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## Georgia Southern business student finds team, career during time in Statesboro

May 15, 2020



*Recent Georgia Southern graduate Maddie Keen toured AT&T Stadium where the Dallas Cowboys play during a trip to Dallas with the Georgia Southern Sales Competition Team. Keen will move to Dallas to start her career with AT&T in August.*

Before coming to the Georgia Southern University Statesboro Campus, Maddie Keen had never been part of a team. Now, after graduating in May with a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing with an emphasis in sales, Keen credits the Georgia Southern Sales Competition Team with changing her life. In August, Keen will join a new team at AT&T in Dallas, Texas, where she will work in business-to-business sales.

“When I look back at my time in college, I think that my experience with the sales competition team impacted me the most,” Keen said. “I didn’t know that I wanted to go into sales until I was asked to join.”

Keen said one competition in particular with the sales team set her course in college and for her career. The competition was hosted by AT&T, and the team was flown to Dallas, where they toured the Dallas Cowboys’ stadium.

“It was an eye-opening experience, and we were able to network with schools all around the country,” Keen said. “It was then that I scored an internship with AT&T, which eventually turned into a full-time offer. That competition changed my life.”

In addition to the sales team, Keen was a member of the professional fraternity for marketing and sales, Pi Sigma Epsilon (PSE), where she held multiple executive board positions. She attributes her time with PSE for making her a better candidate for employment.

“PSE has helped me for my future career not only by giving me a large network, but PSE also taught me how to be a leader,” Keen said. “PSE taught me how to handle conflicts and how to manage my time better. This organization has also helped me learn how to build a résumé and how to have a successful job interview.”

As she gets ready to move to Dallas and start her career this summer, Keen has a few tips for current students.

“Get involved on campus and meet as many people as you can because when you have a large network, you are going to have many opportunities,” she said. “Make a LinkedIn account and keep it updated. Lastly, no matter how hard and stressful school gets, always stay positive and be grateful.”

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## [Georgia Southern’s new vice president for student affairs has firsthand experience with Eagle Nation](#)

May 15, 2020



Georgia Southern has hired an experienced professional with very personal ties to Eagle Nation as its next vice president for student affairs.

Shay Little, Ph.D., comes to Georgia Southern from Kent State University in Ohio where she has served since 2012, most recently as special assistant to the president and vice president of student affairs. Before that, she spent 15 years at the University of Georgia and three years at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

“My daughter went to school here and graduated from Georgia Southern University while I worked in Georgia,” Little said. “I have firsthand knowledge about the experience Georgia Southern provides to its students, and I was very excited when I learned about this opportunity. I am thrilled to be joining the team at Georgia Southern.”

Reporting directly to the president, Little will start June 1 as Georgia Southern’s senior student affairs officer and primary advocate for approximately 26,000 students on three unique campuses. She will lead a talented team that oversees a wide range of departments focused on student support and development including

Campus Recreation and Intramurals, Counseling Center, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Health Services, Leadership and Community Engagement, Multicultural Affairs, Student Conduct, Student Accessibility Resource Center, Student Government Association, Student Media, and University Housing.

“Dr. Little has direct experience with many of these areas that play such a key role in helping our students excel,” said Georgia Southern President Kyle Marrero. “Dr. Little’s outstanding track record of progressive leadership experience and commitment to student success will make her the ideal leader for us at this critical time in our history.”

Marrero also thanked the search committee that conducted a nationwide search for the position, led a transparent and engaged search process, and helped cull through an “exceedingly strong” candidate pool.

Scot Lingrell, vice president for enrollment management, and Takeshia Brown, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, co-chaired a diverse search committee that included students, representatives from across campus and leaders within the student affairs division.

Little stood out to the committee for her experience with strategic planning and leadership, her commitment to inclusive excellence and her ability to connect with students, Lingrell said.

The vice president position is critical, Marrero said, as the University plans for a fall semester in the wake of a global pandemic while also being ever-mindful of the increasing responsibility university officials have to meeting the needs of a diverse student body.

Little has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Baylor University, a Master of Science in counseling and student personnel services from Oklahoma State University, and a doctorate in counseling and student personnel services from the University of Georgia. She attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education, has taught a myriad of counseling and higher education classes, and has more than 20 publications or professional presentations to her credit.

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](https://www.GeorgiaSouthern.edu).