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Points of Pride

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### Points of Pride

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# Points of Pride

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## Academics

- The College of Education earned a top 75 ranking among schools offering online graduate education programs in the 2015 [U.S. News & World Report "Best Online Graduate Education Programs."](#)
- Georgia Southern University's online M.Ed. in Higher Education degree program has been ranked by TheBestSchools.org as one of "The 25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs." [TheBestSchools.org](#) selected Georgia Southern based on several weighted factors, including academic excellence, course offerings, faculty strengths, and reputation, including reputation for online degree programs.
- As of fall 2013, Georgia Southern's total enrollment stands at 20,517, with students from 47 states and more than 89 countries.
- Georgia Southern University has been named a military-friendly school for the third year in a row by *Military Advanced Education* in its 2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities.
- For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern has been named by *U.S. News & World Report* as a Best Online Education Program. Degrees on the annual list included graduate computer information technology, graduate education, graduate business and our online bachelor's programs.
- The University's Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design program was named one of the top fashion merchandising schools in the United States by [fashion-schools.org](#). Georgia Southern ranks among the top 25 percent in the nation and made the top schools list at No. 49. The University was also ranked ninth on the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the South.
- The University's College of Business Administration was recognized as one of the best business schools for U.S. veterans by *Military Times*.
- Student-athletes continue to earn top honors in the classroom, as a total of 175 Eagles were named to the Southern Conference's academic honor roll. A record-high 19 Eagles posted a perfect 4.0 grade point average, while 89 student-athletes earned the Commissioner's Medal for achieving GPA of 3.5 or higher throughout the 2012-13 academic year.
- Georgia Southern University's Online Master of Business Administration (MBA) has been named one of the nation's Top 30 Best Online MBA Programs by BestColleges.com, ranking 18th overall.

## Athletics

- In 2014, Georgia Southern University moved to the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt Conference.
- Current expansion and construction at Allen E. Paulson Stadium includes an additional 6,200 seats and a privately funded \$10 million Football Operations Center. The 50,000-square-foot facility will have state-of-the-art offices, locker rooms, workout facilities, meeting space and a Hall of Fame Exhibit.
- Georgia Southern is building a \$5.8 million Shooting Sports Education Center that will have indoor archery and firing ranges, as well as an outdoor archery range.
- The Georgia Southern University Golf Course opened in the fall 2013, giving students another recreational facility to use as they relax and take breaks from classwork.
- Georgia Southern cheerleaders Ashley Riggs and Katherine Daniel were selected by USA Cheer as First Team 2013 STUNT All-Americans. This is the third consecutive year for members of the University's cheerleading team to achieve this recognition.
- Georgia Southern golfer Scott Wolfes was named Southern Conference Golfer of the Year after winning two tournaments and achieving seven top 10 finishes. Wolfes was also named to the PING East All-Region Team and was an All-SoCon selection for the second consecutive year.

- Georgia Southern archer Linda Stephens was named an All-American by United States Collegiate Archery (USCA) for the second consecutive year. She was one of 10 women awarded the honor, and also earned All-Academic performer status, which is presented to archers whose grade-point average is above 3.0.

#### Facilities

- Georgia Southern University Health Services has received accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Among private and public colleges and universities in the state, Georgia Southern is one of only three accredited by AAAHC. Health Services was also named a certified Patient Centered Medical Home.
- Georgia Southern and the City of Statesboro have been awarded a grant of nearly \$1.1 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to expand the University's City Campus and help entrepreneurs design, build and release their products into the marketplace, while creating new jobs.
- For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern was named one of the nation's most environmentally responsible "green colleges" by *The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges*.
- Dining Commons (formerly Landrum), a new 1100-seat facility located adjacent to the University Store, opened with special dining stations for guests. The site also houses the Post Office, Eagle Print Shop and Eagle Card Center. Lakeside recently completed a year-long renovation and opened with expanded dining options as well as the capacity to seat 500 diners.
- After a nearly two year construction, the \$41 million Biological Sciences Building opened in August — a 155,000-plus-square foot facility housing state-of-the-art labs and supporting research areas and classrooms.

