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GEORGIA SOUTHERN

NEW SUSTAINABILITY CONCENTRATION
50 YEARS OF GOLF
RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ENGINEERING

The new engineering program stands as a milestone achievement in Georgia Southern history.
A team in tune

Besides seeing a return to the triple option, Georgia Southern fans knew things were different when head coach Jeff Monken sent his players across the field to lead the student section in the University Alma Mater after the team’s season-opening 48-3 win over the Savannah State Tigers. Now a post-game tradition, the players and their fellow students join in the song after every home game.

Georgia Southern University’s Eagle Club program brings alumni, Eagle Fund supporters, and friends together at local events to strengthen athletic and academic support for the University. Join us at an Eagle Club event near you!

For event location and details visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/alumni or call 912-GSU-ALUM (478-2586)

No dues are required to join an Eagle Club! The only cost is for each event you attend.
Given the added academic and economic potential it creates, Georgia Southern’s new engineering program stands as a milestone achievement in the University’s history. Classes in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering begin Fall 2011.

**IMAGINATION UNLEASHED 10**
Professor Will McIntosh has fused his understanding of human psychology and his writing talent to craft a major award-winning science fiction short story.

**SUSTAINABILITY 13**
Georgia Southern is going greener with a new academic concentration that provides students with the resources to promote sustainability on a global scale.

**GAME ON 16**
The College of Information Technology’s Game Design concentration is drawing national attention as a Top 50 program by *The Princeton Review*.

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In a milestone event destined to dramatically reshape the future of Georgia Southern, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has approved the University’s proposal for a full stand-alone civil, electrical and mechanical engineering program.

The program creates new academic and economic potential that can significantly raise Georgia Southern’s national visibility. It opens new avenues of research and public service and also means that a greater number of prospective engineers can stay in their home state for training.

The first classes of the new Georgia Southern engineering program begin this fall.
A DEFINING MOMENT

“There are defining moments in the life of every major university,” said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. “The approval to offer engineering degrees at Georgia Southern is definitely one of the most notable in our institution’s more than 100-year history. An adequate supply of engineers is critical not only to the goal of fostering a statewide environment that nurtures high-tech industry, but to the future prosperity of Georgia.”

Prior to the Regents’ approval, the System had only one engineering school and many in-state students were forced to explore out-of-state alternatives.

“We are very grateful for the support that we have received from the Board of Regents, the chancellor and his staff during this entire process,” said Keel.

Preparing the Board of Regents proposal was a marathon process that extended from Statesboro to San Francisco, for Mohammad Davoud, chair of the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, and Brian Vlcek, program coordinator of Mechanical Engineering. The final four days of drafting and tag-team editing across time zones occurred while Vlcek was in California for an engineering conference. He spent most of his time completing the proposal in his hotel room.

“I was extremely excited that the proposal had been approved,” said Vlcek. “This was truly the beginning of a new era in engineering education in Georgia, and in the long term, this is an extremely positive development for our graduates.”

“When we got the vote I had this tremendous feeling of joy and satisfaction and personally felt fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of this. South Georgia will benefit from this vote – students can attend engineering school in their hometown and regional companies could benefit by hiring our graduates,” said Davoud.

The Board’s decision came after an intense coordinated effort by University professors and administrators to propose, review, resubmit the plan, and allay doubts as to the viability of an engineering program at Georgia Southern. The final vote came as an immense relief to all involved.

“At that moment, I was both elated and energized about the opportunities that vote unlocked for our students and faculty,” said Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST) Dean Bret Danilowicz. “Every day since, I have felt honored and fortunate to be among the leaders and administrators that worked for years to position the programs for a seamless transition to engineering.”

“My immediate reaction to the Board’s decision was one of relief and great accomplishment,” said Brian Moore, chair of the Department of Construction Management and Civil Engineering. “My second reaction was the realization that having the Board of Regent’s decision was only the beginning – work would now be needed. The decision signaled the start of a very serious effort to put all the pieces in place so that we can welcome our first class of civil engineering freshmen this fall. Once again, this will be a team effort that will draw on the proven dedication of the civil engineering faculty,” he said.

BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Georgia Southern has been offering nationally accredited baccalaureate degrees in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering technology for more than 30 years. In addition, Georgia Southern has offered the Regents Engineering Transfer Program and Georgia Tech Regional Engineering Program for nearly 20 years. The unique programs have offered students who successfully completed freshman and sophomore level University core and engineering science courses the opportunity to transfer to Georgia Tech to complete their engineering studies.

Georgia Southern’s existing engineering technology programs have seen a steady increase in enrollment in stark contrast to national trends. In addition, the in-state work and technology programs have seen a steady increase in enrollment in stark contrast to national trends. In addition, the in-state work and transfer to Georgia Tech to complete their engineering studies.

Georgia Southern’s new engineering degrees will retain the applied nature of their engineering technology roots, but will allow the University to fulfill its evolving mission of teaching and research,” said Danilowicz.

“These new programs will enable Georgia Southern to not only train engineering graduates that will be in high demand by employers, but it will also allow us to significantly increase our ability to promote and develop the economy of Georgia.”

Engineering explained

The addition of engineering degree programs to the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology in Fall 2011 will build on the solid foundation of the existing Engineering Studies Program, streamlining the courses of study that have been in place for more than two decades.

Graduates of the new mechanical, electrical and civil engineering programs of study on campus will discover that positions in those specialties are near limitless, ranging from small companies to global corporations.

Mechanical and electrical engineers are heavily involved in technology and the introduction of new products and devices, which includes the areas of research, design, manufacturing and the testing process. Mechanical engineers work with devices that require the usage of power, seek ways to problem-solve equipment and make improvements and enhancements.

Careers in this field range from small scale – such as working on the design and manufacture of tools, air conditioners or car engines – to much larger scale, like aircraft. Other industry sectors consistently hiring mechanical engineers vary from oil companies to transportation and even science research.

The career of an electrical engineer revolves around the design and development of countless electronic devices such as power generators, computer and lighting systems and even satellites. Some job opportunities in the field are found in the areas of design, research and software for chemical, power and telephone companies, and computer technology corporations.

Civil engineers design, construct, develop and manage society’s infrastructure, which includes transportation systems like airports, subways, roads and bridges. Civil engineers might also work with buildings, dams, water supply and waste management systems.

Civil engineering requires an advanced level of expertise and requires within this specialty to have consider economic methods of construction, safety construction practices, environmental concerns such as controlling and reducing pollution and hazardous wastes and allowable levels of technology that can be used.
Engineering economics
Over time, Georgia Southern’s new engineering program will have a significant impact on job growth and incomes in southeast Georgia, according to a study by the College of Business Administration’s Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED).

“Historically, more than 70 percent of Georgia Southern engineering graduates stay and work in Georgia,” said Ed Sibbald, interim director of the BBRED. “As such, we would anticipate that many of the graduates of Georgia Southern’s engineering program will remain in this region and contribute to the future growth and development of industry and new jobs for the region.”

The BBRED study projects significant increases in Gross Regional Output, annual impact and student enrollment in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology as a result of the new engineering programs.

**SUPPLY VS DEMAND**
During the past 20 years, the U.S. has not produced enough engineering graduates to meet employment demands. The Engineering Workforce Commission found a 19.8 percent decrease in the number of engineering degrees awarded between 1986 and 1998. During the same period, the total number of college degrees awarded in the U.S. increased by 20 percent.

Similarly, the historic shortfall of engineers within the state of Georgia is projected to continue, as the overall number of engineering graduates has decreased, and the aging engineering workforce continues to retire at a faster rate than can be replaced. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, during the 2008-18 decade, overall engineering employment is expected to grow by 11 percent.

“There is definitely a demand for well-trained engineers with hands-on experience and Georgia Southern University is the perfect place to offer engineering programs,” said State Sen. Jack Hill.

“Georgia companies and those considering Georgia for their manufacturing operations or high-tech businesses continue to need well-trained engineers and supply continues to be an issue. Georgia Southern now joins a select few universities to offer engineering in the state and will help support not only one of the fastest-growing areas in Georgia, but in the country.”

**SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
The addition of engineering programs at Georgia Southern will make an immediate impact on economic development activities in the state. By creating an increased supply of qualified engineering graduates, Georgia companies will have the opportunity to attract, hire and retain entry-level engineers that meet their requirements without having to recruit out of state.

Additionally, a review of U.S. Census records reveals that the more engineers working in a state, the wealthier the state. Prior to the Board of Regents’ vote, Georgia had less than a third of the number of public engineering schools found in a typical

Engineering at Georgia Southern University
Annual Gross Regional Output

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<th>$15 million</th>
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Engineering at Georgia Southern University
Student Enrollment Increase

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Industrial potential
Area industries expect Georgia Southern’s engineering program to give them access to additional talent for strengthening their companies.

“Georgia Southern engineering technology graduates are employed by companies across the nation and locally at Great Dane Trailers and the Georgia Ports Authority. One of the two Georgia Ports Authority’s engineers is a Georgia Southern grad, said Danica Grone, manager of port relations. "He manages and implements engineering and construction activities relating to infrastructure improvements required to support the authority’s facilities within the state of Georgia," said Grone. Other duties include providing engineering support to other staff elements as needed.

Mullininx also noted that his company will take a closer look at hiring Georgia Southern graduates in all engineering areas and will consider internships, too, given continued growth in the industry.

Georgia Ports Authority officials are positive about the possibility of hiring additional University graduates from its new engineering program.

Great Dane Trailers, a national company which has begun site work for a new manufacturing facility in Statesboro, is especially pleased about the University’s new engineering programs.

“This will give us access to a broader range of engineering talent,” said Rick Mullininx, vice president of engineering at Great Dane. "We employ 77 engineers within the company in such areas as production engineering, structural design and evaluation and manufacturing engineering.” Georgia Southern employees work in design engineering and CATIA software implementation, he added.

Mullininx also noted that his company will take a closer look at hiring Georgia Southern graduates in all engineering areas and will consider internships, too, given continued growth in the industry.
Behind the scenes

The days leading up to last fall’s University System Board of Regents’ vote on expanding the state’s engineering programs were consumed with an all-out round-the-clock series of proposals and problem-solving sessions. The Georgia Southern team that orchestrated the final push for approval included, l-r, engineering professor Brian Vlcek, President Brooks Keel, engineering professor Normal Das, Construction Management and Civil Engineering Department Chair Brian Moore, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department Chair Mohammed Davoud, Associate Dean of COST Shahnam Navaee, Mohammed Davoud, Civil Engineering Department Chair Brian Moore, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department Chair Mohammed Davoud, Associate Dean of COST Shahnam Navaee.

