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Georgia Southern archer's Olympic dreams come into sharper focus in Ankara, Turkey

APRIL 8, 2016

Georgia Southern student Cassy Pelton, an archer with the Southern Eagles Archery Club, saw her



Olympic dreams come into sharper focus after she placed 33rd in the world at the Ankara 2016 World Archery Indoor Championships in Ankara, Turkey.

Even though she didn't place as high as she hoped, Pelton said the experience helped her understand what it takes to compete on the Olympic level.

"I came back and I was reflecting on the whole experience,

and I was looking at people's scores and how they were shooting and it's not any kind of scores that I've never shot," she said. "So I could shoot 30 — a perfect score — just like the girl next to me can shoot a perfect score. So it's a matter of how often you do it."

Pelton, a junior pre-med major, missed the individual elimination rounds by just one point. In the team rounds, her USA Team faced off against Russia in a tense back and forth 4-4 match that ended in a one-arrow shoot-off. Pelton was the lead archer taking the first shot — one of the most terrifying of her life.

"It was a lot of pressure," she said. "That shot was a nine, and it was frustrating because the only reason it wasn't a 10 — because it felt like a 10 — was that I was shaking too much. But I was up

there thinking, 'I've got to start us off well, and if I don't, then the rhythm for the rest of the end is off.'"

Russia went on to win the shoot-off, and won the bronze medal in the team tournament.

Despite the losses, however, Pelton came home more confident than she left. In Ankara, she faced the best archers from every country in the world, many of whom were Olympians. She was shooting alongside women she'd watched in competition for years, admiring them and aspiring to the level they'd reached.

And during this tournament, she was one of them.

"You know, you dream about going to the Olympics when you're a little girl, and you'd like to do stuff like that, but it just seems so far away," she said. "But then I came back and thought, 'No, that's not really that far away. That's totally attainable.'"

To reach her goal, Pelton says she needs good practice and time. At 21, she was one of the younger archers in the tournament. Many of the best archers in the world are more than 10 years her senior, and have "a lot more shooting under their belt."

For Pelton, the best practice is competition. And even though she returned from Ankara just a few weeks ago, she traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, on April 6 to compete in the United States Archery Team Arizona Cup, the first of the outdoor archery season. The event is her first outdoor competition in the senior division, and will provide her and three other Southern Eagles Archery team members a chance to qualify for the World University Games, which will be held in Mongolia this summer.

The tournament will also be the first in a series of events that will allow Pelton to qualify for the U.S. Archery Team. It's just one more step in realizing her goal to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. After competing in Ankara, she sees that goal much differently.

"The Olympics just seems like another tournament," she said. "I mean a really, really good, really awesome big tournament, but something that I can qualify for because I qualified to make a world team for indoor. I can shoot the same score.

"I just have to do it more."

Center for Sustainability and University Wellness Program host 6th annual No Impact Week

APRIL 8, 2016

The Center for Sustainability and University Wellness Program at Georgia Southern University are teaming up to host the sixth annual No Impact Week on campus April 10-17 with events to highlight a different sustainability theme each day.

Georgia Southern holds the record for the longest running No Impact Week in the country. The Week is designed to help individuals become more aware of how to live a sustainable lifestyle. Numerous exhibits, events and activities focusing on environmentally friendly and healthy practices and habits will be hosted throughout the week. Participants are encouraged to take a 'carbon cleanse' during the week by reducing the CO2 emissions of their actions so they can see how no impact living can affect their lifestyles.

