

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Messages from the Provost

Office of the Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs

9-6-2022

Messages from the Provost

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/provost-messages>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Messages from the Provost by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

06 September 2022

Upcoming Events

September 10: [Road to Resilience Conference \(Armstrong\)](#)

September 19-24: [Homecoming Week](#)

September 21: [Booth sign up deadline for Celebrate Together \(Armstrong\)](#)

September 28: [Eagle Expo Career Fair \(Statesboro\)](#)

Power Chords: Entertainment and Education



Georgia Southern University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs **Dr. Carl Reiber** saw a familiar face while visiting the [Georgia Southern Wexford campus](#). Wexford Town is a beautiful coastal

settlement that was originally founded by the Vikings in southeastern Ireland. Near the campus is a music shop that had a Gretsch guitar in the window.

In 2021, **Fred and Dina Gretsch of Gretsch Musical Instruments, Inc.** gave their support and name to the School of Music at Georgia Southern University.

[Click here to read about the Gretsch family's visit to Georgia Southern University.](#)

A Message from the Provost

How does the investment of two major automotive plants create a ripple in our area, and how can we, as a university, be prepared for it?

Between Hyundai's proposed megasite and Aspen Aerogels's proposed factory, there will be an influx of not only jobs and people but needed resources as well. Necessary partnerships will need to be formed. That's where Georgia Southern comes in.

We are naturally poised to be a great partner with these businesses. We will provide them with qualified, exceptional potential employees, thus giving our students opportunities in our region to not only intern but have a career upon graduation. Some people within the ranks of these companies will also be potential students themselves, along with their family members. Our students will also have the opportunity to work indirectly with these companies, be it building houses, creating supply chains, teaching in the local schools, or working in other ways in the area.

I was fortunate enough to be part of Fred and Dinah Gretsch's tour to see how one donation has impacted several areas of not only our university but our community. Through their gifts, the Gretsch School of Music as well as the Master of Arts in History have gained valuable opportunities.

Partnerships are what make higher education exciting, engaging, and enduring. There are many ways we are excelling at this. Affiliating with businesses in our area is the perfect avenue for our students to receive hands-on experience in their chosen field, led by a faculty of experts guiding them. That kind of partnership is just one exciting part of our future.

Academic Excellence

GENIE Project named finalist at UEDA

Georgia Southern University's Business Innovation Group's GENIE Project has been selected as a finalist in the [University Economic Development Association's Award of Excellence](#).

The [Georgia Enterprise Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(GENIE\) Project](#) connects individuals and communities in rural Georgia with the business development resources of Georgia Southern University to help establish a broader economic development ecosystem. GENIE uses modern technology to connect homegrown talent, community organizations, and resident leaders with the expert advice and training they need to reinvigorate local communities.

"At Georgia Southern, we are committed to serving as a valuable partner in growing the state economy," said **Dominique Halaby, DPA, Associate Provost for Innovation & Commercialization**. "As such, we are honored to be recognized for our efforts to connect residents of rural communities with the resources they need to help them grow their businesses and enhance the quality of life in their communities."



Top initiatives from across North America went through a rigorous six-month process. Through applications, peer reviews, and online selections, the projects were selected by attendees of the annual UEDA Summit as category leaders. The finalists are a representation of the top university-based economic development initiatives in the country in the eyes of their peers.

Winners for this prestigious honor will be announced at the UEDA Annual Summit in October.



Dr. Stambaugh hits the right note with new book

Musicians don't just create music. They build a link between people's brains, establishing a connection that crosses borders and barriers. This relationship between the brain and music has long been established. However, **Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music's Dr. Laura Stambaugh** has taken it a step further with her new book, [Music and the Brain for Musicians](#).

As a professor and the Head of Music Education, Dr. Stambaugh says she wanted to write this book to combine her areas of interest in vastly different academic disciplines after being a visiting instructor in the Music and Neuroscience Lab at Western University (Ontario).

"I had been trying to weave together my interests in music and biology since my undergraduate studies when I was told I had to choose one field of study or the other," explains Dr. Stambaugh. "Now, as an interdisciplinary researcher, I don't want other student or professional musicians to encounter the same barriers that I did. The purpose of this

book is to invite musicians to learn about our musical brains and become part of this fascinating field of study."

Already it has received glowing reviews from colleagues and peers.

"So often, research on music and performance science is made unnecessarily complicated," said Jessica Nápoles, professor of choral music education at University of North Texas. "In *Music and the Brain for Musicians*, Stambaugh uses a user-friendly approach to understanding important topics related to perception and cognition, psychology of music, and the benefits of music study."

Published by Conway Publications in summer 2022, the book focuses on music from the perspective of cognition and neuroscience, including how music is perceived and understood through highlighting several key research findings in previous studies. It all culminates in a call for action so that musicians can make meaningful contributions to research surrounding music. Due to the overlapping topics, it's a perfect book for musicians, teachers, and college students in music and psychology.

