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GEORGIA SOUTHERN

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2019

MEET OUR
40 UNDER 40

EAGLE LOVE STORY

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A Fighting Chance
for Survival



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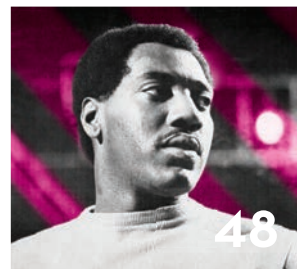


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COVER: A lone loggerhead sea turtle makes his way to the ocean. He's one of hundreds of sea turtles being studied and protected at the Georgia Southern University Sea Turtle Program at St. Catherines Island. Photo by Jaynie Gaskin.

SUMMER CELEBRATION

What better way to beat the summer heat than sharing plenty of cold ice cream and chilled fruits? This was President Kyle Marrero's first time hosting the annual summer celebration, which began in 1948 with a serving of fresh cut watermelon. This time around students, staff and others on the Statesboro, Armstrong and Liberty campuses enjoyed peaches, watermelon and Leopold's ice cream.





NEW STEPS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a top priority among today's students, and Georgia Southern is planning new initiatives to help them address the impact of complex environmental issues. The University plans to enhance the work of the Center for Sustainability by pairing it with new academic programs and focusing its resources on larger projects.

In 2012, 74.7 percent of students approved the "green" fee, which supports the Center and such green projects as LED lighting upgrades, electric vehicle charging stations, sustainable gardens on campus and vertebrate biodiversity surveys. Provost and

Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Reiber assembled a transition team that will spend a year developing a new roadmap for the Center.

"We want student sustainability fee dollars to go further and have an even greater impact," Reiber said. "We want to be ready in July 2020 with bachelor's and master's degrees in sustainability. Additionally, I would like to develop a proposal for a doctorate focused on coastal sustainability. This will add a suite of high-impact academic programs to Georgia Southern University and will heighten our regional and national profile."

Georgia Southern University has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2018 Green Ribbon School for its environmental accomplishments.



SCHOLAR EARNS FULBRIGHT TO TEACH IN SPAIN

University Honors Program student Emily Pressler ('19) graduated in May and is spending this academic year teaching English in Galicia, Spain. She was awarded an English Teaching Assistantship from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The modern languages Spanish and French major from Long Island, New York, described the experience as "a real chance to see how

to organize and to teach a class, working closely with the teacher." In the future, Pressler may enroll in a master's program for teaching Spanish, with the goal of teaching at the high school level.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is a prestigious educational exchange, which aims to foster cultural understanding between the United States and other countries. The competitive program is open to Georgia Southern seniors and recent alumni who meet basic eligibility requirements. The University has a September deadline for applying for the program.

SITE-SYNCHRONOUS CLASSROOMS CONNECT THE THREE CAMPUSES

Georgia Southern University is showing that the distance between its three campuses is just a number for students. After a pilot program of three site-synchronous classrooms last spring, the University expanded it to 12 more for the fall semester. These classrooms use state-of-the-art technology to connect students to a class being taught on another campus.

The classes taught in this synchronous learning environment still bring students together with either the instructor or a teaching assistant in the physical classroom on their primary campuses. The site-synchronous class maintains the traditional face-to-face atmosphere with everything happening in real time, allowing for more natural discussion.

"Site-synchronous classes will become more common at Georgia Southern University allowing our faculty to deliver their courses to broader audiences with greater impact on student learning," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl Reiber, Ph.D. "The piloted program was very well received by both students and faculty in the spring and we look forward to seeing this new delivery mode evolve into the future."



Associate Professor of Literature Dustin Anderson, Ph.D., said the discussion-based format, combined with the campuses coming together, affords him and the students new opportunities.

"My favorite part about the site-synchronous classroom is that I don't have to say 'My students in Statesboro, my students in Hinesville or my students at Armstrong; I just have my students,' he said. "Because the classes are synchronous in the way the students meet, they really are just students rather than students from a specific campus, and that's something that I and the students in the class really appreciate."

BIG INCUBATOR EXPANDING TO HINESVILLE AND METTER, GEORGIA

The Business Innovation Group (BIG) is expanding its business incubators to Hinesville and Metter, Georgia. BIG, at the Parker College of Business of Georgia Southern, is focused on providing students with the skills and training necessary to understand business principles, to experience how businesses operate and to successfully launch a new business enterprise.

Currently BIG has one incubator located in downtown Statesboro. The “mothership” business incubator is a joint partnership between the University and City of Statesboro. With two new incubators planned in two very different communities, BIG is shifting its focus in those markets — agriculture in Metter and military and government in Hinesville.

METTER — AGRO-BUSINESS

“In Metter we went through the process of doing a feasibility study,” said Dominique Halaby, DPA, director of the Business Innovation Group. “BIG worked with area businesses and community leaders to outline a strategy and to make a determination whether or not this facility could sustain itself if launched within Metter.”

The study findings showed the Metter community was very supportive of the project. The resulting partnership triggered the transformation of the city’s former public works building into the new incubator.

BIG is also planning to leverage the relationship with Georgia Grown, the marketing and economic development program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, to connect with other agricultural-related businesses.

They’ve already convinced one company, currently located in Effingham County, to move their hydroponic facility and headquarters to the new incubator in Metter.

“We’re really thrilled about that because it comes with a very strong capital access commitment and job commitment of over 20 jobs,” said Halaby, “So we’re really excited to see this come into fruition especially for a community of only 4,000 people.”

HINESVILLE — MILITARY COMMUNITY

In Hinesville, with the support of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration grant of \$750,000, along with a matching contribution from the Hinesville development authority, BIG will be able to create the new business incubator from scratch. It will be directly across the street from the Liberty Campus.

“The focus in Hinesville has been very much on catering towards the military community,” said Halaby. “Whether it’s through defense contracting or helping active duty service members and their families or area veterans to launch new business enterprises and get the skills they need to be successful.”

DIFFERENT CLASS OF INCUBATOR

The incubator in Statesboro is also going through an expansion phase. Already at capacity, the Statesboro incubator is working with the local development authority to expand its footprint and add more international activity.

The Metter location opening is planned for this winter and Hinesville later next year. — LIZ WALKER



WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

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LENDING A HELPING HAND

Georgia Southern students took a break from their busy schedules to volunteer for Treasure Savannah held on Oct. 5. The biannual day of service on the Armstrong Campus in Savannah and Liberty Campus in Hinesville is a way for volunteers to show compassion and give back to the local communities. Students and alumni cleaned city streets, mucked out stalls, cleaned dog kennels and served up hot meals. Their volunteer work benefited 10 sites, which included the Salvation Army, Liberty Humane Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Hoofs4Healing and Liberty County Manna House.





STEMFEST INSPIRES AND ENGAGES

What brought hundreds of elementary, middle and high school students to the Statesboro Campus in September? The 2019 STEMfest hosted by the College of Education's Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education, the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing, and the College of Science and Mathematics. The young students were treated to a variety of fun-filled activities that allowed them to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Festivalgoers made ice cream with liquid nitrogen, launched Alka-Seltzer rockets and made magnetic slime — just to name a few activities. The interactive event is designed to get kids and their parents excited about STEM education. The free event was held in the Nessmith-Lane Conference Center.



STUDENT'S SUCCESS DEFIES ALL ODDS

Georgia Southern University's Spring 2019 Commencement carried greater significance for Kasey Hayes. She became the first student to complete the University's EAGLE Academy program and participate in the ceremony alongside Eagle Nation graduates.

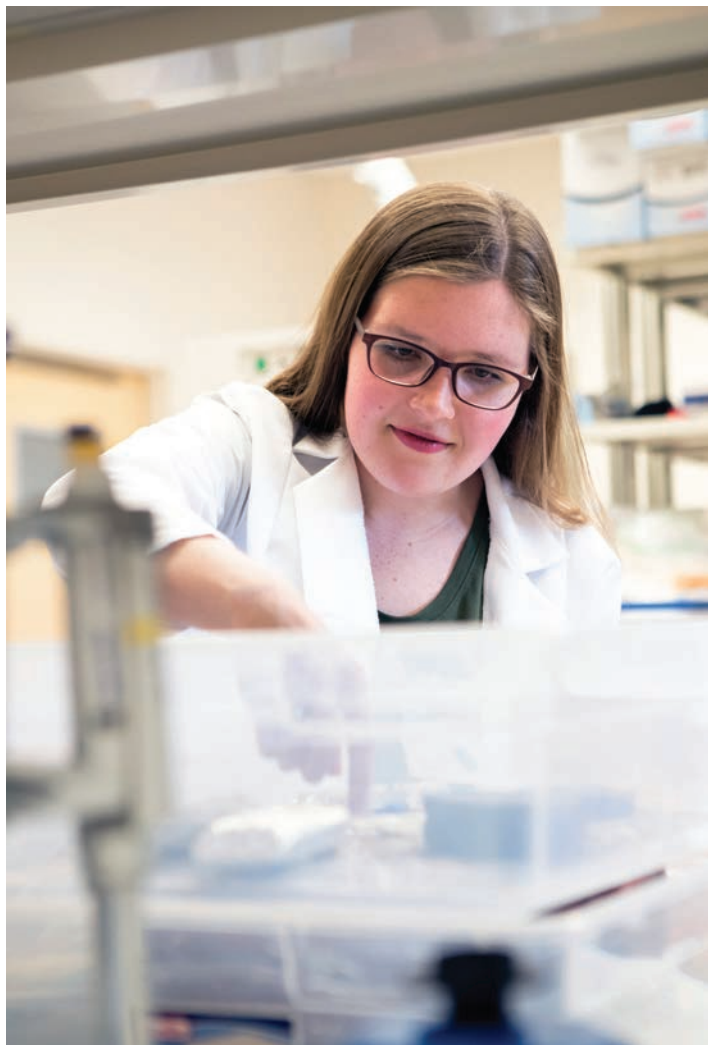
"I was very emotional at graduation," said Hayes. "I was picked on in high school and middle school. People would put me down. They told me I wouldn't be able to make it in college or that I wouldn't even be able to go to college."

With the help of EAGLE Academy, an inclusive post-secondary education program offering Equal Access to Gainful Learning and Employment (EAGLE) to students with mild intellectual disabilities, Hayes was able to prove them wrong. She was one of the first students to enroll in the program when it began in fall 2017. Hayes says she worked harder in her college classes than she has ever worked before.

"I don't think I would be the person I am now if I had not gone to Georgia Southern," she said. "EAGLE Academy has made me a more sociable person. They taught me about finances and helped me learn how to be independent and responsible."



(l-r) First-ever EAGLE Academy graduate Kasey Hayes stands with her student mentor Amanda Floyd at Georgia Southern's Spring 2019 Commencement



HONORS STUDENT EARNS TWO ELITE OPPORTUNITIES

Katherine Barrs' undergraduate experience has been better than she ever expected. The double major in biology and mathematics won the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's top scholarship for undergraduate students engaged in research in the sciences. The Georgia Southern junior was one of only 496 college students from across the United States to earn the scholarship, which she is using to defray the costs of her final three semesters of coursework.

In another achievement, the Statesboro native and University Honors Program student spent 10 weeks in interdisciplinary research at Yale University. Barrs conducted research on the molecular machinery of endocytosis using experimental, quantitative and imaging methods with a professor in Yale's Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. As a participant in the Sackler/National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates: Interdisciplinary Research Training Across Biology, Physics and Engineering program, Barrs experienced what graduate life is like at a large research institution.

"Both of these opportunities mean a lot for my future," said Barrs. "For me, being awarded the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and earning the research opportunity at Yale is recognition of all of my hard work."

Barrs plans to pursue a doctoral degree in biomathematics or applied sciences and hopes to one day conduct applied research at the interface of biology, chemistry and mathematics in an industry or a government institution.



TRUE BLUE SPOTLIGHT



Jacob Riffe (middle, with son Maxton) presented with the Soldier's Medal for heroism March 22, 2019, during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

STUNNING ACT OF BRAVERY SAVES TWO

U.S. Army Capt. Jacob Riffe ('14) is an inspiring example of Georgia Southern's True Blue spirit, and the Army's value of selfless service. Last spring, he received the Soldier's Medal for rescuing two people from a burning vehicle. It is the Army's highest medal for heroism outside of combat.

In April 2018, Riffe was off duty when he and his young son, Maxton, were heading home to Fort Bragg in North Carolina. He saw a car dart across Interstate 95, tumble over an embankment and crash into a fence. Riffe ran to the scene and noticed a fire growing in the engine. Two elderly people were inside the vehicle.

"I helped the passenger out and quickly did a medical assessment on him. No broken bones or bleeding," Riffe said. "He was dazed from the crash but coherent."

Despite the smoke coming from the car, and the fire spreading into nearby brush and trees, the Army officer was able to pull the

driver out and "she too was in a shocked and confused state." Riffe moved both away from the burning vehicle and stayed until the emergency responders arrived. He learned later the caretaker for the elderly man had taken medication that caused her to blackout while driving. Riffe, an operations officer with the 264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, said receiving the Soldier's Medal for saving two lives is humbling.

"On the one hand, I am honored for being recognized for helping, and on the other I see my actions as just doing the right thing." He added, "I am just happy to have been in the right place at the right time. Being put into the same category as Colin Powell, as a recipient of the Soldier's Medal, is an extremely humbling thing for me."

The alumnus grew up in Augusta, Georgia, and is the first in his family to graduate from a four-year university. His father and grandfather served in the military and he continued the tradition. Riffe was already in the Army when he enrolled at Georgia Southern.

"I had a very non-traditional college experience," said the graphic communication management major. "I joke with people when I tell them about my college life that I had the 'Van Wilder' experience, in the sense that it took me nearly seven years (inconsecutively) to graduate. In my second year at Georgia Southern, my reserve unit was called for a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan. I dedicated nearly two years to that mission between pre- and post-deployment trainings."

Despite those deployments, Riffe never thought about quitting college.

"I had an incredible sense of pride when I walked across the stage during graduation in May 2014. I wouldn't trade my experience at Georgia Southern for any other college across the nation," he said. "Hail Southern, I am True Blue. ...It means proudly telling others about my alma mater and representing Georgia Southern everywhere I go. I have flown my GS flag on top of Mount Kilimanjaro and in Afghanistan. I display my flag at work to let everyone know about the best college in Georgia."

Riffe is also the recipient of a Purple Heart for wounds caused by enemy actions. — SANDRA BENNETT

PROTECTIN



Georgia Southern Plays Role in Growing Sea Turtle Populations

It's before dawn on St. Catherines Island in Liberty County, Georgia, but Sydney Davis is already wide awake and ready to embark on an adventure through the uninhabited island.

Davis joins a group of students and researchers by climbing onto an ATV to navigate through unsettled woods, dimly lit marshes and pristine beaches. On the beach, Davis and her peers have their eyes peeled, looking for disturbances in the sand and dune areas that

indicate a sea turtle has made its way to the beach to lay a nest.

"It really feels like we are investigating a mystery," said Davis, a graduate student at the university and volunteer with the Georgia Southern University Sea Turtle Program at St. Catherines Island (STP@SCI).

Davis and her peers will go on this adventure daily from May to October during sea turtle nesting season to help solve the mystery of



G THE NEST



where a mother sea turtle has chosen to lay her nest. Once the nest is discovered, the real investigation begins to find the eggs.

The team “reads” the crawlway and nest to locate the egg chamber; then, carefully uses a shovel to uncover the egg chamber by removing a few inches of sand at a time. Next, the nest is assigned a number and if its location is too low on the beach, teams will relocate it higher up on the dunes to avoid threats like tidal washout from storms, high tides and sea-level rise. Almost 20 feet of beach is lost each year on St. Catherines, so many nests must be moved to help increase the survival rate of hatchlings.

The privately-owned, 22,000-acre island is also home to native and invasive species that prey on sea turtle hatchlings, including feral hogs, armadillos and northern raccoons, so moving the nest and providing a protective screen on the top is crucial to the survival of eggs and hatchlings.

“We protect the nests from being washed over or washed out by relocating the entire clutch of eggs to an area of higher elevation in a dune system stabilized by vegetation,” said

Jaynie Gaskin, MPH, co-director of the STP@SCI. “Because St. Catherines is the most

“Researchers believe that out of every thousand sea turtle hatchlings, only one turtle will survive to adulthood and reproductive maturity.”

— Jaynie Gaskin

erosional island on the Georgia coast, we relocate a higher percentage of our sea turtle nests than most of the other barrier islands.”

Once the nests are safely relocated, they are monitored every day. After about 50 or 60 days, hatching begins beneath the sand, and the baby sea turtles dig their way to the surface to begin their journey to the sea.

“We know we have been successful in our conservation efforts when we see little tiny sea turtle crawlways coming from the nest and headed toward the ocean,” Gaskin said.

After hatchlings have made it to the waters, they’ll swim for about 72 hours as they make their way to the Gulf Stream. From there, they swim out to the open ocean and will hopefully survive to adulthood and return to St. Catherines to lay their own nests.

“Researchers believe that out of every thousand sea turtle hatchlings, only one turtle will survive to adulthood and reproductive maturity,” she said.

It takes 30 to 35 years for loggerhead sea turtles to reach reproductive maturity, and though they don’t nest every year, they can lay up to eight nests in a season in a lifespan that can reach 90 years. Since the program’s inception in 1990, Gaskin estimates that more than 300,000 hatchlings on St. Catherines have made it to the sea. In 2019, more than 25,000 hatchlings from 350 nests made it to the sea, which is the most ever recorded in the program’s nearly 30-year history. This is why Gaskin and her fellow researchers believe the 2019 season was so successful.

