GEORGIA SOUTHERN

VOL. 14, NO. 2, SPRING 2012

PRESIDENT
Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
Sabrina Arthur

DIRECTOR, ALUMNI RELATIONS
Wendall Templeton

DIRECTOR, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
Christian Flathman

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Betsy Nolen

EDITOR
David Thompson (’81)

WRITERS
Mary Beth Spence, Matt Yogus (’05), Matthew D’La Rotta (’12)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Megan Stearns

DESIGNERS
Ray Hoffman, Victoria Sprankel (’09)

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeremy Wilburn

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
Angela Harn, Suzanne Tatum

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
and other submissions are encouraged.
Send correspondence to
Georgia Southern magazine
P. O. Box 8055
Statesboro, GA 30460-8055
magazine@georgiasouthern.edu

CLASS CHRONICLES
and alumni updates may be sent to the
Office of Alumni Relations
P. O. Box 8053
Statesboro, GA 30460-8053
magazine@georgiasouthern.edu

FOR AD SALES
Contact the Office of Marketing &
Communications to purchase an ad.
marketing@georgiasouthern.edu

Georgia Southern magazine is
published three times a year for Alumni
and Friends of Georgia Southern
University by the Office of Marketing &
Communications.

Georgia Southern University is a
member of the University System of
Georgia and an Affirmative Action/
Equal Opportunity institution.

Georgia Southern magazine
© 2012 Georgia Southern University
ISSN 1524-0975

IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

NASHVILLE CONNECTION
Some of the most prolific singer-songwriters in the
country music business are Georgia Southern alumni
who craft their ideas into sometimes humorous,
sometimes poignant songs, leaving a lasting
impression on The Music City.

HOME GROWN?
What’s really “Made in the USA”—or anywhere else
—is open to debate these days, depending on which
definition of ‘made in’ consumers care to choose.

WALKING THE COURSE
Alumnus Mike Davis leads the USGA - United States
Golf Association - overseeing its core functions
which govern the rules, handicapping and equipment
standards for the professional game.

NO BORDERS
Recognizing a need, professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu
brought 10 graduate students to his native homeland of
Ghana to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention work, disease
control and to study environmental health concerns.

HATCHING A PLAN
University researchers and volunteers are leading a
push to bring massive leatherback sea turtles back to
St. Catherines Island.

IN THE NEWS
Emerging Technology • Eagle It! • House Calls • On Site • Research Notes
Get Physical • Future Fuel • Extreme Measures

EAGLE ATHLETICS
Sidelines • Two of the Best • Back on the Mat
Larger than Life

SUPPORT GEORGIA SOUTHERN
First Among Equals • Goal Tend • Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship

CHRONICLES
A Leg Up • Making Waves • Designer Genes • Designed to Last • Breaking Free
Biostatistics Behind the Scenes

3
If you’re a country music fan, chances are good that many of the tunes you hear every day on the radio were either written or performed by Georgia Southern alumni. Maybe your favorite is “The Dance,” by Garth Brooks. How about “Honey Bee” by Blake Shelton, “Gimmie That Girl” by Joe Nichols, “Farmer’s Daughter” by Rodney Atkins, or “We Rode in Trucks” by Luke Bryan?

These lyrics, penned by University graduates who got their start performing in Statesboro’s night spots, are now sung by some of the hottest talent in country music. They’ve received such honors as ASCAP’s Songwriter of the Year, the Song of the Year award from the Academy of Country Music, and countless Grammy and Country Music Association nominations.

Alumni have performed hundreds of times at the Grand Ole Opry, hosted Sirius XM radio talk shows and one artist’s gold single recently sold more than 128,000 tracks in just one week.

Here, we present a tribute to our alumni whose dedication to their craft has rocketed them to stardom in The Music City and beyond.

― Stories by Mary Beth Spence

“…Well, there’s thirteen hundred and fifty two guitar pickers in Nashville.
And they can pick more notes than the number of ants on a Tennessee anthill....”

John Sebastian, “Nashville Cats”
Talent and focus take Luke Bryan to the top of his industry

DREAM BIG, WORK HARD

Thomas Luther Bryan (‘99) is probably one of the steadiest acts in country music, but before he became a household name, he was cutting his teeth in Statesboro establishments as a student at Georgia Southern.

Better known to his fans as Luke Bryan, the Leesburg, Ga., native has slowly, but steadily built his country music career as a teenager writing songs in his hometown church all the way to being named the Top New Artist and Top Solo Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music.

Bryan counts Alabama, George Strait and Brooks & Dunn as his early musical influences—and now he’s in the same league with some of his country music idols.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Bryan released his first hit single “All My Friends Say” from his debut album, “I’ll Stay Me,” and wrote the song “Good Directions” – a number one hit that was recorded by his friend Billy Currington. Bryan’s new single, “I Don’t Want This Night to End,” became his fourth No. 1 hit, and last year he was named Top Male Vocalist by the Academy of Country Music.

But hey – if y’all are part of the diehard Bryan fan club called the Nut House – you already know that.

Bryan’s journey to Nashville began with an unspeakable tragedy and temporary detour for the award-winning artist. After graduating high school, he was honing his songwriting skills and performing with his band in hometown venues, ready to pursue his music career in Nashville. Tragically, his older brother, Chris, was killed in an auto accident the very day that he was to move to The Music City.

Bryan wanted to stay close to family, so he scrapped his plans for Nashville and enrolled at Georgia Southern. His music career continued to grow, and the business management major and his band played every weekend at venues ranging from Dingus McGees to fraternity parties. “It was the best experience of my life. I had a great time, made great friends, and it was real social,” he said with a laugh. Bryan also continued writing songs and recorded his first album. Instead of striking out for Nashville after graduation, surprisingly, Bryan returned to Leesburg to work on the family farm. After a year-and-a-half, Bryan’s father wanted to see his son pursue his talent and gave him an ultimatum: move to Nashville, or be fired. When Bryan left for Nashville at the age of 23, he followed his heart, but he was ready. “I was mature, and really clear on my vision for my career,” he said. Within two months of his arrival in 2001, he landed a publishing contract, continued building a catalog of songs, and eventually signed with Capitol Records.

The next few years saw huge successes for Bryan with the release of his second and third albums, “Don’t My Thing” and “tailgates & tanlines,” plus several platinum and gold hits. Bryan’s new single, “I Don’t Want This Night To End,” became his fourth No. 1 hit, and last year he was one of only three country artists – along with Lady Antebellum and Taylor Swift – to have multiple singles sell more than 100,000 tracks in a week.

Bryan’s appealing music has explored love, trucks and honkytonks among other themes – and his concerts reach out to audiences ranging from college students to farmers. “My music pulls from my life experiences, and I want it to be fun,” he said about his connection with fans through his music.

Last year for the first time, he headlined a series of 22 concerts for the CMT Tour, and he also continued his popular Farm Tour concerts, which paid tribute to hardworking farmers. Bryan’s outdoor concerts drew thousands of fans to farm fields across the states of Georgia and South Carolina while benefitting Georgia Southern students. For the past three years, a portion of the proceeds from the Farm Tour have provided a one-year scholarship to a University freshman from a rural Georgia farming community—preferably his hometown in Lee County.

“The Farm Tour is real special to me,” Bryan wanted to stay close to family, so he scrapped his plans for Nashville and enrolled at Georgia Southern. His music career continued to grow, and the business management major and his band played every weekend at venues ranging from Dingus McGees to fraternity parties. “It was the best experience of my life. I had a great time, made great friends, and it was known that.

Bryan’s journey to Nashville began with an unspeakable tragedy and temporary detour for the award-winning artist. After graduating high school, he was honing his songwriting skills and performing with his band in hometown venues, ready to pursue his music career in Nashville. Tragically, his older brother, Chris, was killed in an auto accident the very day that he was to move to The Music City.

Bryan wanted to stay close to family, so he scrapped his plans for Nashville and enrolled at Georgia Southern. His music career continued to grow, and the business management major and his band played every weekend at venues ranging from Dingus McGees to fraternity parties. “It was the best experience of my life. I had a great time, made great friends, and it was

But hey — if y’all are part of the diehard Bryan fan club called the Nut House — you already know that.

Bryan’s journey to Nashville began with an unspeakable tragedy and temporary detour for the award-winning artist. After graduating high school, he was honing his songwriting skills and performing with his band in hometown venues, ready to pursue his music career in Nashville. Tragically, his older brother, Chris, was killed in an auto accident the very day that he was to move to The Music City.

Bryan wanted to stay close to family, so he scrapped his plans for Nashville and enrolled at Georgia Southern. His music career continued to grow, and the business management major and his band played every weekend at venues ranging from Dingus McGees to fraternity parties. “It was the best experience of my life. I had a great time, made great friends, and it was

“My music pulls from my life experiences, and I want it to be fun.”

“Wisest words from a country man.}

Wise words from a country man.
COOKING UP A STORM
Elizabeth Cook writing songs and ‘touring like mad’

A country music crooner since the age of four, Elizabeth Cook (’96) is the youngest of six children who says that her own life resembles the lyrics of a country song.

Cook’s parents played in country bands and her father served time for selling moonshine. “Music became part of what I knew,” said the singer.

Cook earned dual degrees from the University in accounting and computer information systems and as a student, she could be found working in the College of Business Administration computer lab, as a tutor for the athletic department and singing onstage at Statesboro nightspot Blind Willie’s. “Like many Georgia Southern grads, I got a viable education and had a really good time. I was able to participate in quarter pitcher night and keep my GPA up,” she said humorously. “I credit GSU with challenging me to balance fun and work. When I chose to make this my career, I had to take that and apply a business sense to it if it was going to work and I was going to make my student loan payments,” she said.

After graduation, Cook was traveling home to Florida one weekend when she received her first recording contract. Because she didn’t travel with a laptop, Cook stopped at an Ace Hardware store to pick up her contract via the store’s fax machine and the rest is history.

Since that time, Cook has performed more than 300 times at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and released five albums to rave reviews. Her latest, “Welder,” was produced by Don Was with backup vocals from Dwight Yoakam, Rodney Crowell and Buddy Miller.

In 2007, she was tapped to host the popular Sirius XM radio show “Elizabeth Cook’s Apron Strings,” on the Outlaw Country channel, which features interviews with country music legends.

“Music became part of what I knew,” said the singer. “I credit GSU with challenging me to balance fun and work. When I chose to make this my career, I had to take that and apply a business sense to it if it was going to work and I was going to make my student loan payments,” she said.

After graduation, Cook was traveling home to Florida one weekend when she received her first recording contract. Because she didn’t travel with a laptop, Cook stopped at an Ace Hardware store to pick up her contract via the store’s fax machine and the rest is history.

Since that time, Cook has performed more than 300 times at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and released five albums to rave reviews. Her latest, “Welder,” was produced by Don Was with backup vocals from Dwight Yoakam, Rodney Crowell and Buddy Miller.

In 2007, she was tapped to host the popular Sirius XM radio show “Elizabeth Cook’s Apron Strings,” on the Outlaw Country channel, which features interviews with country music legends.

“My memorable times have been getting to interview Connie Smith and Marty Stuart, Wanda Jackson, getting to be around Willie Nelson, Shooter Jennings and all the Outlaw Country family, and having my mother as a guest on the show the Mothers Day before she passed. Thanks to the satellite radio technology, I’ve also done my show under some pretty wild circumstances . . . from Japan, the UK and rolling down the Pacific Coast Highway,” she said.

Last fall, Cook charmed TV host David Letterman with her witty, honest portrayal of her Southern upbringing on his show, and she has since landed several TV and film roles. “These opportunities have kinda fallen from the sky,” she said.

And as for the future? “I am thinking on my next record and touring like mad.”

SINGING ON KEY
Songwriter Dan Adams joins his peers for annual Key West festival

Dan Adams (’96) loves to tell a story. The Greenville, Ga., native has been telling plenty of them through more than 150 songs and five country music albums that he has written since he left Statesboro after graduating from Georgia Southern.

“I love writing songs because they paint a picture and tell a story,” said the songwriter who was influenced by a variety of musical styles. “I grew up on the Allman Brothers and the Eagles, Alabama, Charlie Daniels and Kenny Rogers,” Adams revealed.

As a marketing major, Adams played in local bands until he got a call from Capitol Records, landing an internship before his senior year on campus. After that, he was hooked on the music industry and The Music City.

“A couple of months after graduation, I moved to Nashville to work in the record label side of the business, which included Internet marketing,” he said. Within the next couple of years however, the self-described "road dog musician" switched gears, going back to performing and he began playing more than 200 shows a year for a five-year stretch.

Over the years, Adams’ career has easily moved back and forth from songwriting and the business side, and less on performing” he said.

He is co-writing with many industry veterans and hosting regular songwriters’ showcases that highlight the talents of his peers. Musicians such as Russell Hitchcock from the group Air Supply and country artists including Joe Bachman and the group Lonestar have recently recorded Adams’ songs.

This is shaping up to be a busy year for Adams, with the debut of his sixth album on iTunes and amazon.com, and participating in his fourth annual journey to the Key West Songwriters Festival where he joined more than 100 songwriters descending upon the island for a series of acoustic performances.

“Nashville’s songwriting community moves to Key West for five days, and you get to hear a lot of hit songs from the guys that wrote them,” said Adams.
Although Ben Hayslip ('94) has never played in a band, the former Georgia Southern baseball player has scored his biggest successes in the country music industry.

In college, Hayslip viewed songwriting as a sideline, and sports came first. The Evans, Ga., native was a member of the Eagles’ team that went to the 1990 College World Series in Omaha, but athletics was not his calling.

He’d always had the same dream since the age of 14. “I’ve always said, ‘I’m going to Nashville,’” Hayslip recalled. After graduation, a degree in business management he moved to Nashville to pursue a solo career. Hayslip teamed with producer Kent Wells and recorded an album that included a duet with Dolly Parton on the track “Train, Train,” releasing three singles, all of which hit the Music Row Top 40 – “Kill the Mullet” (#38), “Small Town America” (#25) and “Nowhere USA” (#22).

New Music Weekly named Hayslip as co-BMI Songwriters of the Year and the group was named to Billboard’s Top 5 Country Songwriters. Receiving these awards comes as a result of Hayslip’s dedication to his craft. He joins his fellow songwriters every morning on Music Row to collaborate on lyrics. “When you do this for a living every day, it is so boring to sit in a room by yourself. There’s a lot of camaraderie with our songwriting – we throw around ideas for melodies. Some of our best songs have taken 45 minutes to an hour to write, while other days I am brain dead when I get home,” he admitted about the intensity of the songwriting process.

“This industry is sort of like golf. You keep having little successes at a time, and it was enough for me to keep hanging around Nashville. As a songwriter, you go through stages of asking yourself, ‘Am I doing the right thing?’ and ‘Am I ever going to make it?’"
In 1984, Tony Arata (’80) was making a living performing in cover bands in Savannah. The journalism graduate came home from work one day to greet the landlord at his apartment wishing him good luck when he moved in 30 days. Puzzled, Arata discovered that his wife, Jaymi (’80, ’83), had given notice. “My wife forced my hand to move to Nashville. She said, ‘If you’re going to write songs, you need to go where people know what it means.’ She got us there and kept us there,” said Arata, who became interested in music during his childhood. Even though Arata wasn’t aware of it at the time, the road to Nashville began simply enough when he started looking at his siblings’ album collections. “I spent time reading the lyrics from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and R&B – all kinds of styles,” he said. “That was when it really clicked with me that sometimes songs came from songwriters and the artists were usually not writing themselves,” he mentioned, such as Rod Stewart, Aretha Franklin and Glenn Campbell.