In recent years, Georgia Southern has found its niche in research that yields advanced, yet practical results. Faculty and students — including those at the undergraduate level — engage in projects that offer hands-on training and produce real-world applications that positively impact the economy at state and regional levels and beyond.

The pursuit for external funding is highly competitive, but close partnerships with nearby industries such as small engine manufacturer Briggs & Stratton and heavy equipment manufacturer JCB, have provided Georgia Southern unique opportunities that are essential to building a renowned applied engineering program. Vice President for Research Charles Patterson said the University System of Georgia’s approval to offer baccalaureate degrees in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering will bring greater visibility to the University’s research mission.

“The immediate impact of these programs, however, will be the benefits afforded our students, economic development for the region and the workforce development for industries within the state of Georgia. These programs will enhance our ability to produce highly skilled and work-ready students,” said Valentin Soloiu, head of Georgia Southern’s Renewable Energy and Engines Lab.

“Engineering is an applied discipline, so collaboration is essential to providing opportunities for student learning and faculty research,” he said. “The benefit is two-fold: we are not only providing companies with practical solutions to problems they may not have the manpower to solve, but also supplying the workforce with more skilled engineers.”

Existing labs offer students a unique opportunity to be involved in the entire research process. They are testing biofuels, building solar panels, working with industry representatives, and publishing peer-reviewed articles.

“Our students are involved in intense research with cutting-edge equipment. When they graduate, they are not only able to recognize instrumentation — they have probably worked with more advanced technology than most manufacturers possess,” said Soloiu’s lab, where students test the effectiveness of biofuels in various types of engines generously provided by Briggs & Stratton and JCB. The lab — a perfect example of collaborative research — utilizes cutting-edge technology and yields solutions that positively impact both students and industry.

“A master’s student studying engineering management, Harp has participated in every aspect of research, from building equipment and taking measurements to managing project budgets and supervising undergraduates. The Thomaston, Ga., native said his experience has been invaluable because good engineers should do more than just design — they should be able to speak the same language as the users. The best engineer can talk to the user, examine the equipment and produce a solution. My experience here at Georgia Southern will make me more prepared for my career,” he said. “What we do in the labs here at Georgia Southern bridges the gap between blackboard engineering and real-world engineering.”
McIntosh, winner of a Hugo Award—science fiction’s equivalent of the Oscars—has seen the momentum of his popularity build since last May, when he received a Reader’s Award for his work “Bridesicle” from Asimov’s Science Fiction for best short story. Following that honor, he was named a finalist for the Nebula Award, which is a prelude to the Hugo.

The Hugo Awards are reader-driven, with five writers eligible for nomination per World Science Fiction Society (WSFS) member in 15 categories. The final ballots list the top five nominees, which are then voted on by several thousand members. The awards are named after Hugo Gernsback, the founder of Amazing Stories, a science fiction magazine that he launched in 1926, which introduced the popular genre to the public.

The Hugos are awarded annually at the World Science Fiction Convention (WorldCon), a festive weeklong gathering where costumed members participate in masquerade balls, learn to speak Klingon, and attend readings by authors. “It is very exciting and welcoming, and the members are warm and clannish,” said McIntosh.

He had not even planned to attend the awards ceremony, but at the urging of his family, he traveled on a 35-hour, one-way flight to Melbourne, Australia. To his surprise, when he arrived, he discovered that he was the only nominated short story writer in attendance at the ceremony. When the master of ceremonies announced his name, McIntosh was astounded. “I was stunned! I thought, ‘Nobody knows me. I’m from Statesboro, Georgia, and I’ve only published 40 stories,’” he said.

“TOMBSIES” CAME TO MACON LAST FALL AS FILM SHOOTING WRAPPED UP ON A MOVIE BASED ON A WILL MCINTOSH SHORT STORY, “FOLLOWED.”

Directed by University alumnus James Kicklighter (’10), the movie is about a college professor whose idyllic world is threatened when a zombie child enters his life. The theme of the story is about people who suffer while being exploited for profit, said McIntosh.

The film features actors Erryn Arkin, Edith Ivey, Sylvia Boykin and newcomer Abigail de los Reyes.

“For me, this story deals with the implications of immortality. What would happen if we lived forever?”

>> Will McIntosh

The futuristic tale, initially published in Asimov’s Science Fiction, successfully merges the worlds of psychology and

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The futuristic tale, initially published in Asimov’s Science Fiction, successfully merges the worlds of psychology and
McIntosh really became serious about his first story was finally published, and Twenty stories and 88 rejections later, “he revealed. “I started writing every evening from 7 p.m. to midnight,”

McIntosh’s interest in writing in the Social Sciences (CLASS). Always an avid science fiction reader, as well as McIntosh’s research on relationships. “Bridesicle,” details the story of Mira, who is one of the thousands of cryogenically frozen occupants of a dating center. The deceased are briefly revived by male visitors for short conversations to determine if they can find a compatible mate. Over a span of more than a hundred years, Mira is revived by several different dates before she is permanently brought back to life.

Long before he entertained the idea of writing science fiction, McIntosh earned his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and joined GeorgiaSouthern’s faculty in 1990. For the past four years, he has coordinated the University’s Master of Science in psychology program, and published more than 30 journal articles, with research focusing on happiness and goals, Internet dating and relationships, and the psychological aspects of film and television. In 2002, McIntosh received the Award of Distinction in Teaching from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS).

“Are you having trouble?” He reached out and stroked her hair. “You have to press down with your back teeth to control the air flow. Didn’t they show you?”

“There was an air flow - a gentle breeze, whooshing up her throat and out her mouth and nose. It tickled the tiny hairs in her nostrils. She hit down, and the breeze became a hiss - an exhale strong enough that her chest should drop, but it didn’t, or maybe it did and she just couldn’t tell because she couldn’t lift her head to look. Where?” Mira said, and then she howled in terror because her voice sounded horrible - deep and hoarse and hollow, the voice of something that had pulled itself from a swamp. “It takes some getting used to. Am I your first? No one has revived you before? Not even for an orientation?” The notion seemed to please him, that he was her first, whatever that meant. Mira studied him, wondering if she should recognize him. He preyed at her attention, as if expecting Mira to be glad to see him. He was not an attractive man - his nose was thick and bumpy, and not in an aristocratic way. His nostrils were like a bull’s; his brow Neanderthal, but his mouth dainty. She didn’t recognize him. “Can’t move. Why can’t I move?” Mira finally managed. She looked around as best she could. “It’s okay. Try to relax. Only your face is working.”

“Where-” Mira said, and then she coughed, and a cough, and then she breathed deeply. “I can’t move. Why can’t I move?” Mira finally managed. She looked around as best she could. “It’s okay. Try to relax. Only your face is working.”

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“I love doing it – I can write for eight hours at a time, and never get tired of it.”
The campus is now able to reduce its water usage by 30,000+ gallons every day.
Another computer science major, Jake Elliot, remembers gaming from a very early age. “I learned to count coins on a Mario Brothers game when I was in kindergarten,” he said.

“Game programming is a ‘hot area,’” said Bradford. “It’s a mainstay of the industry and Georgia Southern’s game design program is one of only a few offered in the state of Georgia, and it is ranked one of the ‘Top 50 Game Design’ programs by The Princeton Review. Space Dodge is one example of many games designed by students in the programming lab located in the College of Information Technology.

“New games cost nearly $20 million dollars for a corporation to develop, so large teams including specialists, artists, sound engineers, designers and composers are needed. Our students will have the gaming development knowledge to work for one of these corporations when they receive this certificate,” he said.

“Gaming is such a powerful experience, and it’s moving from entertainment to education,” said Bradford. In fact, he has merged his extensive knowledge in game development with his interest in the field of healthcare IT to create an interactive game that would help diabetic children take care of themselves. Bradford has the support of a local nurse and physician who will assist him with medical terminology, and he plans to bring this concept to the classroom as well. “I have introduced this project to my students, so they can assist me in the game design,” he said, speaking about the positive experience they will gain from working on development.

Bradford’s concept is only one of many new components introduced to CIT’s game design track, revealing the future of game programs at Georgia Southern, and with the expansion of the gaming industry and development of new technologies, he hopes to see the University’s gaming certificate grow into a graduate program.

“Game programming is only going to gain in popularity,” agreed Harris. “The structure of our programs continues to get better as we go along.” — Mary Beth Spence
Building a Better Professor

Center leads international effort to improve teaching and learning

Very few professors are born great teachers. College faculty have detailed and highly specialized knowledge, but successfully imparting that knowledge to students usually comes with years of trial and error. Couple a professor’s difficult teaching schedule with the demands of research, publishing and service, and the frustration can be overwhelming.

“In higher education, we often assume that because a person has extensive knowledge on a subject, they naturally have the skills to teach it, but that’s not the case,” said Alan Altany, director of Georgia Southern’s Center for Teaching, Learning and Scholarship (CTLS). “Very few non-education-related graduate programs offer courses about teaching, and practical internships aren’t readily available for aspiring professors,” he explained. “Centralized professional faculty centers should fill this void, but we must go beyond workshops and truly foster faculty work to effectively teach learners in their classrooms.”

Formerly known as the Center for Excellence in Teaching, the CTLS has grown exponentially in the past five years. Altany said the name change represents a full transformation from faculty resource center into an international leader for the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The Center has established peer-to-peer programs, such as interdisciplinary faculty learning communities. In each community, faculty team up for an entire academic year to study a given topic, utilize their findings in their classrooms, and share the results with their colleagues.

“What we found is that a project will often spin beyond itself so many others can learn from it,” Altany said. “Faculty members benefit from the teams conclusions, but we see further impact from bringing together people from different disciplines who would not normally interact. They form connections that strengthen the University as a whole, much like the united limbs and roots of a banyan tree,” which is the Center’s logo.

Roundtables allow faculty to read and discuss books, and academic and creative writing circles provide peer feedback, editing support and more. Regardless of the program or group, the primary goals are to facilitate faculty interaction, encourage sharing best practices, and foster lasting relationships that provide support and learning opportunities.

“I think most faculty want to be good teachers; they possess a love for their discipline and a desire to guide students. But much has been discovered in recent decades about the how and why of student learning,” Altany said. “Our center serves Georgia Southern’s faculty by reigniting their passion and regenerating their skills to keep alive the inner fire they had when they first became teachers.”

