Georgia Southern University recently honored more than 90 students and presented numerous awards to both students and faculty members during its annual 2011 Honors Day Convocation. The event celebrates and highlights student achievement and accomplishment during the academic year.

Among those recognized were outstanding scholars among graduating seniors with a GPA of 3.9 or above, new inductees of academic honor societies, and recipients of special awards from departments and colleges. Highlighting the ceremony was a speech delivered by Katie Brookins, a senior majoring in Writing and Linguistics from Beaufort, S.C.

There ceremony included the presentation of three major awards to both students and faculty. These included the University System Academic Recognition Award, the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Award and the Professor of the Year Award.

**University System Academic Recognition Award**

Katherine Beasley, a senior from Claxton, Ga. was presented the 2011 University System Academic Recognition Award by Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. The award is presented to a Georgia resident selected on the basis of outstanding academic achievement to represent the institution in the University System Academic Recognition Day Program.

Beasley is majoring in Writing & Linguistics with an emphasis in Creative Writing and will also graduate with a major in Spanish with a minor in English. Even more impressive is that she has a 4.0 grade point average.

**Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Award**

Seniors Katherine Beasley and Cassie Beasley (major: Writing & Linguistics), both from Claxton, Ga., were presented the 2011 Georgia Southern University Alumni Association Award by Mike Carpenter, president of the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association. The award is presented annually to the graduating senior who has applied for graduation, completed all work in residence, has the greatest number of hours, and has attained the highest cumulative grade point average, and met other criteria set forth.

**Professor of the Year Award**
Taquavia Jones, president of Georgia Southern’s chapter of Gamma Beta Phi, a national honor and service organization, presented the 2011 Professor of the Year Award to biology professor, Lorne Wolfe, Ph.D. The award was established by Norman and Rosalyn Wells and the winner is selected during a three-phase selection process that includes a student vote, department chair evaluation and blind review by the officers of Gamma Beta Phi. To be eligible, professors must be full time and have had worked at Georgia Southern for at least three years.

Wolfe has taught at Georgia Southern for 16 years and teaches a variety of classes including Biology of Plants, Environmental Biology, Evolution, Scientific Presentation and a graduate-level seminar, The Research of Charles Darwin. He also teaches a popular First Year Experience class for new freshmen at Georgia Southern.