“We believe those hatchling turtles saved 30 years ago by the early conservation efforts are now coming back to St. Catherines to nest,” Gaskin said. This is why conservation efforts like the STP@SCI are so important. All species of sea turtles are either threatened or endangered, and some even face extinction.

“By increasing the number of sea turtle hatchlings we release into the ocean every year, we are tipping the scales in the turtles’ favor and increasing the number of turtles that will survive to adulthood,” said Gaskin.

Sponsored by the Department of Geology and Geography, the sea turtle program on St. Catherines is one of many across the state that works in cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, but it’s the only program in Georgia run by a university. In addition to their conservation efforts, the researchers and scientists are also passing along these practices to a new generation, like Davis, an applied geography graduate student who has been involved with the program since she was an undergraduate.

Originally a pre-med major on her way to medical school, Davis’ advisor suggested this class as a fun and unique experience to end her undergraduate career. After one

summer on the island, her plans for post-undergrad changed.

"This program completely changed my life," she said. "Without this program, I would never have known that people were still doing fieldwork like this."

In addition to her work with the field school, Davis has gone back to St. Catherines as a volunteer and is currently completing her master's thesis research with the program.

Every year, the program hosts a conservation-focused field school with topics that include biology, ecology, geology, sustainability, wildlife management and environmental science for undergraduate and graduate students of Georgia Southern University. Founded by Geology Professor Emeritus Gale A. Bishop, the school was first opened to teach scientific inquiry to Georgia's K-12 school teachers.

Co-Director and Professor of Geology Robert Kelly Vance expanded the scope of the field school to offer more experiences for university students, including the opportunity to earn eight credit hours for their participation. The STP@SCI's educational programs have provided valuable hands-on experiential learning to nearly 300 teachers and more than 100 undergraduate students through fully-immersive field-based courses and internships.

"Sea turtles have been studied for decades, and I was shocked by how many questions researchers and conservationists still have," said Davis, who participated as an undergraduate. "The course showed me that field research is still such an important part of science. People are still out on beaches, every day of the season, collecting data on every single nest a sea turtle lays on our Georgia beaches. After realizing all of this, I felt a responsibility to help answer those questions."

As the only university-based field school in Georgia, the sea turtle field school provides students experience in field-based learning and science, where they must develop observational skills, scientific documentation and critical thinking skills. Gaskin said the faculty see a lot of maturing happen during this experience.

"The hands-on experience really builds a strong sense of responsibility in our students," she said. "In no other class are they going to be responsible for protecting and saving an endangered species." — *CRISSIE ELRICK BATH*



HELPING TURTLES SURVIVE IN THE WILD

Helping protect sea turtle nests, eggs and hatchlings isn't the only way students and researchers at Georgia Southern are contributing to sea turtle conservation.

Students in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences' Department of Psychology on the Armstrong Campus are assisting researchers at the UGA Aquarium on Skidaway Island with studying environmental enrichment for loggerhead sea turtles as part of an animal husbandry program before they're released back into the wild.

"Oftentimes with organisms in managed care facilities, animals tend to engage in non-species specific behaviors that aren't adaptive in their natural environment," said Andrew Bulla, Ph.D., professor of psychology and faculty mentor to students.

"With sea turtles in managed care facilities, you may see some stereotypes like an abundance of resting behavior, or that they are top feeding with their beaks

out of the water, all of which are things we don't tend to see out in the wild."

With environmental enrichment, Bulla said, the captive environment in which the turtles live mimics their natural habitat, which increases their chances for survival once released. It also provides valuable data for researchers and hands-on experience for students in the psychology field. They're learning to problem solve and practicing analytical thinking as they're recording data and then making sense of their observations.

"What we see more and more is that animal-based models of learning are going away in undergraduate programs," said Bulla. "For these students to have the opportunity to do research not only with animals using behavior analysis, but nontraditional animals such as marine animals, it really makes them a unique candidate for graduate school training, internships and careers."

CARING FOR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

Georgia Southern Interns Learn the Ways of the Wild

Rescuing a baby raccoon from a trash can turned Alexis Neal into a wildlife rescue advocate.

A junior health science major on the Armstrong Campus, Neal saw a photo that someone had posted online of a baby raccoon in the Gamble Hall trash can.

"I was like, oh my goodness, somebody needs to do something," said Neal.

So she called the Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center.

Jeanne Paddison, founder and executive director of the center, explained how to safely capture the baby raccoon, get it into a box and bring it to them.

"When I was dropping the baby raccoon off, I asked if it would be possible for me to volunteer and Jeanne said she'd be glad to have me on board," said Neal.

Neal is now part of a growing group of Georgia Southern students volunteering with baby wildlife at the center.

The Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center is a certified wildlife rehab facility exclusively specializing in small mammals. Paddison relies on interns and relishes teaching them about wildlife care.

"We rescue, raise or rehabilitate and release orphaned baby wildlife," said Paddison. "So the Georgia Southern interns are caring for, cleaning, feeding, medicating,

treating and socializing all the wild animals that come through the front door. When they are ready, the animals return to the wild."

Last year was the first year the internships were offered to Georgia Southern.

"I presented this to Georgia Southern and they just loved it," said Paddison. "They put it out there to the kids and my phone began ringing off the hook."

LEARNING SO MUCH

The interns are learning wound management, vaccination, hydration protocol, nutritional maintenance and parasite control, among other skills. Many of the interns are biology majors studying pre-med or pre-vet.



(clockwise from above) Caitlin Putnam, Arriana Sykes and Morgan Myers

"I can honestly say that it's a different experience," said senior biology major Arianna Sykes.

Sykes plans to become a veterinarian, and she thinks this internship puts animal care in a whole new light.

"You know it's different from what's normal in treating domesticated animals or farm animals. And the babies are so cute," she said.

"I have learned so much," said Morgan Myers, another biology major planning to become a veterinarian. "Just learning how to handle them. Not to be afraid of them just because they're wild animals. And definitely patience. It takes a lot of patience."

Caitlin Putnam is a senior biology major on the Armstrong Campus. She feels that as long as she's living in Savannah she would love to keep interning at the center because of the environment and the learning opportunity.

"I have learned a lot generally about the nature of wild animals," said Putnam. "Whether

it's cleaning their cages, giving vaccinations, how to approach a wild animal, how to properly clean and dress wounds and things like that. And that is all translating into experience. I would love to work for the National Park Service or Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and I think this is all working toward that goal."

Neal recently learned how to feed a baby opossum, a very difficult and meticulous process.

"If something gets knocked in the wrong place, then you could potentially kill the 'possum," said Neal. "So things like that made me focus on attention to detail, to be careful with what you're doing and always ask questions. Health science is also very meticulous, and what you are doing could possibly mean life or death for someone."

FUTURE CONNECTIONS

Ashlyn Waite, a recent outdoor recreation graduate, eventually wants to go into wildlife management. She eagerly learned about the

importance of raccoons and opossums and how they interact with the environment.

"A lot of people see 'possums and raccoons as vermin," said Waite. "But they actually provide a lot of positive impact for our environment by eating insects and ticks. Jeanie is really wise in her field and she's certified through the DNR. Because I want to go into wildlife management, just having that connection provides a lot of positive things for my future. Now I work with Best Friends Animal Society in Atlanta. My clinic experience with Jeanie helped me get the job."

And when you ask Paddison what she thinks about her Georgia Southern interns, she is full of compliments.

"They are just wonderful, because they have such a great work ethic," she said. "I think it's important that they get recognition for the hard work that they're doing. They are truly an asset to our community." — LIZ WALKER

HER BEACON OF HOPE

Why Birds Inspire Biology Major

An ornithology class in college transformed Corina Newsome's life.

A junior at the time, she'd always considered birds "pretty mundane" until a professor's passion and enthusiasm caused her to take another look.

"They were all just little brown birds to me," she says, "and what's exciting about that? He basically directed my attention to look closer in a way that I hadn't before and when I did, I realized there was such a huge diversity of birds here and they've been here the whole time. I missed them just because I didn't know how to look. He got me hooked, and from then on, I've been my own kind of crazy bird woman."

A DEEP DIVE INTO THE SEASIDE SPARROW HABITAT

Newsome, now a biology graduate student, estimates that she can identify nearly 200 birds. Most days last summer, you could find her keeping an eye on just one — the MacGillivray's seaside sparrow, which breeds in the coastal marshes of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. The small, dusky songbird measures 5 to 6 inches with a long bill, and on average weighs about an ounce. The female lays from two to five eggs that hatch in two weeks.

For her research project, Newsome and an assistant set up a study site in the tidal zone near Brunswick, Georgia, to investigate predation on the seaside sparrow's nest. The bird builds its nest in low marsh vegetation or just a few inches above the level of highest tide. Newsome explains this environment can hinder the sparrow's success of nesting and raising offspring.

"The water rises twice a day and it's unpredictable," says Newsome, who will need two summers to complete the research. "It can rise pretty high, flood the nest and kill the offspring. Whenever that happens, they'll immediately re-nest and they'll re-nest higher to avoid the water. But when they nest higher they're more visible to predators. So, I'm trying to see what kinds of predators they're exposed to in their breeding habitat as well as determining the most common predators pursuing their nests."



Newsome received grants from the Georgia Ornithological Society and Sigma Xi to fund her purchase of monitoring equipment. The equipment included floatable and waterproof camera traps and video recorders to take pictures of all the activity around the nests. She expected to see mammal predators like rats, raccoons and mink, but Newsome was surprised by some unexpected behaviors and interactions.

"Little marsh crabs tried to crack and eat the seaside sparrow eggs," she says, adding that fish turned out to be predators as well. "One nest was too low for the tide and the water rose several inches above the nest. ... You could see this fish swim into the nest and just start tearing this chick apart."

By studying where the seaside sparrows' predators are highly concentrated, she hopes her findings will be a resource for wildlife officials involved in protecting certain breeding habitats in Georgia's marshes.

BREAKING BARRIERS


Raised in Philadelphia, the former zookeeper says she saw little diversity in the animal care field. But a meeting with Steve Hein, director

of Georgia Southern's Center for Wildlife Education, opened her eyes and drew her to Georgia Southern. While touring the facility, Newsome says she was surprised to see so many African American students working on the animal care and education team.

"I started weeping in front of these strangers," she says. "I thought, this is unreal. 'These kids are working with birds of prey, owls, hawks and falcons; and flying and training these animals, and all kinds of native mammals. I had to cut through so much red tape and do years of interning before anyone would let me interact with an animal like that, and these students can come in and get that experience almost right away. I was like, 'I hope you all know how blessed you are.' This is a crazy opportunity. This place is a gold mine."

Newsome adds throughout her academic life and professional career she grew used to being the only person of color in the room.

"It's tricky because whenever you look for a graduate school, you're really looking for a professor who studies what you want to study and you just go wherever they are," she



says. "This is the first time in my life that I haven't been the only person of color in the biology department. I wept when I saw that because I couldn't believe it."

Newsome says she has found extraordinary support and encouragement from the biology department faculty. She lauded Professors Ray Chandler, Ph.D., J. Checo Colon-Gaud, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Hunter, Ph.D., for their willingness to serve as advisers and mentors. While she remains unsure about her career path, Newsome says Georgia Southern has broadened her interests in blending research, education, conservation and wildlife activism.

African Americans make up nearly 14 percent of the U.S. population, but according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, barely 8 percent admit they intentionally watch birds. Newsome is aware that as a woman of color, she is breaking barriers, not only as a birder but also in the wildlife education field. She is hoping to inspire others to take a moment and observe the birds and other wildlife around them. Although many birds are lightweight and small, Newsome says they are resilient beings that "make migrations of thousands of miles without stopping over large bodies of water and survive crazy changes in temperature."

"When I see just how resilient they are while being something that's so fragile, it's a beacon of hope in a way for me," she says. "Seeing how birds are able to thrive in very extreme environments give hope for people like myself who feel or have been told that they aren't built for a certain thing whether that's academically like biology or whatever the challenge might be. Birds have somehow become this symbol to me of the fact that very few things are impossible, if anything is impossible at all."

Newsome will continue her research in the Georgia marsh next summer.

— SANDRA BENNETT



DOING THE RIGHT THING

**Georgia
Southern
Alumnus
Appointed
Georgia's
Top Cop**

Vic Reynolds ('79), director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), says one of the most valuable lessons he ever learned about law enforcement came from Richard Waugh, a beloved former criminal justice professor at Georgia Southern.

"He always emphasized that law enforcement was one of those careers where, if you chose to do so, you could always do the right thing," he said. "I used to tell it to young prosecutors when I taught them...and I want to relay it to my young agents now."

Reynolds was appointed GBI director in February, and now leads the statewide agency of more than 900 employees that provide assistance with criminal investigations, forensic lab services and computerized criminal justice information. The role is the culmination of Reynolds' wide-ranging, 40-year career in law



GBI Director Vic Reynolds (left) stands with Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (right) at his swearing-in ceremony on Feb. 18 at the Capitol. Photo credit: Mary Grace Heath, Governor's office.

enforcement, where “doing the right thing” served as a reliable compass.

Before his appointment, Reynolds served as a police officer, prosecutor, judge, defense attorney and most recently, Cobb County District Attorney.

“I’ve been everything in the courtroom except the defendant, and I’m going to keep it that way if I can,” he said.

Reynolds says he developed a strong sense of right and wrong while growing up in the Celanese Mill Village in Rome, Georgia. Comprised of only 410 houses, the small textile mill village was a world unto itself.

“Your world was relatively small then,” said Reynolds. “I think particularly growing up the way I did in that time period you develop a pretty strong sense of what you determine is right or wrong.”

This moral compass has led him to approach the application of the law in interesting ways. During his tenure as Cobb County District Attorney, he faced a heroin and opioid epidemic. Instead of trying to eliminate the problem through arrests and imprisonment, Reynolds began pushing long-term treatment as the solution — and even used money seized from drug traffickers to help fund treatment facilities and sponsor reentry programs for recovering addicts.

“Our No. 1 charge is to keep this state as safe as we can,” said Reynolds. “And there’s a number of different ways to do it. It’s not always sending people to prison.”

At times, however, the right thing is prosecuting criminals to the full extent of

the law, as Reynolds did in the “hot car case” that gained national media attention. In June 2014, Cobb resident Justin Ross Harris was accused of purposefully leaving his 22-month-old son to die in the back seat of his car in

sweltering 90-degree weather. As his son died, the married father was texting explicit messages to other women, some of them underage. Prosecutors said they were shaken by the depravity in Harris’ behavior.

“And the truth is, you can have a voice in making sure that the small percentage of people who simply don’t deserve to breathe the same air that you and I do — you can work a good, strong case and make sure they don’t,” he said.

Harris was sentenced to life in prison in December 2016.

As Reynolds approaches his first full year as GBI director, he’ll face even greater challenges. Law enforcement at every level is dealing with transparency issues and how it interacts with the public. Cyber crime is on the rise and gang activity counts for between 48 and 90 percent of all violent crime. Both are priorities for Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, and both require the GBI to lead the charge.

“There’s no doubt we’ve got our work cut out for us,” he said.

To get it done, he’ll follow the steps he’s taken to rise from a police officer to Georgia’s top cop: outwork your competition, treat other people the way you want to be treated, develop a strong moral compass and always, always try to do the right thing. — DOY CAVE



“I NEVER DREAMED”

Reynolds recounts unforgettable experience at Georgia Southern

Vic Reynolds doesn’t recommend enrolling at Georgia Southern the way he did.

He applied and enrolled sight unseen, a risky move that he says paid off in the end for him. As a student, he not only reconnected with Holly Holder, a friend from his hometown of Rome, Georgia, who is now his wife of more than 39 years, but he also had an unforgettable experience in 1977, when Lynyrd Skynyrd came to Georgia Southern.

“I had a fraternity brother who was on student government, and he wrangled it some way or the other where we actually went out on a Tuesday evening and picked Lynyrd Skynyrd up at the small Statesboro airport,” he said. “They rehearsed on Wednesday, and we got to go to the rehearsal. Then they played on Thursday.”

Not only did he get to drive the band around, he actually got to hang out with the band at their hotel. Reynolds, who still plays guitar, says he was sitting at the Holiday Inn with Skynyrd guitarist Allen Collins, listening to him play an old vintage Gibson guitar.

“He played it in front of me and said, ‘Somebody said you play,’ and handed it to me,” he recounted. “I said, ‘I don’t play like you do, man.’ But I actually got to play guitar with him right here at Georgia Southern!”

Lynyrd Skynyrd played Hanner Fieldhouse on Oct. 13, 1977. On Oct. 21, just a week later, the band’s plane crashed, killing lead singer Ronnie Van Zandt, guitarist and vocalist Steve Gaines, and backup singer Cassie Gaines. — DOY CAVE



40

UNDER 40



Georgia Southern University
ALUMNI

Of Georgia Southern's 126,000-plus living alumni, more than 50,000 are under 40 years of age.

The Alumni Association recently honored its Class of 2019 40 under 40, representing the excellence of the University's young alumni and demonstrating the positive contributions and achievements for which University graduates are known.

DANA POWELL BOSTIC, MBA, MS, MLS(ASCP)

Georgia Southern University
2003 B.S. Medical Technology
Assistant Professor
The University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas

What excites me most about my career is: Serving as a role model for our youth and positively impacting the future pipeline of medical professionals entering the health care field. My career has provided me the opportunity to engage with other healthcare professions, interact with youth in STEM programs, and to give back to our communities through service.



CHRIS BOOTH

Georgia Southern University
2009 B.A. History
Senior Investigating Officer
United States Coast Guard
Duluth, Minnesota

When I was a kid I wanted to be: A dump truck driver. Although that dream never came to fruition, I'd say I'm pretty happy serving my country as a Lieutenant in the USCG!



