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The new engineering program stands as a milestone achievement in Georgia Southern history.
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For event location and details visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu/alumni](http://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.

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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.

ENGINEERING
NEW PROGRAM ENHANCES THE UNIVERSITY’S NATIONAL REPUTATION
Prior to the Regents’ approval, the Sys-
tem had only one engineering school and many in-state students were forced to ex-
plore 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 dur-
ing 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 De-
partment of Mechanical and Electrical Engi-
neering, and Brian Vlcek, program coordinator of Me-
chanical 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 prop-
osal 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 posi-
tive development for our graduates.”

“When we got the vote I had this tremen-
dous 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 – stu-
dents 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 in-
tense coordinated effort by University pro-
fessors and administrators to propose, re-
vise, 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 fac-
culty,” said Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST) Dean,
Bret Danilotwicz. “Every day since, I have felt honored and fortunate to be among the select few in our team 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 ac-
complishment,” said Brian Moore, chair of the Department of Construction Manage-
ment and Civil Engineering. “My second reaction was the start of a very serious eff ort to put all the pieces in place so that we can welcome our first class of civil en-
gineering 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.

“Georgia Southern’s existing engineering technology programs have a steady in-
crease in enrollment in stark contrast to na-
tional trends. In addition, the in-state work retention percentage (the number of gradu-
ates who begin their professional careers in-state following graduation) at Georgia Southern is estimated at 78.9 percent, far above other competing institutions.

“The new program allows students to study at Georgia Southern all four years of col-
lege and leave cam-
pus with a Georgia Southern University engineering degree. “Georgia Southern’s new engineering degrees will retain the applied nature of their engineer-
ing technology roots, but will allow the University to fulfill its evolving mission of teaching and research,” said Danilotwicz. “These new programs will enable Geor-
ga Southern to not only train engineering graduates that will be in high demand by employers, but it will also allow us to sig-
nificantly 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 Engineer-
ing 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 en-
gineering 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 invites the areas of research, design, manu-
factoring 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 suggestions.

Careers in this field range from small scale – such as working on the design and manufacture of tools, air condi-
tioning systems or automobiles – to much larger scale, like aircraft. Other industry sectors consistently hiring mechanical engi-
neers vary from oil companies to transportation 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 so-
ciety’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 engineers within this specialty have to consider eco-
nomical methods of construction, safety construction prac-
tices, environmental concerns such as controlling and re-
ducing pollution and hazardous waste and allowable levels of technology that can be used.
Over time, Georgia Southern’s new engineering programs 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 Sibley, 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.

The new degree programs will initially be housed within COST, but it is envisioned that Georgia Southern will create a new College of Engineering to accommodate expected increases in student interest. Georgia Southern’s existing engineering technology programs will be phased out as the three new engineering programs become established, allowing students currently enrolled in those degree programs to complete their programs of study.

**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 state. As a result, Georgia companies will have the opportunity to hire Georgia Southern graduates to fill engineering positions.

**Engineering at Georgia Southern University**

- Annual Gross Regional Output
  - 2015: $20 million
  - 2020: $35 million
  - 2025: $50 million
  - 2031: $75 million

- Student Enrollment Increase
  - 2011: 3000
  - 2016: 4000
  - 2021: 5000
  - 2026: 6000
  - 2031: 7000

**Industrial potential**

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

Already, 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 state 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.

Port 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.

Georgia Ports Authority’s Grone also stated that his company will talk 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-outaround-the-clock series of proposals and problem-solving sessions. The Georgia Southern team that orchestrated the final push for approval included, J.T. engineering professor Brian Vlcek, President Brooks Keel, engineering professor Nirmal Das, Construction Management and Civil Engineering Department Chair Brian Moore, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Department Chair Mohammed Davoud, Associate Dean of COST Shahnam Navaee.

Research: Engineering a solid future

In recent years, Georgia Southern has found its niche in research that yields advanced, yet practical results. Faculty and students – including those at the under-graduate level – engage in projects that offer hands-on training and product 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 Georgia Southern’s programs. Spencer Harp (’08) was one of the first teaching assistants in Georgia Southern’s programs. Harp has participated in intense hands-on work, building solar panels, working with industry representatives, and publishing peer-reviewed articles.

“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 in fields of engineering,” said Brian Vlcek, dean of the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology (COST) Dean. “The best engineer can talk to the user, speak the same language as the users, 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. “Engineering is an applied discipline, so collaboration is essential to providing opportunities for student learning and faculty research,” he said. “The benefit is twofold: 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 know,” said Valentin Soloiu, head of Georgia Southern’s Renewable Energy and Engines Lab.

