Georgia Southern University today received approval from the University System of Georgia's Board of Regents to purchase Campus Club Apartments, a 984-bed housing community located next to the University's campus in Statesboro. The purchase is scheduled to be completed in the coming months.

"As Georgia Southern approaches 20,000 students, it was clear that we needed to expand our university housing capacity," said Teresa Thompson, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. "Campus Club is adjacent to Allen E. Paulson Football Stadium and its location along the University's bus route coupled with its amenities will be a great addition to our on-campus housing offerings."

While located on the University's existing Southern Express bus route, Campus Club is within walking distance of campus including classes, the Recreation Activity Center and sporting venues. The community features numerous amenities that will benefit Georgia Southern students including a newly renovated clubhouse complete with an upgraded fitness center, computer center, video game console, a resort-style pool, sand volleyball court and basketball court.

The facility features two, three and four bedroom apartment style residences that range in size from 841 square feet to 1,416 square feet. The facility becomes the latest addition to Georgia Southern's on-campus housing following the construction of Centennial Place, a 1,001-bed community that opened in 2009.

Following the completion of the purchase, Georgia Southern will begin cosmetic renovations to the facility. The renovations will take place in phases and are expected to take approximately 14 months to complete. During the next year, a third-party company to rent the rooms until the Department of University Housing can fill the rooms in Fall 2012.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 115 degree programs serving nearly 20,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. In 2011, the University was named the fourth most popular university in the country by U.S. News & World Report and is a top choice of Georgia’s HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: [www.georgiasouthern.edu](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu).
Georgia Southern University’s Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies recently established the Averitt Awards, the highest honors bestowed to graduate students. The awards recognize two outstanding students in the categories of Excellence in Graduate Research and Excellence in Graduate Instruction. Deserving students were nominated by graduate faculty members and the awards were presented at the University’s Honors Day Ceremony.

The 2011 Averitt Award winners are Tomas Condon and Drew Keane. Condon, a graduate student from Andover, Conn., is pursuing a Master of Science degree in biology. He plans to graduate in December 2011 and pursue a career in wildlife research and management. Keane, originally from Cartersville, Ga., is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in English. He is currently in his third semester of graduate studies and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in English Literature, specializing in the 18th-century. Each winner received a $1,000 honorarium and a unique solid crystal eagle trophy.

“Georgia Southern University has seen its graduate enrollment increase significantly in recent years and is attracting outstanding graduate students from around the country and world,” said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and dean of the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies. “Named after the College of Graduate Studies namesake, the Averitt Awards are designed to honor top students in the areas of research and instruction. This is sure to be the most competitive and coveted award by Georgia Southern graduate students.”

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Georgia Southern University Presents Patron of the Arts Award to Betty Foy Sanders

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Georgia Southern University's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences recently presented the inaugural Patron of the Arts award to Betty Foy Sanders, former first lady of the state of Georgia. In recognition of Sanders' significant contributions to the University, the award has been named in her honor.

The award was created to recognize contributions made by donors and supporters toward the promotion and development of the arts, arts programs, arts scholarships and the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. In future years, the award will be presented to a member of the community for their commitment and support of the arts at Georgia Southern University.

"The contributions of Betty Foy Sanders to the advancement of the arts in Georgia are extraordinary," said Mike Smith, Ph.D., dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University. "During her tenure as first lady of Georgia, she advocated for the construction of several fine arts buildings and additions on campuses of the University System of Georgia — including Georgia Southern's Foy Fine Arts Building, named for her father J. P. Foy."

Sanders, a native of Bulloch County, began her academic career at Georgia Southern University. Since then, numerous honors and awards recognizing her accomplishments as an artist and arts advocate have been bestowed upon her, including the first honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts degree from Georgia Southern University in 1997. The University officially renamed the visual arts department the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art in 1999 in further recognition of Mrs. Sanders' dedicated support. She has established generous academic scholarships, student travel scholarships and opportunities for Georgia Southern art students.

An accomplished artist, Sanders' paintings reflect a deep devotion to her home state of Georgia, and to its rich history and remarkable beauty. Georgia Southern proudly exhibits a selection of her paintings in its Center for Art & Theatre.

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