

# Newsroom

March 20, 2019

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern students advance as Fulbright Semi-Finalists

MARCH 20, 2019

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Two Georgia Southern students and one alumna have advanced to the semi-finalist round for selection as 2019-2020 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants. Emily Pressler, a senior Spanish and French major, Michael Casteel, a senior computer science major, and alumna Adom Abatkun ('18), who earned a degree in criminal justice and criminology, applied last fall for the opportunity to teach English in other countries.

All three students worked for months on their applications before interviewing with the campus Fulbright committee. The national screening committee then selected these students to move on to the next round.

Fulbright's National Screening Committee selected the students to move on to the next round, and they are now waiting for a decision to be made by selection committees in their respective, potential host countries.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program supports individual study/research projects and English teaching assistantships in other countries. Any senior or alumni may apply for these awards.

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.

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# Georgia Southern director of University Honors Program named National Collegiate Honors Council Fellow

MARCH 20, 2019

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*Steven Engel, Ph.D., director of the University Honors Program*

Georgia Southern University's Steven Engel, Ph.D., director of the University Honors Program, was named a 2018 Fellow of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). Fellows are recognized for their scholarship, service and leadership in honors education on their home campus and in the national honors community. Engel joined Georgia Southern in 1999 and is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science. He has been the director of the University Honors Program since 2005.

In addition to growing the program and developing its opportunities for Georgia Southern honors students, Engel has also been involved in honors education at the state, regional and national level. He has published scholarship on honors best practices, curriculum and study abroad trips. He has served as the president for the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council and as president for the Southern Regional Honors Council. At the national level, he has served on the NCHC finance committee since 2008 and has been treasurer and a member of the executive board since 2014.

"Dr. Engel has provided exceptional leadership for the National Collegiate Honors Council," said Mary Beth Rathe, executive director of the NCHC. "As a treasurer of the organization, Steve's tenure has provided stability through the transition of presidents and executive directors. He is a passionate leader of the organization and has always kept the needs of our membership at the center of discussion and decisions regarding honors education."

Engel is the second Georgia Southern honors director to be named a NCHC Fellow. Hew Joiner, Ph.D., director emeritus of the Bell Honors Program, was named a NCHC Fellow in 2013.

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