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Many students spend more than four hours per day on research alone – in addition to class, tests and studying – but they say being immersed in the process is what they appreciate most about Georgia Southern’s programs. Spencer Harp (’08) was one of the first teaching assistants in 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.”

Today, a number of Georgia Southern’s students come from coastal and rural areas of Georgia and are expected to return to those areas as engineers, supporting the economic development of these fast-growing regions. The Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BRED) at Georgia Southern recently performed an Economic Impact Analysis of the benefits of transitioning the University’s existing engineering technology programs to engineering programs. In just a five-year span of time, the counties surrounding Georgia Southern are expected to experience an additional economic impact of more than $7 million. The program does not seek to compete with Georgia Tech. Rather, it will complement Georgia Tech’s research strengths and graduate programs with a regional program at Georgia Southern. COST and the proposed College of Engineering will continue to develop collaborative research projects with the Georgia Tech Savannah campus, according to the BRED study.
What started as a creative hobby just a few years ago has become an international award-winning endeavor for McIntosh, winner of a Hugo Award – science fiction’s equivalent of the Oscars.

The momentum of McIntosh’s popularity has been building 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, 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.

“The writers on this list are established – for example, Michael Resnick has been nominated 25 times and won the award five times. This award is like the Pulitzer Prize of science fiction – it’s what every writer dreams of,” said McIntosh.

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

Mark Twain famously said that truth is stranger than fiction. Psychology professor Will McIntosh might say it’s stranger even than science fiction.

“Zombies” came to Macon last fall as filming 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
McIntosh really became serious about his first story was finally published, and Twenty stories and 88 rejections later, from 7 p.m. to midnight, “he revealed. “I started writing every evening spare he adopted a disciplined writing regimen. “I decided to attend a six-week science fiction writing workshop at Michigan State, and each week a well-known author spoke to us,” he said.

McIntosh said that during the workshop, students were given the opportunity to write stories, which were subsequently critiqued by the teacher and his peers. “All of the students were able to meet individually with each author for one hour to talk about our work. The professional feedback was so valuable. I wrote seven stories while I was there, and eventually published all of them,” he said, adding that this was the defining moment when his career began to soar.

In addition to Astrov’s Science Fiction, over the years, McIntosh’s works have been reprinted in several foreign languages, and also been published in other international magazines such as Interzone, Science Fiction: Best of the Year 2008 and Strange Horizons.

With his success, McIntosh has signed with a literary agent, and his first novel, Soft Apocalypse is set for publication this spring. This time, the setting is a post-apocalyptic world. It is based upon a short story written by McIntosh that was nominated for British Interplanetary Society’s Analog Award in 1998.

Asimov’s Science Fiction with a literary agent, and his first novel, Soft Apocalypse is set for publication this spring. This time, the setting is a post-apocalyptic world. It is based upon a short story written by McIntosh that was nominated for British Interplanetary Society’s Analog Award in 1998.

The concentration in environmental sustainability launched in January 2011. Lisa Lege, director of the University’s Center for Sustainability since its inception in 2008, sees it as a valuable addition to Georgia Southern’s academic programs while furthering sustainability efforts on campus and in the region.
The campus is now able to reduce its water usage by 30,000+ gallons every day.

The university’s responsible stewardship and cost-saving strategy of conserving the local drinking water supply effectively promotes environmental awareness among the campus and the community, said Cone. “Changing the irrigation system will save millions in high consumption areas. It will reduce the ever-increasing burden on our groundwater table and drinking water supply, and this is good for Georgia Southern in reducing its impact on the environment.”

The water supply originates from Banks Pond, a city retention pond on Langston Chapel Road.
C omputer science major Jonathan Bowyer has been an avid gamer since the age of five, and as a middle school student, he recalled purchasing a book on game programming to design his own space invaders video games. “My parents knew I was addicted to games from the get-go – they had to drag me away from them, kicking and screaming,” he said. The self-taught programmer’s advanced skills have included designing a 3-D dodgeball game for fellow students in kindergarten, “he said. Georgia Southern’s College of Information Technology (CIT) is getting into the game with the launch of a new design program ranked as one of the country’s “Top 50 Game Design” programs by The Princeton Review.

The first students completing the program through the Department of Computer Science are slated to receive their certificates during the Spring 2011 graduation ceremonies. Students armed with the certification will be qualified to pursue careers with corporations that develop games for systems such as PlayStation and XBox.

