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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2006). *Newsroom*. 54.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/54>

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Irish Series focuses on Celtic identity

OCTOBER 2, 2006

Throughout the fall, the Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University is presenting a series of lectures, discussions and workshops focusing on the seven Celtic nations and the larger topic of regionalism among those nations.

The series continues Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. with "Celticness: The Modern Invention of an Identity," a lecture and discussion by Barbara Hendry, associate professor of anthropology, and Howard Keeley, assistant professor of literature and director of the Center for Irish Studies. Their talk will take place in Room 1004 of the College of Information Technology Building, and it is free and open to the public.

Well into the twentieth century, many have thought the Celts to be an ancient Indo-European race that invaded Britain, Ireland and nearby regions during the Copper and Bronze Ages. Archaeologists and paleolinguists are increasingly convinced that such an invasion never occurred but that the Celtic footprint in the Atlantic lands, now known as Celtic, was only partial the result of trade, not war.

In their lecture, Hendry and Keeley will outline and assess several key Celtic awakenings in modern Europe. They will trace an arc to our times, while considering the individuals and initiatives that produced modern Celticity.

To learn more about the Center for Irish Studies, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/home.htm>.

Department of Chemistry appears in national rankings

OCTOBER 2, 2006

For the third time in four years, the Department of Chemistry at Georgia Southern University boasts one of the most productive degree programs in the United States.

According to the latest rankings by the American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Professional Training, Georgia Southern is tied for No. 19 in the nation in terms of the number of graduates who earned a certified bachelor's degree in chemistry.

To compile the annual rankings, the ACS conducts a survey of the 634 colleges and universities which have a bachelor's degree program that has been certified by the organization.

The institutions are ranked based on the number of graduates they produce in a given academic year. Twenty-four Georgia Southern students earned certified degrees in 2004-2005, which was the year used by the ACS for its most recent survey.

The University was No. 22 in the previous national rankings, which covered the 2003-2004 academic year. Georgia Southern was also No. 22 in the 2001-2002 rankings.

"I am delighted that we continue to be recognized at a national level for our outstanding undergraduate program as well as our commitment to the profession," said Mary Boyd, the chair of the Department of Chemistry.

The ACS is comprised of more than 158,000 individual members at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry. The organization provides a broad range of opportunities for peer interaction and career development.

The ACS Committee on Professional Training has been assessing, approving and monitoring undergraduate chemistry programs since 1941. Students in approved programs can earn certified degrees by completing a rigorous curriculum that satisfies ACS requirements.

According to the ACS, some employers offer higher starting salaries to graduates who have certified degrees. Also, a certified degree can be beneficial in obtaining admission to graduate school.

"Our graduates typically attend graduate, dental or medical school, or find employment in the chemical industry," Boyd said.

Nationally, only 36 percent of students who earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry obtain their degree from a certified program.

The ACS survey revealed that 10,947 students received a certified bachelor's degree during the 2004-2005 academic year. Almost 52 percent of those graduates were women.

The top five institutions in the latest ACS rankings are the University of Texas-Austin, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, the University of California-San Diego, the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and the College of William and Mary.

The rankings also include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the U.S. Naval Academy.

The Georgia Institute of Technology is the only other Georgia University to appear in the national rankings.

For more information on the Department of Chemistry at Georgia Southern, visit <http://cost.georgiasouthern.edu/chemistry> or call (912) 681-5681.