

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

---

Points of Pride

About Georgia Southern

---

4-11-2019

## Points of Pride

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/points-pride>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Points of Pride" (2019). *Points of Pride*. 17.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/points-pride/17>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the About Georgia Southern at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Points of Pride by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# Points of Pride

Rankings

Academics

Athletics

Facilities

Outreach

Research

## Rankings

### University-Wide



[Click for larger version](#) or [download the pdf.](#)

- Named “Military-Friendly” Gold school for the seventh year in a row in 2018 by [Victory Media](#), publisher of *G.I. Jobs*, *STEM Jobs* and *Military Spouse* magazines
- For the seventh year in a row, Georgia Southern University was named one of the nation’s top eco-friendly campuses in The Princeton Review’s [Guide to 361 Green Colleges: 2017 Edition](#)
- Georgia Southern ranked in the top 5 percent of schools for gender diversity according to [College Factual](#).
- Our Army ROTC program is the 28th largest producer of Officers for the Army out of 272 Host Programs across the Nation. Additionally, we are a Top 10 producer of Nurses for the Army.
- 50 Best Nonprofit Colleges and Universities for Online Doctorates 2018 by [Nonprofit College Online](#)
- #1 in the Best for Vets: Four-Year Colleges 2019 by [Military Times](#)
- #1 in the best schools for military students 2019 by [Best for Vets Colleges](#)
- #2 in Affordable Colleges in Georgia 2018 by [College Affordability Guide](#)
- #3 in top 10 online universities by [Value Colleges](#)
- #3 Top 6 Best Colleges in Georgia for 2017 by [AdvisoryHQ](#)
- #3 Armstrong Campus, Military Times Best: Colleges 2018 by [Military Times](#)
- #4 Top 5 Best Value Online Schools in Georgia 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
- #4 2018 Best Online Colleges Offering Doctoral Degrees by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
- #5 for Best Online Colleges in Georgia 2018 by [onlinecolleges.net](#)
- #5 for The Best Online Colleges in Georgia 2018 by [TheBestSchools.org](#)
- #6 in Best Value Colleges in Georgia for 2019 by [SmartAsset](#)
- #7 Top 30 Low-Cost Online Programs 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
- #7 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges Offering Doctoral Programs by [Online U](#)
- #7 in Best Colleges in Georgia for 2019 by [University Magazine](#)
- *Military Times* Ranks Armstrong’s Cybersecurity Program # 8 in the Nation for 2018 by [Military Times 10 Best Cybersecurity Programs list](#)
- #8 in 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges Offering Doctoral Programs by [OnlineU](#)
- #9, 25 Best Online Colleges in Georgia 2018 (Armstrong Campus) by [College Choice](#)
- #10 Top 10 Best Colleges with Tuition Under \$20,000 for 2019 by [College Raptor](#)
- #11 Top 30 Best Value Colleges in Georgia for 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
- #4 in 2018 Best Colleges in Georgia by [Bestcolleges.com](#)
- #11 2017 Most Beautiful College in Georgia by [Lendedu](#)
- #13 in Student Loan Debt Per Graduate by School by State 2018 by [StudentLoans.net](#)
- #14 in Best Online Colleges in Georgia for 2018 by [AffordableCollegesOnline.org](#)

