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Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music Newsletter

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FRED AND DINAH GRETSCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

FROM THE CHAIR

As I assume my new role as Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, I want to take a few minutes to thank everyone at Georgia Southern (faculty, staff, students) and the communities of Statesboro, Savannah, and Hinesville for the opportunity to lead the Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music these past eight years. They have certainly been eventful years. We've had a consolidation with Armstrong State that was painful for everyone. We've had multiple rounds of budget cuts. And we've had the COVID pandemic. We've also had five different presidents in my time here.

And, yet, despite the obstacles, the Gretsch School of Music has more faculty, more students, and more money in the bank than when I arrived. Several faculty members have been transitioned from part-time to full-time positions. Others have been moved from temporary jobs to permanent ones. Still others have moved into new, more satisfying roles. We have five more full professors now than we did then.

We have a brand new degree program in Music Industry. From the perspective of Statesboro, we saved the Composition degree and resurrected the Bachelor of Arts degree. And, of course, Fred and Dinah Gretsch have brought their international reputations to Georgia Southern.

To Fred and Dinah Gretsch, my heartfelt thanks for the years of friendship. You have done so much great work throughout your lives for music and music education; I'm sure that Georgia Southern will live up to the responsibility of protecting and expanding your legacy.

To the students of the Gretsch School of Music, thank you for all of your kindness and inspiration. You've done great things, and will do more great things in the future. I've enjoyed being with you enormously.

To the faculty and staff of the Gretsch School, you have my admiration and gratitude. Your talent and dedication are truly remarkable, and it has been an honor to be associated with you.

To our patrons, my thanks to you for the support you give our students and faculty, both financial and spiritual. You sustain them and make their efforts so much more meaningful.

To President Marrero, Provost Reiber, Interim Dean Kraft, former Dean Ricker, all of my fellow chairs and directors, and all of the staff and faculty at Georgia Southern, there are no words to express my gratitude for everything you have done for me and the Gretsch School in these last eight years. It has been a pleasure to be part of this University for a short time in a crucial period; thank you all.

Hail Southern!

Steven A. Harper

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