perfect spring day by turning their tassels and blowing their first bubbles as Georgia Southern alumni. A total of 2,571 received bachelor’s degrees Saturday, May 10.

BROTHERHOOD
Alpha Phi Alpha members gather to support their graduates.

YOUR HONORABLE MENTION
Georgia Governor Nathan Deal encourages Eagle graduates to soar, saying “don’t let the sanctity of your comfort zone become your goal in life.” Deal gave the commencement address during ceremonies at Allen E. Paulson Stadium.

CAPS OFF
Ken and Lisa Wilson, of Savannah, accepted their son’s bachelor’s degree posthumously. Cory J. Wilson collapsed in class on Jan. 17, 2013, and later died of cardiac arrhythmia. Both Allen Amason, Ph.D., dean of the College of Business Administration, and President Brooks Keel were visibly shaken as they presented Cory’s B.B.A. degree to the Wilsons.

COMMENCEMENT 2014
Master’s and doctoral degree recipients were overjoyed at Hanner Fieldhouse as their names were called after the culmination of years of hard work, sacrifice and intense study. 2014 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Jemelleh Coes (’08, ’10), was the distinguished speaker. A total of 612 diplomas were conferred.
Georgia Southern is a great illustration of not wanting to be just another university, but a major player in your University system."

―Governor Nathan Deal

**WORKING DEAL**

**Governor Deal Discusses Georgia’s Past, Present and Future**

GSM: Georgia Southern University has established itself as a premier place for postsecondary education, not only in the state of Georgia but across the nation. What does Georgia Southern University mean most to you? Governor Deal: What does Georgia Southern University mean most to you, Governor Deal? and maintaining among our university elite?

Governor Deal: First of all, I believe we all take great pride in the fact that Georgia Southern University is a growing institution and one whose prestige continues to expand daily.

It is certainly an institution in which I have a great deal of personal pride, as both my parents were natives of Bulloch County. Many members of my own staff are graduates of Georgia Southern University, so I know the quality of the graduates you produce, and it is indicative of the fact that you are producing the kind of people that can fill a variety of roles in our state. I know your accolades will continue to grow. You should take pride in that.

I believe that if people are going to continue to advance, you have to be willing to take a risk and be comfortable with making choices that take you out of the status quo. On an institutional level, Georgia Southern is a great illustration of not wanting to be just another university, but a major player in our University system, whether it be with your athletics program—congratulations on beating the Florida Gators by the way—or in taking the lead when I asked Georgia Southern to assume control of the Herty Foundation, which I believe will provide greater employment and research opportunities for your graduates, just because you get a degree, that should not be the end of your growth or expansion.

GSM: Thanks to Georgia’s strong commitment to improving education, international enrollment is growing. Today, Georgia Southern students represent 89 different countries on campus. Talk briefly about how international growth is impacting education and how Georgia is partnering with the international community.

Governor Deal: I think we all recognize the world is getting much smaller in many respects. Not only is travel easier but telecommunication is able to penetrate almost every part of the world, but the same is true in the educational arena. The addition of exchange students or students from other countries who come here to study is an enriching process for both traditional students and certainly a growth opportunity for everyone. My wife and I have hosted many international students over the years. We are still very close with one of our former German exchange students. We call her our “other daughter.”

From an economic standpoint, we’ve been growing and more and international business opportunities appear in Georgia. We’re seeing companies headquartered in other countries deciding to establish a presence in our state. I know we’re always encouraged to see qualified students come our way. In fact, the newly elected president of Panama is a graduate of Georgia Tech, so to have alumni of Georgia institutions become the heads of other countries is a unique distinction that puts the state of Georgia and its higher institutions, like Georgia Southern, in an enviable spot as countries around the world begin to look at our state as a place to get a quality higher education.

GSM: With so much accomplished during your first few years in office, including saving HOPE from the brink of bankruptcy, what are your main objectives as you near the end of your first term as governor?

Governor Deal: Well, a continuation of programs and projects that we’ve already initiated—certainly to emphasize job creation. The latest employment numbers indicate that 243,000 private sector jobs have been created in the last three and a half years that I’ve been governor. Practically every day we have new announcements. Earlier this week I was on campus for the announcement by a glass company that has had a presence in your community for a number of years, but has decided to expand by adding 125 employees... and creating meaningful job growth is vital to Georgia Southern University graduates. We’ve also, I believe, operated very efficiently in education, and are able to put back half a billion dollars into K-12 education, which has allowed school systems to remove furlough days and in some cases give teachers pay raises. Over the last month, we’ve also introduced the High Demand Career Initiative, which brings business leaders together with educators. The goal is to hear from the business community as to what their labor needs are going to be five to ten years down the road, so that universities like Georgia Southern can produce the graduates that your businesses are going to want.

GSM: What’s the most difficult decision, or concession, you’ve had to make as Georgia’s 82nd Governor?

Governor Deal: One of the most difficult was early on when I became governor, to be informed that without changes to the HOPE Scholarship program that we all take so much pride in was going to go broke by 2013. That was a serious issue and one that required difficult choices to be made. Fortunately, we made reforms to the HOPE programs and now the three areas that HOPE supports are all prospering. The pre-K program is up to 180 days and recognized as one of the best pre-K programs in the country.

In the college arena, we’ve continued to make reforms and instituted programs like Complete College Georgia. It was an incentive funded by private industry with the purpose to improve our graduation rates. Getting that degree is a pivotal difference in terms of being able to get a better job... Education should ultimately lead to employment.

GSM: Many of our readers may not know that you met your wife, Sandra, on a blind date. Together, you now have four grown children and six grandchildren. What does family mean to you?

Governor Deal: Well, we have one son and three daughters. Fortunately they all live in Georgia. We’re extremely proud of them and welcome the opportunity to be with our family. They are all college graduates. Two of them have postgraduate degrees. Our son is a doctor and two of our daughters are teachers and have a variety of employment—business as well as in the education fields. Our youngest is an actress and performer. But family is very important to us and important to most people in our state I truly believe. Our citizens understand the importance of family and that it is the building block for a stable society.

GSM: Governor Deal, what would you like both your personal and professional legacies to be?

Governor Deal: I’m not one who thinks about those kinds of things. I think if you start thinking about that, your attention gets diverted from the things that you need to do. I suppose if there is any legacy at all I hope it will be that I served the state of Georgia with distinction, that I brought us through a very difficult economic period, that we have given more of our citizens good job opportunities, and improved the quality of education. If that is a legacy, it is not something you put on plaques or name roads after. Instead, it will be something that is built in the hearts of future generations...and that is legacy enough for me.
Whether used in the classroom or in their personal lives, students are not the only ones who use digital apps. Here at Georgia Southern magazine, we recently asked faculty members to share with us what apps they just couldn’t imagine living without.

**PAPERLESS**

“I’m not sure how interesting my app is—call it ‘apps for the absent minded professor.’ I rely on Paperless (a checklist app). I am a cheapskate for apps and I actually paid for the full version of that one.”

Carolyn J. Bryan, professor of music, saxophone and director of Music International Studies
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**DROPBOX AND TRIPADVISO**

“My favorite app for productivity is DropBox. It’s great for storing and sharing files for class and committee projects, as well as keynote presentations, because it allows the use of my iPhone as a remote. My fun app is TripAdvisor, which is essential for our family vacations!”

Todd Deal, professor of Principles of Leadership LEAD 2031
Student Leadership and Civic Engagement

**TWITTER**

“I rely on Twitter to help me communicate with my students outside the classroom. By using the hashtag (furlongspeechclass), I can continue conversations about class topics and give hints about test questions. The students look forward to those hints!”

Jennifer Furlong, adjunct instructor
Department of Communication Arts
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**TUNEIN RADIO**

“I like TuneIn Radio, a Web radio app. My favorite station is a classic rock station from Luxembourg. It’s fun to listen to German weather, traffic and news, and then AC/DC’s ‘Shout It Out’ in English. I also listen to ‘Wait Wait’ from NPR on Saturdays. If I miss the 11 a.m. airing locally, I can get it at noon from a central time zone station or 1 p.m. mountain time or 2 p.m. pacific time... it’s fun!”

