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### Newsroom

Georgia Southern University

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Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2017). *Newsroom*. 903.  
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## Newsroom

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern named one of the Most Affordable Online MBA Programs in the country

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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Georgia Southern University's [online MBA program](#) has been recognized as one of the most affordable online MBA degree programs by [BestCollegesOnline.com](#).

Georgia Southern was ranked No. 15 out of 50 programs considered. *Best Colleges Online* considered accreditation, tuition and other rankings and recognition when compiling the list of the top 50 most affordable online MBA programs.

"We are grateful to get this acknowledgement based on the price of the program," said Gordon Smith, director of Graduate Business Programs for the College. "More notable is the value of the education our students receive because of the equality of the program, their peers and the faculty."

A total of 255 accredited colleges and universities listed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) College Navigator offering online MBA programs were reviewed for the *Best Colleges Online* Most Affordable Degrees ranking. The programs considered in the ranking have graduate tuition and fees listed below \$23,500.

*Best Colleges Online's* mission is to simplify the college search process and to provide expert insights into the best accredited online universities across the United States.

To view the most affordable online MBA programs list in its entirety, visit <http://www.bestcollegesonline.org/most-affordable/online-mba/>. To learn more about the Georgia Southern College of Business graduate programs, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/businessgraduate](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/businessgraduate).


*Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 118 degree programs serving 20,673 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu)*

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# Savoring a memory

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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## *Childhood experiences inspire alumnus to create potato chip flavor*

If the thought of fried green tomatoes brings back memories of your childhood, then you have something in common with Georgia Southern alumnus Greg Pope ('05).

Pope grew up in Macon, Georgia, and remembers visiting his grandparents house, where he and his late grandfather would pick fresh produce from his grandfather's garden, including green tomatoes.

"My dad and I would go into the backyard with my grandad, and he would show us what he was growing, and would give my dad tomatoes while they were green," Pope said. "Dad would take those and fry them for family dinners and gatherings we had."

So when Pope decided on a whim to enter the Lay's "Do us a Flavor" contest, it was memories of his childhood and memories of time spent with his family that inspired his fried green tomato flavor entry.

"The inspiration came from family time – time that was spent laughing and loving each other," he said. "To me, it's the story of my family and how we had dinners together."

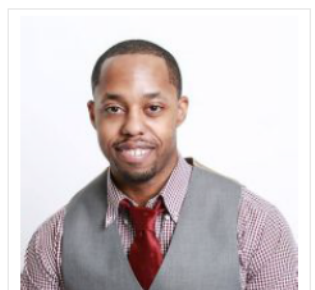
Pope's entry in the contest was picked from millions of submissions by Lay's, and was then chosen as a semifinalist. It was then developed into one of three potato chip flavors that are available for purchase now. Chip aficionados are asked to try each flavor and then vote for their favorite. The flavor with the most votes will win, and the flavor creator will win \$1 million.

"It feels great to be a finalist, but it's kind of strange because you know your flavor was chosen from millions of submissions," he said. "I would say that you kind of own a little piece of Lay's history because Lay's has been around for such a long time and is a very successful company."

Pope, who is an entrepreneur in Charlotte, North Carolina, describes the flavor of his chips as tangy, like a green tomato, followed by a "little kick" of remoulade sauce. He says they are wife-approved, and most importantly, got a thumbs up from his three-year-old daughter.

"She says they are 'daddy chips' and also they 'taste like yummy,'" he said with a laugh.

And what do people think of the flavor?



*Alumnus Greg Pope*

"The response has been great. People have been inspired by the contest," he said. "You never know when something may be, to you, insignificant or smaller, but you don't know what it means to someone else. I heard from someone they were no longer able to have [fried green tomatoes], so by presenting the flavor, they get that feeling of nostalgia."

Voting for the contest is open at [DoUsAFlavor.com](http://DoUsAFlavor.com) through Oct. 8, and winning the \$1 million grand prize would mean Pope could give back to his family.

"I'd give back to my wife, and we would use some of the money to further fund our business, [Gregory Sylvia](#), and the last thing I want to do is provide a college fund for our daughter," he said.



