

Newsroom

September 27, 2012

Georgia Southern University

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

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Georgia Southern University accounting students are about to gain a major edge on the competition through a \$308,000 software and support donation by ACL (www.acl.com), a global provider of technology for audit, finance, risk and compliance. Georgia Southern received the package under ACL's [Education Futures Program](#).

The donation and recognition is the result of the work of Robert Marley, Ph.D., an accounting professor in Georgia Southern's College of Business Administration (COBA). Marley, who previously worked with the software at the University of South Florida, was required to submit a proposal on how the software would be used at Georgia Southern.

"I am excited to bring the ACL Education Futures Program to the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University," said Marley. "This software is used by the majority of CPA firms and corporations and our students will now have an additional competitive edge when they are interviewing for jobs."

ACL, who produces the software, has an international customer base that includes 89 percent of American Fortune 500 companies. Even more impressive is that their customer list includes more than two-thirds of Fortune Global 500 corporations. The company's Education Futures Program supports college educators in teaching effective use of data analysis software in the disciplines of accounting, auditing and finance. Other universities utilizing the software include the University of Texas, University of Southern California, University of Nebraska and the University of Missouri to name a few.

"We are very thankful to ACL for their support and for their commitment to providing Georgia Southern's students with access to 'real-world' technology," said Bill Wells, Ph.D., interim dean of COBA. "We are attracting many of Georgia's top accounting students because we're not only providing an outstanding education, but because they get 'real-world' experience that will be invaluable as they complete their degrees."

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 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 2012, the University was named one of the Top 10 most popular universities 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.

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Georgia Southern University senior Evin Hughes has won the first ever Muhammad Ali Writing Award for Ethics. The award, co-sponsored by the Muhammad Ali Center and the Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony, in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), is given to the outstanding college student whose writing reflects Muhammad Ali's legacy of living a life dedicated to high ethical standards.

Lonnie and Muhammad Ali, and director, screenwriter, and producer Oliver Stone will present Hughes the award and a check for \$10,000 at the Norman Mailer Center's fourth annual benefit gala on Thursday, October 4, in New York City. Actor Alec Baldwin and Tina Brown of Newsweek Magazine and The Daily Beast.com will host the event, which celebrates renowned and emerging writers alike. Hughes, a Swainsboro, Georgia native, will also receive a week-long writing workshop next summer at the Mailer Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, travel and hotel accommodations and tickets for the Gala.

The essay by the Georgia Southern dual major in Information Technology and Writing and Linguistics, emerged as the winner among eight semi-finalists and four finalists from such universities as Columbia, Georgetown, Oregon State, George Washington, Notre Dame and Alabama.

The three judges who read his prize-winning essay, "Float like a Plane, Sting Like a Bomb: The Ethics of U.S. Drone Attacks," included noted author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Elie Wiesel. In his nearly 5,000 word-winning entry, Hughes wrote about the harm of drones as weapons in "the war on terror" and of a hopeful new future devoid of the violence created by drones.

The writers were judged on their understanding of the ethical issue posed in their essay, as well as for original thinking and insight, effectiveness in presenting a point-of-view and achieving an overall emotional or intellectual effect.

"This recognition of Evin Hughes reinforces the power of writing," said Georgia Southern professor Phyllis Dallas who encouraged him to enter the contest.

"We faculty in Writing and Linguistics know that writing can affect the world, whether it is a poem or story that captures for its reader the beauty of language or an insight or emotion that leaves the reader knowing, as C.S. Lewis wrote, that we are not alone; or whether it is a finely crafted essay like Evin's that brings together his ethics, his critical analysis of a subject, and his synthesis of the research and writing of others to articulate an argument that asks its reader to consider and see their world anew and to question how to achieve peace and social justice."

Donald Lassere, president and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center said, "The Ali Center is so proud of Evin and the rest of the student finalists and honorees being recognized at the Norman Mailer Center's Gala. This has been an outstanding partnership for the Ali Center and it has afforded us another opportunity to share Muhammad's legacy with the younger generation which Muhammad and Lonnie care so much about."

The Norman Mailer Center is an educational non-profit dedicated to supporting and celebrating those writers who challenge the status quo and surprise their audiences. The Muhammad Ali Center's mission is to preserve and share the legacy and ideals of Muhammad Ali and the National Council of Teachers of English is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all scholastic levels.

[CLICK HERE To read Evin Hughes' prize-winning essay.](#)

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Herty Advanced Materials Development Center Names Alexander Koukoulas, Ph.D. President and CEO

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Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has named Alexander Koukoulas, Ph.D. as its President and CEO. Koukoulas, a well-known scientist and entrepreneur, previously served as managing director of ANL Consultants, LLC, a private consulting firm supporting the pulp and paper, biomaterials and bioenergy industries. Koukoulas will begin his new role on Nov. 1.

"We are excited to have Dr. Koukoulas join Herty as its President and CEO," said Georgia Southern University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Not only is Alex an outstanding business leader, but he is an accomplished scientist and entrepreneur. His diverse experience will be a perfect fit as we work to expand Herty's capabilities as a global leader in traditional and advanced materials innovation."

Herty's clients, which include global corporations as well as numerous Fortune 500 companies, are currently focused in the transportation, forest and paper related products, building materials, energy and the environment and bio-products industries. In April 2012, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal transferred management of the Herty Advanced Materials Development Center to Georgia Southern University with a goal of enhancing economic and business development in the state of Georgia.

"Dr. Koukoulas brings a wealth of technology management, business and new product development experience to Herty," said Charles Patterson, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development at Georgia Southern University. "His expertise in the chemical sciences and engineering, pulp and paper and bioenergy will enhance Herty's existing relationships as well as forge strategic partnerships with industries in the region, the nation and beyond."

Prior to his role at ANL Consultants, LLC, Koukoulas served as vice president and executive director of research and development at Albany International, a leading manufacturer of engineered textiles. Earlier in his career, he served in increasingly responsible leadership positions at International Paper, including chief scientist, where he directed research and was responsible for new product development and R&D supporting the company's pulp, paper and packaging business units.

"Not only are we looking forward to welcoming Dr. Koukoulas to Herty, but we are excited to welcome him to Savannah and the Coastal Empire," said Patterson. "Our goal is to expand the center's existing capabilities to help make Savannah and South Georgia an even more attractive market for research and development in the areas of pulp and paper, materials science, polymer science and composites, with an emerging interest in bio-derived materials and biofuels."

One of Koukoulas' primary goals will be to enable Herty's clients to achieve their R&D and financial goals while working to create an environment that cultivates opportunity for businesses to relocate or stay within Georgia. The result, according to Patterson and officials at Georgia Southern, will be more jobs and an expanded national reputation helping put Savannah on the map as a center for advanced materials innovation.

Koukoulas received his Bachelor of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry from McGill University. He is currently pursuing an Executive Certificate from the Sloan School of Management at M.I.T. He has published numerous presentations and publications and holds numerous U.S. patents. He is a scientific advisor and bioenergy expert at the U.S. Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture. He serves as a technical advisor and board member for numerous organizations including the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), the National Science and Engineering Council of Canada, and the European Union's Energy Commission. Koukoulas is an active member of numerous professional societies including the American Chemical Society, the MIT Enterprise Forum, Sigma Xi and TAPPI.

For more information on Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, visit: www.herty.com.

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