Arata taught himself to play guitar, and during his sophomore year at Georgia Southern, he began writing songs and playing in local clubs. After the couple’s move to Nashville, Arata squeezed in his songwriting with his workday, waking up early each morning to write songs before heading off to his job loading trucks for UPS. After work, he would perform at Open Mic nights in some of the city’s clubs. Call it fate or call it perfect timing, but one night after performing a song, “The Dance,” at the Bluebird Café, Arata met another aspiring writer who was himself working selling boots named Garth Brooks, who had just moved there from Oklahoma. “Garth said to me, ‘If I ever get a record contract, I’m going to record that song.’ When he signed with Capitol Records, he called me and asked if the song was still available,” said Arata. “The Dance” – Arata’s first song to be recorded, and also the first of several songs that Brooks would record by the songwriter – went on to win Song of the Year in 1990 from the Academy of Country Music; was number one for three weeks in Billboard and Radio & Records and received Grammy and CMA nominations. “I’ve been fortunate to have a lot of artists sing my songs,” said Arata, estimating that he’s written anywhere from 600 to 700 songs penning chart-toppers for country stars like Patty Loveless, Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Raitt, Lee Roy Parnell, Travis Tritt, Randy Travis, Clay Walker, Suzy Bogguss, Don Williams, Hal Ketchum and Tanya Tucker.

When it comes to songwriting, Arata follows one simple rule: “Write the best thing you can on any given day. What some people shy away from in a song is what others may like in a song,” he says about composing lyrics. “There’s no real trick to songwriting – you don’t have to come up with something new. The best songs are what someone has already lived – like having a broken heart.” Arata performs some 60 shows per year, including a monthly show at the Bluebird Café. Some of his favorite concerts are home shows – small intimate gatherings where residents can walk to the venue. Last fall, he returned to his hometown of Tybee Island, Ga., to perform a benefit concert for the Tybee Post Theater.

Performances aside, Arata acknowledged that some of his most gratifying work comes from speaking engagements. He shares advice and tips from his experiences in the industry with teenagers and college students serious about their craft. “I want these aspiring writers and artists to know that rejection isn’t the end – it’s where it starts.”
Global economic ties give new meaning to ‘made in’

I t's a Cadillac built in China an American car? A BMW built in South Carolina? How about a German Volkswagen with 80 percent American-made parts?

For American car buyers, it used to be simple: A Chevy was a Chevy. A Toyota was a Toyota. No more. It's harder than ever before to tell where products are manufactured, said Trey Denton, Georgia Southern professor of international marketing and advertising. "That's because we're sourcing components from all over the world and frequently we're assembling the products somewhere else.

Countries have even developed some elaborate rules to determine where their imports are made. "Some manufacturers, notably The North Face, Roundhouse Workwear and American Classic Outfitters have enjoyed a resurgence in sales of late due to increased demand for domestic products and an international demand for “Made in the USA” clothing."

Even those who profess to prefer buying home-grown products, often don’t. "There's a real conflict between intention and behavior," Denton said. "Who's against globalization? The fact is we don't look. Ask 100 people if they look to see where their clothing is made. They don't. We don't look. 100 people if they look to see where their clothing is made. They don't. We don't look. I do that exercise in all of my classes, and I've never had a student tell me they know where their shirt was made."

"The amount of clothing produced in the United States is not insignificant – there are 132 clothing factories here – but India and Pakistan in addition to China have more clothing plants than the United States. Clothing manufacturing is a major source of exports and jobs for many of the world's smaller, developing nations. Little Sri Lanka is home to 21 factories in a geographic footprint about the size of West Virginia. Malaysia, about the size of New Mexico, has 35 clothing plants."

Some American manufacturers, notably The North Face, Roundhouse Workwear and American Classic Outfitters have enjoyed a resurgence in sales of late due to increased demand for domestic products and an international demand for “Made in the USA” clothing.

Even those who profess to prefer buying home-grown products, often don’t. "There's a real conflict between intention and behavior," Denton said. "Who's against globalization? The fact is we don't look. Ask 100 people if they look to see where their clothing is made. They don't. We don't look. I do that exercise in all of my classes, and I've never had a student tell me they know where their shirt was made."

"The amount of clothing produced in the United States is not insignificant – there are 132 clothing factories here – but India and Pakistan in addition to China have more clothing plants than the United States. Clothing manufacturing is a major source of exports and jobs for many of the world's smaller, developing nations. Little Sri Lanka is home to 21 factories in a geographic footprint about the size of West Virginia. Malaysia, about the size of New Mexico, has 35 clothing plants."

Some American manufacturers, notably The North Face, Roundhouse Workwear and American Classic Outfitters have enjoyed a resurgence in sales of late due to increased demand for domestic products and an international demand for “Made in the USA” clothing.

Even those who profess to prefer buying home-grown products, often don’t. "There's a real conflict between intention and behavior," Denton said. "Who's against globalization? The fact is we don't look. Ask 100 people if they look to see where their clothing is made. They don't. We don't look. I do that exercise in all of my classes, and I've never had a student tell me they know where their shirt was made."

"The amount of clothing produced in the United States is not insignificant – there are 132 clothing factories here – but India and Pakistan in addition to China have more clothing plants than the United States. Clothing manufacturing is a major source of exports and jobs for many of the world's smaller, developing nations. Little Sri Lanka is home to 21 factories in a geographic footprint about the size of West Virginia. Malaysia, about the size of New Mexico, has 35 clothing plants."

Some American manufacturers, notably The North Face, Roundhouse Workwear and American Classic Outfitters have enjoyed a resurgence in sales of late due to increased demand for domestic products and an international demand for “Made in the USA” clothing.

Even those who profess to prefer buying home-grown products, often don’t. "There's a real conflict between intention and behavior," Denton said. "Who's against globalization? The fact is we don't look. Ask 100 people if they look to see where their clothing is made. They don't. We don't look. I do that exercise in all of my classes, and I've never had a student tell me they know where their shirt was made."

"The amount of clothing produced in the United States is not insignificant – there are 132 clothing factories here – but India and Pakistan in addition to China have more clothing plants than the United States. Clothing manufacturing is a major source of exports and jobs for many of the world's smaller, developing nations. Little Sri Lanka is home to 21 factories in a geographic footprint about the size of West Virginia. Malaysia, about the size of New Mexico, has 35 clothing plants."

Some American manufacturers, notably The North Face, Roundhouse Workwear and American Classic Outfitters have enjoyed a resurgence in sales of late due to increased demand for domestic products and an international demand for “Made in the USA” clothing.
UNIQUELY AMERICAN... OR IS IT?

In 1975, nothing could more typify our culture than baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and Chevrolet, or so went the commercial jingle of the day. But just how many of these remain uniquely American?

Baseball:
Baseball is America’s unofficial “national sport,” but is hugely popular in Latin America and Japan. China produces 80 percent of the world’s baseballs, but every baseball pitched in the American Major Leagues is made in Costa Rica in a Rawlings factory. Rawlings is headquartered in St. Louis and is part of the Jarden Corporation of Rye, N.Y.

Hot dogs:
According to recent survey data obtained by the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council, Americans purchase 350 million pounds of hot dogs at retail stores—that’s 9 billion hot dogs. But the actual number of hot dogs consumed by Americans is probably much larger. It is difficult to calculate the number of hot dogs Americans may eat at sporting events, local picnics and carnivals. The Council estimates Americans consume 20 billion hot dogs a year. That works out to about 70 hot dogs per person. Hot dogs are served in 95 percent of homes in the United States. Fifteen percent of hot dogs are purchased from street vendors and 9 percent are purchased at ballparks, according to statistics from the Heartland Buffalo Company. While the United States consumes the lion’s share of what we know as “hot dogs,” other countries have their own sausage-in-a-bun variations. The world’s largest hot dog was 197 feet and was prepared by Shizuoka Meat Producers in Shizuoka, Japan.

Apple pie:
National Apple Pie Day is May 13. To us, apple pie is an American dessert, but it actually originated in Europe sometime in the 14th century. The first known published apple pie recipe was printed by Geoffrey Chaucer in England. Arriving with the Pilgrims, apple pie quickly became an American dessert staple given the availability of fruit. About 55 million tons of apples were grown worldwide in 2005, with a value of about $10 billion. About two-fifths of the total was produced in China. More than 75 percent of the world’s production occurs in the United States, where more than 60 percent of the apples sold are grown in the state of Washington. Imported apples from New Zealand and other temperate areas are increasingly competing with U.S. production.

Chevrolet:
How “American” is one iconic make? That depends on which model one examines. According to Consumer Guide Automotive, the Chevy Aveo is built in South Korea with only 1 percent American or Canadian parts. The HHR is built in Mexico using only 36 percent U.S. parts. At the other end of the spectrum, the Chevrolet Impala is made in Canada with 75 percent U.S./Canadian parts and the Express van is made in the U.S. with 80 percent American/Canadian parts.

LIKE A ROCK…

Imported parts rolling into the truck market

With perhaps the exception of the Jeep, what could be a more American vehicle than a rock-hard ground-pounding full-sized pickup truck? Truth is, this year all of Detroit’s full-sized pickups contain less than 70 percent domestic parts. The Ford F-150, once with a domestic content as high as 90 percent, is now at 60 percent. The Chevrolet Silverado contains 61 percent American/Canadian parts. Chrysler’s Ram 1500 comes in at 70 percent domestic content.

It should be noted, however, that the domestic content of many U.S. cars varies year by year depending on the reliable supply of quality lower-cost, overseas parts available to U.S. automakers. The Ford Escape, for example, had a 65 percent domestic content in 2009 and 2011. In 2010, however, it was at 90 percent. Surely any truck hauling from Texas to the rest of the country could be an all-American hauler, right? Unless it’s a Toyota Tundra, built in San Antonio with 80 percent domestic content.

CHINA:

Are the economic fears justified?

Made in China. It seems to be everywhere from flat-screen TVs to ball point pens. But is China really the coming indomitable economic force it’s often portrayed to be? “China is a huge competitor and has a huge influence on the global economy, but they probably don’t deserve the fear that is ascribed to them,” said University marketing professor Trey Denton. “China is approaching the limits for many of its industries in terms of resources and worker productivity. They’ve got a lot of structural problems that limit their growth. They’ve got a capitalist economy with a communist government and it produces some really weird outcomes.”

A 2011 crash on China’s newly constructed, high-speed rail system resulted in 40 deaths and nearly 200 injuries just months after it began operation. Major earthquakes struck in May 2008 and April 2010 resulting in tens of thousands of deaths in collapsed structures—including schools. These events deepened many Chinese citizens’ skepticism of their nation’s ability to produce reliable, quality products that can stand toe-to-toe with world competitors.

While the flow of goods often seems to be one way, in reality the increasingly affluent in China are buying American— including U.S. automobiles. “They’re built in China,” said Denton, “but they’re U.S. brands. They’re buying Cadillacs and Buicks. GM is making quite a bit of money in China. They also like our high-tech products—our computers, our music and our software.

“They have a very hierarchical culture that puts a lot of pressure on them for conspicuous consumption,” said Denton. “The higher you go in their society, the more you’re supposed to demonstrate your level by using expensive products. The pressure is naturally there because of their culture. But there’s also a real bias against things Chinese because of their quality problems. They prefer in many cases to buy foreign brands, and they love U.S. brands for that reason.”
Mike Davis has always loved the game of golf.

Now that he’s the executive director of the United States Golf Association (USGA), only one thing has changed.

“Playing golf now than I’ve ever played in my entire life,” laughed Davis (’87), who became USGA executive director on March 2, 2011, after serving as senior director of Rules and Competitions.

Davis last played golf competitively when he was a Georgia Southern Eagle, and in 1990 he joined the USGA on the administration side of the sport as assistant manager of Championship Relations. Setting up the course for the U.S. Open, a job he started in 1997 when he became U.S. Open Championship Director, remains one of his great passions.

“I love it,” said Davis. “I would probably pay the USGA to allow me to keep doing it if I had to. I’m not only personally interested in it, but we’ve made some really good strides in terms of how the course is set up, how it’s presented and how much excitement it provides. Hopefully I’m not too busy and I can continue to do that.”

The role of USGA executive director isn’t one to be taken lightly. The position was established 117 years ago, and Davis is only the seventh person to hold the title.

“It’s kind of daunting if you think about it.”

Davis succeeded David Fay who held the position for 21 years, and follows legends like Joseph Dey, the executive director from 1934-68.

“When (Dey) retired, he was so respected worldwide that he actually became the very first commissioner of the PGA Tour,” Davis said. “Back in those days the Tour was just a separate arm of the PGA of America before it broke away. There’s been a lot of great people before me. I’m humbled by the assignment, and I shudder to think that I’m even in the same category as the six guys before me, and I’m working hard not to disappoint.”

Davis’ career leads to historic pro golf post

Davis is the senior-most staff member of the USGA and is responsible for managing all aspects of the Association’s day-to-day operations. He oversees all of its core functions — which govern the rules, handicapping and equipment standards for the game — essential programs, and human and financial resources of the Association.

In total, the USGA conducts 15 championships including the U.S. Open, the U.S. Women’s Open and the U.S. Senior Open, along with numerous amateur championships and international matches. On top of it all, Davis still finds the time to officiate at The Masters, The British Open and The President’s Cup.

With so much to juggle, it’s nice to know that golf is one sport that sees the players actually step in and officiate themselves — just another aspect of the game Davis loves.

“It’s a self-regulating sport,” he said. “Can you imagine some guy in the NFL saying...
after a play, ‘Wait, everybody hang on. I just held that guy, so give me a 10-yard penalty.’ It happens all the time in golf, and the rare time somebody doesn’t do that, they’re almost looked at as someone who doesn’t belong in the game. You don’t meet bad people. Everybody’s nice in the game. There’s a great deal of honesty and integrity, even on the elite level.”

The love of the game started early for Davis, who grew up in Chambersburg, Pa., and picked up golf at 8 years old. His parents had a golf-club membership, and his father taught him the game – although it wasn’t easy.

“When I started, they didn’t have junior clubs, so your parents took some old clubs, cut the shaft off and put a grip on it,” Davis said. “You’d take your sawed-off clubs, and that’s how you learned to play back then.”

Davis went on to win the Pennsylvania State Junior Championship in 1982. That put him on the radar of the USGA.

At the time, Davis was familiar with a star Georgia Southern Eagle, Jodie Mudd, who turned pro in 1982 after a stellar year as an amateur. That put Georgia Southern on Davis’ radar.

“Jodie Mudd was one of the best amateurs in the country,” said Davis. “He played on the Walker Cup team in 1981 and I’d seen him play a bunch of times. When he was at Georgia Southern, it was one of the top five programs in the country. I knew I wanted to come down South so I could play golf year-round, and I’m just delighted I picked Georgia Southern.”

—Matt Yogus

“Top 10 Treatment Centers in the Nation”

Celebrating Over 40 Years of Quietly Saving Lives

In a comfortable, caring, family atmosphere, the addiction medicine professionals at Willingway help people to transform their lives – to move from alcohol and drug dependency to a sober, clean and successful lifestyle.

Recognized as one of the premier alcohol and drug addiction treatment facilities in the nation, Willingway Hospital provides the highest quality care to patients and families affected by the disease of alcoholism and drug addiction.

- Medically-managed detox
- Inpatient residential
- Extended treatment
- Outpatient programs
- Intensive family program
- Continuing care

Call 24 hours a day for a confidential assessment

800-242-9455 | Statesboro, Georgia | www.willingway.com
While it’s been said that words can change the world, one Georgia Southern University public health professor is using his work to accomplish that task.

