

Newsroom

September 10, 2007

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2007). *Newsroom*. 245.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/newsroom/245>

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USG creates Need-Based Scholarship

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

At their recent annual meeting, the trustees of the University System of Georgia Foundation, Inc. approved a new Need-Based Student Scholarship Program for University System of Georgia (USG) institutions. Because it has a high number of students eligible for Pell grants, Georgia Southern University is among the first of the institutions to receive a scholarship from this program.

“More than 28 percent of our students qualify for the Pell Grant, a federal indicator of financial need,” said Georgia Southern University President Bruce Grube. “I am pleased to see that the USG Foundation’s Board of Trustees has initiated this program, and I expect that as we see evidence of its success, the Need-Based Scholarship Program will continue.”

The scholarship developed by the USG Foundation will cover tuition and mandatory fees for one student for four years. Criteria for the scholarship was set by the Board of Trustees.

To be eligible for the Need-Based Scholarship, a student must be a Georgia resident and a freshman in the fall of 2008. They must have a high school grade point average between 2.5 and 2.9, demonstrate financial need through eligibility for a Pell grant, and not be eligible for the HOPE scholarship.

To learn more about this and other scholarships at Georgia Southern University, contact the Office of Admissions at <http://admissions.georgiasouthern.edu/>

Irish variety concert Sept. 18

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

The Center for Irish Studies at Georgia Southern University is sponsoring the second annual “Gael of Music” variety concert Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Emma Kelly Theater at the Averitt Center for the Arts in downtown Statesboro. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Eddie Ivie Scholarship for Study in Ireland.

“A noted Savannah chef and restaurateur, the late Eddie Ivie had a passion for Ireland, especially its poetry and music,” said Howard Keeley, director of the Center for Irish Studies and assistant professor of literature and philosophy. “All of the performers are donating their time and talents for the evening. It’s phenomenal that they are willing to do this because they believe in us.”

The show will be hosted by Harry O’Donoghue, who is no stranger to the Georgia Southern, Statesboro and Savannah communities. He has anchored Irish Folk Music Nights in Statesboro for a decade and uses his wit to bring the spirit of Ireland to life in music that appeals to people of all ages.

The headline performer is Mary Courtney, an expert on the guitar and bodhran. Courtney hails from a family distinguished in the performance of traditional Irish music. She and her band, Morningstar,

include much from that rich legacy in their repertoire, but also showcase contemporary ballads and topical pieces.

Also scheduled to appear are: Frank Emerson, folk vocals and guitarist; Colleen Settle, fiddle; Bobby Hendrix, uilleann pipes; Stephen Faulk, classical tenor; Butch Elmgren, spoken word; and the Irish dancers of Savannah.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for students, senior citizens, active military and children under 13 and \$12 for all others. They may be purchased by calling the Averitt Center Box Office at 912-212-ARTS or Rebecca Malott in the Department of Literature and Philosophy at 912-681-5471. Ticket requests may also be sent to irish@georgiasouthern.edu.

The Eddie Ivie Scholarship for Study in Ireland is open to any Georgia Southern University student, regardless of major. The scholarship is for study abroad to the University of Limerick in Limerick, Ireland.

Unity Fest to be held Sept. 13

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Georgia Southern University will hold the fifth annual Unity Fest on Thursday, Sept. 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) Pavilion and Bandshelter. The event will include free food, entertainment, music, giveaways and showcases from student organizations in celebration of diversity as a campus and as a community.

"The objective of this program is to gather the campus community in a safe environment to embrace our differences and celebrate our commonalities in order to achieve awareness and appreciation," said Consuela Ward Pender, director of the Multicultural Student Center.

Many on-campus groups and local businesses are sponsoring the event. Campus organizations include Gay Straight Alliance, National Black Law Student Association, African Student Association, National Council of Negro Women, Kappa Alpha Psi, Black Student Alliance, National Association of Black Accountants, NAACP, Minority Advisement Program, United Caribbean Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Voices in Ministry, Eagle Entertainment, True Worshipers, Gamma Sigma Sigma, Phi Sigma Pi, A.A.L.G., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Hispanic Student Association and Delta Sigma Pi.

