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Georgia Southern University wins two professional, four student Emmy® Awards

JUNE 21, 2019

Save



Georgia Southern Multimedia Development Center Emmy award winners include, from left, Bradon Holder, Senior, Electrical Engineering Major, Orange Park, FL, Sergio Montero, Senior, Computer Science Major, Savannah, GA, Melanie Denton, Senior, Multimedia Film and Production Major, Statesboro, GA, Robert Wright, Graduated, Multimedia Film and Production Major, Macon, GA, and Brian Cox, Senior, Computer Science Major, Richmond Hill, GA.

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast Chapter recognized the Multimedia Development Center (MDC) at Georgia Southern University with two professional and four student Emmy® awards.

This brings total Emmy wins to 12 for the MDC, which directs, produces and manages video projects and more than 100 live events each year, including Eagle athletic events that are carried on ESPN and other nationally televised university broadcasts. The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences is a professional organization for individuals in the television and broadcasting industry. They announced their Emmy winners last week.

Georgia Southern's student production teams won in the following categories:

- **Sports, Live Events – Georgia Southern Baseball** – Nicholas Burke, Jamal Rogers, Franchette O'Neal, Robert Wright, Bradon Holder, Brian Cox, Natalie Arreola, Chandler Stevenson, Deondra Green, Shelby Head, Casey Felton
- **Best Newscast** – Bradon Holder, Holden Galatas, Griffin Lail

- **Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs – David Murray Piano Recital** – Melanie Denton, Sergio Montero
- **Public Service** – Bradon Holder, Sergio Montero, Melanie Denton

“I can’t give enough thanks to all our staff and students at the MDC, and especially Georgia Southern University, for the vision to build this influential program and most importantly providing once in a lifetime educational opportunities for our students through the MDC,” said Art Berger, director of the MDC.



Art Berger, Director of The Media Development Center at Georgia Southern, won the Emmys for Best Director and Best Technical Director.

Montero, a computer science major from Savannah who won in three student categories, has been involved with the MDC for more than two years. He attributes the development of his professional skillset to the unique relationship that the MDC builds between staff and students that focuses on one-on-one mentorship.

“I felt pretty overwhelmed, looking at the stage, walking in, I realized the gravity of what it meant to win this Emmy award as a student,” Montero said. “Working at the MDC and getting an Emmy for what I love doing, I think I’d have to say in one word, is absolutely phenomenal.”

Denton, a multimedia film and production major from Statesboro, also won three Emmy awards. She recently changed her major to a video production field because of her experience at the MDC. The Emmy wins help to validate that she has chosen the correct career path.

“It was really exciting to be at the Emmy awards and to personally have that many nominations. It was just incredible,” Denton said. “It has been really great over the last few years to see students graduate and go on to really outstanding opportunities like working at ESPN or at CNN and it is really exciting to know that they got there through this program and that winning Emmy awards was part of their success.”

The Media Development Center professional production teams also received two professional wins and a nomination in the following categories:

- **Winner Best Sports Director** – Art Berger, director
- **Winner Best Technical Director Live** for Georgia Southern Football and Soccer with Art Berger as director.
- A professional nomination for “**Sports Interview and Discussion**” – **The History of Freedom the Eagle**” in the Spanish language category – Art Berger (host), Eddie Rodriguez (narration), Bryan Dykstra, and Ben Powell (production and videography).

Berger received two director Emmy wins in the professional category.

“I am very proud of our student wins this year especially with the level of competition in the Live Event and the coveted Best Newscast categories,” said Berger.

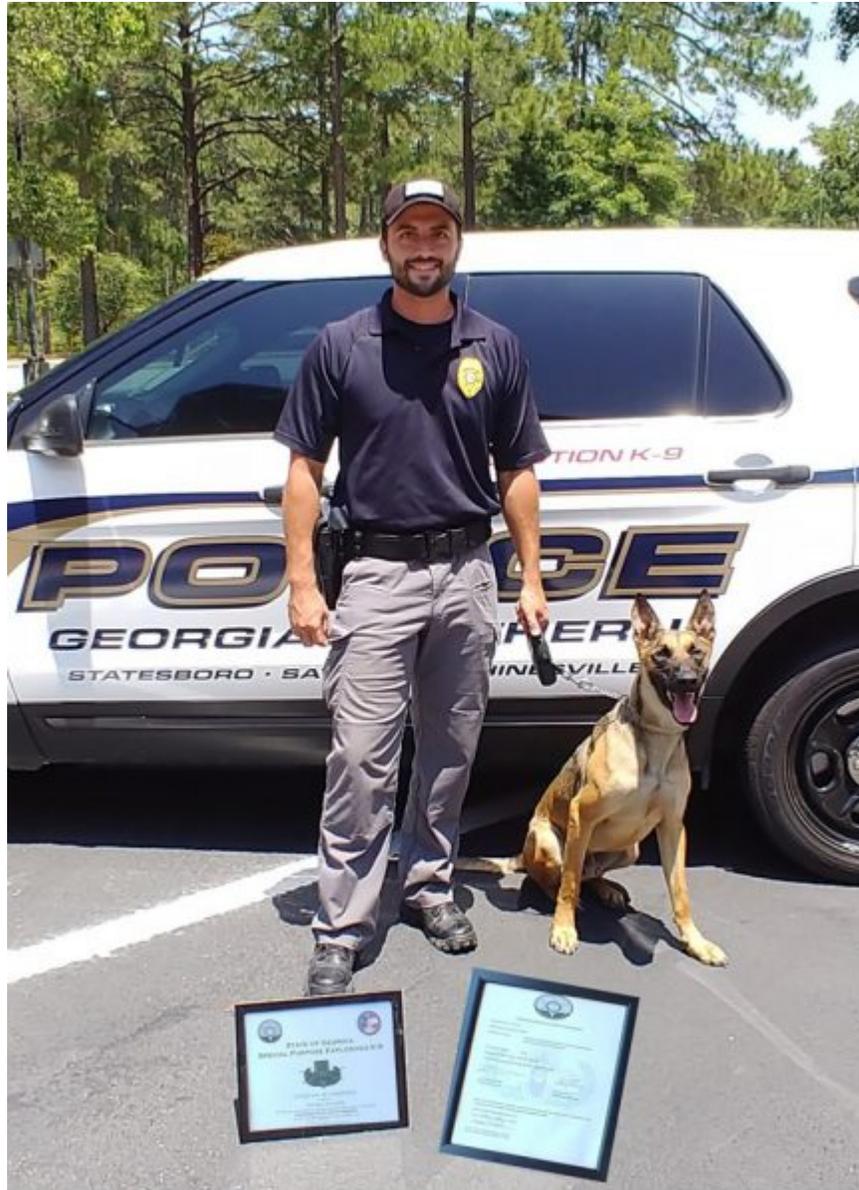
Berger, dedicated to celebrating cultural diversity in the media, won the Best Technical Director Emmy award for Georgia Southern’s Spanish simulcast. Broadcasting in Spanish is new for the university. The MDC competed against Telemundo and Univision for the award.