Recognizing a need both with Georgia Southern students and his native homeland of Ghana, Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, coordinator of the Environmental Health Sciences Discipline in the Jann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) initiated a plan. “I had a vision,” said Afriyie-Gyawu, “that it would be great for our University students to gain their practical learning experience in an environment or a country whereby their contributions could help improve the health conditions of the people. The students were very excited about this idea!”

Last summer, he and a group of 10 graduate students spent five weeks in the West African nation engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention work, disease control issues and studying environmental health concerns across the three regions in the country. It was the University’s first graduate student-oriented Study Abroad group to journey to Ghana, and also the first trip for any graduate students in the JPHCOPH.

“Africa is one of the most stable countries in Africa right now,” he said, “and the students were able to easily communicate with residents.”

A faculty member for the past three years at Georgia Southern, Afriyie-Gyawu holds a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology/biostatistics and a doctorate in toxicology from Texas A&M University. His research background in food safety and toxicology focuses on strategies to protect humans and animals against contaminants in foods/feeds.

For Afriyie-Gyawu, Ghana presented a prime opportunity for his students to conduct research on one of the most pressing health concerns in that country – local meat processing. Slaughterhouses in the region – known as abattoirs – use scrap tires as a fuel source for smoking meat intended for human consumption. Workers follow the practice of burning scrap tires over an open fire to singe the fur of slaughtered goats and cattle before cooking and eating.

“Those are made of chemicals and materials that are hazardous to the public’s health when they are released. When tires are burned, the ashes usually contain high levels of heavy/toxic metals (including arsenic, lead, cadmium, mercury, etc.) that can be washed through water runoffs, so Ghana’s water sources could also be polluted with those toxic chemicals,” said Afriyie-Gyawu.

“We looked at the chemical composition of tires to determine what was emitted on a daily basis,” said Afriyie-Gyawu, discovering that dangerous chemicals (for example, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons – heavy/toxic metals) were polluting the area, and that the meat was also exposed to those chemicals. These emissions could have toxic effects among humans via the food systems and some of the chemicals have been classified as either carcinogens (cancer causing) or probable carcinogens in the U.S.,” he said.

The group conducted surveys of workers and consumers to determine their knowledge of the scrap tire-based meat processing procedures and the potential dangers presented. “We found that the residents wanted safer practices to be used,” he said. Afriyie-Gyawu and the students subsequently presented their preliminary findings at an American Public Health Association conference in Washington, D.C., and at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington last November.

Another group of Afriyie-Gyawu’s students, including Kimberly Curtis, focused on HIV/AIDS prevention in Ghana. “With a population of 24 million people, approximately two percent have been diagnosed with HIV,” said Curtis, who worked closely with nurses counseling patients in local hospitals. “We were exposed to real-life situations that we wouldn’t necessarily have the opportunity to work with in the United States,” she said, about Ghana’s open-door system in regard to HIV/AIDS. “Thursdays were clinic days, and we discovered that a lot of HIV patients were malnourished, so we provided them with supplements and also dietary recommendations to address the disease.”

Curtis found that life in Ghana is drastically different than life in the United States. “The trip taught me to be happy with what I have,” said Curtis, revealing that residents don’t have amenities such as air conditioning and hot showers. “It has influenced me to help more, and I am trying to figure out other ways to give back to the people of Ghana,” she said, eager to return in hopes of making a small difference in the lives of other residents.

Word of the successful Ghana trip spread throughout campus, and students are requesting spots for the summer 2012 journey to the West African country. Afriyie-Gyawu also sees endless possibilities and the potential for a partnership between Georgia Southern and its sister university, the University of the Cape Coast, through student research programs and funding opportunities.

“There are benefits for Georgia Southern students and also Ghana,” he said. “Our students learn all of the aspects of a different culture, while immersing themselves in hands-on experience. They will have this experience for a lifetime.”

Mary Beth Spence — GEORGIA SOUTHERN.EDU/MAGAZINE
Although it’s not unusual to watch groups of loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings make their trek to the Atlantic Ocean on St. Catherines Island, last summer’s nesting season was a little more unusual than most.

A pack of 29 leatherback turtle hatchlings headed out to sea, marking a historic moment at St. Catherines – the first leatherbacks documented to have successfully hatched on the barrier island. The new group joins more than 100,000 loggerhead hatchlings released since 1991, thanks to the dedication of Gale Bishop, professor emeritus and founder of the Sea Turtle Project. He and groups of professors, students and other volunteers have dedicated years to field work, research and study to ensure that endangered sea turtles successfully hatch and hopefully return to nest again on St. Catherines.

During a routine beach canvas last June, student intern Lamar Mixson made the discovery of a lifetime when he found a two-meter-wide crawlway on the island, which is twice as wide as a loggerhead crawlway. Realizing a leatherback had come ashore to deposit eggs, he contacted Bishop and the researchers patiently waited during the two-month incubation period. “Well, 60 days came and went – no hatchings,” said Bishop. On day 72, Mehmet Samiratedu, the manager of Georgia Southern’s University Store and a longtime volunteer, checked the nest on his pre-dawn rounds. He immediately noticed a ghost crab burrow running downward into the sand and a plastic screen to keep raccoons, feral hogs and other predators at bay.

“The researchers patiently waited during the two-month incubation period. “Well, 60 days came and went – no hatchings,” said Bishop. On day 72, Mehmet Samiratedu, the manager of Georgia Southern’s University Store and a longtime volunteer, checked the nest on his pre-dawn rounds. He immediately noticed a ghost crab burrow running downward into the sand and a plastic screen to keep raccoons, feral hogs and other predators at bay. Bishop dug into the nest expecting to extract the rest of the hatchlings out the Island’s first leatherback hatchling. Instead, he pulled out the egg chamber 70 centimeters deep, the eggs were placed inside and covered with loose sand and a plastic screen to keep raccoons, feral hogs and other predators at bay.

The researchers patiently waited during the two-month incubation period. “Well, 60 days came and went – no hatchings,” said Bishop. On day 72, Mehmet Samiratedu, the manager of Georgia Southern’s University Store and a longtime volunteer, checked the nest on his pre-dawn rounds. He immediately noticed a ghost crab burrow running downward into the nest. Bishop dug into the nest expecting to remove a ghost crab. Instead, he pulled out the Island’s first leatherback hatchling.

“Because the integrity of the nest had been compromised by the ghost crab, we decided to extract the rest of the hatchlings and any unhatched eggs from the egg chamber,” said Bishop. Over the next three evenings, small groups of hatchlings were released into the ocean.

“It’s exciting to have the leatherbacks on the coast,” said Mark Dodd, the Sea Turtle Program Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Leatherbacks are commonly found in the state of Florida, with more than 500 nests discovered each year. “Over the past three years, we have had only a handful of leatherback nests in Georgia," he said. According to Dodd, there were 11 leatherback nests located on Georgia’s coast this year. The fact that four of the nests hatched is a testament to the tremendous volunteer efforts on the barrier islands, he said. “One of the things people don’t realize is that these are remote areas. Field work is difficult and it takes a lot of effort to locate and protect the nests. St. Catherines is one of our important cooperators.”

Dodd works closely with the state’s barrier islands on all sea turtle conservation and recovery efforts, and said that monitoring also continues during the winter months when leatherbacks return to the area to feed on jellyfish, their favorite food.

In order to “tag” nesting sea turtles, Dodd said that each of the cooperators supplies an egg from each nest that is no longer viable to extract maternal DNA. University of Georgia researchers have developed unique satellite DNA markers to identify individual turtles, the specific locations where they nest, and how many times they return to the same location.

“Our hope is that the hatchlings will return to the same beach where they were hatched to establish a nesting population,” said Dodd.

It’s hard to imagine that these tiny, palm-sized leatherback hatchlings may one day return to the Island as large as the size of a Volkswagen Beetle and weighing up to 2,000 pounds.

Like the return of sea turtles to St. Catherines, Bishop will faithfully arrive on the island this spring from his Iowa residence to once again protect the nests and shepherd another group of hatchlings out to sea, another group of K-12 teacher-interns along the beaches and new research by colleagues into the scientific literature.

Samiratedu is also eager for another challenge and new discoveries. His experience at St. Catherines began more than 21 years ago as a student intern, and he continues to spend three weeks each year on the island. “It’s a pleasure to go and work at a living laboratory, and these professors are my heroes,” he said.

—Mary Beth Spence

Photos courtesy of the St. Catherines Island Sea Turtle Project.

HATCHING A PLAN

RESEARCHERS, VOLUNTEERS
ATTRACTING LEATHERBACK TURTLES
TO ST. CATHERINES
MILESTONE EVENT: ENROLLMENT SOARS BEYOND 20,000

In terms of enrollment history, 1989 and 2003 were milestone years as the University surpassed the 10,000 and 15,000 enrollment marks, respectively.

It’s likely that 2011 will be remembered in the same vein as enrollment topped 20,000 for the first time last fall with 20,212 students representing 49 states and 101 nations.

While 3,099 new freshmen arrived, graduate enrollment at Georgia Southern also increased by nearly two percent as more students registered to begin work toward their master’s, specialist and doctorate degrees.

“Our goal is not to just grow in size, but to do so in a way that ensures that we stay true to what has made Georgia Southern so special,” said Brooks Keel, president of Georgia Southern. “Surpassing 20,000 students definitely takes us to a new level. Not only are we growing in size, but we’re also attracting very bright and accomplished students from throughout the state and from around the world.”

GEORGIA SOUTHERN NEWS ROUNDUP

ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS NAMED AMONG NATION’S FINEST

Georgia Southern’s online graduate programs in business, education, information technology and nursing have been ranked among the nation’s best in U.S. News & World Report’s first-ever edition of Top Online Education Program rankings.

According to the publication, “These rankings were created in response to today’s high demand for education provided in a flexible manner. With many distractions to detract from one’s schooling, online education has become increasingly popular due to its flexibility.”

“Georgia Southern has long been recognized for its outstanding campus-based programs, but this ranking confirms that our mission to advance programs in business, education, IT and nursing are among the best in the nation,” said University President Brooks Keel. “Georgia Southern has invested in innovative online programs that not only provide students with access to a respected Georgia Southern degree, but provide them with the ability to earn it from anywhere in the world.”

Georgia Southern’s online Master of Science in computer science was ranked in the Top 25 nationally for student services and technology, in the Top 10 for teaching practices and student engagement and in the Top 5 for admissions selectivity. The online graduate programs in education were ranked in the Top 15 for student services and technology, in the Top 35 for faculty credentials and training, the Top 20 for teaching practices and student engagement and in the Top 20 nationally for admissions selectivity.

Georgia Southern’s online graduate programs in nursing were ranked in the Top 80 for student services and technology and in the Top 50 for teaching practices and student engagement.

The University’s growing number of online graduate degree programs in business including its WebMBA and Master of Science in applied economics ranked in the Top 100. Its programs received a Top 50 national ranking for faculty for all ad training.

“While the rankings did not rank overall institution offerings, they do rank our programs in various categories and we are very pleased to be included among the nation’s best,” said Charles Patterson, vice president for research and economic development. “The rankings are a reflection of the outstanding faculty and staff who have put into creating and expanding these programs.”

In order to be considered for the rankings, online degree programs had to offer at least 80 percent of their course content online.

The online master’s degree programs were ranked in similar categories, but were evaluated on student engagement and accreditation as opposed to assessment.

There was also a separate indicator ranking for admissions selectivity. For more information, visit http://www.usnews.com/education/online-education.

ELITE SPORTS SHOOTING EDUCATION CENTER

Partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Southern is developing an elite sports shooting education center.

The education center is being funded in part by a $3.3 million federal grant that was acquired through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. That funding, along with private and corporate donations, will allow the Center to be a unique facility serving as an educational, recreational and competitive venue.

The Center is scheduled to open in 2013. "It is a tremendous opportunity for Georgia Southern University and all of southeastern Georgia," said Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel. "This center will have a far-reaching economic impact as elite sports shooting enthusiasts and competitors from around the country travel to this venue to train and compete. We are honored to be working with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to bring this unique facility, and its many economic benefits, to our area.”

Elite sports shooting, which includes archery and indoor-range shooting, is one of the fastest growing sports in the world.

“The shooting sports are lifelong activities that promote outdoor recreation, good health, discipline and safety, and an appreciation of conservation,” said Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Mark Williams.

“The Elite Sports Shooting Education Center at Georgia Southern University will promote these values and activities to its students and the community at large as well as generations to come. In addition, the shooting sports generate more than $478 million in economic impact in Georgia each year, and this facility will be a first-rate addition to our state’s shooting sports amenities.”

Georgia Southern Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. Ken Thompson, will serve as the Elite Sports Shooting Education Center’s first director. Thompson will be committed to safety and educating those interested in all levels of the sport.

“There is only one other center like this in the country,” said Thompson. “Our students are excited about the educational and recreational opportunities they will have here, and are very proud of the fact that Georgia Southern University is leading the way promoting the opportunities of this clean, intelligent sport. We are very appreciative of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Easton Foundation’s efforts to help us build this center for our students and community.”

“Georgia Southern has been an ideal partner for this endeavor,” said Dan Forster, director of the DNR’s Wildlife Resources Division. “With its iconic role in Georgia and its active student base, the University recognized the value of a shooting sports facility immediately and has embraced this program at every level of the organization. Centering this project along the way, Georgia Southern has brought excellence and innovation to the process and the program. The end result will be a state-of-the-art, world-class facility that will be a model for others.”

THOUSANDS OF FOOD ITEMS GATHERED FOR MILITARY

Georgia Southern staff, faculty and students sent more than 13,200 non-perishable food items to U.S. armed forces personnel in Afghanistan last fall through Georgia Southern’s “Snacks for Soldiers” project.

“We plan to make the project an ongoing one,” said Jordan Bailey, an ROTC cadet who is serving as assistant special project coordinator. “Our Snacks for Soldiers program is expanding. This is going to...”
UNIVERSITY ROLLS OUT ‘TXTL8R’ CAMPAIGN

It’s a sobering fact. Nearly 5,500 driver die and 450,000 more are injured annually as the result of “distracted driving,” a practice that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has termed “a dangerous epidemic on America’s roadways.”

Many of the incidents involving young people are the direct result of texting while driving, and Georgia Southern’s “txtl8r” campaign is aimed at addressing those risks among University students.

The recently launched campaign includes radio ads and campus signage featuring Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel, head football coach Jeff Monken, University students and athletes, and a professor who had to break the news of a texting and driving death to one of his classes.

Georgia Southern biology professor Lorre Wolfe decided to become involved in anti-texting and driving awareness after one of his students lost a relative in an accident where texting and driving was involved. Wolfe worked with the University’s Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the Office of Marketing and Communications to develop the “txtl8r” campaign.

In addition to targeting Georgia Southern students, the public service announcements were distributed to media around the state.

UNIVERSITY IS ‘MILITARY FRIENDLY’

Georgia Southern’s welcoming approach to soldiers and veterans was featured in the December 2011 issue of Military Advanced Education’s 2012 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities. Georgia Southern’s city University partnership, City Campus, has been honored with the Best Commercial Redevelopment Activity Award which honors projects employing quality growth principles while utilizing existing structures.

“City Campus brings professors and economic development specialists into the heart of downtown Statesboro,” said Downtown Statesboro Development Authority Executive Director Allen Muldrow. “This facility can be used by business owners and those who hope to open their own business in the future. It is a resource that we think will help to grow and begin many downtown Statesboro businesses in the years to come.”

