Georgia Southern announces appointment of Maj. Laura McCullough to Chief of Police

APRIL 7, 2016

Laura McCullough

Maj. Laura McCullough has been appointed chief of police of the Georgia Southern University Office of Public Safety effective immediately. She has served as interim chief of police since May 31, 2015.

“Laura has demonstrated an excellent grasp of the unique population and environment on a University campus,” said Interim University President Jean E. Bartels, Ph.D., R.N. “She has a great vision for developing a comprehensive department and strong educational focus for both students and officers.”

McCullough has protected the campus community and assisted local law enforcement agencies since joining the University’s Office of Public Safety in 2005 as a patrol officer. She has since served as a patrol sergeant, criminal investigations captain and most recently assistant director (Major), and interim chief of police. She also is a 2013 graduate of the FBI National Academy, has participated in the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Training and also is a P.O.S.T. Certified Forensic Technician. McCullough holds a B.S. in education from Samford University, a M.S. in education from Georgia State University and a M.S. in event management from the University of Tennessee.

“Laura has been and continues to be a great leader for the University police department. She has strong working relationships with the many police agencies in our local community. She has a strong commitment to Georgia Southern University,” said Robert L. Whitaker, vice president for Business and Finance.

The University will perform a search for candidates to fill McCullough’s now vacant position of assistant director in the Office of Public Safety.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers approximately 125 degree programs serving nearly 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of
academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. GeorgiaSouthern.edu.
Board of Regents approves new Master of Science Program at Georgia Southern

MARCH 18, 2016

Georgia Southern University’s College of Science and Mathematics (COSM) will soon offer a Master of Science degree program with a major in Applied Geography (MS-AG) after the program was unanimously approved at the March 9 meeting of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The program will center on geospatial technology including: Geographic Information Science (GIS), Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Spatial Statistics, Spatial Modeling and Big Data. The primary objective of the program is to prepare students for professional opportunities in applied geography, specifically in the rapidly expanding field of geospatial technology applications, and in critical workforce need areas such as: national security, transportation and logistics, urban and regional planning, resource management and conservation science.

“The Master of Science Degree Program in Applied Geography will be one of the first of its kind in the Southeastern U.S.,” said Jeffrey Underwood, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Geology and Geography. “The impact on Georgia Southern University should be profound. The University will quickly become the preferred destination for graduate students seeking to augment their disciplinary knowledge with advanced geospatial analysis skills. These students may arrive from disciplines as diverse as business administration, public health, biology and ecology, as well as from social sciences such as political science, economics and sociology. The program is also designed to introduce students to entrepreneurial concepts, thus producing graduates who will positively impact economic development in the region and across the state.”

A broader objective of the MS-AG program is to positively impact workforce development in southeast Georgia and across the state. Graduates of the MS-AG program will meet the current and future demand for geospatial professionals at the state level and expand workforce opportunities in southeast Georgia by creating a core of geospatial professionals with auxiliary skills in biology, climatology, demographics, economics, hazard assessment, logistics, marketing, planning, resource management and other disciplines.

This core of technically competent and disciplinarily focused graduates will generate ideas, drive innovation and attract infrastructure to the region, creating a hub of geospatial expertise that will satisfy workforce demands from established businesses, agencies and municipalities in the region, and attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to the region to utilize this pool of geospatial professionals.
In addition, the new program is designed to meet qualifications for accreditation by the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) so that Department of Defense personnel may receive certifications for advancement by completing coursework in the new degree program.

The Department of Geology and Geography will be recruiting students for the new program and getting approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in the 2016-2017 academic year with a target starting date of fall 2017.

An example of a Geographic Information Science (GIS) Image. Geographic information systems are used for compiling and analyzing spatial data, which students can learn more about with the new MS-AG program.
Georgia Southern students win at American Marketing Association Conference

APRIL 1, 2016

Taylor Porter, Jakeia Kitchens and Chareva Myles placed among the top participants in their respective competitions during the AMA International Collegiate Conference.

Three College of Business students representing the GATA Sales Team traveled to New Orleans during spring break, March 17-20, to compete at the American Marketing Association’s 38th Annual International Collegiate Conference.

Chareva Myles competed in the AMA Perfect Pitch competition sponsored by AeroTek, while Taylor Porter and Jakeia Kitchens competed in the ABC Supply Co. International Sales Competition.

The three competitors prepared 90-second pitches for their respective competitions, and each student proceeded through the first round of pitches, making it to the second and final round. At the end of the competition weekend, Myles won first place in the AMA Perfect Pitch, landed an internship this summer at AeroTek and a job with AeroTek as a recruiter following her graduation, starting in January 2017.

“As a team, we didn’t think we were going to get that far at first,” said Myles. “But after the first round and learning what we had to do, we knew we would do exceptionally well in our respective competitions.”

Georgia Southern’s GATA Sales Team was the only team from one university to take home first, second and third place in the competitions.
University System of Georgia announces Jaimie L. Hebert, Ph.D., as President of Georgia Southern University

APRIL 6, 2016

Jaimie L. Hebert, Ph.D.

ATLANTA (University System of Georgia) — Today, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia named Dr. Jaimie Hebert president of Georgia Southern University in Statesboro. Hebert will assume his new position on July 1, 2016. Hebert joins the University System of Georgia from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, where he has been serving as the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Dr. Hebert’s experience and leadership qualities make him a natural fit for Georgia Southern University,” said Board of Regents Chair Kessel Stelling Jr. “We appreciate the hard work of the campus search committee, which included representation from alumni and the Statesboro community, for recommending such a qualified candidate.”

University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank Huckaby said, “Georgia Southern is on an upward trajectory, and Dr. Hebert will contribute substantially to the institution’s momentum from day one. This is an exciting time for Georgia Southern, which will continue to thrive and grow under Dr. Hebert’s leadership.”
“Georgia Southern is a great university, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this institution, its faculty, staff and students; and, the Statesboro community. I look forward to working with the campus and Statesboro community to take Georgia Southern to even greater heights,” said Hebert.

Hebert has served in various roles at Sam Houston State University since 1999. He has worked as a professor of mathematics and statistics, chair of mathematics and statistics, and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

He has also worked in higher education as an assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Appalachian State University (Boone, North Carolina).

Throughout his career, Hebert has been active in University-related, student-related, professional and civic organizations including: the Council of Academic Deans, SACS Compliance Committee (2009 reaffirmation), Standing Faculty Tenure Committee, Texas Association of Chief Academic Officers, Journal of Developmental Education, SHSU Rotoract Club, Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity (advisor), Rotary Club of Huntsville, and Huntsville/Walker County Economic Development Committee.

Hebert received a bachelor’s degree, master’s and a doctorate in statistics from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Hebert has two daughters. Emily is a graduate student and Sarah is an undergraduate student.

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