

Newsroom

October 3, 2006

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2006). *Newsroom*. 64.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/64>

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St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Awareness Week Oct. 9-15

OCTOBER 3, 2006

The Office of Volunteer Services at Georgia Southern University is sponsoring St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Awareness Week Monday, Oct. 9, through Sunday, Oct. 15.

Throughout the week information tables will be located at the Lakeside Cafe and in the Russell Union Rotunda.

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, area residents who have been patients at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital will speak at 6 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom. They will discuss their experiences and how the hospital helped them in their fight. At 7 p.m. the movie 'Patch Adams' will be shown with popcorn and drinks provided. There is no admission fee, however donations for St. Jude's will be accepted.

A mud volleyball tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 15, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Recreation Activity Center pavilion. Pizza and drinks will be available for purchase with all proceeds going to St. Jude's. The campus radio station, 91.9 The Buzz, will play music throughout the day.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is located in Memphis, Tenn., where all patients are accepted for treatment regardless of a family's ability to pay or lack of insurance. 'St. Jude's goes above and beyond. They want a child's experience with cancer to be memories of how good the people of St. Jude were and how well the patients are treated,' said Margaret Jenkins, graduate assistant in the Office of Volunteer Services. 'They go out of their way to make it a comfortable and pleasant experience for the kids.'

For more information, contact the Office of Volunteer Services at 912-871-1435.

Islam is focus of new exhibit at Georgia Southern Museum

OCTOBER 3, 2006

Although it is practiced by more than a billion people, Islam remains one of the most misunderstood religions in the world.

A new exhibit at the Georgia Southern Museum seeks to help people separate fact from fiction when it comes to Muslims and their faith.

'Islam in Belief and Practice' is an exploration of what Muslims believe, the many different interpretations of the religion, and its relationship to Christianity and Judaism.

'Even though they hear about it on the TV and read about it in the newspaper, most people don't really receive much information on Islam,' said John Parcels, the curator of the exhibit.

'Our goal is to explain the beliefs and practices and to answer the most important questions that people have about Muslims and Islam.'

Featuring authentic clothing, prayer rugs and religious artifacts, the exhibit addresses the origin of the Qur'an, common beliefs shared by Muslims, the significance of Ramadan, the role of women, the meanings of jihad, and the goals of extremist factions.

The exhibit also reveals quite a bit of background information that may be interesting to non-Muslims. For example, did you know that:

- Most Muslims are not Arabs?
- Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the literal word of God, spoken through Muhammad as he received it from the angel Gabriel?
- Muslims revere Jesus as a prophet, and his name appears more times in the Qur'an than Muhammad's?
- Every Muslim who is physically and financially able must make the Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in their lifetime?
- Four Muslim countries Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey have elected female heads of state?

"More than anything, people should discover that not every Muslim believes the same things," Parcels said. 'Just as Christianity has Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox, and then further divisions within each of those, there is a wide variety of beliefs and practices in Islam.'

Parcels taught philosophy, religious studies and English at Georgia Southern from 1972 through 2005. For the past 15 years, he has served as executive director of the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar, a 10-state professional society for faculty who teach classes on the region and its primary religion.

Parcels also serves as treasurer for the Middle East Outreach Council, a national organization that provides information to educators about the region's people, places and culture.

In 2003, Parcels was the curator for the Georgia Southern Museum's 'Objects of Faith' exhibit, which featured art and artifacts from many of the world's religions.

'With Mr. Parcels' unique insight on Islam, we felt like this was a good time for us to address a topic that so many people are interested in,' said Brent Tharp, the director of the Museum. 'Everyone has seen all sorts of images and all sorts of news stories that pertain to Islam, but how much is myth and how much is reality?

"Through this exhibit, Mr. Parcels is presenting our visitors with a clear and objective picture of the Muslim religion."

A series of presentations and workshops will be offered in conjunction with the exhibit. A complete schedule of these events will be released at a later date.

In addition, lectures and group tours of the exhibit can be arranged.