Corporate sponsors of Unity Fest are Coca-Cola Bottling, Pizza Hut, Quizno's, Enmark, Hackers Golf Park, Waffle House, University Store, Papa John's, Starbucks, 91.9 The Buzz and Carmike Cinema.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Student Center at 912-681-5409.

AJC Editor Bert Roughton Jr. to present Fries Lecture Sept. 26

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Bert Roughton Jr., managing editor of the print version of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, will visit Georgia Southern University Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 7:30 p.m., to present this year's Norman Fries Distinguished Lecture. His presentation, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Performing Arts Center, corner of Chandler and Plant Roads.

In addition to discussing his experiences as a working journalist for more than three decades, Roughton will explore the role played by newspapers and other traditional media in today's digital world.

Roughton began his college career at Georgia Southern University in 1973. He moved to Beirut in 1974 and attended the American University of Beirut in 1975, studying economics and comparative political systems. He returned to Statesboro, but eventually transferred to Georgia State University in 1977. He began his career in 1979 at *This Week in Peachtree City* and was hired by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1981.

A working journalist for three decades, Roughton has spent most of his career as a reporter covering everything from routine school board meetings to major plane crashes, war and the business and politics of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

In 1997, Roughton won an AP first-place award for a series of stories on how well-connected consultants influenced real estate development in metro Atlanta. In 1998, he was posted to the London Bureau of Cox Newspapers, the chain of more than 30 papers that includes the AJC. While based in London he covered many topics including the troubles in Northern Ireland, the war in Kosovo, and Europe's shift to a single currency, the Euro. He also wrote about the children orphaned by Africa's AIDS epidemic, a project that merited a prestigious National Headliner Award in 2000.

In 2003 Roughton was named Metro Editor and placed in charge of the largest local news staff in the southeast. Named managing editor of the AJC in February 2007, he is responsible for determining the newspaper's content and presentation and is playing a key role in reinventing the newspaper to compete in the digital age.

The Norman Fries Distinguished Lectureship Series began in 2001. It is funded by an endowment in honor of the late Norman Fries, who was the founder of Claxton Poultry. In his more than 50 years in business, Fries built the company from a one-man operation into one of the nation's largest poultry production plants.

Planetarium will have four presentations this fall

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Whether you're an experienced star-gazer or completely new to the fascinating world of astronomy, the Georgia Southern Planetarium has something that will pique your curiosity this fall.

The Planetarium will host a series of entertaining and informative presentations that are free and open to the general public.

The schedule includes:

- 'Dawn: Mission to the Asteroid Belt' will be held on Friday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. JPL Solar System Ambassador Becky Lowder will preview the upcoming launch of Dawn, a NASA spacecraft that will investigate Vesta and Ceres, two of the largest protoplanets in the main asteroid belt. NASA bookmarks and paper spacecraft models will be available while they last.
- 'Finding the Smallest Galaxies in the Universe with Arecibo, the World's Largest Radio Telescope' will be held on Friday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sarah Higdon, an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Physics at Georgia Southern, will discuss how scientists locate dwarf galaxies.
- 'Gravity Probe B – Testing Einstein's Universe' will be held on Friday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Daniel Jones, an instructor in the Department of Physics, will provide an update on the NASA mission that seeks to address a question of fundamental physics in the new millennium.
- 'Holiday Skies' will be held on Friday, Nov. 30, at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Planetarium intern Morgan Carswell will host a festive evening of lights under the stars and show guests how they can enjoy the view from their own backyards during the holiday season.

Star shows and telescopic viewing will follow every presentation. Free star and moon maps will be available following the Oct. 5, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30 presentations.

The Georgia Southern Planetarium is located on the University campus in the Math/Physics Building, across Herty Drive from Hanner Fieldhouse. For more information, visit <http://cost.georgiasouthern.edu/planetarium/index.html> or call the Department of Physics at (912) 681-5292.

New season at Performing Arts Center will open with Roy Clark concert on Sept. 28

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

The 2007-2008 season of the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Georgia Southern University will open with a concert by one of America's most popular and talented artists.

Country music legend Roy Clark will perform at the PAC on Friday, Sept. 28, at 7:30 p.m.

A critically acclaimed guitar player and long-time member of the Grand Ole Opry, Clark has been named Entertainer of the Year by both the Academy of Country Music (ACM) and the Country Music Association (CMA).

