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### University Honors Program News

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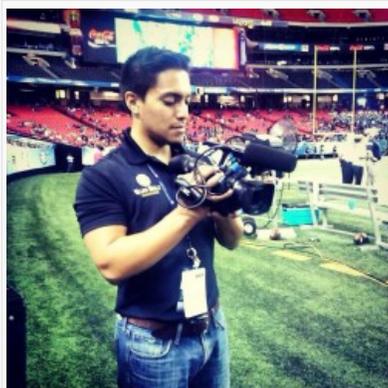
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## Cesar Perez Scores with Sun Belt Internship

November 19, 2014

*Cesar Perez at the Georgia Dome*

Cesar Perez (Multimedia Communications, '15) holds an intern position as the Digital Media Correspondent with the Sun Belt Conference this year. As the first student at Georgia Southern University to hold this position, he has taken advantage of this tremendous opportunity for professional development.

Perez's job comprises of producing three videos each week for the Sun Belt. He controls every step, from setting up the interviews with the student athletes, to interviewing the students, to editing the final takes. "This job is a great way to learn skills for the future," he said.

The Sun Belt conference provided Perez with different types of equipment for his position, including a high definition camera and a tripod, which Perez says is "the best job perk." The conference also gave him Sun Belt apparel. "It was awesome to get everything I needed from the Sunbelt. The equipment will allow me to be successful during the upcoming year," Perez

said.

Each week he produces three videos. The first, entitled, "Weekend Recaps," is a two- to three-minute summary of the weekend sports events. Here, Perez has the opportunity to interview different administrators and athletes on the games. "I've also traveled to away games. Being on the field for the Georgia Dome was a very neat experience," Perez said.

The second video he works on is "Features," and Perez interviews athletes and coaches, including Edwin Jackson or Coach Willie Fritz. "The feature videos are my favorite because I get to choose the story I focus on. I've had the chance to interview some big names already," Perez said.

The last videos are the "Weekend Previews," where Perez interviews athletes about upcoming games. "Filming the videos is a great experience. I've gotten used to the sport environment, and I think people are starting to become comfortable with me," Perez said.

Perez has no doubt this internship will help him with his career plans in television production. "Because of this opportunity, I've become comfortable with the different angles of video production. It gives me experience for the future," Perez said.

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## Feagin Oliver Presents at National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference

November 19, 2014

The University Honors Program was once again honored to have a student presenting on a Student Interdisciplinary Research Panel at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Emily Feagin Oliver (English, '15) was selected to discuss her work, "Linguistic Patriarchy: Gender and Language in Samuel Beckett's *First Love*." At the conference, she presented to an audience of about 30 students and faculty from honors programs across the country. The November conference took place in Denver, and Dr. Steven Engel, Dr. Francis Desiderio, and Erin Martin also attended.



*Feagin Oliver discusses her paper on Samuel Beckett's "First Love"*

In her presentation, Oliver explained her analysis of Beckett's story and focused on his use of gendered language. She based her reading of "First Love" on theoretical ideas developed by Second Wave French feminist thinkers Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, and Helene Cixous. Their work in post-structuralist feminist theory also examines women's rights in society. Oliver discussed language and the use of language in terms of character and gender roles.

Oliver's research began in an Introduction to Literary Studies course on Georgia Southern University's campus. In the course, Oliver was challenged to apply a theory to a work of literature, and her research was born. "I've edited and expanded my work several times. My University Honors Program thesis is an expansion of this work with three of Samuel Beckett's short stories," Oliver said.

In the past, Oliver has presented at the state and regional conferences, but attending a national meeting was new to her: "Presenting at the national conference was a new challenge for me. It's always good to hear different perceptions on your work," Oliver said. "In the feedback, people will mention books that I never would have thought would be relevant to my research,"

Oliver said.

During her free time at the conference, Oliver had a chance to attend sessions, participate in the City As Text™ program, and talk about her paper, graduate school, and honors programming with Dr. Engel and Dr. Desiderio. "It was great to talk about my work and give some input about Georgia Southern. They even offered advice on graduate schools," Oliver said.

