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# Georgia Southern University honors two outstanding faculty members in College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

AUGUST 13, 2008



**GEORGIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY**

At its first meeting of the academic year, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS)

at Georgia Southern University honored two outstanding faculty members.

Professor Janice H. Kennedy received the Ruffin Cup, named for and endowed by the late Professor David A. Ruffin, a professor at Georgia Southern from 1962 to 1981. Last year's Ruffin Cup winner, Professor Gary Dartt, presented the award to Kennedy.

Interim CLASS Dean Sue Moore presented the CLASS Award for Excellence to Sonya Huber, assistant professor of creative writing. Both honorees are residents of Statesboro.

The Ruffin Cup is presented annually to a CLASS faculty member who has given distinguished service to the University for at least 10 years and who excels in teaching and service to the students, in scholarship, and in contributions to the spirit of the liberal arts. The award includes funds to enhance teaching and scholarship for the recipient through travel or purchase of new teaching materials.

Ruffin Cup recipient Janice Kennedy, a professor of psychology, has been a faculty member of the University since 1984. In addition to teaching developmental psychology courses from childhood to aging, she has chaired nine master's thesis committees and served on 14 others. Kennedy taught four summers as part of the USG London program. She has authored more than 20 publications and given more than 50 presentations in her discipline. She serves as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the Department of Psychology, and she is a member of both the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society.

CLASS Award for Excellence recipient Sonya Huber is the author of many publications, including the recent 'Opa Nobody,' a family memoir based on extensive research and documentation. Her book tells the story of her grandfather, Heina Buschman, and offers a rare look into the heart of the 'average' socialist trying to survive the Nazis and rebuild a broken world. In addition to teaching composition, creative writing, and creative nonfiction, Huber serves on the University Women's and Gender Studies Committee, the Writing and Linguistics Technology Committee, and the Writing and Linguistics Creative Writing Area Committee. Her courses include the innovative use of blogging, podcasting, and other multimodal approaches, and she received a faculty development award to develop a podcasting station to integrate use of audio into composition and creative writing courses.

Huber won the 2007 Coastal Business, Technology, and Education Alliance (CBETA) Excellence in Education Award in 2007.

The CLASS Award for Excellence is presented to faculty members in their first ten years of college-level teaching who are outstanding in a wide range of activities, including teaching, scholarship or creative activity, service, and advisement.

More information about the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University is available at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu>.

## Operation Move-In to give on-campus residents smooth start to year

*AUGUST 13, 2008*



This weekend, thousands of Georgia Southern University students will be taking their first steps of the 2008-09 academic year. Lots of steps.

The GSU campus will be filled with students in the parking lots, the hallways, and up and down the stairs as they settle in for the new academic year. More than 3,400 students are expected to move into Georgia Southern's eight

residence halls on Aug. 15-16.

The students will have plenty of help, though. In keeping with a Georgia Southern tradition, more than 800 administrators, faculty, students and staff will lend a hand with 'Operation Move-In.'

"Operation Move-In is one of the many student-centered traditions Georgia Southern implements for new and returning residence hall students," said Vickie Hawkins, director of University Housing. "We strive to create a fun and festive, welcoming environment to demonstrate our caring and helpful community."

The volunteers will assist the University Housing staff by greeting students and their parents, directing traffic and even carrying boxes and suitcases from students' cars to their rooms. In the process, the university leaves a lasting impression on the students and their parents.

'Operation Move-In is one way to get the year off to a great start. Meeting the new students and their parents in my cutoffs and t-shirt is a friendly way to start a long-term relationship. In addition, it seems to give the parents some assurance that we both walk and talk' our interest in their students," said Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Students will first report to the Recreation Activity Center (RAC), where they will receive their room keys and other important materials. They will then proceed to their assigned residence halls to complete the move-in process.

Check-in times start at 9 a.m. and are determined by the month students were born. Check-in ends at the RAC at 6 p.m. and it continues in each residence hall from 6:30 to 10 p.m., on both Aug. 15 and 16. Classes begin on Aug. 18.

The Operation Move-In volunteers include representatives from a number of student organizations: Baptist Collegiate Ministries; Black Student Alliance; CCF; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Delta Tau Delta; Equestrian Club; BUILD; Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc.; National Council of Negro Women; Southern Ambassadors; and members of the SOAR team.

## Georgia Southern University Welcomes New Faculty Members

*AUGUST 13, 2008*



**GEORGIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY**

Along with the thousands of students converging on campus for the 2008-09 academic year, Georgia Southern University is welcoming 60 new faculty members.

“This group of faculty is one of the best we have had. Georgia Southern University competitively recruits and attracts not only excellent people, but outstanding professionals from both national and international sources,” said Linda Bleicken, provost and vice president of academic affairs.

Several members of the new faculty are Georgia Southern University alumni. In fact, two of them Jacob Warren (new Ph.D. in Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health) and Bryant Smalley (new Psy.D. in Psychology) were actually roommates as undergraduates.

“Jacob was a member of our first University Honors class and Bryant served as a SOAR orientation leader,” Bleicken said. “When I talked with them, they were very pleased to come back to Georgia Southern.”

Among the 60 faculty newcomers to Georgia Southern are three new department chairs: William Allison (History), Eric Kartchner (Foreign Languages) and Richard Mercier (Music). A fourth department chair, Peggy Hargis in Sociology and Anthropology, was promoted following 14 years as a professor in that department.

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](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).

## Georgia Southern University Holds Fall Convocation

*AUGUST 13, 2008*



According to University President Bruce Grube, the past 10 years have been one of the most active decades in Georgia Southern University's more than 100-year history. As the University prepares for the start of fall classes on Aug. 18, 2008, faculty and staff are preparing to welcome a record number of students.

Georgia Southern University faculty and staff packed the Performing Arts Center Aug. 13 for the Fall 2008 Convocation, signaling the beginning of the new academic year. The University officially welcomed 60 new faculty members and expects to welcome more than 17,000 students, the largest student body in the history of the institution. The expected increase in students comes after the University celebrated its largest ever graduating class this past year. Final enrollment numbers will be made available in late October.

'During the last 10 years Georgia Southern University has undergone the greatest growth in physical facilities in its history and in the quality of academic programs,' said Grube. 'As we turn our focus to

the University's second century, you can feel the excitement on campus, the state and the region. With increased interest from across the country and around the world, we are entering a true era of achievement at Georgia Southern University."

According to Grube, Georgia Southern's growth has been tied to a number of different things including the University's recognition as a Carnegie/Doctoral Research University, its continued focus on its students, an expanding number of innovative programs and a faculty that are not only outstanding teachers, but professionals in their field.

During the 2008 Convocation ceremonies, the University recognized a select group of faculty for their excellence in service, contribution to instruction and research/creative scholarly activity.

### **2008-2009 Faculty Award for Excellence in Service**

Dr. Susie M. Lanier, *Department of Mathematical Sciences*

Dr. Lissa M. Leege, *Department of Biology*

### **2008-2009 Faculty Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction**

Dr. Godfrey A. Gibbison, *School of Economic Development*

Dr. Sharon E. Taylor, *Department of Mathematical Sciences*

### **2008-2009 Faculty Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Scholarly Activity**

Dr. Lance A. Durden, *Department of Biology*

Dr. Karl E. Peace, *Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health*

### **COMING UP:**

On August 15 and 16, members of the University's faculty, staff and administration will mobilize as part of Georgia Southern's traditional Operation Move-In. The University community joins the President and other campus administrators to help freshmen and their parents carry boxes and belongings to their new residence halls.

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