He also served as co-host of the wildly popular 'Hee Haw' television show for more than two decades.

Tickets for the Roy Clark concert are \$35 per person for the general public. Georgia Southern faculty, staff and students will receive a \$5 discount for each ticket.

In addition, if any tickets are available 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the performance, any Georgia Southern student with a valid University I.D. can purchase one ticket for \$10.

Clark is one of the most highly decorated musicians in the history of country music. He is a four-time winner of the Picker of the Year award as determined by the *Playboy* Magazine Reader's Poll, and a three-time winner of the Instrumentalist of the Year award presented by the CMA.

On two separate occasions, Clark was part of the CMA Instrumental Group of the year, and he was recognized as Lead Guitar Player of the Year by the ACM. He also has a Grammy Award to his credit.

In addition, Clark is a three-time winner of the ACM Comedy Act of the Year award for his work on 'Hee Haw.' The first country music artist to guest host for Johnny Carson on 'The Tonight Show,' he was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 1987.

Clark is a member of the Gibson Guitar Hall of Fame, the Las Vegas Entertainers Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

The PAC is located on the Georgia Southern campus at the corner of Chandler Road and Plant Drive. The box office is open every Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The box office is also open one hour prior to the start of each performance.

To purchase tickets or obtain additional information, call (912) 486-7999 or toll free (866) PAC-ARTS, or visit the PAC Web site at <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/pac>

Susan G. Komen for the Cure in Statesboro Sept. 27

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Georgia Southern University will host Susan G. Komen for the Cure's community education and outreach tour, *Komen on the Go*, on Thursday, Sept. 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the rotunda of the Russell Union Building. The tour is a nationwide initiative delivering life-saving breast health information to all generations of women. It is open to both the University and Statesboro communities.

The pink trailer that carries *Komen on the Go* converts into an interactive learning center. This fun, hands-on experience features computer kiosks, breast cancer educational materials, breast self-examination (BSE) guides, information on how to volunteer locally, registration cards for the Komen Race for the Cure, tips on supporting loved ones facing breast cancer and an eight-foot 'graffiti wall' for students to share a memory or pledge their personal support in the cause to end breast cancer.

Local breast cancer survivors and health care professionals will be on hand to share their experiences and knowledge.

"We are delighted to have *Komen on the Go* visit Georgia Southern, because we have a very special tie to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization," said La'Shanda Johnson, assistant director of the University's Health Services. The President and CEO of the organization is Hala Moddelmog, a Georgia Southern graduate and chair of University's recent Campaign for National Distinction. At last spring's commencement, the University awarded her an honorary doctorate in recognition of her lifetime of accomplishments in both the business and nonprofit worlds."

The tour stop at Georgia Southern University is one of more than 150 stops for *Komen on the Go* and one of the few stops in Georgia. The tour is traveling across the nation to heighten awareness of breast health and breast cancer and to drive a deeper commitment from women to choose everyday health habits that reduce their risk for the disease.

For more information visit www.komen.org/go, contact La'Shanda Johnson at ljohnso2@georgiasouthern.edu, or call Health services at 912-681-5641.

Community banks in southeast Georgia compare favorably to state and nation

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

The growth and profitability of community banks in southeast Georgia compare favorably to statewide and national community bank averages, according to the *2006 Annual Performance Review of Georgia Southeastern Region Community Banks*. This result is one of the 12 key

highlights listed in the executive summary of a new study developed by the Center for Excellence in Financial Services at Georgia Southern University.

The review includes data from 33 banks in 14 counties, most located in the region defined as Division One of the Community Bankers Association of Georgia. While the banks vary in assets, income, and number of branches, they are all located in southeast Georgia and generally share a common business model.

“Banks use uniform accounting and reporting practices, and are required to file quarterly financial performance reports with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,” explained Edward Sibbald, BB&T Executive in Residence in Banking in the College of Business Administration, who developed the report. “This commonality and public access to the reports made it possible to gather the necessary data and create the statistical tables comparing the southeast Georgia community bank group with community banks in Georgia and nationwide.”