'Islam in Belief and Practice' will remain on display through Dec. 31.

There is no admission fee for the Museum, which is located in the Rosenwald Building on Southern Drive. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information, visit <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/museum/exhibits> or call (912) 681-5444. - See more at:

<http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1235#sthash.95A6L220.dpuf>

Georgia Southern alumna receives Georgia Power Award

OCTOBER 3, 2006

A Georgia Southern graduate, Ella (Evans) McAfee, teacher for Screven County Schools, has received one of fifteen New Teacher Assistance Grants awarded by Georgia Power for 2006-2007. Ella graduated in Spring 2006 with a B.S.Ed in chemistry education.

These \$1,000 grants are awarded to graduates of Georgia's public four-year colleges and universities with a state-approved teacher education program who are in their first year of teaching. The funds enable first-year teachers to purchase supplies beyond those provided by the schools. Candidates for the grants must have been in the top 25 percent of their class academically, demonstrated an aptitude for teaching, and be recommended by education faculty members.

McAfee, who teaches at Screven County High School in Sylvania was nominated for the award by the secondary education faculty of the College of Education, Georgia Southern University. She and 14 other recipients were honored at an awards luncheon on Saturday, September 30, at Georgia Power's corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

Averitt Lecture Series features internationally acclaimed economic historian

OCTOBER 3, 2006

Internationally acclaimed historian Peter A. Coclanis will present the 2006 Jack N. and Addie D. Averitt Lecture Series at Georgia Southern University on Monday and Tuesday, October 23 and 24. A faculty member at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Coclanis studies, writes, and teaches in the fields of American, international, and Southeast Asian economic history.

His theme for the three lectures of the Averitt Series is 'Home and the World: Perspectives on the Economic History of the American South.' The first, titled 'People and Places,' takes place Monday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m.; the second, titled 'Products,' will take place Tuesday, October 24, at 9:30 a.m.; and the third, titled 'Processes,' will take place Tuesday, October 24, at 2:00 p.m. All three lectures will be held in the ballroom of the Russell Student Union, and they are free and open to the public.

Coclanis is the author of 'The Shadow of a Dream: Economic Life and Death in the South Carolina Low Country, 1670-1920,' which won the Allan Nevins Prize from the Society of American Historians. His book charts the economic and social rise and fall of a small, but intriguing part of the American South: Charleston and the surrounding South Carolina low country. Spanning 250 years, Coclanis's study analyzes the interaction of both external and internal forces on the city and countryside, examining the effects of various factors the environment, the market, economic and political ideology, and social institutions on the region's economy from its colonial beginnings to its collapse in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

'This book is the compelling story of the tragic rise and fall of the rice economy in the South Carolina Low Country,' wrote reviewers in the American Historical Review. 'Coclanis has mastered an impressive array of primary and secondary sources ... He presents his findings in clear, graceful prose.'

Coclanis became the Albert R. Newsome Professor and Associate Provost for International Affairs at UNC-Chapel Hill after serving as associate dean for general education and heading the history department there for ten years. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 scholarly articles and several books, and he has written 70 book reviews. He is currently completing a book titled 'Distant Thunder: The Creation of a World Market in Rice and the Transformations it Wrought.'

Jack Averitt and his wife Addie established the Averitt Lecture Series in 1990 as a gift to Georgia Southern's Department of History, Department of Literature and Philosophy, and Department of

Writing and Linguistics. Jack Averitt was the first dean of Georgia Southern's graduate school, which now bears his name. He funded the biennial Averitt Distinguished Service Award and now serves as dean emeritus.

The Averitt Lecture Series seeks to enhance on-campus academic and cultural life for students, faculty and community by bringing world-class scholars to the University to speak on historical and literary subjects. The lectures are subsequently published by the University of Georgia Press.

For more information on the Averitt Lecture Series, contact Georgia Southern's History Department at 912-681-5586 or send an e-mail to asims@georgiasouthern.edu.