Georgia Southern University’s Southern Chorale recently completed an 18-day tour of Austria and Germany, where they competed in two international choral competitions.

The choir performed at the Ave Verum International Choral Competition where associate professor Shannon Jeffreys, Ph.D., was awarded the Conductor’s Prize for outstanding conducting and Georgia Southern’s Southern Chorale was awarded Gold for their performance.

“The choir was thrilled to compete alongside choirs from seven countries,” said Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Jolyon T. Hughes, Ph.D. “It was wonderful to introduce these students to the musical heritage of countries such as the Philippines, Sweden, Hungary and Ukraine.”

The tour concluded at the International Chamber Choir Competition Marktoberdorf, considered one of the most challenging and prestigious choral competitions in the world. Following three days of competitions and evening performances, Southern Chorale received the Level 1 Certificate, the highest level of achievement possible.

The choir was ranked 7th overall amongst professional choirs from the Philippines, Ireland, Russia and the United States.

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.
Georgia Southern faculty edits essays challenging eighteenth century culture

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Jeffrey D. Burson, Ph.D., associate professor of French history, co-edited *The Skeptical Enlightenment: Doubt and Certainty in the Age of Reason*, a recently published collection of essays that examines the process by which skepticism was challenged and gradually tamed to bring about an anxious confidence in the powers of human understanding. This work shows how doubt and anxiety about the limits of human understanding were at the very heart of the early Enlightenment.

Burson is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Theological Enlightenment: Jean-Martin de Prades and Ideological Polarization in Eighteenth-Century France* and the *Culture of Enlightening and the Entangled Life of Abbé Claude Yvon* in addition to numerous articles and chapters in edited collections of essays. He is also the co-editor of *Enlightenment and Catholicism in Europe: A Transnational History* and of *The Jesuit Suppression in Global Context: Causes, Events, and Consequences*. 