Much like the Banyan tree’s expansive canopy, a new passion for the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) has extended far beyond its initial roots. In March 2011, the CTLS hosted the fourth annual SoTL Conference, attracting an international array of presenters and scholars. Altany said the event serves as a catalyst for conversations and collaborations about improving learning outcomes in higher education. Additionally, the CTLS’ International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning is an open, peer-reviewed international electronic journal containing articles, essays and discussions about the scholarship of teaching and learning and its practical applications for improving student learning in higher education.

“Our center serves Georgia Southern’s faculty by reigniting their passion and regenerating their skills to keep alive the inner fire they had when they first became teachers.”

Alan Altany

Chemistry professor Laura Frost, a member of the journal’s editorial board who has been involved in many of the Center’s other programs, said Georgia Southern has gained national attention regarding SoTL.

“Georgia Southern’s faculty serves as a regional resource center, but reaches far beyond,” she said. “When I attend conferences related to my discipline, people who hear I’m from Georgia Southern automatically make a connection to the scholarship of teaching and learning.”

Altany said his goal for the CTLS is to become a leader and national resource center for other faculty enrichment programs. “Georgia Southern, by capitalizing on the wisdom and strength of its own faculty, is poised to lead the international SoTL movement,” Altany said. “We can transform the academic culture by uniting teachers here, and around the world, and as a result, faculty will no longer be isolated, but rejuvenated. Students become curious learners. And America, as a whole, benefits from a more educated population.”

Jennifer Tanner
GRACEFUL GIVING

Human or beast, those in need find compassion from retired professor

For Lynda Hamilton, retirement has turned out to be less an ending than a chance to start anew.

“I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement,” said Hamilton, who taught University classes in business law and international trade. “When you close that door on what you’ve done in the past and then a whole new life opens up, you think, ‘Oh, this is just marvellous!’

“I have four animals, two of which I adopted from the Humane Society,” said Hamilton, “my little beagle, Violet; Baby Jack, my orange cat – he was tiny when he came home and he is enormous now; and two other little cats who showed up in my azaleas. You know how people will drop cats off at farmhouses.” And then there’s her second in command of the farmyard, Sophie the border collie. “Sophie and I preside over the four adoptees, a rooster named Romeo, and a tiny flock of chickens that we just love,” she said. “I fear I have more eggs than I have friends!”

That’s a lot of eggs, because Hamilton has no lack of friends or interests, which range from traveling to studying orchids to economic development to community service.

“I really enjoy what little bit I do with the Humane Society,” she said. “I don’t do as much as I’d like, but I am active with it. I feel such satisfaction that some animals are saved. You feel so horrified at the condition you find some animals, but on the other hand you know that you can work toward spaying and neutering and finding homes for a lot of abandoned dogs and cats.”

She is also active in helping to improve the lot of her fellow humans. “I belong to Altrusa, a service organization here in Statesboro that raises funds so we can give money and otherwise support different local organizations that we think do wonderful work,” said Hamilton. “The projects are serious and we really do raise a lot of money. I think Altrusa is a lovely blend of getting together with friends, enjoying them, and then doing something worthwhile for the community.

“Something that I think I’m as proud of as anything in Statesboro – and all I do is give a little money and some magazines – is the Boys and Girls Club,” she said. “I just can’t get over this beautiful facility where young folks are encouraged to take pride in themselves, meet the public well, and study hard.”

Hamilton has always enjoyed travel. When she was teaching, she made time to study the local cultures, flora and fauna, but most often was engaged in economic development projects for local exporters. Now she combines her appreciation of orchids with that of travel, taking recent trips to China, Ecuador and Newfoundland. She’s planning her fourth journey to Singapore to the International Orchid Conference next year, she said.

“Ever since I was a little girl I thought orchids were gorgeous, and as I got to be an adult I tried to do a little bit with them,” Hamilton said. “When I was named director of Georgia Southern’s Center for International Business Education, a friend of mine, Patricia Saseen, gave me a pot with great sprays of little yellow orchids called Oncidiums or ‘dancing ladies’ and I just loved them. She said, ‘Why don’t you go to the orchid society meeting with me one night?’ I did that and before I knew it, I had orchids in every window sill. It quickly got out of hand.”

Soon thereafter, Hamilton’s late husband, Phillips, bought her a hobby greenhouse for the growing collection. “Now, whenever I go somewhere, it is usually a place where I can see orchids in their micro-environments. Orchids are the main thing that drives my international traveling. If someone has the phrase ‘orchid tour’ in their information, I like to say, ‘Put me down!’”

“I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement. When you close that door on what you’ve done in the past, a whole new life opens up.”

Lynda Hamilton
Extremely Helpful

Frank Hook knows there are times you just can’t beat “old school.”

Like the time he watched Erk Russell scratch out the initial floor plan for a weight room on the practice field dirt for visiting architects. Or more recently, as Hook took time to scratch out carefully crafted handwritten notes of thanks to people across campus with whom he has shared decades of professional highs and lows.

Hook stepped down from his post as senior director of alumni relations in December, capping 25 years of service to Georgia Southern. He modestly calls his career as recreation director, entrepreneur, basketball official, actor, model, athletics fund raiser and alumni bridge-builder “a wonderful run.” In 2008, he was named the College of Health and Human Science’s Alumnus of the Year. He’s even had a Facebook page established in his honor, awarding him the unofficial title, “Mr. GSU.”

But the title he’s most proud of is “friend.”

“I’ve been blessed to have worked with people and the many friendships will be the greatest thing I can take with me,” Hook said. “I’ve dealt with all ages and have watched lives progress. Helping people was my greatest joy and making friendships with alumni of all ages.”

“Frank Hook is truly one of my closest friends and one that I know I could call on for anything at any time and he would be there for me and I know that he could call on me as well,” said past Alumni Association President Mike Cummings. “Frank quietly does many behind-the-scenes projects without fanfare or calling attention to himself.”

John Conley `89 has also personally witnessed Hook’s selflessness. He got an e-mail from a childhood friend in financial trouble – someone Hook knew from his days with the Statesboro Recreations Department. “I knew Frank would know him so I let him know of our mutual friend’s situation,” said Conley. “Frank, even with all of his duties at Southern, made efforts to reach out through phone calls and e-mails and was even willing to meet our friend, too. Frank kept me abreast and went way beyond a mere token gesture of assistance. This person couldn’t really offer Frank anything at the time. A donation to the school? No. Any hope of that in the near future? No. Maybe never. That was selfless and I’m grateful for what he did.”

“When I think about Frank Hook, I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes,” said alum- nus Terry Harvin. “That is, ‘Little things don’t mean a lot – they mean everything.’ Frank is in- credibly organized. He pays attention to detail. He always does the little things like handwrit- ten notes or just making sure he speaks to everyone and introduces himself to people he doesn’t know. I’ve learned so much from Frank.”

“Anybody associated with Georgia Southern the last 25 to 30 years has had some contact with Frank,” said Cummings. “He is involved with so many areas of the University that his path touches people in every area not just athletics and alumni events. When people think of Georgia Southern football they will always think of Erk Russell but when they think of Georgia Southern College and Georgia Southern University they will always think of Frank Hook.”
When Chris Clark first sat behind the president’s desk at the Georgia Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 1, 2010, he felt, in many ways, that his career had come full circle.

Although the Georgia Southern Alumnus left behind a gubernatorial appointment as commissioner for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to take over as president and CEO for the Georgia Chamber, his first efforts as a business advocate began in 1997 as president of the Hawkinsville, Ga., Chamber of Commerce. But his roots in public service run even deeper.

Clark said it was during his term as Student Government Association (SGA) president at Georgia Southern when he found his calling. “My parents taught me as a child to approach life with a servant’s heart, but these lessons were crystallized when I was at Georgia Southern,” said Clark, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Oklahoma. “We plan to work with business owners and elected officials to make the state of Georgia more competitive by pushing for leadership in transportation, education, tax policy, natural resources and all other areas.”

Clark said that when he looks back over the years, he can see God during every step laying the groundwork for this new stage in his career. “Georgia Southern exposed me to so many different ways to serve,” Clark said. “With each new endeavor, I carry with me the lessons and experiences from Georgia Southern, which make me a better public servant and leader.”

Clark frequently returns to campus to fulfill his new role as a member of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Advisory Committee. He lives in Fayetteville, Ga., with Tiffany, his wife of nine years, who works as a producer for Atlanta-based cable channel GNC-TV. They have a 4-year-old son, Christian, who loves Georgia Southern football. They have a 4-year-old son, Christian, who loves Georgia Southern football.

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Ted Moore

NEW PROVOST JOINS GEORGIA SOUTHERN
APRIL 1

W. Ted Moore will join Georgia Southern as its new provost and vice president for academic af-
fairs on April 1. As the University’s top academic
administrator, Moore is charged with overseeing
and advancing the interests of undergraduates,
graduate, and professional education on campus.

He comes to Georgia Southern from the Uni-
versity of South Carolina (USC), where he served
as vice president of finance and planning and
chief financial officer. During his distinguished
24-year career at USC, Moore also served as in-
terim provost and executive vice president for
academic affairs, vice president for planning,
vice provost for academic affairs, and associate
provost for budget and operations.

As he prepared to assume his role as provost,
Moore offered some thoughts on the task ahead.

“My impression of the institutional culture – its soul, if you will – is well-reflected in some words that appear in the strategic plan: Integrity, Civility, Kindness.”

TED MOORE

GS: As a candidate, and based on the inter-
view process, what were some of your
impressions of Georgia Southern?

MOORE: “Georgia Southern is a gem. My impression of the institutional culture – its soul, if you will – is well reflected in some words that appear in the strategic plan: Integrity, Civility, Kindness. These are more than words. They are core values that have guided and will guide us, even through difficult times. As I walked the campus and spoke with students, staff and faculty on my interview trip, it became clear that these values are truly embraced by all.

In terms of the learning environment, I was struck by the “large scale, small feel” of the campus. The University is student-centered and has a strong ethos that em-
phasizes dedicated teaching. I sense our students and alumni recognize, value and appreciate our strongly dedicated faculty. The University is maneuvering already to expand its mission of research and scholar-
ship. Significant discoveries by our fac-
ulty, students and alumni are capturing national attention: e.g., Camp Lawton (ar-
chaeological study of a Civil War stockade near Millen, Ga.). And with respect to the physical infrastructure, it is evident that Georgia Southern is a planned community that has had much attention devoted to keeping it well-maintained, safe and con-
ducive to our mission.”

