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Athletic Training Professor Speaks During Traumatic Brain Injury Symposium

June 17, 2014



Earlier this month, Dr. Thomas Buckley, associate professor of athletic training in the Department of Health and Kinesiology along with Dr. Charles Patterson, vice president for research and economic development, were invited to attend the U.S. Army's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Symposium at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to present on TBI concussion research and applications to the military. Major General Leslie C. Smith is the Commanding General of the United States Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood. MG Smith received his commission from Georgia Southern University in 1983 as a Field Artillery Officer. In 1985, he was selected as a distinguished military graduate and was branched as a Chemical Officer.

During the annual gathering, Army and leading neurological experts seek to share information and provide a better definition and understanding of the causes, symptoms and impacts of TBI. Dr. Buckley presented information about helmet impact and return-to-play research in college athletes to more than 750 service members, civilian employees and family members in attendance. Since the implementation of the Helmet Impact Telemetry System (HITS), Georgia Southern University's Concussion Research Program has received national attention, including coverage on CBS and NBC Nightly News. Georgia Southern is the only collegiate football team in the state using HITS.

"It was a great opportunity to educate our leaders, remove the stigma of 'sitting out' for 24 hours (or more if necessary) after a concussion, and develop further research ideas and interest," said Patterson. "We are now looking at ideas to maintain the momentum of education and outreach with future events."

Georgia Southern's Concussion Research Program is dedicated to the scientific understanding of sports-related concussions and resulting consequences. The program has received funding from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's Life Science Division and several other organizations.

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