City Campus houses a branch of the University Store, the College of Business Administration (HRSA) Scholarship.

The Commission reviewed all graduate education programs after standards were changed to reflect a state-wide effort to increase the probability that teachers make a strong impact on student achievement. COE graduate programs may note degree home and minor curriculum changes in some cases, say College officials, but all COE graduate degree programs meet the new requirements.

Educators interested in an in-field upgrade or an upgrade by adding a new certification field can view the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC) certification upgrade at 5067-7.41 to ensure selection of the appropriate degree program.

Evans said he was impressed with the University during his visits and is looking forward to serving as the College’s dean. “Exploring the campus among students who didn’t know who we were, we were frequently asked if we needed directions or assistance — and always made to feel at home,” he said. Since 2000, Evans’ research has focused on biosecurity issues, helping to develop educational material related to bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction which have been distributed worldwide, including to New York City after the 9/11 attacks. His research has also focused on exposure, assessment and health effects of automobile pollutants, dioxin lead and pesticides, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and avian influenza.

Evans earned his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University and a master of public health and Ph.D. in health services research from Saint Louis University.

College of Education

U.S. NEWS ONLINE GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM TOP 20

Georgia Southern University, among nine other programs that will complement nine other programs that will offer a totally online option.

Carving out a niche.

The founding director of the Institute for Biosecurity at St. Louis University is the newly named dean of the College. Evans said he was impressed with the University during his visits and is looking forward to serving as the College’s dean.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HONORS ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM

Research and Economic Development and an E-Zone, which is part of the University’s Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning. The E-Zone conference was held in a meeting space, and also houses areas that small businesses can utilize during their initial start up phase.

College of Health and Human Sciences

STUDENT NURSE GAINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

New DEAN TO LEAD JIANN-PING HSU COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The plan is to establish a series of programs out of Fort Stewart. ”

The College of Business Administration (COE) graduate programs were approved as meeting new graduate degree program requirements mandated by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC).

NEW DEAN TO LEAD JIANN-PING HSU COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

(COE) graduate programs were approved as meeting new graduate degree program requirements mandated by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC).

The Commission reviewed all graduate education programs after standards were changed to reflect a state-wide effort to increase the probability that teachers make a strong impact on student achievement. COE graduate students may note degree home and minor curriculum changes in some cases, say College officials, but all COE graduate degree programs meet the new requirements.

Educators interested in an in-field upgrade or an upgrade by adding a new certification field can view the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GPSC) certification upgrade at 5067-7.41 to ensure selection of the appropriate degree program.

Evans said he was impressed with the University during his visits and is looking forward to serving as the College’s dean. “Exploring the campus among students who didn’t know who we were, we were frequently asked if we needed directions or assistance — and always made to feel at home,” he said. Since 2000, Evans’ research has focused on biosecurity issues, helping to develop educational material related to bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction which have been distributed worldwide, including to New York City after the 9/11 attacks. His research has also focused on exposure, assessment and health effects of automobile pollutants, dioxin lead and pesticides, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and avian influenza.

Evans earned his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University and a master of public health and Ph.D. in health services research from Saint Louis University.

College of Education

U.S. NEWS ONLINE GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM TOP 20

Georgia Southern University, among nine other programs that will offer a totally online option.
Emerging Technology

UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES THE NEW ALLEN E. PAULSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

According to Moore, the creation of CEIT is a strategic fit. “This positions us uniquely in the state of Georgia, bringing these two broad families of disciplines together,” he said. “I can count on one hand the number of new engineering colleges in the United States. By having both of these families in one organizational structure, this will help in the current design and accelerate research here. There will be synergistic relationship between engineering and IT,” said Moore, “and it will make our engineering programs cutting edge, because IT is articulated in solid engineering disciplines.”

Mohammad Davoud, the chair of mechanical and electrical engineering, and interim dean of CEIT said that the establishment of the CEIT is a strategically important decision made by the University that will have the highest economic impact in south Georgia. “This college will have eight graduate and undergraduate degree programs and will produce work-ready graduates in support of the industry and economic developments of south Georgia. We all know that new industry will be coming to our region to capitalize on this college’s growth, said Wen-Ran Zhang, chair of computer sciences.

As a result, students will also have significant hands-on experiences, said Art Gowen, chair of information technology. “This will allow our students to hit the ground running upon graduation. Our programs are already growing and demand for our graduates in both IT and engineering is on the rise. Together, I have little doubt this new College will be very successful,” he said.

Careful planning of the University’s newest college continues and there’s no doubt engineering at Georgia Southern is destined to leave a footprint in the state of Georgia and around the world with increased economic opportunities and partnerships.

—Mary Beth Spence

SOMETHING IDEAS CAN RESHAP THE FUTURE.

Just ask Georgia Southern President Brooks Keel and Provost Ted Moore.

After last year’s milestone achievement of adding mechanical, civil and electrical engineering degree programs, the pair envisioned the formation of a new college dedicated to engineering. Last summer, they delivered a proposal to information technology faculty with the idea of merging the new engineering programs with computer science and information technology into one college. “We asked the deans, department chairs and faculty to recommend a committee to study the idea,” said Moore.

In November, after months of studying how such an alliance would advance the academic mission of the University, the merger committee, consisting of faculty, staff, students and alumni overwhelmingly recommended the formation of the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT), which was approved by Keel.

Part of the restructuring process includes moving the departments of Information Systems and Construction Management to the College of Business Administration (COBA) and establishing the College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) to house programs in biology, chemistry, geology and geography, military science, physics, pre-medical/ pre-dental and mathematical sciences.

In the news

LOGO TRAIL LEADING FAITHFUL INTO THE ‘BORO

SOME PEOPLE THEORIZE THAT “X” MARKS THE SPOT, and in this case, Georgia Southern’s Eagle logo is marking the trail to the Eagle Nation with a new tradition.

Eagle-It!, a joint collaboration between Georgia Southern supporters and the Student Eagle Club, a student organization working to foster and promote True Blue spirit, is giving fans, alumni and students an innovative way to express their faithful dedication to the Eagles.

The Georgia Southern logos – some as large as 10 feet by 10 feet – have popped up everywhere from roadways and commercial buildings to residences leading into Eagle Nation. Trained representatives of the Student Eagle Club, accompanied by professional painters, have painted the landmark on a trail of hay bales on Georgia Highway 67 and U.S. 301, and the logo is also prominently displayed on one of the outbuildings of the Kiwanis-Ogeechee Fairgrounds.

For more information about Eagle-It!, including applications, the review process and location recommendations, visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu/eagle-it.

TOP: A hay bale south of Statesboro on Highway 301 near the Parkwood RV Park and Cottages. ABOVE: The Main Building of the Kiwanis Fairgrounds on Highway 67. LEFT: Entering campus on Herty Drive by Hanner Fieldhouse.
House Calls

GRADS JOIN TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

Now with an increased elderly population, house calls are making a comeback, and two Georgia Southern Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduates are aiding the elderly in need of convenient care with plans to open their own house call franchise business this summer.

Carmen Hill-Mekoba and Ludella Brown recognized that when some frail, elderly patients are faced with the difficulties and challenges of traveling to see their doctors, they often skip the visit. To remedy the problem, the pair is providing comprehensive care for seniors in two Georgia cities and their new business venture is a combination of their house call expertise in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and independent senior residences.

“The elderly often find it difficult to visit a doctor, and we bring personalized care to them. This has really brought nursing and medicine back to the forefront,” said Brown.

Plans are underway for the franchises to begin operating this summer in Georgia and South Carolina, and preparations include employing nurse practitioners with specialized experience. “We would like to select nurse practitioners with backgrounds in geriatrics,” said Brown. “Eventually, our plan is to have a nurse practitioner on-site for one to two days a week at a individual nursing home.” The business includes a team of collaborating physicians who consult with the nurse practitioners.

The goal-oriented pair credits Georgia Southern’s DNP program because its vision of serving a diverse, ethnic community matched the goal of meeting the needs of underserved populations. “I want to raise the level of healthcare,” said Hill-Mekoba, whose career has also included working in a small, inner-city hospital and creating health and wellness initiatives for companies including Kimberly Clark and Ciba Vision. She founded the Visiting Nurse Program at General Motors, in which staff nurses ride golf carts to provide routine blood pressure and glucose checks for employees who are unable to leave their jobs on the production line.

While in the DNP program, Hill-Mekoba focused on the promotion of health and wellness initiatives with a different group: senior citizens. She has contracted with the Atlanta Housing Authority to provide weekly health care services in one facility’s wellness room and visit seniors living in high rises.

“These people were not receiving the care they needed because of limited resources such as transportation,” she said. Hill-Mekoba makes house calls to approximately 30 people each week, and enlisted the services of a pharmacy to deliver medications. Even more significant is that seniors do not incur any out-of-pocket costs for a visit. “Seniors living in public housing deserve the same health care as everyone else,” she added. In addition to Hill-Mekoba’s busy house call schedule, the mother of three is also a nursing instructor for three universities: the University of Texas at Arlington, the Chamberlain College of Nursing and Boise State University.

Brown has the distinction of being the only nurse practitioner in the Savannah area to open a private practice, Women’s Healthcare and Family Medicine. “When I wrote the business plan for my practice, I had absolutely no idea that my career would expand into home visits,” said Brown, who has provided emergency treatment to patients in private practice and in hospital settings and has also worked as a nursing instructor. For seven years, she worked as the clinical director and nurse practitioner for the Community Health Mission in Savannah, an organization that offers free primary health care to uninsured patients in Chatham County and surrounding areas.

“When I opened the door to my practice the first day and my first patient walked in, I was always thinking about other opportunities, and ways to help the underserved,” she said.

Brown’s house call idea formed when she went to see her mother, an Alzheimer’s patient. “When I visited my mother, I wondered how many other residents at the facility were receiving physical examinations and routine health care on site. I started making a list of assisted living facilities and nursing homes in the area to contact,” she revealed. Brown discovered that many residents were unable to travel to a provider and that area medical professionals weren’t making house calls.

“Today, I make house calls at five assisted living facilities and two nursing homes to provide physical exams and labs for the residents,” said Brown. While she sees patients in her office three days a week, Brown is also on call for two additional assisted living facilities. “The facilities have been so receptive. It is easier to make house calls versus staff transporting patients in a van to a physician’s office, where they may have to wait two hours or more,” she said.

The call to help the elderly has changed the lives of the two women. “I feel so much professional satisfaction working with the underserved,” said Hill-Mekoba. “This is America’s forgotten group, and many of them don’t have a support system. Seniors really appreciate that someone cares about their overall health and well-being.”

As a result of this hands-on approach to nursing, Brown has developed special and meaningful connections with her patients. “I love to communicate, and I feel that it helps me contribute more to my patient’s lives,” she said.

—Mary Beth Spence
Students designed the Web site for Southern Cyclists, pictured on desktop computer, and an innovative browser site called seniorsDashboard.com, pictured on the laptop.

On site

STUDENTS LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS IN REAL-WORLD WEB SITE DESIGNS

These days, everybody needs a Web site.

More and more organizations across the state are turning to the Georgia Southern’s Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology to have their Web sites designed for free – and students do all the work.

A pair of courses offered by professors John O’Malley and Philis Wainford allows students to interact with clients, to work together as a group and to design and build fully functional Web sites.

With Internet presence becoming a necessity in nearly every walk of life, it’s not just information technology (IT) people signing up for the class. Students from a wide array of majors take the courses to learn the process of Web design.

If you’re in communications or you’re in print journalism, you’d better know the Web,” said O’Malley, whose students have been designing Web sites for clients since 2005. “All of the industries utilize the Web. You need a Web presence, because that’s how people are going to find you. I can’t see how it wouldn’t benefit any student.”

Non-majors typically sign up for IT 3132, while a more advanced version of the course, IT 4235, consists mostly of IT students.

The classes, divided into small project groups each semester, have designed more than 70 Web sites over the past six years.

In the spring of 2012, the course took another step into the future, adding mobile sites to the curriculum. Students are still creating pages in standard formats, but the course expanded its services to include mobile Web design to complement standard Web-page displays.

With so many different sizes of screens on a growing list of devices that includes computers, smartphones and tablets, it is important to make sure students leave the course with skills to accommodate all of the current technology. Equally important is making sure the client gets a Web site that is compatible on current devices.

Those are some of the things we’re going to be focusing on in this course in the future,” said O’Malley. “You want to detect the device, detect the operating system and display a presence that is appropriate for your particular screen.”

The course instructs students on becoming proficient with a trio of Adobe programs – Dreamweaver, Photoshop and Flash. The pages designed by the students have included content like bios, contact information, product information and videos based in both Flash and HTML5.

Students have even designed graphics and logos per requests from some clients. Most of the clients have offered plenty of feedback, but some have been hard to work with.

For the students, that’s just another opportunity to learn.

“They get experience not only with the creation of a Web site, but also dealing with clients and working with a team to accomplish a goal,” O’Malley said.

“Sometimes the clients are hard to reach. Sometimes the clients don’t like what the students are doing. It’s a good lesson in either case.”

Locally, small businesses, churches and even the Statesboro-Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Department have had their Web sites designed by the program, and clients from counties across the state have also benefited. Students commonly bring in clients from their own hometowns.

“The students are all giving service back to the community, which I think is an important lesson,” O’Malley said. “They’re giving back to the communities that have supported them.”

—Matt Yogus

THE STUDENTS ARE ALL GIVING SERVICE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, WHICH I THINK IS AN IMPORTANT LESSON.”

—JOHN O’MALLEY, PROFESSOR, ALLEN E. PAULSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LET GEORGIA SOUTHERN STUDENTS DESIGN A WEB SITE FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

CONTACT: Professor John O’Malley 912-478-7251 jomalley@georgiasouthern.edu

Include details of your specific needs with your request. Clients must make their own arrangements to host the Web site.

All work is done free of charge.
Home field advantage

Just as in the day when the Blue Tide rolled into Savannah to face Babe Ruth and the Boston Braves, the sights and sounds of Georgia Southern baseball continue to bring pride and excitement to fans. Attendance and amenities at the Eagles’ home ballpark have changed quite a lot, however. Progressing from chain-link fences and wooden bleachers with seating for a few hundred to one of the finest collegiate venues in the country, J.I. Clements Stadium now boasts a capacity of more than 3,000. A 2005 renovation provided for a 30-seat press box with booths for television and home and visiting radio, a fan VIP suite with 27 chairback seats, and a social room with additional seating. The Champions Room on the main concourse features a large meeting area with a kitchen. Coaches’ offices are perched above the home dugout in the Wiggins Building which includes the team locker rooms and clubhouse.

1966

2012

GIVE US YOUR BEST!

Send your favorite old photos of Georgia Southern people and places and we will share them on our Web site. E-mail your pictures along with an explanation of who or what the photo is about to magazine@georgiasouthern.edu.

CAMPUS CHANGES

CAMPUS CALENDAR

APRIL 2012

APRIL 1
Softball vs. Chattanooga, 1 p.m.
Baseball vs. College of Charleston, 3:30 p.m.

APRIL 3
Lecture/Film: Keith Farrell. “Oliver Cromwell in Ireland: Multicultural Showdown in 17th Century Europe,” 7 p.m., Williams Center

APRIL 4
Baseball vs. Bethune Cookman, 6 p.m.
Competition: Mr. Georgia Southern University, 7 p.m., Russell Union

APRIL 7
Women’s Tennis: Eagles vs. Wofford, 11 a.m.

APRIL 10
Baseball: Eagles vs. Kennesaw State, 6 p.m.

