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Georgia Southern students and professor perform at Carnegie Hall May 19

MAY 1, 2007

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Go to Georgia Southern University and practice.

Rod Caldwell, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Georgia Southern, will travel with eight students to New York City later this month to conduct the Faur Requiem at Carnegie Hall. In New York, Caldwell will lead the New England Symphonic Ensemble and an honor choir composed of more than 150 singers from across the country.

“In addition to performing a major monument of music, our students will have the experience of singing in one of America’s major concert halls,” said Caldwell. “Two of Georgia’s best high school choirs from Starr’s Mill High School and Houston County High School will also be there, so we’ll have an opportunity to show them the tremendous musical education available at Georgia Southern.”

The invitation to perform in Carnegie Hall came from a production company representative who had seen Caldwell and his students at a conference performance several years ago. When they contacted Caldwell, he was delighted to participate.

The group will arrive in New York City on May 16 with time to prepare for the May 19 performance.

Composer Gabriel Faur (1845-1924) completed the Requiem in 1890. He worked as a teacher, choirmaster and music critic in addition to composing. Carnegie Hall, located in midtown Manhattan, is renowned among musicians for its beauty, history and acoustics.

Georgia Southern’s Music Department has 138 undergraduates who have declared a music major. The department offers a B.A. in Music; a B.M. in Composition, Music Education, and Performance; and a M.M. with emphases in Music Education, Music Technology, Composition, or Performance. Student can also choose a minor in music to complement other academic programs.

More information about Georgia Southern’s Music Department is available at

<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/music/>.

Georgia Southern’s 2007 graduates a unique group

MAY 1, 2007

Georgia Southern University will have 2,344 degree candidates at the University’s spring 2007 commencement Saturday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. in Paulson Stadium.

The candidates include 1,855 undergraduates and 489 graduate students. Among the undergraduates, 55 percent are female.

However, those 2,344 graduates will earn 2,376 academic degrees. How can that happen? Among all those graduating, 32 will receive two degrees instead of the usual single degree.

Although the graduates come from 25 different states, 94.7 percent are native Georgians. Among undergraduates, more than 96 percent are from Georgia.

This class is proof that higher learning happens at any age. The youngest person graduating with a bachelor's degree is 19, and the oldest is 57. The average age for this year's Georgia Southern graduate is 24.

This year Georgia Southern will award 79 doctoral degrees, and 77 of those will be to Georgians. Three-quarters of the doctoral candidates are female, and the youngest of those candidates is 30.

As is usual, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences has the largest number of graduates with 582, followed closely by the College of Business Administration with 488, the College of Health and Human Sciences with 455, the College of Education with 445. The College of Science and Technology will graduate 270 and the College of Information Technology, 72. The newest unit, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, will graduate 18 students with a Master's in Public Health.

Georgia's Lt. Governor Casey Cagle will give the commencement address at this year's ceremony. Georgia Southern's student radio station, WVGS-FM 91.9 'The Buzz,' will serve as the central communication point for anyone traveling to the Statesboro campus for commencement. 'The Buzz' will provide ongoing traffic and parking information

For more information about commencement, go to <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/commencement/>.

Screws opens senior exhibition May 14 at Averitt

MAY 1, 2007

Georgia Southern University Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate Jason Screws will open his senior exhibition, *Optic*, Monday, May 14 in the Legends Gallery of Statesboro's Averitt Center for the Arts. A reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, the exhibition will continue through Friday, May 18.

Screws is a native of Atlanta and graduated from South Gwinnett High School. As a student in the Department of Art, Screws has concentrated his studies in photography. His vocational goal is to become a wildlife filmmaker. *Optic* is a photography-video based installation that creates an interaction between viewing and being viewed. Screws writes, 'My work began from a fascination with eyes and turned into an exploration of that fascination. This work is made to confront the audience in order to provide a feeling or a thought about their world that may not have been experienced before.'

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The Averitt Center for the Arts is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gallery programming in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art is supported by Georgia Southern University Student Activity Fees. For more information, contact the artist at jscrew23@yahoo.com.

Georgia Southern art students study in Vietnam May 16-31

MAY 1, 2007

Nine Georgia Southern art students will travel to Vietnam May 16-31 to immerse themselves in the culture of Vietnam and produce a body of artwork that is representative of their Vietnamese experience. The two courses they will take during their journey and immediately after will culminate in an exhibition at the Legends Gallery of Statesboro's Averitt Center on Friday, June 22, beginning at 7 p.m.

'When I told my dad I wanted to travel to Vietnam, he wasn't enthusiastic,'" said James Bentley, a senior photography major from Tucker, Ga., who will be making the trip. 'Like many Americans, he thought of the Vietnam of the 1960s and 70s during the war. But today's Vietnam has a growing economy and a changing population. In fact, they just joined the World Trade Organization in January 2007. I've done readings and videos to prepare myself, and I am looking forward to the experience.'

The student travelers will take a course titled 'Visual Culture of Vietnam,' looking at Vietnamese art in relationship to its audiences and environment. Prior to departure, the students and faculty will meet to orient themselves to the culture and review what is expected in the course. For the second course, 'Studio Exploration Abroad,' students will create a series of artworks based on their direct experience in Vietnam. While there, students will work daily with faculty to determine the scope and concept of their creative work.

'We've already begun to meet about their projects, because we want the students to be prepared when they arrive in Vietnam,' said Jeff Beekman, assistant professor of art, who will travel with the students. 'They are mapping,' or creating a proposal, for the work they want to accomplish there. In the transition from studio to environment, it's important to have systems in place to collect raw materials to take back to the studio.'

Beekman and colleague Megan Jacobs, also an assistant professor of art, developed the two study abroad courses and planned the trip with support from Georgia Southern's Center for International Studies, which helped with the logistics of the trip. Two other faculty members, Jessica Hines and Marianna Depetris, will also travel with the students.

The students' itinerary takes them from Atlanta to Seoul, South Korea, to their final destination, Ho Chi Minh City, where there is a thriving contemporary art scene. They will also visit Hanoi, Vietnam's capital for more than a thousand years and home to the Vietnamese National History Museum, the

National Museum of Ethnology, the National Museum of Fine Arts and the Revolution Museum. They will spend a day at the 'Little Rose' shelter, an orphanage for girls 12-18, where they will deliver art supplies.

'My mother teaches at Nevils Elementary School, and she has organized a drive to get donations of art supplies for us to take to the children there,' said Kimberly Kaiser of Statesboro, a senior art student who will travel with the group.

Wei Wang, another of the student travelers, lived in China for his first 15 years. He moved to Atlanta eight years ago and is excited to return to Asia.

'I will be looking for the similarities between Vietnam and China, and expecting to see some similarities from my childhood,' he said. 'I also want to see the reaction of the Vietnamese to the American students. On many levels, this will be a great learning experience.'