“Game programming is a ‘hot area,’” said Bob Cook, computer sciences department chair, speaking about the increasing popularity of the multibillion dollar gaming industry. According to a 2010 survey of the gaming industry by the Entertainment Software Association, 67 percent of U.S. households play computer and video games. “Georgia Southern’s game design and programming track is one of a handful offered in the state,” he said.

Since the curriculum requires a fundamental knowledge of mathematical analysis and systems programming, only computer science majors are eligible to receive a certificate upon completion of three courses. One required course is game programming, along with a choice of two other courses including human-computer interaction, computer graphics or computer animation. Students can complete the requirements to receive the specialized certificate in just two semesters.

During the program of study, students work in a state-of-the-art game programming lab, which houses eight wireless Lenovo computers, equipped with Xbox and PlayStation 3 gaming systems to produce their own individually designed programs.

Last fall, the first course, human computer interaction (HCI), rolled out, creating a wave of interest among CIT students. Taught by professor Jim Bradford, HCI compares how human beings perceive the world, think, remember and solve problems to the design of complex computer software.

“This study is part computer science and part psychology – basically, how do people interact with computers?” he said. Bradford’s theory is that computer systems should be easily understood for the user. In computer terminology, this is called a transparent user, meaning that the play should be effortless. “Producing good user interfaces for games is so hard – it’s where all of the best research is happening. A player doesn’t want to think about anything except the game they are playing, and it’s important that technology not distract from the gaming experience,” said Bradford.

The game programming class, taught by Jim Harris, is extremely complex, with a portion of the grading process requiring students to create and design both 2-D and 3-D games. Part of Harris’ classroom instruction involves the introduction of Blender software, which allows users to download online drawings or models to use within their games.

Harris said that many objects can be constructed with the computer program. “The 2-D Paint program can be used very simply to draw a fish, and then complex details may be added such as scales, skin and bones, or even texturing the object. Then the design can be used to move the fish back and forth,” he noted.

“Game programming is very hard and requires a lot of math. You must have an understanding of linear algebra and calculus to take this class. The most important part of game design is how you illuminate objects. You won’t be able to move objects in programming if you don’t know the mathematical formulas,” Harris revealed.

Creating excitement-filled games is a mainstay of the industry and Georgia Southern’s CIT is equipping students with the knowledge and skills to take advantage of potential career opportunities. “Our college provides an excellent training environment for systems developers. The knowledge that students acquire here translates well into other design areas,” Bradford said.

“New games cost nearly $20 million dollars for a corporation to develop, so large teams including specialists, producers, 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 the 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, professors 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.”

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 Roundtable, 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 marvelous!’

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
FRANK HOOK

RETIRING ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR IS A MAN WHO KNOWS NO STRANGERS

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 Recreation 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 was 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 incredibly organized. He pays attention to detail. He always does the little things like handwritten 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 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.”

Very Helpful

Georgia Southern faculty, staff, alumni and students were among the volunteers who gave of their time to help ABC television’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” (EM) team create a new four-bedroom, 3,100-square-foot house for Savannah’s Jim and Carmen Smith and their three children. The family was selected because they needed a house equipped to provide the best care for their youngest child, born with blindness and numerous other health problems.

Left, University student volunteers helped with a variety of duties from media check-ins to providing water; Lower left, Denny Huley helped alumnus-owned redpower wire the therapy room; Lower right, University President Brooks Keel was on site with alumnus and J.T. Turner Construction Company Chief Operating Officer Trip Turner (`02), Georgia Southern First Lady Tammie Schalue, and J.T. Turner Marketing Director Nicole Simpson Dunn (`00). J.T. Turner was the main contractor for the project.

Stateboro Sigma chi alumni chapter
Statesboro Sigma Chi House Corporation
Statesboro Bulloch County Chamber of Commerce
Bulloch County Red Cross
Bulloch County Cancer Society

Statesboro Recreation Department, 1972-79
Private business, 1979-81
Southern Boosters President, 1985-95
Senior Director, Alumni Relations, 1995-2010

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 alum 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 political science in 1992. “As SGA president, I saw so many needs – not just for current students, but for future students as well, and I understood our responsibility to make changes that would endure.”

As a senior at Georgia Southern, Clark challenged the student body to pay it forward – and they did. A clear majority approved a landmark referendum that established funding for the Student Recreation Activity Center, which few of them would be around to use. Clark said no one envisioned it would become the cornerstone for student activity as it has, but it was inspiring to see thousands commit to a project that would improve campus life for the next generation.

