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THE GEORGE-ANNE

www.GADaily.com

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COVERING THE CAMPUS LIKE A SWARM OF GNATS

Ayers supporters petition Grube

By Chris Buchanan
Editor-in-Chief

Proponents of Bill Ayers' visit to campus made a final plea to President Grube on Monday when they brought in the results of an online petition for consideration at a faculty senate meeting.

Ayers' March 2 appearance was canceled last week following an estimated \$13,000 in security costs that were brought to the attention of Vice President of Student Affairs Teresa Thompson by the Department of Public Safety.

Late last week, Professor Michelle Haberland began circulating an online petition in hopes of shifting the university decision.

According to Haberland, the petition had approximately 261 signatures as of the meeting time at 4 p.m. During the meeting she urged that the university reconsider the visit.

Administrative officials including Grube and Thompson stood behind the university decision and reiterated that it was in no way politically influenced.

Grube also mentioned a recent quote from a faculty member's e-mail that appeared on Chronical.com -- the website for "The Chronicle for Higher Education" -- calling the security argument a "sham."

Students, parents, alumni and community members expressed their disapproval for Ayers' appearance at www.GADaily.com and in multiple Facebook groups last week bringing some to ask whether the decision was influenced by public opinion.

See Ayers PAGE 3



Shannon Knepp/STAFF

NEWS

The Comm. Arts department has made some major changes to the journalism and broadcasting degrees. **PAGE 10**

Three-Day Forecast



Today
Sunny
58/40



Wednesday
Rain
63/47



Thursday
Chance of rain
56/27



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GSU science professor Debopam Acharya works on life saving software SAVE

By Mark Beavers
Staff Writer

A Georgia Southern computer science professor is working on technology that could help save lives.

Professor Debopam Acharya has been developing SAVE, Sun-java-based Automatic VEHicular accident reporting system, which is software that will help first responders arrive at the scene of an accident.

"It sends a message to the 911 operator and emergency medical services," Acharya said, also noting the java-based application can also use GPS to notify the EMS of the location of an accident.

While the system sounds similar to other in car accident reporting technologies, e.g. OnStar, Acharya said there is a difference between those systems and SAVE.

"The reason it is different from other devices is that it collects more information to help (authorities) understand what exactly happened in the car. Is it a crash, a roll over," he said.

He said that the software monitors the elevation, heat, changes in light, and location of the car.

Another unique feature of the product is that it can be coupled to one's cellular device.

"(In an accident) the cell phone will automatically bounce a message to the server," Acharya said.

He also said that the user can program multiple phone numbers into the SAVE application so that loved ones can also be notified in case of an emergency.

The system has been developed using a grant from Georgia Southern University, said Acharya.

"I got inspired (to work on the system) from the fact that most of the existing systems are company specific and more or less helps in road side assistance for basic car problems.

There is no general purpose system available," Acharya said.

According to Acharya, early stages of research for the project began in late 2007 but it wasn't until March 2007 when they started developing the java-based application.

Acharya has not been working on the project alone. He has also received some help from student assistant Nicholas Garvin.



Special Photo

Debopam Acharya is an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Sciences.

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College of IT offers SAP certificate for students

By Cameron Powell

Guest Writer

The College of Information Technology is offering new opportunities for business students by integrating the highly sought after Systems Applications and Products certificate, or SAP, into the curriculum.

SAP AG is a major software enterprise whose merchandise is used by over 35,000 companies worldwide.

Several schools are a part of the university alliance that offer the certificate, including the University of Southern California, Louisiana State University and the University of Central Florida, but Georgia Southern is the only school in the state of Georgia that is offering the certificate.

"Coca-Cola, Georgia Pacific and Home Depot are all avid SAP software users, and the information that students receive from SAP courses will help them break the mold in the competitive marketplace by having experience with SAP that is not common in college graduates," said Tom Case, professor and chair of the Information Systems Department in the College of Information Technology at GSU.

This certificate is offered to Information Systems majors or minors as a part of their course workload, but undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who minor in Information Systems may also be

eligible for the certificate.

There are a total of five courses students can take in order to be eligible for this honor, three must be successfully passed.

They include four Info Systems classes, (CSIN 4334, CSIN 4434, CSIN 4335, CSIN 4237) and one Management class (MGN 4333).

"Students are not limited to a specific three courses from these five, any three will suffice," said Case.

This long awaited opportunity for students was not a dream turned invention over night. The process to establish the SAP certificate has taken several years.

"Since 2003, GSU has sent faculty to SAP workshops to learn more information to teach courses," said Case. "We did not have enough courses available until spring 2007, and the courses offered that are SAP eligible are possible because of a willing GSU faculty."

The Department of Info Systems specifically wanted the courses to focus on enterprise systems, which, in essence, are the major functional areas of a business such as marketing, logistics, and accounting."

Because of this direct emphasis on enterprise systems, Georgia Southern business students have completed SAP internships at IBM, JCB, Shell, and ZEP.

AYERS

from page 1

Grube said that he had received no contact from any member of the Board of Regents, the state legislature, executive branch of state government or any elected official regarding the potential visit by Bill Ayers.

Since the cancellation, several proponents of the visit have surfaced online in many of the same outlets—some of these persons involved with the petition.

During the meeting, Grube also read letters from

one constituent angry about the possible visit and his responses to that letter aloud to reassure the senate of the university's intentions.

Thompson explained that the decision to cancel the Ayers appearance was made in conjunction with the Public Safety, ATE, GBI, and the FBI.

Still others, including professor Michael Moore brought up the possibility that this situation, threatening student and speaker safety, would become a guideline for protesters of campus events.

Grube said that he hoped this particular scenario would be "anomalous."

POLICE BEAT

February 13, 2009

Officers issued three traffic citations, three traffic warnings, assisted four motorists and investigated one accident.

A bicycle was taken from the Carroll Building.

Sean Irwin Collins, 17, Landing Drive, Marietta, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol, giving false information to an officer and possession of a false I.D.

February 14, 2009

Matthew Forde Gottlich Jr., 23, Nellie Brook Ct., Duluth, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane.

Steven Kendall Brett, 19 Southern Pines, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

Antonio Escobar Hernandez, 32, Knight Drive, was charged with DUI, failure to maintain lane and no driver's license.

February 15, 2009

Officers issued 28 traffic citations, 19 traffic warnings, assisted six motorists and responded to three alarms.

William Joseph Mims, 21, Georgia Avenue, was charged with driving with suspended license and safety restraint violation.

Jackson Edwin Head, 20, Statesboro Place, was charged with minor in possession/consumption of alcohol.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, owned and operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County and Statesboro, Ga. The newspaper is a designated public forum for the Georgia Southern community. Opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers and editors and DO NOT necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration of GSU, the Student Media Advisory Board or the University System of Georgia. The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu. Readers may access the newspaper and its archives at www.gadaily.com.

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SUPPORT: The George-Anne is funded primarily through revenue from advertisements placed in the paper and receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee.

