

Newsroom

November 13, 2018

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Newsroom" (2018). *Newsroom*. 1579.
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Georgia Southern's online master's in sport management named one of the most affordable

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Georgia Southern University's online Master of Science in Sport Management has been named one of the most affordable online sport management master's degrees in the country, according to [OnlineU.org](https://www.onlineu.org).

The program, located in the Waters College of Health Professions, was ranked No. 9 out of 25 schools across the nation. The 36-credit hour, fully-online program is designed to provide academic preparation and practical experience in the skills and techniques necessary to be successful in the sport business and leisure field.

"Rankings validate the dedication of our faculty, which combines strong research and practical backgrounds, and honors the faculty's student-first focus and dedication and commitment to provide students with a valuable and meaningful education," stated Sara Plaspohl, interim chair for the Department of Health Sciences and Kinesiology.

OnlineU.org provides in-depth rankings of degree programs and colleges and universities across the nation in an effort to provide economical options for students. To be considered for the ranking in the "2019 Most Affordable Master's in Sports Management Online," universities needed to be regionally accredited and offer a fully online degree. A total of 25 colleges and universities were selected and ranked based on their annual tuition.

Students are able to complete the program in 24 months, or as their schedule permits. Upon completion of the program, graduates are prepared to work in sports marketing, promotion and advertising; sports information, media and communications; The Olympic Movement; state and county sports commissions; athletic leagues and associations; sport facilities and event management; and professional teams or collegiate athletic departments.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving nearly 26,500 students through nine colleges on three campuses in Statesboro, Savannah, Hinesville and online instruction. A leader in higher education in southeast Georgia, the University provides a diverse student population with expert faculty, world-class scholarship and hands-on learning opportunities. Georgia Southern creates lifelong learners who serve as responsible scholars, leaders and stewards in their communities. Visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu](https://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).



Savannah Wind Symphony opens season with concert on Armstrong Campus

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Savannah Wind Symphony, a community symphony serving the Coastal Empire, will hold its first concert on the Georgia Southern Armstrong Campus in Savannah. The symphony is comprised of musicians from the greater Savannah area.

Director of Savannah Winds, Mark Johnson, said the first concert will have a variety of pieces.

"Everyone associated with the Savannah Wind Symphony is excited to get this season underway," Johnson said. "Our first concert program promises an entertaining eclectic mix of old and new selections including tour de force Ron Nelson's 'Savannah River Holiday' and Michael Gandolfi's virtuosic 'Ventos y Tangos.'"

The role of the ensemble is to enhance the cultural climate and appreciation of music in the Coastal Empire by performing public concerts at a high artistic level, to provide a nurturing musical environment to talented young musicians in the company of mature and accomplished musicians, and to identify and support scholarship recipients for advanced musical training at the Armstrong Campus.

The concert will be held in the Fine Arts Auditorium on Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free for Georgia Southern students, faculty and staff, while general admission is \$15 with discounts available for military, seniors and children.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/armstrongtickets.

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Tags: [College of Arts and Humanities](#), [Department of Music](#)

Georgia Southern alumnus, Perot Museum of Nature and Science unveil virtual reality app

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Georgia Southern University alumnus Lee Berger, Ph.D., speaking at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas.

Internationally renowned paleoanthropologist and Georgia Southern University alumnus Lee Berger, Ph.D., along with leaders of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas and South Africa's University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University), have made it possible to delve deep within a South African cave to discover and recover some of the most famous ancient human fossils in scientific history by creating a world-first virtual reality (VR) app.

Berger recently dominated world science headlines after leading the Rising Star Expedition, which led to the discovery of *Homo naledi*, a new species of human relative. The app allows people all over the globe to virtually tour the cave that very few people, including the group of scientists known as the Underground Astronauts, have visited in person due to the extremely narrow, 8-inch chute through which it is accessed.



A man uses the Perot Museum VR app.

"As I would never be able to actually get into the Dinaledi Chamber, one of the most exciting things for me personally is that through the Dinaledi app I can actually see and experience what it is like to be in the chamber where these wonderful discoveries were made," Berger said. "And even more exciting, I can share this first-time experience with young fossil hunters from all over the world."

Berger was joined by Perot Museum CEO Linda Silver, Ph.D., and Perot Museum research scientist, member of the Underground Astronauts, and Director of the Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey, Becca Peixotto, Ph.D., for a live news conference to announce the app watched by journalists and academics from across the world.