As president of the Georgia Chamber, Clark will again represent a sundry of constituents with differing needs – from coastal industry and rural farmers to entrepreneurs and business owners across the state – in order to strengthen the future for Georgia businesses. He believes his biggest challenge will be overcoming economic hardship in a heavily federally regulated business climate in order to create jobs. Still, the devoted public servant approaches the weighty task with both youthful vigor and more than 15 years of experience.

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NEW PROVOST JOINS GEORGIA SOUTHERN
APRIL 1

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

He comes to Georgia Southern from the University 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 interim 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 interview 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 emphasizes 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 scholarship. Significant discoveries by our faculty, students and alumni are capturing national attention: e.g., Camp Lawton (archaeological 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 conducive to our mission.”

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

MOORE: “When I came to campus for an interview, I was asked to share a vision for Georgia Southern. In my address to faculty and staff, I invited them to join me on an imaginary journey through time. We visited the year 2015, and we saw Georgia Southern enjoying a national reputation as a student-centered university, among the first-choice institutions for the state’s brightest students who cherish the “large scale, small feel” setting. Readers may recognize this as the overlaid vision statement in the strategic agenda that serves as President Keel’s guidance for a new, comprehensive strategic plan. Here’s a fuller description of our destination:

• We exhibit excellence on all dimensions of our mission – we teach, we discover, and we serve, with distinction;

• We promote student success in and outside the classroom; before and following graduation;

• Our research, scholarship and creative achievement efforts are vigorous and visible;

• Our resources – including financial support, people, information and physical infrastructure – are sufficient to support our mission well, and on a sustained basis.

These are simple-sounding, but powerful, statements, and while they may mean slightly different things to different members of the Georgia Southern family, they are valued by all of us. As we continue the strategic planning process, we will articulate more specific initiatives to help guide us toward this vision.”

GS: What makes you passionate about higher education?

MOORE: “Six years ago, when I was considering moving from faculty to university administration at South Carolina, I met with my predecessor, an associate provost named John, on a number of occasions. 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 unforgeable words as a guiding principle. And he had it right. Bring faculty and students together and magic will happen. I was looking for signs of ‘magic’ at Georgia Southern and found it. Magic happens when students and faculty come together to help build better lives, lives guided by knowledge and strong values like integrity, civility, kindness. Magic happens when we see those same students join the ranks of successful, fulfilled citizens. And magic happens when we see our former students pass along the values and knowledge they gained at Georgia Southern to future generations. What we do in higher education lives on, long after we are gone – we produce the future.”

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

MOORE: “The aspects of higher education 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: What are some activities you enjoy outside of your professional life?

MOORE: “I read history, science, biographies, economics and finance, and occasionally 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 enjoy science and concerts. Linda has enriched me in numerous ways, and among them is in giving me an appreciation for the performing arts.”

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

MOORE: “Stretch yourselves by venturing into unexplored territory. Now is the time in life to do this. Participate in study abroad. Learn another culture, another language.”
georgia southern's student body includes students from 49 U.S. states and 2009. Students also placed fourth in an autonomous lawnmower robot competition. The robot was equipped with a series 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, including China, Israel, Indonesia, Portugal, Korea, Canada and the United States. Students also placed fourth in an autonomous lawnmower robot competition held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. The modified lawnmower was designed and built by University students with such components as an advanced GPS, laser to detect obstacles, and a laptop computer located inside an electronics box to control the robot’s motions.

Dr. Fernando Rios-Gutierrez launched the robotics area as part of the electrical engineering program at Georgia Southern three years ago, with Dr. Rocio Alba-Flores, also serving as a faculty advisor. They have integrated a laboratory of robotics, where undergraduate and graduate students, from the mechanical and electrical engineering programs, collaborate with the faculty in the development of different robotic projects. Most of the robotic projects have been developed with the support of undergraduate research grants (COARD grants) for students, and from a research grant, that Rios-Gutierrez has received to collaborate with Georgia Tech Savannah for the development of robotic vehicles.

A Georgia Southern researcher has found that pairing breast cancer patients with a professional to help them navigate their way through the health care process might not only save lives, but also has potential for saving substantial amounts of money in the health care system.

A planned expansion of recreation offerings 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 acquire and develop real estate.

The land, located adjacent to the Meadow Lakes subdivision in Statesboro, will allow the University to provide additional activities such as a walking/cross country course, golf, and one of the areas’ only disc golf courses. Plans also include using the property for a variety of academic purposes including teaching classes at the complex.