RAHMAN ANJORIN

Georgia Southern University
2009 B.S. Health/Kinesiology,
Exercise Science
Player Manager
National Football League
Players Association
Atlanta, Georgia

What inspires me:
My beautiful wife and my faith in God, knowing that I have been blessed and should make the most of my blessings.



NIKKI BAREFOOT, PSY.D.

Georgia Southern University
2009 B.S. Psychology
2012 M.S. Clinical Psychology
2014 Psy.D. Clinical Psychology
Licensed Psychologist
Statesboro Psychiatric Associates
Statesboro, Georgia

My most unforgettable experience is:
Studying abroad in Costa Rica



KIMBERLY D. BROWN

Georgia Southern University
2013 M.Ed. in Counseling
Lead School Counselor
Beaufort County School District
Beaufort, South Carolina

What excites me most about my career is: Seeing my students succeed and excel in life and achieving their goals. Getting to stay connected to my students after high school and them sharing their achievements and accomplishments with me. Attending the college and military graduations of my former students is the best feeling in the world!



VICTOR CABRAL

Georgia Southern University
2005 B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies
2013 M.S. Kinesiology
Football Coach
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: The thing that excites me most about my career is that I get to do what I love! Motivating and guiding young men to accomplish their goals they set for themselves and team is great. No two days are ever the same and I get to do it for the greatest university in the country.



JAMES D. BURCHETT

Georgia Southern University
2004 B.S. Construction Management
Attorney/Georgia House Representative District 176
J.D. Burchett Law/State of Georgia
Millwood, Georgia

When I was a kid I wanted to be:
An astronaut. I didn't become an astronaut. However, I figured if I aimed for the stars and came up a little short I would be fine.

STEPHEN N. CROOKE, PH.D.

Georgia Southern University
2012 B.S. Chemistry
Instructor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota

What excites me most about my career is:
The potential to make a difference in someone's life. On any given day, my research could yield results that bring us one step closer to curing or preventing disease.

CHRISTOPHER D'NEIL BROWN

Georgia Southern University
2005 B.S. Biology
2010 MHSA
Medical Service Corps
Officer/Business Owner
U.S. Air Force/Brown's
Wellness & CPR Training
Center, LLC
Bonaire, Georgia

What inspires me: Building generational wealth, while simultaneously helping others pursue their financial and wellness goals.



LEIA DEDIC

Armstrong State University
2012 B.A. Business, Economics
Director of Research and Grant
Management
Savannah Economic Development Authority
Savannah, Georgia

What inspires me: Working closely with incredible visionaries and seeing ideas, projects and solutions come to fruition.

FEATURES

SARA JEAN DUNN

Georgia Southern University
2014 MBA
Vice President Operations &
Electronic Banking
Oconee State Bank
Athens, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: My organization's mission to create remarkable experiences that significantly mark the lives of others. While our team strives to fulfill this mission each day, Oconee State Bank has made a tremendous mark on my own life, allowing me to foster my passion for community outreach. I believe we are all empowered and responsible to leave a positive wake in our industries, our organizations, our communities and our families.



EBONY STARLA HALLIBURTON

Georgia Southern University
2002 B.S. Justice Studies
Senior Intelligence Analyst
Department of Justice
Arlington, Virginia

When I was a kid I wanted to be: I wanted to work for the Department of Justice. I can truly say that I have been blessed to realize that dream and now have the honor and privilege to serve along amazing women and men to help protect our nation daily.



MA'CORIUS HARRIS, PT, DPT

Georgia Southern University
2006 B.S. Kinesiology
Owner, Physical Therapist
Valor Performance Therapy, Inc.
Houston, Texas

What excites me most about my career is: I get to help individuals through some of the most challenging times of their lives to get back to their life roles or a modified version of that role.



KYLE E. FLECK, M.D.

Georgia Southern University
2006 B.S. Biology
Orthopaedic Surgeon
Georgia Sports Medicine at Tift
Regional Medical Center
Tifton, Georgia

When I was a kid I wanted to be:
An Orthopaedic Surgeon.



BRAD HAYNES

Georgia Southern University
2010 MBA
Director of Operations,
69th Bomb Squadron
United States Air Force
Minot, North Dakota

What excites me most about my career is: The chance to make history. Every day can be an opportunity to change the world, one piece at a time with someone.

ANITA GRIFFIN-HOWARD
Armstrong State University
2003 B.A. Fine Arts and Design
Head Women's Basketball Coach
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: Coaching allows me to share the gift of the globe. Basketball serves as a unique tool to expose student-athletes to travel, networking, leadership development and much more. I thank Jesus daily.



DAVID DYLAN JOHN
Georgia Southern University
2016 B.S. Construction Management
2018 M.S. Applied Engineering, Civil Engineering and Construction
Assistant Project Manager
Piedmont Construction Group
Macon, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: Your network is your net worth. Invest in learning from people and grow yourself, so that you may give value to others. Never underestimate the value of people and community.



BRIAN J. JOINER
Georgia Southern University
2007 BBA Accounting
2018 MBA
Vice President, Commercial Banking
Synovus
Warner Robins, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."
— Ferris Bueller



KYLE W. HOLLIS, DMD, DICOI
Georgia Southern University
2012 B.S. Biology
Partner/Lead Dentist
South Georgia Dental Management
Savannah, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: Focus on being honest with people and helping them find solutions to whatever problems they may be having. Everything else will come.
— Hudson J. Powell



JR JOHNSTONE
Armstrong State University
2013 MPH
Senior Compliance Monitor
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

What inspires me: Working with my talented colleagues across the county to bring lifesaving kidney and liver transplants to those living with HIV.

FEATURES



KENDRIA M. LEE
Georgia Southern University
2003 BBA Information Systems
2007 MBA
Director for Economic Development
& Community Relations
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was:
To not wish for the challenges of life to disappear but to search hard for the lesson, embrace it, and push myself to grow from it.

SCOTT LINDSEY MIKELL, M.D.
Georgia Southern University
2010 B.A. Biology
Physician
Statesboro Family Practice
Statesboro, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: The opportunity to give back to my hometown of Statesboro, Georgia.



TERRENCE MABRY SR.
Georgia Southern University
2005 B.S. Kinesiology, Sports Medicine/
Athletic Training
2007 MHSA
Regional Reimbursement Director,
Central United States
MiMedx, Inc.
Statesboro, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was:
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path.



BRIAN McDONALD
Georgia Southern University
2006 B.S. Broadcasting
Director of Operational Excellence
Viant Medical
Vidalia, Georgia

What inspires me: Undoubtedly, the most inspiring part of my career in the medical device industry is having the opportunity to truly impact the lives of employees and patients on a daily basis.



WILLIAM ALAN McDONALD
Georgia Southern University
2003 B.S. Information Technology
Security Technical Specialist
United States Department of State,
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
Nairobi, Kenya

What excites me most about my career is: The opportunity to manage multi-million-dollar technical security programs in different countries, each with their own political, cultural and security challenges, to keep our people, facilities and information secure worldwide.



MOLLY TRENDELL NATION

Georgia Southern University
2009 B.S. Biology
2012 MAT Science Education
Assistant Professor of Environmental Education
Florida Gulf Coast University
Fort Myers, Florida

What excites me most about my career is:

I'm lucky to be able to dedicate my life to educating young people about the importance of conserving this planet. I'm inspired by the students in my classes, and feel optimistic about our future because of them.

KIWONDA D. RILEY

Armstrong State University
2015 MAT Secondary Education, English
Assistant Principal
Wayside Sci-Tech High School
Austin, Texas

What excites me most about my career is:

I get to see that pivotal moment in a scholar's life when they find their path or their true calling. Being apart of their aha moment makes my job exciting.

TOSIN ODESANYA

Georgia Southern University
2002 BBA Information Systems
2003 MBA
SVP, Head of Digital Self Service
Citigroup
Frisco, Texas

What inspires me: My parents inspire me. They sacrificed everything by moving us from Nigeria to the USA and worked tirelessly for the pursuit of the American Dream. They taught me resiliency, and were a great example of how to continually transform, transcend and find means to thrive despite all odds.



BRIAN J. PREVATT, CPA

Georgia Southern University
2009 BBA Accounting
2009 MAcc
Chief Financial Officer
Parker's
Savannah, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: The opportunity to achieve great things while working with remarkable people.

MATT RINGER

Georgia Southern University
2006 B.S. Information Technology,
Telecomm & Network Administration
Global Director Information Technology
Universal Alloy Corporation
Canton, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was:

Always live your life with the Servant Leadership philosophy of I am Third: In Life: God is First, My Family is Second, and I am Third.

At Work: My Team is First, my Teammates are Second, and I am Third.

Never forget to put others before yourself and never let work get in the way of your faith or your family.

FEATURES

JABRE V. SCOTT

Georgia Southern University
2005 B.S. Sports Management
Sales Development Leader -
Atlanta Outside Sales Division
Payscape
Lawrenceville, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: My ability to positively impact businesses and business owners every day. While working in a fast paced and ever changing industry.



ANGELA SEHZUE

Georgia Southern University
2003 B.S. International Trade
Senior Intelligence Analyst
Department of Justice
Houston, Texas

What inspires me: The inaugural address of President John F. Kennedy in which he challenged all Americans to “ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.”

GEMMA SKURATON DRPH, MPH, CHES, LAT, ATC, USAW, CPT, FMS

Georgia Southern University
2012 B.S. Kinesiology, Athletic Training/
Exercise Science
2014 MPH
2018 DrPH
Health Promotion Coordinator
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, Georgia

My most unforgettable experience is: My most unforgettable memory from Georgia Southern University is my master's level capstone/thesis research project. My research topic was to determine if physical activity could be utilized as an adjunct to treatment for individuals having experienced psychological trauma. I conducted group fitness classes among young women, ages 14-17 living in a foster care group home. This experience allowed me to witness true and authentic gratitude. I am thankful that this connection allowed me to fully conceptualize holistic well-being as well as the power of community-based participatory research.



YHAZIEL SIMON, DMD

Georgia Southern University
2008 B.S. Kinesiology,
Exercise Science
General Dentist
United States Navy
Pensacola, Florida

What excites me most about my career is: I have the joy of literally putting a smile on someone's face after treating them. It's absolutely rewarding to know that you have changed someone's life almost instantly.



CLINTON A SMITH

Georgia Southern University
2006 B.A. Finance
CEO
Mercy Federal Credit Union
Savannah, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: I get to truly help people day in and day out with their finances.

CATHERINE SNEED

Georgia Southern University
2010 B.S. Public Relations
Senior Communications Representative
Lockheed Martin
Wallingford, Connecticut

What excites me most about my career is: Knowing the path isn't linear. I've held roles in business operations, human resources and corporate communications with a strong foundation in communications from Georgia Southern.



ZAKIYYAH VASHE' WEATHERSPOON

Georgia Southern University
2005 BSN
2011 MSN
Family Nurse Practitioner
Legacy Behavioral Health
Valdosta, Georgia

What excites me most about my career is: Bringing awareness to childhood mental health problems and working as a community to decrease teen suicide rates.



ALLISON BROWN WILKINSON

Georgia Southern University
2006 BBA Logistics and Intermodal Transportation
Assistant Director of Payroll Services
Georgia College and State University
Sandersville, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: Never stop dreaming! No matter your age you can always make a difference. Give back to others, show kindness and never let anyone dull your sparkle!



KASH TRIVEDI

Georgia Southern University
2010 B.A. Political Science
Managing Partner
Terminus South
Atlanta, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: Be kind, you never know who is watching.



RUSSELL KELLY WILLIAMS JR.

Georgia Southern University
2005 BBA Regional Economic Development
Senior Director, Technology Solutions
Vaco
Roswell, Georgia

The best advice I ever received was: Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.



TAKING THE REINS

Local, State, Federal Leaders Help Welcome Marrero at his Investiture Ceremony

On Oct. 24 & 25, Georgia Southern University held ceremonies to officially confer the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the President to Dr. Kyle Marrero, who became Georgia Southern's 14th president on April 1.

"We are here today to share in the time-honored tradition to invest a new president of Georgia Southern University," said University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Steve W. Wrigley, Ph.D., to the crowd. "It is an awesome responsibility, yet leading a public university today is also a complex responsibility. It is a high calling to prepare students for civic responsibility and for the workforce. Georgia Southern, in embracing its mission, fosters the

growth and development of this region, state and nation through the teaching, research and public service of its excellent faculty.

"As chancellor, I believe in this institution and its mission. It is the primary role of the president to create and sustain an environment where the pursuit of knowledge can thrive. I believe Dr. Marrero is the right person at this time in the history of Georgia Southern University, and I'm excited about the future."

Local, state and federal representatives attended the investiture on the Statesboro Campus on Oct. 25 and a Speakers' event about the University's values on Oct. 24

at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah. Notable attendees included U.S. Rep. Rick W. Allen, Georgia State Sen. Jack Hill, Georgia House Reps. Jan Tankersley and Jon Burns, Savannah Mayor Eddie DeLoach, Statesboro Mayor Jonathan McCollar, Hinesville Mayor Allen Brown, several representatives from the USG, fellow presidents of USG institutions.

"I am honored by your charge and trust in me and indebted by all those who have made this institution what it is today," said Marrero. "I continue to be amazed at the quality of people, the communities, the sheer breadth of what Georgia Southern has to offer and the future potential for us all."



PEOPLE. PURPOSE. ACTION.

Georgia Southern Announces Five-Year Strategic Plan

After a yearlong effort, with multi-stakeholder collaboration across three campuses and communities, Georgia Southern University announced its Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2024. The plan articulates the mission and vision, defines the core values of the University and establishes clear, measurable goals to meet its objectives.

The Strategic Plan centers around five main pillars: student success; teaching and research; equity, diversity and inclusion; operational efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability; and community engagement.

"This is an exceptional time to be part of the Georgia Southern University community, as we collectively envision the future with optimism, passion and determination," said Georgia Southern President Kyle Marrero. "Our new Strategic Plan offers a bold, comprehensive roadmap designed to unite students, faculty and staff as one Eagle Nation as we work toward a

shared set of goals and elevate our sense of common purpose."

The Strategic Plan aims to align academic programs with the talent and economic development needs of southeast Georgia, with student success as the foundation and first pillar. The plan also places an additional focus on expanding partnerships such as the existing collaboration with the Department of Defense, regional military installations and area businesses and industries.

In addition to its academic and research goals, the Strategic Plan strives to create an even more inclusive community, deepen the University's impact across the region and create a culture of operational efficiency and effectiveness.

"The real power of a strategic plan lies in its successful execution, so it is critical that we use key performance indicators to hold ourselves accountable and monitor goal attainment over the next five years," added Marrero.

Included in this plan is a new vision statement for the institution: "People. Purpose. Action: Growing ourselves to grow others!" The statement calls for investment in the university's people - its faculty and staff - to create a culture where each employee is focused on performance excellence and understands the critical role they play in achieving the goals set forth in this plan - all to have the greatest impact on Georgia Southern's students and the communities it serves.

Marrero also says that while we elevate our distinctives, the plan is all about the unified vision of one Georgia Southern, one Eagle Nation.

"That vision is inspired and directed by our Strategic Plan — discovering and obtaining knowledge, developing talent and serving a region. In other words, 'People... Purpose... Action — Growing ourselves to grow others!'"



Professors from the Statesboro Campus were recognized at this year's Convocation in Statesboro. Pictured (from left to right) are: Lisa Costello, Diana Botnaru, John Van Stan, Ji Wu with President Kyle Marrero



Professors from the Armstrong Campus were recognized at this year's Convocation in Savannah. Pictured (from left to right) are: Donna Mullenax, Traci Ness, Douglas Masini, Jennifer Zettler, Christopher Hendricks, Kurt Knoerl with President Marrero.

UNIVERSITY AWARDS RECOGNIZE EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Georgia Southern is an institution where students think, serve, lead and grow. Their educational experience begins in the classroom with professors who inspire them. Each year, outstanding educators are recognized for their excellence in research, teaching, creativity and service. See the list of award recipients below:

Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity

John Van Stan, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Geology and Geography,
College of Science and Mathematics

Ji Wu, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
College of Science and Mathematics

Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the Community

Doug Masini, Ed.D.
Dept. of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences,
Waters College of Health Professions

Christopher Hendricks, Ph.D.,
Dept. of History,
College of Arts and Humanities

Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction

Traci L. Ness, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Biology,
College of Science and Mathematics

Diana Botnaru, M.D.,
Dept. of Health Sciences and Kinesiology,
Waters College of Health Professions

Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to the University

Jennifer Zettler, Ph.D.,
Professor of Biology,
College of Science and Mathematics

Kristina Brockmeier Award

Kurt Knoerl, Ph.D.,
Dept. of History,
College of Arts and Humanities

Award for Excellence in Service

Lisa Costello, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Writing and Linguistics,
College of Arts and Humanities

Donna Mullenax, M.S.,
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy,
College of Science and Mathematics

Judge Ron Ginsberg Faculty Excellence Award

Traci Ness, Ph.D.,
Dept. of Biology,
College of Science and Mathematics

TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

Student Gains Hands-on Experience at World-famous Mayo Clinic



Medical laboratory science major Lauren Frank ('19) dreams big. She spent the last six months training at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. Mayo Clinic is recognized as a leading facility in patient care, research and education. Nabbing a clinical rotation as a medical laboratory scientist there is quite competitive.

"Working at Mayo has always been a dream for me," Frank said. "I was on a tour there when I found out I was chosen for the rotation. I was speechless. Our clinical coordinator handed me my schedule, and I honestly couldn't believe what was happening. She asked if I had any questions and my mind went completely blank."

Frank called it an amazing opportunity to train with technologists who are passionate about what they do. The new graduate worked eight hours per day, Monday to Friday, rotating between different departments in the medical laboratory.