- #16 in Student Loan Debt Per Graduate by School by State 2017 by [The Student Loan Report](#)
  - #19 2018 Best Online Colleges Offering Master's Degrees by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
  - #23, Georgia Southern Voted One of the 35 Most Pristine Campuses by [YourGreenPal](#)
  - #26 Most Affordable Online Master's Programs in the country by [EDsmart](#)
  - #43 nationwide and #3 in Georgia in 2018 Best College Campuses in America by [Niche](#)
  - #48 (tie) nationwide for 2018 Best Online Graduate Programs by [U.S. News](#)
  - #49 in Colleges That Offer the Most Creative Arts Scholarship Aid 2017 by [The Student Loan Report](#)
  - #50 nationwide and #2 in Georgia in 2018 Best College Athletics in America by [Niche](#)
  - #53 nationwide and #1 in Georgia in 2018 Best College Dorms in America by [Niche](#)
  - #69 (tie) for Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans 2019 by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #88 nationwide and #2 in Georgia in 2018 Best Big Colleges in America by [Niche](#)
  - #115 (tie) nationwide for 2018 Best Online Bachelor's Programs by [U.S. News](#)
  - #123 (tie) nationwide for 2019 Best Online Bachelor's Programs by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #167 (tie) in High School Counselor Ratings in Best Colleges 2019 by [U.S. News](#)
  - #230 in National Universities in Best Colleges 2019 by [U. S. News](#)
  - #261 in Student Loan Debt Per Graduate Rankings 2017 for Public Colleges by [The Student Loan Report](#)
  - #355 nationwide and #7 in Georgia in 2018 Best Colleges in America by [Niche](#)
  - #488 Student Loan Debt Per Graduate Overall Rankings 2017 by [The Student Loan Report](#)
  - #667 in 711 Best Colleges For Your Money 2017-2018 by [TIME Money](#)
  - Georgia Southern University is one of six postsecondary institutions included on the prestigious [2018 Green Ribbon Schools list by the U.S. Department of Education](#) for its environmental accomplishments. Areas of recognition include sustainability, health, physical education, safety policies, food service and environmental and sustainability curriculum.
- 

### **Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing**

- #1 for Best Online Master's in Computer Science: Students Before Profits 2016 by [Nonprofit Colleges Online](#)
  - #2 2018 Best Online Master's in Computer Science Programs for Value by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
  - #3 Most Affordable Colleges for a Master's in Computer Science 2018 by [OnlineU](#)
  - #3 in Best Online Master's in Computer Science Degrees 2018 by [BestMastersDegrees.com](#)
  - #3 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Computer Science by [Online U](#)
  - #5 2018 Best Online Colleges Offering Bachelor's in Information Technology Degrees by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
  - #5 in best values in 2019 for an online Master's in Computer Science degree by [BestValueSchools](#)
  - #7 in Top 30 Affordable Online Master's in Information Technology 2017 by [BestMastersDegrees.com](#)
  - #8 in Top 30 Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees Information Technology by [GradSchoolHub.com](#)
  - #18 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for Information Technology Degrees by [Online U](#)
  - #27 in Best Value Online Master's of Information Technology Programs for 2017 by [ValueColleges.com](#)
  - #33 in Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Programs 2018 by [U.S. News](#)
  - #44 for 2016's Best Colleges for Online Computer Science Degrees by [Computer Science Online](#)
  - #118 (tie) in Engineering Programs in Best Colleges 2018 by [U. S. News](#)
- 

### **College of Arts and Humanities**

- 2017 Best Online Bachelor's in Liberal Studies: Students Before Profits Award, #2 by [Nonprofit Colleges Online](#)
- 

### **College of Behavioral and Social Sciences**

- #14 of 30 Best Value Bachelor's Degrees in Parks, Recreation, and Leisure nationwide in 2016 for Bachelor of Science in Recreation by [collegevaluesonline.com](http://collegevaluesonline.com)
  - #14 nationwide in 30 Best Value Bachelor's Degrees in Parks, Recreation and Leisure 2016 by [collegevaluesonline.com](http://collegevaluesonline.com)
  - #46 in the nation for the 2018 Best Online Graduate Criminal Justice Programs (Armstrong Campus) by [U. S. News](http://U.S. News)
  - #60 nationally and #7 in the South in Top Fashion Design Schools and Colleges 2017 by [fashion-schools.org](http://fashion-schools.org)
  - #135 (tie) for Best Grad Schools for Public Affairs 2019 by [U.S. News](http://U.S. News)
- 

