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# **ROTC commanding general in Statesboro and Savannah on April 25**

*APRIL 21, 2008*

Georgia Southern University will welcome the commanding general of the national ROTC program on Friday, April 25.

Maj. Gen. W. Montague Winfield will meet with Georgia Southern ROTC cadets on the University campus in Statesboro on the morning of April 25. Later in the day, Maj. Gen. Winfield will travel to Savannah and meet with cadets at Armstrong Atlantic State University and Savannah State University.

The ROTC cadets at Armstrong Atlantic and Savannah State are part of Eagle Battalion, which is based at Georgia Southern.

On the evening of April 25, Maj. Gen. Winfield will be the featured speaker at 'Dining Out,' the annual Eagle Battalion dinner that will be held at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah.

If you are interested in covering any part of Maj. Gen. Winfield's visit, please contact Lt. Col. George Fredrick, the commander of Eagle Battalion, at (912) 681-0042.

# **Georgia Southern University football coach headlines Greater Albany Eagle Club meeting**

*APRIL 21, 2008*

Georgia Southern University Eagles offensive coordinator Rance Gillespie of the football coaching staff will be the featured speaker at the Greater Albany Eagle Club on Tuesday, May 6. The event will be held at Loco's Deli and Pub, 547 N. Westover Blvd.

All Georgia Southern University fans in the greater Albany area are invited to attend. Gillespie will offer his outlook on the 2008 signing class, spring practice and the 2008 season.

The event will feature appetizers and tea for \$7 per person. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 912-478-ALUM (2586).

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.

# Auditions for Erk Russell play set for May 3-4

*APRIL 21, 2008*

The producers of the play that celebrates the enduring impact of legendary Georgia Southern University football coach Erk Russell are ready to cast the play with local men and women.

Auditions for 'A Life Done Right: The Living Legacy of Erk Russell' will be held in two sessions in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Averitt Center for the Arts in downtown Statesboro.

The first session is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m., and the second session is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

According to director Rebecca Kennerly, as many as 25 actors are needed for the play, which will be unveiled with eight public performances in late August and early September.

'All body types, ethnic groups and ages over 18 are welcome to audition,' said Kennerly, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication Arts at Georgia Southern. 'We will be looking for people to portray a variety of characters, including football players and cheerleaders, college students, teachers and administrators, community businessmen and women, and waitress and cooks.'

Based largely on oral histories that are being collected from people who were acquaintances of the late coach, 'A Life Done Right: The Living Legacy of Erk Russell' is a collaboration between the Averitt Center and the Department of Communication Arts.

Averitt Center executive director Tim Chapman developed the concept for the play and recruited Kennerly to facilitate the oral histories portion of the project, for which she received a Faculty Service Grant from Georgia Southern. Scott Garner, the former sports editor of the Statesboro Herald, is writing the script.

Much of script is based on interviews with Russell's family members, friends, fans and former players. Many of those people will be portrayed in the play, a multi-media production that will include videotaped interviews and archived footage as well as actors on stage.

The list of people to be portrayed includes All-America quarterback Tracy Ham; former Georgia Southern president Dale Lick and vice president Perk Robbins, along with faculty members Jane Page and Del Presley; Snooky's restaurant owner and Russell confidant Bruce Yawn; and former Eagle cheerleader Sandra Prince.

The auditions will be 'cold,' which means the actors will have little time to prepare for their readings.

'Each person will be given a section of the script and asked to choose two or three short parts for different characters they would like to read for,' Kennerly said. 'We plan on bringing in groups of three to five people at a time. Each person will audition solo, and then they may be asked to work together as an ensemble.'

'We will take into consideration each person's preference for parts, but we will ask for readings of other characters as well if we think they may be a better fit.'

Rehearsals for 'A Life Done Right: The Living Legacy of Erk Russell' will begin in early July. The play will be performed in the Averitt Center's Emma Kelly Theatre on Aug. 22-24 and Aug. 27-28. The production will move to the Black Box Theater in the new Center for Art and Theatre on the Georgia Southern campus for performances on Sept. 5-7.

For more information, contact Kennerly at [rkennerly@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:rkennerly@georgiasouthern.edu) or (912) 478-7325, or Chapman at [exec@averittcenterforthearts.org](mailto:exec@averittcenterforthearts.org) or (912) 212-2787.

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