"There are three main areas in the hospital lab: blood bank, microbiology and core lab," she said. "The blood bank is involved in blood transfusion services. Microbiology isolates pathogenic bacteria, fungi and/or viruses from patient samples. The core lab combines all the other subjects including chemistry, hematology and serology. My favorite specialties are either blood bank or microbiology because both departments involve a lot of critical thinking, almost like solving a puzzle."

Frank grew up in Nashville and always knew she would work in the medical field. At age five, she was diagnosed with a rare soft tissue cancer commonly seen in children.

"I chose this career path because I wanted to help patients in the same way I was helped as a child," she explained. "Lab results played a big role in my treatment and in the activities I could participate in during chemotherapy. If my complete blood counts (CBCs) were up, I could get out of the house for the day or spend time with friends."

As she neared the end of her clinical rotation, the Mayo Clinic offered her a job. She'll be working as a medical technologist in the microbiology department.

"We aid in the diagnostic process," she said. "Without lab results, doctors would have a very difficult time treating and diagnosing patients. A goal of mine is to one day get involved in cancer research. Cancer treatments have come a long way since I was in treatment, but I hope that someday in my lifetime we will find a cure for cancer."

Now that she's finished her undergraduate studies in the Waters College of Health Professions, Frank said many things stood out for her while studying on the Armstrong Campus.

"I loved organic chemistry with Dr. Brandon Quillian," she said. "The class was very challenging, but he did an amazing job teaching it, and he was really passionate about the subject. I also loved Dr. Jennifer Zettler for my microbiology lab."

The new alumna said working with the Student Temporary Services Team and as a science tutor at the SMART Center allowed her to meet many new people and get involved on campus. Frank hasn't ruled out attending medical school to become a pediatric oncologist or pathologist. — SANDRA BENNETT



"I chose this career path because I wanted to help patients in the same way I was helped as a child."

TRAVELING TO UNDERSTAND

Georgia Southern TRIO Students Gain Lifelong Lessons In Puerto Rico

A student-focused volunteer trip to Puerto Rico over the summer took Georgia Southern's top honor as Outstanding Community Service Project. It also changed the lives of the 12 TRIO scholars who participated in the weeklong program.

"The trip was more than just volunteering," said Johnny Sumner, a radiologic science major. "It helped me overall grow into a better person. I learned that to really understand the world, I need to travel."

Twelve TRIO scholars were selected following a rigorous application process to participate in a community service and research trip on the Caribbean island that was decimated by back-to-back Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

The trip, hosted by Georgia Southern's Armstrong and Liberty campuses' Office of TRIO Student Support Services (SSS), which helps transition, retain and graduate first-generation and low-income students, as well as students with disabilities, also earned support from the Office of Student Affairs and the U.S. Department of Education.

"In providing a community service, cultural and research experience for TRIO participants in Puerto Rico, the objectives of the experience were to advance academic proficiency, expand financial literacy and increase career awareness through community service activities and research projects that respond to severe social problems," stated TRIO Retention Specialist Thomas Bullock, Ed.D.

As the students, many of whom had never boarded a plane before, arrived to the country's capital, San Juan, and rode into town by bus, they were mesmerized.

"We traveled from the airport, through the cobblestone streets of San Juan with very little talking; all eyes were captivated by the many sights," said Bullock. "A lot of abandoned buildings littered our route. It was obvious that the island was still devastated by the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria."

Hosted by the Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Institute at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, a guide

introduced the students to the city, founded in 1509. They explored San Juan Gate, centuries-old forts, the Bautista cathedral and the governor's house, as iguanas scurried among the cobblestone streets.

The TRIO scholars then participated in community service activities over the next several days. Their first stop was in the town of Cataño, located just across the bay from San Juan, as the area's mangrove trees, which naturally protect the island from severe weather, were destroyed. TRIO scholars volunteered with Corredor del Yaguazo, which partners with the local government and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to preserve the wetlands habitat of the Las Cucharillas Ciénaga Natural Reserve, to clear fallen trees and boulders with rakes and machetes.

Time was also spent with 7quillas, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection of the Tinglar, an endangered species also known as the leatherback sea turtle. Students built a sand embankment around the turtles' nests to act as an egg incubator, and conducted an extensive beach clean-up.

"It was amazing how much trash and debris we picked up on what seemed to be a pristine beach," said Bullock. "Everyone gained an appreciation for the elimination of plastic straws from the Georgia Southern University Galley."

However, volunteering with Casa Educativa de Cantera, a small school located in one of Puerto Rico's poorest communities, was one of the more touching experiences for the TRIO students, who painted the two-story school building, picked limes and enjoyed barbecue and fresh fruit smoothies made by their hosts. When the children arrived, they played with them, took turns practicing Spanish and English and handed out Georgia Southern pencils as tokens of gratitude.

TRIO students also learned about the importance of the 17th-century, Afro-Puerto Rican musical traditions of bomba and plena music, which arrived with enslaved Africans,



Georgia Southern TRIO students from the Armstrong Campus in Savannah traveled to Puerto Rico for a community service and research trip. (Top row, L to R) Evelyn Sorto, Wanda Lyons, Kaii Joseph-Maloney, Thomas Bullock. (Bottom row, L to R) Nadou Lawson, Michelle Villanueva, Latoria Jamerson, Chamori Robinson, Johnny Sumner, Adalis Ball, Demetrius Hurst and Monica Nguyen





and alternated lessons with traditional drums and a fruit skin banjo with dancing.

Throughout the trip, interactions with local residents, who shared stories about how the hurricanes personally affected them, left an indelible mark on all of the TRIO students.

"The seven days of community service in Puerto Rico not only changed my perspective of this beautiful and fearless country, but also opened my eyes to the conflicts in politics, health and environmental issues in Puerto Rico," stated biology and pre-dentistry major Michelle Villanueva.

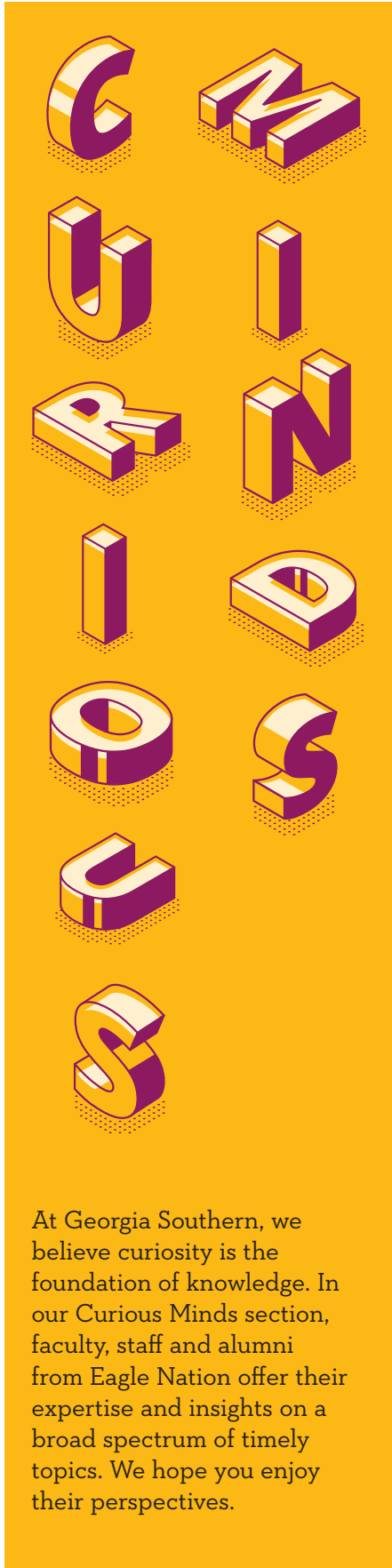
Biology major Monica Nguyen agreed.

"It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience," she said. "The trip exceeded our expectations and provided Georgia Southern's TRIO program participants the opportunity to learn as well as to give back to those in need."

Corine Ackerson-Jones, director of the TRIO SSS program, is especially proud of the students.

"They were told from the beginning that this wouldn't be a vacation yet they still welcomed the challenge," she said. "I knew this would be good for them but I just didn't realize the full impact until they came back and discussed their experiences. It will be something they'll never forget and I am honored to have had a role in making it happen." — *MELANIE SIMÓN*





At Georgia Southern, we believe curiosity is the foundation of knowledge. In our Curious Minds section, faculty, staff and alumni from Eagle Nation offer their expertise and insights on a broad spectrum of timely topics. We hope you enjoy their perspectives.

ALLEN E. PAULSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING

What Is AI And Why Should You Care?

AI, or Artificial Intelligence, is the ability for computers to perform tasks that require human intelligence and cognition. Recent advances in hardware and software, coupled with cloud technologies, have facilitated the growth and hype surrounding modern AI. Developments garnering attention are in deep learning, which is largely based on neural networks. Neural networks mimic the human learning process by creating neural pathways in computing. Deep learning has advanced image and speech recognition which has a wide range of applications. One such example is helping the visually impaired to see via smart devices which use image recognition to dictate surroundings.

Examples of AI applications are image recognition, learning and making predictions from historical data, text processing and speech recognition, and even self-driving vehicles. AI touches our daily lives. It aids physicians in making diagnoses by, for example, processing radiological images. AI helps guide investment strategies, and powers recommender systems such as those that recommend movies on Netflix or products on Amazon or filter your spam. Furthermore, AI is being utilized in areas such as facial detection, anti-terrorism, license plate recognition and fraud detection.

While there is a good deal of hype about the scary future of AI and taking over humans – such as the movie “The Matrix” – it’s just hype. AI has been around for more than a half century and our current AI systems are not as intelligent as a canine. Take the recent advances in image recognition using “deep learning.” This is a complex process for computers but very easy for Fido. We won’t venture into the calculations and intelligence to catch a tennis ball.

One often overlooked area of AI which could have negative impacts relates to cybersecurity, which needs to be considered as AI moves forward. AI is trained on data and if a hacker were to poison the dataset, an AI system could produce malicious results. Like a human operating on incomplete or wrong information, AI is only as good as the data from which it learns.

– HAYDEN WIMMER, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPT. OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

PARKER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Tariffs and You

Tariffs are a tax on imports and exports. Tariffs have been around a long time, and before the personal income tax came along about a century ago, they were an important way for our government to collect money needed to cover costs such as military spending.

Revolting against the British levying taxes on the colonies, the founders made the United States rather unique in that export tariffs are explicitly forbidden in the Constitution. So, American consumers can focus on import tariffs which raise the price of foreign-made goods here and hurt our local Savannah port-based economy. Long supply chains mean that the artificially high price can impact many other goods beyond the targeted good as well. With the average U.S. content of a good that says “Made in China” greater than 50%, care must be taken in applying tariffs for geopolitical purposes because they often wind up hurting Georgia workers.

Recently, the price of a washer/dryer set has increased not only because of a tariff on foreign-made sets, but also because of tariffs on inputs such as steel used on American-made sets. We tried raising tariffs across the board to high levels in 1930 to protect American workers. Other countries raised tariffs on our exports, and you know what happened to unemployment in the 1930s. So after WWII, we got together with other countries and have been trying to lower tariffs worldwide ever since with some success.

Tariffs often are seen as a “weapon” to use in a “war” with other countries that we can “win,” which is unfortunate as the evidence is clear that more international trade leads to more world peace. Not rocket science, just the economics of getting to know your neighbor a little can drastically reduce misunderstanding. – GREG BROCK, PH.D., PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, DEPT. OF ECONOMICS



A Tribute to Wrigley the Therapy Dog (March 2007 - August 17, 2019)

I had no idea how getting a dog would impact my personal and professional life. When he was 1½ years old, Wrigley, a friendly, fluffy white German Shepherd, became a certified therapy dog. As I witnessed the impact his visits had on different groups of people, scientific curiosity led to my developing a class on Animal-Assisted Therapy, which I taught for 10 years in the University Honors program as Honors FYE 1220.

For service-learning, students paired with Wrigley and myself (and other certified therapy dogs and their handlers) for on-site visits to hospitals, the local library's "Reading to Rover" program, nursing homes, Special Olympics and the Georgia Southern Child Development Center. Some of the benefits of therapy dogs include providing non-judgmental support, anxiety relief, promotion of communication and socialization, and physiological benefits. Statesboro Therapy Dogs also provided stress relief for students during final exam week, and were on hand to provide solace and comfort during the memorial service for the nursing students who lost their lives in a wreck on I-16.

In addition, Wrigley played a role in an alternative spring break trip with Georgia Southern students (led by myself and Dr. Brent Wolfe) working with adults with disabilities. After seven years of being the Camp Blue Skies therapy dog, Wrigley was not up to making the trip the last two years. Repeat campers still ask about Wrigley and will be saddened to hear that he has passed away.

My relationship with Wrigley influenced my teaching, service and research, leading to 11 national and international conference presentations and one refereed journal publication (six honors students who took the AAT class were involved in this research). Thank you, Wrigley, for your service, for touching countless lives, and for giving me and my family 12-plus years of your gentle, loving presence.

— JERRI J. KROPP, PH.D., CCLS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT, SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY



Obsessed with Getting 10K Steps Every Day? Don't!

At this point, we all have some kind of pedometer or tracking device hiding in a junk drawer or in a recently deleted app. Although you might have been excited when you first used your tracker, the excitement quickly fizzled out. Do not be discouraged. This is consistent with the most recent research findings — long-term adherence to a tracking device is very low. Furthermore, if you were not achieving the goal of 10,000 steps on your device, your physical activity might even be lower after using it.

So, what should we be focusing on for our long-term health? Having a physically active lifestyle is key to disease prevention and health promotion. Sedentary behaviors, such as prolonged sitting times, are critical health threats. There is a growing body of literature that warns of the danger of sedentary behavior, linking it to adverse health outcomes such as an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and metabolic syndrome regardless of whether physical activity recommendations are met. In other words, even if someone goes to the gym every day, one can still be at risk of disease and premature death if they engage in too much sedentary behavior. In addition to the negative physical impact, sedentary behavior has also been linked with several aspects of poorer mental health such as anxiety, depression and sleeping difficulties, independent of age, gender, level

of education and physical activity. Office-based employees, or those who spend a large amount of time sitting, are particularly susceptible to this increased risk.

To reduce sedentary time, it is recommended that individuals begin with accumulating two hours each day of standing and light activity and gradually increasing this time to four hours each day. Seated-based work should be broken up using sit-stand desks, standing-based work or brief active standing breaks. In addition, employers are advised to educate their staff on the danger of how prolonged sitting increases the risk of cardiometabolic diseases and premature mortality as well as incorporate other health promotion goals including nutrition, tobacco use and stress management. Small changes can lead to big health outcomes, taking frequent activity breaks is good for not only the heart but also the mind, and keeping the body moving throughout the day reduces the implication of sedentary behaviors.

— BRIDGET MELTON, ED.D., PROFESSOR OF KINESIOLOGY, DEPT. OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND KINESIOLOGY



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

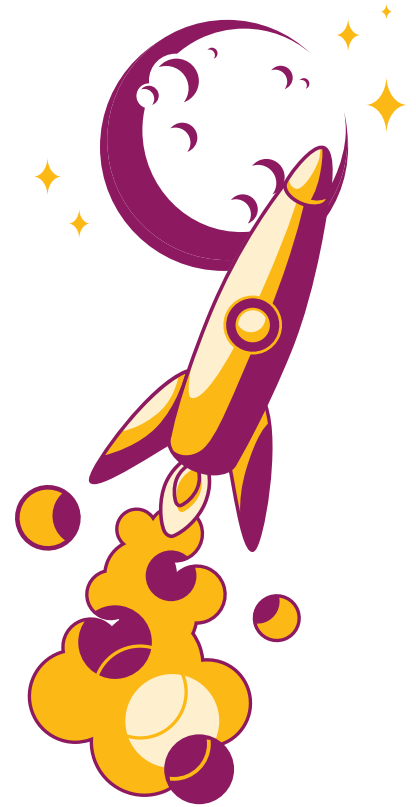
The Future of Human Spaceflight

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the incredible feat of landing the first astronauts on the moon. NASA's Apollo 11 mission inspired generations of students and led to technologies which benefit us here on Earth every day. These include kidney dialysis machines, flame retardant clothing for firefighters, memory foam and rechargeable hearing aids. After the conclusion of the Apollo Program, NASA flew 135 Space Shuttle missions which included construction of the International Space Station (ISS) where humans have continuously lived since Nov. 2, 2000. Many students who entered Georgia Southern University this fall semester have never lived at a time when humans were not living and working in space.

The future of human spaceflight is no less exciting right now than it was during the Apollo era. American companies will launch astronauts to the ISS aboard their rockets within the next year. Space tourism companies are planning to launch private citizens into space. NASA is building the world's most powerful rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), which will take humans back to the moon and to Mars. The initial test flight of the SLS rocket with the Orion crew capsule is planned for late next year. NASA's goal is to land two astronauts, including the first woman, at the moon's south pole region by 2024. Living on the moon will serve as a stepping stone to launching the first humans to Mars.

Georgia Southern alumni have played key roles in America's spaceflight successes. Charles Abner (Math, '67) joined NASA during the Apollo Program and later became the Space Shuttle Chief Engineer at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). James Kennedy (MBA '77) served as the Deputy Center Director at the Marshall Space Flight Center and the Center Director at KSC. In 1999, Chris Fairey (Physics and Math, '69) was serving as the Director of Safety and Mission Assurance at KSC when he arranged to have several Georgia Southern flags flown aboard the Space Shuttle Orbiter Discovery on a mission to the ISS. As a Georgia Southern alumni, I'm proud to have one of those flags displayed in my office.