Donald Armel, professor of graphic communications management
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Some people believe, “good things happen in threes.” For Gerrick Hicks (14) that’s not simply an age-old question, but a ‘major’ fact.

As one of Georgia Southern’s most recent graduates, Hicks was not only a triple major, but studied three different and distinct languages over the course of four years: German, Spanish and French. Although it’s not the first time a Georgia Southern student has majored in three subjects in the University’s history, it is a rare achievement. “I just really enjoy being challenged and my parents always pushed me to do the best that I can,” said the Athens, Georgia native.

Hicks admits he learned German as a high school exchange student in Dortmund, Germany, but had never spoken Spanish or French when he arrived at Georgia Southern. His plan was to double-major in foreign languages. Hicks said he added the third language – German, Spanish and French – when he just couldn’t decide between Spanish and French. “I have always had a very heavy course load so I was used to that,” Hicks said. “Being able to study abroad was something that I can,” said the Athens, Georgia native.

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Hicks will begin working on his master’s degree in human resources management in the fall. Hicks participated in the University Honors Program. In August, Hicks flew to Switzerland to study abroad in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a year. That allowed Hicks to accumulate foreign language credits in a short amount of time. “The Study Abroad program gave me a complete immersion in French. It gave me a fluency in French that I would not have been able to accomplish had I not gone,” he said. “And by being in Switzerland, I was able to speak all three languages, plus English, on a daily basis.”

Professor of German Horst Kurz called Hicks’ achievement remarkable. “This past January, he gave a presentation at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in Columbus, Georgia, and almost won an award, until it turned out nobody could read his full paper because it was written in German,” Kurz said. The HOPE scholar was president of the German club for two years, a tutor for the English language program, and participated in the University Honors Program. In August, Hicks will begin working on his master’s degree in human resources and industrial relations, with the ultimate career goal of working in the international human resources division of an international company.

To his enormous educational accomplishment, we say Die besten Wünsche für die Zukunft (Best wishes for the future)! — Sandra Bennett

Georgia Southern Student Health Services has been recognized for providing high-quality medical care to students. It has earned accreditation as a certified Patient Centered Medical Home providing comprehensive proactive, preventive and chronic care management and treatment to its patients. Health Services is one of only three university health centers in Georgia to receive accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, the nation’s leading accrediting organization for outpatient facilities.

“This designation proves our facility and medical professionals meet and exceed nationally-recognized standards when it comes to taking care of Georgia Southern students,” said Dr. Brian DeLoach, medical director. “This provides external validation that we are providing safe, high-quality care and holds ourselves to the highest standards regarding the care that we deliver.”

Health Services has adopted the slogan, “Your Medical Home. Away from Home.” to describe the health center’s daily efforts to meet the health and wellness needs of more than 20,000 Georgia Southern students. “We believe our patients deserve the best,” explained DeLoach. “We are constantly looking to find better ways to serve our patients, and this is a reminder that our responsibility is to strive to continuously improve the quality of care we provide.”

The surveyors noted the facility is understated and outdated but were amazed that DeLoach and the staff were able to do so much with so little. A much larger $10 million health facility has been approved and will eventually be located at the corner of Plant Drive and Chandler Road on the tract that is now occupied by the Physical Plant.

HEALTHY EXTRA CREDIT

Health Services Earns Rare Accreditation

Georgia Southern

EXCEEDING STANDARDS

Physician Assistant Kathryn Thatcher consults with a student at Health Services.

Dr. Brian DeLoach

STANDARDS

A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health marked a new chapter in its history Jan. 11, when it celebrated its 10th anniversary. Established in 2004, the College was made possible through an endowment from Biostatistics Professor Karl E. Peace, Ph.D., a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar. A tribute to Peace’s wife, the College remains one of only 51 accredited schools and colleges of public health in the United States.

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**Incredible**

Professor Larson poses through his studio, where he received a visit from a curator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The sacrifice Derek Larson, professor of graphic design and 4D new media, made prior to a recognition event last year clearly illustrates the kind of faculty member he truly is, as well as the overall integrity of the instructors at Georgia Southern.

After being selected as one of four finalists for the Huguenot Prize, one of the largest art awards given nationwide, Larson was invited to a private event held in Atlanta to honor him and the other finalists.

While other artists brought family members and friends to the private event, Larson gave his five guest tickets to Georgia Southern students. “I saw this as a great opportunity for my students to be introduced to some of the most prominent artists, curators and top gallery owners in the state,” Larson said.

Larson’s selection as one of the top four Georgia artists from among the many hundreds who applied was a great honor for him. “I was surprised by it and a bit nervous because it meant that I would be creating a new body of work to go on view in a large gallery space in a fairly short amount of time,” he said. “So while the transition time was very short, indeed, they did provide a stipend for materials and shipping to make things easier, but I still felt a lot of pressure.”

As part of his selection, a major curator from the Museum of Modern Art in New York City was flown down to visit Larson’s studio in Statesboro, a gesture Larson described as “truly incredible.”

Larson, who received his M.F.A. in sculpture from Yale University, has been at Georgia Southern for three years. He describes his process of constructing a piece of art as connecting a variety of elements that are interesting to him. “For example, I might make something in response to what I’m reading, or in conversation with another artist or in response to a particular circumstance,” he said.

As a teacher, Larson said his job is to introduce historical concepts, to introduce new techniques through software and to help students find their artistic voice with the technology. “I teach animation, video motion graphics, graphic design courses, new media design and design concepts, so my job as a teacher is to introduce this history and then apply it to contemporary tools,” he explained.

Larson believes there are great things happening in the University’s Art Department. “I think what makes it exciting are the people and the level of research being done by the faculty. The other amazing surprise is the facilities that are available. The Department is equipped with tremendous design and computer labs. We even have a 3D printer and a plasma cutter not all university art departments may have,” Larson said.

As for his most important advice for Georgia Southern students, Larson said, “One of the most important things for them to remember after they leave art school is that having deadlines is not all university art departments may have,” Larson said.

“The Newton Building, dedicated in 1972, was named for longtime history professor Hester Newton.

Larson, who exhibits about 15 times a year, calls himself an independent woman. “I’m creating videos and animations in 2D and 3D software, and projecting them in layers on shaped metal screens that resemble small billboards,” he said.

Larson, who exhibits about 15 times a year, calls himself a painter, screen printer, animator, video/sound artist and sculptor. He describes his process of constructing a piece of art as connecting a variety of elements that are interesting to him. “For example, I might make something in response to what I’m reading, or in conversation with another artist or in response to a particular circumstance,” he said.

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In college, I also couldn’t wait to get back to my full-sized bed and black coffee because they do espresso shots mixed with milk in Barcelona and that got a little old.

GSM: Did you have a chance to display your True Blue spirit?

Farmer: Oh yes! I wore my Georgia Southern hat and t-shirt almost everywhere.

GSM: Are there any University faculty and/or staff you’d like to thank for your experience?

Farmer: There are too many to name, but definitely Dr. Jamie Scaler, who is my thesis mentor and is just awesome. Also, Dr. Barry Balluck, who I had for several international studies courses, and Ms. Danielle Smith and Dr. Richard Parlele, who handle the Center for International Studies and the Political Science Department internships.

GSM: Now that you’ve graduated, what’s your dream job?

Farmer: To head a branch of immigration services, become a city manager or a Foreign Service officer. However, I am open to wherever life takes me, whether it is the public or private sector.

**FMAD 3231/3231H**

**FASHION MERCHANDISING AND APPAREL DESIGN**

“There is a preconceived notion that fashion is only for designers—not true! There are a multitude of career options in the fashion industry,” says Ashley Kubley, visiting instructor of Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design. As the fashion hub at Georgia Southern, students learn fashion terminology, study influential designers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and explore today’s major industry influences, from leading fashion centers and auxiliary enterprises to career opportunities and current trends in merchandising.

Part of the College of Health and Human Sciences, Georgia Southern’s fashion merchandising and apparel design program is one of the top in the United States according to fashion-schools.org. In 2018, Georgia Southern’s program ranked among the top 25 percent at No. 49 in the nation. The University was also ranked ninth on the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the South.