## College of Education

- - #1 Online Master's in Educational Leadership Program in the country, according to [OnlineMasters.com](http://OnlineMasters.com)
    - #6 in Top 10 Online Master's in Early Childhood Education 2018 by [Online Course Report](http://Online Course Report)
    - #7 2018 Best Online Schools Offering a Master's in Educational Leadership by [Guide to Online Schools and SR Education Group](http://Guide to Online Schools and SR Education Group)
    - #10 in the 25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs by [TheBestSchools.org](http://TheBestSchools.org)
    - #10 in the Best Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Educational Assessment and Evaluation by [Best Value Schools](http://Best Value Schools)
    - #10 in Masters in Educational Leadership 2016 nationally for best value residential masters in Educational Leadership programs by [Top Masters in Education](http://Top Masters in Education)
    - #11 in Masters in Education 2016 for the top 50 national best value residential masters in Education by [Top Masters in Education](http://Top Masters in Education)
    - #12 in Best Online Master's in Early Childhood Education 2017-2018 by [Top Education Degrees](http://Top Education Degrees)
    - #13 2018 Best Online Schools Offering a Master's in Special Education by [Guide to Online Schools and SR Education Group](http://Guide to Online Schools and SR Education Group)
    - #19 in the 2019 top 25 most affordable online options for a Master's in Elementary Education by [SR Education Group](http://SR Education Group)
    - #23 in Best Online Master's in Special Education Program for 2018 in the United States by [SuccessfulStudent.org](http://SuccessfulStudent.org)
    - #25 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Educational Leadership by [Online U](http://Online U)
    - #28 in Best Online Masters in Early Childhood Education and "Best for Professionals" by [OnlineMasters.com](http://OnlineMasters.com)
    - #34 for 2017 Best Online Master's in Education Degrees by [College Choice](http://College Choice)
    - #37 in Instructional Technology 2018 nationwide by [College Affordability Guide](http://College Affordability Guide)
    - #40 in 50 Best Online Master of Special Education Degree Programs 2018 by [Master's Programs Guide](http://Master's Programs Guide)
    - #47 in Best Online Master of Arts in Teaching Degrees for 2018 by [Top Master's in Education](http://Top Master's in Education)
    - #89 (tie) for Best Online Graduate Education Programs 2019 by [U.S. News & World Report](http://U.S. News & World Report)
    - #180 (tie) for Graduate Education Schools 2019 by [U.S. News](http://U.S. News)
- 

## College of Science and Mathematics

- #9 in 10 Best Colleges for Biology Majors in Georgia for 2018 by [Zippia](http://Zippia)
- 

## Parker College of Business

- #1 flexible Online Master In Accounting Degree Program in 2019, according to [OnlineMasters.com](http://OnlineMasters.com)

- #1 Most Affordable Colleges for Online Economics Degrees 2017 by [OnlineU](#)
  - #1 Most Affordable College for a Master's in Economics 2017 by [OnlineU](#)
  - #3 2018 Best Online Schools Offering a Master's in Economics by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
  - #3 2018 Most Affordable Schools for a Master's in Economics by [Online U](#)
  - #5 in Five Best Online Master in Economics Degree Program 2018 by [TheBestSchools.org](#)
  - #5 in Top 35 Master of Accounting Online Degree Programs 2017 by [TopAccountingDegrees.org](#)
  - #14 Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Economics for 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
  - #8 Best Online Master's in Accounting Degree Programs 2017 by [Online Course Report \(OCR\)](#)
  - #10 2018 Best Online Master's in Accounting Programs by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
  - #11 in Top 20 Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Business Administration 2018 by [GradSchoolHub.com](#)
  - #13 Top Ranked Online Master's in Accounting Programs 2017 by [MastersInAccounting.info](#)
  - #13 of 20 Best Online Schools for Accounting Master's Degree 2017 by [Best Choice Schools](#)
  - #14 of 20 in Most Affordable Online Master's in Economics Degree 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
  - #14 of the top 45 Online Master's in Accounting Programs for 2017 by [Accounting Degree Review](#)
  - #17 Most Affordable Colleges for a Master's in Accounting 2018 by [OnlineU](#)
  - #18 in Best Online MBAs 2018 by [Poets&Quants](#)
  - #19 of Top 25 Master's in Accounting Online Degree Programs 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
  - #24 in 50 Best Online Master of Accounting Degree Programs 2018 by [Master's Program Guide](#)
  - #36 (tie) for Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans 2019 by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #45 (tie) for Best Online Graduate Business Programs (Excluding MBA) 2019 by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #45 in Best Online Master of Accounting Degree Programs in 2019, according to [OnlineMasters.com](#)
  - #47 (tie) for Best Online MBA Programs 2018 by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #66 (tie) for Best Online MBA Programs 2019 by [U.S. News & World Report](#)
  - #112 in Editor's Choice Online MBA Programs 2019 by [BusinessStudent.com](#)
  - #235 (tie) in Business Programs 2019 by [U. S. News](#)
- 