APRIL 11-18
Theatre: “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone,” 7:30 p.m., Center for Art & Theatre

APRIL 12
Japanese Taiko Drummers, 11 a.m., Russell Union

APRIL 13-22
Undergraduate Juried Art Exhibition, Center for Art & Theatre

APRIL 13
Baseball: Eagles vs. Kennesaw State, 6 p.m.

APRIL 14
Baseball vs. Appalachian State, 1:30 p.m.
Softball vs. College of Charleston, 3 p.m.

APRIL 15
Baseball vs. Appalachian State, 3:30 p.m.
Softball vs. College of Charleston, 5 p.m.

APRIL 17
Program: Diverse Religions, 11 a.m., Russell Union

APRIL 18
Softball vs. North Florida, 1 p.m., Eagles Field
Softball vs. North Florida, 5 p.m.
Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Card A. Carter Recital Hall

APRIL 19
Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

APRIL 20
Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center

APRIL 21
Night of Wild Sax, 7:30 p.m., Card A. Carter Recital Hall

APRIL 24
University Singers and Southern Chorale, 7:30 p.m., nimbus Park UMC, Fair Road

APRIL 25
Multicultural Vendor Expo, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Russell Union

APRIL 26
Georgia Southern Symphony

May 2012

MAY 2
Georgia Southern Symphony Pops Concert, 6 p.m., Botanical Garden

MAY 3
Baseball vs. Charleston Southern, 6 p.m.

MAY 4
Baseball vs. Samford, 6 p.m.

MAY 5
Community-wide Yard Sale, 8-11 a.m., Parrish Football Center
Baseball vs. Samford, 2:30 p.m.

MAY 6
Baseball vs. Samford, 1:30 p.m.

MAY 7
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 6 p.m.

MAY 8
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

MAY 9
Community-wide Yard Sale, 8-11 a.m., Parrish Football Center
Baseball vs. Samford, 2:30 p.m.

MAY 10
Feed the Mosasaur Fundraiser, Nessmith-Lane Ballroom, Time TBA

MAY 11
Spring 2012 Commencement, 9 a.m., Allen E. Paulson Stadium

MAY 12
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 1:30 p.m.

MAY 15
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 6 p.m.

MAY 18
*Performing Arts Center

CAMPUS CHANGES

THEN & NOW

Home field advantage

Just as in the day when the Blue Tide rolled into Savannah to face Babe Ruth and the Boston Braves, the sights and sounds of Georgia Southern baseball continue to bring pride and excitement to fans. Attendance and amenities at the Eagles’ home ballpark have changed quite a lot, however. Progressing from chain-link fences and wooden bleachers with seating for a few hundred to one of the finest collegiate venues in the country, J.I. Clements Stadium now boasts a capacity of more than 3,000. A 2005 renovation provided for a 30-seat press box with booths for television and home and visiting radio, a fan VIP suite with 27 chairback seats, and a social room with additional seating. The Champions Room on the main concourse features a large meeting area with a kitchen. Coaches’ offices are perched above the home dugout in the Wiggins Building which includes the team locker rooms and clubhouse.

GIVE US YOUR BEST!

Send your favorite old photos of Georgia Southern people and places and we will share them on our Web site. E-mail your pictures along with an explanation of who or what the photo is about to magazine@georgiasouthern.edu.

CAMPUS CHANGES

CAMPUS CALENDAR

APRIL 2012

APRIL 1
Softball vs. Chattanooga, 1 p.m.
Baseball vs. College of Charleston, 3:30 p.m.

APRIL 3
Lecture/Film: Keith Farrell. “Oliver Cromwell in Ireland: Multicultural Showdown in 17th Century Europe,” 7 p.m., Williams Center

APRIL 4
Baseball vs. Bethune Cookman, 6 p.m.
Competition: Mr. Georgia Southern University, 7 p.m., Russell Union

APRIL 7
Women’s Tennis: Eagles vs. Wofford, 11 a.m.

APRIL 10
Baseball: Eagles vs. Kennesaw State, 6 p.m.

APRIL 11-18
Theatre: “Joe Turner’s Come and Gone,” 7:30 p.m., Center for Art & Theatre

APRIL 12
Japanese Taiko Drummers, 11 a.m., Russell Union

APRIL 13-22
Undergraduate Juried Art Exhibition, Center for Art & Theatre

APRIL 13
Baseball: Eagles vs. Kennesaw State, 6 p.m.

APRIL 14
Baseball vs. Appalachian State, 1:30 p.m.
Softball vs. College of Charleston, 3 p.m.

APRIL 15
Baseball vs. Appalachian State, 3:30 p.m.
Softball vs. College of Charleston, 5 p.m.

APRIL 17
Program: Diverse Religions, 11 a.m., Russell Union

APRIL 18
Softball vs. North Florida, 1 p.m., Eagles Field
Softball vs. North Florida, 5 p.m.
Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Card A. Carter Recital Hall

APRIL 19
Yom Hashoah: Holocaust Remembrance Day, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

APRIL 20
Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center

APRIL 21
Night of Wild Sax, 7:30 p.m., Card A. Carter Recital Hall

APRIL 24
University Singers and Southern Chorale, 7:30 p.m., nimbus Park UMC, Fair Road

APRIL 25
Multicultural Vendor Expo, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Russell Union

APRIL 26
Georgia Southern Symphony

May 2012

MAY 2
Graphic Design Portfolio Reveal, Center for Art & Theatre

MAY 12
Spring 2012 Commencement, 9 a.m., Allen E. Paulson Stadium

MAY 15
Baseball vs. Western Carolina, 1:30 p.m.

MAY 18
*Performing Arts Center
RESEARCH NOTES

GEORGIA SOUTHERN RESEARCH NEWS ROUNDUP

Practice-Based Research Network: “Our goal with this grant and our research is to find ways to help build a better public health system to more effectively and efficiently face the new health challenges of the 21st century.”

Collaborators with Todd in the study were T. Russell Crook, University of Tennessee-Knoxville; James G. Combs, University of Alabama; David J. Woehe, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; and David J. Ketchen, Jr., Auburn University. Their work was recently published in the Journal of Applied Psychology.

College of Science and Mathematics

PROFESSOR SEEKS TO LESSEN DAMAGE FROM NATURAL THREATS

A $377,000 grant to University researcher Clark Alexander led to enhanced protection of the southeastern coast from the threats of flooding, storms, hurricanes and erosion.

The funds come as part of a $1.06 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Regional Ocean Partnership to the Governor’s South Atlantic Alliance (GSSA), an environmental organization headed by the governors of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and North Carolina.

Alexander’s project will work to enhance the capabilities of a software tool called AMBUR (Analyzing Moving Boundaries Using R), which will determine the coastal areas that are most vulnerable to natural hazards. The data, combined with economic factors, will determine the pros and cons of coastal development in vulnerable areas.

AMBUR was created by Georgia Southern professor Chester Jackson, and the project to develop the tool on a larger scale will last 18 months. Partners in all four states will gather data throughout the process.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

ENGLISH PROFESSOR EMBARKS ON 15-YEAR PROJECT

Professor of English Timothy Whelan has received approval from Oxford University Press to move forward on a 25-volume edition of the Diary, Travel Diaries, and Reminiscences of Henry Crabb Robinson, a 19th century Londoner who was well-acquainted with luminaries of his day and kept extensive writings on his life.

Completion of the Crabb Robinson Project is expected to take 15 years. Among Robinson’s friends were William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Mary Hays, William Hazlitt, Harriet Martineau, Dorothy and William Wordsworth and Goethe.

The archive of Robinson’s manuscript writings belongs to Dr. William’s Library, London, a privately held public library. The Crabb Robinson Project is in collaboration with the Centre for Dissenting Studies, a joint effort of the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London and Dr. William’s Library.

Whelan will serve as general editor, assisted by James Viguys of Queen Mary, University of London, and a team of 10 editorial assistants from universities in England, America, Canada and Switzerland.

College of Education

BOOK: HARASSMENT CREATES "PERVASIVE VULNERABILITIES"

A new book by Georgia Southern College of Education professor Delores D. Liston finds that the problem of sexual harassment in the workplace is still widespread, sometimes impacting women’s lives long after they graduate.

Pervasive Vulnerabilities was written by Liston and co-author Regina Rahimi, an assistant professor in the Department of Adolescent and Adult Learning at Armstrong Atlantic State University. It discusses issues of sexual harassment through its impact on women’s lives, the perceptions of teachers who interact with adolescents, the experiences of young girls in middle and high schools, and the difficulty of keeping teachers from moving beyond it. That’s just not true,” Liston said.

Most schools and districts have developed policies related to sexual harassment, Liston says, but policies can only go so far. "You have to make sure the policies are followed and that all aspects of the law, are accessible to school personnel, students, and parents, and are followed consistently," she adds.

"But beyond these issues, we won’t see any change until there is an open discussion about the beliefs, attitudes, feelings, and issues of power that frame sexual harassment."

College of Business Administration

COBA PROFESSOR STEVE MOSS LEADS IMPACT STUDY OF SARS

Decision Sciences Professor Steve Moss has an ongoing line of research analyzing the effects of events such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Katrina and 9/11 have on tourism.

The most recent paper published studies the effects of the SARS outbreak on travel between the U.S. and three destinations: China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Moss employed aggregate-level integrated moving average (ARIMA) models with interventions to estimate the timing, depth and shape of SARS impact on international air travel. ARIMA models are frequently used to examine time series data to either better understand the data or to predict future points in the series.

Moss and his co-author, COBA faculty Jun Liu, and Moss, established links between their empirical findings and a conceptual framework for analyzing the life cycle of a crisis.

The conceptual framework used situational choices and governmental public relations differences within various locations to explain different response patterns.

The study showed that human capital relates strongly to performance, and that even though it takes time and money to develop or acquire, managers should consider investing in programs that increase and retain firm-specific skills and knowledge.

The College has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the quality of services from public health departments around the state of Georgia. Researchers from JPHCOPH will work with the Regional Ocean Partnership to the Governors of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and North Carolina.

Some of Georgia’s most at-risk citizens will benefit from work by Georgia Southern’s Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (IPHICOPH) to improve their access to public health services.

The College has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the quality of services from public health departments around the state of Georgia. Researchers from IPHICOPH will work with the state’s health departments and the Georgia Public Health Practice-Based Research Network, housed at the IPHICOPH, to find ways to better address critical public health issues including obesity, diabetes and newly emerging infectious diseases.

“Georgia’s health departments are on the front lines of our battle for good public health,” said Lynn Woodhouse, interim dean of the IPHICOPH and a researcher with the Georgia Public Health Department.

It’s not just good employee relations. It can also be good business.

The conceptual framework used situational choices and governmental public relations differences within various locations to explain different response patterns.
Get Physical

IT’S A FACT, CHANGING SEDENTARY LIFESTYLES CAN BE A CHALLENGE.

This summer however, a Jian-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (IPHCOH) professor has a new game for Bulloch County youth that will get them moving and keep them healthy.

Moya Alfonso is introducing a new physical activity program called the VERB Summer Scorecard (VSS) which targets “tweens” ages 8 to 13 after receiving a $20,000 grant from the Georgia Health Foundation.

“Tweens” ages 8 to 13 after receiving a $20,000 grant from the Georgia Health Foundation.

Friends participating in activities such as swimming, running, yoga, martial arts or skateboarding. Instead of directly focusing on exercise, the VSS promotes activities that tweens can do with free time or place restrictions, and youth are encouraged to select new activities they would enjoy.

The premise of the program is fun after completing an exercise, youth record their activity on an interactive online scorecard. Tweens receive points for each activity and are eligible to enter drawings for prizes such as an iPod, sport bike, Wii Fit, scooters and more, which are donated by area businesses.

Alfonso, the former co-director of Methods and Evaluation for the Florida Prevention Research Center, recently published findings detailing the effectiveness of the VSS, which was documented over a three-year period in Lexington, Ky. Her study found that physical activity increased, and providing youth with free and low-cost activities in Lexington helped to prevent the middle school drop off in physical activity, particularly among tweens girls.

Alfonso plans to adopt the same strategy with her lead community partner, the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County. They have created a coalition of community leaders, volunteers, IPHCOH faculty and graduate students to develop and implement the program in Bulloch County from May through August 2012. Alfonso estimates that 300 youth will be served in the first year of the program.

Alfonso is also partnering with Department of Health and Kinesiology professors Ashley Walker and Gavin Colquitt, who have researched issues impacting childhood health.

“This program is all about finding your ‘verb’ – or physical activity – and sticking with it. The overall focus is wellness and prevention, and for youth to try new physical activities,” she said.

—Mary Beth Spence

Future Fuel

THERE IS A PROGRAM WITHIN THE ALLEN E. PAULSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING and Information Technology (CEIT) that melds the biofuels developed and processed by students in the College’s Renewable Energy Lab with racing vehicles built in the Carruth Building into a single, self-sufficient research project — the Biodiesel Baja Project.

The project is headed on two sides by mechanical engineering professors Brian Vlcek and Vladimir Soloiu. Vlcek oversees the building of the Baja vehicles while Soloiu supervises the production of the biofuels.

“The Baja Project was a test bed for the fuels that we developed here on campus,” Vlcek said. “It was to have our own vehicle that we ran our own fuels in, which kind of closed the loop. Before, we just ran it in engines on dynamometers, which measure load and constraint.”

Vlcek said that it wasn’t until a year later that graduate student Chris Long, then a junior mechanical engineering major, wrote a proposal, with Vlcek as his faculty advisor, to the CEIT’s Office of Undergraduate Research for funding to cover the purchase of a diesel engine, because most of the fuels that were being produced in the lab at that time were diesel-based biofuels. The proposal was a success and he, with the help of some additional funding from the department, was able to acquire the engine for about $2,400, Vlcek said.

Long and a small group of students modified the mountings on the vehicle to make the engine fit and began making fuel out of peanut oil.

In addition to that, Soloiu said the engine also runs off of fuels made from cotton seed oil and poultry fat — all produced in the department’s Renewable Energy Lab.

Soloiu said of the Renewable Energy Lab, “It is state-of-the-art. It has the most advanced combustion, emissions and biofuels in the Southeast.”

Soloiu said that one of the main advantages of this project is that all the biofuels are created from products obtained from Georgia farmers and that these products are needed.

The peanuts used to make the oil have been rejected by the market and have been deemed unfit for human consumption; the poultry fat comes from the poultry industry and is usually fed to other chickens; and the cotton seeds have a low germination rate, resulting in an inability to yield crops if planted.

By utilizing fuel sources that are not fit to be sold on the commercial market to produce biofuels, the Biodiesel Baja Project is helping create what Soloiu calls “more efficient, cleaner, greener” fuels.

—Matthew D’La Rotta

Program seeks to get kids moving
FOR CHRIS KOWALCYZK, INVESTIGATING THE MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT MAN IS ALL IN A DAY’S WORK.

His fascination with archaeological history began with field work at Mont Repose, a rice and cotton plantation near Ridgeland, S.C., and as a member of the initial team that discovered Camp Lawton, a former Civil War prisoner camp in Millen, Ga.

Kowalczyk, however, has now turned his attention to other rare treasures—skulls.

“I’ve always been interested in the history of humans,” explained Kowalczyk. “It was neat to find buttons and pottery, but it wasn’t a bone.”

The graduate student is now researching the stories that lie behind the modification of ancient skulls across different cultures through cutting-edge 3D laser scanning.

Kowalczyk wants to know: What happens to brains after practicing this odd custom, and how have humans been affected?

Thousands of years ago, Queen Nefertiti probably boasted an elongated skull, and who can forget the alien-like skull discovered in Peru in the movie “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull?”