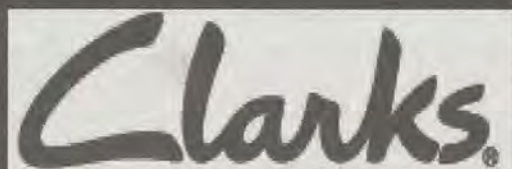
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PROOFING/ERRORS/OMISSIONS: The newspaper makes every reasonable effort to correct and complete information in advertisements. However the advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

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OPINIONS

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The George-Anne Daily welcomes letters to the editor, story submissions and guest columns. All copy submitted should be 350 words or less, typed, and sent via e-mail in Microsoft Word format to gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu or via facebook to Claire Gallam. All submissions must be signed and include phone number for verification. GSU students should include their academic major, year at GSU, and hometown. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject any submission.

Stand up and change the things you don't like



James Kicklighter is a junior public relations major from Claxton, Ga and the Public Relations officer for SGA. He is a guest columnist for the George-Anne.

Charles F. Kettering once said, "If you want to kill any idea in the world, get a committee working on it." There has been a lot of discussion this week on the life and times of Bill Ayers, who was never a household name until Gov. Sarah Palin started using it in the past election cycle.

Over the past week, I have listened to all sides of

the debate about Georgia Southern University's decision to stop Mr. Ayers from coming to campus.

Some say the University is advancing a political agenda, while the University states that it was for financial reasons. Regardless of your opinion, I believe that this exposes a higher problem that exists on this campus, and indeed larger in our country.

Today, we live in a climate for which individuals are no longer defined by their personages, but by their affiliations. We no longer live in a country for which ideas have the opportunity to be interchanged, but only to be compartmentalized by the Coulter's and Colmes's of our society.

Truthfully, many committees seek to promote

ideas that benefit their personal interests, rather than those of the people. If anything, Bill Ayers not coming to campus will prove to be positive for the student body, because it has sparked a fierce debate that will not be quelled by words or rhetoric.

I cannot count the number of conversations that I have encountered over my time at Georgia Southern asking how we can plug apathetic students into campus life. It is not as simple as creating good programming, which we have in abundance. The individual must first desire to care about the tools for success that we offer, be it an environmental lecture from Ed Begley or a life lessons speech from Wally "Famous" Amos.

Unfortunately, there will always be people who fall through the cracks; people who go through their entire collegiate careers, participating in all the social functions, without ever taking note of the ways they can better themselves before graduation.

In this world, there are forces that don't want you to engage. There are leaders, politicians, and corporate executives that would like to keep us silent for their own self-interests.

So this year, stand up for your beliefs and take action, sign up to be a part of SGA. Do something to change what you don't like. Who knows, maybe a little dialogue will find the solutions to problems we face.



Don't miss your life while you are rushing to live it; enjoy the moments that make it up



Claire Gallam is a senior communications major from Lakewood, Ohio. She is the Managing Editor of news for the GA.

My five years in college seem to have just flown by. As I face myself now, I'm still in awe as to how I've made it so far.

Yet, as my days here at Georgia Southern come to end, I start to wonder if I've really taken the time to live here. I don't mean have an address where my mail is delivered, I mean in the less literal way.

I walk around campus in such a hurry, contemplating where I have to be, what I have to do. It seems that I'm always fast forwarding through my days to that next moment, that next place to be, and forget to really live in the present, the moment that I have at my disposal that very instant.

A class assignment I had to read the other day introduced me to the mind of Henry David Thoreau. To most people, the man seems a bit

insane. He left his life in society where he attended Harvard, and moved himself to a little hut on the side of a pond.

To people living in this day and age, giving up the modern technology of cell phones, internet, and cars seems almost impossible. Granted he lived over 200 years ago, his ideas of why he did it and why people should do it are incredibly modern.

To convert his words simply, he just states that we live in a hurry and that we waste the life that is ours, the present moments that we overlook in the midst of trying to "live our life."

One of his most famous quotes (in lamens terms) is "I don't want to be on my death bed regretting that I never lived." As I read and understood that, it instantly became one of my biggest fears.

It's inevitable in this society to rush to make the clock, to beat the traffic, to run here and there, almost in circles. Modern technology has made it almost impossible for us to just relax and live in the moment.

I am one of the biggest victims of this as well.

I'm always running: to work, to class, to finish a homework assignment or write a paper. And before I know it, it's the next day, or the next hour, and I've forgotten what I did just moments before.

Thoreau would be disgusted by this, and now that I've thought about it, I am too. I don't remember what I did yesterday, better yet four years ago.

I don't remember the jokes that made me laugh until my stomach hurt, or the amazing conversations I'd have with long lost friends. I don't remember the random road trips to Florida or the name of the cute boy I gushed over in high school.

It all has seemed to fly by me, and even now I think I didn't fully appreciate them as they happened. So it seems even the best moments of my life are gone, and some all I have to remember them by is a photo, or a faint memory.

Granted I can't stop time and live in every moment, but I can make a point to live in the moments I have now, and take account for everything that happens to me, mundane or not.

One thing I wish I could do would be to ask persons who have died what they miss most about life.

Although this is an answer I will never find, I think I have an idea for what they'd say, especially people whose lives were lost at such young ages.

I think they'd say they miss their friends, and their families, long summer days at the beach, or great conversations with loved ones. I think they'd say they miss those moments in life that just happen, without plan or without precaution, those moments that are so quickly overlooked as we hurry through life.

Although those mundane moments of our life are the least exciting, they are still moments of our lives that we share only with ourselves, that we probably will never experience or live again.

So next time you are rushing to class, stop for a moment and experience what that moment has to offer you. You'd be surprised at how much more you will appreciate what those moments can bring to your life.

OPINIONS cont...

Using the RAC fees for all they are worth



Aly Rakoczy is a junior marketing major from Decatur, GA. She is a guest columnist for the George-Anne.

It all started with a mission. It was the same mission I've had every year since the beginning of college. It was the same mission with the same vision of a transformation that was supposed to turn me into some sort of make-over demi god.

I had this picture in my head (it looked a lot like a scene from an 80s movie) of a girl (me) starting out regular and slightly chubby and ending the year looking phenomenally svelte, the kind of svelte that garnered a smaller waist size and comments from friends and acquaintances. I would play out a possible future conversation between my svelte self and a friend within my head:

I would be in the grocery store or a restaurant or a bar or something like that and then a friend would spot me and signal me desperately with flailing arms...

Friend: "Ally! Ally!"

Me: "Oh [insert name here]! Hey how are you? It's been forever!"

Friend: "I know, it really has. You look so... phenomenal! And svelte!"

Me: "Oh, really? I haven't really been doing anything too different... thank you, though"

Friend: "Oh, by the way, this is my gorgeous and single friend Paulo. He's Italian."

And then here is the point in my make believe conversation where gorgeous Italian Paulo would fall madly in love with my new, svelte self and we'd

life happily ever after. But that's just the daydream. Anyway, back to the mission.

My mission (as you may have gathered) was to lose some weight before spring break (and if not spring break, definitely summer).

I had three months and a support system in the form of various adventurous friends. We've decided that we're all in this together, and that it's time to truly investigate all that the RAC has to offer.

So, one hour and several pep talks later, we ventured in to the vast expanse of the RAC. With its huge windows, whirring machines, and numerous flat screens, it seemed to be calling my name. Now if only I could have the guts and the muscle to answer.

See, I'm no stranger to exercise. I was (and still am) an avid soccer player and during high school I had been required to work out in a weight room.

