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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2007). *Newsroom*. 135.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/135>

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Georgia Southern offers study abroad program in Ireland

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

On a recent trip to Ireland, Jane Hudak, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Howard Keeley, director of the Center for Irish Studies, opened doors for a study abroad program at the University of Limerick. Beginning this fall, Georgia Southern University students will be able to cross the Atlantic and take classes in what is often referred to as 'Earth's most global country.'

'The University of Limerick is one of the newest universities in Ireland, formed by joining a teachers' college and a technical school,' said Keeley. 'Located on the campus of the 650-acre National Technology Park, it is home to the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, and it has an Olympic-grade sports complex. It's an ideal location for study abroad, offering programs that interface well with offerings at Georgia Southern.'

Keeley did extensive research on higher education in Ireland before proposing a program with the University of Limerick.

'My goal for the Center for Irish Studies is to develop a sustainable study abroad program that results in long-term relationships,' said Keeley. 'The program will be a greater benefit to our students if they have a classroom and research experience that integrates well with their education at Georgia Southern. The University of Limerick offers that type of experience.'

Keeley emphasized the student-centeredness of the University of Limerick, a facet that mirrors Georgia Southern.

'Students who study there will feel challenged, but comfortable in the environment,' Hudak noted. 'Limerick is a regional university and somewhat rural, but it has excellent student accommodations. There's transportation into the city of Limerick, and it's close to the Shannon International Airport. There's also a high-speed train to Dublin and Cork.'

Because the University of Limerick follows the semester calendar, students can go there for a full semester of study, taking four courses and earning credits that will transfer to Georgia Southern. Students in the program can register [here](#) and use HOPE scholarship funds.

Keeley also noted the recent endowment of the Eddie Ivie Scholarship for Study in Ireland. The scholarship was created by family and friends to honor the memory of a Savannah restaurateur, and concerts are held in Savannah and Statesboro each year to build the endowment and make funds available for Georgia Southern students to study in Ireland.

'Learning from Irish faculty while living among Irish students offers a whole new perspective for students from the U.S.," said Keeley. 'They get a clearer picture of the European Union and a real understanding of how the U.S. is viewed in Europe."

Hudak believes this trip and the exchange of students is just the launching point for growing ties between the Georgia Southern and Ireland.

'Georgia not only shares a strong historical bond with the Irish," said Hudak. 'We share contemporary bonds as well. In the future we expect to strengthen those bonds through educational films, Web sites, and publications that will build on our relationship with Ireland. The study abroad program is a wonderful beginning."

Georgia Library Day

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

The dean of the Zach S. Henderson Library at Georgia Southern University attended Georgia Library Day at the state capitol in Atlanta on Feb. 13. According to Dean W. Bede Mitchell, Georgia Library Day provides librarians with an opportunity to meet with their state legislators and discuss library issues and concerns.

The annual event is sponsored by the Georgia Library Association, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology, and the Georgia Library Media Association.

Brad Paisley to perform at Paulson Stadium April 27

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

Music will again fill the air at Georgia Southern University's Paulson Stadium on Friday, April 27, at 8 p.m. when Georgia Southern and Hershey's presents the Brad Paisley 'Bonfires & Amplifiers Tour.'" Opening for Paisley are Jack Ingram, Kellie Pickler and Taylor Swift.

Paisley currently appears on the Billboard Country Charts with the song 'She's Everything" from his latest album 'Time Well Wasted.'" At the 2006 Country Music Association (CMA) awards show, Paisley walked away with the Musical Event of the Year award and Album of the Year.

He also has four albums that have been certified Platinum or Double Platinum and five CMA wins since the release of his first album. With all of these accolades to his credit, Paisley enjoys performing and his fans. "When I sit down with the guitar to write a song, or when going into the recording studio, the focus is really one thing," he said. "How will this song work on stage night after night? I think about that every time I write something and every time I record a song. We want to take them [the audience] on a musical ride that has a lot of different emotions and textures to it."

Before entering the world of country music, Ingram studied psychology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His first single, "Wherever You Are," went to number one on all the charts and his cover version of the rock song "Lips of an Angel" appears on the Billboard Country Charts in the top 25.

Pickler may be best known for appearing on the fifth season of "American Idol" where she landed in the top 12 and finished sixth in the competition. Her certified-gold debut album, "Small Town Girl," and single, "Red High Heels," are climbing the Billboard Country Charts.

At the age of 16, Swift released her self-titled debut album. Her Web site describes her hit single "Tim McGraw" as "a ballad describing the way music can evoke the sweetest of memories."

Tickets for the concert are \$25 for Georgia Southern students (a limit of four tickets per ID) and \$35 for all others (limit four). University students can purchase tickets with field access Monday, Feb. 26, through Friday, March 2. Following these dates, University students can continue to purchase tickets, however seating will be in the stands. University faculty and staff members may purchase tickets beginning Saturday, March 3. General public tickets sales will begin Monday, March 26. Tickets will be sold at the University Store and via www.etix.com. Tickets are also available by calling 800-514-3849.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 912-486-7270.