College of Health and Human Sciences

GRANT TO FUND HEALTHY PREGNANCY EDUCATION

Georgia Southern’s Health and Human Sciences has been awarded $24,844 by the University System of Georgia to study women in their first trimester of pregnancy and are teaming up with East Georgia Regional Medical Center and faculty colleagues from the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia.

The research is geared toward promoting preventive measures in the earliest stage of a pregnancy by offering the course and promoting physical activity among pregnant women. Researchers have been awarded $24,844 by the University System of Georgia to study women in their first trimester of pregnancy and are teaming up with East Georgia Regional Medical Center and faculty colleagues from the University of Georgia and the Medical College of Georgia.

College of Business Administration

COBA NAMED LEADING BUSINESS SCHOOL

The College of Business Administration has been named one of the 300 Best Business Schools in the country by the Princeton Review, the fifth year in a row the College has been included on the list.

Our faculty and staff work hard to provide a top-tier educational experience for our students, so that will prepare them to compete in a global economy,” said College of Business Administration Dean Ronald Shiffler. “It is very gratifying to have our efforts recognized.

The University’s team is composed of mechanical and electrical engineering technology students who designed and built an autonomous computer-controlled robot, which also earned an honorable mention award for being the most advanced robot in the competition. The competition was equipped with a series 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, including China, Israel, Indonesia, Portugal, Korea, Canada and the United States. Students also placed fourth in an autonomous lawnmower robot competition held at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. The modified lawnmower was designed and built by University students with such components as an advanced GPS, laser to detect obstacles, and a laptop computer located inside an electronics box.
University researchers study balance of athletic training vs. recovery

**HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?**

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 reasonable 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. “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 physiological factors emerge: loss of concentration, lower self-esteem, distractibility and elevated stress levels, all of which can negatively affect performance,” Rossi 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 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 to measure the sprint times of athletes. “This set contains four different parts, and measures the athlete as they complete each portion of the 40-yard distance. This is more accurate than using a stopwatch,” 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 performance 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. —Mary Beth Spence

**F**or 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 solutions is great, and we believe 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 his 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,” Keel added. “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 Cob of IPHCOHP 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.”

**Meeting the need**

New Rural Health Research Institute will seek ways to improve health in rural areas
Eagle golf program is a perennial contender at age 50.

“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

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, Richy 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 Pettman, 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.

“I had a lot of great players at Georgia Southern and had some success with four conference championships and a 14th place finish in the NCAA in 1988,” said Gordin. “Georgia Southern was a great place to coach. Our whole athletics program was a winner in the middle and late ‘80s,” Gordin said, citing Mudd, Sauers, Bryant, Ford and Fred Benton among the players he was privileged to coach.

Coach Larry Mays took the reins in 1999. “That first year, sheer luck more than anything, we made it to the national championship and played well,” Mays said. “The next year, we made it again, and that made it possible to go out and recruit that next level of player. We were able to get into some homes and have some conversations that five years before we would never have had the chance to get in.” High school players are being recruited at a younger age than ever before, said Mays. “We have to get to them earlier to compete against SEC or ACC schools. Recruiting is the lifeline of all college athletics.

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 got 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 times than we have in the whole country, and that's all Division I.'

"We have had the opportunity to compete at the highest level," said Mays. "Hey, we are competing against the Floridas, Southern Cal's, Tennessees and Texases of the world. We've actually got winning records in most of 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 Average Award for University athletics teams. 'Our spring GPA was more than 3.5. We had three academic 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 experience, 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 fi rst, 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 successful at whatever they do."

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 knew of were on scholarship," 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 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 Lassiter, Wright North, Bill Simmons, Sam Shaffer, Ron Slocum and Jimmy Flanders. "One of our big experiences was when we played Appalachian State," said Pennington. "I think they had won the NAIA 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.

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

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

Many PGA tour stars have made appearances on the links of Stateboro’s Forest Heights Country Club.

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 Charlie Roberts 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 permission by Schenkel to attach his name first to a club trophy awarded to the winner of an area high school tournament. In 1971, Schenkel 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.
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

Above left, The Eagle golf team recently upgraded to a new Golf Touring Edition Sprinter luxury vehicle that seats up to nine and contains storage space for 12 bags and luggage. The new Sprinter, customized with Georgia Southern logos and navy exterior, features a 26” flat screen overhead LCD monitor complete with satellite TV, a wireless Internet router and an under-seat refrigerator.