In Georgia, there are a few archaeological sites where individuals display unusually shaped skulls. For some, the change was intentional, but for others there was a functional cause. For example, heavy loads were carried on their backs using a tumpline, which is a strap that wraps around the front of their head and over time would create a flattened forehead; he explained about the 100-plus year customs followed by Native American tribes near Columbus, Ga., in the mid-1600s.

Another familiar practice which unintentionally changed the shape of children’s skulls in many different cultures, was a cradle board. “Mothers carried their babies in a small wooden or reed back pack,” said Williamson. The infants were secured in the baby carrier with a strap across their forehead to keep them from falling out, but it changed the shape of their heads in the process.

“If we can understand how the skull changes and adapts, it will help us understand genetic abnormalities and we can see how a child’s growth is affected,” said Kowalczyk, explaining how these scans might one day solve medical mysteries.

While the cranial modification of skulls might be an unusual concept, Williamson says people continue to modify their bodies in today’s society—just in different ways. “In the present, we continue to express ourselves through body modifications such as tattoos and piercings.”

—Mary Beth Spence
GEORGIA SOUTHERN SPRING 2012

SIDELINES

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLE ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

Bauerle, Sally Smalley Bell, Bob Boylston and Cliff Kimsay. “I am very humbled by this honor,” said Ham. “I am so excited to represent my family and to represent Georgia Southern in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.”

Ham, a 2010 Canadian Football Hall of Fame and 2007 College Football Hall of Fame inductee, led Georgia Southern to back-to-back national championships in 1985 and 1986. He is the Eagles’ all-time leader in total offense with 8,869 yards, passing yards with 5,757 and passing touchdowns with 34. Ham was also Georgia Southern’s first All-American and was the only Eagle to wear number 8. His jersey was retired following his distinguished career on the field.

CLENDINGEN NAMED SOCON SOCCER CO-PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Senior Luigi Clendingen was named Southern Conference Men’s Soccer Co-Player of the Year after finishing the 2011 season with a league-high 13 goals to go with five assists. The forward led the Eagles to the third seed in the Southern Conference Tournament and four league wins after losing all six games in 2009 and 2010. He was joined on the all-conference team by sophomore midfielder Hunter Norton. “A native of Augusta, Ga., Clendingen shared the award with Furman’s Colleton Henning — the first time in 38 years that two student-athletes shared the award. Clendingen is the second Eagle to be named SoCon Player of the Year, joining Tony Moffat, who picked up the honor in 2003.”

The Eagles’ other first-team All-SoCon selection, Norton, is a native of Evans, Ga. The Eagles’ captain scored four times and posted four assists. Norton is the son of former Eagles head coach Tom Norton, a three-time SoCon Coach of the Year, and former University Director of Human Resources Susann Norton.

BASEBALL, RAWLINGS INK DEAL

The Georgia Southern baseball team has partnered with the Rawlings company for baseball equipment available. “Rawlings has always had a reputation for making the premier baseball gloves on the market,” said head coach Rodney Hennon. “This partnership with Rawlings will give our players access to the very best baseball equipment available.”

WOMEN’S SOCCER ‘TRANSFORMED’

Georgia Southern’s magical run through the SoCon Women’s Soccer Tournament came to an end in November with a 4-2 loss to the College of Charleston in the tournament semifinal. The third-seeded Cougars scored three first-half goals to take a big lead into the intermission. Seventh-seeded Georgia Southern scored twice in the span of a minute to cut the lead to 3-2, but a late Charleston goal sealed the victory. “It’s not the ending we had in mind or hoped for, but we certainly feel good about what we accomplished this season,” said first-year coach Lindsey Vanderspiegel. “Our seniors did a great job all season. They leave here with a legacy that has transformed this team into a group that will compete for SoCon Championships year-in and year-out.”

MORE THAN 100 JOIN SOCON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Georgia Southern placed 134 student-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2010-2011 academic year. All 15 Eagle sports were represented, with football boasting the most student-athletes on the list with 18. Swimming and diving was strongly represented with 17 honorees. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports, are current members of the SoCon and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher. They must have passed at least 24 hours in two of their classes or equivalent for other academic calendars.

COACH DAYS-BRYAN HONORED BY PRO TEAM

Women’s assistant basketball coach and past Eagle standout Regina Days-Bryan has been selected to the South Carolina Basketball Hall of Fame. Days-Bryan was also selected to the 1999 All-Decade Team. She began her nine-year professional career in the SEABL where she played in partnership with Rawlings, the women’s basketball league. They leave here with a legacy that has transformed this team into a group that will compete for SoCon Championships year-in and year-out.”

MORE THAN 100 JOIN SOCON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Georgia Southern placed 134 student-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2010-2011 academic year. All 15 Eagle sports were represented, with football boasting the most student-athletes on the list with 18. Swimming and diving was strongly represented with 17 honorees. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports, are current members of the SoCon and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher. They must have passed at least 24 hours in two of their classes or equivalent for other academic calendars.

COACH DAYS-BRYAN HONORED BY PRO TEAM

Women’s assistant basketball coach and past Eagle standout Regina Days-Bryan has been selected to the South Carolina Basketball Hall of Fame. Days-Bryan was also selected to the 1999 All-Decade Team. She began her nine-year professional career in the SEABL where she played in partnership with Rawlings, the women’s basketball league. They leave here with a legacy that has transformed this team into a group that will compete for SoCon Championships year-in and year-out.”

MORE THAN 100 JOIN SOCON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Georgia Southern placed 134 student-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2010-2011 academic year. All 15 Eagle sports were represented, with football boasting the most student-athletes on the list with 18. Swimming and diving was strongly represented with 17 honorees. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports, are current members of the SoCon and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher. They must have passed at least 24 hours in two of their classes or equivalent for other academic calendars.

COACH DAYS-BRYAN HONORED BY PRO TEAM

Women’s assistant basketball coach and past Eagle standout Regina Days-Bryan has been selected to the South Carolina Basketball Hall of Fame. Days-Bryan was also selected to the 1999 All-Decade Team. She began her nine-year professional career in the SEABL where she played in partnership with Rawlings, the women’s basketball league. They leave here with a legacy that has transformed this team into a group that will compete for SoCon Championships year-in and year-out.”

MORE THAN 100 JOIN SOCON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

Georgia Southern placed 134 student-athletes on the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll for the 2010-2011 academic year. All 15 Eagle sports were represented, with football boasting the most student-athletes on the list with 18. Swimming and diving was strongly represented with 17 honorees. The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports, are current members of the SoCon and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher. They must have passed at least 24 hours in two of their classes or equivalent for other academic calendars.
right now. J. Clements Stadium is home to two guys many would say are two of the best college baseball players in the nation.

Whether it’s the offense of Victor Roache, a right-handed slugger who has battled injury throughout his career, yet hit 30 home runs in 2011 to lead all of Division I, or the pitching of Chris Beck, who tossed a complete-game three-hit shutout against Samford in the 2011 Southern Conference Championship game and has become one of the nation’s elite pitchers, the Eagles know talent when they see it.

“We were fortunate to get them on campus, and that’s the big key here,” said Georgia Southern University head coach Rodney Hennon. “If you can get kids on campus, this University sells itself.”

Both players have come a long way since becoming Eagles in 2010, and they both had a similar journey to the way a breakout sophomore campaign in 2011.

DRAWN TO SOUTHERN

When Georgia Southern assistant coach Mike Tidick and former pitching coach Jason Beverlin took a trip to Dayton, Ohio, in July 2008 to check out some high-school talent, they hit pay dirt, finding Victor Roache of Tsalpals, Mich., a heavy hitter who wasn’t quite yet on the radar of the high-major, Division-I programs.

“A lot of schools all of a sudden came at me pretty fast,” said Roache about the recruiting process in 2009. “A majority of guys I know try to walk on over there, but not me. I wanted to come to Georgia Southern.”

EARLY STRUGGLES

In a 2010 lineup with senior heavy hitters Kyle Blackburn (.353, 17 home runs) and A.J. Wirsberger (.328, 10 home runs), Roache started 43 of 58 games and hit .252 while scrapping together eight home runs, including two grand slams during his freshman campaign. He battled injuries throughout the end of the season and into the 2010 SoCon Tournament, and broke his leg during the offseason.

Like Roache, Beck faced freshman struggles in 2010. Early in his career, he threw his lumps in starts against then-No. 7 Clemson and then-No. 3 Georgia Tech. Beck battled injuries of his own through his first season at Georgia Southern, appearing in just 12 games as a freshman.

“We kind of went through the same thing,” said Hennon. “There’s no doubt in my mind he’ll work his way through this and be a stronger person from it.”

Either I wasn’t nervous, “ Beck said about pitching in Fenway, “or my heart was beating so fast I couldn’t tell.”

A BUMP IN THE ROAD

Roache ran into more adversity at the start of the 2012 season. He broke his wrist and was knocked out of action during just the sixth game of the season.

“He’s a strong person. He’s made of the right stuff. He’s got a good perspective and be the nicest guy off the field, but when you get between the lines, it’s time to get a little nasty and carry yourself like you’re the baddest guy around.”

Roache’s 30 homers in 2011 weren’t just amazing because of the newly-designed NCAA bats, implemented to better simulate wood. They weren’t just amazing because they were the most in a single season in Georgia Southern history.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the stat was that Roache hit more home runs in 2011 than 164 entire Division-I programs. Virginia, the 2011 Atlantic Coast Conference champion, collectively hit only 25.

“Roache continued to influence his teammates on the field.”

He’s all about the team,” said Beck. “With all the attention he’s had, he has handled himself the right way. He’s definitely a person I want to model myself after.”

—Matt Yogus

References:

Roache continues to influence his teammates on the field. That’s where the bond of Georgia Southern’s 2011 season, Beck and Roache left for Boston, Mass., to play as teammates with the Cotuit Kettlers in the Cape Cod League, a showcase for the nation’s best talent. The trip served as a bonding experience for the pair of Eagles.

“We had a 21-hour drive up to Boston together, Beck said. “We got to know each other off the baseball field even more than we already did. We played on the same team in Cape Cod, we played in the All-Star game, and we really got to share in every experience together. That’s where best friends are made.”

Roache, the recipient of the Most Outstanding Prospect Award, was second in the league in homers (6) and runs batted in (28). Beck was fifth in strikeouts (41) and sixth in earned-run average (2.12).

Roache homered over the Green Monster during the All-Star Home Run Derby at Fenway Park of the Boston Red Sox, and Beck pitched a scoreless inning in the Cape Cod All-Star Game.

“Either I wasn’t nervous,” Beck said about pitching in Fenway, “or my heart was beating so fast I couldn’t tell.”
Knowing that he’s overcome an injury before and come back stronger gives him some comfort about what he’s faced with now. He’s a strong person. He’s made of the right stuff.

– Coach Rodney Hennon

He made up his mind that whenever he was going to get that ball, he was going to be ready to go out there and get the job done.

– Coach Rodney Hennon
If you’ve ever heard the rock music coming from the auxiliary gymnasium of Georgia Southern’s Recreation Activity Center (RAC) each afternoon after 5 p.m. and wondered what was going on in there, the answer is simple. The wrestlers are back, and hard at work.

Since its resurrection in 2008, the Campus Recreation & Intramurals (CRI) department, along with head coach William Hurst, has made sure the program is here to stay. Heading into their fourth year of competition under Hurst, the Eagles, who compete as a club team in the Southeastern Conference of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWAA), have already produced a national champion, an Academic All-American and two players who have earned National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) scholarships. It took only two years under Hurst for Georgia Southern to finish fifth nationally in the NCWAA Division II rankings and 16th overall in the field of 79 Division-I and Division-II teams.

Brooks Pendleton, then a sophomore, dominated the 235-pound weight class at the 2009 national championship meet in Hampton, Va., taking the individual national title while allowing only one point against him, a locked-hands penalty in the first match of the tournament. Pendleton entered the tournament field unseeded and defeated No. 4 seed Brian Milford of Texas A&M for the 235-pound-classification national championship.

Pendleton wrestled two seasons at Georgia Southern, losing only once as he helped rebuild the program, but his career came to an end when he suffered a broken neck. He has since undergone a full recovery, and is close to graduating.

“If he never steps on the mat again, it’s okay,” Hurst said about Pendleton. “He’s got a gigantic diamond national championship ring – they don’t give out toys – and he has beaten some of the best wrestlers in the country at every level.”

Shaun Scruggs, a junior who wrestles in the 184-pound class, was named an NCWAA Academic All-American during the 2011 preseason. He also qualified for nationals in each of his first two seasons.

Scruggs had his heart set on attending Georgia Southern before he even knew there was a wrestling program. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Bill, a cello player who came to Georgia Southern on a full musical scholarship.

“The more I looked into Georgia Southern,” Scruggs said, “I found out that there were two guys who had already been to the wrestling nationals, so I met with Coach Hurst. I was already going to come to Georgia Southern – I loved the school, I loved the campus, I loved the RAC – and then to find out there was already a wrestling team that had a lot of success in such a short time, it was remarkable news for me.”

Scruggs had never dreamed of becoming a college athlete, even after he earned the highest grade point average (3.91) on the Peachtree Ridge High School wrestling team his senior year in 2009.

“I’m a junior in college and I’m still speechless about it,” he said. “I never thought for a second in my entire life I’d be able to say I was a college athlete. Now I’m a team captain and an Academic All-American and I’m speechless. My brain is still trying to catch up with my body.”

At left, coach William Hurst and his squad of Eagle wrestlers are members of the Southeastern Conference of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association. Above, teammates Caleb Harris and Jimmy Miller grapple for an advantage during practice.
LARGER THAN LIFE

Drive to construct Erk statue nearing goal

At the start, the task before Derek Sills seemed as imposing as the seven-and-a-half-foot statue of coach Erk Russell he wanted to erect. But less than a year later, Sills has raised $60,000 of the estimated $80,000 needed to construct the monument at Paulson Stadium. A Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation board member, Sills sees the job as a personal duty to his alma mater.

“It not only honors a legend, which is what we should do, it gives our stadium the presence and pageantry of the game; and you can’t beat the pageantry of the game of football,” Sills said.

The experience included a visit to Russell’s bust at Paulson Stadium and the coach’s artifacts in the football office. Mullins created the likeness of Georgia coach Vince Dooley in Athens.

Sills has managed to get some big names on board to construct Erk statue nearing goal.

Sills has plans to hold additional fundraisers to complete the project. One possibility includes selling “One More Time” t-shirts and hosting another “Eagles in the air” barbecue and pig patty party. Last year’s creative benefit raised almost $20,000 toward the project.

Sills is hoping that the statue can be finished in time for the 2012 season.

The scholarship’s first recipient is sophomore Lango. She is environmentally aware and is working with local efforts to support Georgia Southern. Lango is heavily involved in campus volunteer activities. She is a member of the Student African American Sisterhood and serves as a Southern Ambassador. She volunteers at the Statesboro Boys and Girls Club, works with local efforts to prevent domestic violence, and is also the reigning Miss Black and Gold for Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

The newly endowed Black Alumni of Georgia Southern Scholarship was awarded last fall in honor of Carter and Mosley. Carter now lives in Soperton, Ga., and is a retired Treutlen County teacher.

“I'm grateful, honored and elated to be a part of the presentation of the first Black Alumni of Georgia Southern Scholarship,” said Carter. “When I enrolled as an undergraduate in 1965, my goal was to get a college degree. I didn't know I was making history. However, I have come to appreciate the historical significance of my accomplishment in being the first African-American female to complete a full four years at Georgia Southern.