This year's highlighted events include:

- Sunday, April 10 – Consumption Day: 2-5 p.m. Sustainable Solutions Exhibit, Georgia Southern Museum
- Monday, April 11 – Trash Day: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Activities at the Rotunda including a Prescription Drug Drop Off and tie-dying cloth napkins
- Tuesday, April 12 – Food Day: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Campus Farmers Market; 11:20 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Planetarium showings of Life, a Cosmic Story
- Wednesday, April 13 – Transportation Day: Bike to Campus Day (prizes at the Rotunda 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.), Noon Ribbon Cutting for new Electric Vehicle Charging Station at the Parking and Transportation Building
- Thursday, April 15 – Energy Day: Dump the Pump Challenge, 12:15 p.m. at the Rotunda – a race between a bike, a skateboard, a bus rider and a car to the RAC and back; Environmental Community Cinema, Who Owns Water 7 p.m., 1119 Natural Science
- Friday, April 15 – Water Day: Activities at the Rotunda 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sustainability Showcase at the library in the 1st Floor Exhibit space (library open hours all week)
- Saturday, April 16 – Giving Back Day: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spring into Statesboro at 2 East Main St. in Downtown Statesboro: participate in a community cleanup and welcome spring downtown.

[Register here for No Impact Week!](#) Registrants are eligible to claim a No Impact Week t-shirt made from plastic bottles available at the events of each day while supplies last, and will get email updates on the many No Impact Week events taking place on campus. The full schedule of events is available [here](#). This event is another example of Student Sustainability Fees at Work.

To find out how you can participate, contact CfS at cfs@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern Enactus Earns 2016 Regional Champion Title

APRIL 8, 2016



Georgia Southern University's Enactus Team poses for a photo after winning the regional champion title at the Enactus regional competition

On Friday, April 1, the Georgia Southern Enactus team competed and won at the Enactus Regional Competition in Atlanta. The student-led organization focuses on providing economic support to the local area through sustainable entrepreneurial projects.

Presenting for the team were Enactus president Ryan Murchland (senior), Vice-President Luke Panosian (senior) and secretary Zachary Lemons (freshman). Also attending and providing support were Zack Rogers (senior), Anisha Mathur and Bailey Morris (freshmen). The team presented the impactful service projects they have been working on over the past year, which includes Paws N Claws, Supplying Individuals the Tools for Success (S.U.I.T.S.) and the Southern Classic Gaming Tournament.

Murchland started the presentation by recapping the Paws N Claws project in which they started a new student organization to help build support for the Humane Society of Statesboro & Bulloch County. Paws N Claws provides volunteers to help foster last chance pets, to work at ReTails Thrift Store and to help organize fundraisers. Enactus also facilitated a partnership between Paws N Claws and the Fashion Merchandising Apparel and Design Club (FMAD) on campus. FMAD students used scrap materials to make doggie bandanas that are currently being sold at ReTails.

Lemons presented the revitalization of the S.U.I.T.S. program. What began as a program to help students learn soft skills to gain employment is now a project aimed at helping the unemployed and underprivileged in the community find career opportunities. The student organization is currently using funds from a project partnership with Wal-Mart to empower women of Safe Haven Bulloch. This project is in full-swing, and the students hope to place at least two women in new or advanced job positions before competing at nationals from May 15-17.

Panosian introduced judges to the inaugural Southern Classic Gaming Tournament — a new project he has been instrumental in organizing. This partnership with the Southern Collegiate Gaming (SCG) Club will not only raise awareness and promote cyber security for gamers of all ages but will also raise money for a scholarship sponsored by SCG. This event will take place May 20-21, following the Enactus national competition.

This is only the club's second year since reorganizing to become a chartered Georgia Southern student organization. The last time Enactus earned a trip to nationals was in 2013.

"The students did a great job representing Georgia Southern," said Suzanne Hallman, the student organization's advisor. "They have truly embodied the mission of enabling progress through entrepreneurial action. They are exploring and identifying problems and working together to implement creative sustainable solutions to improve the community."

Enactus will host a fundraiser for their trip to nationals at Wild Wing Cafe on Wednesday, April 20, where ten percent of proceeds from that evening will go to the organization. Please join the Business Innovation Group in congratulating these outstanding students and supporting them as they represent Georgia Southern at the Enactus United States National Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.