“The information provided in this report is publicly available, but few banks have the resources to create an in-depth study like this,” explained Sibbald, who has 34 years of leadership experience in financial services in New York, Chicago and Atlanta. Sibbald credited financial analyst Molly Butler, who will graduate from Georgia Southern in December, with extensive work in gathering the data.

“This report presents information in the way bankers want to see it,” said Sibbald. “Management and members of each bank’s board of directors can understand it, and it covers all the meaningful ratios that bankers use.” Sibbald added, “This document is a value-added service that Center for Excellence in Financial Services can provide to support the decision-making of regional bankers.”

Bankers have responded favorably to the new report.

Community members present bronze bust of Coach Erk Russell

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

In a ceremony Thursday afternoon, community members presented Georgia Southern University with a bronze bust cast in the likeness of legendary coach Erskine “Erk” Russell. Longtime friends of Coach Russell dedicated the bust with comments on his extraordinary coaching career and personal attributes. Russell, who coached the Eagles to three national championships, including a perfect 15-0 season in 1989, was the key figure in reviving a sport that had been discontinued on campus during World War II. Russell passed away last September at the age of 80.

“On behalf of Georgia Southern University, our football program and our Eagle fans, I would like to express our deep appreciation for this gift,” said President Bruce Grube. “Coach Russell united the people of this community and exhibited qualities in his life and profession that served as an example to all. The presence of his likeness at Paulson Stadium honors his legacy.”

The sculpture was commissioned by local businessmen, the Eagle players association and community members who appreciated Russell's tenacity on the football field and admired his passion for life. Funding was provided by Park Avenue Bank and the Eagle Football Players Association. Georgia Southern art professor emeritus Pat Steadman created the sculpture, using hundreds of photographs of Russell from personal collections and archives.

'We wanted to ensure that Coach Russell's legacy would forever remain linked to football Saturdays and we presented this beautiful gift to Georgia Southern as a fitting tribute to the man and legend known to all of us simply as Erk," said Bill Olliff, committee chair for the project. 'This will link his traditions to all Eagles, past, present and future, and make sure Georgia Southern fans experience Erk's legacy as part of the game day experience for years to come.'

Family and friends gathered for the presentation of the sculpture at Paulson Stadium, honoring the man who inspired and touched thousands with his humor and no-nonsense approach. Russell, who earned numerous coaching accolades during his eight-year career, including USA Today's Coach of the Decade for the 1980s, posted an 83-22-1 record for a winning percentage of .788. After being named head coach of the Eagles in 1981, Russell fielded a team comprised entirely of walk-on players in 1982. Within three years, Russell would lead Georgia Southern to an improbable national championship in 1985 and a repeat title in 1986, the first back-to-back championships in I-AA. He finished his career riding on the shoulders of his players after the 1989 championship and undefeated, untied season.

The first of two special presentations, the bust will be unveiled to the public in a ceremony prior to the team taking the field for this Saturday's game against West Georgia. At the start of halftime, Georgia Southern has planned a second announcement and presentation to pay tribute to Coach Russell.

Poetry reading to feature Georgia Southern student writer

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Georgia Southern University senior Zachary Bush will read from his two published books of poetry on Friday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at The Book and Cranny, Bookstore, 721 South Main Street, Statesboro.

Bush, a Writing and Linguistics major, is author of *We Swallow(ed) a Spider* (Pudding House Publications, 2007) and *Outside the Halfway House* (Scintillating Publications, 2007). Both books are available at The Book and Cranny. He is co-author of *Next Exit: Four* (Kendra Steiner Editions) which will be released Sept. 25.

The reading is organized by the Department of Writing and Linguistics to support Bush's work and to celebrate the many publications he has achieved during his time at Georgia Southern University.

Author and Professor Martha Pennington, chair of the Department of Writing and Linguistics, describes Bush's poetry as 'bullets of wisdom.'"

Bush, 24, writes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, poetry book-reviews, and literary interviews. He is the new poetry co-editor of Thieves Jargon, an online literary journal. His creative work has been published or is forthcoming in over 30 small press literary journals, e-zines, and one anthology.

After graduating in December, Bush will move to New York City to continue writing, working, and attending a Writer's Workshop to earn an MFA in Poetry.

More information about the Writing and Linguistics major is available at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/writing>