— ANDY WARREN, NASA/MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER,
SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM PROGRAM, CROSS PROGRAM INTEGRATION



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Trauma in the Classroom

Trauma is present in every classroom, and it can affect a child's ability to learn. According to the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, over 60 percent of students have experienced some form of trauma, crime or abuse in the prior year. Georgia Southern College of Education Professors Regina Rahimi, Ed.D., Delores Liston, Ph.D., and Ameer Adkins, Ph.D., surveyed school professionals in Georgia to determine next steps for implementing trauma informed practices in schools.

"For children, we should assume that they don't have help mitigating the effects of trauma and that their lives will be better if they get some help," said Adkins. "So trauma-informed practice, whether you are in social work, mental health services or an educator, says start with the assumption that you may have youth who are living with trauma, and it asks what can you do to create a soothing, peaceful, functioning environment for them."

Tactics could be as simple as giving the student a sense of control through allowing choices, evoking stability and routine, providing a safe, predictable environment, quiet spaces and de-escalation tactics such as breathing exercises.

"There is a woeful need for more mental health care, more counselors and more adults in general that can speak to these issues," said Rahimi. "This is what has led to the passion we have for this project. Where there is an absence of counselors, we need to help teachers understand the consequences of trauma and some of the social and emotional needs of students."

"We are not trying to turn teachers into counselors," added Liston. "We want to equip teachers with tools to identify students who are facing these difficulties as well as recognize that certain behaviors or patterns could, in fact, be indicators of trauma. Then, we can help them understand tactics to not compound the problem."

Rahimi, Liston and Adkins are creating a professional learning network that captures national research and engagement and brings it down to a local level. They plan to utilize a central website along with various social media platforms to share and connect individuals with resources and information about trauma in students.

To join the conversation about trauma informed practices, contact Regina Rahimi (rrahimi@georgiasouthern.edu) to become a part of the professional learning network.

— CINNAMON DOWD, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Is There a Winning Formula Behind Today's Pop Music?

Quick answer... Yes, it seems there may be. The whole story is a bit more complex.

Popular music exists within and often shapes the time in which it was written and released. Because of this, it's impossible to place a Beethoven Symphony or music by the Spice Girls in a different era and expect it to retain its popularity from when it was originally created.

Artists like the Beatles have seemingly transcended a number of eras but many students these days don't know who they are or recognize their music at all. If the Beatles, widely regarded by many as the greatest band of all time, can be so quickly forgotten by subsequent generations, what chance does any musician have?

Take Max Martin. If you haven't heard of him, that's partly by design. He has written or co-written songs for an extremely long list of popular artists from the past 20 years including the Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Katy Perry and Taylor Swift to name a few. Since his first hit in 1999, Martin has had 22 songs reach No.1 on the Billboard charts. The Beatles had 20.

What Martin, and other successful songwriters, have in common with the Beatles is that they have both written some of the catchiest melodies in modern history – “Hey Jude,” “Shake It Off,” “Yesterday,” “Roar,” “Let It Be,” “Can't Stop the Feeling.” Like them or not, these melodies worm their way into our subconscious begging for repeated plays. Artists are often so devoted to their melodies that words are invented, twisted around, and often placed without regard to meaning, to suit the melody.

Think about some of your favorite songs... hear them playing in your head... why do you like them... and what did you hear first?

– DAN HADDAD, PH.D., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS,
DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC BANDS



Should You Wash Your Raw Chicken?

The recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention consumer warning stating there is no need to wash raw chicken during food preparation has stirred up quite a public health conversation. According to the CDC, washing raw chicken increases the chance of spreading pathogens (or “germs”) such as *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* from the chicken to other foods, utensils and/or countertops. The CDC stands firm that all bacteria are killed off once chicken or poultry is cooked to a proper internal temperature of 165°F.

Unfortunately, not washing chicken before cooking does not sit well with many individuals. Professor Evans Afriyie-Gyawu, Ph.D., an environmental health and food safety/toxicology scientist and Georgia Southern doctoral student Paige Perry, a certified food safety specialist, say they can see both the CDC's position and the sociocultural perspective of people in the U.S. In fact, from Afriyie-Gyawu's in-class and personal discussions (non-scientific) with more than 15 individuals on campus, all African Americans/Africans (100%) versus 20% of Caucasian Americans would wash their raw chicken before cooking.

“While we need to consider the CDC's statement, we also need to consider the psychological, social and cultural implications of not washing raw chicken before cooking,” states Afriyie-Gyawu. “We should not neglect the fact that not every food handler strictly adheres to basic hygiene practices. We may not only be dealing with bacteriological aspects of the issue; the chicken may be contaminated with chemical and/or physical agents as well.”

Afriyie-Gyawu and Perry maintain that “if we are considering a commercial setting then it would be prudent to follow the CDC's recommendation, by not washing the chicken before cooking it. This is because of the huge volume of chicken that needs to be washed during preparation, and the chances of spreading the bacteria and contaminating other food items are high.”

However, they add, “If we are looking into an individual's home setting, plus trying to address the sociocultural concerns about this issue, then it may be a good idea to CAREFULLY wash raw chicken before cooking it. Of paramount importance is proper disinfection of the prep area to avoid cross contamination. While we respect the authority of the CDC and its reputable advisories, it is important to also educate and promote using caution and proper sanitary practices during and after washing - for individuals who socially and culturally believe strongly that chicken must be washed before it is cooked.” Studies are warranted to determine if/why there are differences among diverse racial/ethnic groups with respect to whether chicken should be washed before cooking.

– EVANS AFRIYIE-GYAWU, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF BIostatISTICS, EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES



AVERITT AWARD WINNERS 2019

Each year, Georgia Southern honors at least two graduate students for their excellence in research and instruction. The winners of the Averitt Award, which is the highest honor bestowed within the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies, are presented with a \$1,000 cash prize

and a Crystal Eagle trophy. This year, Jessica Watts of the College of Science and Mathematics received the award for Excellence in Research and Carson Hollingsworth of the Waters College of Health Professions was recognized for Excellence in Instruction.

CARSON HOLLINGSWORTH

Teaching, Coaching and Mentoring



Carson Hollingsworth started at Georgia Southern as an undecided major; however, a conversation with an adviser helped him realize “health and physical education was the perfect fit” because of his love for kids and sports.

He earned his bachelor's in the College of Education's health and physical education program and stayed to complete his graduate degree in kinesiology in the Waters College of Health Professions. As a graduate student, he taught kinesiology elective classes, and supervised and mentored undergraduate students in Georgia Southern's health and physical education program.

“The most enjoyable thing about teaching is the relationships you build and the ability to be a positive role model in students' lives while seeing them grow and learn,” he said. “I have been very blessed in terms of physical education teachers and coaches and I want to be able to give students that same experience.”

Upon winning the Averitt Award, Hollingsworth singled out faculty members Tony Pritchard, Ed.D., Gavin Colquitt, Ed.D., Starla McCollum, Ph.D., and Kellie Penix, Ed.D., for the instrumental role they played in shaping his educational path.

“They have supported me throughout my time here at Georgia Southern,” he said. “They show that hard work pays off and display a passion for all aspects of health and physical education. They have opened many doors for me and enabled me to pursue my passion for health and physical education. I can't thank them enough for everything they have done for me.”

In addition to teaching, Hollingsworth is the boys head basketball coach at Southeast Bulloch Middle School, and an assistant coach for the baseball team. Although he grew up in suburban Atlanta, Hollingsworth enjoys the community aspect of living in a small town and is now teaching at Stilson Elementary School in Stilson, Georgia. The teacher/coach is hoping to inspire his students to continue to learn about physical activity and pursue it for a lifetime.

— SANDRA BENNETT



JESSICA WATTS

Willing to Help

Jessica Watts likes to say she's a marine biologist by trade and a real fan of oysters.

"I think oysters are really cool," she said. "I think that they don't get enough credit. They help with storm buffering and erosion. They filter water. They do so many cool things for us."

Watts received her undergraduate degree in marine biology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) and graduated last summer from Georgia Southern with a master's degree in biology with a focus on marine biology. She worked with oysters and conducted molecular biology and ecology research on them while here.

John Carroll, Ph.D., associate professor and Watts' advisor, thought Watts' research and her willingness to help others in the laboratory was the kind of effort worthy of the Averitt Award.

"She was able to balance her teaching load with active research, making presentations at national conferences and securing research and travel funding," said Carroll. "More importantly, her work at Georgia Southern is valuable for oyster management and restoration, not only in Georgia but throughout the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts."

Watts thinks the Averitt Award really helped her to get a job quickly after graduation this summer. Currently she's in Wilmington, North Carolina, near her family and working for UNCW at the Center for Marine Science in the shellfish genetics lab.

Why does she think Carroll nominated her for the award?

"I guess I wasn't necessarily asked to take on the role of managing the lab. But that semester I mentored 10 undergraduate students, and I just kind of did it. Every student that came in, I'd just train them and make sure that they had projects to work on. So I think John just felt like I was willing to help."

And Carroll agrees.

"I could not think of a better candidate for the Jack N. Averitt Award than Jessica." — LIZ WALKER

A BLANK CANVAS



*I can create this
whole culture, this
whole legacy – a
championship legacy.
I can put my own
stamp on it.*

– Anita Howard



Anita Howard Brings an Enthusiastic and Creative Approach to Women's Basketball

Anita Howard says her greatest strength is being a motivator, and if you spend any amount of time with her, you'd be hard-pressed to disagree.

As the new head coach of the women's basketball team, and the first African American female head coach in the history of the program, Howard is hoping to bring a winning legacy to a struggling program through creativity and a dose of "Vitamin E," — energy, effort and efficiency — setting high standards for herself, her staff and her players.

She'll take the reins of an Eagles team that won only two conference games for the last two years, but the challenge only gets her more excited about the future.

"I like having a blank canvas," said Howard, a 2003 fine art and design graduate from Armstrong. "We won two games last year in conference. You can only go up from there. So I can create this whole culture, this whole legacy — a championship legacy. I can put my own stamp on it."

Howard left impressive stamps on several institutions before coming to Georgia Southern. She established winning programs at each of her previous schools, appearing in four conference championships and winning two of them. She also took Division II Columbus State to the NCAA Tournament, winning a regional tournament championship and appearing in the Elite 8. She's earned

Coach of the Year honors twice, and boasts an impressive 144-54 overall record.

So what does she think it will take to turn the Eagles program around?

"One of the things that I think we're going to have to work on is just their championship mindset," she said. "And that's not just on the court. It's just your overall development in totality. We've got to believe that we are supposed to win games."

Howard admitted that the team's previous records initially worried her, but after looking at the film and especially after practicing with them, she said the record didn't reflect their talent.

"The biggest thing that jumped out to me in looking at the film and watching them is we just didn't play a lot of defense," said Howard. "We had some really good offensive players than can score the ball, but we didn't play any defense. I know we were dead last in the conference for defense, and so that is a small little tweak that I think is going to help us definitely win more than two games. Yeah, we're going to have a winning season. I have faith."

The Eagles will return almost all of their starters to the squad with six seniors, including All-Sun-Belt Guard Alexis Brown. During the summer, Howard recruited graduate student Nikki McDonald, who played for two years at Louisiana Tech, a Division I Conference USA school.

She also recruited a couple of outstanding freshmen in Ja'Nya Love-Hill from Carver High School in Columbus and Jaiden Hamilton from Laney High School in Augusta. Both have state championships on their résumés. Love-Hill is a second-team all-state player and a three-time regional honoree who scored more than 1,000 points in her high school career. Hamilton was named the 2018-2019 Region 4-AA Player of the Year as a senior and scored more than 2,000 points in her high school career.

Howard also has brought in a wealth of coaching talent from around the world. Assistant coaches Coretta Brown, Chris Straker and Josh Cooperwood have all played or coached at the professional basketball level and will bring their considerable experience to the Eagles team.

As a head coach, Howard is creative and admits she's also a little unorthodox. She doesn't have the team do shootarounds before a game. She doesn't like long practices, the shortest of which she ended after only 15 minutes. She views her coaching role as holistic, because "it's so much more than the game of basketball that makes the players play hard."

In the end, however, she knows the proof is in performance, and she believes Eagle fans are in for a pleasant surprise.

"I believe we're going to shock the Sun Belt," she said. "You're going to see a totally different team fairly quickly." — DOY CAVE

AIMING FOR THE OLYMPICS

Georgia Southern Produces Two Olympic Hopefuls

It was an international summer of competition for two Olympic hopefuls. Georgia Southern senior air rifle markswoman Rosemary Kramer, and sophomore archer Adam Heidt both competed at the World University Games in Naples, Italy, in preparation for the Olympic Trials.



ROSEMARY KRAMER

Hailing from Culloden, Georgia, Rosemary Kramer comes from a family where shooting is a way of life. Her parents were both competitive shooters and educated her on the safety and discipline of the sport.

"I did it a lot when I was a kid, from deer hunting to shooting balloons and tin cans, just to have fun with the family," said Kramer.

So it seems only natural that now she's a member of the USA National Development Team and won a coveted spot at the Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center. She moved to Colorado Springs in August to begin training eight hours a day, six days a week in preparation for the Olympic Trials.

"When school was out, the very next week I went to the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cups in Munich," said Kramer.

She won third place at the spring selection match hosted by USA Shooting in Fort Benning, Georgia. That qualified Kramer to go to Munich, Germany, for the World Cup and earn her minimum qualifying score

needed to compete for the Olympic Team. Kramer then represented Georgia Southern and Team USA at the World University Games in Naples, Italy, in July. She was also selected for the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in August.

Next, Kramer will compete at the 2019 Winter Airgun Championships in December in Colorado Springs and the second half of the Olympic Trials in January. Those two crucial scores are combined to determine Olympic qualifying.

Rifle coach Sandra Worman considers Kramer's chances very good as one of only 11 women in the U.S. eligible to make the Olympic team.

"One thing I have noticed about Rosemary is she rises to the occasion," said Worman. "But she really knocks it out of the park, when it's a high pressure situation with a lot on the line."

Whether or not Kramer competes in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, she'll return to Statesboro to finish her biology degree and graduate in December 2020.

Kramer attributes her success to her coach. "Sandra Worman was just amazing. As soon as I got her as a coach, my life both in and out of shooting completely changed. My life just did a 180 back in the direction I wanted it to go."

That change in direction helped the awards and honors for Kramer pile up. She became the first NCAA medalist and All-American in Georgia Southern program history.

"Breaking the national record at the NCAA's was one of the biggest moments in my life," said Kramer. "The Student-Athlete of the Year is nominated by other student athletes, and that just really meant a lot to me. And then obviously, the Scholar-Athlete of the Year was huge for me because I've always put in a lot of work into my grades."

No matter what happens at the Olympic Trials, Kramer has learned a life lesson through competitive rifle that will carry her throughout life.

"I've learned to move on. If you take a shot you don't like, you can't go back and change it. You just gotta keep on moving forward and take the next shot."



“I’ve always said that the Shooting Sports Education Center is the diamond in the crown of Georgia Southern. And having these two young people, Rosemary and Adam, flourishing so completely after using the Shooting Sports Education facilities is wonderful.”

***—Sandra Worman,
Eagles Rifle Coach***

ADAM HEIDT

The World University Games is considered the most prestigious multisport event held every other year for collegiate athletes worldwide.

“You know, it’s definitely the biggest collegiate event there is,” said Adam Heidt. “There were only two people that USA Archery could send from each division. Because I placed in the top two at the Collegiate Nationals, I was one of two for recurve bow.”

Heidt competed in the first stage of the Olympic Trials in Dublin, Ohio, last August, coming in 12th place.

Competing in archery since the age of 12, Heidt grew up in Effingham County in south Georgia and started high school there. But he finished online at Georgia Cyber Academy when he was selected for a spot as a resident athlete at the Chula Vista Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in California.

“I was the top cadet shooter in the country between the ages of 15 and 17,” said Heidt. “So I was asked to apply and made the team. I moved to California full time for two years to train and compete. I left the Olympic training program in 2018 and came back home to start college so I could compete collegiately. I’m a biology major planning to go to vet school after I graduate in 2022 or 2023.”

Going to Georgia Southern seemed natural to Heidt.

“A lot of my family and friends have gone here, and I’ve been around the atmosphere my whole life,” said Heidt. “I lived at home last year in Springfield and commuted. But I’ve got an apartment near campus this year, so I’m excited to be a part of campus life a little more — football games and stuff.”

Heidt has learned some valuable lessons through competitive archery.

“You’re going to win some tournaments and be on top of the world. But the next tournament, you could easily just drop down. I think you always have to keep things in perspective and just take every day as it comes.” — LIZ WALKER

A CINDERELLA SEASON



McCaffrey Leads Women's Tennis to Sun Belt Finals

Georgia Southern women's tennis coach Sean McCaffrey has collected over 400 career victories at the collegiate level in 15 years as a coach. After all those victories, you would think he had seen it all. But at the 2019 Sun Belt championship, he saw something new.

"We were the eighth seed beating a one seed. And then the eighth seed beating the fourth seed to get to the final. That had never been heard of before. Not just in the Sun Belt, but really in any conference," he said. "But we knew we could be there. In some ways it was motivation for us because we knew we were the underdog."

Although the team lost in the final, placing second in the Sun Belt tournament was quite an achievement. McCaffrey came from Armstrong State in 2017. He was able to turn the Georgia Southern team around in just two years. But how did he do it? McCaffrey gives the credit to luck. But there were other elements required to produce a winning season.

"Luck is extremely important. Luck is on the side of the person who's prepared," said McCaffrey. "I like to call it luck. But really for us, it's preparedness."

McCaffrey talks about the importance of team values and goals to the team's success.

"Every year we come up with what our goals are. We meet regularly to see where we are. We make sure that our team values of accountability and trust and responsibility, discipline, hard work and effort — see if we're staying within those guardrails. And if we do, we'll be back on track."