The fashion fundamentals class is a requirement for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in fashion merchandising and apparel design. Graduates often find jobs as e-commerce fashion stylists, in celebrity styling or working with corporate brand identity. In addition, there is a wide variety of design positions, including technical design, production managers, pattern-makers, marketing and product development experts, visual merchandisers and corporate buyers. With a Georgia Southern fashion degree, students are also qualified to become fabric producers and fiber engineers, as well as print designers and both domestic and international apparel manufacturers.

During Kubley’s April 2 lecture, “Children’s and Teens’ Apparel,” the professor led a discussion on how children’s clothing is marketed, and covered topics such as licensing, labeling and manufacturing. Students also learned about the impact of demographics on children’s apparel as well as its overall industry history.

“My favorite thing about being a fashion fundamentals instructor is observing the students when they have that ‘aha’ moment, when the light bulb turns on over their head and something they may not have considered a part of their fashion vocabulary clicks,” says Kubley. “I believe that students don’t expect this course to have a lot of theory but consumer behavior, the movement of fashion and the theories behind what drives fashion, is not only about aesthetics, but also a psychological, sociological and theoretical thought process.” - Ashley Kubley (‘05)

**NEWS, CONT.**

**NEW PUBLICATION**

The College of Business Administration’s online community, published its first Executive Eagle magazine this spring. The new magazine replaces the newspaper format that was started in 1969. The Eagle Executive will be distributed twice each year, in both March and September. To ensure you receive it, COBA alumni should update their contact information, including their email addresses, in the alumni online community. EagleConnect@GeorgiaSouthern.edu / Alumna
With all of the news and information surrounding the need for alternative energy sources—solar, electric, wind, natural gas—few of us are aware of biomass energy sources and the use of wood pellets as a solution to the world’s current energy challenges. Herty Advanced Materials Development Center is at the forefront of developing new technologies in the pursuit of alternative energy solutions.

Pellet fuels are made from compressed biomass. Wood pellets, the most common pellet form, are made from wood and bioenergy feed such as miscanthus and switch grass. Pellets are extremely dense, with low moisture content. They can be stored and transported easily and will burn with high combustion efficiency. Pellets can also be easily integrated into existing electric power generating plants, wood burning stoves and other non-commercial applications—making them an excellent fuel source. For this reason, the pellet industry is growing rapidly as major European countries are using biomass pellets at unprecedented rates, due to adoption of mandates for greenhouse gas emissions and other regulations.

According to a recent report from the U.S. International Trade Commission, annual global imports of wood pellets have grown from virtually zero to more than $1.5 billion during the last decade. North American wood pellet exports reached a new record of more than one million tons in the first quarter of 2013, according to the North American Wood Fiber Review. There has been a steady growth in shipments from both the U.S. and Canada in the past few years, due largely to the demand in the United Kingdom and other European countries. While this newer form of energy has a bright future ahead, research into improving the production of...
pellets, as well as optimizing pellet operation and composition, has lagged behind industry growth.

Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has opened the first fully integrated pilot pellet mill in the United States. Developers, manufacturers and researchers will now be able to benefit by having a flexible, integrated production facility that can produce pellets with properties that are consistent with those achieved in large-scale commercial facilities. The new production line, located in Savannah, includes a nearly $2 million investment in process equipment. The facility will provide a much-needed platform for innovation in process technology and pellet designs, and will help satisfy the rising global demand for biomass pellets around the world.

With the introduction of this new mill, Herty will work with technology providers and developers to help validate a number of product development projects. The pellet mill and production facility provides access to both advanced technology and to new product development capabilities and support. The Herty team will support researchers working to enhance pellet design and develop methods for lowering operating costs. Capabilities and services include biomass preparation and pre-treatment, biomass testing and pellet analysis.

"For more than 75 years, Herty has been helping companies in a variety of industries develop and validate new processes and products," said Alexander Koukoulas, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Georgia Southern’s Herty Advanced Materials Development Center. "This new pilot mill is a first and will help address a global need. The new mill will serve as a valuable testbed by helping our clients confirm product performance and operating efficiencies before they commit to an investment in full-scale manufacturing. Ultimately, the Savannah-based facility will help companies lower technical risk and accelerate delivery."

WHAT IS BIOMASS ENERGY?
Humans have been harnessing the power of biomass-derived energy since the first time wood was used to make fire. The term “biomass” refers to organic matter that has stored energy through the process of photosynthesis. Many of the biomass fuels used today come in the form of wood products, dried vegetation, crop residues and aquatic plants. Biomass has become one of the most common renewable energy sources over the last two decades, second only to hydro-power in the generation of electricity.

Dr. Chu likened our delayed response to climate change to the negative effects of smoking. “Once people realized the health consequence of smoking to both themselves and to their children, the number of smokers declined dramatically,” said Chu. “The problem now is that our current lag time to recognize climate change will affect all future generations, not just our own.”

A distinguished physicist, innovative professor and the first science laureate to serve as U.S. Secretary of Energy, Chu was instrumental in transforming the agency by bringing science to the forefront of America’s clean energy policy. Chu was also a top science advisor to President Barack Obama, where he used his skills to assist BP in stopping the massive Gulf oil leak, and assisted Japan with the tsunami-damaged Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear reactors.

Dr. Chu’s work in laser cooling and trapping was honored as a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1997. He continues to work on solving the country’s energy problems by focusing on new pathways to sustainable, carbon dioxide-neutral energy. Chu gave a nod to Georgia’s rich timber resources. He suggested that we already have better, and soon-to-be cheaper solutions for a renewable energy future. Chu has even spoken with the Dalai Lama about global initiatives and protecting Mother Earth. Said Chu, “The Stone Age did not end for lack of stones, and the Oil Age will end long before the world runs out of oil.” He concluded by showing the late Carl Sagan’s, “The Pale Blue Dot” video and reminded the audience that “we don’t inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

While on campus, Chu also visited student posters at the Annual Research Symposium, met with physics faculty and students in a round table forum, and spent time with a host of enthusiastic Eagles at a reception following his talk. physics professor Callaway Professor of Physics, Martha Abell, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, and Charles Patterson, vice president of research and economic development were all instrumental in bringing Dr. Chu for No Impact Week. The event was funded in part by student sustainability fees.

Dr. Chu spoke at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Chu’s talk, which coincides with ‘No Impact Week’ and the University’s Annual Research Symposium, is an event which our campus will not soon forget,” said Vice President for Research and Economic Development Charles Patterson, Ph.D. “Dr. Chu’s great accomplishments as Secretary of Energy and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics are real examples to our students that there are no limits to where application of research and knowledge can take them.”
Literacy development is a longtime passion of Georgia Southern University College of Education Professor Sally Brown. For the past several years, she has conducted research aimed at exploring ways to help elementary school students struggling to read, especially children learning English for the first time. Brown spent 13 years in the classroom, teaching reading and writing to boys and girls from kindergarten through third grade. "I worked with English language learners that struggled, specifically, Spanish-speaking students," said Brown. "I was bothered by the way other teachers treated them, so I became an advocate for immigrant students and their families."

Instead of using traditional books or texts, Brown has introduced unique classroom approaches and tools, such as graphic novels and e-readers, to help students grasp difficult English language concepts. After receiving a grant from the National Council of Teachers of English, Brown began her research with a group of first graders using graphic novels as her primary instructional platform. “Graphic novels present stories told through dialogue and can help kids that struggle with reading,” said Brown. “For these students—especially the English language learners—I saw a lot of benefits. For example, they were able to use the pictures to develop the context of the story. So, instead of using words to describe a setting, the students were able to look at the picture and recognize the location.

"These students were struggling with decoding text, which affects their comprehension. The graphic novels left space in their brains to focus on comprehension instead of decoding. Students often feel that a book is more manageable, just by having fewer words and more pictures on the page," she said. Some of Brown’s other reading strategies included teaching students to look at punctuation marks, which helped them distinguish between the narrator and what a character is actually saying.

