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Georgia Southern University Alumna and President and Chief Executive Officer of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Honored

DECEMBER 2, 2009



Georgia Southern University alumna Hala Modellmog, president and chief executive officer of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is the recipient of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Distinguished Alumnus Award. Modellmog is the first alumnus of Georgia Southern University to receive the national award.

Modellmog, who earned her bachelor's degree in English from Georgia Southern University in 1979, joined Susan G. Komen for the Cure in September 2006. As a six-year breast cancer survivor and former Fortune 500 executive, Modellmog has a passion for championing women's issues and community engagement.

"Hala is not only an outstanding alumna of Georgia Southern University, she is a global leader and driving force in the fight to end breast cancer," said Bruce Grube, president of Georgia Southern University. "We are extremely proud of Hala and we are very thankful for her continued commitment to Georgia Southern University."

Modellmog, a former Fortune 500 executive, has been a strong supporter of Georgia Southern University having most recently served as the Chair of the institution's Capital Campaign for National Distinction. With a goal of \$40 million, she led the campaign that ultimately topped \$53 million for the University. She has also served on the Georgia Southern University Foundation Board of Trustees, was named College of Liberal Arts Alumna of the Year in 2000 and was awarded the distinguished Alumna of the Year for the University in 2007.

Prior to joining Susan G. Komen for the Cure, she served as founder and CEO of Catalytic Ventures, a private equity firm that consulted and invested in the food service industry. She was the first woman in corporate America to lead an international QSR brand in 1995 when she was named president of Church's Chicken, a division of Atlanta-based AFC Enterprises. She subsequently led Church's to record sales and profit performance. She also held executive management and marketing positions at Church's Chicken, Arby's Franchise Association and BellSouth.

Globally recognized for innovative leadership and strategic brand development, Modellmog has served on the boards of Leadership Atlanta, the Atlanta Police Foundation, the B.B. King Museum Foundation, and Women Looking Ahead magazine. She is a recipient of the Women's Foodservice Forum Emerging Leader Award, the International Franchise Association Bonny LeVine Award, the Restaurant Hospitality Rising Star Award and the Roundtable for Women in Foodservice Pacesetter Award. In 2003 she received the Women of Achievement Award from the YMCA of Greater Atlanta.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers 115 degree programs serving more than 19,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor, master 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.

The award, one of the Association's highest national honors, was conferred on Nov. 24 at the AACSU's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Research Project Creating Buzz at Georgia Southern University

DECEMBER 2, 2009



Southerners have a reputation for having a sweet tooth. So do the wasps in this part of the country, which is helping a group of Biology Honors students at Georgia Southern University learn more about them.

Eleven students in the Research Methods in Biology course have been participating this semester in an international research project to monitor the behavior and diversity of yellow jackets and hornets. Alan Harvey, associate biology professor at Georgia Southern, is working with the U.S. Geological Survey in the pilot project that involves universities in the

United States, Canada, Great Britain and Czechoslovakia.

"Through this collaboration, we can simultaneously monitor wasp populations over half the planet by coming up with sampling instructions that anyone can follow," Harvey said.

For much of the year in South Georgia, yellow jackets and hornets are protein hunters that keep us from being overrun by pest caterpillars," Harvey said. However, around the start of autumn, the animals boom in population and develop a taste for sweets instead of caterpillars, changing them from pest-controllers to just plain pests.

"If we can come up with a good way to monitor them, we might be able to better identify problem areas and eliminate only the most troublesome nests" Harvey said.

For Georgia Southern's study, students placed 36 traps around campus and another 36 traps at George L. Smith State Park in nearby Twin City, Ga. At both sites, traps were placed in three different habitats a woodland, a sand hill and a recent controlled-burned area.

The traps are half-liter bottles, each containing one of three baits the class tested apple juice, apple cider vinegar, and beer. The Southern species really like apple juice, they're not interested in vinegar, and beer is somewhere in-between. That's different from other parts of the world," Harvey said.

Harvey and the students have been visiting the traps once a week to check on their progress. The traps have captured more than 1,300 yellow jackets, which have been identified and preserved for further study.

"This project is the perfect way to introduce the research methods I want my students to learn, and their findings could wind up being used around the world," Harvey said. "They're making a real contribution."

"Being involved in the project has given me my first real taste of field work, said Jessica Cain, a sophomore from Kennesaw, Ga. "Going through the entire process, from brainstorming how to set up the experiment to actually collecting the yellow jackets to analyzing the data, has been a great experience. As a result, I am now more motivated to get involved in the undergraduate research opportunities at Georgia Southern."

One possible finding, according to Harvey, is that wasps may do the opposite of what many other animals do they may not feed where their nest is. The traps close to nests collected far fewer wasps than did the traps farther from nests.

For example, if you're getting pestered by yellow jackets at the Russell Union, it may not do any good to eliminate the closest nest. Their nest may be 100 yards away, Harvey said.

The U.S. Geological Survey will issue a report on the study once the data from all the participants is collected and analyzed. To see Harvey's field notes and photos of the project, go to

http://www.bio.georgiasouthern.edu/bio-home/harvey/classes/rm_fldnotes.html.

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