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## Newsroom

Georgia Southern University

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# Georgia Southern hosts inaugural Gratitude Gala Donor Awards, celebrates individual, corporate philanthropy

MAY 28, 2019

Save



*(l-r): Georgia Southern University President Kyle Marrero, Georgia Power representatives Truitt Eavenson and Ronny Just, Gail U. Reed, Donald Anderson and Trish Carter, who accepted an award on behalf of Betty Foy Sanders*

Georgia Southern University hosted its inaugural Gratitude Gala Donor Awards to recognize key donors based on their longtime support of institutional initiatives. The event was held on Saturday, May 18, at the Perry Lane Hotel in Savannah.

Vice President of Advancement Trip Addison welcomed the honorees, which included three individuals and one corporation.

“Tonight, we honor those who have truly invested in Georgia Southern and Armstrong State University,” said Addison. “The Gratitude Gala represents the coming together of donors from both institutions. We recognize those whose generosity and philanthropic spirit has helped elevate our university. Helping our students has always been their top priority.”

Addison then introduced math and biology major Katherine Barrs, a recipient of the 1906 Scholarship, which is funded by several donors and covers the cost of tuition for four years.

“We are here to celebrate the generosity of university donors and show our gratitude,” said Barrs. “I have certainly been on the receiving end of their generosity. I would like to thank them and express my appreciation for all that they do.”

The 2019 recipients are:

## **2019 Legacy Member Honoree: Gail Reed**

Gail Reed, a native of Augusta, Georgia, was honored for her deferred charitable commitment to the Parker College of Business and the School of Accountancy. Reed, a longtime supporter of Georgia Southern, has served on the boards of several university organizations and endowed a scholarship for accounting majors in the University Honors Program. Reed owns Gail U. Reed, CPA, PC, a public accounting practice that specializes in accounting and taxation for individuals, businesses and estates.

## **2019 President’s Ambassador Honoree: Donald Anderson**

Donald Anderson, Ed.D. (‘59), year was awarded for his ongoing support of the Athletics Department. Anderson began his career at Armstrong State College in 1966 and served as an associate professor, acting head of the Department of Education, dean for Community Services and registrar and director of Admissions. He joined the Athletic Department in 1992 as an academic advisor for student-athletes and was inducted into the Armstrong State University Athletic Hall of Fame as a Citation

Award winner in 1996 for his service and philanthropy. Armstrong honored him further by awarding their top male and female student-athletes with the annual Dr. Don Anderson Scholar-Athlete Award.

**2019 President's Innovator Honoree: Georgia Power**

Georgia Southern, Armstrong State and Georgia Power have a long history of partnership. Georgia Power has been a loyal supporter of both institutions by providing annual funds to be used in the areas of greatest needs. In addition, Georgia Power endowed the Georgia Power Chris Hobson Honorary Scholarship for outstanding chemistry students. The company recently outlined a 20-year plan focusing on the delivery of clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy. As such, they have turned their attention to funding scholarships in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**2019 President's Visionary Honoree: Betty Foy Sanders**

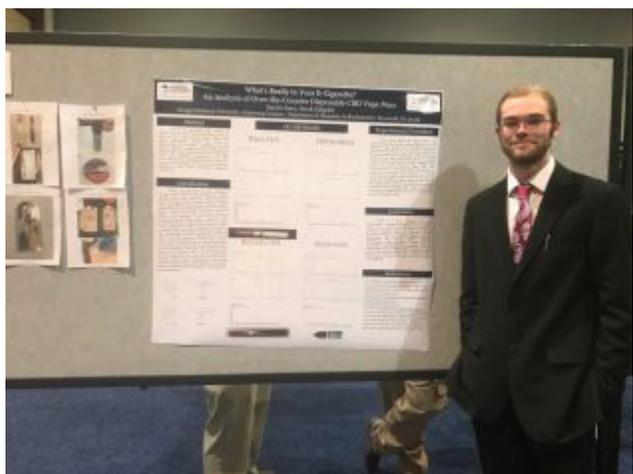
For more than 50 years, Statesboro native Betty Foy Sanders has fostered her love of learning for art with students at Georgia Southern. When her late husband, former Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders was in office, she dedicated her efforts toward the construction of several fine arts buildings within the University System of Georgia, including the Foy Fine Arts Building on Georgia Southern's Statesboro Campus. Over the years, her generosity has continued to grow. Her gifts enabled the university to name the Art Department the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. She has endowed scholarships, as well as student art travel and visiting artist funds. In addition, her artwork can be seen throughout numerous buildings on campus and in the Center for Art and Theatre.