The thing is, after a torn ACL and some sheer laziness I've been in and out of the gym for quite a while, so it would be a few days (I presumed) until the novelty of the gym wore off again.

However, it seems we've come to a solution: I am going to try every single class offered at the RAC. It won't matter if it's an hour-long spinning class, a hip-hop class, or a 6:30 a.m. yoga class, I will go to it, and I will write about it. No matter how embarrassing (or potentially painful) the experience.

So, as I complete each and every one of the classes offered to students at the RAC, I will be reporting my little adventures in the fitness world to you for your amusement, entertainment, and possibly a little motivation.

Do you like to draw?

Are your friends constantly complimenting you on how well you can draw caricatures and create funny bylines? If so, there's a job here for you!

The G-A opinions section is on the look out for more cartoonists! If you have a passion for the art, send in samples and information about yourself to ganewsed@georgiasouthern.edu. Or visit us in the Williams Center room 2023.

Letter to the Editor

I feel compelled to comment on Professor William Ayers in response to the disappointing distortions and insinuations perpetrated against him without knowing who he is, or reading what he writes about, or hearing what he has to say.

The official cancelation of Professor Ayers's lecture on March 2nd, 2009 in the Performance Art Center has never been sent to faculty members or to students.

Many GS students and faculty members, and faculty members in other universities in Georgia still plan to attend the lecture.

Since 2003 Professor Ayers has been invited to speak or lecture on Georgia Southern campus, served on many of our doctoral students' dissertation committees as an external expert, provided inspiring comments as discussants on conference presentations of our faculty members and doctoral students, and has inspired many faculty members and students in great capacities.

Most of the cases, he generously traveled by his own expenses. Georgia Southern has had many speakers who could be as controversial as Professor Ayers.

I personally attended some of the inspiring lectures such as the one given by Cornel West. Why does the lecture by Professor Ayers have to be canceled?

Those who attempt to silence others who disagree with them might be the same people who often brag about their love of country as they denigrate the Constitution and Bill of Rights' value on open debate, allowing free exchange of ideas and disagreeable opinions.

Respect for diverse perspectives is part of what makes our university strong and resilient. Any threat to which we bow makes us more vulnerable to more threats fired by hatred.

Canceling Professor Ayers's lecture on March 2nd, 2009 is not merely a loss of an inspiring educational opportunity, nor only a matter of academic freedom, but a violation of human rights.

If we are afraid of providing space for disagreeable opinions, how can we create "a culture of engagement" or develop "a fertile learning environment exemplified by a free exchange of ideas, high academic expectations, and individual responsibility for academic achievement" (University's Mission Statement)?

Hatred or fear by its very nature corrupts democracy.

Professor Ming Feng He, Ph.D

Professor of Curriculum
mfhe@georgiasouthern.edu

A plea for restraint in a movie going world



Ryan Babula is a junior broadcasting major from Augusta, GA. He is a guest columnist/features writer for the George-Anne.

I love going to the movies. I love the smell of popcorn as I pass the concession stand. I love picking the best seat in the theater.

I love sharing that sense of community with my fellow movie-going patrons as we all enjoy what's unfolding in front of us on that giant screen.

In our dire economic plight, it's one of the few things I'll continue to pay for, and it's a great escape for a couple hours.

There is one thing, though, that makes me weary of spending \$9 on a ticket, and that happens to be unruly moviegoers.

I'm sure all of you, at some point or another, have had to turn to someone in the theater and ask them to stop talking, texting, or calling their friends. It's a common occurrence, unfortunately, and it becomes a real burden when I have to take myself out of the story to ask someone to quiet down.

Now, I know this doesn't apply to everyone.

Usually, many movie going experiences are enjoyable and conflict free. But I wish that those few who feel they can carry on as they wish would practice a little more restraint and respect for those around them. If I wanted to listen to your commentary, I would've asked for it.

Instead, I'd like to get my money's worth.

I understand that seeing a movie is a communal experience, and I feel that there's nothing like it, but if there were any deterrent that would keep me from seeing a film, it would definitely be this.

I even had to stop going to one of my local theaters in Augusta as much because of unruly patrons every single time.

I think that if both individuals would be more respectful and theater employees would crack down more, then this wouldn't be as much of a problem.

So, in closing, this is not a rant against the moviegoing public, and it is not propaganda asking you to abandon the movies.

This is a plea to those who have group discussions, text their friends, and even make phone calls during movies: please hold off for the 2 hours you're in the theater.

I promise the world will wait for you to get out.

'Friday the 13th' remake plays it safe, stays true to bloody original

By Ryan Babula
Staff Writer



Alright, let's get this out of the way right off the bat: I love 80s slasher films. They were a staple of my childhood.

I really enjoy films like "Slumdog Millionaire," as they are infinitely better, but I will always have a soft spot for these guilty pleasures. There's something entertaining about watching a masked killer stalk unsuspecting sex-craved teens and dispatch them in increasingly creative ways.

Disagree? Rethink that time you watched "Final Destination" or "Halloween," and see if you enjoyed it for the intricate tales they wove.

These films live or die on their ability to deliver very distinct goods, and character development or plot have never been a highlight in telling these "stories."

Why should it? If you're going to watch one of these movies, you're not expected to fall in love with the characters. You're expected to hoot and holler when they bite the big one, as they are only fodder for the killer's violent ways.

That being said, Jason has always been my favorite of these slashers. While Freddy is cunning, and Michael Myers is menacing, Jason has always been the more distinctive of the bunch.

The "Friday the 13th" series was trendsetting for its level of violence, scare scenes, and yes, nudity and sex. I've seen all 12 films featuring Jason, and while the series has had its ups and downs (when it's stupid, it's very, very stupid), it's still one that will continue to survive through the years.

Watching the new "Friday the 13th" I couldn't help but get excited. It was only the second time I had seen Jason on the big screen (the first being "Freddy vs. Jason"), and when that infamous "Chi chi chi Ha ha ha" began to play, the preteen inside of me jumped out.

While it's far from high art, "Friday the 13th" is entertaining in the sense that it delivers what it promises tenfold, i.e. teens getting slashed and a lot of promiscuous activity.

If you're looking for a plot, I'll tell you now that it exists solely to round up a group of teens and pick them off one by one.

If you're reading this review, that's really all you're interested in, honestly. The inner critic in me could point out how implausible it is that a group of teenagers could be so unabashedly stupid in their actions.

I could rag on the fact that the script is derivative, and the dialogue is juvenile at best. I could roll my eyes at the fact that every minority character has to make a point of their status every time they speak. I could also point out that when Jason meets his eventual fate, the final shot is preposterous. I could point out all of these things out, but going into the movie, that's exactly what you expect!

If you want to jump out of your seat, holler at the screen, and be entertained for 90 minutes by dumb fun, then this is the movie for you.

Now, I know that some slasher movie could come out next week, and I could absolutely hate it. Just because you enjoy one doesn't mean you defend the other.

There are some really really bad horror films out there, i.e. every American remake of an Asian horror film.