For the past two years, Brown has followed the same group of students. Throughout the process, she has found significant improvements in overall literacy and in technology development. Brown anticipates her next phase of research will integrate poetry into literacy development. "The new grant I have applied for explores kinetic typography, which focuses on the ways students can use animation and movement to create meaning with poetry," she said.
RESEARCH

RESEARCH NOTES

Jonathan Hilbert, professor in the Department of Curriculum, Foundations and Reading, is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation grant (with co-Principal Investigators Jennifer Husman and Sarah Brem from Arizona State University) delving into the domain general processes related to the emergence of innovative ideas in the engineering classroom. Hilbert is studying how diverse groups of students engage with each other to solve ill-defined problems and how ideas evolve within networks of students when they attempt to develop novel solutions to technological issues. In the current phase of the project, the researchers are working to develop a measurement instrument to provide evidence for the major characteristics of engagement at the group level that produce innovative ideas.

EXAMINING WEB-BASED DATA QUERY

A collaborative study including Gulzar Shah, Ph.D., director of the Office of Research, and Dayna Alexander, a community health behavior and education Doctor of Public Health candidate, examined web-based data query systems. The study demonstrated the use of National Association of County and City Health Officials’ Profile-1Q, and how policymakers, researchers, the general public and public health professionals can use the system to generate descriptive statistics on local health departments. Profile-1Q’s customizable queries provide a variety of statistics not available in published reports and support the growing information needs of users who do not wish to work directly with data files because they lack staff skills/time or hope to avoid a data use agreement.

CEREBRAL PALSY RESEARCH

Professor Gavin Colquitt, Ed.D., is examining the effects of a power training (a specific type of exercise) intervention on the functionality of individuals with cerebral palsy. Other researchers include three undergraduate students, College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) faculty Li Li and Kristina Kendall, and Theophile Dipita, a biostatistics doctoral student in public health. Investigators are using the Skierg™ to simulate a unilateral, overhand throwing doctorate in public health. Investigators are using the Skierg™ to simulate a unilateral, overhand throwing motion and assess how it affects an athlete’s power. The ongoing study will include power, spatiotemporal co-contract, functionality, quality of life and fatigability to determine if power-training may facilitate unique improvements in strength and reductions in spasticity among individuals with cerebral palsy. This study is supported in part by the CHHS, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, and the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies.

BBRED EVALUATES DEVELOPMENT

The Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) has partnered with the City of Hinesville, Georgia, to help prepare for the development of a new Family Entertainment Center. BBRED conducted research by performing a multi-part analysis comparing Hinesville to 11 similar communities. With all accumulated research, BBRED found the Family Entertainment Center to be a viable economic development project worth pursuing and congratulated the City of Hinesville on its latest endeavor. BBRED has been taking the role of providing economic research and policy analyses for over three decades.

STUDENT’S RESEARCH PLACES SECOND

Computer Science major Bradford Bazemore won second place and a $500 prize in the Student Paper Competition during the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ regional conference in Lexington, Kentucky, with his paper titled, “Low Power Cluster Development System.” The project was funded through a student research grant from the College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). The 2013-2014 CEIT Undergraduate Awards Research Program received 48 proposals. Of those, 25 proposals were awarded to students who will be conducting research in areas of interest to the College, aligned to the following CEIT Departments: Civil Engineering and Construction Management, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Information Technology.

CEIT faculty who received funding from the 2013-2014 Faculty Seed Awards Program include Dr. Valentin Soloiu, Mosfequr Rahman, Danda Rawat, Sungkyun Lim, Mohammad Ahad, Peter Rogers, Rami Haddad, Maria Rocío Alba- Flores, Youming Li, and Vladan Jovanovic.

PROFESSOR AND STUDENT’S WORK ON NATURE COVER

Physics Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D., and College of Science and Mathematics student Noel Murray, were among the authors of an article featured on the cover of the February issue of Nature, widely regarded as the world’s premier interdisciplinary science journal. “It’s never happened to me before. It’s a great honor for me and primarily due to the collaborators that I worked with at the Joint Quantum Institute,” said Edwards, the University’s Fuller E. Callaway Professor Chair. Murray is a master’s student in the Applied Physical Science program and plans to pursue his doctoral degree.

The article, “Hysteresis in a quantized superfluid ‘atomtronic’ circuit,” reports on the collaborative work between a team of experimental researchers at the Joint Quantum Institute (JQI) and the Georgia Southern University theoretical team, consisting of Murray and Edwards.

STUDENTS’ RESEARCH PLACES SECOND

What makes relationships successful? How can people find greater satisfaction in long-term, committed relationships? These are questions that a research team led by Professor Amy Hackney, Ph.D., is investigating. Working with marriage therapist Harville Hendricks, Ph.D., a Bulloch County native and author of the New York Times bestseller, Getting the Love You Want, Hackney, and researchers from the Department of Psychology and the Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, are examining the effectiveness of Imago Relationship Therapy, a form of relationship therapy created by Hendricks and his wife, Helen Hunt, Ph.D.

The research, supported by the Rural Health Research Institute, is following couples in the community, both before and after they participate in a specialized relationship workshop. The research team includes psychology professors Janice Stein, Ph.D., Michael Nielsen, Ph.D., and Andrew Hansen, Dr.P.H., with support by several graduate students and therapists in the community.

NSF GRANT FUNDS RESEARCH

College of Education

Rapid population growth and urbanization in the United States have not only increased the demand for educational services, but also created new challenges for educators and policymakers. As a result, there is a growing need for research that can help inform policy decisions and improve educational outcomes. To address this need, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a grant to a team of researchers at Georgia Southern University to conduct research on innovative educational practices that can be implemented in urban schools.

The grant, titled “Rapid Population Growth and Urbanization: Implications for Education,” is funded through the NSF’s Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBED) division. The project is led by Professor Emily Johnson, who is a principal investigator on the grant, and includes co-principal investigators Dr. John R. Casper and Dr. Sarah Brem. The project aims to explore how rapid population growth and urbanization are affecting educational policy and practice at the national level. The research will focus on identifying best practices for urban education, and will include case studies of urban schools that have successfully implemented innovative practices.

The grant will support a team of researchers who will conduct a series of case studies in urban schools across the country. The researchers will use a variety of methods to collect data, including interviews, surveys, and observations. The findings of the research will be disseminated through a series of publications, presentations, and workshops.

The grant is expected to have a significant impact on urban education. By identifying best practices and disseminating this information to policymakers and educators, the research has the potential to improve educational outcomes in urban schools and contribute to the development of effective educational policies.

The grant is expected to run for five years, with a total funding of $500,000. The researchers plan to use the funds to support the research team, including graduate students, and to purchase necessary equipment and materials. The funding will also support the dissemination of the research findings through publications and presentations at professional conferences.

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For many golfers, hitting a hole-in-one is a lifelong goal. Though often talked about, from the professional to the amateur to the enthusiast, a hole-in-one is quite rare. Doing it twice in one season—what are the odds? For Georgia Southern's senior Hayden Anderson, better than average.

Anderson aced the par-3 ninth hole with a 5-iron that led a thrilling Georgia Southern run, as the Eagles held off Chattanooga by a single stroke to claim the SoCon Championship at the Country Club of Pinehurst, North Carolina. In fact, it was Anderson’s second hole-in-one of the season—what are the odds? For Georgia Southern’s Men’s Golf team has Historic Season with SoCon and Schenkel Championships.

For Georgia Southern’s Men’s Golf team, Anderson’s ace during the rain-soaked event at Forest Heights Country Club back in March. As one of the most prestigious events in college golf, the Schenkel Invitational featured a roller coaster ride all day,” said Mays. “I’m really proud of this crew. This is a special group of guys. They worked hard for this, and they deserved it.”

In addition to winning the SoCon Championships, for the first time in the 35-year history of the Schenkel Invitational, Georgia Southern finished the event at 10 at 4-under par. Chattanooga (+10) finished second, followed by UNCG (+13) and Western Carolina (+14). Catamount J.T. Poston (-10) won medalist honors after firing a final-round 67 to lead the Cats. Evans (+2) tied for third with Wolfes (+3) and Robb finished five strokes behind at 68 to finish 7-under-par.

The golfers dedicated their win to former teammate Thomas Sharkey, who tragically died in an arson fire at his home in Scotland during the rain-soaked event at Forest Heights Country Club back in March. As one of the most prestigious events in college golf, the Schenkel Invitational featured four of this year’s top-20 teams. Honors went to Anderson and Evans, who both recorded holes-in-one heading into the final day of the three-day tournament.