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The Magnificent Seven

Standouts inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

One coach and six standout former athletes have been inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame, spanning the sports of baseball, football, soccer, swimming and tennis. The class of 2010 was chosen by the selection committee from the 177-79 names on the 2010 ballot. Hall of Fame selection criteria include a 10-year eligibility moratorium for all student-athletes and a five-year period for coaches and administrators. A new class will be chosen every two years and only one non-student-athlete per class may be selected for induction.

“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 NCAA All-Region second teamer in 1997. Chaisson was 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 program 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, Assistant Coach
First team captain in the modern 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 a 13.6 average number 9. He later joined the coaching staff and served as the secondary coach for three years including the National Championship season of 1985.

Greg Hill Football, 1985-1988, Assistant Coach
Hill was quadruple for the 1999 National Champions on the team, leading the squad to back-to-back title game appearances 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 honorable 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.

Jeff Shireman Baseball, 1985-1988
Shireman was selected to the NCAA Division I Baseball All-Region team in 1988, the same season he earned Player of the Year honors for the Trans America Athletic Conference. 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 second 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 1990 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-ter earner, Wilms twice earned All-Southern Conference honors in singles play (1997, ’98), received All-Conference honors 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 perfect 30-0 career Southern Conference mark in singles play and 30-0 in doubles play.

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LOYOLLA BOUND

VANDERSPiegel named NEW WOMEN’S SOCCER COACH

An assistant coach for the Hofstra women’s soccer program for the last four seasons, Lindsey Vanderspiegel has been named the new women’s soccer coach for the Eagles.

Vanderspiegel helped lead the Pride to its most successful season in school history and two NCAA second-round championship appearances. Vanderspiegel joined Hofstra in 2007 as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator and helped guide the Pride to a 58-21-3 record over four years. Hofstra captured the Colonial Athletic Association tournament in 2007 and regular season championship in 2010. Those 32 games in the NCAA post-season tournament both years. The Pride registered an 11-0 mark in league play in 2010, the first CAA team to post an unbeaten and untied record since 1998.

FOUR EAGLES NAMED ALL-AMERICA

Sophomore nose tackle Brent Russell highlighted a list of four Georgia Southern Eagles honored with Associated Press NCAA Division I FCS All-America honors.

Russell, a finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award, was named a first-team AP All-American, adding to an impressive list of 2010 accolades. Junior offensive tackle Brett Moore, junior place-kicker Adrian Mora and junior defensive back Laron Scott earned third-team All-America honors for their efforts this season. With a total of four players, Georgia Southern tied Stephen F. Austin and Appalachian State for the most All-America selections in 2010.

SOCON NAMES SEVEN EAGLES ALL-CONFERENCE

Seven Georgia Southern players earned Southern Conference All-Conference honors as selected by the league’s coaches.

Punter Charlie Edwards (Tifton, Ga.), offensive line- man Brent Moore (Warner Robins, Ga.), nose tackle Brent Russell (Comer, Ga.), and Aaron Scott (Warner Robins, Ga.), who was selected as both a defensive back and return specialist, were recognized on the 2010 first team.

Two Eagles, inback Josh Rowe (Opelika, Ala.) and junior Roderick Tinsley (Soperton, Ga.), received All-Confer- ence Second Team honors for defense.

GOLF SIGNS FIVE TO LETTERS OF INTENT

Five student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to play golf at Georgia Southern.

The class consists of all Georgia signeees, two of whom are high school teammates. According to the Golfweek/Sagarin rankings, the Eagles’ 2011 signing class includes five of the top 11 golfers from the state of Georgia.

“We are very excited about this class,” said coach Larry Mays. “All five are home grown Georgia kids who have proven junior golf resume. This group will be a great building block for the future success of Georgia Southern golf. Coach Collins and I are proud to call all of these fine young men Eagles.”

The 2010 Georgia Southern Golf Recruiting Class includes Caleb Morris (Metter, Ga.), ranked ninth in Georgia and 102nd nationally; Charlie Martin (LaGrange, Ga.), ranked seventh in Georgia and 82nd nationally; Henry Mabrett (Griffin, Ga.), ranked 10th in Georgia and 106th nationally; Zach Hartman (St. Simons Island, Ga.), ranked 11th in Georgia and 109th nationally; and Scott Wolles (St. Simons Island, Ga.), ranked third in Georgia and 26th nationally.