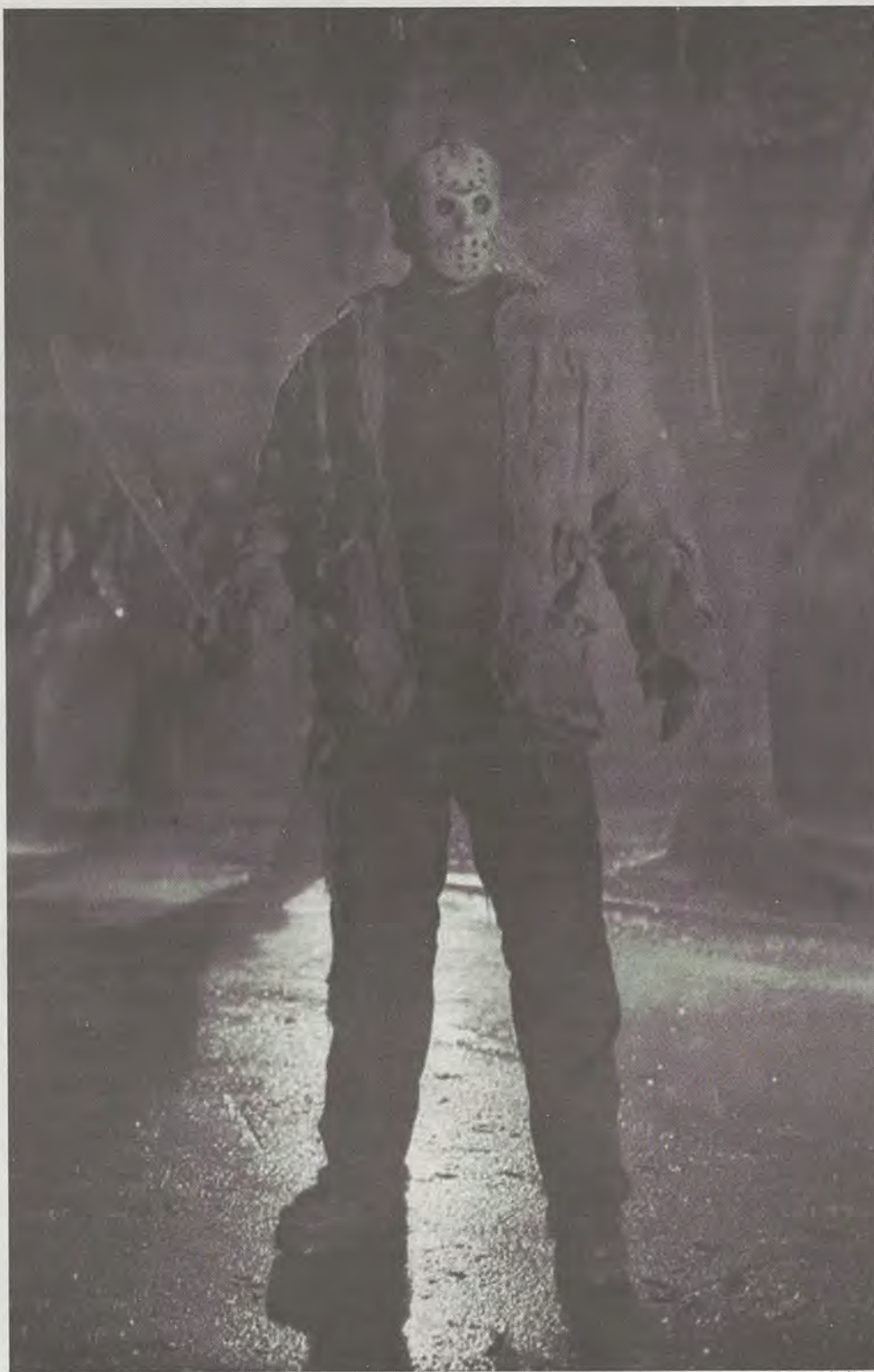
Thankfully, "My Bloody Valentine" was an entertaining horror film, but I'd argue that this one is better, simply because it's better made. Where "MBV" relied on camp, "Friday the 13th" relies on nostalgia, and it worked much better for me. Maybe that's why I enjoyed it so much.

It didn't bring anything new to the series, but it made me remember how much fun I had watching them as a kid with my friends. I know. Grab me a tissue.

I know that this was less a review and more a reflection on slasher films, and while that may seem like cheating, there's really not a whole lot I can comment on.

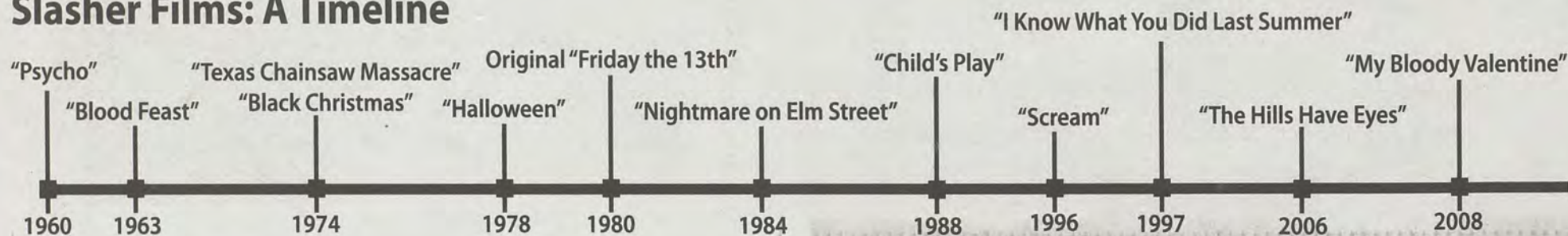
When the entire film relies on gory kills and nudity, I can't comment on specific things, for that would give away all the fun. What I can tell you is this: if you want to spend 90 minutes having guiltless fun, hooting and hollering whenever Jason lumbers on screen, then this is the movie for you. The trailers promise the goods, and the film delivers on them tenfold.

If you want a deeper message, look somewhere else, my friend. This is not the movie for you.



Special Photo

Slasher Films: A Timeline



The Green Corner Presents: Meeting With Ed

By Philip Clements
Features Editor

When I was watching "Pineapple Express" last month, I never expected I'd be in the same room with the guy that was firing a rifle at potheads Seth Rogen and James Franco.

But there I was, sitting at a wooden table with prominent members of the green movement at Georgia Southern and waiting for Ed Begley, Jr. to walk in so we could ask him questions and get some feedback on our efforts.

For 30 minutes, Begley gave us advice on how we could increase both awareness and participation from the student body and the Statesboro community at large.

"You have to come up with an inventive way to use current technology and do it in such a way to make it easier for people to participate," he told us.

He noticed the logo for the campus relamping project on the shirt of the man sitting next to him that read "Watt a Bright Idea!" He pointed and said, "see, that's what I'm talking about. If you make it easy to do, people will do it."

We asked him what was the most important part

of convincing a skeptic to go green, he said, "we gotta get them to see the connection between their actions and all the problems we are facing right now."

He told us that the best thing to do is to cite success stories in the environmental effort. Don't forget the bad news, necessarily, as it is the reality of the situation, but don't get bogged down by how bad things are.

When he took the stage last night, he went back and forth on the stage as he talked about his hope in the face of the many problems we face as a country and as a planet.

He told us stories of past problems that were dealt with through group efforts. In Los Angeles, despite being one of the top three most polluted US cities, smog levels are still down to half of what they were in the 1970s even with four times the number



Special Photo

of cars as then.

