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Model African Union comes to Savannah Nov. 2-4

OCTOBER 26, 2006

Students from colleges and universities throughout the University System of Georgia will come to Savannah Nov. 2-4 to participate in the 10th Southeast Model African Union (SEMAU), co-hosted this year by Georgia Southern University, Savannah State University, and Armstrong Atlantic State University. All events will take place at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm Street, Savannah. This event prepares students to move on to the national Model African Union, which takes place in March in Washington, D.C.

SEMAU, which first met in 1997, has grown from 12 delegations to 23 delegations. This year 15 Georgia Southern students will attend in delegations representing Sudan, South Africa, and Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. The student participants are formed into committees that simulate the committees of the actual African Union: Technical Committee on Economic Matters; Technical Committee on Social Matters; African Human Rights Committee; Peace and Security Committee; Assembly of Heads of State and Government; Secretariat; and the Executive Council. Student committee chairs are screened and selected prior to the meeting.

‘We begin to prepare students for this simulation many weeks before the actual event,’ said Dr. Saba Jallow, associate professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Africana Studies at Georgia Southern. ‘They become specialized on issues facing the nation they represent, they learn diplomatic and parliamentary procedure, and they craft resolutions and proposals to present when the nations gather. Their leadership skills grow through this experience.’

‘‘We don’t make this easy for the students,’’ says Jallow. ‘‘Each day we present the Executive Council, comprised of the foreign ministers of the countries represented, with a political, social, or economic crisis. They must mobilize the committees and resolve the crisis. Of course, that means committee work is interrupted as well.’’

The SEMAU event is a colorful one, because some of the students choose to wear the native dress of the country they represent. Those who do not choose native dress wear professional business attire. This year the participants will be entertained on the first evening of the gathering by Soweto Street Beat, a traditional South African dance troupe.

SEMAU also provides an opportunity for students to learn the history of the African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity), which was formed in the 1960s to help end colonization in Africa. The AU’s direction changed in the 1970s and 80s as the goal became ending apartheid. Today the

AU works to resolve conflicts that stand in the way of economic integration across the continent and to build resources to protect its citizens.

On Saturday morning, Nov. 4, SEMAU student delegates will meet to receive the Executive Council's report and adopt final resolutions. Participants will receive a certificate of recognition and participation at the noontime closing ceremony.

Celtic music concert Nov. 4

OCTOBER 26, 2006

Throughout the fall at Georgia Southern University, a number of lectures, discussions, workshops and concerts are focusing on the seven Celtic nations and the larger topic of regionalism among those nations.

The Seven Nations Series continues on Saturday, Nov. 4, when Laura Risk and Paddy League make a return visit with Kieran Jordan. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 4401 Country Club Road in Statesboro.

Risk is a California native who began playing Scottish fiddle music as a teenager. Her playing is expressive and versatile with a repertoire including driving reels, lilting jigs, melancholy Gaelic airs and elegant 18th century minuets. Her first solo CD was named one of The Boston Globe's 'Top 10 CDs of the Year.' She has also served as an instructor of fiddling at Wellesley College.

League, a drummer and guitarist, has a strong background in jazz, Latin and world percussion styles. His involvement in Irish music came through an interest in the Irish language. Upon falling in love with the music, he became involved in the Washington, D.C., area's traditional music community. He is one of the most respected percussionists and bodhran teachers on the North American acoustic and traditional music circuit. Showcased on over 20 CDs, his innovative and exciting work with the bodhran blends Irish techniques and rhythms with those of other folk traditions.

Jordan is a percussive dancer whom The Boston Globe sees as 'complement[ing] Irish step's vivid high kicks and swiveling footwork with an uncharacteristically loose upper torso and a playfully theatrical use of the head and arms.' She works as a performer, teacher and choreographer of Irish dance and has performed as a solo step dancer in the United States, Canada, Sweden and Ireland.

Admission is free and reservations are not required. Tax-deductible donations are invited at this event to benefit the Eddie Ivie Scholarship for Study in Ireland. A reception in the church community room will follow the concert.

The events are sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, Department of Communication Arts, Department of Foreign Languages, Department of History, Department of Music, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Center for International Studies, Center for Irish Studies, Southern Coastal Humanities Consortium, John Humma Cinema Arts Program, European Union Certificate Program and the Religious Studies Program.

To learn more about the Seven Nations Series, go to <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/irish/celtic/>