“My hope is that my accomplishment, however modest or grand, can encourage, inspire and motivate others to pursue their dreams.”

Mosley is a retired principal who resides in Indianapolis. “Having the BAGS scholarship given in my honor this year reminds me of a song we sang in my church,” said Mosley. “The name of the song is ‘Give Me My Flowers’ and the words are: ‘Give, give me my flowers, while I can feel them, so that I can see the beauty they bring. Give, give me my flowers, while I can feel them, so that I can feel the comfort they bring.’ The recognition and the beautiful certificate I received remind me of a bouquet of flowers.

“I saw the beautiful expressions of love and appreciation on the faces of the ‘youngsters’ attending the ceremony,” he said. “The honor, the flowers, makes me feel like my living has not been in vain, and today, I walk with an attitude of gratitude.”

The scholarship’s first recipient is sophomore chemistry major Precious K. Colo of Milwaukee, Ga. “I am grateful and blessed to have received the first BAGS scholarship,” said Lango. “It will help me greatly when it comes to purchasing textbooks and other materials I will need in completing my sophomore year. After I graduate, I plan on becoming a pediatrician, or a pediatric physical therapist.”

Lango is heavily involved in campus volunteer activities. She is a member of the Student African American Sisterhood and serves as a Southern Ambassador. She volunteers at the Statesboro Boys and Girls Club, works with local efforts to prevent domestic violence, and is also the reigning Miss Black and Gold for Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

First Among Equals

First Black Alumni Group scholarship honors pioneers

Winter Quarter 1965 began quietly at Georgia Southern College, so quietly that hardly anyone noticed the historic transition taking place.

Statesboro teacher John Bradley – an African American – was joining the line of students cue’d up to register in Hanner Gym when President Zach Henderson greeted Bradley and led him through the process of becoming the first black student and the first black graduate student at Georgia Southern. Bradley went on to complete his M.S. teaching certificate.

That fall, six black students – five beginning freshmen and one sophomore transfer – Clavelia Love Brinson, Arlene Marie Daughtry, Shirley Anne Woodall and Catherine Davis, enrolled with little fanfare.

In 1969, two of those freshmen, Ulysee Mosley of Albany, Ga., and Jessie Zeigler Carter of Statesboro, became the first black man and woman, respectively, to complete their entire college careers at Georgia Southern.

The newly endowed Black Alumni of Georgia Southern (BAGS) Scholarship was awarded last fall in honor of Carter and Mosley. Carter now lives in Soperton, Ga., and is a retired Treutlen County teacher.

“My hope is that my accomplishment, however modest or grand, can encourage, inspire and motivate others to pursue their dreams.”

Mosley is a retired principal who resides in Indianapolis. “Having the BAGS scholarship given in my honor this year reminds me of a song we sang in my church,” said Mosley. “The name of the song is ‘Give Me My Flowers’ and the words are: ‘Give, give me my flowers, while I can feel them, so that I can see the beauty they bring. Give, give me my flowers, while I can feel them, so that I can feel the comfort they bring.’ The recognition and the beautiful certificate I received remind me of a bouquet of flowers.

“I saw the beautiful expressions of love and appreciation on the faces of the ‘youngsters’ attending the ceremony,” he said. “The honor, the flowers, makes me feel like my living has not been in vain, and today, I walk with an attitude of gratitude.”

The scholarship’s first recipient is sophomore chemistry major Precious K. Colo of Milwaukee, Ga. “I am grateful and blessed to have received the first BAGS scholarship,” said Lango. “It will help me greatly when it comes to purchasing textbooks and other materials I will need in completing my sophomore year. After I graduate, I plan on becoming a pediatrician, or a pediatric physical therapist.”

Lango is heavily involved in campus volunteer activities. She is a member of the Student African American Sisterhood and serves as a Southern Ambassador. She volunteers at the Statesboro Boys and Girls Club, works with local efforts to prevent domestic violence, and is also the reigning Miss Black and Gold for Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.
Goal Tender

Realizing the University’s vision is top priority for new Advancement VP Salinda Arthur

Salinda Arthur has been rousing the faithful to action for quite some time. With more than 17 years of fundraising experience and having just completed a $1 billion campaign at Virginia Tech, she is looking forward to the next challenge. Georgia Southern’s record enrollment, surging school spirit and lofty goals give its new vice president for University Advancement plenty to be excited about, and with state and federal resources dwindling, philanthropy has become even more important to Georgia Southern’s future.

“University Advancement’s mission is to look at what the University has as priorities and then examine which alumni, friends, parents, corporations and foundations can partner with us. We look for their interests to see if we can facilitate a gift through those interests and make the University’s priorities possible.”

Fundraising in today’s economic climate is going back to basics. “Not just Georgia Southern, but many institutions have found themselves with fewer and fewer state and federal funds,” Arthur said. “Philanthropy has become a necessity for some of the basic functions of the University, not to mention being able to move forward with University special initiatives. You want to be able to act upon them in order to grow the institution, and philanthropy becomes the mechanism to do that.”

Additional scholarship support for students is a key ingredient to success, especially in challenging economic times. “Philanthropy can make a difference there,” said Arthur. “When people endow scholarships, their endowment goes on forever, and it enables students who would not otherwise be able to attend to get an education, and with that education and opportunity, the tools to do better in life.”

The ability to attract and keep high quality teacher-scholars is a key to Georgia Southern’s desire to grow as a center of research. “We have a need for philanthropic support of our faculty,” she said. “Those institutions that have large endowments for faculty positions are less likely to lose those professors to other institutions. Faculty can stay and be focused. We want to keep our good teachers, and we want to find great researchers. It is philanthropy that will enable us to do those things.”

Facilities to meet a growing enrollment and changing needs are another priority. “Being able to give individuals naming opportunities for buildings or parts of buildings is something that philanthropy contributes,” said Arthur.

The world of higher education philanthropy is challenging — but very rewarding, she said. “I think as fundraisers we can look back and say, ‘Wow, look at what our donors were able to accomplish — what we were able to facilitate made a big difference.’”

—Salinda Arthur

“I think as fundraisers we can look back and say, ‘Wow, look at what our donors were able to accomplish— what we were able to facilitate made a big difference.’”

—Salinda Arthur

Additional scholarship support for students is a key ingredient to success, especially in challenging economic times. “Philanthropy can make a difference there,” said Arthur. “When people endow scholarships, their endowment goes on forever, and it enables students who would not otherwise be able to attend to get an education, and with that education and opportunity, the tools to do better in life.”

The ability to attract and keep high quality teacher-scholars is a key to Georgia Southern’s desire to grow as a center of research. “We have a need for philanthropic support of our faculty,” she said. “Those institutions that have large endowments for faculty positions are less likely to lose those professors to other institutions. Faculty can stay and be focused. We want to keep our good teachers, and we want to find great researchers. It is philanthropy that will enable us to do those things.”

Facilities to meet a growing enrollment and changing needs are another priority. “Being able to give individuals naming opportunities for buildings or parts of buildings is something that philanthropy contributes,” said Arthur.

The world of higher education philanthropy is challenging — but very rewarding, she said. “I think as fundraisers we can look back and say, ‘Wow, look at what our donors were able to accomplish — what we were able to facilitate made a big difference.’”

—Salinda Arthur

“I think as fundraisers we can look back and say, ‘Wow, look at what our donors were able to accomplish— what we were able to facilitate made a big difference.’”

—Salinda Arthur
Fraternity’s generosity supports future students

“I want to be a position to give back to the University for all that the school had done for me, I wanted to be in a position to give back to Georgia Southern,” said APSA brother Alvie Coes, as he accepted the chairmanship of the newly endowed Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship.

The Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship was established by the Georgia Southern Foundation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the University’s charter and in honor of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to students who are majoring in finance, economics, or business administration.

Stating the need for financial support, Georgia Southern’s Student Government Board (SGB) led the fundraising efforts for the scholarship. The SGB executive vice president, Thai Farmer, stated, “I have always believed that doing something for GSU and helping someone else the way I was helped would be the best way I could give back, so I just put a half a million dollars into it.”

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the group’s alumni contributed to the endowment, said APA brother Alvie Coes (’07), executive director of Stateboro’s Hearts and Hands Clinic. “It’s been a dual effort over the last five or six years between the graduate brothers and the undergraduate chapter.” Coes said all fraternity alumni were asked to contribute $100 each year and the Xi Tau Chapter was asked to donate $3,000 through fundraising activities.

Both groups have generously supported the effort, said Jones. “I’m forever grateful to both my fraternity’s alumni and Xi Tau Chapter for making this happen.”

The University professors and administrators of both groups, along with Jones also served as his inspiration to continue supporting Georgia Southern. “They had a great impression on my love of public administration and are a part of why I am a public servant today,” he said.

1960s

Micky Cobb (’64) has authored a moving and inspiring account of how he overcame physical and socioeconomic hardships to realize his dream of being a professional baseball player. Cobb tells the story of his personal journey, through a sometimes-harrowing world, into the secure confines of a Major League clubhouse. Step and a Half is available at Amazon.com.

1970s

Luis A. Aguilar (’76) was sworn in to begin his second term as chancellor of the Securities and Exchange Commission in December 2009. Aguilar began his first term as a SEC commissioner in July 2008 after being appointed by President George W. Bush. He was re-appointed to his position by President Barack Obama to a new term October 2011.

1980s

Dr. Reuel Lee (’83), an Army chaplain who served in the Navy’s Recruit Training Command in Lawrenceville, Ga. and president, MRC, by

1990s

Retired Col. Alvin B. Lee (`76) has published a book, The Vigilant Investor, which includes 40 stories that teach investors how to avoid common mistakes and make wise investment decisions. The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Victoria Logue (’84), author of 12 books on hiking and the outdoors, has authored a book, A Hike in the Cafe, a tribute to the hard work and dedication of employees who work under the Georgia Southern University Foundation.

Statebros. Their agency recently earned Partner status from Grange Insurance, which is the highest designation. The national honor recognizes leading insurance agencies that sell Grange’s products, based on their experience professionalism and profitability. It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of employees who provide us with the best customer service experience possible. A Hike in the Cafe includes stories that teach investors how to avoid common mistakes and make wise investment decisions. The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Statebros. Their agency recently earned Partner status from Grange Insurance, which is the highest designation. The national honor recognizes leading insurance agencies that sell Grange’s products, based on their experience professionalism and profitability. It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of employees who provide us with the best customer service experience possible.

The book includes stories that teach investors how to avoid common mistakes and make wise investment decisions. The book is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
Chris Riley (’92) once had his heart set on becoming a CIA agent. That all changed once he began his second quarter of Arabic at Georgia Southern and his professor pulled him aside. “He said, ‘You know there really are a lot of red-haired, fair-skinned agents in Arabic-speaking countries!’ and he was correct. I got a career serving citizens on a global scale, the 42-year-old works as a leading public servant for the state of Georgia. “I never thought I would have a career in politics,” said Riley, now Gov. Nathan Deal’s chief of staff.

The Gainesville, Ga., native’s infatuation with politics and politics began as a volunteer at the grassroots level during Deal’s 1992 campaign for Congress. At the time, Riley was working on campaigns for then-Sen. Deal was the best person running for Congress from our area. About a month into the campaign, Mr. Deal’s son, Jason, returned home from military service in Germany and the two of us traveled about every road in the 9th District. We met some great Georgians on that trail. I guess you could say I learned political campaigns in the old-fashioned way, face-to-face,” said Riley.

After Deal’s win and Riley’s graduation from Georgia Southern, he began working as Deal’s legislative assistant. “I graduated on a Sunday night in Statesboro in December 1992, and caught a Delta Air Lines flight for the next day to find a place to live,” he said.

Through the years, Riley has worked in a variety of influential roles as a member of Deal’s staff and grants coordinator, campaign manager for Congressional re-election, deputy chief of staff and chief of staff. In 2009, Riley resigned as chief of staff to manage Deal’s campaign for governor. After winning the gubernatorial election, he was appointed Gov. Deal’s chief of staff in January 2011.

As the governor’s top advisor, Riley’s hectic schedule typically begins at 6:30 a.m. every day. “Complex is an accurate way of describing my day,” he said, about working on legislative initiatives, going through budget recommendations, approving public messages or dealing with challenges within state agencies. “It is my sincere hope, that the tough decisions we have to make are the right ones and in the best interest of the state.”

Some of the governor’s top goals this year, Riley said, include job creation, eliminating the sales tax on energy used in manufacturing, removing tax on construction projects of regional significance and expanding the new job tax credit.

While Riley loves his challenging and exciting job, he also treasures family time with his wife Bamh and sons Jake and Austin. The family lives on a small farm in north Hall County – Riley is the fifth generation to live on the property – and operates a small cattle operation with nine cows and one bull. “My wife tells me that I am fortunate because I wake up every day and love my job,” says Riley. “It’s not an easy job and every day is different than the one before. But at the end of the day like I think, and it is my sincere hope, that the tough decisions we have to make are the right ones and in the best interest of the state.”

As for his future in politics, Riley says that he has no plans to leave the political field. “I don’t have any interest in becoming a candidate. I think God placed me exactly where my talents are best used.”

—Mary Beth Spence
A Leg Up

Entomologist stays one jump ahead of harmful ticks

Angela James’ choice of vocation used to give her late grandmother a good chuckle. “My grandmother, just before she passed on, still couldn’t believe I was an entomologist,” said James (’85). “Growing up, when I would visit them in summer, we’d pick black eyed peas and tomatoes, and so on. She used to say, ‘you were always scared of all the bugs. You’d go running in the opposite direction!’”

James’ opinion of certain “bugs” is still not positive, but today she deals with them in a very different way. “It’s really about what can we do to prevent disease transmission to either humans or animals,” she said.

After living in Florida, South Carolina, Illinois, Tennessee, California and Mississippi, it was fortuitous that James’ father, a 30-year U.S. Navy submariner, closed out his career at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in St. Marys, Ga., where she completed high school. Based on James’ aptitude for science and interest in animals, her senior biology teacher recommended Georgia Southern.

That advice delivered James straight into the tutelage of world-renowned tick and mite expert James Oliver. “I interviewed with Dr. Oliver and was hired as a work study student in his acarology lab,” she said. “That’s what started my interest in entomology. I worked as a technician and got a biology degree at Georgia Southern. He asked me if I’d be interested in continuing as a graduate student and I worked with him while getting my master’s degree, too.”

Like Oliver, her specialty is acarology – the study of ticks, which are one of the leading carriers of diseases affecting both humans and animals.

James is the only acarologist within Veterinary Services assigned to the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, an epidemiological unit within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. “Veterinary Services was very interested in my association with Georgia Southern and the Smithsonian Institute’s U.S. National Tick Collection there,” she said. “In addition to my expertise in tick biology and ecology, Lyme disease, and my post-doctoral studies at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in serology, and Colorado State University studying gene flow in mosquitoes.”

James works out of APHIS headquarters in Fort Collins, Colo. Veterinary Services wanted to develop a better understanding of tick distribution within the U.S., said James, and wanted to start a national program to document where ticks are prevalent, thus where certain animals – cattle, horses, sheep or goats – are going to be exposed to diseases being transmitted by ticks. James has continued to work with Lorenza Beati, curator of the tick collection at Georgia Southern and collaborates with her and the Veterinary Services laboratory in Ames, Iowa, which also has a tick collection database of information on tick distribution. “I’ve combined these two national databases and I use this to monitor changes in tick distribution – where the ticks are,” said James. “I’ve gotten additional training. I’m a geospatial analyst, so I use Geographic Information System tools to analyze what the habitats look like for these different tick species.”