GS: What are some goals and initiatives
you have in mind for the University?

MOORE: “Six years ago, when I was
invited to move from faculty to uni-
versity administration at South Carolina, I
met with my predecessor, an associate
provost named John, on a number of oc-
casions. Most of our meetings were about
learning the ropes and how to get things
done at the university. But one day, in a
philosophical mood, John said to me, “You
know, the job of university administrators
is to assemble the resources that allow us
to bring faculty and students together so
that magic happens.” I adopted John’s un-
forgettable words as a guiding principle.

GS: What makes you passionate about
higher education?

MOORE: “The aspects of higher educa-
tion that attract me would also guide me
in choosing another profession. I would
enjoy working in finance, helping to build
commerce by assembling capital to fund
investment. Help firms grow and prosper,
thereby producing jobs and careers.”

GS: Do you have any job outside of
higher education, what would that be?

MOORE: “I read history, science, biog-
raphies, economics and finance, and occa-
sionally philosophy. My wife Linda and I
enjoy spending time aboard our boat. We
don’t fish – we delight in the natural beauty
of rivers, marshes and the sea. We also en-
joy going to concerts from classical to pop,
and reading, and travel. These experiences
have enriched me in numerous ways, and among them is in giving me an appreciation for the perf-
foming arts.”

GS: If you had one bit of advice for
Georgia Southern undergraduates, what
would that be?

MOORE: “Stretch yourselves by ven-
turing into unexplored territory. Now is
the time in life to do this. Participate in study abroad. Learn another culture, an-
other language.”
of the students we accept decide to attend Georgia Southern is campuses in the United States. The fact that nearly 70 percent President Brooks Keel. “Georgia Southern provides its stu-
campus-based programs in education, non-profit corporation established to ac-
cept to attend Georgia Southern is a testament to the greatness of this University.”

Georgia Southern ranks third in accepting students from 98 countries. The University once

fall semester enrollment with 19,691 students, a 3.2 percent increase from fall 2009. Georgia Southern’s student body includes students from 49 U.S. states and from 98 countries. The University once again set a new record for graduate en-
rollment. Students pursuing a master’s, specialist or doctorate degree totaled 2,647. Georgia Southern’s first Ph.D.

A planned expansion of recreation of-
fers for a growing student enrollment is underway at Georgia Southern following the purchase of 167 acres by the Georgia Southern University Housing Foundation, a non-profit corporation established to ac-
quire and develop real estate.

the land, located adjacent to the Meadow

Lake subdivision in Statesboro, will allow the University to provide additional

FALL SEMESTER 2009 SEEKS RECORD ENROLLMENT

at Georgia Southern, leading to the inaugura-
tion of a Laboratory of Robotics and Autonomous Systems. The Research Center has also

for being the most advanced robot in the

The team was equipped with a set of sensors to detect a sound alarm for a fire in a house, garage or car; search for a water source and extinguish the fire; and navigate obstacles.

Georgia Southern competed against 120 other teams from around the globe, with an-
cluding China, Israel, Indonesia, Portugal, Korea, Canada and the United States. Students also placed fourth in an au-
 awarded first place in the Ex-

the 17th annual International Fire-

fighting Robotic Contest at Trinity College in Hart-
ford, Conn. The University’s team is composed of mechani-
cal and electrical engineering technol-

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fighting Robotic Contest at Trinity College in Hart-
ford, Conn. The University’s team is composed of mechani-
cal and electrical engineering technol-

University’s team is composed of mechani-
cal and electrical engineering technol-

Georgia Southern’s robotics team was awarded first place in the Ex-

Western intelligence systems.
ATHLETES WORK THEIR BODIES HARD TO GAIN A COMPETITIVE EDGE—SOMETIMES TOO HARD.

Two University professors are conducting a series of studies aimed at pinpointing the effects of overtraining by athletes, including ways that coaches can maintain optimal training regimens in all sports areas. Department of Health and Kinesiology graduate director Jim McMillan, and fellow exercise science professor Stephen Rossi, are investigating a variety of issues including recovery time, along with perceived stress and recovery state to determine how an athlete’s performance is affected. “The objective of our research is to determine what coaches can do to adjust training and recovery schedules for athletes. We have to make sure athletes have enough recovery time in order for them to have an optimal performance,” said McMillan.

The Human Performance Laboratory in Hanner Fieldhouse is getting its own workout by student-athletes from a range of sports including tennis, basketball, swimming and soccer. The lab houses equipment used for fitness evaluations, body composition assessments and exercise biochemistry. Some machines measure simple body weight. Others include sophisticated and technical devices such as a Bod Pod body composition assessment system and a GE Lunar DEXA, used to measure bone density.

The equipment assesses a variety of the body’s physiological aspects and is extremely beneficial to the lab’s ongoing research efforts, but McMillan and Rossi have added another component to their studies: the perceived stress and recovery of training on athletes. Athletes are given surveys to complete, which are analyzed to help determine possible sources of stress and use of recovery strategies.

The art of conditioning the body is just that – an art, they said. Athletes often push their bodies to their limits in the belief that working harder will lead to improved performance. Just the opposite is true, however. Insufficient recovery time leads to injuries, and with continuous and accelerated training schedules, the results can be disastrous. Not only can athletes become physically exhausted, but certain psychological factors emerge: loss of concentration, lower self-esteem, distractibility and elevated stress levels, all of which can negatively affect performance.

Rosso explained the steps and methodology of research. “This is a very comprehensive look at stress and recovery. For example, we track an athlete’s training frequency per week to see if there are similar trends between the training load and the perceived stress and recovery, and how the athletes adapted,” he said.

One example of a sport specific performance test, which assesses the amount of force a swimmer can produce from a stationary position. “The force device is attached to a non-elastic tether belt attached to the swimmer using a belt. The athlete performs a maximal effort freestyle stroke for 30 seconds,” said McMillan, with the results from the force transducer transmitted to a computer with appropriate software for analysis.

Another piece of equipment used by researchers is a set of electric timing gates that measure the sprint times of athletes. “This set contains four different parts, and measures the athletes as they complete each portion of the 40-yard distance. This is more accurate than using a stop watch,” said McMillan.

The Human Performance Lab is a revolving onsite teaching tool for undergraduates and graduate students, and McMillan foresees significant opportunities that will maximize the performances of student-athletes. “We have a great collaboration with the sports teams and coaches,” said McMillan, and he hopes that future advancements in the lab will include testing athletes in other sports, and the addition of new types of equipment.

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

University researchers study balance of athletic training vs. recovery

For thousands of rural Georgians, getting preventive care or primary, dental or mental health treatment is simply not an option.

The prescription? Georgia Southern is establishing the Rural Health Research Institute in an effort to address pressing health problems that compromise the well-being of thousands of people in southeast Georgia.

“Georgia Southern University is committed to research that will improve the lives of those in southeast Georgia,” said University President Brooks Keel. “There are many people in this area who do not receive the health care they need for a variety of reasons. Our region of the state is located in a federally designated Health Professionals Shortage Area and surrounded by 21 counties that are classified as being in ‘rural persistent poverty.’” Keel said. “There is no question that the need for Georgia Southern is uniquely poised to become the leader in rural health research in Georgia and the United States.”

The Rural Health Research Institute will be made up of current Georgia Southern researchers and new faculty research hires from various fields whose mission will be to find ways to reduce health disparities and improve the outcomes of patients in rural areas. The researchers will come from many areas of the University, including various departments of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (IPHCOHP), the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), and the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS).

Bringing faculty members from different disciplines together to work in one area of research was one of the goals Keel set for the University when he assumed its presidency last year.

“Each of these researchers will bring a unique set of qualifications to the Rural Health Research Institute that will be incredibly valuable as they find ways to tackle this multi-faceted problem,” said Keel.

As a part of the initiative, the University will hire a cluster of two professors and three associate professors with expertise in rural health research and a track record of securing research funding to enhance the research capacity of the Institute.

“By bringing this team of researchers together, Georgia Southern will advance research that we believe will make life better for thousands of people who are vulnerable and underserved,” said University Vice President for Research Charles Patterson. “Rural communities face unique health challenges. We believe it is important to look at more than just the health care system, but to also research the patients’ physical and emotional needs and how they can be better served by reducing barriers to health care in their communities.”

The Institute is the result of a faculty-driven cluster hiring proposal selected by Keel to bolster the research endeavors of the University. The Institute initiative is being led by directors from each of the colleges connected by the Institute: psychology professor Bryant Smalley from CLASS and public health professor Jack Cobb Warren of JPHCOPH will serve as co-executive directors, and nursing professor Elaine Marshall from CHHS will serve as the director of faculty and student engagement. “The Rural Health Research Institute will combine strengths from across the University to address dire health problems seen both in our area and in rural areas throughout the country,” said Smalley. Warren added “the health needs of rural residents are so profound that the University’s support of the Institute will make a tremendous impact in many people’s lives.”
Eagle golf program is a perennial contender at age 50.

“The most fascinating things about golf is how it reflects the cycle of life. No matter what you shoot, the next day you have to go back to the first tee and begin all over again and make yourself into something.”

Peter Jacobsen

Tee Time

The name of the first Georgia Southern Eagle to strike a ball in intercollegiate golf competition is lost to history, but 50 years ago his drive sent one of the nation’s most successful programs soaring. The University’s first golf team was formed in 1961 with George Cook as its coach, and it played as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) through 1967. In 1968, the program joined the NCAA and spent four seasons, 1968-71, in the College Division (now Division II) where they enjoyed considerable success. Eagle golfers finished second in the nation in 1970 and eighth in 1971.

In the fall of that year, all Georgia Southern teams made the jump to Division I. Today, there are 303 NCAA Division I colleges fielding men’s golf programs and the Eagles are a perennial contender for postseason play. The team capped its 2009-10 season with its 19th overall NCAA Championship appearance and a Top 30 finish. Since joining Division I, it has made 14 championship appearances as a team, and five golfers have competed for individual honors in the championship round.

The program has produced notable touring pros, including Gene Sauers, Jodie Mudd, Mike Donald, Blake Adams, Steve Ford, Richie Bryant, Aron Price and the late Jimmy Ellis. Numerous former Eagles make their livelihoods as club pros while others have entered the coaching ranks, such as University of Florida head coach Buddy Alexander and Georgia Tech assistant coach Christian Newton.

Numerous former Eagles make their livelihoods as club pros while others have entered the coaching ranks.