#### Outreach

- For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern was named one of the nation's most environmentally responsible "green colleges" by *The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges*.
- Georgia Southern was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service. During the 2011-12 academic year, more than 3,900 students engaged in nearly 369,000 hours (more than 15,000 days) of community service.
- Collaborating with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Georgia Southern launched a new Georgia Historical Markers smartphone application that allows historians and visitors to easily locate and explore the state's more than 2,500 historical markers.
- Georgia Southern recently announced the creation of the National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center at the College of Education (COE) that trains educators to help boys and girls overcome bullying, violence and other challenges in their local schools.

#### Research

- The Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) has been awarded an \$85,000 federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to collaboratively form a new network focused on childhood obesity prevention in rural south Georgia.
- Georgia Southern established a new institute for interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education (I2STEMe) that supports thematic grant writing, research and outreach. The Institute is committed to excellence in primary, secondary and higher education STEM teaching and learning with a focus on rural and diverse populations.
- Georgia Southern University's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has opened the first fully-integrated pilot pellet mill in the United States. The new production line, located in Savannah, includes a nearly \$2 million investment in process equipment. The facility will provide a much-needed platform for innovation in process technology and pellet design in the U.S. and will help rising global demand for biomass pellets in Europe and North America.

- Georgia Southern mechanical engineering students and Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., the Allen E. Paulson Chair of Renewable Energy, were awarded two grants totaling \$105,000 in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition for Sustainability. The students' design used alcohol and biofuel to power a diesel engine and lower emissions. Soloiu was also awarded a \$360,000 Research for Undergraduates (REU) grant from the National Science Foundation, launching a program that will allow students to explore solutions to energy problems.
- The University expanded its research activities with the addition of the new asphalt research lab within the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). The new lab will provide research services to a variety of state and private companies, including the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).
- Researchers from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) received two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for cervical cancer initiatives. The first grant, in the amount of \$297,185, was awarded to refine and test a cervical cancer education program in the Hispanic/Latino community. Researchers from the JPHCOPH and Georgia Health Sciences University Gynecological Cancer Prevention Center were also awarded a second grant in the amount of \$143,912 to evaluate a large cervical cancer screening initiative in Cusco, Peru.
- Georgia Southern was a recent recipient of a two-year Race to the Top Innovation Fund grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal. At approximately \$700,000, STEM award will fund a partnership between the University, seven area research institutes and six school districts covering 27 counties in south Georgia.
- Georgia Southern's Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) was awarded a \$5.1 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) designating the RHRI as a Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Rural Health Disparities.
- Physics Department Chair and Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D. was named a recipient of the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair, recognizing his professional accomplishments in classroom education. The distinguished award recognizes Edwards' professional accomplishments in classroom education, including undergraduate and graduate involvement in physics' research projects.
- Georgia Southern has agreed to a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promote research, teaching, outreach, career development, and stewardship in environmental sciences, sustainability and engineering. The new cooperative is designed to provide additional opportunities for student training and internships, faculty research support, and environmental and public health initiatives.
- College of Business Administration professor Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., was named the winner of the 2012 Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award. The internationally competitive award, which is co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill and the Decision Sciences Institute, recognizes the best dissertations written during the past year in the decision sciences. Mackelprang received the award for his doctoral dissertation "Beyond Firm Boundaries: Exploring the Interdependence between Supply Chain Partners."
- In conjunction with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife archaeologists, Kennesaw State University, the University of Georgia, and the Lamar Institute, Georgia Southern University helped locate the remains of the Camp Lawton stockade wall, establishing the site, and layout, of one of the Civil War's largest Prisoner of War (POW) camps. The discovery was made at Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen, Georgia, and documented by the PBS television show "Time Team America."
- Electrical engineering professor Fernando Rios-Gutierrez was selected as the winner of the Joseph Biedenbach Outstanding Engineering Educator Award, from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Rios-Gutierrez is the first faculty member from Georgia Southern to receive the national award. He was selected from more than 30,000 educators in Region 3, which includes the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi.
- Hotel and Restaurant Management professor Larry Stalcup, Ph.D. was named a Fulbright Scholar. He worked with Payap University's International Hospitality Management program in Thailand.