He made a point to emphasize energy sustainability, defining sustainability as "living within my means both fiscally and environmentally." In the long run it is much more cost effective to invest in things like energy conserving thermostats, weather stripping and fluorescent light bulbs. "The point is to live off the interest of your environmental investment, not the principle."

This extends to every kind of investment, but starts with energy and water spending according to Begley. "If you have a healthy environment, you have a healthy economy."

He asked everyone in the audience to do one thing. "Recycle. It's the gateway drug of environmentalism." But what if you already recycle? "Then I want you to replace your light bulbs with compact

fluorescent. If you've already done that, then get weather stripping." He also cited riding a bike or public transportation and getting an energy saving thermostat as cheap and easy things that we can do to save energy and save money.

After his speech, Begley opened the floor for a Q&A session. One student asked what we, as poor college students, could do to minimize our impact and live a sustainable life. "It [was] hard to be hip and green in the '70s," said Begley, "but I did it. I started as a college student living in an apartment."

He spoke about composting and even referenced GSU's own pilot composting project at Landrum. "I started composting while I lived in an apartment and it was pretty funky." He used a diaper container and emptied it about every two days. "I took the compost and planted it at a dead patch of land by the railroad," he said. "After a while, green stuff started to grow."

"We've got a Mount Everest in front of us, and not everyone goes all the way to the top," said Begley of the individual effort in the green revolution. "Some people reach base camp and stay there while others go a little bit higher. The point is to do what you can."

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 - **Third Place**, Sports Excellence
- **Second Place**, General Excellence

Individual Awards

- **Third Place**, Laura Pallini, Best Photo Essay
- **Second Place**, Charles Minshew, Best Entertainment Feature
 - **First Place**, Reuben Hayslett, Best Feature Story
 - **Second Place**, George-Anne staff, Best Editorial



I'm proud of you all. -- KC

Noelle Singleton wins 2009 Miss Georgia Southern pageant Saturday

By Arianna Jackson

Guest Writer

The Valentine's Day Miss GSU 2009 Pageant was indeed "Glamorous." The evening began with LaKea Burrison, Miss Altamaha 2009, singing her rendition of the National Anthem followed by an introduction of the contestants and Miss GSU 2008, Jessica Allen.

Scott Marchbanks, a certified Miss America Preliminary Judge and owner of Frills 'N Fancies, served as Master of Ceremonies for Saturday's pageant.

Throughout the evening Marchbanks entertained the audience with blonde jokes and Valentine's Day trivia. He went on to reintroduce Miss GSU 2008 Jessica Allen who then performed "I've Got Rhythm" on the flute. Afterwards, the contestants were asked back on stage for the swimsuit competition.

The On-Stage portion of the pageant consisted of each contestant describing their individual platform and its importance to them. Platforms included Americans for the Arts, Breast Cancer

Awareness and Education, Health and Fitness, Aiding in Healthy Self Esteem of Young Girls, Project Obesity, Inspiring Today's Youth through Mentoring, and Cultural Diversity.

For the talent competition each contestant displayed extreme skill and aptitude. Kimberly Perez wowed the audience with her amazing vocals while singing "I Who Have Nothing," which won her the award for Best Talent.

Brittany Cook perfectly executed the ballet "Finger Fairy Variation" while Noelle Singleton dramatically spoke the words of the famous poem "Ego Trippin." Sarah Farmer performed a unique jazz dance to Fergie's hit "Clumsy" and Cassie Brantley sang her heart out to "Brave."

Felicia Jordan skillfully tapped her way through Johnny Kemp's "Just Got Paid" followed by Portia Pitts inspiring liturgical dance to Kirk Franklin's "Now Behold the Lamb."

The last competition of the night, Evening Wear, gave each contestant the opportunity to give the judges a last glimpse before making a final decision.

Although all the candidates displayed poise and

elegance in their formal wear while representing Georgia Southern, Cassie Brantley gracefully accepted the award for Best Evening Wear.

Entertainment was also provided during the pageant by Mr. GSU 2009 and an original contestant in this year's competition Alexa Turpin who recently won Miss South Georgia.

The night climaxed with the announcement of Miss Congeniality, Noelle Singleton, People's Choice Award winner Felicia Jordan, second Runner Up Cassie Brantley, first Runner Up Kimberly Perez, and the newly crowned Miss GSU 2009 Noelle Singleton.

A relative newcomer to pageants, Noelle Singleton, first began competing in last year's Miss Black and Gold, which she won.

"My advice to future participants is that pageants are a competition against yourself! It's not about pretty faces, it's about confidence, poise, intelligence, and leadership," said Singleton.

Contestant Portia Pitts later said, "My favorite moment was when Noelle received Miss Congeniality. She is so sweet and deserved every



Photo by Rob Eakins/STAFF

award she received. She made the pageant for the rest of the contestants worthwhile."

Miss GSU 2009, Noelle Singleton, will have the opportunity to go to Miss America by competing in the Miss Georgia Pageant this upcoming June.

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Ed Begley Jr. "re-lamps" president's conference room

By Shannon Knepp

News Editor

Georgia Southern is becoming more energy efficient, and it is doing it with the help of Georgia Power, 135 students, and Ed Begley Jr.

Yesterday, project "Re-lamping GSU" kicked off in the conference room of President Bruce Grube. Grube, Georgia Power Area Manager Terry Reeves, and actor Ed Begley Jr. began the event by each giving a brief speech, followed by replacing the bulb of one of the lights in the conference room.

The light was switched from an incandescent light to Compact Fluorescent Lights, or CFLs.

Begley began his career as a conservationist in 1970 on the first Earth Day by the influence of his father.

"My father was a conservative that liked to conserve," Begley said.

Begley's father died before the first Earth Day, as a result, he began to take a stand for conservation as a tribute to his father.

Begley said the best way to being to be conservation friendly is to be fiscally responsible. "When you see the Mount Everest of changes, you don't want to run up the mountain... start

with an energy efficient light bulb... pretty soon you're half way up that mountain."

To help get up that mountain, GSU has teamed with Georgia Power to change to more energy efficient lighting. "This is just one of the steps," Reeves said.

According to Grube, most of the bulbs that will be changed on campus are coming from Georgia Power.

According to Monique Dipple, Office of Sustainability coordinator, the goal is to replace 2,000 to 2,500 bulbs by the end of the year.

"We'll do 500 bulbs by the end of the day. It will take the rest of the year to do the rest," Grube said.

After the bulb in Grube's conference room had been changed, students continued to replace other bulbs throughout the Marvin Pittman building.

"It's wonderful seeing all those green students," Dipple said.

One student volunteer, Jessica Sparrow said, "We're actually the first school [in this state] to be able to do this. It's a really unique opportunity."

According to Director of the College of Science and Technology office of Sustainability, Lisse Legee, Residents Halls will begin the switch to CFLs in the spring.



Special Photo

Broadcast students will see requirements for their majors changing along with journalism majors.

Communication Arts major programs to change Broadcast and journalism majors undergo course changes

By Anthony Visintainer

Guest Writer

Come this fall, there will be major changes in the Communication Arts Department: Journalism and Broadcasting majors will be looking at a re-vamped, updated program.

For those already taking the old program, though, this won't be a problem. They can stay on the track they're currently taking, says Head of the Communication Arts Department Pamela Bourland-Davis.