“My early role as a master’s student here at Georgia Southern was dealing with tick ecology. I incorporated those experiences with my new experiences here with USDA, using geospatial tools, so now I’m able to do some modeling and mapping for Veterinary Services at both national and local scales to help design strategies for surveillance and prevention of tick-borne disease in the U.S.”

Making Waves

Bermudian got his bearings at Georgia Southern

For sailors, sometimes reaching a destination means taking advantage of less-than-favorable wind direction.

Like most native Bermudians, Robbie Dickinson (’90) has been sailing since he was a boy, learning the vital skills needed to reach his goals – even when the prevailing winds were against him. Later in life, he found himself fashioning the opportunities he received into a career in information technology (IT).

After completing high school, Dickinson said he lacked direction and confidence in his academic ability. But, while visiting St. Simons Island, Ga., he decided to enroll in then-Brunswick Junior College (now Coastal Community College) at the urging of his family. “Once there, I realized that I actually could succeed academically and pushed ahead,” he said.

“I was trying to continue my two favorite sports – soccer and rugby – neither of which were very popular in south Georgia. A friend who was a freshman at Georgia Southern told me about their soccer team and I visited Statesboro several times to watch them. I applied for admission at GSC the following summer.”

Once at Georgia Southern, Dickinson excelled in his study of finance, earning his Bachelor of Business Administration degree. “My finance degree was invaluable in getting me started with a bank here in Bermuda, where I ended up as an equities trader,” he said. “From there, I ran a small private mutual fund management company and later moved to a local brokerage firm.”

“All through these steps, however, the emergence of my other business focus and passion – technology – was gaining more and more importance,” he said. It was then that Dickinson’s company assigned him to train in IT to help create and improve computer applications for the firm. “The light came on very quickly and I realized I had found my calling,” Dickinson said. Now network administrator at Arch Insurance in Bermuda, he oversees IT for the international reinsurance company.

“While soccer was my main impetus for applying to Georgia Southern, rugby became my sport of choice,” he said. An internationally certified coach, Dickinson has been Bermuda’s National Team rugby coach for several age categories and taken his team to matches in Bath, England and the Cayman Islands.

“Living in Bermuda, you usually end up being either a fisherman or a sailor,” said Dickinson, and the man who grew up in the Atlantic island nation has never lost his love for sailing. “I’ve sailed in many different classes of One Design boats, as well as larger yachts,” he said. “I have also done about 15 ocean crossings and races to and from Bermuda, including the Newport to Marion-Bermuda Yacht Races.”

While Dickinson will always be a rugger, a sailor and an IT innovator, today Dickinson’s main focus now is his family – his wife, Davina, son, Tyler and daughter, Ashley.
Designer Genes

University alumna leads groundbreaking research in plant genetics

Texas Tech University Professor Thea Wilkins once translated Russian for U.S. Army intelligence. Difficult enough, but today she has an even more complex task – translating the function of genes in farm crops.

Wilkins, one of the world’s elite plant geneticists, has laid the foundation for current progress in cotton biotechnology. A leader of the largest cotton genome sequencing project in the world, she holds her university’s endowed Professor of Cotton Genomics chair.

Her work is taking on ever-greater importance as U.S. cotton production continues to rise in response to foreign demand and as many chemicals that enhance production are being outlawed.

“The real challenge is that cotton breeding criteria have always been set for U.S. mills, and now we don’t have any mills,” said Wilkins. “They’ve all been located offshore. Everyrhing is manufactured offshore and then shipped back in. We need to bring our fiber crops up to meet the textile demands for those mills, otherwise they’re going to start importing it from somewhere else. We don’t want that to happen.”

In recent decades, the demand for cotton has increased sharply, she said, with perhaps 200,000 acres in cultivation. “Now it’s up to a million-and-a-half,” Wilkins said. “There’s definitely been a comeback.” And, she added, Texas is the top producer of cotton in the U.S. West Texas – home to Lubbock and Texas Tech – produces one-fourth of all the cotton grown in the nation. “When I’m driving to work, I’ll pass a dozen or more cotton fields,” she said. “We’re right in the heart of cotton country.”

The work of Wilkins and her colleagues is setting the stage for cotton that is more drought tolerant and disease- and insect-resistant. The best way to achieve those qualities was to painstakingly map the genome of the cotton plant and breed them into future crops. Genes contributing weak characteristics can be removed and those providing for stronger crops, she added.

Cotton has one of the longest, fastest-growing cells in the plant kingdom. “In terms of fundamental plants, it makes an absolutely ideal single-celled model system,” said Wilkins. “We’re trying to kill two birds with one stone – understanding basic biology while uncovering aspects of the biology that has direct applications for agriculture and crop improvement.”

“We’ve been doing gene discovery, trying to associate genes with fiber development and how they would impact fiber quality,” she said. “That’s where it slowed down, and where I thought sequencing genomes would help us out – isolating one gene at a time. We can now move up a level where we are now looking at what actually controls fiber growth and development.”

A native of Tonawanda, N.Y., Wilkins, like many teens, was eager to leave her hometown. “I guess like all kids, I wanted to get away from home,” she said. She was a foreign language major at Buffalo State College, but when her brother joined the Army she learned that by enlisting she could attend foreign language school. “I ended up four years in the Army Security Agency as an intelligence analyst with a major in Russian. So, I saw the world and met my husband, who is from Georgia.”

When her hitch was done, she enrolled at Georgia Southern and found herself fascinated by biology. Wilkins went on to graduate summa cum laude, then earned a master’s in plant genetics and breeding at the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in plant cell and molecular biology at Michigan State University. She taught and researched for 15 years at the University of California-Davis, before Texas Tech came knocking six years ago.

“I can only say that my interest in learning and curiosity began at Georgia Southern,” said Wilkins. “There’s no doubt. We just had an excellent group of instructors that induced a love of plants. I remember Dr. Donald Drapalik in particular. He made plants interesting to all of us. Georgia Southern had small classes and we had people who were dedicated.

“They did a phenomenal job in imparting basic knowledge. When we left we knew that we were well-educated and you can’t ask for anything more than that.”

Designer Genes

University alumna leads groundbreaking research in plant genetics

Texas Tech University Professor Thea Wilkins once translated Russian for U.S. Army intelligence. Difficult enough, but today she has an even more complex task – translating the function of genes in farm crops.

Wilkins, one of the world’s elite plant geneticists, has laid the foundation for current progress in cotton biotechnology. A leader of the largest cotton genome sequencing project in the world, she holds her university’s endowed Professor of Cotton Genomics chair.

Her work is taking on ever-greater importance as U.S. cotton production continues to rise in response to foreign demand and as many chemicals that enhance production are being outlawed.

“The real challenge is that cotton breeding criteria have always been set for U.S. mills, and now we don’t have any mills,” said Wilkins. “They’ve all been located offshore. Everything is manufactured offshore and then shipped back in. We need to bring our fiber crops up to meet the textile demands for those mills, otherwise they’re going to start importing it from somewhere else. We don’t want that to happen.”

In recent decades, the demand for cotton has increased sharply, she said, with perhaps 200,000 acres in cultivation. “Now it’s up to a million-and-a-half,” Wilkins said. “There’s definitely been a comeback.” And, she added, Texas is the top producer of cotton in the U.S. West Texas – home to Lubbock and Texas Tech – produces one-fourth of all the cotton grown in the nation. “When I’m driving to work, I’ll pass a dozen or more cotton fields,” she said. “We’re right in the heart of cotton country.”

The work of Wilkins and her colleagues is setting the stage for cotton that is more drought tolerant and disease- and insect-resistant. The best way to achieve those qualities was to painstakingly map the genome of the cotton plant and breed them into future crops. Genes contributing weak characteristics can be removed and those providing for stronger crops, she added.

Cotton has one of the longest, fastest-growing cells in the plant kingdom. “In terms of fundamental plants, it makes an absolutely ideal single-celled model system,” said Wilkins. “We’re trying to kill two birds with one stone – understanding basic biology while uncovering aspects of the biology that has direct applications for agriculture and crop improvement.”

“We’ve been doing gene discovery, trying to associate genes with fiber development and how they would impact fiber quality,” she said. “That’s where it slowed down, and where I thought sequencing genomes would help us out – isolating one gene at a time. We can now move up a level where we are now looking at what actually controls fiber growth and development.”

A native of Tonawanda, N.Y., Wilkins, like many teens, was eager to leave her hometown. “I guess like all kids, I wanted to get away from home,” she said. She was a foreign language major at Buffalo State College, but when her brother joined the Army she learned that by enlisting she could attend foreign language school. “I ended up four years in the Army Security Agency as an intelligence analyst with a major in Russian. So, I saw the world and met my husband, who is from Georgia.”

When her hitch was done, she enrolled at Georgia Southern and found herself fascinated by biology. Wilkins went on to graduate summa cum laude, then earned a master’s in plant genetics and breeding at the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in plant cell and molecular biology at Michigan State University. She taught and researched for 15 years at the University of California-Davis, before Texas Tech came knocking six years ago.

“I can only say that my interest in learning and curiosity began at Georgia Southern,” said Wilkins. “There’s no doubt. We just had an excellent group of instructors that induced a love of plants. I remember Dr. Donald Drapalik in particular. He made plants interesting to all of us. Georgia Southern had small classes and we had people who were dedicated.

“They did a phenomenal job in imparting basic knowledge. When we left we knew that we were well-educated and you can’t ask for anything more than that.”
Designed to Last

Alumnus stars in HGTV’s ‘Design Wars’ reality series

After graduating from Georgia Southern with a degree in interior design in 2007, he began working for an Atlanta design firm. But, he had always dreamed of owning his own business. Within two years, he co-founded Reiner-White Design Studio in Atlanta with business partner Jennifer Reiner. While the economy, stock market, construction and real estate market struggled, Reiner-White continued to push forward. The design team that began with just one project now has 20 design jobs underway.

“We consider ourselves very lucky,” reflects White. “The economy means more people have decided to stay in their homes and make them exactly what they want. Instead of buying a new dream home, they are taking the space they already have and are putting the money back into the house. A lot of our big clients have decided that these are the homes they are going to live in for good, and that allows us to really get creative.”

White credits faculty members in Georgia Southern’s interior design program with preparing him for the creative and business challenges that he has already faced. “My education at Georgia Southern has everything to do with where I am today,” says White. “I can’t say enough about the value of the program or the faculty. They really pushed me and really opened my eyes to some of the realities of being an interior designer, and also how to navigate the business world. That prepared me to jump in with both feet. Without their direction, I wouldn’t have the knowledge or skills to be where I am now.”

And White has advice for other new graduates who worry their big dreams could be sidelined by a bad economy. “Get your foot in the door. Don’t focus on being a rock star or trying to see your name in lights right out of the gate. Take a job you will have fun with and value that job. Get in where you fit in,” White says. “Go where you can get a foothold in the industry. You can start from there and go anywhere, so keep that dream. You always want to hold onto that dream.”

—Betsy Nolan

Breaking Free

Alumna chronicles her victory over adversity with new book

Sometimes, just surviving adversity is a major victory.

“...But then life asks, ‘Now what?’” says emotional resilience expert Paul G. Stoltz. “Over the course of your years, either adversity consumes you, or you consume it.”

Jenny Lynn Anderson (’85) knows the fight first hand, and a new book chronicles her painful, but ultimately uplifting battle with the emotional scars resulting from sexual assault.

In Room 939: 15 Minutes of Horror, 20 Years of Healing, Anderson recounts how the incident led to a variety of deep and long-standing emotional problems, and how she triumphed in the end – over not just her internal struggles, but over her attacker.

In Atlanta to attend a public relations industry convention, she was attacked as she walked alone in a hotel hallway. “I went to Atlanta as a perfectly healthy 28-year-old woman early in my career, full of life and energy and passion for my job, and it just absolutely changed me,” she said. “After that, I came home and 20 years passed.”

During those two decades, she went on with life, but lived uneasily with the memory, suffering post-traumatic stress syndrome, anger, fear, guilt and the ever-present question. “Why me?” She finally decided to seek professional counseling and was able to place the events in perspective.

“I decided that the man who did this to me had kept me in bondage for 20 years – that the only way I was ever going to heal was to tell this story,” said Anderson. “In the past five to seven months, I have rid myself of those shackles and he’s no longer holding me in prison. That’s the beauty of this.”

Anderson has two reasons for authoring the book. “One was that God wanted me to heal,” she said. “Another is to serve as a catalyst for me to go and speak to people about what happens when things go really badly in your life. I want to tell them that you can live through a very bad experience and come out on the other end a stronger person. ‘I’m hoping people will allow me to share my story’”

Room 939: 15 Minutes of Horror, 20 Years of Healing is available for purchase at www.jennylynnanderson.com, Amazon and Barnes & Noble.
Biostatistics
Behind the Scenes

Grad helping to develop new anti-cancer drugs

Developing a cancer drug that will give patients more time and a better quality of life takes years of painstaking research and detailed clinical trials. A Georgia Southern biostatistics graduate is on the front lines of that work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

Yang Feng (’04) is a biostatistician who designs and analyzes oncology clinical trials and pre-clinical studies. “Our research will, hopefully, lead to more effective cancer therapy,” said Feng.

Feng said it was a clinical trial that led the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in August to approve early release of Zelboraf, a drug shown to lengthen the lives of late-stage melanoma patients whose tumors have a certain gene mutation. While not involved in that project, Feng said that is an example of how her career in biostatistics has the power to impact patients.

“This was very exciting because it has provided successful treatment to these patients,” explained Feng.

Feng credits the work of the Georgia Southern biostatistics faculty like Karl Peace, professor and founder of the Center for Biostatistics, with giving her the real-world skills she would need as she headed into her field.

“Professors really cared about our professional development and paid individual attention to each of us,” Feng said. “Our classes laid theoretical foundations of biostatistics for us and led us beyond the textbooks into the real world, as well.”

The biostatistics program in the University’s Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health is preparing graduate students for a career where learning is always at the forefront.

“Learning something new is the most exciting part of each day,” said Feng.

When it came time for Larry Owens to open his restaurant in 1979, there was one name that was stuck in his head and one that has become an iconic establishment on the outskirts of Georgia Southern’s campus — Dingus MaGee’s. It took a while for Owens to figure out where he first heard it, but he recalls now that it came from the 1970 movie “Dirty Dingus Magee.”

The name stuck, and the establishment has become a Georgia Southern favorite. The menu has seen a lot of changes through the years, as Dingus was a Statesboro pioneer in pizza, ranch dressing, chicken wings and even alcohol. When beer and wine were legalized in Statesboro restaurants, Dingus became popular for its “wine daiquiris.”

While the menu has evolved a lot during the past three decades, the atmosphere has always been the same. And that’s how the Owens couple – Owens met his wife Stephanie at the restaurant – likes it.

“I want it to always be the same,” Stephanie said. “We want people to come back after five or six years and say, ‘Wow, nothing has changed!’ When people come back to visit, I want them to have a flood of good memories.”

The Owens couple isn’t the only one to pair up at the restaurant. Country music star Luke Bryan is just one of a long list of Georgia Southern alumni to have met a future spouse or gotten engaged at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Chandler Road.

‘BUILDING IN THE TREES’
Construction is underway for the new $41 million Biological Sciences Building, at the intersection of Akins Boulevard and Forest Drive. The 155,000-square-foot LEED Silver-certified building is scheduled for completion in Spring 2013.
The Band Perry & The Fray COHEADLINING

Friday, April 20
Allen E. Paulson Stadium
GeorgiaSouthern.edu/concert