

# Newsroom

March 4, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern grad student recognized by American Society of Civil Engineers

MARCH 4, 2019

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Georgia Southern civil engineering graduate student Mariah Peart has been selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as one of 10 New Faces Of Civil Engineering for 2019 — Professional Edition. Engineering professor Gustavo Maldonado, Ph.D., said it's the first time a Georgia Southern student has received this recognition.



*Mariah Peart*

"Mariah is one of the best students in the Civil Engineering program," said Maldonado, who along with Marcel Maghiar, Ph.D., and Celine Manoosingh, Ph.D., is one of Peart's advisers for her thesis. "More than three years ago, Mariah joined our Build Environment and Modeling laboratory as an undergraduate student and quickly learned the operation of all our laser scanning and measuring devices."

Peart has worked on a variety of projects since becoming a master's student. She has used 3D laser scanning and close-range photogrammetry, to assist Statesboro city engineers redesign intersections, resulting in better traffic flow and fewer accidents. She also created 3D models of historic barns near Statesboro that will serve as virtual preservation for the Bulloch County Historical Society to document the history of the local area.

"My passion to serve the community assisted in attaining this recognition," Peart said. "My family is the reason why I have such a dedication to serve others through the skills I have learned over the years. These skills were built through passionate professors of the civil engineering and construction department. These professors not only teach the required material but show the students how their engineering skills can positively contribute to the community around them."

ASCE's New Faces of Civil Engineering recognition program highlights the next generation of civil engineering leaders. Every year, 10 honorees are selected from two divisions: collegiate and professional.

"It was soon evident that Mariah is a very intelligent, responsible, respectful and hard working individual," Maldonado said. "Certainly, the combination of those attributes is a recipe for success. Fortunately, Mariah received financial support from the College of Engineering and Computing to pursue her graduate degree with us. I'm very glad Mariah earned this well-deserved recognition."

Steven McCutcheon, Ph.D., a retired senior environmental engineer with 37 years of experience with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey, said Peart has made him proud to be a civil engineer.

"I am overjoyed that you have become an Associate Member of ASCE, given your professional leadership potential," McCutcheon said in a letter to Peart. "This award is also a real credit to the civil engineering program at Georgia

Southern. I suspect it may influence the next accreditation of the civil engineering program, recruitment of faculty and attracting great students.”

Other members of the 10 New Faces Of Civil Engineering include an engineering professor in the Dominican Republic and a young Ph.D. who helped expose the ongoing lead pollution in the drinking water of Flint, Michigan.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 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](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu).

Tags: [College of Engineering and Computing](#)

# Georgia Southern University to host Mission and Vision Feedback Sessions, welcomes input from community

MARCH 4, 2019

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Georgia Southern University's Strategic Planning Committee will host University Mission and Vision Feedback Sessions on March 5-7 at campuses in Statesboro, Savannah and Hinesville. The six facilitated events are open to the public and designed to gather feedback from the community and to offer the opportunity to shape Georgia Southern's new mission and vision statements, values and goals — all of which will inform the University's new Strategic Plan.

"This is an exciting time to be at Georgia Southern, as we work together to envision the future," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carl L. Reiber, Ph.D., who is overseeing the Strategic Planning process. "It's important that the University's strategic planning process is as inclusive as possible, giving community members, alumni and other external stakeholders the opportunity to get involved."

The University Mission and Vision Feedback Session schedule is as follows:

## **Tuesday, March 5**

### **Liberty Campus – Hinesville**

Classroom 105

2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, March 6**

### **Statesboro Campus – Statesboro**

Russell Union 2041

10:10 a.m. and 12:20 p.m.

## **Thursday, March 7**

### **Armstrong Campus – Savannah**

Armstrong Center, Room 106

11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

"Mission and vision statements help to define who we are and what we aspire to be as an institution," said Reiber. "We need a more concise mission statement that reflects our priorities and will guide us going forward."

Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year, the University Strategic Planning Committee has engaged students, faculty, staff and community members in the strategic planning process. Most recently, the committee hosted several Town Hall events to facilitate community input that will help define the goals and priorities for the institution. The Strategic Plan, a five-year vision for the institution's future, will move the University forward with a clear set of goals, strategies and measurable outcomes for key areas. The plan also will update the University's mission and vision statements.

Parking for the community is available on each campus, free of charge, for the University Mission and Vision Feedback Sessions.

To learn more, please visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/StrategicPlanning](https://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/StrategicPlanning).

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Tags: [Strategic Planning](#)

# Georgia Southern student selected as Board of Regents Academic Day representative

MARCH 4, 2019

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*The 2019 Academic Recognition Day Awardees with Board of Regents Chairman Don Waters and University System of Georgia Chancellor Steve Wrigley.*

Georgia Southern University student Edward Legaspi was recently recognized by the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents and the Georgia General Assembly for receiving the Academic Recognition Day Award.

Legaspi, who is a senior double majoring in accounting and information systems, was nominated by the Parker College of Business for representing the highest scholastic ideals of Georgia Southern. The award is considered one of the greatest academic honors a USG student can achieve.

"To be recognized by my college, the president and the university is probably the highest honor I've ever received," said Legaspi. "I am thankful for my professors and friends in my college, because I do not believe I would be anywhere near where I am today without them."

Legaspi earned 30 hours of advanced placement credit work prior to enrolling at Georgia Southern, including calculus I, calculus II and chemistry.

"I found the AP courses to be much more rigorous than my other high school courses," he said. "They really allowed me to get used to the pace of college courses. Each day in class you're always learning something new and having

that prior experience definitely made a difference. Also, it was because of all these hours I was able to pursue my double major and still graduate on time.”

During his college career, he has served as an information systems tutor, the executive vice president and president of the Eagle SAP® Users Group, which focuses on information systems, and as a member of the University Conduct Board.

In addition, Legaspi was named to the President’s List, participated in the BB&T Leaders Program, and placed third in the Microsoft Office Specialist National Championship. He also completed an internship with AFLAC in Columbus, Georgia, where he gained hands-on experience using SAP® Solutions.

“Edward Legaspi is a standout student, but, more than that, he is a thoughtful classmate,” stated Brit McKay, Ph.D., professor of accounting. “He was generous with his help and in a technical subject, always more than willing to help a classmate, contribute to discussion and advance the overall knowledge of the group.”

Legaspi, who will graduate in May, has accepted a consulting position at one of the Big Four in Atlanta.

“My time at Georgia Southern has definitely helped me prepare for my career,” he said. “My courses gave me experience in a number of different software and technologies being used in business today. Through my extracurriculars, I was able to meet and network with a lot of current and former students, building invaluable connections.”

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