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# Georgia Southern University Upgrades Emergency Message System

*FEBRUARY 7, 2008*

Georgia Southern University today launched EAGLE ALERT, an upgraded emergency messaging system designed to provide students, faculty and staff with immediate updates during emergency situations. The University will use the upgraded system as part of its existing emergency response plan.

The system, which will be mandatory for all students, faculty and staff, is designed to warn students and employees of potential threats or emergencies. "Our goal is to immediately inform the campus community about an emergency and how to stay out of harm's way," said Ken Brown, Director of Public Safety at Georgia Southern University. "This emergency messaging system is just one of the avenues we use to reach the campus community. Other methods include mass e-mail, telephone, local radio and television stations, and the Georgia Southern University Web site."

"E-mail and voicemail can only reach so many people in a short amount of time," said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern University. "Georgia Southern University wants to ensure that we are using any and all avenues to communicate with our campus in the event of an emergency situation. With so many students and faculty and staff carrying cell phones, the addition of text messaging will be a welcomed addition and provide us with yet another means of reaching the campus in an emergency."

Since the April 16, 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, the Office of Public Safety along with administrators at Georgia Southern University have been assessing the institution's own capabilities in dealing with such a situation. "The University initially launched an emergency messaging system last year, but this new system is a significant upgrade providing much more functionality," said Steve Burrell, vice president and chief information officer at Georgia Southern University.

The University will only utilize the emergency message system in three situations life threatening emergencies, severe weather alerts (such as tornado or hurricane warnings) and other crime alerts that fall under the Clery Act. The Clery Act requires University officials to provide timely alerts of crimes that are potential threats to students and faculty members.

"Emergency messaging enhances our ability to contact a large number of people quickly, but no one system is going to reach everyone," said Burrell. "Our goal is to ensure that we are able to reach as many people as possible. The key to the success of the system will be for students, faculty and staff to regularly update their contact information with the University."

In addition to Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff receiving alerts, East Georgia Community College students attending classes on the University's campus will also be added to the list of those that will receive messages.

Students, faculty and staff at Georgia Southern University can update their contact info by going to the MyGeorgiaSouthern (<http://my.georgiasouthern.edu>) page and selecting "EAGLE ALERT." They

may then update their personal contact information through the personal settings area. East Georgia Community College students should ensure their correct contact information is updated through their college office.

The University requires students to update their contact information at the beginning of the semester. Faculty and staff maintain updated contact information through the University's Human Resources department. "The process takes only a couple of minutes, but it's well worth it," said Brown.

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).

## **Poet Richard Garcia reads at Georgia Southern University Feb. 18**

*FEBRUARY 7, 2008*

Richard Garcia, an award-winning poet and author, will read on Monday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. in Room 1115, College of Education Building on the campus of Georgia Southern University. This is the first appearance at Georgia Southern by the San Francisco native and former fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Bringing renowned poets like Richard Garcia to Georgia Southern is important because it gives students a chance to see that poetry is not a stuffy old antique confined to textbooks and classroom study, but a living, breathing, contemporary art with a lot of variety and with meaningful things to say about our world and ourselves," says Professor and Acting Chair of the Writing and Linguistics Department, Eric Nelson.

Garcia has written three books of poetry, each receiving wide critical acclaim. His most recent book, "The Persistence of Objects," was published in 2006. Garcia is the recipient of the Pushcart prize, the Cohen award and has served as poet-in-residence at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. In addition to his writing, Garcia has also served in several teaching roles including positions at the University of Southern California and California State University, Long Beach.

Says Nelson, "Richard Garcia is a terrific poet whose poems are distinctive for their surprising imagination and gentle humor. Some poems are wildly surreal and some are purely literal, but they are always engaging and filled with wonder and compassion."

Prior to his poetry reading at 7 p.m. Garcia will be leading a question and answer workshop with University students at 4 p.m. in Room 2209, Newton Building. Students majoring in Writing and Linguistics are encouraged to attend as Garcia will share candid thoughts on poetry writing.

Both events are free to the public and student body at Georgia Southern University. For more information on Garcia, visit: [www.richardgarcia.info](http://www.richardgarcia.info)

## **Georgia Southern University names Patterson associate vice president for research**

*FEBRUARY 7, 2008*

Charles E. Patterson, Ph.D., has been named to the newly created position of associate vice president for research at Georgia Southern University, where he will support and enhance research at the University. He will also serve as executive director of the Georgia Southern University Research and Service Foundation.

Patterson joins Georgia Southern University from Baylor University, where he spent four years, most recently as assistant director of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

At Georgia Southern, he will serve as a member of the Provost's administrative team and will direct the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs. He will oversee submission and acceptance of grants and contracts; facilitate research opportunities for faculty, staff and students; ensure compliance with federal, state and other agency regulations; and oversee intellectual property activities.

Patterson graduated magna cum laude from Mississippi State University with a B.S. degree in biochemistry. He earned a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He also conducted postdoctoral research at the Southwestern Medical Center.

Patterson is a Certified Research Administrator and a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators.

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