Frank Radovich took over the program in 1962, was succeeded by Paul Carr, then Ron Roberts, Buddy Alexander, Doug Gordin, Drew Pittman, John Laird, and current head coach Larry Mays.

Gordin, now head coach at Florida Southern, led the Georgia Southern program for 13 years, 1982-95. He coached two PGA players, Mudd and Sauers, took the Eagles to four conference championships and six runner-up titles, coached five Golf Coaches Association of America All-Americans, and was named the NCAA South District Coach of the Year and conference Coach of the Year an unprecedented four times.

“One of the most fascinating things about golf is how it reflects the cycle of life. No matter what you shoot, the next day you have to go back to the first tee and begin all over again and make yourself into something.”

Peter Jacobsen

Opposite page bottom, Players pass through this gateway on their way to the 25-acre Bennett-Ramsey Golf Center. The first building they reach is the Howard House clubhouse.

Opposite page top, The year, 1962. Arnold Palmer won The Masters and British Open and rookie Jack Nicklaus captured the U.S. Open. It was also the first year an Eagle golf team strode the fairways. Pictured are, l-r, volunteer coach Art Craft; Bobby Jones; Terry Davenport; John Dekle; Andy Pennington; Buddy Varn; and head coach George Cook.
Coach Frank Radovich remembers:

“I first came to Southern in September of 1962 and when I hired on, of course, it was as an instructor and assistant basketball coach. When I go down here, they told me I’d have to coach the golf team. I told them, ‘Listen, I don’t know a thing about golf!’ They told me, ‘That’s alright, because all you have to do is drive them around.’ I said that would be alright.

“It was a non-scholarship program, so players just tried out. We played match play — just played sober schools one-on-one. For example, we played Mercer, Valdosta State, The Citadel and Erskine College.

“We just hopped in my car and went — threw all the golf bags in the back. There were five of us, four players and I would go. They would give me a dozen golf balls for each match. That’s all we provided for the kids. They had their own clubs, their own shoes — I would give them two balls per match.

“Before we’d play a match we’d have a practice session and see who was hitting the ball the best and I would choose the four who would play in that match. When we went on the road, I was reimbursed eight cents per mile. The kids would ask, ‘Where are we eating supper?’ And usually we’d have just enough money and I’d say, ‘Kentucky Fried Chicken. They’d be so happy!’

Walking on...

For Andy Pennington there were no coaches competing for his collegiate golf skills, no letter of intent awaiting his signature — just a notice tucked to a bulletin board.

Pennington was a talented young golfer, but he hadn’t figured on playing at the collegiate level. In 1964, he and some friends were sitting around their dorm when someone mentioned that they had seen a notice seeking men who would be interested in starting a Georgia Southern golf team. He and a handful of others jumped at the chance.

“George Cook was the coach,” Pennington said, and the program operated on a shoestring budget of about $400. “None of us that I know of were on the school’s athletic scholarship. ‘As far as I know,’ he said. ‘Truth is, we pretty much footed the bill ourselves.’ He recalls that the players paid for gas to travel. They occasionally were given some new golf balls, he said, and were provided with logo golf shirts. “It was just the beginning,” he said, “and we like to think we at least laid the groundwork for

“We bring them in and put them in the system, and make sure you try to nurture that system as best you can,” he said. “Golf is such a different sport. We’re a team, but it’s not like they have to depend on each other to pass the ball or block. If you get one marquee player he raises the bar for everyone around him. If you get two or three really good players you can make a deep run into the national championship. Now that they’ve gone to match play, it opens it up even more for schools like Georgia Southern to make a run at a national title.

“We have had the opportunity to compete at the highest level,” said Mays. “Hey, we are competing against the Floridas, Southern Calis, Tennessee’s and Texases of the world. We’ve actually got winning records at those schools. In the last 10 years, we’ve been to the national championship as a team four times. There’s only 22 schools that have been more times than we have in the whole country, and that’s all Division I.”

“It’s common to find Mays’ squad playing world famous courses every fall. Each season we try to give our players the most experience competing in different areas of the country and world,” Mays said. “As a team, it helps build chemistry and as a program, it affords us the luxury of competing on the best courses against the best collegiate teams.” In 2009, Georgia Southern experienced the different terrains of island play, competing in the Kauai Collegiate Cup in Hawaii. The Eagles tied for first. This fall, they played Scotland’s famed St. Andrews.

Winning is important, said Mays – but there’s more. “We try to do it the right way,” he said. Last year his team won the Grade Point Aver-age Award for University athletics teams. “Our spring GPA was more than 3.5. We had three aca-demic All-Americans and were one of only seven schools in the country that had that many. I take as much pride in that as I do us making it to the national championship,” Mays said. “Not only are we playing good golf, but the kids are getting it done in the classroom. “We’re trying to make sure they’re getting some values in the system while they’re here as well,” he said. “It’s not just all golf. I want them being college students and having a good college expe-rience, but when it is golf time, let’s turn it on and see how good we can be. When they’re in an offi ce talking to a client or co-worker 20 years from now, they’ll have experiences that nobody else has. And that was only because they were college golfers at Georgia Southern University.

“You want them to be good people first, well-rounded students second, and great athletes third. If we can do those three things, when they walk out of here then they’re going to go be suc-cessful at whatever they do.”

Host university for the Chris Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational

The Schenkel E-Z-GO In-vitational, named for the late sportscaster Chris Schenkel, was first held in 1971, and has become one of the na-tion’s most recognized and prestigious collegiate golf tournaments.

Many PGA tour stars have made appearances on the links of Statesboro’s Forest Heights Country Club. Jay Haas, Jerry Pate, Andy North, Bob Tway, Mark Calcavecchia, Gene Sau-ers, Curtis Strange, Robert Wienn, Gary Hallberg, Scott Hoch, Andy Bean, Hal Sutton and Scott Ver- plank are all alumni of the tournament.

So why does the tournament bear the name of Chris Schenkel? The future sportscaster was stationed at Georgia Southern, then-Georgia Teachers College, for nine months during World War II while he participated in a U.S. Army language institute. Some 30 years later, during a chance meeting between Statesboro’s Charles Rob-bins and Schenkel, the famed broadcaster told Robbins of his fond memories of life on campus, residing in Sanford Hall and overlooking Sweetheart Circle.

An avid golfer and member of Forest Heights, Robbins was granted an invitation by Schenkel to attach his name first to a club trophy awarded to the winner of an area high school tournament. In 1971, Schen-kel okayed the naming of the first collegiate tournament at Forest Heights and subsequently made numerous trips back to Statesboro as a participant in its festivities.

The really good golfers that came later on...”

According to the Reflector yearbook, Pennington, Bobby Jones, Terry Davenport, John Dekle and John “Buddy” Varn comprised the team that first year. Other players Pennington recalled during his time at Southern included Al Lasitter, Wright North, Bill Simmons, Sam Shaffer, Ron Slocum and Jimmy Flanders. “One of our big experienc-es was when we played Appalachian State,” said Pennington. “I think they had won the NAA the year before and we actually beat them. Our senior year we beat Kentucky!”

Multi-sport coach Frank Radovich began leading the program in 1962. Pennington recalled, and guided the team for the remainder of his collegiate career.

Pennington, now 68 years of age, is retiring and relocating from Waycross, Ga., to Albany, Ga., after a longtime management career with Stewart Candy Company.

Senior Matt Deal is a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-American Scholar honored for his achievements in the classroom and on the course.

For Andy Pennington there were no coaches competing for his collegiate golf skills, no letter of intent awaiting his signature — just a notice tucked to a bulletin board.

Pennington was a talented young golfer, but he hadn’t figured on playing at the collegiate level. In 1964, he and some friends were sitting around their dorm when someone mentioned that they had seen a notice seeking men who would be interested in starting a Georgia Southern golf team. He and a handful of others jumped at the chance.

“George Cook was the coach,” Pennington said, and the program operated on a shoestring budget of about $400. “None of us that I know of were on the school’s athletic scholarship. ‘As far as I know,’ he said. ‘Truth is, we pretty much footed the bill ourselves.’ He recalls that the players paid for gas to travel. They occasionally were given some new golf balls, he said, and were provided with logo golf shirts. “It was just the beginning,” he said, “and we like to think we at least laid the groundwork for
In March 2010, the golf program dedicated the $1.8 million 25-acre Bennett-Ramsey Golf Facility, a practice and meeting complex rivaling that of any collegiate golf program in the nation.

The facility features a team clubhouse, dedicated practice putting green, three-green short-game area, two-tiered practice tee, driving range, and three practice holes. The complex is named in honor of program supporters Christian Bennett and Holmes Ramsey.

The Howard House clubhouse, named in honor of the Arthur Howard family, totals 6,000 square feet and includes coaches’ offices, a locker room, conference room, kitchen, team lounge area, an indoor putting lab, club repair area, computer and study area for student-athletes, and a “Hall of Fame” entryway.

The complex’s three practice holes are designed to be played from multiple tee boxes to maximize the practice facility and allow different yardages to be played. The first hole is a 390-yard, par 4; hole two is a 185-yard, par 3, and the final hole is a 330-yard, par 4. Each green on the practice holes has been designed to have at least three distinct target areas, allowing for different pin locations and making the facility a nine-hole course.

“The Bennett Ramsey Golf Facility and the Howard House have surpassed all of the dreams that I had for a practice facility here at Georgia Southern,” said head coach Larry Mays. “We are so lucky to have such great support from our boosters, the community and our athletic administration to produce such a beautiful facility. The results of all of the hard work are apparent both by the players that we have been able to recruit to play for our team and by the ability to develop those players here at the practice facility.”

The facility also includes the 3,000-square-foot Talmadge House which holds the superintendent’s office, a classroom and a storage area. Maintenance at the complex is conducted in conjunction with Ogeechee Technical College and its turf grass degree program, allowing students to benefit from hands-on experience on an actual golf course.

Top-flight

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Specializing in the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction
Tara Chaisson
Women’s Soccer, 1996-99
Chaisson was named South ern Conference Player of the Year in 1999 and was a four-time member of the All-SoCon Team. She was So Con Freshman of the Year in 1996 and a NSCAA All-Region second teamer in 1997. Chaisson leads the Georgia Southern and SoCon career record holder for points (161) and goals (59). She assisted on 43 goals in her career, best in the pro gram and third in the SoCon, and holds Georgia Southern’s single-season records for most points with 50 (1998) and most assists with 16 (1998). She was selected in 2008 to the Conference’s Women’s soccer team in recognition of the SoCon’s 25th anniversary of women’s championships.

