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Georgia Southern University and Willingway Foundation partner to create the Center for Addiction Recovery

APRIL 15, 2008

The month of April has been designated Alcohol Awareness Month by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a unit of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, since 1987 in order to call awareness to alcohol abuse as a treatable disease. That designation takes on greater meaning at Georgia Southern University as the Task Force for the Center for Addiction Recovery continues to develop its focus.

The Task Force for the Center for Addiction Recovery is an interdisciplinary group of Georgia Southern University faculty, Willingway Foundation board members, and representatives of other Statesboro community organizations. They are meeting regularly to develop programs focusing on research, evaluation, and service to members of the Georgia Southern University community who are in recovery from problems with alcohol drug, and other forms of addiction.

The Center for Addiction Recovery is the result of a gift from the Willingway Foundation to the University. The foundation donated an initial gift of \$25,000 per year for three years to create the center, which will help recovering students minimize the risk of relapse during their college experience. The center will offer educational resources, opportunities for faculty and student research, and a way to encourage community-wide partnerships in alcohol education.

‘Many of the patients treated at Willingway Hospital choose to remain in Statesboro, and many of those people end up pursuing higher education,’ said Dr. Robert W. Mooney., medical director of the hospital and a board member of the Willingway Foundation. ‘With this gift, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health can take steps to develop a cutting-edge program that will support those in addiction recovery in the Georgia Southern community.’

Kimberly Coleman, assistant professor of community health and health behavior at Georgia Southern University, is a member of the Task Force. She holds a joint faculty appointment from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health and the College of Health and Human Sciences, two areas of the University that will be involved in operation of the Center for Addiction Recovery. She expects the Center’s first programs and services to be available during the next academic year.

‘The Center for Addiction Recovery will emulate a successful federally funded program currently in place at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas,’ said Coleman. ‘Texas Tech has developed a program model for a recovery community that other colleges and universities can implement and design to fit their particular campus culture. Their research shows that students in the Texas Tech

program are more likely to graduate, carry a higher GPA, and have an overall seven percent relapse rate. This is definitely a good program model to implement at Georgia Southern.”

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. - See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1522#sthash.CVNGPXIZ.dpuf>

Georgia Southern University alumna earns national medal for preservation of one-room school in Bulloch County

APRIL 15, 2008

Schools and historic preservation are primary interests of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, so it is entirely fitting that Jan Brown Anderson, an alumna of Georgia Southern University’s College of Education, was recently presented with the NSDAR’s National Historic Preservation Medal. Anderson received the medal for her preservation of Oak Grove School, one of Georgia’s few remaining one-room schools.

Anderson, a member of the Archibald Bulloch Chapter, NSDAR, accepted the award from State Regent Laura Reid at the convention of the Georgia State Society, NSDAR, held March 27-29 in Athens.

“We were notified of Jan’s award by Terry Price Arnold, national vice president of historic preservation, American Heritage Committee, NSDAR,” said Pat Long, Regent of the Archibald Bulloch Chapter. “This is an exceptional honor. I am so proud that Jan is a member of DAR, and that since the opening and dedication of the school, she has involved the Archibald Bulloch Chapter in the project.” Long serves on the advisory board for Oak Grove School.

In her letter, Arnold wrote “the volunteer efforts of Mrs. Anderson in locating, acquiring, and restoring the school; collecting oral histories of former students of the school; and preserving all for the use and education of youth speak of her indelible contribution in historic preservation and to the field of education.” The State Regent asked that the medal be presented at the state convention’s School Luncheon, an event that focuses on the NSDAR’s involvement with schools and education.

“In presenting the award, the State Regent gave a synopsis of the school renovation project and a description of Oak Grove School, noting how few of these schools have been preserved,” said Long.

To commemorate Georgia Southern University's Centennial, Anderson searched for and found the one-room Oak Grove School and brought it to Bulloch County. Working with experts in history, education, and construction, Anderson has overseen the return of the school to its original condition. She regularly conducts tours and programs for teachers and for student groups, sharing her steadily increasing knowledge of what teaching and learning was like in the days of the one-room school.

Examination of the school shows that the lumber used to build it is hand-hewn. A 1916 survey of Georgia schools shows the school had shutters, not windows, so Anderson had the glass windows removed. She has purchased a flag, slates, marbles, lunch buckets, and other historical items to furnish the room.

