**She Kills Monsters Receives Spot in the American College Theatre Festival Region Four Performance**

Georgia Southern's Theatre Program will present the play, “She Kills Monsters,” to the Region 4 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, as one of only five productions showcased in the annual regional festival.

“She Kills Monsters” playwright Qui Nguyen, bases the story off of two sisters who are finding their way to each other through the world of dungeons and dragons. Set in the worlds of fantasy and reality, “She Kills Monsters” features Agnes, played by Kelsey Alexandria as the lead, who is grieving, and connects with her deceased sister, Tilly, played by Sade Thomas, through Tilly’s journal. The journal encompasses a fantasy world filled with adventures, sword fights, and monsters, which helps Agnes find her way back to her sister Tilly.

Nicholas Newell theatre professor and play director said, “I really love how the playwright, Qui Nguyen created a story that calls for incredible stage combat, fantasy, and spectacle, but uses it to reflect universal truths about loss, sibling relationships, bullying and LGBTQ issues.”

**Georgia Southern University Hosting ACTF Region Conference**

The University will host ACTF this year in the NeSmith Performing Arts Center. Georgia Southern University Communication Arts professor Lisa Abbott is serving as the local coordinator for the festival.

Department Chair Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis said, "Communication Arts is honored to serve as the host for the theatre festival. Professor Abbott, the theatre faculty and students have all contributed to ensuring our guests have a Southern welcome."

ACTF is a festival which allows theatre programs and students to showcase their work and receive an assessment from ACTF respondents. ACTF provides college students with the opportunity to have their work critiqued, as well as receive regional and national recognition. Georgia Southern University students, along with students from other universities around the region, will participate in the festival beginning Feb. 7.

Communication Arts has also hosted Georgia Theatre Conference, The Patti Pace Performance Festival, and Georgia Communication Association on campus, and Southern States Communication Association in Savannah.
Comm Arts Student Participates in NRF Foundation GALA Student Competition and Wins Big

Communication Arts Public Relations major, Jeff Licciardello along with COBA team-mates, received first place in the National Retail Federation (NRF) Foundation GALA, student retail competition.

The NRF Foundation GALA is a fundraising event featuring a student challenge component. The NRF Foundation GALA also recognizes top executives in the retail industry while awarding scholarships to students from universities all over the country. Georgia Southern had the opportunity to present a business pitch with a theme of “Made in America” for the store Story located in New York City, with the help of the team’s advisor, Dr. Kathleen Gruben. The team presented to a panel of judges at the NRF Foundation GALA competition.

Inspired by American child entrepreneurs taking their dreams to the next level, the team decided that the “Made in America” theme was the perfect fit for its business pitch.

Licciardello said, “Since kids are the next generation of the American Dream we were inspired by kids giving back, and socially redefining the American dream.”

The competition entry included a 25-page business plan, web page, and a 90-second pitch video. The team competed against top tier schools such as finalist teams from University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business and North Texas University.

Utilizing his skills in graphic arts, video, production, and strategic communication, Licciardello served as an asset to the team.

“Using communication to connect with someone to something beyond just the product, but being able to tell a story to connect the product to the consumer served as a significant contribution to our success,” Licciardello said.

Licciardello said, “Through all of the help we’ve received from the Comm Arts Department and COBA, it’s an experience I will never forget. We’ve hit so many walls, and to know a team of people who didn’t know each other, can come together from Georgia Southern and compete with the best makes me proud to be an eagle.”