Last season put these goals to the test. Plagued with injuries for most of the year, McCaffrey says

the team believed that if they stuck with the team values, that things would work out. And they did.

"It was a culmination of everybody believing in themselves and believing in the message and sticking to our goals that made the season a success," said McCaffrey.

The coach praises his team for finding a way to get past obstacles. He believes it starts with the leadership of the captains, older players instilling the core values and everyone sticking to them.

"In two years people and coaches have started thinking, 'gee, these guys have really improved in such a short time,' and it has entirely to do with the women, and of course our support staff, helping keep the team on the right path."

The team works hard academically too.

"That's another one of our core values, there needs to be an equal effort academically," said McCaffrey.

And that effort paid off. The women earned the ITA All-Academic Team last season.

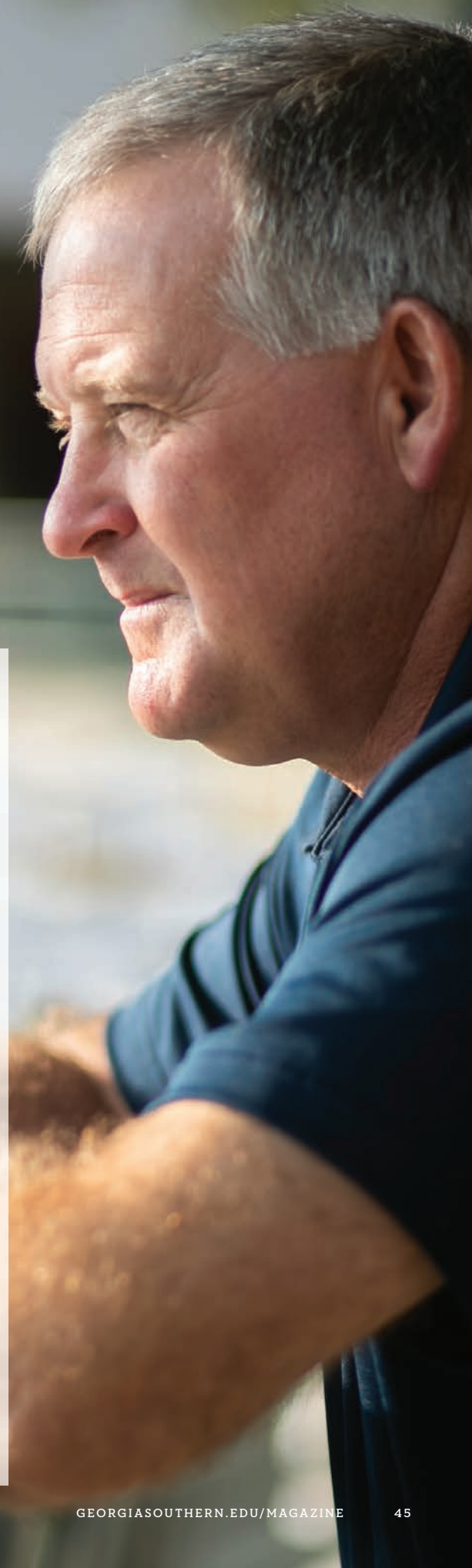
"I can't control if we win or lose," said McCaffrey. "But if they're doing everything they can to prepare and we stick together and we stay on point, then extraordinary things can happen. Which is what we proved last year. And it's something that we have planned for this year as well."

And what does McCaffrey think about that Cinderella season?

"People were expecting us to finish in the bottom two or three programs in the Sun Belt last season, and we made it to the conference championship," he said. "I guess someone would look at that and say, 'yeah sure, they had a Cinderella season.'" — LIZ WALKER

STAYING THE COURSE

Rodney Hennon Chases Championships and Legacy in the Sun Belt



This year, Eagles baseball coach Rodney Hennon reached 700 wins, adding another milestone to an already decorated 20-year career helming the team. Over the last four years, however, he's been chasing a goal that has proven much more elusive — a Sun Belt Championship.

It hasn't been for lack of trying. Since their 2015 inaugural season in the Sun Belt, the Eagles have reached the championship finals three times, and won the new East Division this past season after being picked to finish fourth. They battled their way to the championship game against former national champion Coastal Carolina, who came from behind to cinch the win.

"This team did a really good job of bouncing back and really just showing up to play every day," Hennon said. "I felt like we were playing really good baseball down the stretch going into the tournament, and we were in a good position and unfortunately just didn't finish it off in that championship game.

"So it was tough to end that way, but at the same time we did a lot of really good things throughout the course of the year. We had 35 wins playing a very challenging schedule, and the nice thing is, we've got a lot of these guys back."

The Eagles enter the 2020 season with almost all of their position players returning to the field, only losing outfielder Tyler Martin, who hit .304 during the 2019 season. Behind the mound, however, Hennon will be looking to fill several crucial vacancies with the loss of senior Cole Whitney, grad transfer

Daniel Collins and standout juniors Seth Shuman and Joe Nahas, who both signed to major league teams over the summer. Shuman was drafted by the Oakland A's and Nahas was signed by the Chicago Cubs.

"We really didn't bring in many position players in this recruiting class," said Hennon. "It was more pitching heavy. But we feel like there are some guys that'll be able to have key roles for us before it's all said and done."

Hennon is no stranger to excellence, or what it takes to get there. During his tenure, the Eagles have won five Southern Conference (SoCon) Tournament Championships and made three tournament final appearances. He was named SoCon Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2001, and has an overall record of 790-525-1 in 22 seasons as a coach.

When you ask him about his success, he'll quickly point to the people around him that make it possible — coaches, assistants, managers, and even the support of the University and community — people who will roll up their sleeves and work hard to improve the program.

When you ask Hennon what he wants next for his storied career, he doesn't hesitate.

"We want to win a Sun Belt Championship," he said. "I told the guys after the last game we just have to stay the course with what we're doing because they're doing it the right way. They're getting better. And if we can continue to move forward and trend in that direction, then the results will take care of themselves."

— DOY CAVE

SIDELINES



FOOTBALL

PETERSON TO JOIN GEORGIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Georgia Southern legend Adrian Peterson has been elected to the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Class. He is among eight new members who will join the 2020 class. Induction ceremonies will be held in Macon the weekend of Feb. 21-22, 2020. Peterson is one of the most prolific running backs to play for Georgia Southern and remains the NCAA's Division I all-time leading rusher with 6,559 yards in regular season games. He was a four-time All-American and was awarded the Walter Payton Award in 1999 as the most outstanding player in Division I-AA (later named the Football Championship Subdivision). Peterson was drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 2002 NFL Draft playing seven seasons with them, including the Super Bowl XLI squad. He will join Erk Russell (c/o 1987) and Tracy Ham (c/o 2012) as inductees from Georgia Southern in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.



GS ATHLETIC FOUNDATION

ALUMNUS HONORED BY UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA BOARD OF REGENTS

E.G. Meybohm ('65), a former Georgia Southern baseball and men's basketball student-athlete, is one of the University's strongest supporters. This year, he became the first Georgia Southern alumnus to receive the University System of Georgia Board of Regents' Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends Award. Meybohm and his wife, Lynn, provided the lead gift in a campaign to renovate the W.S. Hanner Fieldhouse on the Statesboro Campus. The initial phase of the Hanner renovations called for the expansion of the front entrance facing Fair Road to include a new home for an Athletics' Hall of Fame, the relocation of concessions and expanded game day ticket offices. The second phase of renovations is devoted to fan amenities and game day hospitality.

Meybohm is a former Georgia Southern Alumnus of the Year and an Athletics Hall of Fame inductee for both baseball and basketball. He was on the Georgia Southern baseball team in 1962, when the team secured the baseball program's first NAIA National Championship. He pitched a 10-inning shutout at that championship game. As a basketball player, he achieved a 67.9 percent free throw average. Passionate about philanthropy and sports, both Meybohms encourage Eagle Nation members to give at any level they can. Each received a bachelor's in education from Georgia Southern.



STUDENT-ATHLETES

INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY

Community service is important to Georgia Southern student-athletes. They finished 12th in the NCAA Division I in community service hours logged during the 2018-19 academic year. The football team finished with the most logged hours in the country in its respective sport. The swimming program finished fourth. Helper Helper, a volunteer management and tracking platform, collected the data. Eagle baseball led the athletic department with 8,352 hours of community involvement. Softball followed with 3,422 verified hours. At least 97 percent of the University's student-athletes participated in at least one event.



MEN'S GOLF

FISK NAMED TO WALKER CUP TEAM

Former Eagle golfer Steven Fisk was one of 10 members on the winning 2019 U.S. Walker Cup team. The Walker Cup, played every two years, is considered the Super Bowl of amateur golf. The top amateur players from the United States compete against a team from Great Britain and Ireland. The U.S. team rallied on the final day to take eight of the 10 matches at Royal Liverpool in Hoylake, England. The Walker Cup victory capped a remarkable finish for Fisk who was named Sun Belt Golfer of the Year, had a second place individual finish in the NCAA Championships and earned a spot on the All-Nicklaus Team. The Sun Belt Conference named him its Male Student-Athlete of the Year for the 2018-19 season, making him the first athlete from Georgia Southern to earn that honor.



UNIVERSITY COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE ITS CHAMPIONS

For the first time since the consolidation of Armstrong State and Georgia Southern, the University celebrated the successes of past Eagle and Pirate teams on the same evening. Georgia Southern Athletics honored 17 championship teams during the annual Night of Champions reunion in football's home season opener with the Maine Black Bears. Two football national championships were among this year's highlights. The 1989 team, which was the first NCAA Division I football team to ever go 15-0, celebrated its 30th anniversary, and the 1999 team that claimed a title with a dominating win over Youngstown State in the finals, observed its 20th anniversary. Both the 2009 Armstrong State women's tennis and men's tennis teams won NCAA Division II national titles. Thirteen other programs that won conference or regional titles were also recognized.

TEAMS HONORED AT THE 2019 NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

ARMSTRONG STATE PIRATES

30th Anniversary (1989)

Baseball NCAA Region Champions

10th Anniversary (2009)

Men's Tennis NCAA Division II National Champions

Women's Tennis Peach Belt and NCAA Division II National Champions

5th Anniversary (2014)

Volleyball Peach Belt Conference Champions

Softball NCAA Region Champions

GEORGIA SOUTHERN EAGLES

30th Anniversary (1989)

Football NCAA National Champions (FCS)

20th Anniversary (1999)

Football NCAA National Champions (FCS) and Southern Conference Champions

Softball Southern Conference Champions

10th Anniversary (2009)

Baseball Southern Conference Champions

5th Anniversary (2014)

Baseball Southern Conference Champions

Men's Golf Southern Conference Champions

Softball Southern Conference Champions

Football Sun Belt Conference Champions



KARLA REDDING-ANDREWS

Beyond the Spotlight: Otis Redding, His Family, Music and Legacy

As a child growing up, Karla Redding-Andrews ('85) didn't realize her dad was famous.

"Oh no, no, no," she said. "Even when I was here at Georgia Southern, I had no idea of the magnitude, of the impact my father had on the music world, or even other people's lives. We just weren't raised that way. I mean we knew we were very lucky. We lived on a beautiful farm and we had nice things, but we just figured Dad went to work."

It wasn't until Redding-Andrews' junior year at Georgia Southern that her classmates realized that her father was the great R&B singer, Otis Redding.

"At the beginning of my junior year, my brothers, The Reddings, had some hit records and were in the music news. And someone said to me, 'I can't believe you're Otis Redding's daughter.' And I'm like, yeah, but it's not really that big of a deal. He's not Elvis.

"And they were like, 'You don't get it. He was better than Elvis.'"

INSPIRED TO RESEARCH

That conversation inspired Redding-Andrews to do some research on her father and find out more about his life. Since that time, she has strived to find ways to keep his legacy alive.

The student-curated exhibit of Otis Redding artifacts displayed through April at the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB), is one such example. This must-see exhibit highlights her father's legacy of philanthropy and the Otis Redding Foundation's music education programs for young people.

"Now I know," said Redding-Andrews. "And as I do events like this museum exhibit with Georgia Southern students, I get to learn so much more about my dad and what an impact he had and what a great person he was."

Otis Redding performed at Georgia Southern in October 1965. Because of that connection and being a graduate herself, Redding-Andrews had long been talking to the University about creating something Otis Redding-related.

"We finally worked out this project," she explained. "I worked closely with the students to select memorabilia that told the story of my father, reflecting what he did off the road and outside of the studio. It's so wonderful to see the legacy of Otis Redding living on and having younger generations discover him."

The exhibit is a collaboration between the SCVB and Georgia Southern University History Department. Georgia Southern Museum director and history professor, Brent Tharp, Ph.D., teaches a museum studies class each spring semester. His students design and curate a new Museum on Main exhibit while working toward their master's in history with a concentration in public history. He says that the exhibit reflects another side of the music icon.

"Otis Redding's music is a well-established piece. What the public may not know is how much his foundation has done and how much his family continued his legacy in this area," said Tharp.

REDDING ALWAYS A PHILANTHROPIC MAN

Redding's philanthropy is featured prominently in the exhibit.

"Well you know my dad was already being very philanthropic even before he died," said Redding-Andrews. "He was giving out college scholarships and he had already put a plan in place to invite young kids out to the ranch. He wanted to bring underserved kids to the ranch every summer and let them talk with industry professionals. Professional musicians, people in television, people in radio."

In 2007, on the 50th anniversary of Redding's death, Redding-Andrews and his widow Zelma created an exhibit for the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. With it they started the Otis Redding Foundation and the first Otis Music Camp, now in its 12th year.

SUBSTITUTE FOR MUSICAL TALENT

Surprisingly, Redding-Andrews didn't end up with musical talent like her father.

"You know I look at my brothers, Dexter and Otis III, who have Dad's talent. I have none of that musical talent. So I get to continue it in another way through the music and education programs of the foundation. It is amazing what it has done for those kids. Our biggest success story to come out of the Otis Redding Foundation is a young African American man that we supported to become an orchestra conductor. Now he's an orchestra conductor living in Berlin."

And Redding-Andrews is thrilled that she was able to come up with a project involving Georgia Southern students. As a student herself, she majored in communication arts with an emphasis in public relations. Part of her degree requirements included an internship. She was the marketing and advertising assistant for an Atlanta company involved in shopping center development.

"I learned so much with that internship that helps me with the business of the foundation. And I wouldn't have had that opportunity if it hadn't been for Georgia Southern."

GIVING BACK TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Redding-Andrews has served on the board of the Georgia Southern Alumni Association and returns to the Statesboro Campus every year for homecoming and most other events. True Blue runs in the family. She met her husband of 32 years, Timothy Andrews ('84) while a student, and her son Jarred is now a junior business major.

"You know Statesboro, being here for those years was wonderful. And I think that's why I continue to come back and give back every opportunity that I can. And I will do whatever I need to do to continue being a part, an active part, of Georgia Southern."

— LIZ WALKER



L-R: Redding's widow Zelma, Redding-Andrews, and her sons Jarred and Justin

Redding-Andrews is vice president and executive director of the Otis Redding Foundation. She is vice-chair of the Georgia Music Foundation board and on the Georgia Film, Music & Digital Entertainment Advisory Commission. In 2018, she received the "She Rocks Award" from The Women's International Music Network, where she was honored alongside Pat Benatar, Melissa Etheridge, The B-52's Kate Pierson and Cindy Wilson.



MILLER BRADY

The Dream Career: Eagle Lands Job that Fits Him to a Tee

From traveling the world to interacting with legendary golfers, Miller Brady ('96) has one of the coolest jobs around. Since January, he has been president of PGA TOUR Champions. The tour features the best 50- and over golfers in the world who compete in events in the U.S., Canada, Japan and England. Prize money on the senior circuit totals \$58 million this year.

"I am very honored and humbled to have the opportunity that I have here at the TOUR," Brady said. "We are lucky. Our guys all have distinguished careers. We have active Hall of Fame members, Tom Watson, Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer on the tour."

In June, he couldn't turn down the chance to pinch-caddy for Watson at a tour stop in Japan. His first time ever caddying — and it was for one of golf's greatest players.

"Caddying for Tom was a spur of the moment yet tremendous experience," he said. "It was exhausting as the golf course was long and hilly. It was raining as well, so managing the bag, towel, umbrella, etc. was not easy. I just wanted to stay out of his way and let him play his game."

Brady, who came to Georgia Southern from suburban Atlanta, graduated with a

bachelor's degree in health science. Upon graduation, he set his course in the sports industry. "I wanted to work for a major sports property but knew that I did not want to live in New York where the other major sports leagues are located," he said.

He first worked for a sports marketing company before joining the PGA TOUR in 1999. Prior to becoming the organization's president, Brady was senior vice president and chief of operations. In that role, he oversaw tournament business affairs, operations, competitions, player relations and scheduling. As president, he oversees all aspects of the TOUR. His main priority is

"I have always had the philosophy that if you do your job well, work hard, keep your head down, then good things will happen."

putting together a schedule of 25-27 events for the players to play each year.

"Each event must have a title sponsor and we want our sponsors to sign a long-term contract," said the Georgia Southern alumnus. "The longer the deal, the more secure the sponsorship and the tour. I always say we're the best business-to-business platform in all of sports. In addition, our sponsors receive both domestic and international exposure via all of our media outlets which include broadcast, digital and social."

When he was a student at Georgia Southern, Brady was involved in intramural sports and the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He said the University was a place for him to grow.

"I enjoyed all aspects of Georgia Southern," he said. "For the first time, you have to learn on your own how to manage life and your own schedule (attending classes and doing the associated work, laundry, paying bills, buying groceries). More than anything it is all about time management. I think all of it combined is such a tremendous life-learning experience."

Is he surprised to have made it to where he is now?