Charlie Martin posted nine birdies and a 1-under 71 to lead the Eagles, while Anderson finished with a 73. Henry Mabbett carded a 74, and Will Evans notched a 75. Scott Wolves, who started the day 6-over after four holes, grinded his way to a 76. Georgia Southern coach Larry Mays was named SoCon Coach of the Year, while Wolves, Evans and Martin all earned All-Conference honors.

Charlie’s round took a couple years off my life with nine birdies to shoot 71, and it was a roller coaster ride all day,” said Mays. “I’m really proud of this crew. This is a special group of guys. They worked hard for this, and they deserved it.”

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**Track and Field Makes Historic Run Into the Eagle Record Books**

Sport is often referred to as “a game of inches.” And that’s exactly how Marlo McFarlane (94, 177), head coach of the Georgia Southern track and field team, described the Lady Eagles third-place finish at this year’s Southern Conference (SoCon) Indoor Championships. Held on March 1 and 2 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the Championships mark the conclusion of the indoor track season and start of the spring outdoor season. “This team is arguably the most well-rounded we’ve had here in a while,” McFarlane said. “They were inches away from making history and finishing second.”

Although Georgia Southern posted 119 points overall, its fourth-highest point total in team history, the Eagles were nudged out of second place as score adjustments from earlier in the competition moved Appalachian State into the runner-up spot with 120.5 points. Western Carolina won its second-straight title with 112 points. Over the two-day event, Georgia Southern athletes recorded 35 personal bests. The Eagles stood on the presentation podium nine times, highlighted by two individual championships and the 4x400m relay team title.

Mincey, a 12-time All-Southern Conference honoree, is excited to coach a team that she once competed on. She earned her undergraduate degree from Georgia Southern in exercise science in 2007 as well as her master’s degree in sport management in 2007. “It feels great to mentor a program that I helped start and to see the athletes continue the traditions that those before them set in place,” Mincey said. “I want to see Georgia Southern be a cross country and track and field powerhouse, and I know that is more than possible.”

In addition to the Eagles overall team accomplishments, the Hazlehurst, Georgia, native is pleased because many athletes from this year’s team added their names to the Georgia Southern record books. “They have matured as athletes. We are a very young team and we will continue to develop year after year,” Mincey said. “I can’t say I’m surprised by performances, because I tend to expect them to be great every time they perform. They are a very talented group and they have very few limits.”

Junior Jasmin Walker from Fairburn, Georgia, ended her SoCon career with two indoor Long Jump championships, while two University records fell when freshman thrower Kelsey Arnold from Jonesboro, Georgia, smashed her previous best for a 16.97m (55-8.25) in the Weight Throw. Sherril McFarlane, a graduate student from Jamaica, clipped .02 seconds off her own school record in the 800m with a time of 2:10.54.

“This season has meant a lot to me because it will be my last time competing on a collegiate level. It is kind of bittersweet, but I enjoyed every moment of my season with these wonderful athletes,” McFarlane said. “The team’s success has meant a lot for Georgia Southern. You are not only fighting for a title but in the process you are creating a lifetime bond with individuals.”

McFarlane, along with Dana Edwards, a sophomore from Athens, Georgia, Cherelle King, a junior from Elmont, New York, and Ayana Staggil, a freshman from Tuskegee, Alabama, paced Georgia Southern to its best SoCon championships title in the 4x400m Relay since 2007, with a 3:50.02 mark. The quartet finished more than a second ahead of second-place Appalachian State.

Walker took second place in the 60m Dash at SoCon and improved her personal best to 7.51 seconds, to move into second on the track program’s all-time list. Sophomore Alonja Felton from Lithonia, Georgia, has a second-place finish in the 60m Hurdles and her 8.74 time moved her to fifth on the Eagles’ chart.

“The coaching I’ve received at Georgia Southern over the past two years has helped me reach goals I never thought possible,” Felton said. “My coach (Mincey) has been very optimistic throughout my college career. She’s trained me in new events...I appreciate her for that.”

In the 400m event, Stegall ran the first sub-56 second race of the season, good for second place and the No. 2 spot on the Eagles all-time list. Southern’s Aarian Tipton, a senior from Wichita, Kansas, took third in the 200m Dash. Her time of 24.81 ranks fourth in Eagles history.

In one of the final events of SoCon, sophomore Ashleigh Raashed from Decatur, Georgia, launched herself into the Georgia Southern record books as well with her Triple jump performance, eclipsing the 12-meter mark for the second time in her career, with a 12.31 meter (40-7.5) performance good for second place in the event.

The outdoor season picked up where the indoor season ended, with 12 Eagles setting personal bests with two event victories and six top-eight finishes on the first day of the FSU Relays. The highlight was when McFarlane broke the five-year-old university record in the 1500m, with a time of 4:41.09. In day two, the 4x400m relay team raced to a time of 3:42.20, the third-best all-time in Georgia Southern history, and Edwards ran a leg in the relay, and set school records in the 400m hurdles (3rd, 4th, 6th, and 8th place) and 60m dash (3rd, 6th, 10th, 20th, 21st, and 23rd place) with a career-high.

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SIX FOR FRITZ

Catching Up with New Head Football Coach Willie Fritz

In honor of Georgia Southern’s six FCS national championships (and the number of points awarded for scoring a touchdown), the editors of Georgia Southern magazine caught up with Eagle’s new head football coach Willie Fritz to ask him six special questions.

1. Through the search process, and now after being immersed in the football program for several months at Georgia Southern, what one word would you use to describe the University? Awesome!

2. What motivates you? Competition

3. What is your favorite sports movie? “Remember the Titans”

4. What is your favorite song? “The Chair” by George Strait

5. What would you consider to be your most prized possession? My family

6. What person in history would you like to have met? Erk Russell

Former Sam Houston State coach Willie Fritz will lead the Eagles into their new era as a Football Bowl Subdivision team. Fritz, who was 40-15 in four years with Sam Houston State, succeeds Jeff Monken, who was named Army’s coach on Dec. 24.

Fritz, 53, led Sam Houston State to the Football Championship Subdivision championship game in 2011 and 2012, losing both years to North Dakota State. Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel said Fritz is a “perfect fit for this program.”

Fritz has a 176-67-1 record in 21 years as a head coach. He previously coached at Central Missouri, where he was 87-47 in 13 seasons, as well as Blinn College.

Georgia Southern finished 7-4 in 2013, including a stunning 26-20 upset of the Florida Gators in Gainesville to close the season. Fritz said he was attracted to Georgia Southern by “the opportunity to compete at the highest level and to be at the ground level” of the move to FBS.

“We want to continue the success at FCS at the highest level of college football,” Fritz said. “I want to be involved in that type of situation.”

A full list of Georgia Southern’s assistant coaches is at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine.

EAGLES TO HOST NATIONALLY TELEVISED GAMES

New coach. New division. New conference. New national television audience. In the first home game against a Sun Belt Conference opponent, Georgia Southern football will host Appalachian State at Allen E. Paulson Stadium, in a nationally televised game on Thursday, Sept. 25 to be broadcast on ESPNU. The Thursday night game against Troy State on Oct. 30 will also be televised on ESPNU. The Eagles’ full inaugural season as a member of the Sun Belt Conference is listed at right.

REMEMBER WHEN. Georgia Southern played its first Thursday night game at home, on Sept. 21, 1969. Better known as the “Hugo Bowl,” the rain-soaked contest was the first to welcome a national television audience to Paulson Stadium. The game aired on ESPN and featured a halftime studio report from a relatively new sports anchor Chris Fowler.
FOOTBALL

FCS Award Named for Adrian Peterson

College Sporting News has named its NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Offensive Player of the Year award in honor of former Eagle Adrian Peterson. He played four seasons at Georgia Southern from 1996-2001 and remains the all-time leading rusher in NCAA Division I history. Peterson spent eight years with the Chicago Bears and was inducted into the Georgia Southern Hall of Fame in 2012.