## Waters College of Health Professions

- #1 in most affordable online Masters of Science in Nursing 2019 by [OnlineU](#)
- #1 in 20 Most Affordable Online BSN Degrees 2017 by [College Choice](#)
- #2 in The Three Best Online Sports Management Degree Programs in Georgia 2018 [Sports Management Degree Hub](#)
- #2 Master of Science in Kinesiology with an emphasis in Coaching Education 2018 among 15 Best Online Master's in Coaching Education by [Sports Management Degree Hub](#)
- #2 for 2018 Best Value Online College for Master's in Sports Management Degrees by [SR Education Group](#)
- #2 2018 Best Online Colleges for a Master's in Sports Management by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
- #4 2018 Best Online Schools Offering a Master's in Physical Education by [Guide to Online Schools](#)
- #5 in Best Online Doctorate in Nursing Program: Students Before Profits Award 2017, [Nonprofit Colleges Online](#)
- #7 in Top 30 Low-Cost Online RN Programs 2016 by [Bestvalueschools.com](#)
- #7 of The 20 Most Affordable Online Coaching Education Master's Degree Programs 2018 [Sports Management Degree Hub](#)
- #8 in most affordable online Bachelor of Science in Nursing 2019 by [OnlineU](#)
- #9 2019 Most Affordable Online Colleges for a Master's in Sports Management by [Online U](#)
- #10 in 30 Top Online Master's in Sports Management Degree Programs for 2018 by [Best College Review](#)
- #11 in Top 30 Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in Sports Management 2017 by [GradSchoolHub.com](#)
- #13 in Top 15 Best Sports Management Degree Online Programs 2017 by [Sports Management Degree Guide](#)
- #16 Master of Science in Sport Management program by [College Affordability Guide](#)
- #18 in Top 25 Graduate Sports Psychology Degree Programs 2016 by [Online Psychology Degrees](#)
- #19 in 30 Best Value Colleges for Nursing in the South: RN-BSN Degree Programs 2018 by [Best Value Schools](#)
- #25 in best values for an online doctor of nursing degree by [BestValueSchools.com](#)
- #27 in Most Affordable Online RN to BSN out of the top 50 by [GreatValueColleges.net](#)

- #44 in Top 50 Online Master’s on Sports Management Programs 2018 by [Top Management Degrees](#)
  - #45 in 2018 Top 50 Nursing Schools in the Southeast Region by [Nursing School Almanac](#)
  - #109 for Best Nursing Schools: Doctor of Nursing Practice 2019 by [U.S. News](#)
  - #143 (tie) for Best Grad Schools for Clinical Psychology Programs 2019 by [U.S. News](#)
  - #50 Best Online Nursing Master’s Program in 2018 by [OnlineMasters.com](#)
- 

### Centers and Institutes

- #19 for The 30 Most Amazing Higher Ed Natural History Museums by [Best College Reviews](#)

### Academics

Nine colleges, schools and departments offer 141 degree programs at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels on three campuses – Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville.

---

Currently, Georgia Southern University’s total enrollment stands at nearly **26,500 students** from all **50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands** and **102 nations**.

---

Georgia Southern is partnering with the U.S. Air Force to help active-duty, National Guard and reserve personnel pursue education through the General Education Mobile (GEM) program. GEM is a landmark partnership between Air University, the Community College of the Air Force, and civilian academic institutions. Georgia Southern’s participation in the partnership makes the University one of only 96 institutions of higher learning where airmen are approved to take classes remotely.

Members of the Air Force, especially those serving in the Georgia Air National Guard, who want to pursue a civilian education in a traditional setting will be able to attend classes at Georgia Southern’s campuses located in Savannah, Statesboro and Hinesville.

---

The consolidation of **Georgia Southern University** and **Armstrong State University** went into effect **Jan. 1, 2018**, a year after the University System of Georgia Board of Regents announced the plan to consolidate Georgia Southern and Armstrong State. Georgia Southern is now the **fifth largest public university in Georgia** and **the largest south of Atlanta**.

---

Georgia Southern ranked in the **top 5 percent of schools for gender diversity** according to [College Factual](#). In the 2019 rankings for gender diversity at colleges and universities nationwide, Georgia Southern University ranked No. 82 out of 2,486, with a gender diversity of 49.1 percent male and 50.9 percent female.

