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Legal seminar for business people will focus on background and reference checks

APRIL 24, 2008

Business managers and human resource personnel are invited to attend a seminar in Brunswick entitled 'Best Practices in Running Background and Reference Checks.'

The seminar will be held on Tuesday, May 13, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Coastal Georgia Community College.

Part of the Legal Awareness in the Workplace (LAW) series sponsored by Georgia Southern University, the seminar will be taught by Jennifer Dickinson, an attorney from the employment law firm of Hunter, Maclean, Exley and Dunn, P.C.

Dickinson will discuss the Equal Employment Opportunity anti-discrimination law and how it affects a company's pre-hire and post-employment background checks and investigations. The Fair Credit Reporting Act will also be reviewed.

The LAW series will continue with 'Georgia Employment Law' in Savannah on June 24, 'Effective Recruiting, Screening and Background Investigations' in Savannah on July 22, 'Internal Investigations and Documentation, Discipline and Discharge' in Brunswick on Aug. 12, and 'Hostile Work Environment: A Case Review' in Savannah on Sept. 23.

The fee for each seminar is \$69 per person. The fee will be reduced to \$59 for anyone who signs up for three or more seminars, and for groups of three or more people from the same firm.

Each seminar provides 1.5 recertification credit hours for individuals with (Senior) Professional in Human Resources (PHR/SPHR) certification.

Advance registration for any of the seminars may be made by calling Georgia Southern University's Continuing Education Center at (912) 681-5551.

For more information on any of the seminars, visit

<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/lawseminar.html> or contact J. Marie Lutz, SPHR, at seminars@georgiasouthern.edu or (912) 871-1763.

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

Electrical Engineering Technology students build robot for regional competition

APRIL 24, 2008

A group of senior Electrical Engineering Technology students from Georgia Southern University designed and built a robot that was judged among the best entries at a regional robotics competition.

The Georgia Southern students placed 12th out of 50 teams at the "Return to the Moon Robotic Competition" held in conjunction with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE) Region 3 Conference in Huntsville, Ala.

Christopher Donaghue, Lory Gunter, Brendan McGee, Marcus Middleton and Chad Segal conceived and constructed the robot, which navigated and retrieved samples from an imaginary lunar surface.

"This was our first year in the competition, so our team did very well," said Fernando Rios-Gutierrez, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology at Georgia Southern. "In fact, three of our students got job interviews from two companies that were represented at the conference, and they were offered all-expense paid visits to the companies' headquarters in California."

The project began as part of a senior design course taught by Rios-Gutierrez during the Fall 2007 semester. McGee served as the team leader while Donaghue (electronic design), Gunter (program design), Middleton (field design) and Segal (mechanical design) each took charge of a particular phase of the process. They were assisted by other students in the Electrical Engineering Technology program.

Built according to strict guidelines set forth by the IEEE, the robot measured 10 inches long, 10 inches wide and 10 inches high. It was designed to navigate smooth, sandy and pebbled surfaces, and then collect lunar samples represented by two-inch cubes of different colors.

"In the fall, the students built the testing field and the mechanical base, which included the chassis, motors and wheel suspension," Rios-Gutierrez said. "They also designed the electronic interfaces, such as the ultrasonic and infrared sensors that detected obstacles and the moon samples."

As the project continued into the Spring 2008 semester, the students wrote the computer programs, made improvements to the mechanical and electronic systems, and put the robot through a series of tests.

At the Region 3 Conference in early April, the Georgia Southern students were joined by students from colleges and universities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, parts of Indiana, and Jamaica.

‘Our students benefitted from this project in many ways,’ Rios-Gutierrez said. ‘First, they actually use the theoretical knowledge they get from the engineering program in the implementation of a real complex system.

‘In addition, they get the experience of working in a team environment and under a specific time frame and design specification. They also get the confidence of realizing that what they learn at Georgia Southern is on par with more well-known institutions.

‘Finally, the students get the opportunity to network with people from electrical engineering companies that are looking for good prospects to hire.’

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Club Mud Exhibition returns for annual Spring Sale

APRIL 24, 2008

Georgia Southern University’s annual Club Mud Spring Exhibition and Sale will celebrate its 24th year May 1 through May 3. More than 40 undergraduate and graduate art students will exhibit their work in ceramics, porcelain, stoneware, jewelry, small metals, prints and handmade books.

‘Every year Club Mud changes,’ says Jane Pleak, professor of ceramics. ‘We have different students working on different projects and research.’

Consistent from year to year is the opportunity for student artists to show their work, network with the public and earn money. Club Mud, says Pleak, gives art students the opportunity to ‘see what it’s like to become a professional artist.’

Students exhibit and sell artwork they have created over the semester in a variety of courses, from Ceramics, Sculpture and Jewelry Making.

‘The local community really enjoys [Club Mud],’ continues Pleak, ‘They like to support and encourage young artists and, over the years, see the student work evolve and get better.’

This year, Club Mud takes place from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, May 1 and May 2, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 3. Located in and around the Ceramics and Sculpture Studio on 236 Forest Drive, admission is free of charge. The prices of student work will vary.

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Georgia Southern University earns \$50,000 grant to expand international learning opportunities for freshmen

APRIL 24, 2008

Georgia Southern University has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents Office of International Education to develop the Global Citizens Initiative, a required seminar that is expected to increase freshman interest and participation in international programs. Georgia Southern University will pilot the new course in fall semester 2009, with full implementation of the course planned for spring semester 2010.

"Georgia Southern University has always expressed a strong commitment to international education," said Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Once this new course is in place, we will have an academic structure to ensure that all students are exposed to the global experiences, such as study abroad and international internships, that can truly transform their entire undergraduate experience."

"The Global Citizens Initiative will inject global awareness and involvement in international initiatives for our first-year students," said Chris Caplinger, director of First-Year Experience at Georgia Southern. "Following their first-semester seminar focused on first-year experiences, freshmen will enroll for a second-semester seminar focused on the relevance of a global perspective for living and working in the 21st century."

One faculty member from each of Georgia Southern's undergraduate colleges will serve on the team that will implement the Global Citizens Initiative at the institution. The task force, co-chaired by Nancy Shumaker, director of the Center for International Studies, and Caplinger, has already begun to develop objectives and desired learning outcomes for the course. Funding from the grant will support faculty training workshops, course development grants, and cross-cultural educational resources.

"International learning opportunities are a major attraction for top students when considering where to go to college," said Susan Davies, director of Admissions at Georgia Southern University.