

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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University student chapter of Society for Human Resource Management named Georgia 'Chapter of the Year'

NOVEMBER 13, 2017



The Georgia Southern University Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) student chapter received [yet another prestigious award](#) from the SHRM Georgia State Council. During the 2017 SHRM Georgia State Conference, the chapter was named SHRM Student Chapter of the Year.

The annual Georgia State Conference, held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, recognizes the best student chapter in the state of Georgia, the best local chapter and various other chapter awards. In order to be considered for the Student Chapter of the Year award, the chapter must be nominated.

As the recipient of the Student Chapter of the Year Award, the Georgia Southern SHRM chapter was recognized for its continued efforts to grow membership. This year the chapter has seen its highest chapter attendance with a record of 59 attendees. This consistent growth in membership and retention over the last year helped the chapter win this award.

"It was an honor to receive the Student Chapter of the Year award," said University SHRM chapter President Joslyn Ballingall, a senior human resources management major. "Our chapter worked hard to gain and retain membership over the past year. We also continue to expand our horizons by educating our chapter on human resources in different fields of work, which allows our membership to gain a diverse understanding of the operation in human resources."

SHRM works to encourage its members to be highly qualified and prepared for the Eagle Expo, the on-campus career fair, each semester. The chapter focuses on career development by offering various development workshops such as résumé building, and by inviting a range of guest speakers to meetings. Speakers from Amazon, Eaton Corporation and Bulloch County Schools, among others, allow students to engage with human resource professionals and discover what human resource practices look like in the workplace.

The student chapter is advised by Steve Charlier, Ph.D., associate professor of management, and David Sikora, Ph.D., assistant professor of management.

“The chapter officers worked hard to increase the quality of the topics discussed during each chapter meeting,” said Sikora. “They did a great job proactively finding great speakers, publicizing the chapter’s meetings and increasing the chapter’s active membership. It’s great seeing those efforts recognized by Georgia’s SHRM professional membership.”

SHRM is the world’s largest human resources professional society, representing 285,000 members in more than 165 countries. For nearly seven decades, the SHRM has been the leading provider of resources serving the needs of human resource professionals and advancing the practice of human resource management. SHRM has more than 575 affiliated chapters within the United States and subsidiary offices in China, India and United Arab Emirates.

To learn more about the University’s SHRM chapter, visit <http://coba.georgiasouthern.edu/mgmt/students/student-organizations/>.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers 118 degree programs serving 20,418 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 and hands-on approach to education. Visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University partners with The Orianne Society

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Georgia Southern students at The Orianne Society's Indigo Snake Preserve

The Department of Biology at Georgia Southern University and [The Orianne Society](#), a nonprofit organization devoted to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles, have announced a partnership.

The memorandum of understanding between the University and The Orianne Society is designed to enhance cooperation and further the mission of research and education by both partners.

"Faculty in the University's Department of Biology and scientists at The Orianne Society work to understand and conserve biodiversity in our region. It makes sense that we should cooperate," said Lance McBryer, Ph.D., associate dean for research in the College of Science and Mathematics. "This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to work with such a productive nonprofit organization."

Georgia Southern University's Department of Biology is the largest center for biology research and education in southern Georgia. Thus, for its part, the department will provide access to state-of-the-art laboratory space and equipment for scientists from The Orianne Society. Access to laboratory facilities will significantly increase the research infrastructure available to The Orianne Society and will facilitate mutually beneficial collaborations with the University's faculty and students. Scientists from The Orianne Society will have the opportunity to work as visiting scholars in the Department of Biology.

“This agreement will provide us with a welcome opportunity to collaborate with Georgia Southern University scientists and share our conservation work with large numbers of undergraduate and graduate students,” said Houston Chandler, species coordinator for The Orianne Society’s Longleaf Savannas Initiative. “Access to facilities, especially the Georgia Southern University herpetology collection, will increase our ability to conserve amphibians, reptiles and their habitats in southern Georgia.”

The Orianne Society, a leader in habitat conservation and management in the state, will provide Georgia Southern University biologists access to the [Orianne Indigo Snake Preserve](#). This 1200-acre preserve will provide a unique opportunity to access rare amphibians and reptiles such as the federally threatened Eastern Indigo Snake and to see cutting-edge habitat restoration techniques. The Orianne Society’s extensive network of field sites in the region will expand the educational and research opportunities available to the University’s students and faculty.

Scientists from The Orianne Society will also continue to contribute regularly to the [Georgia Southern University herpetology collection](#), strengthening one of the largest collections of amphibians and reptiles in the Southeast.

“In addition to enhanced research opportunities, students involved in collaborative studies with The Orianne Society will be able to observe the types of jobs that are available in the field of conservation biology. Nonprofit groups are often a source of training opportunities and rewarding jobs for our graduates,” said Steve Vives, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biology.

The partnership between Georgia Southern University and The Orianne Society is a model for cooperation between public and private entities in the service of conservation-oriented research and education. Information about the outcomes of this partnership will be posted on each organization’s website in the coming months.

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