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Eagle ROTC Cadets Win Ranger Challenge

JANUARY 30, 2013

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Georgia Southern University's Eagle Battalion won the 2013 6th Brigade Ranger Challenge last weekend in Camp Blanding, Fla. This is the first time Georgia Southern has captured the trophy in the two day challenge that tests the physical endurance and mental agility of the nine person team. Today, the cadets presented the championship trophy to University president Brooks Keel, Ph.D.

"I can't tell you how delighted and pleased I am," said Keel. "What an honor it is for our ROTC program to represent the 6th Brigade and to represent Georgia Southern in such an incredible way. We are so proud of these young men and women and for what they do for our University and our country."

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The Eagle Battalion won by just one point and beat 37 teams from the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico. The Army ROTC Department fielded two teams this year with 280 cadets. The Eagle Battalion is comprised of Georgia Southern students, and the Coastal Battalion is made up of students from Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah State University and the Savannah College of Art and Design. The Coastal Battalion finished sixth in the competition.

"We are ecstatic and so proud of our cadets," said LTC Gary Morea, Eagle Battalion commander. "Throughout the competition, the cadets not only had to demonstrate their physical fitness but overcome mental challenges, too, and use critical thinking to accomplish the mission." Morea said the two teams began training extensively five months ago with workouts that started at 5 a.m. and included five to 10 mile ruck marches, long runs, upper-body development and swimming endurance training.

The Ranger Challenge included marksmanship and land navigation on day one of the competition and a 13 mile course that tested their technical and tactical skills. The Eagle Battalion placed in the top five in every event and had the fastest overall time in the competition by completing the course in three hours and 11 minutes.

The Eagle Battalion cadets will continue training for the International Sandhurst Competition to be held at the United States Military Academy at West Point in April.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 120 degree programs serving more than 20,500 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 approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

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Congratulations to #GeorgiaSouthern @GSCOSM alumnus Nick Wiley ('83) who was recently named the chief conservation officer of @DucksUnlimited! ow.ly/BhVW30hkDJR



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Marc Moulton: Sculpting his Path to Success

JANUARY 30, 2013

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Sculpture Professor Marc Moulton had no idea he would become an artist when he first enrolled in college, but after acquiring numerous awards, an impressive submission record and public approbation of his quality productions, Moulton now admits he could not have imagined a better career.

The recipient of Georgia Southern University's 2012 Award of Excellence in Research and/or Creative Scholarly Activity says while growing up in Utah, no one in his household ever discussed art or showed any interest in the subject. In fact, if not for a work-study position in Weber State University's Art Department and a subsequent art class, he may never have found his true career path – creating large-scale sculptures and teaching at the university level.

"My choice of art happened along the way over a long period," Moulton said. "I felt comfortable in the art classroom and my professors told me I was good at what I was doing. Of course, nobody knows what is going to happen to him or her but I certainly was propelled to follow some path; I just didn't know which road I would take."

Having discovered his path, the artist found he preferred the versatility of fabricating his outdoor art from metals like stainless steel, which he says require virtually no maintenance, can withstand nature's elements of wind, ice, snow and rain, does not rust and cannot be easily vandalized, bent or scraped.

Moulton's public art projects include works for corporations, schools and municipalities in several states. University patron Betty Foy Sanders chose his sculpture "Ascend" as the signature piece for the Center for Art and Theatre at Georgia Southern. His most recent work titled "Kernel" was installed at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga. in 2011.

Currently the professor teaches a full load of classes at Georgia Southern, and is negotiating a contract with the city of Suwanee, Ga. to install a permanent display of the city's 1,600 pound steel artifact from a World Trade Center Tower destroyed in the 9/11 attacks. His display would include a timeline of events as they unfolded on September 11, 2001, and at night, it would light up to project a dramatic image he described as the "ghost of lower Manhattan to show how the area used to look." He added, "Once people know where that piece of scrap metal originated, it becomes a powerful thing."

While Moulton's work is influenced by the landscape of the mountains of Utah where he grew up, when he transforms a public space into something inspiring and uplifting, he says his body of work showcases other themes. "There is a personality to it. My character and my personality are rendered in each one because I am going to create what I know how to do and what I think I do well." He explained, "I use lighting a lot in my work because it is dramatic and can establish a mood. It is the opportunity to see this sculpture as Mother Nature changes around it and the lighting will give you a different perspective or a different point of view."



As Moulton sees it, public art is the opportunity to create or provide a more engaging, a more intelligent and enjoyable life and he asks, "Who doesn't like that, who doesn't like passion?"

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