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).

# Georgia Southern student researches over-the-counter vaping pen

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*Daniel Josey presents poster on e-cigarettes at the Southeastern Regional Meeting in Augusta, GA.*

Vaping, or smoking e-cigarettes, is gaining popularity among young adults. According to a U.S. Surgeon General report, just under 14% of 18 to 24 year olds currently use e-cigarettes, and that number is increasing. Vaping devices heat a liquid to generate an aerosol, and the users inhale the vapor. The potential dangers of vaping are not yet fully understood, but Daniel Josey, a junior at Georgia Southern University, is trying to change that.

Josey heard about a vaping product called Magic Puff from friends who used it to inhale cannabidiol (CBD). Unlike other marijuana components, CBD does not produce a "high."

The efficacy and long-term impact of CBD are still under investigation, and its use is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. However, it can be obtained in

supplements, especially in states that have legalized marijuana use.

While some users say CBD has a relaxing effect, Josey says the effects of Magic Puff described by friends were extreme: dissociation from reality, the feeling of intense intoxication, passing out and even temporary psychosis and seizures in some users.

Convinced there was something was something other than just CBD in Magic Puff, Josey set out to determine what's really in the vaping liquid. He presented his findings at the Southeastern Regional Meeting (SERMACS) in Augusta.

"As soon as I heard of Magic Puff, I decided I wanted to classify its true active ingredient to discourage its usage," said Josey. "The three main factors that led to my research were the rampant consumption of this product by young people, the form that the drug was available in and its misrepresentation as having a safe and natural active ingredient."

After finding illegal drugs in the vaping devices, Josey hopes to help prompt strict regulations for all vape products and consumables sold in smoke shops and online.

"The reality of adults, teenagers and even some children unknowingly using a dangerous and mind-altering drug is absolutely horrifying," he said.

Josey is grateful to his faculty mentors for their guidance. "I could not have done this research without the help of Dr. Sarah Zingales, who assisted me in running the GC-MS and developing a procedure and without the permission of Dr. Nathaniel Shank, my research advisor under whom I study peptide nucleic acids and who allowed me to do this project on the side," said Josey.

After graduation, Josey's goal is to attend graduate school and continue medicinal research. He would like to minor in neurology and focus on medicinal research as it pertains to mental health, drug policy and regulation.

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# Georgia Southern Division of Continuing Education to host youth technology camps this summer

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Children ages six through 14 will have a chance to grow their knowledge of technology while creating new worlds at various Black Rocket programs throughout the summer hosted by the Georgia Southern University Division of Continuing Education.



Black Rocket camps, which begin June 3, cover a range of engaging, technology-centered learning including programming, stop animation, 3D modeling and battle royale video game development. The camps will all be at the Nessmith-Lane Center.

There are options to suit each technology enthusiast throughout June and July. For the youngest creators, the Code Explorers program makes it easy to step into the world of programming. By tackling web-based challenges and navigating new lessons each day, these up-and-coming coders will strengthen their creativity, problem-solving skills and digital fluency.

For technology explorers ages eight through 11, the Roblox Coders and Entrepreneurs program uses a combination of game design, coding and fun. Those enrolled in this program will not only learn to build their very own game but also how to share it with friends and family.

Those ages 11 through 14 can learn the world's fastest growing programming language, Lua, during the Python Programmers camp. Used by Google, YouTube and NASA, Lua can provide campers with the tools to create their very own apps and games.

For a full list of Black Rocket camps and to register, please visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/conted/blackrocketprograms](https://georgiasouthern.edu/conted/blackrocketprograms).

For more information on other youth programs through the Division of Continuing Education, please contact Judy Hendrix at 912-478-5555 or [ceyouthprograms@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:ceyouthprograms@georgiasouthern.edu).

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Tags: [Division of Continuing Education](#)

# Georgia Southern University ranked in top 20 for 2019 online Master's in Accounting Programs

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The Georgia Southern University online Master's of Accounting (WebMAcc) program has been ranked No. 15 by BestMastersPrograms.org in its 2019 Top 25 Master's Online Accounting ranking list.

The AACSB-accredited WebMAcc program started in 2013 and is geared toward working professionals. The 30-credit hour program features 100% online coursework and accepts incoming students during fall and spring semesters. The program follows a cohort model using a team-based approach to online learning. By mirroring the on-campus program, the WebMAcc is taught by the same experienced faculty with the same access to campus resources.



