Georgia Southern’s Fall 2019 Honors Program, honors freshmen class, largest in institution’s history

December 5, 2019

Georgia Southern University’s Fall 2019 Honors Program enrollment is the largest in the history of the institution, with 762 students enrolled across various colleges and disciplines.

“It is exciting to be able to offer more students the opportunities available in our program,” said Steven Engel, Ph.D., director of the University Honors Program. “This growth of honors enrollment is a testament to the academic rigor available throughout the academic colleges at Georgia Southern University.”

The University Honors Program provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. Honors students enroll in a select number of honors courses, take advantage of experiential learning opportunities, such as service learning and study abroad, and participate in faculty-mentored research through the honors thesis requirement.

Honors student Gabi Wiggill, a psychology major from Pretoria, South Africa, who plans to attend medical school, chose Georgia Southern’s Honors Program for its academically oriented community.

“Being in the Honors Program helps me find direction and support in my education pathway,” said Wiggill. “I can always rely on my peers, professors and advisor to guide me and motivate me through all the challenges I may face. I cannot imagine achieving as much as I have so far without having been in the Honors Program.”

Among the overall enrollment in the Honors Program, there are 252 honors freshmen, reflecting a 25% increase over last year’s class figure.

In addition to international students like Wiggill, the Fall 2019 freshman honors student population is more diverse than the Fall 2018 class with 28% non-white representation, compared to 24% in the Fall 2018 class, and a 70% female student body compared to 64% one last year.

Engel said the program growth supports plans to develop an Honors College at Georgia Southern. Just as the program does now, a new Honors College would serve students on the Statesboro Campus and at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah, signaling the importance that Georgia Southern places on its most high-achieving students.

Students in the Honors Program who complete the entire course of study and the honors thesis are well-prepared for law school, medical school, graduate school and a variety of other careers.

For more information on Georgia Southern’s Honors Program, visit www.georgiasouthern.edu/honors.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/R2 institution founded in 1906, offers 141 degree programs serving more than 26,000 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.
Team USA Archery head coach teaches class at Georgia Southern Shooting Sports Education Center

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The USA Olympic Archery Team’s head coach, Kisik Lee, recently taught a Level 4 National Training System certified archery course at the Shooting Sports Education Center (SSEC) on the Georgia Southern Statesboro Campus. Lee’s course was one of only two classes per year, and it was the first of its kind held outside of the USA Archery facility in Chula Vista, California.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase our high-caliber facility to Coach Lee and other aspiring coaches,” said Matt Horst, SSEC director. “We are extremely proud to host this course which brings 40 archery coaches from across the country to see what Georgia Southern has to offer the archery community. It is a great example of how we are able to contribute to the region’s economic impact.”

The SSEC aims to provide a hub for the shooting sports in Southeast Georgia. Through instructional programs, training classes, recreation, competition, and special events, it serves a variety of individuals including youth, adults, students, law enforcement, hunters, first-time shooters, elite athletes and all groups interested in participating and learning more about firearms and archery.

Georgia Southern University Botanic Garden receives grant for new species, walking trail

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The Georgia Southern University Botanic Garden has been awarded the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, which will be used to plant a collection of new trees and install a trail amongst them.

“The grant will pay for a climbing arborist to come in and take care of the trees that we don’t have the staff to manage safely,” said Carolyn Altman, Botanic Garden director.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust was created in 1970 by May Smith in honor of her husband to support education and research in ornamental horticulture and the development and maintenance of public gardens that offer educational experiences.

The Botanic Garden is located on the Statesboro Campus, and admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit https://academics.georgiasouthern.edu/garden/.