"Although some of the classes from the old program aren't going to be there anymore, if students already taking the old program decide to stay with it, we will be working with them to find a way for them to do that," said Bourland-Davis.

The changes are not officially scheduled to take place yet: the final decision will be made at the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting February 26 to 27.

The new program is being introduced for a number of reasons, Broadcasting professor Reed Smith said.

"The first reason is the evolution of the media into what we call convergence media. As we move along, less and less will there be radio journalists and television journalists and newspaper journalists. Eventually, there will be just journalists, not really specializing in any of these mediums, but working with all of them," Smith said.

To better equip students for success in such an environment, the Communication Arts Department is adding software and computer graphics classes to the curriculum. The journalism major will now be supplemented with courses on

things like internet software (IT 3132), web page development (IT 1430), and computer graphics (ART 2233), and will require 20 hours of electives whereas the current program requires 14 to 15.

In addition to being beneficial to students, this is an opportunity for departments to work together.

"We're bringing in other departments that have expertise in areas that are helpful to our students; they've got the expertise in their departments already, and we need our students to have experience in those areas. It's a very good way to work across departments," said journalism professor Ann Healy.

The second reason is to meet the accreditation standards of the ACEJMC [Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication].

"It's a national honor that just over 100 Broadcasting and Communication Departments nationwide have," said Smith.

The current curriculum is by no means outdated, though.

"Many of our courses may have already integrated [the necessary] technology... the problem was that the course descriptions looked old," said Bourland-Davis.

Faculty are optimistic about the future of the program.

"I think it's a good change in the curriculum because it still keeps our basic principles of journalism writing and story telling in place, but it blends them with these new technologies that our students need to know," said Healy.

"Ultimately, we believe it will make our students more employable and successful," said Smith.

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NATIONAL NEWS



Special Photo

Firefighters in Buffalo, NY peer into the plane that crashed into a house on Thursday night.

Commuter plane crash points to ice buildup on wing

McClatchy News Service

Federal investigators will spend the weekend trying to determine whether a heavy accumulation of ice caused a commuter plane from Newark, N.J., to crash in suburban Buffalo, N.Y., killing approximately 50 people, including at least 11 from New Jersey.

The pilots of Continental Connection Flight 3407 discussed "significant ice buildup" on the wings and windshield shortly before the twin turboprop nose-dived into a house Thursday night, federal officials said.

The airplane went through a "severe pitch and roll" after positioning its flaps for a landing, said Steve Chealander, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board.

It was the nation's first deadly crash of a commercial airliner in more than two years and came just weeks after a celebrated emergency landing on the Hudson River that saved the lives of all 155 aboard.

On Friday night, workers began removing the victims' remains from the crash scene in Clarence, N.Y., after firefighters battled flames from the wreckage for most of the day.

One of the 49 passengers killed onboard was a woman whose husband died in the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Among the New Jersey victims were four members of a Bloomfield family and two members of a popular jazz band.

President Obama voiced condolences Friday, saying: "Our hearts go out to the families and friends who lost loved ones."

Earlier in the day, investigators were able to

recover black box recorders that could shed light on what went wrong.

Neither the controller nor the pilot showed concern that anything was out of the ordinary as the airplane was asked to fly at 2,300 feet as it descended toward Buffalo-Niagara International Airport in New York.

Witnesses heard the plane sputtering before it plunged squarely through the roof of the house, its tail section visible through flames that shot at least 50 feet into the night sky. One person died in the house and two others escaped with minor injuries.

The near-vertical drop of the plane may have avoided more casualties on the ground.

"If it had landed horizontally, it could have taken out the whole neighborhood," said New York Gov. David Paterson.

After the crash, several pilots were heard on air traffic control messages saying they had been picking up ice on their wings. "We've been getting ice- since 20 miles south of the airport," one said.

Another said his plane had picked up rime ice a rough type of ice that prevents air from moving smoothly, puts considerable drag on the plane and prevents the wings from lifting.

Planes can stall even at high speeds or pitch and roll uncontrollably as Flight 3407 did, aviation experts said.

It was the first fatal crash of a commercial airliner in the United States since Aug. 27, 2006, when 49 people were killed after a Comair jetliner mistakenly took off from a Lexington, Ky., runway that was too short.

Man bitten by snake at Wal-Mart sues for damages

McClatchy News Service

Jay Richitelli filed suit against Wal-Mart because a venomous pygmy rattlesnake bit him in the lawn and garden section of the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Pembroke Pines, Fla. He is seeking an unspecified amount in monetary damages in the Broward County Circuit Court case. His attorneys said his medical bills for the attack last July 6 could top \$100,000.

Richitelli, 42, was the third Floridian within a three-year span to fall victim to a pygmy rattler, a small, ill-tempered snake, slithering around a Wal-Mart garden center. Two men were attacked in separate incidents in 2006 at stores in Central Florida.

"Since it happened in the past, it was very foreseeable it could happen again," said Armando Paz, Richitelli's attorney.

Wal-Mart declined to discuss the attack because of the pending litigation.

"The safety of our customers is always the top priority," said Michelle Bradford, a spokeswoman at the chain's headquarters in Bentonville, Ark.

Snake attacks at department store garden centers are rare, said Miami-Dade Fire-Rescue Capt. Ernie Jillson, head of the agency's Venom Response Bureau. When they do happen, it's usually unclear whether the snake came in with plants or came onto the premises on its own, he said.

Pygmy rattlers, which don't grow longer than two feet, are one of six species of venomous snakes in Florida. There are no recorded incidents of people dying from their bite, but their venom can cause nerve damage and other medical ailments, Jillson said.

Richitelli, who works at his family's thrift store, said he was looking for plants for his father's home when the young rattler clamped onto his right hand.

"It felt like fire going through my arm," he said. "I looked and the thing was latched on."

Richitelli said he began swinging his arm trying to get the snake off, accidentally hitting a Wal-Mart employee with the rattler. When he finally shook off the snake, he stomped on it until it was dead, sat down and called 911, he said.

By the time the paramedics arrived, hallucinations had kicked in, the sky started moving, he recalled. He spent five days in the hospital, then returned two days later because of fluid in his lungs.

His lawsuit, filed Feb. 5, accuses Wal-Mart of negligence for failing to inspect for snakes in the garden section of the store on Southwest 184th Avenue. There also needs to be some warning given to shoppers, he said.

Richitelli said he still suffers from respiratory problems because of the bite and his hand is scarred.



Special Photo

The snake that bit the Florida man was a pygmy rattler (pictured above) and is poisonous.