"I don't know if surprised is the right word," Brady said. "I have always had the philosophy that if you do your job well, work hard ... keep your head down, then good things will happen."

Brady knows he has been fortunate to travel to places such as Europe, Japan, Korea, China, Morocco, the Dominican Republic and visiting historic golf courses along the way.

"We are lucky to play some of the best golf courses around the world such as Pebble Beach," he noted. "The setting of the historic golf course along the ocean is amazing."

The senior circuit has also taken him to golf's oldest course, St. Andrews in Scotland, known as the "home of golf."

The PGA TOUR president is a passionate advocate for the game of golf and said the opportunity "to work with many Hall of Fame golfers on a daily basis, is a true blessing."

When Brady is not in his office or on a golf course, he spends time with his family — wife Anne, three children, Caroline, Jack and Anderson, and Tucker, their dog.

— SANDRA BENNETT





EAGLE LOVE STORY

Southern Sweethearts Marry 59 Years Later

Wanda Brantley Parrish and Dennard Scoggins met for the first time in an English classroom at Georgia Southern in the 1960s. Scoggins said she was the prettiest girl he saw in English 101.

“She looked smart, too, and I needed help so I made it a point to sit behind her,” he said. “Admiration at first sight became love at first sight.”

They dated for about two years, but the romance didn’t last. Both moved on and lived separate lives, occasionally crossing paths at Georgia Southern events. Both had long happy marriages to others. Wanda married Dan Parrish Jr. and Dennard married Pat Griffin. Three years ago after their spouses had passed, they reconnected over their love for Georgia Southern football.

During the home opener for the 2019 Georgia Southern football season, Scoggins, a retired high school educator and very

successful football and track coach, proposed to Parrish, the first woman to serve as chair of the Georgia Southern Athletic Foundation. The love story between these Southern Sweethearts came full circle when they tied the knot in October just before homecoming week. Parrish says the ceremony on Sweetheart Circle was the perfect setting for their wedding.

“That was the scene of so many wonderful days at Georgia Southern in courting and in academics,” she said. “It was the center of life back then.”

Parrish, the original secretary for the Southern Boosters, was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame in 2016. Scoggins was head coach for two football state championships at Tiftarea Academy in Tifton, Georgia, and retired as an administrator with Bibb County Public Schools. — SANDRA BENNETT



Reunited Couple Marry on Sweetheart Circle

CHRONICLES

David Plaspohl ('77) has accepted the position as systems engineer/implementation specialist at Sound Payments in Savannah.

J. Douglas Parker ('81) has retired after a 30-year career with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. He has also self-published the book, *A Killher Plan: Behind The Crime Scene Tape*, which explores a murder he investigated in 1997.

Keith Hammond ('83) has retired from the Cherokee County recreation department ending a 36-year career in parks and recreation. He continues the 37th year of his officiating career, having worked multiple GHSA Football State championships. Hammond currently serves as a GHSA contest liaison and as the chairman of the Football Playoff Evaluation Board.

Jennifer Payseno ('85) of Seattle was elected president of the King County Bar Association, Washington State's largest voluntary bar association.

Kevin Stafford ('86) has accepted the position as regional account manager, HIV-Briovarx at UnitedHealth Group in the Atlanta area.



Deana Tanner Bibb's ('87) Proper Pepper Pimento Cheese placed third in the flavored cheeses category at the 2019 American Cheese Society national judging and competition. She competed in a field of 257 companies and 1,742 products. Bibb is the founder and owner of Proper Pepper, based in Sandersville, Georgia. She started her small-batch crafted business in 2015 after winning the Flavor of Georgia contest with her Get Back Jack flavored pimento cheese. Since then, the company has grown to include more than 150 retailers and restaurants in Georgia, Florida, Texas and North Carolina.

Sara Plaspohl ('92, '10) has been appointed associate dean at Georgia Southern's Waters College of Health Professions.

Robert McCall Jr. ('92) has been named district engineer for the Southeast Georgia District by the Georgia Department of Transportation. His office is responsible for more than 400 employees and provides executive oversight for DOT operations and district activities on interstates and state routes in the 26 counties that comprise District Five in southeast Georgia.

Mitchell Posey ('94, '95) has been promoted to inspector with the investigative division of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. He is responsible for the administrative oversight of a regional office, two drug offices and several specialized work units including a newly formed gang task force.

Matt Wilson, Ed.D. ('94, '98) senior director of philanthropy for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, was recently recognized by the National Association of Athletic Development Directors with its Rising Star Award.

We All Scream... FOR STUDENTS

True Blue Ice Cream is now available on the Statesboro Campus at the GUS Marts in the Russell Student Union and the IT Building, and on the Armstrong Campus in the Student Union. True Blue is also available at Leopold's in downtown Savannah!

Order online at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni and Leopold's will donate a portion of the proceeds to alumni scholarships.

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GEORGIA SOUTHERN
TRUE BLUE

CHRONICLES

Carl B. Robinson III, Ed.S., ('98) has been appointed as the new principal of Pine Hill Middle School located in the Richmond County School System of Georgia.



Rebekah Faulk Lingenfelter ('05), a newspaper columnist, food blogger and finalist on Food Network's popular show "Food Network Star," has released her debut memoir, *Some Kinda Good: Good Food and Good Company, That's What It's All About*. The 283-page book features recipes, restaurant reviews and more than 100 color

photographs. In addition, the public relations alumna serves up several short stories detailing her family traditions and hard-won life lessons. Lingenfelter also writes about her appearances on "Food Network Star," the ABC cooking competition "The Taste," and her journey through Savannah Technical College's Culinary Institute of Savannah. *Some Kinda Good* is available in bookstores and among major online retailers.

Zakiyyah Weatherspoon ('05, '11) was named recipient of the 2019 American Association of Nurse Practitioners® Georgia State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence. This prestigious award from the AANP is given annually to a nurse practitioner (NP) and NP advocate in each state. The American Association of Nurse Practitioners® is the legislative leader for some 248,000 licensed NPs in the U.S., and Weatherspoon was recognized for her work as the events coordinator for the 110-strong South Georgia Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Tyler Keylon ('11) has been named vice president of marketing for Ewing & Company, LLC in Atlanta. The life insurance

executive will lead the company's marketing and design strategy.

Robert Nix ('12) has been appointed solution delivery manager at Deloitte in Atlanta.

Laura Pallini ('13) has been appointed program specialist-success coach at Central Georgia Technical College in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Alton Standifer ('12, '14) has been named assistant to UGA President Jere Morehead. His primary responsibilities are centered on student affairs, diversity relations and community engagement.

Destinee Andrews ('15) has been appointed judicial law clerk for the Honorable Chief Magistrate Judge Karen Wells Roby of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans.

Lucero Aradillas ('15) has accepted the position as academic program manager in the School of Modern Languages at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Paul Vogel ('15) has been appointed director of bands at Oglethorpe Charter School in Savannah.

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EVENTS



More than 1,500 Eagles attended **University Day with the Atlanta Braves** on Aug. 4. President Marrero called "Play Ball" and Braves' fans cheered as Freedom represented Eagle Nation during the National Anthem.



Student scholarship recipients enjoyed meeting the donors that make a difference in their lives at the annual **Scholarship Event** on the Statesboro campus on Oct. 26.



GATA in the Bayou at the **True Blue Tailgate at LSU** on Aug. 31.



Members of **the 1906 Society** enjoyed an evening under the stars on Sweetheart Circle on Oct. 18 during the annual 1906 Event. Watch our video at GeorgiaSouthern.edu/1906event to learn more about the 1906 Society and its impact on our students.

UPCOMING ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

Save the Dates!

Atlanta Evening
with the President
February 20

National Day of Service
February 29

Leap for Georgia Southern
February 29

The Gratitude Gala
February 29

40 under 40
Class of 2020 Nominations Open
March 1

Southern Women
Leadership Institute
March 6-7

Scholarship Event (Savannah)
March 28

Alumni Reunion Weekend
April 17-18

Alumni Awards Gala
April 18

GRATITUDE GALA HONORS KEY DONORS

Trip Addison paid tribute to the longtime donors. "The Gratitude Gala represents the coming together of donors from both institutions," Addison said. "We recognize those whose generosity and philanthropic spirit has helped elevate our university. Helping our students has always been their top priority."

Three people and one corporation were the recipients of the 2019 Gratitude Gala Donor Awards. To see the videos about each Gratitude Gala honoree, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/videos.



DONALD ANDERSON President's Ambassador Honoree

Donald Anderson, Ed.D., ('59) received the award for his

support of the athletics department. He began his career at Armstrong State in 1966 and served as an associate professor, acting head of the Department of Education and several other roles. "I especially enjoyed serving as registrar and director of admissions, 1986-92," Anderson said. "It was pre-online registration. In fact it was pre-computers period, but it was very satisfying work."

Looking back on his career, Anderson said his favorite memory is of graduation each year. "It was such a pleasure to see students you had assisted receive their degrees," he explained. Anderson joined the athletic department in 1992 as an academic advisor for student-athletes and was inducted into the Armstrong State University Athletic Hall of Fame as a Citation Award winner in 1996 for his service and philanthropy. Armstrong honored him further by awarding its top male and female student athletes with the annual Dr. Don Anderson Scholar-Athlete Award. The President's Ambassador Honoree said the most valuable lesson learned during his tenure at Armstrong is that "capable persons, working together, with mutual respect can accomplish much."



BETTY FOY SANDERS 2019 President's Visionary Honoree

When Betty Foy Sanders attended Georgia Southern, it was a teachers'

college, so she transferred after a year because it didn't offer the art degree that she wanted. Still, the Statesboro native has been dedicated to the University and its faculty for more than 50 years.

"This honor from Georgia Southern means the world to me," she said. "As a youth, I lived four blocks away. Over the years, I have become friends with many of the past presidents, faculty and students. I have followed the growth of GSU closely. It is always an honor to be recognized for your loyalty to friends, family and state."

When her husband, former Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders was in office, she dedicated her efforts toward the construction of several fine arts buildings within the University System of Georgia, including the Foy Fine Arts Building on the Statesboro campus. Her gifts enabled the university to name the art department

the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. She has endowed scholarships, as well as student art travel and visiting artist funds. In addition, her artwork can be seen throughout numerous buildings on campus and in the Center for Art and Theatre. Sanders said students continue to inspire her.

"I have received many thank you letters from them over the years," she said. "They share how these experiences have broadened their borders, and their eyes have been opened to new possibilities. Many of these students came by at my last exhibition to thank me and tell me what they are now doing after graduating. We have so much talent! It inspires me to see them using their talents to contribute to the world around them making it a better place to live."

The President's Visionary Honoree decided to end her thank you for the award with the poem, "My Influence," which has become her trademark over the years.

"My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done;

"Leave countless marks for good or ill, Ere sets the evening sun.

"So this the wish I always wish, the prayer I ever pray;

Lord, may my life help other lives it touches along the way."



GAIL REED Legacy Member Honoree

Gail Reed, a native of Augusta, Georgia, was honored for her deferred charitable commitment to the Parker College of

Business and the School of Accountancy. Reed, a longtime supporter of Georgia Southern, has served on the boards of several university organizations and endowed a scholarship for accounting majors in the University Honors Program. The Georgia Southern alumna says her legacy gift to the University will go a long way toward helping students and faculty.

"Someone once asked me why I wouldn't spread my gift to several charities," she said. "I told the person that by leaving my entire estate to Georgia Southern there would be a much bigger impact than splitting my gift. Even though my parents were not wealthy, they had enough money for me to attend Georgia Southern. I know that not everyone is this fortunate. My accounting education and career started in Statesboro, which led me to be the successful person I am today. It is only fitting that Georgia Southern should be the beneficiary of my prosperity."

Reed owns Gail U. Reed, CPA, PC, a public accounting practice that specializes in accounting and taxation for individuals, businesses and estates.

GEORGIA POWER

President's Innovator Honoree

Georgia Southern, Armstrong State and Georgia Power have a long history of partnership. Georgia Power has been a loyal supporter of both institutions by providing annual funds to be used in the areas of greatest needs. In addition, Georgia Power endowed the Georgia Power Chris Hobson Honorary Scholarship for outstanding chemistry students. The company recently outlined a 20-year plan focusing on the delivery of clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy. As such, they have turned their attention to funding scholarships in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Truitt Eavenson, the Southeast Region vice president for Georgia Power, and Georgia Southern alumnus Ronny Just, the governmental relations manager for Georgia Power, attended the ceremony.

"Like Georgia Southern, we have an interest ultimately in student success," said Eavenson. "Sometime that means funding research, or scholarships to help with the last financial hurdles toward graduation. Often it means providing them with meaningful employment. This partnership benefits us as much as it does the University."

Eavenson called the Gratitude Gala Donor Award from Georgia Southern an honor and an exclamation point for the many efforts of many Georgia Power employees over the years with the university.



(l-r) Georgia Southern University President Kyle Marrero, Georgia Power representatives Truitt Eavenson and Ronny Just, Gail U. Reed, Donald Anderson and Trish Carter, who accepted an award on behalf of Betty Foy Sanders.

University Young Alumni Board



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Georgia Southern and Armstrong Foundations Merge to Better Serve Students and Donors

The Armstrong Foundation of Georgia Southern University, Inc. has merged with, and into, the Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. This strategic consolidation of foundation resources will streamline fundraising systems while honoring the integrity of donor requests. The boards of trustees of both foundations unanimously agreed to merge the two foundations during a joint meeting last May.

“There is considerable strength in numbers,” said Mike Kemp, past chairman of the Armstrong Foundation of Georgia Southern, Inc. “Together, we can provide exceptional opportunities to meet the needs of our students and faculty through scholarships and fund endowments that support student success and encourage teaching excellence at each of Georgia Southern’s campuses.”

“Merging the foundations allows us to leverage combined donor bases, volunteer engagement and financial assets to have a greater impact in supporting the new Georgia Southern University’s mission and priorities,” said Billy Hickman, chairman of Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. “We look forward to growing stronger together.”

The merger took effect July 1, 2019.

“This is a significant step toward honoring our past and forging the new Georgia Southern. My gratitude and thanks to the Board members, volunteers and donors who have supported Georgia Southern and Armstrong and now support our new vision. By uniting forces, we have a boundless potential to impact our University in a meaningful way.”

– President Kyle Marrero

Thank you for investing
in our students!

Scholarship Dollars Awarded

\$2,711,742

Total Students Helped

1582

New Funds Created

19

Value of New Funds

\$7,587,680

Introducing the Giving Societies of the new Georgia Southern



Lifetime Giving Society: Honors a distinguished group of leaders with \$25,000 or more in cumulative giving to any area University-wide.



Loyal.: Notes the most dedicated donors who continue to make gifts, at any level, consecutively for two or more years.



1906 Society: Acknowledges donors who have made an annual, cumulative gift of \$1,200 or more each year to any area University-wide.



The Legacy Society: Recognizes the thoughtful generosity of those who have made planned gifts – regardless of their size – to Georgia Southern.

For more information about Georgia Southern's giving societies visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/DonorRelations.



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1940s

Dorothy Linton Allen ('47) formerly of Savannah, passed away April 8, 2018. She was a resident of North Carolina at the time of her passing.

Edsel Deweese Martin ('49, '66) of Nevils, Georgia, died March 8, 2019, one month before his 91st birthday. A teacher and farmer, he also served on the Bulloch County Board of Education.

1950s

Rev. George Washington Herndon ('50) of Brunswick, Georgia, died in hospice care June 15, 2018. The ordained minister in the United Methodist Church served in the South Georgia Conference for 40 years.

Jordan "Jakie" Phillips Jr. ('58) of Albany, Georgia, died in hospice care Feb. 28, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army and taught physical science and physics in Albany schools for 38 years.

William "Bill" Walker ('59) of Atlanta died March 10, 2019. The U.S. Navy veteran had a long career with Continental Insurance Company, which included a position as manager of field administration in the Southeast region.

James Goolsby ('53, '67) passed away March 13, 2019, at a senior living

facility in Valdosta, Georgia. The 91-year-old was a veteran of the Korean War and retired from a 38-year career as a teacher and administrator in Lowndes County.

Dixie "Anne" Daniels Fredrich ('56, '58) passed away April 12, 2019, in Savannah. Devoted to her family, she was an educator and a bookkeeper in the family's advertising agency.

Priscilla Goldberg Schneider ('52) of Richmond, California, passed away April 21, 2019. She was 88.

Amalie Reeves Helbert Harvill ('58) of Duluth, Georgia, died May 26, 2019. During her early career, she was a teacher in Callahan, Florida, and later retired from G.E. Credit in Atlanta and AT&T.

Lt. Col. James Johnson ('57) of Atlanta died June 2, 2019, after a long illness. The retired U.S. Army chaplain joined the military during the Korean War and later served in Vietnam. During his retirement, he served in United Methodist churches in the Atlanta area and in Statesboro.

Mary Hart Ross ('50) of Statesboro died June 19, 2019, at age 90. Married to a military officer, she lived in several cities around the U.S. before returning to Statesboro and working as a department store buyer.

W. Allen Smith ('59) of Newnan, Georgia, died July 3, 2019. He was a teacher, assistant principal, director of a regional educational agency and served a 15-year term as mayor of Turin, Georgia.

Bettye Hendrix Fabris ('54) of Watkinsville, Georgia, died July 5, 2019. A former Miss Georgia Southern, her greatest joy was being a wife, mother and grandmother.

Charles Musselwhite ('57, '58) passed away at home in Gainesville, Georgia, July 8, 2019. He served in the U.S. Air Force before a long career in education as a coach, athletics director, assistant principal and principal.

Julius "Boo" Hornstein ('57, '65) of Savannah died Sept. 1, 2019, at age 82. He had a private practice and taught psychology at Savannah State, Armstrong State, Emery-Riddle and St. Leo University. In addition, he is remembered as a Savannah icon for his contributions to the history and life of jazz music in the city.