College Factual analyzed the age, gender, race and location of origin of enrolled students to rank colleges based on diversity. Georgia Southern ranked above the national average in all measures.

---



In 2017, Georgia Southern University established its first permanent scientific field station known as the **Effingham Wetlands**. The property of about 1,400 acres, is located in Effingham and Chatham counties.

---

Georgia Southern University's Department of Biology is the largest center for biology research and education in southern Georgia.

---

Georgia Southern's **Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing** opened the state of Georgia's first undergraduate Manufacturing Engineering program in August 2015.

---

Georgia Southern University has been named a **top four-year university** on the Phi Theta Kappa's **2018 Transfer Honor Roll for creating pathways to support transfer students**. It was recognized on a list of only 112 colleges and universities in the U.S.

---

The Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus in Savannah is a designated **National Center of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence**. The University is one of only 14 institutions in the country to earn this designation from the U.S. Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center.

---

The Armstrong Campus in Savannah was designated as the first college campus in the country to have a **collegiate chapter of the National Latina Organization MANA**, which represents the interests of Latina women, youth and families in the areas of education, health and well-being, financial literacy, equal and civil rights and immigration reform.

---

The Eagle Battalion is proud to have the largest Army ROTC Nursing program in the nation. Georgia Southern's School of Nursing is consistently ranked among the top in the country. The strong relationship between these elite programs has ensured that our Nurse Cadets receive top quality education and experience while being held to high academic and ethical standards, preparing them for becoming both Army Officers and leaders in the field of medicine.

---

The **Betty Foy Sanders Georgia Artists Collection**, one of Georgia Southern University's largest permanent collections, recently celebrated its **50th anniversary**. The collection was established in 1967 by former Georgia first lady Betty Foy Sanders, a Statesboro native.

---

Georgia Southern University's **accreditation** has been reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) **through the year 2025**. The reaffirmation demonstrates the University's commitment to the highest educational standards.

---

Georgia Southern University received an honorable mention designation for the **2017 Climate Leadership Awards** from Second Nature and the U.S. Green Building Council. The Climate Leadership Awards recognize advanced leadership in sustainability, climate change mitigation and resilience at college and university campuses. The honorable member designation is the second highest an institution can receive. The finalists included only nine four-year institutions, among them, Furman University, Duke University, two Ivy League schools and three universities from California, all widely known and supported for their commitment to sustainability. Second Nature is a national nonprofit that works to accelerate climate action in, and through, higher education.

## Athletics

The Georgia Southern men's basketball program has finished in the **top three of the Sun Belt Conference in three of their four seasons in the league**. As of 2018, the Eagles are one of only three Sun Belt programs to reach double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons.

---

Georgia Southern's football program has a rich history, winning **six NCAA Division I-AA National Championships** before moving up to the FBS in 2014. In that first year, the Eagles won the Sun Belt Conference with a perfect league mark and won their **first bowl game in school history a year later**, trouncing Bowling Green 58-27 in the GoDaddy Bowl in Mobile, Alabama.

---

A program-best **eight former Georgia Southern football players were on NFL rosters** at some point in the 2017 regular season: Matt Breida (49ers), Montay Crockett (Jaguars), Ukeme Eligwe (Chiefs), Edwin Jackson (Colts), Younghoe Koo (Chargers), Jerick McKinnon (Vikings), J.J. Wilcox (Steelers) and Antwione Williams.

---

Georgia Southern sponsors **17 NCAA Division I varsity athletics programs**, 15 of which compete in the Sun Belt Conference. Rifle competes in the Southern Conference while women's swimming and diving competes in the Coastal Collegiate Sports Association (CCSA).

---

The Georgia Southern men's golf squad hosts one of the top college golf tournaments in the country each March in the **Schenkel Invitational**. Teams from around the country have descended upon Statesboro for nearly 40 years trying and tackle Forest Heights Country Club as they begin preparations for postseason play.

---

Georgia Southern will host the 2019 Southern Conference Rifle Championships at the state-of-the-art, **\$5.8 million Shooting Sports Education Center** in Statesboro. The 30,000-square-foot facility features indoor archery and firing ranges, as well as an outdoor archery range.