Pat Douglas
Football, 1982-85, Assistant Coach
First team captain in the mod ern era of Georgia Southern football. Douglas was also the first player to earn a football scholarship. He led the team in interceptions with six and was fourth in tackles with 48. The leader of the “Gnat Pack,” Douglas was the Eagles’ top punt returner with 20 returns for an average of 10.9 yards, breaking number 9. He later joined the coaching staff and served as the secondary coach for three years including the 1998 Eddie Robinson Award winner as 1-AA National Coach of the Year. He went on to be the head coach at Navy for six years, posting a 45-29 record, leading the Midshipmen to bowl games five straight years. He is currently the head coach at Georgia Tech, leading the Yellow Jack ets to the ACC title and an Orange Bowl berth in his second season (2009).

Greg Hill
Football, 1985-1988, Assistant Coach
Hill was quar terback for the 1999 National Champions on the team, leading the squad to back-to-back conference titles in 1998 and 1999. Hill has four of the top 15 single-game rushing performances of all time. He owns the mark for most seasons rushing and passing for more than 1,000 yards in a career for the 1998 and 1999 seasons and holds the Georgia Southern record for the highest average gained per play during the 1999 season with a 9.1-yard average. Hill was a Football Gazette honor able mention for All-America in 1998, a Sporting News third-team All-America selection in 1999, a two-time All-SoCon first team selection (1998, 1999) and was named 1999 SoCon Offensive Player of the Year. After graduation, he served as an assistant coach for Georgia Southern in 2002 and 2003.

Paul Johnson
Football, Assistant Coach/Head Coach
Johnson served as an assistant coach from 1983-86 under the leg en dary Erik Russ ell, starting as defensive line coach and was promoted to offensive coor dinator in 1985. He helped the offense set numerous records, posting a combined 26-4 record from 1985-86 and won the first two 1-AA National Championships in program his tory. Johnson was named head coach in 1997, leading his team to the 1997 PCS playoffs and winning National Champion ships in 1999 and 2000 plus runner-up in 1998. In five years as head coach, he posted a 62-10 record (.861 winning per centage) and won five straight Southern Conference championships. Johnson was named the 1998 Eddie Robinson Award winner as 1-AA National Coach of the Year. He went on to be the head coach at Navy for six years, posting a 45-29 record, leading the Midshipmen to bowl games five straight years. He is currently the head coach at Georgia Tech, leading the Yellow Jack ets to the ACC title and an Orange Bowl berth in his second season (2009).

Stacey Scheible
Women’s Swimming, 1989-95
Arguably the best all-around swim mer in program history, Scheible held Georgia Southern records in each of the four strokes and was beaten only three times in her career. She previously held eight Eagle records, one of which stood for 14 years. She swam a school best 1:06.30 in the 100-yard breast stroke. Scheible was a member of the 200-yard medley relay, 400-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle relay and 800-yard freestyle relays all of which set Georgia Southern records.

Jeff Shireman
Baseball, 1985-1988
Shireman was se lected to the NCAA Coaches All-Re gion team in 1988, the same season he earned Player of the Year honors for the Trans America Athletic Confer ence. He was named to All-TAAC Eastern Division squad twice (1987 and 88) as a middle infielder. He ranks third in career runs scored with 203 and is tied for sec ond in career doubles (61) and has the fourth-longest hitting streak (23 in ’88) in school history. Shireman also stands sixth all-time in games played (229), ninth in at-bats (852), fifth in hits (290) and third in walks (146). He was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1988 and was inducted into the Mason Clements Wall of Fame at Georgia Southern in 2009.

Britta Wilms
Women’s Tennis, 1995-98
A four-year let terman, Wilms was a two-time All Southern Con ference honoree in singles play (1997, 98), received All Conference honors all four years in doubles action, and helped win three SoCon regular season titles and two tournament championships. She was ranked as high as 28th nationally in doubles during the 1996 season and was three-time SoCon champion in doubles. She compiled a 62-12 career record in singles play, 56-5 in doubles action and a per fect 30-0 career Southern Conference mark in singles play and 30-0 in doubles play.
Sidelines
Georgia Southern Eagle Athletics Roundup

Volleyball Scores First NCAA Tournament Berth
The Georgia Southern volleyball team made history – picking up the program’s first set win in NCAA postseason history – but the Eagles couldn’t overcome Florida State’s offensive attack, falling 3-1 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. "I’m proud of our Georgia Southern Eagles," said head coach Chad Callihan. "I thought they came out and played a hard-fought match. We have to give credit to Florida State for their effort this evening."

"Eagles" Said Head Coach Chad Callihan
Eagles, "said head coach Chad Callihan. "I thought they came out and played a hard-fought match. We have to give credit to Florida State for their effort this evening."

FIVE SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

Four Georgia Southern players earned Southern Conference All-Conference and Second Team honors for defense. "We are very excited about this group of young men who will join our program," said Hennon. "Our signees are not only talented players who will make major contributions on the field, they are fine young men who will be outstanding representatives of our program and University."

The 2010 signing class includes: Infielder Tyler Avera (Applying County); catcher Clint Clark (Newnan); pitcher/outfielder Heath Durand (Lakeside-Evans); catcher/infielder Chase Glenn (Lee County); pitcher Sam Howard (Cartersville); infielder Casey Kicklighter (Wayne County); infielder Nick Rau (Thomson); infielder Aubrey Shivers (Charleston County); pitcher Chad Taylor (Dodge County); outfielder Hunter Thomas (Chattahoochee); and pitcher Joe Watkins (Liberty County).

Tennis Inks States No. 9 Senior
Men’s tennis Coach Nick Zieziula has signed Carson Jones to a national letter of intent to enroll at the University and play tennis for the Eagles in the fall of 2011. Jones is currently ranked as the No. 9 senior in Georgia and 177th in the nation. "We are thrilled to announce the addition of Carson to the squad for next fall," said Zieziula. "His attacking game style, along with his relentless work ethic, is going to be a great addition to the program."

Jones is a second-generation Eagles tennis player. His father, Craig, played in 1981 and 1982.

Baseball Attendance Ranks in Top 50
Nearly 53,000 fans walked through the turnstiles at J.I. Clements Stadium last season, which ranks in the top 40 among Division I baseball programs. The Georgia Southern home baseball attendance has ranked in the top 50 in each of the last four seasons.

The Eagles ranked 37th nationally in total home attendance and 39th in average home attendance. Georgia Southern drew 52,488 fans in 32 games for an average of 1,640 a contest. The Eagles recorded the second-best attendance in the history of J.I. Clements Stadium against third-ranked Georgia Tech and drew 2,782 in the first game of a two-game series against the Yellow Jackets on Feb. 23.

The Georgia Southern women’s basketball team earned the program’s 600th all-time victory with a 69-64 overtime home win against Western Carolina in January. "This is an accolade," said Lady Eagle Head Coach Rusty Cram. "You tip your hat to Georgia Southern. Just to think we can get 600, that is a huge milestone for us. My hat’s off to them and my hat is off to all the ladies that have played here in the past that contributed to those 600 wins."
Wild Game Supper

More than 700 University alumni, friends and state officials gathered in February for Georgia Southern’s Wild Game Supper, co-hosted by the Statesboro-Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce, City of Statesboro and Bulloch County and Ogeechee Technical College Foundation. Guests included Gov. Nathan Deal and members of the Georgia General Assembly who met and mingled at the old Railroad Depot at Underground Atlanta.

Upper left, Georgia Speaker of the House David Ralston and Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel
Upper center, Brooks Keel, University First Lady Tammie Schalue, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle
Lower right, Georgia First Lady Sandra Deal, who celebrated a birthday the night of the Wild Game Supper, Gov. Nathan Deal and Brooks Keel
Scholarship supports K-12 science education

Merger the fields of science and education was always a lifelong pursuit and passion for Martha Cain and her late husband, Lee. The professors emeriti of Georgia Southern spent decades sharing their enthusiasm and knowledge of science with hundreds of students, and now their generous contribution has created a lasting legacy for the Georgia Southern University Foundation.

“We always felt strongly that there was a real need for science education,” said Martha, revealing the primary reason for establishing the Lee C. and Martha Toohey Cain Science Education Scholarship in 2004, a fund that enriches the educational experience of students majoring in K-12 science teaching.

The Cains joined the faculty just months apart – Lee in the fall of 1962 as a College of Education (COE) professor, and Martha in January 1963, as the University’s first biochemist. Lee, a native of southeast Alabama, spent many years, like his wife, teaching high school science before arriving at the University. He served as a student/medical tech in the Merchant Marines during World War II, and as education officer in the U.S. Air Force at Lackland during the Korean War. At Georgia Southern, Lee taught secondary education and he was committee chairman during the building campaign for the Paul Carroll building, where the COE was formerly housed. “Lee wrote much of the instruction materials for student teachers. He advised master’s and six-year students in the social sciences,” said Martha.

The couple also shared similar family and educational backgrounds. Both came from a family of educators and cared for younger siblings upon the early passing of parents. After Martha’s parents passed away in 1943, she lived with three brothers – one older and two younger – until her graduation from Georgia Teacher’s College in 1950. Likewise, after Lee’s father passed away, he became head of the household, consisting of his mother and three younger siblings. “We both had many family responsibilities,” said Martha. In addition to the establishment of the Georgia Southern Foundation scholarship, the pair endowed scholarships at Troy University, honoring their mothers who were teachers. The Cains have also endowed scholarships for United Methodist students wishing to become clergy or fulltime Christian workers at Univerzita Matej Bela, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia.

Martha’s teaching career began during her senior year at Redcliffe High School, when she was asked by the principal to substitute as the chemistry teacher for her own class, while the chemistry teacher recovered from a serious illness. At Georgia Teachers’ College, she was further influenced by her mentor, William S. Hanner, revered professor who was chairman of the Division of Exact Sciences and athletics chairman. During a three-year period as an undergraduate at Georgia Teacher’s College, Martha worked as Hanner’s lab assistant. “Mr. Hanner really encouraged me to pursue a career in teaching,” she said.

Martha continued with her studies, earning a master’s degree in 1958 from the University of Colorado, and a doctorate in biochemistry in 1963 from the University of Connecticut. Through the years, she, in turn, has also mentored many students who have served well with their science degrees, pursuing careers in science education, chemistry, medicine, dentistry and nursing.