Rev. Sanford Brown Sr. ('52) of Savannah died Sept. 4, 2019, in Columbus, Georgia. He served as a United Methodist Minister in the South Georgia Conference for 41 years and was active in the pastoral and evangelistic ministry for another 20 years through

Agape Faith Ministries and the Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus Community.

1960s

Frank Tison III ('66) of Dublin, Georgia, died March 27, 2019. He served in both the National Guard and Coast Guard Reserve, and was a coach, teacher and administrator in several Georgia school districts.

Lloyd Gosa Jr. ('64) died April 2, 2019, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War and retired from UpJohn as an antibiotic researcher after 25 years of service.

Barbara Shaw ('63) of Cobb County, Georgia, died April 16, 2019. She was an education lobbyist and retired as the director of communications and art for the Cobb County Board of Education. She was the founder of Kaleidoscope, the visual and performing arts festival for Cobb County school students.

Edith Youmans Buie ('64, '80, '82) of Sylvania, Georgia, died at her home April 28, 2019. The retired educator was the media specialist at Portal High School for 15 years and worked for the Screven County Board of Education for 15 years.

Claude Arthur Howard Jr. ('63) lost his fight with cancer April 29, 2019, at his home in Statesboro. Early in his career, he joined the family's timber and lumber business which dates to 1898. He retired as president of Claude Howard Lumber Company in 1998. Howard and his brother Cecil founded Howard Lumber and Hardware in 1988 to serve the needs of area building contractors. He served on the boards of directors for numerous organizations including the Georgia Southern Foundation. He was instrumental in establishing the Georgia Southern golf practice facility, which included the construction of the Howard House for team use and created the Claude A. Howard Scholarship for the Building and Construction program at Georgia Southern.

Lounelle "Elle" Merritt Beecher ('65) died May 1, 2019, at a retirement village in Easley, South Carolina. She taught history and psychology in Augusta, Georgia, for 30 years and was twice named Richmond County Teacher of the Year.

Clarence Daughtry ('67, '73, '76) of Millen, Georgia, died May 4, 2019. The U.S. Army veteran retired as a teacher with the Jenkins County public school system.

Jacquelyn Capps Barfield Brey ('60) died at home in Austell, Georgia, June 14, 2019. She was a teacher and later worked as a teaching certification supervisor with the Professional Standards Commission.

Ronald "Ronnie" Ponder ('66) of Metter, Georgia, died June 24, 2019, at Candler Hospital in Savannah. He owned and operated Georgia Farm Center in Metter for 39 years.

Laura "Kathy" Baker ('69) formerly of Savannah died in Atlanta July 7, 2019, after a courageous fight with Alzheimer's disease. She was a wife, mother, avid traveler, cook and devoted to her large breed Standard Poodles.

Sarah Anne Black ('60) of Tallahassee, Florida, died July 30, 2019, at age 88. Her teaching career included 25 years at Florida State University. In retirement, she proofread Florida Legislature bills for 26 years.

James Brock ('64) of Statesboro and Bremen, Georgia, died Aug. 18, 2019, after a long illness. He had a career in accounting, and was active in civic organizations in Bremen where he served as director of the Rotary Club, president of the Jaycees and state chairman, director and vice president of the year for the Georgia Jaycees.

Charles "Chunk" Reid ('67) of Vidalia, Georgia, was surrounded by his family when he died Aug. 28, 2019. The educator, coach and athletic director at Vidalia High School was named 2001 Coach of the Year by the National Federation Coaches Association, the Georgia Athletic Director of the Year in 2003 and he was inducted into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018.

Fannie Sue Ellis Nutting ('64) of Hinesville and Ludowici, Georgia, died Sept. 14, 2019. The retired math teacher was an avid bridge player and gardener.

Brenda Lucas Bush ('75) of Dublin, Georgia, died Jan. 24, 2019. She was a retired Laurens County Board of Education school teacher.

Eugene Brown ('71) was surrounded by family when he passed away March 1, 2019, at his home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A tailor by trade, he owned a thriving custom clothing store.

Betty Zane Hopper ('76) of Reidsville, Georgia, died in hospice care March 7, 2019. She retired from a teaching career with the board of education in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Bettye Van Powell Childs ('75) of Statesboro died in hospice care March 13, 2019, at age 89. In her early career, she was a teacher but later worked as a parole office in Bulloch County and Albany, Georgia.

Clyde Victoria H. Faison ('76) of Savannah died March 27, 2019, with her family by her side. She taught in Savannah Chatham County public schools for 30 years.

James "Jim" Dooley ('76, '80), a retired lieutenant colonel of the 165th Airlift Wing died April 29, 2019, in Savannah. He was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and later joined the Air National Guard. He worked as a flight instructor in retirement.

Alvin Burke ('73) of Milledgeville, Georgia, died April 22, 1973. He was a teacher and coach in Tattnall County School schools prior to a career as an insurance agent.

John Sweeney ('75) of Bluffton, South Carolina, died at home May 11, 2019. He had a long management career with Hilton Hotels.

Elliott Evans ('72, '76, '88) of Hawkinsville, Georgia, passed away June 11, 2019. He worked in public schools for 30 years and taught industrial arts at Crawford County High School, Dublin High and Hawkinsville High. He was also the

transportation director for the Pulaski County School System.

Barbara Lang ('72) of Savannah passed away peacefully at home June 18, 2019. She was a volunteer for Memorial Health Hospital, Live Oak Public Library and the Georgia Historical Society.

Anne Franklin Chase ('77) died June 23, 2019, at her Skidaway Island home near Savannah. She is remembered for establishing a charm school for girls, coordinating fashion shows and a successful career in residential and commercial real estate before retiring in her 80s.

Billy Estes ('70, '76) of Savannah passed away at home on July 5, 2019. The retired lieutenant colonel and veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars served in the U.S. Army for 27 years and was a Chinook and fixed wing pilot. He also worked for the city of Savannah as a senior management analyst for 10 years.

Robert Bradley ('74) of DeLand, Florida, died July 31, 2019, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. A basketball player, he scored more than 1,000 points during his college career on the Armstrong Campus. He worked for several companies and acquired a franchise for Budget Car Rental.

Jo Ann Horne Drapalik ('70, '72) of Statesboro died in hospice care Aug. 4, 2019. She was employed by Georgia Southern for many years and then worked and retired from Southeastern Technical College in Swainsboro, Georgia.

Janet Burkhart Williams ('79, '87) of Darien, Georgia, died Aug. 17, 2019, surrounded by her family. A teacher for more than 30 years, she retired from the Glynn County Board of Education.

Thomas Rushing III ('79), a lifelong resident of Statesboro, died Aug. 19, 2019, after a brief illness. He was the co-owner and operator of the family business, T.E. Rushing Peanut Company. He was a member of the Southern Peanut Warehousemen's Association and an inaugural member of Leadership Bulloch.

Joan Kennedy Hodges ('78) of Rincon, Georgia, died Aug. 21, 2019, after a courageous fight against multiple sclerosis. She was an office manager for an investment company in Savannah.

Catharine Batchelor Hawkins ('71) of Cobb County, Georgia, died Sept. 7, 2019. The 32-year survivor of breast cancer spent her entire career in early childhood education.

Barbara Sawyer Claxton ('71) of Wrightsville, Georgia, died Sept. 8, 2019. She was a retired educator of 40 years.

1980s

Sadie Tillman Herrington ('81) passed away March 1, 2019, after a long illness. For more than 30 years she taught school in Ware, Charlton and Chatham counties.

Sharon Geathers Thomas ('82) of Hephzibah, Georgia, died March 4, 2019. She was survived by her husband and two children.

Andrew Hardin ('85) of Atlanta died March 5, 2019, after a courageous battle with cancer. An accomplished artist with many achievements, he also loved traveling, fishing and playing and repairing guitars.

Elizabeth "Libba" Cook Smith ('89), a longtime Statesboro resident, passed away March 6, 2019, at age 90. A wife and mother, she returned to college to earn her degree at age 60. She is remembered as one of Statesboro's "Steel Magnolias" who was well-known for her poetry and her passionate support for the arts, church, community and the Eagles.

William Boney ('86, '89), a native of Claxton, Georgia, died April 1, 2019. He had a successful career as a CPA and owned his own firm in Atlanta.

Lisa Kennedy Vaughn ('86) was surrounded by her husband and family when she died April 6, 2016 in Savannah.

Joseph Bishop ('85) of Dawsonville, Georgia, died April 8, 2019. He was a physician recruiter and placement specialist in the Atlanta area.

Jane Frame Cook ('87) was surrounded by family when she died April 17, 2019, at home in Midway, Georgia. She had a career as a teacher and media specialist in schools in the Savannah area.

Sister Michael Mary Brabner ('81), a Religious Sister of Mercy, lost her fight with cancer April 19, 2019, at Mercy Convent in Savannah. Sister Mary (Edith Reynolds Brabner) worked as a teacher, counselor and assistant principal in schools in Alabama and Maryland, and at St. Vincent's Academy in Savannah.

Jennifer Payne Miller ('95) of Brunswick, Georgia, died in hospice care May 8, 2019. She was a Gulfstream employee for 20 years.

Sonya Bloser Anderson ('84) of Statesboro died unexpectedly May 8, 2019. The lifelong resident of

Bulloch County was a teacher and a computer support analyst.

Cynthia Roberts Besser ('86) of Statesboro died unexpectedly at her home May 18, 2019. She was a special education teacher at Julia P. Bryant Elementary School in Statesboro.

George White III ('82) of Roswell, Georgia, passed away May 11, 2019. He had a career in the insurance industry and with a company that sells graduation products.

Janice Whitson Pierce Seavey ('81) of Savannah and St. Simons Island lost her fight to cancer May 12, 2019. She was an educator in Chatham County and later was a judicial assistant in the federal court system.

Michael Coleman ('82) died Sept. 6, 2019, in Montgomery, Alabama, of complications from a heart catheterization procedure and a nine-year battle with polycystic kidney disease. He had a 36-year career in the recreation field and was an athletic official with the Georgia High School Association for more than 20 years.

William "Bill" Cary ('80) died Sept. 25, 2019, in hospice care in Statesboro. The veteran of the U.S. Air Force retired as an electrical engineer with NEC America of

Herndon, Virginia. He was instrumental in establishing the First 500 alumni network at Georgia Southern, and coordinated the book of essays, *In Our Own Words*, in which 21 African American alumni shared their memories of the early years of integration at Georgia Southern.

1990s

Kevin Andrews ('94) who grew up in on St. Simons Island died in a tragic accident April 1, 2019, on I-10 in south Alabama. He and his father were struck head-on by a vehicle eluding law enforcement. Kevin was in the process of moving from California to Florida when the accident occurred. He was a registered dietician in San Diego for 20 years, but Parkinson's disease forced him to retire three years ago.

Joseph (Joel) Marcantel III ('93) of Cumming, Georgia, died April 27, 2019, after a short illness. He had a career in sales and marketing in the Atlanta area.

Thomas Caraway III ('90) of Vidalia, Georgia, died June 8, 2019, after an extended illness. He was a Vietnam War Marine veteran and worked as a letter carrier for 16 years. Later, he retired after 25 years as a science teacher in Tattnall County.

Bettina "Tina" Stokes Wootan ('96) of Macon, Georgia, died June 22, 2019. She was a licensed professional counselor and guidance director for Stratford Academy.

Alicia Santa Ana Kapeleris ('96) of Savannah died in hospice care July 1, 2019. Until her retirement she was a teacher in several different capacities, from elementary school to college level.

Betty Brown Givens ('96) died unexpectedly July 29, 2019, at her home in Statesboro. She worked for Bulloch Memorial Hospital for 18 years and later opened a childcare facility.

Amy Esther ('96) of Dawsonville, Georgia, died July 30, 2019. She spent most of her career in automotive marketing but was also a real estate agent.

Alice Jones Glidwell ('90) of Statesboro was surrounded by family when she passed Aug. 1, 2019. She taught for 28 years at Claxton Elementary School. She also was an artist and musician.

Cecil "Poppy" Mallard ('94) died in Statesboro Aug. 21, 2019, at age 50. He was a nurse for 23 years at Memorial Health in Savannah and an accomplished craftsman who built his own home with help from friends and family.

2000s

Joel Parks ('14) died March 14, 2019, at his home in Dallas, Texas. The U.S. Army combat veteran was an economist with the U.S. Department of Labor and a former firefighter with Savannah Fire and Emergency Services.

Helen "Christie" Henderson Anderson ('10) of Garden City, Georgia, died April 15, 2019, in Savannah. She had a career as a nurse before beginning an adventurous career in racing.

John Myers ('07), a first lieutenant in the Georgia Army National Guard, died May 8, 2019, in Savannah. The U.S. Army veteran served his country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kevin Webb ('18) of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly May 12, 2019. He graduated last December with a degree in logistics and supply chain management and was the sales optimization manager for a food service company in Savannah.

Steven Crowe ('11) of Elberta, Alabama, died July 1, 2019. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Barbara Lewis Elias ('06) lost her fight against pancreatic cancer July 15, 2019, in Lakeland, Florida, at age 71. She had a career as a

recreation therapist but after retiring in 2004, earned a degree to teach and taught at schools in Dublin, Georgia.

Henry "Hank" Clay ('09) of Statesboro died Aug. 31, 2019, at age 49. He was an art enthusiast and Civil War buff.

EAGLE NATION

Rodney McAdams, associate professor of health sciences, passed March 10, 2019, in a Savannah hospital. His teaching career began in Kansas where he grew up. McAdams was well-versed on many topics in American history, but his specialty was the history of medicine and health care. A walking encyclopedia and local trivia champion, he is remembered as a dedicated educator who touched the lives of many students on the Armstrong Campus.

Steven Ray Harless, of Statesboro and Palm Beach, Florida, died unexpectedly May 28, 2019, of cardiac arrest. Born into a U.S. Coast Guard family, he owned an accounting firm in Atlanta, and was the co-owner of a financial services company, and Flat Creek Lodge in Swainsboro, Georgia. Harless and his wife, alumna Caroline Otwell Harless, endowed a graduate scholarship at Georgia Southern. She

is also a past chair of the Georgia Southern Foundation Board of Trustees.

Bill Alexander ('66), the former athletics director for Armstrong State, died June 2, 2019, in hospice care in DeLand, Florida. The U.S. Air Force veteran was also the head basketball coach and golf coach at Armstrong from 1967-77.

Willie "Mac" McGlamery passed away peacefully June 29, 2019, in hospice care in Statesboro. He served in the National Guard Unit during the Korean War. He operated Mac's Service Station on Highway 301 South for 40 years and employed dozens of Georgia Southern students during those years. He served not only as an employer, but as a mentor and "father away from home" for many University students. Mac was an avid Georgia Southern basketball fan and named an honorary brother of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity.

Professor Emeritus Roger Pajari of Loganville, Georgia, passed away July 28, 2019. He started teaching at Georgia Southern in 1970 and retired from the political science department in 1998. He was also the editor-in-chief of the *Southeastern Political Review*.

Professor Emerita Charlene Rushton Black of Statesboro passed away Aug. 8, 2019. She spent most of her career at Georgia Southern University as a sociology professor, graduate school dean, undergraduate studies dean and academic affairs associate vice president. She helped chair the committee and prepare the grant that created the Center for Wildlife Education. The professor was also a prominent leader in the South Georgia Conference of United Methodist Women.

Danny Hagan Jr. and **Julie Smith Hagan**, two of Georgia Southern's most loyal fans, were killed in a vehicle crash Sept. 1, 2019, returning home from the Eagles' season opening football game against Louisiana State. The couple from Guyton, Georgia, had just celebrated their 25th anniversary during the trip of a lifetime. They were traveling on I-16 near Swainsboro, Georgia, when their car hydroplaned and crashed into a tree. Their three children are students at Georgia Southern.

Tristan Clemmons, a Georgia Southern police officer, died Sept. 5, 2019, in Savannah. The 23-year-old succumbed to injuries he sustained in an off-duty crash. He attended Nevils Elementary

and graduated from Southeast Bulloch High School in 2015.

Professor Emeritus Larry Price of Statesboro passed away Sept. 10, 2019. He joined the Georgia Southern business school faculty in 1963. Upon retiring, he was named professor emeritus of finance and head emeritus of the Department of Finance and Economics. Price also served in the U.S. Army as a captain in military intelligence.

Professor Emeritus Lon Carnes Jr. passed away Sept. 25, 2019, in Statesboro. The former lieutenant in the U.S. Army joined the Georgia Southern business school faculty in 1967, which he later chaired during his 27 years of service. He was a charter member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon Business Executive Society in Economics. A devotee of music and the arts, he established the Lon Carnes Music Scholarship Endowment at Georgia Southern.

Professor Thomas "Tom" Stidham of Lawrence, Kansas, died Oct. 1, 2019, in hospice care. He joined the music department faculty in 1968 as a low brass teacher and later served as director of bands.



HAVING A BLAST AT HOMECOMING

"Cirque Du Southern" was the theme for Homecoming 2019 as circus performers like this fire-breather lit up the crowd. Georgia Southern alumni, students and community enjoyed several special events throughout the week, capped off by a 41-7 Eagle win over New Mexico State.

CONTACT US

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

CLASS CHRONICLES and alumni updates may be sent to Office of Alumni Relations
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magazine@georgiasouthern.edu

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Georgia Southern magazine is published biannually for Alumni and Friends of Georgia Southern University by the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

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



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Double Eagles enjoy:

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- Recognition at commencement ceremonies
- A recognition pin to display your achievement and loyalty
- Invitations to elite alumni networking and entertainment events