Two Eagles Drafted by NFL Teams

After a successful career at Georgia Southern, Cobb County native Jerick McKinnon was the 96th overall pick by the Minnesota Vikings in the 2014 NFL Draft. Despite playing as an option quarterback for most of his college career, the 5-foot-9, 209-pounder will make the transition to the NFL as a running back. McKinnon, 22, rushed 311 times for 2,022 yards (6.5 yards a carry) and three touchdowns against noted college programs such as Alabama and Georgia. He also scored the game-winning touchdown in an epic victory over Florida last fall. Taken in the third round, McKinnon said Minnesota liked his versatility. His numbers at the NFL combine – 4.41-second 40-yard dash, 32 reps of 225 pounds, and a 40-inch vertical jump – suggest he has the skills to play at the next level. But McKinnon said “waiting for that call” was the toughest part of the process projected McKinnon to go in the fourth round. “I don’t know where to start to explain,” said McKinnon about having a chance to play in the NFL. “I know I’m fortunate to have this opportunity... It really hasn’t hit me yet. I want to go up there, play ball and show them what I can do.” McKinnon’s roommate and teammate at Georgia Southern, Lavelle Westbrooks was also drafted. A seventh round pick of the Cincinnati Bengals, Westbrooks drew attention from teams as a hybrid defensive back—one who can play both safety and cornerback. Both McKinnon and Westbrooks admit they miss being around their Eagle teammates, but the opportunities ahead will allow them to draw so much more from college. “I feel extremely blessed, so many players wish they could be in this same position,” Westbrooks said. “This is a great time, not just for me, not just for Jerick, but everyone at Georgia Southern, and we are so grateful for all the people who have supported us through this whole journey.”

SOFTBALL

Purvis No-Hitter Highlights Amazing Season

After securing the Southern Conference (SoCon) Regular Season Championship, the Eagles entered the 2014 SoCon Tournament as the top seed. Georgia Southern finished ahead of Middle Tennessee State from East Carolina, Penn State, Charlotte, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio State and Georgia. In addition, the Co-ed Cheerleading team finished second overall at this year’s NCA National Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida. Led by Senior Carla Metts of Dublin, Georgia, they started the final day in fifth place but moved up to second after a strong final day and a pyramidal sequence that featured round-off and full ups, and a dynamic dismount to the top. While the University of Michigan won the title, Georgia Southern completed their season with the University of Texas at El Paso, Kent State University, and the University of Missouri.

BASKETBALL

Chester Webb Inducted into Georgia Sports Hall of Fame

Chester Webb, a star basketball player for Georgia Southern, was inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in February. The native of Ellberton, Georgia, played between 1952 and 1956, and is the basketball program’s all-time leading scorer with 2,242 career points. As a senior in 1956, Webb scored 869 points, with an average of 30.5 points per game, making him the best season in school history.

SIDELINES

ATHLETICS

GEORGIA SOUTHERN SPRING 2014

CHEERLEADING

The Georgia Southern All-Girl Cheerleading team brought back a fourth National Title. This young team featuring nine freshmen and no seniors, was led by juniors Chloe Cotter of Lawrenceville, Georgia, and Emily Harwood of Sugar Hill, Georgia. The team began the final day of competition in first place and sealed the win on the second day. Thanks to their elite stunts and well-executed routine, the all-girl squad bested teams from East Carolina, Penn State, Charlotte, Florida, West Virginia, Ohio State and Georgia. Phil Boerger has joined Men’s Soccer as goalkeepers coach, after stints at Syracuse University and the University of Jamestown, in his hometown of Jamestown, North Dakota. He played the first three years of his collegiate career at the University of Evansville before transferring to Syracuse.
Teamwork and co-workers are what Stephanie Todd Haley ('95) appreciates most about her job overseeing programming and managing story/event planning for HLN—the cable network once known as CNN Headline News. The communication arts major landed at CNN fresh out of college, eager to tackle the world of journalism. Her first job was production assistant on a daily talk show called "Talkback Live."

“The amount of professional and life experience I received during my six years on that show is immeasurable,” says Haley, who worked behind the scenes covering major news stories including the O.J. Simpson verdict, the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton and the 1996 summer Olympics held in Atlanta. “I worked with and learned from some of the best producers in the business,” she recalls. “I still call them my mentors and friends.”

When Haley arrived at Georgia Southern from her hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, her goal was to become a sports reporter, but changed her mind after completing a summer internship at CNN headquarters in Atlanta her senior year. “Even though I started off wanting to be in front of the camera, I quickly realized there are so many more things to do when you work behind the camera. I believe I was led to this path,” she notes.

Over the course of her journalism career, Haley has worked her way through the ranks at CNN and HLN to her current position as HLN’s senior director of programming and planning. “I have been an executive producer of several shows, overseen coverage of two presidential elections, helped create and develop multiple shows, and led live court coverage and programming for some of the decade’s biggest criminal trials—Casey Anthony, Jodi Arias and George Zimmerman.”

Aside from the challenge of learning new techniques and topics, Haley says there is nothing quite like the charge she gets from being in the television control room. “That’s where the action is, where split-second decisions are made. There is so much going on… it is the true example of teamwork,” she explains. “It is still so amazing to me that our team can come up with an idea at nine o’clock in the morning and have it ready for broadcast on national television and online distribution almost instantly, day in and day out.”

Her life has changed dramatically in the 18 years since she joined the Time Warner Company. She married Reed Haley ('95) whom she met at Georgia Southern when he was the Eagle football team’s place-kicker. Today, the couple is raising three children: 13-year-old Jackson, six-year-old Todd, and two-year-old Reese.

When she reflects on her college experience, Haley admits she loved every minute of it. “I had so much fun. I wanted to stay at Georgia Southern forever. I am still grateful to my professors for cultivating my passion for television. I love it when people are surprised that I am actually working ‘in’ my degree.”

Haley, who minored in journalism, now supports the Georgia Southern Communication Arts Department as a member of the Advisory Board and says that role provides her with the opportunity to give back to the university she loves and to mentor future journalists. The alumna reminds student journalists they “must have a genuine curiosity about the world” around them and be an engaged consumer of all kinds of media.

“It’s a rapidly changing industry so you have to be able to evolve and grow as your career grows,” Haley says. “Don’t get into this business in hopes of becoming famous. Get in because you love being able to create the product and always have your eyes open to all the possibilities and opportunities that come your way. You may think you want one job at first, but then realize you are much better at, or have more passion for, doing something else.”

– Sandra Bennett
Marshall Hooks (10, '12) is the new president of the Barnesville-Lamar County Chamber of Commerce. However, it was his previous role as Director of Member Services for the Blakely-Early County Chamber of Commerce that turned him into a bit of a history buff.

The alumnus started that job just as renovation began on a historic building to house the Chamber headquarters and other offices. Construction workers ripped out the floorboards of the Alexander Building (named after Dr. W.H. Alexander) and "uncovered a trove of medicine bottles, coins, and other artifacts." According to Hooks, one of the coins predates the 1903 construction of the building and many of the medicine bottles are from the early to mid 1900s.

"Since finding the bottles and other artifacts, I also discovered some of Dr. Alexander's old doctor books, one of which he signed, and a prescription that was written on one of Dr. Alexander's prescription pads," said Hooks. "The artifacts are an important piece of history that bridges the construction of the original building to its renovation 110 years later... It is amazing to think a year after the first discovery we are still finding artifacts to help promote the history of Blakely and Early County."

All of the artifacts are now on display at the Chamber, which moved back into the building last October.

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SPEECHLESS
Alumna Liz Foster surprised with on-air proposal from boyfriend Justin Cooper.

Watch the video at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine

WALKING ON AIR
Alumna Gets Surprise Marriage Proposal on Live Television

True reality TV hit the airwaves recently, when a surprise on-air marriage proposal turned an ordinary day at work into one television news anchor Liz Foster (10) will never forget. The Georgia Southern alumna is a member of the news team at WICS-TV in Springfield, Illinois. During a 5 p.m. newscast last fall, Foster, her co-anchor and the station’s chief meteorologist were introducing a segment featuring viewers describing their favorite rainy day activity when her boyfriend popped up in the monitor.

"I call this my 'blonde moment,'" Foster said as she recalled the proposal. "It wasn't until I started listening to what he was saying and saw the pictures of the two of us in the monitor that I realized what was going on."