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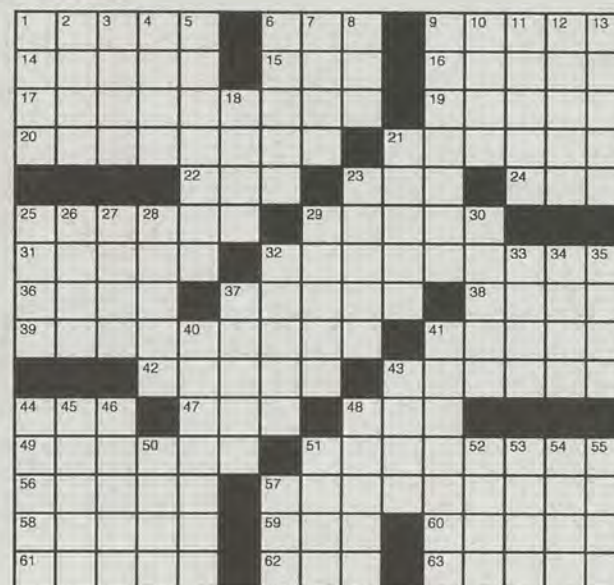
Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Refine ore
- 6 Harsh criticism
- 9 Bestowal
- 14 Animal with a long snout
- 15 Dwindle
- 16 Champing at the bit
- 17 Cornea protectors
- 19 Conductor Seiji
- 20 Fancifully depicted
- 21 Future MD's course
- 22 Crux
- 23 Yule wood
- 24 "You ___ There"
- 25 Assembled
- 29 Foundation
- 31 Penetrating
- 32 Florida panhandle city
- 36 Queens stadium
- 37 Identical
- 38 ___ Khayyam
- 39 Watery branch of geology
- 41 Put in office
- 42 Wear away
- 43 Australian city
- 44 In the past
- 47 Public vehicle
- 48 Steady as ___ goes!
- 49 Frank
- 51 Traveler's tote
- 56 Disturb
- 57 Ingredients in dressings
- 58 Della or Pee Wee
- 59 E-mail period
- 60 Minor fight
- 61 On the move
- 62 Actress Ruby
- 63 Mm-mm good!

DOWN

- 1 Part of a procedure
- 2 Irish county
- 3 Fencer's stiletto
- 4 Sprightly song
- 5 New worker
- 6 Ford Clinic, e.g.
- 7 Adam's son
- 8 "Nova" network
- 9 Peach State
- 10 Demolish
- 11 Lizard of the Old World
- 12 More up-to-date
- 13 Exchange
- 18 Desert Storm missile
- 21 Deputized body
- 23 Tall and lean
- 25 Col. Potter's command
- 26 "___ Breaky Heart"
- 27 Hauled into court
- 28 Extend a look
- 29 Light tan
- 30 Yell at
- 32 Walks laboriously
- 33 Harbinger
- 34 Fancy cloth
- 35 Aesthetic to a fault
- 37 Not sotto voce
- 40 Satellite, e.g.
- 41 Driver's license requirement



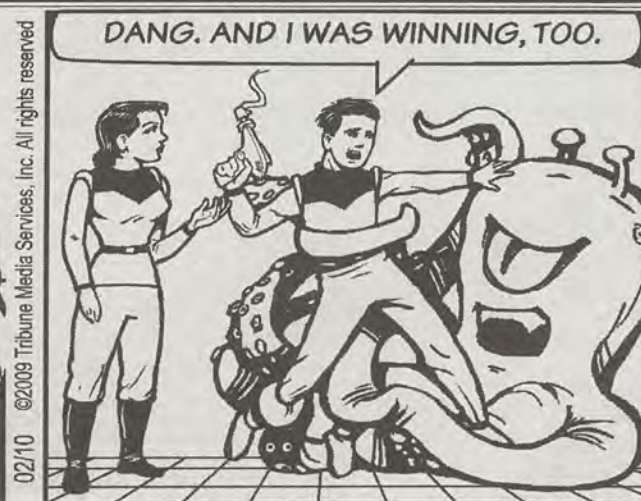
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Four players named to All-Conference, team picked second

By GSU News Service

Led by three First Team Preseason All-Southern Conference selections, Georgia Southern was picked to finish second according to the league head coaches. The SoCon office announced the preseason picks on Thursday, Feb. 12.

Senior catcher Griffin Benedict, junior third baseman A.J. Wirmsberger and senior outfielder Ty Wright all earned First Team honors, as selected by the head coaches. The trio each earned Third Team Preseason All-America honors heading into the 2009 campaign. Senior outfielder Phillip Porter was a preseason Second Team pick.

Georgia Southern received three first-place votes for a total of 89 points. Coming off a 33-25 season (16-11 SoCon and fourth place finish), the Eagles return six starters off last year's team. Defending champion Elon received the other eight first-place votes for a total of 98 points.

The College of Charleston (79), The Citadel (62) and Appalachian State (57) rounded out the top five. Western Carolina (52) just edged UNC Greensboro (51), and they were followed by Furman (46), league newcomer Samford (40), Wofford (19) and Davidson (12).

Benedict earned Second Team All-SoCon honors last year and is regarded as one of the best all-around catchers in the country. The senior was also one of 19 in Georgia Southern history to record 60 runs scored/60 RBI in a season (60/65) and ranked 61st nationally in RBI per game (1.14). He batted .355 with 17 doubles, 12 home runs and walked more times (27) than he struck out (20) in 217 at-bats, all while posting a .978 fielding percentage.

He led the Eagles and finished fifth in the SoCon picking off six runners.

In fact, Benedict had more pickoffs by himself than three SoCon teams had total. Benedict accounted for two of the Eagles' NCAA record 14 home runs hit during game two of the Columbia series last year, a 26-8 victory.

Wright is coming off an All-America season in 2008, his first with the Eagles. The senior outfielder, also named to the 'Wallace Watch' for the Brooks Wallace Award as National Player of the Year, earned Second Team All-America honors by the American Baseball Coaches Association last season.

He also was selected First Team All-Atlantic Region and First Team All-Southern Conference.

Wright was featured in Sports Illustrated 'Faces in the Crowd' after hitting for the cycle in four consecutive innings (the first four innings of game three) at Wofford. Overall he tallied 63 runs scored (19th nationally), 52 RBI batting mainly as leadoff hitter, and led the team with 22 doubles (16th).

He recorded 17 home runs (22nd in HR per game), including a program record six that led off a game. Wright posted a .781 slugging percentage (8th) and .494 on-base percentage (46th).

He tallied 32 walks to 25 strikeouts in 196 at-bats and just missed the .400 club, finishing the year batting at a .398 clip (48th nationally). He hit one of the NCAA record 14 home runs against Columbia (March 15). Wright was named SoCon 'Player of the Month' in April (.410 batting average, 34-for-83), and earned NCBWA 'National Player of the Week' and SoCon 'Player of the Week' honors

for the week of April 29.

Wirmsberger was a Second Team All-SoCon pick last year. He currently holds the SoCon season record hitting three grand slams last season, and now is tied for second all-time in that category. He also became one of 19 Eagles all-time to record 60 runs scored (63) and 60 RBI (74).

Wirmsberger ranked 90th last year in runs scored, 13th in home runs (21), 22nd in RBI per game and 71st in slugging percentage (.668). He helped set the NCAA single-game home run record hitting one of the 14 versus Columbia. Wirmsberger started in all 58 games last year, and finished in a tie for 10th among the GS season home run leaders.

Porter turned in a career year in 2008, putting up offensive numbers that surpassed his two-year totals in: hits, runs scored, doubles, home runs, RBI, walks, sacrifice hits and stolen bases. He finished third on the team batting .365 and 19 stolen bases.

One of his home runs last year came during the NCAA record 14 hit during game two of the Columbia series. In his first start of the year he went a career-high 5-for-6 with three RBI, including a walk-off single in the ninth to win the game. Porter scored 59 runs and drove in 45, hit 13 doubles and seven home runs while stealing 19-of-24 bases.

According to the SoCon Sports Media Association the Eagles got one first-place vote and finished third in the balloting (158 points), just behind Elon (194) and Charleston (176).