*Georgia Southern alumnus Greg Pope inspired the Fried Green Tomato chip flavor for the Lay's Do Us A Flavor contest.  
Source: Google*

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# Georgia Southern University biologists quantify campus biodiversity

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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Squirrels and robins are a common sight on almost any college campus. But is the park-like landscape of a campus actually a good habitat for wildlife? How many other species live in the fields, forests and waters of a university campus?

Faculty and students at Georgia Southern University have just completed a two-year study to answer these questions. The study, organized by biology professors Michelle Cawthorn, Ph.D., Ray Chandler, Ph.D., Lance McBrayer, Ph.D., and Jamie Roberts, Ph.D., was funded by the University's Center for Sustainability (CfS).

With the help of dozens of students, the scientists observed, live-trapped, netted, audio-recorded or photographed 207 species of vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) on the Georgia Southern University campus. This impressive diversity includes 19 species of fish, 19 amphibians, 24 reptiles, 126 birds and 19 mammals.

"These numbers are not just an answer to a trivia question for biology class," explained Chandler. "The number of species our campus supports is an indicator of the health of our campus environment and a measure of how sustainably we are managing that environment."



Because the study mapped the location of every animal found, future construction and other development can be done in a way that minimizes impacts on biodiversity.

There are educational benefits as well because a biodiverse campus is a living laboratory that students and faculty can use just by walking outside their building.

"The ultimate goal is to manage our campus in a way that in 50 or 100 years it will still support these 207 vertebrate species, or hopefully more," said McBrayer. "We know that some species have disappeared from campus since the 1970s. We don't want to make that mistake again."

The results of the survey are available to anyone through the iNaturalist website or smartphone application. The project, titled "[Georgia Southern Biological Survey](#)," includes a list of all the species observed, a map of where individuals were seen, and documentary photos for most of the species.

An important feature of the application is that anyone on campus can add to the data.

"If you encounter a vertebrate on campus, you can snap a photo with your smartphone, go to the application and upload your sighting," said Rebecca Scott, the biology graduate student who created the site for the project.

"This type of citizen science is a great way to engage students and the community in gathering important biological data," added Roberts.

The Georgia Southern Biological Survey is among the most comprehensive of any university in the country, and it is unique in the state.

"A logical next step is to expand the survey from campus to the city of Statesboro to help them with their environmental planning and sustainability," said Cawthorn. "We would like our campus and community to be leaders in the conservation of biodiversity."

To read the full study, visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/georgia-southern-biological-survey>.

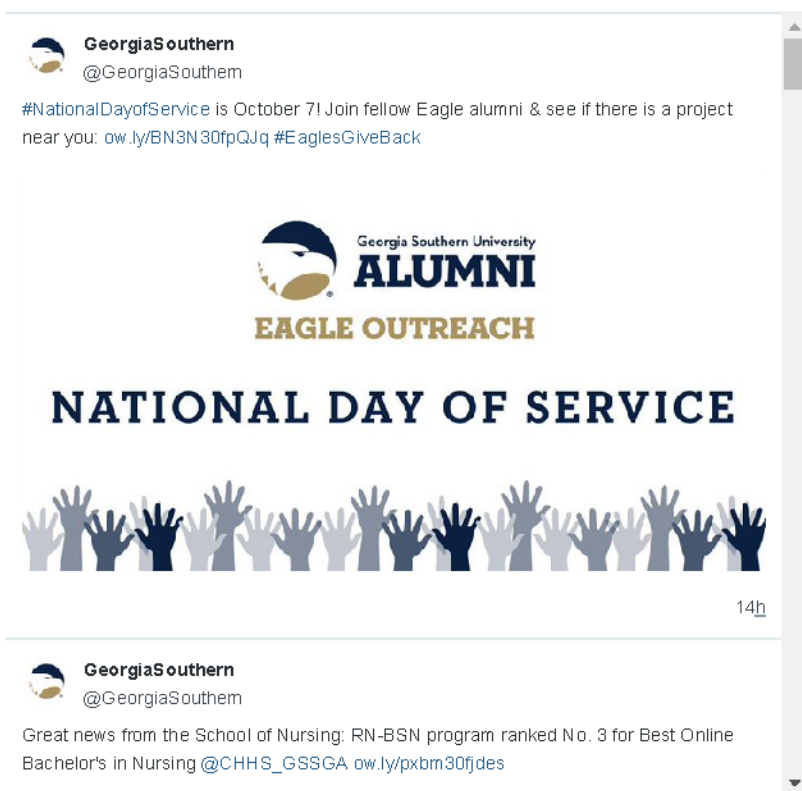
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# Georgia Southern College of Business hosts Professional Development Day