BASEBALL EAGLES SIGN 11 FRESHMEN

Eagles head baseball coach Rodney Hennon has signed 11 players to national letters of intent to play for Georgia Southern beginning this fall.

“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 representa- tives of our program and University.”

The 2010 signing class includes: infield- er Tyler Avera (Appling County); catcher Clint Clark (Newnan); pitcher/outfielder Heath Durand (Lakeside Evans); catcher/ infielder Chase Grice (Lee County); pitcher Sam Howard (Cartersville); in- fielder Casey Kicklighter (Wayne County); infielder Nick Rouse (Thomas); infielder Aubrey Shivers (Charleton County); pitcher Alex Taylor (Dodge County); out- fielder 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 se- nior in Georgia and 177th in the nation. Tennis recruiting net rates Jones as a four- star recruit.

“We are thrilled to announce the addi- tion 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. 25.
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.
Scholarship supports K-12 science education

Merging 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 Pursers/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 Reidsville 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 Kuballa, 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

NEW ENDOWMENTS
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Scholarships are at the heart of our efforts at the Georgia Southern University Foundation. For more information on how you can help Georgia Southern University recruit the top students from the state and across the country, please contact Director of Development Michelle Pittman at 912-478-0880 or mpittman@georgiasouthern.edu.
Deserving of honors

UHP scholarship endowment is a tribute to former professor

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 BHPers who conspired to hijack the annual alumni get-together and turn it into an event honoring Hew – something he never planned it to be,” 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 education. 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 South-east. The two work as Ogeechee-Canoshee 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 it 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 now 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

From the 1940s into the 1990s, Georgia Teachers and Georgia Southern students regularly trekked downtown to one of their favorite places to meet and eat. Opened in 1946 on East Main Street, R.C. and Ella Ree Webb’s Nic Nac Grill and Restaurant offered tasty, affordable food – a sure draw for hungry college students. The dining capacity was expanded in 1964 and again in 1968 until the restaurant had the capability to seat 500 patrons. The Nic Nac closed in 1992 when the Webbs retired, capping 46 years in the business. The former location at 63 East Main Street is now occupied by a church, The Spirit & Truth Worship Center.

Photo courtesy of the Webb Family
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 Lynne 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 alumni 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.

“They were rowing where former streets were flooded with polluted water to rescue people who were trapped in homes. They were rappelling from helicopters in terrible weather conditions to pull out fisherman 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 father Air Force hero, 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 L. 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 long-standing 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 development 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 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 Spence

National network

New alumni director looking for expanded alumni participation

“Eagle Nation” promises to assume a broader meaning as new Director of Alumni Relations Wendell Tompkins (’87) sets out to expand the organized Georgia Southern alumni network to a greater number of states.

“As director of alumni relations, Frank Hook established the widely successful Eagle Club network 15 years ago,” said Tompkins. “With Dr. Keel’s support, it is my desire to expand this network and take Georgia Southern on the road to as many alumni as possible across the country.

“Georgia Southern’s academic and alumni reach goes far beyond the borders of our own state,” he said. “We have students from nearly every state and have alumni residing on both coasts and everywhere in between. If we are going to reach our goals as a University we need the support of our graduates wherever they might live.”

Tompkins assumed his current role with the University in January and has served as director of annual giving with the Georgia Southern University Foundation since 2007. As director of annual giving he was responsible for directing and implementing the “A Day for Southern” and “A Day for Southern On Campus” campaigns, raising in excess of $1.3 million annually. Tompkins also provided leadership for the Phonathon coordinator and assistant director for Web-based fundraising in the development of annual gifts campaigns. He was responsible for advising the University community in individual department and college campaigns.

Tompkins has also held positions as assistant director of alumni relations and associate director of Southern Boosters (now the Georgia Southern University Athletic Foundation). As assistant director of alumni relations, Tompkins was responsible for “friend-raising” for the University in support of the Office of University Advancement and worked to develop strategies to increase alumni support. He coordinated the Eagle Club program and the annual Alumni Association scholarship program, Alumni Travel Program and Alumni Association Awards Ceremony. He also initiated and implemented the Alumni Relations Online Community and Glass Ring Program.

“My staff and I will work very hard to continue creating a sense of loyalty that will generate the level of pride and good will for the University. We will need to get where our leadership — and the entire Eagle Nation — want to go,” said Tompkins.
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 transportation industry experience is helping cement Jacksonville’s role as the South-eastern U.S. hub for international trade.