The Museum collaborated with Wits University to initially create this experience, which was brought to fruition by Dallas creative-technology company Groove Jones, for the Museum's newly transformed Being Human Hall. However, they also wanted to extend the VR journey beyond the walls of the Museum.

The app offers narration in six languages from some of the explorers and scientists from Berger's Rising Star expedition, and viewers can explore and virtually hold fossils from the remote cave. The translated experiences are available on the app in English, American and European Spanish, and the African languages of isiZulu, Setswana and Sesotho.

The free app is optimized for Google's VR platform, Cardboard, but it is compatible with any headset. It can be found by searching for Dinaledi in the Google Play and Apple App Store. Learn more about the cave exploration experience at perotmuseum.org/DinalediVR.

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Tags: [Alumni](#)

Georgia Southern University announces outstanding \$5 million gift to the College of Business

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The Georgia Southern University Foundation, Inc. received a \$5 million gift, the single largest gift in University history, for the College of Business from Greg Parker, president, founder and CEO of The Parker Companies in Savannah. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved the name of the Gregory M. Parker College of Business at Georgia Southern University.

Parker is known for his commitment to technology, innovation and charitable giving. The new name ties the College to a successful entrepreneur and to a powerful brand that is associated with high-quality service and products.

"At Georgia Southern, we're focused on student success and meeting the workforce needs of our region and the state," says Georgia Southern University President Shelley C. Nickel. "This bold investment in our students will increase that effort and provide even greater opportunity for the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow."



Greg Parker, president, founder and CEO of The Parker Companies in Savannah, and Allen C. Amason, dean of the Parker College of Business, sign the historic agreement.

"This \$5 million gift signifies a new partnership between The Parker Companies and the College. It will enhance the quality of teaching and learning and scholarly activities while raising the profile of the Parker College of Business and Georgia Southern University across the region, state and nation," adds Allen C. Amason, Ph.D., dean of the College. "This partnership is a significant step forward in preparing more highly qualified students for the workforce."

With a diverse student population that is representative of Georgia's population, the new funding will establish the Parker Business Scholars Program, Parker Business Scholarship Fund and Parker Faculty Support Fund, allowing Georgia Southern students to excel in the areas of professional development and scholarship. In addition, faculty research remains at the forefront of the College's dedication to current trends in business and teaching.

"By making this gift to the College of Business at Georgia Southern University, I hope to make a lasting impact on the business community in coastal Georgia," states Parker. "I truly believe in education's power to transform lives and have a strong commitment to giving back to the community."

The Parker Business Scholarship Program (PBSP) will provide personalized professional development and educational enrichment opportunities to a select group of students in the Parker College of Business. Implementation of the PBSP will begin in fall 2019 and include specialized coursework, unique professional development opportunities and

other experiential learning activities. The Parker Companies, along with the dean of the College, will have direct involvement with the PBSP students.

The Parker Business Scholarship Fund will enable recruitment and retention of greater numbers of the best and brightest students and will attract students with the potential for competitive offers from other universities, making the Parker College of Business a destination of first choice for students across the state and region.

The Parker Faculty Support Fund will support faculty members and their research. Research is essential to the academic reputation of the College, to the scholarly currency and prestige of the faculty, and to the overall value proposition of the College as a leading academic institution.

About Parker's

[Parker's](#) is strategically redefining America's convenience store industry, offering customers high-quality products, freshly prepared food and superior customer service at 54 retail stores throughout southeast Georgia and South Carolina. Headquartered in Savannah, Ga., Parker's has a commitment to exceeding customer expectations and has repeatedly been recognized as one of the nation's leading convenience store companies. Food service is a specialty, featuring Parker's Kitchen favorites like hand-breaded Southern Fried Chicken Tenders, tender bone-in chicken, made-from-scratch mac 'n' cheese, a breakfast bar and daily specials. The company's popular PumpPal loyalty program, which includes more than 150,000 members, has saved Parker's customers more than \$10 million to date.

Parker's also gives back to every community where stores are located through the Fueling the Community Program, which donates a portion of the profit of every gallon of gas sold on the first Wednesday of the month to area schools. In addition, the company endows the Parker's Emergency and Trauma Center at Memorial Hospital in Savannah, and spearheads an Anti-Litter Campaign in Savannah. For more information about Parker's, visit [Parkersav.com](#).

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