The Eagles open play on Friday, February 20, at J.I. Clements Stadium, playing host to Presbyterian. First pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m.

2009 SoCon Baseball Preseason Coaches Poll

Place	School (First)	Points
1.	Elon (8)	98
2.	Georgia Southern (3)	89
3.	College of Charleston	79
4.	The Citadel	62
5.	Appalachian State	57
6.	Western Carolina	52
7.	UNC Greensboro	51
8.	Furman	46
9.	Samford	40
10.	Wofford	19
11.	Davidson	12

First Team All-Conference
C Griffin Benedict, Georgia Southern
3B A.J. Wirmsberger, Georgia Southern
OF Ty Wright, Georgia Southern

Second Team All-Conference
OF Phillip Porter, Georgia Southern

Two former Eagles invited to Major League Baseball Spring Training



Special Photo
Chris Walker will join the Phillies in the spring

By GSU News Service

Two former Georgia Southern Baseball players will join their parent club as a non-roster invitee for Major League Baseball Spring Training.

Chris Walker signed with the Philadelphia Phillies and will join the defending World Champion while Flint Wipke will join the Los Angeles Angels.

Wipke joined the Angels on Friday (Feb. 13) when the pitchers and catchers reported. The reigning American League West champions reported to Tempe, AZ.

Last year Wipke played in Class A (Rancho Cucamonga), Double-A (Arkansas) and Triple-

A (Salt Lake). He batted .253 in 41 games with Rancho Cucamonga, with 12 doubles, 24 RBI and 17 runs scored. He batted .278 in Double-A, and had a hit in 13 at-bats during a five-game stint at Salt Lake.

The former Eagle catcher was a two-year letter winner from 2004-05 and was drafted in the 38th round by the Angels.

Walker saw action in 78 games last year with Salt Lake batting .257 with 45 runs scored, six triples and 27 RBI. He stole 14-of-24 bases on the year.

The former sixth-round draft pick in 2002 was a two-time All-Southern Conference selection in the outfield. Walker lettered from 1999-2002 for the Eagles.

The Phillies report to Clearwater, FL, on Saturday (Feb. 14) for camp.

"We are extremely happy for Flint and Chris. This is a great opportunity for them to gain valuable experience at Spring Training. They both have worked extremely hard to get to earn this chance," said head coach Rodney Hennon. "In recent years we had two former pitchers get the call to the Majors, and now Todd Greene joined the Tampa Bay coaching staff. This is all great exposure for our baseball program."

Greene joined the Tampa Bay Rays organization as the new quality assurance coach in January and is one of two Eagles to have their number retired at GSU.



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SPORTS

COMPLETE COVERAGE

Check out GADaily.com for complete coverage of the weekend's GSU athletics events as well as last night's Lady Eagles basketball game vs. College of Charleston.

2009 Baseball Home Schedule

Date	Team	Time
Fri 2/20	Presbyterian	7 p.m.
Sat 2/21	Presbyterian	2:30 p.m.
Sun 2/22	Presbyterian	1:30 p.m.
Tue 2/24	Georgia Tech	6 p.m.
Wed 2/25	Georgia Tech	3 p.m.
Fri 2/27	Coppin State	11 a.m.
Sat 2/28	Coppin State	2:30 p.m.
Sun 3/01	Coppin State	1:30 p.m.
Tue 3/03	Winthrop	4 p.m.
Fri 3/06	Indiana	7 p.m.
Sat 3/07	LeMoyne	2 p.m.
Sun 3/08	East Carolina	3 p.m.
Wed 3/11	Bethune-Cookman	6 p.m.
Tue 3/24	Kennesaw State	6 p.m.
Fri 3/27	Elon*	7 p.m.
Sat 3/28	Elon*	1:30 p.m.
Sun 3/29	Elon*	1:30 p.m.
Tue 3/31	North Florida	6 p.m.
Fri 4/03	C of C*	7 p.m.
Sat 4/04	C of C*	6 p.m.
Sun 4/05	C of C*	1:30 p.m.
Wed 4/15	Jacksonville	6 p.m.
Fri 4/17	Davidson*	7 p.m.
Sat 4/18	Davidson*	2:30 p.m.
Sun 4/19	Davidson*	1:30 p.m.
Tue 4/21	Ch. Southern	6 p.m.
Sat 5/03	Furman*	1:30 p.m.
Sat 5/03	Furman*	5:30 p.m.
Sun 5/04	Furman*	1:30 p.m.
Fri 5/15	Wofford*	7 p.m.
Sat 5/16	Wofford*	2:30 p.m.
Sun 5/17	Wofford*	1:30 p.m.
Th-Sun 5/21-24	SoCon Tournament*	TBA

* denotes Southern Conference, Tournament in South Carolina

Notable away games include: Georgia Tech (4/07-4/08), Auburn (5/12), South Carolina (3/25), Kennesaw State (4/29), App. State (3/20-3/22).



Brandilyn Brown/STAFF

Junior infielder A.J. Wirnsberger gets a hit during last year's game against North Florida

Eagles hope to redeem last year's spark

By Katherine Cox
Staff writer

The next chapter in Georgia Southern baseball kicks off Friday with a weekend home-stand against Presbyterian College at 7 p.m. Coming off the most impressive offensive season in program history with two All-Americans, one finalist for 'National Player of the Year,' six all-conference team members, and a NCAA single-game record 14 home runs, it might be a little difficult to follow up.

With five returning starting players this year, the offensive side of the bat doesn't seem to need much improvement. Pitching depth is what it is going to take for head coach Rodney Hennon to put together another Southern Conference force to be reckoned with.

Senior outfielder and pre-season All-American Ty Wright may have said it best.

"We all have to do our part and if we do that we will be successful this year," Wright said.

Seven pitchers have been added to this year's team, joining the seven returning from the 2008 Eagles. Kyle Kamppi is the only senior on this year's pitching personnel. Last year he went 5-4 with a 6.18 ERA, striking out 58 batters in 67 innings. This year, he will fill a spot in the bullpen.

Multiple pitchers from last season have been rehabbing from season ending injuries. This year they will welcome the opportunity to spend time on the mound.

"We feel like we will be improved from a pitching standpoint, the question remains to be seen is how much we improved," said Hennon. "One thing we want to do is make that environment more competitive within our pitching staff and we feel like we have been able to do that this fall and as we head into preseason practice."

For eight years Coach Hennon has led his Eagles to 30 wins. Looking for a ninth consecutive year hasn't been on the minds of the team this off season. But winning more than 30 is.

"I really don't think the team thinks too much about the streak. We expect to win; I think the team thinks about winning way more games than 30," senior outfielder Ty Wright said. "We want to win conference and go to the post season, and to do that we have to win more than 30 games."

In pre-season polls done by the Coaches in the SoCon have GSU finishing second in the conference. In the media poll, voters have Georgia Southern in third, behind Elon and College of Charleston.

Last year's team finished 4th in the SoCon with a 16-11 conference record and an overall 33-25. The Goal for this year is clear: win the Southern Conference championship and make a return to trip to the NCAA Regionals.

This season, the Eagles will take on opponents outside the SoCon such as Georgia Tech, Auburn, and South Carolina. Conference play will open up in March with UNC-Greensboro and finish with Wofford at home on March 17.