Wheldon earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing from the University with two areas of emphasis: sales and sales management, and transportation and logistics. In 2002, she received a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix’s Jacksonville campus. “I have been working in this industry for 20 years, and it is not anything that was planned – it just happened, I believe, because of these two emphasis areas in my major,” said Wheldon.

Wheldon’s extensive background in trucking and logistics began when she landed her first job as an office manager for Lanport Trucking in Savannah, which seemed a comfortable fit. “At the time, I had a lot of family in Savannah working around the ports. It was an entry-level job, and I was able to learn the ins-and-outs of the trucking industry,” she related.

Shortly thereafter, the company moved Wheldon to Atlanta, promoting her to trucking service sales. In 1994, Wheldon began working for SeaLand in the customer service division, which at the time, was the largest steamship line in the world. Subsequently, she acquired 14 years of intermodal rail experience with CSX Intermodal and Florida East Coast Railway.

In Wheldon’s current position, her focus is on freight forwarding, cargo owners, custom brokers and other trade partners to sell the port and its extensive facilities, which encompass three terminals and 1,100 acres. These individual terminals include warehouse facilities for both dry and refrigerated products that are transported both by interstate and railway.

“In the past year, we exceeded 826,500 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units), a record for us, with most of our global trade being with Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, South America and Asia. JAXPORT is the second busiest vehicle-handling port in the nation,” she said.

During the past couple of years, JAXPORT has added 22 direct port calls to 13 other countries, and more than 100 indirect connections to countries such as Belgium, China, Germany, England, France and Singapore.

Although Wheldon’s career requires traveling almost as much as the containers that come into JAXPORT, she hasn’t forgotten her small-town roots, and her father’s words about staying close to home. She, her husband Mark and 4-year-old daughter Emily enjoy returning to the slower pace of Georgia to visit extended family. “We love to take a quick weekend getaway trip to my dad’s farm in Reidsville,” she said.

“Mary Beth Spencer

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 Information Technology (CIT) graduates through his role as managing director of SNI Companies, an Atlanta-based employment firm with branch offices throughout the United States.

“Our goal in Atlanta is to be the home office that 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 by connecting them with area employers, and his staff of four – all Georgia Southern 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 staffing 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 once again came into play, when he took over as managing director in 2002, after the head office distinguished 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. 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

Last year, Camp’s networking skills once again came into play, when he took...
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 Creek 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, and living employment at SNI, and I want to expand by partnering with the 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 our way. We will greet them with open arms and hard work to find new opportunities for them. I feel compelled to give back to this great University," he said.

1960s
Robert Byrd III ('65) and Louise Verduy were married in October 2010 and are living in Augusta, Ga.

Patrick G. Blanchard ('66) was recently elected to the 2010-11 Board of Directors of the Community Bankers Association of Georgia for a 20th year of consecutive 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 ('68) writes, "Retirement has been great! Former classmates please e-mail me at jgtty@regional.com."

1970s
Tom Byars ('71), Barnesville, Ga. They reside in Evans, Ga.

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.

1990s
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 ('02) 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 CASI, and even happier to be an Eagles' fan!"

2010s
Are your friends True Blue? Ask them to join the Alumni Association! www.georgiasouthern.edu/alumni

Myra Phillips ('70) has been promoted to senior vice president at Sea Island Bank in Savannah. She is manager of the Wealth Management Team at Sea Island. Phillips has worked in the financial services industry in Savannah for more than 22 years and joined Sea Island in 2006. A graduate of Leadership Savannah, she serves on the College of Business Administration advisory board at Savannah State University and the advisory board of Savannah/Chatham Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Phillips is a member of the board of directors of Hospice Savannah and the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra. She is a certified financial planner and serves as an elder at First Presbyterian Church.

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

IN MEMORIAM
Alumni
Tom Byars ('71), Barnesville, Ga.

Tom Wallace, School of Technology
Retired School of Technology Director John S. Wallace Sr. died in January. He was 86. In addition to his longtime service as a faculty member and administrator at Georgia Southern, he was an avid woodworker who also built a functioning handicapped car and airplane. He was a frequent organizer and participant in overseas and domestic church mission projects. Mr. Wallace also consulted with the Georgia Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to improve ways of communication, mobility and comfort of clients with disabilities. Survivors include his wife, three children, two brothers and a grandson.

Staff
William L. Cook, Vice President for Business and Finance
Retired Vice President for Business and Finance William L. Cook 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 Athletic Hall of Fame, was a Rotary Citizen of the Year, and was a recipient of the Beeson 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
THEN & NOW

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.