NCHC had a wide variety of presentations and posters, Oliver said. At the conference, students presented on different topics in interdisciplinary research. In addition, there were several segments on Honors Program development. "The conference put Georgia Southern in a new light for me. It reaffirmed that we are doing things right here," Oliver said.

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## Honors Students Participate in Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference

November 19, 2014



*Rachel Luoma and Daniel Allen present their research during one of the poster sessions at GURC 2014*

Georgia Southern University hosted the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference over the weekend of November 15, bringing in undergraduate researchers and their mentors from colleges and universities all across Georgia. Among the approximately 175 presenters, 30 University Honors Program students discussed their research in panel presentations or during poster sessions.

Several honors students shared their experience at the conference:

After discussing her paper, "Popular Appeal and Nostalgia in Developing the Myth of the Frontier," Rachel Neuhauser (Sociology '15) said, "Presenting undergraduate research and representing Georgia Southern is always fun work. A lot of effort is put into these presentations, and it's obvious in the quality."

Aleyna Rentz (Writing & Linguistics '16) presented her research, "A Wexford Migration to Savannah, Georgia." She was on a panel with several other students who participated in the Honors Inquiry to Ireland study abroad trip last summer. "In our panel, we found a plethora of firsthand information that should be shared with the public. Research isn't just doing a paper, it's getting out there and informing the world about it," Rentz said.

Jessica Davis (Pre- Early Childhood Ed. '16) discussed "Teachers Perspectives on Inclusion and Co-Teaching." "Presenting my research in its preliminary state at GURC was a good way to get some new perspectives. I'll definitely consider the comments I received as my research develops," Davis said.

Presenting his poster, "Green Recycling – Fabrication Nano-Engineered Advanced Aluminum Alloy with Aluminum Machining Chips Using Friction Stir Extrusion Processing," Tyler Hedges (Mechanical Engineering '15) said, "Participating in undergraduate research has provided me an opportunity to go really in depth on a subject matter that interests me. I have gotten the opportunity to apply what I have learned in several classes to a real world situation in an attempt to solve a problem that very few people have undertaken. At this conference, my partner and I have shared our findings thus far and discussed the future work and its benefits."

Emily Feagin Oliver (English '15) presented her research, "Urban Renewal in June Jordan's *His Own Where*." "Presenting at the undergraduate research conference does more than just provide practice and experience lecturing to a crowd of intellectual peers. It also allowed me to forge interdisciplinary connections with students and academics from all across Georgia. The greatest benefit of this conference was perspective—feedback and insight into your own research, and a new understanding and appreciation of others," Oliver said.

The Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference will return to Georgia Southern in fall 2016. Director of the University Honors Program, Dr. Steven Engel is co-chair of the steering committee for the conference.

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## Zo Haynes Wins Award at Georgia Theatre Conference

*November 19, 2014*

Each October, high school and college theatre students come together for the annual Georgia Theatre Conference (GTC) to participate in workshops and various competitions, while connecting with actors, directors, and technological workers from every corner of the state. Loren "Zo" Haynes (Mathematics and Theatre, '15), a member of Georgia Southern University's Theatre South, brought her impressive skills in lighting and set design to this year's GTC, which took place at Columbus State University on Oct. 9-11. She was awarded the overall design award and first place for her realized lighting design from *Fuddy Meers*, a play that ran in the GSU Black Box Theatre last spring. Haynes also received a second place award for her paper design for *No Exit*, which she created for class.

Building on her success and the support she received at GTC, Haynes plans to attend the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) this spring, where she will once again compete with her *Fuddy Meers* design. "It's a larger competition that's open to undergraduate and graduate students. I found the feedback I received at GTC very helpful and will use it to better my presentation at KCACTF."

In addition to her award-winning lighting design, Haynes also had the opportunity to attend the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas over the summer to learn about lighting technology, pre-visualization, and movers and digital media. Haynes believes that these unique opportunities will jumpstart her future career in theatre.



*Zo Haynes adjusts the lighting in Georgia Southern's Black Box Theatre*

"After I graduate from Georgia Southern, I plan on finding a job in the lighting industry of theatre," said Haynes. "I am very interested in programming and in designing for theatre, so every experience I can get to design and every chance I have to receive feedback on my work is helpful to hone my craft."

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