

Newsroom

December 13, 2013

Georgia Southern University

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Eagle Battalion Hosts Fall Commissioning Ceremony

DECEMBER 13, 2013

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STATESBORO, Ga. – Dec. 13 2013 – Georgia Southern University’s Department of Military Science hosted the fall Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony at the Performing Arts Center on Dec. 12. Thirteen cadets were commissioned from Eagle Battalion, receiving the rank of 2nd lieutenant. The newly commissioned officers included Seth Allen, Kathleen Basel, Tyrone Burnette, Ashley Cobb, David Glisson, Jordan Holmlund, Michael Holmlund, Kayla Primus, Kamona Riley, Joseph Schaefer, David Smith, Christopher Whitlock and David Witt.

“These cadets are about to take on the mantle of leadership, and they are going to be some of the finest 2nd lieutenants in the Army. These cadets are patriots. This is the culmination of four years of hard work and determination,” said Professor of Military Science Lt. Colonel Gary Moray.



Guest speaker COL Mark Churchwell ('85), the director of training for United States Signal, Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Ga., addressed the cadets and discussed the importance of leadership and the responsibility of their role in the military.

“I challenge each of you to be the ones to perform, take on extra duties and requirements. It will make you a better person. You have to set a great example and be ready to handle the challenges ahead,” said Churchwell.

During the ceremony, cadets David Glisson and David Witt were recognized as Distinguished Military Graduates, ranking in the top 20 percent of Army ROTC graduates nationwide. Glisson and Witt were also named Distinguished Military Students, along with Jordan Holmlund and Michael Holmlund. This designation recognizes students for their scholastic accomplishments,

moral character, military aptitude and leadership ability.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, each newly commissioned 2nd lieutenant participated in their first salute, followed by the symbolic exchange of a silver dollar to a fellow officer, a tradition during each commissioning ceremony.

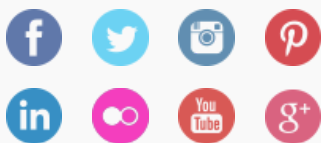
The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was established at Georgia Southern in 1980. Through the years the program has expanded, and the Eagle Battalion is comprised of Georgia Southern as the host, with Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah State University, Savannah College of Art and Design and East Georgia State College as partnership schools.

Eagle Battalion is a back-to-back recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Award (2009-10 and 2010-11), ranking it in the top eight ROTC programs in the nation.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 125 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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Georgia Southern University Graduates Receive Degrees during Annual Fall Commencement

DECEMBER 13, 2013

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STATESBORO, Ga. – Dec. 13, 2013 – Georgia Southern University held its 22nd annual Fall Commencement where University President Brooks A. Keel, Ph.D. conferred degrees to nearly 1,600 graduate and undergraduate students at Hanner Fieldhouse.

“This is an exciting day in the Eagle Nation as we recognize the hard work and academic achievements of our newest graduates,” said Keel. “As the 12th President of the greatest University in America, I am proud to extend my congratulations to these hardworking men and women as they embark upon a new journey in their lives.”

Twenty-six Doctor of Education degrees were conferred, along with four Doctor of Public Health degrees, two Master of Fine Arts degrees and hundreds of other graduate and undergraduate degrees from the University’s eight colleges.

Commencement speakers for this year’s three ceremonies included Georgia Southern alumna and Chatham County District Attorney Meg Heap (’86); the Executive Vice President at Willis North America Jack Jennings; and Russell Toal, M.P.H., director of Georgia Southern’s Center for Rural Health and Research.

Heap, who briefly reminisced on her days as a Georgia Southern student, reminded graduates that it is okay to make mistakes, but noted the importance of learning from those mistakes and not giving in to the easiest route.

“Aim beyond the audience of your peers. Dare to believe in what is possible and instill in others the same sense of possibility,” Heap said. “It will take daring, sometimes you’ll feel like you’re walking it all by yourself. You need optimism. It’s so easy to become disengaged, to become cynical. It’s an easier path. But dare to explore, to discover, to dream.”

Jennings, who called hi

mself a “Georgia Southern parent three times over,” encouraged graduates to believe the best is still ahead of them, noting, “Never peak. Never believe you’ve arrived. Those who believe the best is ahead are at the front of the pack.”

Toal shared with graduates his beliefs on how to be successful as a public servant, emphasizing the importance of staying humble as he offered several tips. “Remember those less fortunate, do your job in the right way and don’t seek credit or praise for doing what is your duty anyway,” he said. “Always treat others as you would like to be treated, and the best giving is that which is done anonymously. Set high standards for yourself and those you work with and remember, there is no greater crime than the crime of indifference.”



He also advised the graduates to, "Focus on the outcome of your work. Don't be afraid of change, keep an open mind and never lose your willingness to learn."

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