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Auditions for "Erk Russell Project" set for Aug. 19

AUGUST 6, 2007

Most people who live in Statesboro know about the legendary Erk Russell. They've seen the game day footage, the newspaper stories and the Internet sites. But how many people knew the man?

"Through the process of oral history, our goal is to interpret for posterity the true legacy of Erk Russell," said Rebecca Kennerly, an assistant professor of communication arts at Georgia Southern University and co-director of a unique 18-month project that will result in a play about the late coach.

"He really sparked the Statesboro community's energy and growth. We want to talk to the people who knew Erk and who were, and continue to be, significantly affected by his life."

Kennerly and her co-director, playwright Scott Garner, introduced the idea of "The Erk Russell Project" to the community earlier this summer and found many people interested in participating.

They will take the project to the next step when they hold auditions at the Averitt Center for the Arts on Sunday, Aug. 19, in two sessions, from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The auditions are open to any member of the community, and participants are asked to stay for the entire session.

"Because we are creating a performance that is based on oral histories gathered by participants, our audition process will reflect those skills," said Kennerly. "Auditions will involve working with another person, talking about Erk, writing interview questions, practice listening, practice watching, and using vocal indicators, gestures, movements and a variety of postures. This is a unique and fun audition that will give a taste of the actual oral history process."

Initial development of "The Erk Russell Project" was funded by a grant from the Georgia Council on the Arts. The project director will continue to apply for other grant support.

Participants have begun the process of gathering stories, and Garner has posted a blog about the project that includes some great video and encouragement for everyone especially men ages 18-50 to participate in auditions. Garner's blog is at <http://erkplay.blogspot.com>.

Between Aug. 19 and Dec. 2, the researchers/performers selected for the project will conduct oral history interviews that will be performed in a "staged reading" at the Averitt Center on Sunday, Dec. 2. The Dec. 2 performances will provide the basis for a fully staged production about Russell that will be performed in the fall of 2008.

'The Erk Russell Project' and the resulting stage production are produced by the Averitt Center's STARS community theatre volunteers in conjunction with Georgia Southern, and it has the support of the Russell family.

For questions about the project or the Aug. 19 auditions, call the Averitt Center at (912) 212-2787.

University set to begin new academic year

AUGUST 6, 2007

The administration, faculty, staff and students of Georgia Southern University are getting ready for the start of the 2007-2008 academic year.

With that in mind, here is a list of 'back to school' activities that will be taking place on the Statesboro campus during the next few weeks:

Wednesday, Aug. 8

What: Fall Convocation.

Description: This annual gathering of the campus community marks the official beginning of the new academic year. President Bruce Grube will make his annual State of the University address and the Faculty Awards of Excellence will be presented.

Where: The Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building and the Performing Arts Center.

When: A reception will be held from 10 a.m. until 10:40 a.m.; the convocation ceremony itself will begin at 10:45 a.m. and end at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 10

What: Operation Move-In.

Description: More than 3,000 students who will be living on campus will arrive and move into their assigned residence halls. In keeping with a longstanding tradition, various administrators, faculty and staff members from throughout the University have volunteered to give directions, answer questions, and help students and their parents carry boxes to their rooms.

Where: Students will check in at the Recreation Activity Center and then proceed to the 10 residence halls.

When: 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 12

What: Conversations with Professors.

Description: More than 100 faculty members have signed up for this brand-new program, which is designed to promote dialogue between first-year students and the faculty of each college. Each

faculty volunteer will meet with a group of 25 students and engage them in a discussion of the University's academic expectations.

Where: Academic buildings across the campus.

When: 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 13

What: First day of classes.

Where: Academic buildings across the campus.

When: 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

What: House Calls.

Description: In the latest installment of a program that has been recognized by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, teams of administrators and faculty members will welcome first-year students to the campus community by paying personal visits to the students in the residence hall rooms. The 'house callers' will give each a student a packet containing pertinent information and answer any questions the student may have about living and learning on campus.

Where: Residence halls across the campus.

When: 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Ongoing

Welcome Week, an annual series of social activities that greet students as they arrive on campus for the start of the new school year, will run from Friday, Aug. 10, through Wednesday, Aug. 22. For the complete Welcome Week schedule, visit <http://www.eagleentertainmentonline.com>.

Members of the media are invited to cover any or all of these 'back to school' activities.

Campus and community: The tradition continues

AUGUST 6, 2007

Statesboro native Joe McGlamery believes in Statesboro and its people. He recognizes the difference Georgia Southern University has made for his community, so this year he will serve as the 34th chairman of 'A Day For Southern.'

'I grew up on a farm near Statesboro, and I remember when most of the towns around here were similar,' said McGlamery. 'Today I see the huge difference Georgia Southern has made in

Statesboro. The University is an economic development engine that continues to help us grow and thrive.”

This year’s ‘A Day For Southern’ is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 11. On that day, more than 200 volunteers will call on members of the Statesboro-Bulloch County business and professional community for support of both academic and athletic programs.