The Cains legacy of learning and teaching has been extended to this year’s recipient, Kathryn Lanier, a junior chemistry major from Warner Robins, Ga. Lanier is a Science and Mathematics Achievement via Research and Teaching (SMART) scholar. Students in this program are enrolled either in the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program or College of Science and Technology courses. The Cain Scholarship is a bonus for SMART scholars, and Thomas Koballa, dean of the COE and Bret Danilowicz, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, have collaborated to identify science education majors as recipients. Lanier is completing an internship “shadowing” a science teacher at Statesboro High School, and her future educational plans are already in place. “I plan to attend the MAT program at Georgia Southern and then teach chemistry to high school students,” she said. Like Martha, Lanier decided to pursue the sciences after encouragement from her high school chemistry teacher. These women are making a difference in other student’s lives one day at a time, with patience, determination and a desire to share their knowledge in the field of science.

We always felt strongly that there was a real need for science education.”

Martha Cain

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Deserving of honors

As a historian, Hew Joiner knows that conspiracy theories don’t usually pan out— but there are exceptions.

In 2002, a group of Bell Honors Program (BHP, now University Honors Program) graduates secretly planned to seize control of the annual alumni gathering. “The year that Hew Joiner was retiring, there were numerous BHP alums who conspired to hijack the annual alumni get-together and turn it into an event honoring Hew—something he never planned to do,” said Program alumnus Lee Davis. Amid the roasts and toasts offered up that evening, one moment pleased Joiner beyond all the laughter: the unveiling of an academic award in his honor, the Dr. George Hewett “Hew” Joiner, Jr. Scholarship.

“I was very pleased about that,” said Joiner. “A scholarship would have been my pick for memorials because that remains functional at the level that really matters—where students encounter their educators. The students were kind enough to let me set the criteria of selection, and the main criterion is that priority should be given to an international student who needs those funds.”

One of the purposes of the Honors Program is to enrich the mixture of undergraduate students on campus, he said. “But bringing in students from other countries is one way of ensuring that enrichment goes on. It means a lot to me to this day. I take a lot of interest in keeping an eye on the incumbents of that scholarship. I’ve been very pleased with the choices.”

Honors alumnus Todd Deal is a chemistry professor and director of the Office of Student Leadership & Civic Engagement. “I was privileged to be chosen a member of the initial class of 18 Bell Honors Scholars who entered Georgia Southern in the Fall of 1982,” said Deal. “In a conversation many years later with Hew Joiner, he told me how the University administration had approached him with the idea of the program and asked if he would be willing to help create and then lead it. As I recall, Hew’s words were something like—‘There is not a single administrative position on this campus that holds any interest for me … except that one.’ That’s Hew Joiner, always a rebel, but always focused on students and providing the best education possible.

“Over the first three-plus years of my undergraduate career, I was pushed harder than I ever thought possible in a classroom by a cadre of excellent faculty including Hew Joiner,” Deal said. “Those faculty challenged, inspired, and motivated me to explore ideas, to think beyond my world, to look to the wisdom of the ages—to learn and to love learning.”

In addition to continuing his career-long dedication to historical research, Joiner and his wife, Martha, are heavily involved in monitoring populations of rare plants native to the Southeast. The two work as Ogeechee-Canochee riverkeepers and were the first amateurs to serve as “botanical guardians” of a five-mile stretch of land with numerous rare plants and pitcher plant bogs. They visit the site monthly to monitor the land’s use and keep clear of unwanted growth that would shade out the smaller rare plants.

Joiner’s past experiences in historical research were not usually outdoor exercises, so for him, a break with his decades-long habit of spending long hours in archives, libraries and classrooms has been a refreshing change. It has been like a return to the days of his youth when he was an avid camper, he said.

“I have rarely come to enjoy it. I must say I’ve not been bored one split second since I retired.”

“Donations rolled in almost immediately… There was no doubt how much the BHP alumni appreciated Hew” Lee Davis
In Katrina’s Wake
Canney details feats of unsung Coast Guard heroes

Just 10 miles east of the eye of Hurrican Katrina in 20- to 40-foot waves and 80-mile-per-hour winds, fishermen on the Mary Lynn furiously bailed water with five-gallon buckets and prayed for survival as a Coast Guard helicopter pilot and his crew launched an impossible rescue mission. It took more than eight hours for the fearless heroes to save three men from a battered boat that no one expected to survive the storm.

Details of their frightening tale can be found in the opening pages of In Katrina’s Wake by alumnus Donald Canney (’69). Released in September of this year on the fifth anniversary of America’s most devastating natural disaster, Canney’s book follows the unsung heroes of the U.S. Coast Guard during the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Canney’s work is non-fiction, but it packs as much action and suspense as a Dan Brown thriller. It offers exciting, in-depth accounts of the Coast Guard’s extraordinary rescue missions and heroic operations, all based on on-scene reports and interviews with more than 100 “guardians” who risked their lives to save thousands.

“Their rowing where former streets were flooded with polluted water to rescue people who were trapped in homes. They were rapping from helicopters in terrible weather conditions to pull out fishermen from their destroyed vessels,” said Canney. “The writing was more action-oriented than in my previous works, but I wanted to emphasize how these men and women worked on their own to do unbelievable things.”

Canney’s research included trips to the Gulf – from Pensacola to Grand Isle – and interviews with swimmers, pilots, sailors and top-ranking Coast Guard officials. He also read through thousands of situation reports, which were issued every four hours following the storm’s landfall.

Canney said the overwhelming amount of information was one of the project’s biggest challenges.

Born in Connecticut, the long-time historian developed his love for all things nautical by following in the footsteps of his career Air Force father, who “was always reading about ships and military history.” His family settled in Effingham County, Ga., when he was in high school. Canney, the first president and founder of the University’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta history honorary, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Georgia Southern with a minor in English. He recalls living in Cone Hall all four years and that his $350 tuition covered all his classes and a meal ticket for a quarter. “I also remember having great professors like David Ward, Perry Cochran and Julia Smith – they didn’t just teach the information, they taught the students, and were instrumental in propelling me into my career as a teacher and historian.”

After a stint with the U.S. Air Force, Canney and his wife, Janice, settled down in Columbus, Ohio, where she worked as a nurse. He was a history teacher, then a journalist with a Civil War magazine.

From 1991-2006, he served as a historian for the U.S. Coast Guard Museum, a position that allowed him to travel and collect historical items from all over the country. Canney said he never set out to become a nationally recognized non-fiction writer. “One day, I was looking for a book about a particular Coast Guard vessel and couldn’t find what I wanted, so I sat down and started writing,” he explained. “I’ve written seven books total, but In Katrina’s Wake was by far the most exciting and the most challenging.

“My next goal is to write a book about how the Coast Guard responded to other natural disasters – Mississippi River floods, California earthquakes, and of course, more hurricanes.”

—Jennifer Turner

Books by Donald Canney
In Katrina’s Wake: The U.S. Coast Guard and the Gulf Coast Hurricanes of 2005
African Squadron: The U.S. Navy and Slave Trade, 1842-1861
Sailing Warships in the U.S. Navy
Lincoln Navy: The Ships, Men and Organization, 1861-65
U.S. Coast Guard and Revenue Cutters, 1790-1935
The Old Steam Navy: The Ironclads, 1842-1885
The Old Steam Navy: Frigates, Sloops, and Gunboats, 1815-1885

Advancement VP Griffis to retire

Vice President for University Advancement William I. Griffis has announced that he is stepping down from his post, effective July 31.

A national search is ongoing to name his successor.

“I am indeed blessed to have been a student and graduate of Georgia Southern in the 1960s, to have experienced a successful professional and business career in the Statesboro area, and to return to Georgia Southern for 10 years as a member of the University administrative team,” said Griffis. “It has been a joy to assist Georgia Southern University in some small way in their journey toward continued success and I look forward to continuing as a volunteer and being involved as an alumnus for years to come.”

A 1969 graduate of Georgia Southern with a BBA in accounting, Griffis has served in his present capacity since 2004. From 2001-04 he was director of development and president of the Georgia Southern University Foundation. He joined T.J. Morris Company in 1973 and retired as president and CEO in 1998.

“Billy has served the Foundation with the utmost level of professionalism and dedication,” said Foundation Chair Max Manack. “In addition to the management of the day-to-day operations of the Foundation, Billy has worked well with his board of directors in keeping the group informed and focused on providing the best possible support for the students of Georgia Southern. We appreciate Billy’s longstanding service and are happy he will remain in Statesboro and in close touch with the University.”
Preventive measures
Alumna works to improve health care delivery worldwide

In the past year, Kelley Chester ('93) has logged almost 100,000 frequent flyer miles traveling across four continents, all in the name of public health. She experienced the contaminated roads of Senegal, in western Africa, where goats wandered around eating trash, because there is no organized sanitation system. In Vietnam, she witnessed the country's monthly vaccination day where routine childhood vaccinations are free to citizens. She spent time in village health clinics tracking routine vaccines like measles, mumps, and rubella intended for the children of the village, which were administered by volunteer health workers. The vaccines are often delivered in coolers by the health workers on foot or by bicycle. Due to primitive logistics and lack of systems, sometimes vaccines that are not stored properly or delivered in a timely manner can become ineffective or dangerous.

“Sometimes when people arrive for vaccines, there aren’t any,” said Chester. She was co-author on the final report for the global vaccine logistics project which was published by the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). “The project was vital to develop logistics systems for resource-poor countries,” she related.

She is also one of those rare individuals who has earned not just one, but three degrees from Georgia Southern. Last fall, Chester was the third recipient of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health of her job as the senior public health informatics analyst for the Public Health Organization affiliated with Emory University.

informatics-based solutions to promote health in populations. She has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization, and PATH.

“In my current role, I work collaboratively with those who work on the front lines in the field to document their processes and help them define functional requirements that can then be developed into information system solutions,” she said.

Chester’s latest projects include working with the Strategic National Stockpile program and the Influenza Division, both at the CDC in Atlanta to aid in the creation of requirements for systems to track domestic vaccines and antivirals, and help to improve influenza surveillance. “There was a lot of attention and funding directed at public health because of the H1N1 pandemic last year. Everyone in the public health community was worried that it would be more serious than it was,” she revealed.

Chester’s desire to improve the quality of the public’s health stems from the birth of her son Taylor, seven years ago. “My son was low birth weight, and he was sick with many respiratory illnesses. He led me to want to contribute to the health of children and mothers. Health care is centered on treating people once they are sick; public health is centered on keeping people healthy, and preventing them from getting sick,” she said.

Chester credits public health professor James Stephens and JPHCOPH founding dean Charles Hardy as two inspiring mentors. “They shaped the future of my career in public health and taught me how to be successful in this field,” said Chester.