'Georgia Southern has a 100-year history of teacher preparation, so it was a good thing to do for last year's Centennial celebration,' said Anderson. 'Now, as I work with Georgia Southern's College of Education faculty to let people know about the one-room school, I am beginning to understand how well it represents the seamless education teachers look for today.'

The College of Education has placed information about Oak Grove School at <http://coe.georgiasouthern.edu/oneroomschool/>. The Web site includes the building's history, documentation, and a series of oral history videos. For teachers planning a field trip to the school, the site includes lesson plans and information on how the Oak Grove School program meets Georgia Performance Standards.

'I am thrilled that Jan Anderson has been recognized nationally for her work on Oak Grove School,' said Cindi Chance, Dean of the College of Education. 'She took on a major project, and she has seen it through in a way that benefits regional students and teachers, the College of Education's pre-service teachers, our faculty, and members of the community. I am very proud to say that she is an alumna of Georgia Southern University's College of Education.'

Georgia Southern University Cheerleaders Win Prestigious National Title; Claim University's First National Cheerleading Championship

APRIL 15, 2008

Georgia! Southern! That's what Georgia Southern University cheerleaders and crowd were chanting as the team was presented with the National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Collegiate Cheer Championship trophy this past weekend in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Competing in the All-Girl Intermediate Division against teams including the University of Georgia, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the University of Florida, the 17-member, all-girl Georgia

Southern University squad took home top honors and a national championship trophy with a score of 8.256.

NCA Nationals are the most prestigious Cheerleading Championships in the country. Each year, teams come together to compete for national titles in a variety of levels and divisions. The NCA national championship competition is held annually and teams must meet a myriad of requirements in order to qualify and compete.

‘This is a tremendous recognition for our team and for Georgia Southern University,’ said Barry Munkasy, cheerleading coach at Georgia Southern University cheerleaders. ‘To compete against some of the top teams in the country is one thing, but to win is a major accomplishment. I am extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and spirit our team showed not only during the competition, but throughout the year.’

During the two-day competition, the team, led by team captain Jessica Armstrong, a junior from Glennville, Ga., was required to perform a two minute, fifteen second-long routine that included stunts, pyramids, a dance, a cheer, tumbling and jumps. Based on its first-day performance, Georgia Southern University entered the finals as the top seed. The team, which consists of nine members who participated as Eagle cheerleaders for the first time during this past year, clinched the title during the second day championship round. Georgia Southern’s winning team includes three juniors, eight sophomores and six freshmen.

‘The entire team worked really hard to prepare for the competition and we hope this is the first of many more to come,’ said Armstrong who is a Child and Family Development major at Georgia Southern University. ‘We are just very proud to be able to bring home the first national cheerleading title for Georgia Southern University.’

The cheerleaders’ championship is the newest addition to a string of national titles for Georgia Southern University.

‘While we have a host of national titles, this is the first cheerleading championship for Georgia Southern University,’ said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern University. ‘We are very proud of our cheerleaders because they are not only outstanding representatives of our University, but they represent the spirit, pride and tradition of this great institution. This is a great day for Georgia Southern University.’

Final scoring results: <http://www.varsity.com/uploads/pdfs/nca/cn/agi.pdf>

The team’s routine was choreographed by Chris White and Chelsie Mitchel of Stingray All-Stars in Kennesaw, Ga. Additional support throughout the year was provided by Keyshia Brunson of Cheer South All Stars here in Statesboro and Shandy Ellis-Brown of Clarksville (TN) Extreme All-Stars.

Championship Trophy Ceremony

President Bruce Grube along with Dr. Teresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management will recognize the team during an official ceremony on Thursday, April 17.

When: Thursday, April 17 at 5:00 p.m.

Where: On the steps of Marvin-Pittman Administration Building on Sweetheart Circle.

The public is invited to attend.

Georgia Southern University

National Championship Team Members

Ashton Speegle

Bethany Burton

Brittany Woody

Brooke Gardiner

Cara Griffin

Caroline Kenrick

Cassi Hobby

Catherine Kimbrel

Janee Demery

Jessica Armstrong

Katherine Pate

Kayla Wheatley

Staci Nemecek

Stefani Smith

Terronique Brown

Tonya Wright

Victoria Strickland

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