"This book addresses the mysterious link between seemingly effortless technique and musical artistry," said Cecilia Kang, associate professor of clarinet at Louisiana State University. "Stambaugh illuminates just how elite the musician's brain is, while also providing connections to improve teaching, learning, and performance."

Dr. Stambaugh's research focuses on the development of automaticity in playing instruments, and she appears in *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Psychology of Music*, *Psychomusicology*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, and *Social, Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. Her teaching articles are found in *Music Educators Journal* and *Teaching Music*.

Congratulations Corner: Celebrating Your Success

There are many successes on our campus in which we can take pride. This section highlights the impressive successes throughout our academic institution. If you have an accolade or achievement, please send it to Mary Kate Allen at mallen@georgiasouthern.edu to be included in the next newsletter.

Graduate student **Matthew DeMond** from the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Computing's Mechanical Engineering program took home second place in the Best Student Paper category at the [ASME 2022 Power Conference](#). He was awarded \$1,000 for his research on novel sealing technologies which can be applied to carbon dioxide power generation. Supervised by **Dr. Sevki Cesmecci**, DeMond is interning with Boeing Company in South Carolina and plans to join the aerospace industry.

The [National Science Foundation's](#) Engineering Research Initiative (ERI) program announced it will award three grants of approximately \$200,000 each to Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering's **Dr. Francisco Cubas**, **Dr. Prakashbai Bhoi**, and **Dr. Seungmo Kim** for their submitted proposals. Dr. Cubas's proposal studies the role of inorganic phosphorus on harmful algal blooms. Dr. Bhoi's proposal focuses on lowering the amount of waste being dumped in landfills and oceans as well as eliminating CO₂ from the clean hydrogen fuel production pathways. Dr. Kim's proposal involves vehicle-to-everything (V2X) communications and figuring out a way to define and prioritize transmitted information and channel access among vehicles.

Department of History's **Dr. Mao Lin** has been named as a [Wilson Center Fellow for the 2022-23 Wilson China Fellowship Class](#). This is a year-long non-residential fellowship aimed at producing new research that builds bridges between traditional academia and the policy world in relation to China and its impact. Lin's project is "Bringing China Back Into the World: The Historical Origin of America's Engagement Policy and Its Implications for Contemporary US-China Relations".

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health's **Dr. Ana Palacios** was recently published in *Reproductive and Developmental Medicine*. The title of her manuscript is "Characterization of Folic Acid, 5-Methyltetrahydrofolate and Synthetic Folinic Acid in the High Affinity Folate Transporters: Impact on Pregnancy and Development."

Drs. Kelly Sullivan and **Jian Zhang** from Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health were recently published in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. The title of their manuscript is "[Changes in the Association Between Overweight and Depression Across Three Major Ethnic Groups, 2005 - 2018.](#)" The first author is a 3rd year DrPH student (Arshpreet Kaur Mallhi).

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health's **Dr. Gulzar Shah** has been invited to deliver a webinar titled "Primer on Practice-based Publishing" on behalf of the *American Journal of Public Health*, which will be open to American Public Health Association members and others. This presentation will be on September 12.

Drs. Jingjing Yin and **Isaac CH Fung** from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health were recently published in the *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*. The title of their manuscript is "Elevated COVID-19 Case Rates of Government Employees, District of Columbia, 2020–2022." The first author is a 2nd year DrPH student (**Xinyi Hua**).

The Department of Physics and Astronomy's **Dr. Xiao-Jun Wang** co-authored a new edition of the three-volume set on all things phosphor called, *The Phosphor Handbook*. Available in the library, these three volumes cover everything from the theoretical background on the subject to the synthesis and properties of phosphor to various applications.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health's **Dr. Stacy Smallwood** was one of the plenary speakers for the [2022 National Ryan White Conference](#) (August 23-26). The title of his talk was "Setting the Table: Authentic Community Engagement to End the HIV Epidemic."

Dr. Atin Adkhikari of Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health was recently published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The manuscript's first author (**V. Clower**) was an MPH student at Georgia Southern and is now a DrPH student.

It was a very busy summer for Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health's **Dr. Marina Eremeeva**, who had several publications:

- (i) *Molecular characterization of rickettsial agents in ticks (Acari:Ixodidae) from Sri Lanka* published in The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 106(6):1613-1623. This paper is an example of a OneHealth collaboration with veterinarians and physicians from Sri Lanka.
 - (ii) *Genetic typing of isolates of Rickettsia typhi* published in PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 16(5): e0010354. This paper describes new diagnostic assays used for molecular surveillance of Rickettsia typhi, the agent of murine typhus.
 - (iii) Coauthored a book chapter in the 6th edition of the Principles and Practice of Pediatric Infectious Diseases entitled "[Chapter 179. Other Rickettsial Species](#)", pp. 976-984. This is one of the primary reference books on infectious diseases focused on children and adolescents.
-



Georgia Southern University | P.O. Box 8005, Statesboro, GA 30460