Moments later, Justin Cooper walked onto the set, dropped down on one knee and asked his girlfriend of nearly a year to marry him. "He had arranged it in advance with the assistant news director, but my co-anchor and the chief meteorologist didn't know about it either," Foster said. Afterward, she learned that her fiancé decided to propose on live television because he wanted to genuinely surprise her. "They (co-anchors) were just as shocked as I was. Everything was a blur. I was speechless, and I am rarely speechless," she added.

Foster’s parents live in suburban Atlanta but relatives of the couple are scattered all around the country. Thanks to the station’s ability to stream newscasts live via the Internet, both families were able to watch the proposal as it happened. The video is also available on YouTube.

Foster, a former communication arts major, has been anchoring news broadcasts at the ABC affiliate in Central Illinois for three years now. The couple plans to tie the knot on August 30 in Springfield. - Sandra Bennett

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Wherever You Go...
Always an Eagle.

GeorgiaSouthern.edu/go
When season two of the ABC television cooking competition “The Taste” kicked off in January, Rebekah Faulk ('05) was one of only 35 contestants nationwide vying for a spot on the reality show. For taping, Faulk chose to prepare her signature dish—shrimp and grits in a creamy white wine sauce. “I'll never forget the moment I entered the set through the ‘pantry’ and rounded the corner to step on stage. There were extras on the set, big lights, more than 15 cameras all pointed at me. That made some contestants nervous, but I revealed it in,” she said.

Raised near Augusta, Georgia, the alumna finds few things as satisfying as “cooking and experiencing food, especially in the South” and said her trip to a Hollywood soundstage was the experience of a lifetime. “Food is my passion, and the opportunity to fly to California and appear on a national television show is confirmation that I’m on the right track,” she said.

Even with Faulk’s full-time job in Georgia Southern’s Office of Marketing and Communications, she finds time to write a bi-monthly column on food blogs, Urbanspoon’s Top Georgia food blogs, “Cooking and experiencing food, especially in the South” and said her trip to a Hollywood soundstage was the experience of a lifetime. “Food is my passion, and the opportunity to fly to California and appear on a national television show is confirmation that I’m on the right track,” she said.

1960s Julian Deal, CFP, (’60) was elected chair of the Georgia Board of Accountants. The seven-member board is responsible for licensing certified public accountants and public accounting firms in Georgia. Deal is a recipient of Georgia Southern’s Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award and has been inducted into the College of Business Administration’s Hall of Fame.

1990s Hala Moddelmog (’79) took office in January as the President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents more than 4,000 company members and is one of the most influential business organizations in Georgia. The former Archy’s Restaurant Group president and now the first woman to run the organization in its 154-year history.

2000s Chris Burton, DrPH, (’04, ’13) has been named the President of the Georgia Board of Public Health (GBP). Prior to his appointment as director, Burton served as deputy director of environmental health at GPAH for nearly five years.

Garrett Lamonzy (’04), a broker with Starling Risk Advisors, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Transportation Club of Atlanta. He will serve for a one-year term.
Robert Burns
"Bobby" Jones
The captain of Georgia Southern’s first golf tourney, Robert Burns ‘‘Bobby’’ Jones (‘‘13), died Nov. 26, 2013 in Perry, Ga. A well-known golfer throughout the state, Jones was the Emeritus of the Georgia State Golf Association. He was a member and always remembered for his love of music and his passion for playing and teaching golf.

Mary Ellen Parrish Hannaford
Mary Ellen Parrish Hannaford (‘‘54) of Newnan, Ga., died at Southeast Georgia Regional Medical Center on Jan. 24. A native of Brooklet, Ga., Hannaford was a graduate of Georgia Teachers College, now Georgia Southern University, and taught business education at Chattooga County High School in Folkston. Known as an excellent cook, Hannaford also coordinated a cookbook titled “Tar Heel Recipes From Our Best Cooks,” which has sold more than 4,500 copies nationwide since 1981.

Billie Turner Lane
Billie Turner Lane (‘‘42) died Feb. 26 at the Ogeechee Regional Hospital in Savannah, Ga. Born in Screven County, Ga., she was a 10th grader, Lane won a trip to Washington, D.C., after a brief illness. She was the niece of Professor Emeritus of Engineering and Information Technology Jerry Jones who was an expert on Africa and remembered as an avid music lover and musician.

Sherry Ann Farmer Anderson
Sherry Ann Farmer Anderson (‘‘79) of Phoenix, Ariz., and her husband Sherman Anderson, who also attended Georgia Southern, were killed Feb. 16, in a single-engine plane crash about a mile from the airport in Telluride, Colo., Anderson, a native of Dublin, Ga., and her husband, both worked as airline pilots for major commercial airlines and had decades of flying experience. Mary Haynes Flor, her mother-in-law, who was a retired justice of the peace, said Anderson always wanted to be a flight attendant but didn’t meet the height requirement so she learned how to be a pilot instead. Anderson’s family said they will maintain the large family he loved at the site.

Robert “Bob” Aloysius Ware
Robert “Bob” Aloysius Ware (‘‘91) died Mar. 14 in Warner Robins, Ga. LeClair earned his bachelor’s in criminal justice in 1988 from Georgia Southern, where he met her husband Pamela. But it was as a stay-at-home dad where he thrilled. LeClair was a member of his children’s baseball team and coached many of their sports teams throughout the year. Two of LeClair’s favorite hobbies included golf and growing vegetables. His family said he loved spending time on the farm.

Mary Beth Thompson
Barbara Ann Barton
Barbara Ann Barton, a retired physical education teacher, passed away on Mar. 12 at Effingham County Extended Care in Effingham County, Ga. Barton began her career at Effingham County High School and was a teacher of young children. She was the daughter of the late Alphonso W. Thompson.

F. W. Kane
George Paul Carr Jr.
George Paul Carr Jr., and the mother of Robert Burns ‘‘Bobby’’ Jones, Carr was former Georgia Southern President. He represented Bulloch, Jenkins, Candler and Screven counties in the state House of Representatives for 16 years as well, and served on several committees including chairing the House Education Committee for four years. Godbee also played an important role in helping Georgia Southern gain university status. He was named Alumnus of the Year in 1986.

Bertha Rose Watkins Carr
Carr was appointed interim chair of the Art Department at Georgia Southern in 1979 and served as a member of the Archibald Bulloch Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. Arnold “Arnie” Cooper
Retired member of the College of Education at Georgia Southern, Arnold ‘‘Arnie’’ Cooper, passed away on Dec. 5, in Savannah at age 72. A name of Philadelphia, Cooper was a student of African American history. He combined scholarship with action and served as a Vista volunteer with the South Carolina Commission for Farm Workers. South Carolina, and the Wesley Foundation at East Carolina University (North Carolina). Cooper earned his master’s degree in history and educational administration, and a doctoral degree in the history of education.

Dr. Henry C. Iler
Henry C. Iler, Ph.D., a former chair of the Art Department and professor of history of education.

Dr. Nancy Pearson
Nancy Pearson (‘‘74) of Brunswick, Ga. died Feb. 21 at Camden Hospital. Pearson graduated from Green High School and Georgia Southern College and taught high school in both Chatham and Camden Counties.

Clarence Alexander Miller
Clarence Alexander Miller (‘‘75) of Savannah, Ga., died Feb. 11. A graduate of Georgia High School, Miller was a noted attorney and served as a judge of State Court in North Carolina since 1985, only the third judge in his district and since the court was created in 1987. Miller was also principal of Northridge High School from 1991 to 2005.

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African-American Alumni Network Creates Lasting Legacy

It has been nearly 50 years since John Bradley walked onto the Georgia Southern campus to become the University’s first African-American student and its first black graduate student. Several decades later, in 1985, the 500th African-American student graduated. Today, African-Americans comprise about a quarter of the Eagle student body, and Georgia Southern University is one of the nation’s leading producers of black professional science majors—ranked No. 4 by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Two years ago, to commemorate the 1985 milestone, the First 500 alumni network was created, and for those students who share the distinction of being among the first blacks to graduate from Georgia Southern.

Ronald Mooman (’75), a criminal justice major who conceived the First 500, said, “It honors the students who actually share the distinction of being among the first blacks to graduate from Georgia Southern.”

