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ArtsFest '08 at Georgia Southern University

April 5

MARCH 31, 2008

Georgia Southern University will host its 26th annual celebration of the arts and arts education on Saturday, April 5, when ArtsFest '08 opens at noon on Sweetheart Circle. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Last year's event brought more than 6,000 visitors to the Statesboro campus.

Under the direction of Julie Kozee, a Georgia Southern alumna who has taken part in ArtsFest for more than a decade, the day's plans include the traditional Art Stops, an Artists' Market, music, and performances by the Curious Moon Puppets. Irish folksinger Harry O'Donoghue will perform at 2 and 4 p.m., and from noon to 2 p.m., three bands will compete in the first annual 'Battle of the Bands.'

'This year's celebration will be a great day for families to come out and enjoy the arts,' said Kozee, a staff member in the University's Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. 'There will be an arts opportunity for everyone, young and old, to take part in and enjoy.'

More than a dozen vendors have registered for the Artists' Market, including Bill Stephens, known as 'The Wood Man,' and photographer Wendy Chambers. Student groups including Club Mud, the Jewelry Guild, the Print and Paper Society, and department's own MFA students will display and sell their work. Olivia Carter will offer 'Bead for Life,' colorful single and multi-strand necklaces, bracelets, earrings, bags, and notecards for sale. The beads, created from rolled paper, are made by Ugandan women as a way of providing food, shelter, and medical care for their families. All proceeds from the 'Bead for Life' sale will be returned to the artists.

Art Stops will include an opportunity for visitors to 'Paint a Pet' for the Humane Society, make cards to support our troops, use clay, paint, and create jewelry using 'Bead for Life' beads.

Visit the ArtsFest Web site at http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/art/arts_fest.html or call 912-478-5358 more information.