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University announces new online options for payment of student accounts

AUGUST 1, 2006

Georgia Southern University has introduced two new online options that students can use to pay for their tuition, fees, housing and meal plans.

Students who wish to use a credit card to pay for their student accounts can do so electronically through a third party that has partnered with the University. TouchNet is providing its PayPath Tuition Service, which accepts American Express, Discover and MasterCard.

In addition, the University now offers WebCheck, which allows students to make payments by electronic check from their checking or savings accounts.

Students can continue to make check and cash payments in person at the Office of Student Fees, or they can continue to mail their checks to the office.

As of Aug. 1, the University no longer accepts credit cards for payment of student accounts. These accounts include tuition, fees, housing and meal plans.

However, the University will continue to accept credit cards at all other on-campus locations, including the University Store, Parking and Transportation, EagleExpress, and all of the dining facilities.

“Many colleges and universities across the nation have chosen to discontinue the acceptance of credit cards due to rising expense,” said Georgia Southern Bursar Kim Thompson. “By no longer accepting credit cards for the payment of student accounts, we will save an estimated \$450,000 annually in processing fees. This money will be redirected into academic programs and student services.”

Students who use their credit cards via TouchNet will be assessed a convenience fee of 2.75 percent. Georgia Southern does not control this fee, nor does the University receive any of the proceeds.

Students and their parents were informed of the new online payment options in a letter that was mailed to their homes in July.

For more information, visit the Office of Student Fees Web site at <http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/bursar/osf/studentfeespage.htm> .

Loewen urges truth in teaching American history

AUGUST 1, 2006

Historian and sociologist James Loewen, author of 'Lies My Teacher Told Me,' will bring his campaign for truth in American history to Georgia Southern University on Wednesday, September 13, in two separate events.

At 4 p.m. Loewen will offer a workshop titled 'Lies My Teacher Told Me and How to Do Better' for area history teachers and for Georgia Southern history and education majors in the Assembly Hall of the Nessmith-Lane Building, Chandler Road in Statesboro. At 7 p.m. Loewen will present a public lecture, again located in the Assembly Hall of the Nessmith-Lane Building. Each of his presentations is free and open to the public.

'James Loewen is one of the first people who spoke out in the 1970s about the lack of drama, interactivity, and accuracy in American history textbooks,' said Sandra Peacock, chair of the history department at Georgia Southern. 'He's challenged the way social studies has been taught at the K-12 level for years. How we are taught history as children influences how we look at the past as adults, so it's important for us as a community and a nation to be more aware of how our history and social studies education is shaped.'

'We've invited James Loewen to speak to members of the community, and also to current and future history teachers about how they interpret history for students,' Peacock said. 'We'd like everyone in the community to have an opportunity to hear him unravel historical fact from fiction.'

Loewen's most recent book is titled 'Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism' (New Press, 2005). It tells of the establishment between 1890 and 1968 of thousands of 'sundown towns' that systematically excluded African-Americans from living within their borders. Located mostly outside the traditional South, these towns did whatever was necessary "legal or illegal" to produce homogeneously Caucasian communities.

Loewen's campaign for historical truth began in the 1970s when he co-authored an American history textbook titled 'Mississippi: Conflict and Change.' The book earned the Lillian Smith Award for Best Southern Nonfiction, but was not approved for use in the Mississippi schools on the grounds that it was too controversial and placed too much focus on racial matters. This led to Loewen et al. vs. Turnipseed, an historic First Amendment case in which the U.S. District Court ruled that rejection of the textbook was not based on 'justifiable grounds' and that the authors were denied their right to free speech and press.

Loewen's appearance at Georgia Southern is sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, the History Department, Department of Teaching and Learning, Georgia Southern Museum, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Georgia Southern University Writing Project, Henderson Library, and the CLASS Dean's Office. For more information contact the History Department at (912) 681-5586 or visit the Web site at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/history/>.

Irish Series opens Aug. 29 with an update on political structures in the Celtic nations

AUGUST 1, 2006

In its fall 2006 events series, the Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University will focus on the seven Celtic nations and the larger topic of regionalism among those nations. The series opens Tuesday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. with 'New Political Structures for Celtic Peoples: Devolution and Beyond,' a lecture and discussion by Steven Engel, associate professor of political science and director of the University's Honors Program. His talk will take place in Room 1004 of the College of Information Technology Building, and it is free and open to the public.

In his lecture, Engel explores how and why certain lands along Western Europe's "Celtic Fringe" have gained greater political autonomy in recent years. These lands include Galicia, Brittany, Cornwall, Wales, the Isle of Man, Scotland, and Ireland.

Over the centuries, these nations have experienced cultural and political revivals, often to assert difference from the dominant regional powers: Spain, France, and England.

In 1998, Tony Blair's New Labor government shepherded into existence legislatures for Scotland and Wales, two self-identified Celtic countries long ruled from London. This change, called devolution, constitutes a major re-imagining of the United Kingdom.

In that same year Northern Ireland, the UK's most troubled region, received a new home-rule legislature. The unicameral Northern Ireland Assembly emerged as part of the landmark Anglo-Irish Good Friday Agreement. With members elected via proportional representation, the plan was designed to facilitate power-sharing among historically divided Nationalist (Irish Republican) and Loyalist (British Unionist) populations.

The next event in the series will be a screening of John Crowley's movie, 'Intermission,' starring Colin Farrell and Cillian Murphy on Monday, September 11 at 7:15 p.m. To learn more about the Center for Irish Studies, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/home.htm>