---



The co-ed cheerleading squad claimed the **2017 National Cheerleaders Association National Championship**, a first for the program. The all-girls squad claimed national championships in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015.

---

Student-athletes continue to earn top honors in the classroom, as a total of **192 Eagles were named to the Sun Belt Conference's academic achievement lists in 2017**. The Academic Honor Roll recognized 100 Georgia Southern student-athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Commissioner's List recognized 95 Georgia Southern student-athletes with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The Georgia Southern women's basketball and men's tennis teams earned Sun Belt Conference Team GPA Awards for the 2016-17 academic year. The awards, released at the conclusion of the academic year, honor the teams with the top cumulative team grade point average in each of the sponsored sports within the Sun Belt.

---

Georgia Southern has fared well in the recent NCAA Graduation Success Rate reports. **Men's basketball, men's tennis and women's tennis** all recorded a four-year weighted average of 100 percent in the most recent report and **all 13 recorded sports at Southern recorded GSR's above the national average**. In addition to the three programs that recorded perfect scores, six other GS programs recorded GSRs of 85 or better, including women's basketball (94), women's swimming & diving (94), volleyball (92), men's golf (91), women's soccer (91) and softball (86).

## Facilities

Georgia Southern University new **\$33.6 million Interdisciplinary Academic Building** opens in the 2018-19 academic year. The 110,000-square-foot building on the Statesboro campus is designed to house teaching space for a variety of academic disciplines including interior design, fashion merchandising and apparel design, history, foreign languages, writing and linguistics, and international studies.

---

Construction is underway on the building that will house the **Waters College of Health Professions on the Armstrong Campus** in Savannah. In the **\$22 million state-of-the-art facility**, faculty will teach and train students in health-related fields ranging from nursing to radiology and sonography. Designed to simulate the environment of a hospital or medical facility, it will serve as a model for health care training and help meet regional workforce development needs. The building is scheduled to open in 2019.

---

The **R M Bogan Archaeological Repository** is a new cutting-edge facility that houses Georgia Southern's archaeological collections on the Statesboro Campus. Opened in May 2017 as part of the University's new Central Warehouse, it is **one of the largest archaeological research and curation facilities in the Southeast**. With high-density shelving, climate control, acid-free boxes, electronic access doors and special collections storage units, the Repository allows thousands of artifacts and documents to be kept securely on campus.

---

The **\$9.5 Military Science Building** made its debut during the 2017 spring semester. The 32,000-square-foot facility has classrooms, a state-of-the-art computer lab, conference room with VTC capabilities, 25 Cadre and staff offices, and a 5,000 square-foot multipurpose room for a variety of uses from indoor trainings to events and ceremonies. The building also provides secure storage space for the program's equipment.

---

The **Center for Wildlife Education and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center** on the Statesboro Campus recently celebrated **20 years** in operation. Since its opening, the Center has expanded from 4.5 acres focused primarily on raptors and reptiles to now 18 acres showcasing a waterfowl pond and cypress swamp among other exhibits. The Center supports Georgia Southern University's environmental education programs by providing wildlife outreach, programs, tours and camps.

## Outreach

Bright from the Start has awarded Georgia Southern University's Child Development Center (CDC) the highest possible accolade, a three-star rating, on its quality assessment report, Quality Rated.

Quality Rated is a system to determine, improve and communicate the quality of child care programs in Georgia. The system assigns a quality rating to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. Institutions volunteer to be observed by Quality Rated.

---

Georgia Southern is partnering with the U.S. Air Force to help active-duty, National Guard and reserve personnel pursue education through the General Education Mobile (GEM) program. GEM is a landmark partnership between Air University, the Community College of the Air Force, and civilian academic institutions. Georgia Southern's participation in the partnership makes the University one of only 96 institutions of higher learning where airmen are approved to take classes remotely.

Members of the Air Force, especially those serving in the Georgia Air National Guard, who want to pursue a civilian education in a traditional setting will be able to attend classes at Georgia Southern's campuses located in Savannah, Statesboro and Hinesville,

---

Thousands of people in need of medical care can receive it at no-cost in May 2018 during Operation Empower Health – Greater Savannah, a U.S. Military exercise supported by St. Joseph's/Candler and Georgia Southern University.