‘We are enormously grateful to Joe McGlamery for taking the lead in “A Day For Southern’ this year,” said Wendell Tompkins, the University’s director of annual giving. ‘We couldn’t accomplish what we do without the support of our alumni and friends.

“‘Together We’re Better: Campus and Community’ has become the permanent theme of “A Day For Southern.’ ”

‘Over the years, A Day For Southern’ has grown to become a finely tuned, highly organized operation,” said McGlamery. ‘I am pleased to be a part of it, but the day’s success depends on volunteers, who are the life blood of the effort.”

McGlamery is regional vice president of Morris Newspaper Corporation, serving as president of the Statesboro Herald and publisher of Statesboro Magazine. He has held leadership roles in local and regional Kiwanis, the United Way of Southeast Georgia, the Bulloch County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Georgia Press Association, First United Methodist Church, the Georgia Southern University Foundation, and the Ogeechee Technical College Foundation.

He currently serves on the boards of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation and the Georgia Southern University Foundation, and he is founding chairman of the board of trustees of the Bulloch County Foundation for Public Education.

In 1989, McGlamery along with Patsy Bobo organized the Deen Day Smith Service to Mankind Awards, a program that has recognized and honored more than 700 residents of Bulloch County for their service to others.

To learn more about ‘A Day For Southern,” contact Georgia Southern’s Office of Annual Giving at (912) 681-5680.

University welcomes students back to campus

AUGUST 6, 2007

Georgia Southern University’s Welcome Week, the traditional kick-off for the fall semester, will begin on Friday, Aug. 10, with the annual welcome cookout. This year’s theme is “ETV – Tune In To Win.”

"Our various activities provide students an opportunity to connect and make new friends, meet faculty and staff, and get acclimated to the university setting," said Bill Pickett, director of student activities. "This is especially important with our first-year students. We want them to feel like Georgia Southern is their new home and to get them connected immediately."

Following are the activities taking place:

Friday, Aug. 10

"ETV – Tune In To Win" Welcome Cookout, Sweetheart Circle, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy free food, prizes and more. The cookout is open to all Georgia Southern students, faculty, staff and their families.

Saturday, Aug. 11

The film "Accepted" will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Russell Union Theatre. Admission is free. Trivia game show "Think Fast," Russell Union Ballroom, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Built around the concept of team effort, Think Fast is a trivia-based game show. Participants can win prizes and money.

Sunday, Aug. 12

"Eagles Night Out" will be held at the RAC from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Inflatable games, prizes, free food, RAC sporting facilities and more will be available. Enjoy the music of Black Violin from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 13

"Blizzard of Bucks," Russell Union Ballroom, 9 p.m. Blizzard of Bucks, the original crazy game show, is bigger, better and more fun. Contestants will be chosen at random to participate in wild and zany games for a chance to win cash and prizes. The grand prize winner will receive an opportunity to step inside the "Incredible Money Machine" to go for the dough in a swirling sea of green.

Tuesday, Aug. 14

Comedian Jessi Campbell will take the stage in the Russell Union Ballroom from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Campbell will discuss everything from the outrageous emergency room she worked in to the simple things in her life. Her quick wit and fast-paced style keep audiences entertained from the moment she hits the stage.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

The film "Spiderman 3" will be shown on the big screen as an outdoor movie at the Russell Union Rotunda. The movie begins at 8:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the free movie under the stars.

Thursday, Aug. 16

At X-Treme Air, participants can experience the feeling of falling at 120 mph without jumping out of

a plane. X-Treme Air is powered by inverted DC-3 airplane propellers. RAC Pavilion, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Comedian and game show host Grant Edmonds will entertain in a fully interactive, audience-participatory comedy game show where every contestant will win cash. Russell Union Ballroom, 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 17

"Eagles After Dark: Outdoor Laser Tag," RAC Pavilion, 9 p.m. to midnight. Suit up in real laser tag uniforms and guns.

Friday, Aug. 17, through Sunday, Aug. 19

Eagle Entertainment is sponsoring a Welcome Week trip to Busch Gardens and Tampa, Fla. Cost of the trip is \$100 per person and includes a two-day pass to Busch Gardens/Adventure Island Waterpark, transportation by bus, hotel room for Saturday and breakfast at the hotel on Sunday. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at sign-up with the balance due on Thursday, Aug. 16, by 4 p.m. Payment may be made by cash, check, Visa or MasterCard. For more information, or to sign up, contact the Office of Student Activities in Russell Union Room 1058 or call 912-486-7270.

Monday, Aug. 20

"The Price is Right" game show, Russell Union Ballroom, 9 p.m. A scaled down version of the popular game show will allow students to win a variety of prizes.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

"Balloons by Lester and Art by Susan," Russell Union Rotunda, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. He's got some of the best BPM (Balloons per Minute) in the business. She'll paint (almost) anything (almost) anywhere you want. Together they are the best husband and wife novelty team in the business.

Wednesday, Aug. 22

The 2007 Business Expo and Student Organizational Fair will be held outside the Russell Union Rotunda area from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local businesses will be on hand to provide information, coupons and free merchandise. Recognized student organizations will also be there to provide information to students.

Welcome Week is sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Eagle Entertainment.