

Newsroom

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Georgia Southern University

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Parker College of Business logistics department moves up in world ranking

MAY 9, 2019

Save

The Department of Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) in the Parker College of Business has moved up in its world ranking to No. 14 by [SCM Journal List™](#). The Department was ranked No. 15 in 2018.

The SCM Journal List™ annual ranking of universities' supply chain management research output is based on leading supply chain management journals. The research is primarily empirically focused and has been published in the last five years.

"We have program driven approaches to research in the Department of LSCM," said Jerry Burke, Ph.D., professor and department chair. "The journals represented on the SCM Journal List™ are widely regarded as premier outlets for intellectual contributions. We aim for these journals to enhance the reputation of our strong undergraduate degree program as well as our Ph.D. program.

"It means a lot to our programs to attract and retain faculty with keen interests in student success along with world-class research reputations," Burke added. "While our team may not get the exposure of a sports team with a top 20 ranking, we take great pride in our intentional and continued success through academic pursuits."

The SCM Journal List™ ranking uses output from top-tier journals which publish research across a broad spectrum of areas across the supply chain, in both the analytical and empirical arenas. Georgia Southern has been ranked in the top 25 of the empirical list for four straight years with this year's ranking of 14th being the best ranking to date.

Georgia Southern student overcomes hurdles to complete her degree after 21 years

MAY 9, 2019

Save



"I chose education to educate others," stated Alexis N. Washington, who will proudly walk across the commencement stage this weekend — 21 years after she first began her studies on the Armstrong Campus — to earn a bachelor of liberal arts and a minor in sociology.

For Washington, the path to graduation was a rocky one, but determination and commitment to complete a goal she set for herself more than two decades ago pushed her forward.

Born and raised in Savannah, Washington matriculated at Armstrong State University in 1998 to be close to home. As a new student, she became interested in nursing and was on track to pursue that path, however, an abusive personal relationship derailed her plans. Unable to cope with the trauma of victimization and the daily stress of class and life, her grades plummeted, and she dropped out of college.

Fast forward to a few years later and she was married with a new associate's degree in medical assisting. Finally on track with a career, her husband was killed in a tragic accident only months later. In an instant, her life was upside down again. As Washington reeled from the loss, she had to compose herself enough to take the reigns of her husband's business, which she inherited upon his death.

"For the next 10 years, I focused solely on entrepreneurship but later began self-examinations of what success means to me," said Washington. "It was at this point that I realized how important it is to finish everything that I've ever started."

During those 10 years, she also suffered two strokes that affected her memory. Yet she didn't let that deter her from pursuing an undergraduate degree and working with special education students in the school system, which inspired her to pursue a teaching career.

"I have decided to make my biggest obstacles minute in comparison to my new-found pursuit of happiness," said Washington.

Today, she is fully recovered and grateful for online classes that allowed her the flexibility of time management, as she continues to operate a business. Named to the Dean's List for the last two semesters, Washington is also thankful for her professors at Georgia Southern.

As part of an individual project, criminal justice professor Maxine Bryant, Ph.D., mentored Washington as she worked to petition the Georgia parole board in pursuit of an inmate's successful release. Abnormal psychology

professor Wendy Wolfe, Ph.D., helped her prepare to assist exceptional students diagnosed with learning disabilities and apply strategies and principles in everyday life as they pertain to the psyche of working with this population of students in a high school setting.

Washington also participated in the Southern Women Leadership program on campus to strengthen her presence as a woman in leadership.

As she continues into the education arena upon graduation, she looks forward to sharing the culmination of her passion for teaching, business acumen and life experience to help young people overcome obstacles and succeed.

"I plan to teach high school students in the area of special education or healthcare science," she explained. "I will continue to operate my family business and hope to educate others in entrepreneurship. In the midst of exploring my passion to teach, I also plan to instill hope in others by using available platforms to share my story of perseverance and resilience."

The full-circle moment is especially gratifying for Washington.

"I realized after spending over a decade in pursuit of making everyone else in my life happy, I was left unfulfilled," she said. "So I decided to come back and finish what I started 21 years ago to make me happy and complete."

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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