This ranking by Best Master's Programs serves as a guide for working adults to the best accredited online master of accounting programs. In addition to considering accreditation, editors ranked programs according to alumni salary (College Scorecard), cost (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) and student reviews (Niche).

"The faculty and staff involved with graduate programs within the School of Accountancy and the Parker College of Business at Georgia Southern University work diligently to provide an exceptional graduate education through dynamic teaching, relevant coursework and exciting professional experiences," stated Brit McKay, Ph.D., professor of accounting and MAcc coordinator. "Our No. 15 ranking is a direct result of the hard work of not only the faculty and staff but also the students we serve."

Accountants are in high demand, with the employment of accountants and auditors projected to grow 10% from 2016 to 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Accountants earn a median annual salary of around \$70,000. In order to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam, students must have 150-credit hours, often meaning earning a master's degree is necessary.

The Georgia Southern University School of Accountancy housed within the Parker College of Business is independently accredited by AACSB International. To learn more about Georgia Southern's Parker College of Business graduate programs, visit [GeorgiaSouthern.edu/businessgraduate](http://GeorgiaSouthern.edu/businessgraduate).

# Sales Education Foundation recognizes Georgia Southern's sales program

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Sales Education Foundation (SEF) has recognized Georgia Southern University's Center for Sales Excellence in the Parker College of Business as a "Top University Sales Program" for 2019. SEF has recognized the university's efforts in preparing students for successful careers in professional selling and evaluating the sales profession since 2011.

According to a survey of sales managers, sales program graduates "ramp up" 50 percent faster than their non-sales educated peers and experience 30 percent less turnover in their field.

The Center for Sales Excellence boasts a 98 percent job placement rate for its sales students. Students participate throughout the year in various regional and national competitions and have access to a sales laboratory, giving them valuable experiences that help them succeed after graduation.

Founded in 2006, the Center for Sales Excellence has more than 200 students and offers accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), full membership in the University Sales Center Alliance, and offers its students membership in the professional fraternity, Pi Sigma Epsilon, for marketing and sales management industry professionals. Georgia Southern is also the only university to award Huthwaite's Academic SPIN® Selling Certification. SPIN® Selling is one of the most iconic and revered sales methodologies in the world.

For more information on partnerships with the Georgia Southern University Center for Sales Excellence in the Parker College of Business, contact Linda G. Mullen, Ph.D., director of the Center for Sales Excellence, at [lgmullen@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:lgmullen@georgiasouthern.edu). To learn more about the growing sales education space, visit [www.salesfoundation.org](http://www.salesfoundation.org)



# Georgia Southern University to hold ribbon cutting for Waterfowl Pond

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Georgia Southern University will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Waterfowl Pond this Saturday, June 1, at 1:30 p.m.

The project began in 2009 as a part of the Phase II portion of the Center for Wildlife Education called the Wetland Preserve, with an educational focus on water and ornithology. Native species of waterfowl were released on the pond, and the exhibit was a success for several years.

In keeping with the theme of bringing man and nature closer together through the use of minimal barriers, nature began to take advantage of the situation. The pond was closed while it was reconstructed to protect the waterfowl from predators.

"The reopening of Waterfowl Pond will be an integral part of the Wildlife Center's educational offering in addition to serving the Georgia Southern family and local community as a respite and place to connect with the natural world around us," Executive Director of Center for Wildlife Education, Steve Hein said.

The pond will be home to 50 ducks of different species. In the weeks and months ahead, 50 or more ducks will be added along with various non-releasable wading birds (herons, egrets and storks).

Construction to enclose the Waterfowl Pond that is located on the Wetland Preserve began in fall 2018. The Wildlife Center serves kindergarten through 12 students from 33-county geographical area along with guests from across the country and beyond.

Members of the Wildlife Center's Board, major donors, friends of the Wildlife Center and Georgia Southern President Kyle Marrero have been invited to participate in this event.

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# Georgia Southern receives provisional accreditation for B.S. in Biochemistry

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Georgia Southern has been selected for provisional accreditation through December 2021 by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry program.

It is within the ASBMB policy to grant provisional accreditation, rather than full, to all new programs. While the program on the Armstrong Campus for four years now, it is new to the Statesboro Campus. With this, the ASBMB considers it a new program.

This accreditation gives the ASBMB room to actively and visibly promote excellence and innovation in undergraduate biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) education, raise the profile and enhance the relevance of the ASBMB society among STEM educators and in the private sector. It also helps to connect with and recruit aspiring young biochemists and molecular biologists on a nationwide scale.