Troops from all over the United States will deploy to Savannah and set up medical, dental, vision and veterinary services. This provides valuable training for the military and provide important medical services to those in southeast Georgia who might not otherwise have access.

---

On Saturday, March 3, 2018, nearly 200 Georgia Southern University students, faculty and staff arrived on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah to volunteer for Treasure Savannah, a biannual day of service.

Volunteers boarded buses to 13 service sites throughout Savannah and Hinesville, including Skidaway Island State Park, Keep Savannah Beautiful, Hoofs 4 Healing, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Georgia Regional Hospital, Second Harvest and Liberty County's Humane Shelter and Manna House.

Since Treasure Savannah's inception seven years ago, the Armstrong and Liberty Campus communities have contributed more than 12,000 hours of service to various area nonprofits.

---

The results of the 2017 fourth quarter (Q4) Georgia CEO survey suggested Georgia business leaders' confidence levels had increased significantly since the third quarter survey. The purpose of the survey is to better understand how general business conditions are impacting Georgia CEO subscribers on a quarterly basis. Georgia CEO partners with the Center for Business Analytics and Economic Research (CBAER), formerly the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), a member of the Georgia Southern University College of Business, to prepare, distribute and analyze the survey.

In Q4 of 2017, survey participants showed a significant increase in confidence levels due to a perceived improvement in the overall economy, likely from the prospect of more business-friendly legislation. Looking ahead to Q1 of 2018, participants noted near record or record-breaking levels of optimism driven by the aforementioned factors and the passing of the new tax plan. The survey responses suggest general business conditions are improving across all categories throughout the state in Q1.

---

The Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University and The Orienne Society, a nonprofit organization devoted to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, have announced a partnership. The memorandum of understanding between the University and The Orienne Society is designed to enhance cooperation and further the mission of research and education by both partners.

Georgia Southern University's Department of Biology is the largest center for biology research and education in southern Georgia. Thus, for its part, the department will provide access to state-of-the-art laboratory space and equipment for scientists from The Orienne Society. Access to laboratory facilities will significantly increase the research infrastructure available to The Orienne Society and will facilitate mutually beneficial collaborations with the University's faculty and students. Scientists from The Orienne Society will have the opportunity to work as visiting scholars in the Department of Biology.

Scientists from The Orienne Society will also continue to contribute regularly to the Georgia Southern University herpetology collection, strengthening one of the largest collections of amphibians and reptiles in the Southeast.

## Research

The Georgia Southern School of Nursing has received a \$1.6 million grant to help better prepare students to work in the psychiatric/mental health care field through the new Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program. The BHWET Program supports students in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specialty track of the BSN-DNP program, and aims to develop and expand the behavioral health workforce for rural and medically underserved populations in South Georgia.

---

Jose Sanchez, a graduate student in the Georgia Southern Department of Biology, received a highly competitive National Science Foundation (NSF) fellowship to conduct ecological research at the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve in southern Chile. Sanchez was one of only three students selected to participate after a nationwide search. The fellowship was funded by a NSF International Research Experience for Students grant. The grant, administered by the University of North Texas, is designed to fund interdisciplinary research and biocultural conservation in the world's southernmost forests.

---

Georgia Southern University's School of Nursing received a \$1.3 million federal grant for an Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) project that will create innovative academic-practice partnerships to prepare nurse practitioners for service in rural and underserved communities in Southeast Georgia. The grant will create partnerships between the School of Nursing and five federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) in order to increase the number and readiness of family nurse practitioner (FNP) and psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) students in Georgia.

---

Georgia Southern's College of Science and Mathematics has signed a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow University biology students and faculty to use the Bo Ginn Fish Hatchery as a resource to better understand the future of ecosystems in the southeastern U.S. Most of the experiments at the hatchery will explore the ways rainfall changes due to climate change will affect ephemeral ponds, which are vital habitats for many aquatic species in the region.

---

Georgia Southern Waters College of Health Professions Assistant Professor Tamerah Hunt, Ph.D., has teamed up with researchers from the Seattle Pediatric Concussion Research Collaborative and Seattle Children's Center for Childhood Health, Behavior and Development to develop the program, One Team, which addresses safety and concussion awareness in youth sports. The researchers received a \$1.6 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and implement the program in ages 9-13 youth football and soccer leagues in Puget Sound and southern Georgia.