The Best Director Emmy was awarded for a combination of events including ESPN football, basketball and soccer games. During the presentation at the Emmy ceremony, Berger shared this award and dedicated the Best Sports

Georgia Southern police dog, handler complete training after donation of new equipment

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Georgia Southern Office of Public Safety officers BJ McKellar and K-9 Rocky pose with their certificates after completing trainings related to the new equipment they were recently donated.

The Georgia Southern Office of Public Safety's newest K-9 recently received a ballistic vest as well as some medical related items from Protecting K-9 Heroes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping fund K-9 operations and reducing K-9 fatalities around the country.

Officer BJ McKellar has been paired with K-9 Rocky, a 21-month-old Belgian Malinois, who was certified in May. Rocky is an explosive detection K-9, and his main job is to search for explosive odor materials as well as weapons that use black powder.

"If Rocky and I are called out to a scene, we will immediately begin searching the area to establish a command post and safe evacuation area if need be," McKellar said. "Upon completing that sweep we begin searching the outer perimeter of the building or area we are called out to search. Rocky and I then move inside the building or area and do a thorough search. If there is a suspicious item found, Rocky will sniff the item. If he sits, that's an indicator that there are explosives or explosives materials inside."

Rocky's new medical equipment includes Narcan, which blocks the effects of opioids and reverses overdoses within two to five minutes. K-9s are often at risk of ingesting dangerous substances during drug busts. McKellar and Rocky participated in training done by a veterinarian on how to use the Narcan.

"My job is to simply be the guy holding the leash with this type of K-9," McKellar said. "Rocky is the one doing all the work. I can help guide him if I think he may have missed an area or I want him to check something again, but for the most part, he is running the show."

McKellar said he is excited to start this new partnership with Rocky, which will include more training with other items received in the donation from Protecting K-9 Heroes. He said his favorite part about being Rocky's handler is facing the challenges that come with a new position.

"I have never worked K-9 previously and neither has he," McKellar said. "There is a lot more work involved than I initially realized. It may seem from an outsider's point of view that you just walk a dog around, but there is way more involved."

People on campus may see Rocky out and about from time to time. When he's not in an emergency situation, he's usually riding on patrol with McKellar or resting.

"I will get him out and play some fetch throughout the day," McKellar said. "Other than that, Rocky is in the back and more than likely catching up on a nap. I like being able to learn and grow as a team with him and being able to create a new bond with him."

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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Parker College of Business management students conduct research for Briggs & Stratton

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Georgia Southern University's student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) teamed up with the Statesboro location of manufacturing company Briggs & Stratton to help the company better understand why long-term employees choose to stay.

The executive board of SHRM worked in groups to conduct 22 stay interviews in mid-April. Much like exit interviews when people resign from a company, the stay interviews help Briggs & Stratton Human Resources Manager Amanda See (MGMT, '97; MBA, '01) to understand what has kept the longer-term employees on the job.

The students worked with See to complete the interviews, while SHRM co-advisors John Harris, Ph.D., assistant professor of management, and David Sikora, Ph.D., associate professor of management, helped work out the details and a timeline for executing and delivering results.

Interviewees were all in the technician classification, which requires more experience and has proven harder to fill in recent years. More than half of the employees in this area had been on the job for five or more years, with 32% having worked at Briggs for more than 10 years.

The findings of the interviews were overwhelmingly positive. The majority of those interviewed generally enjoy working at Briggs and would recommend the company to friends or family looking for jobs. Interviewees also seemed to have a desire for more training and communication between shifts and on their performance. Most of the concerns mentioned were areas that the managers are already working on solutions.

Students Evan Hartzog and Brandon Lee presented their findings to plant manager James Suchovsky and other Briggs & Stratton managers on May 16.

"The students impressed us with the project," said Suchovsky. "The information collected and recommended will help us retain and better engage our personnel in the future. The students did a great job presenting their data, and we thank them for the support."

Briggs has operated in the Bulloch County Gateway Industrial Park since 1995. In early 2018, Briggs headquarters in Wisconsin announced that V-Twin Vanguard engine production would relocate from Japan to the U.S. This relocation created new jobs in Statesboro and in the company's Auburn, Alabama, factory.