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# **Greek Street Trick-or-Treat Oct. 26**

*OCTOBER 18, 2006*

The ninth annual 'Greek Street Trick-or-Treat' will be held Thursday, Oct. 26, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Olympic Blvd., just off Chandler Road. The campus and Statesboro community are invited to bring their children in costume to Greek Row for an evening of Halloween games, candy and fun.

The event is sponsored by the Pan-Hellenic Association, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council.

For more information, contact the Office of Greek Life at 681-5185.

# **Georgia Southern sets opening for Starbucks**

*OCTOBER 18, 2006*

A ribbon cutting ceremony for Georgia Southern's new Starbucks is set for 9 a.m. Friday Oct. 20 at the coffee shop's Russell Union location.

Georgia Southern has joined approximately 200 other colleges and universities which have Starbucks on their campus. 'This is one of the largest Starbucks on a college campus,' said Auxiliary Services Director Tom Palfy. 'Starbucks only requires 800-1,200 square feet of space. Our space is 3,000 square feet.

'Georgia Southern is a licensee with Starbucks,' said Palfy. 'This means we are licensed to represent them, and we own and operate the store.'

University President Bruce Grube and Starbucks officials will be on hand to cut the ribbon, officially opening the shop. Faculty, staff, students and area residents are invited to attend.

Parking will be reserved behind Russell Union. To access the lot, take Herty Drive from Fair Road then turn on the first left onto the access road that leads to Union parking.

The store employs 25 students and two managers. Hours are weekdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Multispectral imaging camera aids water conservation efforts in coastal Georgia

*OCTOBER 18, 2006*

The Coastal Rivers Water Policy and Planning Center recently added a multispectral imaging camera to its arsenal of tools for gathering information about water use in the Savannah-Ogeechee River Basin. The camera, purchased with \$268,000 of federal funds earmarked for water conservation, produces colorful digital images that demonstrate areas where water is plentiful and areas that are dry.

‘The multispectral imaging camera can see spectrums of light that are not seen by the human eye,’ said Ben Thompson, director of the Coastal Rivers Water Policy and Planning Center (WPPC). ‘With this camera we’ve been able to take aerial photos that show where water is plentiful and where it is not.’

Thompson pointed out a number of ways this type of information is useful. Farmers, who must rely on both rain and irrigation, can use the images to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of their irrigation and planting methods. Communities could use the images to track land use planning, identify wetlands, and study changes in rivers and tidewater areas. Developers can use the images to minimize impacts on water quantity and quality.

‘This camera adds to the steadily increasing amount of research that’s available to help make good decisions about how our region should use its water resources,’ he said. ‘Science provides us with the facts about our water resources, but science alone isn’t enough to make policy. The Center is here to make the science available, to bring people together for discussion, and to advise on policy when making important decisions about this limited resource. The spectral imaging camera allows us to help others in the region.’

The Coastal Rivers WPPC, located in the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University, is part of a statewide consortium funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University System of Georgia to help regional stakeholders from farmers to housing developers to individual families make informed decisions about water use and conservation.

‘The people in the coastal area of Georgia are pleased to have a research and policy center in their region. Coastal Rivers WPPC helps decision-makers in this region deal with problems that exist in this region,’ said Thompson. ‘The Center is also a good fit for Georgia Southern’s mission, which includes service to the region.’

# Claiborne receives \$650,000 grant from National Science Foundation

*OCTOBER 18, 2006*

By studying a certain type of fish protein, a professor in the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University is hoping to gain a better understanding of what causes a variety of significant health problems in human beings.

James B. Claiborne has been awarded a grant worth \$652,391 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct the project, which includes research at a marine laboratory in Maine and collaboration with scientists at Johns Hopkins University.

The grant represents a new high for basic research funding by the NSF to a Georgia Southern research team. The University's biology department has received \$1.5 million in NSF funding over the last five years.

'In this project, we are using molecular biology and comparative approaches to solve physiological problems,' Claiborne said. 'Our specific interest concerns the function of a family of cell proteins that are called sodium-hydrogen exchangers, or NHE. They are responsible for the regulation of acid and salt levels in our kidneys, intestines and other essential organs.'

According to the biologist, defects in the regulation or expression of these proteins can lead to problems in the cardiovascular, renal and digestive systems. In addition, alterations of the proteins have been implicated in some deadly types of brain tumors.

'We are examining the similarities and differences in the function of NHE proteins between fishes and mammals to understand how they have been modified through evolutionary time,' Claiborne said. 'As fish are our early vertebrate ancestors, the sequence and function of these molecules in fish can reveal much about the same homologous proteins found in all of us.'

Funded by the NSF Division of Integrative Organismal Biology, the four-year project is officially entitled 'Functional characterization of  $Na^+/H^+$  exchangers in marine and freshwater fishes.'

The grant will continue support of the Claiborne lab team's research during the academic year at Georgia Southern. It will also fund the team's summer research at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory in Salisbury Cove, Maine.

In addition, the grant will support master's degree and undergraduate students in the biology department at Georgia Southern who train under the mentorship of Claiborne and research associate Andrew Diamanduros.

Finally, the grant will fund a new collaboration with scientists at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md.

"Our work at Mount Desert Island, as well as our continuing collaborations with scientists in Norway and Japan, will allow our students to work with some of the most advanced laboratories and research teams in the world," Claiborne said.

"The new partnership with Johns Hopkins will allow us to form a bridge between our basic research approaches and biomedical scientists interested in human diseases which involve the sodium-hydrogen exchanger."

According to Claiborne, the NSF Integrative Organismal Biology program agrees to fund less than 10 percent of the proposals submitted each year by colleges and universities from across the nation.

"This puts us in good company," he said. "While serving on NSF review panels in Washington, D.C., I've learned just how tight the budgets have become. Because of science-funding cutbacks, there are many excellent and important research projects that still do not receive support."

With over 80 peer-reviewed publications, Claiborne is an internationally known authority on fish physiology and NHE proteins.

During his 24-year career at Georgia Southern, Claiborne has garnered \$3 million in funding from the NSF to support research and student training at the University and at Mount Desert Island. Seventeen students, ranging from high school to the post-doctoral level, were supported by NSF funds to train in his laboratory between 2001 and 2005.

In 2003, Claiborne became the most recent recipient of Georgia Southern's John Olin Eidson Presidential Award. The \$5,000 prize recognizes general excellence over a sustained career of teaching, scholarship and service at the University.

For more information on Claiborne and his research, visit <http://www.bio.georgiasouthern.edu/claiborne>