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Georgia Southern University will hold Fall 2007 commencement on Dec. 7

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

Georgia Southern University will hold its fall commencement ceremonies Friday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. in the Hanner Fieldhouse, Highway 67 and Herty Drive. Degrees will be awarded to 998 undergraduate students and 263 graduate students, for a total of 1,261 graduates.

The fall commencement brings the University's total number of graduates for the 2007 calendar year to 3,173, up from 2,950 in 2006.

Three ceremonies will be held to accommodate graduates and their families, and the College of Graduate Studies will present master's and doctoral degree candidates at all three ceremonies. The 9 a.m. ceremony will include graduates from the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and International Studies. Speaker for the ceremony will be Georgia's 12th District Congressman, John Barrow.

The 11 a.m. ceremony will include graduates of the College of Business Administration, the College of Information Technology, and International Trade. Speaker for the ceremony will be Joseph W. Alsop, co-founder and CEO of Progress Software Company.

The 1 p.m. ceremony will include graduates of the College of Education, the College of Health and Human Sciences, and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health. Speaker for the ceremony will be Trey Carter, president and CEO of Acadia Healthcare.

The fall commencement ceremonies will be available via a live Webcast on the Internet. The video will be available December 7 on the Georgia Southern Web site at <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu>. A test broadcast will be available 30 minutes prior to each commencement and the actual broadcast will begin a few minutes before the start of each ceremony.

For more information on Georgia Southern University's Fall 2007 Commencement, visit <http://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/commencement>

Engineering students promote science to members of local Girl Scout troop

NOVEMBER 29, 2007

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) promotes engineering as a desirable career option for females.

Girl Scouts of America is devoted to helping girls build character and skills for success in the real world.

These two organizations and their stated goals overlapped recently when a group of students from the Georgia Southern University section of the SWE attended a meeting of Girl Scout Troop 064.

In an effort to increase the girls' interest in science and technology, the University students helped the troop perform a series of experiments that described several basic scientific principles.

Fifteen scouts in grades four through six participated in the event, which was held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 27, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Highway 67 in Statesboro.

"We wanted to do something to get these girls excited about science and technology," said Shonda Bernadin, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology at Georgia Southern and the advisor for the SWE section at the University.

"Studies have shown that there has been a declining interest among American students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, but we want the girls to know about all of the possibilities that exist for them."

SWE was represented at the Girl Scout meeting by Jaklyn Edelstein, a mechanical engineering major from Fayetteville, Ga.; Mwanje "Mo" Kiggwe, a chemical engineering major from Duluth, Ga.; Randall Ricketson, a civil engineering major from Locust Grove, Ga.; and Laura Settle, a mechanical engineering major from Richmond Hill, Ga.

Together, Bernadin and the Georgia Southern students helped the Girl Scouts perform the following experiments:

- Deep Sea Divers – the principles of flotation, air pressure and density were introduced during this activity. Using balloons, paperclips and weights, the girls built their own divers and placed them in a one-liter bottle. This session also included some measurement and data collection.
- Night and Day – each girl created her own model of the earth, which spun on its axis and changed its seasonal position relative to the sun. The girls observed the cause-and-effect relationship that these movements have on days and nights, years and their lives.
- Periscopes – this activity introduced the girls to the basic properties of reflection. After experimenting with mirrors that reflected geometric shapes and symmetrical words and images, each girl constructed her own periscope and figured out how to apply the tool.
- The Lighthouse – the girls built lamp assemblies, created their own lighthouses, and then studied the behavior and properties of the emerging rays of light. The experiment included the reflection, refraction and convergence of the light rays.

"These experiments helped to reinforce the girls' knowledge of science by providing a fun and exciting atmosphere for learning," Bernadin said. "The girls did a great job in performing their experiments, and the student leaders were excellent in engaging the girls, guiding them through the experiments and explaining the main concepts."

"We were thrilled to have the Georgia Southern students do this for us," said Louise Fechter, the leader for Girl Scout Troop 064. "We are trying to bring up strong girls, and increasing their interest in science is one way of helping them reach their potential."

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers more than 120 degree programs serving nearly 17,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's,

master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University, one of Georgia's largest, is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars and is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.