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Parker College of Business students meet virtually with potential employers

July 10, 2020

The School of Accountancy in the Parker College of Business at Georgia Southern University helped more than 60 students meet with potential employers during its first-ever virtual career fair held in June.

The virtual event took the place of the school's annual Accounting Day career fair. Ranisha Newbold, a junior accounting student at Georgia Southern, is looking for an internship in Spring 2021 and was grateful to learn about the event.

"The fact that we actually had an accounting career fair was the best thing, given the pandemic and that we couldn't have the face-to-face Accounting Day," stated Newbold. "I am grateful to the Parker College of Business School of Accountancy for taking the time to put the virtual career fair together for those of us who wanted to attend the accounting career fair."

Newbold has attended an in-person career fair in the past and felt at ease in the virtual environment.

"I felt so much more comfortable to speak or, in this case, type about myself and what I wanted to know," stated Newbold. "I feel like this experience helped me with developing the right questions to ask and learning how to keep the conversation going. Just as you are getting to know the company, they are getting to know you."

Job recruiter Rachel Booth of Aprio in Atlanta attended the event, which was her first experience recruiting virtually. Thanks to the career fair, she is going to be busy with interviews in the coming weeks.

She believes that due to the virtual nature of the event it will take longer to schedule interviews and follow-up conversations than it would in traditional settings, but she also thinks the platform allowed students to learn a lot from each other and from the recruiters.

"For the next virtual career fair, I would like to be able to see the students and to have conversations with them," said Booth. "I think this would benefit the students, as well. The students asked good questions in the chat, and it was easier to talk to multiple students at once, as lots of students tend to have similar questions. I think they were able to learn more about Aprio."

Tim Pearson, Ph.D., director of the School of Accountancy, said hosting virtual events helps students keep up with networking and career opportunities.

"Before COVID-19, we typically had 25-30 employers and around 100 students attend Accounting Day," stated Pearson. "This virtual technology is our new normal, and this event is critical in keeping that connection open for students to plug in and find what job opportunities are available to them."

Pearson is scheduling another virtual career fair on Aug. 26 for the annual Meet the Firms networking event in order to keep up with the demand for accounting students.

"The job market for accounting is very good but slow," said Pearson. "One of the firms talked about being busy with the Paycheck Protection Program loan compliance work; new opportunities are surfacing every day. We need students to get their resumes and other candidate materials up-to-date and vetted through the Office of Career and Professional Development and their new platform, Handshake, so they can put their best foot forward."

Compelled to mentor, graduate redirects studies to coach and teach

July 10, 2020



Following his final wrestling match at Forsyth Central High School, Nathan Kistler left the mat with a newfound vision — to become a coach and teacher and provide the same mentorship that he received throughout school. Yet, as a new student at Georgia Southern University, Kistler chose to study business.

“I had people tell me that I wouldn’t make any money as a teacher and that it can be hard behind the scenes, and I got discouraged,” said Kistler. “I thought business would be a better path.”

However, Kistler couldn’t muster enthusiasm for business courses.

“I had to push hard to want to do the school work,” explained Kistler. “I can be creative and thought I could use those skills for sales and advertising, but I was really not listening to myself. What I wanted was to work with students.”

Kistler changed his major to middle grades education, and the impact was immediate.

“It was a lot different than I thought it would be,” he said. “When it came to my education courses, I didn’t have to push so hard to pay attention. I was excited.”

Kistler said the opportunity to consistently learn in and outside of the classroom reaffirmed his decision.

“I had student-teaching placements every semester giving me awesome experiences and really building my passion for the career,” he said. “It made me more excited as I got to build relationships with students and teachers.”

Kistler completed a B.S.Ed. in middle grades education with concentrations in social studies and science in the spring during the unprecedented COVID-19 distance learning at the University. Since then he has lined up a job as an eighth grade science teacher and an assistant football coach at Otwell Middle School in his hometown of Cumming, Georgia.

“I wanted to come home to give back to the community that gave so much to me,” he said.

Kistler began meeting with teachers almost immediately after accepting the job in May and has started conditioning and training with the football team virtually.

“It’s interesting and different, but meeting virtually and working at a distance pushes me and others to be creative in how we deliver instruction and form relationships with our peers and students.”

Regardless of the challenges he may face with the ongoing threat of a pandemic, Kistler says he is ready.

“I know there are exciting times ahead, and I cannot wait,” he said.

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.

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Georgia Southern theatre professor appointed regional chair of Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

July 10, 2020

Georgia Southern University theatre professor Lisa Abbott has stepped into a new role as the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) region 4 chair.

As chair of region 4, Abbott works with a leadership team that puts together the regional KCACTF festival for Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Lisa Abbott

The regional festival, held each year in February, provides a forum where students and professionals have the opportunity to take part in auditions, performances, portfolio reviews and workshops.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person KCACTF fall 2020 activities such as peer reviews of productions will be conducted remotely, and the 2021 region 4 festival will now be held virtually.

“Things will be different, but we will re-emerge with new stories and new ways of sharing the live theatre experience,” Abbott said. “We have made a commitment to celebrating innovation in this time. Our students are already leading the way in how to utilize different mediums to tell stories and celebrate their work.”

Abbott coordinates travel logistics for 200-300 regional shows each year, manages organizational finances, coordinates the regional festival and represents the region on the national leadership committee, among other roles. Through innovative storytelling, she looks to uphold the equity, diversity and

inclusion standards of KCACTF.

“We are here to support, to listen, to raise up our students, faculty, and artists of color,” Abbott said. “We will continue to follow these practices, hopefully with a renewed and greater commitment.”

Abbott has been active with KCACTF for 12 years and served as the vice chair for the past three years. She is now chair until April 2023. She teaches courses such as directing, acting, playwriting, and theatre management within the Department of Communication Arts and directs student productions.

Tags: [College of Arts and Humanities](#), [COVID-19](#)