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Students in the College of Business will have the opportunity to participate in professional development courses and hear from representatives from various corporations during the second annual [Professional Development Day](#) (PDD) on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will allow students to learn about topics ranging from leadership, interview skills, entrepreneurship, branding and much more. Business classes will be suspended for the day for students to attend the PDD conference-like sessions, presented by faculty and the



College's corporate business partners.

"Our College has two strategic goals, one of which is to enhance professional development for students. We strive to accomplish this goal through internships, business abroad trips, providing opportunities to interface with industry professionals, experiential learning experiences and research opportunities," said Cindy Randall, assistant dean of the College of Business.

"Two years ago, as the College administrators discussed how we could best use our resources to enhance professional development, one of our faculty members relayed an event held at another university. That event, a day filled with experiential learning opportunities, was used as a model for our Professional Development Day," Randall continued.

This year's event, which has more than 70 sessions available to students, Randall said, is mostly led by industry professionals representing companies like Hewlett Packard Enterprises, Edward Jones, Equifax USIS and Aerotek, among many others.

Topics for the educational sessions include, "What is your 'IT' Factor," hosted by Equifax USIS; "Getting Started with Bloomberg," hosted by the Southern Investment Association; "Steps to Successful Startup Business," hosted by alumnus JT Marburger ('84); and "Secrets of a Recruiter Revealed: What They Really Look for in a Job Candidate," hosted by alumnus Zach Sines ('08), and many more. A full list of topics and presenters can be accessed at [bit.ly/pdd17](http://bit.ly/pdd17).

Students like Rachel Yarbrough learned through PDD in 2016 the benefit of networking at events like this.

"I learned that there are plenty of opportunities for College of Business students to network. I was able to network throughout the day, which resulted in several chances to interview with employers days after," said Yarbrough, a student ambassador in the College of Business. "Though I did not get an internship [from those interviews], I received constructive criticism that I later used in my interviews with BMW. The skills taught during PDD were the leadership skills needed to earn my Spring and Summer 2017 internships with BMW."

Held in conjunction with PDD, the Eagle Sales Showcase and Logistics Roundtable bring sales and logistics professionals to campus solely for marketing/sales and logistics students, respectively. Eagle Sales Showcase brings together graduating sales and sales management students and sales professionals, which provides an all-access opportunity for the students and recruiters.

The Logistics Roundtable allows students to explore the growing field of logistics and intermodal transportation. Professionals representing third-party logistics (3PL) firms, manufacturers, warehousing companies, distributors, motor carriers and major retailers provide students the chance to gain valuable insights into logistics, transportation and supply chain career opportunities through interactive panel discussions and open-networking sessions.

"Professional Development Day is an exciting time for College of Business students. Students will have a chance to better understand the expectations of their fields with sessions specifically for their major," added Yarbrough. "The day concludes with a Logistics Round Table that gives students a chance to practice their elevator pitch prior to the [Eagle Expo] Career Fair. These opportunities to better our future would not be made possible without the support of the College of Business alumni, faculty, staff and volunteers."

PDD is held annually the Tuesday before the fall semester Eagle Expo Career Fair, which is the largest career fair on campus each year.

For more information or to become involved in Professional Development Day, please contact Debbie Hilton, events coordinator, at [dhilton@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dhilton@georgiasouthern.edu) or (912) 478-5050. To view the PDD schedule, visit [bit.ly/pdday17](http://bit.ly/pdday17).

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