Organizers say the First 500 is an alumni network within the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association and has partnered with the Georgia Southern University Foundation to create a permanent scholarship endowment. Retired educator Margaret Hightower (’75, ’97, ’01) was among the first in her family to graduate from high school and college, and she earned multiple degrees from Georgia Southern including her bachelor’s, education specialist and a doctorate in educational leadership and administration. An instrumental player in getting the First 500 off the ground, Hightower explained the group wanted to leave a lasting legacy of black achievement at the University that would benefit current and future students.

“Our initial goal was to raise $25,000 by homecoming in 2013. I am pleased to say we were able to exceed our goal. Go Eagles!” explained Bernice Banks (’77) who wears many hats with the black alumni network. “Right now we are working on the second milestone, which is $25,000 in the second year. Our ultimate goal is to raise $250,000 by homecoming in 2018. I would like to say we were able to exceed our goal. Go Eagles!”

“I would like to add that $25,000 was our first milestone,” explained Bernice Banks (’77) who wears many hats with the black alumni network. “Right now we are working on the second milestone, which is $25,000 in the second year. Our ultimate goal is to raise $250,000 by homecoming in 2018. I am pleased to say we were able to exceed our goal. Go Eagles!”

First 500 organizers agreed they experienced many challenges and triumphs as minorities on the predominantly white campus. However, they add they are proud of what they achieved during their time on campus and want to leave a legacy through altruism and service. “One of the fundamental principles driving our action is the fact that we love Georgia Southern,” said Banks. “It is near and dear to us and we are at a point in our lives where we’re blessed to give back with energy, time and even financially.” – Sandra Bennett

SUPPORT

AFRO-AMERICAN CLUB OF 1970


FIRST OF MANY

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for his disability. “I chose not to receive assistance because I never felt the need for it. My hearing aids work great and I tried to sit at the front of all my lectures. It’s mostly during conversations, when more than one person is speaking, that I have trouble hearing,” he said. “It may sound interesting to hear how I have overcome these great hurdles, but I think a lot of other people have to overcome even greater challenges than I’ve had to face.”

**Daniel Ogden**

Daniel Ogden (’14) may appear like any number of Georgia Southern’s average college graduates. The 20-year-old enjoys music, playing guitar, going to church and plans to attend graduate school. Ogden, a native of Woodbine, Georgia, received the Chandler Foundation Scholarship for three semesters and already has a wide range of research experience invaluable to his future.

The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students majoring in biology and allows the recipient to participate in research projects, learning the ins and outs of how biological research is conducted. As a Chandler Foundation Scholar, Ogden researched the American eel and how aquaporin—membranes—in the fish allow them to adapt in both freshwater and saltwater. Ogden’s research is conducted. As a Chandler Foundation Scholar, Ogden researched the American eel and how aquaporin—membranes—in the fish allow them to adapt in both freshwater and saltwater.

“The years that you served were the best of times,” Ruth Ann told Jones and the audience, which included Jones’ sister, brother, and retired administrators such as Nick Henry, who led Georgia Southern from 1987 to 1998, former Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Harrison Carter, and Dean Carl Gooding, who served in the College of Business Administration from 1986 to 2000.

Many people don’t get an endowment until they are dead and buried. We wanted to do something so that Spike knew how much he was valued and appreciated while he was still on this earth,” Ruth Ann said. Jones still lives in Statesboro where he is buried. We wanted to do something so that Spike knew how much he was valued and appreciated while he was still on this earth. Therefore, the Rogers said the Warren F. “Spike” Jones Scholarship, which will benefit a student this fall. The fund came as a surprise to Jones, who found out about it when he appeared at a reception in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall last November. Many of the guests came from out of town to surprise him.

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**WINNING COMBINATION**

University Hosts Marvin S. Pittman Donor Society

Georgia Southern’s Office of University Advancement hosted the Marvin S. Pittman Society celebration in April, recognizing donors for their generosity and ongoing support of education and our students. The Society consists of five giving levels: the Lantern Walk, Sweetheart Circle, Southern Fellows, Founders’ Guild and the President’s Club. The annual Marvin S. Pittman Society celebration allows the University to honor those who have provided lifetime gifts of $25,000 to $1 million or more. “Georgia Southern appreciates the generous support of alumni and friends, no matter what they’re able to give as Marvin S. Pittman Donor Society members,” said Salinda Arthur, vice president for University Advancement. “Each and every one of their gifts allow the University to fund scholarships, as well as initiatives to enhance teaching, research, cultural activities, and economic development.”

For a list of new members, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/magazine.

**CHIPPING IN**

Mascot GUS, Rob Whitaker, vice president of business and finance, and President Brooks Keel make a safe bet for education during the Marvin S. Pittman Society Casino Night, Saturday, April 26. Pittman Society members are among Georgia Southern’s most distinguished and loyal contributors, having lifetime donations of $25,000 or more.

**GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**

Dr. Barbara Christmas Golden Named Foundation Board Chair

During a University Advancement Foundation Board meeting on Nov. 2, Barbara Christmas Golden, Ph.D. (’66, ’79, ’84) was installed as the Board’s first female chair. Golden has served the Foundation Board for seven years. A devoted alumna and University supporter, she received three degrees from Georgia Southern, and was honored as Alumna of the Year for both the College of Education as well as the overall University.

As a longtime educator, Golden taught English in Tattnall County, and later served as an elementary and high school principal in Johnson, Bulloch and DeKalb counties for many years. Golden has also been president of three Georgia education associations, including the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. “Georgia Southern relies on private funding to meet its ongoing education and institutional needs,” said Golden. “I’m proud to have the chance to help lead the Foundation’s primary mission of promoting higher education by assuring my alma mater improve cultural opportunities, economic growth, environmental quality, scientific and technological progress, and social and personal well-being.”

Golden succeeds Tommy Bond as chair. During the meeting, Caroline Harless was appointed chair-elect, and David Settles joined the Board membership.

**PASSING IT ON**

Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Tommy Bond passes the gavel to new Chair, Dr. Barbara Christmas Golden.

**SETTLES ON AS NEW MEMBER**

The Foundation Board of Trustees welcomes new Board Member, David Settles, Atlanta, Ga., to the Board. Pictured left to right are: Outgoing Chair Tommy Bond, Foundation President Salinda Arthur, University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., and new Board Member David Settles.

**IN THE CARDS**

With ‘play money’ provided, Board of Trustees Member Stephen Milner and a guest try their hand at the Blackjack table. This year’s “casino night” was the last event of the weekend and a special thank you to Pittman Society donors for their ongoing support.

**TEAM PHOTO**

The 2013-2015 leadership team for the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees, pictured left to right are: Rob Whitaker, Treasurer; Salinda Arthur, Foundation President; Barbara Golden, Ph.D., Foundation Chair; Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D., University President; and Caroline Harless, Chair-Elect.

**CREATE A LEGACY**

Would you like to transform lives? Create a brighter future and new possibilities for a deserving student by funding a scholarship or supporting an academic program.

CREATE YOUR LEGACY. TODAY.

Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc.
912-478-5125 | GeorgiaSouthern.edu/foundation
THEY 'OWNED THE NIGHT'

One of country music's biggest acts, Lady Antebellum, headlined this year's spring concert at Georgia Southern University's Paulson Stadium on Friday, May 2. A major stopover on their 2014 Take Me Downtown Tour, the Grammy winning trio thrilled concert-goers with popular songs such as "We Owned the Night" and the No. 1 hit "Run to You."
No matter where you are across the country or the world, chances are there is a loyal group of Eagles just around the corner. The Georgia Southern University Alumni Association maintains Alumni Networks and Affinity Groups to keep alumni connected no matter where they live.

Founded in 1933, the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association serves the University and its alumni by cultivating friends, by connecting and reconnecting the University’s alumni and generating support for higher education.

Georgia Southern University Alumni

Representing Georgia Southern in your community
Supporting the academic excellence, best interests and traditions of Georgia Southern
Networking, socializing and cheering on the Eagles together

Display Eagle pride
Join together for a cause and make a difference in your community

For more information or to get involved in your area, please visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/Alumni or call 912-478-2586. Follow us on Facebook: EagleAlumni