With the expansion and change in the future of public health, Chester’s career prospects are unlimited, and she isn’t going to rule out a chance to re-enter the classroom, this time as a professor. “Eventually, I would love to teach, but I also want to contribute to the health of children and mothers. Health care is centered on treating people once they are sick; public health is centered on keeping people healthy, and preventing them from getting sick,” she said.

Chester earned a doctorate in public health from the University of Georgia in 1990. Chester was the third recipient of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health of her job as the senior public health informatics analyst for the Public Health Organization affiliated with Emory University.

Informatics-based solutions to promote health in populations. She has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization, and PATH.

“Sometimes when people arrive for vaccines, there aren’t any,” said Chester. She was co-author on the final report for the global vaccine logistics project which was published by the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). “The project was vital to develop logistics systems for resource-poor countries,” she related.

She is also one of those rare individuals who has earned not just one, but three degrees from Georgia Southern. Last fall, Chester was the third recipient of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health of her job as the senior public health informatics analyst for the Public Health Organization affiliated with Emory University.

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“In my current role, I work collaboratively with those who work on the front lines in the field to document their processes and help them define functional requirements that can then be developed into information system solutions,” she said.

Chester’s latest projects include working with the Strategic National Stockpile program and the Influenza Division, both at the CDC in Atlanta to aid in the creation of requirements for systems to track domestic vaccines and antivirals, and help to improve influenza surveillance. “There was a lot of attention and funding directed at public health because of the H1N1 pandemic last year. Everyone in the public health community was worried that it would be more serious than it was,” she revealed.

Chester’s desire to improve the quality of the public’s health stems from the birth of her son Taylor, seven years ago. “My son was low birth weight, and he was sick with many respiratory illnesses. He led me to want to contribute to the health of children and mothers. Health care is centered on treating people once they are sick; public health is centered on keeping people healthy, and preventing them from getting sick,” she said.

Chester credits public health professor James Stephens and JPHCOPH founding dean Charles Hardy as two inspiring mentors. “They shaped the future of my career in public health and taught me how to be successful in this field,” said Chester.

With the expansion and change in the future of public health, Chester’s career prospects are unlimited, and she isn’t going to rule out a chance to re-enter the classroom, this time as a professor. “Eventually, I would love to teach, but I believe that the best professors have real work experience in their field,” she said. “My goal is to have rich experiences in the field of public health informatics, and I want to continue improving the health of communities here and around the globe.”

—Mary Beth Spencer
Shipping & Handling

Alumna promotes Jacksonville port to international clients

Growing up in Hardeeville, S.C., Lisa Tapley Wheldon (’90) always remembers a statement from her father about attending college. “Dad didn’t want me to be far away from him, and my mother attended Georgia Southern, so I followed in her footsteps,” she said. Today, the director of national sales for the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) has a global perspective that extends far beyond her southern roots. She is responsible for new cargo business development in major regional markets, and her role encompasses three terminals and approximately 1,100 acres. These individual terminals – Mary Beth Spence

Calling all Eagles

Alumnus seeks to give University grads a boost

Connections have always been important to Thomas Camp (’86), whether as a member of the soccer team or through his membership in Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Georgia Southern. In fact, Camp has found a way to skillfully connect Georgia Southern alumni with recent College of Business graduates through his role as managing director of SNI Companies. “Our goal in Atlanta is to be the home employment firm with branch offices throughout the United States,” he explained. “Our goal in Atlanta is to be the home for the University’s technology graduates, whether they are in need of a job or, if a company is in need of a candidate. It is one of our core missions here,” he explained. The multimillion-dollar private staffing company, founded in 1998, is not your average employment agency: SNI’s Buckhead office distinguishes itself from other companies through a unique factor: not only are all of SNI’s employees Georgia Southern graduates, but this company exclusively places graduates with other alumni employers. “We provide human capital on a daily basis, and we are an all-Georgia Southern shop,” he said. For the past several months, Camp has fostered the careers of CIT graduates – has assisted in this process. One of those employees is Zach Sines (’08), the company’s lead recruiter and BBA graduate in information systems. “I went out of my way to hire staff directors that are Georgia Southern graduates. The technology and business colleges are excellent and I wanted to try my hardest to hire University graduates as our employees,” said Camp. To visitors entering SNI’s lobby, it’s obvious that you are in Eagle territory. A panoramic print of Paulson Stadium greets guests, including two large Georgia Southern flags and a variety of other memorabilia showcasing the championship years of former coaches Erk Russell and Paul Johnson. The basis for Camp’s link between alumni and the employment industry began after graduation, when he worked for Pi Kappa Phi national fraternity as a leadership consultant. In this occupation, he provided training and consulting to more than 68 chapters across the nation. Last year, Camp’s networking skills once again came into play, when he took

SNI Companies is staffed with only Georgia Southern graduates. L-r, Christine Burger, Zach Sines, Jim Godfrey, Tom Camp and Jessica Robinson.

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an active leadership role in the $250,000 renovation campaign of the Pi Kappa Phi house on campus, a project that was long overdue. Pi Kappa Phi built the first house on Georgia Row when Camp was chapter president. "Working with the alumni of both the fraternity and Georgia Southern made me realize how important networking was to the future success of the organization and the University," he said.

Re-establishing these alumni connections during the renovation soon took on a new meaning for Camp’s professional career as well. After beginning employment at SNI last summer, he immediately tapped into his vast network of alumni connections with the idea of pairing new University graduates with experienced and job-notch employers. During this process, Camp quickly developed business relationships with several key alumni in the Atlanta area, including Richard Aldredge, the chief technology officer at Kaufmann Tire, and David Centofanti, the IT director at Perma-Fix Environmental Services.

"Our key objective in the Buckhead and Jacksonville (Fla.) offices was to become the employment firm of choice for both graduates and employers. We know a large percentage of alumni use our services in these two offices," he explained.

Camp’s future focus includes continuing a strong partnership with the CIT, as well as expanding the focus of employment areas at SNI into the fields of accounting and finance. Another potential target is the University’s College of Business Administration. "I really want to help Georgia Southern by employing people at SNI, and I want to expand by partnering with the College of Business Administration," he said.

"We want the students to come out our way. We will greet them with open arms and work hard to find new opportunities for them. I feel compelled to give back to this great University," he said.

As your friends at Georgia Southern TRUE BLUE?

Are your friends at Georgia Southern TRUE BLUE?

Ask them to join the Alumni Association! www.georgiasouthern.edu/alumni

1960s

Robert Byrd III (56) and Louise Verdey were married in October 2010 and are living in Augusta, Ga.

Patrick G. Blanchard (56) was recently elected to the 2010-11 Board of Directors of the Community Bankers Association of Georgia for a 20-year term of service to the board. Blanchard was named 1994 CEO of the Year by the Augusta Business Journal and was named 1995 Sponsor of the Year by the Credit Professionals International Georgia. The Georgia Southern Department of Finance and Logistics office complex is named in his honor and he was inducted into the Business Administration Hall of Fame in 1999.

Judy Bedgood McCollough (58) writes, "Retirement has been great! Former classmates please e-mail me at girty.regnal@gmail.com."

1970s

Tony Jones (70) has retired and returned to Statesboro after 40 years in Atlanta as a corporate facilities engineer and facility project manager at several major companies, including Delta Air Lines, Turner Broadcasting, Georgia-Pacific, BellSouth and the Southern Company. He also served as facilities manager for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games in 1996. Tony traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and other countries in his work.

David Cook (76) has been named by Georgia Governor-elect Nathan Deal to serve as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health. Cook has served as executive director and CEO of the Medical Association of Georgia since 2001.

1980s

Greg Harper (84) has been named a vice president with Charles Aris Inc. He will lead the multi-national search firm’s Industrial Practice. A native of Warner Robins, Ga., Harper has been with the company since 2006.

Ken Rabitsch (93) has been named executive vice president at Sea Island Bank in Savannah. Rabitsch, who joined Sea Island in 2004, has served as a senior commercial lender since 2007. In addition to maintaining a commercial client portfolio, he is in charge of the Commercial Banking Team in Savannah. He has served on the executive committee of the Royce Learning Center and the finance committee for Savannah Golf Club. Rabitsch is a member of Bull Street Baptist Church.

2000s

Robert Bryant (12) has joined Florida State University as an assistant director in the Center for Multicultural Affairs. He writes, "I am excited about being a former student employee with PR at CSL, and even happier to be an Eagle!"

2010s

Jenny Lee Chandler (04) and her husband, Adam, celebrated the birth of their second child, Colton Robert, in July 2010. The couple lives in Blainsville, Ga., and encourages friends to contact them at jlee@me.com.

Hayley Glisson Moore (07) and Jonathan Moore were married last September and are living in Statesboro. Hayley, a CPA, completed her master’s degree in accounting from Georgia College & State University in May 2010 and has also earned the Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) designation.

Daezie Harris (10) and Angela McClurist Harris (09) were wed in June 2010 in Douglas, Ga. They reside in Evans, Ga.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Tom Byars (71), Barnesville

Faculty

John S. Wallace, School of Technology Retired School of Technology Director John S. Wallace Sr. died in January. He was 86. For more than 35 years Mr. Cook was employed with the State of Georgia, first with the Georgia State Department of Education, then with the State Department of Audits, and as the Internal Auditor at the University of Georgia. He moved to Statesboro to become the vice president of business and finance, retiring in 1984. A highly decorated veteran of WWII, Mr. Cook was active in community and church, and was inducted into the University Athletics Hall of Fame, was a Rotary Citizen of the Year, and was a recipient of the Governor’s Smith Award and the Life Time Achievement Award. Survivors include his wife, a brother, a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

Donald O. McDougald, comptroller

Judy Bedgood McCollough (58) writes, "Retirement has been great! Former classmates please e-mail me at girty.regan@gmail.com."
1975

The construction of Zach S. Henderson Library was completed in 1975, allowing the Library to move to much-needed new quarters from its cramped Rosenwald Building location on Sweetheart Circle. The new four-story Library building served the University for more than 30 years.

2011

In 2008, a $22.7 million expansion and renovation was completed and the new Zach S. Henderson Library was opened to the public. It added 101,000 square feet to the original building and included the first Automated Storage and Retrieval System in any library in the Southeast. In addition to its greater storage capacity, today’s Henderson Library can take full advantage of the electronic delivery of research materials. Students also enjoy an in-house coffee shop, Zach’s Brews.